



Team KKR in practice session at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Friday.

District overshadow Kolkata in Madhyamik exam

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Boards of Secondary Education (WBBSE) released the Madhyamik exam results on Friday, marking a significant milestone for students who appeared for their first board exam. The anticipation and nervousness that had been building up since the exam day finally came to an end, and the results brought immense joy and pride to the students, their parents and their school.

In a remarkable achievement, students from districts outperformed their counterparts from Kolkata, showcasing the growing talent and academic excellence across the state. The top 10 students, who secured impressive ranks were: Adrita Sarkar from North Dinajpur, Anubhab Biswas from Malda, Soumya Pal from Bakura, Ishani Chakraborty also from Bakura, MD Selim from Purba Burdwan, Supratik Manna

Bangla Paksha holds meeting against harassment of Bengali workers in various BJP-ruled states

Nurul Islam Khan: The Bengali Pakya held a meeting at Salar in Murshidabad on Thursday to deliver an anti-riot message on the ground in riot-hit Murshidabad and to protest the harassment of Bengali migrant workers in various states, including Odisha, in the BJP-ruled state. Workers from various districts of Bengal are being attacked in various BJP-ruled states. They are returning home after being beaten! Even though there is work in this state, Bengalis are not getting work. There is work in Bengal, there is no work for Bengalis! But about 2 crore people from Bihar are working here. Said the General Secretary of the Bengali Pakya, Dr. Garg Chatterjee. Labor Minister Malay Ghatak said in the Assembly that 2.1 million workers from Bengal are working in other states. And 1.5 crore people have come to work in Bengal. The Bengali side is continuing that fight to protect the sons of the land. BJP means anti-Bangla and Bengalis.



He claimed that wherever the BJP is in power, Bengali workers are being attacked. BJP has also demolished a Bengali fish shop in Delhi. Bengalis are also being attacked in Odisha. The situation is the same in other states. He further said "Bengali workers are being beaten up in other states, why is the Chief Minister silent?" What is the government doing? People from other states are looting and eating in Bengal.

He also said, "Whether Hindu or Muslim, if there is a riot, give them a stick. There will be no riot in Bengal. Hindus and Muslims will have to fight together as Bengalis." The speakers were Organizing Secretary Kaushik Maiti, Senior Council Members Dr. Abdul Latif and Nurul Hasan, and District Secretary Arindam Chandra.

Projjal Das Shines Bright: Ranks 9th in Madhyamik, Brings Pride to Santipur

MI News Service, Santipur: A wave of joy swept through the lanes of Santipur's Ziauddin Lane as local boy Projjal Das, a Class 10 student of Santipur Municipal High School, secured the 9th rank in the West Bengal Madhyamik Examination, scoring an impressive 687 out of 700.

Projjal's stellar performance has made his family, school, and entire district proud. His father, Pradyut Das, works in the Chemistry Department of Santipur College, while his mother is a nursing staff. Projjal also has a younger brother.

The young scholar's subject-wise scores speak volumes: 100 in Mathematics, Life Science, History, and Geography; 98 in Physical Science; 95 in English; and 94 in Bengali.

Projjal credits his success to balance and discipline. "Studying non-stop doesn't help. I always made time for playing every day — at least an hour or two. Otherwise, studying becomes monotonous," he said. Apart from academics, he has a keen interest in cricket and regularly reads newspapers to stay informed.

With a deep love for Mathematics and Physics, Projjal dreams of studying at IIT in the future. He has already begun preparing for competitive exams. "If not IIT, I will definitely pursue a career in Mathematics," he added.

His father shared, "We always hoped he would rank. He has always topped his class since Grade 5 and has performed well in several competitive exams too. We found out about his rank on television." His mother added, "He never needed to be told to study. He managed his schedule on his own and never skipped playtime — we never stopped him from enjoying that."

As the news spread, neighbours and well-wishers gathered at the Das household to congratulate the brilliant student. Projjal's success is not just personal — it's an inspiration to many across the district, his family sources said.

Police recover dead body from trolley bag

MI News Service, Raiganj: Just days after the gruesome discovery of a dismembered elderly man's body in a trolley bag in Kolkata, a similar unsettling incident has emerged in North Bengal. A dead body was found concealed within a red trolley bag in a cornfield adjacent to the Islampur bypass in the Sonakhoda area, under the jurisdiction of the Islampur police station. The chilling recurrence of this method of concealment has sent ripples of fear and speculation across the state.

The discovery was made on Friday morning by a local resident who was passing by the area. Noticing the unusually placed and sizable red trolley bag in the cornfield, the individual grew suspicious. He promptly alerted other locals, and upon their collective assessment, the Islampur police were notified. A team of police officers swiftly arrived at the scene, secured the area, and recovered the trolley bag. The remains found inside were then transported to the Islampur Subdistrict Hospital for a crucial post-mortem examination. This procedure is expected to shed light on the cause of death and potentially provide vital clues for the ongoing investigation. According to preliminary information released by police sources, the deceased is estimated to be approximately 45 years old. However, the identity of the individual remains unknown. Investigators are currently exploring various avenues to identify the victim, including examining missing persons reports from the region and neighboring districts. The eerie similarities between this case and the recent Kolkata incident, where the victim's body was tragically found in multiple pieces inside a trolley bag, have not gone unnoticed. While authorities have not yet established any direct link between the two cases, the modus operandi

has naturally raised concerns about a potential pattern or the involvement of individuals familiar with this method of disposal. Local resident Amit Pal, who was among the first to notice the trolley bag, shared his experience with reporters. "I was on my way to the market earlier today. I saw this large, red trolley lying in the cornfield. It seemed out of place, so I felt a bit uneasy. I continued to the market, bought my fish, and returned home. It was only later that I heard the shocking news about a body being found in that very trolley. This is truly disturbing and something I've never witnessed before in our area." The incident has understandably created a sense of unease and anxiety within the usually tranquil Sonakhoda area. Residents are grappling with the unsettling nature of the discovery and the potential implications for their community's safety. The Islampur police have launched a comprehensive investigation into the matter. Their efforts will likely focus on identifying the deceased, determining the time and cause of death, and tracing the origin of the trolley bag. Investigators will also be canvassing the area for potential witnesses and examining any available CCTV footage that might offer clues.

Given the recent similar incident in Kolkata, state-level police authorities are likely monitoring the investigation closely. The possibility of inter-district coordination in the investigation cannot be ruled out if any connections between the two cases emerge.

As the investigation progresses, the community awaits further updates, hoping for a swift resolution and the apprehension of those responsible for this heinous act. The discovery serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerability of peace and the challenges faced by law enforcement in maintaining public safety.

Arjun Singh declares Suvendu Adhikari as a true public leader

MI News Service, Barrackpore: A fresh wave of internal strife has engulfed the West Bengal BJP, with Arjun Singh openly challenging Dilip Ghosh's leadership and asserting Suvendu Adhikari as the true public leader, following Ghosh's controversial appearance alongside Mamata Banerjee at a Digha temple inauguration. The West Bengal Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is witnessing a surge in internal discord following Dilip Ghosh's attendance at the Jagannath temple inauguration in Digha, where he was seen engaging in extended conversations with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. This incident has triggered a wave of criticism from within the party, with Arjun Singh emerging as a prominent voice challenging Ghosh's standing and asserting Suvendu Adhikari's superior leadership. The Digha temple inauguration, coinciding with Akshay Tritiya, became a focal point of contention when Dilip Ghosh, accompanied by his wife, was seen interacting closely with the Chief Minister. This interaction has been perceived by a section of BJP leaders as compromising the party's stance against the Trinamool Congress (TMC).



On the occasion of the 105th birth anniversary of legendary film director Satyajit Ray on Friday, a marble statue of Satyajit Ray was unveiled at Satyajit Park in Ward No. 113 of Tollygunge under the initiative of "Satyajit Park Abhiyan Sangha" and the "Satyajit Ray Memorial Arch" was inaugurated and paid tributes by Minister Aroop Biswas. Municipal representatives Anita Kar Majumdar and Gopal Roy were present.

Remembering rhapsodic RAY in his 105 th Birthday

Siddhartha Albertt Majumder

Satyajit Ray, one of the most iconic filmmakers in world cinema, would have turned 105 on May 2, 2025. Bengal, and indeed the entire world of film lovers paid tribute to Ray for his profound contributions to cinema, literature, and culture.

Ray's films, such as Pather Panchali, Aparajito, Charulata, and The Music Room, remain timeless classics, apart from Kapuroosh-Mohapuroosh, Nayak and many more. His deep understanding of human nature, his subtle yet powerful storytelling, and his ability to portray the intricacies of Bengali life are what make his work so universally celebrated.

In Bengal, especially Kolkata (Calcutta), Ray was remembered through special screenings of his films, discussions, exhibitions, and sometimes even retrospectives. His legacy continues to inspire new generations of filmmakers and artists and the community as a whole.

Satyajit Ray, also known as 'Manik da' in West Bengal or among Bengalis is one of the greatest filmmakers in the history of cinema, is renowned not just for his artistic mastery, but also for the

depth of humanism and cultural sensitivity that his work embodies. His films transcend the specifics of Indian society and become universal in their exploration of human experience.

One of his most immortal and beloved creation is 'Feluda', the iconic detective character who appears in a series of short stories and novels written by Ray himself.

Feluda (Pradosh Chandra Mitter) is a sharp, erudite detective who operates with a quiet intellect and wit. He is often accompanied by his cousin, Topshe, who serves as both a narrator and a companion in his adventures. The comic character of Lalmoni Ganguly has also become epitome of comic relief in Bengali literature and Bengali film as well. The character of Ganguly portrayed by iconic actor Santosh Datta still enchants the film lovers in Feluda classics like 'Sonar Kella' and 'Joy Baba Felunath'. Together, they solve mysteries at extraordinary situations.

The character of Feluda, introduced in the short story "Feludar Goyendagiri" (Feluda's Detective Adventures) in 1965, became a beloved figure in Bengali literature and cinema. Ray directed two films featuring Feluda, each one

presenting intricate, suspenseful plots woven with cultural nuances and a profound understanding of human nature. Feluda was portrayed by the legendary actor Late Soumitra Chatterjee in these films, adding a distinctive charm and grace to the role.

Ray's Feluda stories, like many of his works, aren't just about solving crimes—they are a medium through which he explored themes of morality, justice, and human psychology. Ray's keen sense of observation, his deep understanding of human nature, and his ability to create vivid, relatable characters full of wit and humour are what set Feluda apart from many other detective archetypes. The stories were also notable for their depiction of Bengali culture, its settings, and the moral dilemmas faced by ordinary people.

Ray's approach to creating Feluda was different from traditional detective fiction. The mysteries in his stories often took a backseat to the deeper philosophical questions about society, family, and personal values. Ray, who was a master of subtlety, made sure that Feluda's adventures weren't just a formula of action and suspense, but a reflection of the world in which he lived.



Firefighter fighting against fire at printing press at Salt Lake, Sector-5 in Kolkata on Friday

Top-scoring student Thabi Mukherjee passes away due to liver jaundice

MI News Service, Asansol: Thabi Mukherjee, a brilliant student from Asansol, achieved an outstanding 96.29% in her secondary school exams, ranking 674. However, her family is consumed by grief as she succumbed to liver jaundice on April 16. Despite her poor health, Thabi excelled in her exams, scoring 99 in Bengali, 98 in math, and 97 in physics. Her parents, Vivekanda Mukherjee, a homeopathic doctor, and Pew Mukherjee, a housewife, had sought treatment for her, including a potential liver transplant that required Rs1 crore. Despite raising Rs45 lakh through social media and community support, Thabi's life could not be saved, leaving her family devastated.

Thabi Mukherjee, an ex-



ceptionally talented student from Asansol, has left her family, school, and community in shock after succumbing to liver jaundice on April 16. Despite her untimely demise, Thabi's determination and academic prowess shone through in her secondary school examination results, where she scored an impressive result, where she scored an impressive 96.29%. Her outstanding performance included scores of 99 in Bengali, 98 Math, 97 in Physics, and 98 in Life Science. Thabi's family had been struggling to save her life,

seeking treatment in various hospitals, including those in Chennai and Vellore. A liver transplant, which would have cost ₹1 crore, seemed like the only option. Despite efforts to raise funds through social media, with ₹45 lakh collected, Thabi's life could not be saved. Thabi's parents, Vivekananda Mukherjee, a homeopathic doctor, and Pew Mukherjee, a housewife, are grappling with the loss of their daughter. The community mourns the loss of a bright young talent, with many believing that Thabi could have topped the state had she been in good health during her exams. Her legacy as an exceptional student and a multifaceted individual, excelling in drawing and singing, will be remembered for years to come.

