

Andhra bird flu: Bengal govt monitoring poultry imports

The West Bengal government is keeping a vigil on poultry imports in the wake of the bird flu outbreak in Andhra Pradesh, a minister said. Bengal Animal Resources Development Minister Swapan Debnath said the department is aware of the situation "We are aware of the situation and keeping a strict vigil," the minister told. He, however, did not announce a ban on imports of poultry items from the southern state. Meanwhile, there are growing concerns over the potential impact of the outbreak of avian influenza in Andhra Pradesh on West Bengal's poultry sector. Notably, West Bengal sources eggs from Andhra Pradesh. PG 3



Rs. 3
KOLKATA
MONDAY, 17 FEBRUARY, 2025
PG-8, YEAR-11, ISSUE-258
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVETV.COM

Morning India

Islamic State unable to mount large-scale attacks in India: UN report

MI News Service, New York: Terrorist group Islamic State was unable to mount large-scale attacks in India but its handlers tried to incite lone-actor attacks through supporters based in the country, a UN report has said.

According to the 35th report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, these terror groups and affiliates remained resilient and adaptable to external counter-terrorism pressure.

ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) is a terrorist group that aims to establish a caliphate in West Asia. It's also known as the Islamic State and Da'esh. "ISIL (Da'esh) was unable to mount large-scale attacks in India. However, its handlers tried to incite lone-actor attacks through India-based supporters. The pro-ISIL (Da'esh) Al-Jauhar Media continued to spread anti-India propaganda through its publication Serat ul-Haq," the report said. The report also added that with over two dozen terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan, UN member states assessed the security threat emanating from the country as a continuing driver of instability in the region and beyond.

"Despite the loss of territory and attrition among senior and mid-tier leadership figures, the presence of terrorist organisations in Afghanistan posed a serious challenge to the stability of the country, as well as to the security of Central Asian and other neighbouring States," it said. Separately, the 20th report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security said that the severity of the threat posed by Da'esh remains concerning. Despite steady progress by member states and international partners in targeting Da'esh leadership and financial operations, the group continues to demonstrate resilience and adapt its modus operandi, the Secretary-General's report said.

"The situation in Afghanistan remains concerning, with ISIL-K (Islamic State - Khorasan Province) continuing to represent a threat not only to the country but also to the region and beyond," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in his report. "I continue to call upon all Member States to unite to prevent Afghanistan from again becoming a hotbed of terrorist activities affecting other countries," Guterres said. The report by the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team further said that notwithstanding the measures taken by the Taliban to counter ISIL-K, the group represented the most serious threat to the de facto authorities, ethnic and religious minorities, the United Nations, foreign nationals and international representatives in Afghanistan.

"The sustained presence of ISIL-K and its activity in the country reflected the group's ideological commitment to its own brand, portraying

India a solar Super power: UN climate chief

MI News Service, New York: UN climate chief Simon Stiell has called India a "solar superpower" and urged it to develop an ambitious climate plan covering its entire economy, saying that an even stronger embrace of the global clean energy boom will supercharge its economic rise. Stiell, who is in India to attend the ET Global Business Summit, lauded India's efforts to mitigate climate change, saying that while some governments only talk, "India delivers". "India is already a solar superpower, one of only four countries to have installed more than 100 gigawatts of solar... Energy access is on the rise with villages across the country electrified by 2018, well ahead of schedule," he said. "Now there is a real opportunity to take the next step and un-

leash even bigger benefits for India's 1.4 billion people and economy. India is already headed firmly in this direction, but an even stronger embrace of the global clean energy boom will supercharge India's economic rise," he said. Stiell said India has an opportunity that only a few countries have: "To realize ambitious plans to deploy hundreds more gigawatts of renewable energy capacity. To lead a new wave of green industrialization, developing, scaling, and exporting vital technologies." He said the world's fifth-largest economy is well-positioned to reap the benefits of ambitious, economy-wide climate plans.

The UN climate chief added that India's leaders have a rare opportunity to deepen whole-of-



India a solar superpower under PM Modi's leadership: UN's Simon Stiell

economy industrial strategies that would make the fast-developing South Asian nation a dominant force in clean energy and industry. Countries are required to submit their next round of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), or climate plans,

for the 2031-2035 period this year. With many countries, including India, missing the February 10 deadline, Stiell earlier this month urged them to submit their plans by September at the latest. "India's new NDCs will have targets achievable with the means available. Mitigating climate change requires financial and technological support, along with other enablers. Developed countries are unwilling to provide this support. Why should countries that did not cause climate change continue to suffer?" the source said. The collective aim of these climate plans is to limit global temperature rise since the start of the industrial revolution to 1.5 degrees Celsius, the key goal of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Developed countries, historically

responsible for most of the greenhouse gas emissions driving climate change, were required to deliver a new and ambitious financial package to support climate action in the developing world at the UN climate conference in Azerbaijan last year.

However, they offered a paltry USD 300 billion by 2035, a mere fraction of at least USD 1.3 trillion needed annually from 2025. India had called the sum "too little, too distant", "paltry" and "an optical illusion". The government's Economic Survey 2024-25 tabled in Parliament in January said the lack of funding from developed countries to mitigate climate change in the Global South may prompt developing countries to "rework" their climate targets.

India to be connected with longest under sea cable Project 'Waterworth': Meta

MI News Service, New Delhi: Social media major Meta tagged India as one of its largest markets to be connected with the company's world's longest under-sea cable "Project Waterworth" which is expected to be operational by the end of this decade.

Meta has announced "Project Waterworth" which will reach five major continents and span over 50,000 kilometers -- longer than the earth's circumference. The project was part of the USA-India Joint Leaders' Statement that was released on February 13 following the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to USA. "Meta is investing in India -- one of its largest markets -- bringing the world's longest, highest capacity and most technologically advanced subsea cable project to connect India, the US, and other lo-



ocations," Meta spokesperson said. The undersea cables are crucial for internet operations. These cables connect countries with each other. Local telecom operators connect with under-sea cables to provide internet access to their customers. The investment assumes significance as telecom operators have been demanding big techs including Meta to contribute towards building network infrastructure to decongest the data traffic load and improve customer's experience. "Driven by India's growing demand for digital services, this investment reaffirms Meta's commitment to economic growth, resilient infrastructure, and digital inclusion, supporting India's thriving digital landscape and fostering technological innovation," the spokesperson said.

►► Continued on page 3



A child enjoys in front of Victoria Memorial in a foggy Sunday.

Weekend rush at Mahakumbh @ 1,000 vehicles every hr



MI News Service, Prayagraj: The number of Mahakumbh-bound vehicles in Madhya Pradesh's Rewa, bordering with Prayagraj, has increased in the past 24 hours, prompting the administration to be on alert, officials said on Sunday. Around 1,000 vehicles were moving towards Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh every hour at Chakghat border here and nearly 800 returning from there in the same period, they said. Prayagraj is located around 45 km from the Chakghat border in Rewa district. The first parking for the Mahakumbh in Prayagraj has been set up just six kilometres from the Chakghat border in Uttar Pradesh, the officials said, adding that elaborate arrangements have been made for the people at the "holding areas" and help centres.

The number of Prayagraj-bound vehicles on National Highway no. 30 has increased in the past 24 hours. In addition, a large number of people were also returning from Prayagraj, resulting in the increase in number of vehicles on the road, in-charge Inspector

General, Rewa range, Saket Prakash Pandey said. "As of now, we are not stopping the vehicles at Bela, Gangev and Chakghat holding points but police and administration are in alert mode," Pandey said.

The situation is not like a traffic jam, but the number of vehicles going to Mahakumbh in Prayagraj has gone up from Saturday due to it being the weekend, Sub Divisional Officer of Police Udit Mishra said. The administration has made arrangements in the "holding areas", besides enhancing the help centre amenities, Mishra said. Similar holding areas have also been made in Maihar, Katni and Satna districts of MP, the officials said. Traffic has increased on the border as the fair area and Prayagraj city have been declared as "no-vehicle zone", they said. Earlier this month, heavy traffic jams were seen on the 250-km-long stretch from Katni on the border along the two states due to vehicles heading towards the Maha Kumbh fair. The Mahakumbh commenced on January 13 and will conclude on February 26.

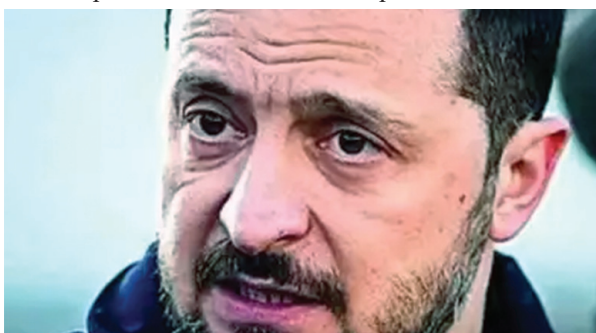
Zelenskyy calls for European Army

MI News Service, Munich: Two top European leaders stiffened their spines over unsettling new policies from Washington under President Donald Trump, as Ukraine's president urged creation of an "armed forces of Europe" and the leader of Germany denounced meddling in its election after US Vice President JD Vance met with a German far-right leader.

Strident speeches from Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz on Day 2 of the Munich Security Conference testified to the impact of a blizzard of Trump decisions that have resonated at home and in Europe, notably his hopes to end the Russia-Ukraine war and nurture perceived allies on

whether the idea will catch on with European leaders. Zelenskyy has sought greater military and economic support from the European Union for years and repeatedly warned that other parts of Europe could be vulnerable to Russia's expansionist ambitions too.

While the bloc — along with the United States — has been one of Kyiv's strongest backers, pockets of political disagreement in EU over its approach to Moscow and economic realities, including national debt levels that have cramped defence spending, have gotten in the way of greater support. Zelenskyy alluded to a phone conversation between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin this week, after which Trump said he and Putin



the continent. Ramping up his desire for a more muscular and mighty Europe, Zelenskyy said Ukraine's three-year fight against an invading Russian army has proved that a foundation exists for the creation of a European army that has long been discussed among some continental leaders. "I really believe that time has come," he said. "The armed forces of Europe must be created." It's unclear


would likely meet soon to negotiate a peace deal over Ukraine — breaking with the Biden administration's harder line against Moscow over Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Trump later assured Zelenskyy that he, too, would have a seat at the table to end the war. The Ukrainian leader insisted Europe should also have one.

►► Continued on page 3


Haldiram's

Bhujji®


Khushiyon Ki Asli Mithaas




Bhujia




Khatta Mitha




Chat Pata




Rasgulla



Soan Papdi



Gulab Jamun



Kaju Barfi

Haldiram Bhujjiawala Limited

Regd. Office : P-420, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, VIP Road, Kolkata - 700 052

Burrabazar : 9, Jagmohan Mullick Lane, Kolkata - 700 007

►► Continued on page 3

CMYK

Pre-bite vaccination for pet parents made mandatory: Siliguri Admin

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Siliguri administration has made it mandatory for pet owners to get vaccinated along with their pets. Tufan Maity, the deputy director of the district Animal Resources Development (ARD), said the move was part of a slew of measures undertaken by the administration following a rise in the canine population in the Siliguri region. "The measures include anti-rabies vaccination of pets, sterilization of canines to control the birth rate, and awareness drives about the mandatory pre-bite vaccination of pet owners," Maity said. People who feed stray dogs regularly have also been directed to take the pre-bite vaccination. A source in the civic body said the canine population across the SMC and adjacent areas is more than 30,000. Incidents of attack and dog bites have now become a regular menace. Amit Jain, the leader of the opposition in the SMC, raised the issue at the board of councillors' monthly meeting last week. "The residents are scared of stray dog attacks. Many cases are being reported in almost every locality. It is high time for the civic body to take immediate measures to prevent it," Jain said. A source in the Siliguri district hospital said that more than 150 cases of anti-rabies vaccination are reported daily. Sources in the ARD also cited a World Health Organization report stating that almost 20,000 people die from rabies every year across the country.

Tamluk gets POC SO court

MI News Service, East Midnapore: The Chief Justice (CJ) of Calcutta High Court, TS Sivagnanam, inaugurated an exclusive POC SO court at Tamluk, East Midnapore, highlighting that the judges committee based on Supreme Court (SC) directions have decided that 25 such courts are presently required for Bengal. The CJ said Bengal faces a difficulty of space crunch. Due to this, whatever prototype courtrooms have been drawn up at the national level cannot be implemented here.

However, the Chief Justice of India was assured that whatever facilities are required, will be provided and the state government is willing to sanction funds for that. He highlighted that based on the apex court's decision the judges committee had reviewed the requirement of POC SO court in Bengal.

The committee was of the opinion that minimum 50 courts will be essential as against seven functioning here.

Subsequently, it was scaled down to at least 25 courts which ought to be established here. The CJ requested state Law minister Moloy Ghatak to take note of it to ensure Bengal is in the national map.

Adventure tourism and community growth in focus for Kalimpong's new road map



MI News Service, Kalimpong: The Kalimpong district administration has set in motion the process of preparing a road map for promoting tourism with a focus on adventure activities and community development. The plan for the tourism promotion was disclosed by district magistrat Balasubramanian T. at a programme on Friday to celebrate the formation of the district eight years ago. "Tourism is a major source of livelihood for Kalimpong

residents. Considering this, we have been focusing on sustainable community-based tourism activities and exploring various options to prepare a roadmap for tourism," he said at the event in Town Hall, Kalimpong. The administration, Balasubramanian said, is regularly in touch with stakeholders of the tourism industry and working with them to improve different areas of tourism. "Many youths here are involved in adventure activities, including

group trekking. The Neora Valley National Park and some other biodiversity spots provide opportunities to promote environment-based tourism," he added. "We are encouraging youngsters to promote adventure activities like group trekking. Apart from that, for environment-based tourism activities, the skill development training is provided for guide training, bird watching and hospitality management," said Balasubramanian. Sources in the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) said they had already planned to promote the district as the new hub for adventure tourism. The GTA's tourism department has identified several areas on the riverbanks to start hot-air ballooning, camping, hiking and water sports. The district has around 1,000 homestays.

Along with tourism, the administration is also focusing on setting up small industrial units like fruit processing, agro-based industries, and horticulture-based units. "There are a total of 4,310 micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) units registered in the district and 10 MSME clusters are functional. Efforts are also on to set up new clusters for mushroom and handloom," said a source.

Huge quantity of acetic anhydride used to make heroin seized, three arrested

MI News Service, Krishnanagar: In a major crackdown on illegal drug manufacturing, the Kotwali police under the Krishnanagar Police District seized a large quantity of acetic anhydride, a banned chemical essential for heroin production. Three persons were arrested in connection with the case late last night. Acting on a tip-off from a reliable source, a police team led by DSP Shilpi Paul and IC Kotwali Amalendu Biswas set up a trap on National Highway 12 near Jora Masjid at around 9 PM. According to police sources, intelligence reports indicated that a truck bound for Murshidabad from Kolkata was carrying a significant quantity of contraband chemicals. Upon arrival of the truck at the designated spot, the police team pursued and intercepted the vehicle. A thorough search of the truck revealed several containers filled with acetic anhydride, along with numerous cartons packed with body sprays. As the truck drivers failed to produce valid documents for



the transportation of the chemical, they were immediately taken into custody. We have seized the truck carrying illegal contraband chemicals without proper documentation. During the search, we recovered eight containers, each holding approximately 60 liters of acetic anhydride. This chemical is crucial for heroin production, said DSP Shilpi Paul. The arrested individuals were identified as Taiyab (25) and Najim (18) from Bharatpur, Rajasthan, and Ashok (38) from Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh. They were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate's court in Krishnanagar, where the magistrate remanded them

to police custody for seven days. Police sources confirmed that acetic anhydride is a key component in the production of heroin, as it is used to convert morphine extracted from opium poppies into the illicit drug. The chemical also has legal applications in the manufacture of aspirin, plastics, paints, and cigarette filters, but is often diverted for illegal drug production. The international market value of acetic anhydride is estimated at around Rs 16,000 per liter. Investigations are underway to trace the origins and intended recipients of the contraband, as authorities suspect the involvement of a larger drug syndicate.

Kolkata: NIA court sentences two men to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in 2021 Jaggadal bomb blast case

MI News Service, Kolkata: A special NIA court in Kolkata has sentenced two men to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for their involvement in the 2021 Jaggadal bomb blast case in West Bengal, an official statement said Sunday. The court sent Chand alias Arif Akhtar and Rahul Pasi to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and slapped a fine of Rs 5,000 on each offender, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said in a statement. The duo, along with one juvenile, had hurled three bombs in quick succession at the gate next to ex-MP Arjun Singh's office-residence -- Majdoor Bhawan -- at Jaggadal in North 24 Parganas district on September 8, 2021, the statement said. While Akhtar and the juvenile were apprehended by the local police, the NIA, which took over the case on September 14, 2021,

arrested Pasi later. The agency had chargesheeted the accused in December 2021. While Pasi and Akhtar were pronounced guilty and sentenced by the NIA special court on Saturday, the juvenile continues to be in parental custody, the statement said. In another case, the NIA court on Saturday convicted and sentenced a man to 10 years of rigorous imprisonment in the 2019 Lokepur bomb blast case in West Bengal.

