

IndianOil expands its transformative initiatives for Prison Inmates and Correctional Homes

MI News Service, Haridwar: A S Sahney, Chairman, IndianOil launched Phase X of IndianOil's 'Pari-vartan - Prison to Pride' and Phase VII of 'Nayi Disha - Re-defining the Future' today across various locations of India in the presence of State Government and Prison officials.



Both the initiatives, launched on August 15, 2021 and January 26, 2023 respectively, by IndianOil is aimed towards transforming the lives of incarcerated inmates of prisons and correctional homes through the power of sports.

over 10,000 persons across 29 states and UTs of India. The success of these two programmes reflected in the various accolades won by the players at various tournaments including gold and bronze medals won at World Chess Federation (FIDE) chess tournament last year.

BSF foils secretive border activity, Bangladeshi army forced to retreat

MI News Service, CoochBehar: A fresh wave of protest has erupted in Cooch Behar, West Bengal over the construction of a Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) sentry post near the international border.

which dispatched four vehicles to the scene. The incident highlights the ongoing tensions and disputes between Indian and Bangladesh over border security and fencing. The 1975 India-Bangladesh Border Guidelines prohibit the construction of defense structures within 150 yards of the international border, which has been a point of contention between the two countries.

7 Institutions closed simultaneously amid fears, students' education in jeopardy

MI News Service, Bankura: A controversy has erupted in Bankura, West Bengal after the administration issued notice to close seven secondary education centers due to low student enrollment.

at its peak but now has only 19 students. The school's acting principal, Mritunjay Mukherjee, attributes the decline in student numbers to the lack of teachers and poor education quality. The closer notices have sparked protests from local residents, who argue that the school should be revived by appointing more teachers and improving infrastructure.

Husband accused of murdering wife before taking own life

MI News Service, East Minapore: A shocking and disturbing incident has come to light in Ramnagar, Purba Medinipur, where a woman was found brutally murdered with a knife, and her husband was discovered hanging from the ceiling fan in their home.

coaching in various sports followed by their participation in national and international sports tournaments, the beneficiaries are also getting an opportunity to showcase their talent and channelize their energy positively. Through our small attempt, we hope to instill a sense of discipline, purpose, and hope in the inmates so that they are assimilated into society with dignity.

On the occasion, the participating State government officials and prison authorities thanked IndianOil for this unique intervention that will help the inmates and children in correctional homes build a better life and contribute fruitfully to society.

are underway to determine the exact circumstances surrounding the incident. This tragic incident has sent shockwaves through the community, and the police are working to piece together the events leading up to the double tragedy

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice/652 Dated: 13.03.2025) Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, DRM Building, near Howrah Station, Howrah-711011 invites Open e-Tenders for the under mentioned electrical works...

Tilottama's parents return from Delhi, claim "CBI will be under pressure" in ongoing case. MI News Service, Titagarh: The BCI investigation into the Titagarh case has taken a significant turn, with the case now returning to the Calcutta High Court.

Supreme Court and their legal team. They stated the CBI will have to be more transparent and truthful in their investigation and that they will finally get answer to the questions they have been seeking.

Notice I, Richard Subrojit Gomes my parents Philip Gomes & Jayanti Gomes have 5 cotthas Land from gifted Deeds by my parents vide deed no-2271 of 2005 and 8592 of 2014, they have purchased the said Land through powerholder Sri Antonio Sabistin Gomes vide deed no. 1820/94.

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW Engagement of Sr. Residents at B. R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah. A Walk-in-Interview will be held for selection of the following Sr. Residents (Academic) in Medical Director's Office...

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender Notice No.SBP-ELECT-2025-1237 NAME OF WORK: COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR MAINTENANCE WITH RMPW CONTROL PANEL IN SELF GENERATING (SG) RMPU AC COACHES AT SAMBALPUR COACHING DEPOT FOR A PERIOD OF 02 YEARS.

Office of the Principal DEBRA THANA SAHID KSHUDIRAM SMRITI MAHAVIDYALAYA (Government Aided, Autonomous, NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade College, affiliated to Vidyasagar University) P.O.: Chakshyampur, Dist.: Paschim Medinipur. NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Notice I, Putul Ghosh w/o Buddhyadev Ghosh Purchased a Land Deed-3542/19 Mouza Gopalpur JL-101, L.R. Dag-1681, L.R. Kh.-2467, 3846, 86, 1053 and 4612, Area-1Katha- 8 ch. from power of Attorney holder Utpal Mondal S/o-Sharat ch. Mondal - POA Deed no-81/02. If anybody has any objection on mutation of said Land please inform office of BLL&RO Kolkata, KMC Building, Room no 328, 5, S.N. Banerjee Rd, Kol-13, in writing or over email bilroatm@gmail.com within one month from the date of Advertisement

e-TENDER NOTICE On behalf of Ramganga Gram Panchayat, Pathrapratma Block, South 2-24 Parganas invites bid for Vide NIT No. 14/ISGP/RGP/2024-2025/01/ISGP/RGP/2024-2025 Dated: 18/03/2025. The Last Date of Submission of online Bid is 26/03/2025 upto 15:00 PM.

