Mamata Banerjee to meet docs amid healthcare concerns

Six months after the RG Kar Medical College controversy, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is set to meet doctors directly today (Monday). The meeting, under her supervision as the state's health minister, follows an earlier discussion between doctors and Abhishek Banerjee during the launch of the Sebashray project in Amtala. The primary agenda includes reviewing the condition of state-run hospitals, discussing government achievements in healthcare, addressing challenges, and exploring po-



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TMC sets '250-seat' target for 2026 polls, key strategy meeting on Feb 27

namool Congress (TMC) has begun intensive preparations for the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, setting a formidable target of securing 250 seats. Under the leadership of Mamata Banerjee, the party is gearing up for a crucial strategy meeting on February 27 at Netaji Indoor Stadium. This highly anticipated gathering will bring together all MLAs, MPs, district council chiefs, and senior party leaders to discuss electoral strategies and organizational restructuring. Invitations have already

expected to focus on strengthening party infrastructure, refining campaign tactics, and amplifying public outreach. Political analysts believe this meeting holds significant strategic importance in shaping TMC's path to electoral dominance in 2026.

Buoyed by its impressive performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, the TMC aims to leverage its success and Mamata Banerjee's flagship welfare schemes to solidify its grassroots support. The party has consistently focused on ensuring efficient citizen services and enhancing direct voter engagement, and these will remain central to its 2026 campaign blueprint. Mamata has set a clear objective—winning 250 seats and is prepared to restructure the party framework to achieve this ambitious goal. Speculation had been rife that she would convene a strategy session in late February, and now the official date has been con-

The February 27 meeting is expected to revolve around key strategic directives, including reinforcing

party discipline to maintain governance efficiency, introducing new public outreach programs to strengthen voter connections, intensifying the promotion of social and economic welfare initiatives, which have been crucial in TMC's sustained popularity, and fortifying the party's grassroots network to expand its influence across constituencies. Mamata Banerjee is likely to unveil new campaign initiatives that emphasize development, inclusive governance, and proactive voter engagement. Her approach will focus

on building a robust organizational structure capable of delivering a landslide victory in 2026.

Political observers and party insiders anticipate critical leadership decisions to be announced during the meeting. With two years remaining before the Assembly elections, the TMC is leaving no stone unturned in its preparations. The emphasis will be on ensuring a smooth execution of government schemes, countering opposition narratives, and deploying a well-coordinated electoral strategy that can maximize

its vote share and seat tally. As the February 27 conference draws closer, all eyes are on the strategic moves Mamata Banerjee will implement. Any reshuffles or restructuring within the party leadership will be closely scrutinized, as they will offer a clear indication of TMC's tactical approach in its quest to secure an overwhelming mandate in 2026. The meeting is poised to be a pivotal moment in West Bengal's political landscape, setting the tone for an intense and high-stakes electoral battle in the coming months.

German **Poll: Musk** reiterates support for **AFD**

News Service, Berlin: South African-American billionaire and US kingmaker Elon Musk has doubled down on his support for Alice Weidel, the Chinese-speaking leader of the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) as Germany goes for election on Sunday. This election is being seen as crucial for the future of

Europe.

Though all German mainstream parties have earlier said they won't work with the AfD, but it seems that if AFD comes up as a formidable power, the chemistry in German politics might just take a different turn.

Musk reposted a German-language tweet that translates to: "Alice Weidel is the leader we need now. Give a thumbs up if you agree." The tweet features Weidel in warrior attire, clad in metal armor and riding a horse, with a blurred army and German flags in the background.

Musk reposted the picture with a thumbsup emoji.

This isn't Musk's first show of support for the Weidel. Just before Christmas last year, he had posted a six-word endorsement: "Only the AfD can save Germany.

According to the Time magazine, Weidel initially thought Musk's Christmas post was a hoax. She refreshed her feed, checked the source-@elonmuskthen called an aide to confirm.

"I actually almost fell from my chair," she

Elon is not a Nazi per se. He is something much better, or much worse, depending on

how you look at it Musk isn't alone in backing Weidel. US Vice President J.D. Vance met her during his first

official European tour. While attending the Munich Security Conference, an event the AfD was barred from, Vance reportedly held a private meeting with Weidel in the basement of the Westin Grand, where he was staying.

They apparently discussed the war in Ukraine, German domestic politics, and the Brandmauer...the firewall preventing ultranationalist parties like AfD from joining ruling coalitions. So who is Alice Weidel? The 46year-old, who speaks fluent English and Mandarin, is raising two sons with her Sri Lankan-born lesbian partner who is a film producer. Weidel holds a doctorate in

▶▶ Continued on page 3



A mother and child share a magical moment, admiring nature's finest blooms at the Kanpur Floriculture Society in Kanpur.

Centre retreats on Advocates Bill

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre agreed to reconsider its decision to bring about certain drastic changes to the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which the legal fraternity feared would seriously undermine the independence of advocates and its regulator, the Bar Council of India (BCI). The NDA government's decision came in the backdrop of an indefinite strike launched by district courts' lawyers, which threatened to snowball into a nationwide stir with the Delhi High Court Bar Association giving a strike call.

The decision, attributed to the personal intervention of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a significant retreat by the Centre, which is reminiscent of the withdrawal of the three contentious farm bills in 2023 in the face of countrywide protests by farmers for over a year.

According to BCI chairperson and senfor advocate Manan Kumar Mishra, the in the best interests of the legal frater-BCI has been in continuous dialogue with nity," Mishra said in a statement.

Union law minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, raising the concerns of the legal fraternity. The minister has assured

that all contentious issues shall be thoroughly examined and appropriately addressed before finalising the bill,

said. Meghwal has reaffirmed that no provision shall be

enacted that undermines the autonomy, independence, and dignity of the legal profession, Mishra added.

"In view of these positive developments, the BCI urges all Bar Associations and legal professionals to refrain from premature protests or strikes. The government has demonstrated a constructive and receptive approach, and the BCI remains resolute in ensuring that the amendments to the Advocates Act, 1961,

Super Giant Mariners are back with a bang MOHUN BAGAN WINS INDIAN SUPER LEAGUE (ISL) TITLE

MI News Service, Kolkata: The agonizing wait is finally over. The Mariners once again proved that why quite truly they are tagged as 'Super Giant'. Mohun Bagan wins their second Indian Super League (ISL) title there by putting the much coveted Indian Super League Shield (ISL Shield) in the club shelf. Mohun Bagan beats Odisha FC 1 – 0 at Salt Lake Stadium

Shield. Petrotos scored the all important goal in the 93 rd minute to give Mariners the ISL title. Mohun Bagan becomes the first team to win back to back ISL titles. Previous season Mohun Bagan won the title when they defeated Mumbai City FC 2 - 1 in the last league match of the season. This season Mohun Bagan beats Odisha FC 1 - o via Petrotos goal to win on Sunday to win the much coveted ISL the title with still two matches to spare.

Delhi Assembly: Atishi chosen as Leader of Opposition

MI News Service, New Delhi: Former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi was chosen as the Leader of Opposition in the Delhi Assembly at a meeting of AAP MLAs here on Sunday, party

AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal and the party's 22 MLAs that includes Kalkaji

leaders said.

legislator Atishi attended

The first session of the Delhi Assembly will begin on February 24. In the three-day session, the ruling BJP government has said that pending CAG reports against the performance of the previous AAP government will be tabled

in the House.

The BJP ousted AAP from power in Delhi, winning 48 of the 70 seats in the assembly polls held on February 5.

AAP convener Arvind

Kejriwal and several top leaders of the party, including Manish Sisodia, also lost the elections

Himanta vows to expose 'Ali Sheikh network'

MI News Service, Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that he would expose the so-called 'Ali Sheikh network' and its alleged connections to an Indian Member of Parliament.

The Chief Minister assured the House that his government would present concrete evidence within three months, promising disclosures that would send shockwaves across the state.

Addressing legislators, CM Sarma declared, "I promise to the Assam Assembly that we will dismantle this Ali Sheikh network and return in August with solid evidence. Just give us three months. The facts we uncover will be placed on record, and they will astonish the people of

Assam." While he claimed to already possess informal knowledge of the matter, Sarma emphasised the need for proper documentation before making the details public. The statement has triggered intense speculation, with political circles abuzz over the nature of the alleged network and its supposed link to a sitting MP.

The Chief Minister's remarks come against a backdrop of escalating political tensions between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the opposition Congress in Assam.National security has increasingly become a contentious issue, with both parties accusing each other

▶▶ Continued on page 3

Yunus invites Musk to visit Bangladesh

MI News Service, Dhaka: Bangladesh interim government's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus has invited top US businessman and Chief Executive Officer of SpaceX Elon Musk to visit the country and launch Starlink satellite internet service in the coun-

In a letter, Yunus told Musk that his visit to Bangladesh would allow him to meet young Bangladeshi men and women who would be among the main beneficiaries of this leading

"Let us work together to deliver our mutual vision for a better future," he said in the letter.
"Integrating Starlink's connectiv-

ity into Bangladesh's infrastructure will have a transformational impact, particularly for Bangladesh's enterprising youth, rural and vulnerable women, and remote and underserved communities," state-run BSS news agency reported on Sunday, quoting the letter.

sentative, Khalilur Rahman, to coordinate closely with his SpaceX team to ensure completion of the necessary work to make Starlink ready for launch in Bangladesh within the next 90 working days.

On February 13, Yunus held an extensive telephonic discussion with Musk to explore future collaboration and to make further progress in introducing Starlink satellite internet services in Bangladesh.

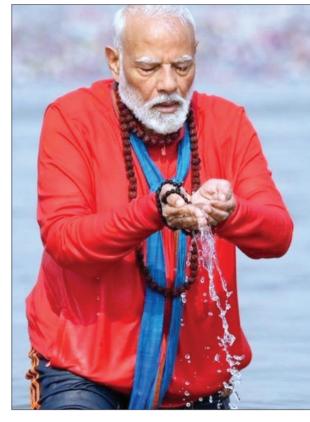
Maha Kumbh united people: Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday criticised those opposing the country's religious and cultural traditions and termed the ongoing Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj as the "Maha Kumbh of

He was addressing people after inaugurating the Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Centre and Cancer Hospital at Chhatarpur in Madhya Pradesh.

The Maha Kumbh currently underway at Prayagraj in Uttar Pradesh is taking place after 144 years due to a rare celestial alignment.

Modi said, "These days we see that there is a class of leaders who mock religion, ridicule it, and are engaged in dividing people...and many a times, foreign powers too are seen trying to weaken the country and religion by supporting these people.'



Praising 'safai karmis (sanitation workers) and police personnel for their great job in making the Maha Kumbh a successful event, Modi also said that in this "great Kumbh of unity", thousands of doctors and volunteers are engaged voluntarily with dedication and the spirit of service.

"People who are going to this great Kumbh of unity are appreciating these efforts," he said and also praised services rendered by ophthalmologists to people at the fair.

Referring to efforts made by his government in fighting cancer, Modi said in this year's budget, many announcements have been made to fight the disease and it has been decided that cancer medicines will be made cheaper.

will be opened in every district of the country in the next three years, he

AAP govt had left an empty public exchequer: Delhi CM

MI News Service, New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday alleged that the previous AAP government had left an "empty public exchequer" before the BJP dispensation, and assured that Rs 2,500 monthly payment scheme for women would be implemented with detailed planning. Gupta attended

meeting along with other BJP MLAs at the state party office ahead of the first session of the newly constituted 8th Delhi Assembly scheduled on Monday. Addressing a press conference after the meeting, the newly appointed chief minister said several phases of meetings have been held with the officers over the implementation

of the Mahila Samriddhi Yojna under which Rs 2,500 per month is to be paid to the eligible women in Delhi. "The condition which the (previous) government has left for us... when we sat with officers to review the financial status of the current government, we found that the government exchequer empty," she said on a

question about the preparation to implement the scheme

Gupta, however, assured that the scheme will surely be implemented with detailed planning.

State BJP president Virendra Sachdeva said the BJP government's only agenda was ensuring a developed Delhi and solving the problems of the people.

HP govt grants 60-day spl maternity leave

MI News Service, Shimla: Ringing major relief to female employees. the Himachal Pradesh government has introduced a 60-day special maternity leave for women who experience a stillbirth or the loss of a child soon after birth Currently, female government

employees with less than two surviving children are entitled to 180 days of maternity leave from the date of commencement, said a government spokesperson.

The newly announced special maternity leave will be available under the same eligibility conditions, but will apply exclusively in cases of stillbirth or neonatal loss, he added. This leave can only be availed for

deliveries in authorised hospitals. Recognising the physical and emotional toll of such tragic circum-

stances, the state government's initiative aims to provide affected employees with essential time for recovery and healing, he said.

This move underscores the government's commitment to employee welfare, ensuring job security and fostering a healthy work-life balance for its female workforce, added the spokesperson.

By implementing this policy, the Himachal Pradesh government reaffirms its dedication to progressive governance, prioritising the wellbeing of its employees and offering crucial support during difficult times, he asserted.

India needs at least 20K pilots in near future: Civil Aviation Min

MI News Service, New Delhi: Civil Aviation Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu said India will need at least 20,000 pilots in the coming vears to meet the rising air-travel demand in the country -- one of the world's fastest growing aviation market. Address-

ing a gathering at the UDAAN Bhawan here following the launch of Electronic Personnel License (EPL) for pilots, the Minister said aviation has always been the backbone of connectivity, economic growth, and technological advancements.He said the

country will have 50 more airports in the next five years. The number of airports has doubled to 157 in the last 10 years. "We are looking at a number which is very ambitious... if you look at the airline sector, we have orders of up to 1,700 planes that are

about to come into the Indian fleet. And with so much growth that we are going to see in the coming days, there is going to be a need for at least 20,000 pilots in the near future, Naidu said. Naidu

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One killed, 3 injured after a gas-balloon-cylinder explodes in fair Authority orders closing

MI News Service, Kalyani: A woman was killed and 3 others injured when a cylinder loaded with a gas balloon, exploded in a fair ground. It happened at Saguna - Ghoragachha under Kalyani Police limits in Nadia on Saturday night, a police sources said. The victim was identified as Muskan Mandal (23).A fair known as 'Milam Mela' was going on at Ghoragachha under Saguna Gram Panchayat in Nadia.One Sariful was selling gas - ballon in the said ground. Around midnight, the cylinder of the gas balloon got exploded and 4 were injured. Among them Muskan was critical. She was taken to AIIMS Kalyani. But the concerned



physician declared her brought dead. The others are under treatment.The injured are Shariful Mondal, a 32-year-old gas balloon seller, and his brother Rafigul Mondal. Another person. Shariful is admitted to the Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Kalyani in critical condition. Rafiqul is undergoing treatment at the Kalyani AIIMS in critical condition. Another injured person has been shifted to the

Kolkata PG Hospital in critical condition.According to local sources, a Milan Mela was going on at Ghoragachha under the Saguna Gram Panchavat of Kalyani. The vendors had set up stalls there. Shari-ful, a gas balloon seller, also came to the fair. Police were on guard in the area. The balloon cylinder exploded at around 12:30 am on Saturday. At that time, mainly shopkeepers were there. Since it was late at night, there were not many ordinary people. Suddenly, everyone ran after hearing a loud noise. The injured were rescued and taken to the hospital. The administration ordered the fair to be closed immediately after the incident.

Balagarh Marathon 2025: 500+ Participants Join SP in the Race

MI News Service, Hooghly: Today, Sunday, February 23, at 8 am, a 10 km mini marathon was organized by Balagarh Police Station of Hooghly Rural District Police. The 10 km marathon was inaugurated by the Honorable SP of Hooghly Rural District Police, Kamnashis Sen, IPS, from the ground adjacent to the Mukhtar pur railway line. Additional SP Kalyan Sarkar was present. DSP D&T Pirybararta Bakshi, DSP Crime Abhijit Sinha Mahapatra, CI Magra, IC Mogra and OC of Balagarh Police Station Somdev Patra along with several police officials and members of the marathon committee. About 500 runners from different parts of the state

participated in this marathon. Honorable SP Sir Shri Kamnashis Sen, IPS and other police personnel participated in this extraordinary marathon. The finishing line of the marathon was at Balagarh Police Sta-

tion where the winners

were felicitated on a well decorated stage and prizes were also given away. Subhashish Ghosh of Kakdwip secured the first position in this marathon. Amal Mahto of Shalboni secured the second position and Utpal Mandal of Pandu secured

the third position. ASI Arvind Das of Balagarh Police Station took care of all the responsibilities of this marathon. The entire population of Balagarh expressed happiness by participating in this colorful marathon.

