



Devotees throng Bhutanath Siva temple in Kolkata on Wednesday to offer Maha Sivaratri puja.

## Millions of pilgrims converge at Triveni Sangam of Maha Kumbh for holy dip on Mahashivratri

**MI News Service, Prayagraj :** Lakhs of pilgrims and devotees from all over India and several countries around the globe converged at the holy confluence site on Mahashivratri to take a dip on the last day of the Maha Kumbh here on Wednesday amid the sound of Har Har Mahadev and other holy chants.

This year's Maha Kumbh, the spectacle that takes place once in 12 years, began on the pious day of 'Paush Purnima' on January 13 and saw grand processions of Naga Sadhus and three 'Amrit Snans' since then. This kaleidoscopic colours of India fused into each other at the Triveni Sangam, also witnessed the world's largest religious gathering of over 64 crore pilgrims so far.

As the last auspicious 'snan or the holy dip' of the Maha Kumbh falls on Wednesday, lakhs of devotees from all corners of India had begun to gather on the banks of the Sangam from close to midnight last night, and while thousands of pilgrims camped and waited patiently to take the dip at 'Brahma Muhurt', scores of others performed the bathing rituals much before the appointed time in a bid to avoid the mad rush.

Among them were four young enthusiasts from Siliguti, the largest city of North Bengal, who wore matching bright yellow dhoti before heading to the ghats for the bathing ritual.

Akash Pal, who works at an MNC, Abhijeet Chakraborty, a content writer, Raja Sonwani, who works in a pharmaceutical sector, and Abhishek Pal, a lawyer, have diverse careers, but united in their desire to celebrate the festival of 'Mahashivratri at the Maha Kumbh'.

"We are friends and we travelled from West Bengal to Prayagraj in a car and then from the point where a vehicle was not allowed, we walked to reach the Sangam. It feels amazing to be part of this spectacular gathering and more so on this auspicious day," Akash said while narrating his unique experience.

All four of them carries a saffron colour container to collect Ganga Jal (water) back home.

Large number of pilgrims have also come from Kolkata and its neighbourhood apart from diverse places like Durgapur, Burdwan, Diamond Harbour, Birbhum, Santiniketan and Cooch Behar chanting 'Jai Ma Ganga, 'Har Har Mahadev' and 'Sita Ram' which filled the air, complemented with sweet chimes of cymbals

played by many devotees.

Billed as the world's largest spiritual gathering on earth, the mega religious festival on its last day attracted pilgrims not only from all four corners of the country, but also from neighbouring Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and many other countries.

Four teenagers from Nepal, along with three other members, took the holy dip to celebrate Mahashivratri.

Manish Mandal, Rabbj Mandal, Arjun Mandal and Dipak Sahni and his uncle Domi Sahni wore matching Lord Shiva themed tunics while the three youths also sported a 'gamcha' bearing 'Mahakal' on it.

"We are from Janakpur in Nepal, a place associated with Mata Sita. Our city is famous for Janaki Temple too. And, after the holy dip, we will be going to Ayodhya for darshan of Lord Ram," said Sahni.

The members of the group from Nepal travelled first to Jayanagar from their home town and then took a train in India to reach Prayagraj on Monday.

"From Ayodhya again, we will go back to Jayanagar and then to Janakpur, after having seen both Kumbh and Ayodhya," Sahni said.

Many pilgrims also said they were drawn to this Kumbh Mela because of the "144 factor", a claim made by certain quarters that this mega religious festival is taking place at a time of some rare planetary alignment.

Pilgrims also came from Karnataka, Bihar, Delhi, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra covering literally the length and breadth of the country.

As pilgrims milled around and took the holy dip at various ghats at or near the confluence site, security personnel kept a vigilant eye, not allowing gathering of big crowd at any one place for long duration, as they sought to manage the sea of pilgrims pouring into the mela grounds.

Huge gateways have been built at the Maha Kumbh Mela area, such as Nandi Dwar and Sangam Dear.

The top of the Sangam Dwar near the confluence site, carries an image each of Maa Ganga, Maa Yamuna and Maa Saraswati.

Several pilgrims while walking on way to the Sangam stopped by briefly to take a picture with this gateway. Many devotees came to the Mela wearing saffron clothes while several others chanted the

name of Lord Shiva and raised their hands in air. Mahashivratri commemorates the divine union of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati and holds special significance in the context of the Kumbh Mela. According to Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva played a crucial role in the Samudra Manthan

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Rainwater harvesting in Sundarbans by women group to counter salinity

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The proper use of rainwater by the members of a number of self-help groups (SHGs) across several villages in Pathar Pratima block of South 24 Parganas district in West Bengal for cultivating crops on farmland where groundwater salinity is high due to the proximity of the sea., has turned out to be hugely beneficial for the local farmers.

This area lies within the Sundarbans delta region, where the Hooghly River meets the Bay of Bengal, about 150 km south of Kolkata..

Shefali Bera, a resident of Kishore Nagar village and a member of an SHG, is optimistic about profiting from her agricultural yield as cultivating crops with harvested rainwater is becoming the norm across various villages in the block..

Hailing the innovative idea and the unique process using only rainwater, Bera said a significant portion of 127.9 hectares of land in the area has been affected by saline sea water.

"Now, under the guidance and support of a non-government organisation (NGO), the villagers are trying to convert their single crop land into multi-crop land by storing rainwater in newly dug up ponds," she said. Bera is among the 530 women of multiple SHGs in Pathar Pratima block

who have come under the initiative of the global NGO Water for People, which is encouraging villagers to opt for rainwater harvesting.

"It is true that the salinity level in the groundwater is still abnormally high, but with the digging of new tanks and water-bodies, to store rainwater having no salinity, and the desiltation of existing ponds, the saline water will wash away through adjacent channels and fresh water will accumulate in two years facilitating farming of several vegetable crops and even paddy and also pisciculture," a representative of the NGO said.

Called Ridge and Furrow, the project helped many farming couples in the area in the last few years. The model is a climate-resilient technique designed to improve water retention, enhance soil moisture, and support sustainable agriculture in water-scarce regions, the NGO said in a statement.

Maitty said earlier she used to earn about Rs 5,000 to Rs7,000 annually since many crops could not survive due to salinity. The NGO gave her Rs 1.55 lakh three years ago, and that affected the turnaround of her family's

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## AAP R S member to contest for Ludhiana West Assembly by poll, sparking speculation

**MI News Service, Chandigarh :** Sparking speculation of Arvind Kejriwal's possible entry into Parliament after his shocking defeat in the February 5 Delhi Assembly poll, the Aam Aadmi Party has announced that its Rajya Sabha MP Sanjiv Arora will be the party candidate for the Ludhiana West assembly bypoll.

AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal who has seemingly shifted his focus to his party's Punjab unit after his shock defeat in Delhi, may occupy the party's vacant seat in the Rajya Sabha following

the resignation of Sanjiv Arora, a Ludhiana-based industrialist, who has been a member of the Rajya Sabha since 2022.

Arora's name for the bypoll came as the Ludhiana West seat went vacant following the death of AAP MLA Gurpreet Bassi Gogi last month. However, the date for the bypoll is yet to be announced.

Meanwhile, Bharatiya Janata Party IT cell head Amit Malviya weighed in on Sanjiv Arora's candidature, asking whether this move was intended at

"clearing the path for Arvind Kejriwal, who just lost his own seat in New Delhi, to get nominated to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab".

"Wouldn't it be better if someone from Punjab represented the state instead of Kejriwal?" Amit Malviya asked in a post on X on Wednesday. AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal who lost to BJP's Parvesh Verma from the New Delhi constituency in the just concluded Assembly elections, is currently aiming at

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Rs 80,000 cr worth of road projects will soon commence in Assam, announces Nitin Gadkari

**MI News Service, Guwahati:** With a view to establishing a world class network of road connectivity in Northeast India, the Union government will soon launch a number of road projects worth Rs 80,000 crore in Assam, Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Wednesday.

Addressing virtually a session on the road, railway and riverine infrastructure at the Advantage Assam 2.0 business summit, the Union minister said that during the next 15 years and till 2029, projects worth Rs 3 lakh crore under his ministry will be completed in the state.

Among the new projects for which work will start soon are the Guwahati ring road, a tunnel under the Brahmaputra river and an elevated corridor at Kaziranga National Park, Gadkari said.

However, he said "Work on a number of projects worth Rs 60,000 crore is already underway in the state and they are in various stages of completion," he added.

Meanwhile, five significant Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed on the second day of the Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit, adding to the northeastern state's growing

investment portfolio. Today's agreements span healthcare, education, energy, and manufacturing sectors, building upon yesterday's impressive Rs 90,000 crore investment announcements.

Meanwhile, earlier in the day Union ministers S Jaishankar and Jyotiraditya Scindia also 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

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Australia unveils ambitious roadmap to boost trade and investment ties with India

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In order to further strengthen its bilateral business relations with India in various sectors, Australia on Wednesday unveiled an ambitious roadmap to deepen and diversify its trade and investment in India. According to government sources, the roadmap identified four "superhighways of growth" -- clean energy, education and skills, agribusiness, and tourism.

Broadly, it sets out a pathway to focus ongoing efforts, including to boost two-way investment, and work with Indian-Australian communities and businesses, the sources informed. "India is an essential partner as we diversify our trade links to boost pros-

perity for all Australians," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

"This roadmap is critical to helping us fully realise our potential with India, which will be a boon to Australia's economy, our businesses and jobs, and our prosperity," he said. The roadmap released by Albanese's office also identifies nearly 50 specific opportunities to focus and accelerate Australia's engagement with India in several areas such as defence industries, sports, culture, space, and technology. To help kick start this ambitious plan, Canberra

▶▶ Continued on page 3

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Preparation ahead of the TMC meeting at Netaji Indoor stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday.

## State govt formulated spl plan for economic devp in Sundarbans

MI News Service, Kolkata: After getting the green signal from the World Bank to allocate funds for the scheme, the state secretariat Navanna has applied for permission from the central government. The state government has named the project as Water User Committee. The state government has given the responsibility of implementing the scheme to the State Water Resources Development Department. The top officials of the department will provide necessary advice to the committee for the implementation of the project. Identification of 39 islands of 11 blocks.



Department, the state government is likely to spend Rs 1230 crore for this work. After getting permission from the central government, the work of this scheme will start in the border areas of the Sundarbans, he said. According to sources in the state secretariat, the state government is going to launch another major scheme for the development of the Sundarbans in the next few

months. Plan for rainwater harvesting in canals. The objective of this scheme is to collect rainwater in the canals of the saline Sundarbans and use it for the development of the area. Manas Bhunia said that under this scheme, rainwater will be collected in the identified canals of the Sundarbans and it will be used for various socio-economic development work of the area including agriculture and fisheries so that the deteriorated economy of the area can be brought back on track. The scheme also aims to provide accessible drinking water to the people living in 39 islands of the Sundarbans region. The rainwater will be used for agriculture and fisheries as well as horticulture development. The protection of mangrove forest is also included in the plan. Protecting the mangrove forest of the Sundarbans is also included in the plan. However, to avail the benefits of this scheme, the concerned person will have to get his name officially registered. According to the Water Resources Department, this scheme of the state government was mentioned by the Water Resources Development Department in the national level conference held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh last year. There too, the organisers of the national conference appreciated the state government's initiative.

## P. Jurapas Appointed as President of 7th World Meet Bangkok 2025

MI News Service, Kolkata/ Bangkok, Thailand: In a significant development for the global martial arts community, P. Jurapas has been appointed as the President of the 7th World Meet Bangkok, scheduled to take place on 8th May 2025 at the Royal Thai Army Club. Notably, she also served as President of the World Meet Bangkok in 2023, 2024 and 2025, showcasing her consistent leadership and dedication to international cooperation in the martial arts arena.



This 7th World Meet is organized jointly by the World Martial Artists Council and the International Diplomatic Cooperative Organisation. More than 50 countries are expected to participate, making it a truly global gathering of martial artists, dignitaries, and royal families. Since its inception in 2019, the World Meet has evolved into a prestigious platform

aimed at promoting peace, discipline, and cultural exchange. Over the years, it has drawn participants from diverse backgrounds and regions, furthering unity and collaboration across borders. Tony Taylor, Vice President of the World Meet, lauded P. Jurapas's appointment, stating, "Her leadership has been instrumental

in fostering a spirit of unity and excellence. We are confident that under her presidency, the 7th World Meet Bangkok will set new standards for international cooperation in martial arts." Meanwhile, HRH Prince Dr. M.A. Ali, Founder and Director of the World Martial Artists Council, expressed his enthusiasm for the upcoming event, saying, "P. Jurapas has a proven track record of bringing people together to celebrate and elevate martial arts on a global scale. We look forward to her continued success and to welcoming participants from around the world in 2025." With its rich history of uniting martial artists, dignitaries, and cultural ambassadors, the 7th World Meet Bangkok 2025 promises to be an extraordinary celebration of skill, camaraderie, and international friendship.

## Mass Awareness Programme: Empowerment of 100 SC Women in Sonarpur

MI News Service, Kolkata: A mass awareness programme on backyard pond fish culture was successfully organized by the ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI) in collaboration with SasyaShyamalaKrishiVigyan Kendra (SSKVK), Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute (RKMVERI), Narendrapur. This initiative, conducted under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCSP), aims to empower 100 Scheduled Caste (SC) women from four Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Sonarpur Block by equipping them with modern fisheries technologies to improve their livelihoods. The programme focuses on demonstrating scientific backyard pond fish culture to women beneficiaries, each possessing a pond size of 0.02 to 0.04 hectares. By integrating advanced fish farming practices, the initiative seeks to enhance in-



come generation, nutritional security, and self-sufficiency among marginalized rural communities. Speaking at the event, Swami Shivapriyananda Ji Maharaj, Vice-Chairman of SSKVK, lauded the programme as a transformative step in rural development, emphasizing its role in women's empowerment. He noted that the applica-

tion of scientific fisheries practices would help beneficiaries achieve sustainable economic growth and financial independence. Dr. B. K. Das, Director of CIFRI, addressed the gathering, highlighting the potential of inland open water fisheries and the benefits of small-scale aquaculture. He stressed that backyard pond fish culture could serve as an effective livelihood option, offering continuous income opportunities. Dr. Das assured the participants that CIFRI would provide technical guidance and input support to ensure the successful implementation of fish culture activities. The event concluded with the distribution of key inputs, including fish seeds, feed, and other essential materials, to support the beneficiaries in initiating their fish farming ventures. This collaborative effort aims to bridge the technology gap in rural aquaculture and encourage more women to take up fisheries as a sustainable livelihood option. This initiative marks a significant step toward inclusive development, equipping women with the skills and resources needed to improve their economic stability, food security, and overall well-being.

