

Mamata Banerjee slams UP govt over Maha Kumbh stampede, hits out at DVC and boosts potato MSP

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the wake of the last month's tragic incident of a huge stampede at the Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj, resulted in the loss of 30 lives and injury to over 60 others, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has criticized the Uttar Pradesh government for its inept handling of the event. She referred to the festival as "Mrityu Kumbh" (Death Kumbh) and emphasized the need for proper planning and management to prevent such incidents.

During a press conference on Tuesday, Banerjee expressed her condolences to the families of the victims and called for immediate compensation for all the victims and their families. She stated, "Those who have lost their loved ones should receive compensation without delay. Many families have suffered due to this tragedy."

Banerjee also questioned the Uttar Pradesh government's claim that the Maha Kumbh occurs once in every 144 years instead of every 12 years and pointed out that the last such festival was held in 2014. She urged experts to provide accurate information on the festival's frequency, stating, "As far as I know, the Maha Kumbh doesn't occur every 144 years. It was held in 2014 as well."



If there are experts who can provide the correct information, I request them to do so."

Reiterating that her previous remark (about the Maha Kumbh) was misinterpreted, Banerjee clarified that her intention was not to disrespect any religion but to highlight the importance of proper planning for large gatherings.

She drew parallels to the annual Ganga Sagar Mela in West Bengal, noting the extensive preparations were taken to ensure the safety of pilgrims. "When we organize events like the Ganga Sagar Mela, we plan

meticulously. If we invite 400 people, we make arrangements for 500. It's essential to anticipate and prepare for larger crowds to prevent mishaps," she explained.

In light of the recent tragedy, Banerjee announced that the Jagannath Temple in Digha would be inaugurated on April 30, coinciding with Akshaya Tritiya. She emphasized that while the event is significant, the state would focus on ensuring safety and proper arrangements rather than creating unnecessary hype. "I don't want to create hype. We'll do what we can within our

capacity. Regardless of any criticism from others, our priority is the well-being of the people," she asserted. Banerjee also addressed issues concerning tea plantations in North Bengal, re-futing claims of changes to land laws. She accused certain political groups of spreading misinformation and clarified that the existing laws remain unchanged. "Some ghostly political parties are spreading false propaganda about the tea industry. The land laws for tea plantations remain the same," she

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Assam will become USD 143 bn economy by 2030, says CM Himanta Biswa Sarma

MI News Service, Guwahati: Urging investors from both home and abroad to join the state's growth trajectory, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has claimed that this North Eastern state will become a USD 143 billion economy by 2030.

Speaking at the inauguration of the two-day 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit' here on Tuesday morning, the Prime Minister said "Assam has emerged as a land of limitless opportunities" with peace accords being signed with various insurgent groups and resolving the border disputes.

"Assam is now a land of limitless opportunities with peace accords and resolved border disputes. The state is moving fast towards an all round development. Assam's natural resources and strategic location as a gateway to South East Asia have made the state a preferred destination for investors," PM Modi said in his address.

He added, "Assam is turning into a destination for start-up units and will become a manufacturing hub for the northeast soon." Modi also asserted that the value of Assam's economy has doubled to Rs 6 lakh crore during the BJP rule, and this is an effect of the 'double-engine' government. "Amid global instability, there is certainty of India's economic growth," he said. The hope for India's growth is primarily due to the youth who are getting skilled, the PM said.

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Assam becomes a preferred destination for start-ups and manufacturing hub for NE, says PM Modi

MI News Service, Guwahati: Assam which is turning into a destination for start-ups, will soon become a hub of manufacturing in the Northeastern region, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday.

After formally inaugurating the two day 'Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit' here on Tuesday morning, the Prime Minister said "Assam has emerged as a land of limitless opportunities" with peace accords being signed with various insurgent groups and resolving the border disputes.

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Agrawal, among others. Ambassadors of 61 countries along with representatives of high-level business delegations from partner countries such as Bhutan, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan were also present.

Later in the day on Tuesday Union ministers S Jaishankar and Jyotiradiya Scindia presided over various sessions to highlight investment potential in different sectors in Assam in Particular and in the North East region as a whole.

While External Affairs minister S. Jaishankar presided over two sessions on 'Advancing Indo-Bhutan Economic Partnership' and 'Act East, Act Fast and Act First', the Union minister for communications and DONER Jyotiradiya Scindia presided over the session called 'Way to Viksit Assam'.

The other thematic sessions organised during the day included Assam Tea-200 years of Industry, MSME, Assam tourism, health horizons, and bio-manufacturing and bio-foundries.

On the second day of the summit on Wednesday, union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hardeep Singh Puri, Sarbananda Sonowal and Piyush Goyal will be present, while Nitin Gadkari will address a session virtually. Vaishnaw will address the session on 'Advancing semiconductor horizons', Puri on Hydrocarbons, and Goyal on export promotion.

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AAP govt suffered losses of Rs 2,000 cr due to liquor policy in Delhi, reveals CAG report

MI News Service, New Delhi: The much awaited Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report tabled in the Delhi Assembly on Tuesday, charged the previous AAP government of Delhi with incurring huge losses of over Rs 2,000 crore due to flaws in the 2021-22 liquor policy.

The report, one of 14 performance reviews of the AAP government, highlighted serious policy lapses, procedural violations, and ignored expert recommendations. It pointed out that then Deputy Chief Minister and Excise Minister Manish Sisodia "disregarded key suggestions" from an expert panel while formulating the now-scrapped liquor policy. "The report, tabled by the new Rekha Gupta-led dispensation, has also flagged violations in the process of issuing licences. It has pointed out that recommendations of an expert panel, formed to suggest changes for the formation of the now scrapped policy, were ignored by then deputy chief minister and excise minister Manish Sisodia."

The CAG report estimated a revenue loss of Rs 941.53 crore, citing failure to obtain timely permissions for opening liquor vends in non-conforming municipal wards -- areas not designated for liquor sales under

zoning laws. This led to a significant financial impact on the Delhi government's earnings.

Additionally, the Excise Department lost Rs 890.15 crore due to surrender of licences and the department's failure to re-tender liquor zones.

The report on the alleged liquor scam, a hot button issue in the run-up to the elections, claimed a loss of revenue to the tune of Rs 941.53 crore, saying timely permissions were not taken for opening the liquor vends in "non-conforming municipal wards". The report also flagged an irregular waiver of Rs 144 crore granted to licence holders, citing Covid-19 restrictions, a decision personally approved by Sisodia despite finance department objections.

The report further stated that the Delhi Master Plan 2021 prohibited liquor vends in non-conforming areas, yet the Excise Policy 2021-22 mandated setting up at least two retail vends in each ward.

Despite tender documents clearly stating that liquor stores should not be set up in such areas, licences were still issued before addressing zoning concerns. On November 16, 2021, the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) disallowed vends in

non-conforming zones, forcing licencees to approach the High Court, which later exempted them from paying Rs 114.50 crore per month in licence fees, resulting in further financial losses.

The CAG report also exposed procedural lapses in policy execution like 19 zonal licencees surrendered their licences before the policy expired in August 2022. No re-tendering was done, leading to complete revenue loss from these zones, the waiver of licence fees was granted despite the finance department's recommendation against it and the Group of Ministers, led by Manish Sisodia, altered expert committee recommendations, favouring private wholesalers, increasing retail outlets per bidder from 2 to 54. In addition major decisions with financial impact were taken without Cabinet or Lt Governor approval, the report stated. The BJP has long alleged corruption and mismanagement in the liquor policy, using it as a major issue against the AAP government. Following a CBI probe recommended by Lt Governor VK Saxena in July 2022, several AAP leaders, including Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, and Sanjay Singh, were arrested and spent months in jail.

Leftist forces are true third alternative in Bengal, believes Prakash Karat

MI News Service, Kolkata: Asserting that the Leftist forces will put up a very tough fight against both the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP in West Bengal in the 2026 s state Assembly elections, CPI(M) leader Prakash Karat believes that they have emerged as the "true third alternative" in the state.