Siliguri **Animal Hospital to Open by April**

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) is building a hospital for the treatment of pets and animals.

The first of its kind in town, the hospital is likely to be functional from April.

Ranjan Sarkar, the deputy mayor of the SMC, said the civic body has been continuously receiving complaints about the menace of street dogs and the initiative to set up healthcare infrastructure was part of the plan to addressthe issue.

"This is for the first time the civic body is building an animal hospital that will be fully operational from April. The board is spending 1.25 crore for the infrastructure. ture," Sarkar said.

The hospital will be fully equipped to sterilisethe animals.

The animal health centre presently working out of a civic building in the dumping ground in Silig-

The health infrastructure is being built on a two-storey building that was constructed at the existing dumping ground area of the civic body at Ektiasal.

The first floor will have an OPD clinic, with seating arrangements for pet owners with their animals.

On the first floor, an operating theatre will be set up. The floor will be fully air-conditioned and canines will be monitored round the clock after ster-



ilisation.

Recently, 30 canines were sterilised with help

Kalimpong. "Once the hospital starts functioning, such a programme will be conducted regularly. We are hopeful that such initiatives will not only reduce the canine population in the city, but also provide much relief to the residents here," the deputy mayor said.

A source in the civicbody said the canine population across the SMC and adjacent areas is more than 30,000. Incidents of attack and dog bites have now become aregular

menace. The Siliguri administration has made it mandatory for pet owners to get vaccinated along with their pets. The district animal resource development department has also issued a slew of measures that included anti-rabies vaccination of pets, sterilisation of canines to control the birth rate and awareness drives about the mandatory pre-bite vacci-

nation of pet owners. People who feed stray dogs regularly have also been directed to take a pre-bite vaccination.

A two-day security exercise conducted on 21-22 February 25

Inspection of Coastal Defense System of West Bengal State during 'Sagar Kabach (WB)-01/25'

coastal security mechanism for the state of West Bengal was put on test during a two days security exercise 'Sagar Kavach (WB)-01/25' conducted on 21-22 Feb 25. During the exercise, the Coastal Security SOPs for the state were validated through series of drills conducted across the 158 km of coastline of the state. The exercise was coordinated by Commander Coast Guard (NE). The State Coastal Security Operation Centre (SCSOC) at Headquarters Coast Guard District No. 8, Haldia was the nerve centre for the exercise, which witnessed simulated situations such as hijacking of fishing

MI News Service: The



boats for landing of terrorists, smuggling of contraband, hijacking of barges, planting of IEDs and attacks on vital assets and vital points along the coast of West Bengal. Besides active sea and river patrolling by Indian Coast Guard, Navy, Police, CISF,

BSF and Customs boats; coastal patrolling by district police and patrolling by forest department was also undertaken. The fishermen watch group at various places were also activated as 'Eyes and Ears' of security forces. Special operations con-

ducted during exercise included operations by CISF and QRTs of Coast Guard /Police. The exercise also witnessed Sea and Air coordinated sueveillance by Coast Guard.West Bengal has large maritime assets along its 158 km coastline, which include 3.3 lakh fishermen operating over 16000 fishing boats, two majot ports, several river ports and jetties and large number of coastal industries. Being a maritime border state with unique riverine geography, the entire coastline is porous and poses a major challenge for security agen-Therefore, coordination is very important amongst all forces

for the seaward security of the state. To address this issue and to validate coastal security mechanism, the mandate was issued by Central and State governments for conducting the exercise jointly so that coordination is maintained amongst all the security forces working under the central and state governments on issues related with coastal security.The lessons learnt during the exercise will be deliberated at higher level for further improvements in Coastal Security mechanism and SOPs for the state of West Bengal as well as to strengthen ccordination amongst security

movement of the big cat.

We are not planning to

capture it now," said Singaram Kulandaivel, chief

conservator of Forests (Central Circle). The Forest

department has found that

the tiger traversing the

forest border of Bengal



in industrial development

of Bengal: Experts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Solar energy is now the 'buzzword' says the experts. To many, the domestic and industrial power scenario can drastically change in the holistic development of West Bengal. As per experts, West Bengal has a huge prospect in terms of growth of solar energy. KSL Cleantech Limited (KSL), a leading solar EPC company with over 15 years of experience, in collaboration with the State Bank of India (SBI), India's largest bank, successfully hosted an exclusive event in Kolkata. It aimed at empowering industries and businesses with the knowledge and resources to adopt solar energy. The event highlighted the numerous advantages of installing solar power plants for factories industrial setups, making a strong case for sustainability and cost-efficiency.

KSĽ works as a chan-

MI News Service, Howrah:

Kolkata recently hosted a

cervical cancer vaccine

project. The Rotary Club of

Belur successfully inaugu-

rated the Urmila Devi Agarwal Memorial Cervi-

cal Cancer Vaccine Project

under Global Grant #25-

72076 recently at Shibpur

Bhabani Balika Vidyalaya,

by Rotary District Gover-

nor Rtn Dr Krishnandu Gupta, PGD Ravi Sehgal,

Convenor Rtn Vishnuji

Dhandhania, Jt convenor

Rtn Tarun Pal, major

The project attended

nel partner of the iconic Adani Group and has in a way created a 'solar revolution' in the nation. With a track record of successfully executing over 400 solar projects, KSLCL reaffirmed its position as an ideal partner for industries transitioning to clean energy. The event underscored the financial and environmental benefits of solar power, emphasizing that installing solar plants is a smart decision for industries. This initiative aligned perfectly with India's green mission, fostering sustainable indusgrowth contributing to the nation's renewable energy targets. The event took place in the presence of Dhiraj Bhagchandka, Managing Director; Gaurav Kumar Rajput, DGM Projects; and DGM Finance from KSL, along with Rajneesh Kumar, DGM MSME from

donor Rtn Shri B D Agar-

wal, club President Rtn

Anand Agarwal, Project Manager Alokapurna Ghosh and other senior

This impactful initia-

tive aims to administer

4,000 doses of CERVAVAC

vaccines to at least 2,000

girls, significantly con-

tributing to the fight

against cervical cancer.

The project was made pos-

sible through a generous contribution by Rtn. B.D.

Agarwal, in loving memory of his late wife, Urmila

Devi Agarwal.

board Members

Alokapurna

Fresh uncertainty grips **Darjeeling** Tea

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Darjeeling Tea industry is getting jittery just before the start of the premium first flush plucking this time, as both the workers and political parties are on an agitation

Sources said that workers of a tea garden in Mirik refused to take up specific jobs that were related to the first flush.

'A section of the workers, mostly female, refused to undertake the assigned jobs and instead demanded that issues like bonus, minimum wages and rate of extra leaf plucking be settled first," said a source.

Many planters are worried at the development as any compromise on first flush production - most of which is exported and commands the highest price, ould spell doom for the industry already besieged by rising production costs and falling realisations.

"First flush plucking will start from February 27 across the hills. We are closely monitoring the situation," said a planter.

The first flush plucking usually continues till mid-April. This is then followed by second-flush, monsoon and autumn flush plucking and pro-

Workers, Opposition parties and apolitical fronts in north Bengal have started protesting chief minister Mamata Banerjee's recent announcement to increase land share for non-tea activities from 15 per cent to 30 per cent in tea es-

"The WB Govt has made this Gazette notification public, which is dated 7th February 2025," Darjeeling MP Raju Bista said on his verified Facebook account.

Bista said that the notification was made without any deliberation in the Bengal Assembly.

Forest Dept on high alert as tiger pugmarks spotted in Raikha Hills

MI News Service, Purulia: The state Forest department is presently on alert and has taken precautionary measures after pugmarks of a Roya Bengal Tiger were found in and around the Raikha Hills area at Bandwan in Purulia. The nature of the pugmarks has given the foresters the impression that the big cat is shuttling between Dalma in Jharkhand and Bhararo Forest around Raikha Hills.

According to sources in the Forest department, pugmarks have been spotted in several areas under Jorsa of Potomda Police Station, Jhujhka and Tunguburu in East Singbhum,



Jharkhand and Ghatihuli, Jamunagora, Bharari Forest of Bandwan, Purulia.

The marks have become prominent with rainfall. Interestingly, tigress Zeenat who came from Simlipal in Odisha spent over a week in and around the Raikha Hills in Purulia making it evident that the prey base for the big cat is not at all an issue in this area. "We have kept trap cameras and wildlife trackers and placed JFMCs (joint forest management committee) members as

and Jharkhand for almost intrusion into human habitat. Meanwhile, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sent her greetings for the entire forest team of 90 odd foresters involved in the successful tranquilisation of tigress Zeenat and then sending it to Jharkhand through state Forest minister Birbaha Hansda.

BGBS a big success, a master stroke from CM: Babul Supriyo

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state IT minister Babul Suprio has mentioned that state budget and recently held Bengal Global Business Summit (BGBS) have given a huge impetus in the industrial development of the state. To him, Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee is leaving no stone unturned in

hance the industrial scenario in West Bengal. Babul was recently speaking at the new outlet of Arsalan which was inaugurated by him. Kolkata's most iconic culinary destination opened its new outlet at 28, Circus Avenue, offering an endining hanced fine experience. The grand opening in a new dining her tireless effort to enavatar was attended by esteemed guests, including Babul Supriyo, Cabi-Minister Information Technology and Electronics of the Government of West Bengal, Nadimul Haque, Member of Rajya Sabha, and Akhtar Parwez, Director of Arsalan Restaurant, along with Arsalan Parwez and Raghib Par-

wez. The restaurant now spans three floors, each featuring a unique theme, along with a terrace seating area, accommodating a total of 175 guests. Babul further informed that his ministry is playing a key role in materializing the dream of Mamata Banerjee to give a holistic developmental shape in the entire state.

ICC conducts 'Centenary Marathon'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) celebrated its 100-year milestone with the Centenary Marathon Run 2025 on Sunday, 23rd February 2025 at Mohammedan Sporting Club, bringing together professional athletes, corporate leaders, and fitness enthusiasts to promote sportsmanship and well-being. The event was flagged off

by Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Former MP and Olympian with two Asian Games gold medals; Pranati Das, Gymnast; Deblina Kumar, Actress; Dr Sutapa Roy, Principal, Vidyasagar College for Women; and Md. Iqbal, Model.

The marathon featured two race categories—an 11 KM Run for professional athletes and a 3.5 KM Run open to participants aged

18 to 60. Winners across both categories received cash prizes. In the $11\ KM$ men's race, Mostafa Molla secured the top spot, winning 20,000, followed by Pritam Das (15,000) and Romit Ghosh (10,000). In the women's division, Rimpi Devi claimed first place with 20,000, with Chandrima Mishra (15,000) and Dipannita Roy (10,000) finishing second and third.

For the 3.5 KM race, Ambuj Tiwari won the men's category, earning 10,000, while Kuldip Tiwari (7,000) and Sayan Kr Das (5,000) took second and third place. In the women's division, Sinhababu Sharmistha claimed first place, winning 10,000, followed by Isha Mondal in second place with 7,000, and Muskan Jain in third place with

Fertilizer shortage: Kirti Azad sends intimation to centre

MI News Service, Burdwan (East): Trinamool Congress MP Kirti Azad has written to Union minister for agriculture and farmers' welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan, bringing to his attention how farmers from multiple states, including Bengal, were facing a severe crisis of fertilisers during the rabi(winter) season.

The Burdwan (East) MP, who is the chairperson of the parliamentary standing committee on chemicals and fertilisers, wrote in his letter that the minister had responded to a starred question in the Lok Sabha on

December 6 last year that the Centre had made available 38.27 lakh tonnes of Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) against a requirement of 35.52 lakh tonnes across the

'This report is not only evasive but also factually misleading. Reports from multiple states, including West Bengal, clearly indicate that there was a severe shortfall in the supply of fertilisers, directly contradicting the Ministry's assertion of adequate availability," Azad wrote in his letter dated February 11.

Bengal has bright future in terms of industrial growth: Saurav Ganguly

Kolkata hosts cervical cancer

vaccine project



MI News Service, Kolkata: Saurav Ganguly quite candidly mentioned that West

Bengal has a very bright future in terms of industrial growth. He also mentioned that "Salboni steel project will take another 18 to 20 months to get fully ready.

Ganguly was interacting with the media recently in a programmee where leading construction chemical brand 'Vura' announced Saurav Ganguly's name as their brand ambassador.

Minesh Chaudhari(CEO of Vura) mentioned, ' post BGBS its crystal clear that government of West Bengal really means business in every sense. " "In the near future we would also like to invest in Bengal."He added.

German Poll: Musk..

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economics from China and has worked for Goldman Sachs, Allianz Global Investors and as a freelance business consultant.

Weidel and her filmproducer partner live with their adopted children,in Einsiedeln, Switzerland. While Weidel has always supported civil partnerships for gay and lesbian couples, noting she is a lesbian herself, Trump has always been a constant source of danger for queer people around the world.

Her background makes her an unusual figurehead for a male-dominated, anti-immigration party that claims to uphold traditional family values.

Now, Weidel is poised to lead the 12-year-old AfD to a record result in Sunday's election.

Last week, Time maga-

zine asked Weidel why the Trump administration supports her. Lowering her voice, she said: "There might be something personal behind it.'

She pointed to Trump's grandfather, Frederick Trump, who emigrated from Germany in the late 1800s. Those blood ties, she suggested, may have led Trump to wonder: "What's going on with the continent of our grandpar-Four candidates are

running to be Germany's next leader: incumbent Chancellor Olaf Scholz, of the centre-left Social Democrats; Friedrich Merz. the candidate of the mainstream conservative Christian Democratic Union party; current Vice Chancellor Robert Habeck, of environmentalist Greens; and Weidel.

Himanta vows to expose...

of undermining the state's stability for political gains. On February 19, Congress MP Pradyut Bordoloi launched a sharp attack on Sarma, accusing him of exploiting national security concerns for political intimidation rather than addressing governance failures.

In a post on social media, Bordoloi wrote, "National security is a serious affair, certainly not a tool for intimidation to suit your political needs. The people of Assam deserve real answers from you on the parallel extortion economy run through various syndicates, illegal coal mining, unemployment,

CM Sarma was quick to dismiss Bordoloi's accusations, asserting that his actions were purely in the interest of national secu-

In response to Bordoloi, Sarma wrote on X, 'You will be shocked in the coming months. Let me assure you, with all the responsibility vested in me, this is not a witch hunt. I, too, have served under Sri Tarun Gogoi, and I fully understand the gravity of

such actions.' The controversy over

national security intensified following the Assam government's decision to form a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe alleged links between Congress MP Gaurav Gogoi's wife and Pakistan's intelli-

gence agency, the ISI. The move has been viewed by some as politically motivated, while the BJP maintains that it is a matter of serious concern that must be thoroughly investigated.

While CM Sarma did not provide specific details on the so-called 'Ali Sheikh network,' the name has surfaced in previous law enforcement reports concerning alleged illegal immigration, cross-border trafficking, and financial networks with suspected links to extremist organisations. Assam, which shares a porous border with Bangladesh, has long grappled with issues of infiltration and illegal trade, fuelling political narratives around national security.

However, the opposition has accused the BJP of using such claims to stoke communal tensions and divert attention from governance failures, particularly in tackling unemployment, corruption, and economic

India needs at least 20K...

using technology in a big "With the launch of EPL, we are ensuring that the pilots can now access their licenses with greater ease and efficiency. This initiative also aligns with the government of India's mission of Digital India, reinforcing our dedication on leveraging technology for the benefit of the citizens and the industry at large,' he said. With the launch, India has become the second country in the world to implement EPL for flight crew. China has already implemented such a facility. Implementation of Electronic Personnel License (EPL) by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) aligns with the govern-

ment's Ease of Doing Busifurther said his ministry is ness and Digital India Initiacements India's position as a leader in aviation innovation, the DGCA said.

The step aligns with the roadmap of the Interna-tional Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for modern aviation governance and reflects the nation's readiness to embrace the future.

Pilots can now securely access their licenses anytime via the eGCA app, with seamless real-time verification for global agencies, the Minister said in a post on social media platform 'X'.