## Kalighat's Kaku unable to 'achieve' target of Rs 15 cr given by certain Abhishek: CBI in chargesheet?

MI News Service, Kolkata: A meeting was held at Sujoy Krishna Bhadra's house. Shantanu Banerjee and Kuntal Ghosh were present. Sujoy allegedly said there that a certain Abhishek Banerjee had demanded fifteen crores from illegal recruitment. But they were unable to collect that money. The CBI, investigating the recruitment case, got hold of the audio of this conversation with Sujoy. The detectives have mentioned the entire matter in the third supplementary charge sheet.

The CBI has filed the third supplementary chargesheet in the primary recruitment corruption case. It is stated in point 17.10 of page 12 of that chargesheet that a meeting was held between Shantanu Banerjee and Kuntal Ghosh at Sujoy Krishna Bhadra's house. There, on the instructions of Kuntal, the conversation was recorded. That recording came into the hands of the CBI.

The CBI claims that in the recording, 'Kaku' is heard saying that a certain Abhishek Banerjee has asked for 15 crore rupees from illegal recruitment. But they are not able to withdraw that money. After that, Kuntal Ghosh-Shantanu Banerjee 'targeted' to withdraw 100 crore rupees from 2,000 more job seekers.

## Lakhs of rupees fraud in the name of Digital Arrest, 7 arrested

MI News Service, Bankura: A retired central government employee was allegedly duped of over Rs 10 lakh by threatening him with digital arrest over the telephone. After Gujarat and Telangana, Odisha has also been named in the investigation. The money that the fraudsters had taken from the victim was first deposited in the bank account of a person from Odisha. Based on that information, the Bishnupur police identified a person named Kulu Patel and arrested him.

It is learnt that another youth named Abhishek Meher, an associate of Kulu Patel, was also arrested in Sakma area of Subarnapur district of Odisha. The police have arrested a total of 7 people from 3 states in connection with the fraud.

It is worth mentioning that on January 17, Shyamapad Mandal, a retired central government employee from Bishnupur city, received a phone call from an unknown number. The person on the other end of the phone reportedly introduced himself as a Mumbai Customs officer. Then, the person on the other end of the phone told Shyamapad that several illegal items had been seized in his name. He was being digitally arrested. After that, he was asked to send 10 lakh 21 thousand rupees to a specific bank account to avoid this arrest. The next day, Shyamapad Mandal sent the money as per the instructions of the fraudsters.

Later, Shyamapada Babu realized that he had been cheated. On January 19, he approached the Bishnupur police station. The police formed a task force and started investigating the incident. Based on the bank account details of the money sent, a total of 5 people associated with this gang were arrested one after another from Gujarat and Telangana. After interrogating the arrested people and using various technical sources, the investigators arrived at Sakma in Subarnapur district of Odisha.

From there, the police arrested two people named Kulu and Abhishek Meher. The arrested people are being produced before the Bishnupur Subdistrict Court today. Police said that the account to which the fraudster had transferred Rs 10 lakh 21 thousand was in Kulu's name. As soon as the money was deposited in the account, Kulu quickly transferred it to three other bank accounts in the names of different people. Abhishek Meher helped the accused in this.



On the occasion of Maha Shivratri on Wednesday, a yoga and cultural program have been organized at Dakshineswar Ramakrishna Sangha Adyapeeth. Sangha General Secretary cum Trustee, Brahmachari Mural Bhai participated in the Yoga.

## 42 ft. Shiblinga under construction, new 'Shib Ratri fair' starts at Kalyani

MI News Service, Kalyani: A fair was inaugurated with Shiva Ratri Puja and cultural programs at the playground adjacent to SLF in Ward No.18 of Kalyani Municipality on Wednesday. The fair following the Shiva Ratri has started for first time this year and the concerned Councillor Debashis Halder said that it would be continued in coming years. As the location is in between town Kalyani and Kanchrapara, it will attract huge people, Halder added. Nilimesh Roy Chowdhury, the Chairman, Kalyani Municipality said, "The town Kalyani has been developing speedily and it is a new spot of tourism. It was a jungle and now it is a spot of attraction. There is a picnic spot adjoining the mela ground too."



'Jagyo' went on since Wednesday morning.

The fair was inaugurated in the evening. The Chairman of Kalyani Municipality Dr. Nilimesh Roy Chowdhury, Councillor Debashis Halder of ward 18 and other prominent personalities were present at the inaugural ceremony of the fair. A cultural program will follow the inaugural program.

According to mythological beliefs, Lord Shiva and Mother Parvati got married on the day of Shivaratri. Therefore, this day is also celebrated as the 'Union of Shiva and Shakti'. Devotees also believe that on this day, Lord Shiva appeared for the first time in the form of a fire pillar, i.e. Shivling. Which is believed to reflect

his formless form.

Regarding the Shiv Puja and the construction of a 42-foot Shivling, Councillor Debashis Halder said, there has been a request from the people of this region for a long time that this Shiva temple be built in a new form. So, this temple is being built in a new form at the initiative of the Municipality.

Along with this, a park and picnic spot has also been built in the area adjacent to this temple at the initiative of the municipality. I believe that in the future it will become an attractive tourist center for the people of Kalyani city and Kanchrapara," said Councillor Debashis Halder.

## He, his wife, sons all are thief: Mahua

MI News Service, Nadia: Whether in Parliament or in the village committee, Mahua Moitra is always used to speaking in vulgar language. Despite allegations of breaking rules against her in Parliament, she has spoken loudly. Therefore, the way Krishnanagar MP Mahua made explosive comments against the party leader or leaders from a public platform is practically unprecedented. Although she did not name anyone, according to political circles, Mahua targeted Trinamool MLA Manik Bhattacharya.

Mahua occasionally holds small meetings in her parliamentary constituency. Party leaders are present in those meetings. However, the media is prohibited from entering there. On Wednesday, one such meeting was held in Barnia area of Nadia. Mahua was heard giving a speech on the stage there. Although the media was not present, a video clip of Mahua from that meeting went viral. However, the authenticity of that video was not verified.

In the video, Mahua is heard saying, "The party has been tarnished because

of them. The case is still going on. The FIR is going on. The charge sheet has been filed. And they will enter the area before the elections, hold meetings, we have to accept it? Are we dead? What do you think?" The question is, who is Mahua talking about when she says 'you'? According to political circles, Mahua's words hint at targeting Palashipara MLA Manik Bhattacharya.

It is worth noting that Manik was in jail for a long time in the recruitment corruption case. His wife and son were also in jail. Later, all three got bail.

## In memory of Anindita Kansa Banik



Nurul Islam Khan Anindita Kansa Banik of Ashok Nagar is a social worker. Despite being a cancer patient, he often did philanthropic work by gifting bags and pens to the poor children of the

area. She also won the Man of the Match award in the game. Anindya expired, left her husband Biswajit Kansa Banik in 2018 at the age of 36. But her social work didn't stop there. Every year on the occasion of the birth anniversary of late

Anindya on 25th February, innumerable children were given gifts in her memory. Affected by a deadly disease, Anindya has learned the indomitable will to serve humanity. The family members were present on the occasion.

## Gaudiya Mission announces grand closing ceremony for 150th Advent Commemoration of Srila Prabhupad

MI News Service, Kolkata: Gaudiya Mission held a press meet at the Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Museum Auditorium, unveiling details of the Closing Ceremony for the 150th Advent Commemoration of Srila Prabhupad. The event, scheduled for 28th February 2025 at Science City Main Auditorium, Kolkata, will be graced by His Excellence, Jagdeep Dhanakar, Hon'ble Vice President of

India; His Excellence, Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal; and Shri Suresh Gopi, Hon'ble Minister of State for Tourism. The press meet was graced by Srimad Bhakti Sundar Sanyasi Goswami Maharaj, Acharya & President of Gaudiya Mission, alongside Assistant Secretaries Sripad Bhakti Bhaskar Bharati Maharaj and Sripad Bhakti Rakshak Hrishikesh Maharaj.

They underscored the significance of the commemoration, highlighting Srila Bhakti-Siddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupad's (1874-1936) legacy in shaping the modern Vaishnava movement. Founder of the Gaudiya Maths Mission, Prabhupad institutionalised Vaishnavism through 'Dai-va Varnashram Dharma,' advocating Bhagwat Dharma as a universal path of peace, love and harmony.

Millions of pilgrims...

**From PG 1**  
(churning of the ocean), which led to the emergence of the Amrit Kumbh (nectar pitcher), the very essence of the Kumbh Mela. The day draws large crowds of devotees to the sacred confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati, considered holy by Hindus. A total of 1.33 crore devotees immersed themselves at the Sangam and other ghats in the Mela area on Tuesday, pushing the overall footfall during the Maha Kumbh 2025 to more than 64 crore, according to the Uttar Pradesh government.

Rainwater harvesting in...

**From PG 1**  
fortune. She grew different crops by using the rainwater harvesting method. She pumped in fresh water from the pond for tilling the adjacent land and drove away saline traces. Another farmer Subrata Bera, who has dug a pond for rainwater harvesting, said that he spent Rs 85,000 for digging it. He bore 20 per cent of the cost, while 80 per cent of the money was given by the NGO. "We moot a Five-Square model where a pond has to be 55/55 feet in shape, which is ideal for rainwater harvesting and improved crop practices. This model aims to reduce salinity, prevent waterlogging and enhance agricultural productivity by integrating rice cultivation on higher levels of land nearby and vegetable farming," a representative of the NGO said. The Five-Square model is a community-driven solution that includes land shaping, rainwater harvesting, and improved crop practices. Mark Duye, the CEO of the global NGO, who also visited Pathar Pratima block, said "We are providing technical support to the government, with embedded staff to assist government flagship programmes such as Jal Jeevan Mission." "You witnessed the way these women from SHG groups communicated with our officials during the interaction. They are resilient, aware of their rights and can emphatically express their views. We want to empower the women in this way so they can shoulder the responsibilities in equal measure and be stakeholders of the projects with the government's support," he said. In West Bengal, Water for People is also extending technical support to the rural sanitation cell, West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission, and the Public Health Engineering department in South 24 Parganas and Birbhum districts.



Devotees perform rituals at Durgeshwar Shiv temple (Mota Mahadev) on the occasion of Maha Shivratri on Wednesday at Kolkata.

33rd Edition of Anand Art Workshop on 26th Feb '25



Through their artwork, the children demonstrated that even small actions such as reducing plastic waste and conserving water can help protect ocean life. Held at Apeejay House Lawns and school campus in Salt Lake

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** February 26th marks an important day in the calendar of Apeejay Schools in Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, and Haldia. On this day, Apeejay Anand Children's Library, under the aegis of Apeejay Schools, hosts the much-anticipated Anand Art Workshop. Since 1993, this event has been organized annually in memory of Anand Paul, born

on February 26th 1972, who tragically passed away in an accident in 1989. This year marks the 33rd edition of the workshop, offering a platform for budding artists to explore the vast world of imagination. The theme for this year's edition is "The Ocean Speaks - Giving a Voice to Marine Life", inviting young artists aged 9-12 to create artistic expressions of optimism by transforming cloth bags. The workshop emphasizes the message that every storm gives way to calm seas, while also highlighting the urgent need to protect marine ecosystems from pollution, overfishing, and climate change. Through their artwork, the children demonstrated that even small actions such as reducing plastic waste and conserving water can help protect ocean life. Held at Apeejay House Lawns and school campuses in Salt Lake, Haldia, and Bhubaneswar, as well as Apeejay Anand Libraries in Delhi & Uttar Pradesh, the top three artworks from each venue received Certificates of Honour and Gift Hampers, while all participants were gifted stationery goodie bags

Tangra murder: Dey bros killed family members, says Police Commissioner

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Dey brothers, who had survived the crash on EM Bypass last week, were involved in the murder of their family members whose bodies were found in their Tangra residence, police said. Prasun, however, has claimed he has no knowledge of who slashed the wrists of his wife and sister-in-law, the cops said. The 14-year-old boy who survived has said Prasun was driving the car. The police said the two brothers started contemplating suicide on February 10. Two days later, they informed their wives about their decision but the children were kept out of the discussions, the police said. The possible motive behind their decision could be related to their business, the police said. "After that, the couples decided to start adding payesh to their daily meal to make the children habituated to it as they were planning to commit suicide by mixing high doses of medicines in the dessert, both the brothers have stated," said one of the investigators. The medicine pills were mixed with payesh on February 17, they have told the cops. However, the statements of the brothers had started to differ from the sequence of events that took place in the house on February 18, the police said. Verma said the police would not divulge the sequence of events — as has been stated by the two brothers — until it was verified by "evidence on the field". "It is difficult (to say) at this stage who did it. The field evidence has to match with their version. We will need expert opinion. We will not reveal it now," he said. Verma said that as there is "sufficient evidence to say that they are involved, all legal action will be taken". The Dey brothers and the teenage boy are at present admitted at NRS Medical College and Hospital. The police said they were trying to secure safe custody for the boy in one of their relative's house. "We will try to convince some relative to take custody of the child. We are looking into how to ensure that the child is not subjected to further trauma or hurt," Verma said. The police had earlier started a murder case against "unknown persons" based on the complaint of the father of one of the two women found murdered in the house.

App cab drivers to go offline on Feb 27

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Brace for travel woes next week as app cab drivers have threatened to go off the road if their demands for fair revision are not met with soon. On February 27, drivers and bike riders will go offline for 12 hours from 6 am and hold a march from Ramlila maidan to the Transport Department office from 2 pm onwards. "If our demands are not met we will be forced to go for indefinite strike," said Mohammad Manu, the secretary of the City-affiliated Kolkata Ola Uber App Cab Operators and Drivers union. The union has asked for the state government to raise the fare for non-AC cabs to minimum Rs. 25 per km and Rs. 30 per km for AC cabs. Likewise, they have asked for app-based bike rates be made a minimum of Rs. 12 per km. The Bengal government had issued an order making it mandatory for bikes used to ferry passengers to obtain commercial licence or they would not be allowed to ply on the roads after March 31. "A vast number of bikes have not been provided with the yellow number plate. Most of the

bikes being used in app-based rides were bought on personal loans by the individual owners. Because of that they are unable to make the transition swiftly. Those who have applied are going to the Regional Transport Office every Tuesday and are being harassed. The state government should intervene and find a solution," Manu said. The union has also asked for adequate CNG at all the pumps in Kolkata. There are around 4,000-5,000 cabs operating with Uber and 1,500-2,000 with Ola in and around the city.