Bablu Mondal, who had surrendered before the court in June 2022, was also fined Rs 10,000. The blast occurred in the house of Mondal, after which the Lokepur police arrested his two sons, Niranjan Mondal and Mrityunjoy Mondal. The duo absconded after being released on bail, while Mondal surrendered later.

Everest BKCC Season 6 West Bengal Semi-Finals

MI News Service, Kolkata: A Culinary Celebration of Tradition & Innovation The Everest Better Kitchen Culinary Challenge (Everest BKCC) Season 6 semi-finals for West Bengal took place at NSHM Institute of Hotel & Tourism Management, Durgapur, bringing together aspiring chefs, culinary experts, and food enthusiasts in an electrifying competition. Under the theme "Flavours of India," Everest BKCC continues to inspire and nurture young chefs, emphasizing three key pillars—preserving and promoting regional cuisines, encouraging healthier food choices, and advocating culinary tourism.

Birbhum blast case: 10 years imprisonment for 3 TMC leaders

MI News Service, Birbhum: An NIA Court has sentenced 10 years imprisonment for TMC leader and his two sons in a blast case and imposed a fine of Rs 10,000 for a case which took place in September 2019 in Gangpur village under Lokepur police station of Birbhum district. Babloo Mondal, is known as a local Trinamool Congress leader and led after the explosives blast at the rooftop of his house, six years ago. At that time, nobody was present in that house. Lokepur Police started an investigation and had arrested Babloo Mondal and his two sons, Niranjan Mondal and Mrityunjoy Mondal. All three managed to get bail after a few years. Later, the Calcutta High Court had directed NIA investigations in this case. Justice Subhendu Saha, the NIA court judge found the three guilty under the Explosives Substance Act and ordered rigorous imprisonment for 10 years.

92-Year-Old Woman Gets a New Life, Hope, at Sebaashray



- Rijia Bewa, a 92-year-old woman from Burhanpur, suffered a stroke. - Sebaashray's doctors acted swiftly to ensure her recovery. After treatment, she was safely sent home in a camp ambulance. - Her family expressed their gratitude to their beloved MP Shri Abhishek Banerjee for giving her a new hope.

Face-off in hill politics: Test of hope in Darjeeling for Anit Thapa and Ajoy Edwards

MI News Service, Darjeeling: Ajoy Edwards and Anit Thapa, two prominent political faces in the hills, exchanged verbal volleys on Saturday.

While Edwards, who heads the Indian Gorkha Janshakti Front (IGJF), accused Thapa of avoiding meeting him, the latter, who heads the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGP), said Edwards wanted to meet him for his ability to deliver to people. On Saturday, Edwards reached Thapa's house in Kurseong. The BGP chief, however, was not at home then.

"I went to meet Anit Thapa at his residence in Kurseong today morning. But someone in the house told me that he (Thapa) was not at home. I told the person to inform him (Thapa) about my name and I came to meet him," Edwards said after returning from Thapa's house. On February 12, Edwards had said that he had sent some letters to Thapa, who is the chief executive of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) on different issues pertaining to the hills but the latter did not reply to any of the let-

ters. He had referred to a letter sent to Thapa on February 10, seeking to take necessary steps for the fixation of the minimum wages for tea workers and some other issues related to the tea population in the hills. A few days back, Edwards had also said that if Thapa did not respond, he would meet him wherever Thapa went to attend any event. "The chief executive of GTA had attended his office for the last time on January 21. As I did not get any response to my letters, I went to his residence. Again, I could not meet him," said the IGJF leader.

While Edwards tried to drive home the point that Thapa for not meeting him and for being non-responsive in communication, The BGP chief said anybody could meet him. "Ajay Edwards went to my place as he considers me to be a leader and has faith and expectations from me. But I was not at home then," said Thapa. "Anybody can visit my place as people turn up to meet leaders with hopes and aspirations. Everybody is welcome," he added.

Shabder Jhangkar's 46th Anniversary Second Issue Published



MI News Service, Kolkata: In the world of little magazine, Shabder Jhangkar magazine has completed 46 years. Almost half a century of pride. On Saturday, at the Krishnapada Ghosh Hall, eminent writer Amar Mitra gave speech while releasing the second issue of the magazine. Eminent writer Ram Kumar Mukherjee said that little magazines like Shabder Jhangkar are the breeding ground for writers. On this day, the magazine felicitated esteemed writers with mementos. Editor and journalist Nurul Islam Khan delivered the welcome address. Dr. Samarendra Ghosh, poet and journalist Ghalib Islam, and Naba Gopal Chowdhury delivered speeches. Swapan Pal moderated the meeting. A minute's silence was observed for Sunil Mukherjee, Pratul Mukherjee and all the literary comrades. The meeting was inaugurated with a group song by Shibben

Guha, Chandana Kundu, Rupa Dutta Chowdhury and Mayurakshi. Editors of various newspapers, poets and writers attended the function from far and wide. The poets who recited their poems included Soma Nayak, Lopamudra Kundu, Abhishekta Dey, Dilip Kongsabanik, Chameli Das, Subhasish Chatterjee and Jewela Banerjee, Subrata Kumar Halder, Mithu Sarkar Roy, Sujit Kumar Pal, Shankar Banerjee, Trishari Ghosh, Lopamudra Kundu, Sraboni Chakraborty, Smriti Kona Chatterjee and many others. The recitation was done by Hasina Anjum Monalisa, Antara Ghosh Karmakar, Alim Sardar, Titi Roy and many others. The meeting was enriched with songs, pleasant discussions and poetry recitation. This year's issue features contributions from renowned writers including eminent linguist Dr. Pavitra Sarkar and extremely popular poet Subodh Sarkar.

Councillors donate for treatment: 'Gesture' to raise cash for Aasmika's medicine

MI News Service, Hoogly: All 23 councillors of Baidyabati municipality in Hooghly district have donated their one-month salary for the treatment of one-year-old Aasmika Das, who has been suffering from rare spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and needs to be administered a vaccine worth ₹16 crore.

The municipality has 23 councillors — 19 from the Trinamool Congress, two from the Congress and one each from the CPM and the Forward Bloc.

A team of 17 councillors, including three from the Opposition, visited Aasmika's house in Daspara, near Ranaghat in Nadia district, on Friday and handed over to the family ₹2.51 lakh, which is the aggregate monthly remuneration of all the 23 councillors, including the chairperson and the vice-chairperson.

The councillors also donated an additional ₹3.5 lakh that they had collected from businessmen in the area. "During our board meeting last month, we decided that we would donate our one month's salary for Aasmika's treatment. As part of the decision, we met the family on Valentine's Day to send our token of love to the baby suffering from a rare disease," said Pintu Mahato, the chairman of Baidyabati municipality. A chairman of a municipality receives ₹20,000 a month as remuneration, while a vice-chairman and a councillor are paid ₹15,000 and ₹10,000, respectively.

"We know our contribution is not large, but our gesture sends a clear message to all councillors and office-bearers of 128 municipalities and seven corporations in the state that if they contribute one month's earnings, we can save the life of this little one," Mahato said. A source said a few municipalities had already expressed their desire to help the baby.

Aasmika, the daughter of a young web designer, is diagnosed with the SMA, which progressively weakens muscles and put her life in jeopardy. SMA is caused by a mutation in the SMN1 gene, responsible for producing a protein crucial for the survival of motor neurons. Specialised doctors in three cities who examined the girl prescribed an intravenous injection — onasemnogene abeparvovec, sold under the brand name Zolgensma — as the only possible lifeline for her. It costs ₹16 crore. The little girl has until June this year to receive the vaccine.

Suvongkar Das, Aasmika's father, said they had accumulated around ₹7.5 crore so far through crowd-funding and donations from different organisations and individuals.

Adivasis worship translocated trees at Deocha-Pachami coal mine site

MI News Service, Deocha-Pachami: Tribal people at the site of the proposed Deocha-Pachami coal mine in Birbhum district on Saturday worshipped a dozen trees which had been translocated from their centuries-old location.

The state government began the process of translocating 980 trees from a 376-acre plot, which is part of the first phase of chief minister Mamata Banerjee's dream project. As of Saturday, 12 mahua (Madhuca longifolia) trees were translocated to the new site, approximately 1.5km from their original location. A source said all the 980 trees, of which 744 are mahua, would be transplanted within six months. Other species of trees include arjun, saal, sirish and murga. A team of tribal priests, led by Rabibal Tudu, reached the new site of the transplanted trees on Saturday after-

noon and performed traditional rituals for half an hour. "These trees are like gods to us and we have been worshipping them for centuries since the time of our great forefathers. As the government has translocated these trees, our people prayed for their survival," said Rabin Soren, president of Disham Adivasi Ganota, a tribal organisation that has been fighting for the community's rights since the announcement of the project. Babulal Mahato, an additional district magistrate, was present during the tree worship ceremony. That the adivasis conducted the traditional rituals showed that they were supportive of the administration's efforts, said a senior official.

"Before performing the rituals, the tribal people of the Dewanganj area held a meeting to decide whether they would proceed with

the rituals. Eventually, the leaders gave their approval," said a source, adding that it was a great relief for Mamata Banerjee's government to continue with basalt mining. Since the government announced plans to set up the world's second-largest coal mine in Deocha-Pachami, with a comprehensive compensation package for those giving up their land for the project, the adivasis' sentimental attachment to the 980 trees became a challenge. The local people informed the government of their decision not to cut down any of the 980 trees. A senior official has said the current challenge is to ensure the survival of all the translocated trees, as each one is worshipped by different tribal families in the area. "As we have learned from experts, it will take about three months to ensure that a particular translocated tree has survived,"

said the official. "We are very careful about the translocation process and the subsequent care of these trees, as they hold deep sentimental value for the local people," he added. In addition to the translocation of the trees, the government has been carrying out the mining of basalt overburden.

"Removing the basalt overburden is important before we reach the coal layer," said an official. The state government is eager to advance the Deocha-Pachami project ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, in which the coal mine will be presented as one of the state's biggest successful industrial endeavours. "That is why all top state government officials are closely monitoring every development on the ground. There is a clear directive to address all issues, even those which might seem minor," said a source.

Over 83 Lakhs students to get more eggs in mid-day meals

MI News Service, Kolkata: Students from pre-primary to Class VIII in government-run schools across the state will now get two extra eggs per week with their mid-day meals until March 31. This is in addition to the one egg they receive every week. The Office of the Project Director, Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme (now PM Poshan), under the state School Education Department, recently issued a directive outlining the initiative.

The notification states that Rs 8 per student has been allocated for 11 days. This is to provide supplementary nutrition to 85,93,783 students under the scheme. District authorities have been instructed to serve one extra egg twice a week, in addition to the existing provision of one egg per week. A total of Rs 75.62 crore has been approved. The directive specifies that the required funds will be drawn from the unspent balance of the cooking cost at the district-level from the third quarter of the 2024-25 financial year. Additionally, no separate limit will be sanctioned through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), and the fourth-quarter cooking cost allotment must not be used for this programme.

Islamic State unable to mount large-scale attacks in India: UN report

From PG 1
itself as advancing the wider Khorasan, its ability to leverage relationships with particular communities and the Taliban's ineffective efforts to eliminate it," the report said. ISIL-K benefited from the Taliban's inability to protect itself against infiltration and corruption among its own ranks, despite raids conducted to arrest disloyal officials. It further added that the status and strength of ISIL-K remained unchanged, with the ISIL-K deputy, Mawlawi Rajab playing a more prominent role in high-impact operations inside Afghanistan, including suicide bomber attacks. ISIL-K continued to build its capabilities to threaten Central Asian countries from northern Afghanistan. Previous terrorist attacks in Iran and Russia indicated the focus of ISIL (Da'esh) in the region and beyond, the report said.

The report said that ISIL-K maintained a presence across the Central and South Asia region, while Afghanistan remained the main hub for its recruitment and facilitation. The group prioritised the movement of fighters into the country. Central Asians, mostly Tajik nationals, were recruited and used in this process.



The Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma (IPS) and other dignitaries were present at The Buddy Marathon in Kolkata on Sunday.

SXU to introduce LL.M prog from 2025-26

MI News Service, Kolkata: St. Xavier's University, Kolkata (SXUK) will introduce a Master of Laws (LL.M.) programme from the 2025-26 academic session. Rev. Dr. John Felix Raj, the university's vice-chancellor (V-C), said at the sixth convocation held at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre. Rev. Dr. James Arjen Tete, the Provincial of Calcutta Jesuit Province and chancellor of the university and the V-C presided over the ceremony, where 844 students received degrees across undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD programmes. Among them, 102 students from the first batch of Xavier Law School (XLS) graduated. 48 students were awarded with gold, silver and bronze medals. G Viswanathan, founder and chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT), was conferred with the Honoris Causa Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) for his contributions to education, leadership, public service, and humanitarian efforts. In his acceptance speech, Viswanathan said: "Our GER is only 28 per cent, whereas in developed countries, it ranges between 60 per cent and 100 per cent. The National Education Policy (NEP) aims to increase GER to 50 per cent. It means that the government has to spend, invest more on education," he said. The convocation address was delivered by Justice I.P. Mukerji, Chief Justice of

Meghalaya High Court and an alumnus of St. Xavier's School and College, Kolkata. He called upon the young graduates to be committed to the ideal of justice in their future lives. The university currently offers 17 undergraduate and postgraduate courses. During his address the V-C said: "We have chosen this as our focus for the year, aiming to train every student with an interreligious outlook. Our goal is that every graduate of St. Xavier's leaves with a deeper appreciation and respect for all religions." SXUK currently has 3,840 students, with 1,262 new admissions in the 2024-25 session. Additionally, 145 research scholars are pursuing PhD programmes. The university provides residential facilities for 900 students—300 boys and 600 girls. The university is set to open a second academic building, equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, which will house the Xavier Law School (XLS) and will introduce its LL.M. programme in this new wing from the 2025-26 academic session. In 2024, the university introduced an AI-powered Learning Management System (LMS) to enhance the teaching-learning process. SXUK also signed several Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in 2024, including Alliance Française du Bengale; University of Sussex, Brighton (UK); India Japan Laboratory.

City hosts ICC's exclusive interactive Session on balance & well-being

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), in collaboration with its Ladies Study Group (LSG), recently hosted an exclusive session with BK Sister Shivani, Nari Shakti Puraskar awardee and renowned spiritual and motivational speaker. The session, themed "Balancing Life, Success and Soul Empowerment," focused on achieving harmony between professional success and inner well-being. Distinguished dignitaries in attendance included Parthiv Vikram Neotia, Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce; Minnie Juneja, President, Ladies Study Group (LSG); and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce.

While delivering the welcome address, Parthiv Vikram Neotia, Vice President, Indian Chamber of Commerce, said, "we are honoured to welcome BK Sister Shivani, a visionary leader and spiritual mentor. A recipient of the Nari Shakti Puraskar, India's highest civilian honour for women and an ambassador for the World Psychiatric Association, she has empowered millions with her insights on emotional intelligence, resilience and spiritual well-being. In a

world where success is often measured in financial terms, Sister Shivani reminds us that true success lies in inner peace, ethical leadership and self-mastery.

Through 'Awakening with Brahma Kumaris', she has transformed perspectives on emotions, relationships and mindful living. As the Indian Chamber of Commerce approaches its centenary, we reflect on the evolving definition of leadership—one rooted in mindfulness, integrity and purpose."

Alluding to the theme of the session, BK Sister Shivani, Nari Shakti Puraskar awardee and renowned spiritual and motivational speaker, said, "We are all in the common pursuit of happiness, peace and love.

We want these things but the truth is, true happiness isn't something external that we acquire. It's an internal state, shaped by how we respond to life's events. Success is not about external achievements alone; it lies in cultivating happiness, love and peace within yourself and your surroundings. It's crucial to recognise the difference between mere achievement and genuine success because society often prioritises the former over the latter.

South Bengal dists including Kolkata to have rainfall: MeT Dept

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore predicted rainfall in several south Bengal districts, including Kolkata on Wednesday and Thursday next week. According to the MeT office, some of the districts may receive moderate rainfall while some others will receive light rainfall. The weather in south Bengal will mostly stay dry in the next three days. There is, however, no

prediction of rainfall in the north Bengal districts till Thursday next week.

Kolkata on Friday saw a sudden drop in temperature as mercury slid down by around 5 degree. The MeT office had earlier announced that the winter will withdraw in February. It is a twist as Kolkata's temperature took a dip of 5 degrees overnight.

This winter cold will not, however, stay for long as the mercury will again

go up, the MeT office added. "Light rain is expected in Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, North and South 24-Parganas, as well as East and West Midnapore on Wednesday and Thursday next week. Several districts, including North and South 24-Parganas, East and West Midnapore, West Burdwan, Birbhum, and Murshidab may witness fog in the early morning hours," it was stated.