This is a game-changer for Indian aviation -- enhancing safety, interoperability, and aligning us with global best practices," the

IIT Kharagpur to conduct safety audit of Bypass Road

MI News Service, Kolkata: IIT Kharagpur is set to assess the structural integrity and accident-prone zones of the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, a 32-kilometer stretch from Ultadanga to Kamalgazi. This crucial arterial road, under the jurisdiction of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), was constructed by its road division. Despite being one of the busiest corridors in the city, the KMC lacks precise data on the most accident-prone ections. To address this, the KMC Road Department has signed an agreement with Dr.BhargavMaitra, a professor in IIT Kharagpur's Civil Engineering Department. The study aims to identify "black spots" along the stretch, areas with a high frequency of acci-

dents. A senior KMC official stated, "We have gathered comprehensive data from Kolkata Police's traffic department on the number of high-speed vehicles using the Bypass daily. Now, IIT Kharagpur's Civil Engineering team will assess the loadbearing capacity of at least 32 different sections of the road." He further explained that the study would determine whether the road's structural integrity is sufficient and assess the gradient

changes along the stretch. Officials believe that reduced concrete layering can lead to accidents, even with minimal rainfall. Traffic data analysis will help pinpoint accident-prone zones, enabling authorities to implement measures such as adjusting road gradients, installing speed control mechanisms, and realigning lamp posts to reduce risks. Additionally, plans include improving signal systems and deploying advanced speed control devices.





professional athletes, corporate leaders, and fitness enthusiasts to promote sportsmanship and well-being. The marathon was flagged off by Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, former MP and Olympian with two Asian Games gold medals; Pranati Das, gymnast; Deblina Kumar, actress; Dr. Sutapa Roy, Principal of Vidyasagar College for Women; and Md. Iqbal, model. The marathon featured two race categories—an 11 KM run for professional athletes and a 3.5 KM run open to participants aged 18 to 60. The ICC Centenary Marathon underscored the chamber's commitment to fostering a culture of fitness, aligning with its century-long legacy of leadership and progress.

Mamata Banerjee to meet docs amid healthcare concerns

MI News Service, Kolkata: Six months after the RG Kar Medical College controversy, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is set to meet doctors directly today (Monday). The meeting, under her supervision as the state's health minister, follows an earlier discussion between doctors and Abhishek Banerjee during the launch of the Sebashray project in Amtala. The primary agenda includes reviewing the conof state-run dition

hospitals, discussing gov-

ernment achievements in

healthcare, addressing

challenges, and exploring

potential solutions. In recent months, several issues have surfaced in the state's medical colleges, including a shortage of doctors, allegations of counterfeit medicines, favouritism in transfers and promotions, concerns over medical education standards, and the RG Kar incident. Amid these challenges, sources suggest that the Chief Minister may attempt to reassure doctors and provide solutions. However, the Joint Platform of Doctors (WBJDF) remains sceptical. Ahead of Mon-day's meeting, WBJDF leaders have scheduled a

Dr.Utpal Banerjee, a senior WBJDF leader, remarked, "Those organiz-

press conference at RG

Kar Medical College on

Sunday evening.



interacted with doctors across hospitals. Following recent incidents exposing corruption and inefficiencies in the health department, they have assured doctors that there is no reason to fear. The department is considering new proaches.

He further added, "If this meeting were genuinely meant to celebrate the overall success of the state's healthcare system, we would have been delighted.

Notably, in the aftermath of the RG Kar crisis, Trinamool Congress (TMC) launched the Progressive Health Association (PHA), a medical wing under the leadership of Shashi Panja. However, sources indicate that Monday's meeting, organized by the State Grievance and Redressal Cell, has deliberately from PHA.

A key question surrounding the meeting is whether TMC doctorleader Dr. Shantanu Sen will regain prominence in Mamata Banerjee's inner circle. Observers believe the meeting could provide significant indications in this regard. The event at DhonoD-

hanyo Auditorium is expected to host around 2,600 senior and junior doctors. In addition to government representa-tives, influential figures from the private health-care sector will also attend. Given the scale of participation, arrangements have been made to live-stream the session in two additional halls. Medical students from distant districts, including North Bengal, are arriving in buses to attend the event.

To accommodate the influx students,

made at YuvaBharatiKrirangan (Salt Lake Stadium). Meanwhile, the State Grievance Cell has reportedly hinted at the inclusion of messages from Sudipta Roy, Sushanta Roy, and Ab-hikDey. Entry passes have been distributed exten-sively, with North Bengal Medical College, Burd-wan, Kalyani JNM, and Diamond Harbour Medical College receiving the highest allocations. College-wise Entry

Pass Distribution:SSKM Hospital: 10, Calcutta Medical College: 70, NRS Medical College: 25, RG Kar Medical College: 25, CNMC: 25, Sagar Dutta Medical College: 75, Diamond Harbour Medical College: 220, Burdwan Medical College: 120, Kalyani JNM Medical College: 300 and North Bengal Medical College: 150

Yogiraj Roy, a member of the State Grievance Cell, stated, "We have gathered information from various locations and summarized it for discussion with the Chief Minister. Invitations have been extended to medical teachers, doctors, students, and service physicians. The total attendance is expected to range between 2,500 and 3,000."

With the state's healthcare system under scrutiny, Monday's meeting will be closely watched for potential policy decisions and assurances from the

Bengal govt cracks down on 'ghost voters' after CM's allegation MI News Service, Kolkata:

The West Bengal government has intensified its scrutiny of the state's voter list following Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's recent allegations in the Assembly. She accused the Election Commission of manipulating online registration, prompting the state administration to take imcorrective mediate measures. In response, Chief Secretary Manoj Pant has issued strict instructions to rectify irregularities in the electoral roll. District magistrates have also been directed to exercise heightened vigilance, leading to signifiadministrative cant activity and internal discussions.

A virtual meeting was convened by the Chief Secretary with district magistrates and secretaries from multiple departments to address the issue. Officials have been instructed to thoroughly verify voter applications before approval. If an unusually high number of applications emerge from a specific area, they must undergo re-evaluation. Furthermore, any government employee found complicit in creating fraudulent voter lists will face strict disciplinary action, including potential legal consequences. The

necessity of ensuring the integrity of the electoral process and eliminating any discrepancies.

Sources indicate that reports of fraudulent voter registrations have already surfaced in several districts. One of the most alarming incidents was detected in Champahati Panchayat, under Baruipur sub-division. During the scrutiny of the voter list, officials discovered a sharp and unexplained surge registered voters. In the last Lok Sabha election, the voter count in this panchayat stood between 18,500 and 19,000. However, the latest electoral data now reflects an increase to 22,400 voters. This drastic rise in such a short period has raised serious concerns and triggered widespread discussions within the administration. The discovery of such

anomalies has fuelled apprehensions about largescale voter fraud in the upcoming elections. Officials are now working to identify the root cause of these discrepancies and determine whether external forces were involved. The Chief Secretary's directive has placed district authorities on high alert, with additional layers of verification being introduced to prevent further

Second arrest made in Malda extortion case targeting TMC leader

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Malda district police have made a second arrest in connection with the extortion call made to Trinamool Congress leader and English Bazar Municipality chairman Krishnendu Narayan Chowdhury last week.

The latest arrest was made late on Saturday night. Police sources confirmed that the accused, WasimAkram, was responsible for supplying the SIM card used in the crime. The primary accused, Shahdat Sheikh, made the extortion call and later sent a threatening message to Chowdhury, falsely claiming to be Pradeep, an associate of D-Company. Shahdat Sheikh, a resident of Kaliachak in Malda district, was arrested earlier on Saturday afternoon. He was known to Chowdhury, and investigators found that the SIM card supplied by Akram was used to make the extortion call.

During interrogation, Sheikh admitted that he was burdened with heavy debt and saw this as an opportunity to extort money from Chowdhury. Commenting on the situation, Chowdhury said the threat call

was likely an attempt to create fear among Trinamool Congress leaders in Malda. "All this started after the

broad daylight murder of our party councillor from English Bazar Municipality last month. Attempts to spread panic among the party leadership in Malda district continue," he said.

Earlier on Saturday morning,

Trinamool Congress' Malda district president and MLA from Malatipur, Abdul Rahim Boxi, issued a strong warning to the police, demanding swift action. He stated that if the authorities failed to act, party workers would be forced to respond.

The investigation was triggered after Chowdhury filed a police complaint on Friday, stating that he received a threat call from an unknown number. The caller, claiming to be Pradeep from D-Company, demanded 20 lakh within 24 hours, threatening to eliminate his entire family if the amount was not paid.

Chowdhury had previously ignored two WhatsApp messages with similar threats, assuming them to be prank messages. However, after the direct call, he decided to approach the police.

The case has now gained significant political and security attention. with authorities intensifying efforts to uncover any larger network behind the

Alipore Zoo installs sanitary napkin vending machines for women visitors

MI News Service, Kolkata: Marking its 150th anniversary, Alipore Zoo has taken a significant step towards enhancing visitor facilities, particularly for women. As part of this initiative, the zoo has installed four sanitary napkin vending machines inside its premises, allowing visitors to purchase napkins for 5 each. This moveaims to provide immediate relief to women who may require sanitary products while exploring the expansive zoo grounds. The authorities have hinted that more machines may be added in the future, considering the growing footfall. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Forest Minister BirbahaHansda have both expressed their appreciation for this step, acknowledging its importance in ensuring visitor comfort. Established in 1876, Alipore Zoo has continually evolved to meet modern standards. Over the decades, it has become a popular attraction not only for Kolkata residents but also for visitors from far-off districts. A significant number of these visitors are women, many of whom visit during their menstrual cycle or may experience an unexpected period while at the zoo. Until now, acquiring sanitary napkins within a 1.5-kilometer radius of the zoo was nearly impossible, leading to distress for many. A senior zoo official, speaking on condition of anonymity, revealed that several women visitors had requested sanitary napkins during peak seasons, but the authorities were unable to provide them. Previously, small roadside stalls outside the zoo sold napkins, but their disappearance left visitors in a bind. Recognizing this issue, the authorities decided to install vending machines within the zoo premises to ensure easy accessibility. A private company partnered with the zoo to install the four vending machines in washrooms across the premises. There are also plans to extend this facility to female staff working within the zoo. Ensuring that quality sanitary napkins are available at an affordable price required extensive discussions, but the authorities successfully implemented the initiative without compromising on hygiene standards A senior zoo official remarked, "If the government can provide eggs and rice for 5, why can't we offer sanitary napkins at the same price? Visitor service is our priority.' Zoo Associate Director Soumen Mandal reaffirmed that every effort is being made to enhance visitor experience, ensuring no Inconvenience.

Forest Minister BirbahaHansda, reflecting on the initiative, noted, "Our Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has a vision to provide all necessary services to the people of West Bengal. We are committed to ensuring that visitors to the zoo, especially women, do not face any discomfort." As a woman herself, she acknowledged the importance of such facilities, stating, "Women often visit the zoo with families and children, and menstrual hygiene is a critical issue. Addressing this concern is our responsibility, and we will continue to improve visitor

According to zoo sources, Alipore Zoo witnesses a massive influx of visitors each year, particularly during peak seasons. In December 2023, over 812,236 people visited the zoo, and in December 2024, that number surged to 1,033,800—an increase of over 220,000 visitors.

Uncertain future for orphaned minor in Tangra murder case MI News Service, Kolkata: the unfolding investigation

The custody of the 14-yearold boy, the lone surviving minor in the Tangra triple murder case, remains uncertain as police and authorities deliberate on the next course of action. His father, PranayDey, and uncle, PrasunDey, both critically injured in a highspeed car crash, are under police surveillance. With his mother murdered and his father facing legal scrutiny, concerns have grown over the boy's immediate future and welfare. On February 19, three women from the Dey family—Sudeshna, Romi, and 14-year-old Priyamvada were found dead in their home, allegedly victims of murder and poisoning. Hours later, Pranay and Prasun crashed their car into a truck in an apparent suicide attempt. While both sustained severe injuries, Pranay's son survived, adding a new dimension to

Initially, police believed the family had entered into a suicide pact due to financial distress linked to their tannery business. However, autopsy findings contradicted these claims, confirming that the women were murdered. With the investigation shifting focus towards the Dey brothers, authorities are now grappling with what to do with the surviving minor.

Sources reveal that Pranay's son remains in a private hospital, where he was scheduled for discharge. However, in the absence of relatives willing to take custody, the formalities could not be completed. Additionally, police, unable to secure a safe environment, have delayed his release. While a family friend, a lawyer, initially showed interest in his welfare, no legal guardian has yet stepped forward to claim responsibility.

Eastern Railway's Asansol division conducts

food handling training, health camp &

NAME CHANGE

I, Sri Om Prakash Mishra, S/o Sri Ramnath Mishra, residing at 59 Ghoshpara Road, Ghushi Para, Barrackpore, P.O.-Barrackpore, P.S. Titagarh, North 24 Parganas-700120, do hereby declare that My Son Bhuvanesh Mishra and Udit Mishra both are the same and one identical person vide affidavit no. 903531 dated 21.11.2024 before the Ld. 1st class Metropolitan Magistrate at Barrackpore Court.

NAME CHANGE

I, Rangeneni Swathi, D/O Kotla Ranga Rao, W/O Sgt R Neeraj Kumar R/O Hyderabad presently residing at AFS station Kalaikunda, P.S- Kharagpur (L), Dist-Paschim Medinipur declare vide affidavit NO. 428/25 on 10.02.25. before Notary at Midnapore that I have changed my name from Rangeneni Swathi to Kotla Swathi. Rangeneni Swathi & Kotla Swathi both are same one & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

Md. Ekbal S/o Abdul Rauf Residing at F.G. Street Telinipara, P.O.-Telinipara, P.S-Bhadreshwar, Dist-Hooghly, W.B. My Son actual name is Hamza Iqbal instead of MD Arhan Ansari before the Ld. 1st Class judicial Magistrate, at chandannagar. on 15/02/25.Hamza Iqbal and MD Arhan Ansari both are the same & one identical

Affidavit

I, Sunil Kumar Gujrati, son of Bithal Das Gujrati, by faith Hindu, residing at 128, Hazra Road, Kalighat, Kolkata-700026 do hereby declare and affirm before Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Alipore on 20 september 2024 that 1.My actual spelling of my name/surname is Sunil Kumar Gujrati as per my Voter Id. no.HZG0372920 Aadhaar no. 7659 3494 1191, and Pan no.AMEPG05120.

2. I am holding Indian passpor no.H2585867 wherein my father's name/ surname, mother's name/surname and my lwife's name/surnnme is recorded as: Father: Late Bithal Das Gujarati Mother: Tara Devi Guiarati Wife : Shobhana Gujarati which should be rectified.

3. My actual name Sunil Kumar Gujrati and Sunil Kumar Gujarati is one and same lidentical person.

4. My father late Bithal Das Gujrati and Bithal Das Gujarati was one and same person. My mother Tara Devi Gujrati and Tara Devi Gujarati is one and same person and my wife Shobhana Gujrati and Shobhana Gujarati is one and same lidentical person.

5. My actual date of birth is 21.7.1963 as per Pan, Aadhaar. The statements made above are true to my knowledge.

NAME CHANGE Champa Bhowmik (Old Name) wife or Subhas Chandra Bhowmick residing at 32 Middle Road Kali Mandir, P.O.- Santoshpu Kolkata- 700075, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Champa Bhaumik (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/02/2025. Champa Bhaumik (New Name) and Champa Bhowmik (Old Name) both are same and

NAME CHANGE

Subhas Bhowmik (Old Name) son o Mohini Mohan Bhowmick residing at Flat-F6, Block-A, 6th floor, Progressive Paradise, 1601, Kalitala Road, Rajpur Sonarpur (M), P.O.- Garia, Dist-South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700084, West Bengal INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhas Chandra before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/02/2025. Subhas Chandra Bhowmick (New Name) and Subhas Bhowmik (Old Name) both are same and identical person

NAME CHANGE

I, Dipankar Kumar Saha (Old Name) son of Nirmal Kumar Saha, residing at 63/4, B.T. Road, Near B.T. Road and Tobin Road Crossing , Baranagar, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700090, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dipankar Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/02/2025 Dipankar Saha (New Name) and Dipankar Kumar Saha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

, Ankit laddha (Old Name) son of Manoj ladha (father) and Sangita ladha (mother), residing at 2/6 Vidyasagar Colony Baghajatin, Kolkata-700086, West Bengal INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ankit ladha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/02/2025, Ankit ladha (New Name) and Ankit laddha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

, Shib Prasad Bhakta (Old Name), son of Sitikantha Bhakta, residing at Kamargeria, Harinagar, Paschim Medinipur, Bengal - 721232, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shiba Prasad Bhakta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 20/02/2025. Shiba Prasad (New Name) and Shib Prasad Bhakta (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

Atar Gazi (Old Name) son of Arsaf Ali Gazi, residing at Vill. Baikara, P.O.-Arbalia, P.S.-Baduria, Dist.-North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743437, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Atar Ali Gazi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/02/2025. Atar Ali Gazi (New Name) and Atar Gazi (Old Name) both are same and identical person

NAME CHANGE

Mohammed Adil (Old Name) son Mohammed Samim, residing at 70/H/5, Dr. Sudhir Bose Road, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Adil (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/02/2025. Md Adil (New Name) and Mohammed Adil (Old Name) both are same and identical person.