Notice e-Tender The Pradhan Garibpur Gram Panchayat invites e-Tender through e-Procurement System from the bonafided and resourceful Contractors/ Bidder for the following work...

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. 05-DCE-CON-ROB-SDAH-24-25, Dated: 17.03.2025. The Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Dy. Chief Engineer (Con)/ROB, Eastern Railway, RMS Building (2nd & 3rd Floor), Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: Name of the Work : E-Tender No. 05-DCE-CON-ROB-SDAH-24-25 : Providing technical consultancy for feasibility study, master planning, urban design, engineering and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) including Geo-Technical Investigation for Development of maintenance infrastructure and maintenance facilities for Vande Bharat Trains at NDD Yard/Chitpur/Eastern Railway. Approx. Value (Rs.): ₹ 25.55 Lakh (Approx). Cost of Tender Documents (Rs.): Nil; Earnest Money (Rs.): ₹ 51,100/- Completion Period: 02 (Two) Months. Date of Opening: 04.04.2025 at 15.00 hrs. The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website www.ireps.gov.in

PKS GOLD PVT LTD CIN: U36109WB2021PTC243800 CERTIFIED TRUE EXTRACT COPY OF EXTRACT OF BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15TH FEB 2025 OF THE PKS GOLD PVT LTD AT CITY PLAZA, SHOP NO.7, 2ND FLOOR, OPP. PAVEL HALL SEVOK ROAD, SILLIGURI-734001, DARJEELING AT 11.30 A.M.

Correction It is hereby notified that a Notice dated 02/11/2024 legal notice published in the Morning India Daily News Paper claim as No Objection whatever may be in manner same notice Line 16 (Page No-5) Late Bibhut Sinha writing as which is to be read as "Late Bibhut Bhusan Sinha" and Line No-81 One Kanti Share in 36 satak written as which is to be read as "One Kanti Share of 36 Satak" and in 91 line J.L. No-65, Mouza-Radhakrishnapur which is to be read as "J.L.No-65, L.R. Khatian-489, Mouza-Radhakrishnapur". Otherwise all statement shall remain unchanged. We apologize for unintentional error.

Corrigendum Notice In the Tender of Jagadishpur Gram Panchayat, Tender Reference No.: WB/HOW/BJS/JGP-372 to 375/NIT-37 to 40/2024-25, Date: 06.03.25 published in 'Ekidin' Bengali News Daily & 'Morning India' English News Daily on 08.03.2025 the 'Last Date of Bid Submission' will be 12.03.2025 instead of 12.12.2024. Others information will be remain same. Inconvenience caused deeply regretted.

Public Notice NOTICE is hereby given to all concerned that one of my client Mr. Buddhadit Ghosh S/o Gopal Ghosh of Sainya, Pawan, Polba, Hooghly-712305, W.B. is interested to sale the below mentioned property to Mr. Subir Ghosh S/o. Gobinda Ghosh of Sainya, Pawan, Polba, Hooghly-712305, W.B. against Rs. 11,75,00,000/- My said client is the present owner of the property that piece and parcel said land lying and situated under Dist. Hooghly, P.S. Polba, J.L. No. 48, Mouza Bonselay, Hal D.No. 61 & an area of land 17 Satak respectively and the same recorded in the BL&LRO Polba-Dadpur Block, as against Khatrian No. 448. If any person and/or persons having any claim share right, title or interest whatsoever over and in respect of said property or any objection to the sale of the same must notify the undersigned therewith supporting documentary evidence within 15 days from this date, thereafter the claim, if any shall be deemed to have been waived and no further claim shall be entertained and my client shall proceed with the transaction.

