



Mayor Firhad Hakim and Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, along with TMC MP Sudip Bandopadhyay, Party Leader Subrata Bakshi, and State Power Minister Aroop Biswas, attended the TMC Core Committee meeting, while Sujit Bose, Bratya Basu, Saayoni Ghosh, Kakoli Ghosh Dasidhar, and others looked on. The meeting was held at Trinamool Bhavan in Kolkata on Thursday.



Mamata Banerjee to visit London, will deliver lecture at Oxford

MI News Service, Kolkata : Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to visit London for a week and deliver a lecture at the University of Oxford later this month.

According to the state administration sources, Mamata Banerjee has been invited by the Oxford University in connection to her social welfare projects that she took during her ongoing tenure as the Chief minister in West Bengal. The lecture is scheduled on March 27.

A senior official of state administration said, "the Chief minister has accepted the invitation and is likely to deliver a speech on social welfare schemes at Oxford University. After that, she may hold a business conclave in London as well."

She was invited to deliver the lecture by the Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University Jonathan Michie, during the Bengal Global Business Summit in November 2023. Mamata Banerjee was supposed to go to London in June last year. Michie invited the CM to deliver a lecture at their university and speak about her struggles and achievements. The pro-vice-chancellor stated that with a strong Indian presence in the university, he wanted Mamata Banerjee to focus on anti-racism and women's empowerment. "We have invited her to deliver a lecture



at our university and speak about her struggles and achievements. We are moved by her reflections on life, as well as her views and policies on anti-racism and communal harmony. With a strong Indian presence in our college, we want her to focus on anti-

racism and women's empowerment. We believe her message will resonate well with our students," Michie added.

According to the state administration sources, Mamata Banerjee will travel to London via Dubai on March 21 and return to Kolkata on March 29. During this trip she may hold meetings with industrialists in Dubai as well as in London about the possibility of more foreign investments in Bengal.

The Chief minister is likely to be accompanied by leading businessmen and industrialists during her trip, administration sources said.

During her last foreign tour in September 2023, Mamata Banerjee visited Spain for a business summit and spoke with different delegations in Madrid and Barcelona. She was accompanied by former Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly and other leading businessmen and industrialists of Bengal.

At the Dubai airport, CM Banerjee had also met with Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe.

"Last time during the Spain tour, Sourav Ganguly joined us. Now, we are again expecting Ganguly to join us in London. Many leading businessmen will also accompany this tour of London," said sources in the administration.

Trinamool Congress intensifies efforts to identify 'ghost voters' ahead of 2026 assembly elections

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections approaching, the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has intensified its scrutiny of the voters list, expressing concerns over potential manipulation and irregularities.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, during a high-level meeting at Netaji Indoor Stadium last week, had warned party members about the presence of 'ghost voters' and directed the formation of a special committee to investigate the matter. The 36-member committee, led by state TMC president Subrata Bakshi, includes key figures like Abhishek Banerjee and several MLAs.

Following Mamata Banerjee's directive on February 27, party leaders, including district presidents and MLAs, were instructed to begin scrutinizing voters lists in their respective areas and submit reports within ten days. On Thursday, seven days into the investigation, the committee convened a meeting at Trinamool Bhavan to discuss their findings.

Sources indicate that widespread discrepancies have been discovered across multiple districts, including South 24 Parganas and Cooch Behar, where names of voters from other states have appeared on Bengal's electoral rolls. Reports suggest that the number of such questionable en-

tries runs into several hundred across the state. The committee members, including Subrata Bakshi, Firhad Hakim, and Aroop Biswas, deliberated on these findings, while Abhishek Banerjee was notably absent due to other commitments.

Following the meeting, the committee decided to lodge a formal complaint with the Election Commission (EC) regarding the alleged manipulations in voter registration. A delegation, comprising Subrata Bakshi, Firhad Hakim, and Aroop Biswas, is expected to visit the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal to present their concerns. After the meeting, senior TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee confirmed that a TMC delegation would soon meet the Chief Electoral Officer to formally raise their concerns.

The TMC's allegations have come in the wake of a clarification issued earlier by the Election Commission of India (ECI), which stated that the presence of two names under the same EPIC (Electors Photo Identity Card) number does not necessarily indicate fraud. In response, TMC's parliamentary members have taken to social media to challenge the EC's stance, arguing that such discrepancies could be exploited for electoral

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Uttarakhand is ready for round the year tourism, it will boost economy, says PM Modi

MI News Service, Harsil / Dehradun : Making a strong pitch for round the year tourism in Uttarakhand, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that there should be no off-season in the picturesque hill state as it will help strengthen its economy in a big way.



Addressing a rally in Harsil after offering prayers at the village of Mukhwa, the winter abode of Goddess Ganga in Uttarkashi district, he said visitors will get the true flavour of Uttarakhand if they come to the state in the winter.

"When fog envelops the rest of the country during winter, the state is bathed in sunlight," Modi said as he coined a new term -- "Ghaam Tapo Paryatan" (soak the sun tourism) -- in Garhwali language for winter tourism in the state.

Praising the Uttarakhand government for its round the year -12-month- tourism vision, he stressed the need for a "360-degree approach to tourism" to create employment opportunities for the local youth all through the year.

Tourists should come here in all seasons and there should be no off-season, the Prime minister emphasised.

PM Modi said he feels blessed to visit Goddess Ganga's winter abode in Mukhwa. "I think Maa Ganga has adopted me. It is her blessings that took me to Kashi and gave me an opportunity to serve the people," he said.

He also expressed grief and

deeply condoled the death of eight workers in the recent avalanche at a Border Roads Organisation camp in the remote Mana village in Chamoli district.

Later, the prime minister flagged off a trek and bike journey to the predominantly tribal village of Jadung from Harshil and said it is to help the border areas of Uttarakhand reap the benefits of tourism.

"We haven't forgotten that border villages were evacuated during the 1962 India-China war and efforts are being made to turn them habitable," he said at the public meeting in Harsil.

Speaking of the two major ropeway projects cleared for the state by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) headed by him on Wednesday, Modi said the ropeway to Kedarnath will reduce the eight-nine hour journey to just 30 minutes.

The CCEA had a few days ago approved two major ropeway projects to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib worth over Rs 6,000 crore. In a bid to promote religious tourism and boost the local economy, the Uttarakhand government has initiated a Winter Tourism programme this

year. Modi appealed to people to make Uttarakhand their destination for weddings and asked filmmakers that instead of going to Switzerland to shoot their movies at a much higher cost, come in the hill state for its unmatched scenic beauty and which has been adjudged the most film-friendly.

Bloggers and social media influencers should make short films on winter tourism destinations in Uttarakhand and the best works should be rewarded, the Prime minister said, adding it will go a long way in promoting winter tourism in the state.

Before reaching Harsil, Modi offered prayers at Mukhwa temple -- the winter abode of Goddess Ganga in Uttarkashi district -- amid chanting of Vedic hymns by the priests.

The locals, dressed in traditional attire, accorded a warm welcome to the prime minister through a dance performance circling him as Modi stood in the middle with folded hands. He also enjoyed the morning view of the distant snowclad peaks surrounding the area.

Mukhwa is located on the way to the Gangotri temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga. Her idol is moved to Mukhwa temple from Gangotri Dham every year after the closure of its gates for winter. This was Prime Minister Modi's second visit to Uttarakhand this year. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami extended

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4 killed, 6 injured in two road accidents in North Bengal

MI News Service, Malda: At least four people were killed and six others injured in two separate road accidents in North Bengal on Thursday, police said.

In the first accident which occurred around 5 am when a speeding vehicle hit a battery-operated rickshaw, commonly known as toto, on National Highway-512 in Hiyaghar area in Gajol, a senior officer said. "Three persons were killed on the spot and another sustained serious injuries in the hit and run case," the officer said adding soon a police team reached the spot and sent the injured to the Malda Medical College hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.

The deceased hailed from Deotala area in the same district and all of them were local fish and vegetable merchants. The victims were identified as Lalit Bhumani (60), Altaf Hussain (40), Sam-suddin Sheikh (60), and Nijamuddin Sheikh (50) and they were on way to Gajol when the accident took place. However, efforts are on to trace the killer vehicle that hit the toto.

Meanwhile, in another accident at Niya-matpur area of the same district one person was killed and five others were injured when a stone laden truck collided with a dumper before rammmed into a car showroom on the side of the road killing the security guard of the showroom and injuring five others, who were later hospitalised. The condition of at least two of the injured was stated to be

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Three-language policy is good for the unity of the country, says Kiren Rijju

MI News Service, Thiruvananthapuram: The three-language formula in the New Education Policy (NEP) is good for the unity of the country, Union Minister Kiren Rijju said on Thursday. Responding to a query regarding the ongoing serious debate on the three-language policy in the NEP, especially from the southern states, the Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs said that there are some miscommunications or some people

deliberately "trying to play politics". "The three-language policy in the national education policy is good for the whole country," the Union Minister told the reporters here. Rijju was in Thiruvananthapuram to attend the regional review meeting and training workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) for the states and union

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Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba to participate in Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi

MI News Service, New Delhi : In the backdrop of the recent showdown between the US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the White House, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba has confirmed his participation in a panel discussion on global geopolitics and geo-strategy, known as the Raisina Dialogue here from March 17. Incidentally, Raisina Dialogue is a flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy held in New Delhi every year and is participated by leaders from across the globe.

This year Sybiba's visit to New Delhi amid an internationally charged atmosphere, holds a special significance in view of the recent dressing down of the Ukrainian President by the US leadership in a bid for an early resolution of Russia-Ukraine conflict. Apart from the US President Trump, Prime minister Narendra Modi has also called for an immediate end to the three year long conflict "through dialogue and diplomacy" involving all the stakeholders in the war. Diplomatic sources said apart

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Kashmir dispute to be solved after return of 'stolen part,' remarks Jaishankar

MI News Service, London : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has emphasized that Kashmir dispute would be solved only after the "return of the stolen part of Kashmir which is under illegal Pakistani occupation."

Responding to an audience question on "solving" issues in Kashmir, Jais-

hankar stated, "On Kashmir, actually we have done, I think, a good job solving most of it."

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Wednesday batted for the unification of Kashmir, saying that the conflict in the region is "mostly solved", with New Delhi now waiting for Pakistan to "return the stolen part" of the territory.

During a session at the Chatham House think tank in London, Jaishankar responded to a question on steps taken by India to solve the Kashmir

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Haldiram's Prabhiji

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Sony AATH's 'GopalBhar' completes 10 glorious years

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sony AATH's GopalBhar, the longest-running Bengali animated show, has completed a decade of story-

telling. Launched in 2015, the show, produced by Ssoftoons Entertainment Media LLP, blends history and comedy, offering life

lessons and inspired spin-off movies. To celebrate, the company collaborated with comedian Kharaj Mukherjee to create a spe-

cial music video. GopalBhar has become a cultural staple in Kolkata and has strong demand in digital and merchandise markets.

Still Marginalized: The Struggles of Specially-Abled Individuals in Society

MI News Service, Kolkata: Despite ongoing efforts toward inclusion, specially-abled individuals continue to struggle for acceptance and adequate support. Their challenges often remain unnoticed, keeping them among the most overlooked sections of society. A tragic incident in Behala's Shakuntala Park last Friday underscored these difficulties. Swajan Das (56) and his autistic daughter, Sreeja,

ended their lives, allegedly due to anxiety about the child's future. The incident has reignited discussions about the pressing need for long-term care facilities for autistic individuals. According to central government data, the number of autism diagnoses has risen over the past decade, affecting around 1.5% of children in India. In West Bengal alone, 176 children have been officially diagnosed. Experts

emphasize the importance of emotional support and structured environments for their well-being. Recognizing this, the Matrimission & Mandir Seva Trust in Kalyani's Saguna is developing a residential care facility on a 15-katha plot. The project includes 24 residential units, a school, therapy centers, a swimming pool, and an ICU-equipped hospital—all designed to support autistic children

and their parents. Swami Sarveswaramanda Puri, leading the initiative, stated: "We worship idols, but these children are divine. Parents constantly worry about their future. This initiative ensures they are cared for, even in their absence." This marks West Bengal's first religious institution-led housing initiative for specially-abled individuals, offering hope and security to affected families.

Wildfire Erupts In Bankura's Shushunia Hills, Forest Department Scrambles

MI News Service, Bankura: A devastating wildfire has broken out in Shushunia Hills, Bankura, West Bengal, sending plumes of white smoke into the air and sparking concerns about the safety of local wildlife and vegetation. The fire, which began on Thursday morning, has spread rapidly due to the dry underbrush and leaves on the hill. This is not the first time Shushunia Hills has been ravaged by wildfires. A similar incident occurred in 2024, when a massive fire swept through the area, requiring the forest department to launch a massive effort to bring it under control. In an effort to prevent a repeat of the 2024 disaster, the forest department had implemented measures to mitigate the risk of wildfires in the area. However, despite these precautions, the latest blaze has still managed to take hold. Forest officials were quickly deployed to the scene, where they attempted to contain the fire using blowers to separate the dry underbrush. However, as of the latest reports, the fire remains uncontrolled, sparking fears about the potential impact on the local ecosystem. The forest department has expressed concerns about the potential loss of wildlife, including rare species of trees, vines, and animals, which call Shushunia Hills home. While officials have not indicated any greater danger at this time, the situation remains volatile, and efforts to contain the blaze are ongoing.