Lack of central fund halted KMC health services: Deputy Mayor

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation has been forced to stop some services in its health centres because the Centre has stopped providing funds, Atin Ghosh, the deputy mayor of Kolkata who heads the civic body's health department, said. Ghosh said services like outreach camps and providing nutritious food to children getting vaccinated have stopped since last April when the funds dried up and fresh funds did not arrive. KMC sources said a bulk of services provided by the primary health centres of the civic body are funded by the National Health Mission, which has contributions of the state as well as the central government. The Centre's share is not coming for the last two years and things are being managed with only the state funds, said a senior official of the state health department. "We have not received any National Health Mission fund for the state for the last two years," the official said. In the KMC's budget session on Tuesday, Ghosh said: "We are only able to buy medicines and give salaries to our doctors and honorary health workers with the funds we are getting." "The Centre has asked us to paint the health centres in a particular colour scheme, but we can't give a fresh coat of paint in all the health centres that were already painted a few years ago. The Centre and the state are discussing the matter. We will get the funds when this (dispute) is solved," Ghosh said in the session. "The central funds are not coming. We used to give some food to children getting vaccinated in our health centres to encourage the parents to complete the vaccination cycle, but we were forced to stop that since April," Ghosh later told. A senior official of the National Health Mission was in a meeting when this newspaper called the official. The next call, after an hour, went unanswered. "We had to stop organising outreach camps also. The camps were held in areas far from the health centres. A doctor used to be present in these outreach camps that were held once a week by all primary health centres," Ghosh told. Sources in the state health department also confirmed that owing to the difference in the colour of the health centres in Bengal and that proposed by the centre under the National Health Mission, the funds have been held up. In November 2023, chief minister Mamata Banerjee wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi requesting his intervention so that the funds were released. Mamata's letter said that the "Union ministry of health and family welfare has withheld fund release under National Health Mission to West Bengal due to non-compliance of certain colour branding guidelines for Health and Wellness Centres, despite other conditionalities being fulfilled".

**Rs 80,000 cr...**  
**From PG 1**  
'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. The second and final day of the two day summit also saw union ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hard-eep Singh Puri, Sarbananda Sonowal and Piyush Goyal also took part in a number of other interactive sessions along with Nitin Gadkari who addressed a session on road connectivity virtually from Pune. While Vaishnaw addressed the session on 'Advancing semiconductor horizons', Puri did so on Hydrocarbons, and Goyal on export promotion. The other thematic sessions on Wednesday included agarwood processing and value addition, startup ecosystem, renewable energy, bamboo green potential, aerospace and defence manufacturing, space and geospatial, multilateral development bank financing to unlock private investment and real estate and urban infrastructure. Finally Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the valedictory session of the summit this evening. The chief minister had earlier said that the summit was expected to bring in investment proposals of over Rs 120 lakh crore and several important memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the two days.

AAP R S member to contest...

**From PG 1**  
bettering his party's prospect in Punjab for the 2027 assembly polls, with two years at hand for preparations. Amit Malviya further asked whether the AAP had promised Arora a ministerial berth once he won the bypoll and vacated his seat. "This kind of transactional politics must be condemned. The people of Ludhiana must defeat Sanjeev Arora so that he cannot offer his seat to Arvind Kejriwal without losing his own," he added. Notably, this also comes just a day after Punjab's Leader of Opposition and Congress leader Par-tap Singh Bajwa claimed that it is certain that Kejriwal's entry into the Rajya Sabha will happen. Bajwa said that Kejriwal was initially considering to enter the Delhi Assembly through the seat of deceased AAP MLA Gurpreet Gogi but withdrew amid concerns of backlash in Punjab. Speaking to newsmen, Bajwa said, this (Kejriwal's Parliament entry) will 100 per cent happen. "Most probably, there can be some truth to the information regarding Arora sahib" Bajwa had said. "First, Kejriwal wanted to come through Gurpreet's seat. But then he felt that this would have a massive reaction in Punjab and Punjabis wouldn't stand outsiders. So, he took a step back. Most probably, there can be some truth to the information regarding Arora sahib," Bajwa reiterated. He also made startling allegations against Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann, claiming that he is in talks to join the BJP. Bajwa alleged that Union minister Raveen Bittu is facilitating secret discussions between Mann and BJP leaders. "Bittu is only pretending to protest outside the CM's residence, while in reality, he is arranging secret meetings between the CM and BJP leaders," he said. Predicting a political shake-up, Bajwa suggested that the AAP government in Punjab could collapse within the next four to five months, drawing parallels to the political developments in Maharashtra. On Wednesday Bajwa claimed that 32 AAP MLAs are in touch with him and are ready to switch to the Congress. Drawing a parallel to Maharashtra's political turmoil, Bajwa compared the situation to the "Eknath Shinde episode," where Shiv Sena MLAs defected to form a new government. He further claimed that these MLAs are making "advance bookings" to join Congress, just as people book tickets early for Diljit Dosanjh's concerts. "There will be an 'Eknath Shinde episode' in Punjab in the coming months. These MLAs are doing 'advance booking' to join the Congress, just like people buy tickets in advance for Diljit Dosanjh's show," Bajwa said. As the Leader of the Opposition in the Punjab Assembly, Bajwa asserted that the MLAs are leaving AAP because they see no future with the party. He insisted that Congress is not trying to destabilise the government, but rather, the MLAs are joining voluntarily. "Our programme is not to destabilise the government. The (AAP MLAs) themselves are coming to Congress. They understand that they have no future. Once elections are called, we will call them," he told reporters. Reacting to Bajwa's statements, Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema strongly criticised him, accusing him of indulging in "low-level politics" to secure a place in the BJP. "He does low-level politics because he wants to join BJP. First, he sends his brother Fatehjang Singh Bajwa to the party... he is hungry for power. We stand firmly with Arvind Kejriwal, Bhagwant Mann, and AAP. No MLA is going anywhere... Bajwa is an expert in spreading lies," Cheema said. Meanwhile, BJP leader Tarun Chugh also weighed in, claiming that leaders from both AAP and Congress are eager to join the BJP.

No compromise with tea plantations: Mamata

**MI News Service, Kolkata/Howrah:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asserted that there would be no compromise with tea plantations, stating that the uncultivated tea garden land would be used for tourism purposes. She also cleared a proposal to lease land, which belongs to six tea bagans (gardens), where the development of tourism-related activities will occur. "No compromise with tea plantations. If any land is vacant or uncultivated, it will be used for tourism. The policy is clear that 15 per cent of tea garden land which remains uncultivated will be used for tourism. 80 per cent of manpower (workforce) must be locals," Banerjee said.



Amit Saraogi, President, MCCI with Himanta Biswa Sarma, CM of Assam at Investment & Infrastructure Summit of Advantage Assam.

Kolkata Police enforces new speed limits across 26 roads

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The maximum permissible speed for vehicles on 26 roads in the city will vary between 25km and 50km per hour, Kolkata Police said in a notification. The restrictions on vehicular speed were "necessary for preventing danger, obstruction or inconvenience to the public," police commissioner Manoj Verma said in the notification. "This order will come into force with immediate effect," it said. A copy of the list of roads with maximum speed limits was sent to each of the 26 traffic guards. Senior police officers said the list includes roads which did not have specified speed limits earlier. The maximum speed limits were drawn up collating reports from different traffic guards and factoring in the rise in vehicular movement on these thoroughfares, they said. "The maximum speed limits of key roads were drawn up last in 2018. After six years, it was necessary to assess the traffic conditions on those roads," Y.S. Jagannathrao, deputy police commissioner in-charge of city's traffic movement said. Some of the roads listed in the notification include Ballygunge Circular Road, Harish Chatterjee Street, Kalighat Road, Judges Court Road, Rani Rashmoni Avenue and a stretch of AJC Bose Road from its intersection with Belvedere Road to its crossing with Kidderpore Road. "Officers of traffic duty on these roads will monitor the speed of vehicles with the help of speed monitoring cameras," Jagannathrao said. The existing speed limit for cars on some city roads, including the AJC Bose Road flyover, EM Bypass, Bypass-Park Circus connector, Bypass-Rashbehari connector and the Parama flyover is 60kmph. The fine for speeding by cars and two-wheelers is 1,000 for the first offence and 2,000 for the second and subsequent offences. "For buses and goods vehicles, this amount is 2,000 for the first offence and 4,000 for subsequent offences," an officer of Diamond Harbour traffic guard said.

Australia unveils...

**From PG 1**  
is investing USD 16 million for an Australia-India Trade and Investment Accelerator Fund, which will help Australian businesses unlock new commercial opportunities in India. "Growing Australia's economic security and diversifying our

partnerships is a key element of our statecraft and central to our national interest," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said. "By boosting our economic ties with India, we are not only creating more jobs and opportunities for Australians, but also we are advancing our shared interest in a peaceful, stable and prosperous Indo-Pacific region," she said. Australia's Trade and Tourism Minister Don Farrel, in his comments, referred to the rich and diverse Indian community in that country with

strong personal and economic ties. "The potential of our relationship with India is almost unmatched, opening a fast growing market of over 1.4 billion people," he said. The roadmap, the result of significant consultation with businesses and the community, offers a blueprint for

Australian businesses to seize this extraordinary opportunity," he added. The Australian government also announced plans to invest an "extra USD 4 million" for its Maitri ('friendship') Grants programme to enhance the people-to-people, business-to-business and cultural links

between the two nations. "Our free trade agreement with India has saved Australian businesses hundreds of millions of dollars and is on track to save exporters around USD 2 billion in tariffs by the end of the year," it said in a statement.

**Name Change**

I, Sulochana Gupta Shah (old name) W/O Anil Kumar Shah, resident of Nirman Tower, 3rd Floor, Flat-4D, 284/1A, N.S.C Bose Road, Kolkata- 700047, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sulochana Gupta (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Sulochana Gupta (new name) and Sulochana Gupta Shah (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Tapashi Mondal (old name) W/O Falguni Mondal, resident of 215/E/1, B-3, Kalikapur Road, Kalikapur, Mukundapur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700099, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tapashi Mondal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Tapashi Mondal (new name) and Tapashi Mondal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Abdul Javed Sayed (old name) S/O Syed Abdul Kader, resident of 27, Mominpore Road, Kolkata-700023, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Syed Abdul Javed (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Syed Abdul Javed (new name) and Abdul Javed Sayed (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Abhishek Beni Madhow (Old Name) son of Beni Madhow Gupta, residing at D/215, 4 Sight Model Town, 437 Madhya Balia Model Town, Garia, P.O.- Garia, P.S.- Sonarpur at present Narendrapur, Kolkata- 700084, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abhishek Gupta (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, dated 17/05/2024. Abhishek Gupta (New Name) and Abhishek Beni Madhow (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Manoj Laddha (Old Name) son of Phool Chand laddha (father) and Kalawati Laddha (mother), residing at Erashal, Math chandipur, Nandigram - III, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721659, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manoj Laddha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 25/02/2025. Manoj Laddha (New Name) and Manoj Laddha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Sangita Laddha (Old Name) wife of Manoj Laddha and daughter of Muralidhar Kalantri, residing at Erashal, Math chandipur, Nandigram - III, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721659, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sangita Laddha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 25/02/2025. Sangita Laddha (New Name) and Sangita Laddha (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**

I, MD SHAKIL (Old Name) son of Abdul Rouf Mia, residing at 27.G.J Khan Road Kolkata- 700039, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Sakil Mia (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 25/02/2025. Md. Sakil Mia (New Name) and MD SHAKIL (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Dipa Mistri (old name) W/o. Gobinda Biswas, R/o. Rabindranagar Paschimpara, Rabindranagar, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712103, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dipa Mistri Biswas (new name) vide an affidavit no. 985 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 25/02/2025. Dipa Mistri & Dipa Mistri Biswas W/o. Gobinda Biswas both are the same & one identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Dilip Kumar Saha S/o. Trinath Saha (old name) R/o. Mankundu Station Road, Ashrampara, Chandernagore, Hooghly-712136, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Saha S/o. Trinath Saha (new name) vide an affidavit no. 54 sworn before Notary Public, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court on 19/02/2025. Dilip Kumar Saha S/o. Trinath Saha & Dilip Saha S/o. Trinath Saha both are the same & one identical person.

**Name Change**

I, Chhavi Rani spouse of No 14300817F Rank Ex NK Name Late Bijay Kumar Rajbanshi resident of Vill. Gopalpur, P.O. Murari, Dist.-Birbhum (WB), Pin-731219 have change my Name & Date of birth from Chhavi Rani & 1951 (As per ppo) to Chhavi Rajbanshi & 18 Jan 1953 vide Affidavit dated 24 Feb 25 before the Executive Magistrate (1st class) Rampurhat, Birbhum.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, Ankit Agarwal S/o Suresh Kumar Agarwal Residing at 23/1, Mandeville Gardens, Ballygunge, Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700019 Shall henceforth be known as Ankit Agarwal in place of Ankit Agarwal as declared before the Learned Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Calcutta vide affidavit No 5585 dated 25/02/2025. That Ankit Agarwal and Ankit Agarwal both are same and one identical person.



Players in action during the ISL match between East Bengal FC and Hyderabad FC at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday. East Bengal beat Hyderabad FC 2-0. Scorers of the match are M Mohammad (OG), R Messi Bouli.

**Name Change**  
I, Anita Devi (Old Name) Wife Of Vijay Ramsuniran Yadav, Residing At 140/4a/1, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Road, Kolkata-700040, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Aneta Devi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 25/02/2025. That Anita Devi (Old Name) And Aneta Devi (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Asma Begum Sekh (old name) W/O Abujafar Molla, resident of Vill.- Shibrampur, P.O.- Bargachia, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711404, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Asma Begam (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Asma Begum (old name) and Asma Begum Sekh (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sekh Mohammad Abu Bakkar (old name) S/O Abujafar Molla, resident of Vill.- Shibrampur, P.O.- Bargachia, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711404, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abubakar Molla (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Sekh Mohammad Abu Bakkar (old name) and Abubakar Molla (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Ashara Khatun (old name) D/O Hujarali Sardar, resident of Vill.- Deara, P.O.- Mongalganj, P.S.- Bagda, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-743297, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aasera Mondal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Aasera Mondal (new name) and Ashara Khatun (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Maijuddin Mondal (old name) S/O Nurzzaman Mondal, resident of Vill.- Deara, P.O.- Mongalganj, P.S.- Bagda, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-743297, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Maijuddin Mondal (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Maijuddin Mondal (old name) and Maijuddin Mondal (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Md Abdus Salam (old name) S/O Abdul Bari, resident of Munshi Para Road, South Kazipara, Barasat-I, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin-700125, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdus Salam (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Abdus Salam (new name) and Md Abdus Salam (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Manik Chandra Das (old name) S/O Late Pratul Chandra Das, resident of D11, Purbasha, Panihati, Natargah, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700113, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manik Das (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Manik Das (new name) and Manik Chandra Das (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Geetashree Datta (old name) W/O Arupam Dutta, resident of 36A, Roy Bahadur Road, Behala, Kolkata- 700034, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gitashree Datta (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Gitashree Datta (old name) and Geetashree Datta (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Arupam Datta (old name) S/O Late Santi Bhusan Dutta, resident of 36A, Roy Bahadur Road, Behala, Kolkata- 700034, WEST BENGAL,INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arupam Dutta (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 25/02/2025. That Arupam Datta (old name) and Arupam Datta (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

**159 Nepali students return home after student's death in Odisha univ**

**MI News Service, Cuttack:** As many as 159 students have returned to Nepal via Raxaul border days after a Nepali female student allegedly died by suicide at an Odisha university and the college administration ordered Nepali students to vacate the hostel, an official has said.

