



Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajith Krishnan and Group Captain Angad Pratap with school students during the felicitation ceremony of Gaganyatris, in New Delhi.

## India stays defiant on Russian oil issue

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India forcefully rejected Washington's criticism that it is running a "profiteering scheme" by buying discounted Russian crude oil with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar asserting that New Delhi's procurement has been in national and global interest. Jaishankar emphatically said that India will continue to take decisions on the matter independently and suggested that the previous US administration was supportive of New Delhi's procurement of Russian energy as it stabilises the oil market.

"It's funny to have people who work for a pro-business American administration accusing other people of doing business," Jaishankar said. "That's really curious. If you have a problem buying oil or refined products from India, don't buy it. Nobody forces you to buy it. But Europe buys, America buys, so you don't like it, don't buy it," he said.

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His comments at the World Leaders Forum came when asked about US officials criticising India on its energy ties with Russia.

White House Trade Adviser Peter Navarro said on Wednesday that India is running a "profiteering scheme" by using discounted Russian crude oil and then selling refined petroleum products at premium prices in Europe and other places.

The external affairs minister also wondered why the same yardstick is not being used for China, the largest importer of Russian crude oil.

"The same arguments which have been used to target India have not been applied to the largest oil importer, which is China. (It) has not been applied to the largest LNG importer, which is the European Union," he said. "And when people say we are funding the war or putting money in the coffers of

(President Vladimir) Putin, the Russia-European Union trade is bigger than India-Russia trade. So is Europe not putting money into Putin's coffers," he asked.

Jaishankar acknowledged that India's procurement of Russian crude oil has gone up in the last few years and noted that it is driven by national interests. "That's our right. In my business, we would say that's what strategic autonomy is about," he said. "We are buying (Russian) oil to stabilise the oil market. Yes, it is in our national interest. We have never pretended otherwise, but we also say it is in global interest." India turned to purchasing Russian oil sold at a discount after Western countries imposed sanctions on Moscow and shunned its supplies over its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

Consequently, from a mere 1.7 per cent share in total oil imports in 2019-

20, Russia's share increased to 35.1 per cent in 2024-25, and it is now the biggest oil supplier to India.

In his remarks, Jaishankar said there were discussions between New Delhi and the previous administration in Washington on the procurement of Russian crude oil.

"There were a series of very explicit conversations, saying, we have no issues with your buying," he said and referred to the G7 price cap on Russian crude oil. "The fact that you devised the price cap meant that you accept that there's an oil trade going on with Russia. Otherwise you wouldn't need a price cap." "In 2022, there was deep nervousness because oil prices were going up. There was great international nervousness about the price of oil. And there was a set of conversations with different people in the American administration at that time," Jaishankar said.

## Anish Dayal Singh becomes new Deputy NSA

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Government of India has named Anish Dayal Singh, a senior Indian Police Service officer, as the country's new Deputy National Security Adviser (Dy NSA).

Singh brings over three decades of experience in intelligence and counter-terrorism to one of India's top security posts.

Singh has led some of

India's most critical security forces. He served as Director General of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), while also holding additional charge of the National Security Guard (NSG). Earlier, he was Special Director at the Intelligence Bureau (IB), giving him deep operational insight into domestic and

border security challenges.

In his new role, Singh will work closely with the National Security Adviser in providing strategic guidance on emerging and on-going threats.

His expertise in counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism is expected to shape policy at a time when India is confronting terrorism, insurgency and cyber

vulnerabilities.

Singh will also coordinate with the IB and the Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW) to strengthen intelligence integration across agencies.

Officials have said Singh's leadership and field experience is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening India's national security apparatus.

### Heavy rains disrupts transport network at J&K

**MI News Service, Jammu/Srinagar:** Heavy rains battered most parts of Jammu and Kashmir overnight, triggering flood-like situation in several low-lying areas and causing damage to a vital bridge on the Jammu-Pathankot national highway, officials said.

The winter capital Jammu recorded 190.4 mm rainfall in the past 24 hours ending 8.30 am, the second-highest downpour this month in a century. The highest rainfall for August remains 228.6 mm, logged on August 5, 1926 while the previous second-highest was 189.6 mm on August 11, 2022. Authorities have already issued advisories and asked people to stay away from water bodies and landslide-prone areas amid a weather forecast predicting moderate to intense rainfall with possibility of cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides in high

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## GAGANYAAN MISSION a symbol of Atmanirbhar Bharat: Rajnath



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said Gaganyaan mission symbolises a "new

chapter" in the journey of Atmanirbhar Bharat and called astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the other three chosen Gaganyatris as "gems."

At an event hosted by the IAF at Subroto Park here, Singh felicitated the four Gaganyatris. The ceremony comes after the successful Axiom 4 mission, of which Shukla was a part. Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap, and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla are the four chosen Gaganyatris. Their names were revealed for the first time in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) in Thiruvananthapuram in February 2024. The Gaganyaan project, formally announced by Modi in 2018, aims to send a three-member crewed flight into the 400 km-orbit for a three-day mission in 2027.

## Army Chief Gen Dwivedi leaves for Algeria

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In his first foreign trip following Operation Sindoor, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi on Sunday left for Algeria on a four-day visit to explore ways to boost bilateral defence ties. The visit comes nearly 10 months after India inked a pact on defence cooperation with the North African nation.

Gen Dwivedi will hold talks with top defence and military brass of Algeria focusing on ways to

enhance bilateral defence cooperation, especially between the two land forces, people familiar with the matter said. India and Algeria inked the agreement for cooperation in the military field in early November last year.

New Delhi has been looking at expanding its defence ties with the African nation against the backdrop of China's relentless efforts to expand its strategic heft in the region. The visit under-

scores a shared commitment to deepening mutual understanding, enhancing cooperation in areas of common interest and advancing bilateral defence cooperation, an Indian Army spokesperson said. Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan visited the African nation from October 31 to November 3 last year and participated in the 70th anniversary of Algeria's War of Independence. India and Algeria have a Joint Commission Mech-

## GAGANYAAN MISSION: ISRO completes air drop test

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday carried out its first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) of the parachute-based deceleration system developed for the Gaganyaan programme.

The test validates the parachute system for the upcoming Gaganyaan mission, which aims to send humans into space.

The IADT-01 was a collaborative effort involving Isro, Indian Air Force (IAF), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Indian Navy, and Coast Guard.

The test evaluated the full parachute deployment sequence — including extraction, drogue chute deployment, and final main parachute activation — to simulate real atmospheric re-entry conditions.

"ISRO successfully accomplishes first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) for end to end demonstration

of parachute based deceleration system for Gaganyaan missions. This test is a joint effort of ISRO, Indian Air Force, DRDO, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard," Isro wrote on X.

Earlier Sunday, defence minister Rajnath Singh said Gaganyaan mission symbolises a "new chapter" in the journey of Atmanirbhar Bharat and called astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla and the other three chosen Gaganyatris as country's "gems" and pioneers of national aspirations.

"We do not see space only as a field of research, but as the future of tomorrow's economy, security, energy, and humanity," Singh said.

He said that India is advancing beyond the Earth's surface into "new frontiers of space." "We've already marked our presence from Moon to Mars, and today, the nation stands fully prepared for

missions like Gaganyaan," the defence minister said.

Union minister for science and technology Jitendra Singh has said that the development and ground testing of the Human Rated Launch Vehicle (HRLV3) for India's first human spaceflight mission, Gaganyaan, has been successfully completed, ANI reported.

In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, Singh stated, "As per the vision envisaged by the Government of India to land an Indian on the moon by 2040, the mission aspects, configuration of the launch vehicle and orbital module systems have been taken up. Training modules, including incremental training for the ongoing Gaganyaan programme and the proposed landing of an Indian on the Moon, are in line with the requirements of mission timelines."

In 2027, India will attempt its first human spaceflight under the

Gaganyaan mission, followed by Chandrayaan-4 in 2028, a mission to Venus, and the establishment of the proposed Bharat Antariksh Station by 2035.

Singh said the country has also set its sights on placing an Indian astronaut on the Moon by 2040.

The uncrewed Gaganyaan mission is set for launch in December 2025, with the first crewed mission planned for 2028.

When completed, India will become the fourth country to achieve independent human spaceflight, after Russia, the US, and China.

The crewed mission aims to carry three astronauts to low Earth orbit (400 km) for up to three days before a safe return.

Isro will conduct additional parachute validation trials, pad abort tests, and sea recovery rehearsals in the coming months to ensure operational readiness.

## PURI TEMPLE: Maternity rooms to come up for women devotees

**MI News Service, Puri:** Shree Jagannath Temple Administration (SJTA) will set up a dedicated breastfeeding room within the 12th-century temple premises.

The administration will appoint a woman to manage the breastfeeding or maternity room. Her job

will be to ensure privacy, hygiene and comfort for babies and mothers.

"It's going to benefit thousands of women devotees. Many women devotees reach here after travelling long distances with infants to seek the blessings of Lord Jagannath. The dedicated room

will be a great relief for them," said a senior servant of the temple.

Chief temple administrator, Arabinda Padhee, has directed officials to initiate steps for operationalising the room. Sources said the room would come up within a month.

The maternity room

will also send a message about the importance of breastfeeding babies, officials said.

According to the World Health Organisation and Unicef, breastfeeding has significant benefits for babies, such as protection against illness and lower risks of obesity.

## India conducts tests of Integrated Air Defence Weapons System

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** New Delhi: India has "successfully" conducted the maiden flight tests of an integrated air defence weapon system (IADWS) off the coast of Odisha, demonstrating its growing military capabilities in the face of an evolving regional security scenario.

The IADWS is a multi-layered air defence system consisting of indigenous quick reaction surface-to-air missiles (QRSAM), very short range air defence system (VSHORADS) missiles and a high power laser based directed-energy weapons (DEW) system, according to the defence ministry.

The indigenous air de-

fence system was flight-tested 1230 hours off the coast of Odisha on Saturday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the developer of the platform, and the armed forces on the flight tests. The flight tests of the new air defence system came three-and-half months after Operation Sindoor. "I congratulate the DRDO, Indian armed forces and the industry for successful development of IADWS," Singh said on social media. "This unique flight test has established the multi-layered air-defence capability of our country and is going to strengthen area defence for

important facilities against enemy aerial threats," he said.

Under the IADWS, an integrated operation of all the weapon systems will be controlled by a centralised command and control centre. The command and control centre has been developed by the DRDO, which is the nodal laboratory for the air defence programme The VSHORADS and DEW are developed by Research Centre Imarat and Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences respectively.

"During the flight-tests, three different targets, including two high-speed fixed wing Unmanned Aerial Vehicle targets and a

multi-copter drone were simultaneously engaged and destroyed completely by the QRSAM, VSHORADS and high energy laser weapon system at different ranges and altitudes," the ministry said in a statement. It said all the weapon system components, including the missile systems and drone detection and destruction system, command and control mechanism along with communication and radars, performed "flawlessly". The performance of the system was confirmed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur. The test was witnessed by senior scientists from the DRDO and representatives from the armed forces.

