

KMC form teams for disposal of construction & demolition waste

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has issued a circular instructing the formation of borough-wise teams for effective collection of construction and demolition waste in the city and disposing it at Patharghata recycling plant in New Town. Such a move comes in the wake of a real estate boom in the city. According to the circular issued by the municipal commissioner, borough-wise teams should comprise officials from the Building, Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Civil departments of KMC. **PG 3**



Rs. 3
KOLKATA
TUESDAY, 18 FEBRUARY, 2025
PG-8, YEAR-11, ISSUE-259
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Investment proposals worth Rs 5,600 cr in Bengal Tourism sector will be implemented soon, asserts minister

MI News Service, Kolkata: The tourism industry in West Bengal is poised for substantial growth in the coming years following recent massive investment proposals in the sector totaling Rs 5,600 crore. According to informed sources in the state Tourism department, the total investment proposals (of over Rs 5600 crore) is expected to materialize by the end of next fiscal (2025-26). The sources quoting the state Tourism minister provided a detailed information of small and medium scale upcoming tourism-related projects for 2025-26, primarily concentrated in south Bengal, with a total anticipated investment of Rs 710 crore. Tourism is already on an upswing in West Bengal, with the number of domestic tourists in the state rose from nearly eight crore in 2022-23 to 18.4 crore in the current year. The number of foreign tourists also increased from 10 lakh to 31

lakh during the same period, showing robust growth. Earlier this month West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee speaking at the end of the two day Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) had stated that Bengal as having "emerged as a powerhouse of growth and opportunity". She said 212 MoUs and Letters of Intent were signed in this year's summit, with a total investment proposals of Rs 4,40,595 crore, the highest during the past several decades. She said during the seven previous summits held between 2015 and 2023, as there was no BGBS in 2024, the West Bengal government had received investment proposals worth a total of Rs 19.54 lakh crore. But in this year's summit in Kolkata, the total investment proposals touched the figure of Rs 4.4 lakh crore, which is unprecedented. Providing a year-wise break ups, the Chief

minister said in the 2023 BGBS, the amount was Rs 3.76 lakh crore, and in 2022, it was Rs 3.42 lakh crore. No BGBS was held in 2020 or 2021 due to the Covid pandemic. Moreover, in the five summits held before that, the total investment proposals each year ranged from Rs 2.43 lakh crore in 2015 to Rs 2.84 lakh crore in 2019. "The dream of 'Biswa Bangla', a Bengal that is future-ready, a Bengal that speaks to the world, is a reality, unfolding before our eyes. The vision I set in motion has borne fruit, and Bengal is on the map, as a leader, as an innovator, as a partner for the world," the Chief Minister said in a post on X a day after the conclusion of this year's summit. At BGBS 2025, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani said that the group had invested over Rs 50,000 crore in West Bengal since 2016 and that it would double that investment

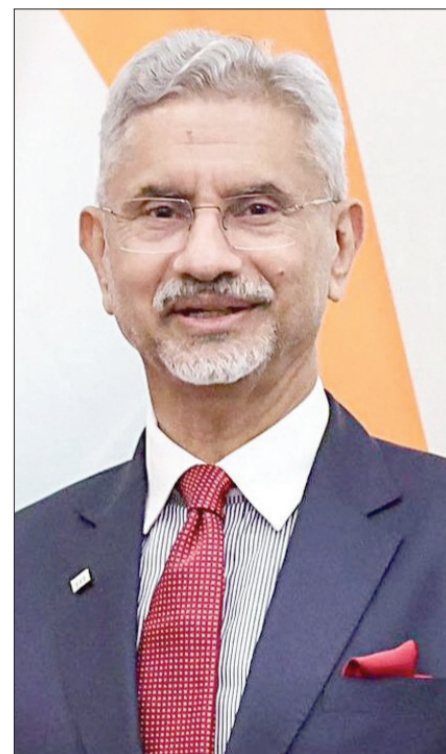
by 2030. Other major investment proposals came from JSW Group chairman Sajjan Jindal, who announced the setting up of two thermal power plants of 800 MW each at Salbani in West Medinipur district with a proposed investment of Rs 16,000 crore; Harshvardhan Neotia, chairman of Ambuja Neotia Group, who announced an investment of more than Rs 15,000 crore in the next five years; and RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka, who announced investment of Rs 10,000 crore. Opposition parties, however, have raised questions about the summit, with Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari saying that while investment proposals have been talked about for decades, very little has been seen on the ground. "In reality, BGBS is a glossy facade. The real meaning of BGBS isn't Bengal Global Business Summit, it is Business' Graveyard in a Bankrupt State," Adhikari said in a post on X.



Priests perform 'Ganga Arti' during the Mahakumbh Mela, at the Sangam in Prayagraj.

EAM Jaishankar should clarify if India raised deportation issue with US: TMC MP

MI News Service, New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar must clarify whether the issue of deportation of Indians, who had migrated illegally to the US, was raised with President Donald Trump during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent meeting with him, Trinamool Congress (TMC) MP Saket Gokhale said on Monday. In a post on X, Gokhale said the continuing deportations show that either Prime Minister Modi did not express concern over the "inhuman treatment" meted out to the deportees when he met the US President or that he was "rebuffed by Trump". Foreign Minister (S Jaishankar) must clarify. Since Friday, two more US Military flights have landed in India carrying over 225 deported Indians. On both flights, Indians were put in handcuffs and leg shackles. Some reports claim that Sikhs were not even allowed to wear their turbans," Gokhale said. "This happened after PM Modi returned to India from his meeting with US President Trump," the TMC Rajya Sabha MP said. "It is clear that PM Modi did not raise our concerns over inhuman treatment meted out to deportees on these flights or PM Modi raised concerns but was rebuffed by Trump who didn't care," he added. Attacking Prime Minister Modi, Gokhale said, "Is our 56 Vishwaguru PM so weak that he cannot stand up for Indians? Or is he not taken seriously at all by his best friend Trump?" He added that either way, Jaishankar should clarify, "because the MEA had categorically stated that this serious issue would be taken up with the US. What actually happened then?" So far, three US military aircraft have landed in India de-



porting the illegal immigrants. On February 5, a US military aircraft carrying the first batch of 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed in Amritsar. On Saturday evening, a second aircraft brought 116 deportees from the United States and the third aircraft carrying 112 illegal Indian immigrants also landed at the Amritsar airport late on Sunday evening.

Assam police files FIR against Pak national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh

MI News Service, Guwahati: The Assam Police has lodged an FIR against one Ali Tauqeer Sheikh and others for making alleged comments on India's internal affairs and parliamentary matters to "disrupting communal harmony and the nation's interests" following allegations of his close link with Congress MP Gau-rav Gogoi's British wife Elizabeth Colburn, CM Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Monday. "In pursuance of the Cabinet decision taken yesterday, Assam Police has lodged an FIR and the same had been registered as CID PS Case No 05/2025 U/S 48/152/61/197(1) BNS, 2023 RW Sec.13(1) UA(P) Act against Ali Tauqeer Sheikh and unknown others", the chief minister posted on X. The Assam Cabinet on Sunday had decided not to register any case against the Congress MP or his British spouse, who the BJP has accused of having ISI links, but instructed the DGP to file an FIR against Pakistani national Ali Tauqeer Sheikh. The chief minister had said the state government will write to the Centre for probing Colburn's participation in the 2024 Lok Sabha campaigns, despite being a British citizen, in the erstwhile Kaliabor constituency, which was won by Gogoi twice. Sheikh's social media activity includes exhaustive commentary on India's internal affairs and parliamentary matters, raising serious concerns on the said individual's intention to compromise and damage India's interests, he said. The Assam Cabinet also directed an extensive inquiry to ascertain whether these activities are part of a larger conspiracy and to identify any sympathisers or associates within Assam and across India who may be aiding Mr Sheikh's Anti-India agenda, an official release said. The inquiry may investigate Sheikh's network within Assam

Indian investors getting good returns on investments, says Nirmala Sitharaman

MI News Service, Mumbai: Taking advantage of its solid economic foundation and rapid growth, Indian investors are getting good returns to their investments for the past several years, said Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman here on Monday. Replying to a question on the recent largescale withdrawals of funds from the Indian capital market by

foreign institutional investors (FIIs), Sitharaman said India has an environment where most of the investments are yielding good returns. Finance Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey added that in times of global volatilities like the one that is being presently witnessed in the Indian Capital market too, the FIIs tend to go back to their country of origin

which is mostly the US. He said, however, in spite of that India continued to remain the fastest growing major economy of the world and will continue to grow going ahead as well. To a question on inflation, Sitharaman said the government's supply measures and the Reserve Bank's demand-side initiatives are working in tandem to control price

rise. Meanwhile, the Department of Financial Services Secretary M Nagaraju said the government is "actively considering" raising the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) cover beyond Rs 5 lakh. Like the Finance minister he also said India is delivering good returns to investors who are booking profits.

Moderate tremors struck Delhi NCR and North Bihar, no damage or injuries reported

MI News Service, New Delhi: A moderate earthquake of 4.0-magnitude struck the national capital and the adjoining regions on Monday morning forcing the residents to rush out of their homes in panic. Similarly the residents of several places in Bihar also had the same experience after an earthquake of 4 magnitude struck Siwan and its neighbouring districts in northern part of the state this morning. The National Center for Seismology said the earthquake struck at a focal depth of five kilometres underneath the earth at 5:36 am. There were, however, no immediate reports of any damage or injuries. The department's Patna office said the tremor was originated at a depth of around 10 km into the earth. As the earthquake prompted hundreds of residents of Delhi to rush out of their homes, Anil Kumar, a resident of Sita Ram Bazar, said he never experienced such tremors before. "I felt a strong vibration and got



scared. My wife and I immediately woke up our child and rushed outside," Kumar said adding that he panicked even more as he was a heart patient. The epicentre of the quake was in the Jheel Park area of Dhaula Kuan and there were some reports of people hearing a huge sound like a bomb blast as the ground shook. Another Sita Ram Bazar resident, Sundar Lal, initially mistook the jolts for monkeys on the terrace. "At first, we thought there were monkeys on our terrace making noise but then we realised it was an earthquake, so we all ran out-

side," he said. "It was a very strong earthquake, and we were all terrified. But thankfully it didn't last long," he added. CCTV footage from the Budh Vihar area showed that as soon as the earthquake struck, a number of cars horn honked on its own. Deepa, a resident of West Delhi, said she was jolted by the tremors and the loud sound. "A similar earthquake occurred in 2012 but this one felt more intense. We were all very scared," she said. Anil, a resident of Nehru Nagar, narrating his experience said the moment he felt the tremor, he ran out of his house with his two-year-old daughter. "There was a loud sound and strong jolts. My wife and I were very scared. The first thing we did was pick up our daughter and rush outside," he said. In a post on X, Delhi Police said, "We hope you all are safe!" and urged citizens to call on the emergency 112 helpline for emergencies.

From snakes, crocodiles to trimming beard, US deportee from Punjab recalls perilous 'donkey route'



MI News Service, Chandigarh: Promised a legal entry into the US, Mandeep Singh's life was at risk after he was made to deal with crocodiles and snakes, trim his beard despite being a Sikh, and having to go without food for days. But his dream to secure a better life for his family in Amritsar came crashing down on January 27 when he was arrested by the US Border Patrol while trying to sneak into America via Tijuana in Mexico. Mandeep was part of 116 Indians who were deported by a US military aircraft that landed at the Amritsar airport late on Saturday,

the second batch of Indians to be sent back after February 5 amid a crackdown by the Donald Trump administration against illegal immigrants. The deportees arrived within 24 hours of a US military aircraft bringing back a batch of 116 Indians living illegally in that country. Instead of a legal entry as promised, Mandeep's travel agent put him on the 'donkey route' - an illegal and risky pathway through several countries in Latin America used by migrants to enter the US. Speaking to reporters in Amritsar, Mandeep (38) showed several videos of the perilous journey his

travel agent and sub-agents put him through. "When I spoke to my agent, he said within one month I will be taken to the US in a legal way," Mandeep said. The agent demanded Rs 40 lakh, which he paid in two instalments. The journey began from Amritsar to Delhi last August on a flight. "From Delhi, I was taken to Mumbai, then Nairobi, and onwards to Amsterdam through another nation. From there, we were taken to Suriname. When I reached there, the sub-agents demanded Rs 20 lakh more, which was paid back home by my family," he said. Detailing the uncertain journey that began from there, Mandeep said, "From Suriname, we boarded a vehicle which was cramped with many people like me. We were taken to Guyana. From there it was non-stop travel for days. We crossed Guyana, then Bolivia before reaching Ecuador." The group was then made to cross the Panama jungles. "Here we were told by fellow travellers that if we ask too many questions, we could be shot. For 13 days, we moved through the treacherous route that included 12 canals. Crocodiles, snakes - we had to bear all.

AAP accuses BJP of causing delay in naming Delhi CM as it has 'no face'



MI News Service, New Delhi: Accusing the BJP of having "no face" to run the government, the Aam Admi Party (AAP) has launched a fresh attack on the saffron party over its delay in announcing the name of Chief minister and the cabinet for Delhi. Addressing a press conference in Delhi on Monday, senior AAP leader and Delhi's acting Chief Minister Atishi accused the BJP of lacking a credible leader to govern the national capital. At present it has "no face" to run the government, she said. "It's been ten days since the election results were announced. People thought that the BJP would declare its chief minister and the cabinet on February 9 and begin developmental works im-

mediately. But it is now clear that they have no face to run Delhi," the outgoing CM said. Meanwhile, issuing a statement AAP further claimed that the infighting within BJP over the selection of Delhi's Chief Minister is causing hardships for the people of Delhi. The Party's Chief Spokesperson Priyanka Kakkar highlighted that several days have passed since the election results, yet the BJP has failed to appoint a Chief Minister for Delhi, leading to prolonged power cuts across the city. She questioned why the people of Delhi should suffer due to BJP's internal conflict and urged the party to put an end to its infighting, appoint a Chief Minister, and focus on governance. She

durtehr stated that the BJP's delay in finalizing a Chief Minister is a clear sign of factionalism within the party. "Their factions are meeting in groups of ten because they cannot agree on who should lead Delhi. Their internal conflict is ongoing, but why should the people of Delhi bear the brunt of it? On Tuesday, reports of prolonged power cuts emerged from several parts of Delhi. The BJP must put aside its differences, appoint a Chief Minister without delay, and focus on governance," she said. Priyanka Kakkar further stated that the Aam Aadmi Party is actively holding meetings. Since the election results, Arvind Kejriwal has been engaging with party leaders in Punjab, elected MLAs, and even candidates who did not win, gathering feedback and assessing areas that need improvement. She emphasised that while the AAP is working on strengthening the party, the people of Delhi should not have to suffer. "The city is facing extended power cuts because the BJP has failed to appoint a Chief Minister. They must take swift action and fill the position immediately," she added.

Edelweiss study highlights financial insecurity among India's Sandwich Generation

MI News Service, Kolkata: A study by Edelweiss Life Insurance in Kolkata reveals that 60% of India's Sandwich Generation aged 35 to 54 feel financially unprepared for the future. The generation, balancing family needs like health-

care and education, often liquidates investments for essential and non-critical needs. Despite 94% undertaking financial planning, 79% rely on returns from investments, and 64% turn to credit for short-term needs.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Joins Hands with Kolkata Traffic Police for Road Safety Week



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank, in collaboration with South East Traffic Guard, Kolkata traffic police is observing Road Safety Week with a focus on promoting the Safe Drive, Save Life initiative. As part of this campaign, the bank is installing 6 directional boards and 6 signages at key strategic locations across South Kolkata to en-

hance road safety awareness. Additionally, a Road Show featuring placard displays with social messages on safe driving will be organized to engage citizens and spread awareness about responsible road behavior. This initiative reinforces Ujjivan SFB's commitment to community well-being and public safety while supporting the city's ongoing road safety efforts.



