

Firhad Hakim defends KMC amid fin crisis

Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim has strongly defended the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) against allegations of financial mismanagement, stating that the administration is actively working on solutions without increasing taxes. His comments come amid mounting criticism over unpaid wages for 100-day scheme workers, while the civic body continues spending on festivals and events. "Our predecessors managed finances by selling land, but we are PG 3



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West Bengal Tops MSME Sector in India, says Annual Survey of Unincorporated Enterprises

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal has once again solidified its position as a leader in the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, as revealed by the latest Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE) for 2023-24.

Welcoming the findings, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has hailed the achievement of the state, emphasizing its dominance in manufacturing and the significant role of women in businesses.

According to the survey, West Bengal leads the country in terms of workers engaged in manufacturing enterprises, accounting for 13.81 per cent of the total workforce in this sector. Additionally, the state commands the highest share of manufacturing enterprises across India, with 16.02 per cent, while also ranking at the top in other service enterprises at 13.09 per cent. A noteworthy highlight from the report is the in-

creasing role of women in the state's unincorporated sector. West Bengal recorded the highest percentage of female-headed establishments in India, at 36.4 per cent, reaffirming the state's commitment to gender inclusivity in business. Furthermore, it ranked highest in female workforce participation in the unincorporated sector, accounting for 12.73 per cent of total women employment in this domain.

Expressing her satisfaction, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee took to social media to underscore the state's achievements. "Happy to share that the recently published findings of the 'Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises' conducted by the National Statistics Office, Government of India, once again establish Bengal's top position in MSME manufacturing industries and, simultaneously, our women's wonderful performance there," she

wrote on X. The unincorporated non-agricultural sector plays a vital role in India's economy, not only by absorbing a large workforce but also by ensuring inclusive employment opportunities across diverse demographics. Moreover, its contribution to the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) remains substantial.

The ASUSE 2023-24 findings were officially released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on December 24, 2024, through a press note and subsequent press conference. The detailed report and unit-level data have since been made available on the ministry's website.

One of the key takeaways from the survey was the significant expansion of the unincorporated sector, with the total number of establishments rising from 6.50 crore in 2022-23 to 7.34 crore in

2023-24, marking an impressive 12.84 per cent growth.

Among various sectors covered in the survey, the "Other Services" sector witnessed the highest growth, with a 23.55 per cent increase in establishments, followed by a 13 per cent rise in the manufacturing sector. Notably, nearly 39 per cent of these enterprises were engaged in retail trade (27 per cent) or manufacturing of clothing (12 per cent), further highlighting the economic diversity of the unincorporated sector.

On a broader scale, the survey identified Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Maharashtra as the three states with the highest number of unincorporated enterprises, both in rural and urban areas combined. This further reinforces West Bengal's crucial role in India's economic landscape, particularly in the thriving MSME sector.

BJP MLA Tapasi Mandal joins TMC before next year's poll



Tapasi Mandal & Shyamal Maiti join TMC from BJP at TMC Bhavan on Monday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major blow to the opposition BJP in West Bengal a year before the state assembly elections, party MLA Tapasi Mandal from Haldia in Purba Medinipur district joined the rukung Trinamool Congress at the state party headquarters here on Monday.

According to some senior political observers, the sudden quitting of Tapasi Mandal from BJP and joining TMC has indicated that there are wide division within the BJP which might pose a threat to Opposition leader Subhendu Adhikari who is considered to be the undisputed leader of the party in East Midnapore district.

They said when the BJP is claiming that the preparations for the state Assembly poll elections have already started a year in advance, one of their MLAs joining the rival camp does not give a strong signal for the BJP.

As part of her plan Tapasi Mandal reached the Trinamool Congress Bhavan this afternoon and took the party flag from senior minister Aroop Biswas, who is also a close confidant of Mamata Banerjee, in presence of several other leaders. In state party headquarters.

Regarding leaving the BJP within five years, Tapasi said, "The politics of division within the state BJP is very imminent. I can see that people are rejecting it. It was becoming more and more difficult for me to accept this politics."

Tapasi also mentioned the steady

development of Haldia by the state government as the reason for her joining the Trinamool Congress. She also pointed fingers at Abhijit Gangopadhyay, BJP MP from Tamluk. She said, "I was being cornered through him. Coming from outside and joining opposition is not acceptable."

Taapsee was once in the CPI-M. In the 2016 assembly elections, when Trinamool was victorious in the entire state, Taapsee won the Haldia seat as a Congress-backed CPI-M candidate. Incidentally, at that time Subhendu himself was 'looking after' Haldia on behalf of Trinamool Congress. But despite this, Taapsee won for the CPI-M. After that, she changed parties with the help of that Subhendu. Subhendu left Trinamool and joined BJP. Taapsee also left CPM and joined BJP. In the 2021 assembly elections, Taapsee contested on a BJP ticket from Haldia. She won again. So far, she has been seen as a member in Subhendu's 'close' circle. But when Subhendu is increasingly raising his voice against Trinamool Congress with an eye on the 2026 assembly elections, his 'confidant' Taapsee Pandey has left the party and joined Trinamool Congress.

This split is considered 'uncomfortable' for the opposition leader. On the other hand, the 'joyful' Trinamool camp says that they have demolished Subhendu's Fort'. The BJP has been defeated by Trinamool Congress in the 2021 assembly and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

LS Speaker urges all parties to ensure smooth functioning of Parliament despite differences

MI News Service, New Delhi: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has urged all political parties to ensure smooth functioning of the Budget session of Parliament, particularly during the Question Hour in the House.

The Speaker urged all members attending the Business Advisory Committee meeting on Monday to continue the Question Hour smoothly, Lok Sabha sources said.

He said railways, agriculture and Jal Shakti were among the ministries whose demands will be discussed during the session that will continue till April 4.

The Question Hour usually witnesses uproarious scenes as the opposition seeks to raise a range of issues.

The Budget session is resuming after nearly a month-long recess amid indications of an 'EPIC' showdown between the government and the opposition, which is planning to raise issues such as the alleged manipulation of electoral rolls as raised by West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her party Trinamool Congress, the fresh bout of violence in Manipur, and India's handling of the Donald Trump administration.

The focus of the government will be on getting Parliament's nod for the demands for grants, completion of the budgetary process, seeking approval for the Manipur

budget, and passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill.

Home Minister Amit Shah is expected to move a statutory resolution seeking Parliament's approval for the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is also scheduled to table the budget for Manipur on Monday. Manipur has been under President's Rule since February 13 after the resignation of Chief Minister N Biren Singh.

The opposition said it is set to corner the government over the issue of duplicate Electoral Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers.

The Trinamool Congress has taken the lead in flagging the issue, following which the Election Commission declared that it would take corrective measures within the next three months.

However, in spite of the request for calm by Lok Sabha Speaker, proceedings in the Lower House were disrupted by DMK members on Monday forcing Om Birla to adjourn the House for about 30 minutes.

Soon after the proceedings of the Lok Sabha began, DMK members staged protests over Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's remarks that the Tamil Nadu government was "dishonest" on the

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12 more militants arrested in Manipur with arms, ammunitions

MI News Service, Imphal: In an all out effort to curb militancy in Manipur, at least 12 insurgents belonging to different proscribed outfits in the strife torn state have been arrested by the security forces from different areas during the past 48 hours, police said on Monday.

Of the 12 arrested 3 are active cadres of the banned United People's Party of Kangleipak (UPPK) who were held from Langol Type-II area in Imphal West district, while one member of the Kanglei Yaul Kanna Lup (KYKL) has been taken into custody in Tengnoupal district along the India-Myanmar border on Saturday, they said.

On Sunday, police arrested a woman cadre of the outlawed National Revolutionary Front of Manipur from Imphal

East district. Five members of the People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak PREPAK (Pro) were also apprehended in two separate operations at Khongman Nandeibam Leikai in Imphal East district and Heinoupek in Imphal West district on Sunday, police said.

Two active cadres of the banned Kangleipak Communist Party (PWG) were also arrested from Lamphel and Samurou in Imphal West district, they added. A couple of days earlier also, Manipur police and jawans of the Para Military forces in similar operations have arrested 12 more cadres of different underground outfits and seized a large number of arms, ammunitions, and explosives from various areas of

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Mamata Banerjee congratulates Calcutta HC Justice Joymalya Bagchi for his appointment in SC



MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday extended her heartfelt congratulations to Justice Joymalya Bagchi of the Calcutta High Court on his elevation to the Supreme Court of India, calling it a moment of pride for Bengal. "Congratulations to Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Hon'ble Judge of the Cal-



cutta High Court, for being appointed by the Hon'ble President of India today as an Hon'ble Judge of the Supreme Court of India. The appointment makes us proud," Banerjee stated in a post on X. She further wished him "a glorious innings ahead."

Justice Bagchi's appointment, confirmed on Monday, follows the

Supreme Court Collegium's recommendation issued on March 6. The official announcement was made by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal via X.

Justice Bagchi, an esteemed jurist, was initially appointed as a judge of the Calcutta High Court on June 27, 2011. He was later transferred to the Andhra Pradesh High Court on January 4, 2021. With a tenure spanning over six years in the apex court, his appointment further strengthens the judiciary's diverse expertise.

Once Justice Bagchi takes the oath of office, the Supreme Court's current strength will go up to 33 judges against its sanctioned strength of 34.

His elevation is widely regarded as a significant achievement, reinforcing Bengal's longstanding contribution to India's judicial landscape.

New Zealand PM Luxon will pay five day visit to India from March 16

MI News Service, New Delhi: New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon will pay a five-day maiden visit to India from March 16 to shore up bilateral cooperation in key areas, including trade and investment.

It will be Luxon's first visit to India as the Prime minister of New Zealand, sources at the Ministry of External Affairs said here on Monday, a day after Indian cricket team ensures a comfortable victory over New Zealand in the Champions Trophy Final in Dubai on Sunday.

Besides holding talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 17, he will participate over the inaugural session of the 10th Raisina Dialogue later in the day in New Delhi as the Chief Guest and deliver the Keynote address, the MEA sources said adding that during the trip a number of bilateral agreements between India and New Zealand would be signed to further improve close cooperation in several key areas between the two far off nations, including various sectors in trade and investment besides agriculture. The New Zealand PM will be accompanied by a high-level delegation, including ministers, senior officials, business leaders, media and members of the Indian diaspora community.

Luxon will also visit Mumbai from March 19 to 20 before returning to Wellington. During his stay in Mumbai he will hold interactions with Indian business leaders and representatives from various walks of life.

"During his visit, Prime Minister Luxon will hold talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 17 covering various aspects of India-New Zealand relations," the MEA said.

Prime Minister Modi will host a lunch in honour of the visiting dignitary. Luxon will also call on President Droupadi Murmu.

Luxon's visit underscores the long-standing and enduring ties between India and New Zealand, the MEA said. "It reaffirms the continued commitment of both countries to further strengthen the bilateral relationship across all sectors and deepen our close people-to-people ties," it said adding. Prime Minister Rt Hon Luxon's visit underscores the long-standing and enduring ties between India and New Zealand. It reaffirms the continued commitment of both countries to further strengthen the bilateral relationship across all sectors and deepen our close people-to-people ties.

Vanuatu PM orders cancellation of Lalit Modi's passport

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a major blow to former Indian Premier League (IPL) founder Lalit Modi to prevent his extradition to India, the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu, a small South Pacific Island nation of unmatched scenic beauty, has decided to cancel his citizenship passport saying "the fugitive was attempting to avoid his extradition."

On March 7, Modi filed an application with the Indian high commission in London to surrender his Indian passport. He is

known to have acquired citizenship of South Pacific Island nation of Vanuatu. He left India in 2010 and is learnt to have been living in London.

An official media release by the Republic of Vanuatu stated, Vanuatu Prime Minister Jotham Napat on Monday has directed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the passport of Lalit Modi.

"I have instructed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the Vanuatu passport issued to Lalit Modi following recent revelations in international

media," the official media release quoting the country's Prime minister said adding "I have been made aware in the past 24 hours that Interpol twice rejected Indian authorities' requests to issue an alert notice on Lalit Modi due to lack of substantive judicial evidence. Any such alert would have triggered an automatic rejection of Mr Modi's citizenship application" . The release also stated that the "Prime Minister emphasised that holding a Vanuatu

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India should protect its national interest while negotiating with the US

MI News Service, New Delhi: India, while negotiating with the US, must protect its national interest under bilateral trade agreements and not under multilateral deals with them keeping in mind the interest of Indian farmers and small entrepreneurs, are the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) said on Monday.

The SJM's national council passed a resolution in this regard at its meeting in Chhattisgarh, the RSS affiliate said in a statement that India should enhance its foreign trade only under bilateral trade agreements rather than multilateral deals.

The two-day meeting held in Raipur, which deliberated on a host of issues, including strengthening India's economy amid a changing geopolitical scenario and the Donald Trump administration's policy of reciprocal tariffs, concluded on Monday.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said India is looking for a

"good" trade agreement with the US to promote economic growth and ensure smooth supply chains.

She said that amid a growing global tariff war, India will have to move "smartly" to guard against possible dumping of goods from countries that are facing higher US tariffs. At the same time, India will protect the interests of domestic industries that rely on affordable imports.

"In a broad sense, I think, both sides should have ambition for a good treaty, and nobody can fault that. Particularly for India, when you are looking at Viksit Bharat, you need to have good traction. Everybody is concerned about the growth numbers," she said at an award function.

The minister said that a lot more steps are required to strengthen the country's exports across the board, wherever there is potential.

"So, I am sure Commerce minister Piyush Goyal is quite seized of this, and he would take this new trade agreement

to meet the ambitions that we have in terms of promoting growth, in terms of ensuring that our supply chains are intact and smooth and flowing well, and therefore, that would guide his negotiations, I would think," Sitharaman said.

India and the US are negotiating a bilateral trade agreement, with an aim to double trade to USD 500 billion by 2030. After a week-long visit, Goyal on Saturday returned from Washington after holding trade talks with his US counterparts.

Over the concern that due to the US tariffs, there is a possibility of dumping of goods in the country, Sitharaman said: "When such chances exist, we will have to guard ourselves against it. But, how smartly do we do that?...We need to be smart about these sorts of things". Among stakeholders, there are sections that opt for complete stoppage of dumped goods and some sections prefer a

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Govt seeks Parliament nod to spend Rs 51,463 cr extra in current fiscal

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government on Monday sought Parliament nod to spend net additional Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current financial year ending March, with a large chunk going towards pension and subsidy on fertiliser. The gross additional spending sought by the government is over Rs 6.78 lakh crore, of which Rs 6.27 lakh crore would be matched by savings and receipts. The net additional spending by the government would be Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current fiscal, as per the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha.

According to Govt. Sources The gov-

ernment on Monday sought Parliament nod to spend net additional Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current financial year ending March, with a large chunk going towards pension and subsidy on fertiliser. The gross additional spending sought by the government is over Rs 6.78 lakh crore, of which Rs 6.27 lakh crore would be matched by savings and receipts. The net additional spending by the government would be Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current fiscal, as per the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants tabled by Finance Minister

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Howrah Pilkhana United Club and Shahjahan Academy host ration kit distribution event with prominent attendees



MI News Service, Howrah: The Howrah Pilkhana United Club (HPUC) and Shahjahan Academy organized a impactful Ration Kit Distribution event at Pilkhana, Howrah, aimed at supporting the local community. This initiative, which began in 2019 under the leadership of Sk. Sikandar, the founder of Shahjahan Academy and General Secretary of HPUC, has grown significantly over the years. What started with providing ration kits to 180 individuals has now expanded, with this year's event distributing kits to 650 needy persons, reflecting the growing scale of this humanitarian effort. Sk. Sikandar, who also

runs a free school and engages in extensive social work, has been a cornerstone of community welfare in Pilkhana. Speaking at the event, Mushrat Khanam, another dedicated social worker in attendance, praised his efforts, noting that his commitment to uplifting the underprivileged has been complemented by her own contributions to the community. Together, their work has created a robust support system for the residents of Pilkhana, addressing critical needs like food security and education. The event was graced by several prominent figures, whose presence highlighted

the community's collective support for this cause. Chief Guests included Sri Bishop Sarkar, DCP North and Howrah Police Commissioner; Moulana Abdul-Hajj Hamid Habibi, Imam of Karbala Jama Masjid in Pilkhana; and Sri Gautam Chowdhury, MLA of North Howrah. Guests of Honour included Sk. Sikandar, Abdul Gaffar (ACP), Suphip Singh (OC), Mushrat Khanam, and Sk. Sabir, the President of HPUC. Their attendance underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in driving meaningful change. The distribution of ration kits marks a significant milestone in the ongoing efforts by HPUC and Shahjahan Academy to support the underprivileged.

