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Blackmail videos’, CCTV shows victim’s escape attempt: Police

Police said they found videos of the 24-year-old woman — allegedly gang-raped at South Calcutta Law College on June 25 — on the phone of Monojit Mishra, the prime accused. The videos were allegedly used to blackmail her. The footage, investigators said, was recorded by Mishra and another person. The police have seized phones from Mishra and his alleged associates, Pramit Mukherjee and Zaib Ahmed, but the videos of the woman were found only on Mishra’s device, officers said. PG 3

MorningIndia

Parag Jain becomes new RAW Chief



MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre appointed senior IPS officer Parag Jain, credited with providing intelligence support that enabled precision missile strikes on terror infra-structures during Operation Sindoor, as the new chief of the country’s external spy agency, the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

He is currently heading the RAW’s Aviation Research Centre (ARC), which played a vital role in the high-stakes Operation Sindoor by collecting intelligence on the Pakistani armed forces. ARC oversees aerial surveillance and related operations, including monitoring of borders and imagery intelligence (IMINT) and signals intelligence (SIGINT), which refers to electronic transmissions that can be collected by ships, planes, ground sites, or satellites.

Known within intelligence circles as a “super sleuth” and “neighbourhood specialist”, Jain has exceptional expertise in integrating both human intelligence (HUMINT) and technical intelligence (TECHINT), sources said. India hit nine terror camps, including the headquarters of banned terror outfits Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba, on May 7. The missile strikes were guided by pinpointed intelligence gathered by a team led by Jain, officials said. A 1989-batch IPS officer of Punjab cadre, Jain has served in the RAW for almost two decades and will take charge as its new chief on July 1 for a fixed term of two years. He will succeed Ravi Sinha who is set to complete his tenure on June 30.

“Jain has extensively handled the Pakistan desk with tenures in Jammu and Kashmir during the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019. He has also served in Indian Missions in Sri Lanka and Canada. During his tenure in Canada, he monitored Khalistani terror modules operating from there,” said a government official. He has extensive experience in addressing neighbourhood challenges and issues related to Khalistani terror groups, the official added.

Jain has held several key roles throughout his career. He was promoted to the rank of director-general of police (DGP) in Punjab on January 1, 2021, though he was then serving on central deputation.

Pak Army Chief issues fresh threats to India

MI News Service, Islamabad: After his “jugal vein” remark on Kashmir that was followed by the Pahalgam massacre, Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir once again issued public threats against India. Speaking at the Pakistan Naval Academy in Karachi, Munir accused India of undertaking “acts of unprovoked aggression” twice. He described New Delhi’s actions as reflecting a “troubling absence of strategic foresight” and warned of a “decisive response” to any future hostilities. “On both occasions, their recklessness was met with Pakistan’s resolute response,” Munir said, commending the armed forces for “preserving national honour” and averting a “dangerous regional escalation.” “Despite provocations, Pakistan

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Odisha Temple stampede kills 3, injures 50

MI News service, Puri: At least three persons, including two women, were killed and around 50 others injured in a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple in Odisha’s Puri on Sunday morning, officials said.

The incident took place around 4 am when hundreds of devotees gathered near the temple to witness Rath Yatra festivities, Puri District Collector Siddharth S Swain said.

The injured have been admitted to a nearby hospital, and the condition of six people is critical, he said. “Out of the 50 injured, six people are still unconscious and their condition is very serious,” an official of the medical facility, where they are undergoing treatment, said. Chaos ensued after two trucks carrying materials for rituals reportedly entered the crowded spot near the chariots of Lord Jagannath and his sibling deities, officials said. Devotees in large numbers had assembled outside the temple since the early

hours to catch a glimpse of the deities when the ‘Pahuda’ (cloth) covering their faces was to be removed, as part of the rituals, they said. The deceased were identified as Basanti Sahu (36) from Bolagarh, and Premakant Mohanty (80) and Pravati Das (42) from Balipatna. In a post on X, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi sought forgiveness from devotees of Lord Jagannath for the stampede, and tendered an apology on behalf of his government for the incident.

“Due to intense eagerness among devotees to have a glimpse of Mahaprabhu... an unfortunate incident occurred because of the resulting jostling and chaos. I and my government seek forgiveness from all Jagannath devotees. We express our condolences to the families of devotees who lost their lives... pray to Mahaprabhu Jagannath to grant them the strength to bear this profound sorrow,” Majhi said. He also said that security lapses be-



Police officials visit the site after a stampede near Shree Gundicha Temple in Puri, Odisha. At least three people were killed and 50 others suffered injuries in the incident.

hind the incident will be probed and those found guilty would face stringent action. “This negligence is unpardonable. An immediate investigation into the security lapses will be conducted, and I have directed that necessary steps be taken to initiate exemplary action against those respon-

sible,” Majhi said. Odisha Law Minister Prithviraj Harichandan said DGP Y B Khurania is investigating the stampede incident, and stringent action against the guilty would be ensured. Harichandan also said that the situation is now normal at the Shree Gundicha Temple, where devotees are of-

Uttarkashi cloudburst kills 2, 7 missing



Cloudburst reported in Uttarakhand’s Kedarnath

MI News Service, Paligad: Two construction workers were killed while seven went missing early Sunday after a landslide triggered by a cloudburst demolished their shelters along the Yamunotri National Highway in Uttarkashi district, officials said. Bodies of two missing labourers were recovered from the banks of the Yamuna river near Tiladi Shaheed Smarak, about 18 km from the place where the landslide occurred, Sub-Inspector Vikram Singh said. The bodies have been sent to Nangaoon community health centre while the search for seven others continues, he said, adding the bodies have not been identified yet. The labourers, who are said to be of Nepali ori-

gin, were engaged in the construction of a hotel. District Magistrate Prashant Arya said the landslide occurred at Silai bend about 4 km ahead of Paligad, Uttarkashi. The labourers were engaged in the construction of a hotel, he said, adding a new landslide zone has developed close to the hotel. There were 29 labourers at the camp site below the hotel when the landslide occurred washing away around 10 metres of the highway. Twenty of them were evacuated to safety while nine went missing, the district emergency operation centre said.

NDRF, SDRF and police personnel are carrying out search and rescue operations at the site, the district

magistrate said. The highway is blocked by landslide debris at Silai bend and Gujri bend, he said. Pilgrims returning from Yamunotri have been asked to stay at safe locations due to the blocked highway, he said. Reopening it may take a few hours, the DM said, adding a PWD team is busy clearing the route. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami prayed for the safety of the missing labourers. “Search and rescue operations are underway at the site. I am constantly in touch with the officials concerned,” he said. The missing labourers are said to be of Nepali origin, Barkot Station House Officer Deepak Kathait said. In another development, the Chardham Yatra has

been suspended for a day in view of rainfall and possibility of landslides. The MeT department has issued a red alert for heavy rains on June 29 and 30 in various districts of Uttarakhand, including Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Nainital, Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar prompting authorities to put the Chardham yatra on hold for a day for the safety of pilgrims. In view of continuous heavy rainfall in the state and the possibility of landslides, the Chardham Yatra has been postponed for a day as a precautionary step for the safety of the pilgrims which is paramount, Garhwal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said. Devotees stranded on Chardham yatra routes are being taken to safe places. The administration of the districts concerned have been put on alert and relief and rescue teams have been activated, Pandey said. A decision on further travel will be taken after reviewing the weather conditions along the routes on Monday, he said.

Devotees have been asked to follow the guidelines issued by the administration and not leave for their destinations till the weather becomes normal, the Garhwal commissioner said. There is also information of heavy rain damaging agricultural land in Kuthnaur village in Uttarkashi district. The road near Ojri has also been completely damaged. The agricultural fields are filled with debris. The Kupda Kunalshala Trikhili motor bridge in Syanachatti is also in danger and the water level of the Yamuna has also risen following heavy rain.



Rain or shine, the game goes on — monsoon football magic in full swing at maidan on Sunday in Kolkata..

Heavy rain: NDRF rescues 162 students in Jharkhand



The students were rescued on Sunday morning.

MI News Service, Ranchi: At least 162 students trapped in an inundated private residential school in Jharkhand’s East Singhbhum district after heavy rain were rescued by the police on Sunday, a senior officer said. The students were trapped in the school located at Pandarsoli on the Haldipokhar-Kowali Road in Kowali police station area since Saturday night after the premises got flooded due to heavy rain. “We received information that 162 students of Lav Kush Residential School were trapped as the school premises were inundated due to heavy rain. As the school building was submerged, the teachers shifted all the students to the rooftop, where they spent the night.

“On being informed around 5.30 am today, police officers and fire brigade teams rushed to the spot

and rescued the students one by one with the help of villagers,” Superintendent of Police (Rural) Rishabha Garg told. He said boats were used for the rescue operation while the NDRF was requisitioned.

However, the police team rescued the students before the NDRF team’s arrival, he added. Officer-in-charge Kowali police station, Dhananjay Paswan said the single story residential school building was completely submerged due to rain.

“The school has been closed till further notice,” he said. Local students were sent to their homes while the district administration was making arrangements to send other students to their respective homes across the district, including Dumaria, Ghatshila, Musabani and Jamshedpur, Paswan added.

Iran & Israel should reject revenge & adopt peace via dialogue: Pope Leo XIV



MI News Service, Rome: Pope Leo XIV urged the warring sides in the Israel-Iran war to “reject the logic of bullying and revenge” and choose a path of dialogue and diplomacy to reach peace as he expressed solidarity with all Christians in the Middle East.

Speaking at his weekly Wednesday general audience, the American pope said he was following “with attention and hope” recent developments in the war. He

cited the biblical exhortation: “A nation shall not raise the sword against another nation.”

A ceasefire is holding in the 12-day Iran-Israel conflict, which involved Israel targeting Iranian nuclear and military sites and the US intervening by dropping bunker-buster bombs on Iranian nuclear sites. Iran has long maintained that its nuclear programme is peaceful. “Let us listen to this voice that comes from

on High,” Leo said. “Heal the lacerations caused by the bloody actions of recent days, reject all logic of bullying and revenge, and resolutely take the path of dialogue, diplomacy and peace.” The Chicago-born Leo also expressed solidarity with the victims of Sunday’s attack on a Greek Orthodox church in Damascus, Syria and urged the international community to keep supporting Syrian reconciliation.

Syria’s Interior Ministry has said a sleeper cell belonging to the Islamic State group was behind the attack at the Church of the Holy Cross in Damascus, which killed at least 25 people.

“To the Christians in the Middle East, I am near you. All the church is close to you,” he said. “This tragic event is a reminder of the profound fragility that still marks Syria after years of conflict and instability, and therefore it is crucial that the international community doesn’t look away from this country, but continues to offer it support through gestures of solidarity and with a renewed commitment to peace and reconciliation.”

Teen Allegedly Raped by Neighbour in Kalyani; Accused Arrested

Dipankar Edbar, Kalyani (Nadia) : A 19-year-old woman was allegedly raped by a neighbour in West Bengal's Kalyani town on Saturday night, sparking outrage in the local community. Police have arrested the accused, a youth from the Muratipur area, shortly after the incident came to light. According to police sources, the young woman, a resident of Ward No. 1 under Kalyani Municipality, had gone to bed after dinner as usual. Later in the night, her family discovered she was missing. After searching the locality, her mother reportedly found her emerging from behind a local school, visibly distressed and with torn clothes. A young man, allegedly intoxicated, was seen following her. The girl's mother immediately confronted the man and informed Kalyani Police. Locals detained him until officers arrived at the scene. On Sunday morning, the victim's parents lodged a formal complaint at Kalyani Police Station, alleging that the accused had lured the girl via phone before assaulting her sexually. Police have confirmed the arrest of the accused and have sent the survivor for medical examination at Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Kalyani. An investigation is currently underway.

Low pressure to bring in moderate rainfall

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast an active and intense monsoon phase across the eastern state of West Bengal, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall in both southern and northern parts of the region through the coming week. The IMD's regional office in Alipore reported that an active monsoon trough and a developing low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal are likely to trigger widespread rainfall. Scattered light to moderate rain is expected across South Bengal throughout the week. However, conditions are likely to worsen as the low-pressure system strengthens, leading to increased rainfall intensity and rough sea conditions. Thunderstorms accompanied by gusty winds ranging from 30 to 40 km/h are expected between Sunday and Tuesday, with localised heavy rain possible in Kolkata and Howrah on Monday. Fishermen have been advised to remain cautious, particularly from 29 June onwards, when wind speeds over the Bay of Bengal may increase to 45 km/h due to the developing system. Although no formal marine warning has been issued yet, the IMD cautioned against venturing into the sea as coastal waters are expected to be turbulent. In North Bengal, heavy rainfall has also been forecast for several districts. Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri, Kalimpong, Alipurdur, and Cooch Behar are expected to receive significant rainfall, with Darjeeling likely to see heavy rain through Monday and Jalpaiguri through Thursday. Kalimpong, Alipurdur, and Cooch Behar have alerts in place until mid-week. Sporadic rain and thunderstorms are also forecast for North and South Dinajpur and Malda districts. Meteorologists expect the intensity of the monsoon to gradually decrease after Tuesday, although conditions will remain unstable over the Bay of Bengal. The formation of a low-pressure system is expected by 30 June, which may bring renewed concerns depending on its trajectory and development.



On Sunday, a blood donation camp was organized by the Naktala Udayan Sangha area with the aim of donating blood to 6 local thalassemia affected children throughout the year. A total of 175 people donated blood in this camp. The blood donation camp was inaugurated by Minister Aroop Biswas. Local municipal representative Prosenjit Das was also present at the occasion.

Celebration of the 132nd Birth Anniversary of Prof. Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis as Statistics Day



MI News Service, Kolkata: In recognition of the notable contributions made by Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis in the fields of statistics, statistical system and economic planning, the Government of India in 2007, has designated 29th June as the "Statistics Day" in the category of Special Days to be celebrated every year at the National level. The objective of celebration of this Day is to create public awareness about the importance of statistics in socio-economic planning and policy formulation to acknowledge the contribution of Prof. Mahalanobis and to pay homage to him. Prof. Mahalanobis had set up the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) at Kolkata in 1931. The Institute was declared as an "Institute of National Importance" through an act of Parliament in 1959. ISI also celebrates 29th June as the "Workers' Day". The theme for Statistics Day 2025, as published by Government of India is "75 years of National Sample Survey". The celebrations of the programme started with garlanding the bust of Prof. Mahalanobis by the faculty members, employees, students and guests and paying their obeisance to the Father of Statistics at Amrapali Lawn. After the garlanding a Tree Plantation programme was also observed to commemorate the day. Prof.