BJP MLA's agitated protest against the State Government at West Bengal Assembly House in Kolkata on Monday.

Sebaashray has transformed into a lifeline for thousands

MI News Service: Healthcare isn't just about treating ailments; it's about restoring dignity, alleviating distress, and empowering people with the assurance that help is never out of reach. Over the past 45 days, #Sebaashray has transformed into a lifeline for thousands, a movement of hope and a testament to what service can achieve. 13,669 PATIENTS received medical care yesterday at 42 HEALTH CAMPS in Satgachia. 9,870 INDIVIDUALS underwent crucial diagnostic tests, because

early detection saves lives. 13,723 PATIENTS were provided essential medicines, ensuring continuity of care beyond consultation. 50 CRITICAL CASES were referred for specialised treatment, reinforcing our commitment to comprehensive healthcare. These numbers tell a story of a people-driven revolution, where healthcare isn't a luxury but a right, where service isn't seasonal but sustained and where care isn't conditional but unconditional. Sebaashray isn't just delivering healthcare; it's redefining it.

Tension Escalates Along Bengal Border as BSF Vehicles Vandalized

MI News Service: Tension is escalating along the Bengal border after a Border Security Force (BSF) vehicle was vandalized and jawans were assaulted in Krishnaganj, Nadia, while attempting to recover a large quantity of Phensedyl, a banned cough syrup. The incident has sparked a concerns about smuggling activities and the role of local law enforcement. According to reports, the BSF had received intel about a Phensedyl stockpile in Mathurapur, Krishnaganj, promoting the recovery operation. However, the team was met with violence resulting in the destruction of the their vehicle and injuries to the jawans. No arrests have been made so far, raising questions about the effec-

tiveness of local policing. The incident is the latest in a series of smuggling-related events along the India-Bangladesh border. Last month authorities discovered four bunkers and the chamber within 1.5 kilometers of the border, sparking concerns about a potential larger conspiracy. A large quantity of Phensedyl was recovered from one of the bunkers, which was hidden beneath a house on the Tungi border. The national Crime Bureau (NCB) suspects that the smuggling of extensive criminal network. The BSF has been working to disrupt these smuggling operations, with recent successes including the recovery of 62,200 bottles of Phensedyl in Naghata area of Majhdia town.

Exclusive medical fair in Kolkata "Medicall exhibition '25"



MI News Service, Kolkata: This year, the Biswa Bangla Mela, Kolkata is significantly highlighted with some value added arrangements. MEDICAL, 2025 exhibition showcased and introduced a new horizon in the field of medical education as well as updated healthcare technologies. World-class technology based medical equipments and machineries are widely displayed by many reputed concerns. Renowned companies from countries like China, Japan and Germany have expressed interest in investing in India's healthcare sector in collaboration with Indian organizations. The Medical Exhibition 2025, one of India's largest medical and healthcare technology exhibitions, began on Saturday at the Biswa Bangla Mela Ground in Kolkata. The exhibition will run from 15 February to 17 February. It was inaugurated by Malay Pit, President of Santiniketan Medical College & Hospital and Tripura Santiniketan Medical College. Numerous renowned companies and experts from India and abroad took part in this mega event. This exhibition serves as a significant platform for India's medical and healthcare sector, showcasing advancements in modern technology, medical equipment, hospital management, digital

healthcare and medical research. This year, in addition to Indian companies, reputed firms from China, Japan and Germany are also participating, giving the exhibition an international dimension. According to the organizers, Medical Exhibition 2025 features hospital infrastructure, medical equipment, telemedicine, robotic surgery, digital health solutions, AI-based diagnostics and medical software, among other cutting-edge technologies. Alongside globally recognized firms, Indian startups and research organizations are also displaying their latest innovations. Additionally, several medical colleges, hospitals, doctors and healthcare institutions are taking part in discussions on new technological applications, enhanced medical standards, and improved healthcare accessibility. The presence of leading companies from China, Japan and Germany is a key highlight of this year's event. These firms are not only showcasing their state-of-the-art medical technologies but have also expressed a strong interest in collaborating with Indian organizations. Plans for joint ventures in hospital management, medical equipment manufacturing, and healthcare research are being discussed. A representative of a reputed German company remarked,

We believe in setting higher standards

MI News Service: In Diamond Harbour, we do not believe in mere rhetoric; we believe in ACTION. We believe in knowing the way, going the way, and showing the way. We believe in setting higher standards, in leading by example, and in setting a precedent that others can follow. #Sebaashray is a reflection of this ethos. Since inception,

6,96,321 individuals have availed medical consultations, diagnostic tests, free medicines, and advanced referral services at Sebaashray camps. Today, on Day 46, the 42 health camps in Satgachia provided comprehensive healthcare to 13,311 people, ensuring that quality medical care reaches every doorstep.

Ghatal Master Plan Sparks Controversy

MI News Service: A meeting of the Ghatal Master Plan Monitoring Committee was held at Ghatal Town Hall on Sunday. The meeting was attended by MP Dev, Minister Manasranjan Bhunia, Principal Secretary of the Irrigation Department Manish Jain, District Magistrate Khurshed Ali Qadri, District Superintendent of Police Dhritiman Sarkar, Minister Seuli Saha, and other district administration officials. Following the allocation of RS. 500 crores in the state budget for the Ghatal Master Plan, questions arise regarding the project's feasibility with the allocated funds. It even stirred controversy due to the exclusion of BJP and CPM representatives. MP Dev stated that he contested the 2024 Lok Sabha elections on the condition that the Ghatal Master Plan be implemented, emphasizing

the Chief Minister's promise and the allocation of RS. 500 Crore before the completion of a year of the Lok Sabha elections. The CPM and the BJP, uninvited to the meeting, claimed to have learned about it through media. They argued that the Ghatal Master Plan is unachievable with 500 crore. BJP MLA Shital Kapat stated that while canals could be cleared, the Master Plan itself would not be implemented with the current allocation. Addressing the BJP's Exclusion, MP Dev said to first let BJP believe that the state government could implement the master plan then everyone would be invited. He also said if the BJP MLA from Ghatal acknowledges the state government's capability to implement the Ghatal Master Plan, he would be invited.

Bangaon Councillor Arrested Following Complaint of Alleged Infidelity and Exploitation by Local Woman

MI News Service: An independent councillor from Ward 18 of Bangaon Municipality, Chiranjit Biswas has been arrested on Charges of cheating and exploitation after a relationship with her under the promise of marriage. The woman, who is married with the daughter, alleged that Chiranjit Biswas had been in a relationship with her for over a year during which he shared physical relation with her multiple times and even got her pregnant once. According to the woman's statement, Chiranjit Biswas advised her to leave her husband's family and she had been living in a rented house with her daughter for the past three months. However, Chiranjit Biswas allegedly stopped communicating with her and providing fi-

nancial support promoting her to protest outside his house and demand punishment. The police arrested Chiranjit Biswas on Sunday night after the woman filed a complaint and he was produced before the Bangaon Sub district Court on Monday. Chiranjit Biswas has denied the allegation, claiming that the woman's complaint is baseless and that she is trying to trap him. His mother also expressed ignorance about the incident, stating that the woman had come to their house and shouted for Chiranjit Biswas. The incident had raised concerns about the conduct of public officials and the exploitation of woman. The police are investigating the matter and the court will decide the fate of Chiranjit Biswas

R G Kar incidents push the need to boost up security in hospitals. Kalyani JNM Hospital arranges for training of security personnel and Fire Mock Drill

MI News Service, Kalyani: The rape and murder in R G Kar hospital was the eye opener regarding safety measures in hospitals. So, the Kalyani SDO had taken an initiative to arrange for a Fire Mock Drill at The College of Medicine and Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Nadia's Kalyani on Monday. Side by side, a 3 days' training program was arranged in the Kalyani Medical College in the JNM hospital campus for 153 security personnel of 3 layers Security system in the hospital. SDO, Kalyani, Abhijit Samanta said, "The training and the fire mock drill will help in hospital management and to fight the unwanted happening in future. He added that since R G Kar incident, the safety issues have been taken seriously in all hospital and this Fire Mock Drill and training program are the



part of the same. It was around 10.30 am. The neighbouring people of Kalyani JNM hospital and Medical College got startled when the alarming siren started to ring continuously from the side of medical college. Soon a fire tender rushed the spot. Meanwhile it was seen that the smoke was rolling out from the rooftop of 4 storied building of Medical College. The fire brigade personnel started to spray water on

the smoke. Soon the police, district civil defence team and NDRF reached the scene. As a few were injured, the teams started the rescue works. The district civil defence and NDRF jointly arranged for bringing out the injured persons from the rooftops by ropes and beds. However, though the scenes were looking true, but it was truly a fire mock drill. SDO, Kalyani, Abhijit Samanta said, "The NDRF

and Civil Defence teams showed the fire mock drill and how to rescue the ill persons. I hope this will help the security personnel in this hospital, to combat during happening of any accident in future."

The other speakers like JNM Principal Manidip Paul, NDRF Commander KC Meena, IC Kalyani Debashish Pande. Meena said, "NDRF were informed about the mock drill. So we came here with our team. There was a fire mock drill. We shared our hand in rescue operations. We stressed in the safety issues during such happening."

There was the arrangement of a training to the 153 security personnel of the hospital. Manidip Paul, the Principal said, "The training will go on for 3 days and training will take place for 4 hours everyday."

Man Claims Wife Absconded with Kidney Sale Proceeds, Now Faces Arrest; Court Intervenes

MI News Service: A disturbing case has emerged in Howrah, where a wife allegedly absconded with the money obtained from the sale of her husband's kidney. Pintu Baez, a resident of Banerjee Pole in Dhulogar, Sankrail, had sold his kidney on his wife's suggestion to alleviate their financial difficul-

ties. However, after handing over the cash, approximately one million taka, to his wife, she reportedly left the house, taking all the gold and jewelry with her. Pintu has since filed a complaint at the Sankrail police station, which has now reached the Calcutta High Court. In court, Pintu alleged that the po-

lice are threatening him and have filed an FIR against him. He has requested police protection, citing fears for his safety. Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, hearing the matter, remarked that the issue appears to be a personal one, but the court has summoned a report from the state. The next

hearing is scheduled for April. This case raises concerns about the exploitation of vulnerable individuals, particularly in situations involving organ trafficking. The court's decision to summon a report from the state suggests that the authorities are taking the matter seriously.

Bankura Medical College gets RS 2 crore Equipment Boost

MI News Service, Bankura: Bankura Sammilani Medical College is all set to receive advanced medical equipment and tools worth approximately 2 crore from the Power Grid Corporation, a central government agency. The Medical College signed a memorandum of understanding

with the corporation, with the expectation that the equipment would arrive next month. According to the medical college, the equipment will improve medical services for patient and provide special facilities for medical students. The Power Grid Corporation is supplying

10 high-quality devices to the hospital's ophthalmology, psychiatry, ear, nose and throat, gynecology and physiology departments. Bankura Sammilani Medical College ranks high in the list of best hospitals in the state but there was a long-standing infrastructural problem.

Along with medical services being disrupted and medical students not being introduced to advanced equipment, both services and education were being disrupted, hence receiving equipment worth almost two crores acted as a catalyst to improve healthcare.

Burdwan Woman Returns Home to Shocking Discovery After Attending Mahakumbh Festival"

MI News Service, Burdwan: Burdwan Residents Left Shaken After Multiple Flat Burglaries in Renaissance SuburbA series of brazen burglaries has taken place in the Renaissance suburb of Burdwan, leaving residents in a state of shock and insecurity. The incidents occurred in multiple flats across Towers 10, 11, and 12, with thieves making off with cash, jewelry, and other

valuables. According to reports, the burglars targeted flats that were unoccupied, taking advantage of the absence of residents. One of the victims, Srabani Mallick, had gone to the Kumbh Mela, while another, Mishtu Bhowmik Ghoshal, was away in Durgapur on work. The thieves broke into Ghoshal's flat, making off with 40,000 taka in cash, two ATM cards, silver coins, and

gold jewelry. Ghoshal expressed her shock and concern, stating, "I was in Durgapur, and my husband was in Nadia. The house was locked, and everything was stolen." In another incident, residents of Tower 11 were awakened by the sound of burglars breaking into a neighboring flat. Realizing the danger, the thieves fled the scene. Local residents have complained about

the lack of security in the area, citing the absence of security guards at night. The residents are demanding improved security measures to prevent such incidents in the future. The police have collected CCTV footage from the area and have launched an investigation into the burglaries. Authorities are working to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

Son killed and hanged allegedly over father's second marriage plans

MI News Service, Kolkata: A gruesome incident has come to light in Shreshahi, Kalichak, Malda where a 20 year old son Raj Momin was allegedly killed by his father Sarfaroz Alam Momin, for protesting his father's plans to remarry. According to reports, Sarfaroz a businessman had been estranged from his family due to his alleged abusive

behavior. However, he recently brought Raj to live with him and forced him to work in his electrical goods shop instead of pursuing his studies. Raj's family member claim that Sarfaroz had an extramarital affair and was planning to marry another woman, which Raj had opposed. This led to a heated arguments, resulting in Raj's brutal murder.

The police have launched an investigation into the incident, and the body has been sent for autopsy. Raj's mother has demanded justice, stating, "My son didn't want to go to his father. He took him by force. Then he killed him. I want my husband to be hanged." Raj's maternal uncle, Shamim Akhtar, alleged that Sarfaroz and his family had

attempted to cover up the crime by claiming that Raj had taken his own life. However, upon arriving at the scene, Akhtar found no evidence of hanging. The incident has sparked outrage in the community, with many demanding justice for Raj and his family. The police are currently searching for Sarfaroz, who has gone into hiding.

We do not believe in rhetoric, we believe in action: Abhishek Banerjee

MI News Service, South 24 parganas: Abhishek Banerjee has candidly mentioned that regarding Sebaashray 'project, the government is fully committed to serve the common people. He said, "we believe in action and not in rhetoric."

"We believe in knowing the way, going the way, and showing the way. We believe in setting higher standards, in leading by example, and in setting a precedent that

others can follow." he added. According to sources, since its inception, 6,96,321 individuals have availed medical consultations, diagnostic tests, free medicines, and advanced referral services at

'Sebaashray' camps. Sources also say that 42 health camps in Satgachia also provided comprehensive healthcare to 13,311 people, ensuring that quality medical care reaches every doorstep.

Trinamool Congress in Haroa facilitates payment of lease dues to bheri landowners denied rights for years

MI News Service, Haroa: The Trinamool Congress leadership in Haroa of North 24-Parganas on Sunday facilitated the payment of lease dues for 1,400 bighas of bheri (fishery) land to landowners who had been denied their rightful earnings for years.

A section of the district leadership said that this was the outcome of lessons learnt from the Sandeshkhali episode.