Assistant chief district officer, Parsa, Suman Kumar Karki said that 159 Nepali students arrived home from the Raxaul border point. There are around 1,000 Nepalese students studying in KIIT, Odisha. Speaking to the media in Kathmandu, a group of students who returned to Nepal said they were subjected to "inhuman treatment" at the KIIT after the death of the Nepali student in the college hostel. "After the mysterious death of Prakriti Lamsal, we were abused and got inhuman treatment," a student said. "We were beaten up by security guards in the presence of university teachers and other staff and asked to vacate the hostel immediately." The students said they didn't feel safe to return to the college despite the assurance given by the university administration. "There was no safe and conducive environment for study despite the assurances given by the college," a student added.

Foreign minister Arzu Rana Deuba said the government had resolved the issue arising out of the death through diplomatic channels. "The Nepal government has resolved the problem surrounding the death of a Nepali student in KIIT Odisha through diplomatic channels by handling the situation seriously," he said.

**Police arrest 3 from 2 states for sharing lewd Mahakumbh videos**

**MI News Service, Rajkot:** One of three men the Gujarat police have arrested for allegedly uploading a videos of women being medically examined at a maternity hospital in Rajkot had also posted videos of women bathers at the Mahakumbh, police said.

Lavina Sinha, deputy commissioner of police (cybercrime), Ahmedabad City, told local reporters that Allahabad resident Chandra Prakash Phulchand had started a YouTube channel called "CP Monda" a few months ago and recently uploaded pictures of women bathing and changing clothes at the Mahakumbh.

"We have arrested him from Allahabad for uploading (lewd) videos on a YouTube channel and downloading them from other sites. We are probing whether he intended to sell them," Sinha said. Phulchand was picked up from Allahabad on Wednesday, and Prajwal Ashok Taili and Rajendra Patil from Latur and Sangli in Maharashtra. "They procured videos of patients from a maternity hospital in Rajkot with the aim of making money from their subscribers on the Telegram app," Sinha said.

She said Taili and Patil had got the videos from hackers who had access to CCTV footage from a doctor's room at the hospital. The duo sold the clips for sums between ₹800 and ₹2,000, earning ₹8-9 lakh in the last eight months, she added. Taili and Patil have known each other for a long time but have no connection with Phulchand, the police said. Three mobile phones, three laptops and hard disks have been recovered from the trio. Police sources in Uttar Pradesh claimed that all three accused had posted pictures of women bathers at the Mahakumbh and auctioned them online.

They said Taili and Patil were preparing for the NEET in Latur. "They are among a dozen people making money by uploading pictures and videos of women from the Mela. Phulchand sold over 50 videos to other sites and individuals. We are trying to identify the people behind some other social media accounts. We are close to arresting many more," an officer said. "We have booked them under Sections 66E, 67 and 67A of the Information Technology Act, 2000, and contacted the intermediaries to remove the content from their sites," the officer added. Under Section 67A, people publishing or transmitting in electronic form material containing sexually explicit acts can be jailed for up to five years. Sites and social media accounts allegedly spreading fake news about the Kumbh have been booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita's Section 153A (acts prejudicial to the maintenance of harmony) and 505 (publishing or circulating rumour with the intent of inciting a community), and the IT Act's Sections 66D (cheating by impersonation using computer resources) and 69A (blocking public access to information that may harm public order). Vaibhav Krishna, deputy inspector-general in charge of the Mahakumbh, said: "We are constantly monitoring social media accounts to maintain the sanctity of the Mela. We have got information that Ahmedabad police have arrested three accused." Prashant Kumar, Uttar Pradesh director-general of police, said: "We have filed 55-60 FIRs against more than 100 social media accounts so far in connection with objectionable videos made at the Mahakumbh."

**Hate speech: Kerala BJP leader P C George surrenders**

**MI News Service, Kochi:** BJP leader P C George surrendered before a court in Erattupetta in this district in connection with a hate speech case. "We have received information that George has appeared before the court," a police officer told reporters here. George's move came as the police sought to take him into custody after the Kerala High Court rejected his anticipatory bail plea.

On Saturday, George had requested the police for an extension until February 24 to appear before them for investigation in connection with the hate speech case. Dismissing his petition, the High Court observed that granting bail in

**Camps to facilitate commuters for recharging Smart Cards Online and promote UPI Payment-Based Ticketing System**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In order to make different digital payment modes introduced in Metro Railway familiar to the commuters and enhance the share of digital transactions in ticketing, Special Camps were organised today on 26.02.2025 by Metro staff at all stations of Blue Line, Orange Line, Green Line-1, Green Line-2 and Purple Line. In these camps, Metro users were made aware about 'Metro Ride Kolkata' app and how to download it from Google Play Store (Android) and App Store (iOS). Metro staff also showed them the procedures to use it. Metro commuters were also helped to purchase tokens and recharge/buy their Smart Cards through ASCRM machines with the help of UPI Payment Based Ticketing System. They have shown keen interest to shift to digital system and adopt smart ways to purchase tokens, Smart Cards and recharge it as this digital mode is helping them to save their valuable time as they don't need to stand in the long queues in front of the booking counters to recharge or purchase their Smart Cards or purchase tickets. Instead, they can now do it very easily anytime from the comforts of their home.

**RPF, ER arrests 63 persons for Unauthorized Entry Into Ladies' Compartment**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a concerted effort to enhance the safety and security of women passengers, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway conducted a special drive under Operation Mahila Suraksha on February 25, 2025. During this drive, 63 male passengers were arrested for unauthorized entry into the compartments reserved for women. A total of 63 cases were registered across all divisions, resulting in the following arrests: • Howrah Division - 12 cases registered, 12 persons arrested • Sealdah Division - 20 cases registered, 20 persons arrested • Malda Division - 13 cases registered, 13 persons arrested • Asansol Division - 15 cases registered, 18 persons arrested

**Missing anti-liquor signboard irks Kashmiri politicians**

**MI News Service, Srinagar:** A signboard asking tourists to respect local culture and desist from drinking alcohol in Kashmir has disappeared from the Srinagar city centre, triggering outrage among Kashmiri politicians. The signboard was erected on the roadside by a local traders' association but the shopkeepers are reluctant to talk about the issue, fearing a backlash. The development comes at a time when the government is facing calls to ban liquor in Jammu and Kashmir. Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) leader Ittija Mufti on Saturday started a signature campaign to garner support for a law banning the sale and consumption of liquor. Flaggng the issue of the missing signboard, Hurriyat leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq and Srinagar MP Aga Rullah Mehdi on Saturday uploaded two pictures — one of the signboard on the roadside and another of a police vehicle in which it was allegedly placed after its removal. "Why was this signboard seized? What exactly is wrong with urging tourists to respect local culture, avoid alcohol and use of drugs, and keep the city clean? Shopkeepers of Lal Chowk informed me about this. Is promoting moral values and decency now a crime in Kashmir?" Mirwaiz posted on X.

**Regulation of trains for Development Work over Malda Division**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In connection with different development work in Jamalpur - Kiul section over Malda Division, Block has been planned on 02.03.2025. Consequently following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

**Cancellation of trains on 02.03.2025:**

- 73421/73422 Jamalpur - Kiul - Jamalpur passenger
- 63423/63424 Jamalpur - Kiul - Jamalpur passenger
- 53479/53480 Jamalpur-Kiul - Jamalpur passenger
- 73452/73451 Jamalpur-Tilrath - Jamalpur passenger
- 73462/73461 Jamalpur - Mansi- Jamalpur passenger
- 73430 Jamalpur - Bhagalpur passenger

**Rescheduling of trains on 02.03.2025:**

- 12367 Bhagalpur - Anand Vihar Express will be rescheduled by 45 minutes.
- 53404 Gaya - Jamalpur passenger will be rescheduled by 02 hours.
- 73454 Jamalpur - Tilrath passenger will be rescheduled by 30 minutes.
- 13241 Banka - Rajendra Nagar Express (journey commencing on 02.03.2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours.

**Diversion of trains:**

- 15658 Kamakhya - Delhi Brahmaputra Mail (journey commencing on 01.03.2025) will be diverted via Bhagalpur - Ratanpur - Monghyr - Barauni.
- 22311 Godda - Lokmanya tilak (T) Express (journey commencing on 02.03.2025) will be diverted via Bhagalpur - Ratanpur - Monghyr - Barauni - Mokameh - Patna.

**Short Termination/ Short Origination of trains:**

- 13409/13410 Malda Town - Kiul - Malda Town Intercity Express (journey commencing on 02.03.2025) will be short terminated at / short originated from Bhagalpur.
- 13334/13333 Patna - Dumka - Patna Express (journey commencing on 02.03.2025) will be short terminated at / short originated from Kiul.
- 63431/63432 Sahibganj - Jamalpur - Sahibganj Passenger (journey commencing on 02.03.2025) will be short terminated at / short originated from Sultan-ganj.
- Moreover, 13424 Ajmer - Bhagalpur Express (journey commencing on 01.03.2025) will be controlled for 30 minutes enroute.

**Augmentation of General Second Class Coaches with three Express Trains for common passengers**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The augmentation of General Second Class coaches in Popular Mail/Express trains is an ongoing initiative aimed at improving overall travel experience for passengers. Accordingly, in response to the overwhelming demand for tickets throughout the year, Eastern Railway has decided to augment additional General Second class coaches permanently with following trains:

Two (2) additional General Second class coaches augmented with 13147/13148 Sealdah - Bamanhat - Sealdah Uttarbanga Express leaving Sealdah with effect from 01.03.2025 & leaving Bamanhat with effect from 02.03.2025. One (1) additional General Second class coach augmented with 13149/13150 Sealdah - Alipurduar - Sealdah Kanchan Kanya Express leaving Sealdah with effect from 01.03.2025 & leaving Alipurduar with effect from 02.03.2025. Two (2) additional General Second class coaches augmented with 13189/13190 Sealdah - Balurghat - Sealdah Express leaving Sealdah with effect from 01.03.2025 & leaving Balurghat with effect from 02.03.2025.

Modi gov't is not a fascist gov't: CPIM

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a sudden volt-face Communist Party of India (Marxist) i.e. CPIM has men-



Modi gov't not 'Neo-Fascist': CPIM(M) deviates away from position of other Left parties

tioned officially that the party does not consider BJP as a fascist party and its government at centre a fascist government. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) quite categorically has said that it does not believe the BJP and the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Rashtriya Swamya-sevak Sangh are fascist and it has provided ammunition to the likes of Amit Malviya

to train their guns at Opposition unity.

The CPM in its draft resolution released in Kolkata on February 3 refused to brand the BJP and RSS as fascist.

"We have stated that the present political set-up under the BJP-RSS is a Hindutva-corporate authoritarian regime which displays neo-fascist characteristics," said the CPM resolution. "We are not saying that the Modi government is a fascist or neo-fascist government. Nor are we characterising the Indian State as a neo-fascist State."

Malviya, the BJP's social media head, latched onto the document Tuesday and they in BJP talking points - like blaming billionaire currency speculator George Soros - into the mix.

"George Soros tutored Rahul Gandhi to brand Prime Minister Modi as a dictator and call his regime fascist. He did so throughout the 2024 Lok Sabha election but lost. Now, CPI-M, a member of the I.N.D.I. Alliance, in its draft resolution for the 24th Party Congress, refuses to characterize the BJP and RSS as 'fascist organizations.' The Congress cabal is now having a meltdown as several of its workers and trolls have been rendered jobless," Malviya wrote on his X (Twitter) handle.

The CPM resolution has led to a political debate in India, especially in Kerala, the only state where the Communists are in government.

Woman raped inside state transport bus

MI News Service, Pune: A manhunt has been launched after a man with a criminal record allegedly raped a 26-year-old woman inside a stationary state transport bus at the busy Swargate bus stand in the city, police said on Wednesday.

The accused, identified as Datta Gade, had cases of theft and chain snatching registered against him, said a Swargate police station official.

Swargate is one of the largest bus junctions of the Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MS-RTC).

According to the woman,

when she was waiting for a bus for Pathan at one of the platforms around 5.30 am on Tuesday, a man approached her and said the bus had arrived at another platform.

He then took her to an empty bus parked at a deserted spot on the sprawling station premises. It was still dark, and when she boarded the bus, he followed her inside and raped her before fleeing, the woman told police.

Police identified the accused from CCTV footage, and multiple teams have been formed to track him down, the official said.

AI at Sunderban College

MI News Service, Sunderban: In a groundbreaking initiative, Bankim Sardar College in the remote Sunderban region has introduced AI-powered chatbots to enhance the quality of education for its students.

This innovative approach aims to bridge the gap in educational resources and accessibility, providing students with a self-directed and interactive learning experience.

The college, which caters to students from remote villages, faced challenges in providing classes for compulsory subjects due to limited resources and infrastructure. To address this issue, the college administration, led by the principal and faculty, collaborated with an

alumnus to develop a customized AI chatbot.

This AI-powered chatbot enables students to access syllabus-based learning materials, exam patterns, and model questions on their Android phones. The chatbot provides detailed explanations on various subjects, including grammar, literature, and constitution, and offers personalized learning experiences through techniques like spaced repetition and learning through retrieval.

The initiative has shown promising results, with students completing their syllabus faster and more effectively. Education experts hail this move as a revolutionary step in digital education, demonstrating that quality education can be ensured even in remote areas with proper planning and technological intervention.

While the college authorities acknowledge the potential of AI-powered chatbots, they are cautious about expanding its use to all subjects, citing concerns about the impact on traditional education systems.

This pioneering initiative by Bankim Sardar College sets a new paradigm in digital education, offering a model for other educational institutions to follow.

Telangana gov't makes Telegu compulsory

MI News Service, Hyderabad: The Telangana government has issued orders for teaching Telugu as a compulsory subject for students of 1st to 10th classes in CBSE, ICSE, IB and other boards affiliated schools in the state from the 2025-26 academic year.