Madhyamik debacle: Ghatat student dies by suicide

MI News Service, Ghatat: Ghatat mourns as Madhyamik examinee Ritam Ghosh, a student of Sri Aurobindo Vidya Mandir, tragically took his own life after being disheartened by his scores of 347, a result his family noted was lower than his expectation.

A pall of grief has descended upon Gopinathpur in the Bisnigh Gram Panchayat of Ghatat block, following the tragic suicide of a Madhyamik examinee. Ritam Ghosh, a student of Sri Aurobindo Vidya Mandir, reportedly took his own life by hanging himself after the release of the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) Madhyamik (Class 10) examination results.

The distressing incident came to light on Friday when Ritam's body was discovered at his residence. The news has sent shockwaves through the local community and the school.

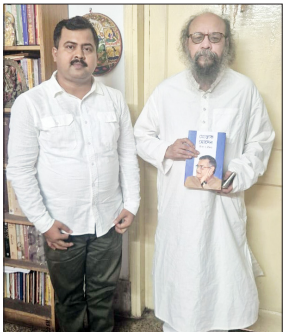
According to family sources, Ritam had secured 347 marks in the recently declared Madhyamik results. While not a failing score, his family stated that Ritam was visibly upset and disheartened as he had anticipated a higher outcome. They expressed their utter disbelief that this disappointment would lead

to such a drastic and irreversible decision. Upon receiving information about the incident, officers from the Ghatat police station promptly arrived at the Ritam Ghosh residence. They recovered Ritam's body and initiated the necessary legal procedures, including sending the remains for a post-mortem examination. Ritam's father, Rabindranath Ghosh, was inconsolable, and the entire family is currently in deep mourning. The tragedy has also cast a somber shadow over Sri Aurobindo Vidya Mandir. The headmaster of the institution, Gautam Jana, expressed his profound shock and sorrow. "Ritam was a very good boy and a diligent student. We never imagined that he would resort to such an extreme step," he stated, highlighting the unexpected nature of the incident. The teaching staff of the school also shared their grief and disbelief. Adding to the sense of loss, Ashok Kumar Maiti, a Group D staff member at the school and a neighbor of the Ritam Ghosh family, commented, "He was a boy from my neighboring village. His parents were very caring and attentive; they always kept a close watch on him. I am at a loss to understand why he would do this."

Poet Joy Goswami unveils the text of the book 'Mostaq Hossain: Life and Heritage'

Nurul Islam Khan

Poet Joy Goswami, in the inauguration the text of the research book titled 'Mustak Hossain: 'Jibon O Aitihiya', at the residence of poet Joy Goswami in Salt Lake on Thursday. Publisher and editor of the research book, Faruque Ahamed, was present. Unveiling the text of this book written about prominent industrialist and social worker MustakHossain, poet Joy Goswami said, 'I have learned a lot by reading the book on Mr. Mustak Hossain. It was really necessary to publish a book about such a great, compassionate, public welfare and educationalist; and a person who was determined to stand by the side of the sick. I express my special gratitude to editor Faruque Ahamed.' Fiction writer Shirshendu Mukhopadhyay wrote in the



Faruque Ahamed Editor-Publisher Udar Akash with Joy Goswami

book, 'I was fascinated and surprised to know about Mustak Hossain's life-oriented activities. People like him are rare today. We need such compassionate and humane people now.'

One hundred and seven writers have penned this huge book of seven hundred and twenty pages.

There are veteran poets,

writers, professors, as well as emerging publishers, editors, essayists and researchers.

Notable Mahasweta Devi, Sunil Gangopadhyay, Kabir Suman are among the numerous writers.

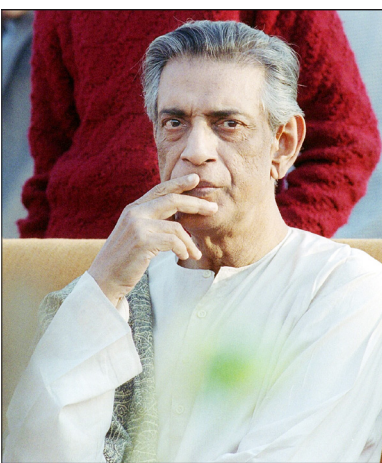
The book has been edited by Faruque Ahamed, a researcher in the History Department of Kalyani University. The book has been published by 'Udar Akash'.

Mustak Hossain is a colorful personality who has fought against all odds and won.

He has built the 'Flag' empire.

He has become an icon. He has set a rare example in education and health services by overcoming all obstacles.

Mustak Hossain spent his entire life serving the nation and the underprivileged Bengali community



ture resonate even today. He is a character who exemplifies the qualities that Ray cherished: intelligence without arrogance, strength without violence, and wisdom without cynicism. These aspects of Feluda continue to make him beloved across generations.

Feluda has become an integral part of Bengali popular culture, with multiple adaptations in various media, including TV shows, radio programs, comic strips, and stage productions. The enduring popularity of Feluda speaks to Ray's ability to create characters that transcend time and place.

PM Modi commissions...

►► **From PG 1**

deep-sea port is expected to significantly boost India's presence in global shipping and trade routes. The port has been built by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), India's biggest port developer and part of the Adani Group, in partnership with the government under a public-private model. The project cost around Rs 8,867 crore and received its commercial go-ahead in December last year after a successful trial phase.

Following the recent terror attack in Pahalgam and a series of hoax bomb

threats, security has been stepped up in the Kerala state capital. However, except Congress leader Shashi Tharoor, other opposition leaders stayed away from the port inauguration programme. Opposition Congress-led UDF has criticised the event organisers for ignoring the contribution of the late former Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, who signed the original agreement and laid the foundation stone for the project. The Opposition leaders have also raised concerns over the decision not to invite V D Satheesan, the current Leader of the Opposition.

BNP expresses 'grave...

►► **From PG 1**

Nationalist Party (BNP) Secretary General Mira Fakhru Islam Alamgir while speaking at a public rally on Tuesday said the Interim government should have consulted with all political parties before taking such a "major decision" as it involved the issue of "our independence, sovereignty and stability and peace of the region in the future". "The report made us concerned," Alamgir said.

Earlier on Monday, Touhid Hossain, the interim government's foreign affairs advisor, announced that Dhaka agreed in-principle, "subject to conditions", to a United Nations (UN) proposal to establish a humanitarian corridor through Bangladesh to send aid to Rakhine amid the ongoing civil war between Myanmar government troops and the rebel Arakan Army. Declining to elaborate on the conditions, he had said, "I will not go into the details (but), if the conditions are met, we will certainly provide the assistance to them"... The UN had earlier expressed apprehension that the region might witness a famine -- a fallout of the civil war that resulted in the possible influx of other ethnic groups into Bangladesh alongside the Rohingya. Speaking on the issue, BNP leader Alamgir said, "We do not want to become another Gaza ... We do not want to get involved in another war. We do not want anyone to

come here and create more trouble for us. We are already in a serious problem with the Rohingya." He said the BNP did not have any objection in extending help to people in distress but consultations with political parties were required as "we don't want anyone to come to our territory to create troubles" afresh. The BNP's reaction came amid reports that more Rohingya were trespassing into Bangladesh every day to escape the brutality of the Arakan Army.

The Daily Star newspaper, quoting Rohingya sources, said they faced murders, torture, forced disappearances and recruitment into the rebel group as human shields against junta forces. "Currently, a large number of Rohingya are fleeing from Rakhine state. ...

Bangladesh's Refugee Relief and Repatriation Commissioner Mizanur Rahman said. Since November 2023, about 1.30 lakh Rohingya have entered Bangladesh. Most of them arrived after June 2024, he added. Bangladesh last week acknowledged the Arakan Army's presence in its rugged south eastern region, saying it was disrupting trade with Myanmar. More than 13 lakh Rohingya have been crammed into makeshift refugee camps in Bangladesh's south eastern part as they escaped a brutal military crackdown in 2017, while about 70,000 fled last year amid fresh violence.

US hopes Pakistan cooperates..

►► **From PG 1**

attack earlier. Trump had told reporters: "I am very close to India and I'm very close to Pakistan, as you know. And they've had that fight for 1,000 years in Kashmir. Kashmir has been going on for 1,000 years, probably longer than that. And it was a bad one yesterday, though, that

was a bad one."

There have been "tensions on that border for 1,500 years. So you know, the same as it's been, but they'll get it figured out one way or the other. I'm sure... I know both leaders. There is great tension between Pakistan and India. But there always has been", he said.



Left to Right - Mr. Rajiv Singh, Director General, ICC, Mr. Brij Bhushan Agarwal, Senior Vice President, ICC, Mr. Ajinkya Rahane and Mr. Parthiv Notia, Vice President, ICC, during Centenary Celebration of Indian Chamber of Commerce. at Kolkata on Friday.

Fire breaks out at chemical factory in sec V

MI News Service, Kolkata: Once again fire makes news in Kolkata, but this time thankfully there is no casualty. Fire broke out at a chemical factory in Sector V Salt Lake on Friday afternoon.

Multiple fire tenders have been rushed to the spot. Second major fire in three days after 14 people died of suffocation in a Burrabazar hotel Tuesday evening. The fire is suspected to have been caused by an explosion inside the factory. The state fire services minister Sujit Bose is at the spot.

6 bars closed: Mamata cracks down on imprudent fire safety violators

MI News Service, Kolkata: Six bars and restaurants in Celica Park, formerly known as Magma House, on Park Street were shut down after chief minister Mamata Banerjee made a surprise visit on her way from the fire-ravaged Rituraj Hotel and flagged her concerns about fire safety measures.

Rows of LPG cylinders stored on racks in multiple tiers on one side of the building's entrance came to light after the chief minister instructed officials to lift iron shutters that covered them.

"Fifty thousand people will die if so many gas cylinders explode," Mamata said.

"I heard about this from someone who recently visited a restaurant here. He said some four to five thousand people

won't be able to come out of the building using the narrow stairs and requested that I take immediate steps. There are two elevators, but people aren't aware that they would not work in case of a fire," she said.

Mayor Firhad Hakim and the fire and emergency services minister, Sujit Basu, accompanied Mamata with Kolkata Police commissioner Manoj Verma and industries minister Sashi Panja.

"The mayor, police commissioner and fire services minister will meet and arrive at a decision," Mamata said.

The chief minister also said the terrace won't be shut for a restaurant before leaving the spot. "I had information about this particular place, so I showed it to you all."

Sources said the three, along with senior police officers and bureaucrats, met with building representatives soon thereafter, and the decision to shut the six restaurants was taken subsequently.

Sandip Gupta, director of the Celica Park group, said the restaurants closed after the meeting were: Black Cat, Boujee House, AMPM, Moti Mahal Deluxe, Barbeque Nation and LMNOQ.

Located in the northwest corner of Allen Park, Celica Park comprises a cluster of multi-storied buildings, home to several popular bars, restaurants and night spots.

Metro visited the Park Street address on Thursday and found that the rows of LPG cylinders

the chief minister spoke about were kept on one side of Park Centre, a 10-storey building housing commercial offices, eateries, and retail stores inside Celica Park.

"This is how it is supposed to be kept. According to the guidelines of the fire department, there is supposed to be a gas bank, which must be located outside restaurants and not inside. This gas bank must be fitted with complete depression and suppression systems," said Vineet Khemani, legal head of the Celica Park Group.

Mamata also alleged that one of the terraces has been shut and converted into a restaurant.

"The terrace has been closed, and a restaurant has been built. Around four to five

thousand people gather on holidays," Mamata said.

"There is only one stairway to come down from there. No one has the right to shut the terrace. It is an open space. But a restaurant has been built. During an emergency, they can't gather on the terrace."

Asked why the administration wasn't aware of the alleged irregularities, Mamata said owners were reluctant to take corrective measures even after the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, the fire services department and the police issued notices.

"We don't want everyone to be arrested. But they should take alternative actions," Mamata said. "It can't be just about business and making money. I will not spare if one life is lost."



Students celebrate with full zest in Kolkata as Madhyamik result comes out on Friday.

Kolkata fire tragedy: Police arrest owner of Rituraj Hotel

MI News Service, Kolkata: One of the owners of Rituraj Hotel, where a fire on Tuesday evening killed 14, was arrested by police.

Akash Chawla has been charged with causing the deaths of 14 people who were either working at his hotel or were there as guests. He has also been formally accused of flouting fire safety rules.

The hotel's manager, Gaurav Kapoor, has also been arrested.