Beauty becomes first woman umpire from CAB to qualify for BCCI-Level exam

MI News Service, Kolkata: Beauty Chakraborty touches a new feat when she becomes the first cricket umpire representing Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) to qualify for BCCI level examination. Beauty, is a Physical education teacher at Aditya Academy Group of Schools. She has made history by becoming the first woman umpire from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) to qualify for the BCCI-level umpires' examination. In a landmark moment for Bengal cricket, CAB umpires' committee chairman, Prasenjit Banerjee confirmed, "Beauty Chakraborty has become the first woman umpire in the history of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) to be eligible for the BCCI-level umpires' examination." This achievement marks a significant milestone in women's representation in cricket officiating, inspiring countless aspiring umpires across the country.



Saptashati celebrates International Women's Day by felicitating nine NavDurgas: Alokanda Roy, Dancer & Social Reformer, Manoshi Roychowdhury, Co-Chairperson, Techno India Group, Riddhi Bandopadhyay, Pioneer Artist of Pancho Kabir Gaan Pancho Kabir Kanya, Dr. Sayani Palit, Playback Singer & Music Composer, Jarna Bhattacharjee, Lyricist, Writer, Poet & Eloctutionist, Santosh Kumar Giri, Secretary & Executive Director, Kolkata Risi, Anjali Roy, Dancer, Cancer Survivor, Sumita Das, Animal Lover and Monisha Pailan, Acid Attack Victim Social Activist, Brave Souls Foundation, at an event held in Kolkata on Thursday.

Dispute on setting up a new stock house, agitators locks Municipal gate

MI News Service, Nadia : The Chairman himself broke the lock to enter the Municipality. This incident took place at the Haringhata Municipality in Nadia on Thursday. As there is a vegetable market, local businessmen protested against the construction of another new vegetable market within two km. Many of the agitators allegedly were from TMC. The protesters locked the main gate of the Municipality on Thursday. After that, when the Chairman Debashish Basu was entering the municipality, he broke the lock himself. Finally, he assured a solution to the problem through a discussion at the administrative level on Friday. A discussion was held Thursday too. The discussion lasted for several hours. But no solution was found. During the discussion, the protesters locked the gate again and it was closed for about four hours. Haringhata is a significant agricultural area in Nadia district. Haringhata market is about 80 years old.



There has been a vegetable market here for last 16 years. Once there were 37 stockists here. An average of 500 farmers used to keep their raw vegetables here daily. But after establishing of the new market at Haringhata 3 months back, this market is dying, said Satya Modak, founder of the old store house. He also said that due to the move of 22 stockists from the old stock house to the new, the other related markets are also dying. It is learned that the land on which the new market was set up three months ago, belongs to a relative of the Chairman of Haringhata Municipality. It is alleged

called and asked to place their documents before the concerned authorities. The owner of the old stock house claimed that he showed all his necessary documents there. At the same time, the owner of the new stock house could not show the land and other necessary documents. The concerned authorities informed that the new stock house was illegal. After that, despite repeated promises from the chairman, it did not work. Finally, an attempt will be made to find a solution through a discussion on Friday, said Haringhata Municipality Chairman Debashish Basu. Haringhata BJP MLA Asim Sarkar said that most of the people on Thursday's movement were from Trinamool. This showed how corrupt the TMC leaders are and because of this, their party members become their opponents. He directly accused the chairman of a lot of corruption in matters related to the new stock house. However, Chairman refuted the allegation.

Jalpaiguri Court Hands Down 25- Year Rigorous Imprisonment Sentence for Sexual Harassment:

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: Not Rape, this time Jalpaiguri POCSO Court Judge Rintu Shur has sentenced a young man to 25 years rigorous imprisonment for sexually harassing a minor. It is learnt that in 2021, the young man sexually assaulted a minor girl in Dhupguri by luring her with Chocolates and stripping her naked. He then threatened her and shut her mouth. But due to fear, she developed a fever. Even then, the minor did not tell her family members out of fear. But while receiving treatment for fever, the minor broke down in tears in front of her parents. Then, when she filed a complaint at the police station, the

police arrested her. The case went on for 4 years. Today, Justice Rintu Shur sentenced the accused to 25 years in prison. At the same time, he ordered the Legal Aid Service to pay the minor a compensation of 5 lakh. The government lawyer said that the complaint was filed on August 6, 2021. The incident took place on August 3 of that year, around 4:00 pm. The girl was 18 years old at the time. She was playing in front of her house in the afternoon. The accused lived in a rented house in front of her house. At that time, the accused lured her with chocolate. He stripped the girl naked and sexually assaulted her. He threatened her and beat her.

The girl developed a high fever. When the fever came, the girl's mother took her to the doctor. According to the lawyer, "Then the doctor, understanding the matter, asked her to be taken to Jalpaiguri Hospital. They took her to a nursing home. The doctors there, understanding the matter, told her to go and contact the police station. The girl was a victim of sexual assault. The girl first told her sister everything. The police arrested the accused. Charges were framed in this case under Section 6 of the POCSO Act. 11 witnesses gave evidence on behalf of the government, and 2 testified on behalf of the accused.

'Ma' turning 'masters' for Banglar 'Mati'

MI News Service, Kolkata: It would not be an exaggeration to say that Mamata Banerjee's iconic slogan 'Ma-Mati-Manusch' is just a political narrative. It has a huge social impact in Bengali society in holistic terms as well. There should not be any doubt

that her narratives have inspired innumerable women in Bengal at different strata of the society. Plenty of Bengali women taking up Karate for self defence itself shows the spirit of 'Ma -Mati - Manusch' has gone deep into the blood vessels of the mothers of Bengal who

believe that self-defence is imperative in today's society. Breaking barriers and redefining empowerment, a group of determined women who once trained under the guidance of Hanshi Premjit Sen, President of the Karate Do Association of Ben-

gal (KAB), have now become trainers themselves. These women, many of whom are mothers, have embarked on a remarkable journey of transformation by not only mastering karate but also passing on the art of self-defense to others.

Varda Goenka Fine Jewels unveils 'The Patiala Jewels' & 'Jodhpur Jadau' in grand showcase

MI News Service, Kolkata: Varda Goenka Fine Jewels by Diagold unveiled its latest collections, The Patiala Jewels and Jodhpur Jadau, at a grand fashion event in Kolkata. The Patiala Jewels collection featured dazzling diamonds, emeralds, ru-

bies, and pearls, while the Jodhpur Jadau collection praised Rajasthan's craftsmanship. The event reinforced Diagold's reputation as a torchbearer of luxury and heritage, reflecting the city's love for regal craftsmanship.

New Howrah facility boosts sustainable plastic recycling

MI News Service, Kolkata: A new recycling facility in Howrah is set by Rungta Eco Extrusions, to bring a green revolution to plastic manufacturing. With a 17,280 MT annual capacity, the plant will produce food-grade recycled PET (rPET) granules, promoting sustainability in packaging. Experts believe this initiative will reduce plastic waste and create eco-friendly alternatives for vari-

ous industries. The facility also plans to introduce recycled polyethylene (rPE) and polypropylene (rPP), expanding sustainable options. This effort highlights a growing commitment to environmental responsibility, boosting both employment and innovation in the region. With cutting-edge technology, this plant is shaping a greener future for recycled plastics.

A near border Panchayat alone issues 2150 non institutional birth certificates in a year Investigation

MI News Service, Nadia : A near border panchayat alone has issued around 1150 'non-institutional birth certificates' in a year. After the matter of issuing this large number of certificates on the border of Chapra in Nadia came to light, an investigation was started at the administrative level. A show cause notice was also given to the employee in charge of the birth and death department of the panchayat, seeking an explanation. Since the reply was not satisfactory, this time the panchayat head himself filed a complaint against him at Chapra police station. However, the police said that the accused employee is absconding. Earlier, a similar complaint was filed against the BJP-run Bogula 2 gram panchayat in Hanskhali block. In that incident, the police arrested the secretary of the panchayat and four other temporary employees. This time, after the matter of issuing a large number of birth certificates in the Trinamool-run Hridayapur gram panchayat of Chapra block was unfolded, the district administration was



shaken. Unable to be satisfied with the reply to the letter of the panchayat employee, the head complained to the Chapra police station. After that, the opposition raised questions about the role of the head. They claim that since the certificate has the head's signature, it is not possible for anything to happen without his knowledge. According to the district administration sources, in the past one year, 1,129 'non-institutional birth certificates' have been issued from this gram panchayat. Those who were not born in government, private hospitals and nursing homes are given 'non-institutional' birth certificates. As the matter of issuing so many certificates in a year came to light, many people started questioning the role of the panchayat. An investigation has begun.

District administration officials claim that it was decided to file a police complaint against panchayat worker Ashish Karmakar only after the investigation proved irregularities. The police started the investigation after receiving the complaint on Tuesday night. On Wednesday, the investigators went to Hridayapur gram panchayat. Police said that the accused panchayat worker is absconding. Sandeep Majumdar, he media convener of BJP's Nadia North organizational district, said, "We want the police to go deep into the incident and investigate. Because it is not possible for a single employee to do this. The role of the head should also be investigated. Because he is the one who signs." Head Beauty Khatun said, "We gave the employee a show-cause notice. But his answer was not satisfactory at all, so a complaint was filed with the police." But the certificate that has the head's signature? He said, "The investigation is ongoing. So I will say what I have to say about this later."

Child's Death After Vaccination Sparks Alarm in Jalpaiguri: Investigation Underway

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: A controversy has erupted in Jalpaiguri's Lataguri area after a one-and-a-half-month-old baby girl allegedly died shortly after receiving a vaccine. The infant's family and neighbors staged a road blockade, protesting the child's death and claiming that it was caused by an adverse reaction to the vaccine. According to the child's mother, the baby was vaccinated at a local health center on Wednesday and was in good health at the time. However, the child developed a fever later that night, and after being administered fever medication, she experienced a severe sneez-

ing fit, followed by the expulsion of phlegm and blood from her nose and mouth. The child subsequently lost consciousness, and despite being rushed to Jalpaiguri Medical College's Mother and child Department, she was declared dead. The family alleges that the child's death was a direct result of the vaccine's side effects. The incident has sparked widespread outrage, with local residents blocking roads in the protest. While the district health department has yet to comment on the matter, an investigation into the circumstances surrounding the child's death is likely to be conducted.

Bangladeshi Fisheries Expert Arrest In India for Alleged Involvement in Scam

MI News Service, Hili: A 42 year old Bangladeshi national Shyam Kumar Saha was arrested by the Hili police Station on charges of creating fake Aadhar Card PAN cards. Shyam Kumar Saha a resident of Bangaon Bangladeshi had been living in India for nearly four years, posing as a fisheries expert. Two Indian nationals, Amrit Das and Alok Pal, were also arrested for allegedly

sheltering Shyam Kumar Saha and adding him in creating the fake documents. Amrit Das who runs a fish business, had been harboring Shyam Kumar Saha in his home in Trimohini area of Hili. Alok Pal, a temporary bank employee, is accused of creating the fake Aadhar Cards for Saha. The arrests were made after the police received a tip from secret sources. The

Hili police station has sought a seven-day police custody to investigate the incident further. The accused were produced in the Balurghat District Court on Thursday. DSP Headquarters Vikram Prasad addressed the media, explaining the circumstances surrounding the arrests. The incident has raised concerns about identity theft and fraud in the region.

Parents Leave Behind Two Daughters After Making Shocking Decision

MI News Service, Birbhum: In a heart-wrenching incident, a couple in Birbhum's lupur block took their own lives, unable to cope with the mounting pressure of unpaid loans and the humiliation that comes with it. The tragic events have left their two young daughters in a state of shock and uncertainty. Laxman Mukhopadhyay, 52 and his wife Banashree, residents of Babna village were struggling to make ends meet as daily wage laborers. In an attempt to alleviate their financial woes, they had borrowed money from five different private loan companies in Sainthia, Amodpur and Bolpur. However as the loan installments became due, the couple found themselves unable to repay the debts. The relentless inability to repay the debts. The relentless pressure from

loan company officials, who allegedly harassed and insulted them, pushed the couple to the brink. On Wednesday officials from one of the loan companies visited their home, demanding repayment and threatening to lock the house. The couple feeling helpless and humiliation consumed poison-laces of grief and repair and despair. The couple's two daughters, now left to fend for themselves, are struggling to come to terms with the loss of those around them, offering support and assistance, but the road ahead will undoubtedly be challenging. This tragic incident serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of unregulated lending practice and the need for greater support and protection for vulnerable families.