He said neither BJP will be an alternative to the TMC, nor can the latter be an alternative to the saffron party in West Bengal.

"The Leftists are the true third alternative in the state," Karat said, addressing a public meeting at Dankuni in Hooghly district at the conclusion of a four-day West Bengal state conference of the CPI(M).

Reiterating the determination of the CPI-M



to oppose both the TMC and BJP, Karat further criticized BJP's alleged plans for promoting Hindu fanaticism. He also called for proper resistance against communal forces and corruption. The CPI(M) committed to fighting for rural development and women's safety, he

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Cong questions India's diplomatic strategy over US decision to fund Pakistan's F-16 maintenance

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Congress has questioned the Narendra Modi government's diplomatic strategy particularly with regard to the US, and called for an immediate reassessment of India's foreign policy priorities to safeguard national interests.

The Congress has pointed its fingers towards the Modi government in the wake of the US President Donald Trump's recent announcement of the possibility of allocating USD 397 million for the maintenance of Pakistan's F-16 fleet, supplied by the US to the country.

There was, however, no immediate reaction from the government or the ruling BJP on the matter. Congress' media

and publicity department head Pawan Khera said on Tuesday that the recent decision by President Trump to allocate USD 397 million for Pakistan's F-16 fleet maintenance raises critical questions about the Modi government's diplomatic efficacy.. his move, reminiscent of the 2022 Biden administration's USD 450 million package for the same purpose, highlights a pattern of US military support to Pakistan, he said in a post on X.

Such actions potentially compromise India's security interests, especially given the historical use of F-16s by Pakistan against India, Khera said. During the UPA years (2004-2013), India

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50th year of Historic Isale Swab

in Madarpara Darbar Sharif

18 Falgun
English 3 March - Monday
Madarpara, Dhola,
South 24 Parganas

Founders:
Pir Fakir Saheb Huzoor and his dear friend Ashike Rasool Chote Huzoor Pir. Later, on the appointed day, Fakir Saheb Huzur organized this meeting continuously and then his grandson Abdur Rahim Saheb and the present Rahim Saheb's worthy son Maulana Nurullah Saheb are in charge. This mahfil is the second largest congregation of Furfura in the state.

Attendees:
Pir Kayyumuzzaman of Furfura Sharif who is the great grandson of Hazur Moulana Sauban Siddiqui, Pir Kamel Shah Sufi Asheq a Rasul Hazrat Maulana 'Abdur-Rahim (RAH) and Hazrat Maulana 'Abdur-Rahman (RAH) Madarpara Siddiqi Nurullah.

Madarpara Siddiqia Nuria Senior Madrasah and Rahmania Hifzul Qurania Madrasah

→ At present, studies are going on up to Hafez Qari Maulana and Mukhtasar Jamaat. Dholahat Khanka Sharif Madar Para Darbar Sharif. (Held on the first Sunday of every month)

→ Help to poor and needy.

→ Lakhs gathered at historic venue. During holy month of Ramzan, Eid-ul-Azha, Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha prayers will be offered.

In campaign: Maulana Nurullah Saheb, the main responsible on behalf of Madarpara Darbar Sharif.

Phone: + 917001024951



Trinamool leaders at Netaji Indoor Stadium on Tuesday to review preparations ahead of TMC's key meeting scheduled for February 27 in Kolkata.

Birbhum Blast: Man loses left hand

MI News Service, Birbhum: A terrible explosion occurred in Margram, Birbhum. A bomb was stored inside the house. The bomb exploded as soon as it fell on the hand. As a result, a person's left hand was blown off. The injured person said that he was a Trinamool worker. He used to be a CPM member. He had stored bombs in his house many years ago.

The injured person's name is Rangalal Mal. Allegedly, the man had stored a bomb in his house. He accidentally touched the bomb. Then his hand flew off. The injured person has been admitted to Rampurhat Medical College and Hospital. Police are present at the scene. How did this incident happen, why was the bomb stored there? The police are investigating.

The injured man said, "I used to be a CPM member. Now I'm a Trinamool member. Many years ago, I planted a bomb inside my house. There was trouble at that time. I had stored the bomb to avoid that trouble. But I can't tell you where this bomb was. It exploded as soon as I touched it. My left hand flew off, sir."

Husband mysteriously dies on wedding night

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: She had a dream of joining hands to start a family. But all of Beauty Roy's dreams were shattered in one night. She had just gotten married and moved into a friend's house. And there her husband died. Murder or suicide? The police are seeing smoke in front of their eyes surrounding the mysterious death.

The incident took place in the Navapalli area of Gholia in North 24 Parganas district. Abhi Das and Beauty Roy had run away from home and got married on Monday. They stayed at the rented house of one of Abhi's friends. But it was like a death trap. Everything ended for Beauty on the wedding night.

According to local sources, even though she ran away and got married, there was a regret in the beauty's mind. That is why she wants to return to her home. But Lal Abhi gets angry after hearing such demands from his newly married wife. He is unwilling to leave his wife under any circumstances. Then a huge commotion starts. Then everything is in a blur.

The body of husband Abhi Das was recovered in the morning. Eyewitnesses claim that his wife Beauty Das was seen sitting next to the stone-like body with a face of vermilion on her forehead. But what caused the darkness of the night?

New Town to get 300 addl CCTV cameras for enhanced security

MI News Service, Kolkata: The panic button system, installed across New Town for resident safety, remains non-operational due to technical glitches. The issue has raised concerns, especially after the recent rape and murder of a teenage girl, allegedly by a rickshaw puller. Following the incident, residents have intensified their demand for enhanced security measures.

With panic buttons yet to be activated, authorities have shifted their focus to CCTV surveillance. To bolster security, the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) has decided to install

Water meters to be installed in commercial areas: Mayor

MI News Service, Kolkata: From 58 in 2005, we were 42. 94 and now 135 in 2022. The BJP is now three, Mayor Firhad Hakim said on the beginning of Tuesday meeting. He also said, As Leader of the House, I think 144 councillors are my eyes. We will work together to take Kolkata forward. I can't take anyone's property. We will take away someone's land and give it to the Bhatras. We don't have the legal right. The work that was supposed to give water to the Left Front for 34 years. Their chief minister was an MLA from Jadavpur. The mayor questioned why the water had not reached the area. We have provided water to Jadavpur with Rs 700 crore. If water is not wasted in Kolkata, there should be no water problem. 10 million gallons of water is being arranged in Jadavpur area. Mayor Firhad Hakim has slammed Left councillor Nandita Roy for saying that she will not have to bathe in the water of the tube well in the next 26 years. We have installed water meters at some places. But it wasn't successful. We will install water meters in commercial areas," the mayor said. He said that people should know that there will be specifications. How long will the work take? We are building roads with plastic. I got good results. We have to cut trees and do it unplanned. We don't have air pollution. There is no sea like Mumbai. I try to keep the air quality clean. We have financial resources. More than 50% of our people are poor. 9.16% increase in revenue. We tried to make up for the shortfall. Government grants have increased by about 39%. Mayor Firhad Hakim thanked Chief Min-

ister Mamata Banerjee for the gesture. This year, I have sanctioned 20,000 unapproved houses and brought them to their wounds. I have suggested to the government that there should be one tax and not two taxes. I have applied to the Finance Department. When a building collapses in the city. We reached there at night. We were close to the families of the 13 Garden Reach homes that were destroyed. The mayor said that Mala Roy has won more than one vote since the house was demolished. Tell them what you're left with. Now the mayor is talking about the budget. Deputy Mayor Atin Ghosh said: I have learnt a lot from the budget session. Because the budget refers to the economic, social and infrastructural development and services to the common people. The budget was discussed before it was tabled. But now there is no information about the budget. The number of infections is increasing day by day. Free treatment is being provided for diseases like malaria and dengue. We are providing treatment to about 60% of the 45 lakh people, said Atin Ghosh, mayor councillor of the health department. Pregnant women are not paid. It is given by the state government. The first prize is Tk 2,000, the second prize is Tk 5,000 and the third prize is Tk 6,000. We don't have any money from the central government.