Eastern Railway Lease The Undersigned is hereby publishing Lease notice for Ferry services, Public Toilet, Bus Stand etc. 1. Lease Notice number- 353/PS/Lease/2025, dated 17/03/2025 Last Date of submission of application is 24/03/2025, Boat Measurement on 25/03/2025 lease on 26/03/2025 For more details please visit office notice board Executive Officer Pathrapratma Panchayat Samiti Ramganga, South 24-Parganas

Office of the Municipal Councillors Serampore Municipality 1, N. S. Avenue, Serampore, Dist.: Hooghly, Pin: 712201 e-Auction of the following work is invited by Chairman, Serampore Municipality from experienced and resourceful, GST registered bidders for execution of the works vide e-Auction No.: WBMA/ULB/SRMP/e-Auction-02/2024-25, Date: 18/03/2025. Name of work- Laxmi (Jagannath) Ghat Ferry Service within Serampore Municipality. Document Submission Start date: 18.03.2025 at 17:00 Hours. Bid Submission end: 26.03.2025 at 15:00 Hours. Auction start date: 28.03.2025 at 15:00 Hours. Auction end date: 28.03.2025 at 17:00 Hours. For details of the project go through http://eauction.gov.in

E Tenders e-tenders are invited by prothan, Ramnagar gram panchayat under Ausgram-II Dev. Block, Dist- Purba Bardhaman from resourceful / bonafide contractors with experience and requisite credential from 15th FC Fund vide memo no -345/RGP/2025, NIT No-26/RGP/2024-25, Date of closing of submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 28/03/2025 up to 3.00 P.M. For Details visit the Website http://wb-tenders.gov.in

Notice I, Putul Ghosh w/o Buddhyadev Ghosh Purchased a Land Deed-3542/19 Mouza Gopalpur JL-101, L.R. Dag-1681, L.R. Kh.-2467, 3846, 86, 1053 and 4612, Area-1Katha- 8 ch. from power of Attorney holder Utpal Mondal S/o-Sharat ch. Mondal - POA Deed no-81/02. If anybody has any objection on mutation of said Land please inform office of BLL&RO Kolkata, KMC Building, Room no 328, 5, S.N. Banerjee Rd, Kol-13, in writing or over email bilroatm@gmail.com within one month from the date of Advertisement

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ICICI Bank SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE [Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091. CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com] The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Researchers demonstrate new technique for boosting plant growth with bacteria

North Carolina[US] : Researchers have successfully demonstrated a technique for encapsulating bacteria, which can subsequently be preserved and applied to plants to promote their growth and protect them from pests and infections. The technique paves the way for a variety of crop applications that will enable farmers to use these beneficial bacteria in conjunction with agrochemicals.

"Many of the beneficial bacteria we know of are fairly fragile, making it difficult to incorporate them into practical, shelf-stable products that can be applied to plant roots or leaves," says John Cheadle, co-lead author of a paper on the work and a Ph.D. student at North Carolina State University. "The technique we demonstrate here essentially stabilizes these bacteria, making it possible to develop customized probiotics for plants."

At issue are plant growth-promoting bacteria (PGPBs), which are microbes that benefit plant health and growth, helping plants extract nutrients from the environment and protecting them from pests or pathogens.

"A longstanding challenge for making use of these bacteria has been that if you tried to come up with a single application that combined them with agrochemicals, like pesticides or fertilizers, the bacteria would die," says Saad Khan, co-corresponding author of the paper and INVISTA Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at NC State. "We wanted to develop a solution that would allow bacteria to be used in conjunction with chemicals already in widespread use by growers."

"By the same token, a healthy plant microbiome allows the plants to make better use of nutrients available in the soil and more resistant to pathogens," says Tahira Pirzada, co-corresponding author and a research scholar at NC State. "This may allow growers to use less fertilizer and pesticides without hurting crop production."

The new technique revolves around a custom-made emulsion, with only a handful of ingredients. One part of the emulsion consists of a saline solution that contains PGPBs. For the proof-of-concept demonstration, the researchers used the bacteria *Pseudomonas simiae* and *Azospirillum brasilense*. *P. simiae* acts as a biopesticide by promoting pathogen resistance; *A. brasilense* acts as a biofertilizer by fixing nitrogen. The second part of the emulsion consists of a biodegradable oil and a biodegradable polymer derived from cellulose. The polymer can be loaded with agrochemical active ingredients, which means the emulsion can incorporate these ingredients without relying on environmentally harmful organic solvents, which are typically



used in pesticide formulations. When the two parts of the emulsion are mixed together, the oil is broken into droplets that are distributed throughout the saline solution. The cellulose polymer sticks to the surface of these droplets, preventing the droplets from merging back together.

Essentially, the emulsion is a salad dressing with the oil droplets held in suspension throughout the saline solution. In practical terms, this would allow the PGPBs to be applied simultaneously with agrochemicals using the same emulsion.