The event not only provided essential supplies to 650 families but also served as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives. With the continued leadership of Sk. Sikandar and the support of local leaders and social workers like Mushrat Khanam, the collaboration between Howrah Pilkhana United Club and Shahjahan Academy promises to bring even greater impact in the future, inspiring hope and resilience in the community.

Renowned playwright Partap Sehgal awarded 4th Azhar Alam Memorial Award in Little Thespian's 14th National Theatre Festival Jashn-e-Azhar

MI News Service, Kolkata: Theatre is a reflection of life itself, a literary narrative that not only entertains but also refines sensibilities and awakens people to the world around us. This vision inspired S. M. Azhar Alam and Uma Jhunjhunwala to start their own theatre group and Little Thespian was born in 1994. Together, with their talented artists and dedicated members it pushed its boundaries. Since 2010, its six-day national theatre festival "Jashn-E-Rang" has

Khan (Dastaan Theatre Studio, Gwalior) and Dr. Shashi Sehgal (poetess) and Smt. Sumitra Jhunjhunwala (Trustee, Azhar Alam Memorial Trust).

There was Rang Samvad on two days wherein Dr. Arun Hota (Kolkata), Dr. Mohammad Kazim (Delhi), Dr. Rishi Bhushan (Kolkata), Dr. Vinay Mishra (Kolkata) and Shri Ayaz Khan (Gwalior) shared their views on 'Historical Relevance in Partap Sehgal's Play' while Dr. Shubhra Upadhyaya (Kolk-



been a celebration of cultural exchange, enriching our perspectives and inspiring new ideas. In 2022, it renamed its festival to 'Jashn-E-Azhar' as a heartfelt tribute to Azhar's enduring spirit, honoring his remarkable legacy.

From 28th February 2025 to 5th March 2025 it celebrated its 14th National Theatre Festival Jashn-E-Azhar at Gyan Manch. Financially assisted by Ministry of Culture, Government of India and Azhar Alam Memorial Trust, this festival was dedicated to renowned playwright Shri Partap Sehgal. All plays staged in this festival were written by him.

Little Thespian staged its play Andhere Mein (A collage of 10 poems written by Partap Sehgal) directed by Uma Jhunjhunwala. The other plays that were staged in this festival were: Ko Aur Raasta directed by Mrityunjay Prabhakar (Sehar, Shantiniketan staged its play), Anveshak directed by Ayaz Khan (Dastaan Theatre Studio, Gwalior), Bacheche Bade Ho Rahe Hain directed by Gaurav Das (Santoshpur Anuchintan, Kolkata), Antara directed by Gauri Dewal (Unicorn Actors Studio, New Delhi), Teen Gumshuda Log directed by Ashraf Ali (Anurag Theatre Group, New Delhi), Ramanujan directed by Himanshu Himaniya (Kamla Shankar Dhanwanti Foundation, Delhi), Bulleshah directed by Arvind Singh (Samukha, New Delhi) and Rang Basanti directed by Keval Dhaliwal (Manch Rangmanch, Amritsar).

The festival was inaugurated by Shri Probr Guha (Theatre director, Alternative Living Theatre), Prof. Anand Lal (Theatre Critic), Dr. Chitra Mali (In-charge, MGAHV, Kolkata), Shri Ayaz

ata), Dr. Itu Singh (Kolkata), Dr. Reshmi Panda Mukherjee (Kolkata), Dr. Krishna Kumar Shrivastava (Asansol), Shri Ashraf Ali (Delhi) and Shri Gaurav Das (Kolkata) delivered a lecture on 'Exploring Human Existence in Partap Sehgal's Plays'.

The 4th Azhar Alam Memorial Award was presented to Partap Sehgal. Little Thespian also felicitated five theatre personalities for their dedicated service to theatre art: Shri Pawan Maskara (Theatre Actor), Shri Jeetendra Singh (Theatre Director), Smt. Sima Ghosh (Theatre Actress), Shri Khurshed Ekram Manna (Theatre Artist) and Dr. Gagan Deep (Theatre Director).

On the last day of the festival the best three drama teams that were selected earlier in Little Thespian's 2nd Drama Competition staged their plays. Ameteur Theatre Group, Gorakhpur won the 1st position for their play Mehmood directed by Asif Zaheer. Apekkhik & Shor Theatre, Kolkata secured the 2nd position for their play Jyestha Kaunteya directed by Avik Roy and Swang Drama Club, Kolkata won the 3rd position for their play Teesri Taali directed by Md. Asif Alam. The winners of 2nd Research Article Writing was also declared. The first and second position was secured by Md Iqbal (Alia University) and Ms. Priti Singh (Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University) for their article "The Relevance of Azhar Alam's Play in Present Scenario"; the third position was secured by Ms. Puja Shaw (Savitri Girls College) for her article on Badal Sarkar. The festival concluded by vote of thanks by Ms. Uma Jhunjhunwala (President, Little Thespian)



CPI (M) State Secretary Md Salim joins the protest against Waqf Amendment Bill in solidarity with the All India Muslim Personal Law Board under the banner of 'Joint Protest Demonstration' in Kolkata on Monday

Court confirms guilty to a miscreant for throwing acid on a youth girl

MI News Service, Ranaghat: A man had thrown acid to the face of a young girl entering her home and she sustained injuries. He did so for being refused in his proposal of love affair. However, subsequently police arrested him and a case was going on for long days. However, finally court declared him guilty on Monday. The sentence will be pronounced on Tuesday.



One Sankar Das of Gobindapur Radhanagar under Taherpur PS in Nadia had been harassing the victim, local Rita Das with inappropriate proposals repeatedly. But Rita refused him constantly.

In this situation, Sankar forcibly entered her home at around 12.30 pm. October 20, 2021, and threw acid on her face, causing several wounds.

The victim was immediately taken to a private hospital in Ranaghat for treatment. A case was registered and police initiated a

probe. The case went on since then. The judgement was pronounced by ADJ Fast track court in Ranaghat on Monday. Shankar Das was declared as guilty. The sentence will be announced on Tuesday.

Grand Celebration of "Vishva Navkar Mantra Diwas" on April 9, 2025, in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: A grand event to celebrate "Vishva Navkar Mantra Diwas" is set to take place on April 9 at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Kolkata. The event is being organized by JITO (Jain International Trade Organization) and has been extended as an open invitation by Sunil J. Singhi, Chairman of the National Traders Welfare Board, Government of India.



During the "Jeeto Meet" event on Sunday, Sunil J. Singhi, as the chief guest, not only invited everyone to the Vishva Navkar Mantra Diwas celebration but also discussed key aspects of the Union Budget 2025-2026 presented by the central government. He highlighted several initiatives designed to help traders overcome business

challenges, emphasizing various government-supported solutions for ease of business.

The event will witness the active participation of prominent dignitaries, including JITO Chairman Dhamendra Jain, JITO Convenor Dinesh Jain Gangwal, Narendra Badia, Binod Sancheti, Arun Sancheti, Vinod Dugar, Nagraj Barnecha, and Ashoke Begani. The Chief Guest for

the event will be Mr. Sunil Jivraj Singhi, along with Central Trade Welfare Chairman Sunita Sethia and Rishav Sethia.

This event is expected to be a grand occasion, uniting business leaders, traders, and dignitaries to celebrate the power of the Navkar Mantra while discussing key economic and trade-related initiatives.

In the presence of Nirankari Satguru, Bengal's Provincial Saint Gathering concluded

MI News Service, Kolkata: "To maintain peace and happiness in life, keep God in your heart because when the mind is happy, then there is a divine experience of peace and happiness everywhere." This inspirational message was expressed by Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj while addressing the God-lovers present in the closing session of the West Bengal Provincial Nirankari Sant Samagam. In this two-day Sant Sammelan, devotees from many other districts apart from Kolkata participated and benefited from the holy blessings of Satguru.



While addressing the devotees, Satguru Mata Ji said that the saints always live a happy and joyful life by staying connected to God and constantly being in His consciousness and by adopting human qualities like love and brotherhood towards all. Referring to the real life, Satguru Mata Ji said that the true life is only that in which the love of God and his devotion resides. Therefore, we have to build bridges of love in our lives by performing love, devotion, dedication and duties.

sayings and experiences in Hindi, English and Bengali.

Nirankari Exhibition:- Nirankari Exhibition and Children Exhibition specially decorated for the devotees and visitors remained the center of attraction in the gathering. In this exhibition, the glorious history of the Mission, its history and culture were shown through impressive models, rare photographs and creative presentations. The spiritual vision and inspiring glimpse of the congregation was presented impressively which proved to be a wonderful experience for the devotees.

In this gathering, Zonal Incharge of Kolkata Zone, Shri Mohan Prasad Sao expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the most revered Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and the respectable Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji for giving holy blessings to the saints. Along with this, he also thanked the guests present at the gathering, the administration for its positive cooperation, and the devotees.

In the end, Satguru Mata Ji urged all the devotees, after getting the knowledge of Nirankar God, to live a family life and fulfill all the responsibilities of the family and society while doing devotion through the means of daily service, meditation and satsang.

During the congregation, many speakers, poets and lyricists gave a soulful description of the glory of the Guru through their rabbinic

34th International Conference on Astrology



MI News Service, Naihati: On the occasion of the 34th International Astrology Congress on Monday, 10th March, a grand function was organized at Naihati EKTAN Auditorium where guests from far and wide attended. Experts in astrology discussed various aspects of current and future astrology. Justice Jaydeep Mukherjee of the Supreme Court, Justice Subal Vaidya of the

Calcutta High Court, Professor Animesh Shastri, Justice Ashim Debnath, Naresh Singh from Nepal, Astrologer Prabira Nanda Shastri and other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Prof. Subir Kumar Bose, Chairman and Convener of the Conference said that this conference has brought about a synergy between different states, countries and the world in the practice

of astrology. In the coming days, the practice of astrology will move forward in a big way and our appeal to the government has given official recognition to astrology in many states. We demand that this recognition should be given to us in West Bengal. So that future generations can come to this profession more and more and it will have an impact on the world.

AFC Women's Football Day celebrated

MI News Service, Kolkata: FOOTBALL DAY organised U-15 girls football tournament organised by Central Calcutta Gosto Pal Memorial Sporting Club. Girls participate in this tournament with great enthusiasm. Vidyasagar Memorial Football Club beat Central Calcutta Gosto Pal Memorial Sporting Club by 1-0. The players of both the teams played very well. Today's event was attended by Md. Zinnah, sports secretary of Ichapur Shivaaji Sangh Football Academy, Zulfikar Ali Dada, head coach of Central Cal-

cutta Goshta Pal Memorial Sporting Club, Mantu Mandal (Asst. Coach), Satyam Bose of North Kolkata Milan Chakra, Sampa Shirin of Park Circus Sarat Memorial Sporting Club, Akash Sen, joint secretary of the host club, Vidyasagar Memorial Football Club Secretary Bhola Dasa and others. Meghna Saha Roy was selected as Man of the Match in this tournament. The trophy for this tournament will be presented on the 50th death anniversary of India's legendary footballer Goshta Paul on April 8, 2025.



National Lok Adalat held in Howrah

Nurul Islam Khan Recently, the benches were held under the leadership of Howrah District and Sessions Judge Abhijit Som under the supervision of Smt. Suparna Sarkar, Secretary of the District Legal Services Center. There are 19 benches in the district.



District Office Master Prosenjit Bhattacharya said - "Most of the cases registered in the National People's Court were settled today on Monday. The amount of money was crores of rupees." On this day, there was a two-member bench led by Shri Asim Debnath. In this bench, 'trained mediator' and 'legal correspondent' Molla Jasimuddin became the 'member

judge' as a social worker. Sajal Sarkar and Amit Chakraborty of Axis Bank were present. Hearings were held on loan defaulters. In other benches of the Howrah District Court, various cases including traffic laws and money suits were settled.

Many people including teachers, lawyers, officials belonging to social service organizations, journalists were present as 'bench judges' in the Howrah District Court. Saplings were distributed to everyone on behalf of the District Court.

Multiple fatalities in Bengal road accidents, several critically injured

MI News Service, Kolkata: A series of tragic road accidents shook West Bengal on Monday, leaving multiple fatalities and several others critically injured. The accidents, reported from Purulia, Bankura, and West Midnapore, highlighted the alarming frequency of road mishaps in the state.

In West Midnapore's Daspur, a fatal collision occurred on the Ghatal-Panskura Road near Panchberia. Around 12:30 AM on Sunday night, a Maruti car crashed head-on with a truck, resulting in the death of the driver. The impact was so severe that the vehicle was completely mangled. Three passengers sustained critical injuries and were rushed to the hospital.

claimed the life of a cyclist who was crushed under the wheels of a trailer. The tragic incident took place near the Nadihara village along the Chhara-Nadihara state highway. Upon receiving the report, the Purulia Mofussil Police rushed to the scene. However, the trailer driver had already fled, abandoning the vehicle. In response, enraged locals staged a road blockade for nearly an hour, demanding compensation for the victim's family. The situation in the area remained tense.

Meanwhile, in Purulia, an early-morning accident occurred on State Highway 9 near Chhaipur Passenger Waiting Shed on Monday morning. Adding to the list of mishaps, a passenger-laden bus in Bankura met with an accident, injuring at least five people. According to eyewitnesses, the reckless driving of the bus driver was the primary cause. The incident happened near Joypur Jungle on State Highway 2. Reports suggest that the speeding bus violently rear-ended a truck moving in the same direction.

In another incident, a head-on collision between a motorcycle and a truck in Bankura's Taldangra claimed the life of a 29-year-old man, identified as Soumyadeep Kundu. A resident of Raipur, Kundu was an employee at a private bank. The accident

These back-to-back accidents have once again raised concerns over road safety and the urgent need for stricter traffic regulations. Locals and commuters are demanding immediate intervention from authorities to prevent further loss of lives.

SBI expands nationwide reach, strengthens financial inclusion

MI News Service, Kolkata: State Bank of India (SBI) marked the commencement of its platinum jubilee celebrations by reinforcing its commitment to financial inclusion. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman, inaugurated 70 new branches and 501 Women Customer Service Points (CSPs), enhancing banking access for underserved populations. The event was attended by DFS Secretary, M. Nagaraju, and SBI Chairman, CS Setty.

SBI continues its expansive outreach, adding over 100 branches in Q3 FY25, pushing its network beyond 22,800 branches and 78,023 CSPs nationwide. New branches in remote areas, including Pughopati (Nagaland) and Itamati (Odisha), highlight its financial inclusion strategy. Underscoring its social responsibility, SBI has allocated ₹26 crores across 17 CSR projects, addressing women's empowerment, health-

care, and sustainability. The bank has already invested ₹379 crores in community initiatives this fiscal year. Sitharaman lauded SBI's efforts, noting its pivotal role in banking 5.6% of the global population, driving innovation, and empowering women through expanded financial services. With unwavering commitment, SBI continues to redefine inclusive banking, fostering economic progress nationwide.

LS Speaker urges all parties...

From PG 1
said, indicating the time left for the Tamil Nadu government to sign the MoU on PM SHRI.

Taking strong exception to the minister's remarks, the DMK members registered strong protests by raising slogans against the central government.

Speaker Om Birla asked the agitating members to return to their seats and allow the House to function normally.

Birla said he has given the opposition members opportunity to pose questions and subsequently the minister has replied. "But now you are doing this (protests). This is not good. You are setting wrong precedence. Don't violate the Parliamentary procedures," he said.

Pradhan said: "They are dishonest and they are ruining the future of the students of Tamil Nadu. They are doing politics".

The minister said at one point of time, the government of Tamil Nadu had agreed to PM SHRI scheme and several DMK MPs, who came to see him, conveyed this to him.

"But when they went back, they made a U-Turn. They are doing mischief with the life of the students. They are misleading the people and doing injustice to students of Tamil Nadu. They are undemocratic, uncivilised," he alleged.

Pradhan said Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin had also agreed initially "but suddenly some super CM appeared and they took a U-Turn. They just want to do politics".

"Today is March 10. We have still 20 days left in the month of March," he

said, indicating the time left for the Tamil Nadu government to sign the MoU on PM SHRI.

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Govt seeks...

From PG 1
Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha The additional expenditure includes Rs 12,000 crore towards fertiliser subsidy and Rs 13,449 crore towards pension for government employees, including for Unified Pension Scheme (UPS).

The total spending also includes Defence pension of Rs 8,476 crore and Rs 5,322 crore to the Department of Telecommunications.

The government on Monday sought Parliament nod to spend net additional Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current financial year ending March, with a large chunk going towards pension and subsidy on fertiliser.

The gross additional spending sought by the government is over Rs 6.78 lakh crore, of which Rs 6.27 lakh crore would be matched by savings and receipts.