The state government had brought in the Telangana (Compulsory Teaching and Learning of Telugu in Schools) Act in 2018 to make teaching Telugu compulsory in government Zilla Parishad, mandal parishad, aided schools as well as CBSE, ICSE, IB and other Board affiliated schools. However, the (BRS) previous government did not implement the act in a full-fledged manner due to various reasons, said an official release issued here. The present (Congress) government took steps for its implementation in the schools in the state and the government held a meeting with managements for this purpose and conveyed the decision to teach Telugu for 9th and 10th classes in CBSE, ICSE and other boards from the coming academic year, the release added. Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy decided to use the 'Simple Telugu' Text Book 'Vennela' for conducting exams, making it easier for students of classes 9th and 10th of CBSE and other boards, it said. The 'Simple Telugu' textbook would be useful for students whose mother tongue is not Telugu and those who belong to other states, it said.

Separatist activities decreased: Omar

MI News Service, Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister candidly mentioned that the separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir have quailed down. He also made some remarks on M A Farooq which has evoked controversy. Chief minister Omar Abdullah's cryptic remark linking increased security for Hurriyat chief Mirwaiz Umar Farooq to a decline in separatist activities in Jammu and Kashmir has triggered a backlash from the separatist group.

During an interview with a TV channel, Omar inexplicably raised the issue of the Mirwaiz's security when he asked whether there was any improvement in the situation after the scrapping of the special status in 2019.



(Sitting at the Centre) - CA Vishnu K. Tulsyan, Chairman, EIRC (Standing L - R) CA Aditya Kumar Maheshwari, Treasurer, EIRC, CA Mayur Agrawal, Vice Chairman, EIRC, CA Sanjiv Sanghi, Council Member, ICAI, CA Ravi Kumar Patwa, Council Member, ICAI, CA Hari Ram Agrawal, Secretary, EIRC, CA Biswanjan Sutar, Member, EIRC.

Arms trade: BSF steps up patrolling

MI News Service, Malda: The Malda district has become a significant corridor for arms smuggling, with the Border Security Force (BSF) ramping up surveillance in response to increasing illegal activities. Reports indicate that over 25 firearms have been seized in the past month alone, alongside substantial quantities of narcotics and counterfeit currency.

The region is also witnessing a rise in violence linked to international traffickers and militant organizations, including Hizbut-Tahrir and Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, which are believed to be actively involved in smuggling operations.

Arms are reportedly being transported into Malda where they are struggled across the border into Bangladesh. These weapons include high quality pistols, some falsely claimed to be of Chinese origin. Local police have uncovered several makeshift arms factories in Malda, particularly in Kaliachak and Vaishnavnagar, contributing to the local production of firearms.

Molestation allegations at DHMC

MI News Service, South 24 Pgs: A 15 year old girl, who was undergoing treatment in the ICU of Diamond Harbour Medical College, has filed a complaint against

two individuals for repeated molestation and threats. According to the victim's family, the accused also warned her of dire consequences if she disclosed the incidents.

On Tuesday night, the family and the Medical College filed a written complaint. Based on the complaint, police arrested Vinod Pandit, a sanitation worker, and registered a case against him under the POSCO act. Authorities are currently working to identify the second accused individual.

Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agent Over Malda Division

Notice No. Com/STBA/Policy/M/2022 Dated: 25.02.2025

Sealed Application is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda for engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agent (STBA) at three 'NSG-6' category stations over Malda Division i.e. Uren, Dhanauri & Manigram stations for issuing of unreserved tickets through computerized 'Unreserved Ticketing System' (UTS) from the existing counters under the supervision of Station Master/Deputy Station Master for a period of three years. Cost of NIA document: ₹1,180/- (Cost of NIA Document = ₹ 1000/- + 18% GST) non-refundable. Earnest Money Deposit: ₹ 2,000/- only for NSG-6 category station. Address of the office from where the NIA Document can be purchased: NIA Document can be purchased from the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda from 27.02.2025 to 25.03.2025 from 11.00 hrs. to 17.00 hrs. and on 26.03.2025 upto 14:00 hrs. (on working days) on production of Money Receipt towards the cost of NIA document (non refundable), mentioned above. NIA document can also be downloaded from the Eastern Railway website. The cost of NIA document (if downloaded from the Website) and Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) to be submitted separately through Demand Draft/Bank Pay Order issued by any Nationalized or Scheduled Bank in favour of 'FA & CAO', Eastern Railway, Kolkata along with the application. Application without Earnest Money Deposit & Cost of NIA Document will be summarily rejected. Period of contract: For 03 years. Date and Time for dropping of NIA Document: In the prescribed sealed box available for this purpose at the office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Malda, 1st Floor, DRM Building, P.O.-Jhaljhalla, Dist- Malda-732102 (West Bengal) & Station Manager/ Bhagalpur Railway station, P.O.- Dist - Bhagalpur, Pin-812001 from 24.03.2025 to 26.03.2025 from 11:00 hrs. to 16:00 hrs. No application will be accepted after 16:00 hrs. on 26.03.2025.

Date and time for opening of NIA Box: 28.03.2025 at 12:00 hrs. at the office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Malda. Website where complete details of NIA can be seen: www.erdianrailways.gov.in from 27.02.2025. Note : (i) Goods & Service Tax (GST) is applicable as per Govt. Norms. (ii) NIA Form/Document should be filled up accordingly.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Malda

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited shol Tower Plot No-23, New Rohtak Road Karol Bagh New Delhi-110005

The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) issued from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Asset(s) (NPA). A Notice was issued to them under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Re-construction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, at their last known addresses. However, it has not been served and are therefore being notified by way of this Public Notice.

Table with 6 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/Guarantor/Loan Account Number & Address, Description of Secured Asset to be enforced, Date of Notice sent/ Outstanding as on Date of Notice, NPA Date. It lists details for four borrowers, including Sirsendu Chatterjee and Rakesh Kumar/Durgesh/Sema Rani/Hokmi A/C.

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Bid No. GEM/2025/B/5970398, dated 24.02.2025. Single packet bids are invited by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bogie Manufacturing Factory, 88/1, Adhar Das Road, Budge Budge, Kolkata-700137 for the following work:

Description: Customised AMC/CMC for pre-owned products - Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of CCTV surveillance system at C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liliuh as per scope of work as mentioned in Annexure II & IV. Estimated Bid Value: Rs. 23,90,052.14. EMD Amount: Rs. 47,800/- e-PBG: 5%. Contract period: 2 years 9 months. Bid offer validity (from end date): 120 days. Bid end date & time: 17.03.2025, 17.00 hrs. Bid opening date & time: 17.03.2025, 17.30 hrs. The tender notice along with the documents are available in the GeM portal https://gem.gov.in (MISC-349/2024-25)

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EAST COAST RAILWAY

File No. DRM/Engg/KUR/24-25/ Tender/109, Dt. 18.02.2025

(1) Tender No. e-tender-CENTKUR-323-2024, Dtd.: 13.02.2025

DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE NO. 32A-1 (X 4.00 X 2.15 MTR RCC BOX) FOR CROSSING OF GURUDIJHATIA DISTRIBUTARY AT RD 3825 MTR BRANCH CANAL OF RENGALI RIGHT IRRIGATION PROJECT AT KM. 417.073 (4171-1-3) IN BETWEEN STATIONS GURUDIJHATIA-MACHAPUR ON NERUGUNDI TALCHER BRANCH LINE IN KHURDA ROAD DIVISION BY BOX PUSHING METHOD (UNDER DEPOSIT SCHEME).

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 363.36 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 3,31,700/-

(2) Tender No. e-tender-CenKUR-326-2024, Dtd.: 13.02.2025

DESCRIPTION: RENEWAL OF EXISTING DAMAGED PSC FAN SHAPED LAYOUTS AT DIFFERENT YARDS UNDER ASSISTANT DIVISIONAL ENGINEER/BHUBANESWAR SECTION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION BY T-28/ROAD CRANE/MANUAL MEANS.

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 103.77 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,01,900/-

(3) Tender No. e-tender-eastkur-328-2024, Dtd.: 14.02.2025

DESCRIPTION: CONSTRUCTION OF 15 BEDDED RPF BARRACK AT PARADEEP (PRDP) STATION OF KHURDAROAD DIVISION.

Approx. Cost of the Work: ₹ 105.70 Lakh, EMD: ₹ 2,02,900/-

Completion Period: 15 (Fifteen) Months (for SI. No. 1), 12 (Twelve) Months (for SI. No. 2) and 10 (Ten) Months (for SI. No. 3).

Tender Closing Date and Time: At 15:00 hrs. on 07.03.2025 (for all the Tenders).

No manual offers sent by Post / Courier/ Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.

Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-Tender is available in website: www.ireps.gov.in

Note: The prospective tenders are advised to visit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. The tenders/bidders must have Class-III Digital Signature Certificate and must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tender/bidders can participate on e-tendering.

Divisional Railway Manager (Engg) /PR-1018/P/24-25/ Khurda Road

EASTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM

No. 1 to e-Tender Notice No. W.LLH.18.2024-25 (Open Tender) published earlier by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (W), Eastern Railway, Liliuh, Howrah-711204 for the work "Provision of Cable transit entry sealing & fool proof protection system to prevent rodent entry in HT compartment of SBC of LHB type AC coaches = 1140 nos. (LB Item no. 895P/2024-25) (Ph-21) at C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liliuh".

The Tender Closing Date/Time of the above tender should be read as 10.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. Instead of existing entry 21.02.2025 at 14.00 hrs. (MISC-351/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.erdianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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NOTICE INVITING APPLICATION FOR ENGAGEMENT OF STATION TICKET BOOKING AGENT (STBA) OVER ADRA DIVISION

Notification No.: C-669/STBA/ADRA/2025/01 Dated: 24.02.2025

For and on behalf of President of India, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Adra invites tender for Appointment of Station Ticket Booking Agents (STBA) at categorywise stations over Adra Division. SI. No., Station Name, Category are as follows: (1) Adra, NSG-4, Location Code: ADRA. (2) Bankura, NSG-4, Location Code: BQA. (3) Bishnupur, NSG-4, Location Code: VSU. No. of UTS Counters: Shift 1 (06:00 - 14:00); 2, Shift 2 (14:00-22:00) :-, Shift 3 (22:00-06:00): - for each station. Amount of Earnest Money: Rs. 10,000/- NSG-4 (for each application). Cost of Application Form: NIL. Security Deposit: Rs. 50,000/- for each. Rate of Commission beyond sales turnover of Rs. 1 Lakh which is to be quoted in the application: 2% for each station. Nature of Application: Engagement of Station Ticket Booking Agent. Value: Commission based for each station. Location of engagement of STBAs: 03 (ADRA, BQA, VSU) stations over Adra Division/S.E. Railway. Application form with terms & conditions available: The application form will be available at Sr. Divisional Commercial Managers' office, Adra from 10.30 hrs. to 16.00 hrs. on working days from 25.02.2025 to 18.03.2025 or can be downloaded from www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in Application submission date & venue: 18.03.2025 between 10.30 hrs. to 13.00 hrs. at Sr. D.C.M. Office, Adra. Date & Time of opening of Tender Box: 18.03.2025 at 16.00 hrs. or subsequent day if the day is a holiday or a closed day for unforeseen reasons. Description of work: Sell of unreserved ticket, platform ticket and season ticket. Eligible Criteria of the Applicant: for detailed information please visit www.ser.indianrailways.gov.in (PR-1179)

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Adra

South Eastern Railway

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The following e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/ (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Remote Control Building, Kolkata-700014 for the following works:

SI. No. 1, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1198-2024-25-R dtd. 21.02.2025. Particulars of the Work: 2: Comprehensive maintenance schedule & breakdown contract of Passenger Lift (Make: M/s OMEGA) of Block No. 7A at New Allpur Officers' quarters for 3 years. SI. No. 2, Tender No.: ELEG-OT-1198-2024-25-R dtd. 21.02.2025. Particulars of the Work: Repairing and breakdown contract of LHB AC coaches of different make package units of Rajdhani & Duronto and different LHB type trains in Sealdah division for 2 years. Tender Value: Rs. 7,73,280/- (for SI. No. 1) & Rs. 9,11,40,459/- (for SI. No. 2). Earnest Money: Rs. 15,500/- (for SI. No. 1) & Rs. 6,05,700/- (for SI. No. 2). Cost of Tender document: Nil for each. Completion period: 36 months (for SI. No. 1) & 24 months (for SI. No. 2). Tender closing date & time: 17.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. for each. Tender bid opening date & time: 17.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs. for each. Tender bidding start date: 03.03.2025 for each. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website www.ireps.gov.in (SDAH-367/2024-25)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.erdianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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E-Auction is invited by the Divisional Railway Manager (Commercial), Eastern Railway, Howrah, 3rd Floor, New Complex Building, Howrah - 711101 for Allotment of 2 nos. of Multi Purpose Stalls (MPSs) at 'B' category stations, 60 nos. of Multi Purpose Stalls (MPSs) at 'C' category stations and 1 no. of Multi Purpose Stall (MPS) at 'D' category station over Howrah Division for a period of 5 years. For more information visit www.ireps.gov.in through E-Auction Leasing module. Auction Catalogue No.: MPS-HWH-OCT-24. Seq. No., Lot No./Category, Reservation, Close Date/Time are as follows: AA/1, MPS-HWH-BPAE-MPS-9-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 10.30 hrs. AA/2, MPS-HWH-SNT-MPS-79-24-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 10.40 hrs. AA/3, MPS-HWH-CDAE-MPS-26-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 10.50 hrs. AA/4, MPS-HWH-LOK-MPS-37-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 11.00 hrs. AA/5, MPS-HWH-PSAE-MPS-44-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 11.10 hrs. AA/6, MPS-HWH-RSLR-MPS-45-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 11.20 hrs. AA/7, MPS-HWH-BGCM-MPS-57-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 11.30 hrs. AA/8, MPS-HWH-PKR-MPS-83-24-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 11.40 hrs. AA/9, MPS-HWH-PKR-MPS-84-24-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 11.50 hrs. AA/10, MPS-HWH-BGF-MPS-20-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 12.00 hrs. AA/11, MPS-HWH-GRP-MPS-28-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 12.10 hrs. AA/12, MPS-HWH-LKX-MPS-62-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 12.20 hrs. AA/13, MPS-HWH-SMAE-MPS-67-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 12.30 hrs. AA/14, MPS-HWH-KQU-MPS-76-24-2 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 12.40 hrs. AA/15, MPS-HWH-BSAE-MPS-7-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 12.50 hrs. AA/16, MPS-HWH-BHLA-MPS-9-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 13.00 hrs. AA/17, MPS-HWH-MUG-MPS-17-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 13.10 hrs. AA/18, MPS-HWH-DBP-MPS-58-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 13.20 hrs. AA/19, MPS-HWH-BAHW-MPS-3-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 13.30 hrs. AA/20, MPS-HWH-HIH-MPS-13-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 13.40 hrs. AA/21, MPS-HWH-BMAE-MPS-25-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 13.50 hrs. AA/22, MPS-HWH-HYG-MPS-31-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 14.00 hrs. AA/23, MPS-HWH-KMAE-MPS-36-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 14.10 hrs. AA/24, MPS-HWH-MAYP-MPS-39-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 14.20 hrs. AA/25, MPS-HWH-PRAE-MPS-42-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Unreserved - Open to all, 12.03.2025, 14.30 hrs. AA/26, MPS-HWH-DEA-MPS-59-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 14.40 hrs. AA/27, MPS-HWH-SHBC-MPS-68-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 14.50 hrs. AA/28, MPS-HWH-PDA-MPS-75-25-2 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 15.00 hrs. AA/29, MPS-HWH-KOG-MPS-16-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 15.10 hrs. AA/30, MPS-HWH-PLAE-MPS-18-23-1 (MPS - Multi Purpose Stall), Reserved, 12.03.2025, 15.20 hrs.