To see how well the emulsion worked, the researchers did two tests. First, the researchers compared the survival of PGPBs in the emulsion to the survival of PGPBs in the saline solution alone. Samples of each were stored at room temperature. After four weeks, the population of *P. simiae* in the emulsion was 200% higher than the population in saline; the population of *A. brasilense* in the emulsion was 500% higher.

Second, the researchers wanted to see how well pesticides would work when incorporated into the emulsion. For this, the researchers incorporated the pesticide fluopyram into the emulsion. They also added fluopyram to the saline solution by itself. The researchers then introduced *C. elegans* nematodes - which serve as a proxy for pests - into the emulsion and the saline solution.

"Not surprisingly, the pesticide in saline solution killed the pest very quickly - all of the pests were killed within an hour," says Mariam Sohail, co-lead author of the paper and a recent Ph.D. graduate from NC State. "The emulsion worked more gradually, killing 95% of the pests within 72 hours. This is valuable to know, since it suggests our technique could be used strategically to provide sustained protection against specific pests or pathogens."

"Ultimately, we found our technique allows us to incorporate multiple active ingredients into a single delivery system and allows the PGPBs to survive and thrive," Sohail says.

"We also demonstrated that the emulsion improved the survival and reproductive success of these bacteria when applied to soil, as compared to applying the bacteria to the soil without the emulsion," Cheadle says.

"Next steps will involve greenhouse testing and, later, microplots," says Khan. "We will likely want to evaluate different PGPBs and other active ingredients to see how they perform with different targeted plant species."

EC UIDAI experts to soon begin technical consultations on Aadhaar-voter card seeding

New Delhi : The EC on Tuesday said linkage of voter cards with Aadhaar would be done according to the prevailing law and the Supreme Court's directions and added technical consultations between its experts and UIDAI for the exercise would "begin soon". The Election Commission (EC) on Tuesday held a meeting with the Union home secretary, legislative secretary (in the law ministry), MeitY secretary and the UIDAI CEO on the issue of voter card-Aadhaar seeding.

The government told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply in April 2023 that linking Aadhaar details with voter identity cards had not started and noted that the exercise was "process driven" and no target or timelines were set for the proposed exercise.

Names of those who do not link their Aadhaar details with the voters'



list will not be struck off the electoral rolls, the government had asserted. In a statement on Tuesday, the poll authority said that while voting

rights could only be granted to a citizen of India, according to Article 326 of the Constitution, Aadhaar established a person's identity.

"Therefore, it was decided that the linking of elector photo identity card (EPIC) with Aadhaar will be done only as per the provisions of Article 326 of the Constitution, sections 23(4), 23(5) and 23(6) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and in line with the Supreme Court judgment (of 2023)," it said. Accordingly, technical consultations between UIDAI and the EC's technical experts "are to begin soon", it added.

The law allows voluntary seeding of voter rolls with the Aadhaar database.

Section 23 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, as amended by the Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021, provides for electoral registration officers to require an existing or prospective elector to provide Aadhaar for establishing identity on a voluntary basis.

Sikkim LS MP asks Centre to hold AI event in state

Gangtok : Sikkim Lok Sabha MP Indra Hang Subba has asked the Union Electronics and Information Technology minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to hold a large-scale artificial intelligence (AI) event in the Himalayan state.

A press release issued by the Sikkim Lok Sabha MP said that this initiative aims to highlight Northeast India's potential in the AI-driven future and advocate for its active inclusion in India's AI policy. "The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology has responded positively to the proposal, acknowledging the strategic significance of such an event in fostering innovation, skill development, and economic growth in the region. The minister has assured further discussions and collaboration to assess the feasibility of hosting the event, in line with the government's vision of inclusive technological advancement."



said the release. Subba said, "Northeast India has immense talent and potential to contribute to India's AI landscape. A dedicated AI platform in the region will empower youth, entrepreneurs, and researchers, ensuring their active participation in the country's digital transformation." "Sikkim

has the potential to play a pivotal role in shaping India's AI revolution. With one of the highest literacy rates in the country, the state is well-positioned to embrace AI and provide its youth with the necessary training to become part of India's future-ready workforce," the release added.

Deaths inside manholes: NGOs call for stricter adherence to ban scrutiny on contractors



New Delhi : Despite a nationwide ban on manual scavenging, workers continue to be hired for cleaning sewers often at great risk to their lives, the NGOs working for such workers' rehabilitation said.

In a tragic incident earlier on Sunday, a 43-year-old worker died and two others were injured while cleaning a sewer in southeast Delhi's New Friends Colony.