## CBI slaps loan-fraud case on Anil Ambani

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The CBI filed a criminal case against industrialist Anil Ambani and conducted searches at his Mumbai residence and Reliance Communications (R-Com) premises in connection with an alleged bank fraud that caused a loss of over ₹2,929 crore to the SBI. The development came two weeks after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) questioned the 66-year-old industrialist in a money-laundering case linked to the alleged multiple bank loan fraud cases worth over ₹17,000 crore.

Sources in the CBI said the agency had obtained search warrants against Ambani from a Mumbai court on Friday. "Eight

agency officials reached Ambani's residence at Sea-wind, Cuffe Parade, around 7am and carried out search operations. Ambani, his wife Tina and their children were present when the team arrived," said a CBI official.

Last month, junior finance minister Pankaj Chaudhary had told Parliament that the SBI had classified R-Com and promoter-director Anil Ambani as "fraud" in accordance with RBI guidelines and was in the process of lodging a CBI complaint. "The CBI registered a criminal case based on a complaint received from State Bank of India, Mumbai, against M/s R-Com, its director Anil D.

Ambani, unknown public servants and unknown others on the allegations of defrauding the bank, and thereby causing wrongful loss of ₹2,929.05 crore to the SBI," the CBI official said. It has been alleged that the accused persons, in criminal conspiracy, misrepresented and got sanctioned credit facilities from the SBI in favour of R-Com. "Further, the allegations pertain to misutilisation/diversion of loan funds, potential routing of loan funds, inter-company loan transactions, misutilisation of sales invoice financing, discounting of bills of R-Com by M/s Reliance Infratel Ltd, movement of funds through inter corporate deposits,

write off of capital advances given to M/s Netizen Engineering Pvt Ltd — a group company of Reliance ADA Group, and creation/write off of fictitious debtors, etc," the official said. A spokesperson on behalf of Ambani said: "The complaint filed by SBI pertains to matters dating back more than 10 years. At the relevant time, Ambani was a non-executive director of the company, with no involvement in the day-to-day management. It is pertinent to note that SBI, by its own order, has already withdrawn proceedings against five other non-executive directors. Despite this, Ambani has been selectively singled out."



Festivals light up New Gitanari Briddhashram

**MI News Service:** Over three days, New Gitanari Briddhashram of Majhipara, Thakurpukur, Behala, hosted a vibrant series of celebrations marking Independence Day, Janmashtami, Mansa Puja, and finally a lively Hilsa Festival. Reporter Tapash Roy notes that the institution has, for many years, been known for such festivities that bring together not only its resident senior citizens but also the wider community. Director Mala Sen, along with Shankar Kumar Shil and Amal Mukherjee, shared



that this tradition of collective celebration continues to nurture warmth and harmony between the home and its neighbourhood.

No Posts Without Performance: Abhishek Banerjee

**MI News Service, Bankura/Kolkata:** Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has sent a clear and firm message to party leaders from the Bankura and Bishnupur Lok Sabha constituencies that no one will be allowed to hold any position in the party without proving their performance. At a meeting Banerjee told leaders from these two constituencies that portfolios will be assigned strictly on the basis of performance-based evaluation. He reiterated that only those who are active and efficient will be given prominence in the party. During meeting, which was held in Banerjee's Camac Street office, the party's state president, Subrata Bakshi, also attended. Banerjee also told his party leaders that no

internal fighting within the party will be tolerated. In almost all the district-level meetings, Banerjee has been asking his party leaders to lay more emphasis on public coordination. Banerjee, on August 19, held crucial closed-door meetings with Barasat and Tamuk organisational district leaders where he once again stressed upon public coordination. Banerjee gave a clear instruction in the meetings that local MPs and MLAs will have to be present at "Amadhan Para, Amader Samadhan" camps. The public representatives will have to ensure that the people avail benefits of all the state government schemes. The leaders from both the organisation districts have been asked to carry out campaigns among the people and make them aware

of the harassment of Bengali-speaking migrant labourers in BJP-ruled states. The campaign will have to be conducted at the booth level, Banerjee said in the meetings. Earlier this month, Banerjee held meetings with party leaders from several north Bengal districts, including Cooch Behar and Alipurdwar, signalling a renewed push to revamp the organisation's grassroots machinery in the North Bengal ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls. Banerjee has become the Trinamool Congress's Parliamentary Party leader in the Lok Sabha, which seems to have significantly helped boost the party's presence in Parliament, bringing order and cohesion amongst its MPs, and renewed aggression in its fight against the BJP.

Eye Checkup Camp



A Nepal Eye Checkup Camp was held in Margram, Birbhum on Sunday. The camp was organized by social workers Abul Khair and Anwar Sheikh. Several doctors including Dr Ajay Mahat and Dr Shamira Khatun came from Biratnagar Rani Hospital. 100 poor people of the area were treated. Photo: Nurul Islam Khan.

Siliguri flyover will open next yr: Gautam Deb

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** Mayor Gautam Deb said that it would take at least four more months to complete the construction of a flyover on Burdwan Road, a prominent thoroughfare in the city. Deb, who visited the under-construction flyover, said the railways would need time to install structures over the tracks that connect Siliguri Town and Siliguri Junction stations. "The railway authorities have readied the fabrication materials for that portion of the flyover which will pass over the railway tracks. Installation of these materials requires at least 24 hours, and the railways will have to halt trains," said Deb. "As it will stop the train movement, the railways have planned to work in phases and want to finish their work by December. We hope that the flyover will be opened by January 2026," he added. The state public works department had

started the construction of the 1.1km-long flyover in 2018. However, the work progressed slowly because of multiple factors, including disruptions during the Covid-19 pandemic. The delays also increased the project cost from 44.85 crore to 68.75 crore. Out of the entire length, the railway is working on the construction of a 51-metre-long stretch that will be over the railway tracks. The state has allocated 14.62 crore to the railway for the work, said sources. All vehicles entering Siliguri from its southern parts have to move through the narrow service lanes, which are on either side of the unfinished structure. "People will have to bear the brunt of traffic congestion while moving along this stretch, particularly during the ensuing festive season when more people and more vehicles will be on the streets," said a resident.

Three Arrested in Chakdah Bank Gold Loan Robbery; 15 Kg. Gold Looted.

**MI News Service, Nadia:** Police have arrested three persons in connection with the sensational robbery at the IDFC First Gold Loan Bank, Chakdah branch in Nadia, where about 15 kg of gold was looted at gunpoint on August 19 evening. SP, Ranaghat police district Aashish Mourya said on Sunday. According to police, the robbery took place between 6:15 pm and 6:30 pm, when two masked robbers with firearms stormed into the bank and fled with the gold. A case was registered at Chakdah police station under relevant



sections of law. During investigation, CCTV footage revealed a motorcycle used in the crime, with one rider and the two robbers riding pillion. The vehicle was later seized, leading to the arrest of all three accused, who are residents of the Chakdah police station area. The arrested were produced before the court, which remanded them to five days of police custody. Police said further investigation is underway.



Residents take part in a dengue awareness rally organized by Councillor Mausumi Das to spread precautionary measures against mosquito-borne diseases on Sunday in Kolkata.

ECI directs state CEO to fill up ERO & AERO vacancies by Aug 29

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed the Bengal Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) to fill all vacant posts of Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO), if any, by August 29, and submit a compliance report to the Commission. A senior official from the state CEO's office said that Manoj Agarwal received the communication in Delhi on Friday. On July 5, the Commission had asked all states, including Bengal, to prepare for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list. However, a dispute over the SIR in Bihar

is now before the Supreme Court and remains pending. The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has already raised questions about the 'SIR' process in Bihar alleging that it is actually an attempt to launch NRC through the back door. To support this claim, the party has highlighted on its X handle a survey report by Bihar CEO's Systematic Voters Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. The report states that 98 per cent of the respondents were aware of the voter list, and more than 99 per cent knew their names were registered in it.

SSC to recruit 1,941 spl educators in Bengal schools

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The school service commission will hold teacher recruitment tests to appoint special educators who would help children with special needs at the upper primary, secondary and higher secondary levels in government-aided schools. The school service commission said on Friday that 1,941 vacancies would be filled through TET (Teachers Eligibility Test). The Supreme Court had asked the state government to appoint special educators. Candidates have been asked to submit forms online between September 1 and 24 and deposit fees. An SSC official said the selection tests to appoint the special educators will

be conducted after the commission has completed the selection tests to appoint assistant teachers at the secondary and higher secondary levels, scheduled on September 7 and 14. The dates of the examination to appoint special educators will be announced on August 31, the commission's notice says. On March 7, the apex court ordered all states to notify sanctioned posts for special educators by March 28, 2025, and to complete the entire appointment process within 12 weeks from that date. The order said once the posts were notified, they must be advertised in newspapers and on government websites and a selection and appointment process will be undertaken

for eligible and qualified teachers as part of an inclusive education drive. Sources in the education department said that this was the first time that the state government would reserve 10 per cent of the vacancies for such teachers. Previously, the state would recruit special educators on a contractual basis. A 2021 Supreme Court directive mandated the states to create permanent positions for special educators based on pupil-teacher ratios and the recruitment of teachers for these regular positions. Special BEd or DEEd degrees are mandatory from institutes affiliated under the Rehabilitation Council of India to become a special educator.



Congress activists take part in a demonstration to protest against Election Commission of India over SIR issue on Sunday in Kolkata.

CBI raids Srerampore MLA's house

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A CBI team reportedly raided the residence of TMC MLA Dr. Sudipto Roy in North Kolkata in connection with its probe into alleged financial irregularities in the purchase of medical equipment at the state-run R G Kar Hospital. The Srerampore MLA was not at home when sleuths arrived. Reportedly, officers also visited his nursing home and in-

spected papers at his office. Roy earlier chaired R G Kar Hospital's Rogi Kalyan Samity. In September 2024, the CBI questioned him about a "larger conspiracy" in the rape-murder of a woman doctor, whose family alleged she discovered procurement irregularities. Her body was found on August 9, 2024. A civic volunteer was arrested and sentenced to life.

Pvt bus operators seek subsidy to run e-buses

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A section of bus operators in the city is set to appeal to the state government to allow them to operate electric buses in Kolkata. At present, electric buses in the city are operated only by the state government. "At a time when curbing air pollution has emerged as a major challenge and efforts are being made to switch over to electric vehicles for reducing pollution, we also want to contribute to this green cause. We will soon write to the chairman of the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) and the state Pollution Control Board to propose a subsidy package so that we can introduce electric buses in the city," said Tito Saha of City Suburban Bus Service (CSBS). The proposal to introduce electric buses was raised at the recent annual conference of the City Suburban Bus Service (CSBS), which was attended by senior officials of the state Transport Department, including Princi-

pal Secretary Saumitra Mohan and West Bengal Transport Corporation Managing Director Shiraz Daneshyar. A senior official of the Transport Department, responding to CSBS's proposal on electric buses, said the state government is currently focusing only on conventional diesel buses. "A formal letter of demand or proposal in this regard will help us take up the matter. The primary concern will be the sharing of initial capital between the public and private sectors," the official said. A Transport Department official noted that the state's experience in operating electric buses in the city has shown that their capital cost is significantly high, with the battery, sourced from China, accounting for over 40 per cent of the total vehicle cost and lasting a maximum of four years. At present, the Transport Department is focusing on CNG buses and has already received approval to procure 200 such vehicles.

