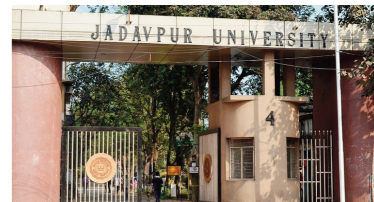


JU obstinate about scholarship verification stand

Jadavpur University has rejected a demand from students that the university authorities not verify the credentials they submitted while applying for a state government scholarship. At JU, the university administration usually capitulates before students who mount pressure by confining the VC, pro-VC, and other officials to extract their demands. It did not happen this time. The latest unrest at JU started when the university decided to verify the credentials uploaded by the students while applying for the Swami Vivekananda merit-cum-means scholarship offered by the state higher education department. PG 3



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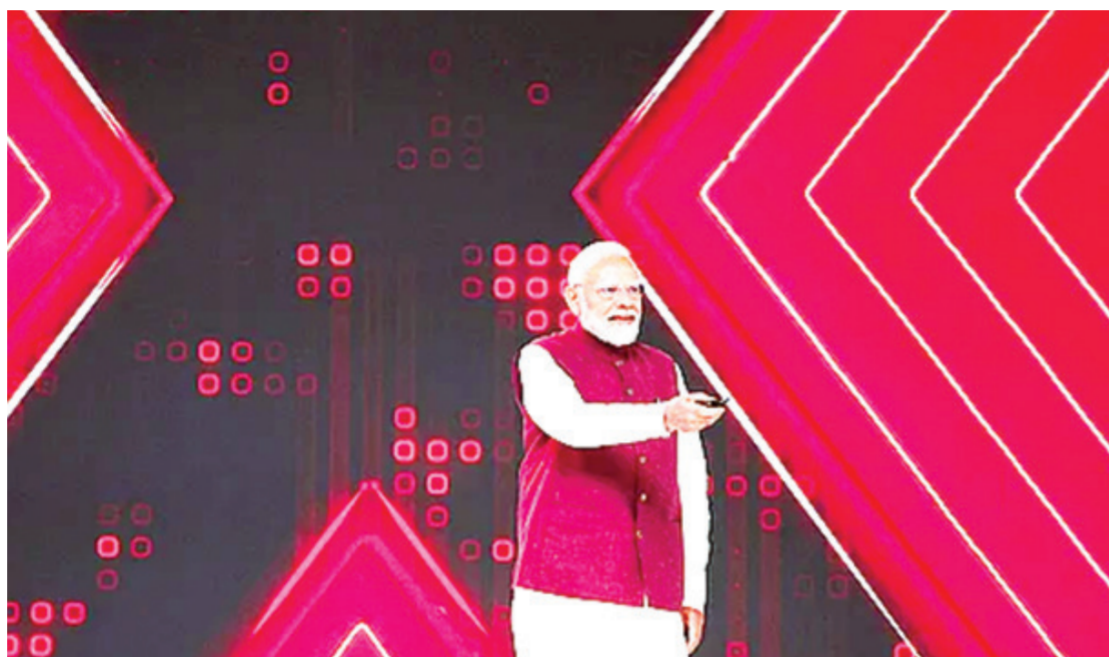
Morning India

India now emerging as global factory, becomes a 'World Force', says PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: With more and more Indian products going global and making their presence felt across the world, India is no longer considered merely the supplier of workforce but has become a "world force" of its own, Prime minister Narendra Modi asserted here on Saturday.

Claiming that his "vocal for local" campaign is bearing fruits, the Prime minister while speaking at the NXT conclave where the 'NewsX World' channel was launched, said the "world used to look at India as its back office for decades but the country is now emerging as the factory of the world. Now, India is not merely the workforce but a world force". PM Modi further said the country is manufacturing semiconductors and aircraft carriers and its superfoods like 'makhana' and millets, Ayush products and yoga are being embraced across the world. In addition India has also become a major automobile producer and its defence export is rising, he said.

Modi said India should be presented as it is, without any colour. It does not need any make-up, he said, adding that real stories from the country



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses during the NXT Conclave, in Delhi.

should reach the world. The prime minister said the BJP-led NDA government's re-election for a third term showed people's trust and hoped that the new global news channel from India would take the country's achievements abroad.

He said the world is looking at India in the 21st century, and that the country is constantly generating positive news. India is now leading many global initiatives, he said, referring to him co-hosting the recent AI summit and India's presidency of the G20 last

year. Citing the Maha Kumbh, he said it highlighted India's organising skills and innovation. Noting that his government has repealed many obsolete laws, he said an Act made by the British criminalising the dancing of 10 or more persons remained in force till it

was annulled by his dispensation. Taking a swipe at the "Lutyens jamaat" and "PIL ke thekedaar", he said they go to courts for everything but kept mum over such a law. They did not think of liberty then, he said. He said that the country was now emerging as a manufacturing hub and a "factory of the world". "For decades, the world referred to India as their back office. Now, India is becoming the new factory of the world. We are no longer just a workforce but instead becoming a world force," Modi said.

The prime minister said that India's rising defence products showcase the strength of its engineering and technology to the world. "From electronics to the automobile sector, the world has witnessed India's scale and capability. India is not only providing products to the world but is also becoming a trusted and reliable partner in the global supply chain," Modi said. The prime minister said India's leadership in various sectors was a result of years of hard work and systematic policy decisions. "A few years ago, I presented the vision of 'Vocal for Local' and 'Local for

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Education Minister Bratya Basu faces student vandalism at Jadavpur University, sustains minor injury



Bratya Basu is coming out of the trauma center of SSKM.

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu received minor injury when a group of students from Jadavpur University threw bricks at his car while he was leaving the university campus after holding a meeting there on Saturday. Informed sources said the minister was leaving the university after holding a meeting of a Professors organization, affiliated to the ruling Trinamool Congress, a number of students belonged to Leftist organisations launched a massive protest and rushed towards the minister's car. Taking advantage of subsequent melee some students reportedly deflated the tires of the Education minister's car. As the Minister got out of his car and tried to talk to the students, they started shouting 'Go Back' and other slogans against him while continuing their protest. Later, the minister's car and the two pilot cars accompanying it were vandalized. The 'looking glass' of Bratya's car was also broken. The minister said that he was injured due to bricks batting. Later he went to the Trauma Care Center of SSKM Hospital for treatment.

Some professors who tried to protect the minister during the protest, were also not spared from the students' wraths. At one point professor Omprakash Mishra was chased with sticks by several students from the Left and ultra-Left organizations. Later, the university security guards rescued him. Two other professors were reportedly injured in scuffle. Soon reinforcement from the Jadavpur police station rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

TMC spokesman Kunal Ghosh has severely condemned the incident and demanded a thorough inquiry and proper action against the culprits soon

Suspension of AAP MLAs 'blow to democracy', claims LOP Atishi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Condemning the suspension of 21 AAP MLAs from the Delhi Assembly as an "insult" to people's mandate and a "blow to democracy", Leader of Opposition Atishi has alleged that opposition voices were being deliberately suppressed. In a letter to Speaker Vijender Gupta in Hindi on Friday Atishi expressed concern over the events in the Delhi Assembly, where she claimed that opposition MLAs faced discriminatory treatment for their protests. "Your decision is an injustice to the opposition and a severe blow to democratic values", she wrote. "I am writing this letter with great pain and sorrow. The biggest strength of democracy is its fairness and equality. But whatever happened in the Delhi Assembly in the past few days is not only injustice to the opposition MLAs, but also a severe blow to democratic values. Our Constitution gives us the right to raise our voice in a democratic way. But if the voice of the opposition is suppressed, if the MLAs are prevented from raising the questions of the public inside and outside the House,

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Bilateral relations need to ramp up for improved trade and investment, feels Nirmala

MI News Service, New Delhi: As the overall economic situation in the world is witnessing a churn for various reasons, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has underscored the need to ramp up India's bilateral relations with every country for improved trade and investment.

Speaking at BS Manthan, the Finance Minister said bilateralism seems to be the new catalyst tool as the world is passing through a very interesting yet challenging times. However, the government is making all efforts to make India move up the ladder and be an engine of global growth, the Finance minister said. "Bilateralism is now taking the top of the agenda... It is for us to ramp up our bilateral relations with many countries, not just for trade, not just for investment, but also for strategic relations. So multilateralism, sort of, out, I'm still saying with a qualifying word 'sort of out', but bilateralism is very much your only catalytic tool that you can use," she said. Observing that multilateral institutions are increasingly fading away, she said, every attempt to revive them and energize them is not having



the desired result. "So, where you have to address issues which affect more than your own country. You have no more forums left which can effectively deliver... multilateral institutions and their contributions probably are fading away, at least in the near future, till an attempt is made to revive them with that kind of energy... It's not going to happen in the next few years," Sitharaman said. Asserting that global trade is undergoing a complete reset, she said, "the terms and references with which all of us played trade, with some kind of an anchor in the World Trade Organization are no longer available." There is no Most Favoured Nation (MFN) concept, she said, adding, every country wants to be treated special, and every country wants to be sure

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One person died as Uttarakhand govt intensifies rescue operations in avalanche site, 49 labourers found alive so far



Injured people being evacuated to Joshimath for critical medicare via helicopters from the avalanche site, in Mana of Chamoli district, Uttarakhand.

MI News Service, Dehradun: One labourer died and 49 were pulled out alive from the snow till Saturday evening after a huge avalanche engulfed a BRO camp in the high-altitude Mana village in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district on Friday morning, as rescuers raced against time to find survivors.

However, 7 more workers still remain trapped under at least 8 feet of snow. Earlier in the morning hundreds of rescuers resumed their search for last 8 of the

57 labourers who still remained trapped under several feet of snow in the high-altitude Mana village as the weather cleared up. According to official sources, Army choppers were roped in for intensifying the search operation after the weather condition improved.. The nearest airstrip at Gauchar has been readied for more helicopters, Chamoli District Disaster Management Officer N K Joshi said. "It is a little cloudy at the moment but once the weather becomes

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favourable, the helicopters will be pressed into service", he said adding two smaller avalanches had already followed the initial one. The Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) personnel based in Mana have resumed the rescue operation, he said adding a let-up in rain and snowfall can help speed up efforts to trace the remaining 8 labourers who still remained trapped under the snow for more than 24 hours now. Altogether 57 Border Roads Organisation (BRO) labourers were trapped under heavy snow when a huge avalanche rolled over their camp on Friday morning. Soon a massive rescue operation was launched and one by one 49 labourers were rescued. As Rain and continuous snowfall hampered the rescue efforts, the operation was suspended as the night fell. The BRO camp was situated at the foothill of a mountain between Mana and Badrinath. Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami who is likely to visit the accident site on Saturday if weather permits, met an injured worker who was airlifted to Joshimath. According to a list released by the Uttarakhand State

Encounter between security forces and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh to flush out militants



MI News Service, Raipur: A fierce encounter broke out between Naxalite forces and security personnel in remote Sukma district of Chhattisgarh on Saturday, police said. The heavy gunfight began in the morning inside a deep forest area under the Kistaram police station area, where a joint team of security personnel acting on a tip off about the presence of some armed Maoists went out on an anti-Naxalite operation, the police said. He said personnel from the District Reserve Guard (DRG) and CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action — an elite unit of CRPF) were involved in the operation launched on Friday based on inputs about the presence of Maoists in the area. The official said the intermittent exchange of fire which began early in the morning was still continuing, and it was still now known whether there was casualty or recovery of arms and ammunition from the area. Further details are, however, awaited.

Meanwhile, in his stride to bring an absolute peace in the state Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directed security forces to ensure free movement of people on all roads in Manipur from March 8. Chair-

ing a meeting where the security situation of Manipur was reviewed, the home minister said that strict action should be taken against those creating obstructions on the roads. This was the first such meeting held after the imposition of the President's rule in the northeastern state, which has been witnessing ethnic violence since May 2023. Over 250 people have lost their lives in the violence. Focus on recovery of weapons looted from police armouries, keep level of violence under check, and try to establish peace as soon as possible: these are some of the instructions that Union Home Minister Amit Shah reportedly gave Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla and the security establishment on Saturday.

Shah on Saturday held an hour-long meeting at the North Block to take stock of the security situation in Manipur. The meeting was attended by Manipur Governor Ajay Bhalla, Manipur Security Advisor Kuldeep Singh, state Director General of Police Rajiv Singh, Intelligence Bureau chief Tapan Deka, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Additional Secretary (North East) Prakash

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Zelenskyy thanks the USA after unprecedented showdown with Trump in Oval Office

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : Hours after the unprecedented showdown in the Oval Office with the American President Donald Trump and Vice President J D Vance, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on a complete turnaround has thanked the US President and his country for its support to the conflict with Russia during the past three years. After departing the White House following the unprecedented verbal dual with the American top leaders at the Oval Office meeting on Friday night (Indian time), where Trump shouted at Zelenskyy, accusing him of "risking millions of lives" and warning that his actions might lead to World War III, the Ukrainian President possibly realising that the situation was going out of his hand, acknowledged the contribution of the USA in his country's fight against Russia since 2022.

However, a little earlier in re-



sponse to Trump's accusations, Zelenskyy abruptly departed the White House without signing the crucial minerals agreement with the US, which Trump had insisted upon as a prerequisite for continued support to Ukraine. After a

shouting match between the two Presidents (Trump and Zelenskyy) during the Oval office meeting, the relations between the two countries hit a new low. Standing firm on his stance, Zelenskyy said Ukraine cannot change attitude

towards Russia on a dime and added the spat with Trump is not good for both sides. During the diplomatic meeting expected to finalise a peace agreement between Ukraine and Russia, Trump pressured Zelenskyy to accept a ceasefire and accused him of stalling negotiations. The blow-up is likely to scramble affairs in Europe and across the globe. Several world leaders including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, outgoing German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese rallied in support of Ukraine.

The rift between Trump and Zelenskyy has ballooned in recent days as US officials attempted to negotiate the minerals deal with Ukraine. In last few weeks, Trump told his closest advisers that he does not like the way in which Zelenskyy has tried to drum up US support for Ukraine, claiming he

used showmanship to try and win points with the media and Congress. While Scholz said, "No one wants peace more than the citizens of Ukraine! That is why we are jointly seeking the path to a lasting and just peace. Ukraine can rely on Germany — and on Europe," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese extended support to Ukraine and said, "We will continue to stand with Ukraine for as long as it takes, because this is the struggle of a democratic nation versus an authoritarian regime led by Vladimir Putin, who clearly has imperialistic designs, not just on Ukraine, but throughout that region." Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni noted that a division between the US and European Union will not be beneficial and urged for a summit. "What is needed is an immediate summit between the United

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Narcotics, cash worth over Rs 1 crore seized, illegal cannabis farms destroyed across Cooch Behar

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: Police, the Border Security Force (BSF), and the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized narcotics and cash worth over ₹1 crore from different locations and destroyed several illegal cannabis farms across Cooch Behar on Wednesday. A police team raided the house of Swapan Mondal, a resident of Dhalaguri, a village in the Mathabhangra subdivision. They seized 9.8 kg raw opium gum from the house. "Also, ₹33,44,760 was seized in cash from there. We have arrested Swapan Mondal and a case under the NDPS Act has been registered against him," said Sandip Garai, the additional superintendent of police (Mathabhangra).