More than 100 people were trapped inside the five-storey building after the fire broke out on the first floor.

Both were produced before Sealdah court. Their defence lawyer said Chawla was not attached to the daily operations of the hotel while Kapoor was "only an employee".

Chawla and Kapoor are residents of Howrah. Police officers who have examined the accused said they have "claimed innocence" about the lack of fire equipment.

One of them reportedly told the police that the hotel had sprinklers, but he was not aware that the sprinklers were defunct.

"Both the owner and the manager were aware that there were several lacunae in the hotel," the prosecution's lawyer told the additional chief judicial magistrate's court in Sealdah.

The lawyer said: "Apart from that, there was no emergency exit, no fire safety measures despite high occupancy, no fire fighting safety equipment and thus the incident of the devastating fire causing deaths."

The two have been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to murder, attempt of culpable homicide not amounting to murder and violation of the fire safety norms. The police said that during the investigation, it was clear that the fire licence of the building was not renewed after 2022. Sources in the po-

lice said it has been found that the bar on the first floor was owned by Vivek Chawla and, after his death, the ownership passed on to his nearest kin. The police are probing whether the hotel had the necessary police permit to run even after the fire licence had lapsed three years ago.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate sent the duo to police remand for a week.

"Considering the nature and gravity of the alleged offence, and the nascent stage of investigation, the prayer for bail of these accused persons is rejected at this stage and the prayer for police remand of these accused persons is allowed till May 8 for fruitful investigation, with a hope that the investigating officer shall unearth substantial material against these accused persons in the instant case by properly utilizing this PC period," the magistrate ordered.

Bengal's chess culture blossoms with 'Chessmate'

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Inter-School Chess Championship in Kolkata evoked massive response signifying the already in-built strong chess culture in West Bengal. The love for chess has increased all the more and that can be well seen after 'Chessmate' comes out as a big success. 'Chessmate' was organized by iconic South Point School recently in Kolkata.

Chessmate is a FIDE rated event from 2018. It

was played in nine rounds under the FIDE (Federation International Des Echess) Swiss League System. 172 students took part, among them 92 were rated players. A total of 43 teams participated in the event. The prize money, amounting to a total of Rs.44,000/-, will be given away on the Annual Prize Distribution Day on 4th of July, 2025. The winner of the 1st prize in the Boys' category is Bhavan's

Gangabux Kanoria Vidyamandir (prize money Rs.10,000/-), the 2nd prize winner is South Point High School (Team-A) (Rs.7,000/-) and the 3rd prize winner is South Point High School (Team-B) (Rs.5,000/-). In the Girls' category, the winners are Sudhir Memorial Institute (Rs.10,000/-), first runner-up Gokhale Memorial School (Rs.7,000/-) and second runner-up PM Shri KVO Dum Dum (Rs.5,000/-).

Follow fire safety norms or face severe action: Mamata

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee sent the city's business community a tough message: Follow fire safety norms or face government action.

Mamata, who was visiting Rituraj Hotel where a fire had killed 14 people on Tuesday night, said the owner and the manager had been arrested.

"It's the hotel owners' responsibility to ensure the safety of guests. But they (Rituraj Hotel) will not renew the licence; they will flout all rules," a grim-faced chief minister said, addressing local traders who stood around her near the fire-ravaged hotel.

"They will only do business and make money. They do not care about human lives."

Officials have said the hotel flouted multiple safety norms: it had fire sprinklers but no water, its emergency exit was blocked, and all its windows had been sealed.

The hotel's fire licence had not been renewed after 2022, fire and emergency services officials said.

"The building will be sealed. Pipelines are there, but no water. There is only one staircase. Two people were trapped on the staircase and died. We were able to rescue more than 90 using ladders," Mamata said. "Many rooms were found locked and could not be opened. There was no facility to let the smoke out of the building.... When you are in the hotel business, looking after the guests' well-being is your responsibility."

The state government has arranged to fly the 12 identified dead to their hometowns, Mamata said. Two bodies remain to be identified.

Referring to congested areas lined with old buildings in Jorasanko and Burrabazar, where the flouting of fire safety norms is widespread, the chief minister warned

people against storing plastics and other inflammable material.

"This building has pipelines but no water source. Sometimes we keep the fire system but not water. We dump plastics and chemicals in residential dwellings. Why do you do this? These are highly inflammable," she said.

"I have seen some people start a fire in their business interest. Please do not play with fire. Only those who lose their near ones in a fire understand the pain. And this can happen to each of us if we don't (take precautions)...."

Mamata recalled the 2008 blaze at the towering Nandaram Market that destroyed one of central Calcutta's biggest business hubs, fuelled by rampant violations of fire safety norms. She said plastic was being dumped again at the Nandaram market.

"There should be an alternative (es-

cape route) in an emergency. Those who don't make arrangements for an alternative, should they be spared?" she said.

"I am extremely rough and tough on this matter. You have to listen to us. The administration will give you all the help. And if you don't listen, we will take action."

Hours after she spoke, six Park Street restaurants were shut down. They will be reopened only after the administration is convinced about their fire-preparedness.

Mamata appealed to shopping malls, shops and markets not to stock plastic.

"These only aggravate fires. There could be a short-circuit.... AC machines need to be checked; gas cylinders need to be checked," she said.

"I'm not against anyone. I just want you to live safely. Even if you don't vote for me for saying this, it is OK, but please save your life first. This is not to beg for your votes but to ensure your own safety...."

Mamata then struck a hopeful note.

"I'm hopeful that after this, the businessmen, the traders' associations, the traders' organisations, will do the needful," she said.

Mamata added: "I don't differentiate between people when it comes to life. All are equal before me."

The chief minister ordered that a team be formed with the Kolkata mayor, municipal commissioner, police commissioner, divisional deputy commissioners, superintendents of police and district magistrates to survey for fire-safety violations and dangerously run-down buildings. It must submit a report in 15 days.

She said, without elaborating, that traders need not take the local councillors into confidence.

Parts of central kolkats are congested with dilapidated buildings, many of which the civic authorities have declared as "dangerous" while asking the occupants to vacate them.

Most such notices are ignored.

"Let the MNC (civic body), police and the fire department hold a meeting. Let these dilapidated buildings be repaired by their occupants," Mamata said.

"Even in the case of disputed buildings, let there be repair work. I hope people will rise above all this (disputes) and ensure the safety of human lives."

At these meetings, Mamata said, the authorities should be humane and ensure that those evicted get a temporary place to stay at. She cited how a large number of central Kolkata residents were temporarily relocated for the East West Metro project.

Kolkata police commissioner Manoj Verma and mayor Firhad Hakim held a meeting and decided to draw up a list of all rooftop restaurants in the city.

Bengal industrialists for more industry-academia interface

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal industrialists advocate for education reforms that focus on improving the quality of education, bridging the gap between state-run and private institutions, and fostering innovation and collaboration between industry and academia.

This includes investing in infrastructure, enhancing teacher training, and developing relevant vocational and technical skills to align with the needs of the industry. Recently galaxy of industrialists met

at the 21st Foundation Day celebration of Salt Lake Shiksha Niketan School. Top officials of the Lake Shiksha Niketan School were also present at the occasion. At the venue, top academicians and industrialists interacted regarding various topics like improving infrastructure, enhancing teacher training, gap between state and private schools, vocational and technical education, University reforms, Skill development initiatives, Promoting a conducive learning environment etc.

City hosts session on cyber psychology

MI News Service, Kolkata: The city of Kolkata recently hosted session on "From Addicted to Balanced: Atomic Habits for Cyber Detox." Kanchan Mallick, eminent Cyber Psychologist, and Dhriti Chatter-

jee, Founder and Director at DeVision VR were one of the esteemed speakers at the programme. Aditya Academy Senior Secondary, Dumdum hosted the said programme. The session was attended by students from

Class 8 to 12. It provided valuable insights and practical strategies for achieving a healthy balance between technology use and daily life. Dhriti Chatterjee shared her expertise on cyber psychology, delving into the

psychological aspects of cyber addiction and offering guidance on maintaining mental well-being in a tech-driven world. She emphasized the importance of understanding the psychological factors that contribute to

cyber addiction and provided attendees with actionable tips to manage cyber threats and addiction.

Kanchan Mallick focused on the role of AI in shaping digital habits and offered practical advice

on cultivating internet discipline. He discussed the benefits and risks associated with AI-powered technologies and provided strategies for harnessing their potential while minimizing their negative impacts.

Name Change
I Pasupati Ghosh S/o Lt.Narayan Ghosh Residing at Domjur Baruipara Howrah.In my son's passport my name is Pasupati Ghosh was Wrongly recorded,my correct name is Pasupati ghosh vide affidavit before the 1st class magistrate at Howrah Sadar on 11.04.2025.

Name Change
I, Eyamim Mondal S/o Miyaraj Mandal Residing at Vill - Chihalia, Po - Saneikpur Ps - Gopal Nagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743701 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Eyamim Mandal. I declare that Eyamim Mondal and Eyamim Mandal is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 02-05-2025.

Name Change
I, Kishore Kumar Show (old name) son of Jay Prakash Shaw, residing at Sahapara Road, Naihati, P.O- Hazinagar, Dist : North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743135, West Bengal, have change my name and shall henceforth be known as Kishore Kumar Shaw (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 30/04/ 2025. Kishore Kumar Show (old name) and Kishore Kumar Shaw (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gholam Mustafa Saikh (old name) son of Gholam Mohammad, residing at 91/1, New Kasia Bagan Lane, P.O.- Circus Avenue, Kolkata- 700017, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gholam Mustafa (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 02/05/ 2025. Gholam Mustafa Saikh (old name) and Gholam Mustafa (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sujit Kumar Mondal (old name) son of Suklal Mondal, residing at Vill & P.O- Chowberia, P.S- Gopalnagar, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743290, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sujit Mondal (new name) as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Bongaon vide affidavit No. 4291 dated 29/04/ 2025. Sujit Kumar Mondal (old name) and Sujit Mondal (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sumit Kumar Sarkar (Old Name) S/o Nitish Sarkar Residing at Mahendraganj Manibag, Kaliaganj, Kaliyaganj, District - Uttar Dinajpur, Pin - 733125, West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sumit Sarkar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 81/2025 Date 02-05-2025. Sumit Kumar Sarkar (Old Name) and Sumit Sarkar (New Name) both as same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Laili Begum (old name) W/O SK Roup D/O SK Ismail residing at village + P.O.-Tajpur, P.S.-Amta, District-Howrah, Pin- 711413, India, That my son is Sekh Akkash Uddin passport No (M8837559) have changed my name Laili Begum (old name) instead of Laili Begam (New Name) declared affidavit no 933 before the Ld.Judicial Magistrate (1st class) at Amta Howrah, dated 29/04/2025. Laili Begum (old name) and Laili Begam (new name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I,Yubraj Shaw (old name) S/O Anil Kumar Shaw RESIDING AT 46 B B Ghosh Road,Jail khana More,Po&Ps-Burdwan, Dist-Purba Bardhaman ,Pin-713101 SHALLHENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS Yubraj Shaw (new name) AS DIRECTED BEFORE THE NOTARY AT Purba Bardhaman DATED- 30/04/2025.Yubraj Shaw and Yubraj Shaw Both are the same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Amit Biswas S/o Harichand Biswas. Residing at vill-Jiratpara, P.O. Mati Kumra, Dist Nadia, P.S.-Ranaghat, My mother's actual name is Aparna Biswas. Vide an Affidavit Sworn before the court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Ranaghat, on 22/4/25. That Aparna Biswas w/o Harichand Biswas and Aprna Biswas W/o Hari Chandra Biswas are the Same and one identical Person.

Name Change
By an affidavit before the First Class Judicial Magistrate, vide No. 2416 dated 30/04/2025, I, Mahadeb Dey, son of Lalit Mohan Deb and father of Piu Dey (pre marriage) alias Piu Bag (post marriage), resident of Siler Bagan Kamaila Avenue, P.O. & P.S. Chandernagore, Hooghly - 721236, hereby declare that my name has been misprinted as Mohadeb Dey in my daughter's (Piu Dey) Secondary Examination Pass Certificate in place of her father's name. Where Mahadeb Dey and Mohadeb Dey, all is same, one and identical person, that is me.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Mahedi Hasan, S/o-Karim Sekh, residing at Vill- Miapur, P.O.-Maya, P.S.-Lalgola, Dist.-Murshidabad, Pin-742148, WB, do hereby declare that i have changed my name to Md Mahedi Hasan and my father's name to Karim sk by executing an affidavit to this effect, by an affidavit No. 1520 dated 25.04.25 before the Ld. S.D.J.M. at Murshidabad (Berhampore), Henceforth, I shall be known as Md Mahedi Hasan, S/o Karim sk for all official and legal purposes. This notice is issued for the information of all concerned.