Trinamool Congress...

►► **From PG 1** malpractices. Since the director from Mamata Banerjee, TMC MPs, MLAs, and district leaders have been actively verifying voter lists across the state. Reports of duplicate voter IDs, individuals appearing in multiple locations, and names of living voters being removed have surfaced. The TMC leadership has accused the BJP of orchestrating a conspiracy to

include out-of-state voters in Bengal's electoral rolls by issuing multiple voter IDs under identical EPIC numbers. In a related development, TMC MP from Bardhaman-Durgapur, Kirti Azad, during a party workers' rally in Durgapur on Wednesday, claimed that the Election Commission had been used by the BJP to manipulate electoral processes in other states.

Uttarakhand is ready for...

►► **From PG 1** a warm welcome to the prime minister in a post on X. "A hearty welcome and greetings to the Prime Minister on his visit to Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, the sacred land of religion, spiritualism and sacrifice. Residents of the state are excited to receive the prime minister in

Mukhya-Harsil, a land full of spiritual and natural beauty," he said. "Certainly, this winter trip of yours will give new dimensions to the cultural, spiritual and tourism development of our state," Dhama said and hoped that Modi's visit would put Mukhya on the global tourism map.

Three-language policy is...

►► **From PG 1** territories of the Southern Region. "Today, Narendra Modi Ji is the Prime Minister of India, but Hindi is not his mother tongue; his mother tongue is Gujarati. Our Home Minister Amit Shah ji's mother tongue is Gujarati. The Education Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan, has Odia as his mother tongue and my own mother tongue is Arunachali, but we are working as a team with the interest of our country foremost," Rijiju said. So, let us not divide the country on the basis of religion or language, he added. "We are all Indians; let us work together and Prime Minister Modi ji has continuously said that every region, every community, and everybody in India is equal, and everybody will be given equal treatment for protection

and equal preference, so let us not divide the country on the basis of caste, creed, religion or community or state or region." His statement came amidst strong opposition from the Tamil Nadu government against NEP 2020, which raised concerns over the "three-language formula" and accused the Centre of "attempting to impose Hindi". Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin reiterated his firm stance, stating that he would not agree to implement the NEP even if the Centre offered Rs 10,000 crore in funding. In contrast, as per media reports, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu voiced strong support for the Centre, advocating for the learning of not just three but multiple languages.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister...

►► **From PG 1** from participating in the Raisina Dialogue, Sybilia is expected to hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on the sidelines of the three day international conference, being held from March 17 to 19. New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will be the chief guest at the Raisina Dialogue, while several other European leaders, ministers and senior officials from Turkey, Lithuania,

Slovenia, Italy, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, and Estonia will also take part on different sessions. The organiser of the Raisina Dialogue has also extended an invitation to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. However, a diplomatic source said that he might not be able to attend the event due to scheduling issues. However, several people from Russian think tanks will take part in the dialogue.

Kashmir dispute to be...

►► **From PG 1** issue, and said that the abrogation of Article 370 was the first step in that direction. Responding to the audience question, Jaishankar said, "Removing Article 370 was step number one, restoring growth and economic activity and social justice in Kashmir was step number two, and holding elections with a very high turnout was step number three. "Think the part we are waiting for is the return of the stolen part of Kashmir which is under illegal Pakistani occupation. When that is done, I assure you Kashmir will be solved," the External Affairs Minister said. In October last year India and Pakistan had the first direct conversation at the Foreign Ministers level since 2015 when Jaishankar had visited Islamabad for The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation meeting. Jaishankar and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar had spoken twice in less than 24 hours, and there were indications that these talks explored the idea of resuming some form of cricketing ties between the two countries. During a session titled 'India's rise and role in the world' at the Chatham House, Jaishankar touched on many issues such as US President Donald Trump's new administration, the UK-India free trade agreement and the relations be-

tween India and China. While speaking on Indian relationship with China, Jaishankar said the countries have a "unique relationship", and noted development in ties since October 2024, including the Mount Kailash pilgrimage. "We want a relationship where our interests are heard, sensitivities are recognised and works for both of us," he said. Speaking on US tariffs under the new Republican administration, Jaishankar said that Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal is in Washington to discuss the future of a bilateral trade pact, following the meeting between Prime Minister Modi and US President Donald Trump. "We had a very open conversation about it (tariffs) and the result of the conversation was that we agreed on the need of a bilateral trade agreement," he said. During his interaction at the Chatham House, EAM Jaishankar said that the US administration under President Donald Trump is moving towards multipolarity which suits India's interests, and the two nations have agreed on the need for a bilateral trade pact. "We see a President and an administration which, in our parlance, is moving towards multipolarity and that is something that suits India," said Jaishankar, who is on a six-day visit to the UK and Ireland

4 killed, 6 injured in two...

►► **From PG 1** critical, hospital sources said. Meanwhile, earlier last week in a similar accident four people were also killed as their car collided head-on with a dumper in Old Malda town on Sunday, police said. The accident took place near Ahora bridge on National Highway 34 under the Gajole police station area at around 12 pm at midnight on Sunday last, they said. The vehicle, which had a government of West Bengal sticker on it, was on its way from Raiganj with four people, including the driver, when the accident occurred, police said. Among the deceased was an eight-year-old boy, who died on the spot and a young woman, who was critically injured but died on way to the Gajole Rural Hospital, police said.

Fake caste certificates used to secure police jobs: Kolkata police launches probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Police has initiated a verification process regarding alleged cases of fake Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates used to secure constable positions. The Lalbazar headquarters has formally reached out to various district administrations across West Bengal, seeking reports on caste certificates submitted by candidates appointed as constables.

According to police sources, officials have requested district administrations to validate the authenticity of caste certificates presented by individuals who secured jobs in Kolkata Police. The move comes after serious allegations were raised by the West Bengal Tribal Welfare Association, claiming that over a hundred constables had obtained jobs in 2012 by submitting fraudulent ST certificates. Following these complaints, Lalbazar launched an internal investigation. The Central Reserve Office issued instructions for all constables recruited through caste-based reservations to resubmit their caste certificates and related documents. Reports suggest that a large number of documents have already been submitted, and a detailed examination is now underway.

In the next phase, district administrations have been tasked with cross-checking the submitted documents. Kolkata Police has asked for official reports from the respective district authorities to confirm whether these candidates were genuinely eligible for reservation benefits or had secured their positions through fraudulent means.

Kasba tragedy: One arrested as police investigation expands

MI News Service, Kolkata: The tragic case of the triple deaths in Haltu has taken a new turn with the arrest of a bank recovery agent. Police detained Chanchal Mukhopadhyay, who allegedly harassed and humiliated Somnath Roy and his family over a pending loan repayment. With this latest arrest, the total number of detainees in the case has risen to three.

The case came to light last Tuesday when officers from Kasba Police Station arrived at a residence in Haltu's Purba Palli. There, they discovered a horrifying scene—auto driver Somnath Roy hanging from the ceiling, with his young son Rudranil strapped to his chest. Nearby, the lifeless body of his wife, Sumitra, was also found hanging. Initial assessments suggested that Somnath may have killed his child before taking his own life.



TMC Ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya, Firhad Hakim, Subrata Bakshi, and Aroop Biswas, along with other MPs and MLAs, visited the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer to address alleged manipulations in voters registrations, in Kolkata on Thursday.

TMC to hold Women's Day rally, unveils new slogan for 50th anniv

MI News Service, Kolkata: Every year, the Trinamool Mahila Congress organizes a grand rally on International Women's Day, often led by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. As the world marks the 50th anniversary of Women's Day, the Trinamool Congress has introduced a new slogan, which will be the focal point of this year's celebrations. The party's women's wing will take to the streets, championing this slogan in a large-scale rally from Rabindra Sadan to Dorina Crossing. Thousands of women, led by Chandrima Bhattacharya, the Minister and President of the Trinamool Mahila Congress, are expected to join the march.

The rally is scheduled for Saturday at 4 PM and will be complemented by district-level programs organized by the party's women's wing across Bengal. Women voters have played a crucial role in Trinamool Congress' electoral successes in recent years, making this event strategically significant ahead of the 2026 Bengal Assembly elections. The party aims to highlight its social welfare schemes for women through this initiative. Political analysts believe that in this context, the march will hold deep electoral significance. The rally will also showcase Bengal's rich cultural heritage, featuring Baul musicians and folk artists, making it a blend of political messaging and cultural representation. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee remains a trusted figure among Bengal's women. Even opposition parties acknowledge that the women's vote bank is a major pillar of Tri-

namool Congress' electoral strength. Initiatives like Lakshmir Bhandar, Rupashree, and Kanyashree have significantly impacted women's lives, reinforcing the party's commitment to their welfare. With International Women's Day approaching, Trinamool Congress is utilizing this opportunity to connect directly with women voters. The party's campaign is strategically aimed at strengthening its grassroots outreach among female voters in Bengal.

Trinamool Congress has already set its sights on the 2026 elections, with women's empowerment being a key theme in its political strategy. This year's Women's Day slogan, "Naridibas 50 Bochhore, Didi Banglar Ghore Ghore" (Women's Day at 50, Didi in Every Home in Bengal), encapsulates this sentiment. The rally's theme and messaging have been carefully crafted to reflect this idea.

Finance Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya emphasized that, in light of the ongoing Higher Secondary Examinations, the rally will be conducted without loudspeakers to ensure minimal disruption. She also reiterated that Trinamool Congress has always prioritized women's representation, boasting the highest number of female MPs in Parliament, with 39% of its Lok Sabha representatives being women. Through this grand rally, Trinamool Congress aims to strengthen its connection with women voters, reaffirming its position as the leading political force advocating for women's empowerment in Bengal.

Strict regulations imposed on municipal recruitment in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a decisive move, the West Bengal government has imposed strict regulations on recruitment in municipal bodies, preventing them from hiring employees arbitrarily. Going forward, all municipal recruitments must be conducted exclusively through the West Bengal Municipal Commission (WBMSC). This directive comes after multiple complaints reached Nabanna about municipalities appointing personnel without following due procedures. The state government has now made it clear that no local-level recruitment will be allowed—only recruitments through WBMSC will be deemed valid.

Three days ago, during an industrial meeting, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed strong discontent over unauthorised hiring in several municipalities. She emphasized that such re-

crutments are creating significant administrative and financial burdens for the state government. Consequently, she issued a firm directive that no municipal recruitment should take place without the involvement of WBMSC. This decision follows a recent Calcutta High Court ruling, which stated that contract-based municipal employees recruited during the Left Front government's tenure were not entitled to pensions or retirement benefits, as those appointments had no official state government approval. The ruling prompted the Chief Minister to take immediate action regarding municipal recruitment policies. The state government has been facing severe scrutiny over recruitment corruption, with allegations extending to municipal appointments as well. Several individuals, including Ayan Sil, have been arrested in connection with

Patient left unattended at R.G. Kar, allegations against Junior Docs' Front

MI News Service, Kolkata: A patient at R.G. Kar Medical College Hospital reportedly lay untreated for three hours on Wednesday, sparking serious allegations against members of the Junior Doctors' Front (JDF). In a shocking turn of events, the patient's family was allegedly coerced into signing a blank paper as a statement, under pressure from the left-affiliated doctors' association. The incident unfolded around 4 PM when Geeta Ghosh brought her 40-year-old brother, Sujit Ghosh, to the emergency department of the hospital. Sources reveal that Sujit had consumed poison following a domestic dispute. After completing the registration process,

Geeta waited for medical assistance, but no doctor attended to Sujit, who was writhing in pain. Despite her repeated pleas, no one came to his aid until 7:30 PM. Hospital sources indicate that Dr. Satish, a first-year post-graduate trainee on duty, was allegedly preoccupied with his mobile phone during the crucial hours. Notably, this same doctor was part of a controversial strike organized by the Junior Doctors' Front in August last year, following the tragic death of a young female doctor. That strike had left countless patients without medical care, and Wednesday's incident further cemented allegations of negligence and irresponsibility against the group.

Legal battle over oath-taking: Guv and CM advised to settle over tea

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata High Court Justice Krishna Rao has remarked that the ongoing legal dispute between West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee over the oath-taking of legislators is not favorable for anyone. Instead of resorting to legal proceedings, he suggested resolving the issue amicably over tea.

The controversy arose during the Lok Sabha elections when by-polls were conducted in two assembly constituencies, Baranagar and Bhagabangola. The Trinamool Congress secured victory in both seats. However, a dispute over the swearing-in ceremony led to complications. At the time, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, along with three other Trinamool leaders, openly criticized the Governor's role in the matter. In response, Governor Bose filed a legal

case against them. During the hearing on Thursday, Justice Krishna Rao proposed the idea of "Chai Pe Charcha" (discussion over tea) to resolve the matter. One of the Chief Minister's legal representatives stated that they had no objection to the court's suggestion but preferred it to be mentioned in an official directive. In response, the judge clarified that, for now, it remains an oral recommendation, but a formal order could be issued if necessary.