"Our officers will interrogate him to know from where he had obtained the suspected narcotic and the cash. We suspect he is associated with a drug smuggling racket," he added. The cost of the seized opium gum in the clandestine market is ₹40 to 50 lakh, sources said. In another incident, troops of the 78th battalion of the BSF of the Guwahati front, posted at Chitrakoot border outpost in Cooch Behar, conducted a joint operation with NCB and seized five quintals of cannabis. A person has been arrested in this connection.

Youth arrested with four firearms, magazines and ammunition by Malda police

MI News Service, Malda: Police in Malda seized four firearms, magazines and ammunition and arrested a person on Thursday. Pradeep Kumar Yadav, the district police chief, said Ratua police had intercepted Razzak Sheikh aka Tota, 35, in the Nakkatti bridge area in Ratua. He is from Daulatpur near Bainsnagar. "As our men searched him, they found four seven mm pistols, four magazines, with one round of live ammunition in each magazine," said Yadav.

Sheikh was heading towards Malda in a two-wheeler. The police have also seized Police officers suspect that he was supposed to sell the loaded firearms to some person who deals with illegal firearms in the district. "During preliminary investigation, he has revealed the name of one of his associates. We are in search of the person," said an officer. Over the past few weeks, the police in Malda have launched an extensive search operation to stop the smuggling of illegal firearms and ammunition into the district from the neighbouring Bihar and Jharkhand states.

"It has been found that such firearms are being used in different crimes committed in the district. The drive is in progress and seizures are being regularly made," he said.



On the auspicious birth anniversary of the 190th incarnation of Sri Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, his birth anniversary is celebrated at Belur Math with Thakur Puja, Hom, Narayana Seva and religious ceremonies and Prabhath Pheri in the morning. Prasad is distributed among the devotees in the afternoon on Saturday.

TMC Leader Found Dead with Multiple Injuries

MI News Service, Palta: The discovery of the lifeless and bloodied body of Hannan Gazi, a local leader of the Trinamool Congress, in Palta has generated significant concern and unrest, both within the community and among political circles in the region. Gazi was found with severe injuries, including deep wounds to his head and legs, which has led his family to assert that his death was the result of a murder. The circumstances surrounding the incident have further heightened tensions in the area. According to sources, residents reported hearing a loud noise around 1:20 AM. Upon investigating, several individuals emerged from their homes and discovered Gazi's body on the street in a state of bloodied distress. The local police were immediately notified, and officers from the Titagarh police station arrived at the scene to recover the body, which was subsequently sent for autopsy. An investigation into the cause of death has been launched. The deceased leader's brother, in a statement, emphasized that Gazi was a grassroots activist. He expressed doubts that the injuries could have resulted from an accident, asserting that the nature of the wounds indicated intentional harm. "These types of injuries are not consistent with an accident," he stated. "The head and leg injuries are clear signs of being inflicted by a sharp weapon or a blunt object, possibly a rod." Sources reveal that Gazi was also involved in managing the local auto union, a role that afforded him significant influence in the area. Given his political and social prominence, the police are examining the possibility of a political motive behind his death. The investigation is ongoing, with authorities carefully exploring any potential links to local politics. As part of the investigation, the police have already apprehended

an individual named Abhijit Nandi, who was reportedly associated with Gazi. Nandi was arrested due to inconsistencies in his statements, and further questioning is expected to shed light on the circumstances of the crime. It remains to be seen whether new evidence will emerge from his interrogation. In addition, Gazi's aunt has voiced skepticism regarding the explanation provided by Nandi, who claimed that the leader's death was the result of a car accident. She, along with other family members, contends that the injuries sustained by Gazi do not support this version of events, further suggesting that foul play may have been involved. As the investigation progresses, both the authorities and the family hope that additional details will come to light, helping to clarify the true cause of Gazi's death and any potential political motivations behind this tragic event.

Jalpaiguri tea auction centre to reopen



MI News Service, Siliguri: The North Bengal Tea Auction Centre in Jalpaiguri will again witness the auction of the brew in March, after a gap of around 11 years. The centre had been opened in 2008 by the then state commerce and industry minister, Nirupam Sen. However, the facility had been hit by the low inflow of teas ever since its inauguration. Eventually, the centre closed down in 2014. North Bengal has a second tea auction centre in Siliguri, around 45km from Jalpaiguri. The Siliguri centre was established in 1976. "We have received an official communication from the Tea Board which announced the dates for the mock auction test and the actual auction. The live

auction will be conducted online and the necessary infrastructure repairs will be completed soon," said Purajit Bakshi Gupta, the vice-chairman of the North Bengal Tea Auction Committee that runs the centre. He said the committee had been lobbying the Union government for a decade for the reopening of the Jalpaiguri centre. "Our local MP Jayanta Roy was also instrumental in making the auction centre operational," added Bakshi Gupta.

According to him, the mock auction test will be conducted on March 10 at the centre on Shivaji Road in Jalpaiguri town. "If the mock test succeeds, the first auction will be conducted on March 31.

Kalimpong municipality to take up Rs 266 crore Amrut 2.0 water scheme for the hill town

MI News Service, Darjeeling: Authorities of the Kalimpong municipality on Thursday officially informed residents of the hill town that they are taking up a drinking water project under a central scheme to meet a longstanding demand of the people. The project, which has been taken up under the Centre's Amrut (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation) 2.0 scheme, will be executed with an estimated cost of around ₹266 crore. "Today (Thursday), we elaborated on the proposed drinking water project before the residents through a PowerPoint presentation. The estimated cost is Rs 265.97 crore," said Ravi Pradhan, the chairman of the board of administrators of the hill civic body. The presentation was held in the presence of Ruden Sada Lepcha, the local MLA, officials of the state municipal engineering directorate (MED), and officials of the civic body at the Town Hall, a prominent auditorium in Kalimpong. Under the scheme, 50 per cent of the project cost will be shared by the Centre while the state will share 40

per cent. The rest 10 per cent will be borne by the civic body. The MED and the municipality will jointly execute the project. "We will initiate the tender process in March. Once the process is complete, we have set a target to finish the project within 24 months," said Pradhan. The Kalimpong municipality was established in 1945 when the town had a population of only around 4,000. As of now, the town has 23 wards. Around 80,000 people dwell in the civic area. There is a drinking water supply facility for households and commercial areas but the supply is too inadequate vis-à-vis the demand. Because of poor supply, people have to buy or arrange water for drinking and other purposes. Bagdhara, a hilly stream in ward 12 of the town is the major source of water for the town. "There are some other streams from where water is sourced for the town. The requirement is around 7 million litres per day (MLD) while the municipality can hardly provide 2 million litres per day. The new project will be able to largely meet the demand," said a civic body source.

"Aarushi Parvan" was held at the Tapas Gyanesh Hall

MI News Service, Kolkata: On December 28th and 29th, a two-day "Aarushi Parvan (Second Year)" was held at the Tapas Gyanesh Hall on the third floor of 24 Tapan Theater. A total of 12 plays were performed in the two days.

On the first day, playwrights, directors and actors Mr. Sujan Saha and Mr. Sudipta Sarkar were present. On the second day, drama researcher, essayist Sarbashree Ranjan Gangopadhyay and Shri Sanjay Chattopadhyay, who was honored as the best playwright by the West Bengal Natya Academy, were present. In addition, the Gopal Das Memorial Award given by Baliganj Aarushi was given to stage designer Ajit Roy and the "Jugalkishore Dasgupta Memorial Award" was given to Shri Samridhhi Banerjee, who was nominated as the best talented actress of the year. In addition, a total of 12 plays were performed in the two days.



On Saturday, December 28, 24, 'Not for Sale' produced by Patuli Nitya Natya, 'Torch Light' produced by Howrah Theatre Wings, 'Himmat' produced by New Alipore Arohan, 'Khuro' produced by Barahnagar Dasgupta Memorial Award was given to Shri Samridhhi Banerjee, who was nominated as the best talented actress of the year. In addition, a total of 12 plays were performed in the two days.

duced by Dumdim Shilpanagan. 'Pokamakade Kutum' produced by Sonarpur Sdhrikan, 'Path' produced by Drafar Performing Group, 'Vicchriyas' produced by Kadarat Gaurshikha Repertory and 'Dai' produced by Ballygunge Aarushi were staged. On these two days, the audience seats were full. Even many viewers enjoyed the program by standing as they could not find a place to sit.

Four Bangladeshis Arrested for Attempting to Enter India Illegally

MI News Service, Swarnapurnagar: In a recent incident in Swarnapurnagar, North 24 Parganas, four individuals from Bangladesh were apprehended by the Border Security Force (BSF) while attempting to illegally cross into India. The suspects were caught on the evening of Friday, taking advantage of the cover of darkness. However, their movements were swiftly noticed by the vigilant BSF personnel stationed at the border. Despite their efforts to remain undetected, the BSF jawans were quick to identify the individuals, detaining them for questioning. After a thorough and extensive interrogation, the details of the incident were revealed. The four accused—Mohammad Yakub Hossain and Farhad Hossain from Madaripur, and Mohammad Kamrul Islam Tangail and Monir Hossain from Dhaka—were apprehended at the Hakimpur border. Following their detention, the BSF handed them over to the local police station in Swarnapurnagar for further action. The arrested individuals were subsequently produced before the Basirhat Subdistrict Court by the police.

New 3D film at Siliguri science hub

MI News Service, Siliguri: The North Bengal Science Centre (NBSC), located at Matigara in the northern outskirts of Siliguri, celebrated National Science Day on Friday by inaugurating a 3D film and an interactive exhibit, "Heart Beat Drum." Many students, educators, and visitors congregated at the centre, which was established in 1997, to celebrate the occasion. Ritabrata Biswas, project coordinator of NBSC, said the newly-introduced Wild Wonder, a 3D film showcasing wildlife, will draw more visitors to the centre. "It showcases wildlife in a 3D format, which of course, is a new attraction.

Voter List Irregularity Sparks Controversy in Chunchura

MI News Service, Chunchura: A bizarre incident has come to light in Chunchura, where a Trinamool leader's application to remove his deceased wife's name from the voter list resulted in his own name being removed instead. Jayant Khan, a Trinamool booth president, had filed the application after his wife Sushma Khan's passing. However, the authorities removed Jayant's name from the list, leaving his wife's name intact. This incident has highlighted concerns about the accuracy and management of voter lists in the region. Sanjeev Mitra, president of Chunchura City Trinamool, attributed the issue to online processing, stating that similar problems have arisen in other cases, including changes to booth numbers and voter assignments. The incident has also sparked a broader controversy, with Trinamool leaders alleging that "ghost voters" have been introduced into the

district. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has ordered the district leadership to investigate and address the issue. Transport Minister Snehasis Chakraborty emphasized the need for accurate voter lists, citing concerns about fake voters and online system vulnerabilities. The Election Commission has acknowledged administration employees' involvement in the issue. However, Snehasis Chakraborty countered that the responsibility lies with the Election Commission, as they oversee the voter list preparation process. The controversy has also drawn in opposition leaders, with BJP's Hooghly district secretary Suresh Sau accusing Trinamool of creating "ghost voters" to manipulate election outcomes. The incident has underscored the importance of accurate and transparent voter list management in ensuring the integrity of the electoral process.

Villagers Clash with Police in Chopra, Help Accused Escape

MI News Service, Chopra: Tensions are high in Chopra's Kalkapur area after villagers clashed with police on Saturday, obstructing the arrest of accused Mujibur Rahman. Villagers shielded Rahman and enabled his escape following his apprehension by authorities. After Rahman's arrest, villagers allegedly formed a barrier in front of the police van, resulting in a scuffle with law enforcement. It is alleged that the villagers helped Rahman escape amidst the commotion. Chopra Police Station IC Suraj Thapa, along with a large police force, responded to the scene and launched a search operation. While police sources indicate that 11 people have been arrested in connection with the incident, Mujibur Rahma remains at large.

This incident is not isolated as past events in Chopra have involved violence against police as well. These events raise concerns about the effectiveness of the law enforcement in the area. Chopra MLA Hamidul Rahman stated that some locals claimed Rahman was not a criminal but a former Gram Panchayat Member. Rahman also alleged that the police had damaged houses and did not possess a warrant. As of now, the situation in Chopra remains tense as authorities continue their search for Mujibur Rahman. The clash between villagers and police raises questions about the community's relationship with law enforcement. The events in Chopra are likely to spark further debate about policing methods and local governance in the region.

BCAF Presented "Vibrations Between Italy and India – The Contemporary Scene" by Simona Frillici in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bridging Culture and Arts Foundation (BCAF) proudly presented Vibrations Between Italy and India – The Contemporary Scene, an innovative exhibition by acclaimed Italian artist Simona Frillici. Co-curated by renowned art critic Bruno Corà and distinguished curator Reena Dewan, the exhibition inaugurated on 28th February will continue till 9th of March 2025, 4-8 pm except all Mondays. The event was also graced by Shahanshah Mirza, The Great Grandson of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah; Ruby Pal Choudhury, Craf activist, Crafts Council of West

Bengal; Samir Aich, Indian Modern & Contemporary Painter and Raju Barman, Patron, Rupa & Co. B-CAF Inspired by the poetic philosophy of Paulo Barone, Frillici's latest series, Vibrations, captured human reflections on mirror-like surfaces, exploring the ephemeral nature of shadows, dissolving figures, and visual echoes. Rooted in her artistic journey through India from 2020 to 2024, the works reflected moments suspended in time—just before they faded from sight, yet persisted as energy.

Blending art and science, the exhibition featured large-



scale, semi-transparent fabric installations that responded to airflow, visually interpreting the concept of quantum vibra-

tions. Drawing upon ancient philosophies—from the Music of the Spheres to Rabindranath Tagore's vision of the cosmos

as a symphony—the project fostered cross-cultural dialogue. Kolkata's vibrant arts community actively engaged with the exhibition through live performances and artistic collaborations, reinforcing the belief that creativity thrives in openness and exchange. Following its debut in Kolkata, the project travelled to Varanasi, deepening the artistic and cultural dialogue between Italy and India. Reflecting on the significance of the event, Simona Frillici, the artist, said, "Culture must nourish people, sustaining the essence of humanity that encourages growth and openness to the

world. It should bridge communities, enriching society by blending traditions rather than dividing them. Diversity is what makes the world truly vibrant, and art should serve as a unifying force, bringing people together rather than keeping them apart. The heart of art thrives on change, yet in the wealthiest capitals, where commerce and wealth take precedence, it is not mourned—it is commodified, displayed like an exhibition, but without true feeling. Art needs humanity, exchange, and the warmth of human connection to truly flourish."