Name Change
I, Ajijul Mondal, S/O Abdulla Mondal, residing at Vill. Kamdebpur, P.O. Goriapur, P.S. Gopalnagar, Dist. North 24 parganas, PIN- 743 710 do hereby declare that in my Aadhaar Card (2328 5150 0150) my date of birth recorded as 01.09.1992 instead of my actual DOB i.e. 01.09.1992 which has been recorded in my birth certificate (no. D/152 dated 24.12.2012) in Voter ID Card (UJEC 1103423) & in passport (no. N4419713) Through an affidavit (Sl. No. 4303 dated 30.04.2025) submitted before A.C.J.M. (First Class), Bongaon, I do solemnly declare the above mentioned information & statements are true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

Name Change
I, Sk Asraful Hossain On Behalf Of My Minor Son Shaikh Ahaan Hossain (Old Name) Residing At 54,El-lot Road,Ps-Park Street, Kolkata- 700016,West Bengal,India,Have Changed His Name And He Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Ahaan Hossain(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/05/2025.Shaikh Ahaan Hossain (Old Name) And Sk Ahaan Hossain (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Asraful Hossain (Old Name) S/O Late Abu Kasem,Residing At 54,El-lot Road,Ps-Park Street, Kolkata- 700016,West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Asraful Hossain(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/05/20 25. Shaikh Asraful Hossain(Old Name) And Sk Asraful Hossain (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Simul Kumar (Old Name) S/o Suneel Bachar Residing at Rahatpur, Chak Rahatpur, District- Purba Bardhaman, Pin - 713519 West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Simul Kumar Bachar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 40/2025 Dated 30-04-2025. Simul Kumar (Old Name) and Simul Kumar Bachar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jyotiskar Chakrabarti S/o. Krishna Kumar Chakrabarti (old name) R/o. Flat No. 4/1, Aalapini Apartment, Crooked Lane, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712101, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jyotiskar Chakrabarty S/o. Krishna Kumar Chakrabarty (new name) vide an affidavit no. 39 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 02/05/2025. Jyotiskar Chakrabarti S/o. Krishna Kumar Chakrabarti & Jyotiskar Chakrabarty S/o. Krishna Kumar Chakrabarty both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rohan S/o. Vishvajit A. Samanta (old name) R/o. Anandanagar, Singur, Hooghly-712409, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rohan Samanta S/o. Biswajit Samanta (new name) vide an affidavit no. 14264 sworn before S.D.E.M. Serampore, Hooghly Court on 23/10/2024. Rohan S/o. Vishvajit A. Samanta & Rohan Samanta S/o. Biswajit Samanta both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pronab Biswas S/o Haran Biswas resident of Vill- Chhoto Chupria, PO- Chupria, P.S- Hanskhali, Dist- Nadia, Pin 741502 West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Pronab Biswas to Pranab Biswas and henceforth I shall be known as Pranab Biswas in all purpose vide affidavit no. 61 sworn before the Notary Public at Krishnagar Nadia on 29.04.25. Pranab Biswas and Pronab Biswas both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Samima Khatun (Old Name) W/o Md Sahabuddin Residing at Vill+Po - Hassan, Ps - Dalkhola, District-Uttar Dinajpur, Pin- 733209 West Bengal have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Samima Khatoon (New Name) as declared before the Ld.Judicial Magistrate at Islampur, Uttar Dinajpur vide affidavit no 485 Dated 29-04-2025. Samima Khatun (Old Name) and Samima Khatoon (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mahesh Baheti (Old Name) S/o Hanuman Prasad Baheti Residing at 114/1A, Cotton Street, Barabazar, Barabazar, Po - Barabazar, District- Kolkata, Pin- 700007 West Bengal shall henceforth be known as Mahesh Kumar Baheti (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 93125 Dated 02-05-2025.Mahesh Baheti (Old Name) and Mahesh Kumar Baheti (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Joyнал Abedin S/o Late Sk Arjed Haque Residing at Vill - Udaypur, P.O - Udaypur, P.S - Khanakul, District-Hooghly, Pin- 712406 West Bengal India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jaynal Abedin as declared before the Ld. Executive Magistrate at Arambagh, vide affidavit no 5785 Dated 29-04-2025. I declare that Joyнал Abedin and Jaynal Abedin both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nila Biswas W/o Biren Biswas Residing at Vill - Nischintapur, P.o Shimulia, P.s - Gopal Nagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743262 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Nilu Biswas, I declare that Nila Biswas and Nilu Biswas is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 02-05-2025.

Name Change
I, Ali Hossain S/o Sheikh Noor Hossain Residing at Makalhati Uttar Para, Po - Bidhangar, Ps - Rabindranagar, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700066 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sheikh Ali Hossain. I declare that Ali Hossain and Sheikh Ali Hossain is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 02-05-2025.

Name Change
I, Rani Bibi W/o Sheikh Ali Hossain Residing at Makalhati Uttar Para, Po - Bidhangar, Ps - Rabindranagar, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700066 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Rani Khatoon. I declare that Rani Bibi and Rani Khatoon is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 02-05-2025.

Temporary Stoppage at Dahapara Dham Halt from 05.05.2025 to 14.05.2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to cater to the anticipated rush of passengers on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sri Sri Prabhru Jagatbandhu Sundar, provisional stoppage will be provided in the following passenger trains at Dahapara Dham Halt station between Lalbagh Court Road & Azimganj stations in Howrah Division from 05.05.2025 to 14.05.2025:-
• 53005/53006 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 53015/53014 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 63007/63008 Katwa – Rampurhat – Katwa MEMU Passenger. • 53011 Katwa –Azimganj passenger. • 63031/53016 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 63019/63020 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger • 53001/53002 Howrah – Azimganj – Howrah Passenger

Metro to run 40 Services on Purple Line from 05.05.2025 (Monday)

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway is going to increase Metro services on Purple Line between Joka and Majerhat stations from 05.05.2025 (Monday). A total of 40 services (20 UP + 20 DN) on this stretch will be operated at an interval of 22 minutes from that day. At present, 18 services (9 UP + 9 DN) are being operated daily at an interval of 50 minutes from Monday to Friday on Purple Line. There will be no services on Saturdays and Sundays as usual.

FIRST SERVICE
From Majerhat : At 08:27 hrs (instead of 08:55 hrs) From Joka : At 08:30 hrs (No Change)
LAST SERVICE
From Majerhat : At 15:28 hrs (instead of 15:35 hrs) From Joka : At 15:28 hrs (instead of 15:10 hrs)

Name Change
I, Ajay Khaitan, S/O Shyam Lal Khaitan, R/O 7,Hardutta Rai Chamaria Road, Po-Howran,Ps-Golabari,711101,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ajay Kumar Khaitan ,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/05/ 2025, That Ajay Khaitan And Ajay Kumar Khaitan All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Montaj Ali Molla (Old Name) S/O Late Miraj Ali,Residing At Karigar Para,Patharghata,Ps-New Town, Dist- North 24 Parganas,Pin-700135,West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Montaj Ali Molla(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata (Affidavit No. - 18) On 02/05/ 2025.Montaj Ali Molla (Old Name) And Md Montaj Ali Molla (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sunil Rath (old name) son of Hanuman Das Rath, residing at 188/1C, Mankitalla Main Road, Kankurgachi, P.S.- Phoolbagan, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sunil Kumar Rath (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Sunil Kumar Rath (New Name) and Sunil Rath (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tumpa Podder Biswas (old name) wife of Subarna Podder, residing at JC1, Flat-6, Salt Lake City, P.O.- Bidhamagar IB Market, P.S.- Bidhanagar South, Bidhanagar, Dist- North 24 Parganas, Pin-700106, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tumpa Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Tumpa Biswas (New Name) and Tumpa Podder Biswas (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tiasa Nandi (old name) wife of Sumanta Biswas, residing at B1/32, Flat-1A, Brahmapur Near Sishu Bharati, Northern Park, P.S.- Bans-droni, Kolkata- 700070, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tiasa Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Tiasa Biswas (New Name) and Tiasa Nandi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Amjad Sardar (Old Name) S/O Kajari Sardar Residing At 10,Bangshihari Mallikpur, Po-Soladana,Ps-Basirhat,Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-743439,West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amjed Sardar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 30/04/2025.Amjad Sardar (Old Name) And Amjed Sardar (New Name) Both Are Same And Identical Person.

Article on 100 years of Howrah Division: A Celebration of Howrah Division's Heritage



Glimpses of Howrah Rail MuseumGlimpses of Howrah Rail Museum

MI News Service, Kolkata: As the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway marks its centenary in 2025, the Regional Rail Museum in Howrah stands as a proud custodian of the rich and vibrant history of Indian Railways, particularly the Eastern Railway zone and its predecessor, the East Indian Railway (EIR). Established in 2006 inspired by National Rail Museum to preserve and showcase the legacy of the railways in eastern India, the museum offers visitors a fascinating journey through time, reflecting the evolution of rail transport in the region.

Located near Howrah Station, the museum is a treasure trove of railway

memorabilia, from vintage locomotives, coaches and saloon cars to historical artifacts, models, records, manuscripts and photographs. It vividly narrates the story of how the railway network in eastern India grew from its early days under British rule to the modern infrastructure of today. Visitors can explore iconic railway artifacts, such as old steam engines, signaling systems, and ticketing machines, which have played pivotal roles in shaping the railway system in the region. The presence of toy trains, manicured gardens, musical fountains, lily-pools and restaurant attracts visitors to this unique museum. The museum also highlights

the technological advancements and operational milestones of the Eastern Railway zone, offering a glimpse into the innovative spirit of the engineers and workers who contributed to its success. As the Howrah Division celebrates 100 years, the Regional Rail Museum serves as a living tribute to the history and heritage of the railways, preserving the cultural significance of rail travel in eastern India and its ongoing contribution to the nation's growth.In its role as both a repository of history and a beacon of education, the museum continues to inspire future generations, celebrating the enduring legacy of the railways in eastern India.

Mayawati slams BJP, Congress over caste census issue

MI News Service, Lucknow: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Friday launched a scathing attack on both the BJP and Congress, accusing them of politicizing the long-pending issue of caste enumeration. She alleged that their “anti-Bahujan” stance has consistently denied OBC communities their rightful share in national development. Reacting to the Centre's recent announcement to include caste enumeration in the upcoming census, Mayawati said the decision came after “much delay” and with “great reluctance.” In a series of posts on X (formerly Twitter), the former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister criticised both parties for now rushing to take credit, while their historical track records reflect oppression and exclusion of marginalised communities. “The BJP and Congress are trying to portray themselves as champions of the OBC cause, but their past actions show otherwise,” she said. Mayawati argued that had these parties been truly committed to the upliftment of OBCs, significant progress would have already been achieved. “The mission of self-respect and dignity envisioned by Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar would have seen real success by now,” she added. Highlighting what she called the political motivation behind the move, Mayawati said that increasing awareness among OBCs—fueled by decades of struggle led by Ambedkar and the BSP—has compelled mainstream parties to act out of electoral compulsions.

Name Change
I, Sunil Rath (old name) son of Hanuman Das Rath, residing at 188/1C, Mankitalla Main Road, Kankurgachi, P.S.- Phoolbagan, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sunil Kumar Rath (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Sunil Kumar Rath (New Name) and Sunil Rath (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tumpa Podder Biswas (old name) wife of Subarna Podder, residing at JC1, Flat-6, Salt Lake City, P.O.- Bidhamagar IB Market, P.S.- Bidhanagar South, Bidhanagar, Dist- North 24 Parganas, Pin-700106, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tumpa Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Tumpa Biswas (New Name) and Tumpa Podder Biswas (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tiasa Nandi (old name) wife of Sumanta Biswas, residing at B1/32, Flat-1A, Brahmapur Near Sishu Bharati, Northern Park, P.S.- Bans-droni, Kolkata- 700070, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tiasa Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/05/2025. Tiasa Biswas (New Name) and Tiasa Nandi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Amjad Sardar (Old Name) S/O Kajari Sardar Residing At 10,Bangshihari Mallikpur, Po-Soladana,Ps-Basirhat,Dist-North 24 Parganas, Pin-743439,West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amjed Sardar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 30/04/2025.Amjad Sardar (Old Name) And Amjed Sardar (New Name) Both Are Same And Identical Person.