Meanwhile, senior lawyer Kalyan Banerjee, representing Mamata Banerjee, welcomed the suggestion but emphasized that political figures should exhibit greater tolerance. The Governor's legal counsel also countered with their perspective. The next hearing on the case is scheduled for April 9.

Security enhanced for Bratya Basu After JU incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the wake of the Jadavpur University unrest, the West Bengal government has upgraded the security cover of Education Minister Bratya Basu to Z-category. The move comes after a violent student protest erupted at the university on Saturday, during the annual general meeting of WEBKUPA (West Bengal College and University Professors' Association).

Members of left-wing student unions staged demonstrations, demanding student union elections. The minister's vehicle was surrounded, and protestors shouted slogans, intensifying the situation. Reports suggest that Bratya Basu and several professors were ha-

rrassed during the incident. WEBKUPA, in a press conference, claimed that the attack on the minister's car was pre-planned. The situation escalated as protesters stormed the meeting venue, and when the minister attempted to leave, his car was attacked. Allegedly, the vehicle's windows were shattered, and Basu sustained injuries in the scuffle.

The incident has now reached the Calcutta High Court, with a case filed against the police for inaction. Meanwhile, 48 individuals have been charged by Kolkata Police in connection with the incident. Amid these developments, the state government has reinforced Basu's security arrangements.

State surpasses several states in central edu loan scheme

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a surprising twist, West Bengal has outpaced BJP-ruled states in leveraging a central government initiative aimed at boosting higher education. The latest findings, revealed in a report by the Ministry of Education, have sparked widespread discussion, as the data highlights a concerning trend for BJP-governed states and a notable achievement for Bengal.

The report discusses the Prime Minister's Higher Education Financial Assistance Scheme (PM-HEFA) under the Central Sector Interest Subsidy Scheme (CSIS), which is designed to provide financial aid for higher education to economically disadvantaged students. The scheme supports various categories, including minorities, specially-abled individuals, Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and women, with loans up to 10 lakh for pursuing higher studies. Surprisingly, while the scheme is aimed at helping economically weaker students, BJP-ruled states have shown a noticeable reluctance in utilizing the initiative, with many of these states not fully availing the available benefits. According to the report, despite the availability of such programs, BJP-governed states have lagged behind in terms of participation, which is in stark contrast to West Bengal's performance, where the state government has aggressively encouraged students to avail of such opportunities.

From January 1 to December 31, 2023, a total of 358,475 applications were submitted for the CSIS

scheme, with non-BJP states occupying the top three positions. Karnataka led with 68,657 applications, followed by Tamil Nadu with 67,419, and Kerala in third with 64,434 applications. This data reveals a surprising trend: BJP-ruled states are significantly lagging behind in participation, with states like Assam filing fewer than 1,500 applications, and Tripura—a state where BJP topped the CPI(M)—reporting only 576 applications.

Even more striking, the state of Gujarat, the home of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, only saw a little over 4,000 applications. Similarly, Haryana and several other BJP-ruled states also exhibited a lackluster response, with Haryana managing fewer than 3,500 applications. In contrast, West Bengal—which has its own robust higher education schemes—reported 8,688 applications, surpassing the majority of BJP-ruled states. While Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh did manage to secure decent numbers (with 34,364 and 17,467 applications respectively), West Bengal's performance stands out as an achievement. This data underscores the growing educational divide in the country, particularly between states governed by the BJP and others. While West Bengal continues to excel in educational schemes, providing ample opportunities for its students, BJP-ruled states are facing questions about the effectiveness and accessibility of central government schemes aimed at fostering educational advancement.

Threw Garbage from a Moving Train, Lost the Job

MI News Service, Kolkata: When a video of a sanitation worker throwing garbage onto the tracks from a moving train surfaced on social media, the railway conducted a thorough investigation. The employee was identified as Kanchan Lal. The railway took strict action against the company providing onboard housekeeping services. The company was found guilty of violating Clause 9 of the cleanliness contract. As a result, the Prayagraj division imposed a fine of ₹25,000 on the contractor. Additionally, the contractor was issued a strict warning that any future violations would lead to even harsher penalties. In its clarification to the railway, the company stated that Kanchan Lal was assigned duty on February 28 on train number 04115, Subedarganj-Lokmanya Tilak Special. He was instructed not to throw garbage on the tracks, but he acted negligently. Following complaints on social media, he was removed from duty. The railway has directed all onboard housekeeping service providers to train their employees on proper waste disposal, ensuring that garbage is not thrown from moving trains. Employees must be provided with large waste collection bags, and all garbage should be gathered and disposed of at designated stations or at the train's final destination at the garbage collection points.

Blackstone very close to acquire Kolkata's South City mall

MI News Service, Kolkata: US investment giant Blackstone is close to clinching a deal to purchase Kolkata's iconic South City Mall, for as much as \$400 million (Rs 3,480 crore), marking one of the biggest Indian mall acquisitions. The mall, which opened in 2008, has become one of the city's most popular shopping hubs thanks to its prime south Calcutta location. Spanning over one million square feet, the mall is home to around 170 stores, including international brands like Zara and Marks & Spencer along with popular domestic retail chains. It also has a mix of cinemas, food courts and restaurants. The proposed purchase would mark the \$1-trillion asset manager's entry into malls in Kolkata, adding to its retail property holdings. Through its Nexus Select Trust, a real estate investment trust, Blackstone has a portfolio of around 18 malls in 14 cities in India, and it has already invested \$20 billion in Indian office space and hotels. Blackstone is aiming to tap into consumer spending, which drives almost 60 per cent of India's gross domestic product, Bloomberg said. As part of that strategy, it has invested in warehouses to be present in the e-commerce supply chain, and buying the mall would extend its retail presence to brick-and-mortar stores. One report indicates that a school in Colombo, Sri Lanka, will also be part of the deal. The Kolkata-based real estate developers also controlled projects in Colombo. There are indications that they were rattled by the island's political upheavals and selling South City would help reduce borrowings.

"Who has stopped, have we ever said don't bring it back...": Omar Abdullah refers to Jaishankar's remarks on PoK

MI News Service, Srinagar: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday took potshots at the BJP members in assembly over some of the decisions of the party-led government at the Centre, saying it had divided Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories, which is not how the then Maharaja Hari Singh shaped it. The Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister also referred to a recent remark of External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and asked who is stopping the BJP government from "bringing back" Pakistan Occupied Kashmir. "If we look at the legacy of Maharaja Sahab, what were the biggest things - Jammu and Kashmir state, what have you done to this...He gave it shape... one portion is in Pakistan occupation. On this, the Foreign Minister said that we will bring it back. Who stopped...have we ever said don't bring it back...Congress was targeted in speeches here by BJP members) that you left this, that...tell what was brought back during the Kargil War. That was an opportunity you should have brought back. You had a reason, Pakistan had attacked...should have done at that time...okay bring it back now," Omar Abdullah said. The National Conference leader said that in the map of Jammu and Kashmir, one portion is under Pakistan occupation, but there is a portion under the illegal occupation of China as well. "Why is not talked of, when you bring back from that side, bring back that with China also," he said. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, at an event at Chatham House in London as part of his visit to the United Kingdom, referred to steps taken by the BJP-led government to usher speedy delimitation including abrogation of Article 370, restoring growth and economic and holding elections which saw high turnout.



Aadharc card enrolment was done at St. Joseph's Old Age Home in the presence of Ward No. 63 Councillor and Borough Chairperson Susmitha Bhattacharya and Ward Trinamool President Bablu Paine and Haji Mukhtar on Thursday

Gujarat govt signs MoU with Lions Clubs International Foundation to provide nutrition kits to TB patients

MI News Service, Gandhinagar: Under the chairmanship of Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, an MoU was signed between the State Health and Family Welfare Department and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) in Gandhinagar on Thursday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has resolved to make India TB-free by 2025. Under the leadership of Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, the State Government has taken this step in Gujarat's commitment to fulfill this resolution of the Prime Minister, said an official release. Under this MoU, the Lions Clubs International Foundation will join hands with TB patients as a Nikshay Mitra and contribute to a TB-free India by providing nutrition kits. On this occasion, the State Health and Family Welfare Minister Hrishikesh Patel was present. Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel expressed his confidence that if the commitment of voluntary organisations is added to the efforts of the State Government, then the Prime Minister's vision of a TB-free India will definitely be realised. Along with treatment, TB patients also need nutritious food. Therefore, as TB patients are detected and put under treatment, these patients need Nikshay Mitra for nutrition kits. Under the TB-free India campaign of the Central Government, to accelerate the eradication work, the President has also urged the corporate sector, voluntary organisations, elected representatives, political parties, and institutions to organise a new initiative to ensure that TB patients get nutritious food, vocational support, diagnosis and other necessities. So far, about 10,555 Nikshay Mitras have been registered in the Nikshay portal under this campaign, and 3,49,534 nutrition kits have been distributed to TB patients for nutritious food. Lions Clubs International Foundation has shown enthusiasm to become Nikshay Mitras under the TB-Free India campaign and provide nutrition kits to TB patients, as part of which a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to adopt TB patients and provide nutrition support. Under this MoU, Lions Clubs International will provide nutrition kits to all the needy TB patients identified by the state government every month till the treatment continues. On this occasion, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Shri M. K. Das, Principal Secretary to the Health Department Shri Dhananjay Dwivedi, Secretary to the Chief Minister Smt. Avantika Singh, Health Commissioner Shri Harshad Patel, Dr. Ratan Kanwar Gadhvi Charan, Lions Clubs International Foundation office bearers Shri Rameshbhai Prajapati, Frank Moore and high officials of the Health Department were present.

ED raids in SDPI hideouts

MI News Service, Kochi/New Delhi: Union Minister for Minority Affairs Kiren Rijji defended ED raids in SDPI offices saying that all the actions by the enforcement agencies are based on certain facts and figures. Responding to a query, while interacting with reporters, on the Enforcement Directorate raids as part of a money laundering investigation against SDPI, purportedly the political outfit of the banned jihadi organization Popular Front of India (PFI), he said: "All the actions by the enforcement agencies are based on certain facts and figures which I can't comment on." He was in Thiruvananthapuram to attend the regional review meeting and training workshop on the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PM-JVK) for the states and union territories of the Southern Region.

India needs to attract MSMEs from other nations: NITI VC

MI News Service, New Delhi: India needs to attract MSMEs from other countries to drive competitiveness and integrate small and medium enterprises with larger supply chains to achieve 7-8 per cent economic growth, NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery said. Addressing an event organised by industry body CII, Bery said that India will have to attract micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) from other countries to be fully competitive. "We have miles to go to keep up with China. Because China was successful in attracting the big boys," he said.

CISF creates domain experts to become future-ready

MI News Service, Chennai: The CISF has created experts in ten domains including aviation security, Information Technology, anti-drone solutions, and fire management to enhance its surveillance and security of national assets, its Director General Rajwinder Singh Bhatti said. These domain experts will also be from other fields like training, battle craft, weapons & tactics will undergo advanced training soon and will become the drivers of new knowledge, technology, and skill in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), he said. "This new initiative will make CISF a future-ready force... Our aim is to build a force that offers world-class security solutions by bringing new technology, and new skills into the sector," Bhatti told reporters here while speaking in connection with the 56th CISF Raising Day to be observed on March 7 at Rajadithya Chozhan RTC, Thakkolam, in which Union Home Minister Amit Shah will be the chief guest.

Karnataka govt tables Microfinance Bill in Assembly

MI News Service, Bengaluru: The Karnataka government on Thursday introduced a bill in the Assembly aimed at protecting borrowers from harassment by microfinance institutions (MFIs), with penal provisions including a jail term up to 10 years and fines of Rs five lakh for violations. The Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Bill, 2025, was tabled by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H K Patil on behalf of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The bill seeks to replace The Karnataka Micro Loan and Small Loan (Prevention of Coercive Actions) Ordinance that was promulgated on February 12.