Speaking on the occasion,

Reena Dewan, Exhibition Curator and Director, B-CAF said, "For me, this space emerged after years of working in leadership roles within large organisations. I noticed that while exhibitions were grand, they often lacked intimacy—visitors would come, look at the art, and leave without engagement. The vastness of these spaces felt overwhelming. That's when the idea of creating a more personal, community-driven gallery took root. Located in South Calcutta, within a refugee colony, B-CAF offers accessibility to those who might not otherwise engage with art.

Father and Autistic Daughter found dead in Kolkata Shop

MI News Service, Kolkata: A tragic discovery was made in South Kolkata's Behala area, as the bodies of a businessman and his 22 year old daughter were found in his office in Shakuntala Park on Friday.

According to sources, Swajan Das had been mentally disturbed for a long time and his daughter had also been suffering. The landlord of the property where Das rented his office stated that Das always paid his rent on time and seemed worried about his daughter's health but he showed no signs of depression.

Suspension of AAP MLAs 'blow to democracy', claims LOP Atishi

From PG 1 then how will democracy survive?" the AAP leader said in the letter. 21 out of the 22 AAP legislators, including Atishi herself, were suspended from the Delhi Assembly for three days on Tuesday after they protested against the alleged removal of B R Ambedkar's portrait from the newly appointed Chief Minister's office.

The Speaker ordered the suspension for disrupting Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena's inaugural address. The newly Okhla MLA Amanullah Khan was the only AAP legislator spared from the suspension as he was not present in the House during the protest. The motion for suspension was moved by Minister Parvesh Verma. "On Tuesday, 25 February 2025, during the address of the Honorable Lieutenant Governor, the MLAs of the ruling party raised slogans of 'Modi-Modi', while the opposition MLAs raised slogans of 'Jai Bhim' respecting the views of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar ji. It is very unfortunate that no action was taken against any MLA of the ruling party, but 21 MLAs of the opposition were suspended from the House for 3 days for raising the slogan 'Jai Bhim'." Atishi wrote in the letter. Adding that the "injustice" did not stop, the AAP leader claimed that when the suspended MLAs were going to protest peacefully in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Delhi assembly premises in a "democratic" way, they were stopped and prevented from entering the assembly grounds. "This is an insult not only to the MLAs but also to the mandate given by the people," she said.

"Hon'ble Speaker, you have also been the leader of the opposition for years. Even when you were suspended from the House for some reason, you were not stopped from going to the assembly premises and registering protest in front of the Gandhi statue. Because this is our democratic right. But today, the rights of the MLAs of the opposition are being violated. We have also seen this tradition in Parliament when an MP is suspended from the House, he is allowed to go to the Parliament premises and protest in front of the Gandhi statue." The Leader of Opposition added. After a BJP vs AAP face-off in the assembly, the House session was extended by two days till March 1.



Massive joint protest rally of job seekers rocked the city of Kolkata on Saturday.

Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

JU obstinate about scholarship verification stand

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jadavpur University has rejected a demand from students that the university authorities not verify the credentials they submitted while applying for a state government scholarship. At JU, the university administration usually capitulates before students who mount pressure by confining the VC, pro-VC, and other officials to extract their demands. It did not happen this time. The latest unrest at JU started when the university decided to verify the credentials uploaded by the students while applying for the Swami Vivekananda merit-cum-means scholarship offered by the state higher education department.

ter examination, without supplementary exam, and upload the marks on the portal of the scholarship. A JU official said the problem started when it emerged that two JU students, who could not clear the semester examinations, fudged the records and uploaded tampered grade cards on the portal while seeking a renewal of the scholarship. Since the time of Covid-19, students at the university have been issued soft copies of grade cards, and the students coming under the ambit of the scholarship are required to upload the details of the CGPA (cumulative grade point average) on the portal. While there was a delay in clearing the scholarship amount, the two students, accused of tampering with their grade cards, complained to the chief minister's office alleging that they were being denied the scholarship, said a JU official. "The CMO told the department to process the records and clear the scholarship. When the department contacted the university to check the records of these two students, it emerged that the duo submitted doctored records. When this was communicated, the department

ment told the university that henceforth JU must verify the records submitted by all students, and the scholarships would be granted after the verification," said a JU official. This decision infuriated the students who confined the VC, pro-VC, other officials and the heads of departments, demanding that no verification would be allowed and the credentials submitted by the students have to be endorsed by the university. "The two students — a boy and a girl — who were summoned to Bikash Bhavan (the education department headquarters) a fortnight ago admitted that they had fudged records following the advice of senior students. This means the malpractice has been going on for some time," said a senior JU official. JU has found out that altogether 42 students stand accused of tampering their records. Bhaskar Gupta, the JU interim VC, told "We left it to students to submit the records to avail of the scholarship. But they have broken our trust by submitting tampered records. The university will now verify the records thoroughly before the details are uploaded on the scholarship portal."

Zelenskyy thanks the USA after unprecedented showdown with Trump in Oval Office

From PG 1 States, European states and allies to talk frankly about how we intend to deal with the great challenges of today, starting with Ukraine". French President Emmanuel Macron hit out at Russia after the showdown between the two leaders. Macron said, "Russia is the aggressor, and Ukraine is the aggressed people. I think we were all right to help Ukraine and sanction Russia three years ago, and to continue to do so." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a post on X, "Russia illegally and unjustifiably invaded Ukraine. For three years now, Ukrainians have fought for democracy, freedom, and sovereignty. Canada will continue to stand with Ukraine and Ukrainians in achieving a just and lasting peace." The deal both Trump and Zelenskyy failed to make, was supposed to open Ukraine's vast mineral wealth to the United States but does not include explicit American security guarantees for Ukraine, a disappointment for Kyiv. Trump says the presence of Americans in a business would serve as a form of guarantee. How much the deal would be worth to the United States is not spelled out.

Bilateral relations need to ramp up for improved trade and investment, feels Nirmala

From PG 1 that special treatment that they get is not by default. "So if the WTO is getting weakened or multilateral institutions are not being effective... bilateral arrangements are going to be the order of the day in terms of trade," she said. Sensing the movement toward a new world, India has initiated bilateral trade talks with many nations including the UK and is planning a bilateral trade agreement with the US. India is also in discussion with the 27-nation grouping — the European Union, for a free trade pact. In the new global order, she said, India needs to ramp up its bilateral relations for trade, investment and boosting strategic relations. With its technology and talent pool, the country can act as the engine of global growth in a new world order, she said. "I think these are very interesting yet challenging times... India has to make a meaningful contribution to the global reset, as much as continuously make all the efforts to make India move up the ladder, both in terms of per capita income, and also in terms of a business destination, where talent can move, investors can move for the global good..."

India now emerging as global factory, becomes a 'World Force', says PM

From PG 1 Global" to the nation and today, we are seeing this vision turn into reality," he said. Modi said the country is manufacturing semiconductors and aircraft carriers and its superfoods like 'makhana' and millets, Ayush products and yoga are being embraced across the world. The prime minister said India should be presented to the world as it is, without any bias. "We do not need any make-up," he said, adding that real stories from the country should reach the world in its true form. He said India was the land that gave the world the concept of zero and was now becoming the land of infinite innovations. "India is not only innovating but also 'indovating', meaning innovating the Indian way," Modi said. He added that India was creating solutions that were affordable, accessible, and adaptable, and offering them to the world without gatekeeping. "When the world needed a secure and cost-effective digital payment system, India developed the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) system. Today, countries like France, UAE, and Singapore are integrating UPI into their financial ecosystems," he said. The prime

minister said during the COVID-19 pandemic, India's vaccine demonstrated the country's quality healthcare solutions to the world. He said that the Aarogya Setu app was made open source to benefit the world. The prime minister said the BJP-led NDA government's re-election for a third term showed people's trust and hoped that the new global news channel from India would take the country's achievements abroad. The prime minister said that his government has repealed many obsolete laws, including the Dramatic Performances Act that had provisions for the arrest of 10 or more persons found dancing together. Taking a swipe at his critics, the prime minister said he was surprised that the "Lutyens jamaat" and "the Khan Market gang" were silent on such laws for more than 75 years. "Had Modi brought such a law (Dramatic Performance Act), just think what would have happened. Even if trolls on social media spread any such false information, these people would have raised a hue and cry and targeted Modi. But, it's our government which has abolished this law dating back to the colonial era," the prime minister said.

One person died as Uttarakhand govt intensifies rescue operations in avalanche site

From PG 1 Disaster Management Authority, the trapped labourers are from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, and Jammu and Kashmir, among other states. The list also has 8 labourers' names, without mentioning the states they belong to. Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said that the task is challenging as there is at least seven feet of snow near the avalanche site. According to an Army public relations officer (PRO), four of the rescued workers are in critical condition. All 49 rescued labourers have been shifted to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) camp in Mana for medical care. Mana, located three kilometres from Badrinath, is the last village on the India-Tibet border at an altitude of 3,200 meters. Footage from the site shows rescue teams struggling through deep snow in a landscape completely blanketed in white. The avalanche had struck between 5.30 am and 6 am on Friday, burying all the 57 workers inside eight containers and a shed in the BRO camp, according to the Army. More

than 100 personnel from the Ibx Brigade, trained for high-altitude rescues, were deployed. The teams included doctors and ambulances. Rescue efforts remain difficult due to continuous snowfall, rain, and darkness. Chamoli's disaster management officer N K Joshi said that while Army and ITBP teams stationed in Mana had been working since morning, reinforcements from outside were however, unable to reach the site because of severe weather conditions. Local villagers noted that the accident site is prone to avalanches during winter and that the BRO camp is usually closed at this time of the year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Saturday to review the rescue operations at the accident site in Chamoli district. CM Dhami shared on X, "Respected Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji spoke on the phone and took information about the rescue operation being carried out to safely evacuate the workers trapped in Mana of Chamoli district."

Encounter between security forces and Naxalites in Chhattisgarh to flush out militants

From PG 1 Goyal and other senior officers of the MHA. "The home minister was categorical that the initial phase of efforts to bring normalcy back in Manipur has to focus on recovery of weapons. He also asked the security establishment to ensure no fresh wave of violence started in the state," a home ministry official said. Sources said the home minister did not broach the subject of talks between warring ethnic communities in the state. "The first priority is to ensure a prolonged period of peace. That will pave the way for talks. Meanwhile, the Intelligence Bureau and North East Advisor A K Mishra will continue to engage groups on either side of the ethnic divide in the state," the official added. Sources said officers from Manipur gave Shah a detailed presentation on all the steps taken in the past couple of weeks to bring normalcy back in the state, informed sources said these meetings are now likely to be held routinely by Shah on the lines of security review meetings held for Jammu and Kashmir. This is the

first security review meeting that Shah held on Manipur after former chief minister N Biren Singh's resignation on February 11. Following this, the Centre had imposed President's Rule in the state with the responsibility of state administration and law and order falling in the hands of Governor Bhalla. Since then, Bhalla has embarked upon a comprehensive overhaul of the security approach in the state, which includes rolling out an amnesty scheme for surrender of weapons, cracking down on militia, and facilitating movement of goods and people across the ethnic divide. Bhalla's amnesty scheme, whose deadline ended on Thursday, facilitated the surrender of 246 weapons by Meitei militia Arambai Teng-gol, which has been at the forefront of engaging in gun-fights with Kuki militia. The group has also been accused of burning down Kuki villages in the fringes of Imphal Valley in response to similar acts by Kuki militia. To facilitate the further surrender of weapons, the deadline has now been extended to March 6 following demands from Kuki and Meitei groups.

Kolkata hosts INDPLAST'25



MI News Service, Kolkata: The 10th edition of the Indian Plastic Federation's (IPF) flagship exhibition INDPLAST '25 was inaugurated recently in Kolkata. The grand inauguration ceremony was graced by Dr. Shashi Panja (Minister-Department of Industries, commerce & enterprise, Government of West Bengal). Lalit Agarwal (Presi-

dent-Indian Plastic Federation) highlighted West Bengal's immense prospect and transformation in Indian industrial scenario under the present state government and certainly under the leadership of Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee. Over 400 exhibitors from India have participated in this mega fair and it is expected to attract at least one lakh visitors. The exhibition features leading machinery manufacturers, raw material suppliers, ancillary service providers and technology innovators across globe. INDPLAST '25 is hosting participants from USA, China, Japan, Taiwan, Iran, Russia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand and Germany.

More KMC 'SHCs' keep mobile units at bay

MI News Service, Kolkata: The setting up of more Satellite Health Centres (SHC) to bridge the gap in rendering healthcare services has compelled the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) to keep its five mobile medical units in abeyance. According to the KMC, during 2024 as many as 2464763 patients visited the health establishments of the civic body including the urban health and wellness centres (UHCs), better known as satellite centres. So far, about 22 such UHCs have been set up in the city to bridge the gap in services. Such centres have helped in taking off some load from the 144 urban primary health centres (UPHCs) in the city. One of the apparent effects of such augmentation of the UHCs is exterminating the need for the five mobile medical vans of the KMC. An official said these mobile units have now been kept in abeyance since more UHCs would be coming up in the city, thereby filling in the service-gap at the periphery.

The five mobile units were inaugurated in 2018 and were equipped with a doctor, a laboratory technician, a pharmacist and a driver cum helper. It catered to both communicable and non-communicable diseases similar to that of the health centres. Such units were meant to deliver services in the remote areas. Mayor Firhad Hakim had said that the civic body often gets complaints from residents of wards with huge areas where a primary health-care centre alone is unable to serve the entire population of that ward.

'Raahgir' Shines at the French Film Fest

MI News Service, Kolkata: Goutam Ghose's critically acclaimed Hindi film 'Raahgir' received a warm and enthusiastic reception at the recently held French Film Festival Kolkata, at the Nandan Theatre. It was attended by Naseeruddin Shah, Bollywood Actor; Goutam Ghose, Director & Actor; Amit Agarwal, Producer; Nicolas Facino, Director of Alliance Française Du Bengale; Didier Talpain, Consul General of France in Kolkata & many other eminent personalities. Raahgir is being produced by Amit Agarwal under his production house Adarsh Telemedia. The film is applauded because of its compelling storytelling and remarkable performances by Adil Hussain, Tillotama Shome, and Neeraj Kabi. In a heartfelt address, internationally renowned filmmaker Goutam Ghose explained, "Whenever I make something, it comes from a strong urge and a clear purpose. Raahgir

is about humanity and compassion, and I invite you to join us on this cinematic journey in time and space." The screening was made even more special with the presence of legendary actor Naseeruddin Shah, who shared his insights about the film. He drew a comparison between Raahgir and Ghose's earlier work PAAR, further amplifying the film's emotional depth and relevance. Amit Agarwal, the producer behind the film, expressed his excitement about the international recognition Raahgir is garnering. "Goutam Ghose is a true master of cinema, and it has been an honor to collaborate with him on this project." Nicholas Facino, Director of Alliance Française du Bengale, praised Goutam Ghose's work, noting, "Goutam Ghose's films carry the salt of Indian storytelling, and Raahgir is one such gem. We are proud to have celebrated it in this year's festival."