MI News Service, Kolkata: In connection with Track maintenance work between Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana section, 34935/34914 Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana - Lakshmikanapur local will remain cancelled on 03/04.05.2025 (Saturday /Sunday).

Name Change
I, Mohammad Tarique Iqbal S/O Late.Mohammed Fahim Bakshi R/O Kazi Nazrul Sarani Sasti Nagar Ismile.Asansol, Po-Asansol,Ps-Hirapur,Dist.Paschim Bardhaman,713301, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Tarique Iqbal Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/05/2025,That Mohammed Tarique Iqbal And Md Tarique Iqbal All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

ERWWO Organises Felicitation Programme on International Labour Day to Honour Outstanding Employees



MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of International Labour Day, the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO) organised the Felicitation Programme - 2025 at the Eastern Railway Officers' Club, Belvedere Park, Alipore, Kolkata. The event celebrated the relentless dedication and commitment of railway employees who contribute significantly to the safe and efficient functioning of train operations.

Smt. Seema Deouskar, President, ERWWO, graced the occasion and felicitated 55 outstanding employees among various department of Eastern Railway for their exemplary performance, unwavering integrity,

and courage in the line of duty. In the programme, the President, ERWWO, has delivered her valuable speech to motivate the awardees. These employees were honoured for their crucial role in ensuring passenger safety and maintaining seamless train operations. Each awardee received a certificate of appreciation, uttarriya, and a cash prize as a token of recognition. The programme was also attended by other executive members of ERWWO, who joined in acknowledging the valuable contributions of the employees. The event served as a heartfelt tribute to the workforce that forms the backbone of the railway system.

Do not attack Kashmiris, Muslims: Wife of Pahalgam attack victim Lt. Vinay Narwal appeals to nation

MI News Service, Karnal: On the birth anniversary of Lt. Vinay Narwal, who lost his life in a recent terror attack in Pahalgam, his wife Himanshi made a powerful appeal for peace and unity, during a blood donation camp held in his memory in Karnal,Haryana, she urged the nation not to blame Muslims or Kashmiris in the aftermath of the tragedy. “We should not target Muslims or Kashmiris. We want peace,” she said, calling for an end to hate and division. Lt. Vinay Narwal, an Indian Navy officer, was killed on April 22 while on his honeymoon with Himanshi. The couple had married just six days earlier, on April 16. Their original plan to visit Switzerland had fallen through due to visa issues, so they decided on a trip to Jammu and Kashmir instead. Tragically, it became

their last. In a viral video, Himanshi recounted the harrowing moment of the attack. “I was eating bhel puri with my husband. A person came and asked if he was Muslim. When he denied, the man shot him dead.” Her words, both raw and brave, struck a chord across the country. Sitting beside her husband's lifeless body, the image of Himanshi became a haunting reminder of the cost of hatred. Yet, even in mourning, she called for justice—not revenge—urging authorities to punish the attackers, but warning against collective blame. Vinay Narwal would have turned 27 that Thursday. In his memory, Himanshi asked for prayers and strength. Her courage drew praise across social media, with many lauding her for choosing compassion over anger.

Miscellaneous

ER Sports Association inaugurates Chess Academy "Lakshya" at Behala



Eastern Railway takes another step forward in promoting sporting excellence
MI News Service, Kolkata: The Eastern Railway Sports Association (ERSA) inaugurated a state-of-the-art Chess Academy, "LAKSHYA", today at the Eastern Railway Sports Complex, J.L. Sarani, Behala. The grand opening ceremony was graced by Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway and Patron, ERSA, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. Smt. Seema Deouskar, President, Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO), was also present as the Special Guest. Shri Milind Deouskar and Smt. Seema Deouskar jointly inaugurated "LAKSHYA" – Eastern Railway Chess Academy by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager, Shri Satyaki Nath,Chief Administrative Officer (System) & President of ERSA, along with the Principal Chief Engineer (PCE), other senior officers, and distinguished Grandmasters, were also present at the programme.

Smt. Seema Deouskar appreciated this commendable initiative aimed at nurturing chess talent. In his address, Shri Milind Deouskar emphasized the strategic and intellectual value of chess and expressed confidence that the newly launched academy would become a hub for excellence, training, and inspiration for budding chess players. He also offered valuable suggestions for the further improvement of the Chess Academy. The President of ERSA briefed the gathering on the vision and mission of the academy. Interested individuals (Railway & Non- Railway both) wishing to enrol or seeking further information regarding the schedule, fees, and training modules may contact Grandmaster Shri Saptarshi Roy at *9147091077* or Shri Tirthankar Bhandari at *9088714280* . Coaching will be conducted by qualified and experienced coaches of Eastern Railway. The Chess Academy "LAKSHYA" marks yet another milestone in Eastern Railway's legacy of sporting achievements and aims to contribute significantly to the development of chess at the grassroots level.

Design a Digital Clock for Indian Railways – Win 5 Lakh!

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Railways has announced a nationwide competition to design new digital clocks, which are to be installed across all railway stations in the country. Railway has invited entries from the creative people. This competition aims to standardize the digital clocks used on platforms and stations and will be open to three categories of participants: professionals, college/university students, and school students. One grand winner, whose design gets selected for use across Indian Railways, will receive a first prize of ₹5 lakh. Additionally, each of the three categories will have five consolation prizes of ₹50,000 each. Participants must submit their designs online between May 1 and May 31. According to Mr.

Dilip Kumar, Executive Director (Information & Publicity), Railway Board, entries must be submitted in high resolution without any watermark or logo, along with a certificate of originality. Participants are allowed to submit multiple designs, and each entry must be accompanied by a brief concept note explaining the theme and idea behind the design. It is essential that all submitted designs are original and do not violate any intellectual property rights or copyrights. In the school category, students up to class 12 are eligible and must upload a valid school ID card. The college category includes individuals currently enrolled in any recognized university or college. All others will fall under the professional category.

DRM Sealdah interacted with Passengers on Sealdah-Diamond Harbour Section



MI News Service, Kolkata: Divisional Railway Manager,Sealdah Sri Rajeev Saxena today conducted a significant public interaction on the Sealdah-Diamond Harbour section. This initiative underscores the Division's relentless commitment to prioritize passenger needs and ensuring a safe and comfortable travel experience for all commuters. During the interaction, Sri Saxena and Railway officials interacted directly with passengers, actively listening to their feedback and concerns regarding existing amenities. Special attention was given to understanding areas where improvements could enhance convenience and comfort along the route for facilitating them with qualitative changes in passenger experience. Further, such outreach programme is aimed at augmenting safety measures and infrastructure development. Shri Rajeev Saxena DRM/Sealdah emphasized upon the importance of safety gears and reiterated our dedication in maintaining high safety standards for all passengers traveling on the all important Sealdah - Diamond Harbour section. The interaction provided an opportunity to highlight the various safety protocols in place and address passenger queries related to safety. This public interaction reflects the Division's ongoing efforts to foster a stronger connection with its passengers and build up a more responsive and passenger centric Railway operations.

Do you know intermittent fasting protects against liver inflammation liver cancer? Study finds

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY : Fatty liver disease frequently causes chronic liver inflammation and can possibly result in liver cancer. Scientists at the German Cancer Research Centre (DKFZ) and the University of Tübingen have demonstrated in mice that intermittent fasting on a 5:2 schedule can block this progression.

Fasting lowers the development of liver cancer in mice who already have liver inflammation. The researchers discovered two proteins in liver cells that are both responsible for the beneficial effect of fasting. An approved medication can partially replicate this effect.

Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease is the most prevalent chronic liver disorder. It can have catastrophic consequences: unchecked, it can cause liver inflammation (metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis, MASH), cirrhosis, and even

malignancy. Fatty liver disease is often thought to be a direct result of obesity. Obesity has become increasingly common in rising countries such as India and China, in addition to Europe and the United States. As a result, the number of cases of liver failure and cancer is increasing rapidly in the afflicted countries.

"The vicious circle of an unhealthy diet, obesity, liver inflammation and liver cancer is associated with major restrictions and suffering for those affected and also represents a considerable burden on healthcare systems," says Mathias Heikenwalder, DKFZ and University of Tübingen. "We have therefore investigated whether simple dietary changes can specifically interrupt this fatal process."

Intermittent fasting has already been shown in several studies to be an effective means

of reducing weight and alleviating certain metabolic disorders. Heikenwalder's team has now tested in mice whether this approach can also protect the liver from fatty degeneration and chronic inflammation.

The animals were fed with a high-sugar and high-fat diet corresponding to the typical Western diet. One group of mice had constant access to the food. As expected, these animals gained weight and body fat and developed chronic liver inflammation.

The mice in the other group were given nothing to eat on two days a week (5:2 intermittent fasting, or 5:2 IF for short), but were allowed to eat as much as they wished on the other days. Despite the high-calorie diet, these animals did not put on weight, showed fewer signs of liver disease and had lower levels of biomarkers that indicate liver damage. In short.

Researchers find how eye ultrasounds help detecting brain shunt failure in children

WASHINGTON : A recent study suggests that using an ocular ultrasound in the emergency room could help detect children with brain drainage tube failure quickly and safely.

Research presented at the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) 2024 Meeting in Toronto.

A ventricular shunt is a small plastic tube that is surgically placed to drain excess fluid and relieve pressure on the brain. Ventricular shunts are used on children to treat hydrocephalus, a disorder caused by improper brain fluid drainage or absorption from tumors, brain bleeds, and other sources. According to specialists, within two years following implantation, about 30% of shunts break, become misplaced, or become clogged, and an additional 5% fail annually after that.

When a patient visits the emergency department for potential shunt failure, their symptoms are often nonspecific, including headache, vomiting, and fatigue,



according to researchers. Shunt failure is life threatening, and children with shunts typically undergo multiple computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging scans per year, exposing them to excessive radiation and sedation. A backup of fluid causes the optic nerve sheath

to swell, which researchers can measure with eye ultrasound. The study found that comparing the diameter of the optic nerve when a patient is symptomatic to the diameter when they are well can help determine if a shunt is blocked.

"The research team is interest-

ed in finding ways to lessen radiation exposure and expedite diagnosing shunt failure in the emergency department," said Adrienne L. Davis, MD, MSc, FRCP, pediatric emergency medicine research director at The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids) and presenting author. "The study uses patients as their own controls by measuring the optic nerve when well and sick--a strategy that individualizes this test for every patient and recognizes that every patient with a shunt has a unique degree of shunt dependence and ability to tolerate high brain pressures."

The researchers studied 76 pairs of eye ultrasounds of nearly 60 children presenting to the Toronto hospital's emergency department with potential shunt failure. Researchers note that while findings are promising, results require further confirmation in a larger population of children with shunts across North America.

Meditation training can support wellbeing in older people: Research

An 18-month meditation programme can increase the wellbeing of older persons, according to a new randomised controlled trial led by an international team co-directed by UCL.

The findings, published in PLOS ONE, show that meditation can improve people's awareness, connection to others, and insight.

While the meditation training did not confer significant benefits on two commonly used measures of psychological wellbeing and quality of life, the researchers say their findings may reveal limitations in existing methods of tracking wellbeing.

Lead author Marco Schlosser (UCL Psychiatry and University of Geneva) said: "As the global population ages, it is increasingly crucial to understand how we can support older adults in maintaining and deepening their psychological wellbeing. In our study, we tested whether long-term meditation training can enhance important dimensions of wellbeing. Our findings suggest that meditation is a promising

non-pharmacological approach to support human flourishing in late life."

The study is the longest randomised meditation training trial conducted to date, and explored the impact of an 18-month meditation programme on the psychological wellbeing of more than 130 healthy French-speaking people aged 65 to 84. The study, led by Principal Investigator Professor Gael Chetelat, took place in Caen, France. It was conducted by the European Union's Horizon 2020-funded Medit-Ageing (Silver Sante Study) research group which involves UCL, Inserm, University of Geneva, Université de Caen Normandy, Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, University of Liege, Technische Universität Dresden, and Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

The researchers compared a meditation programme, which included a nine-month mindfulness module followed by a nine-month loving kindness and compassion module, delivered by weekly group sessions (two hours long), daily home practice (at least 20 minutes), and one retreat day, with a



group that did English language training (as a comparison group) and a no-intervention control group.

The team found that meditation training significantly impacted a global score that measures the wellbeing

dimensions of awareness, connection, and insight. Awareness describes an undistracted and intimate attentiveness to one's thoughts, feelings, and surroundings, which can support a sense of calm and deep satisfaction.

Connection captures feelings such as respect, gratitude, and kinship that can support more positive relationships with others. Insight refers to a self-knowledge and understanding of how thoughts and feelings participate in shaping our perception - and how to transform unhelpful patterns of thought relating to ourselves and the world.