The net additional spending by the government would be Rs 51,462.86 crore in the current fiscal, as per the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants tabled by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha.

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Vanuatu...

From PG 1
passport is a privilege, not a right, and applicants must seek citizenship for legitimate reasons.

"None of those legitimate reasons include attempting to avoid extradition, which the recent facts brought to light clearly indicate was Modi's intension," the statement said.

Vanuatu has decided to cancel the passport granted to former Indian Premier League (IPL) chairman Lalit Modi, who has been described as an economic offender by Indian investigating agencies. Modi said last week that he wanted to surrender his Indian passport as he had acquired citizenship in Vanuatu.

A media release by following this development Prime Minister Jotham Napat's office in Vanuatu said on Monday that he had directed the Citizenship Commission to cancel the Vanuatu passport issued to Lalit Modi.

Last week, Randhir Jaiswal, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), said: "Lalit Modi has made an application for surrendering his passport in the High Commission of India, London. The same will be examined in light of extant rules and procedures."

"We are also given to understand that he has acquired citizenship of Vanuatu. We continue to pursue the case against him as required under law," Jaiswal had said.

should be absolutely your top priority. And unless you do negotiate for India's own good, even your negotiation will not be taken seriously by the opposite side, because they are very clear on what they want. But can you not be as clear? And therefore, I would think the approach now is to be a lot more hands-on in your negotiation," she said.

Sitharaman also pitched for consulting with the stakeholders at every process and taking their inputs from time to time.

Voter surge in Bengal sparks political controversy

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal has witnessed a significant rise in voter registrations following the Lok Sabha elections, with an increase of 558,387 voters in just a few months. The ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has alleged foul play, claiming that the voter list has been manipulated. In response, TMC leaders and workers are conducting door-to-door verification of the electoral rolls. This initiative serves a dual purpose—ensuring an accurate voter list and strengthening grassroots-level public engagement ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had raised concerns over voter list discrepancies during a special assembly session on February 27.

She instructed party leaders to scrutinize the electoral rolls, emphasizing the importance of transparency as the state gears up for the crucial Assembly polls in 2026. The surge in voter numbers following the 2024 Lok Sabha elections has reinforced TMC's suspicion of large-scale irregularities. The party alleges that legitimate voters have been removed from the list, names of deceased individuals have been struck off, and multiple voters have been registered under the same EPIC number. Additionally, TMC claims that non-residents from other states have been added to Bengal's electoral rolls, further intensifying concerns over electoral integrity.

A major focus of TMC's verification drive is North Bengal, a region with 54 Assembly seats. In the 2021 Assembly elections, the BJP secured victory in 30 constituencies, while TMC won 24. The results of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections further underscored the BJP's dominance in the region, as the party secured six out of the eight parliamentary seats, leaving only one for TMC and another for the Congress. This political trend has heightened TMC's concerns, especially as North Bengal has recorded a substantial increase in voter registrations. TMC has accused the BJP of orchestrating these electoral discrepancies by influencing the Election Commission to manipulate the voter list in their favor. Consequently, the

party has intensified its scrutiny of Assembly-wise voter lists, ensuring meticulous verification. Party leaders have instructed local booth-level workers to gather data through direct interactions with residents. This approach is expected to provide a clearer picture of potential voter list tampering while simultaneously enhancing voter outreach. According to TMC insiders, this voter verification drive serves a dual objective—detecting electoral fraud and revitalizing the party's grassroots network before the 2026 Assembly elections. The initiative is seen as a strategic move to strengthen the party's organizational framework while addressing concerns over electoral integrity in Bengal.



West Bengal Pradesh Congress stages agitation in front of the Drug Control Office in Kolkata on Monday.

Firhad Hakim defends KMC amid fin crisis

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim has strongly defended the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) against allegations of financial mismanagement, stating that the administration is actively working on solutions without increasing taxes. His comments come amid mounting criticism over unpaid wages for 100-day scheme workers, while the civic body continues spending on festivals and events.

"Our predecessors managed finances by selling land, but we are focusing on restructuring unused assets and generating

revenue without burdening citizens with higher taxes," Hakim asserted. He emphasized that KMC is cutting costs while ensuring essential services remain unaffected.

In response, Mayor-in-Council Aseem-Basu assured that pending payments for three boroughs and February salaries will be cleared within the next week.

With the financial crisis escalating, KMC faces mounting pressure to balance its commitments to civic development, festivals, and the timely payment of workers' wages.

Cal HC takes strict action against 21 Basirhat lawyers for contempt

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant development, the Calcutta High Court has taken stringent action against 21 lawyers, including the government prosecutor of Basirhat Court, for alleged contempt of court. The division bench, led by Justice Debangshu Basak and Justice Mohammad Shabbir-Rashidi, has issued a rule under criminal contempt against these lawyers in response to allegations of judicial harassment.

The controversy stems from an incident at Basirhat Court, where an Additional District Judge was reportedly subjected to harassment. Following the incident, the judge lodged a formal complaint with the Calcutta High Court through the district

judge. Upon reviewing video evidence of the incident, the division bench expressed shock and dismay over the conduct of the accused lawyers.

One of the key concerns raised by the court was the absence of the government prosecutor in a POCSSO (Protection of Children from Sexual Offences) case, despite clear judicial directives. The failure to participate in the legal proceedings deprived the minor victim of due justice. The division bench questioned why the prosecutor failed to fulfill his duty and took a stern stance on the matter.

The court has announced that contempt proceedings will be initiated against the 21 lawyers involved, with

hearings scheduled in the coming days. Based on these proceedings, further legal actions will be determined. The bench has already requested detailed information on the accused lawyers from the Basirhat Bar Association.

Reports indicate that the lawyers had abstained from participating in the POCSSO case hearing at Basirhat Court, prompting a strong reprimand from the presiding judge. Following this, the judge was allegedly subjected to harassment, leading him to escalate the matter to the High Court. The Calcutta High Court's firm intervention underscores the judiciary's commitment to maintaining discipline and upholding the sanctity of legal proceedings.

One arrested in Belgharia shootout

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant breakthrough in the Belgharia shootout case, the police have arrested one suspect, identified as Vicky Yadav. However, the primary accused, Indal Yadav, remains at large. According to sources, the arrested individual is a close associate of Indal, raising hopes that the police may soon track down the main perpetrator.

The shocking incident occurred on Saturday evening in front of a tea stall near the No. 4 railway gate in Ward 29 of Kamarhati Municipality, Belgharia. Unidentified assailants opened fire on a Trinamool Congress (TMC) worker, Vikash Singh, a leader of the party's labor union. The sudden attack sent shockwaves across the locality, forcing bystanders to flee in panic.

Vikash sustained severe injuries and was immediately rushed to Sagar Dutta Hospital. However, due to the critical nature of his condition, he was later transferred to R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital for advanced treatment.

According to Vikash's statement, three miscreants arrived on a motorcycle and fired multiple shots at him. The brazen attack not only left Vikash wounded but also injured an innocent

bystander, Santu Das. A resident of Agarpara, Santu had come to Belgharia with his wife for a medical consultation. He was enjoying a cup of tea at the same stall when a stray bullet grazed his abdomen, narrowly missing vital organs.

Eyewitnesses recounted that after the attack, the perpetrators fired shots into the air before speeding away on their motorcycle, evading capture. The incident has raised concerns over the rising instances of violence in the area, prompting the police to intensify their investigation.

Preliminary findings suggest that the shootout may have been the result of a love triangle. Sources indicate that a dispute between Vikash and Indal over a young woman may have been the motive behind the attack. This theory is currently being pursued by investigators as they work to uncover further details and apprehend the remaining suspects.

With tensions running high in the area, local residents and political leaders have urged the authorities to ensure swift justice. Meanwhile, law enforcement agencies continue their hunt for Indal Yadav, deploying additional resources to prevent further escalation of violence in Belgharia.

JU unrest intensifies amidst police summons and fresh protests

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jadavpur University remains on edge as student protests and legal battles continue to escalate. On Monday, a fresh petition was filed in the Calcutta High Court by student leader Uddipankundu, who alleged police harassment under the guise of questioning. The case was presented before Justice Tirthankar Ghosh.

Kundu, a leader of the student organization FETSU, claimed in his petition that Jadavpur students were summoned by the police on March 7 for questioning. However, during their appearance, the police allegedly demanded their mobile phones, which the students refused to hand over. Following this, they were reportedly subjected to harassment and repeated summons. The latest police notice required them to appear again on Monday, prompting Kundu to seek an urgent hearing. Justice Ghosh registered the case and directed that it be mentioned again on Tuesday.

The tensions at Jadavpur stem from the events of March 1, when the university's annual Web Cooper meeting turned chaotic. During the meeting, Education Minister Bratya Basu was allegedly physically harassed, and acting Vice-Chancellor Bhaskar Gupta was also reportedly manhandled. Additionally, a student named Indranuj Roy was injured after being struck by the minister's vehicle. These inci-

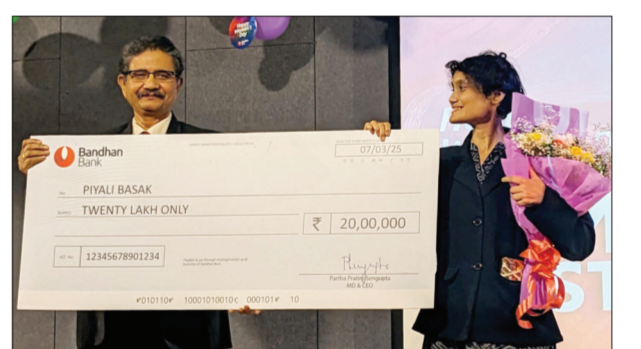
dents led to a series of protests, counter-allegations, and legal battles that have kept the university embroiled in controversy.

Several cases have already been filed in the High Court regarding police intervention on campus and the demand to resolve the deadlock. The latest case regarding the repeated questioning of students adds another dimension to the ongoing turmoil.

Meanwhile, tensions soared again on Monday as Professor Omprakash Mishra faced fresh protests upon his return to the university after nine days. Students affiliated with the Students' Federation of India (SFI) confronted him with placards, accusing him of misconduct. Reports indicate that Mishra, upon entering the campus, had to fold his hands in a gesture of appeal to make his way into his office. However, the protesting students staged a sit-in outside his office, further intensifying the standoff.

Sensing the situation's volatility, plainclothes police officers arrived at the scene. Mishra, undeterred by the protests, responded defiantly, stating, "I will not be intimidated. I fear no one." He further expressed frustration over the rekindling of tensions despite an FIR already being filed.

As the crisis deepens, questions loom over whether the scheduled university meeting will proceed or fall victim to the ongoing unrest.



On the occasion of International Women's Day, Bandhan Bank committed ₹20 lakh to support mountaineer Piyali Basak's next expedition, empowering her journey to new heights and reinforcing the bank's commitment to fostering resilience and excellence among women in sports. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank, presented the cheque to Basak at the bank's headquarters in Kolkata.

Pregnancy tests introduced in Alipore Women's Correctional Home

MI News Service, Kolkata: A major controversy erupted recently over allegations that female inmates in West Bengal's correctional facilities were becoming pregnant while incarcerated. Concerns over the security of women prisoners led to judicial intervention, resulting in stringent guidelines for their protection. In response, the state has now introduced pregnancy tests for female inmates, with Alipore Women's Correctional Home being the first to implement the measure. According to jail authorities, these tests have been conducted over the past two months. Under strict supervision by female staff, tests are carried out daily, primarily for three categories of inmates—those newly admitted, those returning from parole, and under trial prisoners who attend court hearings. Reports indicate that approximately

seven to eight women undergo pregnancy tests every day. Despite the fact that female inmates do not typically have opportunities for physical contact with their spouses or family members during court visits, prison officials are taking no risks following the controversy. The Supreme Court had earlier mandated regular inspections of correctional facilities, prompting the Calcutta High Court to initiate a suo-motu case in 2017. During these inspections, shocking revelations emerged about female inmates becoming pregnant while in custody, sparking widespread debate. This led to a High Court directive banning male entry into women's correctional homes and juvenile shelters, a measure later upheld by the Supreme Court, which instructed all states to take necessary precautions.

Metro Railway observes International Women's Day



MI News Service, Kolkata: International Women's Day was observed in Metro Railway today i.e. on 10.03.2025 at Belgachia Auditorium under the theme "Accelerate Action", instead of 8th March, 2025, as it was a scheduled holiday. The objective of this programme was to highlight the steps taken by Metro Railway for empowerment of women. An interactive session was organized to mark the occasion. In this session, the participants have shared their thoughts about the empowerment of women and the challenges they face everyday. Highlighting the theme of this year's International Women's Day, Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway in his speech

urged all to come forward for achieving gender equality and emphasised on the importance of empowering women and girls to ensure speedy pace of progress. Smt. Ambika Jain, Principal Financial Advisor, Smt. Vinita Jain, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, all senior officers and lady staff of all departments were present in this programme. A Cultural programme was held in which a large number of lady employees participated. Ms. Arati BR Singh who is a psychoanalyst and philanthropist, the vision-ary founder of Sabri Helpline was the Chief Guest of this programme and in her motivational speech, she inspired all lady employees for making a better future.

Rajya Sabha Passes Historic Bill for Railway Reforms: Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Highlights Key Achievements



MI News Service, New Delhi: Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025 Passed: Govt Assures More Efficiency, Safety, and Empowerment New Delhi, March 10, 2025: Today, the Rajya Sabha passed a landmark bill aimed at streamlining and modernizing railway operations in India. Addressing the House, Minister of Railways, Communications, and Electronics & IT, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, emphasized the bill's role in empowering the field offices, enhancing efficiency, and reinforcing cooperative federalism. The Minister expressed gratitude to the 25 Members of Parliament who participated in the discussion, acknowledging the valuable suggestions and debates. He categorically stated that the bill is designed to simplify existing laws and does not diminish the powers of state governments. Instead, it promotes decentralization by granting full authority to general managers in railway zones to approve projects up to ₹1,000 crore. Highlighting the government's commitment to state-wise railway development, Shri Vaishnaw cited substantial budget allocations in states where the ruling party is not in power. Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, and West Bengal have all received significantly higher allocations compared to previous administrations. Major Achievements and Reforms in Railways: Infrastructure Development • Over the past 11 years, 34,000 kilometers of new railway tracks have been laid, surpassing Germany's total rail network. • Electrification of 45,000 kilometers has been completed, significantly reducing dependence on fossil fuels. • 50,000 kilometers of old tracks have been replaced with new, high-quality rails. Safety Enhancements • Investment in railway safety has surged from ₹8,000 crore under previous administrations to ₹1.14 lakh crore under Prime Minister Modi's leadership. • Rail fractures have reduced by 91%, with incidents decreasing from 2,548 in 2013-14 to just a fraction today. • The introduction of the Kavach safety system, with SIL 4 certification, ensures high-level security in railway operations. Employment and Capacity Building • More than 5,02,000 jobs

have been provided under the NDA government, compared to 4,11,000 during the UPA era. • Large-scale recruitment exams have been conducted transparently, with millions of candidates participating. • Enhanced training programs on the iGOT platform have seen maximum enrollment from railway employees. Passenger Amenities and Modernization • 3,10,000 modern toilets have been installed in railway coaches, dramatically improving hygiene standards. • 558 running rooms for loco pilots are now fully air-conditioned. • New locomotives are being manufactured with state-of-the-art technology and improved working conditions. Shri Vaishnaw also addressed concerns regarding crowd management at railway stations, particularly in light of recent incidents. He announced that full access control will be implemented at 60 major railway stations, ensuring only ticketed passengers can enter platforms. Special trains will be stationed near high-traffic stations to accommodate unexpected surges in passenger numbers. Concluding his speech, the Minister reiterated Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India), urging railway employees and stakeholders to work three times harder to build on the strong foundation laid in the past decade. The passing of this bill marks a significant milestone in India's railway modernization journey, ensuring safer, more efficient, and passenger-friendly services for the future. Brief on Railways (Amendment) Bill 2025 The Railways functions through its Zones, Divisions, and Production Units etc. under the supervision of the Railway Board. The Railway Board also makes all the policy decisions for Railway operations. Now, the railways amendment act 2025 bill replace the colonial period provisions. Now the provision for Railway Board are incorporated into the Railways Act, 1989. The new act bill will reduce reference to two Acts. Now, only one Act will need to be referred to. The nature, scope and functioning of the Railway Board, Zones, Divisions, Production Units etc. will remain the same. • Motion for introduction of 'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024' was moved in Lok Sabha on 09th August, 2024 i.e. on the last day of First Session of the 18th Lok Sabha. • 'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024' (Bill No. 113-C of 2024) passed in the Lok Sabha on 11.12.2024. • The Bill has come up as Item No. 10 in the List of Business of Rajya Sabha on 10.03.2025 and passed as 'The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2025'.