NAME CHANGE

I, Amit Kumar Harjan S/o Late Ram Prakash Harjan by Faith - Hindu, Service R/A 2A8B, Raja S.C. Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032 (WB) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amit Kumar Balmiki as declared before the notary public, at Kolkata City Civil Court (WB) vide serial no. - 11 dated 23.02.2009. Amit Kumar Harjan and Amit Kumar Balmiki both are same and identical person that the correct name is Amit Kumar Balmiki and not Amit Kumar Harjan.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sudipta Debnath, R/O-216/3, Netaji Subhas Road, Rajpur Sonapur(M), South 24 Parganas, W.B.-700149, shall be known as Sudipta Acharya, as notarized, Alipore court vide affidavit (No.1/2025) Dated 12.02.2025. Henceforth, Sudipta Debnath & Sudipta Acharya both is the same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Syed Muzakir Hussain son of Syed Shaheer Hussain, residing at present: Ballygunge Maidan Camp, Unit No.167, Medium Regiment, (Army Camp), Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, permanent at I-125/1, Maseed Road, Sridhara, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh - 507114, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my correct name is Syed Muzakir Hussain and Syed Muzakir Hussain and Syed Muzakir Hussain is the same and one identical person via affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 4th September 2024.

DOB CHANGE

I, Syed Shaheer Hussain son of Syed Mahboob Hussain vide Army JC No.15147953P, residing at present: Ballygunge Maidan Camp, Unit No.167, Medium Regiment, (Army Camp), Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, permanent at I-125/1, Maseed Road, Sridhara, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh - 507114, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's correct DOB is 2nd September 1952 which wrongly recorded as 1st July 1954 in my service records, via affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 28th February 2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Syed Shaheer Hussain son of Syed Mahboob Hussain vide Army JC No.15147953P, residing at present: Ballygunge Maidan Camp, Unit No.167, Medium Regiment, (Army Camp), Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, permanent at I-125/1, Maseed Road, Sridhara, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh - 507114, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's correct name is Syed Mahboob Hussain and Syed Mahboob Hussain and Mahaboo Hussain is one and same identical person, via affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 28th February 2025.

DOB CHANGE

I, Syed Shaheer Hussain son of Syed Mahboob Hussain vide Army JC No.15147953P, residing at present: Ballygunge Maidan Camp, Unit No.167, Medium Regiment, (Army Camp), Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, permanent at I-125/1, Maseed Road, Sridhara, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh - 507114, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my wife's correct DOB is 14th May 1987 which wrongly recorded as 24th May 1987 in my service records, via affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 28th February 2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Syed Shaheer Hussain son of Syed Mahboob Hussain vide Army JC No.15147953P, residing at present: Ballygunge Maidan Camp, Unit No.167, Medium Regiment, (Army Camp), Ballygunge, Kolkata-700019, permanent at I-125/1, Maseed Road, Sridhara, Eluru, Andhra Pradesh - 507114, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my wife's correct name is Syed Rehana Begum and Syed Rehana Begum and Rehana Begum is one and same identical person, via affidavit before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 28th February 2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Julakha Khatoun (old name) D/O Sekh Abid Hussain, resident of Gajpara, VTC Rajarhat Gopalpur(M), P.O.-Kolkata Airport, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700052, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Julakha Khatoun (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Julakha Khatoun (new name) and Julakha Khatoun (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Arfan Bibi (old name) W/O Ajim Ali Gharani, resident of Gharani Para Road, Nababpur, Rajarhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700135, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arfan Bibi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Arfan Bibi (new name) and Arfan Bibi (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Azim Ali Gharani (old name) S/O Ghar Ali Gharani, resident of Gharani Para Road, Nababpur, Rajarhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700135, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Azim Ali Gharani (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Azim Ali Gharani (new name) and Azim Ali Gharani (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Ahamad Ali Gharani (old name) S/O Shukur Ali Gharani, resident of Nababpur, Gharani Para, Rajarhat, Rejkuja, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700135, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ahamad Ali Gharani (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Ahamad Ali Gharani (new name) and Md Ahamad Ali Gharani (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sk Alauddin (old name) S/O Rasul Ahamad, resident of Jagannathpur, Panchghara, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin-700126, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Alauddin Ali (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Alauddin Ali (new name) and Sk Alauddin (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Shikina Bibi (old name) W/O Alauddin Ali, resident of Jagannathpur, Panchghara, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700126, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shikina Bibi (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Shikina Bibi (new name) and Shikina Bibi (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Indian Railways Marks 100 Years of Electric Traction - A Century of Progress Traction Distribution (TRD) - A Role Model for Indian Railways: ECoR GM

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Indian Railways proudly celebrates the centenary of electric traction, marking 100 years of technological evolution and operational excellence since the launch of India's first electric train on 3rd February 1925. Over the past century, electrification has revolutionized railway operations, significantly enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and speed while reducing dependence on fossil fuels.



On this momentous occasion, East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal highlighted the crucial role of automation, maintenance, and diagnostics in modern railway operations. He emphasized the need for Indian Railways to adapt to rapid technological advancements and prepare for the next 25 years. Shri Funkwal also underlined the importance of improving asset maintenance and acknowledged Traction Distribution (TRD) as a role model within Indian Railways.

The celebration was attended by ECoR Additional General Manager, all Principal Heads of Departments of East Coast Railway, and senior officials, including the Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, who collectively recognized the remarkable journey of railway electrification in India.

The foundation of railway electrification in India was

laid on 3rd February 1925, when the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (GIPR) introduced the first electric train service between Bombay VT (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) and Kur-ka. This 16 Route Kilometer (RKM) section operated on a 1500V DC traction system and was inaugurated by the then-Governor of Bombay, Sir Leslie Wilson. With this milestone, India became the 24th country in the world to adopt electric traction.

The initial phase of railway electrification posed several technological challenges, including speed control and power transmission. However, continuous innovations led to the adoption of 3000V DC traction in the 1950s, with the Howrah-Burdwan section being the first to be electrified under this system in 1957. Recognizing the superior efficiency of 25 kV AC traction, Indian Railways standardized this system in

1957 based on recommendations from the Traction Advisory Committee. Milestones in Railway Electrification 1.1947: India had 388 RKM electrified on 1500V DC traction. 2.1960: Raj Kharswan-Dongoaposi became the first 25 kV AC electrified section. 3. 1984: Kolkata Metro launched with a 750V DC third rail system. 4. 1995: 2x25 kV AT system introduced on Bina-Katni and Katni-Anuppur-Bishrampur sections. 5. 2006: Full conversion of Mumbai suburban DC traction to 25 kV AC. 6.2024: Achieved 100% electrification of broad gauge routes, surpassing 65,000 RKM.

Electrification Achievements in East Coast Railway (ECoR) Since its formation in 2003, East Coast Railway has

been instrumental in India's electrification drive. The first electrified section in ECoR was the Jagdalpur-Koraput segment of the K-K Line in 1983, which was then part of South Eastern Railway (SER). Over the years, electrification expanded across key corridors, culminating in 100% electrification by 2024.

Key Electrification Milestones in ECoR: Kottavalasa-Koraput-Kirandul Line electrified in 1983, Koraput - Damanjodi in 1989, Duvada-Palasa in 2000, Palasa-Khurda Road in 2002, Barang-Talcher in 2004, Khurda Road-Puri in 2005, Khurda Road-Bhadrak in 2006, Cuttack-Paradeep in 2008, Vizianagar-Singapur Road in 2016, Jharsuguda-Sambalpur in 2017, Singapur Road-Tidagarh in 2018, Singapur Road-Damanjodi, Sambalpur-Titilagarh-Lakholi and Sambalpur-Angul electrified in 2019.

The centenary of electric traction marks a significant milestone in Indian Railways' journey toward modernization and sustainability. From the launch of a 16 km electric train service in 1925 to achieving 100% broad gauge electrification in 2024, the transformation has been extraordinary. With a vision to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, Indian Railways is set to redefine the future of railway transportation in India, making it faster, greener, and more efficient.

Narayana School envisages growth in Bengal



MI News Service, Kolkata: Narayana School, a reputed educational institution in South India, is on the way to enhance the reputation and quality of its educational institutions on behalf of the authorities. In view of this, various steps are being taken step

by step for the welfare of the students. Meanwhile, after actively participating in the 48th Kolkata International Book Fair, this time through hands-on training in various subjects within the school curriculum, it is planned to create a direct link to the practical imple-

mentation of far-reaching ideas in other fields including Dance, Music, Radio Jockey, Sports - Chess and Football respectively. As part of this, the school authority has signed contracts with internationally renowned dancer Dona Gangopadhyay, Grand Master

Dibyendu Barua, Footballer Mehtab Hossain, Mumbai's famous music school Fertados and Gurgaon's music school Torins and Radio Jockey Bharun. It is hoped that the benefits will be seen soon.

Incidentally, on behalf of Narayana School West Bengal and Narayana International School, Academic Head Priyanka Mukherjee formally announced the agreement at a formal ceremony at the Kolkata Press Club premises in the evening. Grandmaster Dibyendu Barua, Dancer Dona Ganguly, Eminent Footballer Mehtab Hussain, Radio Jockey Varun, representatives of Mumbai's famous music school Fertados and Gurgaon's Music School Torrins were also present on the occasion.

Cancer-stricken woman brutally beaten, auto driver accused

MI News Service, Chapadali: An auto driver has been charged with assaulting a cancer patient. The incident took place on Saturday afternoon at Chapadali intersection in Barasat. It is learnt that Jyotsna Kaiputra had gone to Barasat Hospital in North 24 Parganas. She is a cancer patient. On Saturday, after finishing work, she came to Chapadali intersection to go to Maheshwarpur.

NAME CHANGE

I, Nasim Mahmud Khan S/O- Golam Rabbani Khan resident of Vill-Ausha, P.O.- Nabastha, P.S.-Meman, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN-713407, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NASIM MAHAMMAD KHAN vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 28/02/2025. That Nasim Mahmud Khan and Nasim Mahmud Khan both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SK Halim S/O- Khorian Sekh resident of Vill-Bhumshora, P.O.- Bamsoor, P.S.-Bharat, Dist- Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN-713125, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as HALIM SEIKH vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 28/02/2025. That SK Halim and Halim Sekh both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Abjal Ali Sekh (old name) son of Sk Akbar Ali, resident of Vill-Nera Madhabpur, P.O.- Jangipara, Hooghly, Pin-712404, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Abjal Ali (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 28/02/2025. That Sk Abjal Ali (new name) and Abjal Ali Sekh (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Madhurima Rudra (Old Name), Wife Of Ramanuj Ghosh, Residing At 40/A S C Deb Street, Konnagar, Hooghly-712235, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Madhurima Rudra Ghosh (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/02/2025. That Madhurima Rudra And Madhurima Rudra Ghosh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Abul Kashem Mollah (Old Name) S/O Late Kader Box Molla, Residing At Vill -Maturapur, Po-Guma, Ps-Habra, Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-743704, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abul Kashem Molla (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld.1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Barasat On 27/02/2025. That Monoyara Khatun (Old Name) And Abul Kashem Molla (New Name), Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Minister of Railways reviewed progress of various ongoing Railway Infrastructural Projects in Gujarat



MI News Service, Gujarat: Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics & Information Technology, during his visit to Gujarat on 1st March, 2025, inspected Ahmedabad, Anand & Dahod railway stations and took stock of the progress of various ongoing railway infrastructural projects at these locations.

Minister of Railways Vaishnaw on reaching Ahmedabad station, conducted inspection of the station. He also reviewed the progress of the ongoing station redevelopment work. Thereafter, Shri Vaishnaw interacted with the media representatives. He informed that this year Rs 17,155 cr have been allocated for Gujarat state, which is 29 times of average annual outlay of 2009 - 14. The investment by Railways in Gujarat is around Rs. 1,27,000 cr including Bullet train. Giving details about

Ahmedabad station redevelopment, he mentioned that the work is going on in full swing. The design has been done considering the structural requirements and integrating it aesthetically with local heritage values. A Concourse Roof Plaza has been planned over the railway tracks equipped with waiting area and passengers' facilities. The project also envisages elevated road network connecting Kalupur ROB and Sarangpur ROB which will be more than twice the surface area of existing roads and will facilitate seamless transportation by multimodal integration of railways with National High Speed Rail Terminal (Bullet Train), Metro & Bus Rapid Transport (BRT). Hon'ble Minister of Railways informed that the sequence of work has been planned in such a manner to ensure least inconvenience to passengers and with minimum train cancellation. Then, Minister of Railways proceeded to

Anand and conducted inspection of Ahmedabad - Anand section.

Minister of Railways arrived at Anand railway station and conducted inspection of the station. He also visited the One Station One Product (OSOP) stall at the station. Talking to media representatives at Anand station, Shri Vaishnaw informed that since 2014, more than 1000 Rail Over Bridges & Rail Under Bridges have been constructed in Gujarat. Also, 3,144 km has been electrified since 2014. The work of KAVACH is also progressing at a rapid pace. The work of Dedicated Freight Corridor is completed in Gujarat. This has enhanced Port connectivity in the region. He further mentioned that 87 stations in Gujarat are being re-developed under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Later, MR visited and inspected the Track Construction Base (Rail Welding Work) of Bullet Train project followed by inspection of ongoing Anand High Speed Rail (HSR) station work. Shri Vaishnaw interacted with the workers and applauded them for their contribution to nation building and he also took selfies with them.

Minister of Railways Vaishnaw was accompanied by MPs, MLAs, public representatives from the respective constituencies. Senior officials of Western Railway, NHSRCL, etc. were also present on the occasion.

41st Annual conference of Indian Railway Health Services Association held at SER Central Hospital, Kolkata



A Souvenir on "PENTACON MEMOIRS" was released by Dr. Man Singh, Director General, Railway Health Services, Railway Board, Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Principal Chief Medical Director, South Eastern Railway and other dignitaries during the 41st Annual Conference of Indian Railway Health Services Association at SER Central Hospital, Garden Reach on 28.02.2025.

MI News Service, Kolkata: 41st Annual Conference of Indian Railway Health Services Association/SER, 6th RAPICON and 1st RAALMCON was held at SER Central Hospital, Garden Reach, Kolkata from 27.02.2025 to 01.03.2025. The event was inaugurated on 28th February, 2025 by Dr. Man Singh, Director General, Railway Board in presence of

Shri Anil Kumar Mishra, General Manager, South Eastern Railway, Dr. Anjana Malhotra, Principal Chief Medical Director, South Eastern Railway, other distinguished guests and eminent Doctors from different zones of Indian Railways.