The victim, Panth Lal Chandra, was working on a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) sewer around 5.45 pm

on Sunday when the accident occurred, police said in a statement earlier. Yogendra Jha, secretary of the NGO Centre for Social Security Action and Research (CSSAR), called for strict action against those hiring labourers for manual scavenging.

"Manual scavenging is banned in India, yet people continue to do this work without proper protective equipment, risking their lives just to support their families," he said.

Jha said the government departments often outsource sanitation work to contractors, who, in

turn, employ daily wage workers for sewer cleaning.

"The government must establish a dedicated committee to monitor such incidents and take necessary action to prevent further loss of life," he added.

Centre for Holistic Development (CHD) Executive Director Sunil Kumar Aledia stressed the need for better enforcement of the ban.

"There are machines available for cleaning sewers, yet workers are still being sent into manholes to cut costs. Constant monitoring is essential because manual scavenging continues in the open despite the law," he said.

Manual scavenging is banned and mandates rehabilitation for those engaged in the practice, according to the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and Their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

Emergency response teams, including the fire brigade and local police, pulled out the three workers from a manhole in an unconscious state on Sunday. Chandra was declared dead at the hospital. The police have registered a case under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Sections 7 and 9 of the Manual Scavenging Act.

There was no immediate response from the Delhi Jal Board regarding the incident.

According to a Rajya Sabha data, approximately 377 people died in various states and Union Territories between 2019 and 2023 due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

A report by the Press Information Bureau states that around 22 manual scavengers lost their lives in Delhi between 2019 and 2022.

Apple launches 'Surveyor' app for improved mapping accuracy

Cupertino (California) [US] : Apple has introduced a new app called 'Surveyor', designed to collect real-world mapping data to enhance the accuracy and detail of Apple Maps.

According to Mac Rumours, the app focuses on gathering information such as street signs, traffic signals, and roadside details to ensure Apple Maps remains precise and up to date.

Unlike Apple's standard consumer apps, Surveyor is not publicly available. Instead, it appears to be intended for partner companies tasked with mapping assignments.

Upon downloading the app, users are prompted to "Open Partner App," which redirects them to another application called Premise.

Premise, a third-party platform, allows users to earn rewards by completing various tasks, including surveys, reporting local details like construction updates, and photographing specific locations.

Based on app strings found in Surveyor, it appears that once a mapping task is assigned via



Premise, users will be instructed to mount an iPhone, switch it to landscape mode, and capture images along a designated route while driving.

According to Apple, the Surveyor app captures data on road infrastructure and transmits it to Apple, where it helps "precisely place objects on the map."

This approach suggests that Apple is leveraging crowdsourced data collection to refine its mapping system and keep small but crucial map details current.

While Premise is not officially listed as an Apple Maps partner, the integration of the two apps indicates a collaboration for continuous Apple Maps updates.

With this move, Apple seems to be embracing community-driven data collection to strengthen its mapping ecosystem, potentially rivaling similar strategies used by Google Maps and Waze.

As Apple continues to refine Apple Maps, the Surveyor app may represent a broader push toward AI-driven, real-time map enhancements, ensuring users receive more accurate and detailed navigation assistance.

Hungary's parliament passes law banning Pride events in new assault on LGBTQ+ rights



Budapest : Hungarian lawmakers on Tuesday passed a law banning Pride events and allowing authorities to use facial recognition software to identify attendees, continuing a crackdown by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's right-wing populist party on the country's LGBTQ+

community. The measure passed in a 136-27 vote. The law, supported by Orbán's Fidesz party and their minority coalition partner the Christian Democrats, was pushed through parliament in an accelerated procedure after being submitted only a day earlier. It amends Hungary's law on assembly to make it an offense to hold or attend events that violate Hungary's contentious "child protection" legislation, which prohibits the "depiction or promotion" of homosexuality to minors under 18. Attending a prohibited event will carry fines up to 200,000 Hungarian forints (USD 546), which the state must forward to "child protection," according to the text of the law. Authorities may use facial recognition tools to identify individuals attending a prohibited event.

IIT-B study opens up possibility of using magnets to treat cardiovascular diseases

Mumbai : Magnetic fields can effectively manipulate blood flow in the body, opening up the possibility of using magnets to treat cardiovascular diseases, a study by researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) researchers has revealed.

The institute, in a statement on Tuesday, said a theoretical study by its researchers found that magnetic force lowers blood pressure fluctuations and stabilises flow, setting the stage for advanced cardiovascular therapies.