The blood donation camp was organized by Rishra Bayam Samiti at Ward No. 9. Local MLA Dr. Sudipto Roy, Rishra Municipality Chairman Vijay Sagar Mishra, Rishra Town Trinamool Congress President Manoj Shaw and others were invited to the event.

Malda Division Commissions Double Distant Signals from Bonidanga to Gour Malda

MI News Service, Hooghly: Malda Division of Eastern Railway has successfully commissioned double distant signals from Bonidanga to Gour Malda as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance rail infrastructure and improve train operations. This significant upgrade is a crucial step towards enabling trains to run at speeds of up to 130 kmph while ensuring enhanced safety, efficiency, and passenger convenience. The Signal & Telecommu-

nication (S&T) Department of Malda Division played a pivotal role in the successful implementation of this advanced signalling system. The double distant signalling system enhances high-speed train operations by providing an additional pre-warning to locomotive pilots about upcoming signals. This advance alert system allows train operators to anticipate signal aspects well in advance, ensuring precise control over train speed and braking distances. As a result, the risk of sudden halts and emergency braking is minimized, significantly enhancing operational

safety and efficiency. With the planned increase in train speeds and haulage



capacity for both passenger and goods trains, the existing signal spacing was found to require further enhancement. The introduction of double distant signals addresses this challenge by giving loco pilots additional time to react appropriately, ensuring safer and more efficient train movement. This upgrade not only facilitates high-speed travel but also aligns with our broader vision of modernizing railway infrastructure for a better

The S&T Department, under the leadership of dedicated railway engineers and technical experts, ensured the seamless execution of this project. Their expertise in signal planning, instal-lation, and testing played a crucial role in achieving this milestone within the planned timeframe. The introduction of this advanced signalling technology reflects Indian Railways' commitment to safety, innovation, and progress. By reducing signal-related un-certainties and enhancing situational awareness for train operators, the system contributes significantly to passenger safety and travel comfort. Additionally, it ensures seamless movement of freight trains, boosting economic growth by enabling faster and more reliable goods transportation.

Upgrading the signalling system is a pivotal step to-wards facilitating faster and safer train operations. As Indian Railways moves towards a future of high-speed express trains, Malda Division remains steadfast in its commitment to technological

From 2100 hrs to 2200

04082 departed at

From 2200 hrs to 2300

hrs, 2662 tickets were

hrs, 1689 tickets were

sold, Train 04084 depart-

Mahakumbh: The in-

2158 hrs.

ed at 2315 hrs.

Monitoring the ticket sales on hourly basis, Railway operated 5 Unreserved trains to Prayag from NDLS on Saturday evening

MI News Service, New **Delhi:** During the evening hours on Saturday, Railway operated 5 Unreserved trains to Prayag from the New Delhi station, catering to the surge in crowds for the weekend. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishanaw instructed CRB and GMs of NR, NCR and NER to monitor crowd and ticket sales. Based on real time monitoring, Northern Railway planned special trains. Similarly NCR and NER planned special trains from Prayag raj, Jhushi and Naini. Contin-

sales and crowd is being

NAME CHANGE

, Uttam Dutta S/O- Matilal Dutta resident of Vill-Baranilpur Suhrid Pally, P.O.- Sripally,

P.S.-Burdwan. Dist- Purba Bardhaman.

West Bengal, PIN-713101, have changed

my name and shall henceforth be known

aś 'UTTAM KUMAR DUTTA' vide ar

affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba

Bardhaman on 11/02/2025. That Uttam

Dutta and Uttam Kumar Dutta both are

NAME CHANGE

I, Tapan Kundu S/O- Banshi Bata Kundu resident of Vill-Betai, P.O.- Betai, P.S.-

Tehatta, Dist- Nadia, West Bengal, PIN-

741163, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as 'TAPAN KUMAR

KUNDU' vide an affidavit before the Notary

Public at Purba Bardhaman on 13/02/2025

That Tapan Kundu and Tapan Kumar Kundu

NAME CHANGE

Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN-

713146, have changed my name and shall

ISLAM' vide an affidavit before the Notary

Public at Purba Bardhaman on 21/02/2025

both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

(Old Name) And Rijia Begam Khatun (New

Name) All Are The Same And One Identical

both are same and one identical person

identical person.

Isame and one identical person.

done at the highest level. On saturday, during the evening hours, ticket sales for Prayagraj were higher than the normal.

From 1800 hrs to 1900 hrs, 2375 tickets were sold for Prayagraj.Considering the demand, Unreserved trains for Prayag were operated on an hourly basis. Train No. 0470 depart-

hrs, 2950 tickets were sold. Train No. 04074 departed at 2000 nrs.

From 2000 hrs to 2100 hrs, 3429 tickets were uous monitoring of ticket sold, Train 04080 depart-

ed at 1900 hrs. From 1900 hrs to 2000

creased train service was in response to the large number of pilgrims traveling to Prayag for the Mahakumbh 2025

Convenience: an Railways is making constant emorts provide convenient

options pilgrims visiting the Ma-

Executive health check up camp organised at Riviera in Howrah division



I , Fajlul Haque Mallick @ Fazul Haque Mallick S/O- Bahadur Mallick resident News Kolkata: In a significant of Vill-Khano Molla Para, P.O.- Khano, P.S.-Galsi, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West initiative aimed at ensur-Bengal, PIN-713141, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known ing comprehensive health care for Railway beneas 'FAZLUL HAQUE MALLICK' vide an ficiaries, the Divisional affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Railway Hospital, How-Bardhaman on 13/02/2025. That Failul rah, successfully orga-Hague Mallick , Fazul Hague Mallick and nized an Executive Health Fazlul Haque Mallick all are same and one Check-Up Camp today at Riviera. Under the expert NAME CHANGE guidance of Chief Medical , SK Najrul Islam S/O- Abdul Gafur SK @ Sekh Gaphur @ Sekh Abdul Gafur @ Superintendent Dr. Debasish Guha, a dedicated Abdul Gafur resident of Vill-Hetampur, team of doctors and para-Chotkhanda, P.S.-Memari, medical staff delivered

henceforth be known as 'SEKH NAJRUL The health camp featured an extensive ar-That SK Najrul Islam and Sekh Najrul Islam ray of services, including comprehensive routine and special blood tests, PAP smears, ECG assess-I,Rijia Begum (Old Name), W/O Md Aminul Haque, Residing At Vill-Moyna, Pojaugram, ments, and registration for mammography. This Ps-Jamalpur, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, Pininitiative underscores the 713166. West Bengal, I Have Changed commitment of the Rail-My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known way administration to Aś Rijia Begam Khatun (New Name) As prioritize the health and Declared Before The Notary Public At Bardhaman On 19/02/2025. Rijia Begum wellbeing of its employees

high-quality health ser-

vices to attendees.

and their families. Divisional Manager, Howrah, along

with other senior officers and their spouses, participated in the health checkup, taking advantage of the opportunity to assess their health comprehensively. The event not only catered to health assessments but also promoted awareness about preventive healthcare measures.

The Divisional Railway Hospital at Howrah continues to explore and implement health initiatives to foster a healthier future for its employees and their families, reinforcing the importance of proactive healthcare measures in the workplace.

Rescheduling of 12361 Asansol - Mumbai **CSMT** express due to operational constraints

News Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Asansol Division has rescheduled the departure of Train No. 12361 Asansol - Mumbai CSMT Express due to operational constraints. The train, originally scheduled to depart from Asansol at 19:40 hrs on 23rd February 2025, will now leave at 07:00 hrs on 24th February 2025. Passengers are requested to take note of this change and plan their journey accordingy. Inconvenience caused is deeply regretted.

Metro staff help an indisposed lady passenger

News Kolkata: On-duty Metro staff and RPF personnel have once again come forward to help an indisposed lady commuter in the Metro premises during peak hours at the right time. On 22.02.2025 at about 17.35 hrs., a lady commuter aged around 30 years suddenly started feeling unwell inside a Metro and got down at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Station. Her husband, who was accompanying her, sought help from the station staff and RPF personnel to attend her.

They immediately rushed to her help. Considering the seriousness of the situation, she was brought to the Station Master's Office in a stretcher and given first-aid. She was later sent to M. R. Bangur Hospital with her husband. RPF personnel and station staff also accompanied them to the hospital.

She and her husband exoressed heartfelt gratitude for the kind and timely help rendered by the station staff of Metro Railway.

Train services partially affected between **Deulti and Kolaghat**

News Kolkata: Train services of South Eastern Railway were affected due to public agitation between Deulti and Kolaghat stations of Kharagpur Division from 10.00 hrs on 23.02.2025. Some Mail/Express and EMU trains were affected due to the agitation. Later the agitation was withdrawn at 12.45 hrs.

Protesters have blocked all three railway lines, demanding the reopening of the trespassing location at KM52/17 between Deulti and Kolaghat stations. This location was closed by the railway authority to ensure the safety of local people, given the high-speed trains passing at 130 kmpn. There is also availability of alternative crossing options nearby. Railways have requested the civil authority to cooperate and help regarding closing of unauthorised trespassing for public safety.

Rapid renovation of Kanchenjungha Stadium MI News Service, Siliguri:

The renovation of Kanchenjungha Stadium in Siliguri is moving forward at a fast pace, with significant structural changes underway. Recently, Mayor Gautam Deb conducted an inspection of the ongoing work, accompanied by Deputy Mayor Ranjan Sarkar, MMIC Dilip Barman, and other senior officials. The project aims to modernize the stadium while enhancing its facilities for athletes, officials, and visitors alike.

According to reports, the eastern section of the stadium, previously housing the SMKP office, is undergoing a complete demolition and reconstruction. This revamp is part of a comprehensive development plan that seeks to improve the overall infrastructure of one of North Bengal's most important sports venues.

psychologist's counseling for Railway staff

Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Asansol Division has recently undertaken a series of initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of its employees, ensuring food safety standards, and supporting mental health among Railway staff.

On 20th February 2025, a comprehensive food handling training was conducted for food handling staff on board train no. 12019 Howrah -Ranchi Shatabdi Express. The session was led by Mr. A.K. Paria, Food Safety Officer/ER/Asansol. A total of 17 food handling staff, including Manager Md. Iltaf Alam, participated in the programme. The training focused on the importance of food quality and hygiene, offering detailed guidance on maintaining proper standards for safe food handling. The session also included an interactive Q&A session and a Power-Point presentation using a tablet to explain key concepts in food safety.

On the same day, a Multipurpose Health Drive was organized by the Divisional Railway Hospital at the Zonal Training Institute, Bhuli. This health camp was a significant success, with approximately 167 employees, retired staff, and their beneficiaries benefiting from various health services. Dr. Rajani Sinha, the Doctor-in-charge of Health & Family Welfare, Asansol Divi-

sion, alongside other medical professionals including Dr. S. Bhattacharyya, Dr. Shubhra Biswas, Dr. Swati Mandal, and several other esteemed guests, played a pivotal role in making this event a success. The health camp provided a range of services aimed at promoting well-being, and the Divisional Railway Hospital is committed to hosting similar health initiatives in

In an effort to address the mental health needs of Railway staff, the Asansol Division has introduced a phasewise counseling programme for Motormen, with the first session held on 12th February 2025. A total of 15 Motormen participated in the first session at the Crew Lobby of Asansol, where they received counseling from Mr. Soumen Mondal, an experienced M.A. Psychologist. This initiative aims to support the mental health of Railway staff, particularly Motormen, and will continue to be rolled out across future sessions.

The Asansol Division remains committed to the welfare of its employees and will continue to implement health, safety, and mental health programs in order to provide a safe and supportive work en-

RPF Howrah seizes foreign currency worth over ₹2.6 crore under operation "Satark"

Kolkata: In a major breakthrough against illegal trans-portation of contraband items and criminal activities, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) conducted a successful raid at Howrah Railway Station, leading to the seizure of foreign currency worth over ₹2.6 crore.

Acting on intelligence inputs, a special operation was carried out by a team comprising ASI Ajay Turi and Constable Supriyo Jash of RPF/CIB/Howrah, along with D. Mandal of RPF Howrah Post, under the supervision of Sri Ravi Yadav, IPF/CIB/ Howrah.

During the operation, RPF personnel closely monitored Train No. 12024 DN (Patna-Howrah Jan Shatabdi Express), which arrived at Howrah Railway Station at approximately 13:35 hrs. During surveillance, Constable Supriyo Jash noticed a suspicious individual carrying a backpack and moving towards Platform No. 08. The team followed and detained the individual for question-

licensed coolie, Jay Prakash Ray, was called as an independent witness. Upon searching the suspect's



Saudi Riyal 52,500 and Singapore Dollars 600 foreign currencies were recovered. The total value of the recovered foreign currency in Indian rupees is estimated to be ₹2,60,99,900/- (Two Crore Sixty Lakh Ninety-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred

The detained individual identified himself as Hemant Kumar Pandey (50), S/o Late Ramsamjh Pandey, a resident of Bansgaon, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. Upon questioning, he failed to provide any valid documentation or legal authorization for carrying such a large amount of foreign currency. Initially, he attempted to mislead the network. Such operations officials but later admitted reinforce its dedication to that he was transporting the maintaining the integrity and

the competent authorities, the matter was immediately reported to the Customs P&I Branch, Custom House, Kolkata, and the IC/GRPS/ Howrah for further legal proceedings. After completng all necessary legal formalities, the seized foreign currency and the detained individual were handed over to the Inspector of Customs, P&I Branch, Custom House, Kolkata for further investi-

Eastern Railway, through its vigilant RPF personnel, remains committed to curbing illegal activities and ensuring security across its cash from Gorakhpur to Park safety of railway premises.

Balagarh Marathon 2025 More than five hundred people participated besides SP



News Service, Hooghly: A 10 km mini marathon was organized by Balagarh Police Station of Hooghly Rural District Police on Sunday, February 23, at 8

The 10 km marathon was inaugurated by the Honorable SP of Hooghly Rural District Police, Kamnashis Sen, IPS, from the ground adjacent to the Mukhtar pur railway

Additional SP Kalyan Sarkar was present. DSP D&T Pirybararta Bak-

shi, DSP Crime Abhijit Sinha Mahapatra, CI Magra,

IC Mogra and OC of Balagarh Police Station Somdev Patra along with several police officials and members of the marathon committee.

different parts of the state participated in this marathon. Honorable SP Sir Shri Kamnashis Sen, IPS and other police personnel participated in this extraordinary marathon.

The finishing line of the marathon was at Balagarh Police Station where the winners were felicitated on a well decorated stage and prizes were also given away.

Subhashish Ghosh of Kakdwip secured the first position in this marathon. Amal Mahto of Shalboni secured the second position and Utpal Mandal of Pandu secured the third position.

ASI Arvind Das of Balagarh Police Station took care of all the responsibilities of this marathon. The entire population of Balagarh expressed happiness by participating in this colorful marathon.





People suffering from various ailments endure endless hardships. To alleviate their pain, #Sebaashray has reached out to them as a blessing! Upon meeting MP Abhishek Banerjee, they shared their struggles with him. In return, he assured them of all necessary support.



Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) National President and Union Minister JP Nadda meets Delhi Chief

61 Heads of Missions to witness mega Jhumoir in Guwahati, along with PM Modi; Check why Assam is showcasing it to the world News Service, wrote on X, as he explained on LED screens or through

Guwahati: Assam is gearing up to showcase its vibrant tea garden community to the world. 61 Heads of Missions, dignitaries, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will witness the mega Jhumoir event in Guwahati.

But why is Assam showcasing this folk dance to the world? The mega Jhumoir event is part of a larger celebration, which includes the Advantage Assam 2.0 sum-

The event will feature over 8,000 Jhumoir artists from across Assam, performing at Guwahati's Sarusajai Stadium. The state government will also provide financial support to the artists and tea gardens to promote the dance form.

The chief minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, confirmed at a press conference on Sunday the total number of Heads of Missions who will be in Guwahati for these two events.

They will land at Jorhat airport this evening and then travel to Kaziranga National Park. On Monday morning, they will enjoy the flora and fauna of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is located in the upper Assam districts, some 250 kilometres from the state capital city of Guwahati.