ER augmenting passenger convenience by installing more TIB, CIB & video walls at different stations



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway is committed to improving passenger experience and safety across its network. In line with this effort, the Railway has been installing state-of-the-art infrastructure, including Coach Indication Boards (CIBs), Train Indication Boards (TIBs), tower clocks, video walls, LED displays, and a comprehensive Video Surveillance System (VSS) at various stations. The newly introduced coach and train indication boards at key stations will provide real-time information on the arrival and departure of trains. These boards will help passengers easily identify the correct platform for their train, ensuring a smoother travel experience. Additionally, coach indication boards installed at platforms will show the exact location of the train's coaches, allowing passengers to wait at the right spot to board their respective coaches without confusion. In February 2025, Eastern Railway further strengthened its information dissemination system by installing 2 outdoor video walls (4m x 3m) and 3 indoor video walls (3m x 2m) at Sahibganj and Malda Town stations. Furthermore, 3 LED display boards were added at Ja-

malpur station in the Malda Division. These video walls and LED displays provide infotainment along with essential information about train arrivals and departures, making travel more informative and enjoyable. Up until February 2025, Eastern Railway has installed such video walls at 11 stations, along with 53 LED TVs at various stations. To further improve passenger convenience, coach indication boards were also installed at Panagarh station of Asansol Division and Murshidabad station of Sealdah Division in February 2025. This brings the total number of installation of Coach Indication Boards to 18 stations in the Financial Year 2024-25, so far. Moreover, Eastern Railway has been enhancing station infrastructure with the installation of outdoor tower clocks. In February 2025, tower clocks were added at Azimganj and Pakur stations, bringing the total installation of tower clocks at 12 stations in this Financial Year, upto February 2025. As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen security, Eastern Railway has been installing Video Surveillance Systems (VSS) monitored by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) at various stations. In February 2025, VSS was implemented at Jamalpur station with the installation of 60 surveillance cameras connected to a central monitoring system. With this, Eastern Railway now has a total of 2337 surveillance cameras were installed across 84 stations, upto February in the current Fiscal, significantly improving security monitoring throughout the network.

Name Change I, Chinmoy Mondal (Old Name) son of Gopal Mondal, residing at Deganga, P.S.-Deganga, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743423, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Chinmay Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Chinmay Mondal (New Name) and Chinmoy Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Jagabandhu Saha, Jago bandhu Saha (Old Names) son of Late Lal-mohan Saha, residing at North Bak-sara Govt Colony 1, P.S.-Santargachi, Howrah- 711110, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jagabandhu Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Jagabandhu Saha (New Name) and Jagabandhu Saha, Jago bandhu Saha (Old Names) all are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Rashutos Mondal (Old Name) son of Shih Charan Mondal, residing at Sintrani, Chakjhitpota, Sindrani, Bagdah, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743297, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashutos Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Ashutos Mondal (New Name) and Rashutos Mondal (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Kamal Barui alias Kamal Chandra Barui (Old Name) S/o Binod Barai Residing at Penpe Bagan, Dhakuria, Hanskhali, District -Nadia, Pin - 741151 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Kamal Barai (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 31/2025 Dated 10-03-2025. Kamal Barui, Kamal Chandra Barui (Old Name) and Kamal Barai (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Amit Kumar Kedia (Old Name) S/o Ramesh Kedia Residing at Flat-10/Panchmukhi Villa, 435/11, Jessore Road, Kolkata, South Dum Dum, North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700055 West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amit Kedia (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 32/2025 Dated 10-03-2025. Amit Kumar Kedia (Old Name) and Amit Kedia (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Md Sadek Ali alias Sadeque Ali Mondal (Old Name) S/o Miazan Mondal Residing at Dakshin Serpur Dakshin Para, Serpur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743293 India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sadeque Ali Mandal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 33/2025 Dated 10-03-2025. Md Sadek Ali, Sadeque Ali Mondal (Old Name) and Sadeque Mandal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Ruhul Amin (Old Name) S/o Sadeque Ali Mandal Residing at Dakshin Serpur, EP School, Serpur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743293 India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ruhul Amin Mandal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 29/2025 Dated 10-03-2025. Ruhul Amin (Old Name) and Ruhul Amin Mandal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Pingal Majumdar (Old Name) S/o Rupendra Kumar Majumdar Residing at B-53/A, Rabindranagar, Maheshala, District- Kolkata, Pin - 700018 West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pingal Kanti Majumdar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 30/2025 Dated 10-03-2025. Pingal Majumdar (Old Name) and Pingal Kanti Majumdar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Niranjan Kumar Bidyasarai (Old Name) S/o Hanuman Prasad Bidyasarai residing at Pratima Appt, Block-B, Flat-2C, 2nd Floor, Tegharia Dhalipara, North 24 Parganas-700157, West Bengal, India have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Niranjan Kumar Bidyasarai (New Name) as declared before Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit dated 21.02.25. Niranjan Kumar Bidyasarai and Niranjan Kumar Bida saria both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Ranju Bidyasarai (Old Name) W/o Niranjan Kumar Bidyasarai and D/o Ram Prasad Goenka residing at Pratima Appt, Block-B, Flat-2C, 2nd Floor, Tegharia Dhalipara, North 24 Parganas-700157, West Bengal, India have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Ranju Bidyasarai (New Name) as declared before Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit dated 21.02.25. Ranju Bidyasarai and Ranju Bidyasarai both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Anjali W/o JC-757480A Rank Ex Nb Sub Name Gurucharan Bata baid, resident of Vill Chhandidar Naoor, PO Naoor, Dist Birbhum, (WB), Pin- 731301 have change my name from Anjali to Anjali Batabyal vide Affidavit dated 25 Feb 2025 before the Court of Ld. J.M. 1st Class at Bolpur Court Birbhum.

NAME CHANGE I, Sudipta Debnath, D/o Late Sujit Kumar Acharya R/O Netaji Subhas Road, Rajpur Sonarpur (M), South 24 parganas, WB-700149 shall be known as Sudipta Acharya, as notarized, Alipore Court vide affidavit no. (12025) Dated 12/02/2025. Henceforth Sudipta Debnath and Sudipta Acharya both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Feroz Alam, S/O Badrul Hasan, R/O H-53-Pahar Pur Road, Po+Ps-Garden Reach, Kolkata-700024, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Firoz Alam, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/03/20 25, That Feroz Alam And Firoz Alam All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Nilam Vikram Jagtap (Old Name) wife of Vikram Jayawant Jagtap, residing at ROYALSTONE, RESI, CHINCHWADE VALHEKAR WADI, SR NO-128-129, FL NO-11, PUNE, PIN- 411019, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Neelam Vikram Jagtap (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Neelam Vikram Jagtap (New Name) and Nilam Vikram Jagtap (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Prafulla Kumar Pradhan (Old Name) S/O Late Ram Pradhan, Residing At Vill & Po -Keotchi alisa, P.S.-Mohampur, Dist.-West Medinipur, Pin-721443, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Prafulla Pradhan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/03/2025, That Prafulla Kumar Pradhan (Old Name) And Prafulla Pradhan (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Debendra Singh (Old Name) son of Sumer Mal Singh, residing at Avishi Trident, BL-2, 11th Floor, Flat-11A, 34B, B T Road, Cossipore, Kolkata- 700002, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Devendra Kumar Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Devendra Kumar Singh (New Name) and Debendra Singh (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Amal Bibhuti Bhusan Sarkar (Old Name) son of Bibhuti Bhusan Sarkar, residing at Lalpur Bose Para, P.O.- Chakdah, P.S.- Chakdah, Nadia- 741222, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amal Sarkar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Amal Sarkar (New Name) and Amal Bibhuti Bhusan Sarkar (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Subhra Das (Old Name) daughter of Subrata Brahma, residing at Jugi Para Road, Baishali Park, Rajpur, Sonarpur (M), South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700149, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhra Das Brahma (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Subhra Das Brahma (New Name) and Subhra Das (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Sankalita Mitra (Old Name) wife of Souvik Mitra, Date of Birth 16/12/1980, residing at Ideal Enclave, F-35, Rajarhat Main Road, P.O.- R. Gopalpur, P.S.- Airport, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700136, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sankalita Ghosh Mitra (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 10/03/2025. Sankalita Ghosh Mitra (New Name) and Sankalita Mitra (Old Name) both are same and identical person.

Health ministry urges IPL to ban all tobacco & alcohol advts

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Union Health Ministry has urged the Indian Premier League (IPL) to ban all tobacco and alcohol advertising, including surrogate promotions, within stadium premises during matches as well as telecast sessions on national television, saying it has a moral obligation to promote public health. The government's request came ahead of the IPL season starting March 22. In a letter to IPL chairman Arun Singh Dhupal, Director General of Health Services (DGHS) also urged him to prohibit the sale of tobacco/alcohol products in all affiliated events and sports facilities. The letter also stressed discouraging promotion of sports persons, including commentators, who directly or indirectly endorse products linked to alcohol or tobacco. The letter, which was also marked to the Board of Control for Cricket in India, stated that India is experiencing a significant burden of non-communicable diseases- cardiovascular diseases, cancer, chronic lung disease, diabetes, hypertension etc. which account for more than 70 per cent deaths annually. "Tobacco and alcohol use are key risk factors for NCDs. We rank second in tobacco-related deaths worldwide; with nearly 14 lakh annual deaths while alcohol is the most common psychoactive substance used by Indians," it said. The Indian Premier League (IPL) being India's most viewed sports event, direct or indirect promotion of tobacco/alcohol on any platform linked to sports sends a contradictory message to the public about health and fitness, the letter underlined. "Therefore, IPL should strictly implement the regulations regarding -banning all forms of tobacco/alcohol advertising, including surrogate advertisements, within the stadium premises where the games/events are held as well as during telecast sessions on national television; the sale of tobacco/alcohol products in all affiliated events and sports facilities..." The letter observed that cricket players are role models for the youngsters for promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

India slaps 5-yr anti-dumping duty on Chinese & Japanese water treatment chemicals

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has imposed anti-dumping duty of up to USD 986 per tonne for five years on a chemical, used for water treatment, imported from China and Japan to protect the domestic industry from cheap inbound shipments, according to a finance ministry notification. The decision follows recommendations from the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an investigation arm of the commerce ministry, to impose the duty on 'Trichloro isocyanuric acid'. In its recommendations, the directorate has stated that the dumped imports in India from China and Japan. "The anti-dumping duty imposed...shall be levied for a period of five years (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier)," the notification said. While DGTR conducts the alleged dumping probe and recommends the duty, the finance ministry takes the final decision to impose the same within three months of the recommendation. Countries initiate anti-dumping probes to check if their domestic industries have been hurt because of a surge in below-cost imports.

ER to run unreserved Holi Special Train between Asansol & Patna and Asansol & Gorakhpur

MI News Service, Kolkata: Asansol Division of Eastern Railway is pleased to announce the introduction of special train services to accommodate the surge in passengers traveling between Asansol & Patna and Asansol & Gorakhpur during the festive occasion of Holi. Recognizing the significant demand for travel during this time, Asansol Division of Eastern Railway aims to provide convenient and comfortable transportation options for passengers. Holi, the vibrant festival of colors, is widely celebrated across India where it brings communities together in joyous revelry. However, the increased demand for travel during this period often leads to challenges in securing train tickets. 03511 Asansol - Patna Unreserved Holi Special will leave Asansol 11:30 hrs on 13.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Patna at 18:45 hrs on the same day and 03512 Patna - Asansol Unreserved Holi Special will leave Patna at 19:45 hrs on 13.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Asansol at 03:45 hrs on the next day. The special train will stop at Chittaranjan, Jamtara, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jasidih, Hajha, Jamui, Kiul Jn., Luckeesarai Jn., Barhiya, Hathidah Jn., Mokama, Barh, Bakhtiyarpur, Khusropur, Fatuha & Patna Saheb stations in both directions enroute. 03513 Asansol - Gorakhpur Unreserved Holi Special will leave Asansol 18:30 hrs on 12.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Gorakhpur at 10:15 hrs on the next day and 03514 Gorakhpur - Asansol Unreserved Holi Special will leave Gorakhpur at 13:00 hrs on 13.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Asansol at 03:45 hrs on the next day. The special train will stop at Chittaranjan, Jamtara, Madhupur, Jasidih, Hajha, Jamui, Kiul Jn., Barhiya, Barauni, Samastipur, Muzaffarpur Jn., Hajipur Jn., Chhapra Gramin, Chhapra, Siwan & Deoria Sadar stations in both directions enroute. The above special trains will have only General Second Class Sitting accommodations.

Major yard remodelling work planned at Santragachi Railway Station



MI News Service, Kolkata: As a part of Indian Railway's grand plan to upgrade and modernize key stations across the country, significant Station development work at Santragachi Railway station is being undertaken. This project aims to enhance operational efficiency and improve train management at this major station, a key hub in the railway network of the South Eastern Railway. The Re-development of Santragachi Railway Station was planned with construction of New Station building, development of circulating area, essential passenger amenities & road connectivity with Kona Expressway with Island platform, construction of new platforms, Foot Over Bridges, Lifts, Escalators, Travellers and other developmental works etc. In present, construction of New station Building (Structural work), Two Foot Overbridges with Staircase, subway, circulating road, elevated parking, Water Supply Pipe Line work from Shalimar Station to Santragachi Station, Construction of Grade Road (Part) and other infrastructural works have been completed. As a terminal station, a number of Mail/Express trains are originating/terminating from/at Santragachi and therefore it is essential to redevelop the station and yard of Santragachi. This station plays a pivotal role in passenger transport under the SER jurisdiction. After commissioning of Santragachi yard, there will be facility of new Sankrail-Santragachi link line that will be a Bi-directional line having a flyover between Sankrail-Andul connecting Down line of Sankrail to UP line of Andul station and then Andul-Santragachi will be a surface line. After commissioning of Sankrail-Santragachi link line, the Down trains going towards Shalimar station can be dispatched on this line avoiding surface crossing at Santragachi Yard. In UP direction, there will be a facility of an additional line between Santragachi-Andul. Moreover, burden on the existing Maurigram Flyover line will lessen. In addition to above, there will be facility of 2(Two) additional platform at Santragachi which may be used for originating some passenger trains which will decongest Howrah/Shalimar Station. Moreover, the length of PF No.-2 & 3 of Santragachi will increase for accommodating full length coaching trains which will make 7 platforms available for accommodation of full length trains of 22 LHB Coaches. The DN Loop Line of Santragachi will also be converted into a common Loop line to cater both direction traffic. It is aimed that punctuality in train service will improve and ensure passenger satisfaction after completion of this developmental work. This modernization project will not only increase the station's handling capacity but will also ensure a more streamlined, efficient rail service for passengers and goods traffic. Once completed, passengers can avail smoother train operation, reduced waiting times and enhanced overall service quality. During this developmental work, passengers may face a bit of inconvenience for few days, but once these works are completed, passengers will have great travelling experience for sure.

Former Asansol Mayor Jitendra Tewari surrenders in court over mobile phone snatching

MI News Service, Asansol: BJP leader and former mayor Jitendra Tewari has surrendered in court in connection with a case filed against him for allegedly snatching two mobile phones. The incident occurred on February 21, when Tiwari was attacked by a group of sand mafia at the sand ghate to protest against illegal sand extraction, which he claimed would affect the Darbardanga water Project. Jitendra Tiwari applied for bail at the Asansol CGM court on Monday, alleging that the ruling party Trinamool was behind the attack and the subsequent complaint filed against him. He claimed that the com-



plaint was filed through a temporary PHE worker and the Trinamool leadership was attempting to silence him by filing false cases. The case against Jitendra Tiwari against Tiwari has been filed under eight sections, with two sections being non-bailable. Jitendra Tiwari maintains that the movement against illegal sand trading cannot be stopped by filing false cases and that the people of Jamuri are suffering from water shortage due to the illegal sand extraction.

Leopard rescue operation in Siliguri: Forest Dept saves adult male leopard from abandoned well

MI News Service, Siliguri: A dramatic rescue operation was undertaken by the forest department in Siliguri, after an adult male leopard fell into an abandoned well in Damragram, Dagapur, on Monday. The incident created a stir in the entire area, prompting immediate action from the forest department. According to eyewitnesses, the leopard had entered the village in search of food when it accidentally fell into the dry well. Villagers were shocked to hear strange sounds coming from the

well and were astonished to see the leopard trapped inside. The forest department was promptly informed, and a team of experts from the Mahananda Wild Life Forest Department, Sukna Squad, and Sukna Range arrived at the scene. After assessing the situation, the team safely rescued the leopard by tranquilizing it and carefully extracting it from the well. The rescue operation, which lasted approximately two and a half hours, was successful, and the leopard was taken to the Mahananda

Sanctuary for primary treatment. It is expected to be released into the deep forest soon. The incident has sparked concern among local residents, who are relieved that the forest department intervened promptly to prevent any potential harm to humans or the leopard. ADFO of Mahananda Sanctuary, Santu Das, stated that the area's proximity to the forest and tea gardens makes it a leopard habitat, and the rescued leopard is healthy and will be released into the wild after treatment.