Shrikrishna Gopalrao Dani, Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences, Department of Atomic Energy at University of Mumbai and a recipient of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. He discussed the pioneer role of Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis in the field of Statistics and its applicability for the welfare and development of our country like contribution in Second Planning Commission and Hirakud dam in Odisha. He emphasizes on collective spirit and commit together. Prof. Manoranjan Pal, Former Faculty Member of Economics Research Unit and Special Guest of the Institute paid his homages to Prof. Mahalanobis. He shared with the audience regarding the contribution of Prof. Mahalanobis as a statistician and teacher. Prof. Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay, Director of the Institute spoke in her welcome address to the audience about Prof. Mahalanobis's contribution regarding the uses of statistics in social welfare, science and other fields of research in the alteration of global scenario. She also heightened on laying of road map to determine a global leadership position at this crucial juncture. The programme concluded with vote of thanks by Shri Ravinder Kumar, Chief Executive Admn. & Finance) of the Institute.

KV IOC Haldia joined the celebration of the FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) program

Friendly Football match between KV IOC Haldia and Ramgopal Chawk Bharati Vidya Mandir

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kharagpur : In a vibrant display of enthusiasm and energy, Kendriya Vidyalaya IOC Haldia, located in Purba Medinipur, joined the celebration of the FIFA Football for Schools (F4S) program on 29 June 2025. This initiative, a joint collaboration between Ministry of Education, Government of India and FIFA aims to empower schoolchildren by integrating football into the education system. The event was graced by Hon'ble Shri Soumendu Adhikari, Member of Parliament, Kanthi who emphasized the importance of combining sports with education for holistic development. The event featured a friendly football match between Kendriya Vidyalaya IOC Haldia and Ramgopal Chawk Bharati Vidya Mandir and saw the participation of One hundred Sixty-four students and Nine-



tyone teachers/staff from the District. In his address, he applauded the collaborative effort of MoE and FIFA in nurturing young talent through grassroots engagement. In her speech, Smt. Sudeshna Chowdhury, Principal I/C, KV IOC Haldia emphasized on "Football for Holistic Development". Today, Hon'ble Shri Soumendu Adhikari, Member of Parliament, Kanthi presided over the Kick-off programme for the distribution of FIFA footballs as part of the Football for Schools (F4S) at Kendriya Vidyalaya

IOC Haldia. The event was organised by the Ministry of Education and the All India Football Federation (AIFF). At the event organized today at Kendriya Vidyalaya IOC Haldia, 581 FIFA footballs were distributed to 62 schools in the district. Shri Manoj Patir, DGM (HR), IOCL, Haldia Refinery, Shri Rajib Mondal, Senior Manager (HR), Haldia Refinery, Smt. Mahua Guha Roy, Principal, JNV, Kapasyeriya, Shri N. P. Dutta, Principal, DAV Haldia along with other distinguished dignitaries, were also present on the occasion.



Speaker Biman Banerjee and other officers paying tribute to Bangabhaskar Sir Ashutosh Mukherjee by garlanding his portrait in the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on his 157th birth anniversary.

Man Stages Protest Outside In-Laws' House, Demands Wife's Return

Dipankar Edbar, Haringhata (Nadia) : In a dramatic turn of events in the Jhikra area under Nagarukhra-II Gram Panchayat, a young man staged a sit-in protest outside his in-laws' residence, demanding the return of his wife. Holding a placard that read "I want my wife back, I will not leave until she returns", Suman Dhar, a local youth, began his protest late Friday night, sparking considerable curiosity and discussion in the area. According to local sources, Suman had a love marriage with Jyoti Das about a year ago. Though initially opposed, Jyoti's family later accepted the marriage and recognized Suman as their son-in-law. However, a few months into the mar-



riage, allegations of mental and physical abuse surfaced against Suman's family. In February, Jyoti's parents

brought her back home, citing her safety. Despite multiple attempts by Suman to reconcile, Jyoti's family insisted on a formal discussion involving both families. However, Suman's parents reportedly refused, causing negotiations to break down. Speaking during his protest, Suman admitted, "There were mistakes on both sides. I have apologized to my in-laws and am even willing to live separately if needed." Jyoti, meanwhile, has expressed willingness to return, provided her parents' concerns are addressed. "I will go back only if my in-laws speak directly to my parents," she stated. The local police have kept a watchful eye on the situation, which remains peaceful at the moment.

Bengal

Ananda Marga Pracharak samgha organizes a three day Seminar at Ananda Marga School



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ananda Marga Pracharak samgha has organized a three day Seminar at Ananda Marga School, Bangoan, North Calcutta. Acharya Sudhaksharananda Avadhuta, Central office Secretary of Ananda Marga took seminar classes on Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji's philosophy. He explained the meaning of infinite happiness. Human beings are the highest-evolved beings. Life without sorrow and suffering is a life of happiness and bliss, and that is what people desire. Everyone is in quest of happiness; in fact it is people's nature to seek happiness. Now let us see what one does to achieve it and whether it is achieved by those means. In their search for happiness people are first attracted towards physical enjoyments. They amass wealth and try to achieve power and position to satisfy their desires for happiness. One who has a hundred rupees is not satisfied with it, one strives for a thousand rupees, but even possessing thousands of rupees does not satisfy. One wants a million, and so on. Then it is seen that a person having influence in a

district wants to extend it over a province, provincial leaders want to become national leaders, and when they have achieved that there creeps in a desire for world leadership. Mere acquisition of wealth, power and position does not satisfy a person. The acquisition of something limited only creates the want for more, and the quest for happiness finds no end. The hunger for possessing is unending. It is limitless and infinite. However dignified or lofty the achievement, it fails to set at rest people's unlimited quest for happiness. Those who hanker after wealth will not be satisfied until they can obtain unlimited wealth. Nor will the seeker of power, position and prestige be satisfied until he or she can get these in limitless proportions, as all these are objects of the world. The world itself is finite and cannot provide infinite objects. Naturally, therefore, the greatest worldly acquisition, even if it be the entire globe, would not secure anything of an infinite and permanent character. What then is that infinite, eternal thing which will provide everlasting happiness?

Historic procession for Bengali language by Bangla Paksha



Nurul Islam Khan

'I do not accept Hindi-Urdu. I only know Bengali language, your language is my mouth language,' Bengali language, the city of Kolkata was filled with many such slogans on Sunday, a holiday. This huge protest procession of the Bengali party turned into a huge crowd. At exactly 3:30 pm, the procession of thousands of Bengalis started from Ekushey Udyan next to Birla Planetarium and reached Hazra. As the procession slowly progressed, the crowd of workers and supporters of the organization increased significantly. Needless to say, it can be said that the procession of the political party will be defeated. One of the main demands of the protest rally, which was plagued by slogans, was that Bengali language should also be made mandatory in the WBSCS examination. Otherwise, Professor Garg Chatterjee warned that this protest would grow louder. He said that Bengali sons of the land will not get jobs in Bengal, they will be humiliated! We will not accept it.

This government has betrayed all Bengalis by including Hindi and Urdu in competitive examinations. Bengali should be recognized immediately and included everywhere. The organization demands that Bengali language be made mandatory in WBSCS as a result of the 6-year movement of the Bengali Paksha. But the Bengali government surrendered under the pressure of the Hindi-Urdu lobby and the pressure of Shuvendu Adhikari. The slogan of the 2021 elections was, "Bangla wants its own daughter". But after winning the elections, the organization has become vocal that the Bengali girl is being appeased by Hindi-Urdu. To be honest, this organization is fighting and struggling for Bengali and Bengalis. It has restored the dignity of Bengali language in many government departments. Bengali language has also been recognized in important government places including the post office. However, it can be said that the grand procession of the Bengali Paksha in the city today on a holiday has created history.

MP highlights healthcare gains, pushes for CGHS, AIIMS in Darjeeling

MI News Service Darjeeling: Darjeeling MP and BJP national spokesperson Raju Bista, addressing the 1st triennial general meeting of the CGHS (Central Government Health Scheme) Beneficiaries Welfare Association, in Siliguri on Saturday, highlighted the transformative developments in India's healthcare under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, while also stressing the urgent need for expanded health infrastructure in North Bengal.



In the interest of overall development in the field of sports, Swapan Sadhan Bose's dream project Kriya Academy is being unveiled in the light of its centenary. The new look of the Dakshineswar Young Men's Association Maidan and Club Tent was inaugurated by Sports Minister Aroop Biswas, a joint initiative of Sangbad Pratidin Bhawanipur. Also present were Swapan Sadhan Bose, former MP Kunal Ghosh, MLA Madan Mitra, Sreenjoy Bose, Chairman Gopal Saha, Councilor Sushant Chatterjee, other sports lovers and other prominent personalities at the Dakshineswar DOF AM ground in Kolkata on Sunday.

NEET: Stellar performance of Bengal Students

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal students fared very well in NEET UG 2025. AESL students across the country delivered exceptional results—testament to the institute's focused, outcome-driven academic approach. Students secured 5 ranks in the top 10 of NEET UG 2025 — AIR 2, 3, 5, 9, and 10. This outstanding performance continued with 18 ranks in the Top 50 and 35 in the Top 100 nationally. As said earlier, the performance in West Bengal was equally remarkable. Both Rank 1 and Rank 2 in the state are AESL students, and 4 out of the Top 5 rankers hail from AESL centres in West Bengal. The state's pride continues with over 18 students securing ranks within the Top 1000. Thanks to the combined efforts of our dedicated students, supportive parents, and committed teachers, approximately 150 students (147 to be precise) from West Bengal are among the Top 10,000, and nearly 400 students secured ranks within 35,000—providing them with access to top government medical colleges.

Pak Army Chief issues fresh threats to India

From PG 1
acted with restraint and maturity, reaffirming its commitment to regional peace and stability, which has led to its role as net regional stabiliser," he added. Looking ahead, he issued a firm warning. "As we steadily build our comprehensive national power, any enemy acting on the perceived vulnerability of Pakistan would get an assured swift and befitting response." "We can never miss to mention about the great sacrifices of our Kashmiri brothers struggling against India's illegal occupation," Munir brought up the Kashmir issue in his speech yet again. "What India tends to term as terrorism is in fact the legitimate struggle as per the international conventions," he added. Munir claimed, "Pakistan is a strong advocate for a just resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions and the aspirations of the Kashmiri people." "Pakistan will always provide political, diplomatic, and moral support to the people of Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir," Munir stated. The last time Asim Munir addressed the Kashmir issue, it was followed by the Pahalgam attack, to which India responded swiftly with Operation Sindoor. The recurring pattern of escalatory rhetoric preceding cross-border terror remains a significant concern.

Blackmail videos', CCTV shows victim's escape attempt: Police

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police said they found videos of the 24-year-old woman — allegedly gang-raped at South Calcutta Law College on June 25 — on the phone of Monojit Mishra, the prime accused. The videos were allegedly used to blackmail her. The footage, investigators said, was recorded by Mishra and another person. The police have seized phones from Mishra and his alleged associates, Pramit Mukherjee and Zaib Ahmed, but the videos of the woman were found only on Mishra's device, officers said. "The woman reported that Mishra had shown her two videos in which she was naked and being raped. We found videos in Mishra's phone, seized on June 26 (Thursday), corroborating her statement," an investigator said. "She told the police that Mishra had threatened to circulate the videos if she didn't cooperate with him and didn't readily meet him when he called her. He also warned her not to tell anyone." The three confiscated mobile phones will be sent to the Cyber Forensics & Digital Evidence Examiners Laboratory in Salt Lake. The police collected footage from the three CCTV cameras inside the college. One of them showed the woman running towards the main gate, evidently looking to escape, only to find it locked. Mishra, Mukherjee and Ahmed have claimed



the woman was "not raped" and that it was "consensual sex", officers said. None of the trio has denied his presence at the scene; all of them have claimed "the woman indulged in the sexual activity on her own", the police said. However, CCTV footage clearly shows the woman was scared and attempting to flee, contradicting the "consensual sex" defence, police sources said. City police installed 12 CCTV cameras at the college compound on Saturday to secure the "scene of crime". Both the union room and the security guard's room have been sealed to preserve evidence and prevent tampering. The woman's medical examination at the Calcutta

National Medical College and Hospital, where three swabs had been taken, has found: Abrasion marks around her neck Marks on her breast Sexual assault cannot be ruled out; but genital examination showed no "foreign body penetration" "The medical report suggests signs of torture on her private parts," an officer said. On Saturday morning, the police visited Mishra's Kalighat residence and seized: A full-sleeve maroon kurta with four black buttons Ash-coloured track pants with six pockets Black shorts with three pockets A pair of black slippers The police had collected the woman's clothing on Friday.



Members of Rat Dakhil Aikya Mancha took part in a protest against rape culture in front of Kasba Police Station and demanding justice for the alleged rape of a female student inside Kasba Law College hostel, in Kolkata on Sunday .

Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapur in city for 'Metro...In Dino'



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata turned into a hub of cinematic excitement as Bollywood stars Aditya Roy Kapur and Sara Ali Khan arrived in the City of Joy to promote their much-anticipated film, 'Metro...In Dino', directed by Anurag Basu. The duo embraced the spirit of the city, blending glamour with heartfelt moments that resonated with fans and locals alike. The visit began on an exclusive note with a private dinner hosted by none other than cricket legend Sourav Ganguly. With its soulful music by Pritam and Anurag Basu's signature storytelling, Metro...In Dino is shaping up to be a cinematic journey that explores the many shades of modern relationships — love, longing, and human connection.

Rabindra Sarobar : KMDA mulls floating barriers in the water

MI News Service, Kolkata: The police have written to the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) that CCTVs must be installed at the public swimming pool at Rabindra Sarobar. Lifeguards must be present while the pool is open, said the police. The KMDA, custodian of the Sarobar, is also considering floating barriers in the water to demarcate an area beyond which people should not go. KMDA officials said they may also ask the swimming clubs to depute their trainers as lifeguards. The letter follows the drowning of a 16-year-old boy from Burdwan at the pool on June 16. "We have suggested CCTVs should be installed at the swimming pool. There should be life-

guards while people swim in the pool," said an officer of Rabindra Sarobar police station. "Two lifesavers will be present to prevent any untoward incident at the public swimming pool and ensure no one who doesn't know how to swim hits the pool. We may even ask the swimming clubs at the Sarobar to help with the services of trained lifeguards," a senior KMDA official said. The boy's death had exposed safety deficiencies at the public facility at the Rabindra Sarobar. "We have started drawing up a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for visitors to the pool. It would be readied after a meeting with senior officers of Kolkata Police sometime next week," the official said.

Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers Clinch Second Consecutive Title in Bengal Women's Pro T20 League 2025



MI News Service, Kolkata: The The Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers Women (LSKT-W) have etched their name in Bengal cricketing history, securing their second consecutive championship in the Bengal Women's Pro T20 League 2025. In a rain-affected final at the iconic Eden Gardens, the Tigers defeated the Sobisco Smashers Malda Women by 16 runs via the DLS method. Under the astute leadership of Captain Mita Paul, the Tigers delivered yet another masterclass in teamwork, resilience, and tactical precision. This hard-earned victory not only reinforces their supremacy in the league but also highlights the growing stature of women's cricket in Bengal. Speaking

after the triumph, Captain Mita Paul said, "Winning it once was special, but doing it twice in a row is surreal. Every player gave their heart and soul to this campaign. This trophy belongs to every member of our squad, the coaching staff, and our unwavering fans." On this occasion, Mr. Saket Todi, Director of Lux Cozi, said, "Back-to-back titles for the Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers is a historic achievement. It reflects the incredible commitment and spirit of this team. We're thrilled to see our vision for empowering women through sport being realized on this grand stage." Speaking to the media, Mr. Lalit Beriwalla, Director of Shyam Steel, said, "This second con-

secutive win is not just a victory, it's a movement. The Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers have inspired countless young girls across Bengal to dream big. We are honored to support such an exceptional team." The victory marks a golden chapter in Bengal's women's cricket journey. With two titles in as many seasons, the Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers have set a new benchmark for excellence, resilience, and consistency in the league. Meanwhile, the Lux Shyam Kolkata Tigers Men's team, under the leadership of Abhishek Porel, also displayed remarkable consistency by reaching the semi-finals once again, signaling a bright future ahead.

SCL College report on gang-rape 'shoddy': CU

MI News Service, Kolkata: The authorities of South Calcutta Law College (SCLC), where the 24-year-old student was allegedly gang-raped on the evening of June 25, sent a report on the incident to Calcutta University on Saturday — a report CU officials described as "shoddy". Nayna Chatterji, the vice-principal of the college, submitted the report to the university. Santa Datta Dey, Calcutta University's officiating vice-chancellor, said the report was unsatisfactory. "The vice-principal said in her report that she learnt about the horrifying incident 40 hours after it happened. I do not know why it took her so long. Then she mentioned going to meet the president of the governing body. She also flagged a shortage of permanent security guards. I find the report shoddy," Dey told.

Dey questioned why the college had not convened a governing body meeting even days after the alleged crime. "They should have held a meeting immediately. Why wait until Monday? This shows a lack of seriousness," she said. The university will send an inspection team to the college on Tuesday to independently gather details of the incident, she added. Dey said the vice-principal failed to explain why the students' union room at the college was open and how a former student had access to it.

Vice-principal Chatterji had said on Friday that Monojit Mishra, the main accused, had graduated from the college four years ago and was working as a casual employee based on a governing body recommendation. According to police, the woman was tortured for more than three hours — between 7.30pm and 10.50pm — on Wednesday by Mishra and his two associates, Zaib Ahmed and Pramit Mukherjee. She was first assaulted inside the union room and then beaten with a hockey stick and raped in the security guard's room, said an officer quoting the woman. The guard allegedly stepped out and sat outside during the ordeal.



Union Minister of Education, Government of India Dharmendra Pradhan kicks off the Ball to distribute the FIFA football for School at Kendra Vidyalaya School in Kolkata on Sunday.

City to host ZSI's 110th Anniv & Animal Taxonomic Summit

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) is set to commemorate its 110th Foundation Day on June 30, 2025, with the observance of ZSI Day. Following this celebration, the organization will host the Animal Taxonomic Summit-2025, scheduled from July 1st to July 3rd, 2025. The Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, will preside over the event as the Chief Guest and officially inaugurate the Animal Taxonomy Summit-2025 on the afternoon of June 30, 2025. Established in 1916, the Zoological Survey of India, headquartered in Kolkata, functions under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India. As the premier institution for faunal exploration and research in India, ZSI has played a vital role in advancing taxonomic knowledge, contributing significantly to the understanding of India's rich biodiversity and supporting global scientific endeavours. On the forenoon of 30th June 2025, the Grand Finale of 110-Hour Hackathon on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change will be conducted. To commemorate the 110th Foundation Day of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), a 110-Hour Hackathon on Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change is being organized by ZSI. Conducted simultaneously across its 16 Regional Cen-

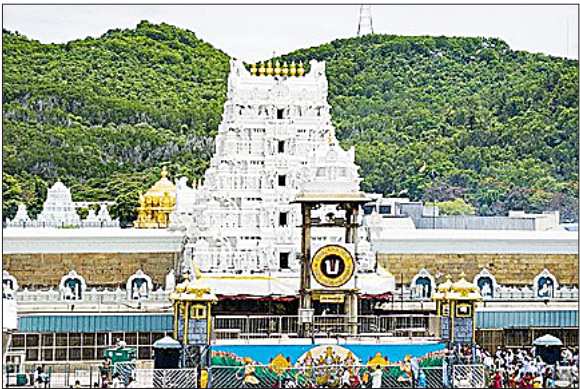
tres, the event brought together students, researchers, and innovators from diverse backgrounds to collaboratively develop innovative solutions and ideas addressing critical issues related to biodiversity preservation and the impacts of climate change. During the occasion of ZSI Day, the Hon'ble Union Minister will release the iconic publication of ZSI i.e. Animal Discoveries- 2024, comprising above 600 species added to the global and Indian faunal database. ZSI will unveil Version 2.0 of the Checklist of Fauna of India during the 110th ZSI Day celebrations. This updated compilation, building upon decades of research and the initial version released in July 2024, meticulously details 105,244 species and subspecies. The checklist spans 121 taxon-specific inventories, encompassing all forms of life from Protists to Mammals. This monumental undertaking, spearheaded by Dr. Dhriti Banerjee and a collaborative team of over 185 experts, underscores the ongoing commitment to taxonomic accuracy. On the occasion of ZSI Day 2025, the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) will formalize two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs): An MoU will be signed with the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, operating under the Army Training Command on behalf of the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Indian Army).

A Divine Journey to South India on Bharat Gaurav Train

MI News Service, New Delhi: A special Bharat Gaurav Train has been announced for South India Tour from Bihar, Jharakhand and Chattisgarh. The much-awaited "Dakshin Bharat Yatra", a 12-day rail tour aboard the Bharat Gaurav Special Tourist Train, will start from Bhagalpur on 27th July 2025. The Dakshin Bharat Yatra offers a spiritually enriching and cost-effective pilgrimage opportunity for devotees.

This yatra will offer devotees the opportunity to seek blessings, deepen their spiritual connection, and experience the divine presence at some of the most revered temples and sacred locations in Dakshin Bharat

This carefully curated pilgrimage will take travellers to Tirupati-Rameshwaram-Madurai-Kanyakumari & Mallikarjuna. The tour offers multiple boarding



and deboarding points, including Bhagalpur, Jasidih, Madhupur, Barakar, Dhanbad, Bokaro Steel City, Murri, Ranchi, Rourkela, Jharsuguda, Champa, Bilaspur, Raipur and Durg.

This tour will be completed in 11 Nights and 12 Days. From Bhagalpur, train will depart on 27th July, 2025 and will come back on 07th August, 2025.

There will be two Classes of accommodation. In Sleeper Class (Economy), 720 passengers will be accommodated whereas in 3 A C (Standard) class, 70 seats will be booked.

In this affordable Package the Package, passengers are offered confirmed train tickets, All meals (Tea, Breakfast,

Lunch, Dinner), Comfortable and clean accommodation on double/triple sharing basis (Non-AC for economy; AC for standard and comfort class). Transfers and sightseeing by buses (Non-AC for economy and standard class; AC for comfort class), Onboard escort, housekeeping, security and paramedical staff personnel with basic medicine.

The Yatra offers comfort, safety, and spiritual fulfillment — all at an affordable price, making it a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to visit multiple religious destinations in a single journey.

Seats are limited and demand is high. Bookings details are available on www.irctctourism.com.

Booking can also be done through IRCTC's Kolkata Office and Area Office Ranchi or through any authorized agents.

New Passenger Reservation System Capable of generating over 1.5 lakh rail tickets per minute, i.e. about five times the current capacity of 32000 tickets in a minute, to be ready by year end

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railways is committed to making the end-to-end travel experience passenger-centric. A passenger's journey with the railways begins at the stage of ticket reservation. Railways is undertaking a series of steps to make ticket booking easier.

Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw recently reviewed the progress of these reforms. He emphasized that the ticketing system should be smart, transparent, accessible, and efficient. Planning should focus on passenger convenience. The system must ensure a smooth and comfortable travel experience to our passengers.

Improved advanced charting to have certainities of travel plan

Charting: Currently, the reservation chart is prepared four hours before the departure of the train. This creates uncertainty in the minds of passengers. Wherever passengers are coming from a nearby area to catch the

train, this uncertainty can cause serious problems.

To remove this uncertainty, the railway board has proposed preparing the reservation chart eight hours before the departure. For trains departing before 1400 hours, the chart will be prepared the previous day at 2100 hrs itself. The Railway Minister agreed with this proposal and directed the board to start implementing this in phases so that there is no disruption.

This move will reduce uncertainties for passengers with waitlist tickets. The passengers will get the first update on waitlist status well in advance. It will benefit passengers travelling from remote locations or suburbs of major cities for catching long distance trains. It will also provide more time to make alternative arrangements in case the wait list is not confirmed.

Modern Passenger Res-

ervation System (PRS) by December 2025

The Railway Minister reviewed the upgradation of the passenger reservation system. The project is being executed for the last few months by CRIS.

The new upgraded PRS design is agile, flexible, and scalable to handle ten times the current load. It will significantly enhance the ticket booking capacity. The new PRS will allow over 1.5 lakh ticket bookings per minute. This will be an increase of roughly five times from 32,000 tickets per minute in the current PRS.

The ticket enquiry capacity will jump ten times i.e. from 4 lakh to over 40 lakh per enquiry will be possible in a minute time.

The new PRS also has a multilingual and user-friendly booking and enquiry interface.

In the new PRS, users will be able to submit

their choice of seat and see the fare calendar. It also has integrated facilities for Divyangjan, students, patients, etc.

Streamlined authentication for Tatkal bookings Indian Railways will allow only authenticated users to book Tatkal tickets on IRCTC website and mobile app beginning 1st July, 2025.

Further, OTP-based authentication will be done for Tatkal bookings from the end of July, 2025.

The Railways Minister instructed officials to broaden the authentication mechanism for Tatkal bookings. The authentication should be done using Aadhaar or any other verifiable Government ID available in the user's DigiLocker account.

These measures reflect the continuous efforts of Indian Railways to modernise its systems and make them more citizen friendly.

F7 to rule the roost

MI News Service, Kolkata: One thing is dead sure; F7 is coming in a big way. POCO is once again set to redefine smart phone user experience with the latest addition to its F-series, POCO F7.

POCO F7 sports a massive 7550mAh battery, India's Largest Battery, equipped with Silicon Carbon innovation for enhanced energy density and long-term efficiency. This battery supports flagship-level 90W Turbo charging and 22.5W reverse charging, ensuring users stay powered throughout their day—and beyond. Remarkably, this all fits in a sleek 7.99mm body, making it India's slimmest phone with a big battery.

With F7, priced at 29,999, POCO yet again ensures segment highest performance takes centre stage, with the Snapdragon 8s Gen 4 chipset, delivering a blazing 2.1 million+ AnTuTu score—a feat unmatched in its category. Backed by LPDDR5X memory, UFS 4.1 storage, and up to 24GB (12GB + 12GB) Turbo RAM, the smartphone sets a benchmark in its segment. POCO's custom-built HyperOS 2.0 with AI Suite ensures a seamless, adaptive experience. The all-new IceLoop Cooling System—featuring a full A720 big-core architecture—manages thermals even during the most intense usage.

NAME CHANGE

I, Poulami Chatterjee (Old Name), Daughter Of Bapi Chatterjee, Residing At 309E Ho-Chi-Minh Sarani, Sangita Residing, Sarsuna, Kolkata - 700061, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Lavanni Chatterjee (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025. That Poulami Chatterjee And Lavanni Chatterjee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, MANZUR AHMED (old name) S/O MANSUR AHMED, residing at 28B, AGA MEHDI STREET, PARK STREET, KOLKATA -700016, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MANZOOR AHMED (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. MANZOOR AHMED (new name) and MANZUR AHMED (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Special Ticket Checking Drive Conducted on the Occasion of Rath Yatra



MI News Service, Kolkata: On the auspicious occasion of Rath Yatra, the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway conducted a special ticket checking drive on June 27, 2025, at Shrirampur and Rishra stations. The initiative aimed to ensure smooth

and lawful travel for passengers amid the festive rush by curbing ticketless travel and enforcing railway ticketing norms.

The drive was conducted under the overall guidance of Shri Rahul Ranjan, Senior Divisional Commercial Man-

ager, Howrah, and was supervised on-site by the Assistant Commercial Manager (HC). A dedicated team comprising 19 Ticket Examiners, 2 Commercial Inspectors, and 2 RPF personnel participated in the intensive checking operation.

As a result, a total of 328 cases of ticket irregularities were detected, including 286 cases of ticketless travel. The drive led to the realization of 1,46,965 in fare and penalty recovery—underscoring the division's firm commitment to ensuring fair travel and protecting railway revenue.

Howrah Division remains committed to maintaining transparency, enhancing passenger compliance, and delivering safe, efficient services—especially during periods of increased passenger movement such as festivals.

Howrah Division received the newly inaugurated Purulia–Howrah MEMU Special Train (via Masagram) at Howrah station



MI News Service, Kolkata: The inaugural run of the Purulia–Howrah MEMU Passenger Train via Masagram was successfully conducted on 28th June 2025, marking a major step forward in enhancing connectivity along the Masagram-Bankura rail line. The train departed from Purulia at 13:30 hrs and reached Howrah at 21:10 hrs as scheduled. The inaugural service was

ceremoniously received at the New Complex of Howrah Station, Platform No. 22, where ADRM/Administration, Sri Uday Kumar Keshri, along with other senior officers, were present to welcome the train. The event highlighted the importance of this new service in improving passenger mobility between the western districts of West Bengal and the metropolitan region of Kolkata.

The regular run of this MEMU service is scheduled to commence from 30th June 2025, with the following timetable:

* From Howrah: Departure at 16:15 hrs, arrival at Purulia at 23:55 hrs (commencing from 30.06.2025)

* From Purulia: Departure at 04:00 hrs, arrival at Howrah at 11:40 hrs (commencing from 01.07.2025)

The train will operate six days a week, with Fridays as non-running days ex-Howrah, and Saturdays as non-running days ex-Purulia.

This newly introduced MEMU service is a significant addition to the region's rail network, promising to boost local connectivity, support regional development, and provide greater travel convenience for daily commuters and long-distance passengers alike.