Siliguri Dist Hosp revives cancer OPD

**MI News Service, siliguri:** The Siliguri District Hospital has resumed services in the cancer outpatient department (OPD) with the appointment of a new specialist. For several months, cancer patients in and around Siliguri had to travel to North Bengal Medical College & Hospital (NBMC) in Susrutnagar, on the outskirts of the city, after the departure of an oncologist forced the closure of the district hospital's cancer OPD. "The absence of services created significant hurdles, particularly for economically weaker patients, who struggled with the added cost and the

time of travelling to the NBMC. Recently, after the appointment of a new specialist, the hospital resumed cancer OPD services every Tuesday and Friday," said a source. "A tumour board also sits on Fridays to decide treatment protocols. With the revival of the cancer OPD, affordable and accessible care are back for patients," the source added. Chandan Ghosh, the hospital superintendent, said that when the oncologist had left, a replacement couldn't be found immediately. "Patients who needed chemotherapy were referred to NBMC. With the new doctor joining, the services have

restarted and patients are returning," Ghosh said. The hospital's oncology infrastructure offers free chemotherapy, biopsy, and FNAC tests, along with surgeries. The district hospital is also gearing up to strengthen its dialysis unit. Currently operating with five machines, the facility can't cope with the rising number of patients. Last year, the authorities had decided to add five more machines, and after completing the tender process, a new company was contracted to supply them. Ghosh said the new machines would arrive after the Durga Puja season.

Food poisoning kills 3 in Malda



**MI News Service, Malda:** Three members of a family, including a minor, died because of suspected food poisoning in Malda district. Swapan Mondal lived with his mother, Puspaa, his wives, Bulti and Rinku, and his daughter, Piu, at Krishnapur under the jurisdiction of the Baishnabnagar police station. "We offered her water. When her condition deteriorated, we took her to the health centre at Bedradabad. Later in the day, my mother

and my daughter (from the first wife) and Rinku also fell sick," said Swapan. Bulti, 35, Pushpa, 70, and Piu, 10, were shifted to a private nursing home in Malda. There, Bulti died. The other two were shifted to Malda Medical College & Hospital, where both died in the evening. Rinku, the second wife, who was under treatment at the hospital in Bedradabad, has recovered but is still under treatment. "I have no idea how it all happened," said Swapan. A police team reached Swapan's home and sealed a nearby tubewell. The police also collected food samples and water for forensic tests. "It seems to be a case of food poisoning. We are waiting for post-mortem reports. Food samples will be tested to check whether there was any contamination," said a police officer. The district health department is also conducting an inquiry, he said.



Heavy rains  
disrupts..  
►► From PG 1

altitude areas till August 27. An official of the traffic department said the strategic 250-km Jammu-Srinagar national highway and 434-km Srinagar-Leh national highway is open for traffic despite heavy rains, while the Mughal road connecting Poonch and Rajouri in Jammu with south Kashmir's Shopian and Srinthar road linking Kishtwar and Doda districts in Jammu with south Kashmir's Anantnag were closed owing to landslides at different places. A bridge near Logate Morh on Jammu-Pathankot highway was damaged in the middle due to overflowing of Sahar Khad nallah following heavy rains in Kathua district, the officials said, adding the traffic on the highway was diverted through the alternate bridge.

Normal life was disrupted in Jammu city because of the heavy downpour which led to overflowing of streams and drains, leading to inundation of roads and flood waters entering homes at several places including Janipur, Roop Nagar, Talab Tilloo, Jewel chowk, New Plot and Sanjay Nagar. Boundary walls of several houses were also damaged, while nearly a dozen vehicles were swept away in the flash floods, the officials said. Officials said water levels in major rivers and streams, including Basantar in Samba, Ujh and Ravi in Kathua, Chenab in Doda, Kishtwar, Ramban and Jammu and Tawi in Udhampur and Jammu rose sharply, prompting the administration to put disaster response teams and local police on alert. So far, there have been no immediate reports of casualties, but the rains have triggered landslides at several places in Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu region and Gurez in north Kashmir, the officials said. In Jammu region, Udhampur recorded the second highest 144.2 mm of rainfall followed by Katra, the base camp for the pilgrims visiting Vaishno Devi shrine in Reasi district, at 115 mm and Samba (109.0 mm) and Kathua (90.2 mm). The summer capital Srinagar recorded 13.5 mm of rainfall, the officials said.

Kolkata police now  
to track maids,  
drivers and Tenants

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In the aftermath of the brutal murder of a 72-year-old woman inside her upscale New Garia residence, the Kolkata Police has announced sweeping measures to tighten surveillance on domestic workers, drivers, and tenants across the city. The move follows the chilling revelation that the accused, a domestic help hired barely days earlier, meticulously surveyed the house, disconnected CCTV cameras, and executed the killing with her partner before fleeing with jewelry, cash, and mobile phones. Within 24 hours, investigators tracked and arrested the accused—identified as nanny Ashalata and her lover, Jalal Mir—bringing to light a chilling pattern: elderly couples living alone had been carefully marked as “soft targets.” Police sources said that Ashalata, who entered the residence on August 17 through a nanny placement center, spent three days mapping the household's vulnerabilities. She learned that the victim's son lived abroad while the daughter resided in Mumbai, and that large sums of cash were kept for the elderly couple's care.

CM Mamata Banerjee extends  
greeting on Prakash Purab of  
Guru Granth Sahib Ji

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** On the occasion of the Prakash Purab of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee extended her greetings to the Sikh community. In her message, the Chief Minister highlighted the timeless relevance of the teachings of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji, noting that its spiritual and moral guidance continues to illuminate humanity's path, upholding the values of equality and fraternity. Mamata Banerjee also reflected on the Sikh tradition of compassionate humanism, observing that it had inspired luminaries such as Rabindranath Tagore and other Renaissance figures. “That credo continues to inspire us even today,” she said, adding that her visits to Gurdwaras were a mark of respect for this enduring tradition.



State Minister Aroop Biswas, Kartik Banerjee (President- Joy Hind Bahini), Saradendu Mukherjee( Cricketer) and other dignitaries took part in a protest demonstration organised by Joy Hind Bahini regarding the atrocities on Bengalis at different parts of India at the iconic Gandhi Statue arena ( Esplanade, Kolkata) on Sunday.

Heavy rains lash South Bengal; IMD  
warns of fresh low pressure in Bay

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** spell of heavy rainfall across West Bengal is unlikely to abate soon. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Saturday issued a fresh warning, predicting the formation of a new low-pressure system over the north-west Bay of Bengal, near the West Bengal-Odisha coast, early next week. According to the IMD, the existing cyclonic circulation over Gangetic West Bengal, which has been triggering showers across the southern districts for the past few days, is set to move north-westwards towards Jharkhand within the next 24 hours. However, meteorologists caution that another disturbance is developing over the Bay and is expected to intensify by Monday, prolonging the current spell of inclement weather in the state. Heavy rainfall accompanied by thunderstorms is forecast to continue across several South Bengal districts, including South 24 Parganas, East and West Medinipur, Jhargram, Bankura, Purulia, and West Burdwan, on Saturday and Sunday. Kolkata, Howrah, Hooghly, and adjoining districts are also likely to experience moderate to heavy rainfall with gusty winds of 30–40 kmph. While the intensity of rainfall may reduce slightly from Tuesday, IMD officials warned that high humidity levels and moisture-laden clouds will continue to cause severe discomfort. In North Bengal, heavy rains are predicted in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Alipurdwar, Jalpaiguri, and Cooch Behar over the weekend. The intensity is expected to lessen from Tuesday onwards, with only scattered showers and thunderstorms continuing midweek. “Rainfall activity will remain widespread in South Bengal till Monday, with isolated heavy to very heavy showers over coastal and western districts.

Governor CV Ananda  
Bose Applauds  
Rituparna Sengupta's  
Performance

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a decision that has added fresh layers to Bengal's ongoing debate on the intersection of academics and student politics, Biswa Bangla University has announced the postponement of its postgraduate examinations scheduled for August 28—the foundation day of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP). The examinations will now be conducted on August 30, university authorities confirmed. The official reason cited was “requests from students”, but the move has inevitably stirred a storm of reactions, coming so soon after the controversy that engulfed Calcutta University over the same issue. At Calcutta University, undergraduate examinations were held on August 28 despite objections from TMCP. Acting Vice-Chancellor Shanta Dutta had stood.



The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences (NUJS) launched its Criminology & Criminal Justice Course in the presence of esteemed Judges of Calcutta High Court & senior police officials of West Bengal Police in Kolkata on Sunday.

Bishwa Bangla University shifted exams for TMCP Foundation day

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a decision that has added fresh layers to Bengal's ongoing debate on the intersection of academics and student politics, Biswa Bangla University has announced the postponement of its postgraduate examinations scheduled for August 28—the foundation day of the Trinamool Chhatra Parishad (TMCP). The examinations will now be conducted on August 30, university authorities confirmed. The official reason cited was “requests from students”, but the move has inevitably stirred a storm of reactions, coming so soon after the controversy that engulfed Calcutta University over the same issue. At Calcutta University, undergraduate examinations were held on August 28 despite objections from TMCP. Acting Vice-Chancellor Shanta Dutta had stood firm on her stance that examinations could not be shifted. The stand-off provoked heated exchanges, with Education Minister Bratya Basu himself remarking that the VC should have been more considerate towards the Chief Minister's appeal. Against that backdrop, Biswa Bangla University's decision to shift its exam schedule is being viewed as a conscious deviation from Calcutta University's path. The authorities have maintained that academic timelines will not be compromised, as the rescheduled examinations will be held just two days later. Predictably, the announcement triggered political sparring. Opposition leaders described the move as symptomatic of Bengal's academic decline. BJP's Bolpur organisational district president Shyamapad Mandal alleged, “This is a prime example of degradation. A university under the Biswa Bangla banner naturally becomes an extension of Trinamool.” CPI(M) district secretary Gautam Ghosh echoed the criticism, stating, “Trinamool wants to play the 12 o'clock position in education.” The ruling party's student wing, however, welcomed the move. TMCP leader Abhirup Chakraborty said, “The 28th is a declared day of observance. Unlike Calcutta University, where the decision was politically motivated, Biswa Bangla University has acted sensibly by keeping the collective opinion of students in mind.”