Dr. R P Banerjee's books on vedic wisdom gets unveiled

MI News Service, Kolkata: Two books authored by eminent educationist Prof. (Dr.) Rama Prosad Banerjee, titled "The VEDAS - Wisdom and Truth for Human Emergence" and "Vedasnana: Satyarthir Brahmgyana Sadhan Vedapathae" was recently unveiled in Kolkata. Dr. Banerjee is the Chairman & Director, Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management, Kolkata (EILM-Kolkata). These books provide an in-depth exploration of Vedic wisdom, its role in shaping civilizations and its continued relevance in modern science, technology and human transcendence.

Bengal's economic development remarkable: Ambassador of Philippines

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Ambassador of Philippines in India Josel Francisco Ignacio recently made a visit to Kolkata. During his stay in Kolkata he praised the economic development effort made in the state by the state government. During a programme organized by Calcutta Chamber of Commerce, Ignacio candidly mentioned, "Pro-industry state government with their innovative policies is showing path to many others." He mentioned that there are enough opportunities in West Bengal where Philippines can work with, especially in the domain of IT and energy sector. He further mentioned that "while Modi has created an industrial revolution in India, Banerjee here is almost doing the same with her honest intention to do business."

India to be connected with longest under-sea cable Project Waterworth: Meta

From PG 1

According to the US-India joint statement, India intends to invest in maintenance, repair and financing of undersea cables in the Indian Ocean, using trusted vendors. Meta in a blog on Project Waterworth said that the company is deploying first-of-its-kind routing, maximizing the cable laid in deep water -- at depths up to 7,000 metres -- and using enhanced burial techniques in high-risk fault areas, such as shallow waters near the coast, to avoid damage from ship anchors and other hazards. The company said the new, multi-billion dollar investment will connect five continents, enhancing the scale and reliability of the global digital highways that power Meta's apps and services, and will be ready for service at the end of the decade. "This project will enable greater economic cooperation, facilitate digital inclusion, and open opportunities for technological development in these regions. For example, in India, where we've already seen significant growth and investment in digital infrastructure.

Andhra bird flu: Bengal govt monitoring poultry imports



MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government is keeping a vigil on poultry imports in the wake of the bird flu outbreak in Andhra Pradesh, a minister said. Bengal Animal Resources Development Minister Swapan Debnath said the department is aware of the situation "We are aware of the situation and keeping a strict vigil," the minister told PTI. He, however, did not announce a ban on imports of poultry items from the southern state. Meanwhile, there are growing concerns over the potential impact of the outbreak of avian influenza in Andhra Pradesh on West Bengal's poultry sector. Notably, West Bengal sources eggs from Andhra Pradesh.

The West Bengal Poultry Federation assured that stringent surveillance has been in place since November last year to prevent the virus from

entering the state. The outbreak has also started affecting poultry sales in Bengal, with markets witnessing fewer buyers. As a result, chicken prices have dropped to Rs 200 per kg, down from Rs 220 just a few days ago. Despite the decline in prices, demand remains weak as uncertainty over the virus persists, traders said.

According to a doctor, bird flu is common during this period, but the virus generally does not transmit to humans. There is a risk of virus transmission among those who handle birds, but experts do not see any risk in consuming cooked poultry meat, as the virus gets killed in extreme heat. Andhra Pradesh minister K Athanaidu had on Wednesday said there was no need to panic over the outbreak of avian influenza in the state as measures to control it are in place.



Eminent personalities and Padmashree Awardees, Tejendra Narayan Majumder, Mamata Shankar and Gokul Chandra Das were recently felicitated in Kolkata on behalf of Kalakhetram.

State govt allocates funds for Ganges River Project

MI News Service, Kolkata: The long-awaited bridge across the Muriganga River in Gangesagar may finally become a reality, bringing relief to residents and pilgrims who have suffered for years due to vessel services being halted during low tide. The West Bengal government, led by Mamata Banerjee, has allocated ₹500 crore in the state budget for the construction of a 4-lane bridge, sparking hope

among locals. The bridge, which will span approximately 3 kilometers from Lot No. 8 to Kachuberia, is expected to take around four years to complete. Once built, it will provide a direct link from Kachuberia Jetty Ghat to Ashram More in Kakkdwp, alleviating the difficulties faced by passengers, including women, children, the elderly, and the sick, who often have to wait for hours due to the tidal schedule.

Zelensky calls for European Army

From PG 1

"Ukraine will never accept deals made behind our backs without our involvement, and the same rule should apply to all of Europe," Zelensky said. "A few days ago, President Trump told me about his conversation with Putin. Not once did he mention that America needs Europe at the table. That says a lot." "The old days are over when America supported Europe just because it always had." Zelensky insisted that "three years of full-scale war have proven that we already have the foundation for a united European military force. And now, as we fight this war and lay the groundwork for peace and security, we must build the armed forces of Europe." Noting the presence of NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte in the audience, Zelensky said his idea "wasn't about replacing the alliance. This is about making Europe's contribution to our partnership equal to America's."

From Calcutta to California, a Bengali's triumph at Trumpland

MI News Service, Kolkata: The journey eventually started from Bhutan to Bansdroni in Kolkata and ended up in California. It is the story of the city man Bikrom Das. Bikrom Das's parents used to live in Bhutan before settling down at Bansdroni in Kolkata. A family where pure academics have always taken the first seat, Bikrom thought something out of the box. But initially, like a typical Bengali family, there was a hitch. But Bikrom's 'Bikrom' ('valour' in Bengali) was meant to give him a different destiny altogether that he or his parents might not of thought. Bikrom quite carefully and categorically opted for becoming a 'Chef'. Hence, he admitted himself



to IHM to fulfill his farfetched dream. His knack for cooking can be traced back to his school days. Many took his knack as his 'whims and caprices' and it did not have much importance neither to his family nor

to his friend circles. But as the peers always say, "people are guided by destiny", he too was destined to go for something spectacular. After passing out of IHM, Kolkata, he worked with top class hospitality properties across India. Things were going pretty smooth as expected. But to Bikrom Das, "something was missing yet". Like a true Bengali, his 'globe-trotting' instinct compelled him to look west. He then flocked from Calcutta (Kolkata) to California for a 'Chef' job in a posh hotel. According to Bikrom, it was a big leap and there at California he has to "unlearn and relearn so many things." Against all odds he stuck to his feet to make a

mark there in California, USA. He started infusing 'ethnic Bengali' foods in the menu list much to the delight of the American people. Now at present he is proudly working as a 'Corporate Chef' at a top class restaurant in California heading 17 outlets. Donald Trump's coming into the throne does not bother him. To him, "President Trump is a true nationalist much like Modi in India. The former has taken up the policy of America first, American first under the banner of MAGA which is quite praiseworthy." "I never faced racism in USA and to me what the USA government is doing to the illegal immigrants there is quite fair enough.

Chevron to invest \$1 billion in India

MI News Service, New Delhi: Energy giant Chevron is setting up a \$1-billion engineering and innovation centre in India, its second biggest in the world, as it looks to tap the country's engineering and technology talent to support its global operations and projects, its India head Akshay Sahni said.

The Chevron Engineering and Innovation Excellence Center (ENGINE) in Bengaluru is not a back office but a centre that will do works ranging from understanding geology for oil and gas production and carbon storage to developing digital twins for oil refineries and advanced process monitoring to improve supply reliability, he said on the sidelines of the India Energy Week here.

It will be the company's largest centre outside of the US.

"ENGINE is a state-of-the-art technology hub to support Chevron's global projects and operations. This is where we plan to build a diverse and inclusive workforce that will deliver technology solutions to support affordable, reliable and ever-cleaner energy for a growing world," he said.

It's very well aligned with India's vision as well to have affordable energy supplies and the people at the ENGINE will work on higher-end technology solutions to support this vision.

Chevron will lay off 15 per cent to 20 per cent of its global workforce, aiming to cut \$2-3 billion in structural costs by the end of next year. The energy giant employs more than 40,000 people globally.

ER's Malda Division Successfully Launches Two Limited Height Subways in New Farakka- Azimganj Section

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Malda Division continues to enhance railway infrastructure for safer and seamless operations. In a significant engineering achievement, the division successfully launched two Limited Height Subways (LHS) in the New Farakka and Azimganj section.

On Saturday (15.02.2025), Malda Division successfully executed the simultaneous insertion of two more LHS structures—one at Level Crossing (LC) Gate 53 between Ballalpur and Dhulian Ganga Station and another at LC Gate 41 between Dhulian Ganga and Nimtita Station in the New Farakka-Azimganj Section. The project was carried out using advanced engineering



This method significantly enhances safety and strengthens railway infrastructure by ensuring superior earth retention, groundwater control, and excavation stability. It also minimizes risks such as track subsidence and soil displacement while improving worker safety and reducing disruptions to the surrounding area.

Despite the complexity of the task, both structures were successfully inserted within a record timeframe without affecting normal train services. The elimination of these level crossings marks a crucial step towards improving safety for both rail and road users, reducing traffic congestion, and enhancing overall operational efficiency.

The construction of these two LHS will not only improve train speed and road traffic flow in Malda Division but also contribute to safety, environmental sustainability, economic growth, and social inclusivity in the region.

Manufacturing and inspection of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) pack complete to haul stranded Metros from the mid section in case of power cut or grid failure

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway, Kolkata, India's first Metro, is going to achieve another feat very soon. It has been the torch-bearer in introducing new technologies, innovative ideas and running trains under the river in Indian Railways for the first time to provide commuters a fast and comfortable journey. Now our Metro is gearing up to introduce a new technology which would be another first-of-its kind initiative in the country to further ensure commuters' safety and improve energy consumption.

In order to ensure passengers' safety in an eco-friendly way, Metro Railway is going to install Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Central sub-station of Blue Line very soon. This new system, an amalgamation of inverters and Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Batteries, is capable of doing wonders in case of a sudden power cut or grid failure. As per the National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage approved by the Union Cabinet in 2021 with budgetary outlay of more than Rs.18,000 crores, this scheme has been envisaged in Metro Railway, first time among all Zones of Indian Railways as well as all other Metro systems in India, to strengthen the eco-system for electric mobility and battery storage. Foreign multi-nationals like Siemens, Toshiba, Delta and Eaton have already expressed their eagerness to work with Metro Railway, Kolkata to implement this ambitious project. Order was placed through an open bidding process to M/s



Delta Electronics Pvt. Ltd. on 04.05.2024 to install 4 MW BESS with 6.4 MWh Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery as energy storage element. Layout plan and manufacturing clearance was issued in the month of September-October 2024. With fast-track processing and manufacturing, the Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery pack (LFP type) was ready for inspection in January 2025. Inspection was scheduled in the first week of February, 2025. A team consisting of Shri Abhishek Verma, Dy CEE/Maintenance/ Blue Line and Shri Uttam Kumar Bar, SSE/Masterda Surya Sen were deputed for inspection of battery pack at Taiwan manufacturing unit with approval of Railway Board. Inspection has been successful and dispatch clearance has been issued. It is expected that Battery pack will reach the installation site in the middle of March 2025. The system is expected

to be installed, commissioned and fully operational in May 2025.

Adhering to the norms of Make in India Policy of Govt. of India, this company, which is an Indian subsidiary of M/s Delta Inc. Taiwan, will manufacture the power converter system of the battery in India and LFP battery in Taiwan, holding company of M/s Delta. Shri Abhishek Verma, Dy CEE/Maintenance/ Blue Line has been instrumental and also the nodal officer for the detailed specification as well as installation of this project.

This new system has been designed in such a way that the electricity generated by it can be used to haul passenger packed stranded rakes at 30 km/hr speed from the mid-tunnel to the next station in case of any power failure or even National Grid Failure. This is indeed a huge advancement as passenger packed trains won't have to wait in underground tunnels or on viaduct for restoration of power supply in case of a disruption of power. Thousands of passengers can be brought to safety with the help of this system. Railway Board has also provided funds for smooth execution of this eco-friendly project. This new system, equipped with green batteries and having lifespan of around 14 years, will require around 106 sq. metre space only to install. It is going to reduce carbon footprint with better energy efficiency, long life and occupy lesser space sans health hazards, fire hazards which are associated much more with acidic / alkaline batteries.

Metro Railway engineers have prepared the specification and innovative blueprint to supply 4 MW power generated by this battery pack from a particular location to any station between Dumdum to Tollygunge of North-South Corridor using 33 kV ring main system. It has a potential to save the peak hour demand which may help Metro Railway to save Rs.7 crore in its lifetime. Apart from that, it will also ensure power factor improvement which in turn save another Rs. 6 crore. This battery may also be used as a storage system at night and then the stored energy can be used in the day time during peak hours. This proposed system will also not allow power factor to drop below 0.9 at any time leading to further savings. In case of any fire, this new system will be instrumental to play the role of emergency power source for tunnel ventilation, Over the Track Exhaust (OTE) and platform ventilation as well as an emergency power source for anything at any place.

Metro Railway authorities are planning to install 7 such BESS of 1 MW each capacity with additional feature of Traction Energy Storage System (TESS) in new sub-stations which will be added very soon in Blue Line for betterment of Metro services. It will also facilitate storing of all energy generated during re-generation breaking of all the 3-phase rakes.

If everything goes as par plan, Metro Railway, Kolkata is going to be the first Metro in India which will be in possession of fully functional BESS by May 2025.

Another milestone achieved by Sealdah division - sectional speed of Gobardanga enhanced from 50 kmph to 110 kmph

MI News Service, Kolkata: In yet another major infrastructure upgradation, the layout of Gobardanga has been successfully corrected to enhance the sectional speed from 50 KMPH to 110 KMPH. The massive layout correction was accomplished at Gobardanga Railway Station on February 15th and 16th, enhancing safety and efficiency of train operations significantly. A meticulously planned mega block, executed in between 23:30 hrs and 09:00 hrs., saw the orchestrated coordinated efforts of the Operating, Engineering, S&T and TRD Departments of Sealdah Division. Over 400 labourers, supported by a fleet of track machines, tower wagons and earthmoving equipment - worked tirelessly to accomplish the project within the designated timeframe under the dynamic leadership of Sri Deepak Nigam DRM/Sealdah.



realignment encompassed 0.5 kilometers of wiring, including a crossover. Final checks and adjustments to the crossover alignment were conducted during a subsequent corridor block by replacing and shifting 11 meters towards the Sealdah (SDAH) end. This complex operation also included the relocation of point junction boxes, DC track circuit bonds, and six glued joints. This upgrade enhances the reliability and safety of point operations at this critical location.

Impressively, several other essential maintenance and operational upgradation activities were also carried concurrently under the shadow of Gobardanga mega block, leveraging the opportunity to minimize disruptions to train services. These shadow works, carried out at various locations, highlight the efficient planning and execution of Sealdah Division.

At Chandpara, deep screening of Platform 2 line was performed using BCM machines 388 and 718. This process removes accumulated ballast and improves

Successful rebuilding of Brick Masonry Bridges no. 16 & 21 in Seoraphuli - Tarakeswar section

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Howrah division has successfully completed the rebuilding of Brick Masonry Bridges No. 16 & 21 in Seoraphuli -Tarakeswar section over Down Line, ensuring improved structural integrity and enhanced operational efficiency. This project was executed within a planned 10-hour Traffic & Power Block for rebuilding of both bridges. The block was taken from 23:20 hrs of 15.2.2025 to 09:20 hrs of 16.2.2025, during which the existing bridges were dismantled and replaced with RCC Box Bridges using the Cut & Cover method. Each bridge now consists of four (04) slabs and three (03) boxes, significantly improving their durability and strength.



Advanced machinery was deployed for the execution of the work such as a 140 Ton Railway Crane, three Poelain machines, one JCB Breaker and one Hydra were used to facilitate the construction process. Additionally, several important maintenance works were carried out during the block. A total of 2400 Track

Meters (TM) of ERC greasing was completed between Seoraphuli & Diara and Welding (SKV) of 24 Nos of Rail joints was executed between Seoraphuli & Singur. Moreover, BRM (Ballast Regulating Machine) work for laying of Ballast over a span of 5054 Track Meters (TM) was completed between Bahirkhanda & Tarakeswar in the shadow of the block period. These activities contributed to overall track strengthening and ensured safer train operations.

The successful execution of this bridge rebuilding work within the scheduled block duration highlights Eastern Railway's commitment to infrastructure modernization and passenger safety. The new RCC Box Bridges will provide enhanced reliability and efficiency, contributing to smoother and safer railway services. Eastern Railway remains dedicated to upgrading its infrastructure to deliver seamless and secure train operations for passengers and freight movement.

Regulation of trains for Maha Kumbha Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to regulate the movement of following trains for Maha Kumbha Mela —

Cancellation: 12367 Bhagalpur - New Delhi Vikramshila Express (journey commencing on 16.02.2025) and 12368 New Delhi -Bhagalpur Vikramshila Express (journey commencing on 17.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 4 hours.

• 12314 New Delhi - Sealdah Rajdhani Express (journey commencing on 16.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 4 hours.

• 12316 Udaipur - Kolkata Ananaya Express (Journey commencing on 17.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 4 hours.

commencing on 16.02.2025 & 17.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours.