The idea behind taking the heads of missions to Kaziranga was to promote Assam's immense tourism potential.

From Kaziranga, they will Monday evening and the Advantage Assam 2.0 summit starting Tuesday. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has facilitated this visit of the Heads of Missions.

Jhumoir is an integral part of Assam's tea garden workers and Adivasi community, and its origins date back to the early 19th century when tea plantations were established in the region.

The dance form was a way for workers to express joy and camaraderie after a long day of laborious work in the tea gardens. Today, Jhumoir is synonymous with the identity of Assam's vibrant tea

community. "...do you know it has a connection to your cup of

Singh Dhami on Sunday

prayed to the world-famous

Mahasu Maharaj and Ba-

shik Maharaj Mahendrath

located in Hanol and wished

On this occasion, he visit-

ed the temple, met the lo-

cal people, and took feed-

back on the development

schemes being run by the

state.

prosperity, progress,

development in the

Minister Pushkar

the dance form and why his government is showcasing this folk dance to the world

The Assam government is celebrating the state's tea industry, which has turned 200 years old. The industry provides livelihoods to millions and is renowned globally for its richly coloured and aro-

As the chief minister put it in his X timeline, the origins of Jhumoir began as an expression of joy and camaraderie after a long day of laborious back-breaking work in tea gardens.

What was once meant to uplift the spirits of workers is now synonymous with the identity of our vibrant Chai Samuday," he wrote.

This energetic dance is performed by both men and women who are dressed in traditional ornaments like sitapati, hasuli, jhumka, chandhar and payeri. Its catchy accompanying music comes from dhol, madal, dhamsa and bamboo flute.

"Assam's tea community has long been trapped in poverty and neglect. Generations after generations have not escaped this cycle of tough labour work. We want to end this and celebrate their glorious culture in a way not seen before," Chief Minister Sar-

ma further wrote. To uplift the socio-economic conditions of tea garden workers, the state government is building new schools move towards Guwahati to and roads and providing afattend the Jhumoir event on firmative action in colleges

and recruitment. "...we are leaving no stone unturned to ensure that their next generation becomes doctors, engineers and civil servants," the chief minister concluded.

Assam's rich cultural heritage is not limited to Jhumoir. The state government has organized similar mega-dance event -- a Bihu performance that entered the Guinness World Record in 2023. Next, they plan to showcase the Bagurumba dance, a traditional dance form of the Bodo community.

Over 11,000 artists performed Bihu in the presence of the prime minister. This time, arrangements are being made to ensure that the tea," Chief Minister Sarma mega Jhumur is broadcast sam tea gardens.

Dhami prays at Mahasu Maharaj temple

MI News Service, Hanol: state government, accord- Bashik Maharaj in the Ma-

The Chief Minister also

took suggestions from the

local villagers regarding

the reconstruction of the

Mahasu Maharaj temple

complex. He said that the

temple will be redeveloped

in accordance with the sen-

timents of the local people.

observed the temple master

plan layout of Mahasu Ma-

The Chief Minister also

haraj, Pavasi Maharaj, and statement.

ing to the official statement. hasu temple complex. He

other modes at all 800 big tea estates across the state so that the village folks can witness this historic event.

Over 8,000 Jhumoir artists will demonstrate their folk dance form at Guwahati's Sarusajai Stadium. These artists have been drawn from all the tea-growing districts of Assam. Initially, they had rehearsal sessions at the Assembly Constituency level, then the District, and finally at the Guwahati venue for the past three days.

Following the review of preparations at Sarusajai the chief minister yesterday announced that his government will provide Rs 25,000 to each artist and an additional Rs 25,000 for every tea garden to procure Jhu-moir-related articles and instruments.

The tea community in Assam, which comprises a sizeable portion of the state's population, plays a critical role in dozens of Assembly constituencies.

Assam produces nearly 700 million kg of tea annually, accounting for around half of India's overall tea produc-

Assam is celebrating the plantation industry's reaching a crucial milestone of 200 years. Tea estates around plantations, hitherto unexplored and unpicked, in the state's upper reaches first came to be established in

Renowned globally for its richly coloured and aromatic tea, Assam's tea industry, wnich is the country's larg est, provides livelihoods to millions, with many others directly or indirectly dependent on the plantations. The state is famed for both Orthodox as well as the CTC (Crush, Tear, Curl) varieties

of tea. In 1823, Robert Bruce discovered wild tea plants growing in the upper Brahmaputra Valley. Subsequently, the government started a tea garden in the erstwhile Lakhimpur district in 1833.

India as a whole contributes 23 per cent to the global tea output and employs around 1.2 million workers in the tea plantation sector. 50 per cent of what India contributes comes from As-

said that we have to make

the complex of Mahasu Ma-

haraj grand and divine so

that devotees from all over

the country can easily reach

Mahasu Devta is a promi-

nent centre of our faith. It is

also our duty to convey the

glory of Mahasu Maharaj

to the people, he said in a

He said that the temple of

it in the future.

"BJP's agenda is to transform Delhi into developed capital": Virendraa Sachdeva

News Service, New Delhi: As the party meeting concludes before the commencement of the assembly session, Delhi Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president Virendraa Sachdeva on Sunday said that the ruling party was working with an agenda to transform the national capital into a developed

Talking about the par-ty meeting held today, he said that the BJP MLAs gave inputs regarding carrying out development works in their constituen-

cies to assist people.

"Tomorrow, the Delhi assembly session will commence. BJP MLAs often meet before the assembly session starts. We met with the Delhi Chief Minister, the entire cabinet, and party MLAs.



Our government is working only on one agenda: to transform Delhi into a developed capital. In today's meeting, all par-ticipants gave inputs on how to progress with development works in their areas, to assist people. We need to move in this direction," Sachdeva told reporters during a press conference.

In a veiled attack against the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), Sachdeva said that the BJP govern-ment's work will shun those who "looted Delhi". Highlighting the efforts the newly appointed cab-inet is taking, he added that the government will focus on completing unfinished works in the na-

tional capital. After today's meeting, it is clear that our govern-ment in Delhi will finish (the incomplete works). You have seen that our ministers, including the Chief Minister, have taken stock of the works in the last four days. It is our responsibility to fulfil people's expectations. Along with this, our work vill also shun those who looted Delhi.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal congratulated former Chief Minister Atishi for being elected as the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi legislative assembly. Atishi was chosen as the LoP at a meeting of AAP MLAs. Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai made the announcement at a press briefing after the meeting.

The assembly session will commence on February 24. CM Gupta will move a motion to elect BJP MLA Vijender Gupta as the speaker of the legislative assembly. According to the List of Business, BJP MLA Manjinder Singh Sirsa will second the motion.

In the meantime, Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena appointed BJP leader Arvinder Singh Lovely as the protem speaker.

The election of the legislative assembly speaker will be held at 2:00 PM, while the newly elected MLAs will participate in the oath-taking ceremony at 11:00 in the morning.

According to the Del-hi assembly bulletin, LG Saxena will address the assembly on February 25, after which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports will be tabled. Later in the day, the assembly will be open for motion of thanks at LG's address.

According to the Delhi assembly bulletin, LG Saxena will address the assembly on February 25, after which the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports will be tabled. Later in the day, the assembly will be open for motion of thanks at LG's



The 2ND Edition of French Film Festival inauguration at Nandan, Kolkata on Sunday

AAP ran honest government, Delhi budget increased by 2.5 times : Atishi

Delhi: Former Delhi Chief Minister Atishi on Sunday said that Delhi's budget increased by more than 2.5 per cent during the AAP rule and challenged the BJP to name any of the states ruled by it where the government's budget has increased by 2. 5 per cent

Atishi said people of Del-hi experienced an "honest" government under the leadership of Arvind Kejri-

wal for ten years.
"... In 2015, when the AAP government was AAP government was formed in Delhi, the national capital's total budget was only Rs 30,000 crore. For 10 years, AAP ran an honest government in Del-hi under the leadership sion of the Legislative As-public," he said.

the year 2024-25, Delhi's budget increased from Rs 30,000 crore to Rs 77000 crore, i.e, increased by more than 2.5 times in 10 years ...," Atishi told reporters here. "The Budget of Delhi is

made up from its own revenue, GST...Delhi does not get a penny from the Central government. I challenge the BJP to name any one of their ruled -states where their government's budget has increased by 2. 5 per cent. There is not a single government of the

BJP," the AAP leader said. BJP is set to table the CAG report in the Delhi assembly on February 25

session of assembly under BJP government.

Party leader Vijender Gupta said that tabling the CAG report is the foremost agenda item of the government, as decided in the cabinet meeting held on Thursday.

The session will continue till February 27.

BJP leader and Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa attacked AAP, saying CAG reports mention irregularities in the liquor policy of the previous government.

The CAG report was withheld for the last three years. They (AAP government) did not want to bring

second the motion.

tenant

Kumar

speaker.

In the meantime, Lieu-

ed BJP leader Arvinder

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According to the Delhi

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Governor Vinai

Saxena appoint-

Mela devotees: 1 pair unreserved special

train to run between **Asansol & Jhusi**

Railways' bonanza

for Maha Kumbh

News Kolkata: The Maha Kumbh Mela, a once-in-12-years celestial event, holds immense spiritual and cultural significance for millions of devotees from across the globe. Recognized as the largest human congregation on Earth, the Maha Kumbh is a celebration of faith, devotion, and tradition. To ensure seamless travel and accommodate the massive influx of pilgrims attending this grand spiritual gathering, Railway is delighted to announce the operation of 01 pair of Unreserved Kumbh . Mela Special train which will run between Asansol and Jhusi. This initiative will provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel options for devotees embarking on their sacred

journey. 03513 Asansol - Jhu-Unreserved Kumbh Mela Special will leave Asansol at 20:00 hrs. on 23.02.2025, and 03514 Jhusi - Asansol Unreserved Kumbh Mela Special will leave Jhusi on

The train will stop at Chittaranjan, Madnupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul Jn., Barauni Jn., Bachhwara Jn., Shahpur Patoree, Hajipur, Sonpur Jn., Chhapra Jn., Ballia, Ghazipur City, Aunrihar Jn., Varanasi Jn., Banaras and Gyanpur Road stations in both directions enroute. The train will have 18 unreserved general class coahes.

CAG reports to be tabled at assembly session, says Delhi CM

Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday announced that the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports would be tabled at the assembly session, which is scheduled to begin on February 24.

The Chief Minister accused the previous government of "misusing" peo-ple's "hard-earned" money and said that they would have to account for every penny.

"We remain true to the commitments we made for Delhi and they will be fulfilled," Gupta added.

thing is going to come. We said that we should put the CAG report on the House table in the first session. This is people's hard-earned money which the previous government misused. They will have to account for each penny before the people," CM Gupta said in a presser.

The Chief Minister stated that the assembly session would last three days and focus on initiating works for the people of Delhi.

"All the MLAs will take oath on the first session of the government of Delhi. Both the Speaker and Deputy Speaker will be elected. The protem speaker will also be sworn in tomor-

and this is a three-day ses- Manjinder Singh Sirsa will sion, where we will start with the works for people of Delhi, which comes under the purview of their rights," Gupta said.

Hitting out on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), the CM said, "People of Delhi have seen what they (AAP) are doing, what is their working style? What is their vision? In the last 12 years, Delhi has seen it. Our focus is on the people." Meanwhile, Delhi BJP

chief Virendraa Sachdeva assembly bulletin, LG Saxapprised about the party meeting held today, saying that the elected MLAs gave "The most important inputs regarding carrying out development works in their constituencies to assist people.

As this happened, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal congratulated former Chief Minister Atishi for being elected as the Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi legislative assembly. Atishi was chosen as the LoP at a meeting of AAP MLAs. Senior AAP leader Gopal Rai made the announcement at a press briefing after the meeting.

The assembly session will commence on February 24. CM Gupta will move a motion to elect BJP MLA Vijender Gupta as the speaker of the legislative assembly. According to the

row morning by the LG, List of Business, BJP MLA **BSF hosts 'Bordermen Marathon 2025'** with over 5200 participants

News Service, BSF Punjab Frontier organized 'Bordermen Marathon 2025' with the theme 'Hand in Hand with Border Population' in Amritsar on February 23.

As per a release from the Punjab Frontier BSF Jalandhar, a large number of professional and amateur runners from all across the country, including personnel from various Central Police Forces, Army, Punjab Police, civilians above 18 years (men and women), and athletes from foreign countries, took part in this mega event, which had three categories of races: full Marathon (42.195 Km), Half Marathon (21.097 Km),

and 10K Run. According to the release, "This Marathon is recognized by the Athletics Fed-

eration of India and the objective of this marathon is to foster the camaraderie between civilians and

of Satish S Khandare, IPS ADG BSF (WC), Dr Atul Ful-Sector Amritsar and other dignitaries. The DG BSF also subsequently flagged

the troops of BSF by propagating the spirit of fitness among the participants & spectators as well. The release noted, "The

Bordermen Marathon- 2025 was flagged off by Daljit Singh Chawdhary, IPS, DG BSF at the iconic Golden Gate, Amritsar, at 5.00 AM on Sunday in the presence zele, IPS, IG BSF Punjab and Sh S S Chandel, DIG BSF off 21 Km half marathon at 6.00 AM from War Memorial, Amritsar and 10K run at 6.30 AM from Lahorimal village, Amritsar,

thanks at LG's address. ।। বিজ্ঞপ্তি ।।

<u>আমমোক্তার নামা</u> সেখ সাজাহান পিতা মরহম **সেখ সামসের ওরফে সামসের** সাকিম আমড়া, দাদপুর, হগলী-৭১২১৪৯ মহাশয় বিগত ইং ১০/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখে ডি.এস.আর.-I, চুঁচুড়া, হগলী, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত I-7565/2023 নং আমমোক্তারনামা দলিলমুলে আমাকে (মহম্মদ হাফিজ মল্লিক ওরফে মহাঃ হাফিজ মল্লিক পিতা মরহুম দাউদ রহমান মল্লিক সাকিম আমড়া, দাদপুর, হুগলী-৭১২১৪৯) ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তার নিযক্ত করেন এবং উক্ত ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তারনামা বলে আমি নিম্নোক্ত তপশীল বর্ণিত ম্পত্তি বিগত ইং ১৪/০৮/২০২৩ তারিখে এ.ডি.এস.আর., চুঁচুড়া, হুগলী, অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রীকৃত I-'654/2023 নং বিক্রয় কোবালা দলিল মুলে **আব্দুর রহিম মল্লি**ক, পিতা মুহাঃ হাফিজ মল্লিক সাকিং আমডা. দাদপর, হুগলী-৭১২১৪৯ মহাশয়কৈ ১১৩ শতক সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করিয়াছি।