Data breach jolts TET 2022, jobs still in limbo

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** as thousands of TET-qualified candidates continue their agitation demanding long-delayed appointments, a fresh controversy has rocked the recruitment process. Allegations have surfaced that personal details of over 1.5 lakh candidates from the 2022 TET examination have been leaked online through an unofficial website, triggering outrage and raising serious concerns over data security. According to candidates, the website in question provided direct access to names, roll numbers, and other personal information of successful examinees. It even displayed options to download the purported “West Bengal Primary TET 2022 Certificate,” mimicking official processes with striking accuracy. The site further offered unrelated services, including voter card-related information — deepening suspicion of large-scale data harvesting. Candidates claim they were able to verify the data of 1,50,406 individuals, a figure almost identical to the 1,50,491 candidates officially declared as having passed the 2022 TET. “This cannot be a coincidence. The data is genuine. How did this leak occur?” one agitating candidate asked. The revelation has come at a particularly sensitive time. Recently, thousands of TET pass-outs took to the streets demanding clarity on recruitment timelines. The leak has now added a new dimension, with many alleging that the entire recruitment system is compromised. “We are being cheated on every front. First jobs are delayed, now our personal data is in the public domain,” a protester said. Reacting to the controversy, Primary Education Board President Gautam Pal said he had no knowledge of the website. “I have to see if this is true. I am checking. If such a cycle exists, we will take action. This is not possible from our website,” he told reporters. Cyber experts, however, warn that if confirmed, the breach could have serious consequences, exposing candidates to identity theft and fraud. Political voices are also expected to weigh in, with the opposition likely to sharpen attacks on the state over what they will call yet another example of “collapse in governance.” For now, the onus is on the Board to identify the source of the leak and assure anxious candidates that their data is secure. But until accountability is fixed, the already embattled TET recruitment process risks further erosion of public trust.

TMC digital face Debangshu  
hospitalized, stable after  
sudden health issue

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** With the crucial Assembly elections in Bengal just months away, Trinamool Congress's digital strategist and IT cell convenor Debangshu Bhattacharya has been hospitalised following a sudden health scare. The development has raised concern within party ranks at a time when the ruling Trinamool is sharpening its electoral machinery. According to party sources, Bhattacharya fell ill on Friday and was immediately admitted to hospital. Though doctors have not disclosed details, he is currently reported to be stable. In a video message recorded from his hospital bed, Bhattacharya sought to reassure supporters. “There is no major physical problem at the moment. A few tests have been done, doctors have detected some issues, but treatment is underway. With your blessings I will recover soon and return to our struggle,” he said. The short clip, posted on his official social media page, quickly went viral.

Back to-back murder stun Kolkata

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata was rocked by two back-to-back murders within 48 hours, sending shockwaves through the city. After the brutal killing of a woman in New Garia's Panchasayar on Friday, another grisly crime was reported from Belehghata on Saturday. The victim, identified as Nandita Basu, a senior resident of Kabi Sukanta Sarani, was found lying in a pool of blood inside her home around 1:45 pm. Neighbours alerted police after spotting her collapsed body with severe facial injuries. By the time officers arrived, she had succumbed to her injuries. According to initial police findings, the prime suspect is none other than her son, Manik Basu, who allegedly attacked his mother following a heated altercation. Local residents claimed that frequent disputes between the mother and son often turned violent. Manik was taken into custody soon after the incident, and a case under culpable homicide charges has been registered. The crime mirrors the disturbing brutality of another case in New Garia's Panchasayar, where the bloodied body of Vijaya Das, wife of Prashant Kumar Das, was discovered with her hands, feet and face bound with tape. The elderly couple lived just a short distance from the local police station. While Vijaya's body was found near the staircase, her husband was discovered injured in an adjacent room. Investigators have since arrested the family's domestic help, Ashalata Sardar, along with her associate, Jamal. Police confirmed the recovery of stolen ornaments, including a ring and a bangle, from the duo. Two murders in two days—both involving elderly women, both inside their homes—have triggered alarm across Kolkata, raising questions about safety and the vulnerabilities of senior citizens. Police are tightening surveillance in residential pockets even as investigations continue into the twin crimes.

Mamata's Party leads the  
charge against Modi Govt

**MI News Service, Kolkata/New Delhi:** With calibrated maneuvers and a sharpened parliamentary strategy, Mamata Banerjee has succeeded in catapulting the Trinamool Congress to the forefront of the Opposition bloc in Parliament. From street protests outside the Election Commission to fiery interventions inside both Houses, the Trinamool has positioned itself as the principal challenger to the Modi government during the recently concluded session. Party insiders admit the shift is deliberate. Abhishek Banerjee's elevation as the parliamentary spearhead, under Mamata's direct supervision, has injected a new edge into Trinamool's tactics. MPs were instructed to select people-centric issues, highlight Bengali concerns, and coordinate movements within and beyond the House. The result has been a string of high-decibel interventions — from resisting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise to aggressively opposing the contentious 130th Constitution Amendment Bill. On Thursday, the final day of the session, Trinamool MPs staged a dramatic protest in the Rajya Sabha, storming the well and locking horns with Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The party accused the Centre of attempting to usher in a “super emergency” by proposing to disqualify jailed ministers after 30 days. Mamata Banerjee slammed it as a “black bill on a black day,” while Abhishek Banerjee branded the government's move as a cowardly distraction from the SIR controversy. The party's activism has not gone unnoticed. INDIA bloc partners have lauded Trinamool's belligerence, even as the party played a decisive role in securing AAP's support for Opposition vice-presidential candidate Justice Sudarshan Reddy. Trinamool MPs also dominated attention during joint Opposition marches, with their slogans and Bengali recitations grabbing headlines. The aggression has, at times, spilled over into confrontation. The party alleges that its women MPs were heckled inside the Lok Sabha, with member Abu Taher Khan even being pushed to the ground. Letters of protest have been formally submitted to the Speaker. Assessing the session, Trinamool Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien bluntly held the Modi government responsible for parliamentary paralysis. “They are in power, they are accountable to the people, and they cannot shirk responsibility by stalling the House,” he declared. For the Trinamool, the message is clear: by blending regional pride with national positioning, the party is determined to consolidate its role as the principal voice of dissent — both to galvanize Bengal ahead of state elections and to cement Mamata Banerjee's presence on the national stage.



A rally was organised by Sikh Community in Kolkata on Sunday at Taratala Gurudwara to mark the 350 th year of martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh, in Kolkata on Sunday.







## Running of festival special trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear extra rush of the passengers during festive season, it has been decided to run Special trains as per following schedule:

08611/08612 Santraga-chi-Ajmer-Santragachi Special:

08611 Santragachi-Ajmer Special will leave Santragachi on every Monday from 22.09.2025 to 24.11.2025 at 19:00 hrs and will reach Ajmer at 15:00 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 08612 Ajmer-Santragachi Special will leave Ajmer on every Thursday from 25.09.2025 to 27.11.2025 at 23:40 hrs and will arrive Santragachi at 16:00 hrs, the third day.

The Special train will have stoppages at Kharagpur, Tatanagar, Chandil, Purulia, Muri, Ranchi and Lohardaga stations in South Eastern Railway jurisdiction.

06077/06078 MGR Chennai Central-Santragachi-MGR Chennai Central Special

06077 MGR Chennai Central-Santragachi Special will leave MGR Chennai Central on every Saturday from 06.09.2025 to 27.09.2025 at 23:45 hrs and will reach Santragachi at 07:15 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 06078 Santragachi-MGR Chennai Central Special will leave Santragachi on every Monday from 08.09.2025 to 29.09.2025 at 09:00 hrs and will arrive MGR Chennai Central at 16:30 hrs, the next day.

The Special train will

have stoppages at Baleshwar and Kharagpur in SER jurisdiction.

06055/06056 Podanur-Barauni-Podanur Special:

06055 Podanur-Barauni Special will leave Podanur on every Saturday from 06.09.2025 to 29.11.2025 at 11:50 hrs and will reach Barauni at 14:30 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 06056 Barauni-Podanur Special will leave Barauni on every Tuesday from 09.09.2025 to 02.12.2025 at 23:45 hrs and will arrive Podanur at 03:45 hrs, the fourth day.

The Special train will have stoppages at Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Nuagaon, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri and Bokaro Steel City in South Eastern Railway jurisdiction.

06063/06064 Coimbatore-Dhanbad-Coimbatore Special:

06063 Coimbatore-Dhanbad Special will leave Coimbatore on every Friday from 05.09.2025 to 28.11.2025 at 11:50 hrs and will reach Dhanbad at 08:30 hrs, the third day. In the return direction, 06064 Dhanbad-Coimbatore Special will leave Dhanbad on every Monday from 08.09.2025 to 01.12.2025 at 06:00 hrs and will arrive Coimbatore at 03:45 hrs, the third day.

The Special train will have stoppages at Jharsuguda, Rourkela, Hatia, Ranchi, Muri and Bokaro Steel City in South Eastern Railway jurisdiction.

## Seminar on Common Behavioural Disorders in Childhood held at Eastern Railway Higher Secondary School, Asansol

MI News Service, Asansol: Asansol Division, Eastern Railway, organized a seminar on "Common Behavioural Disorders in Childhood" under the guidance of CMS/ASN on 23rd August 2025 at Eastern Railway Higher Secondary School, Asansol. The seminar aimed to create awareness among parents, teachers, and healthcare staff about the early identification and management of behavioural disorders in children, thereby ensuring their overall well-being and healthy development.

The event was graced by the presence of Divisional Railway Manager/Asansol, who addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of mental health awareness in childhood.

The program commenced with an introduction by Dr. Rajani Sinha, Sr. Divisional Medical Officer/Health & Family Welfare/Asansol. CMS/ASN extended a warm welcome to DRM/Asansol and also spoke on the significance of the topic.

The keynote session was delivered by Dr. Dipatadhi Mukherjee (MD Psychiatry,

DM De-addiction Medicine), who presented an elaborate PowerPoint presentation on the subject. The talk covered vital aspects such as:

Identification of behavioural disorders in children

Available treatment options

Addressing concerns of parents and caregivers

Dr. Mukherjee's presentation was well-received and included an interactive session, where he responded to queries from parents of the primary section with clarity and empathy.

Senior officials including Sr. DPO/ASN, ACMS/Admin/ASN, ACMS/Pediatric/ASN, Sr. DMO/Anesthesias/ASN, and the Principal/Eastern Railway Higher Secondary School, Asansol were also present at the program.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Samarjit Bhattacharyya, ACMS/Admin/ASN. The event was highly appreciated by parents, school teachers, and paramedical staff, who acknowledged the value of such awareness programs in creating a healthier and more supportive environment for children.

## Miscreants torch six trucks in Hazaribagh, investigation underway

MI News Service, Hazaribagh: Six trucks, including three poulains, were set on fire by unidentified miscreants in Hazaribagh district, police said on Sunday.

According to Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Baidyanath Prasad, the incident took place around

12.45 am when police received information about the arson.