• 22308 Bikaner-Howrah Superfast Express (Journey commencing on 16.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 4 hours.

• 12316 Udaipur - Kolkata Ananaya Express (Journey commencing on 17.02.2025) will be rescheduled by 4 hours.

Eastern Railway enhances infrastructure developmental works in Barasat-Sealdah section

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division successfully carried out major developmental works at Gobardanga station in Barasat - Sealdah section over Sealdah division during a planned block period from 23:30 hrs on 15.02.2025 to 09:00 hrs on 16.02.2025. A workforce of 400 labourers, supported by track machines, tower wagons, and earth-moving equipment, was mobilized to execute critical railway infrastructure upgrades aimed at improving safety, efficiency, and operational reliability.

Extensive track alignment and point shifting work at Gobardanga station was undertaken to facilitate smoother and more efficient train movement. The project involved the shifting of two points and the execution of a 500-meter slewing of the curve, significantly improving track alignment. Additionally, ten Overhead Equipment (OHE) masts were relocated to a newly designated alignment, with new masts already installed



during preparatory work. A 0.5 km OHE realignment, including one crossover, was completed, with further checking and fine-tuning scheduled during a corridor block using tower wagons. To improve signaling efficiency at Gobinda station, a crossover Point 51 was replaced by 51A and shifted 11 meters towards the Sealdah end. In addition, point junction boxes, DC track circuit bonds, and six glued joints were relocated accordingly, ensuring seamless train operations and enhanced safety. Apart from the major track modifications at Gobardanga, several other crucial works were undertaken to strengthen railway infrastructure such as Deep

Screening of Platform no -2 at Chandpara was carried out using Ballast Cleaning Machines (BCM), significantly improving track stability alongwith Tamping & Deep screening of plain track between Dattapukur-Bira section was done using BCM machine for ensuring smoother train movement and enhance ride quality for passengers.

To maintain a reliable power supply and traction efficiency, several critical TRD maintenance tasks were performed including Periodic Overhaul (POH) of 10 cantilevers and 1 section insulator, Annual Overhaul (AOH) of 8 Overhead Equipment (OHE) installations, AOH of 8 lightning arrestors at Gobardanga Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post (SSP) & Chandpara Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post (SSP), ensuring protection for the power network, AOH of Potential Transformers to enhance power monitoring and efficiency and Maintenance of two full gantries at Gobardanga Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post & Chandpara Sub-Sectioning and Paralleling Post, reinforcing traction reliability.

The completion of these extensive developmental works underscores Eastern Railway's commitment to modernizing railway infrastructure and ensuring safer, smoother, and more efficient train operations. By enhancing track alignment, signaling systems, and traction reliability, these improvements will significantly benefit passengers and freight movement across the Sealdah Division.

Eastern Railway remains dedicated to continuous infrastructure advancements to provide seamless travel experiences and safe, reliable railway services.

Indian Army's Gajraj Corps swift action saves lives & property in Tenga Market Fire

MI News Service, Arunachal Pradesh: In yet another display of unwavering dedication to the nation, the Indian Army GajrajCorps sprang into action when a massive fire broke out in the main market of Tenga, West Kameng, along the Tezpur-Tawang Highway at 0400 hours on 15 February 2025.

With no time to lose, Army personnel rushed to the scene with firefighting trucks, battling the raging flames to protect lives and property. Their swift response and coordinated efforts not only contained the fire but also provided immediate humanitarian support



to the distressed residents in the vicinity.

This courageous act is yet another testament to the seamless Civil-Military Cooperation, where the Indian Army stands as the first responder in times of crisis, always ready to safeguard the people.

The Indian Army remains steadfast in its commitment to national security, humanitarian assistance, and nation-building, proving once again that every action is truly for the nation!

JioStar launches JioHotstar

MI News Service, Mumbai: JioStar, the newly formed joint venture by the merger of Viacom18 and Star India, announced the launch of JioHotstar by bringing together JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar streaming platforms.

With close to 3 lakh hours of entertainment, live sports coverage, and more than 50 crore users, JioHotstar provides compelling subscription plans tailored to diverse audience needs, starting at Rs 149, the company said in a statement.

Existing JioCinema and Disney+ Hotstar subscribers will be able to seamlessly transition

and set up their JioHotstar subscriptions, it added.

"At the core of JioHotstar is a powerful vision -- to make premium entertainment truly accessible to all Indians. Our promise of 'Infinite Possibilities' ensures that entertainment is no longer a privilege, but a shared experience for all," JioStar CEO - Digital, Kiran Mani said.

Mani further said, "By integrating AI-driven recommendations and offering streaming in over 19 languages, we are personalising content like never before." JioHotstar will offer the best of Hollywood, with Disney, NBCUniversal Peacock, Warner Bros. Discovery HBO, and Paramount - all on the same platform, the company said.

It will also stream premier tournaments like ICC events, IPL, and WPL, while also spotlighting grassroots cricket with the Indian Street Premier League and events from BCCI, ICC, and state associations, other sporting events including the Premier League and Wimbledon, and domestic leagues such as Pro Kabaddi and ISL.

"Sports in India is more than just a game -- it's passion, pride, and a shared experience that unites millions.

Kolkata hosts VIT's Alumni prog

MI News Service, Kolkata: Leading Education Institution Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) hosted the Kolkata Chapter alumni meet at Kolkata. The event drew an impressive turnout of over 100 alumni spanning various batches.

Hon. Chancellor Dr. G. Viswanath chaired the meeting that was attended by several top bureaucrats and leading industrialists. In his Presidential address, Dr. Viswanath said it is always a joy to visit the city of joy.

He recalled some of his fond memories with the state and some of its tallest leaders that include Dr. Pranab Mukherjee, Somnath Chatterjee, Siddhartha Shankar Ray, Indrajit Gupta, Hiren Mukherjee, Jyoti Basu. He also chattered out the sim-

ilarities between Tamil Nadu & West Bengal by pointing out the similarity towards their affinity towards the mother tongue and education.

He urged the alumni to take care of the families, society and the country. He added that the Union Government's ambitious Bharath can become a reality only when higher education reaches the masses.

Binod Kumar IAS, Principal Secretary of School Education

and Higher Education Govt of West Bengal, Hari Kishore Kusumakar IPS, Additional Director General (ADG) and Inspector General (IG) of Police Cyber Crime in West Bengal and Naresh Keyal, Director - Mortex NK Organization, Sankar Viswanathan, Vice-President VIT, Dr. Partha Sharathi Mallick, P.Ro-Vice Chancellor VIT & Dr. Elizabeth Rufus, Director - Alumni Affairs were present during the event.

Name Change
I, SABHA REYAZ Daughter of MD. REYAZUDDIN by faith Islam by Occupation student residing at 36,Topsia Road, Kolkata 700 039 hereby affirm and declare that My father name is MD. REYAZUDDIN instead of Reyazuddin my aadhar no is 29525975227 and Voter ID card no ZYR 234747 both are mentioned MD. REYAZUDDIN but mistaken in my academic certificate my father name Reyazuddin instead of MD. REYAZUDDIN West Bengal Board of secondary Education registration no 1092179760 & WBCHS education admit card bearing Roll 410121 No 2193 and certificate also written as Reyazuddin instead of his actual name MD. REYAZUDDIN. Md. Reyazuddin and Reyazuddin is same identical person and it having equal value in the eye of law vide affidavit no 12594 dtd 15/2/25 10th Judicial Magistrate 1st class Alipore.

Name Change
I, Priyadarshini Chatterjee (Old Name), D/O. Bishalata Basu, Residing At C943, Tagore Park, Laskarhat, Po-Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, Shall henceforth be Known As Priyadarshini Basu (New Name) Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2025. That Priyadarshini Basu And Priyadarshini Chatterjee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mousami kumari (Old Name) wife of Abhishek Agarwal and daughter of Satya Narayan Agarwal (father) and Meena devi (mother), residing at Avani Oxford Phase 2, Block 5, Flat 14C, 136 Jessore Road, Opp China mandir, Bangur Avenue, Lake Town, Bangur Avenue, North 24 Parganas, 700055, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahesh Agarwal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Mahesh Agarwal (New Name) and Mousami kumari (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdur Rashid Mondal (Old Name) son of Fakir Ahmed Mondal, residing at Bhabagachi, Dogachia, Naihati, Dist.- North 24 Pgs. West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Rasid Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Barrackpore, dated 21/10/2024. Abdul Rasid Mondal (New Name) and Abdur Rashid Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Samir (Old Name) son of Achananda Haranchandra SARKAR, residing at N V LANE ROAD BOSEPUKUR SARKAR PARA PO. RAJPUKUR PS SONARPUR PIN-700149, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Samir Achananda Sarker (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 07/02/2025. Samir Achananda Sarker (New Name) and Samir (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shubhoodeep Sarker (Old Name) son of Samir Achananda Sarker, residing at N V LANE ROAD BOSEPUKUR SARKAR PARA PO. RAJPUKUR PS SONARPUR PIN-700149, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shubhoodeep Samir Sarker (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 07/02/2025. Shubhoodeep Samir Sarker (New Name) and Shubhoodeep Sarker (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Moizuddin (Old Name) son of Nazam, residing at 41/11, RAI CHARAN GHOSH LANE, KOLKATA 700039, P.O. & P.S.- TILJALA, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Moizuddin (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Md Moizuddin (New Name) and Moizuddin (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Ayaz (Old Name) son of NASIM KHAN, residing at 9/L, TOPSIA 2ND LANE KOLKATA 700039, P.O. & P.S.- TILJALA, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Ayaz Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 12/02/2025. Md Ayaz Khan (New Name) and Md Ayaz (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Nadeem Hassan (Old Name) son of Noor Ahmed, residing at 29, TOPSIA ROAD, KOLKATA 700039, P.O. & P.S.- TILJALA, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nadeem Hassan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 13/02/2025. Nadeem Hassan (New Name) and Md Nadeem Hassan (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Juggling between ministries...: TMC hits out at Railway Minister over Delhi stampede

MI News Service, New Delhi: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Derek O'Brien on Sunday took a dig at Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, citing his colleague Abhishek Banerjee's speech in Lok Sabha, where the latter accused Vaishnaw of "juggling" between three ministries.

Over a week ago, Banerjee hit out at Vaishnaw, calling him a "half-minister," saying that running the Indian railways was not a "side gig."

"Now, I will come to half minister. I spoke about half-truths. I spoke about half-federalism. Now let us talk about half-ministry because our part-time railway minister is juggling between two other ministries - Electronics and IT, Information and Broadcasting (IB). Running the Indian Railways, which is considered a lifeline for millions, is not a side gig," Banerjee said while speaking in Lok Sabha.

"Under BJP, governance has become a multitasking circus delivering half-baked results everywhere. I say this because, from the

time this government came in, they have discontinued the railway budget. What have they done for safety? How many kilometres have been covered under Kavach (system) between 2015 and 2024? There have been 678 consequential railway accidents, where more than 784 people have lost their lives, leaving more than 2,000 injured," he added.

O'Brien's reaction comes as the railway minister finds himself in trouble over the New Delhi railway station stampede incident, where 18 people, including three children, have died. Congress has also demanded Vaishnaw's resignation.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi also jumped into the criticism, labelling the railway minister as a "reel minister."

"Those who keep saying 'not the right time to criticise or seek accountability' after every tragedy are effectively telling the reel mantri 'not the time to take onus and resign.' How many derailments,

accidents, stampedes, lives lost, passenger fare raised, passenger having to travel in inhuman way will it take to become the right time for seeking accountability?" Chaturvedi posted on X.

Earlier in the day, former Union Railway Minister and RJD Chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Sunday said that the Railway's mismanagement led to the stampede.

The stampede occurred around 10 pm when thousands of devotees were heading to Prayagraj Maha Kumbh, causing severe overcrowding at the station.

According to Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Railway, KPS Malhotra, the incident occurred when a large number of passengers gathered on platform no. 14, where the Prayagraj Express was stationed. Additionally, delays in the departures of the Swatantra Senani Express and Bhubaneswar Rajdhani led to further congestion at platforms 12, 13, and 14.

An eyewitness described the chaos, stating that the crowd came from both

sides after an announcement about a train platform change, leading to the stampede. Another eyewitness recounted the horror, saying that the crowd was beyond control. People from the administration and even NDRF personnel were there, but when the crowd exceeded the limit, it was impossible to manage them.

Most of the bodies of the deceased brought to the national capital's Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital following the stampede at the New Delhi Railway station had injuries on their chest and abdomen areas, with asphyxia being the likely cause of death, according to RML hospital sources.

A compensation of Rs 10 lakh was announced by the Indian Railways for the families of the deceased who lost their lives in the tragic incident.

Additionally, the Indian Railways announced a compensation of Rs 2.5 lakh for those seriously injured in the incident and Rs 1 lakh for those with minor injuries.

Newly elected BJP MLAs to meet in Delhi to choose Chief Minister candidate today

MI News Service, New Delhi: The newly elected Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs are scheduled to meet on Monday (February 17) at 3 PM at the Delhi BJP State Office to decide the Chief Minister (CM) candidate.

All BJP MLAs have been notified of the meeting.

Voting for the Delhi Assembly elections took place on February 5, and the results were announced on February 8. The BJP won 48 out of the 70 seats in the Delhi Assembly.

The party did not announce a Chief Ministerial face before the elections. With the current Delhi Assembly's term ending on February 23, the swearing-in ceremony could take

place before that.

According to sources, the Delhi Chief Minister's swearing-in ceremony may take place at the Ramlila ground on February 18.

The BJP has secured power in the Delhi Assembly after 27 years, winning 48 seats out of 70. This election was a direct contest between BJP and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

However, AAP could only secure 22 seats this time. Prominent AAP leaders like Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Saurabh Bhardwaj, and Satyendra Jain could not taste victory this time.

Several names are in the race for the position of Delhi CM, with the most prominent being Parvesh Verma. The BJP fielded

Parvesh against AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal in New Delhi and became a key figure after defeating Kejriwal.

Satish Upadhyay is another strong contender for the CM position. He has served as the Delhi BJP president and was also the president of the Delhi Youth Wing.

The third name on the list is Ashish Sood, the Punjab face of the BJP in Delhi.

Jitendra Mahajan is also considered a potential candidate for the CM position. The fifth name in the running is Vijender Gupta.

If the party opts for a female leader, former Delhi Mayor and first-time MLA Rekha Gupta could be a possibility.

Indian army retaliates after Pakistani troops fire at post along LoC

MI News Service, Poonch: Pakistani troops opened fire on an Indian Army post along the Line of Control (LoC) in the Poonch sector on Sunday around 11 AM, prompting an immediate retaliation from the Indian Army. Officials confirmed to ANI. No casualties were reported on the Indian side, Army sources said.

"At about 11 AM on Sunday, Pak troops opened small arms fire on our post along LC in Poonch Sect. The fire was retaliated appropriately by Indian Army. No casualties on our side," Army officials said.

This incident comes days after the Army reaffirmed that the ceasefire agreement along the LoC remains intact, despite occasional stray firing incidents.

Earlier on February 13, the Army dismissed reports of a ceasefire violation along the Line of Control (LoC), stating that the truce remains intact and is being upheld according to the understanding between the Indian and Pakistani armies.

"The ceasefire on the Line of Control is intact and continues to be observed as per the understanding between both the armies (of India and Pakistan). Tension due to some stray incidents of cross-LoC firing and a suspected IED blast on one of our PTLs on the LoC is being dealt with through the established mechanism. No exchange of fire of heavy-calibre weapons has taken place," the statement further read. The Army further stated that minor incidents along the LoC are not uncommon and that concerns have been raised with the Pakistan Army at the appropriate level. It assured that the situation remains stable, is being closely monitored, and that Indian forces maintain a high level of alertness while continuing to assert dominance over the LoC.

All special trains in the direction of Prayagraj will be run from platform number 16: Railways

MI News Service, New Delhi: A day after the tragic stampede incident at New Delhi railway station, Northern Railway enforced a number of measures to avoid any such untoward incident in the days to come.

The Ministry of Railways has announced that all special trains in the direction of Prayagraj will be run from platform number 16.

"Therefore, all the passengers wanting to go to Prayagraj shall come & go from Ajmeri Gate side of New Delhi railway station. Regular trains will continue to be operated from all platforms as the regular practice is. This is a step in the direction of avoiding peak hour rush getting accumulated in one platform," the Ministry said in an official statement.

"In addition, the deployment of RPF & GRP forces in New Delhi Railway station has been increased. These personnel are assist-

ing the passengers by helping them guide towards the platform in which their train is scheduled to depart. In addition to the focus on increased operational efficiency in rush hours, Northern Railways ran three special trains by evening 7 pm to clear the additional rush in the direction of Prayagraj. This includes one special train to Darbhanga via Prayagraj and two more special trains towards Prayagraj. Besides regular trains towards Prayagraj one more special Train is scheduled to depart at 9 pm to cater to the peak evening hour demand. Given the unprecedented crowd of travellers wanting to go in the direction of Prayagraj, Indian Railway has scheduled five more special trains tomorrow, i.e. 17/02/2025 for Mahakumbh devotees," the statement added.