The benefits of meditation training to an established measure of psychological quality of life were not superior to English language training, while neither intervention significantly impacted another widely used measure of psychological wellbeing. The researchers suggest this may be because these two established measures do not cover the qualities and depth of human flourishing that can potentially be cultivated by longer-term meditation training, so benefits to awareness, connection and insight are missed. The programme did not benefit everyone equally, as participants who reported lower levels of psychological wellbeing at the start of the

trial showed greater improvements compared to those who already had higher levels of wellbeing.

Co-author Dr Natalie Marchant (UCL Psychiatry) said: "We hope that further research will clarify which people are most likely to benefit from meditation training, as it may confer stronger benefits on some specific groups. Now that we have evidence that meditation training can help older adults, we hope that further refinements in partnership with colleagues from other research disciplines could make meditation programmes even more beneficial."

Senior author Dr Antoine Lutz (Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, Inserm, France) said: "By showing the potential of meditation programmes, our findings pave the way for more targeted and effective programmes that can help older adults flourish, as we seek to go beyond simply preventing disease or ill-health, and instead take a holistic approach to helping people across the full spectrum of human wellbeing."

Vitamin D medicine do not protect children from bone fractures: Study



A large clinical research sponsored by Queen Mary University of London and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health discovered that vitamin D supplementation do not strengthen bone strength or prevent bone fractures in vitamin D-deficient youngsters. The findings call into question widely held beliefs about vitamin D's benefits on bone health.

Around one-third of children have at least one fracture before the age of 18. This is a major global health issue, as childhood fractures can lead to life years of disability and/or poor quality of life. The potential for vitamin D supplements to improve bone strength has attracted growing interest in recent years, based on vitamin D's role in promoting bone mineralisation. However, clinical trials designed to test whether vitamin D supplements can prevent bone fractures in children have not previously been conducted.

Working with partners in Mongolia, a setting with a particularly high fracture burden and where vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent, researchers from Queen Mary and Harvard conducted a clinical trial to determine if vitamin D supplementation would decrease risk of bone fractures or increase bone strength in schoolchildren. The study, published today (1 December) in Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology, is the largest randomised controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation ever conducted in children.

Over the course of three years, 8,851 schoolchildren aged 6-13 living in Mongolia received a weekly oral dose of vitamin D supplementation. 95.5% of participants had vitamin D deficiency at

baseline, and study supplements were highly effective in boosting vitamin D levels into the normal range. However, they had no effect on fracture risk or on bone strength, measured in a subset of 1,438 participants using quantitative ultrasound.

The trial findings are likely to prompt scientists, doctors and public health specialists to re-consider the effects of vitamin D supplements on bone health.

Dr Ganmaa Davaasambuu, Associate Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, said:

"The absence of any effect of sustained, generous vitamin D supplementation on fracture risk or bone strength in vitamin D deficient children is striking. In adults, vitamin D supplementation works best for fracture prevention when calcium is given at the same time - so the fact that we did not offer calcium alongside vitamin D to trial participants may explain the null findings from this study."

Professor Adrian Martineau, Lead of the Centre for Immunobiology at Queen Mary University of London, added:

"It is also important to note that children who were found to have rickets during screening for the trial were excluded from participation, as it would not have been ethical to offer them placebo (dummy medication).

Thus, our findings only have relevance for children with low vitamin D status who have not developed bone complications. The importance of adequate vitamin D intake for prevention of rickets should not be ignored, and UK government guidance recommending a daily intake of 400 IU vitamin D remains important and should still be followed."

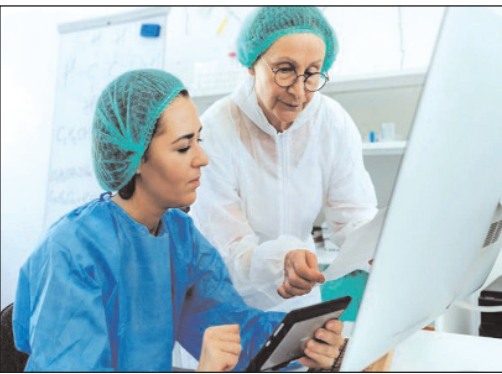
Researchers find link between adverse childhood experiences, muscle dysmorphia

Adolescents and young adults who had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prior to the age of 18 were shown to have a much higher likelihood of exhibiting signs of muscle dysmorphia, according to a recent study.

The findings were published in the Clinical Social Work Journal.

These new findings emphasize the need for greater understanding of the relationship between muscle dysmorphia, or the pathological pursuit of muscularity, and adverse childhood experiences (such as emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence), as prior research has shown that over half of North American children and adolescents experience at least one adverse childhood experience in their lifetime.

"Those who experience adverse childhood experiences may engage in the pursuit of muscularity to compensate for experiences where they once felt inferior, small, and at risk, as well as to protect against future victimization," says lead author Kyle T. Ganson, PhD, MSW, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. "The experience of adverse childhood experiences may also increase body dissatisfaction, specifically muscle dissatisfaction, which is a key feature of muscle dysmorphia." Previous studies have



shown that adverse experiences in childhood can lead to harmful health effects. While prior research has demonstrated that adverse childhood experiences are highly common in people with eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder, few studies have looked at the association between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia.

The study's researchers analyzed data from over 900 adolescents and young adults who participated in the Canadian Study of Adolescent Health Behaviors. In total, 16% of participants who experi-

enced five or more adverse childhood experiences were at clinical risk for muscle dysmorphia, underscoring the significant traumatic effects that such experiences can have on mental health and wellbeing.

"Importantly, our study found that gender was an important factor in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia symptoms," says Ganson. "Boys and young men in the study who have experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences had significantly greater muscle dysmorphia symptoms when compared to girls and young women."

The authors note that boys and young men who experience adverse childhood experiences may feel that their masculinity was threatened from these experiences. Therefore, they engage in the pursuit of muscularity to demonstrate their adherence to masculine gender norms such as dominance, aggression, and power.

"It is important for health care professionals to assess for symptoms of muscle dysmorphia, including muscle dissatisfaction and functional impairment related to exercise routines and body image, among young people who have experienced adverse childhood experiences, particularly boys and young men," concluded Ganson.

Brain waves detected during sleep can protect against epileptic activity: Study

Slow waves, which are normally only present in the brain during sleep, are also present when awake in patients with epilepsy and may protect against the condition's heightened brain excitability, according to a new study led by UCL researchers.

The research, published in Nature Communications and involving the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) UCLH Biomedical Research Centre, examined electroencephalogram (EEG) scans from electrodes in the brains of 25 patients with focal epilepsy (a type of epilepsy characterised by seizures arising from a specific part of the brain), while they carried out an associative memory task.

The electrodes had been placed in the patients' brains to localise abnormal activity and inform surgical treatment.

During the task, participants were presented with 27 pairs of images that remained on a screen for six seconds. The images were in nine groups of three - each group featuring a picture

of a person, a place and an object. In each case, participants had to remember which images had been grouped together. EEG data were recorded continuously throughout the task.

After reviewing the EEG data, the team found that the brains of people with epilepsy were producing slow waves - lasting less than one second - while they were awake and taking part in the task.

The occurrence of these "wake" slow waves increased in line with increases in brain excitability and decreased the impact of epileptic spikes on brain activity.

In particular, there was a decrease in the "firing" of nerve cells, which the researchers say could protect against epileptic activity.

Senior author, Professor Matthew

Walker (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology), said: "Sleep is crucial for repair, maintenance and resetting brain activity. When we are awake we experience a progressive increase in brain excitability, which is redressed during sleep.

"Recent studies have indicated that a specific form of brain activity, slow waves during sleep, play a crucial role in these restorative functions. We wanted to address whether these 'sleep' slow waves could occur during wakefulness in response to abnormal increases in brain activity associated with epilepsy.

"This study unveils, for the first time, a potential protective mechanism, 'wake' slow waves, employed by the brain to counteract epileptic activity. This mechanism takes advantage of

protective brain activity that normally occurs during sleep, but, in people with epilepsy, can occur during wakefulness."

As part of the research, the team also wanted to test if the occurrence of "wake" slow waves had any negative effects on cognitive function.

During the memory task, researchers found that the "wake" slow waves reduced nerve cell activity and so affected cognitive performance - increasing the length of time required by patients to complete the task.

The team reported that for each increase of one slow wave per second, the reaction time increased by 0.56 seconds.

Professor Walker said: "This observation suggests that the cognitive difficulties - in particular, memory deficits - experienced by individuals with epilepsy may be attributed, in part, to the brief impairments induced by these slow waves."

The team hope that future studies will be able to increase such activity as a potential novel treatment for people with epilepsy.

Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and V. Somanna lead historic tribute to Shri Basaveshwara at Parliament House, marking first-ever floral homage at Prerana Sthal



MI News Service, Delhi: Union Minister for Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Minister of State for Railways, Shri V. Somanna, offered floral tributes today at the statue of Jagajyothi Shri Basaveshwara at Prerana Sthal, Parliament House, New Delhi, to commemorate his 894th birth anniversary. This marked the first time the occasion was observed at this venue, reflecting the Government's recognition of the revered social reformer's legacy. Saint Basavanna, was a rev-

olutionary figure of the 12th century, championed the message of equality and propagated the principle of "work is worship". He strived tirelessly to build a society founded on the dignity of labour. It is vital to acknowledge that his visionary work in the 12th century laid the essential groundwork for many principles that underpin modern democracy. Lord Basaveshwara was a great reformer and a great administrator. The teachings of Lord Basavesh-

wara are the source of spiritual knowledge, as well as serve as the practical guide to our lives. His teachings teach us to be a better human being, and to make our society liberal, kind and humane. He had guided our society on issues of social and gender equality, several centuries ago. Lord Basaveshwara laid the foundations of a democracy, which prioritises and promotes the rights of person, standing on the last rungs of the society. He did not just preach about the re-



forms he wanted in the individuals or in the society but also adopted and inculcated them in his own life. Saint Basavanna believed in casteless society and advocated its eradication for an equal and just society. He promoted the idea of love and compassion for all living beings. Saint Basavanna had set an example hundreds of years ago of universal and all-encompassing democracy in Kannada society through Anubhav Mandapam. Saint Basavanna gave beautiful and simple solutions through his sayings, to the problems of every section of the society. Teachings of Saint Basavanna will help not only Karnataka but the entire country and the world

to move ahead on the path of peace, harmony and inclusive democracy. The ceremony was graced by the divine presence of Jagadguru Shri Basava Jaya Mrutyunjaya Swamiji from Kudalsangam Lingayat Panchamasali Peetha. Union Ministers Shri Kiren Rijju, and Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Ministers of State Smt. Shobha Karandlaje, Shri Ravneet Singh Bittu, and Shri Rajbhushan Choudhary, as well as Members of Parliament Shri P.C. Gaddigoudar, Shri Tejasvi Surya, Rajya Sabha MPs Shri Irrana B. Kadadi, Shri Annasahab Jolle, and Smt. Shashikala Jolle, among other dignitaries and revered spiritual leaders were present.

Konark, Visakha and Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Inter City will originate & Terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station.

• Terminal point of 11020/11019 Bhubaneswar-CSMT Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Express, 17015/17016 Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar Visakha Express and 22819/22820 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express will originate and terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12.05.2025. • All the above trains will also provide stoppage at Mancheswar Railway Station for two minutes each from both the directions. • Will provide 20 minutes stoppage time at Bhubaneswar Main Station. • People of North Bhubaneswar, Athgarh and Cuttack areas will get more benefit. It has been decided to change the terminal point for three trains at Bhubaneswar New Station instead of the existing Bhubaneswar Main Station. These trains are _ 11020/11019 Bhubaneswar-CSMT Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Express, 17015/17016 Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar Visakha Express and 22819/22820 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express. 11019 Mumbai-Bhubaneswar Konark Express from Mumbai w.e.f. 11th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 2355hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This train will reach at Mancheswar at 0002hrs and will leave at 0004hrs and thereafter will arrive at Bhubaneswar New Station at 0020hrs. 11020 Bhubaneswar-Mumbai Konark Express will originate at 1440hrs from Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12th May 2025 instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station. This train will arrive at Mancheswar at 1448hrs and will leave at 1450hrs towards Bhubaneswar Main Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at 1500hrs, this train will leave towards Mumbai on its earlier scheduled times. Similarly, 17016 Secunderabad-Bhubaneswar Visakha Express from Secunderabad w.e.f. 11th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching at Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 1600hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This train will reach at Mancheswar at 1604hrs and will leave at 1606hrs and thereafter will arrive at Bhubaneswar New Station at 1625hrs. 17015 Bhubaneswar-Secunderabad Visakha Express will originate at 0800hrs from Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12th May 2025 instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station. This train will arrive at Mancheswar at 0808hrs and will leave at 0810hrs towards Bhubaneswar Main Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at 0820hrs, this train will leave towards Mumbai on its earlier scheduled time at 0840hrs.