Haryana Assembly budget session from March 7 to 28, budget to be presented on March 17

MI News Service, Chandigarh: Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday said that the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) of the Haryana Assembly has finalized the schedule for the upcoming budget session. The state's annual budget will be presented on March 17, while the session will run from March 7 to March 28. During the BAC meeting, changes to the proposed budget session schedule were approved. In a press conference after the meeting, Saini said, "The session of the Assembly will begin tomorrow with the Governor's address. Right now, it will run till March 28, and if there is a need to extend it, it can be extended further in the BAC (Business Advisory Council) meeting; it has been discussed now... This is the first budget session of the government... This was also discussed in the BAC meeting today... The budget will be presented on March 17." The Haryana CM also informed that the government will introduce some important bills during the budget session. CM Saini also targeted Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann over the farmers' agitation in Punjab and said, "Earlier, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann used to provoke the farmers. We used to ask him not to do so because we understand the pain of the farmers. I am also a farmer's son. I know the hardship of farmer lives." "We had earlier bought 14 crops on MSP and today we are buying 100% of crops on MSP... I had suggested to the Punjab government that you should go among the farmers and assure them... Why are they not buying the crops on MSP?... I would like to tell the Chief Minister of Punjab that you should work to strengthen the farmers, do not use lathi on them," he added. Meanwhile, Haryana Minister Anil Vij, said that all parties agreed on the necessity of a new Assembly building, citing the expected increase in the number of MLAs to 120 in the near future. Speaking to the media, Anil Vij said, "It (Haryana Assembly Budget Session) will begin tomorrow and go on till March 28... There was also a discussion regarding the new Vidhan Sabha. We have identified a place, and now the CM will speak to the Chandigarh administration regarding the cost... Everyone has agreed that a new Vidhan Sabha is needed because the no. of MLAs will increase to 120 in the coming time and that many MLAs cannot be accommodated in the current Vidhan Sabha..." Another Haryana Minister, Mahipal Dhandha, said, "The budget session will go on till March 28. The budget will be tabled on March 17... The Leader of Opposition has not yet been chosen because they either don't trust their MLAs or they don't have anyone eligible..." Earlier, CM Nayab Saini, who also holds the finance portfolio, attended a two-day 'pre-budget consultation' meeting in Panchkula, which concluded on Tuesday. The event brought together all Ministers, MLAs, and Administrative Secretaries to provide valuable insights and suggestions for the upcoming state budget for the financial year 2025-26. Everyone provided valuable suggestions to help realize the vision of an inclusive budget, a statement said.

Babulal Marandi appointed BJP legislative party leader in Jharkhand

MI News Service, Ranchi: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday appointed its Jharkhand unit president Babulal Marandi as the leader of its legislative party in the state assembly. Marandi, a former Chief Minister of state, said the party will continue to raise issues concerning the Dalits, the tribals and women. "The people of Jharkhand, the poor of Jharkhand, the Dalits, the tribals, women, they are our priority. We will fight for them in the House as well as outside the House," Marandi told ANI. Marandi was elected leader of the BJP Legislative Party in the presence of central observers - Union Forest and Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav and president of the party's OBC Morcha, K Laxman. "Today, in the meeting of the legislative party held in the presence of Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav ji, the observer appointed for the leader of the legislative party, and the National President of OBC Front K Laxman ji, the State President Babulal Marandi ji was elected as the leader of the legislative party," BJP Jharkhand posted on X. Bhupendra Yadav and K Laxman were assigned the responsibility of supervising the process. BJP lost the assembly polls last year in Jharkhand. The ruling JMM returned to power along with its allies.

RSS leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi says remarks on Marathi misconstrued

MI News Service, Mumbai: Senior Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) leader Bhaiyyaji Joshi clarified on Thursday that his remarks on Marathi were misconstrued. "Due to one of my statements, a misunderstanding has occurred. There is no question that the language of Mumbai is not Marathi. The language of Maharashtra is Marathi. Mumbai is in Maharashtra, and naturally, the language of Mumbai is Marathi. Different languages are spoken in India. People speaking different languages live in Mumbai as well. So, it is a natural expectation that they should also come here and learn Marathi, understand Marathi and read Marathi," the RSS leader told ANI. He further highlighted Mumbai's status as a model of linguistic harmony, stating, "I think that this is a great example of co-existence that people speaking so many different languages in India live together. I think that Mumbai is also an ideal example of this. But there is a natural expectation that a person coming to Mumbai should understand Marathi, speak Marathi, learn Marathi, and read Marathi. This is the only expectation." Further, Joshi highlighted that although his mother tongue is Marathi, he respects all languages. "I have nothing more to say than this... My mother tongue is Marathi. But I also respect the existence of all languages... I request everyone to see it from the same perspective," he further said. Yesterday, speaking during an event in Mumbai, RSS Senior leader Suresh Bhaiyyaji Joshi, said that those coming to Mumbai need not learn Marathi. He also said that Gujarati is the "language of the Ghatkopar area in Mumbai." Joshi had said, "It is not necessary for everyone to know Marathi."

OFFICE OF THE AMLAI GRAM PANCHAYAT BHARATPUR-I DEV. BLOCK MURSHIDABAD Corrigendum CHANGES THE CRITICAL DATES OF THE FOLLOWING NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER NO.: 10/AM/LAIGP/2024-2025. Document Download end Date & Time: 11/03/25 11:00am Last Date & Time of Online Submission Technical & Financial Bid: 11/03/2025. Date & Time of Opening Technical bid of the office of the Proddhan Amlai Gram Panchayat: 13/03/2025 Details see: www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Proddhan Amlai Gram Panchayat

Ramkrishnapur Gram Panchayat, Singherhat, kulpi e-Tender is invited by the undersigned for 1. NIT No- KULPI/RMGPU/NIT-05 /2024 Date: 04/03/2025 Last Date of Dropping: 13/03/2025 up to 5.00PM Details available at the office of the undersigned in the Website: https://wbtenders.gov.in/nicgep/app Sd/- Proddhan Ramkrishnapur Gram Panchayat

Dehatipur Gram Panchayat Dehatipur, Alati, Puraahar, Hooghly Notice Inviting e-Tender e-NIT vide NIT No: 14/DGP/24-25 (SI no. 1 to 9), Fund: 15th FC and NIT vide NIT No: 14/DGP/24-25 (SI no. 1 to 1), Fund: 5th SFC, Dated: 06/03/2025 are invited by the Proddhan Dehatipur Gram Panchayat, from reliable and bonafied Tenderer for work. Online EMD & Tender fees through ICICI Bank Payment Gateway in e-procurement portal for deposit from 06/03/2025 to 13/03/2025. Bid submission closing online on 13/03/2025 at 17:30 Hrs. Date of Bid Opening 17.03.2025 (11:30 O'Clock). For details contact the above office or visit https://wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Proddhan Dehatipur Gram Panchayat

Bandel Gram Panchayat Manushpur Basti, Bandel, Chinsurah, Hooghly, 712123 Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tender is invited from bonafied and resourceful Agency for Memo No.: 15B/BGP/24-25 (SI. No. 1 to 2), Date: 06.03.2025. Fund: 15th FC. Publish, Documents Download/Sell & Bid Submission Start Date (Online): 06.03.2025 from 06:55 PM. Bid Submission Closing (Online): 12.03.2025 up to 03:00 PM. Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposals (Online): 14.03.2025 at 10:30 AM. For more details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & undersigned GP Office. Sd/- Proddhan Bandel Gram Panchayat

E-tenders are invited by Proddhan, Vedia Gram Panchayat under Aushgram-II Dev. Block, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, from resourceful / bonafide contractors with experience and requisite credential from 15th FC fund vide ID: 2025_ZPHD_823462_1to 4 Date of closing for submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 13/03/2025 up to 5.00 PM.2025_ZPHD_824117_1 Date of closing for submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 19/03/2025 up to 2PM, 2025_ZPHD_824140_1 to 4 Date of closing for submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 17/03/2025 up to 2.00 PM. For Details Visit the website: http://wbtenders.gov.in

Memari-II Panchayat Samity Paharhati, Purba Bardhaman e-Tender Notice e-Tender is invited vide NIT No.: 90/2024-25 & Memo No.: 303, Date: 05.03.2025, for 01 no. scheme under Memari-II Panchayat Samity, Documents download/sell end date (Online) for Bid Submission upto 13.03.2025 for detail information please contact with Memari-II PS office notice board/SAE Section and go through e-Tender site www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/- Executive Officer, Memari-II Panchayat Samity

Annan Gram Panchayat Annan, Pawnan, Hooghly Notice Inviting e-Tender Proddhan, Annan Gram Panchayat have invited e-Tender vide e-TENDER NOTICE MEMO NO. :- 50/AGP/2025, Date : 06.03.2025. Bidders are advise to visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & Undersigned GP office for details. Sd/- Proddhan Annan Gram Panchayat

আমোক্তারনামা গীষু মন্ডল, পিতা- দিলীপ মন্ডল, সাং- ৩নং, আর.এন. নিয়োগী লেন, পোঃ ও থানা-ভদ্রেশ্বর, জেলা-হুগলী বিত্ত ইংরেজি ১৫.০৩.২০২৪ তারিখে হুগলী-২ এ.ডি.এস.আর. অফিসে প্রেক্ষিতিকৃত ২১৭৪ নং আমোক্তারনামা দিল্লি মূল্যে পার্শ্ব মন্ডল, পিতা দিলীপ মন্ডল, সাং- ৩ নং আর.এন. নিয়োগী লেন, পোঃ ও থানা-ভদ্রেশ্বর, জেলা-হুগলী-কে আমোক্তারনামা নিষ্পত্তি করেন। যার তপশীল জেলা-হুগলী, থানা-ভদ্রেশ্বর, নিয়োগী বীহার ২১৪ নং জে.জে.এ.এ.এ. ১১১৭, ২৩৩৬ এর অফিস আর.এস. ১৮৭৫ তথা এল.আর. ১১৮৮ নং দাগে যোগ্য আনাম ৬ শতক কলাবাগান মধ্যে ০.৬ শতক সম্পত্তি ও এল.আর. বর্তমান ৬৭৬, ৭৬/৩, ১৯২২, ১০৬১, ১১১৭ এর অফিস আর.এস. ১৮৭৫ তথা হাল এল.আর. ১১১৮/২৬৭৫ নং দাগে যোগ্য আনাম ১০ শতক পানান জমির মধ্যে ০.৬ শতক সম্পত্তি অত্র দিল্লি আমোক্তারনামা সম্পত্তি হইতেছে। এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা হইতেছে যে কাহারো যদি কোন আইনানুগ আদিষ্ট বা অধিকার থাকে তাহার জন্য সঠিক পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করে ১ মাসের মধ্যে পার্শ্ব মন্ডল, পিতা দিল্লি মন্ডল-কে জানাইতে হবে।

Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat Notice Inviting e-Tender Notice Inviting e-Tender 4 (Four) no work of 15th FC Fund FY-2024-25 Within Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat Will be available at http://wbtenders.gov.in 1) 2025_ZPHD_823837_1 2) 2025_ZPHD_823851_1 3) 2025_ZPHD_823857_1 4) 2025_ZPHD_823876_1 Submission closing date (online): 13/03/2025 at 04.00 PM. Sd/-Proddhan Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat

PEOPLE WITH ESSENTIAL TREMOR MAY BE AT HIGHER RISK OF DEMENTIA

MINNEAPOLIS: People suffering from essential tremor, a movement disorder marked by involuntary shaking, are three times more likely to have dementia than the general population, according to studies. The findings will be presented at the American Academy of Neurology's 76th Annual Meeting, which will take place in Denver and online from April 13 to 18, 2024.

Essential tremor is the most common tremor disorder, even more prevalent than Parkinson's disease. In addition to arm and hand tremors, people may have uncontrollable shaking of the head, jaw, and voice.

"While many people living with essential tremor experience mild tremor, in some individuals, the tremor can be quite severe," said study author Elan D. Louis, MD, MSc, at University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas and a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurology. "Not only do tremors affect a person's ability to complete daily tasks such as writing and eating, our study suggests that people with essential tremor also have an increased risk of developing dementia."

The study involved 222 people with essential tremor who had an average age of 79 at the start of the study. They took thinking and memory tests to determine whether they had normal cognitive skills, mild cognitive impairment or dementia at the start of the study.

Participants then had follow-up exams every 1.5 years for an average of five years.

Of this group, 168 people had normal cognitive skills, 35 had mild cognitive impairment and 19 had dementia at the start of the study.

During the study, 59 developed mild cognitive impairment and 41 developed dementia. Researchers then compared the rate at which people developed mild cognitive impairment and dementia, as well as the prevalence of these conditions, to the rates and prevalence for the general population. They also compared participants to the rates and prevalence for people with Parkinson's disease.

Researchers found 19% of participants had or developed dementia during the study, and each year an average of 12% of people diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment went on to develop dementia. These rates were three times higher than the rates in the general population. However, the rates were lower than those seen in people with Parkinson's disease, a population for which dementia is more prevalent. Researchers also found that 27% of participants had or developed mild cognitive impairment during the study, a rate almost double that of the rate of 14.5% for the general population, but less than the rate of 40% for people with Parkinson's disease. "While the majority of people with essential tremor will not develop dementia, our findings provide the basis for physicians to educate people with essential tremor and their families."