The Ministry said that in order to avoid any untoward incident in future,

Indian Railways appeals through media outlets to the public at large, "not to fall prey to rumours" as it was witnessed in the unfortunate incident at New Delhi railway station yesterday.

"All the travellers are requested not to change platforms on hearsay and strictly follow the official announcement. Indian Railway seeks cooperation of passengers by adhering to operational planning of Indian Railways. This will go a long way & help zonal railway authorities to smoothly execute planned regular & special train services for the commuters," it added.

"Railways Helpline no 139 continues to serve for the people to reach out for any enquiry and passenger support during ongoing rush situations. Indian Railways has received more than 130 calls relating to yesterday's unfortunate incident on this

helpline number by 5 PM today. Further, Indian Railway personnel assisted the families of each deceased by accompanying them to their Homes and took part in their final rites," it said.

Earlier in the day, Indian Railways announced an ex-gratia of rupees 10 lakh to the kin of all the 18 deceased. An amount of rupees 2.5 lakh to grievously injured passengers and a compensation of rupees 1 lakh for passengers with minor injury were distributed to the 15 injured, during the day.

The two-member high-level committee announced to probe yesterday's untoward incident has begun its work. The committee comprises Pankaj Gangwar, Principal Chief Security Commissioner & Nar Singh, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, both Higher Administrative Grade officers.



Players in action during the ISL match between Mohammedan SC and East Bengal FC at Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan in Kolkata. Score: East Bengal -3 Md. Sporting-1.

President Murmu inaugurates Aadi Mahotsav 2025, highlights development efforts for Tribal society

MI News Service, New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the National Tribal Festival 'Aadi Mahotsav' in New Delhi on Sunday and said that during the last 10 years, many effective steps have been taken to develop tribal society overall, and the Tribal Development Budget has increased five times to about one lakh twenty-five thousand crore rupees.

The idea behind paying special attention to the development of tribal society is that only when tribal society progresses will our country also progress in the true sense.

Further addressing President said that the crafts, food, dress and jewellery, medical practices, household equipment, and sports of the tribal society are the precious heritage of our country. At the same time, they are also modern

and scientific because they show a natural harmony with nature and the ideals of a sustainable lifestyle.

Apart from this, the Tribal Welfare Budget Allocation has increased three times to about 15 thousand crore rupees. The idea behind paying special attention to the development of tribal society is that only when the tribal society progresses, our country will also progress in the true sense. That is why, along with increasing the sense of pride toward tribal identity, multi-dimensional efforts are being made to develop the tribal society at a fast pace.

The President was happy to note that a lot of progress is being made towards the economic empowerment and employment of the tribal society. She highlighted that education plays the most important role in the development of

any society.

She said that it is a matter of happiness that about 1.25 lakh tribal children are getting school education through more than 470 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the country. In the last 10 years, 30 new medical colleges have been started in tribal-dominated areas. A national mission has been launched to solve a specific problem related to the health of the tribal society. Under this mission, the target has been set to eradicate sickle cell anemia by the year 2047.

Aadi Mahotsav is being organised by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs from February 16 to 24, 2025, at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi. This festival aims to provide a glimpse into the rich and diverse traditional culture of the tribal communities of our country.

CM Yogi urges public cooperation for Maha Kumbh, asks devotees "not to park vehicles on road"

MI News Service, Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has appealed to the public to cooperate in ensuring smooth arrangements for Maha Kumbh 2025. He also urged the citizens to follow traffic regulations and not park their vehicles on the road.

CM Yogi's appeal comes in the wake of massive traffic jams en route to Prayagraj. Several videos of jams surfaced on social media, showing long trails of vehicles and commuters facing distress and getting stuck in jams for hours.

In a post on X, CM Yogi said, "Maha Kumbh is a great festival of faith, in which people from all over the country and the world are excited to participate. Everyone's positive cooperation can increase the success of this event manifold."

"All the devotees are requested not to park their vehicles on the roads but to use the designated parking spaces so that everyone gets an easy opportunity to take a religious dip in the Triveni Sangam," he added.

As the Maha Kumbh continues, large numbers of devotees are also arriving in Varanasi for darshan at the Kashi Vishwanath temple during the ongoing festival in Prayagraj.

Millions of pilgrims who

have returned from Maha Kumbh are still in Varanasi for Baba Vishwanath's darshan. The number of devotees continues to rise in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya and Varanasi, with crowds in the lakhs entering Ramlala Darshan Marg for darshan.

The ongoing Maha Kumbh saw over 3.75 million pilgrims take a holy dip in the Triveni Sangam by 8 a.m. on Sunday, February 16, according to officials.

According to officials, no Kalpavasis remain at the venue, while the cumulative number of devotees who have taken the sacred bath

till February 15 has surpassed 514.7 million.

The influx of pilgrims continues as the religious gathering progresses. Meanwhile, as per a release, new traffic and bathing guidelines were issued to accommodate the increasing number of devotees attending the ongoing Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj.

As per the instructions issued, devotees or people coming to take a dip from the Parade Mela area towards the Sangam would be able to bathe at the Sangam and the other ghats built towards the parade area.

IPL 2025 Schedule announced: KKR, RCB to play tournament opener, Eden Gardens to host final on May 25

MI News Service, New Delhi: The 'Mecca of Indian Cricket', Eden Gardens will mark both the commencement and the conclusion of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League 2025, by hosting the tournament opener between Defending Champions, Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22 and the final on May 25.

Eden Gardens, the home ground of KKR will also play host to Qualifier 2 on May 23. Notably, this is the first time in almost a decade, that the IPL will conclude at the iconic Eden Gardens, having done so previously in 2013 and 2015.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the schedule for the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. The 18th edition of the prestigious tournament will commence on March 22, 2025, and the Final will be played on May 25, 2025," IPL said in a statement.

The other two playoff matches, Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator will be played in Hyderabad, home of 2024 runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad, on May 20 and May 21, respectively.

Overall, IPL 2025 will consist of 74 matches spread over 65 days, including 12 double-headers. The tournament will kick off with a mouth-watering affair between KKR and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22.

IPL 2025 Full Schedule:

Match 1: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, March 22, Kolkata

Match 2: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals, March 23, Hyderabad

Match 3: Chennai Super Kings vs Mumbai Indians, March 23, Chennai

Match 4: Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants, March 24, Visakhapatnam

Match 5: Gujarat Titans vs Punjab Kings, March 25, Ahmedabad

Match 6: Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders, March 26, Guwahati

Match 7: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Lucknow Super Giants, March 27, Hyderabad

Match 8: Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, March 28, Chennai

Match 9: Gujarat Titans vs Mumbai Indians, March 29, Ahmedabad

Match 10: Delhi Capitals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, March 30, Visakhapatnam

Match 11: Rajasthan Royals vs Chennai Super Kings, March 30, Guwahati

Match 12: Mumbai Indians vs Kolkata Knight Riders, March 31, Mumbai

Match 13: Lucknow Super Giants vs Punjab Kings, April 1, Lucknow

Match 14: Royal Challengers Bengaluru

vs Gujarat Titans, April 2, Bengaluru

Match 15: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 3, Kolkata

Match 16: Lucknow Super Giants vs Mumbai Indians, April 4, Lucknow

Match 17: Chennai Super Kings vs Delhi Capitals, April 5, Chennai

Match 18: Punjab Kings vs Rajasthan Royals, April 5, New Chandigarh

Match 19: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 6, Kolkata

Match 20: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Gujarat Titans, April 6, Hyderabad

Match 21: Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 7, Mumbai

Match 22: Punjab Kings vs Chennai Super Kings, April 8, New Chandigarh

Match 23: Gujarat Titans vs Rajasthan Royals, April 9, Ahmedabad

Match 24: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals, April 10, Bengaluru

Match 25: Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 11, Chennai

Match 26: Lucknow Super Giants vs Gujarat Titans, April 12, Lucknow

Match 27: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Punjab Kings, April 12, Hyderabad

Match 28: Rajasthan Royals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 13, Jaipur

Match 29: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians, April 13, Delhi

Match 30: Lucknow Super Giants vs Chennai Super Kings, April 14, Lucknow

Match 31: Punjab Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 15, New Chandigarh

Match 32: Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals, April 16, Delhi

Match 33: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 17, Mumbai

Match 34: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Punjab Kings, April 18, Bengaluru

Match 35: Gujarat Titans vs Delhi Capitals, April 19, Ahmedabad

Match 36: Rajasthan Royals vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 19, Jaipur

Match 37: Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 20, New Chandigarh

Match 38: Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings, April 20, Mumbai

Match 38: Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings, Sunday, 20-Apr-25, 7:30 PM, Mumbai

Match 39: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Gujarat Titans, April 21, Kolkata

Match 40: Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals, April 22, Lucknow

Match 41: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians, April 23, Hyderabad

Match 42: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Rajasthan Royals, April 24, Bengaluru

Match 43: Chennai Super Kings vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 25, Chennai

Match 44: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings, April 26, Kolkata

Match 45: Mumbai Indians vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 27, Mumbai

Match 46: Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 27, Delhi

Match 47: Rajasthan Royals vs Gujarat Titans, April 28, Jaipur

Match 48: Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 29, Delhi

Match 49: Chennai Super Kings vs Punjab Kings, April 30, Chennai

Match 50: Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians, May 1, Jaipur

Match 51: Gujarat Titans vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 2, Ahmedabad

Match 52: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings, May 3, Bengaluru

Match 53: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Rajasthan Royals, May 4, Kolkata

Match 54: Punjab Kings vs Lucknow Super Giants, May 4, Dharamsala

Match 55: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals, May 5, Hyderabad

Match 56: Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Titans, May 6, Mumbai

Match 57: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Chennai Super Kings, May 7, Kolkata

Match 58: Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals, May 8, Dharamsala

Match 59: Lucknow Super Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, May 9, Lucknow

Match 60: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kolkata Knight Riders, May 10, Hyderabad

Match 61: Punjab Kings vs Mumbai Indians, May 11, Dharamsala

Match 62: Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Titans, May 11, Delhi

Match 63: Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals, May 12, Chennai

Match 64: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 13, Bengaluru

Match 65: Gujarat Titans vs Lucknow Super Giants, May 14, Ahmedabad

Match 66: Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals, May 15, Mumbai

Match 67: Rajasthan Royals vs Punjab Kings, May 16, Jaipur

Match 68: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Kolkata Knight Riders, May 17, Bengaluru

Match 69: Gujarat Titans vs Chennai Super Kings, May 18, Ahmedabad

Match 70: Lucknow Super Giants vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 18, Lucknow

Match 71: Qualifier 1, May 20, Hyderabad

Match 72: Eliminator, May 21, Hyderabad

Match 73: Qualifier 2, May 23, Kolkata

Match 74: Final, May 25, Kolkata.

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt Order No. 1000-15/22/2024 dated 27.02.2024

This is to notify GULSHAN CHHABRA S/O of LL Mukundil Chhabra residing at S.P.Mukherjee Road, PS-Asansol (S) Dist Paschim Bardhaman has purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of Deed No. 431/25, 808/2/24 dated-03.10.24 (ADSR, Asansol) with the help of Power of Attorney Deed No. 7689, Dated 20.09.24 (ADSR, Asansol) executed by Sri Ram Ranjan Roy on Three Others S/O LL Ram Rati Roy Address Sarada Pally Asansol P.S. -Asansol (S), Dist Paschim Bardhaman and the said applicant has applied with the same land schedule for mutation vide mutation case No.2135/25, 2104/25, 2124/25 at the office of the S.D.I. & L.R.O (EP-1) Dist-Paschim Bardhaman. If there is any objection of mutation in this respect, any concerned principle are requested to submit objection along with relevant documents to the concerned Revenue Officer at the office of the S.D.I. & L.R.O (EP-1) within one month from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise law will take its own course.

Land Schedule
Block: Asansol; Sub-Divisional Land and Land Reforms Office (EP-1)
Mouza: Hatgarui
J.L.No.: 13
L.R.Plot No.: 1,3,10,12,14, 18, 276/697, 276/698, 278, 280, 283/699, 285/699, 286, 301, 314, 315, 316, 322, 350, 438, 538, 415, 418, 421, 547
Name of the Recorded Owner: Ram Gobinda Roy
L.R.Khatian No.: 208

Legal Notice

This is to inform the general public that 1) Sk Rukia Parveen, D/o. Sk Rafique, W/o. Sk Saddam Mahammad, 2) Sk Saddam Mahammad, S/o-Sk Khairul, 2) Sk Bannan, P.S.-Bagnan, Dt.-Howrah, PIN-711303 are my clients. My said clients purchased by two separate sale deed executed on 30.09.2024 and registered on 01.10.2024 at the Dist. Sub Registry Office, Howrah, measuring an area 2.55 dec. in each deed total area 5.10 dec. under L.R. Khatian No. 3783. R.S. & L.R. Plot No. 5427/5582 of Mouza - Paschim Bannan under P.S. Bagnan, Dist. Howrah and other property from Saiyada Mantaj Begam and Saiyeda Sabana Ajmi who executed a registered Power of Attorney, dt. 18.01.2018, being No. 05060005 for the year 2018 in favour of Sk Musfeker Rahman, S/O- Late Sk Golam Rahman, of Vill. & P.O.- Khajutty, P.S.-Bagnan, Dt. Howrah, PIN-711303. My said clients purchased the above property by two separate sale deeds executed by No. 050105627/2024 & 050105629/2024 and possessing the same. At present my said clients filed petition for mutation their names before B.L. & L.R.O. Bagnan-1 of the above mentioned property. If there is any objection in this regard the objection should be filed within 30 days of publication of the notification, otherwise there will be exparte hearing.

Sd/-
(Nilima Hazra)
Advocate, Uluberia Court

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt Order No. 1000-15/22/2024 dated 27.02.2024

This is to notify PRABIR MUKHERJEE S/O of JAYANTA MUKHERJEE residing at No.1 Mohishila Colony PS-Asansol (S) Dist Paschim Bardhaman has purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of Deed No. 557/dated-03.07.2023 (ADSR) with the help of Power of Attorney Deed No. 91, Dated 07.10.2015 ADSR executed by Sri SUMAN SAHA S/O Sudhangshu Kumar Saha Address Rabindra Nagar P.S. -Hirapur, Dist Paschim Bardhaman and the said applicant has applied with the same land schedule for mutation vide mutation case No.2094/25 Dist Paschim Burdwan at the office of the S.D.I. & L.R.O (EP-1) Dist-Paschim Bardhaman. If there is any objection of mutation in this respect, any concerned principle are requested to submit objection along with relevant documents to the concerned Revenue Officer at the office of the S.D.I. & L.R.O (EP-1) within one month from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise law will take its own course.

Land Schedule
Block: Asansol; Sub-Divisional Land and Land Reforms Office (EP-1)
Mouza: Mohishila
J.L.No.: 37
L.R.Plot No.: 1026
Name of the Recorded Owner: Suman Saha L.R. Khatian No.: 6329
Area: 1.25 Katha

TARAKESWAR MUNICIPALITY
e-Tender Notice

The Chairman, Tarakeswar Municipality invites of e-tender of the following tender ID of SWM works under Tarakeswar Municipality:

Supply of Bin & Bucket for SWM work of Tarakeswar Municipality

Sl. No.	Tender for	e-Bid submission Start Date	e-Bid submission end Date	Technical Bid Opening date
1.	2025_MAD_816090_1	17.02.2025	27.02.2025	01.03.2025

Construction of Conservancy Building of Tarakeswar Municipality

Sl. No.	Tender for	e-Bid submission Start Date	e-Bid submission end Date	Technical Bid Opening date
1.	2025_MAD_816097_1	17.02.2025	27.03.2025	29.03.2025

Details information will be available from the website- <http://webtenders.gov.in>

Chairman
Tarakeswar Municipality



Buddhist monks take out 'padyatra', walk for peace before performing Tripitaka and chant Buddha's speech, at Mahabodhi Society in Bengaluru on Sunday. (ANI Photo)

GAUTAM ADANI, HIS WIFE, OFFER 'CHADAR' AT AJMER SHARIF DARGAH

AJMER: Adani Group Chairperson Gautam Adani, accompanied by his wife, Priti Adani, visited Ajmer Sharif Dargah in Rajasthan.

They offered "makhamli chadar" and flowers at the revered shrine. The Ajmer Sharif Dargah is considered to be among the holiest Muslim shrines in India and is also a famous landmark in Ajmer. Khwaja Mo'in-ud-din Chishti, a Sufi saint from Persia, is enshrined here. In keeping with his secular teachings, its doors are open to people of all faiths and religions. Made of marble and gold plating, the actual tomb is guarded by a silver railing and a marble screen. During his reign, Emperor Akbar is known to have made a pilgrimage to Ajmer every year. He, as well as Emperor Shah Jahan, built mosques inside the shrine complex.

Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju had last month presented a sacred chadar on behalf of Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the revered shrine of Khwaja Mo'in-ud-din Chishti in Ajmer. The annual Urs commemorates the great Sufi saint, an event symbolizing harmony, spirituality, and devotion.