Some local TMC leaders had allegedly taken control of these lands in Haroa, converted them into fisheries and had been refusing to pay the agreed sum on rent. Allegedly, sometimes they even extorted money from landowners. On Sunday, a camp was set up at Khatra Secondary School Ground in Gopalpur II gram panchayat, where money was handed over to the landowners, many of whom were paid after a decade. As fisheries became a big source of income in the Basirhat subdivision, many farmers leased their agricultural land to fishery operators for

easy earnings. However, many of these operators, often TMC leaders or workers close to now-arrested Sandeshkhali strongman Sheikh Shahjahan, stopped paying rent to the landowners. After mass protests in Sandeshkhali over the alleged land grab by Shahjahan and his associates, the Trinamool-led state government returned nearly 90 per cent of such plots by last month. The party in Haroa initiated a similar process, either restoring land to original owners or ensuring

their dues were paid by those who had withheld payments using political clout. Payments for 1,400 bighas of fisheries land were cleared through a fresh leasing and auction process, increasing rental benefits for landowners. Trinamool leaders Kamrul Sardar and Ashraf Islam claimed they were previously unable to act. "With a shift in leadership and approach, it became easier to convince the party to support these landowners, who had been deprived for years."

Assam police files FIR...

From PG 1
and India, examine individuals, organisations and accomplices based in the country who have aided and abetted his actions against India, and seek relevant assistance and information from concerned agencies and departments of the Centre for the probe. The Cabinet decision is in contrast to Sarma's statement on Saturday that a police case was likely to be registered and a Special Investigation Team (SIT) be constituted to probe into the allegations of Pakistan links of Colburn. The Cabinet Resolution stated that following a scrutiny of Sheikh's social media activity and information available in the public domain, it appears that he has been in contact with Elizabeth. "Apart from his engagements with the Government of Pakistan, Ali Sheikh has also

founded LEAD Pakistan, a non-profit organisation, working in the field of climate change. Elizabeth Gogoi, a British national, was an integral part of LEAD Pakistan during her time spent in Islamabad. "Furthermore, both Ali Sheikh and Elizabeth Gogoi, a British National, have been a part of global climate action group called the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) which operates in both India and Pakistan," the resolution said. Gogoi on Friday had said that the BJP went to extreme steps to defame him and his family and asserted that he would be taking appropriate legal action, while he penned a letter in Assamese addressed to his wife and shared it as a post on Facebook on Saturday, assuring her that truth shall prevail.

From snakes, crocodiles...

From PG 1
Some were given sticks to deal with the dangerous reptiles," he said. "We ate half-baked 'rotis' and sometimes noodles, as proper food was a distant thing. We used to travel 12 hours a day," Mandeep said. The group made a halt at Costa Rica after crossing Panama, and then began their journey to Honduras, where, Mandeep said, "We got to finally eat some rice." "But we did not get to eat anything while crossing through Nicaragua. In Guatemala, however, we were lucky to get some curd rice to eat. By the

time we reached Tijuana, my beard was trimmed forcibly," Mandeep said. On the morning of January 27, they were arrested by the Border Police after they were made to cross the border to sneak into the US, he said. "The authorities told us that we will be deported. We were put in a detention centre for some days before we were sent back," he said. On February 5, the first US military aircraft carrying 104 illegal Indian immigrants landed at the Amritsar airport most of whom also narrated similar stories filled with danger and uncertainty.



In a promotional programme Indian actor and film producer Arbaaz Khan were present in city on Monday.

Avoid mobile while driving & walking: Kolkata police Commissioner

MI News Service, Kolkata: Mobile phones are one of the most "severe distractions on the road" and "please don't use" them while driving or walking on roads, Kolkata police commissioner Manoj Verma said. He was speaking at a programme to mark the conclusion of Kolkata Police's road safety week. In attendance were children from different schools along with members of the police force and senior officers. "How many of you use mobile phones? Please raise your hands," Verma asked the audience. "Ok. So almost all," Verma said before he began his address. "Since I can spot school students in the gathering I have a few words for them. Those who use mobile phones... this is one of the most severe distractions on the road," Verma said. The police chief, also the former deputy commissioner of Kolkata Traffic Police, paused to ask if a video of a recent road accident on Shakespeare Sarani had been shown to

the gathering. "Recently, a person was walking down the road while speaking on his mobile phone along Shakespeare Sarani. He was walking by the side and suddenly came in the middle of the road un mindfully while speaking over the phone and he was hit by a vehicle," Verma said. "So mobile (phone) is one of the important distractions. When you are driving or walking down the road, please don't use the mobile phone." Senior officers said the number of people on phones while driving has gone up several times over the past year. The police said they prosecute offenders by temporarily suspending their licenses as it amounted to dangerous driving. The penalty for using a mobile phone while driving is 5,000 for the first offence and 10,000 for repeat offences. The police chief insisted on using good-quality helmets for those driving two-wheelers and urged the public to abide by the traffic rules, especially at intersections.

Suvendu Adhikari, 3 other BJP MLAs suspended from Bengal Assembly budget session

MI News Service, Kolkata: Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal assembly Suvendu Adhikari and three other BJP MLAs were suspended from the ongoing budget session by the Speaker on Monday for alleged unruly behaviour in the House. Speaker Biman Banerjee suspended Agnimitra Pal, Bankim Ghosh and Biswanath Karak, apart from Adhikari, till the end

of this session in the West Bengal assembly or for 30 days, whichever is earlier, after they came down to the well of the House, tore up business papers and threw those away. The BJP members, led by Adhikari, went to the well of the House raising slogans after the Speaker refused to hold a discussion on an adjournment motion brought by Pal. The BJP MLAs thereafter

staged a walkout from the House. The adjournment motion was brought by the BJP to highlight alleged intimidation at some places in the state over organising Saraswati Puja earlier this month.

Pal later told reporters outside the assembly that Saraswati Puja had to be held at some places in the state with police protection, including a law col-

lege in Kolkata with orders from the Calcutta High Court.

She said the walkout by the BJP MLAs was to protest the Speaker's refusal to a discussion on the adjournment motion brought by her and some other party legislators.

The Speaker, while disallowing the discussion in the House, allowed one BJP MLA to read out the motion. After Pal read out

the motion in the House, the BJP MLAs started protesting, raising slogans and holding placards, claiming appeasement by ruling TMC for electoral gains.

Trinamool Congress chief whip Nirmal Ghosh brought a motion in the House, claiming that the acts of protest by the BJP MLAs were outside legislative culture and demanded action against them.



Congress activists took part in a protest rally against Union Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw regarding some recent accidents that happened in relation to MahaKumbh in Kolkata on Monday.

'Professors cell' of TMC to play active role in 2026 Assembly polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal College and University Professors' Association (WBCUPA), the professors' cell of the Trinamool Congress (TMC), is set to play an active role in the lead-up to the 2026 Assembly election, announced state Education minister and WBCUPA president Bratya Basu. At a meeting with WBCUPA's state committee, Basu highlighted the organisation's restructuring under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's leadership. "We now have committees in every district, from the mountains to the sea. Units have been established in all state-run universities. WBCUPA will remain active and until the upcoming election, professors and teachers will be seen publicly and extensively supporting Mamata Banerjee and her development initiatives,"

he stated. WBCUPA vice-president Selim Box Mandal reaffirmed the association's allegiance to TMC, declaring: "Professors across the state will stand by the Trinamool Congress and work towards its goals in 2026." Another vice-president, Mahitosh Gayen, added: "Beyond our institutional work hours, we will protest against the Centre, advocate for education and contribute to the state's development." Meanwhile, addressing Opposition claims that WBCUPA members receive preferential treatment in committee appointments, Basu admitted that there was "partial truth" to the allegations. "This is a government-affiliated organisation and as its president, I am a political figure. If there is a committee within a college or univer-

sity, I would want my organisation's members to be a part of it," he stated.

However, he asserted that many genuine educationists are also part of these committees. "We have included several true educationists. I can point to numerous educationists in the new vice-chancellor (V-C) selection committees. Some have even come from outside our state. However, being associated with TMC does not mean they should be treated as outcasts," he added. Reacting to Union Minister of State for Education and Bengal BJP president Sukanta Majumdar's "tit-for-tat" remark, Basu criticised the BJP's aggressive political stance. He referenced poet Satyendranath Dutta, questioning whether it is appropriate for Trinamool to retaliate in kind, emphasising that it is not.

KMC form teams for disposal of construction & demolition waste

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has issued a circular instructing the formation of borough-wise teams for effective collection of construction and demolition waste in the city and disposing it at Patharghata recycling plant in New Town.

Such a move comes in the wake of a real estate boom in the city. According to the circular issued by the municipal commissioner, borough-wise teams should comprise officials from the Building, Solid Waste Management (SWM) and Civil departments of KMC.

Each team will have one Building department representative, either a superintending assistant en-

gineer or an assistant engineer in each of the 144 wards, one SWM representative in each ward, conservancy workers, designated vehicles and waste collection and transportation equipment.

The team will conduct regular surveys identifying construction and demolition waste generation sources, collect and transport these to designated disposal site at Patharghata, ensure waste segregation, coordinate with builders/developers/LBS and contractors for compliance and monitor and report non-compliance to authorities concerned.

The teams' performance will be monitored and reviewed quarterly by the deputy chief engineers of

the Building and SWM departments. A helpline number will soon be floated to register complaints/ suggestions from citizens regarding collection and disposal.

The circular also mentions contacts of Building department officials for each borough acting as nodal officers. It also mentions contacts of Civil department officers acting as nodal officers.

Construction and demolition waste includes bricks, cement, mortar, sand concrete etc. The Patharghata plant is able to process 500 tonnes of waste every day. Paver blocks, bricks, kerb stones and some road construction materials can be made from the waste.

Mohan Bhagwat ends Bengal trip, calls for 'Hindu unity'

MI News Service, Burdwan/Kolkata: RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat urged the people of Bengal to join his outfit to understand its mode of work and nature "from the inside" and stressed their organisation's vision of building a strong Hindu unity.

"I request you to come to the Sangh to understand it from the inside. There are no fees to join here, and no formal membership policy. It is completely up to you whether you choose to come inside (the RSS) or withdraw if your mind says so," said Bhagwat, addressing 17,000 uniformed activists at the

Sports Authority of India (SAI) ground in East Burdwan's Talit. The appeal by Bhagwat, who concluded his 10-day trip to Bengal on Sunday, during his 36-minute speech, hinted at consolidating Hindu voters in Bengal ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls.

An RSS source said Bhagwat made it clear that the Bengal chapter should intensify activities on the ground within a year.

Currently, the RSS has around 6,000 branches in Bengal. Now, the Bengal unit has decided to increase the number to at least 12,000 this year.

DME orders 614 madrasahs to submit vacancy details

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Directorate of Madrasah Education (DME) has instructed all district inspectors of schools (DIS) to ensure that madrasah heads submit vacancy statements for sanctioned posts, including assistant teachers, headmasters and non-teaching staff, within a specified deadline.

The directive comes after it was observed that heads of institutions have been wilfully neglecting to submit vacancy statements to the West Bengal Madrasah Service Commission (WBMS), despite posts remaining unfilled for months or even years. As per the Management of Recognised Non-Government Madrasahs

(Aided and Unaided) Rules, 2002, vacancy details must be submitted to the WBMS via the district inspector's office within seven days of a post becoming vacant due to transfer, resignation, retirement or death. Madrasahs will now have to submit headmaster/superintendent vacancies by February 28, assistant teacher vacancies by March 5 and non-teaching staff vacancies by March. There are a total of 614 Madrasahs recognised by West Bengal Board of Madrasah Education. An official from the DME stated: "Many teachers have retired or been transferred, leaving positions unfilled. It is crucial for the government to have updated records."

BM Birla Heart Hospital celebrates 35 years of excellence in cardiac care



MI News Service, Kolkata: BM Birla Heart Hospital (CKBH BMB) marked its 35th Foundation Day, celebrating a legacy of innovation and excellence in cardiovascular treatment. As India's first NABH-accredited heart hospital, BMB has earned a reputation for pioneering advancements in cardiac care, ethical medical practices, and superior clinical expertise. The event saw hospital leadership, renowned cardiologists, and key stakeholders reflecting on its remarkable journey. BMB's contributions span

groundbreaking treatments for both pediatric and geriatric patients, ensuring holistic, patient-centered care. To commemorate this milestone, BMB inaugurated its fourth Cath Lab, featuring East India's first AI-driven Echo Navigator and an Advanced Heart Navigator. It also introduced a Cardiovascular Workspace for seamless global collaboration and a Dose-Wise Platform to minimize radiation exposure. The hospital also unveiled a newly renovated 40+ bedded floor, designed for enhanced patient comfort with AI-enabled remote monitoring, UV disinfection, and soundproof windows. Additionally, BMB launched the Heart Health Screening Toolkit, a self-assessment tool for early heart disease detection, reinforcing its commitment to preventive healthcare. "As we celebrate 35 years, our focus remains on advanced technology and patient care," said Supratik DeSarkar, VP & Unit Head, CKBH BMB.

State govt to come up with 7 new textile parks



MI News Service, Kolkata: The state MSME & Textiles department is giving a big push to setting up of new textile units as well as the expansion of some similar units in the state. The state MSME department highlighted the prospects for investment in the sector at the 8th edition of the two-day Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) held on February 5 and 6.

The total investment and employment in this area in the next few years will be to the tune of Rs 830 crore with employment generation for 7,200 crore. Seven companies have committed to setting up new textile units in Howrah, Hooghly, North 24-Parganas and Nadia with a combined investment of Rs 650 crore that involves an employment potential of 6,600.

A senior official of the department said that Bonie Group of Companies and Joyram Textiles will be setting up units in Hooghly, Variete Detex and Prime Finish

in North 24-Parganas, Rudrafab in Howrah while USS Textiles and Minu Saarees will invest in Nadia. The six textile units which will be expanded are based at four districts and will involve an investment of Rs 180 crore with employment potential for 600 people. Tag Developers at Hooghly will see expansion with the installation of 72 waterjets and different dyeing vessels for cotton and other man-made fibres as well as other processing machines like texturing, calendaring etc. Tandhan at Howrah will have around 24 imported airjet looms to weave denim products. The other two units in Howrah that will be expanded are Kandelwal Yarn Dyeing unit and Chiranjilal Dyeing Unit.

Maa Textiles at West Burdwan and Four Star International at North 24-Parganas will be expanded. Howrah will also see investment of Rs 100 crore in the next 18 months in the Scheme for Approved Industrial Park (SAIP) approved rubber park on 110 acres of land. The employment potential will be 1,650. "We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding between Biswa Bangla Marketing Corporation and Ankurhati Gem and Jewellery Manufacturing Association for promotion of Excellence of jewellery products and artisans associated with the activity," a senior official of MSME said.

Incomplete projects: WBRERA help buyers get alternative flats

MI News Service, Kolkata: In two separate cases, the West Bengal Real Estate Regulatory Authority (WBRERA) helped two flat buyers get alternative homes following their complaints of promoters of two projects failing to complete the projects within stipulated time. The regulatory authority shared that in one the complainants had booked a flat in a project called Smart Home Residency - I. She did not receive the flat within the stipulated time from the promoter. On filing a complaint with WBRERA, a hearing was held involving both parties, and the pro-



motor was forced to hand over a fully habitable alternative flat to her. In another case, the complainant had

booked a flat in a project by Soumita Construction Pvt Ltd. The promoter failed to complete the project within the stipulated time due to which she filed a complaint with WBRERA. Based on her complaint and after hearing both parties, she received an alternative habitable flat from the promoter company. RERA authorities urged flat buyers to file complaints with it if there's any problem after booking or buying a flat. There are several grounds under which complaints can be lodged such as not receiving the flat on time; promoter pressuring for more money;

carpet area being less than what was promised; poor quality construction; not receiving various facilities and amenities as per the contract; a proper sewage system not being installed; not receiving a completion certificate etc. It was shared that any buyer can file a complaint with WBRERA for a fee of just Rs 1,000. The complaint can be filed online by clicking on the complaint box on the WBRERA website (rera.wb.gov.in). If one is unable to do so, they can click on the complaint box and download Form 'M', fill it up and submit it to the WBRERA office.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) RIZAJUL SK S/O EDU SK, is wrongly recorded in my Birth Certificate...