"At 12.45 am, the police received information that some miscreants have torched six trucks, including three poulains... The miscreants managed to escape taking advantage of the forest," Prasad told

## "Mann must act, not blame": Pralhad Joshi hit back at Punjab CM over 'foodgrain theft' allegations

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Pralhad Joshi on Sunday said that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann should act against "diversion" and "misuse of food" meant for the poor instead of making allegations on the Central Government of "foodgrain theft."

The Union Minister said the Mann government should act instead of making allegations against the Centre for illegal diversion and misuse of foodgrains meant for the poor.

After allegations of 'vote theft', Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann has now accused the Central Government of 'foodgrain theft'. The Chief Minister alleged that the Centre is conspiring to block Punjab's share of the Public Distribution System (PDS) ration.

Mann claimed that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led Central Government wants to snatch free ration from the poor of the state. He said Punjab has a total of 1.53 crore ration card holders, out of which there is a plan to stop

free ration for 55 lakh people. According to the Chief Minister, in July, free ration for 23 lakh people was stopped under the pretext of e-KYC, and now there is a threat to block ration for another 32 lakh people from September 30.

Responding to Mann's allegations, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi held a press conference today and said, "Mann must act, not blame. There is pressure from lobbies to continue giving rations to ineligible people, and CM Mann is working under that pressure."

The Union Minister clarified that the order for e-KYC came from the Supreme Court; the Centre has only asked states and UTs to comply. He said that Punjab was advised to begin e-KYC in March 2023, and the deadline was extended three times in two years. Despite this, the Centre has never stopped rationing for even a single day. Between June and August 2025 alone, Punjab was allocated 1.74 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains.

# Noida dowry murder case: Police arrest mother-in-law of victim Nikki Bhati

MI News Service, Greater Noida: The police have arrested the mother-in-law of the deceased woman, Nikki Bhati, in connection with the alleged dowry death case, police said on Sunday.

Earlier in the day, Nikki's husband, Vipin Bhati, was shot in the leg during a police encounter and admitted to a hospital for treatment.

The man accused of setting his wife on fire, who later succumbed to her injuries, was today brought to a hospital in Greater Noida for treatment after being shot in the leg during an encounter with Uttar Pradesh police.

Vipin Bhati has been sent to a Judicial Custody of 14 days.

Police said that the husband of the deceased was accused of setting his wife on fire, who later succumbed to her injuries. He was also ac-

cused of frequently assaulting Nikki.

Speaking to ANI from his hospital bed, Bhati denied the allegations. "I did not kill her. She died on her own," he said. When asked about the accusations of physical assault, he replied, "Husband and wife often have fights, it is very common..."

The victim's father told ANI that she had 70 per cent burns and was pronounced dead at the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi.

"I reached there as soon as my elder daughter called me..The doctor told me she is 70% burnt..We took her to Safdarjung Hospital. The doctor told me to take her back because she would not be able to survive. He (her husband) should be hanged. They got married in 2016. He started harassing her a few days after marriage...They

asked for Rs. 35 lakhs... She started her own work, and her husband began asking for the money she earned. I demand that the Court and CM give him the death penalty..."

Meanwhile, the family of the deceased woman, Nikki Bhati, held a protest outside the Kasana Police station today, demanding justice.

The father of the deceased woman alleged that her in-laws killed her over their demand for dowry.

"Her mother-in-law poured kerosene while her husband set her on fire. They kept asking for dowry; now their demands have been met. I just married my daughter as per tradition. Their dowry demands have been met now that my daughter has died. They demanded a car and tortured my daughter for that."

He also accused the hus-

band of domestic violence. "That person is neither man nor human; he is a butcher. We once brought her home because of all this domestic violence, but because of societal pressure, they came and took her back on the promise of not repeating this. It continued. Now they have got what they wanted," he said.

Reacting to the incident, Samajwadi Party women's wing national president Juhi Singh said that the strictest punishment should be given in the case. "Strictest punishment should be given in this case... The parents should empower their daughters, keep them safe and raise voice for their rights... This is not worth an apology... There are laws for crimes against women, but the government is not implementing them..."

Further investigation is still ongoing.

## Telangana: CM assures support for innovation in medical products at 'Biodesign Innovation Summit'

MI News Service,

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Sunday said Hyderabad rose from manufacturing to innovation in Biotech, Pharma and Medical Technology. He assured end-to-end support for innovation in medical products using BioDesign, with the state government being a proactive partner, a CMO release said.

The Chief Minister was speaking at the Biodesign Innovation Summit at AIG Hospitals in Hyderabad.

The Chief Minister said Hyderabad has a synergy of excellent academic institutions, skill development and industry partnerships, and as a

result has a great workforce.

Advocating for indigenous innovation to address India's medical needs, he noted that innovators and researchers will have access to Telangana's historical medical data, all while strictly adhering to data privacy protocols, the release said.

"We will connect you to academic institutions, research, innovation bodies, the Young India Skills University and corporations. For many years, our best minds were solving problems of other countries. It is a good thing. The time has now come when we must use our intelligence to help our people," he explained.

He congratulated AIG Hospitals Chairman Dr Nageshwar Reddy for the initiative to conduct research using Bio-Design in MedTech. BioDesign is a methodology that aims to solve unmet clinical needs by developing practical healthcare solutions. This is achieved not only by innovating to create devices but also by validating the solutions clinically and scaling them through manufacturing, a release said.

Highlighting that Telangana is now a hub for India's Life Sciences, he said medical devices and technology are crucial for the state. The state saw investments in diagnostic devices, imaging technologies, implants, sur-

gical equipment and digital health solutions.

By 2034, Telangana will become a \$1 trillion economy and by 2047, we will become a \$3 trillion state, the Chief Minister said.

Telangana established India's largest dedicated Medical Devices Park at Sultanpur with more than 60 global and domestic companies already operating. It has the best infrastructure for research, prototyping, testing and manufacturing, he added.

Commending local startups, MSMEs and companies for the good work, the Chief Minister said this ecosystem makes Hyderabad a unique, vibrant destination.

## "No propaganda will stop us from protecting Assam's land:" Chief Minister Sarma on demand for his removal over eviction drives

MI News Service, Guwahati: Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday claimed that a Delhi-based team is camping in the State with the aim to paint lawful evictions as so-called "humanitarian crisis".

In a post on X, Sarma said "After Jamaat-e-Hind's outburst demanding my dismissal yesterday, a Delhi-based team -- Harsh Mander, Wajahat Habibullah, Fayaz Shaheen, Prashant Bhushan, and Jawahar Sircar is now camping in Assam."

"This is nothing but a planned attempt to weaken our fight against illegal

encroachers. We are alert and firm, no propaganda or pressure will stop us from protecting our land and culture," he added.

The Chief Minister on Sunday told mediapersons at Margherita that, "To spread unrest in Assam, a few individuals have been moving across the state since yesterday. Since yesterday, Harsh Mander and Prashant Bhushan have been visiting different parts of the state. Another group, including Jawahar Sircar, Wajahat Habibullah, and Fayaz Shaheen, has been visiting different districts of lower As-

sam since yesterday. They only met the leaders of the minority community, Jamiat-e-Islami, and they are trying to create an unrest atmosphere in Assam.

"As during the NRC time, these people came to Assam, disrupted the NRC, and failed, similarly, they have begun another attempt. We are monitoring their movements, just as they succeeded during NRC, but this time the government is determined and watching to make sure that they don't succeed."

Sarma further said that Congress, Jamiat Ulama-e-

Hind, Prashant Bhushan, Harsh Mander, like intellectuals and some elements from Bangladesh and Pakistan are working to weaken Assam.

"We all Assamese and Indians must remain united to defeat this conspiracy," the Assam Chief Minister said.

The Jamaat-e-Hind has demanded the removal of Sarma and also that he be booked under hate speech laws following the recent eviction drives in the State, which the organisation has claimed as being conducted in an "inhuman and discriminatory manner."

## "Doodh ka doodh, paani ka paani": KTR challenges 10 defected BRS MLAs to resign, go for bypolls

MI News Service, Ranga Reddy: Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President KT Rama Rao on Sunday lashed out at the 10 defected MLAs who joined Congress, daring them to resign from their post and re-contest the elections.

"Doodh ka doodh, paani ka paani (let truth be separated from lies)," KTR said while addressing the gathering in Serilingampally.

Criticising the claims of the Revanth Reddy government, KTR argued that if the Congress government in Telangana has performed better than the BRS government, it must be put to the test.

"If the Congress government truly performs better than the BRS government, if your six guarantees are genuinely implemented, if Hyderabad becomes prosperous and if all the poor live happily, then let's put it to the test. Let us of us resign and see the people's verdict. Then the people themselves will decide between Revanth Reddy and KCR," he said.

"There is a proverb in Telangana: 'If you hit the short one, the tall one gets punished.' God exists and he watches. Anyone who indulges in such deceitful acts will ultimately be punished by God," he added.

Last month, the BRS Working President welcomed the Supreme Court's verdict on defection of party MLAs while demanding that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi demonstrate his commitment to his 'Paanch Nyay' (five justices) by ensuring the disqualification of MLAs who defected to the Congress.

KTR had questioned Gandhi's silence on the issue and urged immediate action against the legislators.

KTR asserted that the Supreme Court's judgment should be respected, and the Speaker should promptly disqualify the defected MLAs. He emphasised that

Rahul Gandhi, who often speaks about constitutional values, must adhere to his own words regarding defections.

"There is no need for further inquiry. The Speaker should immediately disqualify the MLAs, paving the way for by-elections in 10 constituencies. The BRS cadre is ready to win these elections. Ultimately, truth and righteousness have prevailed," KTR stated.

Following this, Telangana speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar issued notices to the defected BRS MLAs, seeking clarification on their joining Congress.

## "Chandrababu scared of YSRCP": Ambati Rambabu slams Andhra CM

MI News Service, Amaravathi: Former Minister and YSRCP Guntur District President Ambati Rambabu on Sunday lambasted Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, saying the Chief Minister is scared as he "failed to implement his poll promises" and all sections of "people have felt cheated".

Speaking to mediapersons here, former Minister Rambabu said, "The speech of Chandrababu at Peddapuram is an indication of his insecurity, and YSRCP will have an upper hand should elections be held now. Chandrababu is resorting to character assassination of YS Jagan Mohan Reddy as he is convinced that TDP cannot come to power again, and data too is convincing, as the vote share of YSRCP is better than that of TDP while in Opposition."

The Former Minister further said that Chandrababu's insecurity is becoming increasingly apparent, as evidenced by his recent speeches, and it is clear that he has lost the confidence of the people in the state.

"On Polavaram, Chandrababu stated that he had taken up the project from the Centre for kickbacks and had mis-



managed the structural engineering, which has immensely damaged the project," the YSRCP Guntur district President said.

A day earlier, Andhra Pradesh Opposition leader in the Legislative Council, Botsa Satyanarayana, alleged that Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, who accompanied Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the Yogi-Andhra vied for publicity and a Guinness World Record, did not speak a single word against the privatisation, nor did he mention it to

the dignitary, which shows his stand.