Youth's mobile phone activity sparks neighborhood anger

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: A disturbing incident has been reported in Deganga, North 24 Parganas, where a young man was brutally beaten by a group of individuals who falsely accused him of stealing potato (a type of vegetable) from a local field. The victim was allegedly attacked with sticks, bamboo, and even had his neck stepped on, leaving him in a bloody state. According to eye-

witnesses, the victim was sitting on the edge of the field, playing games on his mobile phone, when the field owners became suspicious and started questioning him. When the victim denied any wrongdoing, the situation escalated, and he was beaten mercilessly. The incident has sparked widespread outrage, and a written complaint has been filed with the Deganga Police Station,

naming five accused individuals. The police have initiated an investigation into the matter. It's worth noting that the victim's family members were alerted to the incident by neighbors, and they rushed him to the hospital for treatment. The swift action of the family and the police's prompt response are commendable, and it's essential that justice is served in this case.

Three laborers killed while installing tube well pipe

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: A devastating incident occurred in the Sholochala area of West Shitalkuchi village, Shitalkuchi block, Cooch Behar, resulting in the electrocution deaths of three laborers. The victims were working on installing irrigation pipes on a local farm when

they came into contact with high-voltage wires, causing instant fatal injuries. The incident sent shockwaves through the community, with local residents expressing their grief and disbelief. "We never thought such a tragic incident would occur while installing a tube well," said a local resident. "We tried to save them, but unfortunately, it was too late." The police from Shitalkuchi police station responded prompt-

ly to the emergency and rushed the victims to the Shitalkuchi Block Primary Health Center. Unfortunately, the medical team was unable to revive them, and all three were declared dead. The incident highlights the importance of ensuring electrical safety while working with high-voltage equipment and the need for adequate training and precautions to prevent such tragedies. An investigation into the incident is likely to follow.

EASTERN RAILWAY CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum to the Tender Notice No. EL/HWH/25/21(Notice)/647, Dated: 06.03.2025 published earlier by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711011, SI. No. 1; Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3327; Name of the work should be read as 1) Electrical (G) work in connection with "Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 8/C/E at Km. 16/1+2 in Bardhaman Jn. - Balgona section in Howrah Division." 2) Electrical (G) work in connection with "Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 6/C/T at Km. 11/12-13 in Bardhaman Jn. - Balgona section in Division." 3) Electrical (G) work in connection with "Construction of Limited height subway (by cut and cover method) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 4/C/E at Km.. 9/4-5 in Bardhaman Jn. - Balgona section in Howrah Division." 4) Electrical (G) work in connection with "Construction of Limited height subway (By cut and cover method) in lieu of Level Crossing No. 13/C/E at Km. 2/18-9 in Bardhaman Jn. - Balgona section in Howrah Division." 5) Electrical (G) Work in connection of Limited height Subway (by cut and cover method) in lieu of Level Crossing No.13/C/E at Km. 2/18-9 in Bardhaman Jn. - Balgona section in Howrah Division instead of existing entry. Other terms and condition will remain unchanged. (HWH-660/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.treps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

S.E. RAILWAY - TENDER

Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/LoCo acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tender against Tender notice no-RS-HQ-PBU-TBU-25-01, Closing Date: 02.04.2025 for the work of Conversion/Modification bogie frames of WAG-9/WAG-9H Locomotives to provide Conventional type brake rigging arrangements completely in all respect in Locomotive bogie and body; Tender Notice No.: RS-HQ-PBU-TBU-25-01; Name of work: Conversion/Modification bogie frames of WAG-9/WAG-9H Locomotives to provide Conventional type brake rigging arrangements completely in all respect in Locomotive bogie and body; Approx. value: ₹18,96,31,657.80; Bid Security (EMD): ₹10,98,200.00; Period: 24 Months; Cost of tender form: NIL; Tender documents will be available on IREPS website i.e. www.treps.gov.in. Last Date/Time of upload of tender by a tenderer: 02.04.2025 upto 15:00 Hrs. Date/Time of opening of tender: 02.04.2025 immediately after closing of tender. All bonafide, experienced and interested tenderer may apply for this work. (PR-1217)

EASTERN RAILWAY

Bid Number: GEM/2025/B/600600; Date: 05.03.2025. Bids are invited by Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (ENHM & FRT), Eastern Railway, DRM Building, Near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 for the following work: Item Category: Custom Bid for Services - Mechanized cleaning work of Burdwan Station outcome based for a period of 2 years i.e. 730 days; Similar Category: Cleaning, Sanitation and Disinfection Service-Outcome Based; Estimated Bid Value (Rs): 2,00,09,892.98; EMD Details: Advisory Bank: State Bank of India; EMD Amount (Rs): 2,50,050.00; Arbitration Clause: No; Mediation clause: No; Contract Period: 2 Year(s); Bid offer Validity (From the End date): 90 (Days); Bid End Date/Time: 21.03.2025 at 14.00 hrs.; Bid Opening Date/Time: 21.03.2025 at 14.30 hrs. Office Name: Howrah Division; Minimum Average Annual Turnover of the bidder (for 3 years): 101 Lakh(s); Years of past Experience Required for same/similar Service: 3 Years; Past Experience of Similar Services Required: Yes; MSE Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover: No; Startup Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover: No; Document required from seller: Experience Criteria, Bidder Turnover, Certificate (Requested in ATC). "In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience/ Turnover Criteria, the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer; Do you want to show documents uploaded by bidders to all bidders participated in bid? : Yes; Bid to RA enabled: No; Type of Bid: Two Packet Bid; Time allowed for Technical Clarifications during technical evaluation: 2 Days; Evaluation Method: Total value wise evaluation; ePBG Details: Advisory Bank: State Bank of India; ePBG Percentage (%): 5.00; Duration of ePBG required (Months): 30. (HWH-658/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.treps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

Bid Number: GEM/2025/B/6007280; Date: 06.03.2025. Bids are invited by Chief Mechanical Engineer, Bogie Manufacturing Facility, Eastern Railway, Budge Budge, 88/1, Adhar Das Road, PO+PS- Budge Budge, Kolkata- 700137 for the following work: Item Category: Customized AMC/CMC for Pre-owned Products - Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract of 27 nos MIGMAG Welding Plant of make Migatronic India Pvt Ltd for 03 years; Mig Mag Welding Plant; Compr...; Estimated Bid Value (Rs): 30,69,029.00; EMD Details: Advisory Bank: State Bank of India; EMD Amount (Rs): 61,380.00; Arbitration Clause: No; Mediation clause: No; Contract Period: 3 Year(s); Bid offer Validity (From the End date): 120 (Days); Bid End Date/Time: 25.03.2025, at 15:00 hrs.; Bid Opening Date/Time: 25.03.2025 at 15:30 hrs. Office Name: Carriage and wagon workshop Liluah, Minimum Average Annual Turnover of the bidder (for 3 years): 16 Lakh(s); Years of past Experience Required for same/ similar Service: 1 Year; Past Experience of Similar Services Required: Yes; MSE Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover: No; Startup Exemption for Years of Experience and Turnover: No; Document required from seller: Experience Criteria, Bidder Turnover, Certificate (Requested in ATC) "In case any bidder is seeking exemption from Experience/ Turnover Criteria, the supporting documents to prove his eligibility for exemption must be uploaded for evaluation by the buyer; Do you want to show documents uploaded by bidders to all bidders participated in bid? : No; Bid to RA enabled: No; Type of Bid: Single Packet Bid; Time allowed for Technical Clarifications during technical evaluation: 2 Days; Evaluation Method: Total value wise evaluation; ePBG Details: Advisory Bank: State Bank of India; ePBG Percentage (%): 5.00; Duration of ePBG required (Months): 38. (MISC-372/2024-25) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in / www.treps.gov.in Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Delhi Assembly session to be held from March 24-28; Budget to be presented on March 25

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Budget session of the Delhi Assembly is set to take place from March 24 to 28 and the Budget will be presented on March 25. "Hon'ble Members are informed that the Second Session (Budget Session) of Eighth Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi will commence on Monday, 24th March, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the Assembly Hall, Old Secretariat, Delhi. Sittings of the Legislative Assembly have been tentatively fixed for 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 March, 2025. Subject to the exigencies of business, the sitting of the House may be extended," Legislative Assembly Secretariat, NCT stated on Monday. The sittings of the Legislative Assembly shall commence at 11.00 am. daily and continue till it is adjourned for the day. It further stated that on March 24, government business will be held, on March 25, the Budget will be presented. On March 26, General discussion will be

held on Budget, on March 27, consideration and passing of Budget will be held and on March 28, Private members' Bill and Resolutions. Earlier today, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta arrived in the Parliament and met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "Rekha Gupta (@gupta_rekha), Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, calls on Nirmala Sitharaman at Parliament House," Nirmala Sitharaman Office posted on X. On Sunday, Delhi CM Rekha Gupta said that her government was seeking public suggestions for preparing the upcoming budget. "The Delhi government is going among the public to take suggestions for the Delhi budget. I met the people living in the slums in the RK Puram assembly constituency and took suggestions from them," Gupta said. On March 6, the Chief Minister held an interactive session with traders, businessmen, and business organizations to gather their suggestions for the upcoming Delhi Budget 2025. Business representatives from across the national capital participated in the discussion, highlighting key issues faced by the business community. Meanwhile, the competent authority transferred or posted the officers or officials. "Raghu Nath (Grade 1, DSS) is being posted in Legislative Assembly Secretariat (Diverted from Education), Arun Kumar Prasad has been posted in Legislative Assembly Secretariat (for all purposes), Kanwal Bala Sanjeja posted in Legislative Assembly Secretariate (for all purposes)," Government of NCT Services-1 Branch, Services department stated. The officer mentioned at Sl. No. 01 is hereby Stand Relieved Forthwith from his present place of posting to join his duties in Legislative Assembly Secretariat, without waiting for any relieving from his present department, it added.

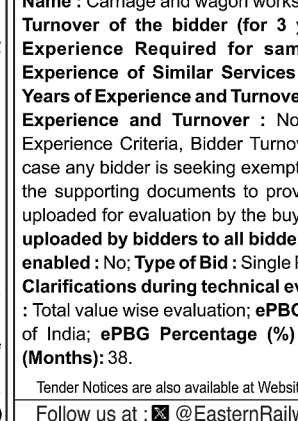
MI News Service, South 24 Pgs: A case of alleged embezzlement has surfaced in the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, a flagship program launched by the West Bengal government to provide financial assistance to women from economically weaker section. Aklim Ghazi, a resident of Ghatia-rishri, has accused a local businessman of deducting Rs 300 every month from her Lakshmi Bhandar account, leaving her with Rs 700 instead of the promised Rs1,000. Aklim who works as a cook at a roadside hotel, relies heavily on the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme as her primary sources of income. However, when she tried to withdraw the money from a local online shop, the shopkeeper allegedly deducts the aforementioned amount. This incident has sparked outrage, and Aklima business association and panchayat members.

TENDER NOTICE
E Tender is invited through online Bid System vide NIT No: -07/15th. FC/K-II GP/2024-25 & 08/15th. FC/K-II GP/2024-25 With Vide Memo No. 41(8)/K-II GP & 42(8)/K-II GP Dated: - 07-03-2025. The Last date for online submission of tender is 17/03/2025 Upto 11.00 A.M. For details please visit website:- <http://wbttenders.gov.in>
Sd/-, Pradhan Kedarchandpur-II GP

Notice
My client, 1) Shivshankar Kumar Gupta, Son of Shiv Shankar Gupta, and 2) Jadhurib Gupta, Son of Shiv Shankar Gupta both are residing at 593B, Ananda Pally (Purba), P.O.- Purba Putiary, P.S. Regent Park, Kolkata- 700093, had purchased a land, schedule stated below the Principal/owner of the land is Surva Dutta, name of her Attorney is 1) Sajal Ghosh and 2) Pradip Saha. Power of Attorney was duly registered in the office of the A.D.S.R. Alipore, recorded in Book No. IV, Vol. 1605-2016, Page no. 3634 to 3647 being no. 160500208, for the year 2016. If anybody has any objection on mutation of said land, please inform office of BLLRO Kolkata, KMC building Room No. 328, S.N.Banerjee Road, Kolkata 700013, in writor or over email bilroamt@gmail.com, within one month from the date of this advertisement. Land Schedule: Land area : 02 Katha 14 Chatukil 11 Sqft., Mouza-Bansdroni, J.L. No. 45, R.S. and L.R. Plot No. 983, R.S. Khatian No. 676, Police Station: Regent Park, District: 24PGS(S). Sd/-JOY KUMAR HALDER (ADVOCATE)

Actress Ranya Rao sent to judicial custody till March 24 in connection with gold smuggling case

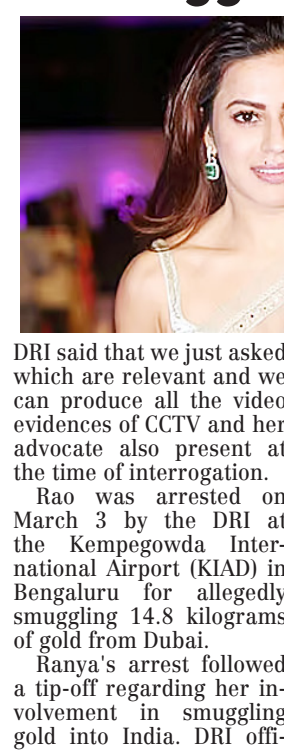
MI News Service, Bengaluru: The Economic Offences Court in Bengaluru on Monday sent Kannada actress Ranya Rao to judicial custody till March 24 in connection with a gold smuggling case. Ranya Rao was produced before the bench of Vishwanath C Gowdar at the special court for economic offences in Bengaluru after three days of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) custody. The court had asked the DRI official to produce the actress before the court by 4 pm and she was as produced after completing a medical examination. Ranya Rao sought two minutes to interact with the advocates, to which the court reacted positively. Ranya Rao also alleged that the DRI officials had verbally harassed her during her three-day interrogation. To this, the



DRI said that we just asked which are relevant and we can produce all the video evidences of CCTV and her advocate also present at the time of interrogation. Ranya, the stepdaughter of DGP K Ramachandra Rao, was produced before a special court judge on the evening of March 4 for financial offences. On March 4, Ranya Rao was produced before a special court for financial offences and was remanded to judicial custody until March 18.

Cong stages protest over farmers' issues in Bhopal, police use water cannons to disperse crowd

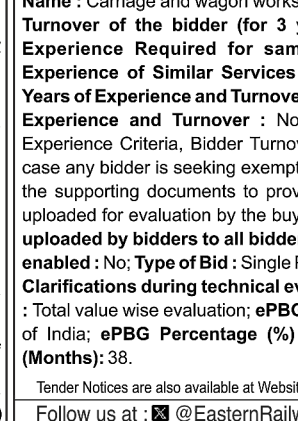
MI News Service, Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Congress workers staged a massive protest over issues related to farmers in state capital Bhopal on Monday. State Congress President Jitu Patwari, Leader of Opposition (LoP) Umang Singhar, MLA Sachin Yadav and several other party workers participated in the protest, held at Rang Mahal square in the state capital. The crowd was heading to gheraoed the state assembly and the police used water cannons to disperse the crowd of the party workers. Congress chief Patwari told reporters, "It is the responsibility of the Congress party to protest against the BJP who made promises to women, farmers and youth of the state. Today, we held this protest with a feeling that the state government should provide Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 3100 a quintal for rice, Rs 2700 a quintal for wheat and Rs 6000 a quintal. The Union Agriculture Minister



hails from the state but he does not talk about MSP." The Congress party has decided that if rice and wheat procurement is not done according to the promises made then, the party will reach each and every Mandi and hold protests with the farmers, he added. The Congress further said, "State Congress's farmers wing will continue this movement in every mandal where crop procurement takes place in the state for the next two months." LoP Umang Singhar said that the Congress party is with the farmers and the fight will last from road to the state assembly in the interest of the farmers. "I would like to ask the Kisan Sangh (linked to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh) who seek votes of farmers in favour of BJP during elections, but why the Kisan Sangh has not fulfilled the promise even after one year from their government. Kisan Sangh staged fake protests. But the Congress is with the farmers and will fight from the road to the house for them," Singhar said. Former state minister and Congress MLA Sachin Yadav said they have always worked to fight for the rights of the farmers. "The BJP had promised in its Sankalp Patra that after the formation of the government, wheat will be procured at the rate of Rs 2700 a quintal and rice at Rs 3100 a quintal. But even after so long of government formation, the government has not fulfilled the promise it had made. Therefore, today we have staged a protest about the outrage of the farmers against the government. We have put forward our demands, but the government is so scared that it does not want to listen to us and the administration is using the police water cannons to suppress us," Yadav said. "If the Congress workers have to shed their blood for farmers then, the congressmen will not lag behind," he added.