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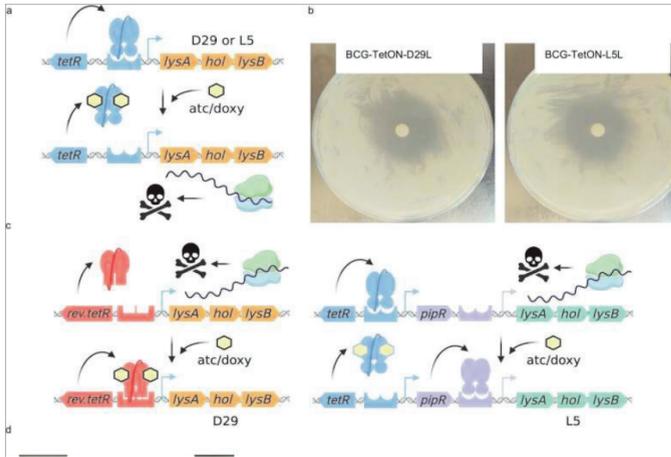
## Study finds designing self-destructing bacteria make effective tuberculosis vaccines

New York City [US] : Working towards more effective tuberculosis (TB) vaccinations, researchers at Weill Cornell Medicine have developed two strains of mycobacteria with "kill switches" that may be activated to stop the bacteria after they elicit an immune response.

Two preclinical research addresses the difficulty of designing bacteria that are safe for use in controlled human infection trials or as improved vaccinations. While tuberculosis is under control in most developed nations, the illness still kills over a million people each year worldwide.

Spreading easily through the air, Mycobacterium tuberculosis can establish a chronic infection in human lungs, which can turn into a deadly respiratory disease. A safe vaccine called BCG, consisting of a weakened strain of the closely related Mycobacterium bovis, has been available for over a century but has limited efficacy.

"BCG protects children from tuberculosis meningitis, but it doesn't effectively protect adults from pulmonary tuberculosis, which is why it's only used in high-incidence countries," said Dr. Dirk Schnappinger, professor of microbiology and immunology at Weill Cornell Medicine and a senior author on both of the new studies. However, collaborators at the University of Pittsburgh and the National Institutes of Health's Vaccine Research Center previously found that administering high doses of the BCG vaccine directly into the veins, instead of the usual route of giving it under the skin, was better at protecting adult macaque monkeys against lung infection. In one of the new papers,



the team aimed to make this high-dose intravenous injection safer, without destroying the vaccine's ability to stimulate a strong immune response. "We needed a version of BCG that triggers an immune response, but then you can flip a switch to eliminate the bacteria," said Dr. Schnappinger. After testing about 20 different strategies, the investigators found that lysins, enzymes encoded by viruses that can infect BCG, cause the bacteria to self-destruct. Using a clever bit of molecular engineering, they placed two different lysin genes under the control of gene regulators that respond to an antibiotic. By

adding or taking away the antibiotic, they could then flip the kill switch. "The lysins were known, but I don't think they have been utilized as kill switches previously," said Dr. Sabine Ehrh, professor of microbiology and immunology at Weill Cornell Medicine and a senior author on the papers. With the newly engineered BCG, the researchers delivered high doses of the vaccine intravenously to antibiotic-treated macaques. When they stopped the antibiotic, the kill switch was activated, promptly ending the infection. The self-destructing bacteria released antigens that further stimulated the animals'

immune systems. The result was a robust immune response that protected the monkeys from subsequent lung infections with M. tuberculosis.

"Despite the promising preclinical results, evaluating if the vaccination actually works takes a long time and many people to test it. Tuberculosis doesn't develop quickly and only in a small fraction of the people who are infected," Dr. Schnappinger explained. Such enormous, lengthy clinical trials can cost hundreds of millions of dollars, a major barrier to new vaccines. The urgent need for an effective TB vaccine has prompted researchers to find innovative ways to accelerate vaccine development. In collaboration with researchers from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, the team's second paper is an effort to make clinical trials feasible--developing extremely safe strains of TB bacteria that can be used in controlled human infection studies. They engineered a strain of M. tuberculosis carrying a triple kill switch, which uses three independent molecular mechanisms to kill the bacteria. Even in severely immunocompromised mice, the switch allowed the investigators to stop the infection on cue, with no detectable bacteria surviving.

Now, they are setting up additional tests in mice and non-human primates to confirm the system's reliability with the goal of using the new strain in human challenge trials of new vaccines. "We are starting with one of the most successful human pathogens ever, so we are very aware of the safety concerns, and that challenge has to be met at the highest levels," said Dr. Schnappinger.

## Bajaj Allianz Life Becomes the First Insurer to Go Live with Bima-ASBA Facility

Ranchi : Bajaj Allianz Life, one of India's leading private life insurers, has become the first insurer to go live with the BIMA-Application Supported by Blocked Amount facility (Bima-ASBA). This milestone aligns with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India's (IRDAI) initiative to bring operational ease, enhance policyholder convenience, ensure greater transparency, and simplify the insurance premium payment process.

Bima-ASBA is a significant step forward in making premium payments smoother and customer friendly. Under this IRDAI initiative, policyholders can opt for UPI's One-Time Mandate (OTM) and authorise the blocking of a specified amount (up to ₹2 lakh) in their bank account via UPI. The amount will be debited only after the insurance company completes the underwriting process and decides to accept the proposal. If the application is not processed within a period of 14 days or the proposal is not accepted, the blocked amount is automatically released back to the customer. This initiative ensures that the policy buyer's funds remain in their bank account and continue to gain interest till the time the policy issuance is confirmed. Bajaj Allianz Life, in partnership with its payment partners, has successfully launched this process.

Speaking on the development, Tarun Chugh, MD & CEO, Bajaj Allianz Life, said, "In line with the vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047,' IRDAI is taking commendable steps toward enhancing transparency, trust, and digitization for customer convenience. These measures are designed to further benefit customers by strengthening the insurance ecosystem. We welcome Bima-ASBA as a significant step in this direction.

The life insurance industry has been working to be more agile, simplify processes and build customer trust, and Bima-ASBA will further strengthen these efforts by adding a layer of security, confidence, and flexibility for policyholders. By allowing customers to block their premium amount instead of paying upfront, it addresses concerns about refunds if a policy isn't issued. At Bajaj Allianz Life, our Customer First promise inspires us to innovate continuously, and Bima-ASBA aligns with this focus."

With this launch, Bajaj Allianz Life continues to reinforce its position as a customer-centric insurer, driving digital-first innovations for a seamless insurance journey.

## HPL strengthens its smart meters business, ties up with global IoT connectivity provider Wirepas for innovative electricity solutions

Kundli : Looking to bolster its presence in the smart meter segment, HPL Electric & Power Ltd ("HPL"), a longstanding leader in electric equipment and smart meters, has launched India's first "Wirepas certified In-meter gateway" in collaboration with global IoT connectivity provider Wirepas for RF mesh technology in advanced metering infrastructure (AMI). The offering is expected to reduce bottlenecks in conventional gateways and ensure citizens get seamless access to 24/7 electricity.

Smaller in size, cost-effective and easy to install, there is also no need to take special permission from authorities for installation. With a production capacity of 1 crore smart meters a year, HPL is looking to take the product to global markets after rolling it out pan-India.

Speaking on the product's unique features, Rishi Seth, Managing Director, HPL: "By embedding a fully certified gateway into the smart meter itself, we are simplifying deployment for utilities that routinely contend with patchy cellular coverage. In addition to ensuring reliable data collection, this approach significantly reduces the total cost of ownership and simplifies rollout, potentially transforming the AMI landscape in India."

"Our proven mesh technology combined with HPL's high-quality meters offers a powerful, scalable, and future-proof AMI solution. We are delighted to introduce a system that can adapt to ever changing network needs without adding costly, dedicated hardware," said Teppo Hemä, CEO of Wirepas.

Wirepas currently supports millions of devices worldwide, including smart metering networks operating at an impressive 99.9% reliability.

This innovation embeds dual-radio functionality directly into selected HPL smart meters, incorporating both an 865-868 MHz RF mesh and an LTE modem. The RF radio collects data from up to 300 smart meters via a multi-hop mesh, while the LTE modem transmits data seamlessly to HPL's head end system. By integrating the gateway into the meter, the solution removes the need for standalone gateway devices, helping utilities avoid costly and complex site surveys, installation procedures, and maintenance overheads.

## PURE EV Launches the 'PURE Perfect 10' Referral Program with Exciting Cashback Offers

Patna : PURE EV, one of India's leading electric two-wheeler manufacturers, today announced the launch of the 'PURE Perfect 10' Referral Program, offering an unprecedented cashback reward to its valued customers. Perfectly timed with the upcoming festive season, including Shivarathri, Holi, Ugadi, and RamzanEid, this exclusive initiative is set to enhance customer engagement and boost EV adoption across the country. The PURE Perfect 10 Referral Program is open to all existing PURE EV customers, as well as new customers who purchase a PURE EV vehicle by March 31, 2025 or until stocks last at the respective outlets. Under this scheme, customers can earn up to INR 40,000 in cashback rewards by referring friends and family to buy a PURE EV vehicle. All existing and new PURE EV customers will receive 10 unique referral codes via their registered WhatsApp number (as per records). The referrer will receive INR 4,000 cashback vouchers for each successful referral that results in a purchase, up to a maximum of ten new buyers. The cashback vouchers earned through referrals could be used for future service and spare parts requirements. Customers can also utilize them for upgrades, vehicle exchange and battery exchange offers or avail direct cash discounts on the referred friend or family member's PURE EV purchase. Commenting on the initiative, MrRohitVadera, Co-Founder and CEO, PURE said, "Our customers are at the heart of everything we do, and we want to add more joy to their festive celebrations with this exclusive referral program. This initiative not only rewards our customers for their trust and loyalty but also enables them to share the PURE EV experience with their loved ones. By making referrals, they benefit from attractive cashback incentives while contributing to the larger goal of sustainable mobility. We believe this will create a ripple effect, strengthening our customer community and driving greater EV adoption across India."



## Gautam Adani reflects on Maha Kumbh, recalls "special experience"

Industrialist Gautam Adani shared his reflections on the Maha Kumbh Mela and expressed his gratitude for being able to serve lakhs of devotees at the religious gathering.

While recalling his Prayagraj visit on 21 January, he wrote about an experience that was particularly special for him. "I still remember that emotional moment when I was distributing Aarti Sangrah in the camp of Gita Press near Lete Hanuman Temple in Prayagraj. An old lady, about 80 years of age, came to me through the crowd and blessed me by placing her hand on my head. What I felt at that moment was beyond words - a deep spiritual touch, which I will cherish throughout my life. For me, service is not just an action, but a prayer resonating in my heart - a prayer that always keeps me grounded in humility and dedication," Gautam Adani wrote in the country's largest Hindi daily.

During his visit with his family, Gautam Adani distributed Mahaprasad and Aarti Sangrah among the devotees at the Maha Kumbh. The Adani Group had joined hands with the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) to serve meals among devotees at the Maha Kumbh Mela. The Adani Group had also collaborated with Gita Press for the distribution of copies of Aarti Sangrah (a collection of hymns) among the devotees. Apart from this, free golf cart services were organised for the elderly, women



and children at the Maha Kumbh.

This time, the Adani Group also took a special initiative for its employees. "We gave them the option to apply online if they wanted to volunteer at the Maha Kumbh. Within a few hours, thousands of members applied for

this cause. More than 5,000 members of the Adani family took the pledge to serve at the Maha Kumbh," he wrote. "I believe that service is the best way to realise God. We consider ourselves blessed because we could serve lakhs of devotees."

## HDFC Life Launches Click 2 Achieve Par Advantage to Enable Dreams and Goals for Everyone

Patna : HDFC Life, one of India's leading life insurers, has launched its latest product HDFC Life Click 2 Achieve Par Advantage. This participating product has been designed keeping in mind milestones associated with the different life stages of an individual. As one continues to save for their growing aspirations/goals, it is observed that there is a preference for early liquidity (for short term needs), flexibility and financial security for the future.



Speaking on the product launch, Aneesh Khanna - Head Products & Segments, HDFC Life, commented, "We, at HDFC Life, believe that life insurance products need to be designed to fit the specific needs of every individual, depending on their age, life stage, current income and future plans. Every individual dreams of a financially secure future for their loved ones and also of achieving goals such as buying a home, sending their children for higher education to a prestigious institute, etc."

financial security of the family, the plan also offers:

Additional Life Coverage - One can choose to cover one's spouse

Tax benefits - As applicable for an individual, based on prevailing tax laws

Life insurance is a necessity for every working individual with financial responsibilities. HDFC Life has been an innovator in the life insurance space offering customisable products that meet the ever-evolving needs of Indian consumers. The Company offers a robust digital platform that provides multiple servicing options to customers as per their convenience. HDFC Life's commitment to customers is reflected in its consistently high claim settlement ratio, which was 99.50% for FY24.

Speaking on the product launch, Aneesh Khanna - Head Products & Segments, HDFC Life, commented, "We, at HDFC Life, believe that life insurance products need to be designed to fit the specific needs of every individual, depending on their age, life stage, current income and future plans. Every individual dreams of a financially secure future for their loved ones and also of achieving goals such as buying a home, sending their children for higher education to a prestigious institute, etc. These dreams need long-term planning with an instrument that offers flexibility, liquidity and financial security. HDFC Life Click 2 Achieve Par Advantage has been designed to offer a solution to individuals who endeavour to create a better future and protect their dreams against uncertainties with a financial safety net."