During his speech, the Director General said that this type of conference enhances and enriches knowledge and helps the junior doctors to

gain skills. He appreciated the live operative workshop which was a great success.

General Manager, South Eastern Railway congratulated the Association for organising this Conference. He added that the conference will undoubtedly contribute to professional growth of the doctors.

Esteemed speakers from all over India shared their valuable thoughts in the conference. On 27th February, 2025, a workshop was held on Live ENT surgery. In the ENT seminar on 28th February, 2025, eminent ENT and Head & Neck surgeons shared their valuable knowledge and experience. On 1st March, 2025, a Pathology seminar was held with talks from eminent Pathologists from different parts of the country.

A Souvenir on "PENTACON MEMOIRS" was also released by the dignitaries during the inaugural ceremony. The event was attended by delegates from different zonal Railways and delegates from ENT and Pathology associations of West Bengal Chapters.

RPF Eastern Railway apprehended a kidnapper Under operation "Rail Prahari"



MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway Protection Force (RPF), Eastern Railway continues to play a crucial role in assisting local police and law enforcement agencies in maintaining security and curbing crime on railway premises. In a series of successful operations, RPF officials of Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, and Malda Divisions demonstrated their commitment to safeguarding passengers and ensuring compliance with the law.

personnel of Howrah Division assisted officials of Wajirganj Police Station, Bihar, in apprehending an accused kidnapper, Nitish Kumar (M-23), and successfully rescuing a minor girl, Manisha Kumari (F-16), from Chandanpur Railway Station. Earlier, on 27.02.2024, at around 12:47 hrs, RPF Chandanpur had received information regarding a minor girl who had fled from her home with a man. A case had already been registered against the accused at Police station Wajirganj, Bihar. Acting promptly, RPF

Chandanpur tracked the girl's live location, which indicated her presence near Pump Bazar, under the jurisdiction of Chandanpur Railway Station.

A team led by ASI Sattan Paswan immediately reached the spot and found a couple wandering aimlessly. They were detained and brought to RPF Post Chandanpur, where they were kept under CCTV surveillance. On 28.02.2025, the Investigating Officer of the case, along with Wajirganj police personnel and the girl's father, reached RPF Post Chandanpur. After completing legal formalities, the accused Nitish Kumar was handed over to the police, and the rescued minor was safely reunited with her family.

Eastern Railway's RPF remains vigilant in ensuring the safety and security of railway passengers while actively collaborating with law enforcement agencies to curb unlawful activities on railway premises.

TB Awareness seminar organized at Traction Rolling Stock Shed, Asansol

MI News Service, Kolkata: In alignment with the ongoing 100 Days Intensified TB Elimination Program campaign, the Health & Family Welfare (H&FW) Department organized an awareness seminar at Traction Rolling Stock (TRS) Shed, Asansol recently.



The seminar was graced by the presence of Dr. B. Ghatak, Sr. Consultant, Dr. Rajani Sinha, Divisional Medical Officer/Health & Family Welfare, Sri Prabhakar Kumar, Sr. DEE(IC/TB), Sri Ajay Shankar Dubey, Extension Educator, along with field workers, health assistants, and other staff of TRS Shed.

A detailed discussion and an insightful PPT presentation were conducted by the panel of doctors, covering critical aspects of TB awareness, prevention, early detection, and treatment. The session also included interactive questions & answers segment, where queries from the audience were addressed comprehensively. The program was highly appreciated by all attendees, reinforcing the importance of collective efforts in the fight against tuberculosis. The seminar successfully contributed to enhancing awareness and strengthening TB elimination initiatives in the region.

Ashwini Vaishnav, MR visited Locomotive Rolling Stock Workshop located at Dahod



Vaishnav while addressing the media representatives mentioned that the prototype loco is ready and the trials are underway. The Locomotive is made in India and is equipped with advanced features including KAVACH technology.

MI News Service, Gujarat: Ashwini Vaishnav, MR visited Locomotive Rolling Stock Workshop located at Dahod. MR conducted inspection of the Factory, including the Simulator at the Workshop and inspected the newly developed prototype of 9000 HP WAG Locomotive.



Holi festival celebrated at Old age home organised by All India Marwari Mahila Samity in Kolkata on Saturday.

Mamata did a lot of devp for Matua Communities : Mamatabala



MI News Service, Gushkara: The country is divided due to political reasons. But why do we suffer the results? Rajya Sabha Trinamool MP Mamatabala Thakur said this about the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) when she came to attend the meeting of Matuas in Gushkara on Saturday.

of development for Thakurbari & Matua communities. What he has given, no other politician has given. Many people, many political parties have come to Thakurnagar. But what they have done for us, we cannot say. If it did we would say. We will tell you who will do it. Later, in response to questions from reporters, she said, "Whatever the BJP government has done with the Citizenship Act, the people of our community will stand by Mamata Banerjee. We believe in development. With what Mamata Banerjee has done, we are hopeful that the number of seats will increase in the next assembly elections".

"If a vehicle is well-maintained...": Mixed Reactions to Delhi's 15-year vehicle refueling ban



MI News Service, New Delhi: The Delhi government's decision not to allow refueling for vehicles older than 15 years after March 31 has sparked mixed reactions. While some residents see it as a necessary step to combat pollution, others question its fairness.

Environment, Forest, and Wildlife also said that a special team would be formed to identify and restrict the movement of such vehicles in and out of the city. He added that Delhi Airport, high-rise buildings, large office complexes, and hotels would be required to install anti-smog guns to help control pollution.

that it would help reduce air pollution. "Considering the pollution levels in Delhi, I think this decision is appropriate. It will help curb pollution in the city," he said. Meanwhile, a vehicle owner criticized the decision, saying, "This decision is not right. Vehicles are responsible for pollution in Delhi to a certain extent. Most of the pollution is from dust and factories, so more focus should be on this front..."

"After March 31, fuel will not be provided to vehicles older than 15 years. There are some big hotels, office complexes, the Delhi airport, and construction sites in Delhi. We are going to make it mandatory for all of them to immediately install anti-smog guns to control pollution at their places. We are going to make it mandatory for all the high-rise buildings in Delhi to install smog guns. We are going to make it mandatory for all the hotels in Delhi to install smog guns," Sirsa told reporters. The Delhi government is also exploring artificial rain through cloud seeding as an additional measure to reduce pollution.

Union Minister for Civil Aviation launches direct flights from Hindon to Kolkata

SUMAN GANGULY Strengthening connectivity in the National Capital Region (NCR), K. Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, inaugurated Air India Express' services from Hindon Airport in Ghaziabad towards several destinations including Kolkata Airport. The airline will operate 40 weekly flights from Hindon, directly connecting five key destinations—Kolkata, Bengaluru, Chennai, Goa and Jammu.

weekly flights from Kolkata connecting directly to 15 domestic destinations including Agartala, Bagdogra, Bengaluru, Bhubaneswar, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati, Hindon, Hyderabad, Imphal, Indore, Jaipur, Kochi, Patna, and Sri Vijaya Puram. Additionally, the airline provides one-stop connectivity to 18 domestic destinations: Amritsar, Ayodhya, Dimapur, Goa, Gwalior, Jammu, Kanpur, Kozhikode, Lucknow, Mangaluru, Mumbai, Pune, Srinagar, Surat, Thiruvananthapuram, Tiruchirappalli, Vijayawada, and Visakhapatnam and 10 international destinations: Abu Dhabi, Dammam, Doha, Dubai, Jeddah, Kuwait, Phuket, Riyadh, Sharjah, and Singapore.



Commenting on Air India Express' commencing operations from Hindon Airport, K. Rammohan Naidu, Union Minister for Civil Aviation, said, "With the addition of Hindon to its growing network, Air India Express is not only strengthening connectivity but also offering greater flexibility across the National Capital Region. The launch of services from Hindon will complement existing operations at Indira Gandhi International Airport, reflecting the government's vision of expanding aviation infrastructure to meet the growing demand for air travel."

A vast catchment area covering Eastern and Northern geography of the Delhi NCR, besides Ghaziabad and western parts of UP. As the Indian air market grows and matures, metropolitan regions can be served by multiple airports as we see in cities like London, New York and Tokyo. The services from Hindon will complement our extensive operations from Indira Gandhi International Airport, from where we serve 18 domestic and four international destinations. As our fleet crosses the 100 aircraft mark, we continue our journey of expansion and remain dedicated to offering a seamless and affordable flying experience across India, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia."

JU fiasco: Left students heckle profs, Minister, Left rallies put South Kolkata at standstill

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tensions flared at Jadavpur University (JU) on Saturday afternoon as a fierce brawl broke out during the annual discussion meeting of the professors' association having allegiance to the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). Education Minister Bratya Basu received injury when his car was vandalised amidst heated protests by student organizations demanding prompt elections of the students' union.



The Trinamool Congress has organized a counter protest march from Sukanta Bridge at 7:00 pm Saturday in protest of the harassment of Education Minister Bratya Basu in Jadavpur University. Minister Aroop Biswas and other senior leaders of Trinamool Congress were present on the rally against left autocracy in the city.

"The unrest was triggered when members of the Left-wing student organisation SFI, and the ultra-left factions, and various other student bodies at Jadavpur University rallied against the education minister's presence. They accused the administration of stalling election processes and voiced their demands through slogans, banners, and satirical posters," said an officer of Jadavpur police station. Anticipating disruptions, the minister took a detour to enter the university premises. "The tension escalated as soon as he began addressing the audience at the annual meeting. Protesters intensified their demonstrations, holding placards mocking the minister and the administration's policies," said the officer.

close, protesting students surrounded the minister's convoy, blocking his car and that of his pilot vehicle. "The scene quickly descended into violence, with students climbing onto the minister's car and throwing shoes at it. Amidst the chaos, the minister's watch was torn off and he sustained injuries," the officer added. "I wanted to hold dialogues with the protesting students but they preferred anarchy," said Basu. As the meeting drew to a

Bhaskar Gupta arrived at the scene, attempting to mediate and restore order. However, his presence only seemed to agitate the crowd further, leading to renewed protests. The situation reached a boiling point when the minister's car, attempting to leave the premises, accelerated through the protesting crowd. A few students were reportedly injured after being dashed by the minister's car. Sources confirmed that the injured students were promptly taken to a nearby private hospital for treatment.

University authorities are yet to issue an official statement regarding the injuries sustained by both students and the minister. Security has been heightened at Jadavpur University as investigations continue into the cause of the unrest. In the mean time this stir caused immense traffic jam at south Kolkata involving areas like Jadavpur, Dhakuria, Gol Park and Garihat.

Police permission not required for building construction, emphasises Delhi government a day after meeting convened by Amit Shah

MI News Service, New Delhi: A day after Home Minister Amit Shah gave directions that permission of Delhi Police will not be required in matters related to construction in the national capital, the Delhi Government issued a circular asking the police to sensitise its field officials to remove the misconception that police permission is required for carrying out any building construction.

Senior Delhi Police officials met at the police headquarters here earlier in the day following yesterday's meeting on law and order chaired by Amit Shah and discussed follow-up measures, including ways to mount greater vigil against street crime, improve the security of senior citizens and women, and take steps against gangsters. The sources said that senior officials also discussed ways to prevent the entry of drugs in the national capital.

Metro staff help an indisposed passenger

MI News Service, Kolkata: On 26.02.2025 at about 10:30 hrs., on-duty RPF and station staff found a lady passenger aged around 25 years who was feeling unwell at Maidan Metro station. Seeing her condition, they rushed to her help and attended her. She was later admitted to SSKM Hospital, under the escort of RPF and station staff. In the meantime, station staff contacted her father over the mobile number given by her and he was apprised of her condition. After sometimes, her father came to the hospital and took custody of her. All the belongings of the passenger were handed over to him. She and her father thanked Metro Railway Authorities for the kind co-operation and timely help.

The circular said that building construction activity is regulated by the MCD and other local bodies in their respective jurisdictions. It said Section 312/313 of the DMC Act (Delhi Municipal Corporation Act), 1957 provides finalising of layout plan, Section 336 of the Act provides for sanction of building plan and Section 346 for occupancy or completion certificate. The circular said there is no provision under DMC Act, 1957 by which a person is required to seek the permission from police for carrying out the construction. It said there are, however, certain provisions in the DMC Act related to police giving information to the MCD with respect to an offence or for probe of such offence. The circular said "there is a misconception" that a person needs to obtain permission from the police for carrying out construction of a building and there is sometimes misuse of the provisions "for the purpose of rent seeking". It asked Delhi Police to sensitise its field officials "to prevent the misuse of the provisions" and to remove the misconception that there is any need for permission from the Police for carrying out any construction of buildings. Police authorities will continue to assist and provide full support to all municipal officers and other municipal employees in the exercise of their lawful authority, the circular said.

Measures will be intensified to identify and deport illegal immigrants from Bangladesh as part of drive against those staying illegally in the country, they said, adding that a plan will be prepared to effectively tackle street crime. The sources said police have been asked not to get involved in matters relating to construction and underground boring in unauthorized colonies. To check threats received by businessmen, action will be intensified against gangsters operating from abroad, as well as their local accomplices in Delhi. Sources said that Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) have been told to personally listen to the complaints of people. The meeting chaired by Amit Shah yesterday was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, Home Minister of Delhi government Ashish Sood, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and senior officials. Several measures and suggestions to strengthen safety of women, children and senior citizens and improve law and order in the national capital and controlling crime were discussed in detail in the review meeting held on Friday. The Home Minister expressed hope that the double-engine government will work with double

E Tender is invited through online Bid System wide NleT No: 10/GGP/15 Th. CFC/2024-25, With Vide Memo No. 102/GGP/2024-25, Dated: 28-02-2025, The Last date for online submission of tender is 07/03/2025 upto 03.00 P.M. For details, please visit website: http://wbenders.gov.in Sd/-, Pradhan Ghoshpara Gram Panchayat

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Table with 4 columns: Sl. No., Name of the work, Estimated Amount, Earnest Money. Includes details for Mandra Gram Panchayat tender.

Office of the Pradhan Juranpur Gram Panchayat Domkal, Murshidabad. NleT No: 11/15th CFC/ 2024-25 Memo No: 308/JGP/2024, Dated: 28-02-2025.

Office of the Pradhan Juranpur Gram Panchayat Domkal, Murshidabad. NleT No: 13/15th CFC/ 2024-25 Memo No: 308/JGP/2024, Dated: 28-02-2025.

Advocate Alok Kumar Bhattacharya. Address: 10/108/2024 N. Sankar Anand Chatterjee Road, Durgam Chatterjee Park, Kolkata.

Advocate Asit Kumar Deb. Address: 10/108/2024 N. Sankar Anand Chatterjee Road, Durgam Chatterjee Park, Kolkata.