CM Stalin hits back at Union Minister Pradhan on NEP, calls him "arrogant"

MI News Service, Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK party chief MK Stalin on Monday lashed out at Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who during Lok Sabha proceedings today termed the State government as "dishonest" and "ruining" the future of students. In a strongly worded post in Tamil on his X platform, Stalin called out the "arrogance" of the Union Minister and said that he was speaking like an "arrogant king" and the one who had "disrespected" the people of Tamil Nadu "needs to be disciplined." Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who thinks himself as king speaking with arrogance should have control over his tongue," Stalin posted. Pradhan in his remarks during Question Hour alleged that the DMK-led Tamil Nadu government had initially agreed to implement the PM Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI) scheme in the state but later went back on their promise.



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Mugura Gram Panchayat Notice Inviting e-Tender (2nd Call)

Mugura Gram Panchayat (Raina- Panchayat Samity) VIII.-P.O.- Sankita, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender (2nd Call) e-Tenders are being invited from the eligible contractor vide Memo No.: 141/MGP (Sl.-1), Tender Reference No.- MGP/e-Tender/2024-25/19, Date: 10.03.2025. Fund: 15th CFC (2024-25). Tender will be available in the website www.wbtenders.gov.in and undersigned GP Office. Bid Submission End Date: 19.03.2025 at 11:00 AM. Bid Opening Date: 21.03.2025 at 11:00 AM. Sd/- Pradhan Mugura Gram Panchayat

Serampore-Uttarpara Panchayat Samity Notice Inviting e-Tender

Serampore-Uttarpara Panchayat Samity e-tender has been invited by the undersigned for 05(five) nos. schemes bearing NIT No.- 12/SU/2024-25, Office Memo No: 190/PS, dt: 10.03.2025 (Tender Id no: 2025_ZPHD_825607_1 to 5), for construction of submersible pump and masonry drain under 15th CFC. Online bid submission commences on and from 10.03.2025 at 6:00 PM till 18.03.2025 at 4:00 PM. For more details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in Sd/-, Executive Officer Serampore-Uttarpara Panchayat Samity

Working hours of Computerised Reservation Offices over Kolkata and Howrah area on the occasion of "DOL JATRA/HOLI"

All Computerised Reservation Offices over Kolkata and Howrah area will function from 14.00 hrs. to 18.00 hrs. on 14.03.2025 (Friday) instead of 08.00 hrs. to 14.00 hrs. on the occasion of "DOL JATRA/HOLI". However, current booking counters at Howrah, Sealdah and Kolkata Terminal will function as usual. Dy. Chief Commercial Manager/DB Eastern Railway

Memari-II Panchayat Samity e-Tender Notice

Memari-II Panchayat Samity e-Tender is invited vide NIT No.: 9/12/2025 & Memo No.: 317, Date: 10.03.2025, for 02 nos. scheme under Memari-II Panchayat Samity. Documents download/sell end date (Online) for Bid Submission up to 17.03.2025 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

Study finds why cancer immunotherapy can cause colitis

MICHIGAN: A mechanism linked to severe gastrointestinal issues during immune-based cancer treatment has been discovered by researchers at the University of Michigan Health Rogel Cancer Centre.

They also found a way to deliver immunotherapy's cancer-killing impact without the unwelcome side effect. The findings are published in Science.

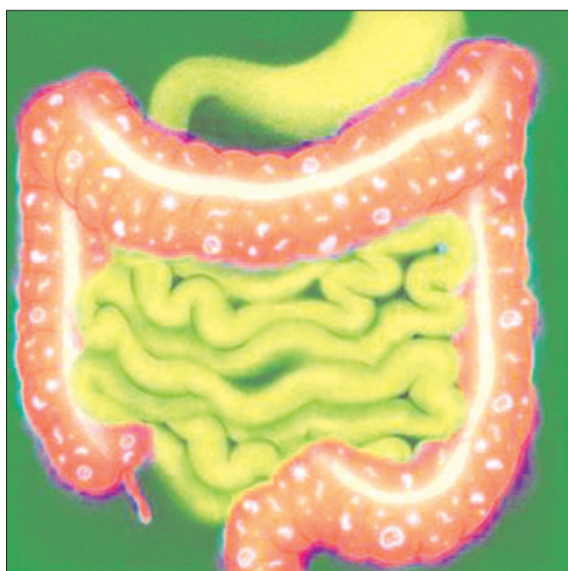
"This is a good example of how understanding a mechanism helps you to develop an alternative therapy that's more beneficial. Once we identified the mechanism causing the colitis, we could then develop ways to overcome this problem and prevent colitis while preserving the anti-tumor effect," said senior study author Gabriel Nunez, M.D., Paul de Kruif Professor of Pathology at Michigan Medicine.

Immunotherapy has emerged as a promising treatment for several types of cancer.

But immune checkpoint inhibitors can also cause severe side effects, including colitis, which is inflammation in the digestive tract. Colitis can cause severe gastrointestinal discomfort, and some patients will discontinue their cancer treatment because of it. The problem facing researchers was that while patients were developing colitis, the laboratory mice were not.

So researchers couldn't study what was causing this side effect.

To get past this, the Rogel team, led by first author Bernard C Lo, PhD, created a new mouse model, injecting microbiota from wild-caught mice into the traditional



mouse model. In this model, the mice did develop colitis after the administration of antibodies used for tumor immunotherapy. Now, researchers could trace back the mechanism to see what was causing this reaction. Colitis

developed because of the composition of the gut microbiota, which caused immune T cells to be hyper-activated while regulatory T cells that put the brakes on T cell activation were deleted in the gut.

This was happening within a specific domain of the immune checkpoint antibodies. Researchers then removed that domain, which they found still resulted in a strong anti-tumor response but without inducing colitis. "Previously, there was some data that suggested the presence of certain bacteria correlated with response to therapy. However, it was not proven that microbiota was critical to developing colitis. This work for the first time shows that microbiota is essential to developing colitis from immune checkpoint inhibition," Nunez said.

To follow up on what they saw in mice, researchers reanalyzed previously reported data from studies of human cells from patients treated with immune checkpoint antibodies, which reinforced the role of regulatory T cells in inducing colitis.

The antibody they used to stop the colitis was developed by Takeda Pharmaceuticals.

The Rogel team plans additional studies to further understand the mechanisms causing colitis and seeks clinical partners to move this knowledge to a clinical trial.

Additional authors are Ilona Kryczek, Jiali Yu, Linda Vatan, Roberta Caruso, Masanori Matsumoto, Yosuke Sato, Michael H Shaw, Naohiro Inohara, Yuying Xie, Yu Leo Lei and Weiping Zou.

Blood flow changes in eyes may influence visual symptoms of migraines: Study

A new study has discovered that variations in blood flow in the retina may explain why certain migraine patients have visual disturbances.

The findings may provide a long-awaited visible marker for migraines that doctors may use

to aid in the medical treatment of the condition. While patients with migraines often experience symptoms such as pain around the eye, sensitivity to light, blind spots and visual blurring, the mechanisms behind those symptoms have not been well understood. UCLA Health researchers used a non-invasive imaging technique, known as optical coherence tomography angiography, or OCTA, to visualize changes in the retinal blood vessels of migraine patients both during and between migraine attacks. The imaging was performed on 37 migraine patients with aura symptoms, 30 migraine patients without aura symptoms and 20 healthy patients for a control group. Researchers found that blood flow decreases in the retina during migraine attacks for both migraine patients with and without aura symptoms. However, patients with aura symptoms were found to have lower blood flow in certain areas of the retina compared to patients without aura symptoms. Additionally, asymmetrical blood flow in the retinas was also correlated with which side of the head migraine patients experienced pain.

The findings could indicate why some patients experience visual symptoms and may represent a biomarker for migraine attacks.



Study gives insights into how disrupted sleep cause memory, thinking problems



LOS ANGELES: According to a new study, persons who have more disrupted sleep in their 30s and 40s are more likely to suffer memory and cognitive difficulties a decade later.

The study was published in the online edition of Neurology, the American Academy of Neurology's medical journal.

The researchers studied the duration and quality of people's sleep. Participants wore a wrist activity monitor for three consecutive days on two occasions, about one year apart, to calculate their averages. Participants averaged six hours of sleep.

"Given that signs of Alzheimer's disease start to accumulate in the brain several decades before symptoms begin, understanding the connection between sleep and cognition earlier in life is critical for understanding the role of sleep problems as a risk factor for the disease," said study author Yue Leng, PhD, of the University of California, San Francisco.

"Our findings indicate that the quality rather than the quantity of sleep matters most for cognitive health in middle age." The study involved 526 peo-

ple, with an average age of 40. They were followed for 11 years.

Researchers looked at the participants' sleep duration and quality. Participants wore a wrist activity monitor for three consecutive days on two occasions, approximately one year apart, to calculate their averages. Participants slept for an average of six hours.

Participants also reported bedtimes and wake times in a sleep diary and completed a sleep quality survey with scores ranging from zero to 21, with higher scores indicating poorer sleep quality. A total of 239 people, or 46 percent, reported poor sleep with a score greater than five.

Participants also completed a series of memory and thinking tests.

Researchers also looked at sleep fragmentation, which measures repetitive short interruptions of sleep. They looked at both the percentage of time spent moving and the percentage of time spent not moving for one minute or less during sleep.

After adding these two percentages together, researchers found that participants had an average sleep fragmentation of 19 per cent.

Researchers then divided participants into three groups based on their sleep fragmentation score.

Of the 175 people with the most disrupted sleep, 44 had poor cognitive performance 10 years later, compared to 10 of the 176 people with the least disrupted sleep.

After adjusting for age, gender, race, and education, people who had the most disrupted sleep had more than twice the odds of having poor cognitive performance when compared to those with the least disrupted sleep.

There was no difference in cognitive performance at midlife for those in the middle group compared to the group with the least disrupted sleep.

"More research is needed to assess the link between sleep disturbances and cognition at different stages of life and to identify if critical life periods exist when sleep is more strongly associated with cognition," Leng said.

According to a study, people may live longer using hearing aids

Statistics show that around 40 million adults in America suffer from hearing loss, but only one in ten people of those who need hearing aids wear them.

Those who don't use hearing aids should make it one of their New Year's resolutions, according to a new study published in The Lancet Healthy Longevity by Keck Medicine of USC. Researchers found that the almost 25 per cent difference in mortality risk between regular hearing aid users and never-users remained steady, regardless of variables such as the degree of hearing loss (from mild to severe), age, ethnicity, income, education and other demographics; and medical history.

Researchers found that the almost 25 per cent difference in mortality risk between regular hearing aid users and never-users remained steady, regardless of variables such as the degree of hearing loss (from mild to severe), age, ethnicity, income, education and other demographics; and medical history.

There was no difference in mortality risk between non-regular users and non-users, indicating that occasional hearing aid use may not provide any life-extending benefit.

"We found that adults with hearing loss who regularly used hearing aids had a 24 per cent lower risk of mortality than those



who never wore them," said Janet Choi, MD, MPH, an otolaryngologist with Keck Medicine and lead researcher of the study.

"These results are exciting because they suggest that hearing aids may play a protective role in people's health and prevent early death."

Previous research has shown that untreated hearing loss can result in a reduced life span (as well as other poor outcomes such as social isolation, depression and dementia)

However, until now, there has been very little research examining if the use of hearing aids can reduce the risk of death. The

study represents the most comprehensive analysis to date on the relationship between hearing loss, hearing aid use and mortality in the United States, according to Choi.

Choi and her fellow researchers used data compiled by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey between 1999-2012 to identify almost 10,000 adults 20 years and older who had completed audiometry evaluations, a test used to measure hearing ability, and who filled out questionnaires about their hearing aid use.

Researchers followed their mortality status over an average

follow-up period of 10 years after their evaluations.

A total of 1,863 adults were identified as having hearing loss. Of these, 237 were regular hearing aid users, which were characterized as those who reported wearing the aids at least once a week, five hours a week or half the time, and 1,483 were identified as never-users of the devices.

Subjects who reported wearing the devices less than once a month or less frequently were categorized as non-regular users.

While the study did not examine why hearing aids may help those who need them live longer, Choi points to recent research linking hearing aid use with lowered levels of depression and dementia. She speculates that the improvements in mental health and cognition that come with improved hearing can promote better overall health, which may improve life span.

Choi hopes this study will encourage more people to wear hearing aids, even though she acknowledges that factors including cost, stigma and difficulty finding devices that fit and function well are barriers to use.

Choi can personally relate to these challenges. She was born with hearing loss in her left ear but did not wear a hearing device until her 30s. It then took her several years to find ones that worked effectively for her.

Bipolar disorder is connected to early death: Study

WASHINGTON : Living with bipolar disorder, a serious mental illness that can cause both manic and depressed mood swings, can be challenging.

It also increases the chance of premature death. Now, a study explains how significant that risk is and how it compares to other factors that can reduce life.

In two different groups, people with bipolar disorder were four to six times more likely than people without the condition to die prematurely, the study finds.

By contrast, people who had ever smoked were about twice as likely to die prematurely than those who had never smoked - whether or not they had bipolar disorder.

A team from the University of Michigan, home to one of the world's largest longterm studies of people with bipolar disorder, reports their findings in the journal Psychiatry Research.

The stark difference in mortality, and the differences in health and lifestyle that likely contributed to it, should prompt more efforts at preventing early deaths, say the researchers.

"Bipolar disorder has long been seen as a risk factor for mortality, but always through a lens of other common causes of death," said Anastasia Yocum, Ph.D., lead author of the study and data manager of the research program at the Heinz C. Prechter Bipolar Research Program.

"We wanted to look at it by itself in comparison with conditions and lifestyle behaviors that are also linked to higher rates of premature death."

Two large data sources yield similar findings

Yocum and her colleagues, including Prechter Program director Melvin McInnis, M.D., started by looking at deaths and related factors among 1,128 people who had volunteered for the program's longterm study of people with and without bipolar disorder.

They found that all but 2 of the 56 deaths since the study began in 2006 were from the group of 847 people in the study who had bipolar disorder.

With statistical adjustments, their analysis shows that having a diagnosis of bipolar disorder made someone six times more likely to die during a 10-year period than people taking part in the same study who did not have bipolar

disorder. By comparison, study participants who had ever smoked or were over age 60 were more than twice as likely to die in that same time as people who never smoked or were under 60, regardless of bipolar status. The researchers then turned to another source of data to see if they could find the same effect.

They analyzed years' worth of anonymous patient records from more than 18,000 people who get their primary care through Michigan Medicine, U-M's academic medical centre.

Among this group, people with bipolar disorder were



four times as likely to die during the study period than those with no record of bipolar disorder.

The team studied records from more than 10,700 people with bipolar disorder and a comparison group of just over 7,800 people without any psychiatric disorder.

The only factor associated with an even higher chance of dying during the study period in this pool of people was high blood pressure.

Those who had hypertension were five times more likely to die than those with normal blood pressure, no matter whether they had bipolar disorder or not.

By contrast, smokers were twice as likely to die as never-smokers in this sample, and those over age 60 were

three times as likely to die, both regardless of bipolar status. "To our major surprise, in both samples we found that having bipolar disorder is far more of a risk for premature death than smoking," said McInnis, a professor of psychiatry at the U-M Medical School.

He hopes the findings will spur more action in the medical and public health communities to address the many factors that contribute to this extra-high risk of death in people with bipolar disorder. "Over the years there have been all kinds of programs that have been implemented for smoking prevention and cardiovascular disease awareness, but never a campaign on that scale for mental health," he said, noting that about 4% of Americans live with bipolar disorder while about 11.5% of Americans smoke.

Other differences between groups

Yocum and McInnis note that people with bipolar disorder in both groups were much more likely than the people without bipolar disorder to have ever smoked, consistent with past studies.

Nearly half (47%) of the U-M patients with bipolar disorder had a history of smoking, as did 31% of the Prechter participants with bipolar disorder.

By comparison, smoking among those without bipolar disorder stood at 29% of the U-M patients and 8% of the Prechter participants. People with bipolar disorder in both groups were also much more likely to be female, and female gender was associated with a slightly lower risk of early death. In the Prechter cohort, people with bipolar disorder were much more likely to have asthma, diabetes, high blood pressure, migraines, fibromyalgia and thyroid conditions than those who had not been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. Within the group of Prechter study participants who have bipolar disorder, being a smoker and scoring higher over time on a standardized survey of depression symptoms were both associated with a doubled risk of death, compared with participants who had bipolar disorder but didn't smoke or scored lower over time on depression ratings. Interestingly, the researchers found no association between risk of death and the number of years Prechter participants had been taking medications for mental health symptoms.