This opens up possibilities for using magnets in treatment of heart diseases and provides insights for creating advanced drug delivery systems, it said.

"Wall shear stress (WSS) is the force per unit area exerted by the blood flow along the inner walls of blood vessels. It is a critical factor in vascular health, as abnormal WSS can contribute to the development of diseases like atherosclerosis.



WSS is influenced by the blood's velocity and viscosity along the vessel walls," said Prof Abhijeet Kumar, who led the study at the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

The researchers used a computation framework to simulate and analyse the blood flow pattern.

The research found that stronger magnetic fields facilitated smoother blood flow.

The study revealed that magnetic force stabilises flow and pressure fluctuations in all the stenosis shapes, reducing the risk of plaque rupture.

The results showed that the magnetic field influences blood flow, pressure, and

WSS, which can further help control high blood pressure and prevent damage to arterial walls.

Prof Kumar, however, said there are many challenges in transforming this research into practical treatments, like the complex interactions between magnetic fields and biological tissues, which can impact cellular structures, blood viscosity, and vessel walls.

"...Given the complexities and challenges mentioned, including the need for extensive research, clinical trials, and regulatory approvals, it might take several years before such treatments become widely available," he said.

National Women's Hockey League

Haryana, Odisha & MP earn full points

PC JHA

RANCHI : Hockey Haryana, Hockey Association of Odisha and Hockey Madhya Pradesh had a successful outing as they registered wins in their respective matches in the opening day of the final phase of the National Women's Hockey League at Morhabadi Astroturf stadium here in Ranchi.

On the expected line, in the first match of the day, Hockey Haryana defeated Manipur Hockey 7-1 in Pool A. Saavi (32', 37') and Kirti (45', 56') scored a brace each for Hockey Haryana. Khasa Shashi (11'), Supriya (54') and Kirti (58') also scored one goal each for their side. In response, Deena Devi Naoram (2') scored the consolation goal for Manipur Hockey.

In the next match, Hockey



A proud moment for Jharkhand was that senior Women's Team Captain, Salima Tete attended a formal meet and lunch with Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and Prime Minister of New Zealand, Christopher Mark Luxon.

Association of Odisha defeated Hockey Bengal 1-0 in a closely contested game. Dipika Barwa (3') scored for Hockey Odisha in the first quarter of the match.

In the third match, Hockey Madhya Pradesh defeated Hockey Maharashtra 2-0 in Pool A. Bhumiaksha Sahu (4') and Captain Soniya Kumre (58') scored for Hockey Madhya Pradesh in the first and final quarter of the game to take the game away from Hockey Maharashtra.



BCCI likely to ease rules on families travelling with players on tours: Sources

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly considering a more flexible approach to its policy regarding players' families accompanying them on international tours. According to BCCI sources, players who wish to have their families with them for an extended period during overseas assignments will now be able to apply for special permission from the board. This potential relaxation of rules comes after Indian cricket stalwart Virat Kohli speaking at the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) Innovation Lab Indian Sports Summit highlighted the emotional toll of being away from family during demanding tours.

Speaking about the importance of a support system, Kohli remarked that no player would like to "sit alone and sulk" after a poor showing during a tour, reported ESPNcricinfo.

His comments shed light on the mental challenges athletes face when travelling for long durations without their families.

Virat said as quoted by ESPNcricinfo, "It is very difficult to explain to people how grounding it is to just come back to your family every time you have something intense, which happens on the outside."

"I do not think people have an understanding of what value it brings to a large extent. And I feel quite disappointed about that because it is like people who have no control over what is going on are kind of brought

into conversations and put out at the forefront that, 'oh, maybe they need to be kept away', he added. The Indian stalwart said that he would not like to miss any opportunity to spend time with family. "Like, there could be different situations happening in your life all the time. And that allows you to be absolutely normal. Not in a vague sense, but in a very real way that you finish your commitment, your responsibility, and then you come back to your house, you are with family, and there's absolutely normalcy in your house and normal family life goes on. So, for me, that is absolutely a day of immense pleasure. And I would not miss any opportunities to go out and spend time with my family whenever I can," he concluded. The current BCCI policy allows limited family presence during tours, with restrictions often varying based on the series, venue, and scheduling demands. However, as conversations around mental well-being in sports gain prominence, the board appears to be reassessing its stance. While there is no official confirmation yet, sources suggest that under the new framework, players will have to submit requests to the BCCI.

With the international cricket calendar packed with fixtures, including the upcoming ICC events and bilateral series, this potential shift in policy could provide much-needed balance for players navigating the intense demands of the sport.