"We will fight it or even join any others who take up the issue, as it is a matter of emotional bond to this region with 32 persons sacrificing their lives to make the Steel Plant a reality," Botsa Satyanarayana said.

"The rampant corruption and atrocity charges against ministers and MLAs remain unabated, and the reaction from the Party and government has been like an eye wash. The government is not adhering to any business rules, and when charges are levelled against anyone, an inquiry is conducted by the same cadre, which shows a lack of sincerity. For allegations against a minister, the probe is being headed by another minister and another official of the same rank, which suggests that the process is merely an eyewash," the YSRCP leader said.

He alleged that allegations of corruption, land and sand mafia involvement, land encroachments, and atrocities against ministers and MLAs are coming up unabated." However, no visible action has been taken, and they remain unaddressed, which indicates a lack of seriousness, he said.

## Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal announces land parcel for Assam at Mumbai's Colaba on a lease of 60 years by Mumbai Port Authority

MI News Service, Guwahati: In a boost to Assam's development journey, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal on Sunday announced that four bighas of land have been allotted by the Mumbai Port Authority (MPA) on lease for a period of 60 years to the Government of Assam, according to a press release.

Located at the prime real estate of Mumbai's Colaba, the said parcel of land paves the way for the state to develop essential public infrastructure for the direct benefit of its citizens, the release said.

The decision follows a written request from the Chief Secretary of Assam to the Union Ministry, seeking allocation of land for a dedicated centre or infrastructure project that can serve the long-term needs of the people.

"With today's announcement, the Narendra Modi Government has reaffirmed its commitment to support Assam in designing and implementing people-centric projects in the fields of healthcare, education, and social welfare. This is a people-first initiative. By making this land available to the Government of Assam for 60 years, we are enabling the creation of critical infrastructure that will serve generations to come. The project will be developed in line with the needs and aspirations of the people of Assam. Located at the heart of Mumbai in Colaba, this will plug a big aspiration of the people of Assam to have access to Mumbai city that can serve the needs of people, be it patients, be it students or even entrepreneurs," Sonowal said.

The Union Minister fur-

ther informed that he had personally spoken to Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma regarding the development.

"The Chief Minister expressed deep satisfaction and appreciated the Government of India's support. He termed this step as a vital contribution to Assam's growth story and a milestone in our shared commitment to improving the lives of the people," Sarbananda Sonowal added.

While the specific plans for development are under consideration, officials indicated that the focus will be on building infrastructure with high public utility, ranging from healthcare and educational needs to welfare and social service facilities, as well as acting as an incubation centre for entrepreneurs.

The 60-year lease ensures the government has ample time and flexibility to plan and execute sustainable projects.

Sarbananda Sonowal, underlining the vision guiding this initiative, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has always emphasised that the Northeast must become a powerhouse of growth, driven by empowerment of its people. Today's decision is another step towards realising that vision of an inclusive and sustainable Atmanirbhar Northeast. Mumbai is a financial hub. With the development of this land parcel, we are confident that the entrepreneurs from the state can also have access to the opportunities from the maximum city."

The newly allotted land will add fresh momentum to this development trajectory, ensuring that the benefits reach the grassroots, said the release.

## Himachal Pradesh: Monsoon death toll climbs to 303; 155 rain-related, 148 road accident deaths

MI News Service, Shimla: The relentless monsoon in Himachal Pradesh has claimed 303 lives since June 20, with 155 deaths attributed to rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts, drowning, and lightning, while 148 fatalities have occurred in road accidents, according to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

In its cumulative bulletin issued on Sunday evening, the SDMA reported that the monsoon has caused widespread destruction across all 12 districts, affecting both public and private infrastructure, agriculture, and livestock.

According to SDMA, 10 fatalities are due to landslides, and the number of deaths due to flash floods is 9. The number of deaths due to cloudbursts is 17, the number of deaths owing to drowning incidents is 32, the number of deaths due to fire is 3, 13 died of snake bites, 12 died due to electrocution, 34 died due to steep rocks, and the number of deaths due to other causes is 25.

Mandi and Kangra districts recorded the highest rain-related casualties, each reporting 29 deaths, followed by Chamba (14) and Kullu (13).

The highest accident-re-

lated deaths were in Chamba (22), Mandi (22), and Kangra (19), followed by Shimla (15) and Kinnaur (13). The state's hilly terrain and rain-damaged roads have been cited as major contributing factors to the surge in accidents.

The SDMA estimated the total monetary loss at Rs 2,348.62 crore. This includes extensive damage to public property such as PWD infrastructure (Rs 1,310.79 crore), water supply systems (Rs 769.74 crore), power infrastructure (Rs 139.46 crore), and agricultural and horticultural losses exceeding Rs 2,743 crore combined.

The state has also reported the death of 1,833 large animals and the loss of 25,755 poultry birds.

A total of 317 houses have been fully damaged, 367 partially damaged, along with 836 cow sheds, 1,591 labour sheds/huts, and 465 shops/factories destroyed.

Authorities have urged residents to remain alert as rains continue in several districts, warning that unstable slopes, overflowing rivers, and waterlogged roads could pose further risks. Restoration and relief operations are ongoing, but officials caution that persistent rainfall could delay repair work.

## J-K: Rajnath Singh holds meeting with officials, takes stock of flood situation

MI News Service, Jammu: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday held a meeting with officials at Raj Bhavan in Jammu as he takes stock of the flood situation in parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

JK Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Union MoS Jitendra Singh were also present during the meeting.

This comes after Singh visited a government hospital in Jammu today to meet victims who sustained injuries in the Kishtwar cloudburst incident, and lauded the efforts of the doctors of the medical college for taking care of the injured with complete dedication.

While addressing the reporters in the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, the Union Minister stated that all patients were out of danger and were recovering well.

"I also wanted to go to the spot, but due to bad weather,

it is not possible to go there. And it has also been informed that there has been a landslide, so the vehicle could not move forward. All the patients have recovered and are recovering well. And I want to congratulate all the doctors of this medical college for taking care of all the injured people with full dedication, and all are in good condition," Singh said.

A cloudburst occurred in Kishtwar during the Machail Mata Yatra on August 14, in which over 60 people were killed. The cloudburst led to sudden flash floods during the pilgrimage, resulting in widespread destruction and deaths. Teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Jammu and Kashmir Police, CISF, Indian Army and the local administration were engaged in rescue efforts.



# Types Of Foods To Include In Diet During Monsoon

Monsoon is the season of the year when it rains heavily, and we feel like eating hot, spicy, delicious food. Such mouth-watering rainy season foods can be prepared healthier by including vegetables and fruits to prevent infections due to unhygienic preparation methods. Monsoons are infections, and the most widely spreading diseases are cold cough, malaria, dengue, typhoid, pneumonia and stomach infections. So, in the rainy season foods must be cooked fresh, balanced and simple to digest. Veggies and rainy season fruits that are involved in the recipes must be the ones that are available throughout the season. Some of the famous rainy weather foods are no-fry vada, baked Dahi vada and baked bhakarwadi. The other food items to be included during the rainy season are:

**The types of rainy season foods that have to be included in the diet during monsoons are:**

**Fruits:** Rainy season fruits like peaches, Jamun, pears, plum, cherries, lychee and pomegranates should be included in the diet. Monsoon season fruits contain more amounts of nutrients like vitamin A, C, fibre and other antioxidants.

**Vegetables:** Monsoon vegetables like bitter melon, bottle gourd, ridge gourd, pointed gourd, Indian squash are the ones that have to be added in plenty to the daily diet during rainy weather.

**Fluids:** Consume lots of water in a warm form and also freshly prepared soups and broths. These help to rehydrate the body and is very important for the immune system. Soup is a must-have food we eat in rainy season because it is easily digestible.

**Spices:** Turmeric and ginger are well-renowned antiseptics, anti-inflammatory and immune-boosting ingredients that have to be added to the recipes. These target the weather and keeps the body hale and healthy.

**Best Foods For Rainy Season**  
The variety of rainy season foods that can be prepared easily are:

**Corn:** Corn is the best monsoon food for people who love to enjoy the cold weather with something hot and spicy. One can garnish it with various flavours like spice, butter, garlic and lemon. It is highly affordable and an easily digestible snack for monsoons.

**Pakorras:** Pakoras, along with a cup of tea, is such an excellent combination for monsoon and the fantastic foods during rainy season available as a street-side snack in almost every nook and corner. One can make these rainy season foods with a wide range of ingredients like cauliflower, onion rings, green capsicum, potatoes and paneer. Pakoras tastes better with mint sauce and varieties of chutney. Homemade pakoras are considered a very healthy option here.



**Samosa:** Samosas are rainy season foods that serve as the best mouth drooling snack that is great when made of potatoes. Different kinds of samosas are made with keema, paneer and even pasta. People try samosas with creative fillings also and experiment with other ingredients. Masala Chai: Masala Chai is the best drink to sit under a roof

enjoying the rain with a favourite music track. Strong masala chai contains ginger, and green cardamom is the best stress-buster.

**Kachoris:** Lip-smacking kachoris are the best rainy season foods served with a potato curry that is spicy to beat the cold weather. Hot fries and chips can add more taste to the entire snacking plate.

**Soup:** Hot soup with veggies or clear helps keep the body away from infections, flu, and viruses and supports the individual warm. It brings happiness as it beats away stress with the excellent weather and offers various health benefits.

**Momos:** A plate of any dim sum is the best monsoon food and a must-have for the rainy

weather. These rainy season snacks can be served with mayonnaise or garlic chutney and will take the person's senses to heaven.

**Jalebi:** A sweet dish can be added to the rainy season foods that can be consumed hot to feel warm. The hot thin jalebis are delicious rainy season snacks for monsoon and can be paired with any of the above-mentioned spicy snacks for a perfect combination. These are mouth-watering and yummy snacks for the cold weather for sure and can be made at home by dipping into a sugary syrup. Jalebis are a must-have during the rainy season.

**Healthy Diet Tips For Rainy Season**

The lower immune system is the reason that various common infections find their way to the human system. A healthy diet of rainy season foods is the best method to keep the body in perfect health, and some of the tips are: Lower the salt content in the diet to retain and increases the blood pressure in the body. However, this leads to additional problems in the rainy season, and hence avoiding salt is the best way during rainy weather.

Foods and drinks that bring down the body temperature like buttermilk, lassi, watermelon will increase the risk of swelling in the body and avoiding such foods will help recover the body from water retention.

Adding garlic to the rainy

season foods will help to improve the immune system and is essential to be added to the diet.

Take more amounts of curd and yoghurt as it reduces the risk of harmful bacteria entering the body. Substitute milk for curd.

Try to prefer warm drinks except caffeinated ones to bestow good health to keep the body warm and safe.

Include corn oil instead of sesame, peanut and mustard oil as they invite more infections.

Try to prefer only boiled and purified water as it is a season prone to more infections. Water is the primary source of contamination, and hence one must take proper care here.

Limit the amount of meat in foods we eat in the rainy season and substitute it with chicken.