Many individuals with type 2 diabetes lack potentially life-saving information regarding their illness

LAUSANNE [SWITZERLAND] : Type 2 diabetes (T2D), a chronic condition affecting hundreds of millions of people worldwide, is commonly caused by the body's inability to make enough insulin or use it correctly.

To avoid negative outcomes and long-term complications such as limb amputation or heart problems, patients must understand how to manage the condition on a daily basis. A team of researchers in Portugal has now assessed how many patients - both insulin-treated and not insulin-treated - have this crucial knowledge about T2D. They published their findings in *Frontiers in Public Health*.

Scientists found that many people with type 2 diabetes know little about their condition, indicating a need to improve communication about the disease.

"Our main motivation was to contribute to the reduction of the existing disparity in the knowledge that diabetic patients have regarding their disease," said first author Prof Pedro Lopes Ferreira, director of the Center for Health Studies and Research of the University of Coimbra. "With this study we evidenced the need to improve the disease knowledge of type 2 diabetic patients."

Knowledge levels vary widely. To measure diabetes knowledge, the researchers employed a test designed for persons with type 1 or type 2 diabetes. The test, among other things, asks about



diet, signs and symptoms, and medication control. The research included 1,200 diabetics, over 40 per cent of whom were treated with insulin. The remainder of the sample followed particular diets, with some also using non-insulin oral antidiabetics, while others depended only on food.

The results showed that many participants (71.3 per cent) could answer food-related questions correctly, and that more

than four out of five respondents demonstrated good knowledge of the positive impact of physical activity. More than 75 per cent of respondents also knew about the best method for testing blood sugar levels.

In other areas, however, the researchers found that knowledge was severely lacking. For example, when asked which food item should not be used to treat low blood sugar levels, only 12.8

per cent of participants answered correctly. The lowest percentage (4.4 per cent) of correct answers was on a question concerning the symptoms of ketoacidosis, a potentially life-threatening, late-stage T2D complication.

"One of the main reasons for this disparity in knowledge is probably the behavior of health professionals and the areas that are prioritized when informing patients," Lopes Ferreira explained.

Equipping patients with knowledge. The researchers found that the use of medication was one factor that impacted T2D knowledge. The percentage of correct answers was 51.8 per cent for non-insulin treated patients, and 58.7 per cent for patients using insulin. Looking at socioeconomic and demographic factors, being younger than 65 years, having a higher education, not living alone, and following a specific diet had a positive impact on disease knowledge.

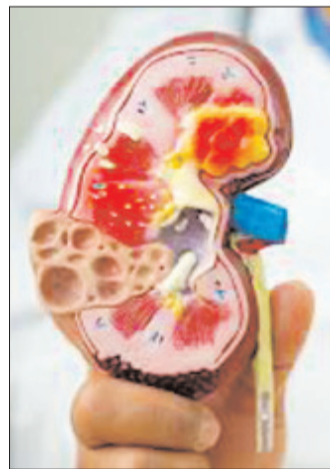
The researchers said that their results highlight the need to improve T2D knowledge about certain aspects of the disease, for example, blood sugar monitoring, which can help to avoid spikes in blood sugar levels that are associated with acute and chronic complications. Knowledge gaps within individual sections of the test are also something that needs to be addressed urgently, the team pointed out.

They also stated that studies with even more participants could help to better understand the role of the socioeconomic and clinical determinants of the disease. "We focused on patients' own knowledge of their disease, rather than disease management being based solely on biological indicators. We hope that the results obtained will allow professionals to change the way they inform patients," Lopes Ferreira concluded.

Patients with obesity and renal dysfunction may now be eligible for kidney transplants

ILLINOIS [US] : A collaborative research between a bariatric and transplant surgery team has provided fresh hope for individuals with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and obesity. The study's authors investigated the results of metabolic and bariatric surgery in ESRD patients, as well as whether such surgery might enhance their eligibility for kidney transplantation. The findings are reported in the *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*.

"Obesity is a worsening problem in the United States, significantly impacting transplant eligibility. We established the CORT initiative - a collaborative for obesity research in transplantation - recognizing the urgent need to address this issue, especially in underserved populations who suffer the most from obesity-related diseases," said corresponding study author Anil Paramesh, MD, MBA, FACS, professor of surgery, urology, and paediatrics and director of the kidney and pancreas transplant programs at Tulane University School of Medicine. Patients with ESRD face many difficulties without a transplant; their only alternative is to prolong life through dialysis, a process that is not only costly and time-intensive but also significantly diminishes the quality of life, Dr Paramesh noted. The study, conducted between January 2019 and June 2023, followed 183 ESRD patients referred for bariatric surgery, with 36 undergoing weight loss surgery and 10 subsequently receiving kidney transplants. Results showed a 27% reduction in average BMI at the time of transplant, alongside improvements in hypertension and diabetes management. This improvement in the management of comorbid conditions enhanced patients' overall health and transplant viability. With obesity being a major cause



of transplant exclusion, this collaborative program represents a path forward for patients who previously would be ineligible, Dr Paramesh said and may help pave the way for increased patient education and access. "We've seen that bariatric surgery is not just about weight loss; it significantly improves other serious conditions like diabetes, high blood pressure, and sleep apnea. This approach not only helps in reducing the patients' weight to a level where they can safely receive a transplant but also addresses the broader issue of health care disparities, particularly affecting Black and lower-income individuals," said Dr Paramesh.

However, the study also faced challenges, including a high drop-off rate of patients unwilling or unable to undergo surgery, and unique postoperative complications such as hypotension.

"Our findings indicate a pressing need to enhance patient education and support, making sure that potential candidates understand the benefits of weight loss surgery and its role in improving their eligibility for transplant," said Dr Paramesh.



People wash clothes on the banks of the River Brahmaputra, in Guwahati on Thursday. (ANI Photo)

New antibody could be helpful in cancer treatment

UPPSALA [SWEDEN] : Researchers at Uppsala University and KTH Royal Institute of Technology have created an antibody that has the potential to treat a variety of cancers. Researchers were able to integrate three different functionalities in the antibody, which combined significantly increased the action of T cells on the cancer tumour.

Researchers have developed a unique type of antibody that both targets and delivers a drug package via the antibody itself, while simultaneously activating the immune system ("3-in-1 design") for personalised immunotherapy treatments.

"We have been researching precision medicine for close to 15 years now, as well as how we can use antibodies to influence an important key protein (CD40) in the immune system. We can now show that our new antibody

method works as precision medicine for cancer," explains Sara Mangsbo, professor at the Department of Pharmacy at Uppsala University, who together with Johan Rockberg, professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, is the study's lead author. The drug redirects the immune system to find and target specific mutations and gene changes that are only found in cancer cells, known as neoantigens. This is achieved by the new antibody both delivering the unique tumour-specific material directly to a particular type of immune cell and by stimulating this cell simultaneously, which then has the capacity to greatly enhance the T-cell response to the tumour. The results show that the method works in several ways. Not only does it activate the right type of immune cells in human blood samples, but animal models show that mice receiving the treatment



had prolonged survival and, at higher doses, also save the mice from cancer, and that the method is safer than previous cancer treatments the researchers have studied. Customised precision medicines can be both costly and time-consuming to develop.

"The advantage of our drug is that it is easy to produce on a large scale, yet can be easily tailored to the patient's disease or specific tumour. The medicine consists of two parts that are combined, a targeting bispecific antibody - which can be produced in large quantities in advance - and a custom

peptide part, which is produced rapidly synthetically on a small scale for a desired type of cancer. Both in terms of production cost and the short time it takes to tailor a peptide to a new tumour, this increases availability and should make it quicker for patients to go from diagnosis to treatment," explains Johan Rockberg, Professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology.

The aim of the study was to establish a more flexible, faster and safer treatment for cancer than those currently available. The study has already shown that the method has the potential to be customised for each patient, thereby strengthening the immune system against cancer. The next step is to use the fully optimised production process to manufacture the drug candidate for further safety studies and then start clinical trials in humans.

Research shows how oestrogen protects against fatty liver

WASHINGTON DC [US] : New research from Sweden's Karolinska Institutet demonstrates how oestrogen protects against MASLD, a fatty liver disease that has developed rapidly during the obesity epidemic. The study, published in the journal *Molecular Systems Biology*, demonstrates how a new medicine under development could become a future treatment for fatty liver disease and liver cancer.

The global obesity epidemic has resulted in a dramatic increase in fatty liver, a disease in which fat that does not fit into fat cells is stored

in liver cells instead. Since last year, fatty liver due to obesity (and not excessive alcohol consumption) is known as MASLD (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatotic liver disease). According to previous research, as many as one in three adults are affected by some degree of MASLD, which in the worst cases can develop into cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Women are protected until menopause

However, the disease is very unevenly distributed between the sexes, with a large majority of affected

individuals being men.

"Women have a natural protection until menopause due to the female sex hormone oestrogen," explains Claudia Kutter, senior researcher at the Department of Microbiology, Tumor and Cell Biology, Karolinska Institutet who led the study.

Although women's protection has been known for some time, the mechanism behind the protective effect has been less clear. Now Claudia Kutter's research team may have found the answer.

Through genetic analyses



of mice of both sexes fed a high-fat diet, with some of the male mice also receiving

oestrogen, the researchers were able to identify a key protein in the development of

fatty liver. The protein, called TEAD1, was found to play an overall role in regulating how liver cells absorb fat. Blocking TEAD1 protected liver cells from the harmful accumulation of fat. Mice receiving oestrogen treatment had lower TEAD1 activity and less fat accumulation in the liver. New drug under development in the next step, the researchers tested blocking TEAD1 in human liver cells with the same result. The fact that this was possible at all, however, was a bit of luck.

"It turned out that a pharmaceutical company is devel-

oping an anti-cancer drug that blocks TEAD1, which allowed us to test our hypothesis," says Claudia Kutter. The fact that TEAD1 is also involved in cancer does not worry her, quite the contrary.

"Since the activity of TEAD proteins is elevated in cancer, blocking TEAD at an early stage can also be positive from a cancer point of view," she says. "Patients suffering from liver cancer are currently diagnosed very late. If the patient is given this drug early in the process to protect against fatty liver, it can hopefully also prevent

the development of liver cancer."

Will be tested on humans
The pharmaceutical company will now start clinical trials of the drug as a protection against fatty liver disease, while Claudia Kutter's research team will continue researching further ways to tackle the disease.

"We want to focus on how to find the disease earlier and identifying new treatment targets," she says. "Different approaches may be needed for different patients depending on their gender and hormonal status."

Muslims in Gujarat's Vatva allege continuous harassment, stone pelting while returning from Taraweeh



MI News Service, Ahmedabad: Muslims in Vatva, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, have raised concerns after they were allegedly attacked by extremists while heading home from Taraweeh prayers on Monday, March 3rd. The attackers, according to eyewitnesses, pelted stones at the group, specifically targeting individuals wearing skull caps, a common identifier of Muslim men, and including children.

In addition to the stone-throwing, some residents claim the attackers, some of whom were reportedly masked, also pelted stones at houses and forcibly demanded that Muslims chant "Jai Shri Ram" at knifepoint.

This incident has added to a growing sense of unease in the local Muslim community, who claim that similar attacks have been occurring every Ramadan, yet no

meaningful action has been taken against the perpetrators.

The community members have lodged a formal complaint at the local police station, naming two of the attackers as Amit and Sumil. Despite providing this information, the residents allege that the police were initially reluctant to take immediate action, and only responded after they waited at the station for an hour. Furthermore, the police reportedly recorded the attackers as "unknown individuals," even after the victims identified them by name.

The situation has left many members of the Muslim community feeling frustrated and unsafe. Syed Mehdi, a local resident, expressed his concerns, questioning, "If anything happens to us, who will take responsibility?" He highlighted that the authorities often console the

community by promising that everything will improve, but no real changes are made, and the perpetrators are released without facing any consequences. "The perpetrators are never punished, and the police always release them after 24 hours," Mehdi added, expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of accountability.

In a video shared by the residents, Mehdi called for peace and urged that the atmosphere during the holy month of Ramadan should remain peaceful and undisturbed. He stressed the importance of creating a safe environment where everyone, including women, can live without fear of harassment or violence. The community's appeal for justice continues as they seek both protection and accountability from the authorities, hoping that such incidents will no longer be ignored.

When law turned lawless: Five years of injustice after the Delhi riots

MI News Service, New Delhi: Five years back, Delhi confronted the blistering communal riots ahead of anti-citizenship protests in Shaheen Bagh. The scars of the shocking bloodshed are still fresh, and the survivors have not received anything close to "justice". As per the registered data, around 53 people were assassinated during the outbreak, and 40 of them were Muslims. Between numerous waves of violence, more than 500 were injured, and most of them were Muslims.