Eastern Railway remains committed to strengthening railway infrastructure and improving passenger services across its network.

RPF CPDS Team Apprehends Mobile Phone Thief at Puri Railway Station

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: In a commendable display of vigilance and swift action, the Crime Prevention and Detection Squad (CPDS) of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) successfully apprehended one individual involved in the theft of passenger belongings at Puri Railway Station on 28th June 2025.

As part of a special drive aimed at curbing unauthorized passenger movement and detecting theft of passenger belongings (TOPB), the CPDS team conducted intensive patrolling and surveillance across the sta-

tion premises. During the operation, a suspicious male was intercepted near the main gate area.

Upon investigation, the individual was found in possession of two stolen mobile phones—a sky blue OPPO 10-K and a grey Samsung S24 Ultra—valued approximately at ₹1,50,000. The stolen items were identified as the property of a passenger present at the station.

During interrogation, the accused admitted to the theft and revealed his identity as Name: Rajesh Singh, Age: 21 years, DBC Pada, PS–Baidnathpur, Dis-

trict–Asansol, State–West Bengal

Following the admission of guilt and recovery of stolen property, the accused was brought to the RPF Post at Puri. After completing all necessary legal formalities, the individual was handed over to the Government Railway Police (GRP), Puri, for further legal proceedings.

Puri Railway Station continues to remain under 24x7 surveillance through a network of CCTV cameras, vigilant RPF personnel and constant supervision by senior officers to ensure the safety and security of passengers.

CLW Achieves Milestone: 200th locomotive of FY 2025-26 rolled out

MI News Service, Chittaranjan: CLW has been given production target of 777 locomotives. During the financial year 2024-25, 200 locos were produced & rolled out on 30.07.2024 in 102 working days in the first quarter of that fiscal year. The production of a record 200 locos was achieved 27 days advance compared to the production of the same number of locomotives last year. CLW's ancillary unit at Dankuni has contributed immensely in achieving this milestone. It has produced

financial year 2025-26, CLW has been given production target of 777 locomotives. During the financial year 2024-25, 200 locos were produced & rolled out on 30.07.2024 in 102 working days in the first quarter of that fiscal year.

The production of a record 200 locos was achieved 27 days advance compared to the production of the same number of locomotives last year.

CLW's ancillary unit at Dankuni has contributed immensely in achieving this milestone. It has produced

Fire fighting training organised at Dum dum Metro station

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway takes all possible measures and care for ensuring commuters safety. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway regularly monitors and reviews safety measures adopted in the 'Lifeline of Kolkata' to avoid any untoward incident like fire. In order to check the preparedness of Metro staff of different departments to tackle any fire emergency inside the tunnels or on the viaduct, regular training is conducted in Metro Railway, Kolkata.

A fire fighting training

programme for the field staff was conducted under the supervision of senior officers on 25.06.2025 at Dum Dum Metro station. In this training, Metro staff were imparted training on how to douse the flame through simulation of various fire and smoke conditions.

Staff from Traffic Department and RPF personnel attended this training. It is expected that such training will sharpen the skill and alertness of the field staff to respond to any emergency situation and minimize the rescue time and restore normalcy at the earliest.

Pulse Candy now RS 750 Cr brand

MI News Service, Kolkata: Pulse candy recorded over ₹750 crore at consumer price in the FY 2024-25 translating into 750 crore Pulse candies being sold in one year making it India's largest distributed hard boiled candy. This achievement establishes Pulse's strong market leadership in the hard-boiled candy segment for the last 9 years and its sustained appeal to

consumers. Over the past three fiscal years, Pulse, the DS Group product has registered an impressive Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 15% against a CAGR of 9 % in the hard boiled candy segment industry. According to market data, Pulse candy currently holds a 19% market share in India's hard-boiled candy segment and has been growing consistently.

Change of Name

I, Rajendra Sahoo S/o Late Prabhat Sahoo Residing at Vill+P.O - Gopalchak, P.s - Rammagar, District - East Medinipur, Pin- 721423 West Bengal India that my deceased father who previously known as Prabhat Ch Sahoo shall henceforth be known as Prabhat Sahoo.I declare that my deceased father Prabhat Ch Sahoo and Prabhat Sahoo is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 26-06-2025.

NAME CHANGE

I,Priyadarshini Majumder Modak(Old Name),Wife Of Sandip Modak, Residing At Vill - D.v.c Para,Po & Ps - Memari,Purba Bardhaman - 713146,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Priyadarshini Majumder (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025.That Priyadarshini Majumder Modak And Priyadarshini Majumder Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Shyamal Mallick(Old Name),Son Of Mihir Kumar Mallick, Residing At 38/9 A.N Saha Road, Dreebhumii, North 24 Parganas - 700048, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shyamal Kumar Mallick(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025. That Shyamal Mallick And Shyamal Kumar Mallick Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, B K Chindalia (old name) S/O Bhanwarlal Chandaliya, residing at Samaj Kalyan, M.G. Road, P.O. & P.S.- Jaigaon, Dist- Alipurduar, in the sate of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bimal Kumar Chandaliya (new name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipurduar, vide an affidavit dated 09/06/2025. Bimal Kumar Chandaliya (new name) and B K Chindalia (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Premlata Chindalia (old name) W/O Bimal Kumar Chandaliya, residing at Samaj Kalyan, M.G. Road, P.O. & P.S.- Jaigaon, Dist- Alipurduar, in the sate of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prem Debi Chandaliya(new name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipurduar, vide an affidavit dated 09/06/2025. Prem Debi Chandaliya (new name) and Premlata Chindalia (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sorabh Chindalia (old name) S/O Bimal Kumar Chandaliya, residing at Samaj Kalyan, M.G. Road, P.O. & P.S.- Jaigaon, Dist- Alipurduar, in the sate of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sorabh Chandalia (new name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipurduar, vide an affidavit dated 09/06/2025. Sorabh Chindalia (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Uttam Kumar Dutta (old name),son of Amal Kumar Dutta,residing at 101 Rashbihari Sarani,Hakimpara,Siliguri- 734001, West Bengal,shall henceforth be known as Uttam Dutta (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 26/06/2025. That Uttam Kumar Dutta and Uttam Dutta both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Md Kader Box Mollah(Old Name),Son Of Panjab Ali Molla, Residing At Mathurapur, Po-Guma, North 24 Parganas-743704, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kader Box Molla(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025. That Md Kader Box Mollah And Kader Box Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Panchu Gopal Majhi (Old Name), son of Birendra Nath Majhi, residing at 125, Ballygunge Gardens, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata- 700029, W.B, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sandeep Majhi (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata dated 26/06/2025. Sandeep Majhi (new name) and Panchu Gopal Majhi (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I Tapas Roy(Old Name), S/O Purnachandra Roy, R/O 19X, Salimpur Road, Dhakuria, Kolkata-700031, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tapas Kumar Roy (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025, That Tapas Roy And Tapas Kumar Roy All Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE

I, Matabele Laskar (old name) S/O Abul Haque Laskar, residing at Vill-Mauberiya, P.O.- Basuldanga, P.S.- Diamond Harbour, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743368, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MOTALEB LASKAR (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/06/2025. MOTALEB LASKAR (new name) and Matabele Laskar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Jayanta Kr Singh Alias Jayant Kr Singh (Old Names) S/O Late Krishan Mohan Singh, Krishna Mohan Pd Singh And Krishan Mohan,Residing At 169,Rajdanga Gold Park 4Th Floor,Fik-48,Ps- Kasba Kolkata-700107,West Bengal,India,have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jayant Kumar Singh(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025.Jayanta Kr Singh And Jayant Kr Singh (Old Names) And Jayant Kumar Singh (New Name) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Eakata Singh (Old Name) W/O Jayant Kumar Singh, Residing At 332A,Gali No.6,Shallimar Bagh,North West Delhi,Delhi-110088,India,have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Eakata Kumari(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025.Eakata Singh(Old Name) And Eakata Kumari (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Azmat Zamir (old name) W/O Jayant Hossain, residing at 55/1, Hossain Shah Road, P.S.- Ekbalpure, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Azmat Shamim (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Azmat Shamim (new name) and Azmat Zamir (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ganga Shaw (old name) S/O Saini Shaw, residing at Anandapally, Chak Rammagar, P.O.- R.C. Thakurani, Kolkata-700104, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gango Shaw (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Gango Shaw (new name) and Ganga Shaw (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ranjana Panja,W/O Suvasni Panja,R/O Gopal Smriti,Durgachak Colony Bazar,East Medinipur - 721602,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ranjana Panja Adak,Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/06/2025,That Ranjana Panja And Ranjana Panja Adak All Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE

I, Kuntal Pal (old name) S/O Jayanta Paul, residing at Word No 10 Padmapukur, P.O. & P.S.- Tarakeswar, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712410, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kuntal Paul (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Kuntal Paul (new name) and Kuntal Pal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Partha Kumar Sinha & Partha Kr Sinha(Old Name),S/O Prakash Sinha,R/O 124/2,C-Road,Jan Kalyan Club,Howrah,711106, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Partha Sinha(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/06/2025,That Partha Kumar Sinha & Partha Kr Sinha And Partha Sinha All Are The Same And One Identical Person

NAME CHANGE

I, Rohit Kumar Soni (old name) S/O Basant Kumar Soni, residing at 14, Watkins Lane, Gokul Appt, Block-B, 3rd Floor, P.O.- Howrah, P.S.- Golabari, Dist.- Howrah, Pin- 711101, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rohit Soni (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Rohit Soni (new name) and Rohit Kumar Soni (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bhavna Shah (old name) W/O Virendra Narsinhdas Shah, residing at 82/B, Sambhunath Pandit Street, Anand Building, P.O.- L.R. Sarani, P.S.- Bhawanipore, Kolkata- 700020, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bhavna Narsinhdas Shah (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Bhavna Narsinhdas Shah (new name) and Bhavna Shah (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Virendra N Shah (old name) S/O Late Narsinhdas Mathuradas Shah, residing at 82/B, S.N. Pandit Street, P.O.- L.R. Sarani, P.S.- Bhawanipore, Kolkata- 700020, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Virendra Narsinhdas Shah (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Virendra Narsinhdas Shah (new name) and Virendra N Shah (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD SAMIM AHASAN SARDAR S/O LATE MD EJUNUS ALI, on behalf my minor son MOHAMMAD SHAHRIYAZ SARDAR Residing at VILL-PO-JUGDIA,PS-MAGRAHAT, SOUTH 24 PGS-743355, West Bengal, India have changed his name and he shall henceforth be known as SHAHRIYAZ SARDAR as declared before the Notary Public at Kharagpur, vide affidavit Dated 25/06/2025. SHAHRIYAZ SARDAR and MOHAMMAD SHAHRIYAZ SARDAR both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I,Malabika Dasgupta, Residing At 117A,Santosh Roy Road, Thakurpukur, Kolkata-700008, West Bengal, My Husband Lt S Dasgupta (Old Name As Per DI No Wb 2020110357749) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shibaji Dasgupta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata On 26/06/2025. That Lt S Dasgupta And Shibaji Dasgupta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ADRIJA KIRTANIA (old name) D/O SAMBIT DAS (mother), residing at MAHATABPUR SHASHAN CHAWK MAA TARA COLONY,WEST MEDINIPUR -721101, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ADRIJA DAS (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. ADRIJA DAS (new name) and ADRIJA KIRTANIA (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sekh Rajibul Islam (old name) S/O Sekh Moiruddin, residing at Jalamadul, P.O.- Bhagabatipur, P.S.- Chandidala, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712701, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Rajibul Islam (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. Sk Rajibul Islam (new name) and Sekh Rajibul Islam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SK MOFIJUL RAHAMAN (old name) S/O YUSUF SEIKH, residing at VILL- PURBAMALLIKPUR, PO-ILAHIPUR, PS-HARIPAL, DIST-HOOGHLY,PIN-712707, in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MAFIJUL RAHAMAN SEIKH (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/06/2025. MAFIJUL RAHAMAN SEIKH (new name) and SK MOFIJUL RAHAMAN (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Union Ministers Inaugurate Udyami Sammelan Mela 2025 at National Library, Kolkata

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw champions MSME integration into Railway ecosystem

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Udyami Sammelan Mela 2025 was inaugurated by union ministers Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal today at the National Library, Kolkata, as part of the Government of India's ongoing efforts to promote entrepreneurship, enhance ease of doing business, and strengthen the micro and small enterprise ecosystem. Organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati, the event brought together policymakers, legal experts, industry stakeholders, and entrepreneurs from across the eastern region to deliberate on policy frameworks and infrastructural priorities for industrial resurgence.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vaishnaw said that development of the railway system is the primary requirement for development of any economy. The present government has merged the Railway Budget with General Budget for optimum allocation. The allocation for Railways has also increased from Rs. 24000-25000 crores only during the previous regime to about Rs. 2.5 lakh crores now during the regime of present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In the last 11 years, about 35000 km of new railway track have been laid. In 2023-24, 5300 km of railway track have been added in single year. 1400 locomotives and 35000 wagons are being added every year to railway system in India setting a new



growth path for the Railways. Speaking on the development of Railways in West Bengal, Railway Minister said that the New Jalpaiguri - Kolkata Rail Corridor will be developed to world standard. Master Plan has been created for adding new railway line, Gati Shakti Cargo Terminals etc. The chicken neck portion of West Bengal where at present there is only 2 lines, will be made a 4-line network shortly. The Sivok - Siliguri - New Mal Jn will also be linked with the main corridor. He also mentioned that in the previous regime the Railway Budget for West Bengal was about Rs. 3000 crores which the present government increased to Rs. 14000 crores. This huge investment in Railways will lead the West Bengal to a growth path.

Shri Vaishnaw also highlighted India's historic role as an industrial and knowledge powerhouse, where prosper-

ity was built not on conquest but on cultural, intellectual and technological contributions. He referred to India's ancient numeral system as the foundation of European Renaissance, and traced the country's industrial stagnation to colonial exploitation and post-Independence permit-based policies. Emphasising the need for economic decolonisation, he underlined the government's focus on simplifying systems and creating a facilitative business environment. Shri Vaishnaw drew special attention to the role of the railway sector in unlocking economic growth, citing Japan's historic emphasis on railways as a case study. He reaffirmed the Centre's long-term vision in expanding India's rail infrastructure over the past 11 years and mentioned upcoming railway projects in Bengal which will generate employment and boost the MSME sector.