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New study suggests effects of PTSD on body vary by culture

Arizona [US] : According to the World Health Organisation, around 3.9 per cent of the global population has had post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at some point in their lives. That figure is greater in the United States, at over 6 per cent.

Individuals can develop PTSD after experiencing or witnessing a traumatic event, which can endure for months or years. However, much remains unknown about this mental health problem. Anthropologists, social scientists, and veterans from Arizona State University and the Naval Postgraduate School are the first to study the link between cortisol and testosterone levels and PTSD in a non-industrialized community.

This new study sheds more light on the PTSD puzzle.

Previous studies about PTSD and hormones have focused only on people living in Western or European industrialized societies. They included people who suffered from different types of trauma like car crashes, assault and multiple deployments, according to Ben Trumble, a research scientist at the Institute of Human Origins and associate professor at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change.

The studies showed the majority of people diagnosed with PTSD had very little change in their cortisol levels throughout the day. Instead, the results showed "blunted" levels of cortisol and not

the normal rise and fall patterns.

"In healthy men, hormones like testosterone and cortisol follow a pattern throughout the day," Trumble said. "Hormone levels are the highest just after waking up, and then decline rapidly. Levels are low throughout the day, and rise again at night."

The big question Trumble and colleagues wanted to answer was, would they see this same pattern in a non-industrialized population with people who suffered from the same type of trauma?

"Our study is the first to examine associations between hormones (cortisol and testosterone) among the Turkana," Trumble said. "Turkana pastoralists experience a high degree of combat exposure, and 28% of men have symptoms of PTSD. Because nearly everyone gets exposed to combat, we can see if there are biological differences in hormones for those with PTSD and those without PTSD. So, in this case we can compare apples to apples and not apples to oranges."

"We did not find any difference in cortisol for Turkana warriors with a provisional PTSD diagnosis versus those without PTSD," said Michael Baumgarten, an Institute of Human Origins-affiliated graduate student and Army Ranger veteran. "Both groups of warriors had nearly identical cortisol patterns. Interestingly, Turkana men with PTSD had lower testosterone when they woke up compared to



those without PTSD." "A more applied takeaway is to look at the results of this study and either retain or increase the level of skepticism one has of narratives that claim to have a crystal-clear picture of how human physiology responds to the stresses of combat -- especially if they are trying to

sell you something," he said. Being a livestock farmer, or pastoralist, in Kenya near South Sudan can be dangerous and deadly.

The Turkana are mobile pastoralists and engage in cattle raiding, said Matthew Zefferman, an assistant professor at the Naval

Postgraduate School and U.S. Air Force veteran. Zefferman spent half a year in the field with the Turkana during his postdoctoral fellowship at ASU.

"The Turkana in our study area, who raid other pastoralists, typically do so across the disputed border with South Sudan," he

said. "They travel by foot, often over 60 miles and engage in small and large raids. They are also raided by members of other pastoral groups. These raids can result in firefights and the death of family members, and the loss of animals. About half of adult male deaths in the study area is due to raiding."

Turkana warriors experience similar trauma from combat exposure during cattle raids. They also share similar cultural backgrounds and are the same gender. This differs from previous studies conducted where trauma and cultural background are different.

"It is interesting to see how the physiological response to trauma exposure can differ based on cultural environment," said Sarah Mathew, a research scientist at the Institute of Human Origins and associate professor at the School of Human Evolution and Social Change. "It suggests that we can't answer basic questions about human biology by only studying industrialized populations."

Mathew's relationship with the Turkana since 2007 led to this project and many others, providing valuable information about non-industrialized cooperation, cultural norms and warfare.

While the study answers questions about hormonal regulation, there is still the question of why are the Turkana cortisol levels "normal" in those diagnosed with

PTSD compared with Western populations?

The study sites many possible reasons including physical activity and cultural differences. The scientists say more research is needed.

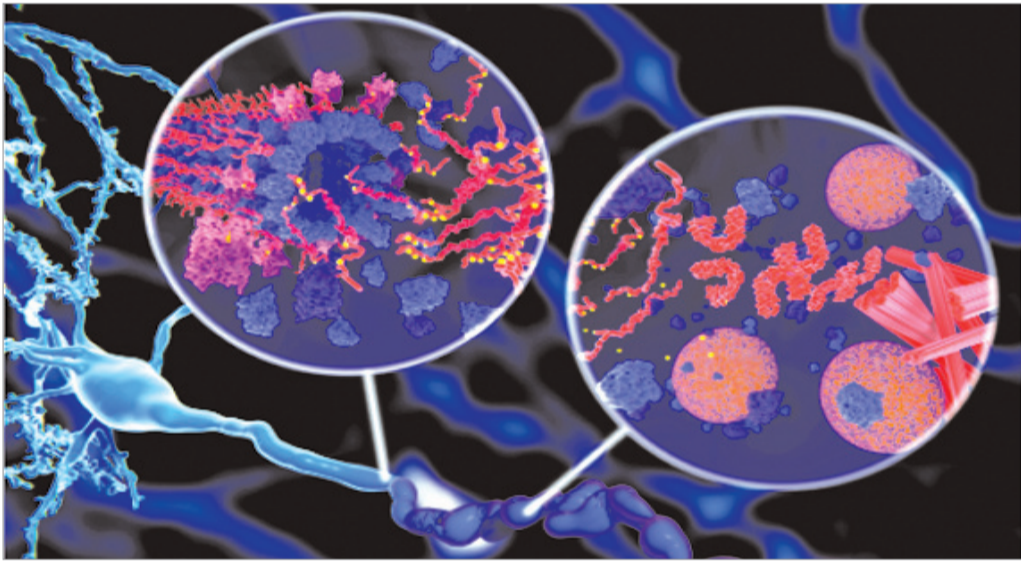
A previous publication by Zefferman and Mathew stated that unlike soldiers of nation-state societies, "Turkana warriors are strongly endorsed by the whole community, have elevated status, perform culturally sanctioned rituals after raids, and are deeply integrated with their corresponding civilian community."

"These longstanding cultural traditions of warriorhood may buffer them from some of the negative physiological responses to combat trauma."

Mathew and the others emphasize the importance of sharing their findings with the Turkana. The researchers have engaged with the community over several years, and discuss findings from this and other ongoing studies and what these findings mean for future research.

"We can only do this research because of the support and help of the people we do the research with -- the Turkana," Zefferman said. "We acknowledge that their willingness to work with us is what has allowed us to do this research with potential benefits to our society. We go there at the grace of the people we work with."

Key protein identified for treating Alzheimer's disease: Study



Cologne [Germany] : A team of researchers from the University of Cologne has made an important contribution to understanding the role of the tau protein in Alzheimer's disease.

Using human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), the international team demonstrated that a specific variant of the tau protein, known as the IN4R isoform,

mediates the harmful effects of protein clumping in human brain cells. The study was led by Dr. Hans Zempel from the Institute of Human Genetics, who is also a group leader in the Career Advancement Program (CAP) at the Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMCC) of the University of Cologne and University Hospital Cologne. If a person suffers from Alzheimer's disease,

certain proteins accumulate in brain cells, forming clumps that restrict normal cell function or even cause the cell to die. Dr. Buchholz and Dr. Zempel's team have used state-of-the-art techniques such as CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing and live-cell imaging in human induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) to demonstrate that

the IN4R tau isoform is responsible for the pathological effects on the cell. iPSCs are human stem cells that are generated from other cells. For example, skin cells can be reprogrammed into iPSCs and then transformed into brain cells (neurons). The researchers tested different forms of the tau protein by expressing them specifically in nerve cells. This allowed them to analyse how each protein isoform affects the cell. According to Dr. Sarah Buchholz, first author of the study, "this study represents a significant advance in helping us to understand the mechanisms of Alzheimer's disease. By identifying IN4R tau as a key protein, we have discovered a potential new target for future treatments."

The study's interdisciplinary approach not only helps to better understand Alzheimer's disease but also demonstrates the importance of human cell models in neurodegenerative research. Further studies are needed to translate the results of this study into clinical application, in particular to validate the results in adequate animal models and to develop specific therapeutics that will intervene in this process.

Strand Life Sciences launches portal for rare disease diagnosis, announces affordable genetic testing

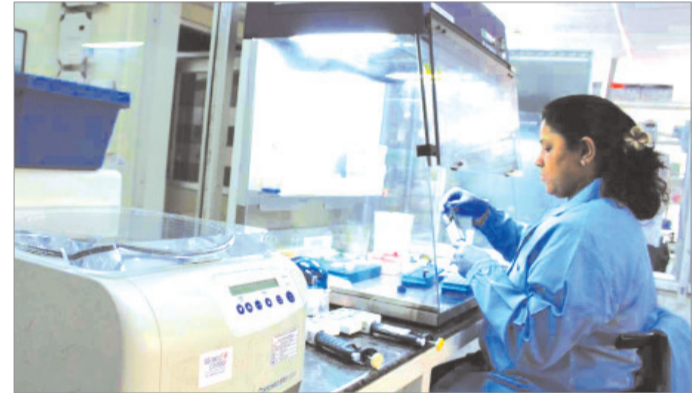
Bengaluru (Karnataka) : Marking Rare Disease Day, Strand Life Sciences, a subsidiary of Reliance Industries and a leading genomics research company, has launched the StrandOmics Portal, an innovative digital platform designed to assist doctors in diagnosing rare diseases more efficiently.

The newly introduced portal provides clinicians with rapid and detailed insights into genetic variants, offering a comprehensive and accurate assessment for each patient.

This advancement is expected to enhance the speed and precision of rare disease diagnoses, ultimately benefiting patients who often face prolonged diagnostic journeys.

Alongside the launch of the StrandOmics Portal, the company has announced a special initiative to offer genetic testing at a reduced cost for patients from economically weaker backgrounds, ensuring that these crucial diagnostic services are more widely accessible.

The StrandOmics Portal is designed to empower healthcare professionals. It offers several benefits, such as providing quick and clear genetic insights to aid in faster diagnosis, allowing independent review of a broader set of



genetic variants, and improving clinical decision-making and enhancing prenatal diagnosis and specialist collaboration, leading to better outcomes for rare genetic conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Ramesh Hariharan, CEO and Co-Founder of Strand Life Sciences, said, "We are dedicated to improving genetic diagnostics and ensuring accessibility for all. With the launch of the StrandOmics Portal, we aim to empower doctors with better tools to combat rare diseases. We will continue to innovate and invest in advancing genetic testing technologies."

Strand Life Sciences is a pioneer in genomic diagnostics in India and a trusted name in the

field of oncology, rare diseases, women's health, and infectious diseases. Backed by a strong foundation in bioinformatics, cutting-edge laboratory research, and a vast hospital partner network, the company is committed to advancing genetic diagnostics and personalized medicine.

It is also expanding into consumer genomics, providing individuals with personalized insights into their genetic profiles.

With the launch of the StrandOmics Portal and the introduction of discounted genetic testing for underprivileged patients, Strand Life Sciences continues its mission to bridge the gap in rare disease diagnosis and treatment accessibility in India.

Apple debuts in-house iPhone modem, the C1, with iPhone 16E release

Cupertino (California) [US] : Apple has officially introduced its first in-house iPhone modem, the C1, with the launch of the iPhone 16E. This significant development marks a major milestone in Apple's efforts to reduce its reliance on Qualcomm's 5G chips. The C1 modem is touted as the most power-efficient modem in a phone, contributing to the iPhone 16E's impressive battery life. According to Apple's official website, the phone's internal design has been optimized to support a larger battery, resulting in up to 26 hours of video playback. The C1 modem covers a range of low-end 5G spectrum, similar to the iPhone 16, but lacks mmWave capabilities, which offer gigabit-level throughput. Despite this, the introduction of the C1 modem in the iPhone 16E represents a significant step forward for Apple's in-house chip development, as per The Verge.

The development of the C1 modem has been a long time coming, with Apple acquiring Intel's cell modem business in 2019. While there may be concerns about the modem's performance, Apple's decision to debut the C1 in the more affordable iPhone 16E may help to mitigate any potential issues.

The iPhone 16E is available for preorder starting tomorrow and will ship on February 28th.

AI will drive India's double-digit growth, says Akash Ambani at Mumbai Tech Week 2025



Mumbai (Maharashtra): Akash Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Limited (RJIL), has called artificial intelligence (AI) the biggest technology change of this generation.

Speaking at Mumbai Tech Week 2025 at the Jio World Centre on Friday, he said AI will be the key driver of India's economic growth, helping the country achieve a 10 per cent or double-digit growth rate in the coming years.

During a fireside chat with Dream11 CEO Harsh Jain, Ambani stressed the importance of AI in shaping the future. "I think AI is

the biggest technology change that we have seen in our lifetime till date. And in my view it is the engine that will empower India to grow at 10 per cent or double digit growth numbers for the foreseeable future," he said. To make India a leader in AI, Ambani highlighted three fundamental areas of focus: AI infrastructure, research and development, and skilled talent.

He explained that building world-class AI infrastructure is necessary for India's digital transformation. "At Jio we are already doing that. We recently announced

in Jamnagar that we're building our AI data center which will be a gigawatt capacity data center but continuing to invest at the infrastructure level," he said. Apart from infrastructure, Ambani emphasized the need to invest in AI research and development. He praised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for AI and said deep research and development efforts would be essential for India to lead in this space. "We continue to invest in deep research and deep development come that comes from that research. And then finally I think the proof of the pudding

is to invest in the right talent," he said.

The third crucial aspect, according to Ambani, is talent. He stressed the importance of attracting top AI professionals and fostering new ideas.

He revealed that Jio has already built a strong AI team, consisting of over a thousand data scientists, researchers, and engineers. "At Jio, we've already invested in our overall full stack AI team, which is led by data scientists, researchers and engineers to be a thousand plus. The critical element in this, I feel is also to foster new ideas and push the boundaries of development," he stated. Ambani also addressed concerns about AI taking away jobs. He strongly believes AI will transform jobs rather than replace them. Comparing AI's impact to the rise of the internet, he said new industries such as fintech, e-commerce, and the creator economy emerged because of technological advancements. "When the Internet was created, no industries were born. You know, fintech was born, e-commerce was born, a creator economy was born," he explained.

He pointed out that content creators on platforms like YouTube and Instagram are now able to make a full-time living, something unimaginable a few decades ago. Similarly, AI will lead to the creation of new job opportunities. "I'm a firm believer that AI will transform jobs," he said confidently.

Take the right diet to stay healthy and live a long life: Dr. Meenakshi Singh

Ranchi : Proper and nutritious diet is the basis of long life. Regularly taking a balanced diet is good for health. The above words were said by Ranchi's well-known dentist and environmentalist Dr. Meenakshi Singh.

Dr. Singh said that ancient sages have also given the message of keeping the diet and lifestyle organized by staying connected to nature.