This way the Delhi riots opened the fragilities of metropolitan Muslim community and the pro-establishment tendencies of "victim-blaming" under the umbrella of Hindutva fascism. Fueled by inflammatory hate speeches of the right-wing IT cells, the systemic targeting of Muslims was quite visible during the violence. Muslim-dominated localities like Jafarabad, Maujpur, Chandbagh, and Mustafabad became the hotspots of targeted bouts. Our religious places, businesses, and properties were violently targeted, vandalized, and looted. Later, in the after-effects of the bloodshed-law became unlawful to us; and the system remained silent before these horrific disasters.

Within the five years of struggles, what the victims have found is nothing but five brutal episodes of oppression. The influential community leaders and activists like Umar Khalid, Khalid Saifi, Gulfishan Fatima, Sharjeel Imam, Shafaur Rehman, and Tahir Hussain, who were imprisoned in fabricated cases, remain behind the bars. While the riot-survivors did not attain administrative support, and imprisoned activists did not receive fair judicial treatment.

The Supremacy Of Injustice The conflict sparked with the proposed discriminatory amendment in the 1955 Citizenship Act, that was approved by the parliament in December 2019- further invoking the widespread anti-citizenship protests of Shaheen Bagh. Throughout these peaceful demonstrations, the regime was indulged in finding "systemic meth-



ods to silence the activists". On 15th December, Delhi police forcefully entered Jamia Millia Islamia to harass and abuse the students over their "supposed links with the protests."

The communal spur started at 23rd February, 2020, after a hate-speech of BJP leader Kapil Mishra, and the anti-Muslim chantings of "shoot the traitors (Muslims)." In between, the BJP leaders delivered extremely provocative hate speeches to stir up violence against the community- while the mainstream leaders, including the Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal, kept suggesting to "clear" the protest site.

The selective targeting of Muslims by the police and the administration was quite clear in "the maltreatment" of these riot-related cases. Delhi police presented 5 charge sheets, spanning over 30,000 pages, registered 758 cases, and arrested more than 2,000 people. While around 62 cases were handed to the crime branch and special cells for investigation. People who confronted stone-pelting, tear-gas attacks, and the bloodshed indicated towards the "involvement" of the police officials behind the distressing situations. Whereas the analysts underlined the lack of proofs, valid statements, and evidence in the presented charge sheets - and investigating officers were caught red-handed for their unprofessional conduct, incomplete presentations, and fabricated video evidences.

A recent research that inquired 126 matters from 758 cases, stressed on the "predetermined charge sheets" that "falsely implicated the accused." The "Report of the Fact-Finding Committee on the North-East Delhi Riots of February 2020" by the Delhi Minorities Commission also underlined the similar interlaced ambiguities. It said that the police intentionally did not register the complaints of Muslim victims. The commission noted that the investigations were "intentionally redirected" to frame cases against the Muslim activists.

M R Shamsah, the chairperson of the committee, said, "Most victims of the religious minority have stated stories and put forth illustrations reflecting religious bias against them. It is like being treated as a separate and distinct 'community' rather than citizens of the country. I have no doubt in stating that the same discriminatory bias and hate became the reason for the minorities to take a lead in the protests against the discriminatory CAA."

Still, instead of "compensation," we received "criminalization," and instead of "support," we were shoved in the labyrinth of despotism. Precisely, the accounts of bloodshed left the entire Muslim community grappling in "fear and insecurity" to further witness "a loss of hope in the structure."

Rewards and Punishments: Is It a Jungle Raj? Over the years, the case proceedings and investigations, both have

decoded the patterns of victim-blaming. Muslims not just went through the bloodshed, grief, ruins, and torture, but they confronted a complete failure of the management to provide justice.

Now after the Delhi assembly, 2025, hate-offender Kapil Mishra has been appointed the "Law and Justice Minister". He will also head several departments, including the employment, tourism, labor, art and culture, and language departments. Rekha Gupta, the current CM of Delhi, also happens to be a notorious offender.

On the other hand, Umar Khalid and others have persistently marked "distorted speeches and fabricated clues" of the BJP IT cell in the court. Through-out these proceedings, no credible evidence, terrorism allegation, or physical evidence was found against Umar, and no testaments were traced in CCTV scrutiny. Despite this, he was not given bail, except for a short relief to attend his sister's wedding in December 2024.

By the same token, Khalid Saifi, another prominent Muslim activist, met a similar fate after being trapped in forged cases. He survived custodial police torture and was denied medical assistance during emergency. In a recent hearing, he asked if the UAPA (The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) charges could be based on "innocuous messages" or their interpretations.

In January 2025, 160 ac-

tivists signed a letter in solidarity with Umar Khalid and other political prisoners, who have "repeatedly been targeted, vilified, and branded by the authoritarian regime"- and who are struggling to get a bail. The activists found that the dictatorship of curbing woke voices through systemic tools has only reinforced the vicious chain of oppression. Hindutva-backed convicts manage to escape and attain the power-while the intellectuals, rights activists, freedom fighters, researchers, and people with a bursting passion to contribute to the society- are pushed to the prisons. Apart from this, the regime also debilitated the "possibilities of change" in political arena by showing the fear of "more horrible versions of dictatorship," and "vote-divide". This was the reason why AIM-IM candidates like Shafaur Rehman and Tahir Hussain did not accomplish victory in Muslim dominated constituencies during the Delhi elections, 2025.

Although sometimes we perceive positive news in other similar cases, like the release of Maulana Kalimuddin Mujahid, Abdul Shami Mohammad Abdul Rehman Ali Khan, brought a sense of hope within the Muslim community. The court elucidated that they were baselessly arrested over "suspected links with Al-Qaeda"- but such victories never ensured governmental accountability or compensation.

Thus far, the victims of Delhi-riots have shown an unyielding resistance against the injustice, misuse of UAPA, and the judicial polarization-but could it stop the misapplication of laws? Could it ensure the rights of Indian Muslims? Gulfishan Fatima, a young student who was arrested in the alleged conspiracy of Jafarabad violence, expressed the tragedies of riot-victims in her prison-diary-

"I am completely shattered...suffering from the most vulnerable period of the entire imprisonment. Well, however, I will have to fight for a life. Life itself is an all-time challenge. Each breath is a test of tolerance and patience."

Nine people including Imam of Mosque detained over Iftar announcement on loudspeaker in UP

MI News Service, Tanda: A controversy erupted in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh, following an announcement for Iftar (the breaking of the fast) made through a loudspeaker at a mosque. The incident, which took place in Manakpur Bajaria village under the Syed Nagar Chowki area of Tanda police station, led to protests from members of a Hindutva outfit, resulting in police intervention and the arrest of nine individuals, including the mosque's imam.

The police removed the loudspeaker from the mosque, calling the announcement through the speaker a "new tradition."

The mosque in question, which has been serving about 20 Muslim families in the village for 15 to 20 years, became the center of the controversy on Sunday when the imam used the loudspeaker to announce the Iftar.

This act sparked objections from some members of the local Hindu community, who filed a complaint with the police. In response, police personnel from the 112 emergency service arrived at the scene and attempted to mediate between the two groups. However, the situ-

ation remained tense, with the protesting group opposing the practice of using the loudspeaker for the Iftar announcement.

The police acted swiftly, arresting nine individuals, including the imam, and registering a case against them. The authorities also removed the loudspeaker from the mosque, citing concerns over public order and potential disturbances. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Atul Kumar Shrivastava commented on the matter, stating, "A dispute arose between two groups after the announcement was made through a loudspeaker at the mosque."

Immediate action was taken, and nine individuals were arrested to maintain law and order.

The arrests have sparked frustration within the local Muslim community, who point out that announcements for religious events, including Iftar, have been made in many other places without incident.

A local community member, who wished to remain anonymous, questioned why an Iftar announcement was being treated as a

"new tradition" when other religious calls, such as the Azaan, are routinely made through loudspeakers.

Maulana Rashid Ahmed, a local cleric, expressed his dismay, claiming, "This is a clear case of targeting one community. Announcements from places of worship have always been part of religious practice, so why single out this one?"

Legal expert and social activist Advocate Shariq Anwar also condemned the police's actions. He stated, "The arrests and removal of the loudspeaker set a dangerous precedent. This selective enforcement raises serious concerns about religious freedom and equal treatment under the law."

In the wake of the arrests, local authorities have called for peace and urged residents to avoid actions that could escalate the situation. The incident has drawn widespread reactions from both religious and social organizations, with some demanding the immediate release of the arrested individuals and questioning the fairness of the police's response.

Lot of enthusiasm amidst people on 1st day of Isale Swab in Furfura

Nurul Islam Khan

The devotees are sitting in a queue. But you can't eat it until prayer call of Maghrib. This is a rare sight. Waiting for God's great command. This is faith, this is faith in God. Yes, such a scene was seen after many years in the historical Isale Sawab of Furfura Sharif. A large number of devotees thronged the darbar during the holy month of Ramadan. After the Fajr prayer on this day, according to the tradition of Pir Hazrat Dada Hujur, the holy Eid-ul-Adha started in the main Darbar Sharif. Hazrat Abdullah Siddiqi offered prayers. Later, Hazrat Maulana Sawban Siddiqi taught Zikr. Then, facing the court, the beloved Prophet (peace be upon him) recited the Darud al-Sharif



over him and the assembly of Zikr went on for a long time for the pleasure of Allah. On the first day of the meeting, a large crowd was seen on the main road. Pir Hazrat Sebgatullah Siddiqi, Pirzada Zabihullah Siddiqi, Pirzada Imran Siddiqi, Pirzada Mehrab Siddiqi, Pirzada Minhaj Siddiqi,

Pirzada Shahin and Pirzada Tamim Siddiqi graced the occasion from their respective courts. Meals, including iftar and sahari, were arranged at various places centering the traditional meeting. Peer Ismail Siddiqi, Peer Hussain Siddiqi, Peer Omar Siddiqi, Peerzada Taher

Siddiqi and many Peersahebs took special initiative in the small court. Hazrat Pir Hussain Gazi Bukhari also cooperated in Iftar for the guests at the Bail Para of Furfura Sharif. They are Syed Amjad Hossain Bukhari, Peerzada Syed Nazim Uddin Hossain, Peerzada Syed Ham-

mad Hossain Bukhari and Peerzada Syed Ziauddin Hossain Bukhari. Devotees thronged the mdarbar to offer prayers on the day. Peer Yusuf Siddiqi, Peerzada Tahbeeb Siddiqi, Peerzada Mujahid Siddiqi, Peerzada Mustafa Siddiqi, Peerzada Sanaullah Siddiqi, Peerzada Hojayefa Siddiqi, Peerzada Horaira Siddiqi, Peerzada Safi Siddiqi, Peerzada Mosfekin Siddiqi, Peerzada Abbas Siddiqi and many other Peerzadas were busy in hosting the devotees. State minister Snehasish Chakraborty and other officials were present at the press conference. On the first day of the conference there was great enthusiasm among the people. A large number of devotees had gathered for the fifth day's prayers.

Uttarakhand: Muslim organisations protest closure of Mosques and Madrasahs



MI News Service, Dehradun: On Wednesday, members of various Muslim organizations staged a protest in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, against the closure of madrasahs and mosques following actions taken by the Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA).

The protesters gathered outside the district magistrate's office, voicing their opposition to what they deemed an unjustified move by the administration. Tensions rose as the police intervened and detained several demonstrators.

Muslim leaders criticized the timing of the closures, arguing that the action was deliberately taken during the holy month of Ramadan. Naem Qureshi, the pres-

ident of one of the organizations, stated, "This is a clear case of discrimination," highlighting that no prior notice was given, nor was any explanation provided about the legal grounds for sealing the madrasahs and mosques.

Protesters warned that if their demands were not met, their agitation would escalate. Qureshi emphasized, "The arbitrary manner in which this has been done is unacceptable. We demand an immediate explanation and the reopening of our religious institutions."

The protesters expressed frustration over the lack of communication from the authorities regarding the closures. In response, local authorities defended their actions, citing legal viola-

tions related to the construction of the religious institutions. SP City Pramod Kumar explained that the protesters refused to leave the district magistrate's office, prompting police intervention. He added that the protesters were taken into custody as a preventive measure but were later released.

Over the past few days, the MDDA and district authorities sealed four madrasahs and one mosque, labeling them as illegal constructions. This has sparked significant outrage within the Muslim community, who view the move as an infringement on their religious rights.

The administration has assured the public that discussions are ongoing to address the issue.

Call for movement

Nurul Islam Khan

The Modi government has already announced that the Parliament session will begin on March 10. In this session, they will bring the Kala Kanoon Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament and make a Kala Kanoon on Waqf.

The protest will be held in Kolkata on March 10 and at Jantar Mantar in Delhi on March 13.

On the other hand, higher secondary examinations are being held during the holy month of Ramadan. They are forced to take part in this movement.

Leavitt declined to provide detail on the substance of talks. Egyptian and Qatari intermediaries have served as mediators with Hamas for the US and Israel since the group launched its October 7, 2023, attack on Israel that sparked

the war.