International Women's Day - 8th March PCOS, Thyroid, and Iron Deficiency: How To Diagnose Them?

Dr Abhik Banerjee, Zonal Technical Chief, East Zone, Apollo Diagnostic, Regional Reference Laboratory, Kolkata

This article sheds light on the vital tests that every woman should take without fail. Kolkata : Various health problems can give a tough time to women. Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), is a hormonal disorder that affects women of reproductive age group. It causes irregular periods, weight gain, acne, excessive hair growth, and infertility. It happens due to hormonal imbalances, particularly high levels of androgens and insulin resistance. If left untreated, PCOS can lead to diabetes, heart disease, and fertility issues. Thyroid issues like hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid) lead to fatigue, weight gain, dry skin, and depression, whereas hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) can cause weight loss, anxiety, and heart palpitations. Iron deficiency is also a common occurrence in women resulting in anemia, fatigue, dizziness, pale skin, hair loss, and brittle nails. Consult an expert who will advise you on certain tests to able to detect these problems early on and initiate treatment for improving overall well-being. The diagnosis: To diagnose PCOS, women will be recommended ultrasound (pelvic scan) to check if there are multiple cysts in the ovaries. Hormonal tests will measure testosterone, luteinizing hormone (LH), and insulin levels to assess hormonal imbalance.

Women should also check their blood sugar levels regularly and do an HbA1c test every 6 months. Also take Follicle Stimulating Hormone (FSH), prolactin, Anti-Mullerian Hormone (AMH) test. To keep the thyroid health in check, do TSH (Thyroid-Stimulating Hormone) to understand if the thyroid is underactive or overactive T3 and T4 Levels to measure thyroid hormone levels to confirm dysfunction. Thyroid Antibody Tests will aid in detecting autoimmune thyroid disorders like Hashimoto's or Graves' disease. These tests can be done after every six to eight months by women after the doctor's suggestion. When it comes to iron deficiency, a Complete Blood Count (CBC) identifies anemia by measuring hemoglobin levels, serum Ferritin Test checks iron storage levels in one's body. Moreover, serum Iron and TIBC (Total Iron Binding Capacity) help to evaluate how well the body is utilizing iron. The doctor will determine the appropriate treatment based on the diagnosis. Take any medications and supplements only after consulting the doctor. Adhere to lifestyle modifications such as a nutritious diet, exercise, de-stressing by doing yoga and meditation, getting a sound sleep at night, and maintaining an optimum weight. On this International Women's Day, we encourage women to undergo routine screenings and seek timely intervention to lead healthier, more fulfilling lives.

Tibetan community and supporters mark 66th Uprising Day, reflect on struggle

MI News Service, Dharamshala: The Tibetan government-in-exile observed the 66th Tibetan National Uprising Day in Dharamshala, marking the anniversary of the 1959 uprising against Chinese rule. Tibetan leaders, activists, and supporters gathered to reflect on the struggle for Tibetan freedom and the evolving international response to the issue.

Siri Yang Chen, a member of the Standing Committee, emphasised the historical significance of the day, recalling the events of March 10, 1959, when Tibetans stood in front of the Potala Palace in defiance of Chinese military control. "Today is a very big day. Today is the 66th Tibetan National Uprising Day. In 1959, on March 10, Tibetan people stood in front of the Potala Palace - a very sad day. The Chinese Army, the PLA Army - so many massacres happened. The Tibetan people stood for the Uprising Day," she said. Calling for diplomatic engagement, she added, "China should have a dialogue with the Tibetan representatives."

Tibetan writer and activist Tenjin Sundhu reflected on the broader context of Tibet's freedom struggle over the past 75 years. He noted the continued challenges posed by China's political and economic influence but highlighted a shift in global attitudes. "It is important for us to reflect upon what had happened in the past 75 years of the Tibetan Freedom Struggle and what China has been doing, and how we have been keeping up with our freedom struggle. We are at a very crucial juncture, where His Holiness, the Dalai Lama is 90 years old, and the Tibetan Freedom Struggle is still at a situation where many of the international communities are still dependent on China's trade and supply chain - and that is now changing." He also pointed to internal political tensions within China and increasing global scrutiny of its actions.

"Xi Jinping is facing major power struggles within China - there is a clamour for freedom and democracy in China. India and many other South Asian countries are facing major threats from China, and China is seen as the single-largest threat to the United States' supremacy. So, here is a time for us to capture the international communities' attention, their support, for a mutual benefit - that the independence of Tibet is for the security of India, and also for the security of many of the European and other Western countries. This is the time for us to lobby, campaign, and fight for the freedom of Tibet." International support was also evident at the gathering. Christine Lamet, a long-time supporter from France, spoke about her decades of solidarity with Tibetans.

ER'S step further for enhancing mobility

• Level Crossing Gate No. 40T near Tilbhita station closed to facilitate easier movement through Limited Height Subway (LHS No. 40) at the site

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway making continuous endeavour for seamless movement of both road and rail traffic by constructing subways substituting level crossing gates. This initiative of Eastern Railway eliminates road and rail interfaces thereby not only increasing safety but at the same time saves detention at level crossings. Limited Height Subway (LHS No. 40) was constructed earlier to substitute Level Crossing Gate no. 40T at Tilbhita. This Limited Height Subway with Cover Shed Sump etc complete in all respect was built in the year 2018 but the local inhabitants were opposing the closure of this level crossing gate stating reason about requirement of movement of heavy vehicle. The traffic census at the area around LHS 40 reveals that on an average two vehicles passing daily from one side of the railway track to another. Hence, this Limited Height Subway is sufficient to cater the need of passing the road vehicles and pedestrians. The LHS was designed to allow movement of lightweight vehicles and ensures safer passage of road vehicle as well as pedestrians across the railway track. Observation reveals that there was very scanty movement of road vehicles at this level crossing gate which can be easily accommodated in the well-built Limited Height Subway in this area.

Moreover, there is another level crossing gate within a very short distance (LC Gate no. 41T) at the other end of Tilbhita station at a distance of about 1 km from LC gate no. 40T. There is also another level crossing gate (LC Gate No. 39T) at a distance of about 1.7 km from the LC gate no. 40T. These facilities are available at this area in addition to LHS No. 40. Both these level crossing gates (LC 41T & LC 39T) can facilitate movement of heavy vehicles in the area. So, there is ample scope of crossing from one side of the Railway track to other in this area with two Level Crossing Gates and one Limited Height Subway. Moreover, three consecutive level crossing gates in an area not only affects safety of both road and rail traffic but also may result in detention of both rail and road traffic. In view of the improving transport infrastructure in the area, the Level Crossing Gate no. 40T near Tilbhita has been closed to bring the Limited Height Subway (LHS 40) there in use by the road traffic. The LHS 40 is now in use by the road vehicles and pedestrians. There is no justification of co-existence of Level Crossing Gate and Limited Height Subway as the Limited Height Subway has been constructed for easier movement of road vehicle, substituting the conventional Level Crossing Gate. Eastern Railway aims at improving transport infrastructure of the area and hope the road users will be benefitted by hassle-free movement through the LHS no. 40 near Tilbhita.

Hezbollah vows to end Israeli presence in Lebanon

MI News Service, Beirut: Hezbollah Secretary General Naim Qassem reaffirmed that the group will not permit any Israeli presence in southern Lebanon, emphasising Hezbollah's enduring strength and commitment to Lebanon's defence. In a televised interview with al-Manar TV, Qassem disclosed that during the ceasefire agreement, Hezbollah ceased operations but maintained full military readiness.

"Over the past 60 days, Israel has committed numerous violations. The agreement clearly stipulates that Israel must retreat beyond the Litani River," he added. On domestic matters, Qassem reiterated Hezbollah's dedication to national stability and governance, endorsing the exclusive authority of security forces over internal security. Xinhua news agency reported. However, he maintained that Hezbollah's arms are crucial for confronting Israel. "Israel poses an existential threat, and resistance is Lebanon's right," he declared.

Qassem also addressed Lebanon's reconstruction, affirming that rebuilding war-torn areas is a state responsibility. He emphasised

Hezbollah's continued role in political and military affairs, asserting that "resistance" will persist as long as Israeli threats remain. A truce agreement, reached on November 27, 2024, largely halted over a year of hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel, including a two-month full-scale war that saw Israeli ground troop deployments.

The agreement mandated the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon within 60 days; however, Israel has maintained a presence in five strategic positions along the border, citing ongoing threats from Hezbollah. Meanwhile, a Lebanese soldier and a civilian were wounded on Sunday by Israeli gunfire near the northern entrance of Kafr Kila village in southern Lebanon, according to official Lebanese sources.

The state-run National News Agency (NNA) reported that Israeli forces opened fire near the Fatima Gate in Kafr Kila, injuring a Lebanese army soldier. The Public Health Emergency Operations Center, affiliated with the Health Ministry, confirmed that a citizen was critically injured by Israeli gunfire in Kafr Kila.

Holi Special Trains from East Coast Railway

A. Bhubaneswar - Cheralapalli (Hyderabad) Holi Special
B. Puri-Kolkata Special Holi Special
C. Visakhapatnam-SMVT, Bengaluru Holi Special
D. Services of Special Trains viz. Khurda Road to Udhna (Surat); Puri to Kolkata / Santragachhi / Shalimar & Bhanjapur; Visakhapatnam to Tirupati/Shalimar; Sambalpur to Erode and Bhubaneswar to Yesvantpur & Dhanbad Special, extended.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Keeping in view the demands and to clear additional rush of passengers in regular trains running in important routes, ECoR has decided to run Special Trains during Holi Festival. Three pairs of Holi Special Trains from ECoR jurisdiction has been planned to run towards Hyderabad, Kolkata and Bengaluru. Services of some Special Trains running earlier from ECoR jurisdiction have also been extended during the period.

Indian Railways is witnessing high number of ticket bookings during Festive season. Heavy rush in regular trains result in long waitlist of tickets in regular trains. Passenger Profile Management Units of Indian Railways are monitoring the increased demand of passengers to make their journey hassle-free. In view of the above, Indian Railways is running many Special trains on busy routes connecting popular destinations apart from augmenting additional coaches in regular trains.

Berths Available - How to look for Special Trains: If, passengers are getting wait list status in regular trains during this season, they may book Train tickets in Special trains running from and through East Coast Railway jurisdiction. The Special Train Number starts with "0" (zero) or with "8" and passengers can easily find it from National Train Enquiry System (NTES) for online Ticket or may ask at the PRS inquiry Counter for Counter Tickets. Berths are available in Special Trains. During this season, ECoR has created additional berths by running Special Trains and by augmenting additional coaches in regular trains. Passengers may book their tickets online by following IRCTC website or book ticket through Mobile App or may book tickets from PRS Counters. ECoR has also notified about the running of Special Trains, recently. Passengers may also find about the Special trains from ECoR Facebook page @EASTCOASTRailway and by following Twitter Account @EastCoastRail.

Bhubaneswar-Cheralapalli (Hyderabad) Holi Special: 08479/08480 Bhuban



eswar-Cheralapalli (Hyderabad)-Bhubaneswar Holi Special from Bhubaneswar will leave at 1210hrs on every Monday between 10th March to 24th March 2025. In the return direction, Cheralapalli-Bhubaneswar Holi Special from Cheralapalli will leave at 0950hrs on every Tuesday between 11th March to 25th March 2024.

Puri-Kolkata Holi Special: 03101/03102 Kolkata-Puri-Kolkata Holi Special from Kolkata will leave at 2350hrs on 13th 18th & 20th March 2025. In the return direction, 03102 Puri-Kolkata Holi Special from Puri will leave at 1530hrs on 14th, 19th & 21st March 2025.

Visakhapatnam-Bengaluru Holi Special: 08549/08550 Visakhapatnam - Bengaluru - Visakhapatnam Holi Special from Visakhapatnam will leave at 1530hrs on every Sunday between 9th March to 23rd March 2025. In the return direction, Bengaluru-Visakhapatnam Holi Special from Bengaluru will leave at 1550hrs on every Monday between 10th March to 24th March 2024. Services of Special Trains extended to run more period

Udhna (Surat)-Khurda Road Special: Services of 09059/09060 Udhna (Surat)-Khurda Road-Udhna Special via Brahmapur-Vizianagaram-Rayagada-Titilagar & Raipur has been extended to run last week of April 2025.

Services of 02837/02838 Santragachhi-Puri-Santragachhi Weekly Special: 02839/02840 Shalimar-Puri-Shalimar Weekly Special & 08011/08012 Bhanjapur (Baripada)-Puri-Bhanjapur bi-weekly Special have been extended to run up to last week of June 2025. 02811/02812 Bhubaneswar-Yesvantpur-Bhubaneswar Weekly Special, 08311/08312 Sambalpur-Erode-Sambalpur Weekly Special, 08508/08507 Visakhapatnam-Shalimar-Visakhapatnam Weekly Special and 02832/02831 Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad-Bhubaneswar Daily Special have been extended to run up to last week of April 2025. 08583/08584 Visakhapatnam-Tirupati-Visakhapatnam Weekly Special has been extended to run up to last week of April 2025.

Grand Iftar Dinner in Memory of Former President of Sola Ana Cemetery Committee, Late Shaukat Ali

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the spiritual ambiance of Ramadan, an elegant Iftar dinner was organized in memory of the late Shaukat Ali, former president of the Sola Ana Cemetery Committee. The event aimed to promote unity and brotherhood and was graced by the presence of Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim and Subrata Bakshi, Present of All India Trinamool Congress. A large number of dignitaries, including government officials, social activists, business leaders, and esteemed members of the city, attended the gathering. Expressing gratitude to all guests, Sharfuddin Ali Ahmed highlighted that Ramadan teaches sacrifice, love, and solidarity, and such events help strengthen social harmony. Meanwhile, Abdul Qayyum Ansari, president of the Howrah Tri-



namool Congress Minority Cell, appreciated the mayor's presence, calling it a testament to the strong bond between public representatives and citizens. The Iftar gathering concluded with a heartfelt prayer for the nation's peace, progress, and prosperity. Notable attendees included Presidency Jail Superintendent Naveen Kujur, Mohammad Parvez Ansari, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Abdul Salam Raj, Mohammad Akbar Ali Jani, Mohammad Firoz Khan and Wajid Ali.

Greenland heads to polls amid Trump's threats to 'take over'

MI News Service, Washington DC: US President Donald Trump again threatened to take over Greenland on Sunday (local time), as he headed to polls. On his social media platform Truth Social, Trump said that the US supported Greenland's right to determine their own future, but it could also join the US if they wanted.

"As I made clear during my Joint Address to Congress, the United States strongly supports the people of Greenland's right to determine their own future. We will continue to KEEP YOU SAFE, as we have since World War II. We are ready to INVEST BILLIONS OF DOLLARS to create new jobs and MAKE YOU RICH -- And, if you so choose, we welcome you to be a part of the Greatest Nation anywhere in the World, the United States of America!" Trump said. The residents of the snow-capped island are scheduled to cast their ballots on Tuesday in an election that could prove to be one of the most consequential in their history, as per Politico.

Currently, the party with the most seats in the Parliament of Greenland, Inatsisartut is Inuit Ataqatigiit, or "Community of the People," together with its coalition partner Siunmut, or "Forward." Both parties are pro-independence and have vowed to call a referendum on the island's separation from Denmark, without specifying when that vote will be. The voters in the self-ruling Danish territory will elect 31 members of its legislature, the Inatsisartut, as they do every four years, Politico reported.

Under a 2009 agreement with Denmark, Greenland can legally declare independence -- but only after a referendum has taken place. While there is widespread support for full sovereignty in Greenland, some are unsure what it would mean for the island's defense and economy if it were to strike out on its own. While Trump promised to make the Arctic island "rich" during his presidential address last Tuesday, a massive majority of Greenlanders -- about 85 per cent -- oppose the idea of becoming part of the US, according to a January poll, Politico reported.

ER felicitated lady employees as a part of observance of International Women's Day



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway felicitated selected band of lady employees of different divisions, workshops as well as Headquarters offices of Eastern railway as a part of observance of International Women's Day celebration. The award giving ceremony was held at the auditorium of Eastern Railway Headquarters, Fairlie Place today (10.03.2025) wherein, the ceremonial lamp was lit by Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager/ Eastern Railway in presence of Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager, Smt. Zarina Firdausi, Principal Chief Personnel Officer and other Principal Officers of Eastern Railway.