Name Change

I, Anvesha Bhattacharya (Old Name) daughter of Late Samar Gopal Mukherjee...

Name Change

I, Biplab Majumder, Residing At Fulbari, Banpur, Krishnaganj, Nadi a-741503...

Name Change

I, TAMIL UDDIN GOLDER (Old Name) S/O BARKAT ALI GOLDER Residing at Vill-Panapur, P.O.-Chandpur...

Name Change

I, Rina Bibi (Old Name) W/O Sajidur Rahaman Jamadar, Resident Of Piyadapara, Po & Ps - Baruiapur...

Name Change

I Mohammad Mustakin Shaikh, S/O Mohammad Ali Sekh, R/O Bishnupur-II, Vtc: Chandi, Po-Chandi, South 24 Parganas...

Name Change

I, Saraswati Bachhar, D/O. Sanjay Bachhar, residing at Vill - Subhansnagar, P.O. - Sarguna, P.S. - Kalyani, Dist. - Nadia, Pin - 741245...

Name Change

I, Sahiron Bibi (Old Name) W/O Abdul Latif Jamadar, Resident Of Piyadapara, Po & Ps - Baruiapur, Dist-South 24 Parganas...

Name Change

I, nitish suhasaria (Old Name) s/o pawan kumar suhasaria, residing at piramal sagarmal station road barakar, p.o- barakar, p.s- kulti...

Name Change

I, Nazma Begum, wife of Late Abul Kalam Safi, residing at Munsipalpara, Ankhona, Bardhaman, West Bengal...

Name Change

I, Gopal Chandra Das S/O Late Hemanta Das Residing at Vill - Maha Bishra, Po - Kaitihere, P.S - Egra, District - Purba Medinipur...

Name Change

I, nitish suhasaria and nitish suhasaria (Old Name) s/o pawan kumar suhasaria, residing at piramal sagarmal station road barakar, p.o- barakar, p.s- kulti...

Name Change

I, Sk Saiful Islam Son of Late Sk Saiyad Ali, residing at Vill & P.O-Tajpur, P.S-Amta, Dist- Howrah, Pin-711413...

Name Change

I, Dabashish Ghatak S/O Late Ranendra Mohan Ghatak Residing at P-8, Sarsuna Main Road, Basudevpur Pally, Po - Sarsuna, P.S - Sarsuna, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700061...

Name Change

I, MANJUNTH B RAO (Old Name) son of LATE POTHAGANAHALLI VASUDEV BHIMASENA RAO, residing at SHRACHI GREENVIEW APARTMENT, TOWER 2, FLAT NO 6D, 6TH FLOOR, BAMUNARA NATION HOSPITAL, P.O.- BAMUNARA, KANKSA, WEST BARDHMAN...

Name Change

I, Nindra Wife Of No 13884837K, Rank Ex Hav(Hony Nb Sub) Name Bikash Kumar Mirdhya Resident Of Vill. Goai, P.O. Katwa, Dist. Purba Bardhaman (W.B.), Pin-713130...

Name Change

I, Md Shahannwaj Ansari S/O Md Kasim Ansari Residing at 43/E/4, Narayan Roy Road, Barisha Silpara, Po - Barisha Sakher Bazar, P.S - Thakurpukur, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700008...

Name Change

I, Prabhakar Chettri (Old Name) son of Pranay Thapa, residing at Durpin, Longview, Tea Garden, Kurseong, Darjeeling, Pin-734217, West Bengal, INDIA...

Name Change

I, No 123158F Rank Ex Po, Rp1 Name Parvez Chowdhury Resident Of Vill. Galsi, P.O. Galsi, Dist. Purba Bardhaman (W.B.), Pin-713406...

Name Change

I, DIN MAHAMMAD S/O Late SEKENDAR ALI Residing at Baro Digha, Digha, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743248, West Bengal...

Name Change

I, Kona De (Old Name) wife of Kamal Kanti De and daughter of Late Sarat Chandra Mandal, residing at 78/3A, Kalipada Mukherjee Road (on the ground floor), P.S.-Haridevpur, P.O. - Barisha, Kolkata- 700078...

Change of Name

I, Brinelle Tims W/o. Clinton Dominic Tims, residing at Amar Icha Complex, BL-2E, 3D, Dr. G.S. Bose Road, P.S. - Kasba, Kolkata - 700 039...

Name Change

I, SAHERA BANU BIBI and SARBANU BIBI (Old Name) W/O SEKENDAR ALI Residing at Baro Digha, Digha, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743248, West Bengal...

Name Change

I, Harisadhan Bandyopadhyay (Old Name) son of Satya Narayan Banerjee, residing at Balijuri Chakrabortypara, Dubrajpur, Suri, Pin- 731123, Birbhum, INDIA...

Change of Name

I, Clinton Dominic Tims, S/o. Beresford Kevin Tims, residing at Amar Icha Complex, BL-2E, 3D, Dr. G.S. Bose Road, P.S. - Kasba, Kolkata - 700 039...

Name Change

I, SAHERA BANU BIBI and SARBANU BIBI (Old Name) W/O SEKENDAR ALI Residing at Baro Digha, Digha, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743248, West Bengal...

Name Change

I, Manzoorul Ahmed (Old Name) son of Badrul Hasan, residing at Medidih Ratawra Bindwara, P.O.-Ratawra Bindwara, P.S.- Aurali, Muza, Farapur, Pin- 843312, Bihar, INDIA...

NAME CHANGE

I, Nasrin Lasker Khatun, D/O Late Ismail Lasker, R/o-3D, Kavari Apartment, 1057, Nowbanga Sector-IV, Bidhannagar(N), North 24 Parganas, West Bengal...

Change of Name

I, SWAPNA MUKHERJEE MAHAPATRA W/o Pranab Mahapatra & D/o Sailesh Kumar Mukherjee, residing at Y-8A, Bidhannagar, Ward No.-05, P.O.- Midnapore - 721101, P.S.- Kotwali, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur...

Name Change

I, priyanka agarwala (Old Name) s/o dindayal agarwal, residing at 130, sukanta sarani, dwarka jumble road, kotrung,uttarpara, hooghly-712232, West Bengal, INDIA...

NAME CHANGE

I, Nasrin Lasker Khatun, D/O Late Ismail Lasker, R/o-3D, Kavari Apartment, 1057, Nowbanga Sector-IV, Bidhannagar(N), North 24 Parganas, West Bengal...

Change of Name

I, PRANAB KUMAR MAHAPATRA S/o Late Ashutosh Mahapatra, residing at Y-8A, Bidhannagar, Ward No. - 05, P.O.- Midnapore - 721101, P.S. - Kotwali, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur...

Name Change

I, Subrata Kumar Pal (Old Name) son of Late Sunil Kumar Paul, residing at 28, ramkali mukherjee lane, ps- baranagar barrackpore-700050, West Bengal, INDIA...

GAIL to sell shale gas proj, IOC secures LNG deal



MI News Service, New Delhi: State-owned gas utility GAIL (India) Ltd has initiated the process to exit its shale gas venture in the United States...

India's largest gas transportation and marketing company has invited bids to sell its 20 per cent stake in Eagle Ford Shale Assets, Texas, according to a tender document...

I, nitish suhasaria and nitish suhasaria (Old Name) s/o pawan kumar suhasaria, residing at piramal sagarmal station road barakar, p.o- barakar, p.s- kulti, dist-paschim bardhaman-713324, West Bengal, INDIA...

Special Arrangements At Raniganj Station During "Peer Mela" By Asansol Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: To cope up with the expected rush of passengers attending "Peer Mela" at Raniganj Two (2) minutes extra stoppage will be provided by all passengers/MEMUS at Raniganj Station from 19.02.2025 to 28.02.2025 during "PEER MELA"...

Rescheduling of five (05) Express Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: The following trains have been rescheduled due to late running of corresponding down link train:

- 22912 Howrah-Indore Shipra Express will leave Howrah at 23:55 hrs. instead of its schedule departure time at 17:45 hrs on 17.02.2025. • 12333 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag Vibhuti Express will leave Howrah at 01:15 hrs. on 18.02.2025 instead of its schedule departure time at 19:55 hrs on 17.02.2025. • 13009 Howrah-Yogmagri Rishikesh Doon Express will leave Howrah at 21:55 hrs. instead of its schedule departure time at 20:25 hrs on 17.02.2025. • 12311 Howrah-Kalka Netaji Express will leave Howrah at 03:30 hrs. on 18.02.2025 instead of its schedule departure time at 21:55 hrs on 17.02.2025. • 12938 Howrah-Gandhidham Garbha Express will leave Howrah at 05:00 hrs. on 18.02.2025 instead of its schedule departure time at 23:00 hrs on 17.02.2025.

Tata Motors eye 4 lakh EV charge pts across India

MI News Service, Mumbai: Tata Motors said it has set a target of 4 lakh electric vehicle charging points across the country by 2027.

Under the "Open Collaboration 2.0" initiative, Tata Motors's plans to instal 30,000 public charging points in partnerships with charge point operators (CPOs) and oil marketing companies (OMCs).

Additionally, the initiative will see the installation of 500 TATA.ev mega chargers for electric vehicles of all brands, and superfast chargers with four charging bays. "To enable the exponential growth of EVs in India, we've launched 'Open Collaboration 2.0', aiming to expand the charging network to over 400,000 points in the next two years, in partnership with leading CPOs," said Shailesh Chandra, managing director of Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility.

"This initiative will enhance the speed, reliability, and user experience of charging, while improving the viability of CPOs and facilitating their growth," Chandra said. Through its 'Open Collaboration' framework, launched in 2023, Tata Motors has been partnering CPOs and OMCs to expand charging infrastructure across key hotspots, particularly along highways to facilitate seamless long-distance mobility. "TATA.ev's cumulative impact includes the installation of over 1.5 lakh private or home chargers, 2,500 community chargers, and 750 chargers at Tata dealerships across more than 200 cities," the company said in a press release.

"Through 'Open Collaboration 2.0', TATA.ev is accelerating India's EV charging ecosystem with an ambitious goal: to more than double the number of charging points to over 400,000 within the next two years."

Special train from Budge Budge to Sealdah on 129th Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas Of Swami Vivekananda - A Retrospective

MI News Service, Kolkata: All of us are aware that February 19 was the Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas of Swami Vivekanand after conquering West by his religious speech at World Religious Conference. But, much details are not known about the events occurred on that particular day i.e. 19th February 1897. He arrived Budge Budge by boarding a ship from Madras (now Chennai). During his voyage, huge numbers of coconuts were loaded in the ship because doctors have advised Swamiji to take coconut water instead of normal water because of his ill health. However, he distributed the coconuts among his friends & co-passengers in the ship. During his voyage, on several occasions he also delivered speeches which attracted a lot of attention by the crowd.

A welcome team was constructed at Calcutta under the chairmanship of Maharaja of Darbhanga. The committee decided on the next day of Swamiji's arrival at Budge Budge one special train will be arranged from Budge Budge to Sealdah. Accordingly, on 19th February morning, Swami Vivekananda boarded the special train from Budge Budge alongwith his followers. A crowd of about 20,000 people eagerly waiting at Sealdah station for his welcome. Meanwhile, Calcuttans have read his path breaking activities in the newspapers and also read several thanks giving and appreciation letter from the residents of America and England which had already printed in the newspapers, which were of

much interest to the people. At 07:30 a.m. in the morning while the public address system at Sealdah aired the announcement of approaching train a huge cheer up from the aggressive crowd echoed every corner. As Swamiji alighted from the train, everybody who were standing nearby tried to get his blessings and those who were standing at a distance were raised slogans 'Jai Ramkrishna Paramhansa ji ki Jai, Jai Vivekanand ji ki Jai'. Somehow, it was managed to took him out of the crowd and he boarded a horse pulled cart. But the students came forward & removed the horses from the chariot and they themselves started pulling the cart. And the colourful procession started proceeding on the city road. Commemorating the occasion, a special train still starts from Budge Budge in the morning of this auspicious day commemorating the Swamiji's return to Calcutta (Kolkata). This year also, commemorating 129th year of Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas(Calcutta Return Day) of Swamiji, a EMU special train will start from Budge Budge on 19 February, at 11:05 hrs. to reach Sealdah at 12:10 hrs. stopping at all stations including Flag & Halt stations enroute. Eastern Railway every year by facilitating arrangement of this EMU special train from Budge Budge to Sealdah on Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas of Swami Vivekananda pays tribute to Swamiji for his great contribution in proliferating Indian religion & philosophy in global perspective.

Enhanced security arrangement & crowd management over ER For The convenience of Kumbha Mela Pilgrims

MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to provide hassle free journey of Kumbh Mela pilgrims apart from running various special trains from Howrah, Bardhaman, Malda Town, Sealdah, Asansol, Kolkata & Bhalgalpur, Eastern Railway has made elaborate arrangements of security & crowd management at sensitive stations like Howrah, Bardhaman, Kolkata, Malda Town, Asansol etc. Additional RPF personnel have been deployed at platforms, foot-over bridges and stations to manage crowd. Commercial and other station staff of Eastern Railway also managing the crowd and providing assistance to the passengers in need. Miking through Public Address system is going on to sensitize the passengers not to assemble unnecessarily at station premises and on platforms and also to follow safety protocols. Security personnel in association with the commercial staff are making a proper line up of the passengers for ensuring smooth boarding & de-boarding of passengers on arriving of trains at the platforms. RPF personnel & commercial staff has been mobilised at all major stations along with CCTV surveillance to closely monitor the high movement areas of stations like platforms & foot over bridges (FOBs). Senior Railway Officials are monitoring the situation round-the-

Centre mulls relaxing guidelines to attract more FDI

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government is looking at the further easing of procedures in certain sectors to attract more foreign direct investments (FDI) into the country, a government official said.

The department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT) has held stakeholder consultations with different government departments, regulators, industry associations, advisory and law firms, pension funds, private equity and venture capitals. The department sought their views on ways to further attract foreign direct investments into the country. "We have completed the consultations. The department has received suggestions on different issues. Things have not yet been finalised...Looking at easing of norms at the procedural front," the official said.

However, the official did not disclose the sectors where the government is considering the procedural easing. In the consultations, issues which were raised included permitting e-commerce players to receive FDI in inventory-based models of online trade for export purposes only; easing press note 3 by defining beneficial ownership; and some tweaking of the policy for single-brand retail trading. Under this press note, government approval is mandatory for investors from countries sharing land borders with India in any sector.

Foreign direct investment inflows into India have crossed the \$1 trillion milestone in the April 2000-September 2024 period.

The key sectors attracting the maximum of these inflows include the services segment, computer software and hardware, telecommunications, trading, construction development, automobile, chemicals and pharmaceuticals.