"Wherever I come here in Bangalore I feel as if I am at my second home": Rajat Patidar at RCB unbox event

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : The air buzzed with excitement as Royal Challengers Bengaluru's (RCB) fans enjoyed an unforgettable day of fun and frolic alongside their cricketing superstars at the RCB Unbox. RCB captain Rajat Patidar at the event appreciated the crowd saying, "I am at my second home."

Patidar, who is from Indore and plays for Madhya Pradesh in domestic cricket, also compared the unboxing event and IPL matches, saying fans gather in almost the same numbers in both events and "it is a very motivating" for the RCB players.

"Wherever I come here in Bangalore I feel as if I am at my second home, fans here always stay in my heart. The matches and unbox events are pretty much similar here because the numbers are the same in both events. We all know how fans support RCB, they see Bangalore as their team and it is a very motivating thing for us," Rajat Patidar on RCB unbox events.

He also told about his goosebumps moment when he got onto the stage and the whole stadium was chanting, he felt it was an unforgettable moment for him.

"It was a goosebumps moment for me as the fans were chanting in the ground it is unforgettable. I want your support and love I will do everything to make you (fans) happy," he added.

RCB Unbox is an exciting initiative that gives fans an experience like none other - it not only brings them closer to their favourite cricketers but also gives them a top-notch entertainment experience.

The proceedings began with the team's open training session, and RCB legend Virat Kohli was in dazzling form as he struck a flurry of massive hits into the stands, much to the joy of the capacity crowd. As the sun began to set in Bengaluru, the players battled it out in a series of fun challenges that had the fans at the edge of their seats.



"My goal is to lift the trophy": Shreyas Iyer expressed his desire ahead of IPL 2025

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Shreyas Iyer spoke about his goal as Punjab Kings captain, Iyer who took Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to the glory of Indian Premier League (IPL) last year was released by KKR ahead of IPL 2025. Speaking to Jio Hotstar, Iyer said he is ready to lead his new team Punjab Kings this season, he expressed his desire to win the IPL title for Punjab.

He said from the moment he was picked by Punjab in the auction his vision was clear that Punjab had not won the IPL title yet, he wants to lift the trophy for them. He felt it would be a historic achievement for Punjab Kings and he wants to give Punjab Kings fans a reason to celebrate, Shreyas Iyer on Jio Hotstar.

"From the moment I was picked in the auction, my desire has been clear--Punjab Kings haven't won the IPL yet, and my goal is to lift the trophy for them. That would be a historic achievement, and I want to make the fans happy and give them a reason to celebrate. A Punjabi celebration at the end of the season would be something special!" Shreyas Iyer on Jio Hotstar.

Iyer, who led Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to their third title



and first in 10 years last year and also led Delhi Capitals to the finals, will be aiming to replicate the same magic with PBKS when they kickstart their campaign against Gujarat Titans at Narendra Modi Stadium on March 25.

Iyer shared his thoughts on commentary in regional languages, he said we all enjoy these regional languages, and he told about his starting days in cricket where he used to talk in his language in the dressing room. He

also said that Mumbai has different names for shots and in different regions people have their names for shots.

"We do enjoy it. When we started playing cricket, we used to talk in our languages in the dressing room. In Mumbai, we even have different names for shots. In different regions, people have their way of describing how a shot was played. When we hear it for the first time, it's a bit of a culture shock-like, wow, these are the words used in cricket! As you progress to the international level, you get to learn about these different expressions," he added.

Since his debut in 2015, Iyer has scored 3,127 runs at an average of 32.23, with a strike rate of 127.47, with 21 fifties. His best score is 96. During his first season in 2015 with Delhi Capitals, he won the 'Emerging Player' award for scoring 439 runs in 14 matches at an average of 33.77, with four fifties. In 2018, Iyer got his first taste of captaincy with DC and in 2020, he led the team to the finals, where they lost to Mumbai Indians (MI). In 2022, he was moved to KKR and he won the 2024 season with them under the mentorship of Gautam Gambhir.

"We need to be better in the powerplay": Pakistan skipper Salman Ali Agha after losing second T-20 against New Zealand

DUNEDIN [NEW ZEALAND] : New Zealand secured a five-wicket win over Pakistan in the second T20I of the five-match series at Dunedin on Tuesday. After losing the first two matches Salman Agha said in the post-match presentation that Pakistan needs to bat well in the powerplay.

He said it was a good game compared to the first, he admired Pakistan's fielding in the match and also praised his bowlers. He spoke about Haris Rauf who took three wickets in the second innings, he felt that Pakistan has to improve in the powerplay with both bat and bowl.