Apart from this, 22820 Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar Inter City Express from Visakhapatnam w.e.f. 12th May will terminate at Bhubaneswar New Station. After reaching at Bhubaneswar Main Station at its scheduled time, this train will leave at 0015hrs, towards Bhubaneswar New. This train will reach at Mancheswar at 0020hrs and will leave at 0022hrs and thereafter will arrive at Bhubaneswar New Station at 0035hrs. 22819 Bhubaneswar-Visakhapatnam Inter City Express will originate at 0715hrs from Bhubaneswar New Station w.e.f. 12th May 2025 instead of Bhubaneswar Main Station. This train will arrive at Mancheswar at 0718hrs and will leave at 0720hrs towards Bhubaneswar Main Station. After reaching Bhubaneswar Main Station at 0725hrs, this train will leave towards Mumbai on its earlier scheduled time at 0745hrs.

Regulation of trains for Rolling Block Programme over SER

MI News Service, Kolkata: Combined Rolling Block programme has been planned in Adra Division over South Eastern Railway. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains: • 68046/68045 Asansol – Adra – Asansol MEMU passenger (journey commencing on & from 05.05.2025 to 11.05.2025, 18.05.2025 and 23.05.2025) • 63594/63593 Asansol- Purulia – Asansol MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 04.05.2025, 09.05.2025, 11.05.2025, 18.05.2025 and 23.05.2025)

Short termination /Short origination of trains: • 68056/68060 Tatanagar – Asansol – Barabhum MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 03.05.2025, 04.05.2025, 05.05.2025, 09.05.2025, 10.05.2025, 11.05.2025, 18.05.2025 and 23.05.2025) will be short terminated at / short originated from Adra (service between Adra & Asansol will remain cancelled).Moreover, 18184 Buxar – Tatanagar Express (journey commencing on 04.05.2025, 09.05.2025, 11.05.2025, 18.05.2025 and 23.05.2025) will be controlled enroute about 30 to 45 minutes.

ER Marks Major Safety Milestone across four divisions through comprehensive infrastructure upgrades

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway has achieved a significant milestone in its mission to improve rail safety and passenger experience by executing extensive upgradation works across its four divisions –Sealdah, Howrah, Asansol and Malda. These critical safety enhancements include loop line modernization, advanced maintenance practices, signaling upgrades and innovative monitoring systems.

Sealdah Division has undertaken a large-scale modernization of passenger loop lines at 60 stations, supported by a sanctioned fund of Rs. 59 crore. The division has adopted machine-based maintenance practices including machine packing, ballast cleaning, deep screening and welding. Upgrades have been completed at 13 stations so far, with the rest to be completed by December 2025. The division, operating approximately 1,000 daily trains, has also prioritized the

elimination and interlocking of level crossing gates, installation of vertical fencing, CCTV monitoring of yards, improved signal visibility, and safety training for both staff and local residents. Following safety concerns on loop lines, Howrah Division has upgraded track tolerances to mainline standards across 74 out of 102 stations, using revised maintenance protocols and improved ballast management. With Rs. 274 crore sanctioned by Railway Board for further yard and loop line upgrades, the division aims to complete the remaining work by October 2025. Routine monitoring and strict adherence to maintenance parameters are now institutionalized, ensuring consistent safety standards and smoother train operations. Asansol Division, which manages loop lines at 40 key stations, has launched a comprehensive Rs. 260 crore initiative for loop line upgradation in FY 2025-26. Each year, 224 km

of loop lines are maintained, with 56 km receiving quarterly inspections. This ensures timely detection of track issues and promotes operational efficiency. These initiatives align with Indian Railways' broader strategy for enhancing safety and reducing delays. Malda Division hosted a media tour at Sabour and Jamalpur stations to showcase safety initiatives, including Loop Line Deep Screening and the installation of Thick Web Switches and Points & Crossings. A major highlight is the use of Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) to proactively identify rail defects. This non-destructive testing ensures early identification of rail flaws, helping to prevent accidents and maintain operational continuity. These comprehensive efforts mark a decisive step toward modernizing infrastructure, improving safety, and enhancing the overall reliability of train services across Eastern Railway.

Regulation of trains for construction of Limited Height Subway (Lhs) in Krishnanagar – Lalgola Section

MI News Service, Kolkata:

In a significant stride towards enhancing safety and convenience for local commuters, Eastern Railway is constructing Limited Height Subway (LHS) in lieu of Level Crossing Gates No. 143/E in Krishnanagar City – Lalgola Section. Local residents and commuters using these gates will experience increased convenience and reduced travel time, contributing to an improved quality of life. The LHS also significantly reduce the risk associated with Level crossing providing a safer passage for both pedestrians and vehicles. Accordingly, for construction of Limited Height Subway, 06 hours 30 minutes (from 10:15 hrs. to 16:45 hrs.) Traffic and Power Block has been planned on both UP & Down Line in Krishnanagar – Lalgola section & in Krishnanagar – Azimganj section on 04.05.2025. Consequently, following arrangement in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of Train on 04.05.2025 (Sunday)

• 53092/53091 Krishnanagar – Azimganj – Krishnanagar Passenger • 31861/31864 Krishnanagar –Lalgola – Krishnanagar EMU Passenger. • 31773/31774 Ranaghat – Lalgola –Ranaghat EMU Passenger • 53180/53171 Lalgola – Sealdah – Lalgola Passenger. • 31840 Krishnanagar – Sealdah EMU.

Short termination /

Short Origination/rescheduling of trains on 04.05.2025 (Sunday):

• 13113/13114 Kolkata – Lalgola – Kolkata Hazarduari Express will be short terminated at/ short originated from Cossimbazar instead of Lalgola. • 63133 Ranaghat – Lalgola MEMU passenger will be short terminated at Krishnapur instead of Lalgola. • 63107 Sealdah – Lalgola MEMU Passenger will be short terminated at Cossimbazar instead of Lalgola and will be rescheduled at 14:30 hrs. • 31769 Ranaghat – Lalgola EMU Passenger will be short terminated at Cossimbazar and 31770 Lalgola – Ranaghat EMU Passenger will be short originated from Cossimbazar and will be rescheduled at 15:45 hrs. instead of Lalgola. • 53175 Sealdah – Lalgola Passenger will be rescheduled by 60 minutes and controlled enroute upto Cossimbazar till cancellation of the block. • 63106 Lalgola – Sealdah MEMU Passenger will be short originated from Krishnapur instead of Lalgola. Moreover, one Krishnanagar – Cossimbazar special will leave Krishnanagar at 10:40 hrs. and one Cossimbazar – Sealdah special will leave Cossimbazar at 12:30 hrs.

A Spiritual Journey of CHAR DHAM with Indian Railways

> 17-day pilgrimage across Char Dham and other revered sites begins May 27, 2025, from Delhi Sadfarjung. > Destinations include Badrinath, Jagannath Puri, Rameshwaram, Dwarkadhish and key Jyotirlingas. > Deluxe AC train experience with 3-star hotel stays, vegetarian meals, AC transfers & enhanced onboard security. **MI News Service, New Delhi:** Fulfilling the spiritual aspirations of thousands, Indian Railways is set to re-operate the Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train on the iconic Char Dham Yatra circuit, covering Badrinath, Jagannath Puri, Rameshwaram, and Dwarkadhish. The tour will commence on May 27, 2025, from Delhi Sadfarjung Railway Station, shortly after the opening of the Badrinath Dham in the first week of May. Spanning 17 days, this train will be operated by Indian railways' tourism and catering cooperation. One can book tickets from irtc website. This all-inclusive pilgrimage will offer devotees an opportunity to visit: • Badrinath: including the sacred Badrinath temple, Mana Village and Joshimath. • Rishikesh, Jagannath Puri, Konark Sun Temple, and Chandrabhaga Beach • Rameshwaram & Dhanushkodi, including the famous Ramanathaswamy Temple • Dwarka, featuring Dwarkadhish Temple, Nageshwar Jyotirlinga and Byet Dwarka • Additional visits to Jyotirlinga temple in Varanasi, Pune and Nashik. The Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train has a host of attractive features and modern amenities that includes dining restaurants, shower cubicles, etc.. The Tourist Train offers AC I, AC II and AC III classes, with upgraded security via CCTV surveillance and dedicated security guards in each coach. The package also includes 3-star hotel accommodation, all vegetarian meals, AC transfers for sightseeing and dedicated tour escorts.

Temporary stoppage at dahapara dham halt from 05.05.2025 to 14.05.2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to cater to the anticipated rush of passengers on the occasion of birth anniversary of Sri Sri Prabhu Jagatbandhu Sundar, provisional stoppage will be provided in the following passenger trains at Dahapara Dham Halt station between Lalbagh Court Road & Azimganj stations in Howrah Division from 05.05.2025 to 14.05.2025:-

• 53005/53006 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 53015/53014 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 63007/63008 Katwa – Rampurhat – Katwa MEMU Passenger. • 53011 Katwa –Azimganj passenger. • 63031/53016 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger. • 63019/63020 Katwa – Azimganj – Katwa Passenger • 53001/53002 Howrah – Azimganj – Howrah Passenger

Prabhat Pheri, Leaflet Distribution, and Cleanliness Drive Conducted at Katwa station



MI News Service, Kolkata:

As part of the ongoing centenary celebrations of the illustrious 100 years of the Howrah Division, a series of public engagement and awareness activities were successfully conducted at Katwa on 01.05.25. The initiative was aimed at fostering community participation, promoting awareness, and reinforcing the commitment of Indian Railways to cleanliness and public service. The day began with a spirited Prabhat Pheri that saw enthusiastic participation from railway staffs, volunteers, and local residents. With patriotic slogans and banners highlighting the legacy of the Howrah Division, the procession created an atmosphere of pride and reverence throughout the Katwa station premises and nearby areas. Leaflet distribution was undertaken simultaneously at Katwa Station, Katwa Health Unit, RPF Post, AEN Office, and AEN Colony. Informative materials were handed out to passengers, railway employees, and the general

public, outlining the historical significance of the Howrah Division and encouraging citizens to contribute to the progress and cleanliness of railway infrastructure.

A robust cleanliness drive was also organized as a key component of the event. Various locations, including Katwa Station, health unit premises, RPF post, AEN office and its adjoining colony, were thoroughly cleaned with the active involvement of railway employees and volunteers. This initiative not only aimed to improve the hygiene of the premises but also reinforced the message of "Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat."

The event reflected the deep-rooted connection of the Howrah Division with the communities it serves and stood as a tribute to a century of dedication, development, and excellence in service. The centenary celebrations will continue with more such programs across the division to commemorate this historic milestone.

Malda Division Takes Proactive Steps for Enhanced Safety and Track Improvement at Malda Town Station



MI News Service, Kolkata:

As part of Eastern Railway's Malda Division's ongoing commitment to enhancing rail safety and operational efficiency, the Engineering Department of Malda Division organized a media interaction programme today at Malda Town Station. The aim was to showcase key safety-focused infrastructure initiatives currently underway at the station.

Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Malda, Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, several steps are being taken to strengthen the track and enhance safety. In this regard, Senior Divisional Engineer-I, Shri Champakjyoti Rajvanshi, and SSE/P/WAY/MLDT, Shri Amar Kumar Sarkar, interacted with media representatives and provided detailed insights into the systematic initiatives undertaken to improve track infrastructure and ensure safer, smoother train operations. In line with the division's safety enhancement efforts, officials presented an overview of major infrastructure works underway at Malda Town Station. A key highlight of the interaction was the use of Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) technology. This non-destructive testing method plays a vital role in the early detection of internal flaws in rails, welds, Switch Expansion Joints (SEJs), and turnouts—thereby preventing potential failures and bolstering operational safety. As part

of its continuous focus on safety, Malda Division has significantly strengthened its Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD) system to proactively detect internal flaws in rails, welds, SEJs (Switch Expansion Joints), and turnouts. Such flaws, if left undetected, can lead to rail fractures, posing serious risks to safe train operations. To ensure thorough and regular testing, the division has deployed 6 dedicated USFD testing teams, each supervised by qualified and experienced USFD supervisors. These teams are tasked with scanning every inch of track under Malda Division using advanced ultrasonic equipment.