Minister of State for Law and Justice (Independent Charge) Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, who also graced the event, spoke on the age of Industry 4.0. He said AI ranks with the discoveries of steam power and electricity, and the invention of the computer. Describing artificial intelligence as both a challenge and an opportunity, he announced that the government is working towards amending and simplifying the IT Act of 1961 to better suit the needs of a rapidly digitising economy. Shri Meghwal also reiterated the Centre's commitment to regional judicial access and assured that the demand for a permanent circuit bench of the Calcutta High Court in Siliguri is being taken up on priority.

Dr. Shubhrangshu Shekhar Acharya from the National Small Industries Corporation, Padma Shri Shri Sajjan Bhajankar and Shri Prakash Chandra among others were also present on the occasion.

Founded in 1994, Laghu Udyog Bharati is a national-level organisation committed to supporting micro and small-scale industries across India through advocacy, capacity building, and regional empowerment. The Udyami Sammelan Mela will continue through the weekend with exhibitions, knowledge sessions, and stakeholder consultations aimed at building a more inclusive, agile, and innovation-driven industrial future for India.

95 Cr people getting benefits of social security schemes: Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said around 95 crore people are benefiting from one social security scheme or the other, while till 2015, government schemes reached less than 25 crore people.

In his monthly Mann Ki Baat radio broadcast, Modi cited an International Labour Organisation (ILO) report which stated that more than 64 per cent of India's population is getting some form of social protection benefit. "Presently, most of the populace in India is taking advantage of one social protection benefit or the other and recently a very important report of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has come out. It has been mentioned in this report that more than 64% of the population of India is now definitely availing some sort of social protection benefit or

the other," Modi said.

This is one of the biggest coverages in the world, he said. "Today, around 95 crore people of the country are getting the benefit of some or the other social security scheme; whereas, till 2015, the government schemes were reaching less than 25 crore people," Modi said. From health to social security, the country is moving ahead with the feeling of saturation in every field, he said. "This is also a great picture of social justice. These successes have instilled a belief that the coming times will be even better; India will become even stronger at every step," Modi said.

The prime minister also hailed as a "remarkable milestone" the World Health Organisation declaring India Trachoma-free and lauded the efforts of healthcare workers for the success. Trachoma is a highly contagious

bacterial infection, which has been a major cause of preventable blindness worldwide.

In his broadcast, Modi also extended his best wishes to all the fortunate devotees going on the various religious yatras. "I also commend those who are engaged in making these Yatras successful and safe with a spirit of service," he said.

He also said that across India, individuals and communities are becoming catalysts of change. Their unwavering commitment to conservation is not only protecting nature but also safeguarding the future for generations to come, he said. The prime minister also informed that people from Vietnam have expressed profound gratitude to India for facilitating the 'darshan' of the relics of "Bhagwan Buddha, a moving reminder of our timeless cultural bond".

Prayer Majlis for Late Mubarak Ali



Nurul Islam Khan: A prayer masjlis was held in Basirhat Korapara on Sunday for the repose of the soul of late Hafez Muhammad Mubarak Ali Rahmani. Mubarak Sahib, who wrote many books, passed away just a few days ago. He was an Islamic thinker. This great social worker was the Khilafa of Pir Na Huzoor of Furfura Sharif. On behalf of the family, Pirzada Maulana Sharful Amin of Basirhat Darbar Sharif and other scholars were present in this prayer masjlis. There were common people of the area and well-wishers of the deceased. On this day, the speakers briefly discussed the career of Mubarak Sahib. The many books he wrote are the wealth of the nation's life, the speakers said.

Maharashtra govt withdraws resolutions on 3-language policy

MI News Service, Mumbai: Amid a growing chorus against the introduction of the Hindi language in Maharashtra schools from classes 1 to 5, the state cabinet on Sunday decided to withdraw two GRs (government orders) on the implementation of the three-language policy.

Addressing a press conference in Mumbai, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis also announced the formation of a committee under educationist Narendra Jadhav to suggest the way forward and implementation of the language policy.

Fadnavis alleged that as chief minister Uddhav Thackeray had accepted the recommendations of the Dr Raghunath Mashelkar committee to introduce a three-language policy from class 1 to 12 and set up a committee on the policy implementation.

"The state cabinet has decided to withdraw the Government Resolutions (GR) issued in April and June regarding the implementation of the three-language policy from class one. A committee headed by Dr Narendra Jadhav will be formed to recommend implementation (of the three-language formula)," Fadnavis said. The Fadnavis government had issued a GR on April 16, making Hindi a compulsory third language for students in classes 1 to 5 studying in English and Marathi medium schools. Amid backlash, the government issued an amended GR on June 17 making Hindi an optional language.

Amit Shah rules out talks with Maoists

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday ruled out any talks with Maoists and said the cadre of the proscribed outfit should give up arms, surrender before police, and join the mainstream. Addressing a rally after inaugurating the National Headquarters of the Turmeric Board in Nizamabad in Telangana, Shah also said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is still raising questions on Operation Sindoor, should see the weak appearance of Pakistan to understand the effectiveness of the operation.

"Congress asks (the Centre) to hold discussions with these people (Maoists). Our government's policy is 'no talk' with those who hold arms. Give up weapons, surrender, and join the mainstream," Shah said.

He further said that about 10,000 people in the Northeast gave up weapons and joined the mainstream. They even contested elections held for positions ranging from the Taluk level to state assemblies.

Similarly, more than 2,000 Maoists have surrendered in the past one and a half years. "Give up weapons and surrender. If you don't surrender, we have decided that before 31 March 2026, naxalism will be 'finished' in this country," the Home Minister said.

J&K: Creation of unique family identification on cards

MI News Service, Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir government is planning to create a unique family identification for every household in the Union territory, in a move to streamline the delivery of public services. Officials said on Sunday that the initiative will also enhance beneficiary outreach and serve as a unified source of truth for planning and monitoring across government departments.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a high-level meeting to lay the groundwork for creation of the family IDs for every household in Jammu and Kashmir, the officials said. The chief secretary underscored the transformative potential of the family ID system, saying that creation of these IDs will provide invaluable insights into the traction of beneficiary-oriented schemes among the public, while simultaneously

ensuring that every eligible citizen receives the benefits rightfully due to them.

"It is a critical step towards fostering a more accountable and responsive administration," Dulloo said. Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department (PD&MD), Talat Parvez, provided a comprehensive overview of the program.

While delving into background of the initiative, Parvez emphasised the pressing need for such a unified system in J-K, detailing the immense potential benefits for the populace and outlining a robust implementation plan.

Secretary, Information Technology Piyush Singla, elaborated on his department's crucial role in achieving the objectives of this ambitious program. He highlighted the substantial resources and technical ex-

pertise available within the IT Department. He assured the meeting that the necessary infrastructure is in place to successfully translate this vision into reality across the entire UT.

A key challenge addressed during the discussions was the current practice of multiple government departments repeatedly requiring the same documentation and verification processes from citizens to disburse benefits, the officials said. "This duplication not only places an undue burden on the public but also strains government resources. The family ID is set to resolve this by becoming a singular, authoritative source of information, thereby significantly reducing the hurdles besides optimising resource allocation," they added.

The existing difficulties citizens face in accessing various government schemes and the administra-

tion's challenges in effectively reaching out to the public with relevant programmes were also discussed.

"The family ID initiative is poised to be a definitive solution to this long-standing conundrum, ensuring that services are delivered seamlessly and efficiently to those who need them most," the officials said. Detailed deliberations were held regarding the primary sources of data for the family IDs, with specific mention of datasets from the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). Future provisions for making necessary alterations, additions, or deletions to the family ID data were also thoroughly discussed, particularly in light of demographic changes arising from birth and death events, as well as migration.

MI News Service, Kochi: A senior government doctor's disclosure regarding a shortage of surgical equipment and delays in surgeries at the state-run Thiruvananthapuram Medical College Hospital has triggered a controversy in Kerala, prompting the Health Department to order an inquiry.

Haris Chirakkal, head of the Urology Department, had highlighted the issue in a strongly worded Facebook post, which he later deleted.

However, speaking to reporters on Sunday, he maintained that his concerns were valid.

"What I said was the truth. I won't hide after speaking the truth. There are no political motives behind my disclosure," he said.

Chirakkal said he had repeatedly raised the matter with senior officials, including the medical college principal and hospital superintendent, but no action was taken.

Although he does not have direct access to Health Minister Veena George, he said he had informed the minister's office about the difficulties faced by his department and the hospital in general.

"There are issues across all departments, but no one speaks up out of fear. Many times, surgeries were carried out only after patients purchased the necessary equipment themselves," he said.

He added that he was frustrated with repeatedly approaching voluntary organisations and medical companies for equipment due to the persistent shortage. This, he said, compelled him to expose the system's failure.

Chirakkal also expressed concern that he might face a vigilance probe, as he had gone beyond official procedures to procure equipment to prevent delays in surgeries.

"I don't fear any investigation. Many of my colleagues have moved to the private sector. But I studied in a government medical college and wanted to serve in the public sector—that's why I continue here," he added.

Meanwhile, addressing

the media on Sunday, Health Minister Veena George refrained from criticising Dr Chirakkal and described him as a hardworking and trustworthy medical professional.

She said the concerns raised by the doctor reflected systemic issues within the healthcare infrastructure and assured that his statements would be examined thoroughly.

George cautioned against using the matter to malign the entire healthcare system in the state.

Acknowledging procedural delays in procuring medical equipment for government hospitals and medical colleges, she said such rules should be relaxed if necessary.

"There should be no delay in procuring equipment. We will examine whether such delays occurred in this case," she added.

The minister also praised Chirakkal's commitment to patient welfare and his willingness to speak up.

Highlighting the importance of government medical colleges, she pointed out that while 2.5 lakh patients availed free treatment in 2021, that number has now risen to 6.5 lakh.

George had earlier announced a comprehensive probe into Dr Chirakkal's revelations.

Meanwhile, the opposition UDF strongly criticised the Health Department over the doctor's disclosures and announced plans to appoint a commission to study issues in the health sector and organise a conclave. A report based on the findings would be submitted to the government.

Speaking to reporters in Paravur, Leader of Opposition V D Sathesnan said Dr Chirakkal's statements echoed what the UDF had been highlighting for years.

"The real state of Kerala's healthcare system is far from the rosy picture being painted by the authorities using PR agencies," he alleged.

"This is the situation in all government medical colleges. Some don't even have basic supplies like surgical thread to stitch wounds. Pa-

tients are forced to buy their equipment, and many surgeries have been cancelled," he claimed.

Sathesnan dismissed the health minister's response as unsatisfactory, accusing her of trying to evade responsibility.

"The health system in Kerala is on ventilator support," he alleged.

Amid reports of possible disciplinary action against Dr Chirakkal, the doctors' association extended full support to him and warned of strong intervention if authorities take retaliatory action.

The controversy erupted on Saturday following Dr Chirakkal's Facebook post, where he said the greatest helplessness of a department head in a government hospital was the lack of essential medical equipment.

He revealed that many scheduled surgeries had been postponed due to this issue and that repeated assurances from authorities had failed to resolve the problem.

While patients suffering from severe pain waited for timely treatment, officials showed little interest in addressing the situation, he alleged.

He also said he had been under immense mental stress, unable to fulfil his responsibilities to patients who rely on government hospitals.

Following his disclosures, Director of Medical Education Dr Vishwanathan K told the media that Dr Chirakkal's statements were "misleading and an emotional outburst".

He claimed delays in procuring medical equipment were technical and that the government had already purchased all necessary supplies for the Urology Department.

Although Dr Chirakkal agreed to delete his Facebook post at the DME's request, he later told reporters that the issues he raised persist. Meanwhile, Dr Rosnara Begum, state president of the Kerala Government Medical College Teachers' Association (KGMCTA), said the high number of patients and heavy usage of medical equipment have strained the system.

Kerala orders probe after alleged shortage of medical equipments



A procession was taken out in central Howrah on Sunday to mark the immortal Ekushey Shaheed Diwas. Minister Arup Roy led the procession. PIC: Nurul Islam Khan



Udyog Bharati, West Bengal, in collaboration with the National Library of India, Kolkata, held at the Bhasa Bhavan Auditorium, National Library, on Saturday, 28th June 2025.

Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, along with other senior officers from Eastern Railway Headquarters, also attended the event and played a key role in highlighting the Railway's initiatives for encouraging MSME participation in indigenous manufacturing.

Shri Sandeep Shukla, Principal Chief Material Manager,

of raw materials, making them especially suitable for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

This initiative is in line with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, promoting self-reliance through indigenous production and reducing dependency on imports. With an estimated market potential of ₹800 crores, with about 100 items represent substantial opportunities for MSMEs to integrate into the Indian Railways supply chain.

The displayed components are not only economically viable but also critical to improving supply chain resilience and efficiency. Several firms at the event expressed strong interest in taking up these manufacturing opportunities, indicating the growing synergy between Railways and MSMEs.

Eastern Railway reaffirmed its commitment to inclusive industrial development and the creation of a robust, self-reliant railway infrastructure, through continuous engagement and collaboration with the MSME sector.

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Udyami Sammelan Mela-2025 was inaugurated by union ministers Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Hon'ble Union MoS for Law & Justice (Independent Charge) and MoS for Parliamentary Affairs, on Saturday at the National Library, Kolkata, as part of the Government of India's ongoing efforts to promote entrepreneurship, enhance ease of doing business, and strengthen the micro and small enterprise ecosystem. Organised by Laghu Udyog Bharati - West Bengal, the event (Udyami Sammelan) brought together policymakers, legal experts, industry stakeholders, and entrepreneurs from across the eastern region to deliberate on policy frameworks and infrastructural priorities for industrial resurgence.

Eastern Railway actively participated in the event "Udyami Sammelan: Knowledge Building Arena", organized by Laghu

PM Modi has now become bone of contentions between Cong & Shashi

MI News Service, New Delhi: The friction between Shashi Tharoor and the Congress leadership seems to have taken fresh flight.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge launched into a sarcasm-laced criticism of the Thiruvananthapuram MP for his increasing closeness to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and frequent violations of the party line, within hours of which Tharoor took to social media in a seeming assertion of his individuality.

Asked for the party's views on Tharoor's recent article lauding Modi's "energy, dynamism" as a "prime asset for India on the global stage", a day after former Congress president Sonia Gandhi's articles that were critical of the Prime Minister, Kharge said: "I can't read English. His (Tharoor's) language is very good. That is why we made him a working committee member of our party... All of us, the entire Opposition, have come together and said we stand with our army.... I said the country

comes first, and we will work together. 'Nation first, party later,' I said. But some people consider 'Modi first, country later'. What can we do about that?"

On whether any action would be taken against Tharoor, the Congress president said: "What people want to write, they will write. ...Why waste time on this?... Our target is to maintain the unity and integrity of the country."