Herbal warm water with ginger, tulsi, cinnamon, pepper, cardamom and cloves help to prevent infections and increases immunity levels.

Monsoon is one of the favourite seasons, perfect for everyone when the climate is not hot or cold. This moderate temperature with rain heightens the senses, and the lovely weather creates the urge to eat something that matches the environment perfectly, including rainy season fruits. The above-mentioned rainy season foods satisfy both the soul and body and offer good health.

## Intervention for carers aids in prevention of elder maltreatment: Study



**WASHINGTON DC [US] :** A recent double-blind, randomised controlled trial found that elder abuse of older individuals with chronic illnesses, including dementia, was reduced by an educational and social support intervention for carers.

The study was published in the Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.

Elder abuse is described as "an intentional act or failure to act by a carer or another person in a relationship involving an expectation of trust that causes or creates a risk of harm to an older adult." Coaches met with carers weekly for up to 12 sessions during the Comprehensive Older Adult and Carer Help (COACH) intervention assessed in this research to listen to their concerns and lead them through a specifically customised behavioural and educational intervention. Participants were given caregiving tools and coping methods, as well as maltreatment education so that they may be vigilant against abusive behaviours by themselves and others. A total of 80 carers were randomly assigned to either the COACH intervention or a control group.

Treatment group caregivers reported less mistreatment against their care recipient, which dropped from 22.5 per cent at baseline to 0 per cent following the completion of the 3-month intervention. In the control group, reported rates did not change significantly. "COACH was created to benefit older adults who rely on a caregiver and are particularly vulnerable to harm. It now stands out as the first intervention that has been shown to prevent elder mistreatment," said corresponding author Zach Gassoumis, PhD, of the University of Southern California.

## Premature babies in neonatal care units are susceptible to fatal illnesses: Study

**LONDON [UK] :** Premature babies in neonatal care units are very sensitive and susceptible to potentially fatal illnesses. To help keep these babies safe, the danger of infection must be kept as low as possible. A particular problem is late-onset sepsis which starts from three days after birth, when bacteria get into the blood and grow. This can be very dangerous and babies with late-onset sepsis end up staying in hospital longer, need more treatment with antibiotics and can be left with life-long effects on their health. Bacteria from the Staphylococcus family are the most common causes of late-onset sepsis. Most members of this large group of bacteria are harmless; they are normal colonisers of our skin, which can even protect us from harmful microbes. However, some strains, when they end up in the wrong place and get inside the body, can cause major problems, particularly for immunocompromised individuals like neonatal babies. Staphylococcus capitis is an example of this. This is a species that is usually content living on our scalp, face and neck; capitis means "of the head" in Latin. Some strains of S capitis are however associated with late-onset sepsis. One particular strain, known as NRCS-A, has been identified as causing serious infections in neonates around the world.

Scientists think this strain first emerged in the 1960s and spread globally throughout the 1980s as it evolved resistance to the commonly used antibiotic vancomycin. Strains circulating now show



resistance to multiple antibiotics and reduced susceptibility to antiseptics that we use to sterilise the skin of babies. This makes the bacteria harder to treat and control, but exactly why this NRCS-A strain has become so globally successful has remained a mystery. To try and understand what makes this strain able to spread around the world and to develop better ways to keep it under control, Professor Mark Webber and his team from the Quadram Institute and the University of East Anglia analysed the genomes of hundreds of S capitis isolates. They worked with two Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs), one in the UK and one in Germany, obtaining samples of S capitis from the skin and gut of neonatal babies, with and without late-onset sepsis. Their results, published in the journal Microbial Genomics, found that the NRCS-A strain was commonly carried on the skin and in the gut of uninfected neonatal babies, and that

transmission between babies within NICUs was likely. By reading the complete genome of each sample, the team was able to identify tiny genetic differences between the S capitis strains that caused disease and those that didn't. Professor Webber and his team found that the NRCS-A strains that can cause disease carried a set of unique genes, which they think allows them to survive in the gut as well as on the skin. This would make cleaning the skin to eradicate the bacteria ineffective as the babies will carry a reservoir in their gut microbiomes that cannot be easily removed, but can act as a source of infection. The genes found in the NRCS-A strains allow them to be resistant to nisin, an antimicrobial compound naturally produced by bacteria in the gut. They also carry genes to survive exposure to the toxic metals that our immune system uses to kill bacteria, as well as genes to scavenge essential metals that are known to be hard

for bacteria to access in the gut environment. Further experiments also showed that the bacteria grow better in acidic conditions as found in the gut. Together, the evidence supports the idea these bacteria are adapted to exploit growth in the gut. If metal scavenging is critical to infection, this may also be the bacteria's Achilles heel, presenting a new way to counter its threat. There is early evidence that feeding babies a probiotic supplement of benign bacteria reduces the rate of late-onset sepsis and that these 'good bacteria' can extract metals before the S capitis, preventing their growth.

"Studying how strains like NRCS-A have become globally successful is crucial to understanding how bacteria evolve to colonise different environments and to give us new ideas about how to reduce the risks of infection in vulnerable populations," said Professor Webber.

"We hope this work can be the starting point for more research to develop better ways to protect newborn babies from the terrible consequences of infection." Dr Heather Felgate from the Quadram Institute and lead author of the study said "There are still many questions to answer as to why NRCS-A has become so globally spread amongst NICU. But, working out how NRCS-A can evade the host immune system, spread and survive can also give us a head start with many other Staphylococcal species that cause sepsis in immunocompromised people in NICU and Intensive care units."

## Obesity rates lower among women who live in walkable neighbourhoods

**WASHINGTON DC :** According to a new study living in a more walkable neighbourhood reduces the risk of obesity-related cancers in women, specifically postmenopausal breast cancer, but also ovarian cancer, endometrial cancer, and multiple myeloma.

The findings are published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives.

Obesity has been associated with an increased risk of 13 different forms of cancer in women, and physical activity, regardless of body size, reduces the risk of some of these malignancies.

Neighbourhood walkability refers to a set of urban design elements that encourage pedestrian activity, boost total physical activity, and are related to a lower BMI.

Long-term investigations evaluating neighbourhood walkability and the incidence of obesity-related cancer were, however, scarce until now. Women who resided in neighbourhoods with higher walkability levels, as measured by average destination accessibility and population density over approximately 24 years of follow-up, had a lower risk of obesity-related cancers, particularly postmenopausal breast cancer. However, moderate protective associations were also found for endometrial cancer, ovarian cancer, and multiple myeloma. Women who had lived in areas with the highest levels of neighbourhood walkability (the top 25 per cent of walkability) had a 26 per cent lower risk of obesity-related cancers compared to those who lived.

# Small doses of mushrooms may be helpful for mental illnesses: Research

**WASHINGTON DC [US] :** A new study from the University of Southern Denmark suggests that psilocybin, the main ingredient in mushrooms with psychedelic characteristics, could be used as a therapeutic aid through microdosing.

Psilocybin has long been recognized as a classic psychedelic substance and has recently been investigated for its potential to assist in the treatment of various psychiatric disorders, primarily depression and addiction, through therapy supplemented with a high dose of psilocybin.

In such therapeutic treatment, the patient takes psilocybin after thorough therapeutic preparation and undergoes a psychedelic experience in a supportive environment with a trained therapist. Subsequently, the experience is integrated over several therapy sessions. Experiments are being conducted with patients at hospitals, including Bispebjerg Hospital and Rigshospitalet.

**Microdosing in Rats**

In the recent study published in Nature - Molecular Psychiatry, Associate Professor Mikael Palner and PhD student Kat Kilerich from the Research Unit for Clinical Physiology

and Nuclear Medicine at the University of Southern Denmark examined the effects of small doses of psilocybin on rats.

Their focus was on repeated low doses of psilocybin, which are significantly lower than the doses typically used in therapeutic settings and are commonly referred to as 'microdosing.'

Microdosing is a phenomenon popularized within performance culture, notably in areas like Silicon Valley, California, and has subsequently spread through stories and anecdotes on the internet as a form of self-medication for various challenges, explains Mikael Palner, the last author of the study.

**Effective for Stress and Compulsive Behaviors**

The study conducted on rats showed that animals tolerated the repeated low doses of psilocybin well and did not exhibit signs of reduced pleasure (anhedonia), anxiety, or altered locomotor activity.

Most notably, repeated low doses of psilocybin increased the rats' resilience to stress, and they displayed fewer compulsive behaviors.

Additionally, an increase in the num-



*In such therapeutic treatment, the patient takes psilocybin after thorough therapeutic preparation and undergoes a psychedelic experience in a supportive environment with a trained therapist. Subsequently, the experience is integrated over several therapy sessions. Experiments are being conducted with patients at hospitals, including Bispebjerg Hospital and Rigshospitalet.*

ber of connections to the thalamus region of the brain, which serves as a kind of filter for our decisions and concerns, was observed.

The change in connectivity to the thalamus may contribute to our enhanced resilience to stress factors and could explain why so many people report positive effects on their well-being from small doses of psychedelic mushrooms.

**A Promising New Approach**

Through the new study, the researchers have established a valid method that can be utilized for further research into the effects of repeated low doses of psilocybin. The study also lends support to the numerous anecdotal reports of the benefits of microdosing as a therapeutic intervention.

This paves the way for additional research and potentially entirely new approaches to treating various mental disorders.

The increased anxiety and stress in society currently have placed a strong focus on microdosing, leading to a surge in the trade of mushrooms. Countries such as the Netherlands, Australia, the USA, and Canada have either legalized or are in the process of legalizing psilocybin for therapeutic

treatment, says Mikael Palner.

It is, therefore, crucial that we understand the effects and side effects of these substances, which are already widely used by people around the world.

**Enhanced Understanding with Potential**

Mikael Palner developed an interest in researching psychedelic substances and psilocybin when he lived in Silicon Valley, California, eleven years ago and witnessed the surge of self-improvement practices that garnered significant media attention and prompted more people to experiment with microdosing.

Some books were published that popularized the concept of using small doses of psychedelics to address both mental issues and enhance performance. This motivated me to launch the project I've been devoted to for the past six years, says Mikael Palner.

Now, we can determine the appropriate dosage in rats, enabling us to investigate the effects of microdosing, which could significantly advance our understanding of the brain and mental challenges. This benefits both the field of science and society at large.



## 3-day conference of social reformer Mujaddid Alfi Sani Huzoor held in Sirhind, Punjab



**Nurul Islam Khan**

Like every year, this year too, on August 21, 22 and 23, the 413th historic international conference and Isa-le-Sawab of Imam-e-Rabbani Ahmad Farooqi Hazrat Mujaddid Alfi Sani (RA) has concluded in Sirhind, Punjab. On the last day, Khalifa Syed Muhammad Raja Sahab offered prayers. Thousands of religious people from different countries of Asia including India participated in the meeting. Countless followers from various states including Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and Tripura and West Bengal. Prayers were sought for peace and harmony in India and the welfare of the world. In particular, Pir Alama Hazrat Jamal Uddin Siddiqui Huzur of Rajkholia Siddiqui Darbar Sharif of Howrah Panchla was his spiritual father. Pir Mujad-

dide Zaman Hazrat Dada Huzur of Furfura Sharif had a close relationship (spiritual) with Huzur and Pir Sufi Sahab Huzur. This great scholar was born in the city of Sirhind in Punjab during the reign of Akbar.