As a result of this intensified testing: • 18 numbers of IMR (Immediate Removal) defects were identified and promptly removed as per the prescribed safety protocols. • 1479 numbers of DFWO/OBS (Defects Found With Observation) were detected and have been appropriately secured and placed under strict observation in line with railway guidelines. Through this robust and proactive approach, Malda Division has significantly minimized the risk of rail fractures and potential derailments, reinforcing its commitment to safe and uninterrupted train operations. In addition to USFD-related initiatives, the programme also highlighted other critical infrastructure works at Malda Town Station, including:

Short Termination/Short origination of Dumka – Ranchi – Dumka Express

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Mega Block between Pundag & Radhagaon stations in Adra Division over South Eastern Railway, 13319/13320 Dumka – Ranchi – Dumka Express (journey commencing on 04.05.2025) will be short terminated at /short originated from Dhanbad.

CEO Dehring hails Barbados' dominance in U-15 cricket triumph



SAINT JOHN'S [ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA] : Chief Executive Officer of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Chris Dehring, has extended heartfelt congratulations to Barbados following their impressive unbeaten run to retain the CWI Rising Stars Under-15 title in Antigua.

"I offer sincere congratulations to the Barbados team for claiming consecutive titles. This is a testament to the hard work and collective effort of the players and the coaching staff. Barbados played with great skill, enthusiasm, and passion throughout the tournament. Their consistency showcased the rising talent in the Caribbean, and it was inspiring to see so many young players com-

peting at this level." Dehring said.

Barbados secured back-to-back titles with a 49-run win over Guyana in the top-of-the-table clash at the Coolidge Cricket Ground. After posting 209 for 8 in their allotted 50 overs, Barbados bowled out Guyana for 160.

There were also standout individual performances. Barbados captain Justin Parris was named Best All-Rounder after scoring 121 runs and claiming 13 wickets with his leg-spin. His teammate, top-order batter Kelani Clarke, finished as the tournament's leading run-scorer with 216 runs.

ReyazLatif of Guyana took 15 wickets to earn the award for most wickets. Richard Ramdeholl, also of Guyana, and

J'QuanAthanaeze of the Leeward Islands shared the award for Most Catches, with five each. Jamaica's Luvain Pryce was named Best Wicketkeeper after recording 11 dismissals.

Dehring praised the overall standard of play during the competition. "This is the development phase for our players, and the pride and skill on display throughout the tournament bodes well for the future. The individual winners will have moments to cherish as they continue their growth and progress through the age-group levels, with the ultimate goal of representing the West Indies."

Barbados finished with 27.4 points, ahead of Trinidad and Tobago on 19.4 points.

"Give him time, don't rush it": KapilDev's clear-cut take on "good" talent VaibhavSuryavanshi



LUCKNOW (UTTAR PRADESH) : Cricketing legend KapilDev has emphasised the importance of "giving time" to 14-year-old rising sensation VaibhavSuryavanshi, whose talent was unearthed in the ongoing 18th edition of the Indian Premier League.

The Pink City marvelled at the fireworks produced by the bat of a 14-year-old southpaw at the SawaiMansingh Stadium in a high-scoring run-fest against the Gujarat Titans, which ended with an eight-wicket triumph for the Rajasthan Royals.

Right after grabbing the headlines for his record-shattering exploits, Suryavanshi hit rock bottom with a two-ball duck against Mumbai Indians on Thursday at the same venue.

KapilDev, who captained the 1983 World Cup-winning team of India acknowledged that the teenager, who hails from Bihar, possesses a "good" talent and ability but believes the key to success lies in giving a player time.

"Give him time, don't rush it. He is a good talent and has good ability. But you need to give time to players," the veteran former cricketer told reporters here.

Suryavanshi was the mastermind behind Rajasthan's successful pursuit of Gujarat's daunting 210-run target. He single-handed-

ly decimated GT's bowling unit, boasting 694 international caps.

He blazed his way to his maiden IPL hundred in a mere 35 deliveries, the fastest by an Indian in the cash-rich league's history and overall the second-quickest after 'Universal Boss' Chris Gayle's 30-ball ton against Pune Warriors in 2013.

Suryavanshi, at 14 years and 32 days, became the youngest player to score a century in T20 cricket. The 14-year-old's splendid 100 from a mere 35 deliveries is the fastest IPL century by an Indian, bettering Yusuf Pathan's 37-ball hundred against Mumbai Indians (MI) back in 2010.

The 14-year-old teenager tonked 11 maximums during his sizzling display with the bat, which is the joint-highest by an Indian in an IPL inning alongside Murali Vijay. The former Indian opener struck 11 during his 127 against RR in 2010.

Right after hitting the high, Deepak Chahar robbed Suryavanshi's high-flying momentum. On a pitched-up delivery, Suryavanshi aimed for glory but miscued his shot to Will Jacks at mid-on.

After his dismissal, Rajasthan fell like a house of cards and packed on 117, confirming their exit from the race to playoffs.

ECB CONFIRMS TRANSGENDER WOMEN WILL NO LONGER PLAY CRICKET AT ANY LEVEL

LONDON [UK] : The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Friday announced that transgender women will no longer take part in women's and girls' cricket at any level in England and Wales following a change to its regulations regarding eligibility.

ECB released a statement to announce its decision which read, "The ECB is today announcing a change to its regulations regarding eligibility for transgender players in women's and girls' cricket. This is based on the updated legal position following the recent Supreme Court ruling."

"With immediate effect, only those whose biological sex is female will be eligible to play in women's cricket and girls' cricket matches. Transgender women and girls can continue playing in open and mixed cricket," the statement added.

The decision from the ECB comes in the wake of the recent Supreme Court ruling on the definition of a woman in equalities law. Earlier, the ECB, had banned transgender women from elite competitions to bring its eligibility policy into line with that adopted by the International Cricket Council in 2023. "Our regulations for recreational cricket have always aimed at ensuring that cricket remains as inclusive a sport as possible. These included measures to manage disparities, irrespective of someone's gender, and safeguard the enjoyment of all players. However, given the new advice received about the impact of the Supreme Court ruling, we believe the changes announced today are necessary," the statement continued.



England announces squad for Zimbabwe Test Match, Ben Stokes makes a comeback after a hamstring injury

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : England have named their Test squad for the upcoming one-off match against Zimbabwe later this month, according to the ICC official website.

Skipper Ben Stokes has been confirmed to take charge of the red-ball lineup, having made his recovery from a left hamstring tear injury.

Stokes last played during the three-match series against New Zealand as part of the 2023-25 ICC World Test Championship cycle.

Two uncapped Test cricketers, Sam Cook and Jordan Cox, who both represent Essex in the County Championship, are among other notable inclusions in the 13-member squad.

Right-arm pacer Sam Cook has been rewarded for his consistent performances at the domestic level. He has fetched 318 first-class wickets, averaging an impressive 19.77.

Cook also stood out with the ball for the England Lions on their tour of Australia earlier this year, snapping 13 wickets from three matches.

Twenty-four-year-old Jordan Cox, on the other hand, has been among the top run-scorers at the County Championship this season, amassing 918 runs from 11 matches that include



four centuries and two half-centuries. Also making a return in the Test

setup is wicketkeeper-batter Jamie Smith, who had opted out of England's tour of New Zealand for the birth of his first child.

Pacer Josh Tongue is also set for a return to the red-ball setup, having last featured in the Ashes Down Under in 2023.

England are gearing up for a much-anticipated home summer on the back of a dismal ICC Champions Trophy 2025 campaign that saw white-ball skipper Jos Buttler step down from his role.

Harry Brook has since taken over as his successor in ODI and T20I.

Ben Stokes and co. willkickstart the home summer with the one-off Test at Trent Bridge starting May 22. Later, they will square off against India in a five-match series starting in June that will mark the beginning of the next ICC World Test Championship cycle.

Meanwhile, the white-ball team will play against the West Indies, South Africa, and Ireland throughout the English summer.

England squad: Ben Stokes (captain), Gus Atkinson, Shoab Bashir, Harry Brook, Sam Cook, Jordan Cox, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue.

IPL 2025 chasing shadow of last year as six appeal declines; spinners stamp authority

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) is chasing the shadow of the previous edition, with six appeal taking a dip and spinners dictating the terms of play.

IPL 2024 set a new benchmark in T20s in terms of aggressive batting and high-scoring affairs. At the beginning of IPL 2025, setting new standards in the tournament was on the cards.

A staggering 119 sixes were struck in the first five games compared to 87 last year, and 200-plus totals were breached on six occasions, including three totals of over 240.

Since then, bowlers have retaliated with vigour under conditions that haven't been a paradise for power-hitting. As a result, after the conclusion of 50 matches in the ongoing cash-rich league, the numbers have



fallen behind in terms of run rates, sixes and 200-plus totals.

At the same stage in 2024, Kolkata Knight Riders, Sunrisers Hyderabad and Royal Challengers Bengaluru boasted run rates in excess of 10. However, the Gujarat Titans are the only side to tick the box.

While diving deeper into phase-wise statistics, franchises have managed the highest run rate and struck more sixes in the powerplay, but the statistics have seen a slight drop in the other two phases. During the middle overs, the average run rate slipped from 9.00 to 8.89, while the death overs registered a drop from 11.81 to 11.02. The regression in six-hitting best resonates with the overall comparison between the two seasons. The ongoing edition had 38 more maximums after 29 matches than IPL 2024. However, after the 30th match, the difference was reduced to just 13,

courtesy of the 38 six-hitting fest between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad last year. After the conclusion of 50 matches, the current edition is lagging behind a staggering 70 sixes. In IPL 2024, there were three fixtures in the first 50, where more than 35 sixes were struck. But this year, 32 is the highest mark that has been breached.

The ball tweekers are collectively faring much better in 2025 than they did last year, with 220 wickets at an average of 30.02. In IPL 2024, spinners combined to scythe 154 wickets at an average of almost 37.

In IPL 2025, Noor Ahmad, YuzvendraChahal, KrunalPandya, VarunChakravarthy, KuldeepYadav and R Sai Kishore have stormed their way to 12 wickets or more, compared to the last season, where Chahal and Kuldeep had managed to do so after 50 games.

S SREESANTH SUSPENDED FOR THREE YEARS BY KERALA CRICKET ASSOCIATION

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM (KERALA) : The Kerala Cricket Association (KCA) has suspended former Indian cricketer S Sreesanth for three years, citing false and defamatory remarks made against the association amid the controversy surrounding Sanju Samson's omission from India's squad for the ICC Champions Trophy held earlier this year, as per a release from KCA.

The decision was made during a special general body meeting of the KCA held in Ernakulam on Friday, April 30.

Sreesanth, who currently serves as the co-owner of the Kerala Cricket League franchise Kollam Aries, had made critical public comments linking the KCA to Samson's exclusion.

Following these statements, show-cause notices were issued to Sreesanth as well as to three franchise teams, Kollam Aries, Alleppey Team Lead Contender Sai Krishnan, and Alleppey Ripples.

The general body reviewed the responses from the franchises and deemed them satisfactory. As a result, no further action will be taken against them. However, the KCA advised all franchise teams to exercise greater caution when appointing individuals to team management roles.



The association also announced its intention to pursue legal action against Samson's father, Samson Vishwanath, former cricketer RejilLukose, and a news anchor from the 24x7 news channel, citing defamatory remarks made in public

forums against the association.

S. Sreesanth's international cricket career was marked by moments of brilliance, controversy, and resilience across all formats.

Sreesanth made his ODI debut for

India in 2005 against Sri Lanka. He was later called up to the Test squad in 2006 for the England series and played a T20 match against South Africa the same year. He was part of India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup-winning teams.

Across all formats, he played 90 matches and took 169 wickets at an average of 35.89 and an economy rate of 4.49. His best bowling figure, 6/55, came against England in 2006. In August 2013, the BCCI banned Sreesanth for life, along with teammates AjitChandila and AnkeetChavan, over alleged IPL spot-fixing.

His ban was later reduced to seven years and ended in September 2020. He returned to domestic cricket in 2021, representing Kerala in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. He also entered the IPL auctions in 2021 and 2022 but went unsold. Sreesanth played 27 Test matches, taking 87 wickets and scoring 281 runs. In 53 ODIS, he claimed 75 wickets. In T20Is, he played 10 matches and took seven wickets.

In the IPL, he played for Punjab Kings, Kochi Tuskers Kerala, and Rajasthan Royals, taking 40 wickets in 44 matches at an average of 29.85 and an economy of 8.14.



Kolkata Knight Riders' players play football during a practice session on the eve of their IPL 2025 match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, at Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata on Friday