Asked if the Congress is afraid to take action against Tharoor since

he is increasingly maintaining a distance with the party, Kharge shot back: "What should we be afraid of? This is our party. There are nearly 34 working committee members, 34 permanent invitees, nearly 30 special invitees.... He's speaking at will.... Why should we dwell on it repeatedly? We are more worried about how to save the country... others may have other priorities."

This is the first time Kharge has commented at length on the Tharoor saga, and he attempted to project

the Congress as being unfazed by the controversy over the Thiruvananthapuram MP breaking out on his own without leaving the party.

Many in the party feel that the current row, which started over a month ago with him accepting the government's invitation to head one of the seven all-party delegations overseas to mobilise opinion against Pakistan, is helping Tharoor build his profile.

Tharoor, about whose whereabouts the Congress is in the dark amid reports that he is on a second

Operation Sindoor outreach mission, on Wednesday posted this cryptic message on X along with the picture of a bird: "Don't ask permission to fly. The wings are yours. And the sky belongs to no one..."

On an overseas visit that he has been particularly quiet about, given that his social media handles normally buzz with posts on his activities, Tharoor posted the message about an hour after Kharge responded to questions about him at a media conference in New Delhi.

Study reveals key protein that helps prevent excessive bone loss in osteoporosis

Tokyo : Osteoporosis, a disorder characterised by porous and weak bones, is a major hazard to skeletal health. As the foundation of the human body, bones provide critical structural support. When bone mass decreases, it not only weakens this support but also lowers general function, resulting in a lower quality of life.

With an ageing population and a rise in osteoporosis cases, the burden on healthcare resources for long-term care is clear. As a result, there is a need to understand the mechanisms that cause osteoporosis and develop effective targeted therapeutics to mitigate its long-term effects.

Osteoblasts and osteoclasts are two types of cells that play critical roles in bone tissue maintenance and remodeling. Osteoblasts are bone-forming cells that synthesise and deposit new bone tissue, whereas osteoclasts break down and remove old or damaged bone tissue. Increased proportion of osteoclasts causes bone mass loss in situations such as osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis (joint inflammation), and bone metasta-

ses (cancer that has spread to the bones). Osteoclasts develop from the development of macrophages or monocytes, two types of immune cells. Suppressing osteoclast differentiation could thus be used as a therapeutic technique to prevent bone loss. However, the precise molecular pathways driving the complicated process of bone remodelling are unknown.

In a new groundbreaking study, Professor Tadayoshi Hayata, Mr. Takuto Konno, and Ms. Hitomi Murachi from Tokyo University of Science, along with their co-workers, delved deeper into the molecular regulation of osteoclast differentiation. Receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa B ligand (RANKL) stimulation induces the differentiation of macrophages into osteoclasts. Further, bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) and transforming growth factor (TGF)- β signaling pathways have been implicated in the regulation of RANKL-mediated osteoclast differentiation. In the current study, the researchers sought to investigate the role of Ctdnep1 - a phosphatase (an enzyme that removes phosphate



groups) that has been reported to suppress BMP and TGF- β signaling.

Giving further insight into their work set to be published on July 30, 2024, in Volume 719 of Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, Prof. Hayata states, "RANKL functions

as an 'accelerator' for osteoclast cell differentiation. Driving a car requires not only the accelerator but also the brakes. Here, we find that Ctdnep1 functions as a 'brake' on osteoclast cell differentiation."

First, the researchers examined the

expression of Ctdnep1 in mouse-derived macrophages treated with RANKL and untreated control cells. They noted that Ctdnep1 expression remained unchanged in response to RANKL stimulation. However, it localized in the cytoplasm in granular form in the macrophages and differentiated into osteoclasts, distinct from its normal perinuclear localization in other cell types, indicating its cytoplasmic function in osteoclast differentiation.

Further, Ctdnep1 knockdown (down-regulation of gene expression) resulted in an increase in tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive (TRAP) osteoclasts; wherein TRAP is a marker for differentiated osteoclasts. Additionally, Ctdnep1 knockdown led to an increase in the expression of crucial differentiation markers including 'Nfatc1', a RANKL-induced master transcription factor for osteoclast differentiation. These results support the 'brake function' of Ctdnep1, whereby, it negatively regulates osteoclast differentiation.

Moreover, Ctdnep1 knockdown also led to increased absorption of calcium

phosphate, suggestive of the suppressive role of Ctdnep1 in bone resorption. Lastly, while, Ctdnep1 knockdown did not alter BMP and TGF- β signaling, cells deficient in Ctdnep1 showed elevated levels of phosphorylated (activated) proteins downstream of the RANKL signaling pathway. These findings suggest that the suppressive effect of Ctdnep1 in osteoclast differentiation may not be mediated by BMP and TGF- β signaling, but, through the negative regulation of RANKL signaling and Nfatc1 protein levels.

Overall, these findings provide novel insights into the process of osteoclast differentiation and reveal potential therapeutic targets which can be pursued to develop treatments that address bone loss due to excessive osteoclast activity. In addition to diseases characterized by bone loss, Ctdnep1 has also been reported as a causative factor in medulloblastoma - a childhood brain tumor. The authors are, therefore, optimistic that their research can be extended to other human diseases beyond bone metabolism.

Rise in temperature increases death rate in cardiovascular patients, warns top expert

NEW DELHI : Amid intense heatwave conditions in the country, long exposure to the sun can lead to an increase in the death rate in cardiovascular patients.

Speaking to ANI on heatwave, Interventional Cardiology Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Executive Director DrAtulMathur said, "Our country is facing aggressive temperatures. Due to this, people can face issues related to the cardiovascular system. If you are not drinking enough water, then your body will be dehydrated. For those who have pre-existing heart issues, their BP becomes high... The main concern is dehydration. So, everyone should regularly drink water to keep themselves hydrated. Senior citizens should avoid going out during peak hours."Mathur further said, "There is a slight increase in heart attack cases. Among them, most of the patients



are coming with low BP... you cannot attribute the heart attacks that are coming only to heat, but we are seeing heart attack patients also coming into the hospital, which is slightly more than normal. Generally, heart attack cases increase in winter but currently due to heat waves people are coming to the hospital with low BP problems."

According to the India Meteorological Department, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are very likely in few parts of Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, West Rajasthan, isolated pockets of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and heatwave conditions are very likely in few parts of Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, isolated pockets of Jammu division, Himachal Pradesh, Vidarbha, and Chhattisgarh on May 30.

Researchers find how better sleep is linked to lower levels of loneliness

WASHINGTON : A recent study discovered that greater sleep health was linked to lower levels of loneliness, with the association being stronger among younger persons.

The findings of the study were presented at the SLEEP 2024 annual meeting. The findings show that higher sleep health is related with significantly lower total loneliness, emotional loneliness, and social loneliness. Better sleep health was associated with lower total and emotional loneliness across all ages, however this association was higher in younger persons. However, age did not influence the relationship between sleep health and social loneliness.

"Loneliness is an urgent public health crisis, and there is a pressing need for providers to better understand and treat it," said lead author and principal investigator Joseph Dzierzewski, who has a doctorate in clinical psychology and is vice president of research at the National Sleep Foundation in Washington, D.C. "Our results highlight the important role that sleep plays in understanding loneliness across the adult lifespan. Perhaps efforts to improve sleep health could have a beneficial effect on loneliness, especially for young people." According to the



American Academy of Sleep Medicine, sleep is essential to health. The AASM and the Sleep Research Society recommend that adults should sleep seven hours per night on a regular basis to promote optimal health, productivity and daytime alertness. The study involved 2,297 adults with a mean age of 44 years; 51 per cent were male. Participants completed an online sleep health questionnaire and loneliness scale. The researchers analyzed the results using correlation and linear regression analyses along with moderation analyses.

In 2023 an advisory from the U.S. surgeon general warned about a public health crisis of loneliness, isolation, and lack of connection. It noted that even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, approximately half of U.S. adults reported experiencing measurable levels of loneliness.

According to the authors, efforts and programs that aim to reduce loneliness should include an emphasis on promoting sleep health, especially in younger adults.

"Why younger adults might experience more sleep-related benefits to loneliness than older adults is unknown and intriguing -- certainly worth further investigation," Dzierzewski said.

Study finds body temperature is linked to depression



WASHINGTON : A study from UC San Francisco revealed that individuals with depression may benefit from lowering their body temperatures, as they tend to be higher. The study, published in Scientific Reports, does not clarify whether depression causes increased body temperature or vice versa. People with depression may have a higher body temperature due to impaired self-cooling, increased heat output from metabolic processes, or a combination of the two. Researchers analyzed data from more than 20,000 international participants who wore a device that measures body temperature and also self-reported their body temperatures and depression symptoms daily. The seven-month study began in early 2020 and included data from 106 countries. The results showed that with each increasing level of depression symptom severity, participants had higher body temperatures. The body temperature data also showed a trend toward higher depression scores in people whose temperatures had less fluctuation throughout a 24-hour period, but this finding didn't reach significance. The

findings shed light on how a novel depression treatment method might work, said Ashley Mason, PhD, the study's lead author and associate professor of psychiatry at UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. A small body of existing, causal studies has found that using hot tubs or saunas can reduce depression, possibly by triggering the body to self-cool, for example, through sweating.

"Ironically, heating people up actually can lead to rebound body temperature lowering that lasts longer than simply cooling people down directly, as through an ice bath," said Mason, who is also a clinical psychologist at the UCSF Osher Center for Integrative Health.

"What if we can track the body temperature of people with depression to time heat-based treatments well?"

"To our knowledge, this is the largest study to date to examine the association between body temperature - assessed using both self-report methods and wearable sensors - and depressive symptoms in a geographically broad sample," added Mason.

Hotter weather due to climate change could lead to more mosquitos: Study

VIRGINIA [US] : A recent study conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University scientists found that a warmer environment may result in more mosquitos as predators struggle to maintain their number.

As the cover feature in Ecology, a journal published by the Ecological Society of America, the study -- "Warming and Top-Down Control of Stage-Structured Prey: Linking Theory to Patterns in Natural Systems" -- found that rising temperatures, often linked to climate change, can make predators of mosquito larvae less effective at controlling mosquito populations.

Warmer temperatures accelerate the development time of larvae, leading to a smaller window of time for dragonflies could eat them.

This means there could be nearly twice as many mosquito larvae that make it to adulthood in the study area. The researchers looked at riverine rock pools at Belle Isle along the James River in Richmond and found that warmer temperature pools had more aquatic mosquito larvae, even when their predators that naturally control the populations were present. The native rock pool mosquito is not an important disease vector, but it is one of



the few local mosquitos that doesn't have to feed as an adult to lay eggs. So the findings might apply to similar taxa, like the invasive Asian rock pool mosquito.

"We might see larger populations of everyone's least favorite bug, mosquitos. While the mosquito larvae we studied here [are] the North American rock pool mosquito, these findings likely apply to species of mosquito that do act as vectors for diseases like West Nile or even Zika virus," said Andrew T Davidson, PhD, lead researcher on

the study. He conducted the research through the PhD program in VCU's Center for Integrative Life Sciences Education. Predators help stabilize ecosystems and food webs, and the study looked at predator-prey interaction between dragonfly nymphs and mosquito larvae. Before fieldwork, the research was rooted in concepts of thermal physiology and short-term lab experiments that yielded predictive models of the relationship between predators, prey and temperature in the field. The field study then tested the models in a completely natural environment.

The study builds on Davidson's earlier research in Functional Ecology as well as work by lab mate C. Ryland Stunkle and the rest of the VCU rock pool team. The team also acknowledges the collaborative support of professor Brian Byrd of Western Carolina University's College of Health and Human Sciences. The recent work led by Davidson was part of a larger National Science Foundation grant that has involved scientists from VCU, the University of Richmond, Radford University, Western Carolina University and Eastern Carolina University. The collaborative award of nearly USD 1 million has included nearly USD 400,000 for VCU.

Study finds how new type of cell therapy help ARDS patients

LOS ANGELES : A novel form of cell therapy may help patients who are critically ill with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) brought on by severe COVID-19, according to a study. Professor Justin Stebbing of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a co-senior author of a recent study that examines the application of agentT-797, an allogeneic, unmodified invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell treatment developed by MiNK Therapeutics. The work was published in the journal Nature Communications. The iNKT cell therapy has the effect of rescuing depleted T cells and inducing an anti-inflammatory cytokine response, perhaps activating antiviral immunity to assist these patients fight infection while also reducing severe, pathogenic inflammation of the lung. The new research was carried out at three medical centres and found that agentT-797, which is also under investigation in cancer trials, could be manufactured rapidly, had a tolerable safety profile and appeared to have a positive effect on mortality among critically unwell COVID-19 ARDS patients receiving intensive care. The exploratory trial included 20 mechanically ventilated patients with severe ARDS secondary to Covid-19. Of the 20 patients in the trial, 14 survived (70 per cent) at 30 days (compared to a control group of 10 per cent), and there was an 80 per cent lower occurrence of bacterial pneumonia amongst those who received the highest dosage of agentT-797, compared to those who received fewer cells. Twenty-one patients were treated overall (the main trial, plus one under compassionate use), which included five who were also receiving veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO), known as 'the most aggressive salvage therapy' for critically ill patients with ARDS.

Walking fitness can predict fracture risk in older adults: Study

DARLINGHURST: Researchers from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research believe that being able to walk one kilometer comfortably can help predict fracture risk.

The findings, published today in JAMA Network Open, suggested that just asking a patient about walking limitations may assist clinicians in identifying those who require additional bone health assessment and prescribing therapies to prevent fractures.

"We've discovered that trouble walking even short distances appears closely tied to higher fracture risk over the following five years," said lead author of the study, Professor Jacqueline Center, Head of Garvan's Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Lab.

"Just a few simple questions about how far someone can walk could give doctors an early warning sign to check bone health."

The researchers examined data on nearly 267,000 adults aged 45 and older from the Sax Institute's 45 and Up Study, a major ongoing research initiative that has been tracking health outcomes in adults in NSW for more than 15 years.

Participants were asked if health issues limited their ability to walk various distances, with answer options of 'not at all,' 'a little,' or 'a lot'. The group was then followed for five years to track fracture outcomes.

The researchers found that one in five adults reported some walking limitation at the beginning of the study. Those with more difficulty walking were significantly more likely to experience a fracture during follow-up. For example, women who said they were limited 'a lot' in walking one kilometer had a 60 per cent higher fracture risk than women with no limitation. For men, the increased risk was over 100 per cent.



"We saw a clear 'dose-response' pattern, where greater walking limitation meant higher fracture risk. This suggests a direct relationship between low walking ability and weaker bones," said the first author of the study Dr Dana Bluiuc,

Senior Research Officer at Garvan. Approximately 60 per cent of all fractures in the study were attributable to some level of walking limitation. The link remained strong even after accounting for other factors like age, falls, prior fractures, and weight, and the findings were consistent across different fracture sites like hips, vertebrae, arms, and legs.