Monday was the first day of budget discussions in the Municipal Corporation. Is the Kumbh Mela being celebrated peacefully and transparently? Or whether the state administration has organized the Ganasagar Mela peacefully, there was a heated argument between the BJP and the Trinamool

councillors. BJP's parliamentary party leader and BJP councillor of ward number 22, Meena Devi Purohit, got up to deliver her speech and brought up the Kumbh issue. She took a dig at the Trinamool municipal administration on how the Uttar Pradesh government is outperforming it in terms of roads and civic services. In turn, Trinamool councillor Sandipan Saha of ward number 58, Trinamool councillor Chaitali Chatterjee of ward number 90 and Trinamool councillor Arup Chakraborty of ward number 98, while speaking in favor of the budget, lashed out against the Uttar Pradesh administration over the poor condition of the Mahakumbh Mela, the incident of deaths due to train accidents and the quality of water. The Trinamool councillors also kept explaining how successful Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was in organizing the Ganasagar Mela. This is what led to the debate!

BJP councillor Sajal Ghosh came down near the well in the meeting room and started shouting. Almost every Trinamool councillor shouted back. The meeting room became lively. Both sides started shouting and mocking each other, calling each other "thief, thief party". It became very difficult for Chairperson Mala Roy to continue working. But because of the budget, the statements regarding citizen services are ignored. The question arises, was there any need to discuss Kumbh during the budget discussion? Chairperson Mala Roy said, 'No other issue can be discussed except the budget. We will discuss whether these statements can be rejected or not.'

Earthquake tremors felt across Kolkata and coastal districts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Residents of Kolkata woke up to tremors on Tuesday morning as an earthquake struck several districts of West Bengal. The tremors were felt at 6:10 AM, shaking multiple areas in the state.

Preliminary reports indicate that the epicentre of the earthquake was in the Bay of Bengal, approximately 175 km east of Odisha's coast and 330 km from Kolkata. According to the Richter scale, the quake measured 5.1 in magnitude, with a depth of 91 km.

Apart from West Bengal, tremors were also reported in Odisha and parts of Bangladesh. While no immediate damage or casualties have been reported, coastal areas experienced stronger tremors due to their proximity to the epicentre.

This seismic activity follows a 7.1 magnitude earthquake in Tibet on January 7, which had also caused tremors across Bengal. Experts highlight that the Himalayan belt frequently experiences seismic movements, often impacting North Bengal.

Despite the underwater epicentre, authorities have not issued any tsunami warning. Seismologists note that while Kolkata is not highly earthquake-prone, several surrounding areas fall within seismic zones, making them susceptible to tremors.

Residents remain on alert as experts continue monitoring the situation. Authorities have assured that they are closely assessing any further risks associated with this latest earthquake.

Bomb scare at Vidyasagar Setu

MI News Service, Kolkata: A bomb scare gripped the Vidyasagar Setu (Second Hooghly Bridge) on Tuesday afternoon after a suspicious tiffin box was spotted near the bridge. Panic spread among commuters, prompting an immediate response from the police and bomb squad. According to police sources, around midday, pedestri-



ans noticed an unattended tiffin box lying near the bridge. Fearing the worst, they quickly alerted the local authorities. As news of the suspicious object spread, panic escalated in the area. Upon receiving the report, a bomb disposal squad rushed to the scene, accompanied by police sniffer dogs and senior officers. The area was cordoned off, and an extensive search was conducted to rule out any potential threat. After a thorough inspection, officials confirmed that the tiffin box contained no explosives or hazardous materials. The police later removed the object, suspecting that it may have accidentally fallen from someone's bag or vehicle. However, authorities have not ruled out other possibilities and are continuing their investigation. This incident comes just a day after a similar bomb scare at Harish Mukherjee Street on Monday night. Residents had alerted police after noticing two abandoned boxes outside an under-construction building. However, upon investigation, no explosive materials were found inside. While both incidents turned out to be false alarms, they have heightened security concerns in the city. Law enforcement officials have urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any suspicious objects or activities immediately.

JSW MG Motor India crosses the production milestone of 15,000 units of MG Windsor

MI News Service, Kolkata/Bhubaneswar: JSW MG Motor India has produced 15,000 units of the MG Windsor, India's first Intelligent CUV, which has been the best-selling EV in India for four months. JSW MG Motor India plans to diversify its portfolio with the launch of the MG Cyberster and MG M9 under the MG Select brand channel.



Maha Shivaratri preparation at Bhutnath Temple in Kolkata on Tuesday.

JU students protest over scholarship rejection

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jadavpur University has once again made headlines as several engineering students failed in mathematics, leading to their disqualification from scholarship eligibility. In protest, a section of students demanded that the university pass them in mathematics, allowing them to apply for financial aid.

On Monday, these students gheraoed Vice-Chancellor (Acting) Bhaskar Gupta and other officials, pressuring them to reconsider their stance. However, Gupta firmly rejected their demand, stating that it was unjustified and unacceptable.

According to university sources, two engineering students recently applied for scholarships. However, it was discovered that both had failed mathematics and had attempted to alter their

mark sheets fraudulently to increase their scores. Upon detection, the university rejected their applications, and the matter was reported to the Higher Education Department.

Following an investigation, authorities confirmed the mark sheet forgery. The Higher Education Department then warned Jadavpur University about possible academic misconduct, prompting the institution to implement stricter verification procedures. Allegations suggest that the fraudulent activities were influenced by senior students, leading to stricter scrutiny.

As per university rules, students must pass mathematics in their semester exams to qualify for scholarships. Reports indicate that over 100 students received supplementary marks in the subject this year, making them ineligible

for scholarships. The administration, adhering to university policies, denied their applications, which triggered the protests.

On Monday evening, 30 to 40 students gathered outside the Vice-Chancellor's office, staging demonstrations late into the night. However, university authorities remained firm, stating that the demand was illogical and could not be accepted.

Vice-Chancellor Bhaskar Gupta expressed shock over the situation, saying, "I could never imagine students would protest over failing in mathematics. This demand is absurd and cannot be justified."

The Jadavpur University Teachers' Association (JUTA) also distanced itself from the protest, emphasizing that such actions tarnish the Institution's reputation and provide no real benefit to students.

Md Selim re-elected as CPI (M) state secy

MI News Service, Kolkata: Md Selim was re-elected as the state secretary of the West Bengal unit of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] on Tuesday. The announcement came after a four-day state party conference held in Dankuni, where an 80-member state committee was unanimously elected. Following the committee's first meeting, Selim was officially reappointed as the state secretary.

Among the 80 members, 14 are women, while six are new entrants to the state committee. The new members include Pijush Misra, Tirthankar

Roy, Shukul Sikder, Keni-Rabiul Fatima (Aleya), Goutam Ghosh, and Santanu De. Additionally, five veteran leaders—Biman Bose, Suryakanta Misra, Rabin Dev, Amiya Patra, and Jibesh Sarkar—have been retained in the committee.

However, some notable exclusions were made this year. Senior leader Sushanta Ghosh and DYFI's All India Secretary Himagnharaj Bhattacharya have been left out of the newly formed committee. This marks a significant change in the party's leadership structure.

Selim had first taken charge as the state sec-

retary in 2022. Despite his leadership, the CPI(M) faced a significant electoral setback in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, failing to secure a single seat in West Bengal. Selim himself lost from his constituency, Murshidabad, highlighting the party's declining influence in the state.

The re-election of Selim signals continuity within the party, even as CPI(M) struggles to regain its political foothold in Bengal. The newly elected state committee is expected to focus on organizational restructuring and grassroots mobilization to strengthen the party's presence ahead of future electoral battles.