## Study finds possible way to heal damaged lungs after premature birth

Washington DC [US]: Researchers have created 3D video images of mouse lung tissue grown in the laboratory using a four-dimensional microscopy technique. What they have learned has been nothing short of groundbreaking.

A new study suggests that understanding resilience--the ability of injured lung tissue to heal and regenerate--may be key to advancing the treatment and prevention of life-threatening lung disease in extremely premature babies.

Using a four-dimensional microscopy technique, researchers at Vanderbilt University and Vanderbilt University Medical Center have created 3D video images of mouse lung tissue grown in the laboratory.

"For the first time, we've been able to live-image the lung as it forms, and quantify and measure those cellular movements that come together to make an organ with a surface area large enough for gas exchange," said Jennifer Sucre, MD, associate professor of Pediatrics and Cell and Developmental Biology. The group's findings, published Feb. 24 as the cover article in JCI Insight, the journal of the American Society of Clinical Investigation, represent a significant step toward improved treatment and prevention of bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD), which occurs in about 50% of infants born two to four months prematurely. "If we can understand how the lung forms, then we have a blueprint



for how to grow new lungs after injury," said the paper's first author, Nick Negretti, PhD, a senior post-doctoral fellow in the Sucre lab who co-lead the research.

"Mice have an extraordinary ability to repair the lung," said Sucre, the paper's senior author, who directs the Biodevelopmental Origins of Lung Disease (BOLD) Center at VUMC. "I want to give babies the superpower of the mouse." Premature babies with BPD

require oxygen and mechanical ventilation in the early days after birth to help them breathe. Oxygen therapy is a double-edged sword because it also can damage delicate lung tissue.

The innovative technology implemented by the Sucre lab allows for testing and identification of the specific molecules and pathways that guide this process. It is also a discovery tool for drugs promoting tissue regeneration after injury.

**Modified regulation of trains for Traffic & Power Block over Asansol Division**

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Power & Traffic Block in connection with 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 on 02.03.2025 (Sunday), Railway decided to regulate few trains which was informed earlier through Press Release, has been modified as under:

13508 Gorakhpur - Asansol Express will be diverted via Barauni-Monghyr- Bhagalpur - Sahibganj - Rampurhat - Sainthia- Andal-Asansol instead of Kiul - Jamalpur-Sahibganj- Sainthia - Andal. Moreover rescheduling of 02023/02024 Howrah - Patna - Howrah Express Special has been withdrawn (due to not running on 02.03.2025).

**Israel arrests dozens of Palestinians in overnight raids**

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The Israeli military has arrested dozens of Palestinians as part of an expansion of its military operations across the occupied West Bank. At least 50 people were arrested in overnight raids, according to the Palestinian Prisoner's Society (PPS) and the Commission of Detainees and Ex-Detainees Affairs, both cited by a report by the Palestinian news agency Wafa on Wednesday. According to Wafa's report, the military rounded up people for interrogation in the governorates of Hebron, Tulkarem, Qalqilya, Nablus, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Jericho and Tubas. As part of the campaign, Israeli troops stormed the Majed Abu Sharar School in the city of Dura near Hebron and arrested two students, the Palestinian Prisoners' Media Office said on Wednesday.



Protest against the derogatory remarks made by the opposition leader of West Bengal regarding madrasa education. Madrasa teachers and staff at the invitation of MSSS association Madrasa Education Convention at Moulali Youth Centre Auditorium on Wednesday.

**Iran rules out direct talks with US**

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran will not engage in direct talks with the United States on his country's nuclear programme amid US President Donald Trump's policy of "maximum pressure" against it, Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi has said. His remarks came a day after the US imposed a fresh round of sanctions targeting Iran's oil industry, the Iran's main source of income. "Iran's position regarding nuclear talks is clear and we will not negotiate under pressure and sanctions," Araghchi said during a televised joint press conference with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Tehran. "There is no possibility of direct negotiations with the US as long as maximum pressure is being applied in this way." Following his return to the White House last month, Trump has restored his "maximum pressure" campaign on Iran that includes efforts to drive the country's oil exports to zero, reimposing a tough

policy on Iran that was practiced throughout his first term. Earlier this month, Iran's top authority Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said that talks with the US were "not smart, wise, or honourable".

However, he stopped short of renewing a ban on direct talks with Washington decreed during the first Trump administration.

In 2018, during his first term, Trump withdrew the US from Iran's landmark 2015 nuclear deal with six world powers that had imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief. Iran has since breached some of the deal's limitations and efforts to revive the accord failed under the administration of former US President Joe Biden. On Monday, Iran held a new round of talks with Germany, France and Britain about its nuclear programme after reviving engagement with the trio, known as the E3, late last year.

**Galatasaray accuses Mourinho of 'racist statements'**

MI News Service, Ankara: Turkish football club Galatasaray has accused Jose Mourinho of making "racist statements", saying it will initiate criminal proceedings against the Fenerbahce manager over his comments following the teams' 0-0 draw in the Super Lig. While it was unclear which statements Galatasaray was referring to, Mourinho said the home side's bench had been "jumping like monkeys" and that the match would have been a disaster if a Turkish referee had been in charge. The game was refereed by Slovenian Slavko Vincic after both clubs requested a foreign official take charge. Galatasaray said on X that Mourinho had "persistently issued derogatory statements directed towards the Turkish people" since taking up his role in the league. "Today, his discourse has escalated beyond merely immoral comments into unequivocally inhumane rhetoric," the club said. "We hereby formally declare our intention to

initiate criminal proceedings concerning the racist statements made by Jose Mourinho, and shall accordingly submit official complaints to UEFA and FIFA." Fenerbahce issued a statement defending the former Chelsea, Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur manager, saying Mourinho's comments were taken out of context and deliberately distorted. "As every common sense person can see and understand; these expressions, used by Jose Mourinho to describe the extreme reaction of the opposing team's technical staff to the referee's decisions during the match, can in no way be associated with racism," the club said in a statement.

"Trying to portray this discourse as racist is a completely malevolent approach. We would like to inform the public that we will exercise our legal rights regarding this pathetic slander that aims to take the competition out of the field, change the agenda and manipulate it."

**Death toll in Sudan military plane crash rises to 46**

MI News Service, Wadi Seidna: The death toll from a Sudanese military plane crash in the city of Omdurman on the outskirts of the capital Khartoum has increased to at least 46 people, officials said.

The Antonov aircraft crashed during takeoff from the Wadi Seidna military airport in northern Omdurman, part of greater Khartoum.

The Khartoum Media Office on Wednesday said the crash also injured 10 others. The initial death toll of 19 was provided by the health ministry, which said the aircraft crashed over a civilian house in the Karrari district in Omdurman. Major-General Bahr Ahmed, a senior commander in Khartoum, was reportedly among the dead.

The Sudanese military, which has been at war with the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) since April 2023, released a statement confirming that military personnel and civilians had been killed and reporting that firefighting teams had managed to contain the blaze at the crash site.

The statement did not provide details on what had caused the crash, but military sources told Reuters news agency that it was most likely due to technical reasons. Residents in northern Omdurman reported a loud explosion from the crash, which damaged several homes and caused power outages in surrounding neighbourhoods. "Further escalation" The war in Sudan, which has killed tens of thousands, erupted after a rift emerged between army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and RSF commander Mohamed Hamadan Daglo over the future structure of the government. The army is currently making significant advances in central Sudan and Khartoum in its multi-front offensive against the RSF.

**Councillor Shams Iqbal Anil: A pioneer of public service**



Ashfaque Samar

Kolkata Municipal Corporation's ward 134 councillor Shams Iqbal Anil has distinguished himself through his exceptional public service. His efforts go beyond just maintaining roads, streets, and drainage systems—he is actively working to fulfill the essential needs of the people, even though those activities fall outside a councillor's official responsibilities. Councillor Shams Iqbal Anil has transformed his ward into an exemplary model by executing several development projects. He has established a health center where all types of blood tests, sonography, and other expensive medical examinations are provided free of cost, ensuring quality healthcare for underprivileged citizens. Moreover, he played a crucial role in setting up the first government-run English medium school in ward 134, which now provides quality education to over 2,000 students. To assist local residents, Shams Iqbal Anil has appointed a team that helps patients get admitted to Kolkata's top hospitals using the Swasthya Sathi Card. He finds immense joy and satisfaction when a patient, who was once in distress, recovers and smiles again, knowing that his assistance made a difference.

In his ongoing efforts to improve healthcare, councillor Shams Iqbal Anil envisions establishing a large private hospital in Garden Reach. His goal is to ensure patients with Swasthya Sathi Cards do not wander from hospital to hospital or rely on others for admission. Instead, they should have easy access to state-of-the-art medical facilities within their own locality. He is actively working to make this vision a reality so that quality treatment is available to the poor without unnecessary hurdles. On the death anniversary of his father, the late Iqbal Munna, Shams Iqbal Anil organized a large-scale blood donation camp, where he personally donated blood to inspire others to do the same. Additionally, he installed a cold drinking water machine at Maulana Hasrat Mohani Girls' Higher Secondary Urdu Medium School, ensuring that students have access to clean and cold drinking water. Councillor Shams Iqbal Anil firmly believes that education is the key to social progress. Whenever parents approach him for school fees or books for their children, he ensures their problems are resolved at the earliest. With the support of Firhad Hakim, he established a high-quality English medium school, where children from low-income families receive excellent educational opportunities. Shams Iqbal Anil considers his local community as his family. He understands the financial struggles of his people, which is why he strives to bring meaningful change to society. For him, public service is the true essence of politics. Addressing criticism, he stated that his actions are driven solely by the interests of the public. If some people feel envious of his efforts, they should instead focus on working for the greater benefits of the community. His mission is development and public welfare, and he remains committed to this cause.

Through his selfless dedication, councillor Shams Iqbal Anil has proven himself to be a true people's leader. His efforts have set ward 134 on the path to progress, and his vision extends beyond his ward—he has become a ray of hope for the entire Garden Reach and Kolkata community.

**Even after 104 Yrs, NAZISM is as prevalent as ever**

Siddhartha Albertt Majumderr

The Nazi Party, officially the National Socialist German Workers' Party (National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei or NSDAP), was a far-right political party in Germany active between 1920 and 1945 that created and supported the ideology of National Socialism under the unmitigated leadership of Adolf Hitler.

On February 24, this year, it completed 104 years of its official formation. Though the party got officially obsolete after the heroic defeat of Germany in World War II, Nazism (or National Socialism) as a political and social idea developed through decades and are still very much prevalent in Europe. The recent victories and dominations of far-right parties including pro-Nazi parties across Europe and beyond that exemplifies that the principles of 'National Socialism' still exists and prevalent in a big way.

**THE TRIGGER**

The immediate aftermath of the Great War and the Versailles Treaty created a perfect storm of economic, social, political and cultural factors which facilitated the rapid rise of Adolf Hitler's political career and the birth of the National Socialist German Worker's Party.

**MUNICH & ITS NAZI CONNECTION**

It all started in the city of Munchen (Munich). Munich is the breeding ground for this world-changing evolution that for the first time brought before the world the very concept of 'National Socialism'. In the famous book 'Hitler's Munich', renowned historian David Ian Hall examines the origins and growth of Hitler's National Socialism through the lens of this unique city.

By connecting the sites where Hitler and his accomplices built the movement, Hall offers a clear and concrete understanding of the causes, background, motivation, and structures of the Party. 'Hitler's Munich' is a cultural and political portrait of the city, a biography of the Fuhrer, and a history of National Socialism.

**HITLER & HOFBRAUHAUS BIER HALL**

In February 1920 Adolf Hitler and his friends met at one of the world's most famous bier (beer) hall 'Hofbrauhaus' in Munich. They sat at the iconic Festival Raum(Room) to discuss the future of Deutschland(Germany). At that very hall the concept of 'National Socialism' was

placed with a cup bier. The National Sozialistische Deutsch Arbeiter Partei(German National Socialist Worker's Party)or (NSDAP) was formed.

Adolf Hitler, later known as 'Fuhrer' placed his famous 'Twenty Five Point' agenda of the party as a part of political manifesto to save Germany from imminent disaster. He also provided solutions about how Germany can rise to the apex of glory once again. Hence, Munich (Munchen) has a special place in the history of the National Socialist movement in Germany that rocked the entire world.

**PREVALENCE OF NAZISM**

Even after so many decades, the concept of 'National Socialism' or Nazism did not fade away. It is still there in the hearts of billions of people who swear by their nation, nationhood and race. According to sources, on February 24, every year several Neo - Nazi parties and organisations across West celebrate the formation of NSDAP. This year it completed 104 years of its official formation.

**'MEIN KAMPF' STILL MATTERS**

In January 2016, the Institute of Contemporary History released the first reprint of Adolf Hitler's "Mein Kampf" since World War II. One year on, the German publisher says the book has sold some 85,000 copies and spent 35 weeks on Der Spiegel non-fiction best-seller list.

Dr. Magnus Brechtken, deputy director of the Institute of Contemporary History, was "quite surprised" that public interest in the book was so strong in Germany. The Munich based institute, which has previously published annotated editions of "Hitler's Speeches, Writings and Directives, 1923-1933," "Hitler's Second Book" and the diaries of ranking Nazis Joseph Goebbels and Alfred Rosenberg, said they initially planned to print 4,000 copies of the new edition, but later had to order more than 10 times as per huge demand.

The recent feedbacks from the book's distributors suggest most people purchasing the new edition are academics or people with a keen interest in historical events. Even now 'Mein Kampf' is still very popular not only in Germany, but across Europe and even in USA and other places of the world.

**MASSIVE NEO - NAZI UPSURGE IN GERMANY/EUROPE**

A massive Neo - National Socialist or Neo - Nazi upsurge in entire Europe is now a reality that no one can thwart and

it is thriving all over Europe and USA every single day. Apart from Germany, the 'Vaterland'(fatherland) of National Socialism, France, UK, Poland, Nederland and many nations in Eastern and Western Europe including Scandinavian nations are facing the uprising of Neo National Socialism or Nazism, mostly due to immigration problem and Islamophobia that is taking a toll to the socio - economic situation all over West, including the 'identity' crisis. Almost at every part of Germany one can find banners and posters inscribed 'Das ist Unser land' (This is our land), 'Das ist Heimat' (This is our homeland). This outcry is not only in Germany, but all across West. Pertinacious effort on the part of different governments in West has failed to whittle down the spirit of 'National Socialism' across the Western world. The recent success of far right political party Alternative Fur Deutschland (AFD)in February 24 general election clearly shows the volume of popularity 'National Socialism' has gathered throughout the years among a huge section of people.