"In this generally healthy community-based population, we still found one in five people had trouble walking a kilometer," said Professor Center.

"We think this simple assessment could help identify many more at-risk individuals who may benefit from bone density screening or preventative treatment."

Osteoporosis medications, lifestyle changes, and other interventions are available to improve bone strength and avoid first or repeat fractures. However, screening rates currently remain low, meaning many miss out on fracture risk assessments. Finding easy but accurate ways to detect at-risk people is an important target for research.

"Fracture risk assessment generally relies on a bone density test, which many people have not had when seeing their doctor," said Professor Center. "Asking about walking ability takes just seconds and could be a free, non-invasive way to tell if someone needs their bones checked."

The researchers stress that walking limitations may have many causes beyond weak bones, from heart disease to arthritis. However, difficulty in walking even short distances appears closely tied to fracture risk independently.

"We hope these findings will encourage clinicians to consider walking ability as a red flag for possible bone health issues. For patients, if you can't walk a full kilometer comfortably, it may be wise to ask your doctor about getting your bones checked," said Dr Bluiuc.

Israel killed 71 in prison attack, Iran says, as Gaza strikes go on



MI News Sevice, Gaza: Israel's attack on Evin Prison in Iran's capital killed at least 71 people last week, Iranian judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir says, with the dead including family members of detainees.

Israeli forces killed at least 60 people in Gaza on Saturday, hospital sources tell Al Jazeera, including at least nine children in an attack on Gaza City's Tuffah neighbourhood, as hunger continues to stalk the territory.

The Israeli army says it killed senior Hamas figure Hakham Muhammad Issa al-Issa in fighting in Gaza City. Hamas has not commented.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 56,412 people and wounded 133,054, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7 attacks, and more than 200 taken captive.

At least 66 Palestinian children have died from acute malnutrition in the Gaza Strip since Israel launched its war and blockade on October 7, 2023, according to Gaza's Government Media Office.

The deaths were attributed to Israel's ongoing closure of border crossings and obstruction of baby formula and nutritional supplements meant for vulnerable groups—particularly infants and the ill, Quds News Network reported.

"This conduct constitutes a war crime and a crime against humanity," the office said in a statement, accusing Israel of deliberately using starvation as a weapon to exterminate civilians, in violation of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions.

It described the situation as "an ongoing crime against childhood" and condemned the "shameful international silence" as children suffer from hunger, disease, and slow death.

The statement held Israel fully responsible and named the United States, United Kingdom, France, and Germany as complicit in what it termed genocide, due to their support for Israeli actions.

"Time is running out. Every hour counts," the office warned, urging immediate international intervention to reopen crossings and allow entry of food and medical

supplies "before it is too late."

Since May 27, the United States and Israel have jointly operated the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), an aid distribution initiative functioning independently of the United Nations and international relief agencies.

The programme followed a partial easing of the blockade, but the UN has warned that famine-like conditions persist in the besieged enclave, where access to basic necessities remains critically limited.

According to Gaza's Ministry of Health, at least 549 Palestinians have been killed and more than 4,000 injured near aid distribution points since the GHF began operations.

A video posted by The Palestine Chronicle on X shows a young boy weeping as he recounts returning home without food for his family.

In another video shared on the same platform, mourners bid farewell to children killed in Gaza. The heartbreaking scenes highlight the devastating human cost of starvation and ongoing strikes.

Only 17 of Gaza's 36 hospitals remain partially operational, with no functioning hospitals left in northern Gaza or Rafah in the south, the Wafa News Agency reported.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said that approximately 112 children are being admitted to hospitals in Gaza each day for malnutrition treatment since the start of 2025, amid the continuing blockade.

Israel's attacks on Gaza kill over 20; health system 'obliterated'



MI News Sevice: Israeli attacks across Gaza have killed more than 20 people, including several aid seekers, according to medical sources.

Israel's attack on Evin Prison in Iran's capital killed at least 71 people last week, Iranian judiciary spokesperson Asghar Jahangir says, with the dead including family members of detainees.

Israeli forces killed at least 60 people in Gaza on

Saturday, hospital sources tell Al Jazeera, including at least nine children in an attack on Gaza City's Tuffah neighbourhood, as hunger continues to stalk the territory.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 56,500 people and wounded 133,419, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7 attacks, and more than 200 taken captive.

Pakistani forces kill 14 terrorists after suicide bombing in NW province

MI News Sevice, Islamabad: Fourteen terrorists were killed in a security operation in Pakistan's north-west Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province following a suicide bombing on a military convoy, the Pakistani army said on Saturday.

The incident took place in the tribal district of North Waziristan where a vehicle-borne suicide attacker targeted a convoy of security forces, according to a statement by the military's media wing, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The assailant was initially intercepted, but a second explosive-laden vehicle rammed into one of the military vehicles, killing 13 troops and injuring three civilians.

Sanitization operations were immediately launched in the area, and after an intense exchange of fire, the 14 terrorists were killed, the statement said. The ISPR added that the operation is ongoing to eliminate any remaining threat.

Gaza death toll from Israel's genocidal war tops 56,400

MI News Sevice, Gaza: At least 56,412 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's genocidal war since October 2023, Gaza's Health Ministry said on Saturday.

A ministry statement said that 81 bodies were brought to hospitals in the last 24 hours, while 422 people were injured, bringing the number of injuries in the Israeli onslaught to 133,054.

"Many victims are still trapped under the rubble and on the roads, with rescuers unable to reach them," it added.

The Israeli army resumed

its attacks on the Gaza Strip on March 18 and has since killed 6,089 people and injured 21,013 others, shattering a ceasefire and prisoner exchange agreement that took hold in January.

Last November, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza.

Israel also faces a genocide case at the International Court of Justice for its war on the enclave.

Israeli PM Netanyahu's "Make Middle East Great Again" Call After Trump's Support On Corruption Trial

MI News Sevice, Tel Aviv: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu thanked US President Donald Trump for extending support over the corruption trial against him, as he pleaded to "make the Middle East great again" with the American leader. This came after Trump once again lashed out at prosecutors in Israel over the corruption trial that Netanyahu has faced, saying Washington, having given billions of dollars worth of aid to Israel, was not going to "stand for this".

"Thank you again, Donald Trump. Together, we will make the Middle East Great Again," Netanyahu wrote in a post on X.

The Israeli Prime Minister was indicted in 2019 in Israel on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust -- all of which he denies. The trial began in 2020 and involves three criminal cases.

On Friday, an Israeli court rejected a request by Netanyahu's lawyers to delay his testimony for the next two weeks because of diplomatic and security matters following the 12-day conflict between Israel and Iran this month. He is due to take the stand on Monday for cross-examination.

Trump on Saturday (local time) defended Netanyahu and said his corruption trial was a "political witch hunt". In a post on Truth Social, he also said it was "terrible" what they are doing to Bibi, a nickname for the Israeli Prime Minister.

"It is insanity doing what the out-of-control prosecutors are doing to Bibi Netanyahu. He is a War Hero, and a Prime Minister who did a fabulous job working with the United States to bring Great Success

in getting rid of the dangerous Nuclear threat in Iran," Trump said, asserting that the judicial process was going to interfere with Netanyahu's ability to conduct talks with Palestinian group Hamas, and Iran.

The 79-year-old noted that Netanyahu was in the process of negotiating a Deal with Hamas, which will include getting the Hostages back. "How is it possible that the Prime Minister of Israel can be forced to sit in a Courtroom all day long, over NOTHING (Cigars, Bugs Bunny Doll, etc)," he wrote.

He also called it a "political witch hunt" and said it was "very similar" to the one that he was "forced to endure". Trump was convicted on 34 counts of falsifying business records in May 2024 in a case related to hush money payments to adult actress Stormy Daniels.

"This travesty of 'Justice' will interfere with both Iran and Hamas negotiations. In other words, it is INSANITY doing what the out-of-control prosecutors are doing to Bibi Netanyahu," he said.

"The United States of America spends Billions of Dollar a year, far more than on any other Nation, protecting and supporting Israel. We are not going to stand for this," Mr Trump said. "We just had a Great Victory with Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu at the helm - And this greatly tarnishes our Victory. LET BIBI GO, HE'S GOT A BIG JOB TO DO," he added.

It was Trump's second post over the course of a few days defending Netanyahu and calling for the cancellation of the trial went a step further to tie Israel's legal action to US

Iran holds funeral for military commanders, scientists killed in Israeli strikes

MI News Sevice, Tehran: Iran on Saturday held a state funeral for the military commanders and nuclear scientists killed during a 12-day conflict with Israel.

The ceremony was attended by the families of those killed in the attacks as well as high-ranking Iranian officials and military commanders, including President Masoud Pezeshkian, Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and senior advisor to Iran's supreme leader, Ali Shamkhani, who was severely injured in the Israeli airstrikes on Tehran.

On June 13, Israel launched major airstrikes on different areas in Iran, including nuclear and military sites, killing several senior commanders, nuclear scientists and civilians. Iran responded by launching several waves of missile and drone attacks on Israel.



Following the 12-day war, a ceasefire between Iran and Israel was achieved on Tuesday.

The mourners waved Iran's flags while chanting slogans against Israel and the United States. They carried pictures of the "martyred" commanders and nuclear scientists, including Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Hossein Salami, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Mohammad Bagheri, Chief Commander of the IRGC's Aerospace Division Amir Ali Hajizadeh and chief commander

of the Khatam al-Anbeya Central Headquarters and his successor, Gholam Ali Rashid and Ali Shadmami respectively.

Iran's Interior Minister Eskandar Momeni said at the ceremony that the United States and Israel proved that they failed to honor any of their commitments.

He emphasized that the Iranian armed forces were highly vigilant to give a decisive response to any "malicious action" or breach of promises by the "enemy."

The burial ceremonies are scheduled to be held on Sunday.

Ukraine F-16 pilot killed repelling massive Russian air attack

MI News Sevice, Tel Aviv: Ukraine has lost an F-16 aircraft and its pilot while repelling a Russian missile and drone strike, according to the war-torn country's air force.

After shooting down seven air targets, the plane was damaged and lost altitude overnight, the Ukrainian military said in a statement published on Telegram on Sunday.

"This night, while repelling a massive enemy air attack, a pilot of the 1st class, Lieutenant Colonel Maksym Ustimenko, born in 1993, died on an F-16 aircraft," it said.

In a separate statement, the air force said Russia launched 537 projectiles against Ukraine, including Shahed drones, cruise and ballistic missiles. Ukraine claimed to have intercepted 475 of them.

According to the Kyiv Independent newspaper, the sound of explosions and strikes was reported in multiple areas across the country, including in southern Mykolaiv, southeastern Zaporizhia and western Lviv.

Ihor Taburets, the governor of central Ukraine's Cherkasy region, said at



least six people were injured and civilian infrastructure was damaged in attacks. Three multistorey buildings and a college were damaged in the attack, he said.

Industrial facilities were hit in the southern Ukrainian region of Mykolaiv and the central Dnipropetrovsk region, officials say. Local authorities published photos of high-rise residential buildings with charred walls and broken windows, and rescuers evacuating people.

In Russia, the Ministry of Defence said its forces destroyed three Ukrainian drones in the border regions of Kursk and Rostov, and

in Ukraine's annexed Crimean Peninsula.

The latest wave of violence comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he intended to scale back military expenditure and also indicated he was ready for a new round of peace negotiations with Ukraine.

In the past months, Moscow and Kyiv have sent delegations twice to the Turkish city of Istanbul for peace talks, but have made no progress towards ending the conflict, which started after Russia invaded its neighbour more than three years ago. However, both sides agreed upon and showed cooperation on prisoners' swap.

Muslim US lawmakers condemn Islamophobic attacks targeting Zohran Mamdani after his historic victory

MI News Sevice, New York: A coalition of Muslim American members of Congress has issued a forceful condemnation of the wave of Islamophobic and racist attacks targeting Zohran Kwame Mamdani following his historic victory in the New York City Democratic mayoral primary on June 24.

Representatives Rashida Tlaib, Ilhan Omar, André Carson, and Lateefah Simon released a joint statement on Saturday denouncing what they described as "vile" and dangerous rhetoric coming from Republican lawmakers and right-wing figures. "These hateful, Islamophobic, and racist tropes have become so entrenched and normalized in our politics," the statement read. Drawing from their own experiences, the lawmakers emphasized, "We know these attacks all too well."

Tlaib and Omar, the first Muslim women elected to Congress, have long endured Islamophobic abuse since taking office in 2019. The lawmakers warned that the escalating attacks on Mamdani are part of a broader trend of violence and dehumanization aimed at Muslim Americans, and called on political leaders across the country to unequivocally denounce anti-Muslim hate.

Representative Pramila Jayapal also issued a strong rebuke, describing the attacks as a "barrage of racist, anti-Muslim, anti-immigrant, and xenophobic" assaults. She condemned sitting members of Congress and administration officials for propagating what she called a disgraceful and dangerous ideology following Mamdani's victory. Jayapal particularly criticised Rep. Andy Ogles, who demanded Mamdani's denaturalisation and deportation. "This is an insult to the voters of New York City," Jayapal said, pointing



out that Mamdani earned more votes in the primary than Ogles has ever secured in his own races.

Mamdani, a 33-year-old Indian-origin Muslim and the son of Ugandan academic Mahmood Mamdani and Indian filmmaker Mira Nair, defeated former Governor Andrew Cuomo in the ranked-choice primary, winning 43.5% of first-choice votes—about 432,000 in total.

GOP lawmakers, including Reps. Nancy Mace and Andy Ogles, launched inflammatory attacks post-election. Mace disgracefully linked Mamdani to the 9/11 attacks, while Ogles used slurs like "little Muhammad" and accused Mamdani of harboring "pro-terrorist, communist views," urging the Justice Department to consider denaturalising and deporting him.

Civil rights groups and lawmakers have sharply criticised such rhetoric as incitement, warning it endangers lives. The general mayoral election will be held on November 4, where Mamdani will face Republican Curtis Sliva. If elected, Mamdani would be New York City's first Muslim and Indian-origin mayor.

Iran could resume uranium enrichment within months: IAEA chief

MI News Sevice: Iran may be able to restart uranium enrichment in a matter of months despite a wave of attacks by the United States and Israel that targeted its nuclear infrastructure, according to the head of the United Nations nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi.

The remarks came on Saturday, days after US President Donald Trump insisted this month's attacks had set Iran's nuclear ambitions back "by decades".

Speaking to CBS News on Saturday, the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said while key facilities had been hit, some are "still standing".