Indian Anthropology Congress was held in Salt Lake from February 20 to 23, 2025. The event aimed to bring together academicians, scientists, and researchers to discuss and share their findings. Dr. Sachidananda Joshi, Member Secretary of IGNC, Ministry of Culture, Government of India, delivered the valedictory address.

Little Magazine Editors' Association Weaves Words and Wonders



MI News Service, Kolkata: The 41st Sharad Edition Exhibition and Literary Festival, was recently held at Bharatvarshiya Brahma Mandir, organized by the Little Magazine Editors' Association. The event was graced by the presence of former Governor **Shyamal Sen, poet **Anil Dawn, educationist **Banshibadan Chattopadhyay, **Tapobrta Brahm-

achari, **Chaitali Mallik, and **Dr. Samarendranath Ghosh. The festival commenced with an inaugural song by **Rabindra Sangeet artist and educator Chandra Mahalanobis, followed by an opening speech by **Professor Dr. Parimal Ghosh. The event was a significant gathering for over a hundred literary and cultural figures from across Bengal.

The event, presided over by **Gautam Kumar Dey* and supervised by **Shankha Bhattacharya, featured a welcome speech by editor **Biswanath Sau*, where it was announced that, as in the past five years, the best magazines from the exhibition would be awarded.

Future Generali India Insurance celebrates DEI milestone with an exclusive coffee table book, 'It's a Wonderful World'

Mumbai : Future Generali India Insurance Company (FGII) has proudly turned a new page in its DEI journey with the launch of 'It's a Wonderful World'-a coffee table book that brings to life stories of inclusion, resilience, and change. Launched at a grand event, this book marks a powerful milestone in FGII's unwavering commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), proving that when every voice is heard, the world truly becomes 'wonderful.' The book brings alive inspirational stories of individuals across various walks of life as well as FGII's PwD employees. It celebrates FGII's milestone of achieving 1% representation of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The book launch was graced by a distinguished lineup of celebrity guests, including acclaimed actor and producer Ranadaggubati; renowned actress and Bharatanatyam dancer SudhaChandran; two-time Paralympic champion AvaniLeKhara and CEO of Bollant Industries, SrikanthBolla. In 2022, FGII embarked on a journey to make DEI a strategic priority. From introducing policy changes to conducting sensitization and awareness sessions to launching truly inclusive products for the LGBTQIA+ community and women, FGII left no stone



~ It's official!: Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) now account for 1% of FGII's workforce ~
 ~ FGII launched a special edition book to celebrate this landmark achievement in the presence of Ranadaggubati, ShrikantBolla, AvaniLeKhara, SudhaChandran etc.

turned in its quest to become a truly inclusive employer, insurer and a responsible corporate citizen. FGII had set itself an ambitious goal to ensure that 1% of its workforce would be made up of Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). Armed with determination, the company has achieved this target, growing its PwD workforce to 41 employees across 16 regional branches in the span of a year. Moreover, nearly 22 per cent of the company's PwD hires are women, once again underscoring its efforts to build a workplace that is inclusive in every sense.

Speaking at the launch, Anup Rau, Managing Director and CEO, Future Generali India Insurance Company Ltd. said, "Inclusion cannot be just a policy-it has to be a lived reality. True inclusion means every stakeholder has a seat at the table, ensuring that the solutions we create reflect the diverse communities we serve. We are proud that 1% of our workforce is made up of differently-abled individuals-not as an obligation, but as a commitment to talent, perspective, and potential. An inclusive employer makes for an inclusive - and I dare say, a better provider- with far more empathy, compassion and sensitivity".

Axis Bank felicitates the winners of SPLASH, a pan-India competition for Art, Craft and Literature in Axis House, Mumbai



Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India, felicitated the national winners of SPLASH, an annual Pan-India competition on Art, Craft, and Literature for children in the age group of 7-14 years. The winners were felicitated by senior Axis Bank officials - Amitabh Chaudhry, MD&CEO; Rajiv Anand, Deputy Managing Director; RajkamalVempati, Head - HR; ArjunChowdhry, Group Executive at Axis House in Mumbai. Each of the six finalists was awarded a scholarship of Rs. 1 lakh, along with exciting hampers and electronic gadgets from partners such as Vivo, BSA Cycles, American Tourister, and BoAt. Additionally, the runners-up received Rs. 50 thousand each. Winners under the age group of 7 - 10 years:

- " Art: S. Tharunika from Campion Anglo Indian School, Tamil Nadu
- " Craft: P. Yashvi from Senthil Public School, Salem, Tamil Nadu
- " Literature: SharannyaGhosh from Our Lady Queen of the Mission School, Kolkata
- Winners under the age group of 11 - 14 years:
- " Art: KavyaGugale from Vibgyor High School NIBM, Pune
- " Craft: Madhav from Neo Learning School, Padampur, Rajasthan
- " Literature: Prateek Mishra from OdishaAdarshVidyalaya, Puri, Odisha

the competition witnessed entries from over 9 lakh participants from all over the nation, which has increased by almost 40% year on year. By conducting the competition physically (both physically and digitally), the Bank ensured that every child has an opportunity to showcase their talent.

Speaking on the occasion, AnoopManohar, Chief Marketing Officer, Axis Bank, said, "Splash is not merely a competition; it is a platform where young minds can express their thoughts and imaginations through arts, drawing, and literature. We are delighted to see such a vast pool of talent come together to make this competition a nationwide success. This initiative has always been about discovering, nurturing, and celebrating the talent of these brilliant minds. The grandeur of this competition reaffirms that we are deeply invested in the growth and well-being of our customers and communities."

These participants were adjudged by jury panel comprising SavioMascarenhas, Group Art Director at Amar Chitra Katha; SharadTawade, an alumnus from the L.S. Raheja School of Art, Mumbai, and Vikrant Shitole, a revered artist from Art Society of India. With an aim to encourage young participants to reflect on and express the importance of appreciation and thankfulness through their creativity, Axis Bank reached out to over 3,300+ schools and activated its 5500+ branches spread

Study reveals impact of animals as architects of Earth



London [UK] : A new study led by Professor Gemma Harvey from Queen Mary University of London has revealed how hundreds of species shape the landscapes we depend on, from termite mounds visible from space to beavers creating wetlands and hippos carving drainage systems. Published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), this first-of-its-kind global synthesis identifies 603 species, genera, or families that influence Earth's surface processes. From tiny ants shifting soil to salmon reshaping riverbeds, the study highlights the diversity and scale of animals' impact across all freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems. By estimating the collective energy of these "natural engineers," the research shows that their geomorphic contributions rival those of hundreds of thousands of major floods.

Energy Output: Animals collectively contribute at least 76,000 gigajoules of energy annually to shaping the Earth's surface -- a figure comparable to hundreds of thousands of extreme floods. This estimate is likely conservative, as significant knowledge gaps exist, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions where biodiversity is highest but research is limited. Fascinating Examples: Termites build vast networks of mounds in Brazil, some covering thousands of square kilometres, while salmon spawning can shift as much sediment as annual flooding. Even ants, through their tiny but countless actions, alter soil structure and drainage.

Professor Harvey explains: "This research shows that the role of animals in shaping Earth's landscapes is much more significant than previously recognised. From beavers creating wetlands to ants building mounds of soil, these diverse natural processes are crucial, yet we risk losing them as biodiversity declines."