HAL reassures delivery of Tejas to IAF

MI News Service, Bengaluru: Maker of Light Combat Aircraft 'Tejas,' Hindustan Aeronautics Limited assured it will soon start delivering the airplane to the Indian Air Force with the technical difficulties now being resolved, amid reports of concerns raised by IAF chief AP Singh in this connection. HAL Chairman and Managing Director D K Sunil said, "the delay is not simply attributable to just I would say laziness on part of the industry."

Smoother journeys ahead: Construction of new platform 24 at Howrah Station in progress to reduce delays and enhance Passenger Comfort



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major boost to passenger convenience, Eastern Railway is constructing the new Platform No. 24 at Howrah Station, for ensuring smoother train operations and a hassle-free travel experience. This new addition will reduce train delays, ease platform congestion, and improve connectivity—offering greater comfort for thousands of

daily commuters. The expansion is a step towards modernizing one of India's busiest railway hubs while catering to the increasing passenger traffic. After inception of new Platform no. 24, train movement at Howrah Station will become significantly more efficient. The added capacity will streamline arrivals and departures, reducing platform overcrowding and ensuring better punctuality. Passengers can now expect shorter waiting times, faster boarding, and improved overall travel convenience. This development is particularly crucial as Howrah Station serves as a key transit point for millions. The expansion supports Indian Railways' modernization efforts, enhancing safety, efficiency, and travel experience. It also ensures the station is better equipped to handle growing transportation demands in the years ahead.

EASTERN RAILWAY

NIT No. 348, 2024-25, dated 14.02.2025. Following e-Tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711001 [for the jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Howrah] from Tenderers having experience of Similar Nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work:

Description of work: Cess Repair works in Locations - Bally - Bandel UP Main Line from km. 7.051-7.585, 11.008-11.968 km., 13.768-14.004 km., 24.779-24.819 km., 17.42-19.179 km., Bally - Bandel DN Main Line -12.033-12.695 km., 12.827-13.382 km., 13.762-15.802 km., Bally-Bandel UP Main Line 21.587-21.771 km., 23.004-24.063 km., 24.779-24.819 km., 25.329-28.041 km. & 28.60-38.001 km. & Bally - Bandel DN Main Line - 28.598-32.393, 33.058-37.406 km. under jurisdiction of Sr. DENI/Howrah. Approximate Cost : ₹ 2,34,69,749.75. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,67,400/- . Cost of Tender Form : Nil. Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) months. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/band/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tender online will be done on the next working day. Closing date and time of tender : 10.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of EMD and TDC - Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and Tender Document Cost (TDC) in respect of E.Tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. No manual offer will be accepted.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : EL-85-24, dated 14.02.2025. e-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol, Pin-713301 for the following work from reputed tenderers having valid Electric contractor Licence and capable to complete the following work financially: Name of the work with its location : Asansol Division : Provision of maintenance free Earth Pit arrangement at different Railway stations including replacement of old earthing with other electrical work at different service buildings, sub-station, yard, Railway colony, coaching complex, Loco shed over Asansol Division (Phase-I). Tender value : ₹ 4,16,74,348.23. Earnest money : ₹ 3,58,400/- . Cost of tender documents : Nil. Completion period for the work : 09 Months. Date and time of closing & opening : 10.03.2025 at 11.00 hrs. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website : www.ireps.gov.in Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.eir.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : TRD-KGP-W-2024-25-24, Dated: 14.02.2025. For and on behalf of President of India, the Sr. DEE/TRD, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following work before 15.00 hrs. on the date mentioned against item and will be opened at 15.30 hrs. Description of work: Correction of layout at west end by shifting & renewal of TWS 3 sets & slew of lines. Tender Value : ₹ 29,73,468.20. EMD: ₹ 59,500. Cost of tender document: Nil. Date of opening: 11.03.2025. Completion Period: 06 (six) months. Date of submission: Upto 15.00 hrs. of 11.03.2025. Interested tenderers may visit website www.ireps.gov.in for full details, description, specification of the tender and submit their bids online. In no case manual tender for this work will be accepted. Note: Prospective bidders may regularly visit www.ireps.gov.in to participate in all tenders. (PR-1140)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Awarding contract of ATM installation over Asansol Division No. COM/ATM/ASN/Divn. dated : 15.02.2025 Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Asansol-713301 invites e-Auction through IREPS portal vide website www.ireps.gov.in for awarding the contract. Details of which are as under : Category of Auction : ATM. e-Auction Catalogue No. : ASN-ATM-03-03. Auction start date & time: 03.03.2025, 12.00 hrs. Name of Station/Location/Train No. & SLR: Installation of ATM at following 08 stations - Asansol (North side), Durgapur, Raniganj, Giridih, Dumka, Basukinath, Baidyanathmand and Deoghar. All prospective bidders are advised to visit the website www.ireps.gov.in for full details and to participate against the above mentioned e-Auction as per schedule given above. (ASN-337/2024-25) Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Asansol Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.eir.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Jayashree Sengupta to Receive Thailand International Award at 7th World Meet in Bangkok



MI News Service, Kolkata: Renowned artist Jayashree Sengupta is set to be honored with a Thailand International Award at the upcoming 7th World Meet 2025, scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand, on May 8th. She has been recognized for her exceptional contributions to cultural arts and performance.

EASTERN RAILWAY

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Gogoi's wife ISI mole, says BJP; Gogoi warns of legal action

MI News Service, New Delhi: The BJP sharpened its attack on Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi, alleging that while his wife has links with ISI, the deputy leader of opposition in Lok Sabha asked questions in the House on maritime security at the behest of the Pakistani High Commission. Gogoi, the MP from Assam's Jorhat, hit back at the BJP and threatened to take legal action against the party.

"The BJP has gone to extreme steps to defame me and my family. Their allegations are malicious and baseless. I will be taking the appropriate legal action," he said in a post on X. Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters here, BJP national spokesperson Ajay Alok alleged that before marrying Gogoi in 2013, Elizabeth Colburn was an "ISI supporter" and had also worked with Pakistan Planning Commission vice chairman Ali Tauqueer Sheikh. "Did he know about this before marrying her?... Was it a strategic marriage?" he asked. "The Congress will have to answer the question in this issue. It is because the Congress has had an anti-national stance since the beginning," Alok asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Gogoi to come out with a clarification on the matter. The BJP national spokesperson alleged that Gogoi had visited the Pakistan High Commission after he was elected to Lok Sabha in the 2014 parliamentary elections without seeking permission from

the Lok Sabha Speaker, Home Ministry and other related ministries. After he visited the Pakistani High Commission, Gogoi's organisation 'Policy for Youth' wrote an article in a newspaper accusing BSF personnel of misbehaving with "illegal women Bangladeshi intruders". Gogoi also asked questions in Lok Sabha such as 'what is the status of coastal maritime security? How many radars have been installed along the Indian coastline and how many more radars do we (the government) want to install there?' the BJP spokesperson said, adding that it is on record. Other questions that



ference at the party headquarters here, BJP national spokesperson Ajay Alok alleged that before marrying Gogoi in 2013, Elizabeth Colburn was an "ISI supporter" and had also worked with Pakistan Planning Commission vice chairman Ali Tauqueer Sheikh. "Did he know about this before marrying her?... Was it a strategic marriage?" he asked. "The Congress will have to answer the question in this issue. It is because the Congress has had an anti-national stance since the beginning," Alok asked Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Gogoi to come out with a clarification on the matter. The BJP national spokesperson alleged that Gogoi had visited the Pakistan High Commission after he was elected to Lok Sabha in the 2014 parliamentary elections without seeking permission from

Gogoi asked in the Lok Sabha included 'Is there any proposal that the national maritime authority will coordinate with stakeholders for synergy? What steps has the government taken for superintendence as well as upgrade and strengthening of the coastal security?' he charged. "Asking these questions after getting them from the Pakistan embassy. What does it indicate? With whom was he sharing this information?" Alok asked. Two days ago, the BJP accused Gogoi's wife of having links with Pakistan and the ISI, a charge rejected by the deputy opposition leader in the Lok Sabha as "laughable and entertaining".

The charge was reiterated by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma a day later, who also claimed that the Congress MP raised questions in Parliament on sensitive defence matters after his marriage to a British citizen.

MI News Service, Cuttack: Odisha government has decided to give ₹12,000 as an incentive to mothers for giving birth to a girl-child. On the other hand, a mother delivering a boy would receive ₹10,000 as incentive.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Anganwadi workers helping in the registration of expectant mothers and taking follow-ups after delivery will receive ₹250 instead of ₹200. The Anganwadi assistants will receive ₹150 instead of ₹50.

According to the release, around ₹511 crore will be allocated in the next financial year for this purpose, particularly for co-branding the two yojanas. The Government of India will provide ₹ 115.97 crore, whereas the state's share will be ₹395.75 crore. In yet another development, the Odisha government plans to set up a pre-

Stress management camp for Metro Staff Organised



MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway has been taking all possible safety measures to provide safe and secured services for its lakhs of commuters. As per the guidelines of Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway inaugurated this camp today i.e. on 17.02.2025 at Metro Rail Bhavan in the presence of senior officers of Metro Railway. In his address, Shri Reddy has expressed his hope that this camp organised by the Electrical Engineering Department would help Motormen and other staff to manage their stress and improve their productivity. In this camp, the teachings on 'Art of Living', founded by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar are being imparted which would act as tension and stress buster for Metro staff. Total 116 Metro staff will perform 'Sudarshan Kriya' to address stress in their daily life. Each participant in this five-day long camp is practising yoga, meditation, Sudarshan Kriya etc. under the watchful eyes of experienced trainers to remain stress-free and face any situation calmly.

Kerala Temple: Elephants run amok, tramples 3, min calls for strict action

MI News Service, Kochi: Kerala Forest Minister A K Saseendran said that strict action will be taken if any violation of rules is found in connection with the incident of two elephants running amok during a temple festival here a day ago leading to the death of three persons, including two women. The three elderly persons died amidst a stampede caused as a result of the two elephants getting agitated following the bursting of crackers during the festival at the Manakulangara Temple near Koyilandy here on Thursday evening. The agitated elephants initially attacked each other and during their fight, they hit a nearby building inside the temple premises and one of its walls collapsed.

MI News Service, Kochi: The Left government in Kerala approved a draft bill for the establishment and management of private universities in the state. The state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan approved the Kerala State Private Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Draft Bill, 2025, under which only credible sponsoring agencies with experience in the education sector may apply to establish a private university in the state, a CMO release said here.

According to the draft bill, the university must own land as per the guidelines set by regulatory bodies and deposit a Rs 25 crore corpus fund in the state treasury. If it is a multi-campus university, the main campus must cover at least 10 acres. The university must also follow UGC and state government guidelines regarding faculty appointments, the selection of the Vice-Chancellor, and overall administration. The bill mandates that 40 per cent of seats in each course must be reserved for students from Kerala, following the state's existing reservation policy. Additionally, employee benefits, including provident fund (PF), must be guaranteed. The Cabinet also approved amendments to university laws, removing the provision that allowed universities to set up study centres outside the state and abroad.

Kerala govt approves draft bill for setting up pvt varsities

the application fee. This report must include information about the university's land, funding sources, and management structure. A government-appointed expert committee will review the applications and submit its recommendations within two months. Once approved, the university will be officially recognised through a law passed in the Legislative Assembly. Private universities will have the same rights and powers as public universities.

The bill also states that the state government will not provide financial assistance to private universities, but they may apply for research grants. State Higher Education Secretary and another secretary nominated by the state government will be part of the university's governing bodies to ensure proper regulation.

The state government will have one nominee in the executive council and three nominees in the academic council of the private university. The democratic rights of students, teachers, and staff will be protected, and grievance redressal systems will be in place. Additionally, employee benefits, including provident fund (PF), must be guaranteed. The Cabinet also approved amendments to university laws, removing the provision that allowed universities to set up study centres outside the state and abroad.

CELEBRATING "Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas" of Swami Vivekananda

Special Train from Komagata Maru Budge Budge to Sealdah To celebrate Swami Vivekananda's auspicious "129th Kolkata Pratyavartan Divas" and to accommodate the anticipated rush of passengers, a decorated Up EMU special train will be run from Komagata Maru Budge Budge to Sealdah (South) station on 19.02.2025 as per following tentative timings :-

Table with 4 columns: Stations, Timings, Stations, Timings. Rows include K Budge Budge, Nangi, Akra, Brace Bridge, Majherhat, New Alipur (Kolkata), Ballygunge, Sealdah (South).

The above Komagata Maru Budge Budge-Sealdah (South) decorated Up EMU special train will stop at all stations en-route including Flag and Halt stations. Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

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Legal Notice

I, Md. Raja Khan, S/o- Abdul Rahman Khan, resident of 30/3 Topsia Road, Govinda Khatik, Topsia, Kolkata-700045, and my wife Kowal Begum, have purchased 1 Chatak 23 (twenty-three) square feet of land, my wife has purchased individually 2 (two) Katha 9 (nine) square feet of land and I and my wife have purchased jointly 2 (two) Katha land at plots no. 308, 309 and 310 in Chaugaba Mouza (J.L. No. 03) under Khatika Block in the year 2015, from Smt. Aarti Halder under sale deed no. 00378/2015, 00394/2015 and 00379/2015 respectively. The said land was purchased by Smt. Aarti Halder in 2011 from Power of Attorney holder Shri Sunil Das (Power Deed No. 00570/2008) appointed by Shri Benu Day and Smt. Ashraran Karmakar (Deed No. 01842/2011) and Shri Sunil Das (Power of Attorney No. 00695/2008) appointed by the heirs of Shri Shaileendra Nath Karmakar (Document No. 01843/2011). Then I have applied for mutation of the said land (Case No. 2025/1630/2646, 2668, 2670 and 2671), if any person has any complaint, then within one month from the date of advertisement, please report the complaint to the Kolkata B.L.L.R.O. Office (Address- K.M.C. Building, Room No.-328, 5 S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata - 700013) or through email (blroam@gmail.com) within one month from the date of advertisement.

Legal Notice

I, Md. Raja Khan, S/o- Abdul Rahman Khan, resident of 30/3 Topsia Road, Govinda Khatik, Topsia, Kolkata-700045, and my wife Kiswari Begum jointly purchased 4 (four) Katha land at Plot No. 309 and 310 in Chaugaba (J.L. No.-03) Mouza under Kolkata Block in the year 2017 under the sale deed (Deed No.-03337/2017) from Power of Attorney Holder Shri Deshbandhu Mandal (Power Deed No.- 00450/2017) appointed by Shri Habul Pramanik alias Mr. Haren Pramanik. Then I have applied for mutation of the said land (Case No.-MN/2025/1630/2645 and MN/2025/1630/2646), if any person has any complaint, then please report the complaint to the Kolkata B.L.L.R.O. Office (Address- K.M.C. Building, Room No.-328, 5 S.N. Banerjee Road, Kolkata - 700013) or through email (blroam@gmail.com) within one month from the date of advertisement.