In conjunction with this solemn presentation, the Minister unveiled several initiatives to enhance the experience and convenience of pilgrims visiting the Dargah. The initiatives included release of the Operations Manual for Urs, the launch of the official Dargah Web Portal, and the introduction of the "Garib Nawaz" App.

The Operations Manual for Urs is a comprehensive guide designed to ensure the effective organization of the event.

Study finds how new technique transform breast cancer detection

ILLINOIS [US] : A novel breast imaging technique detects cancer with great sensitivity while dramatically reducing the likelihood of false-positive results, according to a study published today in *Radiology: Imaging Cancer*, a journal of the Radiological Society of North America.

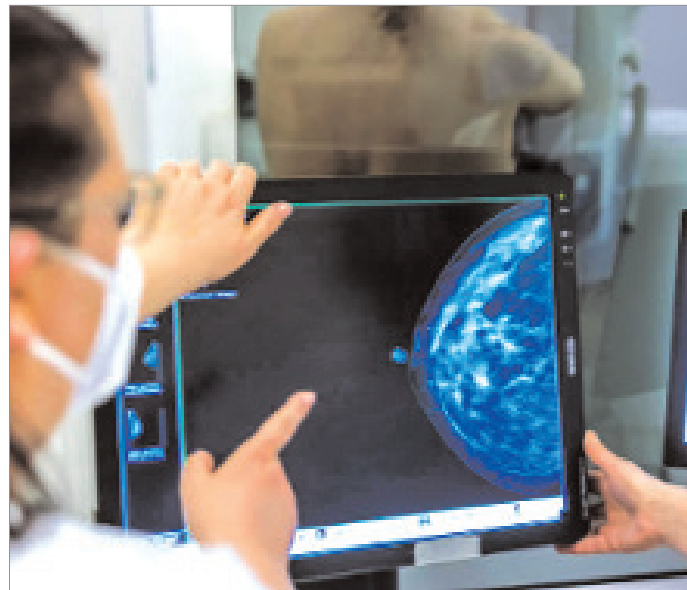
Researchers believe the technology has the potential to provide more reliable breast cancer screening to a wider variety of individuals.

Mammography is a useful screening tool for early identification of breast cancer; however, its sensitivity is lowered in dense tissue, caused by the masking effect of dense fibroglandular tissue. Because nearly half of the screening population has dense breasts, many of these individuals require further breast imaging, usually with an MRI, following mammography.

Low-dose positron emission mammography (PEM) is a novel molecular imaging technique that provides improved diagnostic performance at a radiation dose comparable to that of mammography. For the study, 25 women, median age 52, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent low-dose PEM with the radiotracer fluorine-18-labeled fluorodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG). Two breast radiologists reviewed PEM images taken one and four hours post-18F-FDG injection and correlated the findings with lab results.

PEM displayed comparable performance to MRI, identifying 24 of the 25 invasive cancers (96 per cent). Its false-positive rate was only 16 per cent, compared with 62 per cent for MRI. Along with its strong sensitivity and low false-positive rate, PEM could potentially decrease downstream healthcare costs as this study shows it may prevent further unnecessary work compared to MRI. Additionally, the technology is designed to deliver a radiation dose comparable to that of traditional mammography without the need for breast compression, which can often be uncomfortable for patients.

"The integration of these features—high sensitivity, lower false-



positive rates, cost-efficiency, acceptable radiation levels without compression, and independence from breast density—positions this emerging imaging modality as a potential groundbreaking advancement in the early detection of breast cancer," said study lead author Vivianne Freitas, MD, MSc, assistant professor at the University of Toronto.

"As such, it holds the promise of transforming breast cancer diagnostics and screening in the near future, complementing or even improving current imaging methods, marking a significant step forward in breast cancer care." Low-dose PEM offers potential clinical uses in both screening and diagnostic settings, according to DrFreitas.

"For screening, its ability to perform effectively regardless of breast density potentially addresses a significant shortcoming of mammography, particularly in detecting cancers in dense breasts where lesions may be obscured," she said.

"It also presents a viable option for patients at high risk who are claustrophobic or have contraindications for MRI."

The technology could also play a crucial role in interpreting uncertain mammogram results, evaluating the response to

chemotherapy, and ascertaining the extent of disease in newly diagnosed breast cancer, including involvement of the other breast. DrFreitas, who is also a staff radiologist in the Breast Imaging Division of the Toronto Joint Department of Medical Imaging, University Health Network, Sinai Health System, and Women's College Hospital, is currently researching PEM's ability to reduce the high rates of false positives typically associated with MRI scans. Should PEM successfully lower these rates, it could significantly lessen the emotional distress and anxiety linked to false positives, Dr. Freitas said. Additionally, it might lead to a decrease in unnecessary biopsies and treatments. More studies are needed to determine low-dose PEM's exact role and efficacy in the clinical setting.

"While the full integration of this imaging method into clinical practice is yet to be confirmed, the preliminary findings of this research are promising, particularly in demonstrating the capability of detecting invasive breast cancer with low doses of fluorine-18-labeled FDG," DrFreitas said. "This marks a critical first step in its potential future implementation in clinical practice."

Study gives insight into predicting neurodevelopmental disease in children from parent's traits

PENNSYLVANIA [US] : Predicting the development of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric illnesses such as autism or schizophrenia is challenging since they are influenced by a wide range of hereditary and environmental factors. A new study, led by Penn State researchers, shows that evaluating parents for their manifestation of these disorders -- and related diseases like depression and anxiety -- may be a more accurate method of predicting the prevalence, and potential severity, of the disorders in affected children than screening for genetic variants alone.

This is most likely attributable, at least in part, to genetic variations passed down from parents to children that would not be detected by a genetic screen and would result in more severe disease, according to the researchers. The *American Journal of Human Genetics* published a paper that described the research. According to the researchers, understanding how both parents contribute to their child's diagnosis can help with genetic counseling and the formulation of therapeutic intervention strategies for children affected by these conditions.

"We looked at the presence of neurodevelopmental and psychiatric traits in children and parents from a large set of families," said Santhosh Girirajan, interim department head and T. Ming Chu Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in the Penn State Eberly College of Science and lead author of the paper. "We saw an increase in the presence of neurodevelopmental disorders in children whose parents both report having the trait, including psychiatric traits like anxiety or depression."

The team looked at 97,000 families, many including children with neurodevelopmental disorders such as autism or intellectual disability and evaluated how risk factors -- genetic features and the presence of the traits -- in both parents impact the trajectory of the disease in the children. The datasets included genetic information and questionnaire data from families in a

large public biobank, as well as from families from specific studies of neurodevelopmental disorders. The researchers evaluated parents and their children for symptoms of the various disorders and assessed known genetic mutations that can give rise to such disorders. Their analysis revealed that parents tend to select partners with the same or related disorders, leading to increased prevalence and, potentially, severity of the disorder in their children. "Most neurodevelopmental disorders are genetically complex, meaning that aren't caused by a single gene," Girirajan said. "This makes it hard to trace the exact genetic underpinnings of a disorder in an individual and even harder to predict how the disorder will play out in affected children."

The researchers explained that complex genetic diseases can be caused by mutations in many genes, each of which could be inherited from one or both parents, or occur spontaneously in the newly formed genome of the child. The child's disease prognosis results from the combination of mutations that they inherit and how they interact with one another during development. This is called the "multi-hit model" because the disease results from multiple different mutations in many different genes.

"We have been studying one such mutation -- a deletion of a small segment of chromosome 16 -- that has been implicated as a risk factor for several neurodevelopmental disorders," Girirajan said. Symptoms of these disorders can manifest as seizures, schizophrenic features, depression and anxiety, along with characteristics related to addiction. "This mutation is often passed from a parent to a child, but the child regularly has more severe symptoms of the disorder than the parent. We wanted to know if other 'hits' for the disorder could be coming from the other parent. So, we looked at the traits of both parents in a large cohort of families with children with neurodevelopmental disorders."

The research team found that the parent that had passed on the

deletion had less severe symptoms than their child or even different but related psychiatric disorders like depression or anxiety. They also found that the other parent often had similar psychiatric traits.

"What we realized, and it's been studied for a long time, is that in people there is a phenomenon called 'assortative mating,'" said Corinne Smolen, a graduate student at Penn State working with Girirajan and the first author of the paper. "Whether it's consciously or unconsciously, people with similar features preferentially find each other as partners. Although there could be other explanations, we see this in our data and that is probably what is leading to what we are seeing in the families that we studied."

The parent that doesn't have the deletion must have these traits because of some other genetic mutations, the researchers explained, and when these mutations are combined with the deletion in the genome of the child, the result is more severe disease. By assessing the traits in both parents, the researchers could more accurately predict the trajectory of the disease in their children than would be possible via genetic screening alone. They also could eventually use this information to try to identify new mutations -- those inherited from the parent without the deletion -- that are involved in causing these traits.

"We found that there is a good correlation between the traits in the parents," Girirajan said. "Someone with schizophrenia is more likely to find a partner with schizophrenia, someone with anxiety and depression is more likely to find a partner with anxiety and depression. This is well-known for other things, like tall people marrying other tall people. Because all of these traits have at least some genetic component that could be similar between the partners, this leads to a situation that is akin, but less pronounced, to consanguineous marriage, when people who are related through ancestry marry."

RESEARCHERS GIVE INSIGHTS INTO CELL'S REPAIR SYSTEM

WASHINGTON [US] : In living organisms, the membrane that encloses the cells is incredibly delicate and flexible. Many biological activities depend on how it repairs and protects itself from harm, yet this process is still poorly understood. Researchers at Forschungszentrum Julich have now used cryo-electron microscopy to uncover intriguing new information. Known from the photosynthetic system of plants, algae, and bacteria, the membrane protein Vipp1 may generate a variety of structures that may be used as instruments to reinforce and strengthen the cell membrane when needed. In a follow-up investigation, the scientists also managed to get fresh perspectives on the role

of the associated bacterial protein PspA. Vipp1 and PspA are two molecules that have exceptional plasticity and may take on many shapes, such as rings and tubes with various diameters. The cell membrane has numerous important functions. For instance, it protects the inside of the cell from the environment. At the same time, nutrients are absorbed through the cell membrane, waste products are excreted, and signals are transmitted between cells. Despite its central role, the cell membrane is also very sensitive. It consists of a thin layer of lipids which, although protective by themselves, are also susceptible to stress caused by physical pressure and stretching or chemical influences. Environmental

factors such as UV radiation or toxins can also damage the membrane. In plant cells, for example, intense light can severely stress and even damage the membranes in the chloroplasts, where photosynthesis takes place. Proteins such as Vipp1 are therefore essential for the survival of the cell, as they protect the membrane structures and repair them if necessary. How exactly the mechanism works is not yet fully understood. However, thanks to the state-of-the-art cryo-electron microscopes at Julich's Ernst Ruska-Centre, the researchers have now been able to gain new insights into the interaction between Vipp1 and the cell membrane. They discovered that Vipp1 forms carpet-like structures.

PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD AVOID FAST FOODS

WASHINGTON DC [US] : The chemical can cause oxidative stress and an inflammatory cascade within the fetus, researchers noted. Previous literature has indicated that exposure to phthalates during pregnancy can increase the risk of low birth weight, preterm birth and child mental health disorders such as autism and ADHD.

This is the first study in pregnant women to show that diets higher in ultra-processed foods are linked to greater phthalate exposures, the authors wrote.

"When moms are exposed to this chemical, it can cross the placenta and go into fetal circulation," said senior author Dr. Sheela Sathyanarayana, a UW Medicine pediatrician and researcher at the Seattle Children's Research

Institute. This analysis involved data in the Conditions Affecting Neurocognitive Development and Learning in Early Childhood (CANDLE) research cohort, which comprised 1,031 pregnant individuals in Memphis, Tenn., who were enrolled between 2006 and 2011. Phthalate levels were measured in urine samples collected during the second trimester of pregnancy. The researchers found that ultra-processed food composed 10% to 60% of participants' diets, or 38.6%, on average. Each 10% higher dietary proportion of ultra-processed food was associated with 13% higher concentration of di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate, one of the most common and harmful phthalates. The phthalate amounts were

derived through urine samples taken from the women in the study. Ultra-processed foods, according to the researchers, are made mostly from substances extracted from foods such as oils, sugar and starch, but have been so changed from processing and the addition of chemicals and preservatives to enhance their appearance or shelf life that they are hard to recognize from their original form, researchers noted. These include packaged cake mixes, for example, or packaged french fries, hamburger buns and soft drinks. When it comes to fast food, gloves worn by the employees and the storage, preparation, serving equipment or tools may be the main sources of exposure. Both frozen and fresh ingre-



dients would be subject to these sources, said lead author Brennan Baker, a postdoctoral researcher in Sathyanarayana's lab.

This is the first study, researchers say, to identify ultra-processed foods as a link between exposure to phthalates and the socio-economics issues facing the mothers. The mothers' vulnerability might stem from experiencing financial hardships and from living in "food deserts" where healthier, fresh foods are harder to obtain and transportation to distant markets is unrealistic. "We don't blame the pregnant person here," said Baker. "We need to call out manufacturers and legislators to offer replacements, and ones that may not be even more harmful."

More legislation is needed, the authors said, to prevent phthalate contamination in foods by regulating the composition of food wrapping or even the gloves that food handlers may use. What should pregnant women do now?

Sathyanarayana said that pregnant women should try to avoid ultra-processed food as much as they can, and seek out fruits, vegetables and lean meats. Reading labels can come into play here, she added.

"Look for the lower number of ingredients and make sure you can understand the ingredients," she said. This applies even to "healthy foods" such as breakfast bars. See if it's sweetened with dates or has a litany of fats and sugars in it, she said.

Diamer-Bhasha Dam protests escalate: Hunza joins struggle as Pakistan govt ignores suffering locals

MI News Service, Hunza: Hunza's Hotel Association, Traders' Association, political parties, and civil society organizations have all declared their unwavering support for the continuing demonstration in Diamer, where locals are calling for their rights, especially concerning the Diamer-Bhasha Dam project.

According to a post shared by Pamir Times, The residents of Diamer are still protesting despite the severe winter weather to bring the state's attention to their long-standing complaints, which include the protection of their rights over local resources, equitable recompense, and access to essential services.

Political party and civil society representatives in Hunza have reiterated their support for the demonstrators, praising their demands and urging immediate government action, Pamir Times reported.

Pamir Times highlighted that Hunza leaders emphasized that every person is entitled to advocate for their justifiable issues under the constitution. They pledged to support and take part in the current sit-in, acknowledging Diamer's tradition of nonviolent resistance.

The equal distribution of the benefits from the Diamer-Bhasha Dam, the start of long-overdue development projects, and making sure that local communities receive their rightful entitlements are the main requests made by the people of Diamer and Hunza. The government has been encouraged by Hunza's leadership to act quickly to resolve these issues and hold substantive discussions with the impacted communities, Pamir Times reported.

The ancient petroglyphs of the Indus River in Diamer, one of South Asia's most important archaeological treasures, are in danger of being destroyed by the construction of the Diamer Basha Dam, according to Pamir Times.

Pamir Times reiterated that the reservoir will soon submerge an estimated 50,000 rock sculptures and 5,000 inscriptions, some of which date back to 8,000 BCE. From the earliest hunters and pastoralists to the Buddhist period and the arrival of Islam in the area, these sculptures, which are carved into the rock faces of Chilas and the adjacent territories, offer a unique historical record spanning millennia.

Numerous hunting scenes, animals, celestial symbols, and elaborate Buddhist stupas are among the subjects depicted in the petroglyphs.

Baloch activist laments "targeted killings" of Baloch intellectuals

MI News Service, Balochistan: Baloch activist Mahrang Baloch strongly criticised the "targeted killings" of Baloch intellectuals, and said it is a telling form of "Baloch genocide".

She said that this is a continuation of the "hit and throw" policy that began with the extrajudicial killing of Ghulam Muhammad Baloch and is aimed at "sterilizing the Baloch nation from an ideological perspective."

"The policy of killing Baloch intellectuals and scholars through targeted killings is a telling form of Baloch genocide. It is a continuation of the 'hit and throw' policy that began with the extrajudicial killing of martyr Ghulam Muhammad Baloch and his associates in 2009, and is tantamount to sterilizing the Baloch nation from an ideological perspective," Mahrang Baloch stated in a post on X.

Earlier on Saturday, Baloch human rights group, Baloch Yaqjehti Committee (BYC), highlighted multiple cases of enforced disappearances at the hands of 'security forces and state-sponsored death squads' and



said the region continues to reel under the crisis.

BYC, in a post on X, listed the recent disappearances and alleged that the families of victims were harassed at the hands of 'security forces and state-sponsored death squads' and their family members were threatened and their phones were also taken away.

In another similar episode this week, BYC condemned the firing by 'state-sponsored militias,' which resulted in the injury of an individual who later succumbed to his wounds.

The rights group also highlighted the suffering of villagers at the hands of these 'state-sponsored death squads,' who are involved in cases of robbery, kidnapping, and the killing of Baloch people.