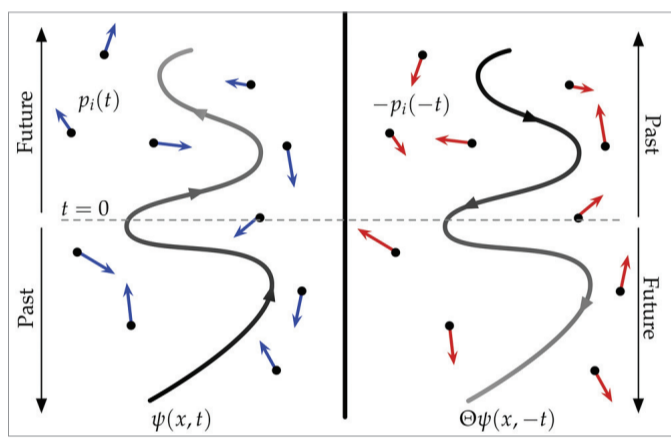
Nearly 30% of the identified species are rare, endemic, or threatened, meaning vital geomorphic processes could cease before their full significance is understood. This loss could have profound consequences for ecosystems and the landscapes they support.

Key Insights from the Study: Unexpected Diversity: Beyond iconic examples like beavers and salmon, the study identifies hundreds of species -- including insects, mammals, fish, birds, and reptiles -- that shape landscapes in remarkable ways. Freshwater Ecosystems in Focus: Despite covering just 2.4% of the planet's surface, freshwater habitats host over a third of these remarkable species. Impressive

Opposing arrows of time emerge from certain quantum systems: Study

Washington DC [US] : Researchers at the University of Surrey made a thought-provoking discovery. A new study reveals that opposing arrows of time can theoretically emerge from certain quantum systems.

Dr Andrea Rocco, Associate Professor in Physics and Mathematical Biology at the University of Surrey and lead author of the study, said: "One way to explain this is when you look at a process like spilt milk spreading across a table, it's clear that time is moving forward. But if you were to play that in reverse, like a movie, you'd immediately know something was wrong -- it would be hard to believe milk could just gather back into a glass. "However, there are processes, such as the motion of a pendulum, that look just as believable in reverse. The puzzle is that, at the most fundamental level, the laws of physics resemble the pendulum; they do not account for irreversible processes. Our findings suggest that while our common experience tells us that time only moves one way, we are just unaware that the opposite direction would have been equally possible." The study, published in Scientific Reports, explored how a quantum system -- the world of the sub-atomic -- interacts with its environment, known as an 'open quantum system'. Researchers investigated why we perceive time as moving in one direction and whether this perception emerges from open quantum mechanics. To simplify the problem, the research team made two key assumptions. First, they treated the vast environment surrounding the system in such a way that they could focus only on the quantum system itself. Second, they assumed that the environment --



"We also found a small but important detail which is usually overlooked -- a time discontinuous factor emerged that keeps the time-symmetry property intact. It's unusual to see such a mathematical mechanism in a physics equation because it's not continuous, and it was very surprising to see it pop up so naturally."

like the entire universe -- is so large that energy and information dissipate into it, never returning. This approach enabled them to examine how time emerges as a one-way phenomenon, even though, at the microscopic level, time could theoretically move in both directions. Even after applying these assumptions, the system behaved the same way whether time moved forward or backwards. This discovery provided a mathematical foundation for the idea that time-reversal symmetry still holds in open quantum systems -- suggesting that time's arrow may not be as fixed as we experience it. Thomas Guff, a postdoctoral researcher who led the calculations, said: "The surprising part of this project was that even after making the standard simplifying assumption to our equations describing open quantum systems, the equations

still behaved the same way whether the system was moving forwards or backwards in time. When we carefully worked through the maths, we found that this behaviour had to be the case because a key part of the equation, the "memory kernel," is symmetrical in time.

"We also found a small but important detail which is usually overlooked -- a time discontinuous factor emerged that keeps the time-symmetry property intact. It's unusual to see such a mathematical mechanism in a physics equation because it's not continuous, and it was very surprising to see it pop up so naturally."

The research offers a fresh perspective on one of the biggest mysteries in physics. Understanding the true nature of time could have profound implications for quantum mechanics, cosmology and beyond.

Scientists describe black hole creation through pure gravity and without singularities

Barcelona [Spain] : Traditional black holes, as predicted by Albert Einstein's theory of General Relativity, contain what are known as singularities, i.e. points where the laws of physics break down. Identifying how singularities are resolved in the context of quantum gravity is one of the fundamental problems in theoretical physics. Now, a team of experts has described the creation of regular black holes from gravitational effects without the need for the existence of exotic matter required by some previous models.

This discovery, published in the journal Physics Letters B, opens up new prospects for improving our understanding of the quantum nature of gravity and the true structure of space-time.

Exotic matter refers to a type of matter with unusual properties not found in ordinary matter. It often has a negative energy density, creates repulsive gravitational effects, and can violate certain energy conditions in general relativity.

These are largely theoretical and have not been observed in nature but are used in models to explore concepts such as wormholes, faster-than-light travel and the resolution of black hole singularities.

The new study mathematically demonstrates that an infinite series of higher-order gravitational corrections can eliminate these singularities and result in so-called regular black holes.

Unlike previous models, which required



exotic matter, this new study reveals that pure gravity -- without additional matter fields -- can generate regular black holes without singularities.

This discovery represents a significant departure from previous theories and simplifies the conditions necessary for regular

black holes. "The beauty of our construction is that it is based only on modifications of the Einstein equations predicted naturally by quantum gravity. No other components are needed," says researcher Pablo A. Cano, from the Department of Quantum Physics and Astrophysics at the Faculty of

Physics and ICCUB. The theories deployed by the ICCUB team are applicable to any dimension of space-time greater than or equal to five.

"The reason for considering higher space-time dimensions is purely technical," says Cano, "as it allows us to reduce the mathematical complexity of the problem." However, the researchers say that "the same conclusions should apply to our four-dimensional space-time."

"Most scientists agree that the singularities of general relativity must ultimately be resolved, although we know very little about how this process might be achieved."

He added, "Our work provides the first mechanism to achieve this in a robust way, albeit under certain symmetry assumptions," explains RobieHennigar (UB and ICCUB). "It is not yet clear how nature prevents the formation of singularities in the universe, but we hope that our model will help us to gain a better understanding of this process," says the expert.

The study also explores the thermodynamic properties of these regular black holes and reveals that they comply with the first law of thermodynamics. The theories developed provide a robust framework for understanding the thermodynamics of black holes in a completely universal and unambiguous way. This consistency adds credibility and potential applicability to the findings.

Study finds early sensorimotor markers for autism spectrum disorder



NEW YORK [US] : A study discovered interesting discoveries on the early sensorimotor traits and cognitive capacities of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The study, directed by Kristina Denisova, a professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at the CUNY Graduate Centre and Queens College, is a significant step towards better understanding ASD and developing more accurate, individually customised therapies.

The findings of the study were published in the journal iSCIENCE. Autism Spectrum Disorder, typically diagnosed around the ages of 4 to 5 years, is a neurodevelopmental disorder with complex and varied presentations, including atypical communication and restrictive and repetitive patterns of behavior. Moreover, cognitive abilities are often lower in individuals with ASD. Despite the established link between lower intelligence quotient (IQ) in infancy and a future diagnosis of ASD, not all children with ASD exhibit lower cognitive abilities during infancy. The study addresses the critical gap in knowledge regarding the early features that differentiate children with varying cognitive abilities who later develop ASD. The research team investigated the relationship between movement

and cognitive abilities in toddlers before their ASD diagnosis, both during sleep and wakefulness. The study posed two key questions: Do ASD children with lower IQ exhibit altered movement during sleep compared to children with higher IQ? Additionally, are lower motor skills during wakefulness characteristic of lower-IQ children with ASD compared to those of higher-IQ ASD toddlers? The research was conducted in two stages. In the first sample, the team examined sensorimotor features obtained from sleep functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in 111 toddlers with ASD. In the second, independent sample, they analyzed sensorimotor functioning during wakefulness in over 1,000 toddlers with ASD, categorized by lower vs. higher cognitive abilities. The findings revealed that toddlers with ASD and lower IQs had significantly altered sensorimotor features compared to toddlers with ASD and higher IQs. Interestingly, the sensorimotor features of higher-IQ ASD toddlers were nearly indistinguishable from typically developing (TD) toddlers. This suggests that a higher IQ may confer resilience to atypical sensorimotor functioning, and conversely, that poor sensorimotor functioning may be a key marker for lower IQ in childhood autism.