According to sources, the Neo - Nazis have also entered at the core centre of 'Bundeswehr' i.e the German Defence. There have been plenty of instances where pictures of the Fuhrer Adolf Hitler along with his book 'Mein Kampf', old Nazi Artifacts, books depicting glorious history of German Army during Second World War, theme songs of elite 'SS'(Schultz Staffen) unit etc were found from plenty of German officers and other officials of the German Defence Forces.

Even the German government is non-plussed about what they discovered from internal investigations. Though plenty of officers and personnel were suspended and show caused for this reason, the trend towards National Socialist movement is showing no sign of quailing.

Even there are reports that the Neo - Nazis have also entered into the nerve centre of German State Police Department (Geheime Staat Polizei). As per sources, the German right wing groups especially the Nazis are gaining ground every single day despite warning signal from the German intelligence 'Bundes Nachrichten Disch' (BND). Apart from the right wing political parties like Alternative Fur Deutschland (AFD) and NDP, there are plenty of right wing groups that are flourishing in Germany. Some of the very popular among those are, Action Front of

National Socialists, Atomwaffen Division Deutschland, Artgemeinschaft, Deutsche Heidenische Front, Identitarian Movement, PEGIDA, National Socialist Underground, German Defence League etc.

**NEO - NAZISM BEYOND GERMANY**

Not only in Germany, right wing and pro Nazi groups are thronging in different parts of Europe and USA. The most prominent of such groups that are thronging in the entire Europe are Dutch People Union, National Alliance(Nederland), National Vol Force(Belgium),Kohti Vaputta(Finland),Golden Dawn (Greece), National Socialist Federation (Ireland), Roman Aryan Order, Ordine Nuovo(Italy), National Socialist Movement of Norway, Heather Front, Boot Boys(Norway),Radical Action,Blood and Honour,Green Hispania(Spain),Nordic Resistance Movement, National Socialists Front,VAM (Sweden), British National Front, English Defence League, Column 8, Northern League, White Wolves(Great Britain) Bund Frier Jugend(Austria) etc.

The marches and rallies of the National Socialist groups across Europe with iconic 'Swastika' symbols and pictures of 'Adolf Hitler' are not a rare phenomenon all the more; rather it is moving towards a new normal in entire Europe despite several and repeated warnings from different intelligence agencies and secret services across the Europe. Not only Europe alone, even the eastern part of Europe, i.e Russia is not out of the radar of the Neo - Nazi groups. Even the Russian intelligence, FSB (former KGB) has admitted the paramount increase of popularity of the National Socialist across the entire region. Some very popular and prominent Neo Nazi groups in Russia are Atomwaffen Division Russland, Format 18, National Alliance, Russian National Unity.

Hence, the bottom line is that even after 104 years of formation of Nazi Party and formal dissolve of the same after the WWII, the 'Nazism' or 'National Socialism' as an idea or socio - economic and political thought has thrived and got nourishment from different parts of West.

It is still so much popular , not only in Germany , but all over the Western world and is gaining momentum, despite counter governmental measures and counter propaganda. Adolf Hitler is no more, so as his Nazi Party, but the 'old charm and fragrance of National Socialism' still persists in a different matter and form.

**Meeting at Sitapur Sufi Darbar**



Nurul Islam Khan

The annual meeting was held at Sitapur Sufi Darbar Sharif in Hooghly on Tuesday. The meeting was held in memory of Pir Shah Sufi Tajammal Hossain Siddiqui, a descendant of Hazrat Pir Dada Huzur of Furfura and his elder and chief Khalifa. Special prayers were offered for the forgiveness of the souls of all the descendants of the Sufi Sahib. Many Pir Sahibs including Pirzada Maulana Masum Siddiqui and Pirzada Syed Imtiaz Hossain Bukhari were present on the day.

### AUSTRALIA LEFT-ARM SPINNER MATTHEW KUHNEMANN CLEARED OF SUSPECT BOWLING ACTION BY ICC

DUBAI [UAE] : The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Wednesday confirmed Australia's left-arm spinner Matthew Kuhnemann's bowling action has been found to be legal, and he will continue bowling in international cricket.

Kuhnemann was reported for a suspected illegal bowling action during the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle that ended on February 9. He subsequently underwent an independent bowling assessment at the National Cricket Centre in Brisbane on February 15.

"It was revealed that the amount of elbow extension for all his deliveries was within the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations," ICC said in a media release.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Kuhnemann went through a session that lasted more than one hour. During the session, he was asked to bowl at a similar speed and with similar revolutions as he did in the second Test against Sri Lanka in Galle.

ICC experts observed Kuhnemann's bowling action. The Australian left-arm spinner wore markers on his body and was surrounded by several high-speed cameras and a 3D motion analysis system.

"We are pleased for Matt that this matter is now resolved. It has been a challenging period for Matt; however, he has carried himself exceptionally well. He has had the full support of Australian cricket, and he can now move forward to the next phase of his international career with great confidence," Ben Oliver, CA executive general manager of national teams, said in a statement as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

After Kuhnemann was reported for his bowling action, Steve Smith, Australia's stand-in captain during the series, had rallied behind the 28-year-old and said, "It's come as a bit of a surprise to me. He has been playing for eight years in professional cricket, and nothing has been said in that amount of time."

"We're confident he will pass. He will go through that process back home. We wish him all the best," he had said.

Kuhnemann has represented Australia in five Tests and boasts 25 wickets at an average of 22.20 and a strike rate of 41.0.



Afghanistan's Ibrahim Zadran and Hashmatullah Shahidi (c) celebrate their partnership during the Group B match against England in the ICC Champions Trophy, 2025, at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore on Wednesday. (Reuters/ANI)

## India U20 women end Pink Youth Cup campaign with defeat against Russia

MANAVGAT [TURKEY] : The India U20 women's team ended their Pink Ladies U20 Youth Cup campaign with a 0-3 defeat to Russia at the Emirhan Sport Center in Manavgat, as per the official website of All India Football Federation (AIFF).

Russia scored twice inside the first 17 minutes and added another soon after the restart before India created a handful of opportunities to get on the scoresheet but ultimately came out empty-handed. The Young Tigresses had beaten Jordan 2-1 and Hong Kong 1-0 last week.

For India, these friendly matches were part of their preparations for the SAFF U20 Women's Championship and the AFC U20 Women's Asian Cup Qualifiers, which will take place in July and August, respectively.

It was an end-to-end start, with both India and Russia having a go at each other's defence in the first 10 minutes. While Lhingdeikim saw her 20-yard effort dip on top of the net, Arina Shuba forced Moirangthem Monalisha Devi to make a one-on-one save.

Gradually, Russia began to exert control and India was



pinned inside their defensive third. Getting on the end of a free-kick from Tatiana Danilochkina, Mariia Nachaeva headed into the far corner to open the scoring in the 15th minute. Less than two minutes later, Polina Pavlova doubled the lead with a solid 20-yard half-volley that rocketed into the top corner.

After that blitz, India regrouped and dished out a better

defensive performance until the end of the first half. However, Natalia Perminova got Russia on the scoresheet again just two minutes after the restart, side-footing a cutback from 10 yards out.

India became desperate to get something from the game and ventured forward more frequently. That turned out well for Joakim Alexandersson's side as they were not only able to create a host of

chances, but also prevent any further damage as Russia were kept busy inside their half.

Lhingdeikim, who scored against Jordan, came the closest to getting a goal for India. The 17-year-old turned her marker inside out and took a low shot with her left foot. The goalkeeper was beaten but Iuliana Kamorina produced a superb goal-line clearance to deny her.

Lhingdeikim also saw a curling right-footed free-kick saved at the far corner by Uliana Obukhova. Sibani Devi and Pooja, who scored the match-winners against Hong Kong and Jordan, respectively, missed the target by a whisker.

Sibani showed good presence of mind to intercept a ball in the Russian box but sent a left-footed shot over the crossbar. Pooja took a first-time shot on the turn just outside the box but it sailed inches over the target.

In the dying minutes of the match, Neha's corner landed perfectly for Tojiam Thoibisana Chanu, who volleyed it over from six yards. Ultimately, there was no consolation goal for the Young Tigresses, who wrapped up the Turkey tour with two wins and a defeat.

## Services emerges champions defeating Jharkhand in close final match



PC JHA

RANCHI : Services team emerged champions after defeating host Jharkhand in an exciting final match by 34-32 in the 53rd Senior Men's Handball Championship concluded today at Harvansh Tana Bhagat indoor stadium.

The Services team scored 34 goals and Jharkhand team scored 32 goals. The difference in the goals was only two. It was a very interesting match. The teams of Madhya Pradesh and Punjab jointly secured the second and third positions.

A large number of spectators attended this match played at Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium. This match was being organized for the last 5 days. 28 teams participated in it.

Jharkhand Government Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey was present as the chief guest in the closing ceremony today. Along with this, former Rajya Sabha MP Dheeraj Prasad Sahu, Congress State President Keshav Mahato, Kamlesh, MLA Rajesh Kashyap, Handball Federation President and former Rajya Sabha MP Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu, Handball Federation of India Secretary Pritpal Singh Saluja, Mahesh Singh, Sunil Kujur, Maqsood Alam were present.

In the grand prize distribution ceremony, the guests presented trophies and medals to the champions team Services, Jharkhand which secured the second position

and Madhya Pradesh and Punjab which jointly secured the third position. During this, the Best Players Award was also given to the players. Joginder and Deepak of Jharkhand, Mohinder of Punjab, Bhupendra and Ankit of Mohit Services of Madhya Pradesh were awarded the Best Players.

Congress leader Mahesh Singh Maqsood Alam was mainly present at the award distribution ceremony.

Jharkhand Government Minister Shilpi Neha Tirkey, in her address, praised the Jharkhand State Handball Association and said that for the first time, handball has been organized on such a large scale in Ranchi. Her effort will be to promote sports at the government level as well. Former MP Dheeraj Prasad Sahu said that there should be no politics in sports. Sports should be taken as a sport, which will also benefit the health of the players. With good performance, the players will also bring glory to the country. It is known that this event was organized in the memory of former MP late Shiv Prasad Sahu. Former MP Pradeep Kumar Balmuchu welcomed the visiting guests and players.

The organization's secretary Khurshid, treasurer Firoz Khan, senior vice president Raghavendra Sharma, Sarfaraz, Amit Vishnu Mahato, Rahul Gupta played an important role in the successful organization of the tournament.

## Virat Kohli rises to fifth in latest ICC Men's Player Rankings following his 51st ODI ton

DUBAI [UAE] : India's stalwart batter Virat Kohli on Wednesday rose in the latest ICC Men's Player Rankings after he scored his 51st ODI century in a superb display of batting against Pakistan at the ICC Champions Trophy in Dubai.

Kohli gained one place on the latest rankings for ODI batters to move back into fifth spot overall, as per the ICC who released the new ODI rankings today.

This brings three Indian batters inside the top five. Opener Shubman Gill (first) and skipper Rohit Sharma (third) maintained their places at the top of the batting rankings courtesy of their own decent hauls at the ongoing Champions Trophy event.

Gill actually increased his lead at the top of the rankings, with former Pakistan captain Babar Azam still in on the second spot despite a lean trot at the Champions Trophy so far.

Kohli is the only player at the Champions Trophy to make any ground inside the top 10 on the list for ODI batters, but there are a host of stars on the outskirts of the top 10 to make inroads on the latest rankings that the ICC updated on Wednesday.

Will Young (up eight spots to 14th), Ben Duckett (up 27 places to equal 17th) and Rachin Ravindra (up 18 rungs to 24th) are among the biggest movers after centuries at the tournament, while India right-hander KL Rahul (up two places to 15th) and South Africa dasher Rassie van der Dussen (up three places to 16th) also made some gains in their rankings.

Sri Lanka spinner Maheesh Theekshana remained at the top of the rankings for ODI bowlers despite the fact his side are not at the Champions Trophy, with Afghanistan tweaker Rashid Khan still his closest challenger in second place.

South Africa spinner Keshav Maharaj (up one place to equal fourth), New Zealand quick Matt Henry (up two rungs to sixth) and Australia veteran Adam Zampa (up two spots to 10th) all make ground inside the top 10 for ODI bowlers while Proteas pacer Kagiso Rabada (up four spots to 16th) and Kiwi Michael Bracewell (up 31 places to 26th) are among the biggest movers elsewhere.

Bracewell also gained some ground on the latest list for ODI all-rounders, with the 34-year-old moving up 26 places to 11th following his four-wicket haul against Bangladesh in Rawalpindi at the Champions Trophy.

New Zealand teammate Ravindra (up six places to 15th) also made some movement in this category, with Afghanistan veteran Mohammad Nabi still leading the way.



## "Seen some of my childhood heroes...": Jasprit Bumrah delighted on sweeping ICC honours

DUBAI [UAE] : India's star pacer Jasprit Bumrah expressed his delight after receiving Men's Cricketer Of The Year, Men's Test Player Of The Year and also being named in the Men's Test Team Of The Year and T20I Team Of The Year at the ICC Awards 2024.

"It feels really good. As a child, I'd seen some of my childhood heroes win this (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy) award. Always a privilege when you get such an honour," the 31-year-old pacer said after receiving his ICC Awards.

Featured across 21 matches (Tests and T20Is) in 2024,

Bumrah snapped 86 wickets for India - 71 of which came in the longest format. The right-arm quick was also an integral member of India's T20 World Cup-winning squad.

Recapping the year gone by, Bumrah added, "The T20 World Cup which we won is always going to be special and will be there in my mind. Obviously, a lot of learnings in my mind in the year as well. We played a lot of Test cricket, we got to know a lot of different experiences, so yeah, I'm very happy and hopefully better things will follow."

The premium pacer received

his ICC honours ahead of India's much-anticipated Champions Trophy fixture against Pakistan.

While Bumrah was ruled out of the India squad owing to a back injury he sustained on the tour of Australia earlier this year, the pacer opened up on the return of his fellow pace compatriot, Mohammed Shami.

"The 34-year-old marked his return from a long-term injury and was a star in India's opening win against Bangladesh, claiming a five-wicket haul.

"I'm really happy for him (Shami). Obviously he's had an injury struggle for so long. It takes a toll. But he's been very

happy and very positive. Looks good, he has the skill obviously, that will never go anywhere.

The more he plays, the more confidence will come, and hopefully, he'll help the team go further," Bumrah said.

Bumrah also expressed his excitement over the return of the Champions Trophy.

"The atmosphere is brilliant. The excitement...this tournament is coming after a long time so the buzz is there. The start has been good. Hopefully, the matches will get even better, and the competition will be even more fierce," he concluded.