Balochistan faces numerous issues, including state repression, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings of activists, scholars, and civilians. The region suffers from economic neglect, with insufficient development, lack of basic infrastructure, and limited political autonomy.

Seven Hyderabad workers jailed in Saudi Arabia, families seek help

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Seven workers from Hyderabad of Telangana are currently detained in Safar Jail in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, after being cheated by a travel agent.

Their distressed families have sought help from Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT) leader Amjed Ullah Khan, urging him to appeal to the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General of India (CGI) in Jeddah for the immediate release of their loved ones. The workers were detained on January 14, 2025, in Makkah.

In a post on X, Amjed Ullah Khan made an urgent plea to Union Minister of External Affairs Dr S to intervene and ensure the safe return of the detained Hyderabad workers.

According to Khan, 19 workers were lured by an agent named Mohd Akber (Contact: 9642672204, 9951576330) with promises of food delivery jobs in Jeddah under an employer named Kholoud Ahmad Alqouzi (Contact: +966502505261).

"The residents of Hyderabad were assured a salary of 1,500 Saudi Arabian Riyals (around Rs 35,065), free accommodation, a two-wheeler with fuel, along with temporary food assistance until their Iqama (residency permit) was issued," Khan said.

Upon arriving in Jeddah on July 26, 2024, the workers were left idle for over a month before being assigned gruelling delivery jobs under harsh conditions, including: 30 km travel per order and 12-hour shifts

False contracts listing a 400 SAR (nearly Rs 9350) salary instead of 1,500 SAR

Unjust deductions for fines, disputes, and medical expenses

Employer's demand for a 10,000 SAR (nearly Rs 2,31,075) ransom with threats of a 10-year travel ban

In addition, their wages were changed to 3.33 SAR (nearly Rs 77) per order, making survival difficult. When they sought legal help, the employer falsely accused them of taking 10,000 SAR in advance, complicating their case in the Saudi Labour Court.

HICDP inaugurated in Udayapur, Nepal

MI News Service, Kathmandu: The school building of Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School, Udayapur, built with the Government of India's financial assistance at the project cost of NRs 37.99 million under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation' was inaugurated on Sunday. According to an official release from the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, the infrastructure was jointly inaugurated by Dr Narayan Khadka, Member of Parliament, House of Representatives, Prasanna Shrivastava, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Kathmandu and Ashok Karki, Mayor, Belaka Municipality, Udayapur. Political representatives, government officials and social workers were also present on this occasion. The Government of India's grant under 'Nepal-India Development Cooperation' was utilised for the construction of the school building and other allied facilities. The project was taken up as a High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) and was implemented through Belaka Municipality, Udayapur. Shree Janata Belaka Secondary School is the only secondary school in Purandah in Belaka Municipality. It was established as a Primary school in the year 1962 and was later upgraded to a lower secondary school in the year 1976.

US leaders call for action as Chinese influence over Panama Canal Ports threatens national security



MI News Service, Washington DC: Chinese and Hong Kong businesses' control of important infrastructure on the Panama Canal and other port facilities in the Western Hemisphere has prompted calls for Washington to take measures to lessen Beijing's influence.

According to a report by Radio Free Asia (RFA), Beijing has "a strategic position over one of the world's most important waterways," referring to the Panama Canal, Chairman Carlos Jimenez of the US House of Representatives Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security warned during a recent hearing.

He said this allows the Chinese Communist Party "to exert influence over commercial shipping, gather intelligence on American and Allied vessel traffic, and potentially restrict the mobility of our Navy in a time of crisis", RFA reported

Experts told the panel that China owns or operates over half of the major container ports outside of China as cited by RFA.

RFA report highlighted that US Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently threat-

ened Panamanian leader Jose Raul Mulino with possible American retaliation if his country does not immediately reduce Chinese influence over the canal. The government of Panama recently announced an audit of ports owned by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing's CK Hutchison conglomerate.

"While Panama has recently announced an audit of Hutchinson ports, that's simply not enough," Jimenez told the hearing. "We don't need an audit. We need action," Rubio said, as quoted by RFA.

"The United States cannot and will not accept the scenario where a foreign adversary, one that openly seeks to undermine our global standing, controls infrastructure critical to us, homeland security, military readiness and economic stability," he said "U.S. allies should distance themselves from China, including from Chinese state-owned enterprises," he stated.

Australian lawmakers form Parliamentary Group to amplify Uyghur voices, condemn China's repression

MI News Service, Canberra: Australian lawmakers have formed a parliamentary group that aims to provide ethnic Uyghurs with a forum to voice their concerns about Beijing's efforts to infiltrate their society and the persecution they endure in their homeland of Xinjiang, in western China.

According to a report by Radio Free Asia (RFA), the Australian All-Party Parliamentary Group for Uyghurs, or AAPPGU, was formally established by MPs on Tuesday during a ceremony and discussion event in Canberra's Australian Parliament House. The Australian Uyghur Tangritagh Women's Association, or AUTWA, and the group's co-chairs, MPs Tony Zappia and An-

drew Wallace, co-hosted the event.

Zappia spoke at the event and referred to the AAPPGU's creation as a significant step for the Uyghur population worldwide. "It will give voice to Uyghur people here in Australia as well as all of those back in the homeland," he said, referring to China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, or XUAR as quoted by RFA.

Radio Free Asia report highlighted that Chinese authorities have been ruthlessly suppressing Uyghurs and other Turkic groups in Xinjiang for almost ten years, placing an estimated 1.8 million of them in concentration camps. China has been accused by nations with substantial Uyghur ex-

ile communities of forcing its citizens to spy on one another while routinely keeping an eye on politically engaged individuals.

MP Fatima Payman, who was instrumental in the group's formation, said that it will enable Australia's government to adopt a more assertive position on the Uyghur problem as cited by the RFA report.

"We need to acknowledge that this genocide has been going on for too long," Fatima said. "We need to elevate their voices in our senate, in our Parliament, and make sure, with all the atrocities and the chaos that's taken place around the world, that the Uyghurs are not forgotten," as quoted by RFA report.

Taiwan President Lai Ching-te vows to increase its investment in US

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan President William Lai has announced plans to increase the country's investment in the US and continue to collaborate with friends and allies to build global democratic supply chains, the Taipei Times reported.

Speaking at a news conference on Wednesday in Taipei following his first high-level national security meeting of the year, Lai said the government would act prudently, strengthen communications with the US and promote greater mutual understanding.

As reported by Taipei Times, this comes after US President Donald Trump again threatened to impose tariffs on Taiwanese semiconductor.

Lai also highlighted an initiative to promote semiconductor supply chain partnerships for global democracies, saying that Taiwan would collaborate with the US and other democratic partners to facilitate a more resilient and diversified semiconductor supply chain.

Such a supply chain would



form the basis for a global alliance on chips for artificial intelligence (AI) and ensure industries in democratic nations have access to high-end chips, he said.

He further said that this would open up a new era of growth for the international semiconductor industry.

Taiwan will continue to highlight that bilateral cooperation is mutually beneficial and to communicate and negotiate closely with Washington to help the US administration better understand that Taiwan is an indispensable partner in rebuilding US manufacturing and consolidating its technological lead-

ership, Lai said.

He further said that the Executive Yuan will explore all possible trade opportunities with the US and hopes to balance bilateral trade by stepping up investments in the US and purchasing US goods.

Lai pointed out that Taiwan has significantly increased its investment in the US, which was valued at USD 100 billion and had created nearly 400,000 jobs as of last year.

That far exceeded Taiwan's investment in China, which accounted for 11 per cent in 2023 and only 8 per cent last year, he added.

Zelensky calls for creation of European Army at Munich Security Conference



MI News Service, Munich: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has called for the creation of a European Army in response to Russia's military build-up, Politico reported.

In his speech at the Munich Security Conference (MSC), Zelensky also raised suspicion of a possibility that the US might say "no" to Europe on issues that might pose a threat to it.

"I really believe that the time has come for Europe to create its own armed forces," the Ukrainian President said. He added, "Let's be honest, now we can't rule out that America might say 'no' to Europe on issues that might threaten it."

According to a Politico report, Zelensky stressed that Europe needed to unite and

have a single foreign and defence policy that would show the US that the bloc is serious about its own security.

He said, "Europe has everything it takes. It just needs to come together and start acting so that no one can say 'no' to it, boss it around, or treat it like a pushover."

He said that despite facing battlefield losses, Russian President Vladimir Putin is adding 150,000 soldiers to his armed forces, which is said to be larger than the majority of European armies, and is opening army recruitment offices every week.

Zelensky said, "Oil prices are still high enough for him to ignore the world." Ukrainian President said his intelligence services "have clear intel that this summer Russia plans to send troops

to Belarus under the pretext of training exercises," adding that might be the beginning of operations against neighbouring European nations.

NATO's military committee chair, Admiral Giuseppe Cavo Dragone, said the alliance was unable to confirm Zelensky's warning about Belarus. He said, "I believe that Western intelligence agencies are perfectly active in this, so I would expect confirmations."

In his speech, Zelensky called Russian President Vladimir Putin a "pathological liar" and added that he cannot offer real security guarantees. He said that Ukraine would "never accept deals made behind our backs without our involvement."

He said, "Putin cannot offer real security guarantees. Not just because he is a pathological liar but because Russia, in its current state, needs war to hold power together. And the world must be protected from that," according to a Politico report.

Zelensky insisted Ukraine has a future in the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance (NATO). His remarks came despite statements from US President Donald Trump and US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth that NATO membership for Ukraine is off the table in any final peace deal.

A closer look at the Palestinian terrorists freed by Israel

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Israel released 369 imprisoned Palestinian terrorists on Saturday in exchange for hostages Sasha Trufanov, Sagui Dekel-Chen and Yair Horn. The list includes 36 terrorists serving life sentences for murder and 333 Palestinians from Gaza who were detained during the war.

In response to Hamas dressing the hostages in prison uniforms and giving them farewell "gifts," the Israel Prison Service dressed the imprisoned terrorists in shirts featuring the logo of the Israeli Prison Service, a Jewish star, and the phrase written in Arabic, "We will not forgive or forget."

They were also shown a video showing Gaza's destruction.

The 333 Palestinians from Gaza were sent back to the Strip. Of the other 36 ter-

rorists, 25 were deported to Gaza or abroad through Egypt, 10 returned to their homes in Judea and Samaria, and one went home to eastern Jerusalem.

Here is a closer look at some of the more notable terrorists who were freed on Saturday.

Abdel Karim Aweis: A former intelligence officer in the Palestinian Authority Security Services who was also a commander in Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. Aweis was serving multiple life sentences for organizing shooting attacks and dispatching suicide bombers during the Second Intifada. He is being deported abroad via Egypt.

Ahmed Barghouti: A senior Fatah figure and commander in the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades serving 13 life sentences for organizing and dispatching suicide bombers

to Jerusalem in which 12 Israelis were killed and dozens more injured during the Second Intifada. Barghouti, 48, will be deported abroad via Egypt.

Ahmed Abu Hader: Was serving multiple life sentences for a shooting attack at an event hall that killed six people. He was also plotting an attack on a hospital in Ramat Gan.

Shadi Abu Shakhdam: of Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades was serving six life sentences for planning a 2002 bombing at Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda Market, in which 12 people were killed and 80 injured.

The ongoing first phase of the ceasefire is supposed to see a total of 33 Israeli hostages freed over six weeks in exchange for up to 1,904 Palestinian terrorists imprisoned in Israel. The exact number will depend on how

Israeli captives are alive. Hamas notified Israeli authorities in January that of the 33, eight are dead but offered no evidence.

Since the first hostage release on Jan. 19, Hamas has freed 19 Israeli and five Thai captives in exchange for 952 imprisoned Palestinian terrorists.

The fate of the remaining 65 hostages will be determined by negotiations during the ceasefire's second phase. Critics say the phased approach condemns these 65 hostages to open-ended captivity and undermines Israel's war gains.

At least 1,200 people were killed, and 252 Israelis and foreigners were taken hostage in Hamas's attacks on Israeli communities near the Gaza border on October 7. Of the 73 remaining hostages, more than 30 are believed to be dead.

Imran Khan orders expulsion of party leaders absent during vote on 26th Constitutional Amendment

MI News Service, Islamabad: Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) founder Imran Khan has ordered the expulsion of party members who were not present during the vote on the 26th Constitutional Amendment, except Zain Qureshi, The Express Tribune reported.

Imran Khan ordered the senior leadership to issue formal notifications expelling PTI members absent during the voting except Zain Qureshi. He has made it clear that those who were not present on a crucial

constitutional amendment vote have no place in PTI. PTI founder also sent a message to the party's senior leadership, calling for action against the members who were absent without delay. Imran Khan-founded party has started issuing show-cause notices to those who did not participate during the voting.

Zargha Suhawardy, Sena-to Faisal Saleem, and Zain Qureshi were among the lawmakers who were not present during the day of the amendment vote. The Express Tribune reported, Earlier this week, Paki-

stan's Leader of Opposition in the National Assembly Omar Ayub has said that Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) will raise its concerns regarding the 2024 general elections and the 26th constitutional amendment with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation. The Express Tribune reported.

Ayub said, "We will present the entire matter of the elections before the IMF delegation." He said, "We will also highlight the issues caused by the 26th amendment." PTI leader Omar Ayub made the re-

marks as a six-member IMF delegation reached the Pakistan Supreme Court to hold a meeting with Chief Justice Yahya Afridi. Earlier in October, Imran Khan said that those who voted in favour of the controversial 26th constitutional amendment bill "betrayed" the nation. His remarks came after the National Assembly and Senate passed the bill with a two-thirds majority under which the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan was set for three years, ARY News reported.

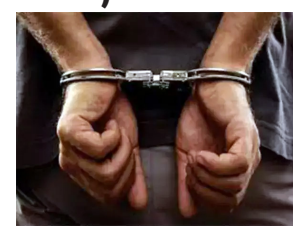
marks as a six-member IMF delegation reached the Pakistan Supreme Court to hold a meeting with Chief Justice Yahya Afridi. Earlier in October, Imran Khan said that those who voted in favour of the controversial 26th constitutional amendment bill "betrayed" the nation. His remarks came after the National Assembly and Senate passed the bill with a two-thirds majority under which the term for the Chief Justice of Pakistan was set for three years, ARY News reported.

Around 170 Pakistanis deported from Gulf and other nations, 24 arrested in Karachi

MI News Service, Karachi: Around 170 Pakistanis have been deported in the past 48 hours from Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, and several other nations. Following this, 24 of them were arrested when they arrived in Karachi.

According to a report by Geo News, immigration sources claim that within 48 hours, Saudi officials deported 94 Pakistanis on various offences, including drug peddling, unlawful residency, blacklisting, begging, working without a sponsor, escaping from work, and breaching contracts.

Three people from Oman, one from Thailand, nine from Iraq, one each from the UK and Cyprus, four from Indonesia, and five from Mauritania were among the other people deported on suspicion of



human smuggling, Geo News reported.

In addition, one Pakistani was expelled from Tanzania and two others were deported from Qatar for lack of travel funds. In the last two days, 39 Pakistanis who had been sentenced for crimes and other infractions were deported from the United Arab Emirates, a Geo News report revealed.

Geo News reported that the Integrated Border Management System (IBMS) revealed that seven of the deported

persons were on a blacklist. Authorities attested to the involvement of several deportees in financial and immigration-related offences.

Geo News highlighted that due to problems with visas and travel documents, officials deported 59 individuals from aircraft that were headed for 21 different countries, including the UK, Saudi Arabia, Cambodia, Egypt, Bahrain, Qatar, and Malawi.

Twenty-one Umrah pilgrims were excluded from the unloading because of inadequate lodging reservations and financial resources. Four others on study visas heading to Cyprus and another going to the UK were also barred from flying, and a person on his way to Italy was offloaded when his asylum plea was denied, Geo News reported.

Mayurakshi clinches RPC Media Cup title

PC JHA
RANCHI: It was last over when Mayurakshi needed 12 runs on six ball as most of batsmen were in pavilion but thanks to Santosh Sinha hits two sixes in consecutive two balls crushed Amanat's dream.

The Media Cricket Cup 2025 organized by The Ranchi Press Club concluded with a bang on Sunday.

In the final match of the Media Cup played at the JK Cricket Academy ground, Mayurakshi defeated Amanat in a thrilling match and won this year's title. Mayurakshi needed 12 runs in the last over. Santosh Sinha won the match with the help of two brilliant 2 sixes in 2 balls.

The competition concluded with a colourful ceremony before the final match. The children of JK International School gave a wonderful cultural performance.

The final match was played between Amanat and Mayurakshi. After winning the toss and batting first, Amanat scored 133 runs by losing 4 wickets in the stipulated 16 overs. From Amanat's side, Sameer Srujan scored 43 runs in 26 balls and Kumar Saurabh



played a fighting innings of 28 runs. Shamim Raja, Bipin Pandey and Kamlesh Mishra took 1 wicket each from Mayurakshi's side. The excitement of the final did not reduce in the low scoring match. Chasing the target, Mayurakshi's captain gave a brilliant start of 55

runs in 25 balls. Dilip Singh and Asgar Khan brought Amanat back in the game by taking 2 wickets each. After Bipin Kumar Pandey was run out on 23 runs, the match started tilting towards Amanat. But in the last over, Santosh Sinha snatched the victory from

Amanat's hands by hitting two sixes on two consecutive balls of Sameer Srujan and gave it to Mayurakshi. Shamim Raja was selected as the Player of the Match in the final match.