Using more organic products (fruits, vegetables, grains etc.) in the diet is helpful in keeping healthy. Consumption of fresh and seasonal vegetables, fruits, grains and non-processed food items in the diet is necessary for a healthy life. Grains, fruits, vegetables and grains produced without the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides are considered best for human health. Food from natural sources is beneficial for the digestive system and disease resistant. Dr. Singh said that various researches have also made it clear that organic products, by working at the level of micro cells, are also helpful in preventing premature ageing. On the other hand, excessive non-vegetarian food and food items produced with chemical fertilizers and pesticides also give rise to diabetes, high blood pressure, heart diseases and other diseases. He said that organic products are very beneficial for health. Now gradually the use of organic products has started increasing



in Indian kitchens. This is commendable. Dr. Singh said that living life with everyday stress, wrong and irregular eating habits, inactivity is causing many diseases. Today's scientific research also nourishes the concept of using millets (coarse grains) and organic products in food. Balanced diet, regular active lifestyle, mental discipline etc. are the basis of a healthy life. Dr. Singh said that he has established Nandini Gir Farms in Thakurgaon of Ranchi district. Where organic farming is done. Fruits, grains, milk, curd, cheese and vegetables produced here are available in the "Organic Basket" in New AG Colony, Kadru in the capital. Milk, curd, cheese, sweets and other products produced at Nandini Gir Farms have become a center of attraction for customers.

Isale Sawab to begin in Furfura on March 6



Nurul Islam Khan
The 3-day historic Isale Sawab at Furfura Sharif in Hooghly will begin on Thursday, March 6. It will end on the morning of March 8. The 134-year-old traditional mahfil has now fallen in the holy month of Ramadan. This auspicious occasion has come after almost three and a half decades. The Administration estimates that 40-50 lakh people will gather for this year's Isale Sawab. The overflowing crowd on the second day will set a precedent, the Pirsahabs have

and has taken a place of international level. Special prayers will be offered for the welfare of the entire mankind in the meeting. Various leaders and ministers will come to the Pir Sahib to seek prayers. From here, the message of harmony, peace and harmony of all religions will be given. Women are strictly prohibited from coming. Social reformer Dada Huzur has left an outstanding contribution in education, health, and philanthropic work. His contribution in the field of women's education is undeniable. His role for independence and communal harmony was impeccable. He was one of the architects of human welfare. This huge religious conference will be conducted without permission. Consumption of intoxicants is prohibited in the meeting. The shrines and places of prayer have been decorated and the places of worship have been adorned. The administration is cooperating. Numerous Pirsahabs and their multifaceted voluntary organizations are also ready to serve the people. It is learnt that the authorities have made arrangements for Sahari, Iftar and Taraweeh prayers. Numerous people from Bangladesh, Assam and Tripura will attend this famous religious mahfil in Asia. In this three-day gathering, numerous religious people will come for their self-purification. The Pir of Mujaddide Zaman Furfura Sharif, Allama Shah Abu Bakr Siddiqi alias Dada Huzur established this historic conference in 1891 with the batasa of Arashi. Now it has become history

Darbar Sharif in Basirhat

Nurul Islam Khan
On Friday, the son-in-law of Pir Mujaddid of Furfura Sharif, Amirush Shariat Ala Hazrat Abu Bakr Siddiqi (Dada Huzur), the prominent caliph of the famous Alameddwin Allamae Hind Ruhul Amin Sahib, said: Pirzada Maulana Sauban Siddiqi is performing waz on the last day of the annual Islay Sawab Mahfil of the established 'Basirhat Darbar Sharif'. A large number of people, including Syed



Shahnawaz Hussain, were present on the occasion.

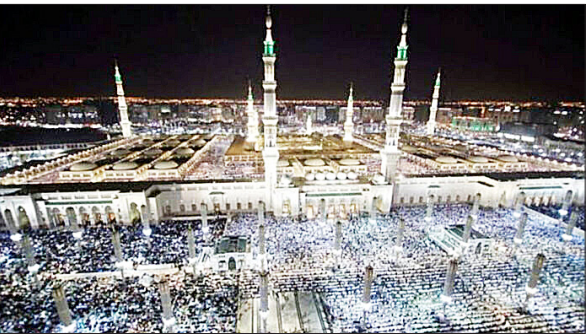
The month of Ramadan begins today

Nurul Islam Khan
The fast begins today. The moon of the month of Ramzan has been sighted in the Indian sky. The news was also reported by Furfura Darbar Sharif and Nakhoda Mosque. The moon was not sighted in the subcontinent on Friday. Taraweeh prayers are held in every mosque on Saturdays. Preparation for the fast has been completed. Fasting began in the Arab world on Saturday, while devout Muslims will observe fast in the subcontinent on Sunday. People



of the concerned religion will observe a month-long fast. Devotees fast from sunrise to sunset. Rozas can't even swallow a spit. The significance of this holy month is immense. The Holy Quran was revealed in this month. As a result, the month of Ramadan is a great opportunity to be blessed with prayer, worship, charity and almsgiving.

First Taraweeh of Ramadan 2025 offered at the Grand Mosque and Prophet's Mosque



MI News Service, Makkah: On Friday, February 28, worshippers gathered at the Grand Mosque in Makkah and the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah to perform the Isha and first Taraweeh prayers of Ramadan 1446 (2025). The Saudi Supreme Court had confirmed the sighting of the new moon on Friday evening, officially declaring Saturday, March 1, as the

first fasting day of Ramadan. The mosques were filled to capacity with devout worshippers standing shoulder-to-shoulder, marking the start of the spiritually significant nights of Ramadan. Taraweeh is a special voluntary prayer performed after the Isha prayer during Ramadan. It consists of a series of rakats (units of prayer) and is an important practice for Muslims throughout the holy month. While it is not obligatory, it is highly encouraged, and many Muslims participate in this prayer as a means of drawing closer to Allah. The recitation of the Quran during Taraweeh offers an opportunity for worshippers to listen to and reflect upon the divine message. The prayer is performed in congregation at the mosque, with long rows of worshippers standing together in unity, showing their devotion. Taraweeh is a time for spiritual reflection, a moment to connect with Allah, and to seek forgiveness and blessings. The significance of this prayer during Ramadan highlights the importance of prayer, community, and devotion in Islam, making it a cherished practice for Muslims worldwide.

Taiwan imposes sanctions on seven Chinese universities over national security concerns

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan has imposed sanctions on seven universities linked to the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology due to concerns over national security, according to Minister of Education Cheng Ying-yao, Taipei Times reported. He said that Taiwanese universities and research institutions have been prohibited from participating in any academic activities or exchanges with these seven Chinese universities to protect technology vital to national security interests, Taipei Times reported. Since

2020, students and researchers from the US have been restricted from studying or working at these universities. Dubbed the "seven sons of (China's) national defense," Chinese Ministry of National Defence had founded the universities before they were transferred to the Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, Cheng said. The seven universities include Beihang University, Beijing Institute of Technology, Northwestern Polytechnical University, Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Nanjing University of Science and Technology, Harbin Institute of Technology, and Harbin Engineering University, as noted by Taipei Times. According to Cheng, these universities are significantly engaged in the development of Chinese military equipment, aviation, telecommunications, chemicals, and material sciences, thus serving the goals of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its "united front" initiatives. Taiwan does not acknowledge academic qualifications issued by the PLA-operated

26 cases filed against Baba Ramdev in Kerala courts so far over misleading ads

MI News Service, Kerala: Baba Ramdev, the prominent yoga guru and businessman, is facing a significant legal challenge in Kerala, where 26 cases have been filed against him in various courts across the state over misleading advertisements for Patanjali Ayurved's products. These cases stem from violations of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 (DMR Act), which prohibits the advertisement of drugs with claims of magical properties or miraculous cures. On February 20, 2025, an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court by Sujith Kumar K, the Drugs Controller in Kerala's Drugs Control Department, highlighted how Patanjali Ayurved Limited had breached the provisions of the DMR Act. The affidavit points out that the company's advertisements, which appeared in various print media outlets, falsely claimed that certain Patanjali products could cure or prevent specific diseases, a clear violation of the law. As a result, legal action was taken not only against the company but also against the newspapers that published these advertisements. The publications under scrutiny include well-known Malayalam and English dailies such as Mathrubhumi, Malayala Manorama, Kerala Kaumudi, and The Hindu. In total, 31 prosecutions have been launched against the manufacturer of Patanjali's Divya products for allegedly distributing these misleading ads. Of these, 26 cases have been officially registered, while five others remain pending due to non-cooperation from the print media outlets involved. These cases have been filed in various courts across Kerala, including the Judicial First Class Magistrate courts in Kozhikode, Kottayam, Kakkannad, Thiruvananthapuram, Kattappana, and Palakkad, as well as the Chief Judicial Magistrate courts in Thrissur and Kollam. The legal pressure on Baba Ramdev and Patanjali Ayurved has intensified further. On February 1, 2025, the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Palakkad issued non-bailable warrants against Baba Ramdev and Acharya Balkrishna, Managing Director of Patanjali Ayurved, after they failed to appear in court for a related case filed by the Kerala Drugs Inspector. Additionally, the Judicial First Class Magistrate Court in Kozhikode has ordered Baba Ramdev to appear in person in May for another case. This legal battle is part of a broader crackdown in Kerala, where between 2016 and February 2025, 116 prosecution cases have been filed under the DMR Act, resulting in 32 convictions. The remaining cases are still pending, and Patanjali Ayurved's ongoing legal troubles continue to unfold.

Uttar Pradesh: Hindutva group posts Mughal Emperors' photos in toilets

MI News Service, Lucknow: A controversial incident unfolded in Pilkhuwa town, located in Uttar Pradesh's Hapur district, when members of a Hindutva group posted images of prominent Mughal emperors, Aurangzeb and Babur, in public toilets and urinals. The incident reportedly occurred on Wednesday, February 26. The radical group, wearing saffron scarves, filmed the act and uploaded the footage on social media. In the video, the group is seen pasting images of Babur, the founder of the Mughal Empire, and Aurangzeb, the longest-reigning Mughal emperor, onto the walls and urinals of public restroom facilities. After placing the images, the members of the group reportedly proceeded to desecrate the photographs by beating them with shoes, asserting that they had renamed the facilities. This act is part of a larger, growing trend of aggressive actions by Hindutva outfits across India, aimed at diminishing the legacy of Mughal rulers. Just a few days earlier, on February 23, a similar incident occurred in Delhi, where a group of Hindutva supporters spat on and urinated on an Akbar Road signboard. They then placed a poster of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, a revered Maratha king, over the signboard, further exemplifying the group's actions against Mughal history. These acts are not isolated but are part of a broader and coordinated campaign



led by Hindutva groups and far-right politicians. Over the past few years, these groups have ramped up efforts to rename Mughal-era landmarks, including cities, roads, and institutions, and even school curriculum chapters associated with the Mughal Empire. The most notable example is the renaming of the city of Allahabad to Prayagraj by the Yogi Adityanath-led Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, in Maharashtra, the city of Aurangabad was renamed Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar, in honor of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj, the son of Shivaji Maharaj, who was tortured and executed by Aurangzeb. Proponents of these renaming campaigns argue that they aim to recover India's "true heritage" and eradicate the influence of Mughal rulers, whom they view as foreign conquerors who persecuted the Hindu community during their reign. This rhetoric has gained significant traction, especially following the release of Chhaava, a Bollywood film that portrays Aurangzeb as a villain. However, these actions have also sparked concerns about rising communal tensions and the potential for hate-driven attacks. Critics argue that these campaigns could deepen divisions in India, with Hindutva groups pushing for contemporary Muslims to take responsibility for the actions of Mughal rulers from centuries ago.

ligion neutral approach, focusing more on caste. Here caste-occupation is what should be looked at. Already an increase in the ceiling is being campaigned by many to increase. With that apart from other things more Muslims categories can also be accommodated in OBC and dalit quotas. The report uses CSDS-Lokniti data. The authors of the report also consider the perceptions of Muslim communities. As reservations for Muslim is like a 'red rag to the bull' for the BJP and its ilk, the report talks more of accommodating these sections related to occupation based OBC. The Pasma Muslims, (Low caste ones) the most deprived among Muslims, do fall in the category of Dalits. Many a Christian communities also fall in this category, which also need state support for a decent livelihood. The report also considers the changing nature of the state and calls it 'Charitable state' which uses the word Labharthi for those who benefit from the state schemes. As per Hilal Ahmad, one of the authors of the report as far as state is concerned there is a shift from '...group centric approach' to 'space centric' welfareism. They recommend a rational, secular sub categorisation of OBCs. Existing schemes and programs need to be jacked up. Affirmative action is the need of the hour. Here given all other qualifications-experience being equal; preference is given to the marginalized (Caste, Gender) for the selection for a job. There are many artisans in these communities; up-scaling their technology should help them. The report is comprehensive and keeps the limitations of the present situation where the ruling politics treats minorities close to second class citizens. The million rupee question is, will the current dispensation following sectarian nationalism implement such a report with sincerity, overcoming their political biases?'

Economic condition of religious minorities: Quota vs. affirmative action

MI News Service, New Dehi: The economic plight of minorities, particularly Muslims has been a very disturbing factor for all those who would like the society to strive for equality and justice. If we see the origin of Muslim community in India apart from the spread of Islam through Arab traders from 7th Century AD in Malabar Coast, the majority conversions have been mainly from the victims of caste oppression who were also economically deprived sections of society. During what is called the Mughal period, the Muslim King ruled from Delhi-Agra. During this the structure of society where landlords were Hindus in great numbers the economic plight of large sections of Muslims remained similar to poor Hindus. After the 1857 uprising the backlash from the British was directed more against Muslims as Bahadur Shah Zafar was the one who was leader of this rebellion. The Muslim community had to face the bigger brunt of the British wrath. Post Independence the biases and myths against Muslims were highlighted and gradually they became major targets of the communal forces. As other communities were coming forward and lifting themselves through education and jobs, Muslims lagged behind due to multiple reasons, including the prevalent propaganda against them and the inheritance of their economic backwardness. Our Constitution recognized the social and economic backwardness of dalits and Adivasis giving them the reservation which held the communities in some way. While at National level of OBC's got 27% reservations in 1990, some states on their own had brought this earlier also. By and large these OBC reservations were strongly opposed by Organizations like 'Youth for Equality'.