"Look, dialogue and talking to people around the world to do what's in the best interest of the American people is something that the president... believes is a good-faith effort to do what's right for the American people," she said.

Leavitt added that Israel has been consulted about the direct engagement with Hamas officials, but noted that there are "American lives at stake."

Israeli officials say about 24 living hostages - including Edan Alexander, an American citizen - as well as the bodies of at least 35 others are believed to still be held in Gaza.

Adam Boehler, Trump's nominee to be special envoy for hostage affairs, led



the direct talks with the Hamas.

The talks, which took place last month, focused mainly on the release of American hostages, and a potential end of the war without Hamas in power in Gaza. The talks, which took place last month, focused mainly on the release of American hostages, and a potential end of the war without Hamas in power in Gaza, according to a Hamas official who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The official added that no progress was made but "the step itself is promising" and more talks are expected. Egyptian and Qatari mediators helped arrange the talks.

The direct engagement comes as continuation of the Israel-Hamas ceasefire remains uncertain. President Donald Trump has signaled that he has no intentions of pushing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu away from a return to combat if Hamas doesn't agree to terms of a new ceasefire proposal, which the Israelis have billed as being drafted by US envoy Steve Witkoff.

The new plan would require Hamas to release half its remaining hostages - the militant group's main bargaining chip - in exchange for a ceasefire extension and a promise to negotiate a lasting truce. Israel made no mention of releasing more Palestinian prisoners, a key component of the first phase.

VANI TAKES ONE-SHOT LEAD ON TOUGH SCORING DAY IN 5TH LEG OF WPGT

GURUGRAM (HARYANA) : Vani Kapoor dropped two late bogeys but maintained focus to get a birdie on the final hole to take sole lead after the first day of the fifth leg of the Women's Pro Golf Tour at the Classic Golf & Country Club. Vani, the winner of the fourth leg last month, shot 2-under 70 and took a one-shot lead over her good friend Amandeep Drall (71), as per the WGAI press release.

Vani and Amandeep were the only players to shoot under par on an extremely windy day when scoring was tough. Rhea Jha was placed sole third and she landed an eagle two on Par-4 eighth but had five bogeys and one birdie in her 74. On a rather tough day for scoring, five players were tied for fourth with rounds of 4-over 76 and the group included amateur Ceerat Kang, Anahita Singh, Oviya Reddi, Neha Tripathi and Ridhima Dilawari.

Leader Vani had four birdies against two bogeys in the round. She opened with a par and then birdied the second and the third. Then followed a series of eight pars and another birdie on Par-4 12th. She dropped back-to-back shots on the 16th and the 17th but closed with a birdie.

Amandeep Drall opened with a bogey but got the shot back on the fifth. She dropped another shot on the Par-4 13th but closed with a birdie on the 14th and the 18th for a round of 71. Amandeep Drall, who went out in the first group with Gaurika Bishnoi in the morning, was the clubhouse leader till Vani overtook her.

Two-time winner this season, Sneha Singh, had a rough day with a card of 5-over 77 that saw her pick just one birdie against six bogeys. She was tied ninth with Yaalisai Verma and Gauri Karhade. Among some other well-known names, Gaurika Bishnoi, Jasmine Shekar and Shweta Mansingh carded 81 each and were tied for the 22nd place.



An East Bengal FC player in a scuffle with a FK Arkadag player during their AFC Challenge League 2024-25 quarter-final match, at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

Philander, Southee lend support to Shami's call to ICC for revoking ban on saliva usage on ball

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Former New Zealand captain Tim Southee and former South African pacer Vernon Philander expressed support for star India pacer Mohammed Shami, who recently urged the International Cricket Council (ICC) to revoke the ban on usage of saliva on the ball in order to bring reverse swing back into the limited-overs game, ESPNCricinfo reported.

Following India's win over Australia, in which Shami starred with a three-wicket spell that went for 48 runs, Shami called for the ICC to let bowlers use saliva on the ball once again so as to bring reverse swing back into the game. The ban on usage of saliva for polishing the ball was first brought in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic as a temporary measure but later in September 2022, the ban was turned permanent.

"We are trying [to get reverse swing], but the usage of saliva on the ball is not allowed. We keep appealing that we should be allowed to use saliva so that we can bring reverse swing back into the game and it becomes interesting," said Shami after India's win as quoted by ESPNCricinfo.

Now, Southee and Philander, who also miss the presence of reverse swing in the game especially in batting-friendly conditions, have backed Shami.

Southee said on ESPN Cricinfo's Match Day programme during the semifinal between New Zealand and South Africa that as a bowler, you would want some advantage.

"That was a rule brought around COVID-19 with the virus going around the world, but I think as a bowler, you want to have a slight advantage. We see the game going the way it is going and seeing sides score 362 and more often than not over 300 in this format. I think there needs to be something in the bowlers' favour, and whether that's a little bit of saliva, then yeah, I do not see why they could not afford to get that back in," said Southee.

Philander also felt that saliva usage and reverse swing would have come in handy during the NZ-SA semifinal especially during the back-end of NZ innings as they scored a

massive 362/6, which Kiwis could not chase despite a century from David Miller and half-centuries from Temba Bavuma and Rassie van der Dussen.

"If we look at the state of that ball, I mean towards the back end, it was really scuffed up, and I think had you used the saliva [to polish one side of the ball], the element of the reverse swing might have come into play. So it certainly does play a part. You can get it to shine up and you use the elements to swing it a little longer," said Philander.

"I would like to see that element being brought back into the game because I think it is needed as well. I mean, especially in ODI cricket where we see batters really dominating, especially when you play on surfaces like we have just seen in Pakistan as well where it is really batter friendly," he added.

Southee feels that the use of saliva to polish one side of the ball and the use reverse swing make much greater difference in Tests rather than limited-overs cricket as ball swings just for the initial few overs in white-ball cricket.

"But with the red ball, you are able to bring it back and obviously sweat can be limited at times in various parts of the world, whereas saliva you are able to have access to it from a number of sources and in all parts of the world. I think there is an advantage to having saliva on the ball, probably more so in red-ball cricket than white-ball cricket," said Southee.

Philander also recalled that as a part of the South Africa team, he and the team would try to keep the ball as dry as possible.

"The minute you start erring on the side of sweat, I think you start wetting both sides of the ball. Your hands get sweaty, especially when you play in hot, humid conditions," Philander was quoted as saying by ESPNCricinfo. "Saliva was definitely the preferred method of shining the ball. In the longer run in the scheme of things, I would like to see that being brought back. As far as sweat is concerned, I do feel that it is difficult to control the amount of sweat you put on the ball, [especially when] you start sweating heavily," he concluded.



Indian Open set to commence from March 27, set to feature top golfers in action

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The 2025 edition of the prestigious Indian Open is set to be held from March 27-30 at the DLF Golf and Country Club, Gurugram.

The iconic golf tournament has attracted an elite field, with early entries already featuring prominent stars and champions from the 2024 and 2025 schedules. Among the notable names are Jacques Kruyswijk, Johannes Veerman, Julien Guerrier, Angel Hidalgo, Frederic Lacroix, David Ravetto, Ewen Ferguson, and Guido Migliozzi among others, as per a press release from Indian Open.

24-year-old defending champion, Keita Nakajima from Japan will lead the charge at the tournament that catapulted him to global fame. Joining the competition will be Germany's Marcel Siem, who clinched the championship in 2023, ending a 10-year title drought.

The 2.25 million USD Indian Open 2025 is part of the Asian Swing, which features the Singapore Classic, China Open, and Hainan Classic.

Sanjay Bhan, Executive Vice President, Hero

MotoCorp, the title sponsor, said: "The Hero Indian Open is more than a tournament; it is a testament to our leadership in promoting Indian golf on the global stage." Co-sanctioned by the Indian Golf Union (IGU), the Indian Open offers the Indian Tour winner a full card for the following year on The European Tour. Last year's runner-up, Veer Ahlawat, won the Indian Order of Merit and is now competing at the European Tour.

Alongside Veer, Shubhankar Sharma, a two-time winner on The European Tour, will headline the Indian challenge at the event. Joining the duo will be local boy Manu Gandas, who played in the DP World Tour in 2023.

Another highlight is Indian teen prodigy Kartik Singh, who has been in form and finished in the Top-10 in his last three international amateur events (twice in South Africa and once in Australia).

Brijinder Singh, President, the Indian Golf Union, said, "The Indian Open is one of Asia's most prestigious golf tournaments and has played a crucial role in the development of Indian golf, having been instrumental in showcasing India's golfing talent at a global level."

Ben Cowen, the DP World (the title sponsor of The European Tour)'s, Chief Tournament and Operations Officer, said: "We are very excited to return to India for the 58th edition of the historic Indian

Open. DLF Golf & Country Club is a world-class course that provides our players with a true test every year, so we are grateful to everyone at the venue for their continued support and hospitality. I would also like to thank the Indian Golf Union (IGU), for their hard work in continuing to develop golf in India. This tournament has played such an

important role in helping them to achieve that and we look forward to the 2025 edition later this month."

Tusch Daroga, Vice President, of DLF Golf and Country Club, said, "We are extremely proud to be the host venue for India's national open and look forward to once again collaborating with Hero MotoCorp and the Indian Golf Union. The Indian Open has an illustrious legacy as India's premier golf tournament and DLF Golf and Country Club is delighted to be the venue for the sixth edition in a row. The golf course is in immaculate playing condition and the golfers will definitely enjoy the challenge that the course presents."

THE ICONIC GOLF TOURNAMENT HAS ATTRACTED AN ELITE FIELD, WITH EARLY ENTRIES ALREADY FEATURING PROMINENT STARS AND CHAMPIONS FROM THE 2024 AND 2025 SCHEDULES.

Jarrad Branthwaite to be new Real Madrid defender? Carlo Ancelotti impressed by Jude Bellingham's teammate

Real Madrid manager Carlo Ancelotti is impressed by English defender Jarrad Branthwaite and would like to have him join forces with his international teammate Jude Bellingham at the Santiago Bernabeu. The Everton defender, meanwhile, has been a key player for David Moyes and any talks of the 22-year-old leaving Goodison Park would upset him.

Branthwaite joined the club from boyhood club Carlisle United in January 2020 and over the past couple of seasons have become one of their standout performers. During the 2022/23 season, he made a season-long loan move to Dutch giants PSV Eindhoven, making 37 appearances including 27 in the Eredivisie, three in the UEFA Europa League, and two in UEFA Champions League qualifiers. Earlier, it was rumoured that Branthwaite is likely to attract transfer bids worth £40 million although Everton was willing to pay him £150,000 a week to remain with the club. In October 2023, the left-footed defender had signed a new deal with the Merseyside club which will expire in June 2027. The club had managed to convince him to agree to the new deal



despite Manchester United being heavily interested in signing him.

Real Madrid are heavily linked to Trent Alexander-Arnold, another England international. The Liverpool right-back is rumoured to join the Spanish giants this summer. The camaraderie between Jude and Trent is said to have played a pivotal role in convinc-

ing the Liverpool academy product to make up his mind amidst the pressure to sign a new deal with the current Premier League dealers. The story could be the same with Branthwaite as well, Everton fans worry. It also needs to be noted that Ancelotti himself was at the helm of the club in the not-very-distant past.

A look at day 6 results of Hockey India Senior Women National C'ship 2025

PANCHKULA (HARYANA) : Day six of the exciting 15th Hockey India Senior Women's National Championship 2025 on Thursday saw some enthralling matches as Telangana Hockey, Hockey Bengal and Hockey Jharkhand secured wins in their respective matches.

In the first match of the day, Telangana Hockey proved to be the better one as they defeated their opponent Hockey Association of Bihar 5-2. Komal Gurjar (12', 50', 55') scored a hat-trick for Telangana Hockey. Pooja Rathod (13') and Mundari Sumi (43') also scored one goal each for their side to take the lead in the game. On the other hand, Ebha Kerketta (21') and Nutan Topno (36') scored one goal each for the Hockey Association of Bihar, as per a Hockey India press release.

In the next match, Hockey Bengal defeated Hockey Madhya Pradesh 2-1. Neelu Dadiya (11') scored the first goal of the match and the consolation goal for Hockey Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand, in an interesting turn of events, Captain Anjna Dugdung (58') scored an equaliser in the final minutes of the game making sure that they were going



to be goalless in the game. Selestina Horo (59') also scored another goal just before the final whistle and secured a remarkable victory in the closely contested game.

In the next match of Division 'A', Hockey Jharkhand defeated Hockey Mizoram 3-1. Sanjna Horo (21'), Captain Albera Rani Toppo (36') and Niralji Kujur

(48') scored one goal each for Hockey Jharkhand. In response, Antim (47') scored the consolation goal for Hockey Mizoram.

Also, Hockey Maharashtra will face off against Manipur Hockey and Hockey Haryana will be competing against Hockey Association of Odisha in Division 'A', later today.