Regulation of trains for Traffic & Power Block over Asansol Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: For launching of Foot Over Bridge at Jasidih Station between Platform No. 1 & 2, construction of Limited Height Subway No. 24 in Mathurapur - Shankarpur Section & Limited Height Subway No. 36 in Simultala - Ghorparan Section and for dismantling of Foot Over Bridge at Simultala Station Limit over Asansol Division, Power & Traffic Block has been planned on 02.03.2025 (Sunday). Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

- Cancellation:**
- 63209 Deoghar - Patna MEMU.
 - 63561 Asansol - Jasidih MEMU.
 - 63565 Jasidih - Jhajha MEMU.
 - 63573 Jasidih - Kiul MEMU.
 - 63545 Andal - Jasidih MEMU.
 - 63298 Jhajha - Deoghar MEMU.
 - 63570 Baidyanathdham - Asansol MEMU.
 - 63572 Mokama - Jasidih MEMU.
 - 63571 Jasidih - Mokama MEMU on 01.03.2025.
 - 63566 Jhajha - Jasidih MEMU.
 - 63546 Jasidih - Andal MEMU.
 - 63574 Kiul - Jasidih MEMU.

Short Termination/Origination:

- 17321 Vasco Da Gama - Jasidih Weekly Express will be short terminated at Madhupur.
- 63509/63510 Barddhaman - Jhajha - Barddhaman MEMU will be short terminated/originated at/ from Asansol.
- 18183/18184 Tatanagar - Buxar - Tatanagar Express will be short terminated/originated at/ from Asansol.

Diversion:

- 13331/13332 Dhanbad - Patna - Dhanbad Intercity Express will be diverted via Patna - Gaya - Dhanbad in both directions.
- 13508 Gorakhpur - Asansol Express will be diverted via Kiul - Jamalpur - Sahibganj - Sainthia - Andal.
- 12326 Nangal Dam - Kolkata Gurumukhi Superfast Express and 12304 New Delhi - Howrah Poorva Express will be diverted via Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya - Gaya - Dhanbad - Asansol.

Rescheduling:

- 12317 Kolkata - Amritsar Akal Takht Express will be rescheduled by 2 hours.
- 22197 Kolkata - Veerangana Laxmibai Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Superfast Express will be rescheduled by 1 hour 30 Minutes.
- 22499 Deoghar - Varanasi Vande Bharat Express will be rescheduled by 1 hour 50 Minutes.
- 02023 Howrah - Patna Special will be rescheduled by 6 hours 25 Minutes.
- 02024 Patna - Howrah Special will be rescheduled by 6 hours 25 Minutes.
- 22347 Howrah - Patna Vande Bharat Express will be rescheduled by 3 hours 55 Minutes.
- 22348 Patna - Howrah Vande Bharat Express will be rescheduled by 3 hours 55 Minutes.
- 17006 Raxaul - Hyderabad Weekly Express will be rescheduled by 2 hours 30 Minutes.

One pair EMU special between Howrah & Tarakeswar for Shiva Ratri Mela at Tarakeswar

MI News Service, Kolkata: One pair of EMU special train between Howrah & Tarakeswar will run on 26.02.2025 (Wednesday) & 27.02.2025 (Thursday) to cope up with the expected heavy rush of visitors during the occasion of "Shiva Ratri Mela" at Tarakeswar. Howrah - Tarakeswar EMU Special will leave Howrah at 14:45 hrs. to reach Tarakeswar at 16:14 hrs. and Tarakeswar - Howrah EMU Special will leave Tarakeswar at 16:40 hrs. to reach Howrah at 18:15 hrs. Both the special trains will stop at all stations enroute.



President Droupadi Murmu during the centenary celebration of Patna Medical College and Hospital, in Patna.

Special Preparations by Railways for Maha Shivaratri Plan to Run more than 350 Trains from Prayagraj Special Vigilance Directed at Stations

MI News Service, Prayagraj: The final Amrit Snaan of Mahakumbh 2025 is scheduled for February 26. A large number of pilgrims from various states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bengal, and others, have gathered in Prayagraj to bathe at the Sangam, the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna, and Saraswati rivers. On Sunday and Monday, there was a high number of passengers at stations such as Patna, Danapur, Muzaffarpur, Gaya, Sasaram, Katihar, Khagaria, Saharsa, Jaynagar, and Darbhanga in Bihar. Similarly, there was an increased number of pilgrims at stations in Uttar Pradesh, such as Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Kanpur, Gonda, Deen Dayal Upadhyay, and Jhansi, among others. Stations in Madhya Pradesh like Chitrakoot, Jabalpur, Satna, and Khajuraho also saw high footfall, while a significant number of passengers also travelled from Jharkhand's Dhanbad, Bokaro, Ranchi, Garhwa, and Medininagar stations to Prayagraj.

After the Amrit Snaan, a large number of people are expected to return to their hometowns, which will likely lead to a heavy crowd at railway stations. Keeping this in mind, North Central Railway, North Eastern Railway, and Northern Railway have made extensive preparations, and all officials and staff have been directed to remain vigilant at their workstations. On the occasion of Mouni Amavasya, over 360 trains were run, successfully transporting more than 20 lakh people to their

destinations. Similarly, special arrangements have been made to run additional trains after the Maha Shivaratri Snaan, and extra rakes have been stationed near Prayagraj for use as needed. Initially, the railway had planned for the operation of approximately 13,500 trains during the Mahakumbh, and as of the 42nd day, more than 15,000 trains, including a large number of special trains, have already been run. The entire railway operation is being closely monitored by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav. The Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, Satish Kumar, is also actively involved in monitoring the train operations. The General Managers of the three zonal railways are working with their teams to strengthen railway arrangements. Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnav has instructed the Chairman of Railway Board and General Managers of All Zonal Railways to ensure complete care of the Mahakumbh passengers and, if necessary, run additional special trains.

In light of the en masse pilgrims expected on Maha Shivaratri, the railway administration has made arrangements for the convenience of passengers, including security, shelters, easy ticketing apart from running a large number of trains. Over 1,500 commercial department staff and 3,000 Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel have been deployed at all stations in Prayagraj region. Additionally, 29 squads of Railway Protection Special Force, 2 squads of Women Railway Protection Special Force, 22 dog squads, and 2 bomb

disposal squads have been stationed in Prayagraj. Teams from Scouts & Guides, Civil Defense, and other departments are working to provide better travel facilities to the pilgrims. To ensure a smooth journey for pilgrims, internal movement plans have been implemented at all stations in the Prayagraj region, and pilgrims have been sent to their destinations via special trains. At Prayagraj Junction, passengers were directed to specific shelters based on their destinations and then taken by special trains to their respective locations. When the number of passengers increased, the railway implemented its emergency plan by holding passengers at Khushroo Bagh and passengers were directed to enter the station safely through passenger shelters before boarding the trains. All activities were monitored by senior officials of the Prayagraj Division at the control tower at Prayagraj Junction, and timely decisions were made to avoid any disruptions in train operations and ensure the safe departure of pilgrims in special trains.

Medical facilities were also available at various stations, where serious cases of pilgrims were treated in observation rooms. During the Mahakumbh 2025, many pilgrims made use of the digital services offered by the railway. Millions of passengers accessed the website and the Kumbh app for their travel needs. In the final weekend of Mahakumbh, the railway continued to manage regular and special trains at good fettle. On Sunday, the railway successfully operated 335 trains, transporting over 16 lakh people to their destinations.

UN Security Council adopts resolution calling for swift end to Russia-Ukraine conflict



MI News Service, United Nations: The UN Security Council on Monday adopted a U.S.-drafted resolution appealing for a swift end to the conflict and urging a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine, as the world marked the third anniversary since the full escalation of the crisis. The resolution received 10 votes in favor, none against, and five abstentions including France, Britain, Denmark, Greece and Slovenia.