Even the reservations for Dalits other sections started getting opposed at large level like the anti Dalit and anti caste violence of 1980s and then in mid 1985 in Gujarat. Meanwhile as the Constitution did not recognize the reservations on the basis of religion, the minorities kept languishing in economic backwardness. Some states did try to incorporate Muslims in OBC quota but any move to uplift this community through quotas was strictly opposed by the Hindu Nationalist forces. The economic status of this community was a terrible mix of insecurity due to violence and economic deprivations due to lack of jobs and ghettoization, which was the direct outcome of violence. Every time some talk of reservation for Muslims came up it was strongly countered by the Hindutva politics and they cried hoarse about 'appeasement of Muslims'. This also put some brakes on the intentions of the state to undertake the implementation of recommendations of the committees. One recalls that after the Sachar Committee came out with the report in 2006, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the then Prime Minister of the country, stated its intention to undertake the reforms to improve the lot of this hapless community. "The component plans for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will need to be revitalized. We will have to devise innovative plans to ensure that minorities, particularly the Muslim minority, are empowered to share equitably in the fruits of development. They must have the first claim on resources. This was propagated by BJP company as "This is what the Congress manifesto says," he (Narendra Modi) claimed, "They will take stock of the gold that (our) mothers and sisters have, they will count and assess it, and then they will distribute that wealth, and they will give it to those people that Dr Manmohan Singh's government had said - that Muslims have the first right to the nation's wealth." It is in this light that one welcomes a new report from US-India Policy Institute and Centre for Development Policy and Practice, 'Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India'. The report has been prepared by Hilal Ahmad, Mohammad Sanjeer Alam and Nazema Parveen. This report takes an approach away from the quota for Muslims. They recognize that Muslim community has different economic layers. While few of them are prosperous who don't have to be considered for reservations. For the majority of sections of Muslims they suggest a re-

Israel mourns hostage as second Phase Gaza ceasefire talks intensify

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Mourners in Israel on Friday were burying the remains of one of the final hostages released in the first phase of the ceasefire between Hamas militants and Israel, as negotiators discussed a second phase that could end the war in Gaza and see the remaining living captives returned home. The funeral procession for Tsachi Idan, an avid soccer fan who was 49 when he was abducted by Hamas militants, began at a Tel Aviv football stadium en route to the cemetery where he was to be buried in a private ceremony. The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said Idan, taken from Kibbutz Nahal Oz during the Hamas-led October 7 2023 attack that sparked the war in Gaza, was killed in captivity. His body was one of four released by Hamas early Thursday in exchange for over 600 Palestinian prisoners, the last planned swap of the ceasefire's first phase, which began in January. Idan was the only one of his family taken to Gaza. His eldest daughter, Maayan, was killed as militants shot through the door of their safe room. Hamas militants broadcast themselves on Facebook live holding the Idan family hostage in their home, as his two younger children pleaded with the militants to let them go. "My brother is the real hero. He held on," Idan's sister, Noam Idan ben Ezra, said in an interview on Israeli radio Friday. She said Idan had been "a pace away" from being released during a brief ceasefire in November 2023, when more than 100 of the 251 people abducted on October 7 were released. "Tsachi was forsaken twice. The first time when he was kidnapped from his home and the second time when the deal blew up," she added. "The fact that Tsachi is not standing next

to me today is the outcome of the decision-making and the policy here in Israel. They did not listen to us then, but it's not too late to listen to us today." With the first phase of the ceasefire deal set to end Saturday, relatives of hostages still held in Gaza are ramping up pressure on Netanyahu to secure the release of their loved ones. According to Israel, 32 of the 59 hostages still in Gaza are dead, and there has been growing concern about the welfare of an unknown number who are still alive, particularly after three hostages released February 8 appeared emaciated.

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"EFFORTS OF ENTIRE TEAM CAME TOGETHER": MINNU MANI ON DELHI CAPITALS' PERFORMANCE AGAINST MUMBAI INDIANS

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : An all-around effort led the Delhi Capitals to a dominant nine-wicket win over the Mumbai Indians in their sixth match of the WPL 2025 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Friday.

Minnu Mani and Jess Jonassen bagged three wickets each, restricting Mumbai Indians to 123/9 in 20 overs. Delhi Capitals then chased the target in just 14.3 overs, courtesy of Meg Lanning's unbeaten 60 off 49 balls and Shafali Verma's 43 off 28. This victory took them to the top of the points table with four wins, two losses, and eight points.

Reflecting on the performance, Mani, who returned with stunning figures of 3/17 in three overs, said they performed well in all departments.

"The efforts of the entire team came together nicely on the field. We always keep things simple and stick to our plans in every match. Whatever strategies we make, we ensure they are executed well on the ground. It was the same approach today, nothing new," she said, according to a release.

The 25-year-old player from Wayanad, Kerala, has been a part of Delhi Capitals since the inception of the WPL. She went on to make her T20I debut in the same year and became the first woman from Kerala to play for India.

Speaking about her journey and learnings so far, Mani said, "The senior players in the team have been very helpful. Compared to my first and second year, my bowling has improved a lot. They have guided me on how to bowl according to the situation and the batters, what kind of length and line to use, when to make changes, and how to adapt. I've learned all these things from them, including how to manage myself during the game."

When asked about playing under the captaincy of the legendary Meg Lanning, Mani said, "I admire Meg Lanning a lot, and playing under her has helped me learn so many new things. She is always supportive of all the players, both on and off the field. Whenever we discuss something or ask her for advice, she always has plenty of insights and ideas to share. It has been a truly special experience to play alongside her."

After completing a double over Mumbai Indians, Delhi Capitals will now take on the home side, Royal Challengers Bengaluru. They will be the first team in the WPL to play on back-to-back nights and will aim to end the Bengaluru leg with a win and further extend their lead on the top of the points table.



India's Virat Kohli with a teammate during a practice session ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy-2025 match against New Zealand, at Dubai International Cricket Stadium in Dubai on Friday. (ANI Photo)

Karun Nair's unbeaten 132 puts Vidarbha on course for Ranji Trophy glory

NAGPUR (MAHARASHTRA) [INDIA] : Had things unfolded differently two seasons ago, Karun Nair might have been playing for Kerala. After Karnataka unceremoniously dropped him, Nair reached out to Kerala, but they couldn't commit at the time. Having already spent an entire season without competitive cricket, he couldn't afford to wait. That's when Vidarbha came knocking, and he seized the opportunity, as per ESPNcricinfo.

Two seasons later, Nair is leading Vidarbha's charge toward their third Ranji Trophy title. He batted the entire day, crafting an unbeaten 132, his 23rd first-class century and fourth of the season pushing Vidarbha's lead to 286 at stumps with six wickets in hand. If he lifts the trophy, it will be his third, having won his first two with Karnataka in 2013-14 and 2014-15.

Nair's innings might have been cut short early, but fortune favoured him. On 31, during the morning session, an awkwardly rising delivery from young pacer Eden Apple Tom caught his glove and lobbed towards first slip, only for Akshay Chandran to drop a straightforward catch. Had that chance been taken, Vidarbha would have been reeling at 55/3. Instead, Nair and Danish Malewar, a 21-year-old in his debut season, made Kerala pay, adding to their unfinished business from the first innings, where a mix-up had led to Nair's run-out on 86.

The duo stitched together an 182-run stand for the third wicket. Malewar, who had already impressed with 153 in the first innings, contributed 73, steadying the innings after the early dismissals of Parth Rekhade and Dhruv Shorey in the first three overs. Rekhade was beaten through the gate by Jalaj Saxena's in-drifter, while Shorey fell to a brilliant diving catch by Mohammed Azharuddeen at first slip, giving MD Nidheesh an early breakthrough.

Kerala had more opportunities



to break the partnership but failed to capitalize. Malewar survived an lbw appeal against Saxena, with DRS ruling it as umpire's call. That was just the beginning of a frustrating period for Kerala. They dropped a crucial catch of a big-match player, saw their pacers Nidheesh and N Basil receive two warnings each for running into the danger area, and allowed two healthy edges off Saxena to slip through an unmanned corridor. Instead of attacking, Kerala found themselves on the back foot, and Vidarbha capitalized.

Malewar had another stroke of luck when he overturned an lbw decision against Nidheesh, with replays showing the ball swinging late and missing leg stump. Despite the early action, Kerala failed to stay aggressive, ultimately paying the price.

Nair took full advantage of the field placements, piercing gaps through covers as Kerala left the off-side open to invite him to drive against the turn. His well-executed reverse sweeps along the ground made him even tougher to contain. Malewar, meanwhile, absorbed the pressure from Saxena, playing within himself until reaching his half-century, after which he showcased his confidence with a glorious lofted drive over mid-off.

As the partnership flourished, Kerala briefly resorted to a leg-stump line in an attempt to unsettle the batters. However, with Vidarbha already sitting on a

comfortable lead, Kerala realized too late that they needed to be more aggressive by then, the pair had already added over 100 runs.

Nair survived on 65 when a leading edge off Saxena fell just short of the bowler. He responded by playing a reverse sweep, neutralizing any pressure. He soon crossed the 800-run mark for the season and raced into the 80s with back-to-back sixes off Aditya Sarwate, sending one over long-on and the other over long-off. Upon reaching his century, Nair dropped his bat, removed his gloves, and held up both palms towards the dressing room—a symbolic nod to his nine centuries across the season before settling back into his innings.

The long-standing partnership finally ended when Chandran's part-time left-arm spin found Malewar's glove, with Sachin Baby taking a sharp catch at slip. Yash Rathod then joined Nair and batted fluently, even surpassing Madhya Pradesh's Shubham Sharma to become the season's leading run-scorer at one stage.

Kerala briefly found some respite when Sarwate got one to turn sharply, trapping Rathod lbw—a decision that went their way upon DRS review. However, such moments were rare for Kerala on a day dominated by frustration. With their hopes of a maiden Ranji Trophy title hanging by a thread, they now need nothing short of a miracle to stage a comeback on the final day.

PCB 'considering' domestic players for T20I series in New Zealand

LAHORE (PAKISTAN) : The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to give the domestic players the opportunity to play in the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand after Pakistan's shambolic run in the ongoing Champions Trophy, Geo News reported citing sources.

Sources informed Geo News that domestic players have been asked to travel to Lahore for the selection process for the five T20Is against the Blackcaps, beginning on March 16. In addition, a meeting will be held between the young cricketers and board officials.

With the T20 World Cup set to be held next year in Indian and Sri Lanka, the decision to send domestic players to New Zealand could turn out to be PCB's long-term strategy for the marquee event.

In addition to the recent developments, former wicketkeeper-batter Rashid Latif suggested a list of young players who should be considered for the upcoming series. Hassan Nawaz, Ali Raza, Abdul Samad, Akif Javed and Muhammad Nafay were some of the



players he recommended.

His other recommendations for the probable squad included Muhammad Haris, Sufyan Muqem, Arafat Minhas, Irfan Khan Niazi, Zaman Khan, Mohammad Wasim, Abbas Afridi, Jahandad Khan, Agha Salman, Abrar Ahmed, Omair Bin Yousuf and Khushdil Shah.

Notably, some reports claim that Pakistan players are considering opt-

ing out of their white-ball tour of New Zealand. The players are considering taking a "break" from the white-ball tour, which consists of five T20Is and three ODIs.

The recent changes in Pakistan's camp stem from their dreadful run in the Champions Trophy. As a global cricket event returned to Pakistan after nearly three decades, New Zealand stepped up to spoil the party.

Olympic champ Neeraj Chopra pledges support for 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle'

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Two-time Olympic medallist Neeraj Chopra echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clarion call to countrymen for maintaining an active lifestyle in the fight against obesity by participating in 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle.'

In a social media post, the javelin star said that cycling is a great way to remain fit and one should try their best to take out time every Sunday for own well-being.

"Namaste Fit India Sundays on Cycle is a fantastic way to improve one's fitness and to contribute towards controlling pollution. So, I would like to tell you that please indulge in cycling every Sunday, if you are not able to find time every day," Neeraj posted on his Instagram handle. This cycling drive was kickstarted on December 17, 2024 by Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Dr Mansukh Mandaviya with the overall objective of 'Fitness ka dose, aadha ghanta roz' (Daily dose of fitness for 30 minutes) and a way to find a solution to pollution, as per a press release from Sports Authority of India (SAI).

The Prime Minister during his recent address to the nation through 'Mann ki Baat' had highlighted the importance of having a balanced diet and cutting the intake of oil by a minimum of 10 per cent to fight obesity. PM Modi had launched the FIT India mission as a people's movement back in 2019.

Following the PM's clarion call, this weekend's cycling initiative (March 2, 2025) is themed around fighting obesity. 2007 T20 World Cup winning bowler Joginder Sharma along with international squash stars Ramit Tandon and Anahat Singh will ride with 600 cyclists, comprising officers from several Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), from Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium to Vijay Chowk near Raisina Hill via Kartavya Path and back to spread the message of #FightObesity and #PollutionKaSolution.

Shooter Deepak Kumar and TV personality Rannvijay Singha inaugurate world-class shooting facility in Delhi

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Elevating the spirit of sports in the national capital, Indian sport shooter Deepak Kumar and TV personality Rannvijay Singha inaugurated a state-of-the-art shooting range at GD Goenka School, Vasant Kunj, on Saturday.

"I am really excited to see the shooting facility and revisit some of the sports I played here. Competing against GD Goenka always made me envious of their outstanding infrastructure. If young kids receive this level of support and infrastructure from their parents and schools, nothing can stop our sportsmen, sportswomen, and athletes from winning numerous medals for the country," said Singha, as quoted by a GD Goenka School press release.

Echoing his views, Deepak Kumar, a celebrated Indian sport shooter, Junior Warrant Officer in the Indian Air Force, and Asian Games silver medallist in the 10m air rifle event, said, "The inauguration of the shooting facility marks an auspicious endeavour. An athlete has the capability to make our national flag fly high in front of the entire world, and I can say that in



the future, many athletes from this school, this state, and this country will bring glory and numerous medals."

The shooting range is an impressive, Olympic-size 10-meter facility equipped with modern air rifles and air pistols and an advanced electronic target-scoring system. "GD Goenka School remains at the pinnacle of offering

a conducive environment for holistic growth. The shooting facility will not only provide the best-in-class training to students but will also inspire the next generation of champions. With exemplary infrastructure and support, our students can achieve remarkable success on the global stage," said Nipun Goenka, Managing Director of GD Goenka Group.

Another rising star in Indian shooting, Parth Makhija, Junior World Champion and leader of the Delhi shooting contingent at the Goa National Games, attended the event. Further adding to the prestige of the occasion was Ria Rajeshwari Kumari, a proud Goenka alumna (Batch of 2010), international trap shooter, silver medallist at the 2022 Asian Games, and 2024 Olympian currently ranked 9th in the world.

Shreya Agrawal, a shooting sensation and air rifle gold medallist at the World & Asian Championships, former India Junior Rank 1 holder, and Senior World Cup medallist, who is currently pursuing her MBA at GD Goenka University, also graced the event.

"The new shooting range is a reflection of our dedication to promoting both academic and athletic excellence. This initiative will not only enhance the physical disciplines of students but also instil discipline, focus, and a competitive spirit at a young age," said Kevin Brady, Principal of GD Goenka Public School, Vasant Kunj, Delhi, as the GD Goenka School press release added.

Welcome
Ramadan
Mubarak

Susmita Bhattacharya Chatterjee
Councillor Ward-63 & Chairperson, Borough VII

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