<u>চপশিল</u> - জেলা হুগলী, থানা দাদপুর, মৌজা আমড়া, ৩ নং জে. এল. ভুক্ত, হাল এল.আর. ৮৪০ ন তিয়ানে, ১)সাবেক ১০৮৭ তথা হাল ১৩১৯ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ৫৯ শতকের মধ্যে ০.০৯৫২ অংশে ০৫ শতক, ২)সাবেক ১২৭৩ তথা হাল ১৫৩৪ নং দাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ২ াতকের মধ্যে ০.১০৯৪ অংশে ০২ শতক, ৩)সাবেক ১৬৪১ তথা হাল ১৬৬৪ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ১৯ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৩ শতক, ৪)সাবেক ১৬২০ তথা হাল ১৬৭৫ নং নাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ২৩ শতকের মধ্যে ০.০৭৯৬ অংশে ০১ শতক, ৫)সাবেক ১৬১৫ তথ াল ১৬৮৪ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ২৮ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৫ শতক, ৬)সাবেক ১৬২৩ তথা হাল ১৬৮৫ নং দাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ১৪ শতকের মধ্যে ০.০৭৯৫ অংশে ০: ণতক, ৭)সাবেক ১৩৪৮ তথা হাল ১৭১২ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ০৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১০৯৪ অংশে ০১ শতক, ৮)সাবেক ১৩৫৮ তথা হাল ১৭২২ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ৩১ াতকের মধ্যে ০.২৫০০ অংশে ০৯ শতক, ৯)সাবেক ১৪৫৪ তথা হাল ১৮৪১ নং দাগে শালি জমি যোল আনায় ২৭ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১০৯৪ অংশে ০৩ শতক, ১০)সাবেক ১৫৫৫ তথা হাল ১৯৮০ নং াগে শালি জমি যোল আনায় ২২ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৪ শতক, ১১)সাবেক ১৫৭২ তথ হাল ১৯৯৮ নং দাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ১৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৩ শতক ১২)সাবেক ১৫৯৪ তথা হাল ২০২২ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ২১ শতকের মধ্যে ০.২১৮৮ মংশে ০৫ শতক, ১৩)সাবেক ১৫৮৩ তথা হাল ২০২৫ নং দাগে শালি জমি যোল আনায় ১৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০২ শতক. ১৪)সাবেক ১৬২৪ তথা হাল ২০৩১ নং দাগে শালি জমি যোল আনায় ১৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.২৫০০ অংশে ০৪ শতক, ১৫)সাবেক ২৬৩ তথা হাল ৩১৪ নং দাগে ণালি জমি ষোল আনায় ৪০ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১০৯৪ অংশে ০৫ শতক, ১৬)সাবেক ২৬৪ তথা হাল ৩১৫ নং দাগে শালি জমি যোল আনায় ৩৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১২৫০ অংশে ০৫ শতক. ১৭)সাবেক ৩২৫৩ তথা হাল ৩৩১৭ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ০৯ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০১ শতক, ১৮)সাবেক ৩৪৭৯ তথা হাল ৩৫৯১ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ২৬ শতকের মধ্যে ০.২৫০০ অংশে ০৬ শতক, ১৯)সাবেক ৩৫২৪ তথা হাল ৩৬৪৪ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ০ শতকের মধ্যে ০.২২২২ অংশে ০৫ শতক, ২০)সাবেক ৩৫৬৩ তথা হাল ৩৬৯২ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ৩৮ শতকের মধ্যে ০.২১৮৮ অংশে ০৯ শতক, ২১)সাবেক ৩৮০৩ তথা হাল ৩৯৭২ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ২৩ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৪ শতক, ২২)সাবেক ৩৮০২ তথা হাল ৩৯৯২ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ৩১ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৫ ণতক, ২৩)সাবেক ৩৮৩২ তথা হাল ৪০০৬ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায়ু ২৬ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৫ শতক. ২৪)সাবেক ৩৮৫৭ তথা হাল ৪০৩২ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনাঃ ১৯ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১২৫০ অংশে ০২ শতক, ২৫)সাবেক ৪২৯ তথা হাল ৫১০ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ৩২ শতকের মধ্যে ০.০৯৫২ অংশে ০৩ শতক, ২৬)সাবেক ৪৫৮ তথা হাল ৫১৮ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ২৬ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০৪ শতক, ২৭)সাবেক ৪৫১ তথ হাল ৫৩৫ নং দাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ০৯ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০২ শতক, ২৮)সাবেক ৪৫২ তথা হাল ৫৩৮ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ০৪ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ০১ শতক. ২৯)সাবেক ৪৫৩ তথা হাল ৫৪০ নং দাগে শুনা জমি যোল আনায় ১০ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১৫৯১ অংশে ২ শতক, ৩০)সাবেক ৪৬৪ তথা হাল ৫৫০ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ১৪ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১১১১ অংশে ০২ শতক. ৩১)সাবেক ৪৬৮/৫৫১ তথা হাল ৫৫১ নং দাগে শুনা জমি ষোল আনায় ১৪ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১১১১ অংশে ০২ শতক, ৩২)সাবেক ১২৩৯ তথা হাল ১৪৯৭ নং দাগে ভিটি ষাল আনায় ১৫ শতকের মধ্যে ০.১০৯৪ অংশে ০২ শতক, একুনে বত্রিশটি দাগে মোট ১১৩ শতক অত্র দলিলে আমমোক্তারনামা বলে বিক্রয়কত সম্পত্তি হইতেছে :

এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে, আব্দুর রহিম মল্লিক, পিতা মহাঃ হাফিজ মল্লিক তাহার উক্ত খরিদা সম্পত্তি নিজ নামে নাম পত্তন করিবার জন্য বি.এল এ্যান্ড এল.আর.ও পোলবা-দাদপুর, ব্লক অফিসে আবেদন করিতেছেন/করিয়াছেন। ইহাতে কাহারও কোন আইনানগ আপত্তি থাকিনে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার হইবার আগামী ১ মাসের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট অফিসে আপত্তি জানাইতে পারিবেন, অন্যথায় নিয়ম অনুসারে কার্য্য করা হইবে। ইতি- মহম্মদ হাফিজ মল্লিক ওরফে মহাঃ হাফিজ মল্লিক



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanth waves to the gathering during a program organised on the occasion of the 149th birth anniversary of Sant Gadge Maharaj during Mahakumbh, in Prayagraj on Sunday. BJP leader Rita Bahuguna Joshi, State Cabinet Minister Nand Gopal Gupta

MONDAY, KOLKATA, FEBRUARY 24, 2025

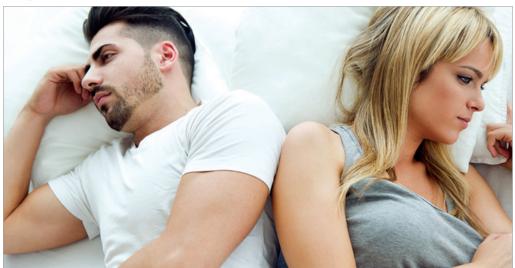
Leading Causes of Fertility Challenges in Males and Females

Fertility challenges are increasingly common in India, affecting a significant number of couples seeking to conceive. Understanding the leading causes of infertility is crucial for time-

ly intervention and treatment. "Fertility challenges can arise from various factors in both

males and females. In females, common causes include ovulation disorders, such as PCOS, blocked fallopian tubes, and endometriosis. For males, issues like low sperm count, poor sperm motility, and hormonal imbalances are primary contributors. Age, lifestyle factors like smoking or obesity, and underlying medical conditions can also affect fertility in both genders. Early diagnosis and targeted treatments are essential for addressing these challenges effectively," says Dr. SonaliMandalBandyopadhyay, an IVF specialist at Birla Fertility & IVF in Howrah. In females, sever-

al factors contribute to fertility



issues. Ovulation disorders, such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), are among the most prevalent. PCOS affects hormone levels and can disrupt regular

ovulation, making conception difficult. Other common causes include blocked fallopian tubes, often resulting from pelvic

ing grows outside the uterus, causing pain and fertility chalequally concerning. Key issues include low sperm count, poor and excessive alcohol consumption, are also detrimental to male reproductive health.

sperm motility, and hormonal imbalances, which can signifi-cantly impede fertility. Recent studies indicate that environmental factors, such as exposure to pollutants and chemicals, alongside lifestyle choices like smoking

Age is another critical factor affecting fertility in both genders. Women over 35 and men over 40 face declining fertility rates, with advanced age linked to decreased egg and sperm quality. Lifestyle factors such as obesity and sedentary behavior further exacerbate these challenges, as they can lead to hormonal changes that impact

reproductive capabilities. Recognizing the diverse causes of fertility issues can empower couples to seek appropriate medical assistance and improve their

to a study published today in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, bariatric surgery is more effective at controlling hypertension rates, or high blood pressure, in people with obesity and uncontrolled high blood pressure, than blood pressure medication alone. People who had bariatric

surgery had a lower BMI and were on fewer drugs after five years while maintaining normal blood pressure levels than those who solely used antihypertensive medications.

According to the CDC, the U.S. obesity and hypertension rates in adults are 41.9 per cent and 45.4 per cent, respectively.

Obesity is a proven risk factor for cardiovascular disease and a key contributor to high blood pressure, both of which can increase the chance of a heart attack, stroke, and heart

"In clinical practice, obesity is an overlooked condition. As a consequence, there is a frequent failure in approaching obesity as a crucial step for mitigating the risk of important cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension," said Carlos Aurelio Schiavon, MD, FACS, lead author of the study and a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery at Heart Hospital and BP Hospital in Sao

Researchers in this study looked at the impact of treating obesity to lower high blood pressure. While there are new medications to treat obesity, tion can be challenging.

This study looks at bariatric surgery as a better long-term solution to control obesity and, as a result, high blood pressure.

The GATEWAY trial included 100 people (76 per cent of which were female) who had a around 36.9 kg/m2. All participants had hypertension and were using at least two medica-

People with previous cardiovascular events and poorly con-

Weight loss surgery is more effective in controlling hypertension rates: Study



LOS ANGELES [US] : According trolled Type 2 diabetes were excluded. Subjects were assigned to either Roux-en-Y gastric bypass with medical therapy or medial therapy alone and the primary outcome was reduction of at least 30 per cent antihypertensive medications while maintaining blood pressure levels less than 140/90 mmHg at five years.

At five years, BMI was 28.01 Kg/m2 for those who received bariatric surgery and 36.40 Kg/m2 for those on medical therapy alone. People who had bariatric surgery had an 80.7 per cent reduction in the number of medications they were taking compared to a 13.7 per cent reduction in those only using medical therapy.

Hypertension remission, defined as controlled blood pressure without medications, was 46.9 per cent in those who underwent bariatric surgery compared to 2.4 per cent in those on medical therapy alone.

"Our results underscore the importance of approaching obesity in reducing hypertension rates," Schiavon said.

Limitations of the study included that it was a singlecentre, open-label study with a small sample size and there was loss of follow-up in some

In an accompanying editorial comment, Michael Hall, MD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the study provides important long-term data on the benefits of gastric bypass on weight pressure control, but questions

"Further studies assessing the threshold for bariatric surgery in people with obesity, optimal timing of bariatric surgery in obese people with cardiometabolic diseases, type of bariatric surgery and compara-tive studies of obesity pharmacotherapies and bariatric surgery are needed to clarify the optimal treatment pathways for this common and growing disease," he said.

Males born to obese moms more likely to develop health issues as adults: Research



WASHINGTON DC [US]: Males born to obese mothers are more likely to be overweight at birth and suffer metabolic issues later in life, such as liver disease or diabetes. The way that male sex hormones activate path-

ways in the developing liver is partly to blame.

That's the finding from a new study led by University of South Australia (UniSA) researchers looking at the impact of maternal obesity on fetal liver androgen signalling.

Male fetuses of obese pregnant women have different signals that are activated by male sex hormones in the liver, which encourages them to prioritise growth at the expense of their health.

UniSA researcher Dr Ashley Meakin says androgens give men their male characteristics and are crucial in their development, but if there are too many, male fetuses grow too large, causing not only problems at birth, but impacting liver function

Female fetuses exposed to excess testosterone from an obese pregnancy are wired to switch off the androgen pathway in the liver, restricting their growth and lowering the risks of metabolic disorders in adulthood.

'We know there are sex differences in metabolic disorders in later life in response to maternal obesity," DrMeakin says.

"Men are more prone to non-alcohol fatty liver diseases and diabetes as an adult if their mother is obese during pregnancy and their birth weight is above 4 kg (9 lb 15 oz).

"They are genetically wired to prioritise androgens because it supports the development of male characteristics - including size - but too much androgen is bad." Study lead author Professor Janna Morrison,

Head of the Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group at UniSA, says it's a fine balance for women getting the right nutrition in pregnancy to ensure optimal conditions for their unborn child to flour-"There are also risks for offspring being mal-

nourished during pregnancy," she says. "If you are too little, too big, born too early, or a male, you are more vulnerable to negative outcomes later in life. You need the Goldilocks pregnancy: you must be the right size, born at the right time

Prof Morrison says unless society changes its approach to nutrition, it will be an uphill battle to reduce obesity and associated health issues, from the womb into adulthood. 'As a society, we urgently need to address obe-

sity. If children were taught early on about the importance of healthy eating, it would carry through into adulthood, including during pregnancy, where the right nutrition is so important. DrMeakin says in the intervening period, sup-

plements that address nutritional imbalances in pregnancy could provide the fetus with the best chance of optimal development. The liver androgen signalling study, recently

published in Life Sciences, is among a series of studies by Prof Morrison and colleagues that investigates the impact of maternal under- and overnutrition on the placenta, heart, lung, and liver.

type of cell therapy shows promise for ARDS patients

LOS ANGELES [US] : A study suggested that a new type of cell therapy may improve the prognosis of patients criti-cally unwell with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) caused by

Professor Justin Stebbing of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a joint senior author of a new study published in the journal Nature Communications that looks into the usage of agenT-797, MiNKTherapeutic's allogeneic, unmodified invariant natural killer T (iNKT)

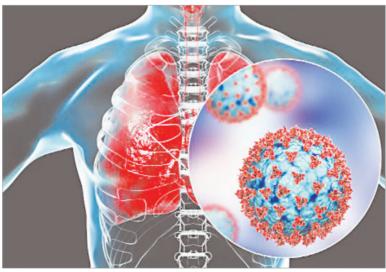
cell therapy.

The iNKT cell therapy has the effect of rescuing depleted T cells and inducing an anti-inflammatory cytokine response, perhaps activating antiviral immunity to assist these patients fight infection while also reducing severe, pathogenic inflammation of the lung.

The new research was carried out at three medical centres and found that agenT-797, which is also under investigation in cancer trials, could be manufactured rapidly, had a tolerable safety profile and appeared to have a positive effect on mortality among critically unwell COVID-19 ARDS patients receiving intensive care.

The exploratory trial included 20 mechanically ventilated patients with severe ARDS secondary to Covid-19. Of the 20 patients in the trial, 14 survived (70 per cent) at 30 days (compared to a control group of 10 per cent), and there was an 80 per cent lower occurrence of bacterial pneumonia amongst those who received the highest dosage of agenT-797, compared to those who received fewer cells.

Twenty-one patients were treated overall (the main trial, plus one under compassionate use), which included five who were also receiving venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO), known as 'the most aggressive salvage therapy' for critically ill patients with ARDS. In VV-



ECMO, deoxygenated blood is pumped through a membrane lung and returned to the body via a cannula.

This trial is believed to be the first immune cell therapy of any type to be used in critically unwell patients undergoing VV-ECMO. Survival of the VV-ECMO cohort was 80 per cent after 30 and 90 days, and 60 per cent after the overall survival of 51 per cent for patients with Covid-19 who were treated with just VV-ECMO at the same

institution, during the same timeframe. Joint senior author Justin Stebbing, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge, England, said, "During this small, exploratory study we observed that MiNK'siNKT cell treatment, which is also being advanced for people with cancer, triggered an anti-inflammatory response in ARDS patients.

"Despite a poor prognosis, critically ill patients treated with this therapy showed favourable mortality rates and those treated at the highest dose also had reduced rates of pneumonia, underscoring the potential application of iNKT cells, and agenT-797 in particular, in treating viral diseases and infections more broadly.

"AgenT-797 was manufactured rapidly and as opposed to using patients' cells, it is 'off-the-shelf' and potential of this therapy to be used across a number of severe infections warrants randomised controlled tri-Dr Marc van Dijk, Chief Scientific

Officer at MiNK and co-author of the study said, "These published findings reinforce the unique power and potential of iNKT cells to mitigate severe acute respiratory distress.

"The data demonstrate agenT-797's encouraging survival benefit, ability to help clear secondary infections, and tolerable administration in ventilated patients and those on VV-ECMO support.

Stress effects brain, psyche through immune system: Study

Zurich[Switzerland]: Chronic stress has farreaching effects on our bodies. Many stressrelated psychiatric diseases, including depression, are linked to immune system abnormalities. However, the basic mechanisms governing how these alterations influence the brain remain largely unclear.

Enzyme from immune cells in the blood

affects nerves in the brain An international research team led by the University of Zurich (UZH), and the University Hospital of Psychiatry Zurich (PUK) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, has now uncovered a novel mechanism. We were able to show that stress increases the amount of the matrix metalloproteinase-8 (MMP-8), an enzyme in the blood of mice. The same changes were found in patients with depression," says first author FlurinCathomas. MMP-8 travels from the blood to the brain, where it alters the functioning of certain neurons. In the affected mice, this leads to behavioral changes: they withdraw and avoid social

Potential for new treatments for depression According to Cathomas, the findings are novel in two respects: "Firstly, they indicate a new 'body-mind mechanism', which might be relevant not only for stress-related mental illness, but also for other diseases that affect both the immune and nervous systems." And secondly, says the psychiatrist, identification of the specific MMP-8 protein could be a potential starting point to develop new treatments for

Changes to brain extracellular matrix The researchers were able to use animal models to show that stress increases the



In order to prove that MMP-8 was really responsible for the behavioural changes, the researchers removed the MMP-8 gene from some of the mice. Compared to the control mice, these animals did not display stress-related negative behavioral changes. "Blood analyses of patients with depression indicate that the findings from the mouse models are also relevant for humans: both the monocytes and MMP-8 were increased in the blood of people with depression in comparison to healthy participants."

migration of a specific type of white blood cells called monocytes into the vascular system of the brain, particularly into the reward center regions. These monocytes produce MMP-8.