Raina-II Panchayat Samity Madhabdiji, Purba Bardhaman e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Notice are hereby invited vide Tender ID No. 2025_ZPHD_813057_1. Details are available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Officer Raina-II Panchayat Samity

Guptipara-I Gram Panchayat

Mirdanga, P.O.- Guptipara, Dist.- Hooghly, 712152 Notice Inviting Re e-Tender Re e-Tender is invited from the experienced and resourceful bidders for execution of the work(s) mentioned below:-

Gopinathpur (2) Gram Panchayat

VIII.+P.O.: Kumrul, P.S.: Dhaniakhali, Dist.: Hooghly, PIN: 712410 Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tender is hereby invited from the Experienced and resourceful bidders for execution of 1 no. development works under 15th FC Fund vide Memo No: 24/GOP1-2/2025, NIT No.: WB/HG/DNK/GOP1-2/NIT/06/2024-25, Date: 12.02.2025. Bid Proposal Submission Start Date (Online): 14.02.2025 at 10:30 AM. Bid Proposal Submission End Date (Online): 24.02.2025 up to 04:00 PM. Date of Opening of Technical Bid (Online): 26.02.2025 at 04:30 PM. For more details visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & undersigned GP Office. Sd/- Prodhan Gopinathpur (2) Gram Panchayat

Maslandapur 1 No. Gram Panchayat

Maslandapur, North 24 Parganas, Pin Code :- 743289 Email Id :- gpmaslandapur1@gmail.com Inviting Tender for the F.Y.- 2024-2025 under 15th FC NIT NO. WBNPG09/40/MAS-IGP/15th FC/24-25, DATED- 11.02.2025 Bid Submission start date -11.02.2025 from 9.00 am. Bid Submission end date -20.02.2025 upto 5.30 pm Check all dates and specification at website https://wbtenders.gov.in/ Details information given in the Office Notice Board at Maslandapur-I.G.P. Sd/- Prodhan Maslandapur-I Gram Panchayat

EASTERN RAILWAY

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Odisha announces incentives for girl-child birth

MI News Service, Cuttack: Odisha government has decided to give ₹12,000 as an incentive to mothers for giving birth to a girl-child. On the other hand, a mother delivering a boy would receive ₹10,000 as incentive. A decision to this effect was taken at a high-level meeting chaired by chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi. Anganwadi workers helping in the registration of expectant mothers and taking follow-ups after delivery will receive ₹250 instead of ₹200. The Anganwadi assistants will receive ₹150 instead of ₹50. According to the release, around ₹511 crore will be allocated in the next financial year for this purpose, particularly for co-branding the two yojanas. The Government of India will provide ₹ 115.97 crore, whereas the state's share will be ₹395.75 crore. In yet another development, the Odisha government plans to set up a pre-

Stress management camp for Metro Staff Organised

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway has been taking all possible safety measures to provide safe and secured services for its lakhs of commuters. As per the guidelines of Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway inaugurated this camp today i.e. on 17.02.2025 at Metro Rail Bhavan in the presence of senior officers of Metro Railway. In his address, Shri Reddy has expressed his hope that this camp organised by the Electrical Engineering Department would help Motormen and other staff to manage their stress and improve their productivity. In this camp, the teachings on 'Art of Living', founded by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar are being imparted which would act as tension and stress buster for Metro staff. Total 116 Metro staff will perform 'Sudarshan Kriya' to address stress in their daily life. Each participant in this five-day long camp is practising yoga, meditation, Sudarshan Kriya etc. under the watchful eyes of experienced trainers to remain stress-free and face any situation calmly.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office : ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the Undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch. Row 1: Abdul Latif SK/Moharani Bibi/Kazisaha Uttarpara, Beladanga Near Kazisaha Water Tank District Murshidabad West Bengal-742133/LB/JPI00006905768/TBJPI00006898692, Dag No. 12295, Hal Khatian No. 18914, Touzi No. 17, Thana Beladanga, Mouza 54 No. Maniknagar, A.D.S.R. Office Beladanga, District Murshidabad, West Bengal Measuring An Area of 8.333 Satak or 5 Kathas Towards North/ Date of symbolic 13.02.2025, September 30, 2024 Rs. 31,38,862.22/-, Beldanga

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: February 18, 2025 Place: Beldanga Sincerely Authorised Signatory For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Home Lifts Brand Elite Elevators Elevates its Portfolio with the New X300 and X300 Plus

Jamshedpur : Elite Elevators, a pioneering global leader in the premium home lift sector, is taking a bold step forward with the launch of its cutting-edge Elite X300 and X300 Plus home lifts. These innovative additions to its product portfolio mark a new era in modern home mobility, blending luxury, advanced technology, and sustainability. With plans to expand its market presence and operations into new geographies such as USA and Canada by 2025, the company is set to redefine the home lift experience, while reaching new milestones in its growth journey.

Mr. Vimal Babu, MD & CEO of Elite Elevators, expressed his enthusiasm for the company's growth trajectory, stating, "With the Indian home elevator market projected to grow at a CAGR of 8-9% by 2030, we are well-positioned to capitalize on this expansion. Our goal is to ramp up our production capacity of the new product range to 3,000 units annually by 2025. The Elite X300 and X300 Plus embody our commitment to providing the world's smartest home elevators, offering innovative, sustainable, and luxurious mobility solutions that are accessible to homeowners worldwide. The Elite X300 sets new benchmarks in the industry with its dynamic motor delivering an impressive speed of up to 1 meter per second-double the speed of conventional home lifts. Its gearless belt drive ensures a whisper-



quiet and smooth ride, while its multi-mode performance system lets users choose from Sports, Comfort, Eco, or Personalized modes for a tailored experience. Equipped with spacious cabins, magnetic-driven rails, and greaseless components, the X300 combines high performance with low maintenance, making it an ideal choice for discerning homeowners. Taking

innovation further, the Elite X300 Plus offers a suite of bespoke features such as customizable floor names, personalized screensavers, and app-based controls. Adding a touch of exclusivity, it introduces options like custom background music, voice announcements, and floor-restricted access, delivering an unparalleled personalized lift experience that blends function-

ality with style. The X300 and X300 Plus feature state-of-the-art advancements such as an error notification system and CANbus connectivity for remote diagnostics, ensuring exceptional safety and convenience. Crafted with a powder-coated frame, these lifts are built for durability. Complementing these innovations is the Xshaft, a visually stunning glass structural support system

with curved aluminum ends, available in standard and large layouts, offering a blend of aesthetics and functionality.

Sustainability is at the heart of Elite Elevators' operations, featuring eco-friendly manufacturing, recyclable packaging, and energy-efficient designs that minimize environmental impact. Committed to recycling production waste and meeting global sustainability goals, Elite Elevators sets industry standards for responsible innovation.

The launch of the revolutionary X300 and X300 Plus home lifts signifies a pivotal growth phase, embodying the company's dedication to merging luxury with advanced technology. As Elite Elevators expands its global footprint, it plans to increase production capacity, enter new markets, and create meaningful job opportunities. These strategic initiatives position Elite Elevators to redefine home mobility and solidify its status as a global leader in the premium elevator market. These latest additions by Elite Elevators are now available and can be experienced firsthand at the exclusive Experience Centre located Shop No 10, Akash heights, Road No 17, Jawahar Nagar Mango Jamshedpur, PIN 831012. For more details, you can contact customer care at 7418506444 or visit the official website of Elite Elevators at <https://www.eliteelevators.com/residential-lifts-in-jamshedpur>.

Johnson & Johnson Launches New Intraocular Lens TECNIS PureSee in India

National : Johnson & Johnson*, a global leader in eye health, announced today that its TECNIS PureSee™ purely refractive intraocular lens (IOL) for individuals with presbyopia is now available in India. The TECNIS PureSee™ IOL features a purely refractive design that delivers uninterrupted, high-quality, vision with high best-in-category contrast and low-light performance, comparable to a monofocal IOL.

"Cataract surgery is the most common surgery performed globally, with 28 million procedures each year. But only 10-15% of patients are getting advanced optical IOLs specifically designed for addressing issues of astigmatism and presbyopia, said Burzin Shahana, Country Manager, Surgical VisionIndia & South Asia, Johnson & Johnson MedTech. "We're proud to launch the TECNIS PureSee™ IOL, giving surgeons and a growing number of patients in India the choice of a premium IOL that combines clarity of vision and reduced visual symptoms."

While choosing any IOL, surgeons and patients have to consider many factors. For example, a lens that offers clear sight at all distances without spectacles, may not be able to remove glares and halos. The purely refractive design of TECNIS PureSee™ lens addresses these issues and therefore improves the overall outcomes for both patients and surgeons.

With its purely refractive design, the TECNIS PureSee™ IOL ensures surgeons' ease of use in providing high tolerance to refractive error. The TECNIS PureSee™ IOL offers important benefits, including:

- o Uninterrupted high-quality vision, with excellent distance and intermediate vision, as well as functional near vision for increased spectacle independence.
- o A dysphotopsia profile that is comparable to a monofocal IOL in frequency, bothersome and difficulty levels, which means little to no visual symptoms, such as halos, glares, and starbursts.

By 2050, the number of people aged over 60 years old is expected to more than double to 2.1 billion, and Asia Pacific will account for 65% of the global increase for this age group. Cataracts are the leading cause of treatable blindness in the world. Medical science and technology have advanced today such that a qualified eye surgeon can remove a cataract and replace it with an IOL, and patients typically experience improved eye sight the very same day.

The TECNIS PureSee™ IOL is now available in India.

Over 40% Indians with Obesity Struggle to Sustain Weight Loss: An Asia-Pacific Study Reveals

Kolkata : A recent study conducted by Novo Nordisk, involving over 2,000 people living with obesity (PwO) and 300 healthcare professionals (HCPs), has revealed critical insights into the challenges faced by PwO in India. The study highlights a significant disconnect between awareness, understanding and management of obesity, underscoring the need for an integrated, long-term approach to treatment.

The study found that one-third of PwO in India do not recognise the severity of their condition, often believing they are merely overweight or even of normal weight. This denial of obesity reflects widespread misconceptions and a lack of awareness of its implications, which contributes to delayed treatment and worse health outcomes.

(Prof.) Dr Subhankar Chowdhury DTM & H, MD, DM, MRCP, Director Department of Diabetes and Endocrinology, Medica Super Specialty hospitals, "A modest 5% reduction in body weight can yield substantial health improvements. It's crucial to emphasize sustainable lifestyle changes over rapid, unsustainable diets. Healthcare providers should proactively address weight management with patients and offer ongoing support, encouraging them to embrace gradual, positive transformations."

PwO face immense difficulties in maintaining weight loss. Over half of those surveyed report reverting to old eating habits despite their efforts to change. Alarmingly, 44% regain lost weight within six months, emphasising the need for more sustainable, long-term solutions that go beyond just lifestyle adjustments.

Dr. Maya Sharma, Vice President Clinical, Medical, Regulatory and Pharmacovigilance at Novo Nordisk India, emphasised the importance of addressing this issue, stating, "The first step towards obesity management is to understand that it is a chronic disease. We need to support PwO with tools that not only help them lose weight but also sustain that loss over time."

The survey revealed that obesity is closely linked to other chronic diseases. Two in five PwO suffer from conditions such as hypertension, high cholesterol and diabetes. HCPs report that many PwO have anywhere between 1 and 4 comorbidities, such as high blood pressure (32%), high cholesterol (27%), eating disorder (23%) and cardiovascular diseases (19%); reinforcing that obesity is a serious chronic disease requiring medical intervention. PwO face significant barriers in their weight loss journeys. Lack of motivation, fear of failure, unhealthy eating habits and a lack of exercise were cited as the most common obstacles. HCPs, however, are in a position to help set realistic goals.

Mr. Vikrant Shrotriya, Corporate Vice President, Novo Nordisk India said, "Recent research has shed light on the perceptions and challenges faced by people living with obesity (PwO) in India. Despite the growing awareness, there are still significant misconceptions and hurdles that need to be addressed. Hence, involvement by the government is crucial in addressing the growing obesity challenge in India. Obesity is not just an individual issue but a significant public health concern that impacts healthcare resources, economic productivity, and the overall well-being of our society."

Govt announces Rs 5 lakh aid for kin of those died when elephants ran amok in temple festival



Kozhikode (Kerala) : The Kerala government on Monday announced a compensation of Rs 5 lakh each to the families of the three persons who lost their lives when two elephants ran amok during a temple festival in this district. Speaking to reporters after visiting the temple near Koyilandy, Devaswom Minister V N Vasavan also said that those injured in the incident would receive timely medical treatment at free of cost. "This is a joint decision taken by Guruvayoor and Malabar Devaswom Boards and the Devaswom department will disburse the amount," he added.

Two elephants brought for the festival in Manakulangara Temple near Koyilandy got agitated following the bursting of crackers and they attacked each other on February 13. During their fight, they struck a nearby building inside the temple premises causing one of its walls to collapse on the people standing there. This resulted in the death of three elderly persons including two women, according to the police.

The elephants then ran away from the temple premises, causing a stampede as the people gathered for the festival scattered in panic and resulting in injuries to over 20 persons.

It took around two hours to tame the two tuskers, named Peethambaran and Gokul. A large crowd had gathered at the temple on the last day of the festival.

Vasavan, who is also Cooperation and Ports Minister, termed the incident as tragic and said temple festivals having elephant processions should be held in accordance with the Captive Elephants (Management and Maintenance) Rules.

Forest Minister Saseendran had sought an urgent report regarding the incident from the District Collector and the Chief Conservator of Forests (Social Forestry) of the Northern Region.

Downloads of DeepSeek's AI apps paused in South Korea over privacy concerns

Seoul : DeepSeek, a Chinese artificial intelligence startup, has temporarily paused downloads of its chatbot apps in South Korea while it works with local authorities to address privacy concerns, according to South Korean officials on Monday. South Korea's Personal Information Protection Commission said DeepSeek's apps were removed from the local versions of Apple's App Store and Google Play on Saturday evening and a review that the company agreed to work with the agency to strengthen privacy protections before relaunching the apps.

The issues are resolved. Many South Korean government agencies and companies have either blocked DeepSeek from their networks or prohibited employees from using the app for work, amid worries that the AI model was gathering too much sensitive information.

The South Korean privacy commission, which began a review of DeepSeek's services last month, found that the company lacked transparency about third-party data transfers and potentially collected excessive personal information, Nam said.

Nam said the commission did not have an estimate on the number of DeepSeek users in South Korea. A recent analysis by Wiseapp Retail found that DeepSeek was used by about 1.2 million smartphone users in South Korea during the fourth week of January, emerging as the second-most-popular AI model behind ChatGPT.

Ambuja Cements empowers rural women entrepreneurs in Bhatapara through 'Lakshpati Didi' initiative

Chhattisgarh : Ambuja Cements, the cement and building material company of the diversified Adani Portfolio, is driving economic empowerment among rural women in Bhatapara, through the transformative 'Lakshpati Didi' programme. By fostering micro-enterprises and offering extensive support in training and resources, the Company's CSR initiatives are helping women achieve financial independence and sustainable livelihoods.

The 'Lakshpati Didi' movement, initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development, aims to enable women in self-help groups (SHGs) to earn an annual household income of ₹1 lakh or more. Ambuja Cements' CSR team identified 188 women from Bhatapara for this program and provided them with the necessary tools and training to achieve this milestone. Many women have successfully ventured into enterprises like tai-



ling, vegetable cultivation, and retail stores, significantly improving their quality of life and inspiring their communities.

This initiative has enabled women like Kuleshwari Verma, a fancy store owner earning ₹3.75 lakh annually, and Kusum Patel, who cultivates vegetables and earns ₹1.1 lakh per year, to achieve transformative financial growth. Stories like theirs high-

light how access to resources and consistent support can unlock the entrepreneurial potential of rural women. Ambuja Cements remains committed to promoting inclusive development and sustainable livelihoods through its CSR initiatives. By supporting rural women entrepreneurs, the company underscores its dedication to economic empowerment and long-term community growth.