The document reiterates that the principal purpose of the United Nations, as expressed in the Charter of the United Nations, is to maintain international peace and security and peacefully settle disputes. The resolution implores a swift end to the conflict and mourns the loss of life in the war, without blaming Russia. Acting

U.S. Ambassador to the UN Dorothy Shea told the council that this resolution is not a "peace deal," but "a path to peace." "It is high time for peace in Ukraine," UN Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs Rosemary DiCarlo said during the Security Council meeting, while insisting that peace in Ukraine must be "just, sustainable and comprehensive."

Earlier in the day, the UN General Assembly rejected the U.S. draft and passed a resolution submitted by Ukraine and European allies, which backs Ukraine's sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity and calls for a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in line with the UN Charter.

Resolutions in the UN Security Council are binding under international law.

Pope critical but showing 'slight improvement': Vatican



MI News Service, Vatican City: Pope Francis's condition remains critical but has shown a "slight improvement", according to the Vatican's latest update on the 88-year-old pontiff's health, reported Al Jazeera. In a statement on Monday, the Vatican mentioned that "The clinical conditions of the Holy Father, in their critical nature, show a slight improvement", as per Al Jazeera.

"Today there were no episodes of asthmatic respiratory attacks; some laboratory tests have improved," it said, noting that Francis had worked in the afternoon after receiving the Eucharist in the morning. The Pope was still receiving oxygen, "although with slightly reduced flow and oxygen percentage", the statement said. Pope Francis was admitted to Rome's

Gemelli Hospital on February 14 with breathing difficulties and his condition subsequently worsened. He is battling pneumonia in both lungs as well as kidney issues in what has become the longest hospital stay of his nearly 12-year papacy, as per Al Jazeera. Double pneumonia is a serious infection that can inflame and scar both lungs, making it difficult to breathe. The Vatican has described the pope's infection as "complex" and said it was caused by two or more microorganisms, Al Jazeera reported. The head of the Catholic Church, who has been pope since 2013, has suffered bouts of ill health over the past two years. He is particularly prone to lung infections because he developed pleurisy as a young adult and had part of one lung removed.

South Eastern Railway Organises ZRUCC Meeting



MI News Service, Kolkata: The 104th Meeting of Zonal Railway Users' Consultative Committee (ZRUCC) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway at Kolkata on 25.02.2025.

The ZRUCC Meeting was attended by Shri Pratap Chandra Sarangi, Hon'ble MP, Shri Jyotirmay Singh Mahato, Hon'ble MP, Shri Khiru Mahato, Hon'ble MP, Shri Kallipada Saren Kherwal Hon'ble MP, Shri Shyamal Mondal Hon'ble MLA and other Hon'ble Members. Altogether 18 Hon'ble Members of ZRUCC attended the meeting.

Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway apprised the Hon'ble Members of the recent achievements and developmental activities of

SER. He mentioned about the initiatives in passenger amenities, progress of construction work, improvement of safety measures, growth in freight loading, Station Redevelopment under Amrit Station Scheme, running of Vande Bharat Express, One Station One Product scheme etc. The Hon'ble Members while appreciating the developmental measures taken by South Eastern Railway, offered their valuable suggestions for further improvement of train services, passenger amenities and better connectivity. Suggestions and demands of the members included punctuality in train services, extension of train routes, additional stoppages of trains, increase in frequency of trains, restoration of pre-pandemic train serv-

ices etc. They also mentioned about the need of more passenger amenities at stations like lift, escalator, toilets, platform shed, ramp for passengers etc. General Manager, Shri Anil Kumar Mishra in his address said that all due importance would be given to the suggestions and demands of the Hon'ble Members. General Manager also spoke about the need of co-operation of the Hon'ble Members for speedy implementation of railway projects. They have also offered their valuable suggestions for development of Railway infrastructure over South Eastern Railway. Shri Soumitra Majumdar, Additional General Manager and other Principal Head of Departments of South Eastern Railway were present in the meeting.

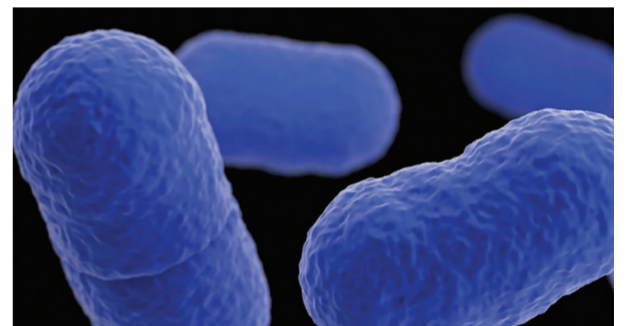
GM inspects Jai Hind Bimanbandar Station of Orange Line

MI News Service, Kolkata: Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway inspected the under-construction Jai Hind Bimanbandar station of Orange Line today, i.e. on 25.02.2025. Senior officers of Metro Railway accompanied him during this inspection. At Jai Hind Bimanbandar station, Metro officials explained him the progress of work in recent time and their planning to complete all pending works within the stipulated deadline. Shri Reddy inspected the Passenger Interchanging Points, Platform Level, Concourse Level and Walkalator. He also inspected the Tunnel Ventilation System and Environmental Control System etc. While evaluating the progress of work of this stretch, he emphasized on completing the scheduled work without any delay.

3 infants die in Gaza due to cold, lack of shelter: Medical official

MI News Service, Gaza: At least three Palestinian infants have died in the past few hours in the Gaza Strip due to severe cold and the absence of adequate heating in their shelters, a medical official said Tuesday. Saeed Salah, director of the Friends of the Patient Charitable Hospital in Gaza City, told Xinhua that the infants, all under two months old, arrived at the hospital in a state of hypothermia. "Their bodies were like ice cubes," he said, explaining that the children had been living in makeshift tents in Gaza City without any proper heating. The extreme cold caused a sharp drop in their blood circulation, leading to respiratory failure, heart complications, and organ dysfunction, and eventually their deaths. Saeed warned of a growing humanitarian crisis, stressing the urgent need for adequate shelter and heating for infants and other vulnerable residents in Gaza. "The number of deaths is rising among children living in tents made of cloth and nylon, especially as the cold weather persists," he added. Gaza has been experiencing a harsh cold wave in recent days, with strong winds, heavy rain, and plummeting temperatures. The extreme weather has uprooted hundreds of tents and flooded many displacement camps, exacerbating the suffering of thousands of families. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) had previously warned of the increasing risks to newborns in Gaza.

U.S. Listeria outbreak leads to at least 12 deaths



MI News Service, Los Angeles: At least twelve deaths have been reported in the United States amid a multi-state outbreak of Listeria infections linked to supplemental shakes, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said Monday. At least 38 people in 21 states were infected, with 37 of them hospitalized. Many people in this outbreak lived in long-term care facilities or were hospitalized before becoming sick, according to the CDC. The CDC said these cases date back to 2018, and over half of the people affected by this outbreak got sick in either 2024 or 2025. It is common for Listeria outbreaks to last several years because it is an incredibly hardy germ that can survive on surfaces for a long time. The CDC has investigated this virus strain several times but never had enough information to identify a food source, be-

yond something being served in long-term care facilities. Environmental testing and whole genome sequencing helped solve the outbreak this year, said the CDC. All Lyons ReadyCare and Sysco Imperial frozen supplemental shakes within shelf life have been recalled. Frozen supplemental shakes under brands Lyons ReadyCare and Sysco Imperial were sold to institutional settings such as long-term care facilities. The CDC requested the public not to eat any recalled products, and to clean refrigerators, containers, and surfaces that may have touched the recalled products. Listeria can survive in the refrigerator and can easily spread to other foods and surfaces. It is especially harmful to pregnant women, people aged 65 or older, and people with weakened immune systems, according to the CDC.