MMP-8 is involved in the restructuring and regulation of the net-like frame that surrounds neurons in the brain - called the extracellular matrix. "If MMP-8 penetrates the brain tissue from the blood, it changes the matrix structure and thus disrupts the functioning of the neurons. Mice who are affected by this process display changes in behavior that are similar to those seen in humans with depression," says

In order to prove that MMP-8 was really responsible for the behavioural changes, the researchers removed the MMP-8 gene from some of the mice. Compared to the control mice, these animals did not display stressrelated negative behavioral changes. "Blood analyses of patients with depression indicate that the findings from the mouse models are also relevant for humans: both the monocytes and MMP-8 were increased in the blood of people with depression in comparison to healthy

Clinical studies with patients planned

Many more studies are needed before the results can be implemented in clinical practice. Nevertheless, says Cathomas, "our work once again demonstrates the importance of the interaction between the immune system and the brain in the development of psychiatric disorders. These insights are already being incorporated into psychiatric treatment today." On the PUK's special ward for integrative care led by Cathomas, the clinicians take a holistic mind-body approach based on the latest scientific findings when treating their patients.

The research team is now planning clinical studies to investigate the extent to which the immune system can be influenced by stimulating certain areas of the brain. They will also look at whether any changes in the immune system cells of depressive patients influence

OUR!!!VOICES

168 year old mosque demolished in UP's Meerut



News Service, Meerut: A decades-old mosque located on Delhi Road in Meerut was demolished to make way for the construction of the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor.

The demolition of religious sites in Uttar Pradesh, particularly those belonging to the Muslim community, has sparked growing concerns and protests. One such instance occurred on Friday, February 21, when authorities bulldozed a 168-year-old mosque on Delhi Road in Meerut.

This action was carried out under heavy police presence, and the local community is deeply troubled by the event. The authorities defended the demolition, stating that the mosque was obstructing the construction of the Rapid Rail Transit System (RRTS), a project promoted by the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC).

Maharashtra:

Telangana and

Maharashtra

Pradesh permitted Mus-

lim government employ-

ees to leave offices early

during the fasting month of

Ramzan, similar demands

are now being raised in Ma-

harashtra and other states.

ty Commission Chairman

Pyare Khan confirmed that

the commission has re-

ceived multiple applications

requesting the state gov-

ernment to allow Muslim

employees to leave work an

hour early during Ramzan.

eral requests from people

asking for permission to

leave offices an hour ear-

ly during Ramzan. India is

people from different com-

harmony," Khan told IANS.

MI News Service, Washington, DC: United

States Secretary of State

Marco Rubio has affirmed

that Iran can never be al-

lowed to possess a nuclear

Donald Trump has been

clear about the issue and

has issued an executive or-

He said that US President

weapon.

"We have received sev-

Minori-

a great example of 'Ganga all working days during the

Jamuna Tehzeeb,' where Holy month of 'Ramzan' to

Yogi Adityanath's ister administration has also backed the demolition, emphasizing that it was part of the larger plans for the rapid rail network. According to local officials, the removal was carried out with the full consent of the Muslim community.

Senior officials, including the Additional District Magistrate (ADM) City, NCRTC representatives, and mosque management members, reportedly had a meeting on February 20 to discuss the matter. Superintendent of Police (SP) City, Ayush Vikram Singh, stated that the mosque's demolition followed this meeting.

The local police maintained that the Muslim community was involved in the decision-making process.

Haji Swale Heen, a representative from the mosque, confirmed that the mosque was demolished with the community's participation orporation (NCRTC). but insisted that it had sig-Uttar Pradesh Chief Min-uttar Pradesh Chief Min-nificant historical value. He motivated. Maha minority panel to seek shorter working

hours for Muslim staff during Ramzan

Maĥarashtra Chief Minister

Devendra Fadnavis through

The demand follows or-

ders issued by the Telan-

gana and Andhra Pradesh

Muslim employees, includ-

ing teachers and contract

workers, to leave work at 4

p.m. instead of the usual 5

p.m. from March 2 to March

30 to perform religious rit-

permits all the employees

who profess Islam, including

teachers and persons hired

on contract, out-sourcing basis, and Village/Ward

Secretaries, to leave their

offices/schools early by an

hour before closing time on

perform necessary rituals,"

read the Andhra Pradesh

US Secy of State Marco Rubio affirms Iran can

never be allowed to possess nuclear weapon

government order.

"The government hereby

allowing

an official letter.

governments,

years, with documentation from 1857 proving its an-

Despite this, the authorities have claimed the mosque was only 80 years old, citing different opinions from local residents.

This demolition is not an isolated incident. Muslim residents in the area have voiced strong condemna-tion, arguing that it is part of a broader pattern targeting Muslim religious structures in the state. On February 9, the Madni Masjid in Hata Nagar was demolished after the expiration of a High Court stay order, in a similar manner with bulldozers and a large police force present.

Local Muslims view these actions as systematic efforts by the state government to undermine and erase Muslim religious landmarks under the guise of development.

These incidents have raised alarm among many who believe that the demolition of religious sites is part of a more significant effort to marginalize the Muslim community, raising questions about the protection of minority rights and historical heritage in the region.

The debate continues to fuel tensions in Uttar Pradesh and across India, as many view the demolitions as politically

government order stated:

mits all Muslim government

employees/teachers/con-

tract/out-sourcing/boards/ corporations and public sector employees working

in the state to leave their

offices/schools at 4 p.m.

during the holy month of Ramzan, i.e., from March

2 to 31, to offer necessary

prayers, except when their

presence is required due to

ing traction in Karnataka,

where Pradesh Congress

Committee (KPCC) Vice

Presidents M.R.M. Hussain

and Syed Ahmad recently

wrote to Chief Minister Sid-

daramaiah, urging the state

government to grant Mus-

lim employees a one-hour

However, the Karnataka

exemption from duty to fa-

cilitate prayers and iftar.

overnment order. government has yet to make a decision on the request.

The demand is also gain-

exigencies of services."

Government hereby per-

6 killed in Peru mall roof collapse

fell directly over the children's area of the food MI News Service, Lima: At least six people were killed and 78 others injured after the food court roof of Peru's Health Ministry a shopping mall collapsed in has urged blood donations northwestern Peru, authoridue to high demand.

Peruvian President Dina ties said Saturday. The accident happened Boluarte called for a thorat the busy shopping cenough investigation and severe penalties for those responsible. "We cannot ter Real Plaza Mall in Trujillo. According to state news agency Andina, 30 of the injured have been disallow economic interests to take precedence over charged while 48 remain human lives," she said. The Trujillo Provincial in hospital, including three

Prosecutor's Office has launched a criminal inin critical condition. Emergency crews revestigation, while officials sponded minutes after the collapse and worked say the collapsed structure through the night to resmay have been improperly cue survivors. Authorities maintained. described the structure as

The La Libertad regional government declared two days of mourning.

Hamas denounces Israel's postponement of Palestinian prisoner release MI News Service, Gaza: Senior Hamas official Izzat the agreement, citing it as evidence of "Israels's lack

al-Rishq on Sunday condemned Israel's decision to delay the release of Palestinian prisoners, calling it a deliberate attempt to evade its commitments under the agreed-upon deal.

a heavy-duty installation,

not a light canopy, which

In a press statement, al-Rishq dismissed Israel's claim that the handover ceremony of Israeli hostages was humiliating, describing it as "a false claim and a flimsy pretext aimed at shirking its obligations."

Al-Rishq further ac-cused Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu under the first phase of the of intentionally disrupting ceasefire agreement

of reliability in fulfilling its commitments."

He urged mediators and the international community to exert immediate pressure on Israel to ensure the agreement's implementation and the prompt release of prisoners. The Israeli government had postponed the release of 602 Palestinian prisoners, originally scheduled for Saturday, following Hamas' release of six Israeli hostages as part of the seventh batch of the hostage-prisoner exchange

Israel launches airstrikes in S. Lebanon despite truce: state media

MI News Service, Beirut: Israel launched airstrikes in southern Lebanon on Sunday morning, despite an ongoing ceasefire that ended months of conflicts with Lebanese armed group Hezbollah, Lebanon's state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported.

At around 9:00 a.m. local time (0700 GMT), Israeli warplanes carried out an airstrike on the outskirts of Ansar, a village in Nabatieh Governorate, and conducted two airstrikes on the area between the towns of Qlayleh and Al-Sama'iya, as well as the valley near the village of Maaroub in Tyre District, according to the Israeli warplanes also hit

targets in Saida District in southern Lebanon, according to the NNA.

A ceasefire agreement between Israel and Lebanon has been in effect since Nov. 27, 2024, ending more than a year of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, which escalated following the outbreak of the war in Gaza.

Although the agreement stipulated the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanese territory, Israel has maintained its presence in five key positions along the Lebanese border beyond the Feb. 18 deadline.

France: One killed in Mulhouse knife attack; **Macron condemns "Islamist terror act"**

Paris: One person was killed, and several others France's interior ministry. were lett wounded in a knife attack at a town market in eastern France, in what French authorities have described as an act of terror, CNN reported.

According to CNN, the attacker shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is Greatest) while targeting several municipal police officers as well as a passerby, the prosecutor's office said. A civilian has died, and three officers are injured.

The suspect was later arrested and is currently in police custody, the office of France's national anti-terror prosecutor confirmed in a press release.

"Horror has just gripped our city. A man attacked passers-by at the cvered canal market with a knife, several municipal police officers who intervened to neutralize him were also injured," Mulhouse town mayor Michèle Lutz said in a statement Saturday on is from Algeria, according to

French President Emmanuel Macron strongly condemned the incident, describing it as "no doubt, an Islamic terrorist act, given the terrorist's words," as reported by CNN. He also expressed condolences to the victim's family, adding that France's national anti-terprosecutor is looking into the case. French Interior Minister Bruno Retailleau said that the suspect had previously been convicted for apology of terrorism - the crime of speaking positively of a terror act or group. He would have been deported to Algeria, but the country refused to accept him, Retailleau added. "Once again, it is Islamist terrorism that has struck! And it is the migratory disorders that are at the origin of this act, Retailleau wrote on X. Retailleau, a member of the right-wing party "Les Républicains," and is currently campaigning to be elected as party president.

Israel Confirms Strikes on Hezbollah Launchers Hours Before Nasrallah Funeral



MI News Service, Tel Aviv: Israeli aircraft struck a Hezbollah site containing rocket launchers and other weapons on Sunday, the Israel Defense Forces con-

According to Lebanese media reports, the strikes took place in the southern Lebanese area of Tyre.

The IDF said some of the launchers posed an "imminent threat.

The confirmation came

as thousands of Lebanese converge in Beirut for the funeral of Hezbollah leader

On Saturday night, Israeli confirmed aircraft struck crossings along the Syria-Lebanon border through which Hezbollah was trying to transfer weapo ns.

Under the terms of a is keeping soldiers in five locations with US approval.

Israeli forces to remain in some West Bank camps for 'coming year': Defense minister MI News Service, Tel an offensive in the north-Aviv: Israeli Defense Min- ern West Bank on January

ister Israel Katz said Sunday he has instructed the military to prepare to remain in some of the occupied West Bank's urban refugee camps "for the coming

Katz said that some 40,000 Palestinians had been displaced from three of the camps in the northern West Bank and that they were now "emptied of residents".

He said the military was to prepare for "an extended stay" in the camps and "not to allow the return of resi-The comments by Katz

come as Israel is intensifying an offensive in the Palestinian territory and as the ceasefire that paused the war in Gaza holds.

The military said Sunday it was expanding the raid in the West Bank to other areas and was sending tanks to Jenin, a militant stronghold. Israel launched 21, two days after the truce took hold. Israel says the raid is meant to crack down on militancy but it has also killed many and displaced tens of thousands of Palestinians.

Violence has surged in the West Bank throughout the Israel-Hamas war. There has also been a spike in Palestinian attacks emanating from the West Bank and late Thursday, blasts rocked three empty parked buses in Israel, what police are viewing as a suspected militant attack.

The Israeli army deployed tanks in the northern occupied West Bank on Sunday, February 23, for the first time since Operation Defensive Shield in 2002. The move is reportedly aimed at strengthening military operations in the region.'

"IDF forces, the Shin Bet security service and the Border Police continue their operations to thwart terror- in the occupied West Bank.

(the West Bank) and expand their offensive activities in the area," the army said in

a statement on the X. "Forces from the Nahal Brigade and the Duvdevan Unit have begun operating in additional towns in the Jenin area, and at the same time a tank platoon will operate in Jenin as part of the

offensive effort.' "The forces continue their work in the Jenin and Tulkarm areas," the statement added.

This development comes amid escalating Israeli military operations across several northern West Bank governorates, particularly targeting Palestinian refugee camps for the 34th consecutive day.

At least 60 people have been killed, and tens of thousands of Palestinians have been forced to flee their homes as Israel continues demolishing residences and infrastructure

Thai influencer Pancake, travellers fall in love with Fukushima

News Fukushima: Renowned Thai influencer Pancake, who has 2.9 million followers worldwide, visited Fukushima to embrace the winter season alongside 20 Thai

Their goal was to explore new experiences, savour local cuisine, and immerse themselves in traditional culture.

Thai influencer, Pancake said, "Hello, I'm Pancake! Right now, I'm in Fukushima, Japan. The cool breeze is making the climate very pleasant and comfortable. I hope all my Thai friends enjoy sightseeing and savouring delicious Japanese cuisine. Let's appreciate the beautiful nature and rich traditional culture of Fukushieveryone in the world should visit Fukushima. There are so many fantastic places to explore--follow me to discover the hidden charms of Fukushima! One of the trip's highlights

was visiting Ouchi Juku, a historic Edo-era village. Pancake and Thai tourists enjoyed a unique tradition -- eating soba noodles with a green onion instead of chopsticks, symbolising eternal

family prosperity.

Upon arrival, they were greeted by heavy snowfall. Known for its powder-fine snow, Fukushima is perfect for skiing, snowboarding, and snow sliding--a thrilling first-time experience for the group. At a local strawberry farm, they sampled 12 varieties of strawberries, each ma together! I truly believe with a distinct flavour. Open She added.

year-round, the farm offers visitors a chance to enjoy fresh fruit picking.

The journey continued to the Fukushima Sea, where the Japan and Kurile Currents converge, creating a rich marine ecosystem. Aquamarine Fukushima's resilience deeply moved the group--severely damaged by the earthquake and tsunami a decade ago, it has since been beautifully restored.

"Fukushima was affected by the tsunami more than 10 years ago, and Aquamarine Fukushima was also damaged. However, thanks to the dedication of many individuals, it has been successfully restored. I am truly impressed and delighted to visit Fukushima and witness its remarkable recovery.

Pakistan: Rights body announces protests across **Balochistan to condemn Baloch persecution**

Service, across Balochistan to contier Corps personnel. "Two Balochistan: Baloch rights body, Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC), announced on Sunday that it will conduct a series of protests across Balochistan to condemn the 'systematic persecution' being faced by the Baloch people at the hands of Pakistan's security forces.

stani security forces have on February 28. intensified their crackdown, with a surge in targeted killings and enforced disappearances, BYC said that the intelligence agencies, security forces, and affiliated militias are systematically targeting Baloch youth. This thereby escalates the human rights violations in the region.

"In response to these atrocities, the Baloch Yak-jehti Committee has an-nounced a series of protests from Panjgur, Shukrullah ment, lack of ba and Nadeem Baloch, were taken into custody by Fron-litical autonomy.

demn the ongoing repression, extrajudicial killings, and the systematic persecution of the Baloch people", the post said.

Important cities where the protests will take place are, Karachi on February 25, in Tump and Dalbandin on February 23, in Panigur Highlighting that the Paki- on February 27, in Turbat

> BYC has time and again brought to notice the rising cases of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances being faced by Baloch people.

BYC noted on Wednesday the increase in extrajudicial killings, torture, and mutilation of Baloch individuals.

In a post on X, it detailed how two Baloch individuals

days later, Shukrullah's dismembered body was discovered, and Nadeem was found severely injured in the Surab district," the post noted. It also sheds light on the

difficulties faced by the victims' families, who "reportedly faced threats and pressure from intelligence agencies to remain silent and to bury the deceased quietly to avoid further harassment.

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

Pope Francis remains critical after experiencing asthma-like respiratory crisis

Vatican City: Pope Francis, who has been hospitalised for over a week experienced an asthma-like respiratory crisis of prolonged intensity, which required the administration of high-flow oxygen, Vatican news reported on Sunday.