"It was freezing. It was a good game compared to the last game. We batted better. Fielding was outstanding. Bowling in patches was good. The bounce we need to understand is different. After the powerplay, we bowled well. Haris bowled well. We need to be better in the powerplay. As a batting unit, we need to have



better powerplay. And same as a bowling unit as well." Salman Ali Agha said.

NZ won the toss and opted to bowl, Pakistan's top order struggled again facing the Kiwi bowlers only Salman Agha

managed to score 46 runs all the other batters failed to score again.

Shadab Khan (26 in 14 balls, with two fours and two sixes) and Shaheen Afridi (22* in 14 balls, with two fours and a six) contributed some useful runs down the order, bringing Pakistan to 135/9 in 15 overs during the rain-curtailed match. Ben Sears was the pick of the bowlers giving away just 23 runs in his three overs.

During the run-chase of 136 runs, Seifert and Finn started by unleashing carnage, with Allen striking Mohammed Ali for three sixes in the second over and Seifert belting Shaheen Shah Afridi for four sixes in the next over. Both the opener played well but after Seifert and Finn NZ lost wickets quickly until Mitchell Hay scored a vital 21 runs and took NZ to a win with 11 balls and five wickets in hand. Haris Rauf (3/20) was the top bowler for Pakistan. Seifert was given the

'Player of the Tournament' award for his knock.

Pakistan would take solace from the fact that they have done better than the last game. The next game will have the series on the line for Pakistan as New Zealand is leading 2-0 in the five-match T-20 series.

New Zealand squad: Michael Bracewell, Finn Allen, Mark Chapman, Jacob Duffy, Zak Foulkes Mitch Hay, Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson Daryl Mitchell, Jimmy Neesham, Will O'Rourke, Tim Robinson, Ben Sears, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi.

Pakistan squad: Salman Ali Agha (c), Shadab Khan, Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Hasan Nawaz, Jahandad Khan, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Haris, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousaf, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Sufyan Moqim and Usman Khan.

"Khelo India Para Games is lifting standards, making us more competitive": 2024 Paralympics gold medallist Harvinder Singh

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The second edition of Khelo India Para Games (KIPG 2025) is set to begin from Thursday (March 20) and the 2024 Paralympics gold-medal winning archer Harvinder Singh can't be more excited. The 34-year-old archer believes KIPG has brought international standards of competition and has become a prominent platform for youngsters to showcase their talent, according to a release from KIPG.

Harvinder praised the format and selection procedure of Khelo India Para Games and explained how it boosts the performance of all para athletes across India.

"The top 16 athletes at the national level are selected for the Khelo India Para Games. It motivates all athletes to win medals at the national level. If an athlete is unable to win a

medal, then they try their best to finish in top 16 to be eligible to compete in the KIPG. This kind of procedure and system inspires athletes to perform to the best of their abilities. This is the second edition of KIPG 2025, so it feels good to see para sports growing in India," Harvinder told SAI Media, as quoted from a release by KIPG.

Harvinder finished first in the rankings stage and then went on to win the gold medal in the inaugural edition of the Khelo India Para Games which took place in December 2023. After his remarkable performance, he went on to become a double Olympic medallist in Paris last year, adding a gold medal in individual recurve open, the same event in which he had won the bronze medal in Tokyo Paralympics.

Now, Harvinder is eager to compete once again at the



upcoming KIPG 2025. He explained why the tournament is setting a benchmark for sporting events in India.

"I was very happy that a tournament of this level is organised. Last time when I competed in KIPG, it felt like we were in an international level event. The set-up, schedule and the arrangements were of the highest quality. Since then, I knew that India is capable of hosting any international tournament. This time around, I am expecting a similar scale and I am eager to return to the field," Harvinder said.

The World Para Athletics Grand Prix 2025 recently concluded in New Delhi, and the nation's capital will also host the World Para Athletics 2025 in August. The surge of domestic tournaments for para athletes in India and the government's continued patronage for

para sports has helped in building a more inclusive society, Harvinder said.

"The top schemes of the government are putting focus on para sports. There is also growing interest in para athletes among private organisations. They are supporting para athletes and society is becoming more inclusive. India is now adopting and recognising para sports and our performances. In tournaments such as KIPG 2025, the participation of athletes is constantly increasing which is a sign that India is developing overall in the sports sector," he said.

The KIPG 2025 will see over 1200 athletes will participate across six disciplines in the seven-day tournament at three venues - Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Indira Gandhi Stadium and the Dr Karni Singh shooting range -- in New Delhi.