Health Minister Irfan Ansari, Rajesh Rajan from title sponsor

Tata Steel, Apoorv Shukla, Amit Gupta, Pankaj Kumar from co-sponsor Adani Power, Mother Jiramani Teacher Training College Director Swami Devendra Prakash, Dheeraj Bhogta and Ram Singh from Alexa Resort and Restaurant, Sujit Kumar from Titan Plus Harmu, Pradeep Verma from Sarla Birla College were the main guests in the final. Before the final match, a friendly match was played between Ranchi Press Club and Jamshedpur Press Club. In which Jamshedpur won.

On the occasion of the final, senior journalists Anuj Sinha, Vijay Pathak, Omprakash Malviya, Rekha Pathak, former president Rajesh Kumar Singh, Akhilesh Singh, former MLA Umashankar Akela, Jai Kumar Sinha from JSCA, Pankaj Kumar Pathak, Managing Committee President Surendra Soren, Secretary Amarkant, Vice President Dharmendra Giri, Treasurer Kuber Singh, Joint Secretary Ratan Lal, Executive Member Vijay Mishra, Monu Kumar, Alok Sinha, RJ Arvind, Saurabh Shukla, Chandan Bhattacharya, Anjani Kumar, Raju Prasad, Sanjay Suman were present

Yashasvi Jaiswal ruled out of Mumbai's Ranji Trophy semi-final against Vidarbha



MUMBAI: Mumbai's preparations for the Ranji Trophy semi-final against Vidarbha have taken a hit, with opener Yashasvi Jaiswal ruled out due to a right ankle injury sustained during training over the weekend. The match is set to begin on Monday in Nagpur, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Jaiswal was initially part of India's Champions Trophy 2025 squad but was later replaced by spinner Varun Chakaravarthi. He was retained as a non-travelling reserve but is now expected to return home following his injury. Despite Jaiswal's absence, Mumbai will not name a replacement for the semi-final, as they already have experienced players in the squad, including Ajinkya Rahane, Suryakumar Yadav, Shivam Dube, and Shardul Thakur. Among them, Shivam Dube is also a non-travelling reserve for India's Champions Trophy squad and could be called up to Dubai if needed.

A regular member of India's Test squad, Jaiswal recently made his ODI debut against England in Nagpur, stepping in for Virat Kohli, who was sidelined due to a knee issue. He managed 15 runs in that match.

Jaiswal has featured in just one Ranji Trophy match this season, scoring 4 and 26 in Mumbai's group-stage loss to Jammu and Kashmir. Defending champions Mumbai have faced a tough journey in this Ranji Trophy campaign. After barely making it to the quarter-finals, they found themselves in trouble against Haryana before their lower order staged a rescue act in the first innings.

Their upcoming clash against Vidarbha is a rematch of last season's final. Vidarbha have been in outstanding form, securing outright wins in seven of their eight games this season. They head into the semi-final on the back of a dominant 198-run victory over Tamil Nadu in the quarter-finals.

"Shafali Verma has never shown defensive approach": Mithali Raj praises DC opener after thrilling win

VADODARA: Delhi Capitals (DC) pulled off a nail-biting two-wicket victory over Mumbai Indians (MI) in the ongoing Women's Premier League (WPL) on Saturday. The match witnessed some electrifying moments, with Shafali Verma's aggressive innings at the top.



Former India captain Mithali Raj, speaking on JioHotstar, lauded Shafali's fearless approach.

"I think anyone stepping into Shafali Verma's shoes would acknowledge how she has never shown a defensive approach. Right from the second ball, she started scoring runs, playing her shots with her usual flair. That's just her style," she said, as quoted from a release by JioHotstar.

Shafali's knock kept DC in the hunt, but her dismissal turned out to be a turning point in the contest.

Analyzing her wicket, Mithali added, "The only way to dismiss her today was to outthink her, and I understand that feeling because I've been in that situation myself. At one point, she had too much time and wasn't sure where to place the ball. Just before her dismissal, the fielding side adjusted their setup, bringing mid-on up and pushing deep square leg back because she had found boundaries there. She instinctively aimed to clear mid-on but ended up playing into the fielder's hands, resulting in a crucial wicket."

Coming to the match, chasing 165, DC was left 109/5 in 14.5 overs despite a fine 60-run opening stand. However, Niki Prasad and Sarah took down the equation to 10 runs off the last over despite wickets falling at other end. With two runs needed on final ball, the pair of Arundhati Reddy and Radha Yadav completed a risky double and it was worth all the toil.

After Delhi Capitals won the toss and elected to bowl first, they were off to a fine start as a low grab by skipper Meg Lanning on a Shikha Pandey delivery sent Hayley Matthews packing for a duck on the second ball. MI was 0/1.

In the next over, Alice Capsey gave away 19 runs, including five runs after a four on wide, two fours from Yastika Bhatia and one boundary from Nat-Sciver Brunt.

Shikha got her second wicket in the fifth over, beating Yastika's stumps as she was gone for 11 in nine balls. MI was 32/2 in 4.2 overs.

At the end of powerplay, MI was 41/2 in six overs, with Brunt (22*) joined by skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (2*) unbeaten.

With a four by Brunt, MI reached the 50-run mark in 7.1 overs. In the same over, she and Kaur hit Radha for a four and six more, looting 18 runs in total.

The duo kept the run-rate up and brought up their 50-run stand in 30 balls. In 10 overs, MI were 87/2, with Brunt (45*) and Kaur (24*) unbeaten.

In the 11th over, Kaur went on a blitz against Annabel Sutherland, smashing her for three fours and a six before debutant Niki Prasad caught her, sending her back for 42 in 22 balls, with four boundaries and three sixes. MI was 105/3 in 10.5 overs.

Sciver Brunt reached her fourth WPL fifty in 36 balls, with nine fours. But after that, there was one wicket falling per over from overs 14-16, leaving MI struggling at 146/6. Amelia Kerr, S Sajana and Amanjot Kaur went back to the pavilion for single digits.

Sciver held the innings together, helping MI reach the 150-run mark in 16.5 overs. MI continued their implosion towards the end, bundling out for 164 runs in 19.1 overs. Brunt was the top-scorer, with 80* in 59 balls, with 13 fours.

Sutherland (3/34) was the top bowler for DC. Shikha got two while Minnu Mani and Capsey got one each.

During the run-chase of 165, DC was off to a fine start as Shafali Varma looted 22 runs in the second over bowled by Saika Ishaque, including four boundaries and a six.

In the sixth over, Shafali launched Matthews for two successive fours, bringing up the 50-run mark in 5.1 overs and a six. However, a fine catch at short mid-wicket from Amanjot meant the bowler had the last laugh. Shafali was gone for 43 in 18 balls, with seven fours and two sixes. DC was 60/1 in 5.5 overs.

In the next over, Lanning's knock of 15 in 19 balls, with three fours was ended by Shabnim Ismail as she castled her stumps. DC was 60/2 in 6.1 overs.

All-rounders Amelia and Sciver got Jemimah Rodrigues (2) and Annabel Sutherland (13) in quick succession, derailing DC's chase, and sinking them to 76/4 in 8.5 overs.

At the end of 10 overs, DC were 83/4, with Capsey (3*) and Prasad (5*) unbeaten. DC reached the 100-run mark in 13 overs, with the help of a four by Niki.

runs in 25 balls. Dilip Singh and Asgar Khan brought Amanat back in the game by taking 2 wickets each. After Bipin Kumar Pandey was run out on 23 runs, the match started tilting towards Amanat. But in the last over, Santosh Sinha snatched the victory from

IPL 2025 Schedule announced: KKR, RCB to play tournament opener, Eden Gardens to host final on May 25



NEW DELHI: The 'Mecca of Indian Cricket', Eden Gardens will mark both the commencement and the conclusion of the 18th season of the Indian Premier League 2025, by hosting the tournament opener between Defending Champions, Kolkata Knight Riders and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22 and the final on May 25.

Eden Gardens, the home ground of KKR will also play host to Qualifier 2 on May 23. Notably, this is the first time in almost a decade, that the IPL will conclude at the iconic Eden Gardens, having done so previously in 2013 and 2015.

"The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the schedule for the TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. The 18th edition of the prestigious tournament will commence on March 22, 2025, and the Final will be played on May 25, 2025," IPL said in a statement.

The other two playoff matches, Qualifier 1 and the Eliminator will be played in Hyderabad, home of 2024 runners-up Sunrisers Hyderabad, on May 20 and May 21, respectively.

Overall, IPL 2025 will consist of 74 matches spread over 65 days, including 12 double-headers. The tournament will kick off

with a mouth-watering affair between KKR and Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22.

On the following day (March 23), a double-header action will be on the cards for fans, with SRH taking on Rajasthan Royals in the first match, followed by the IPL's most celebrated rivalry. On the same day, two five-time champions, Chennai Super Kings and Mumbai Indians, will add another chapter to their rivalry at Chepauk.

Three of the ten IPL teams will play at two venues each. Delhi Capitals will play their home games in Visakhapatnam and the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi.

Rajasthan Royals will play their two home games at Guwahati against KKR and CSK. The Royals will then play the remainder of the home games at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.

Meanwhile, Punjab Kings will play their four home matches at the New PCA Stadium, New Chandigarh. The scenic Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium (HPCA) stadium in Dharamsala will host three home games of PBKS against LSG, DC and MI.

IPL 2025 Full Schedule:

- Match 1: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, March 22, Kolkata
- Match 2: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Rajasthan Royals, March 23, Hyderabad
- Match 3: Chennai Super Kings vs Mumbai Indians, March 23, Chennai
- Match 4: Delhi Capitals vs Lucknow Super Giants, March 24, Visakhapatnam
- Match 5: Gujarat Titans vs Punjab Kings, March 25, Ahmedabad
- Match 6: Rajasthan Royals vs Kolkata Knight Riders, March 26, Guwahati
- Match 7: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Lucknow Super Giants, March 27, Hyderabad
- Match 8: Chennai Super Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, March 28, Chennai
- Match 9: Gujarat Titans vs Mumbai Indians, March 29, Ahmedabad
- Match 10: Delhi Capitals vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, March 30, Visakhapatnam
- Match 11: Rajasthan Royals vs Chennai Super Kings, March 30, Guwahati
- Match 12: Mumbai Indians vs Kolkata Knight Riders, March 31, Mumbai
- Match 13: Lucknow Super Giants vs Punjab Kings, April 1, Lucknow
- Match 14: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Gujarat Titans, April 2, Bengaluru
- Match 15: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 3, Kolkata
- Match 16: Lucknow Super Giants vs Mumbai Indians, April 4, Lucknow
- Match 17: Chennai Super Kings vs Delhi Capitals, April 5, Chennai
- Match 18: Punjab Kings vs Rajasthan Royals, April 5, New Chandigarh
- Match 19: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 6, Kolkata
- Match 20: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Gujarat Titans, April 6, Hyderabad
- Match 21: Mumbai Indians vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 7, Mumbai
- Match 22: Punjab Kings vs Chennai Super Kings, April 8, New Chandigarh
- Match 23: Gujarat Titans vs Rajasthan Royals, April 9, Ahmedabad
- Match 24: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Delhi Capitals, April 10, Bengaluru
- Match 25: Chennai Super Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 11, Chennai
- Match 26: Lucknow Super Giants vs Gujarat Titans, April 12, Lucknow
- Match 27: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Punjab Kings, April 12, Hyderabad
- Match 28: Rajasthan Royals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 13, Jaipur
- Match 29: Delhi Capitals vs Mumbai Indians, April 13, Delhi
- Match 30: Lucknow Super Giants vs Chennai Super Kings, April 14, Lucknow
- Match 31: Punjab Kings vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 15, New Chandigarh
- Match 32: Delhi Capitals vs Rajasthan Royals, April 16, Delhi
- Match 33: Mumbai Indians vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 17, Mumbai
- Match 34: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Punjab Kings, April 18, Bengaluru
- Match 35: Gujarat Titans vs Delhi Capitals, April 19, Ahmedabad
- Match 36: Rajasthan Royals vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 19, Jaipur
- Match 37: Punjab Kings vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 20, New Chandigarh
- Match 38: Mumbai Indians vs Chennai Super Kings, April 20, Mumbai
- Match 39: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Gujarat Titans, April 21, Kolkata
- Match 40: Lucknow Super Giants vs Delhi Capitals, April 22, Lucknow
- Match 41: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Mumbai Indians, April 23, Hyderabad
- Match 42: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Rajasthan Royals, April 24, Bengaluru
- Match 43: Chennai Super Kings vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, April 25, Chennai
- Match 44: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Punjab Kings, April 26, Kolkata
- Match 45: Mumbai Indians vs Lucknow Super Giants, April 27, Mumbai
- Match 46: Delhi Capitals vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, April 27, Delhi
- Match 47: Rajasthan Royals vs Gujarat Titans, April 28, Jaipur
- Match 48: Delhi Capitals vs Kolkata Knight Riders, April 29, Delhi
- Match 49: Chennai Super Kings vs Punjab Kings, April 30, Chennai
- Match 50: Rajasthan Royals vs Mumbai Indians, May 1, Jaipur
- Match 51: Gujarat Titans vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 2, Ahmedabad
- Match 52: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Chennai Super Kings, May 3, Bengaluru
- Match 53: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Rajasthan Royals, May 4, Kolkata
- Match 54: Punjab Kings vs Lucknow Super Giants, May 4, Dharamsala
- Match 55: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Delhi Capitals, May 5, Hyderabad
- Match 56: Mumbai Indians vs Gujarat Titans, May 6, Mumbai
- Match 57: Kolkata Knight Riders vs Chennai Super Kings, May 7, Kolkata
- Match 58: Punjab Kings vs Delhi Capitals, May 8, Dharamsala
- Match 59: Lucknow Super Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, May 9, Lucknow
- Match 60: Sunrisers Hyderabad vs Kolkata Knight Riders, May 10, Hyderabad
- Match 61: Punjab Kings vs Mumbai Indians, May 11, Dharamsala
- Match 62: Delhi Capitals vs Gujarat Titans, May 11, Delhi
- Match 63: Chennai Super Kings vs Rajasthan Royals, May 12, Chennai
- Match 64: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 13, Bengaluru
- Match 65: Gujarat Titans vs Lucknow Super Giants, May 14, Ahmedabad
- Match 66: Mumbai Indians vs Delhi Capitals, May 15, Mumbai
- Match 67: Rajasthan Royals vs Punjab Kings, May 16, Jaipur
- Match 68: Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Kolkata Knight Riders, May 17, Bengaluru
- Match 69: Gujarat Titans vs Chennai Super Kings, May 18, Ahmedabad
- Match 70: Lucknow Super Giants vs Sunrisers Hyderabad, May 18, Lucknow
- Match 71: Qualifier 1, May 20, Hyderabad
- Match 72: Eliminator, May 21, Hyderabad
- Match 73: Qualifier 2, May 23, Kolkata
- Match 74: Final, May 25, Kolkata.

Delhi Dribblers end Mumbai Titans' winning streak in thrilling showdown

NEW DELHI: The Delhi Dribblers snapped the Mumbai Titans' three-game winning streak in a nail-biting InBL Pro U25 clash at the Thyagraj Indoor Stadium, edging out an 88-84 victory. The Dribblers exploded in the first half, racking up 59 points, but the Titans stormed back in the second, setting up a dramatic finish.

Poelsma knocked down crucial threes to add 23. Piyush Meena also made his first appearance for the Dribblers, as per a release from InBL.

The Dribblers came out firing, surging ahead with early baskets from Barker and James Montgomery. But the Titans kept pace, with Aaron Verghese Blessen attacking the paint aggressively. Both teams tight-



ened up on defense, leading to a flurry of turnovers. Barker ended the quarter with a clutch four-point play, extending the lead to eight. Midway through the second quarter, the Titans' offense sputtered, and Poelsma took full advantage, drilling three-pointers to push the lead to 15. Barker and Poelsma continued to pile on the points, sending the Dribblers into halftime with a commanding 25-

point lead. The Titans showed real grit and determination in the third quarter turning up the defensive intensity. Lokendra and Dalph Panopio capitalized on fast breaks and perimeter shots, chipping away at the lead. Montgomery battled in the paint, but the Titans had the momentum. The Titans were unstoppable as they scored 42 points cutting the lead to 11 heading into the final quarter.

Kitto opened the fourth with a deep three for the Titans, and Durrell McDonald followed with three point play, closing the gap. The Dribblers struggled to find quality shots, allowing the Titans to dictate the pace and slash the lead to just two. As Judd and McDonald powered through the Dribblers' interior defense to tie the game, Barker and Pratyanshu Tomar responded with key.