As per Vatican News, Pope Francis had a peaceful ninth night at Rome's Gemelli Hospital where he is being treated for double pneumonia.

Vatican News said on Saturday evening, sharing the update on the Pope's health stating, "The condition of the Holy Father continues to be critical. Therefore, as explained yesterday, the Pope is not out of danger. This morning, Pope Francis experienced an asthma-like respiratory crisis of prolonged intensity, which required the administration of high-flow oxygen."

The Vatican News said that the blood tests conducted on Sunday revealed thrombocytopenia, associated with anaemia, which required the administration of blood transfusions. It noted that Pope Francis

however remains alert and spent the day in an armhair, although he is more fatigued than yesterday. At the moment, the prognosis remains guarded.

As per the Vatican News, during a press conference in Rome's Gemelli hospital on late Friday afternoon, Dr Sergio Alfieri, the head of the team taking care of the

the Vice Director of the Vatican's healthcare service, said that they believed the Pope would be hospitalised for "at least" the entirety of the next week, and that Pope Francis is not "in danger of death," but he's also not fully "out of danger."

Dr Alfieri emphasised

that the Pope is not attached to a ventilator, although he is still struggling with his breathing and consequently keeping his physical movements limited. Notably, the physician said that the Pope is sitting upright in a chair, working, and joking as usual. Alfieri said that when one of the doctors greeted the Pope by saying "Hello, Holy Father", he replied with "Hello, Holy Son."

No action taken by Pak govt to curb air pollution: Karachi resident

Karachi: Pakistan is grappling with a severe air pollution crisis, with major cities like Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad choked by toxic smog. The situation is dire, with millions facing serious health risks due to poor air quality.

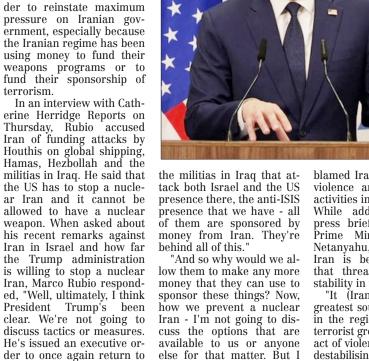
Despite the worsening conditions, the government has been criticized for its inaction and empty promises. Karachi resident Qazi Hala

Rehman expressed his frustration, saying, "This is not a new problem; it has existed for a long time. As factories and pollution have increased, so have diseases. We have seen outbreaks like COVID-19 and dengue, which have taken many lives. The government claims to address these issues, but no proper sanitation system is in place.'

The city's lack of basic infrastructure, including proper sanitation systems, has exacerbated the problem. Rehman pointed out, "Open

drains and overflowing sewage can still be seen on the roads, leading to an increase in mosquitoes and diseases like malaria." This negligence has caused a rise in waterborne and vector-borne diseases, further straining the city's failing healthcare sys-

Meanwhile, Karachi has now surpassed Lahore as Pakistan's most polluted city.



want to make it abundantthe maximum pressure, primarily because we've seen ly clear the Iranian regime that Iran uses - the Iranian can never be - a regime regime, let me be clear; I'm that's behind all of this and not talking about the Iranian believes that it is their duty to export their revolution people - the regime, they use to other countries in the reany money that they make gion - they can never allow to fund their weapons programs, to fund their sponto possess a nuclear weapsorship of terrorism. If you on where they can hold the look at all the destabilizing world hostage and where they could potentially attack things that are happening in the Middle East - the Houth-

is and their attack on global

Israel," he added. Earlier on February 16, shipping, Hamas, Hezbollah, Marco Rubio on Sunday happen," he added.

blamed Iran for "instability, violence and destabilising activities in the Middle East. While addressing a joint press briefing with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Rubio said that Iran is behind everything that threatens peace and stability in the region.

"It (Iran) is the single reatest source of instability in the region, behind every terrorist group, behind every act of violence, behind every destabilising activity, behind everything that threatens peace and stability for the billions of people who call this region home. By Iran, I mean its regime, a regime that its people do not support. The people of Iran are victims of that regime." Rubio said. Rubio also stressed that Iran can "never" become a nuclear nation. "a nuclear Iran then can hold itself immune from pressure

and action, that can never

Hassan Nasrallah, which is due to begin at noon.

two-month ceasefire that went into effect on November 27 and has since been extended, Hezbollah is supposed to withdraw its armed presence from areas of southern Lebanon south of the Litani River. Israeli forces have withdrawn from most of southern Lebanon. Dissatisfied with the Lebanese army's deployment, Israel

Sports Minister Mandaviya leads Fit India Sundays on Cycle with industry bodies FICC. CII in Delhi

NEW DELHI : Union Sports Minister Manuskh Mandaviya led the Fit India Sundays on Cycle campaign in the National Capital today even as he was joined by members of cycling clubs, Olympic rower Arjun Lal Jat and the special guests of this week representatives of industry bodies, FICCI and CII as well as members from fitness brand Decathlon, Yoga Bharat and My Bharat.

In its ninth week, the Fit India Sundays on Cycle has emerged as a nationwide fitness event with cyclists in over 1200 locations participating this week alone.

Drawing from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to fight obesity by reducing oil con-sumption by 10 per cent, exercis-ing and eating right, the Sports Minister dedicated the Sundays on Cycle initiative to the nation's

fight against obesity.

Speaking at the event, the
Sports Minister said, "In our fight
against obesity, which the
Honourable PM has initiated, we must come together to include daily fitness activities in our life. Cycling is the easiest exercise and it has a very positive impact on the environment as well. It reduces carbon footprints and is a solution for pollution," as quoted from a release by Union Sports Ministry

Fit India Sundays on Cycle invites a special set of people every week and army personnel, postmen, wellness experts have been invited guests in the past editions. In this week's event corporate India stepped forward to support the campaign and participate in it.

Speaking about the importance of the initiative Vidushpat SInghania, Treasurer, Sportscom, CII said, "I congratulate Honourable Sports Minister for launching this initiative. A healthy India is a more successful India as good health is directly linked to better productivity and a higher GDP. As an industry body it is our endeavour to get more corporates to join Fit India Sundays on Cycle

and support this movement.' Landing the initiative, Neha Rastogi Mathur, Secretary, Sports Committee, FICCI, said, "This is a great initiative by the Sports Minister, and we are excited to be part of this movement today. Cycling is a great way to stay fit, it's easy, simple and a family activity that people of different generations can do together.'

Olympian Arjun Lal Jat added 'The enthusiasm of the participants is great and as an athlete I am happy to see that so many people have stepped out on a Sunday morning and have dedicated time to fitness. Staying fit is not an option, it is compulsory for everyone and the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative is a wonderful motivation for people to start their fitness journey.

In Guwahati, doctors from the Indian Medical Association joined the Fit India Sundays on Cycle celebration at the SAI National Centre of Excellence. More than 300 members rode to spread the message of fitness.



India's Hardik Pandya celebrates the wicket of Pakistan's Saud Shakeel during the ICC Champions Trophy 2025-Group A match, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on Sunday.

Champions Trophy: Virat Kohli surpasses Azharuddin's 156 catches, becomes Indian with most catches ODIs



DUBAI: Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli etched his name in the record books by surpassing Mohammad Azharuddin's tally of 156 catches to become the Indian fielder with the most catches in

This remarkable feat was achieved on Sunday during the clash in the ongoing Champions Trophy in Dubai.

record-breaking moment arrived in the 47th over when he took a challenging low catch to dismiss Naseem Shah off Kuldeep Yadav's bowling. The 36year-old took his 157th and record-extending 158th catch in highly anticipated India-Pakistan the ODIs, taking him past Azharuddin's tally of 156 for the record of most catches taken by

an Indian fielder in the format. With Pakistan tottering at 222/7, Naseem tried to open his arms and flaunt his six-hitting ability. He tried to take on 'Chinaman' spinner Kuldeep Yadav but miscued it to Virat, who

record to his name. He picked his second of the match on the fourth delivery of the final over. Harshit Rana hit the deck to

lenging low catch and script the

invite Khushdil Shah to slog the ball away. The southpaw went for a full swing but only found Virat's safe hands at the deep mid-wick-With this achievement, Kohli

cemented his position as one of the greatest fielders in Indian cricket history. He is now trailed by Azharuddin (156 catches), Sachin Tendulkar (140 catches), Rahul Dravid (124 catches), and Suresh Raina (102 catches) in the list of Indian fielders with the most catches in ODIs.

On a global scale, Kohli's 158 catches place him third on the list of outfield catches in ODIs, behind only Mahela Jayawardene (218 catches) and Ricky Ponting (160

Kohli's exceptional fielding display highlighted India's clinical field performance, which restricted Pakistan to a modest total of 241. The defending champions managed to push their way to 241, courtesy of Saud Shakeel's 62(76), Mohammad Rizwan's 46(77) and Khushdil's swift 38(39). The Indian team will now look to build on this momentum as it chases its target in the second

Champions Trophy: Santner assures New Zealand won't take Bangladesh lightly



RAWALPINDI: New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner assured that they won't take Bangladesh "lightly" in their upcoming Champions Trophy fixture. Santner acknowledged Bangladesh's adeptness orchestrating a victory against top sides and remained hopeful "it's

New Zealand has been in high spirits since landing in Pakistan to bolster its preparations for the ongoing marquee event. After securing the ODI tri-nation title, the Kiwis maintained their impeccable performance in the subcontinent. They forced the defending champions, Pakistan, to surrender a 60-run defeat.

If the Blackcaps continue to maintain their hot streak of form, they will march into the final four stages of the Champions Trophy. Ahead of facing a depleted Bangladesh side, Santner believes the Tigers maintain balance in their squad despite their dwindling form in the format. Bangladesh have lost their last five ODIs on the trot.

Even though Bangladesh is lining up without its most experienced all-rounder, Shakib Al Hasan, Santner feels they have enough quality players who can attack with the bat and cause trouble with the ball.

"Yeah, obviously, we've seen how good Shakib has been for a long time. He's proven that he can perform in all conditions. They've obviously got Rishad coming in,

who's a very good leg spinner. Mehidy has done it. Mahmudullah, if he plays, can offer some good overs as well, so I think their balance is good at the moment," Santner said in the prematch press conference.

"They have guys who can attack with the bat as well. I mean, Hridoy played a great innings last game, and Jaker Ali has come on and done a lot of good stuff already. So yeah, it's a team we're not taking lightly for sure. We know we've got to be on, and on these big events, they can upset any team on their day. So Hopefully, it's not us," he added.

Considering Rawalpindi's high-scoring nature, Santner revealed they have a few plans in store for Bangladesh. With Australia chasing down a record 352-run total at the same venue, Santner feels the key to piling up runs on the board will be forging partnerships.

"Yeah, we've got a few plans for Bangladesh, but I think we obviously - we have to wait and see what the wicket does. If it is pretty flat I think it is probably similar stuff to what we've been operating in Karachi. It's hitting that hard length for a long period of time, and then we know they have some destructive players in their line-up as well. So, I think traditionally, it's quite a high-scoring ground, so we have to be on it. Then, with the bat, we just talk about trying to build partnerships and do that out there," he said.

Mithali Raj lauds Chinelle Henry's powerpacked knock after UP Warriorz's victory

BENGALURU : Former Indian women's cricket captain Mithali Raj showered praise on Chinelle Henry for her fearless batting approach in the Women's Premier League (WPL). "She backed herself to play those aggressive shots. At that stage, with six or seven wickets already down, she knew there was



nothing to lose. She decided to go big and play her natural game, show-casing that signature West Indian flair for hitting big sixes," Mithali told JioHotstar. Henry played a pivotal role in UP Warriorz's commanding 33-run victory over Delhi Capitals (DC) on Saturday. The West Indian allrounder produced a stunning performance, smashing 62 runs off just 23 balls, including two boundaries and eight massive sixes. Her blitzkrieg helped UP Warriorz set a formidable target of 177/9 for the Delhi Capitals.

Apart from her explosive batting, Henry also contributed with the ball, taking a crucial wicket of Marizanne Kapp. Her all-round brilliance ensured UP Warriorz secured their first victory of the WPL season in style. Coming to the match, Delhi Capitals won the toss and opted to field first, a decision that initially worked in their favour as UP Warriorz struggled to build momentum. They lost their first wicket at 17, and Kiran Navgire (17) fell soon after, leaving the score at 38/2.

Captain Deepti Sharma (13) and Shweta Sehrawat (11) also failed to make a big impact, and with Grace Harris (2) and Uma Chetry (3) departing cheaply, Warriorz were reeling at 89/6. Tahlia McGrath contributed a valuable 24 before falling to Jess Jonassen.

Just when it seemed Delhi Capitals had the upper hand, Chinelle Henry produced a game-changing knock. She smashed 62 off just 23 balls, lifting Warriorz to a competitive total of 177/9. Sophie Ecclestone (12) and Saima Thakor (4) also chipped in towards the end.

Jess Jonassen was the standout bowler for the Capitals, claiming 4/31, while Marizanne Kapp and Arundhati Reddy picked up two wick-

ets each. Shikha Pandey also contributed with one wicket Mann Ki Baat: PM Modi lauds 'Khelo India' campaign, appreciates rise of teenage champions in National Games

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi lauded 'Khelo India' for providing a platform to talented champions who were able to rise and perform well in the recently concluded National Games in Uttarakhand. During the 119th Episode of Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, the Prime Minister also appreciated the rise in young athletes, and said that India is rapidly moving towards becoming a "global sporting powerhouse." The 38th National Games were held from January 28 to February 14 in Uttarakhand. "Many of our players are the result of the 'Khelo-India campaign. Sawan Barwal from Himachal Pradesh, Kiran Mate from Maharashtra, Tejas Shirse and Jyoti Yaraji from Andhra Pradesh all have given new hopes to the country. Javelin Thrower Sachin Yadav of Uttar Pradesh, high jumper Pooja of Haryana and swimmer Dhinidhi Desindhu of Karnataka won the hearts of the countrymen," PM Mod said. "The number of teenage champions in this year's national games is surprising. I am happy that with the determination and discipline of our young athletes, India today is rapidly moving towards becoming a global sporting powerhouse," he added. He also applauded the 38th National Games, which saw the participation of 11,000 athletes from all over the country, and said it presented a new version of 'Devbhoomi'.

Ben Stokes' absence in ODIs "big loss" for England: Nasser Hussain

LAHORE: After England's loss to Australia in their ICC Champions Trophy campaign opener, former England skipper Nasser Hussain said that the absence of veteran all-rounder Ben Stokes is hurting the Three Lions as his inclusion in the Champions Trophy squad would have made the balance of the team more "comfortable"

Even making 351 runs did not prove to be safe for England as a resilient Alex Carey and explosive pair of Josh Inglis and Glenn Maxwell helped Australia secure a five-wicket win at Lahore on Saturday

Speaking after the match to Sky Sports as quoted by Wisden, Nasser said that there was not much expectation from Australia as they missed their key players, including frontline pacers skipper Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood, retired allrounder Marcus Stoinis and allrounder Mitchell Marsh who is also down with an injury.

"I think England when Duckett was smashing it and got 165, and



Even making 351 runs did not prove to be safe for England as a resilient Alex Carey and explosive pair of Josh Inglis and Glenn Maxwell helped Australia secure a five-wicket win at Lahore on Saturday.

[they were] getting up towards 350-plus, you were thinking maybe England have found a formula. Maybe these conditions will suit England," he added.

Hussain went on to explain how a lack of an all-rounder backfired on England. In order to boost their batting, they placed trust in their all-rounder to play as the fifth bowling option and collectively, Liam Livingstone and Joe Root took 1/73 in 11 overs with their spin bowling, with Root being a part-timer bowler.

"They cannot work out whether to play the extra batter, which they did today. That means their bowling is a bit short. Or play one of their bowling all-rounders, [Gus] Atkinson or [Jamie] Overton. But then, their batting would have been short," he said.

"I think recent cricket has shown the value of one individual, and that is Ben Stokes. That Ben Stokes character and individual makes your balance of batting and bowling much more comfortable, and I think he's a big loss," he

Notably, Stokes has not plaved any List-A cricket, let alone ODIs, since the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup, after having made a return to the format in the tournament following retirement from the format in 2022. In 2024, his only whiteball games were three matches for the Northern Superchargers in The Hundred. Coming to Tž0Is as well, he has not played for England since their T20 WC 2022 triumph, in which he played a vital role with a match-winning 50 in the final.