Smt. Zarina Firdausi, Principal Chief Personnel Officer delivered the Welcome Address. Smt. Seema Deouskar, President of the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO) was also present and spoke on the occasion highlighting the ongoing process of women empowerment. Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager handed over the awards and certificates to 33 lady employees for their outstanding performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager/Eastern Railway said that the lady employees are the pivotal part of this Railway who have already proved their skill in performing any task meticulously, be it the indoor work or the outdoor work including safety related. General Manager further reaffirmed Eastern Railway's commitment in providing a supportive and inclusive environment that empowers women to excel in their careers and contribute to their growth and development.

Eastern Railway by creating different facilities and amenities trying to improve the convenience of the lady employees in performing their day-to-day work so that they can deliver even better in serving the Railways in particular

and the nation in general. A competition in three categories viz. bridal makeup, drawing & painting and cooking also been organised today on this occasion. A cultural programme was also held with the theme of Women Empowerment. Eastern Railway takes pride in fostering an inclusive working environment that empowers women in all roles, from locomotive pilots to ticket collectors, booking clerks, guards, and station managers. At Eastern Railway, women are integral to operations, driving growth, innovation, and efficiency throughout the system. Women employees across Eastern Railways in various roles exemplify professionalism, dedication, and skill, contributing significantly to the growth and success of Eastern Railway. Locomotive pilots navigate trains safely and efficiently, ensuring the smooth operation of our railway network. Ticket collectors and booking clerks provide excellent customer service, facilitating seamless travel experiences for passengers. Guards ensure the safety and security of both passengers and staff, while station managers oversee the smooth functioning of railway stations.

Eastern Railway is committed to providing a supportive environment for the growth and development of women employees. Eastern Railway proactively organizes various training programs, mentorship opportunities, and career advancement initiatives to empower women to reach their full potential and thrive in their careers. Today's celebration of International Women's Day at Eastern Railway's Auditorium, Udisa, encompasses a diverse program aimed at honouring and celebrating the invaluable contributions of women employees within Eastern Railway. Smt. Jyotsna Kusumakar, CPO/Administration, delivered the vote of thanks at the programme.

End of the world: Trump warns of nuclear dangers, criticises Ukraine aid and talks tough on Russia

MI News Service, New York: US President Donald Trump has sounded the alarm on nuclear dangers, warning that they pose a far greater existential threat to the world than climate change. In a recent interview with Sunday Morning Futures anchor Maria Bartiromo, Trump emphasized the devastating consequences of nuclear weapons, stating, "The level of destruction is beyond anything you can even imagine. It's just bad that everybody has to spend all this money on something that, if it's used, it's probably the end of the world." He criticized the focus on climate change, arguing that it overshadows the more pressing issue of nuclear dangers. "When I listen to these climate lunatics... nobody ever talks about nuclear weapons. They say the ocean's going to rise one-eighth of an inch in the next 300 years. But they don't talk about the dangers of a nuclear weapon, which could

happen tomorrow," he added.

Trump also addressed the Ukraine crisis, criticizing Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for being ungrateful for US aid. He claimed that the US had provided Ukraine with USD 350 billion in aid, while European nations contributed only USD 100 billion. "It was like taking candy from a baby, what he did... He took money out of this country under Biden, like candy from a baby. It was so easy, with that same attitude. Biden should have never put up USD 350 billion. He should have equalised with Europe," Trump said.

Given their geographical proximity to Ukraine, Trump argued that Europe should have shouldered more of the financial burden. "We have an ocean in between us, right? We're not in the danger that they are. They are in much greater danger," he said.

Sikhs in Kashmir are struggling to establish their identity as Pahari speakers, claim reservation



MI News Service, Srinagar: On a cold February morning, Jagdeep Singh joined dozens of other Kashmiri Sikhs on the streets of Baramulla to protest their exclusion from reservation benefits granted to Pahari-speaking communities. The 33-year-old Singh has been trying to get a reservation certificate as a Pahari Sikh for four years--only to be turned down repeatedly, even though Kashmiri Sikhs are officially recognised as Pahari speakers. "When I applied for this reservation, the tehsildar told me that I don't qualify because I'm Punjabi, not Pahari," Jagdeep Singh told ThePrint. "Despite multiple clarifications and passing the linguistic test, my case kept getting transferred from one office to another, leaving me stuck in a cycle of endless appeals with no resolution," he added. "It has been four years since I applied... I have lost time, energy, and hope. The system has failed us." Singh's case is not isolated. Many Kashmiri Sikhs in the valley say they have been unfairly excluded from reservation benefits granted to other Pahari-speaking groups including Sikhs in Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu and Uri in Kashmir, despite meeting the linguistic criteria.

"Never take us lightly, opponents should feel pressure": Rohit on India's Champions Trophy triumph

DUBAI [UAE] : India secured their third ICC Champions Trophy title in style, defeating New Zealand by four wickets in the final in Dubai on Sunday. The victory was a testament to the team's resilience and all-round performance, with captain Rohit Sharma leading from the front in the final.

Rohit emphasized India's fighting spirit and the legacy they aim to establish in world cricket.

"I don't want to dictate how other teams should perceive us. The only thing I want is for them to never take us lightly. Even if we are five wickets down, we have the ability to fight back and turn the game around. Until the last ball of the match is bowled, our opponents should always feel the pressure of playing against us," Rohit told JioHotstar.

The Indian skipper highlighted the team's never-say-die attitude in both batting and bowling.

"Similarly, when we bowl, this team never gives up. That is the kind of legacy we want to create



and leave behind. We take immense pride in being a clinical and well-organized team," he added.

India's triumph was built on

an all-round performance, with contributions from both batters and bowlers. Rohit Sharma led from the front with a match-winning 76, setting the tone for the

chase. Shreyas Iyer played a crucial knock of 48 in the middle order, ensuring stability.

The Indian spinners played a decisive role, with Varun Chakravarty (2/45) and Kuldeep Yadav (2/40) delivering fine spells to restrict New Zealand. Their disciplined bowling created pressure, which eventually helped India take control of the game.

Rohit stressed that every player in the Indian squad is aware of their role and executes it with precision.

"Every player in our squad knows exactly what is expected of them and how to execute their role. When other teams watch us play, I want them to recognize our resilience and belief—the mindset that we can win from any situation," he stated.

With this victory, India reaffirmed their status as one of the most dominant teams in international cricket. Rohit's Player of the Match performance in the final also solidified his leadership credentials.

20th National Youth Athletics Championship

MI CORRESPONDENT

RANCHI : In the 20th National Youth Athletics Championship organized at Sports Complex Patna from 10 to 12 March 2025 under the joint aegis of Indian Athletic Association, New Delhi and Bihar Athletic Association, Saket Minj of Ranchi SAI won the gold medal in the 400 meter race in the boys under 18 age group with a time of 47.63 seconds and brought laurels to the state.

Saket Minj and Afroz Ahmed won gold medals and Himanshu won bronze in the 20th National Youth Athletics Championship in the boys under 18 age group.

The Indian team is to be selected for the 6th Asian Youth Athletics Championship to be held in Saudi Arabia in April from the 20th National Youth Athletics Championship.

On the other hand, Rohit Syed Sabir of Karnataka won silver with a time of 48.06 sec and Qadir Khan of Uttar Pradesh won bronze with a time of 48.54 sec. In high jump, Afroz Ahmed of Hazaribagh won the gold medal for Jharkhand with 2.04 meters while Himanshu Kumar Singh won the bronze medal with 2.02 meters. Silver of this event was won by Devak Bhushan of Kerala with 2.04 meters. Prashant Kumar stood fourth and Jagdish Oraon (Bokaro) stood seventh in the 5000 meter walk.



Ravindra Jadeja puts retirement rumours to rest with four-word message

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Seasoned all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja shut down the rumours over his potential retirement after India scripted a famous Champions Trophy victory by outwitting New Zealand with a four-wicket win in the final in Dubai.

The retirement rumours around Jadeja sparked when Virat Kohli hugged him after the end of his 10-over spell. After that moment, various reports surfaced from the rumour mill suggesting the end of Jadeja's decorated career.

However, Jadeja put all the rumours to bed with a four-word message and wrote on Instagram, "No unnecessary rumours, thanks."

New Zealand's quality batter against spin, Tom Latham, was his sole scalp in the final as he returned with figures of 1/30 after bowling a full quota of his 10 overs.

Jadeja, often recognised as a gun fielder, delivered yet another impeccable performance with the ball and in the field. The Indian management recognised his efforts in the final, as he received the 'Fielder of the Match' medal for his stellar display. Apart from Jadeja, there were rumours about India captain Rohit Sharma's retirement as well. When the odds were stacked against India, Rohit turned the tides with his swashbuckling 76 from 83 deliveries, laced with seven boundaries and three towering sixes.

After orchestrating another memorable moment, Rohit brushed away speculations around his retirement and said in the post-match press conference, "Just to clarify, I am not retiring. Please do not spread any rumours."

After the match, Rohit enjoyed some heart-warming moments with his daughter Samaira and wife Ritika. He also shared a hug with Anushka Sharma, the wife of Indian stalwart Virat Kohli. Jadeja was also seen lifting his daughter Nidhyana in his arms in a celebratory mood. The videos going viral on social media show the star batter rushing towards the stands to hug Anushka in excitement soon after India defeated New Zealand by four wickets.



The Support is Just Crazy: Ellyse Perry on RCB, WPL and her cricketing journey



BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : Australian player Ellyse Perry, currently leading the race for the Orange Cap with 323 runs in seven innings, shared insights on her career, the evolution of women's cricket, and her role at Royal Challengers Bengaluru on the RCB Bold and Beyond podcast.

The Australian all-rounder reflected on the early years of her journey, the growing professionalism in the women's game, and the electric atmosphere of playing at Chinnaswamy Stadium.

From watching the first-ever IPL match at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium to now hearing her name chanted there by RCB fans, Perry's journey has come full circle. Speaking on the RCB Podcast, Bold and Beyond, she said, "We went to the first IPL match where Brendan McCullum scored around 150 runs for KKR. I remember thinking that was the most insane thing ever. Now, to be on the same field with a packed stadium where we can't even communicate because it's so loud—it's incredible. All of us at RCB feel so fortunate to be playing for this team because the support is just crazy." Reflecting on her longevity in the game, "I think I've been able to continue to learn, which has been the most motivating factor. To be still playing, the opportunity that always presents itself is to learn something new, to be challenged. And I think particularly in women's cricket, every year it just gets a little bit bigger, a little bit better."

Having made her debut for Australia at 17, Perry recalled her early years. "It's funny. I'm not sure you learn a lot in the early phases because everything's just so new. You often see young players coming in

their first year, and it looks so easy for them. That's because they have no expectations, no past experiences to draw from. It's a lovely time to play because you just take everything in your stride and play with so much freedom."

She also reflected on the growth of women's cricket, recalling how different things were at the start of her career. "When I first started, hardly any of our matches were televised, maybe one or two a year, which were precursors to men's matches. The kind of reporting always followed the same narrative: 'Do you wish that you were paid more to play?' 'Do you wish you had more attention?' It sort of perpetuated the same storyline about women's sport."

Now, the shift is undeniable. "If you fast forward 15, 20 years to now, every match is covered, we've got 30,000 people at the stadium every night, and women have the opportunity to work in sport full-time, whether as a player, a coach, an administrator, or an executive."

Having been with RCB since the WPL's inception, Perry has naturally taken on a leadership role in the setup. "It's been amazing to see how much domestic talent is coming through. Meeting so many young players, whether at RCB or other franchises, has shown me how big this opportunity is for them," she said.

Perry also noted the rising quality of cricket each season. "As this tournament progresses, I see more opportunities for young girls playing and coming through and how good they are. It's a bit scary! Every year I come back, there are new faces pushing the standards even higher."

Hockey India announces nominations for Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024



PC JHA

RANCHI : Hockey India on Monday officially announced the nominees for the 7th edition of the prestigious Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024, scheduled to take place on March 15 March at New Delhi.

With a record prize pool of approx INR 12 crores, this year's ceremony is set to be the biggest yet, celebrating the finest performances in Indian hockey during the 2024 season.

Speaking to Morning India Hockey India Secretary General Bholanath Singh said, "These awards are a tribute to the relentless pursuit of excellence by every-

one involved in the sport—from players to coaches and officials. Their commitment has been instrumental in the growth of hockey, and we are immensely proud to recognise their contributions. This year's awards ceremony promises to be a memorable occasion, and I believe it will motivate everyone in our hockey ecosystem to continue striving for greater heights in the future. We look forward to an evening that showcases the passion and potential of Indian hockey." A total of 32 nominees across eight categories have made it to the final shortlist. These nominees, who have

made notable contributions to the sport throughout the year, will be recognised and celebrated during the ceremony.

One of the key highlights is the coveted Hockey India Balbir Singh Sr. Award for Player of the

Hockey India today released the list of 4 players nominated for each award for the various awards to be given in Hockey India 7th Annual Awards 2024 to be held on 15th March. One player from each of these 4 nominated players will receive this award. Out of these, 4 players are nominated in Hockey India Balbir Singh Senior Player of the Year (Women), out of which 2 players are from Jharkhand, Salima Tete and Sangeeta Kumari. And among the 4 players nominated in Hockey India Asunta Lakra Upcoming Player of the Year (Women), one player from our Jharkhand is Beauty Dungdung.

Year, which will honour the best male and female players. Young players have also been given the spotlight, with the Hockey India Jugraj Singh Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Men) and the Hockey India Asunta Lakra Award for Upcoming Player of the Year (Women).

In addition, individual excellence across various positions will be recognised through awards such as the Hockey India Baljit Singh Award for Goalkeeper of the Year, the Hockey India Pargat Singh Award for Defender of the Year, the Hockey India Ajit Pal Singh Award for Midfielder of the Year,

and the Hockey India Dhanraj Pillay Award for Forward of the Year.

The ceremony will also include several special awards, such as the Hockey India President Award for

Outstanding Achievement and the Hockey India Jaman Lal Sharma Award for Invaluable Contribution. Recognition will also be extended to officials with the Hockey India President Award for Umpire/Umpire Manager of the Year, the Hockey India President Award for Technical Official of the Year, and the Best Member Unit Award.

Adding to the significance, 2025 marks 100 years of Indian hockey, as India became affiliated with the International Hockey Federation (FIH) on 7 November 1925, just a year after FIH's formation. This milestone year is a tribute to India's rich hockey legacy and its enduring impact on the sport.

India's Olympic bronze medal-winning team will be felicitated, along with the Men's and Women's teams that won the Asian Champions Trophy in 2024. The Junior Asia Cup-winning Men's and Women's teams will also be honored during the award ceremony.

KKR Trophy Tour celebrates victory with fans at Junction Mall, Durgapur

DURGAPUR (WEST BENGAL) : The Kolkata Knight Riders brought their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 celebrations to Durgapur on Sunday, showcasing the prestigious trophy at Junction Mall. Hundreds of enthusiastic fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the coveted silverware and meet team representatives, as per the KKR press release.

The event featured photo opportunities with the trophy and interactive fan activities. The trophy tour will continue now move back to Kolkata as the team edges closer to their open match of the season against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru on Sunday, March 22.

Earlier, the KKR landmark Trophy Tour continued its journey to celebrate their third Indian Premier League (IPL) title, making a memorable stop in Patna to

engage with passionate fans in the city.

In Patna, the trophy was showcased at the historic Golghar, where fans gathered to catch a glimpse of the prestigious silverware. The trophy was also displayed in all its magnificence along the banks of the River Ganga at the cultural landmark Bhadra Ghat.

The tour made its final stop in Patna at City Center Mall, where enthusiastic supporters had the opportunity to interact with the trophy and celebrate KKR's triumphant 2024 campaign. With enthusiasm for the upcoming season building, KKR's historic Trophy Tour continues to engage with fans across the region. Before the trophy returns to Kolkata, the prestigious award will be presented in Durgapur on March 9 as the tour reaches its



business end.

The Kolkata Knight Riders will kick off their IPL 2025 campaign against the Royal Challengers Bengaluru on March 22 at the iconic Eden Gardens.

KKR squad for IPL 2025:
 -Batters: Rinku Singh (retained), Rovman Powell, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Manish Pandey, Luvnith Sisodia, Ajinkya Rahane. -Wicketkeepers: Quinton de Kock, Rahmanullah Gurbaz.
 -Allrounders: Venkatesh Iyer (pace), Andre Russell (pace; retained), Sunil Narine (spin; retained), Ramandeep Singh (pace; retained), Anukul Roy (spin), Moeen Ali (spin).
 -Spinners: Varun Chakravarty (retained), Mayank Markande. -Fast bowlers: Harshit Rana (retained), Vaibhav Arora, Anrich Nortje, Spencer Johnson, Umran Malik.