Tata Steel Foundation's grassroots sports programme achieved remarkable success at the National Games

Jamodoba : Tannu Kumari, an athletics trainee from the Digwadih Youth Development Centre, has won a silver medal in the Modern Pentathlon Laser Run, which was held for the first time at the National Games in Uttarakhand.

Tannu Kumari was felicitated by Sanjay Rajoria, General Manager, Jharia Division; Shweta Mishra, Head Administration, Jharia Division; and Rajesh Kumar, Unit Lead Tata Steel Foundation, Jamodoba.

The National Games, regarded as one of the highest levels of sports competition in the country, were held with a prestige akin to the Olympics. This year, Modern Pentathlon was introduced as a new event, and Tannu Kumari's stellar performance has not only earned her accolades but also brought recognition to the state of Jharkhand.

The Youth Development Centre, enabled by Tata Steel Foundation, is committed to boosting and encouraging grassroots athletes and sports persons by providing them with a platform to hone their skills and participate in national and international tournaments. Through the Foundation's Grassroots Sports Programme, sporting talents are developed and nurtured across operational locations, tapping into last-mile individuals and bridging the accessibility gap.

So far, in its efforts to promote this discipline, Tata Steel Foundation has established eight sports training centres under the Jharia Division that cater to kids between the ages of 8 and 17, providing them with opportunities to train and represent various levels.

Nothing's Phone 3a Series to be powered by Snapdragon

NEW DELHI : London-based technology company Nothing has announced today that Phone (3a) Series will be powered by a Snapdragon chipset, the perfect match for elite performance. Nothing CEO, Carl Pei - "I'm happy to announce that we are going back to the Qualcomm Snapdragon series with the Phone (3a). Compared to the Phone (2a) Plus, it's going to have 25% faster CPU, and a 72% faster NPU."

Phone (3a) Series will be unveiled on 4 March at 3:30 PM IST. Those interested in being notified about the upcoming launch can sign up at Flipkart.

About Nothing

NCW reschedules hearing after summoned 'India's Got Latent' Youtubers fail to appear

New Delhi : The National Commission for Women (NCW) has issued a new hearing date after 'India's Got Latent' Youtubers failed to appear in response to its summons regarding derogatory and obscene remarks made on their show.

The Commission had summoned content creators and public figures, including Ranveer Allahabadi, Samay Raina, Apoorva Mukhija, Jaspreet Singh, Ashish Chanchlani, Tushar Poojari, Saurabh Bothra and Balraj Ghai, to appear before it on February 17, 2025 at 12 PM. However, citing concerns over personal safety, prior travel commitments and other logistical challenges, many failed to attend in person, the NCW officials said. Allahabadi, citing death threats,



requested a postponement of three weeks, prompting the Commission to reschedule his hearing to March 6, 2025. Similarly, Mukhija, expressing safety concerns, requested to

appear virtually until conditions stabilize. Her hearing was also moved to March 6. Raina, currently in the U.S. for a pre-planned tour, assured the NCW of his availability upon return,

leading to his hearing being set for March 11, 2025. Singh, on tour in Paris, will return by March 10 and his hearing has also been scheduled for March 11. Chanchlani, whose lawyer appeared on his behalf citing illness, has been granted a rescheduled hearing on March 6. Meanwhile, Poojari and Bothra did not respond to the summons, drawing condemnation from the NCW, which has reissued a resumption for March 6. Ghai, currently abroad, has been given a hearing date of March 11 upon his return. The NCW has underscored the importance of cooperation from all individuals summoned and expects them to comply with the revised hearing schedule.

Telangana govt reduces employees' work hours for Ramzan

MI News Service, Hyderabad: The Telangana government has granted permission for Muslim government employees to leave offices or schools an hour early during Ramzan, applicable from March 2 to March 31, 2025. It is applicable to contract, outsourcing, board, and Public Sector employees. Meanwhile, the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee of Sadar Majlis-e-Ulama-e-Deccan, also known as the Moon Sighting Committee, will convene its monthly meeting to determine the start date of Ramzan in India. It is decided based on the sighting of the crescent moon of Ramzan. Meanwhile, Hyderabad is gearing up for the holy month. Many traders and businessmen are preparing for business in the holy month. Mosques across the city are also getting ready for the convenience of the worshippers during the holy month. In view of this, the Telangana government has also announced an hour of relaxation for Muslim government employees during Ramzan.



A drone shot of devotees taking a boat ride during ongoing Mahakumbh Mela, at the Sangam in Prayagraj.

Hezbollah demands full Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon by today

MI News Service, Beirut: Hezbollah Secretary-General Naim Qassem said on Sunday that Israel must fully withdraw from Lebanon by Feb. 18. "Today, we are facing the Feb. 18 deadline, and the occupation army must fully withdraw from southern Lebanon. It should have no positions or presence whatsoever," Qassem said in a televised speech. He added that it is the responsibility of the Lebanese state to "exert every effort" to ensure that Israel withdraws on time as agreed. Israel had previously postponed its full withdrawal from Lebanon to Feb. 18 after missing the initial deadline. The Israeli military also intended to retain control over five strategic positions in southern Lebanon beyond the deadline, a move also rejected by Hezbollah. There are "no five points and no other details ... this is the agreement," Qassem said in the speech. Meanwhile, the Israeli forces



Hezbollah chief Naim Qassem

carried out on Sunday night airstrikes on areas in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa region. According to Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA), warplanes carried out two airstrikes on the outskirts of the town of Harbata and a third airstrike on the town of Halbata, both located in the northern

Bekaa Valley in eastern Lebanon. Israeli warplanes also launched an airstrike on the Wadi al-Zayni, a town north of Sidon in southern Lebanon, said the NNA. A ceasefire agreement between Hezbollah and the Israeli military has been in effect since Nov. 27, 2024, halting over a year of clashes triggered by the Gaza war. The agreement requires Israel to withdraw from Lebanese territory within 60 days while the Lebanese army assumes control along the border and in the south, ensuring no presence of weapons or armed groups south of the Litani River. On Jan. 27, Lebanon's caretaker government announced an extension of the ceasefire agreement until Feb. 18, following the expiration of the initial 60-day period without a complete Israeli withdrawal. Despite the ceasefire, Israeli forces have continued to conduct strikes in Lebanon, citing security threats.

75th Indo-Philippine Cultural and Educational Exchange Summit

MI News Service, Cebu City: The 75th Indo-Philippine Cultural and Educational Exchange Summit was a landmark event, celebrating the enduring friendship and collaborative spirit between India and the Philippines. Held on February 15, 2025, at the Gullas College of Medicine Inc., Cebu City, Philippines, the summit brought together distinguished dignitaries, cultural icons and educational leaders from both nations. Under the theme, "GCM Empowering Global Connections: Bridging Education, Health, Culture, and Tourism for a Resilient Future," the ceremony was chaired by Mr. VG Santosam, Chairman of VGP Group of Companies from South India. The event started with unveiling of a mega statue of Tamil Poet Thiruvalluvar in the Gullas College for Medicine campus, the statue stood as a symbol of Tamil heritage and philosophy, marking a significant cultural milestone in the Philippines. This tribute not only honored an ancient philosopher but also symbolized the integration of Indian culture into the Southeast Asian cultural landscape, reflecting the deep historical ties between India and the Philippines. It resonated with the growing Indian student community in the Philippines, reinforcing a sense of heritage and values. The event was witnessed by the eminent bureaucrats and educational officials of Philippines. The event commenced with the national anthems of India and the Philippines. Followed by a doxology and a warm welcome from Dr. David K. Pillai, Chief Executive Consultant of Gullas College of Medicine Inc. As the Chief Executive Consultant of the Gullas College of Medicine, as well as a prominent driving force behind the institution's successes, he unveiled an exciting vision for a futuristic knowledge city that would transform education and innovation in the region. Direct flight to Philippines from India soon, a boon Indian Ambassador to Philippines H E Harsh Kumar Jain disclosed that direct flights between India and Philippines will become a reality soon. He was addressing at the glittering event of 75th India-Philippines Friendship Celebration organised at Gullas College of Medicine, Mandau city in Cebu while unveiling of Saint Thiruvalluvar's statue when he pointed out that the bilateral trade between the two nations has surpassed 3.5 mn mark which only proves to show the diplomatic relations and friendship between India and Philippines.

Israel gets shipment of US heavy bombs after delivery ban lifted

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Israel has received a shipment of heavy MK-84 bombs after the US recently lifted a temporary ban on their delivery, the Israeli Defence Ministry said. The MK-84 is a 907-kg unguided bomb capable of penetrating reinforced targets and causing extensive damage with its strong blast power. This shipment of munitions arrived at the Israeli port of Ashdod late on Saturday and was "received and unloaded overnight," a spokesperson for the Defense Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. Video footage released by the ministry showed shipping containers being loaded onto dozens of trucks, which, according to the ministry, transported them to Israel's Air Force bases, Xinhua news agency reported. The administration of former US

Hamas accuses Israel of blocking patients' evacuation, worsening oxygen shortage

MI News Service, Gaza: the hamas-run media office in Gaza accused on Sunday Israeli authorities of violating the ceasefire agreement by blocking the departure of the 15th group of patients and wounded individuals through the Rafah border crossing. "The occupation continues to breach the ceasefire agreement, as it blocked the departure of the 15th group of patients and wounded today by delaying the release of their travel lists, preventing them from completing exit procedures," said the media office head Salama Marouf in a statement. On Thursday, the media office reported that only 452 wounded and ill individuals, along with 620 companions, had left Gaza in 12 days of operation at the Rafah crossing, which was reopened under the ceasefire agreement. According to the statement, the daily average of travelers was 90, falling short of the agreement's requirement of at least 450 travelers per day, including 150 patients and wounded individuals along with their companions. "There are still 15,000 injured and ill people in Gaza who urgently need to travel for treatment outside the Strip amid a severe shortage of medicine and medical supplies due to the ongoing blockade and Israeli aggression since October 7, 2023," the statement added. Also on Sunday, the Gaza-based health authorities warned in a statement of a severe oxygen shortage in the enclave after Israel destroyed 10 oxygen stations during the conflict.

Israel gets shipment of US heavy bombs after delivery ban lifted

President Joe Biden had suspended the delivery of MK-84 bombs to Israel over concerns about their potential use and impact in densely populated areas of the Gaza Strip, where Israeli bombings and ground attacks have killed tens of thousands of people since October 2023. In the same statement, Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz said the latest shipment "represents a significant asset for the Air Force and the IDF (Israel Defense Forces)." He thanked US President Donald Trump and his administration for releasing the bombs and for their "unwavering support" for Israel. Since the start of the Gaza war on October 7, 2023, more than 76,000 tons of military equipment have arrived in Israel via 678 airlifts and 129 sea shipments, according to statistics from Israel's Defence Ministry.

Netanyahu: Israeli team to travel to Cairo for Gaza ceasefire talks



MI News Service, Jerusalem: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that a negotiation team will travel to Cairo to discuss the implementation of the Gaza ceasefire agreement. According to a statement released by his office, Netanyahu said he spoke by phone with US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff, after which he instructed an Israeli negotiation team to depart for Cairo. The team will first discuss the "continuation of the implementation of Phase One of the deal," and will "receive instructions on continuing negotiations regarding the second phase" after a meeting of the Israeli Security Cabinet scheduled for Monday, the statement said. Meanwhile, in an interview with Fox News on Sunday, Witkoff said talks about the second phase have already begun and will continue this week "at a location to be determined so that we can figure out how we get to the end of Phase Two successfully. On Saturday, Hamas and Israel completed the sixth prisoner-for-hostage exchange following days of tense negotiations that threatened to undo the precarious ceasefire, Xinhua news agency reported.

In the exchange, Hamas released three more Israeli hostages held in Gaza, while Israeli authorities freed 369 Palestinian prisoners and detainees. Under the first phase of the ceasefire agreement, effective since January 19 and spanning six weeks, 33 Israeli hostages are expected to be released in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinians. So far, 19 Israeli hostages, along with five Thais, have been released from Gaza, while Israeli authorities have released over 1,000 Palestinian prisoners. Israel and Hamas were supposed to begin talks on the second phase in early February. Hamas said in a statement on February 4 that it had started discussions with international mediators, whereas a spokesman for Netanyahu said on social media platform X on Tuesday that Israel had not yet begun negotiations on the second phase. The second phase of the agreement is supposed to focus on the release of the remaining hostages, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Palestinian enclave, and the implementation of a permanent ceasefire.

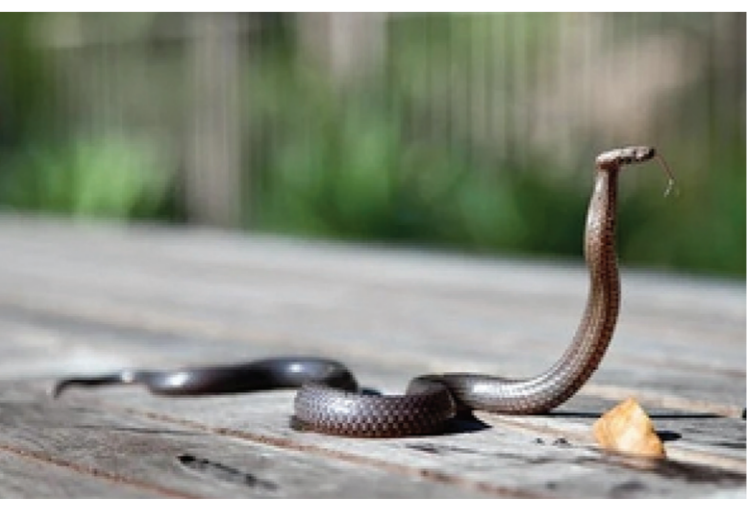
Africa's progress against malaria in "jeopardy" amid need for renewed commitments: officials

MI News Service, Addis Ababa: Officials and experts on Sunday called for renewed commitments in Africa's fight against malaria, as they warned that the continent's progress against malaria is "in jeopardy" due to a combination of natural and man-made challenges. This came during a high-level briefing on malaria that was held Sunday on the sidelines of the 38th African Union (AU) Summit at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Addressing the event, Duma Boko, president of Botswana, stressed that Africa's positive progress in the fight against the deadly disease has been hampered by a combination of factors, including inadequate financing, and natural and man-made catastrophes. "The task before us is both challenging and urgent. Our progress has stopped, and the hard truth is that we are not on track. A perfect storm of threats, including insufficient resources, climate change, biological risks, and humanitarian crisis, threatens to undermine our efforts," said Boko, who is also the incoming chair of African Leaders Malaria Alliance (ALMA). He said as the African continent is threatened by a growing number of malaria outbreaks, the Southern Africa region is currently bracing for an upsurge as heavy rainfall creates mosquito breeding sites. "Securing the resources necessary to combat malaria and fill these critical gaps with renewed energy is imperative. Africa must urgently rise

to the challenge by mobilizing domestic resources, including by drawing down on the resources in our emergency funds and increasing our health budget allocations," he added. A new report on the state of malaria in Africa, which was launched on the margins of the AU Summit, revealed that despite preventing 1.8 billion malaria cases and saving 11.9 million lives since 2000, Africa's progress against malaria has now stagnated. Noting that the continent is "at a defining moment" in its fight against malaria, the report said the interim targets for 2025 are slipping out of reach, and the dream of eliminating malaria by 2030 is in jeopardy. Chikwe Ihekweazu, the World Health Organization (WHO) acting regional director for Africa, said African countries have continued to grapple with challenges obstructing the elimination of malaria. He said such challenges include fragile health systems, weak surveillance, chronic funding shortfall, and anti-malarial drug resistance. Noting that 11 African countries bear about two-thirds of the world's malaria burden, Ihekweazu said the burden of malaria and the challenges of addressing it are most acute in Africa. Against this background, experts and policymakers at the high-level briefing, lauded Egypt's achievements against malaria, as the country was recognized by the WHO as malaria-free, marking a significant public health milestone for a country with more than 100 million inhabitants

Warning issued over surge in snake bites in northeast Australia

MI News Service, Sydney: Australians in the northeastern state of Queensland have been warned to be cautious around snakes amid a surge in attacks. Seven people in Queensland were hospitalized over the weekend with snake bites, including a man in his 30s who was in critical condition after being bitten on the ankle at a property about 40 km north of Brisbane on Sunday afternoon. According to data from the Queensland Ambulance Service, there were 129 reported snake bites across the state in December and 128 in January. In the seven days to Feb. 10, there were 24 reported incidents. Stuart McKenzie, owner of a Queensland snake-catching business, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation televi-



...sion on Monday that it has been a record-breaking summer. He attributed the rise in snake confrontations to the growing urban

sprawl into snake habitats. "If you have a snake in your yard or your house, it's just about keeping a safe distance and always calling a snake catcher," he said. "The main thing is do not touch them, do not try and relocate them yourself, do not try and kill them - all of those things are illegal and there are rules in place for the safety of people and also our snakes." Teenager Beau Horan died in November, days after an eastern brown snake bit him in the yard of his family's home near the city of Gladstone over 400 km north of Brisbane. The eastern brown is the world's second-most venomous land snake found throughout Queensland. Fatal snake bites are rare in Australia, with 35 reported between 2000 and 2016.