Hossain Bukhari Huzoor's Meeting



Nurul Islam Khan

A historic Isale Sawab was held in Bel Para of Furfura Sharif on Monday. This 100-year-old gathering was established by Hazrat Dada Huzoor, the Pir of Furfura Sharif in the new era. In fact, some Islamic gatherings are exceptional and unique. This is one such traditional gathering. This gathering was conducted in memory of Hazrat Syed Shah Hossain Bukhari Gazi by all his sons. Although the first day's meeting was of moderate duration, people from different districts gathered in the second day's meeting. Numerous Pirsahabs were present and delivered speech on the day. Prayers were offered for peace, harmony and welfare. Messages were given from the meeting to come to the Isale Sawab of the historic Furfura Sharif. It is known that this Isale Sawab is held on 9 Falgun every year.

Champions Trophy: Incessant rain in Rawalpindi forces Australia-South Africa clash to be called off

RAWALPINDI (PAKISTAN) : The highly anticipated Champions Trophy clash between Australia and South Africa has been called off without even the toss taking place due to incessant rain in Rawalpindi on Monday. ICC took to X to confirm the match had been abandoned due to continuous rain in Rawalpindi and wrote, "Incessant rain forces the Group B #ChampionsTrophy contest between Australia and South Africa to be called off."

It had been raining since the morning, which hardly gave the ground staff any chance to prepare the venue for the match. A relentless downpour washed away the game, and both teams shared a point each. South Africa and



Australia are now on three points each, occupying Group B's first and second spots, respectively. The washout has turned Wednesday's clash between Afghanistan and England into a virtual knockout.

The team that suffers a defeat will become the third team to be knocked out of the tournament. Bangladesh and Pakistan, the defending champions in Group A, were eliminated from the tournament on Monday. New Zealand orchestrated a comfortable five-wicket win to qualify for the semi-finals along with India. Australia will now bolster its preparations to face Afghanistan on Friday at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore. South Africa will play its final group-stage game against England on Saturday at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi. The Baggy Greens began their campaign by pulling off a record 352-run chase against England. On the other hand, South Africa sailed to a 107-

run victory against Afghanistan in a one-sided affair.

Squads:

Australia Squad: Matthew Short, Travis Head, Steven Smith(c), Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Inglis(w), Alex Carey, Glenn Maxwell, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Adam Zampa, Spencer Johnson, Sean Abbott, Aaron Hardie, Jake Fraser-McGurk, Tanveer Sangha

South Africa Squad: Ryan Rickelton(w), Tony de Zorzi, Temba Bavuma(c), Rassie van der Dussen, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Marco Jansen, Wiaan Mulder, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Tabraiz Shamsi, Heinrich Klaasen, Tristan Stubbs, Corbin Bosch.

Venkateshlyer "definitely ready" to lead KKR in IPL 2025 if offered captaincy

MADHYA PRADESH (INDIA) : India and Madhya Pradesh all-rounder Venkateshlyer is "definitely ready" to lead defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year if the captaincy is offered to him.

The defending champions KKR will start their trophy defence in the tournament opener against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on March 22 at their home arena of Eden Gardens. KKR are yet to appoint their skipper for new season after they released Shreyaslyer, who will be now captaining Punjab Kings (PBKS) coached by Ricky Ponting. Venkatesh was brought back by KKR for a massive sum of Rs 23.75 crores. He is understood to be a top contender for captaincy alongside Indian veteran Ajinkya Rahane.

Iyer, currently 30, has never led in competitive cricket, but he is willing for a captaincy experience. "Definitely. Definitely, I am ready. Again, I have always said this: captaincy is just a tag. I believe in leadership. That is a bigger role to play, being a leader," said Iyer as quoted by ESPNcricinfo. Iyer said that one does not need the tag of captain

to be a leadership in the dressing room, but one needs to "set examples" and be a "good role model", both on and off the field, something he admits he is doing for his state side, Madhya Pradesh.

"I am not the captain of the MP team, but my opinions are respected and I really love to be in an atmosphere where every individual - again, new or experienced, 20 lakhs, 20 crore, whatever - you just need to have the freedom to voice your opinion. Or you just need to have the freedom to give opinions and give suggestions and them to be taken in the right spirit."

"I have always wanted to be that person. And if captaincy comes my way, I would definitely want to do it. There is no ambiguity surrounded to this. I will definitely do it, if it comes my way. There is no reason not to do it," he added.

Iyer made his IPL debut in 2021 and was important in changing their fortunes after four losses in six games, helping them pull seven wins in the next nine games to make it to the finals. In 10 matches, Iyer made 370 runs at an average of 41.11, with a strike rate of over 1328.

PULLELAGOPICHAND UNVEILS WINNING TRAITS THAT SET SAINANEHWAL, PV SINDHU APART

NEW DELHI (INDIA) : Pullela Gopichand, India's chief badminton coach, opened up about what makes Saina Nehwal and PV Sindhu stand out in the world of sports.

In an exclusive conversation with ANI, he reflected on their relentless drive, work ethic, and the impact they've had on Indian badminton.

Speaking about Saina Nehwal's early days, Gopichand recalled, "Well, Saina was maybe about 13 years when I started coaching her. At that time, Indian women, they said, were not strong enough. Because at least in the men's side, we had me or Prakash sir or even Dinesh Khanna or Suresh Goel or people in the past who were actually achievers at the world level. But women, we didn't have the same highest level of women. So they would always say, our girls are not strong. That's the kind of language you would get to hear. We needed somebody who actually had the guts to actually go and break the glass ceiling, as they say. And that we needed somebody with a mindset like Saina. She was that kind who would be like go out there and just push and achieve kind of a thing. So once she did this, then I think everybody started to believe."

Nehwal won bronze in the 2012 London Olympics. Her hunger for success, he noted, was unmatched.

"Saina, especially in that initial years...was hungry. She would want more and more and we needed somebody with that attitude because even when she won her first satellite event or a challenger event, she would have been the best Indian woman ever but she wanted more and more and that's the reason I think hats off to her," he noted.

Speaking about two-time Olympic medal winner PV Sindhu, Gopichand highlighted her incredible consistency and longevity in the sport.

"I think Sindhu was one of the only ones. She was there from much younger as well. So she went out there. Both of them are physically very strong, great work ethic," he said.

"Sindhu has been phenomenal because to have a career so long and to perform so well over time, I think both have been fantastic for India," he added.

Sindhu won medals in the Olympics on two occasions, in 2016, she won the silver, and in 2020 Tokyo, she received a bronze. Beyond physical endurance, Gopichand emphasized the importance of mental strength in shaping champions.

"I think one of the key factors is that you have to love what you're doing. That has to be a priority. When they lose, they have to be smart enough to forget it and believe that the next time, they're going to win. That mindset is very important and then trust, belief. For me, I think these components were very important as well. Because both of these girls had blind faith and that really helped. That is necessary. That is important as well. Because especially in strategy wise, you're telling some insane strategies and since you play here, she will play there and you go and tap it and that's like a lot of confidence you need to say that and a lot of belief of the athlete to actually trust you to do that," he emphasized.

He acknowledged that he was fortunate to have players who placed that faith in him.

"Luckily for me, God's grace, things delivered, so I could keep that trust going," he added.



IML 2025: Simmons overpowers Watson's masterclass to power West Indies Masters to 7-wicket win

NAVI MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : Shane Watson's 48-ball century was overshadowed by an equally aggressive 44-ball undefeated 94 from Lendl Simmons that helped the West Indies Masters outclass the Australia Masters by 7 wickets in the second match of the inaugural International Masters League (IML) at the DY Patil Sports Stadium, as per a release from IML.

Continuing the trend of producing high-scoring matches in the IML, the sizeable crowd at the stadium were treated to Shane Watson's signature strokes, adding a touch of nostalgia after West Indian batting great Brian Lara elected to field on winning the toss, earlier in the evening.

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