"They can have, you know, in a matter of months, I would say, a few cascades of centrifuges spinning and producing enriched uranium," Grossi said, adding that it could even be sooner.

He raised concerns over Iran's stockpile of 60 percent enriched uranium, just below weapons grade, which could theoretically produce more than nine nuclear bombs if refined further.



IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi says while key Iranian facilities have been hit, some are 'still standing'

He acknowledged the IAEA does not know whether this stockpile was moved before the bombings or partially destroyed. "There has to be, at some point, a clarification," he said.

The Israeli assault began on June 13 with strikes on Iran's nuclear and military sites.

Israel claimed the attacks were designed to prevent Iran from building a nuclear weapon, an accusation Tehran has consistently denied. The US joined the offensive days later, hitting three of Iran's nuclear facilities.

In the wake of the attacks, Iranian lawmakers moved to suspend cooperation with the IAEA and denied Grossi's request to inspect facilities, including the underground enrichment plant at Fordow. "We

need to be in a position to confirm what is there, where it is, and what happened," Grossi said.

The Iranian Ministry of Health reported at least 627 civilian deaths across the country during the 12-day assault that also saw 28 people killed in Israel in retaliatory strikes launched by Iran, according to Israeli authorities.

On Saturday, Iran's judiciary said an Israeli missile strike on Tehran's Evin Prison on June 23 killed 71 people, including military recruits, detainees and visitors.

Reporting from Tehran, Al Jazeera's Resul Sedar Atas said on Sunday that Iranians believe Israel struck the facility to free the prisoners.

"Definitely the worst way to do that is to bomb the facility itself and kill civilians," he added. "This prison is not dedicated to specific crimes. We see political prisoners, journalists, financial offenders, and foreign detainees."

"In 2018, the United States put Evin Prison on its sanctions list, and the European Union did the same in 2021 because of human rights violations."

Police arrest Muslim man for comments over idol worship

MI News Sevice, Hyderabad: A Muslim man was arrested in Narayanguda, Hyderabad, on Saturday, June 28, for allegedly making derogatory remarks against Hindu deities and idol worship, triggering a tense situation. The incident took place on Friday night, June 27, at a local eatery.

According to eyewitnesses and a video circulating online, the altercation began when the accused demanded Rs 140 in change after paying a Rs 450 bill. In a conversation with another customer, he expressed anger at the shop owners, saying, "I paid Rs 450. I should get back Rs 140... but they got angry with me." He went on to add, "I am a Muslim and I am steadfast in my faith."

These people worship stones," referring to idol worship, which sparked immediate outrage among the other, reportedly Hindu, customers. Tensions escalated as people confronted and pushed him, prompting a police response.

Narayanguda Station House Officer (SHO) U Chandra Shekar confirmed to Siasat.com that the man was arrested and booked under Sections 302 (hurting religious sentiments), 196 (disturbing communal harmony), and 351 (criminal intimidation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). He has been remanded to 14



days in judicial custody. The police withheld the man's identity to prevent potential communal unrest.

BJP Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh shared the video online and lauded the police for acting swiftly. "Those who insult Hindu Gods should be booked under stringent laws to deter others," he said, while also stressing that action must be taken against any individual, regardless of religion, who disturbs religious harmony.

The Hyderabad police have appealed to the public to maintain peace and refrain from sharing provocative content on social media.

"I was talking to Shubman...": PBKS' Harpreet Brar speaks on how he joined India's net session at Birmingham



BIRMINGHAM : As Team India gears up for the second Test against England, the left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh was joined by Punjab Kings (PBKS) team-mate, and spinner Harpreet Brar and Chandigarh pacer Jagjit Singh Sandhu.

The second Test will kickstart

from July 2 onwards, and left-arm pacer Arshdeep, who is India's leading T20I wicket-taker, would be eyeing a potential Test debut after a poor show from Indian pacers, except for Jasprit Bumrah, at Leeds.

Speaking in a video by the Board of Control for Cricket in

India (BCCI), Brar said that his wife lives near Birmingham, and skipper Shubman Gill texted him, prompting him to come to practice.

"My wife is from Swindon. It is very close to Birmingham, it is a 1-1.5 hour drive. I was talking to Shubman; he texted me yesterday.

So I thought, let us go and practice there," he said. He also expressed happiness with Arshdeep's journey over the years, saying that he feels "proud" of his performances.

Brar impressed in PBKS' runners-up finish in the Indian Premier League (IPL) this year, taking 10 wickets in eight games at an average of 19.00.

Arshdeep clearly enjoyed the arrival of Brar and Sandhu, saying, "When you come to a foreign country and see familiar faces, you can enjoy together."

Sandhu, the 28-year-old pacer, has played 24 first-class games, taking 82 wickets at an average of 24.13 and scoring 317 runs at an average of 16.68 with a fifty to his name. Recalling his journey with the Indian team players, Sandhu said, "Rishabh Pant and I played Under-19 Zonal one-day cricket together. When it was my last U19 season, Gill had his first. I played with Akash Deep in the Duleep Trophy, played with Washington Sundar in the U19 zone as an opponent. Arshdeep is also my junior, used to tell him how to bowl, take a run-up and all. Today he was asking me things as well."

He knows his deficiencies, will learn: Australia coach McDonald backs struggling Konstas

BRIDGETOWN : Australia head coach Andrew McDonald has called for patience with teenager Sam Konstas following his flop show at Kensington Oval in the opening Test against the West Indies.

The opening fixture was fought on even terms till the morning of the third day, courtesy of the tricks Bridgetown's surface played on the batters. Despite the mystifying conditions, the Baggy Greens raced to a comprehensive 159-run triumph to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match contest.

Konstas, who announced himself to the world with a swash-buckling 60 in front of a sold-out crowd at the MCG against India, miserably failed to captivate spectators. Konstas, known for his belligerent style of play, returned cheaply with scores of 3(14) and 5(38). "It felt like he was stuck at times and was overaggressive and then underplayed. It's really that balance and tempo. He's got that there, and that's a step-up to Test cricket [when] the pressure's on. He's got a really good partner down the other end. All we ask for is a bit of patience and time with it," McDonald said as quoted from the Sydney Morning Herald.

"We've had some conversations around potentially, if you're in that situation again, what does that look like? He knows his deficiencies. He'll learn to play with what he's got. These guys are on a journey. They're starting out, and some people get there faster than



others," he added.

After folding on 180 in the first innings, Australia were reeling at 65/4 in the second. Travis Head (61), Beau Webster (63) and Alex Carey (65) fuelled Australia's second innings to a fighting 310, which completely changed the complexion of the game.

"We were definitely put under pressure throughout that whole game. Incredible partnership from Travis [Head] and Beau

[Webster] to navigate through and give us something to bowl at. The wicket surprised us. There was enough seam and variable bounce, which made it difficult for batting," McDonald said.

"It's a step into the unknown [in Grenada]. We'll make an educated guess as to what the surface may do. I think it could lend itself to being a pace bowling-dominated series if they keep the surfaces similar to that," he added.

"I think it's likely he'll play": Andrew McDonald reflects on Steve Smith being fit for Australia's second Test against West Indies

NEW DELHI : Following the compound fracture Steve Smith sustained during the World Test Championship final against South Africa at Lord's, He is on track to be fit for Australia's second Test against West Indies in Grenada.

Smith has spent the last week in New York, where he has had a net against a tennis ball, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Australia head coach Andrew McDonald expects Smith to be ready to return at No. 4, which is likely to see Josh Inglis drop out of the XI.

"It's really about functionality around the finger rather than anything else. There'll be no risk to the long-term health of that finger. He'll return, and I think it's likely he'll play. Leading into the next game, he'll have the main session two days out," Andrew McDonald said as quoted from ESPNcricinfo.

Smith suffered the injury, dropping a catch offered by Temba Bavuma on the third day at Lord's.

McDonald reflected on the decision to keep Smith at No. 4, citing his ability to stabilise the position and their value to the team, despite the option to move him higher in the batting order.

"In terms of why we see him as No. 4, I think we've settled on that," McDonald said. "We could slide him up higher if we wanted to. He's been excellent at number three. But I think if you look at the last 12 months at No. 4 and his ability to stabilise that position, two down, arguably our greatest batter, we want to keep him at four and build around that rather than potentially risking too many moves in the order," he added. Since Smith is available for the rest of the series, it is possible that Marnus Labuschagne, who was benched for the first time in the format since 2019 prior to the first Test, may be released from the team to play some cricket, either for Glamorgan or in the Australia A series against Sri Lanka A, according to ESPNcricinfo.



"Not thinking about how many players have won three Wimbledon in a row": Carlos Alcaraz



LONDON : Defending Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz said that the idea of completing a hat-trick of this prestigious Grand Slam is not on his mind, and he just wants to lift the trophy on grassy surfaces where "the most beautiful tennis" is played.

Alcaraz will kickstart his Wimbledon campaign against 38-year-old Fabio Fognini in round one from Monday.

The stars are aligned for Alcaraz, as far as past form is concerned. Not only has he won the tournament back-to-back, but is also on a career-best 18-match win streak, with title wins coming in during the Italian Open, French Open and most recently, the Queens Club Championships.

A massive milestone is up for grabs for this legend in the making. If he completes a hat-trick of Wimbledon titles, he will join leg-

endary Bjorn Borg as the only men in the Open Era to complete a double of French Open-Wimbledon in consecutive years, as per ATP's official website.

Bjorg set a record that several future legends have attempted to emulate, but failed. Between 1978 and 1980, he captured the French Open and Wimbledon titles in a calendar year three times in a row.

Speaking ahead of his tournament opener as quoted by Wimbledon's official website, Alcaraz said, "I am coming here thinking that I really want to win the title. I really want to lift the trophy. I am not thinking about how many players have won three Wimbledon in a row."

The 22-year-old is extremely excited to bring his fast-paced style to London's grassy surfaces, saying that he wants to hit the "slices" and "drop shots".

"I think the most beautiful tennis that we can watch is on grass. The style that the people bring to the court when they play on grass, I think it is so beautiful. The sound of the ball. The movement is really tough, but when you get it, it is kind of like you are flying," he said.

"I really want to hit slices, drop shots, going to the net all the time, playing aggressively. I think on grass, it is the style that you have to play. So that is what I like the most," he added.

The 22-year-old will be aiming to win his fifth successive title on natural surfaces, after victories at Wimbledon in 2023, 2024, the French Open in 2024 and 2025. This would also be his sixth Grand Slam title.

Rugby Premier League Final Preview: Chennai Bulls to lock horns with Delhi Redz in high-stakes title clash



MUMBAI : After two weeks of adrenaline-gushing action, intense tackles and spectacular tries, it all comes down to the inaugural Rugby Premier League (RPL) grand finale as the Chennai Bulls take on the Delhi Redz in what promises to be a fiery battle for Sunday.

Chennai Bulls enjoyed a dominant 31-12 win over Bengaluru Bravehearts in the semi-final, but it was not so straightforward for the Delhi Redz side. They managed to defeat table-toppers Hyderabad Heroes 14-7 in a match that went right down to the wire, before Patrick Odongo scored a last-second try for the Redz, as per an RPL press release.

Chennai Bulls are in an incredible vein of form with the likes of Terry Kennedy, Joseva Talacolo

and Va'aufaese Apelu-Maliko playing an exceptional brand of rugby. Indian players such as Aryan Dixit, Muhammad Jasim EP, and Shahnawaz Ahmed have made their presence felt. Statistically, the Bulls are overall second in the league when it comes to tries, conversions, points scored, and tackles made with 37, 25, 235 and 181, respectively.

Delhi Redz have had an incredible arc in the RPL. Despite finishing fourth in the league with three wins, two draws and five losses, the Redz have beaten the strongest team of the tournament in their last game to seal a spot in the final. Matias Osadzczuk, Matteo Graziano, Patrick Odongo and Jordon Conroy have made stand-out contributions to the Redz.

Indian players like Rajdeep

Mansukh Mandaviya leads Fit India Sundays on Cycle

BHAVNAGAR : Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, led a diverse group, especially the 'Swachhta Senanis', our frontline cleanliness warriors, in a special edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle this morning in Palitana, Gujarat, according to a release from Sai Media.

Held simultaneously across 6,000 locations nationwide, the cycling drives saw various staff. They associated workers from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, sanitation workers, Nagar Palika Nigam staff, as well as state and district municipal corporations, taking centre stage.

This was the 29th edition of the cycling movement that started nationwide in December 2024. The Fit India Sundays on Cycle event has also received special mention from Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his radio program, Mann Ki Baat, solidifying its place as one of India's flagship health and wellness campaigns.

In Palitana, various cycling clubs across the Bhavnagar district joined in. In his hometown of Palitana, Mandaviya reaffirmed that the campaign has turned into a movement now. "Our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's Fit India movement, launched in 2019, is being taken forward in the best way possible through the Sundays on Cycle. This is no longer just a campaign -



it is a movement," Mandaviya said.

"With the 'Swachhta Senanis' leading the way, we're sending a strong signal that fitness and cleanliness go hand in hand. Everyone, big or small, must do their bit for Viksit Bharat, and we have to make cycling the trend in this modern generation."

From urban locations to small towns, citizens took to the streets early in the morning in a show of

unity and commitment toward a healthier lifestyle. Besides the Swachhata Senanis, Members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs), local police, MYBharat volunteers from NYKS, NSS, etc., also joined in.

In the national capital Delhi, a crowd of nearly 1,000 cyclists gathered at the iconic Connaught Place for the event, co-hosted by the Raahgiri Foundation and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). Chief guest Babita Phogat, Padma

Shri awardee and former Commonwealth Games gold medalist, praised the initiative for creating a movement that goes beyond physical fitness.

"When our Hon'ble Prime Minister started this campaign, we were thrilled to be a part of it. Events like these give us mental satisfaction and encouraging our youth to embrace active lifestyles. Today morning, everyone present in CP were just talking about Fit

India and Sundays on Cycle. The spirit was full, and I'm sure many who cycled for the first time in years will continue doing so as well as inspire others," said Babita Phogat.

The other key attractions that took place on the sidelines of the cycling included Zumba, rope skipping, folk dance, nukkad natak, yoga sessions, open mic, etc. The rope skipping activity was organised by a team led by Dr. Shikha Gupta.

Started by Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports Mansukh Mandaviya in December 2024, the 'FIT India Sundays on Cycle' movement, organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), MY Bharat and Yogasana Bharat, has been held in more than 11000 locations across the country so far with participation of more than 4 lakh individuals.

More than 2000 Cycling Clubs are part of the movement and actively participate every Sunday. These cycling drives are conducted by several Khelo India Centres (KICs), Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCes), SAI Training Centres (STCs), Khelo India Accredited Academies (KIAAs), Regional Centres (RCs), as well as various National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) across the country.