CRISPIN CHETTRI NAMES 23-MEMBER SQUAD FOR PINK LADIES CUP IN UAE

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Indian senior women's team coach Crispin Chettri on Monday named a 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup, a friendly tournament to be held in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, from February 20 to 26, during the FIFA International Match Window, as per the AIFF official website.

India will face Jordan (February 20), Russia (February 23) and the Korean Republic (February 26). All matches will take place at the Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah, UAE.

The Blue Tigresses had been training in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, after the conclusion of Round 6 of the Indian Women's League on February 7. India are using these friendly matches to prepare for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers which will take place in May-June, 2025.

Crispin Chettri said, as quoted by the AIFF official website, "I think the Pink Ladies Cup will be an eye-opener for many of our players because they will get to know the standard. I think the Korean Republic are completely different from Russia. I watched their videos. Russia have a different kind of playing style. But when it comes to Korea, they are quick in transitions. So I think we have to adapt to two different kinds of playing styles. Playing against different sorts of teams like Jordan, Korea Republic and Russia will give us a clearer picture of creating a pool of players for playing against different teams."

India will depart for Sharjah on Tuesday, February 18. They will play their first match of the competition against Jordan on February 19, followed by their encounters against Russia (February 22) and the Korean Republic (February 25), respectively. All the matches of the Indian team will be played at Al Hamriya Sports Club Stadium in Sharjah.

India's 23-member squad for the Pink Ladies Cup in Sharjah, UAE:

Goalkeepers: Elangbam Panthoi Chanu, Payal Basude, Shreya Hooda.

Defenders: Aruna Bag, Kiran Pisda, Martina Thokchom, Nirmala Devi Phanjoubam, Purnima Kumari, Sanju, Shilky Devi Hemam, Sweety Devi Ngangbam.

Midfielders: Babina Devi Lisham, Grace Dangmei, Mousumi Murmu, Priyadarshini Selladurai, Priyanka Devi Naorem, Ratanbala Devi Nongmaithem.

Forwards: Karishma Purushottam Shirvoikar, Lynda Kom Serto, Manisha, Renu, Sandhya Ranganathan, Soumya Guguloth.

Head Coach: Crispin Chettri
Assistant Coach: Priya PV
Goalkeeping Coach: Dipankar Choudhury.



Vidarbha's Danish Malewar exchange a handshake with a teammate to celebrate his half-century during Day 1 of the Ranji Trophy Semi-Final 2 match against Mumbai, at VCA stadium in Nagpur on Monday. (ANI Photo)

23rd National Para Athletics Championships commence in Chennai

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) : The much-awaited 23rd National Para Athletics Championship commenced today at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Chennai, marking a historic first for the city. The prestigious event, held from February 17 to 20, is being actively supported by the Tamil Nadu Government and organized under the guidance of Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin, who also serves as the State Minister for Sports.

The championship has drawn an impressive 1,476 para-athletes from across India, competing in 155 events under 30 teams, making it one of the largest para-athletics gatherings in the country. The event is being conducted smoothly with the efforts of the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI), led by Devendra Jhajharia, and the Tamil Nadu Paralympic Sports Association (TNPSA), headed by Chandrasekar Rajan.

Other key office bearers, including Satya Prakash Sangwan and Jayawant Gundu Hamanawar, have also contributed significantly to ensuring the seamless execution of the championship, as per a press release from TNPSA.

Speaking about the championship, PCI President Devendra Jhajharia said, "We are confident that this championship in Chennai will set new benchmarks for para-athletic competitions in India. With an impressive 1,476 para-athletes competing in 155 events, this tournament reflects the rapid growth and increasing competitiveness of para-sports in the country. With world-class facilities and a commitment to inclusivity, we are witnessing a new era for Indian para-athletics."

Adding further, TNPSA President Chandrasekar Rajan said, "The unwavering support from the Tamil Nadu Government has been instrumental in making this event a resounding success. This championship not only showcases extraordinary talent but also reinforces our commitment to empowering para-athletes nationwide."



letes nationwide."

Among the top athletes competing for glory are Sumit Anil - Javelin, Manoj Sabapathy - Wheelchair Racing, Manoj Singaraj - Shot Put, Mariyappan Thangapan - High Jump, Muthu Raja - Shot Put, Hokato Sema Shotput, Navdeep Singh Javelin, Yogesh Kathuniya Discus amongst others.

This championship not only highlights the incredible talent and resilience of para-athletes but also serves as a platform to promote inclusivity and excellence in Indian sports.

ICC Champions Trophy: Jasprit Bumrah's absence a relief for Bangladesh, says former batter

Former Bangladesh opener Imrul Kayes reckons the absence of Jasprit Bumrah will provide his team an opportunity to put India's pace attack under pressure when the two teams open their Champions Trophy campaign on February 20.

India go into the game as overwhelming favourites as Bangladesh enter the tournament at the back of a long-struggling spell in the ODIs.

"India is a strong side with a great bowling attack and batting lineup. But Bumrah is not in the squad. We all know what he has done in the last two years for Indian cricket. His absence gives Bangladesh a chance to capitalise," Imrul Kayes, who played 39 Tests, 78 ODIs and 14 T20s for Bangladesh, told PTI.

In Bumrah's absence, a rusty Mohammed Shami will lead India's pace attack including Harshit Rana and Arshdeep Singh.

Shami's inclusion is big. He may be struggling a bit with fitness right now, but if he finds his rhythm, he will be a big threat for Bangladesh, Kayes noted.

Bangladesh will be without veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan and out of form batter Litton Das.

Kayes said Shakib's absence is bound to be felt.

"I definitely miss Shakib



because he is a very good player. His impact on any match is immense. At the moment, Bangladesh is struggling. They are struggling because if Shakib is not playing, Bangladesh might play an additional spinner. That's the main problem.

"Litton's form was a big concern for the team. But in the last few BPL matches, he did score some runs. However, Soumya Sarkar and Tanzid Tamim have performed better, and I think the team is in good shape in that department," said Kayes.

With Shakib missing, Kayes expects vice-captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz to step up as Bangladesh's premier all-round-

er. If you see Mehidy Hasan, when he came to the national team, he was new, but his courage is amazing. His character shows he is a champion player. He doesn't care about anybody; he always believes, I will do it."

Mehidy can bat anywhere. In the 2018 Asia Cup final, he opened the batting against India. Shakib can also bat anywhere. So, if you compare, Mehidy will probably fill the gap.

But bowling-wise, Bangladesh will miss Shakib because he is a left-handed spinner. The impact he creates with his bowling is invaluable for our team, he emphasised.

Indian Men's Hockey Team eyes winning momentum as it prepares to lock horns with Germany in FIH Pro League

BHUBANESWAR (ODISHA) : After a mixed start to their FIH Pro League 2024-25 campaign, the Indian Men's Hockey Team, led by Captain Harmanpreet Singh, is ready to take on Germany in its upcoming matches at the Kalinga Hockey Stadium here.

Having bounced back from a 3-1 loss to Spain in their opener with a commanding 2-0 win in the second game, India are eager to continue their winning momentum against the German side, as per Hockey India press release.

With three points from two games, India currently sit in eighth place in the standings and will be looking to climb higher.

One key area of focus for the team is improving their penalty corner conversion rate. Despite winning seven penalty corners across their two games against

Spain, India failed to convert any of these opportunities into goals. The hosts will aim to sharpen their execution in set-pieces as they prepare for the challenge ahead.

Dilpreet Singh, Mandeep Singh, and Sukhjeet Singh have each netted a goal for the Men in Blue so far in the tournament and will be looking to add to their tally against Germany.

Germany, who will be playing their first match of the India leg, are placed just above India in seventh place with four points from four games and they will be determined to turn their fortunes around. Although they have won only one match in the tournament so far, their attack has been spearheaded by Raphael Hartkopf, Gonzalo Peillat, and Thies Prinz, who have each scored

two goals. Germany will aim to turn around their struggling campaign and secure vital points in this closely contested fixture.

The two sides last met during a two-match Test series in New Delhi in October 2024, where Germany won the first game 2-0, but India bounced back in the second with a thrilling 5-3 victory. However, Germany went on to claim the series through a shootout win, adding extra intensity to this latest matchup in the FIH Pro League.

Speaking on the upcoming matches, India captain Harmanpreet Singh stated as quoted by Hockey India press release, "We are looking forward to our games against Germany. They are a quality team, and we know we need to bring our best performance to the field."

Kane Williamson signs with Middlesex, to represent club in T20 Blast, County Championship

LONDON [UK] : Middlesex Cricket on Monday announced the signing of New Zealand star batter Kane Williamson for the 2025 season, during which he will don its colours for the T20 Blast and the County Championship.

The county club issued a statement regarding the same, saying, "Middlesex Cricket is today thrilled to announce that New Zealand's Kane Williamson, widely regarded as one of the greatest modern-day batters in the game, will be joining the Club for the 2025 season, and will feature in both the T20 Blast and the Rotherham County Championship."

The all-time leading Test run-scorer for New Zealand will be available for at least ten of Middlesex's 14 T20 Blast group fixtures, whilst also being available to play for the Club in at least five County Championship clashes in the second half of the season.

In an exceptional international career, in which he has captained his country in all formats, Williamson has made over 360 appearances for the Blackcaps, amassing over 18,000 runs, including 47 centuries. He averages an incredible 54.88 in Test cricket, 49.65 in ODI cricket, and 33.44 in the T20 format of the game.

He has twice previously played county cricket in England, with Gloucestershire in 2011 and 2012 and with Yorkshire between 2013 and 2018, however he joins Middlesex having dominated world cricket in recent years and having featured in the ICC's World Test Team of the Year in seven of the last ten years.

In the T20 format of the game, he has featured across the globe in each of the world's biggest franchise competitions, representing both the Gujarat Titans and the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the Indian Premier League, the Barbados Tridents in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), and Durban's Super Giants in the SA20, and is set to team up with Karachi Kings at this year's Pakistan Super League (PSL), starting in mid-April.

Whilst in the UK this summer,



Williamson will also feature for London Spirit in the Hundred, making Lord's his home in 2025 from May through to the end of September.

Speaking of Kane Williamson signing for Middlesex this year, Alan Coleman, the Club's Director of Cricket, commented: "We are hugely excited about Kane joining Middlesex this summer and are looking forward to him making a positive impact in both our Blast and Championship campaigns."

"To have secured one of the most talented players in the world game is a real coup, and we can't wait to welcome him to Lord's and to seeing him heading out with the three Seaxes on his chest."

"Having a player like Kane in the Middlesex dressing room will be a huge plus for the entire squad, and especially our younger players, who will benefit enormously from playing alongside one of the world's best," he con-

cluded.

On signing for Middlesex, Williamson himself commented: "I have played a bit of county cricket in the past, but not for a number of years now, so when this opportunity arose with Middlesex, it was a really exciting prospect."

"To be able to play for Middlesex - a fine club with a rich heritage - is really exciting and something that I'm really looking forward to being a part of. To play at Lord's, the Home of Cricket - which is one of my favourite grounds in the world for so many different reasons - is something I'm especially looking forward to also."

"There's a good balance of youth and experience in the Middlesex squad, which is great, and I am really excited to join up with the team, meet the players in the squad and helping out wherever I can," he concluded.

"Happy that cricket will be an Olympic sport": IOC member Nita Ambani

BOSTON [US] : Nita Ambani, an International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and the founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, expressed her feelings on the inclusion of Cricket in the upcoming 2028 Olympics, which are set to take place in Los Angeles, California, US.

In October last year, as an example of Indian cricket and its star batter Virat Kohli's global status as the face of the sport, a mention of the former Indian skipper was made during the International Olympic Committee (IOC) 141st session, during which the decision to include the sport in Olympics was taken.

"India is a sport-loving nation. For the Tokyo Olympics, the maximum viewership for the Olympic channel came from India, so imagine what would happen if we added cricket to it. So that's the time when my mind started ticking as to how do I convince the committee members to have cricket as an Olympic sport. Now, they were still in the



belief that cricket is a five-day long cricket match... I informed them and this is going to be a win-win situation if you have cricket as an Olympic sport and you'll have the backing of probably two billion people. So I think that is the plug that I used and

I'm so happy that now cricket will be an Olympic sport," Nita Ambani said during the keynote address at the Harvard India Conference on Indian Business, Policy & Culture.

Cricket will be a part of the Los Angeles Olympic Games in 2028 and will make its return after 128 years to the multi-sport extravaganza, announced the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Monday.

The 2028 event will also include sports like baseball/softball, lacrosse, squash and flag football. The proposal from the Organising Committee of the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028 to include these games in the programme was accepted at the ongoing 141st IOC session being held in Mumbai.

Cricket made its sole appearance at the 1900 Paris Olympics, in which Great Britain defeated France in the final. However, it is also played in the Commonwealth Games and Asian Games.

Nita Ambani also spoke about India's bid for the Olympics and how the country plans to make them the greenest and most sustainable Olympics.

Speaking about the Olympics, she said, "I believe that India must have the Olympics. We are going to be the third-largest economy in the world. If you look at the 10 largest economies of the world, nine countries have hosted the Olympics, but only India has not. So I find that really odd. We would wish to see the Olympics being hosted in our country. It will be our pride to host that. So that is the reason, I think the Prime Minister also mentioned that India will bid for the 2036 Olympics...I think we are planning to host a sustainable Olympics where we are planning to refurbish and reuse our existing stadiums and existing campuses. If we bid for it and get it, I assure you that we'll be the greenest Olympics ever...I think India is at the right time now to host the Olympics".