His educational life began with the recitation of the Quran by his father Shaikh Abdul Ahad Huzur. After that, he studied at the Sialkot Madrasah. He told Akbar that he(Akbar) was an atheist. Akbar was the promoter of many works against Islam, including the Din e ilahi. He was called Zillullah or 'Shadow of Allah'. At that time, all the customs including the five pillars of Islam were banned. As a result, some Islamic thinkers protested on this issue but to no avail. After the death of Akbar, his son, Emperor Jahangir, was regularly taught Islamic teachings by Sirhind Huzur.

He also studied under Shaikh Khwaja Baqi Billah. Later, his caliph son, Shaikh Muhammad Masum Rabbani Huzur, continued this lineage. Emperor Jahangir, did the exact opposite of the damage done to Islam during Akbar's reign and served Islam in many ways. Alfi Sani Huzur gradually uprooted the Din e ilahi of Akbar. As a result, Huzur was imprisoned in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, as a punishment. Shaikh Ahmad Huzur lost three sons during his lifetime. He lived only 61 years. Sirhind Huzur, who stopped the bad culture, immorality, superstitions and anti-social activities of the society, showed the right path in the light of the Quran and Hadith; and his influence was far-reaching. He passed away on 28 Safar 1034 Hijri. On this day, an Islamic meeting is held in memory of Mujaddid Alfi Sani Huzur.

## BJP worker arrested for assaulting Dalit engineer inside office in Ballia

**MI News Service, Ballia:** A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker has been arrested in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, for allegedly assaulting a Dalit officer inside his office, police said on Sunday. The incident, which took place on Saturday, has triggered outrage after a purported video of the assault went viral on social media.

The video shows the electricity department's superintending engineer, Lal Singh, being surrounded and beaten by a group of men, one of whom is seen striking him with a shoe.

According to police, the prime accused has been identified as Munna Bahadur, a BJP worker and former party office-bearer.

In his official complaint, Lal Singh alleged that Munna Bahadur and several unidentified associates forcibly entered his office. They reportedly hurled caste-based slurs and abusive language at him before launching a physical assault involving punches, kicks, and blows with a shoe. Singh further stated that the attackers tore official files and threatened to kill him and his family if he reported the matter to authorities.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Omveer Singh confirmed that a case has been registered against Bahadur and others under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) as well as the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. "We have arrested Munna Bahadur, and an investigation is underway. Strict legal action will be taken against anyone else found involved," the SP said.

Before his arrest, Bahadur told reporters that he had visited the officer's office only to submit a memorandum concerning electricity issues in his locality. He alleged that it was Lal Singh who first used abusive language against him and claimed that he himself sustained injuries in the altercation.

The incident has drawn political attention. Samajwadi Party (SP) president and former chief minister Akhilesh Yadav shared the viral video on social media, writing, "The meaning of power is not to torment," in a sharp attack on the ruling party.

BJP's Ballia district president Sanjay Mishra confirmed Bahadur's association with the party, acknowledging him as a worker and former office-bearer. He also said that discussions with senior leaders, including Transport Minister Dayashankar Singh, were underway to determine the party's stand on the matter.

## Iraq conducts airstrike on IS hideout, killing "terrorists"

**MI News Service, Baghdad:** Iraqi security forces carried out an airstrike early Saturday on an Islamic State (IS) hideout in Salahuddin province, killing the "terrorists" inside, the Iraqi Joint Operations Command (JOC) said.

Acting on intelligence information and several days of surveillance, the strike was carried out at 2:00 a.m. local time (2300 GMT Friday) on a hideout in the eastern part of Salahuddin province, the JOC said in a statement.

The airstrike resulted in the destruction of the hideout and the elimination of all "terrorists" inside, the statement said.

It added that Iraqi security forces will continue to pursue the remnants of terrorism in Iraq.

A security source told Xinhua that at least three IS militants were killed in the strike, including a senior group leader. While Iraq declared victory over IS in 2017, remnants of the group continue to carry out attacks against security forces and civilians in urban areas, deserts, and remote regions.

## Netanyahu calls UN's declaration of famine in Gaza a "Modern Blood Libel"

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office has dismissed the United Nations' declaration of famine in Gaza and called it an "outright lie" and "modern blood libel".

A blood libel is an accusation that Jewish people murdered and used the blood of Christians for religious rituals. It was perpetrated through the Middle Ages until the early 20th century.

The Integrated Food Security Classification (IPC), a UN-backed tool developed in order to improve food security analysis and decision-making, said in a report that half a million people in Gaza are trapped in famine. By the end of September, more than 6,40,000 people will face "catastrophic" levels of food insecurity, categorised as IPC Phase 5.



According to Gaza's Health Ministry, there have been 281 deaths from hunger, of whom 114 were children.

However, Netanyahu wrote on his X account that, "Israel has no policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation. The only ones deliberately starved in Gaza are the Israeli hostages. This is a modern blood

libel, spreading like wildfire through prejudice", adding that the " Hamas-orchestrated "starvation campaign" will not stop Israel from freeing hostages and eliminating Hamas.

The IPC report is an outright lie. Israel does not have a policy of starvation. Israel has a policy of preventing starvation.

## Israeli attacks on Gaza City rise, killing of aid seekers continues

**MI News Service, Gaza:** Israel's attacks have escalated as it continues its plan to invade Gaza City.

It has continued attacks across Gaza too, killing at least 63 Palestinians, including children and aid seekers, so far on Sunday, August 24.

Authorities denounce Israel's plan to eject medical workers from Gaza City as its army continues trying to seize the city and expel about one million people.

Thousands have taken to the streets of cities around the world after a United Nations panel officially declared famine in northern Gaza following months of Israel's blockade on humanitarian supplies, including food and water.



Israel has killed at least 62,622 people and wounded 157,673 in its war on

Gaza. A total 1,139 people were killed in Israel during Hamas-led attacks on October 7, 2023, and more than 200 were taken captive.

## Did Israel know over 80 percent of those it killed in Gaza were civilians?

**MI News Service, Gaza:** Israel has been bombing Gaza for nearly two years, killing more than 62,000 people, the Palestinian Ministry of Health in Gaza says, but the real number is likely much higher.

Israel claims it is targeting fighters from Hamas, not civilians, but a leaked military report reveals a different story.

The report says 83 percent of the Palestinians killed by Israel in Gaza were civilians.

How many people has Israel killed? And what did Israel say about killing them? Why is this latest report so important? Here's what we know:

The report was based on an internal Israeli intelligence database that records the deaths of fighters from Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ).

The database estimated that Israel has killed 8,900 fighters throughout its war on Gaza, according to data from May. That is an estimate because, of that number, 1,570 names are listed as "probably dead".

The 8,900 figure is out of 47,633 people whom the database lists as active fighters - 34,973 Hamas, and 12,702 PIJ.

Let's put that against the total number of people Israel has killed in Gaza, which was 53,000 in May, according to +972 Magazine. That means 16.8 percent of the people Israel killed or "probably" killed were fighters.

According to the Health Ministry's most recent numbers, Israel has killed at least 62,686 people in its 22-month offensive on the enclave and wounded 157,951. Thousands more remain missing.

Studies have found the number of casualties is far higher. A peer-reviewed study published in The Lancet medical journal said the actual number killed in the first nine months of the war may have been 40 percent higher than reported.

Many of the bodies of those killed by Israel are incinerated during bomb or missile strikes, left rotting in areas occupied by



Ahmed al-Hajj carries the body of his daughter, Dana al-Hajj, 13, whom Israel killed in an air strike, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir el-Balah on August 19, 2025

the Israeli military or remain crushed under the rubble of destroyed buildings with rescuers unable to reach them.

Israel has repeatedly claimed that it does all it can to limit civilian casualties and regularly disputes the Health Ministry's numbers.

In September, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu bragged that Israel had the "lowest ratio of civilian to combatant deaths in the history of modern urban warfare", claiming the army was killing one civilian for every fighter it killed.

But this was months after Local Call and +972 reported on an Israeli army AI targeting system codenamed Lavender, which, according to sources in Israeli intelligence, marked tens of thousands of people in Gaza as potential fighters and eligible to be killed.

According to two of the sources, the army decided during the early stages of the war that it was permissible to kill up to 15 or 20 civilians for every junior Hamas operative earmarked for death by Lavender.

And members of Netanyahu's far-right coalition have shown little to no concern for Palestinian lives when addressing their domestic audience.

Speaking on Israeli radio last month, Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu said: "The government is

rushing to erase Gaza, and thank God we are erasing this evil. All of Gaza will be Jewish."

Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich told a settlement conference in May: "Gaza will be entirely destroyed," and what remains of its people would be exiled to a narrow strip of land in the south.

Throughout the conflict, Al Jazeera has reported on numerous accounts of civilians being massacred while seeking food, the dropping of heavy ordnance on displacement camps, the systematic destruction of Gaza's healthcare system and the deliberate killing of its medics as well as the use of starvation as a weapon of war.

"I think anyone who has closely observed the genocide in Gaza can't have been surprised by the report," Only Noy of Local Call told Al Jazeera.

"Everything we knew about the war suggested that the mass killing, destruction and brutality there was indiscriminate. That is the nature of this war. This is its logic. Israel has created a mechanism for genocide that it's deploying indiscriminately across Gaza."

When approached by Local Call and +972, the Israeli military confirmed the existence of the database on which the report was based.

However, when approached by The Guardian, the Israeli au-

thorities said they had decided to "rephrase" their initial response. A brief statement sent to the paper did not directly respond to any questions about the data but said the "figures presented in the article are incorrect" without detailing which parts of the article Israel was disputing.

It also claimed that the numbers quoted by the media outlets "do not reflect the data available in the [Israeli military's] systems" without detailing which systems it was referring to. They have varied wildly during the war.

In November 2023, a senior Israeli security official suggested that Israel had killed 20,000 people in Gaza, most of them fighters.

The following month, that number shrank to 7,860 fighters. In February 2024, the Israeli army said it killed about 13,000 fighters, then reduced the figure by 1,000 a week later. In August 2024 it claimed to have killed 17,000 fighters but changed it to 14,000 two months later.

"We are reporting a lot of Hamas operatives killed, but I think most of the people we report as dead are not really Hamas operatives," an intelligence source who had accompanied Israeli forces into Gaza told +972.

"People are promoted to the rank of terrorist after their death. If I had listened to the brigade, I would have come to the conclusion that we had killed 200 percent of Hamas operatives in the area."

Ironically, the one consistent set of figures that the Israeli army uses is that produced by the Palestinian Health Ministry.

Not consistently throughout the course of a war.

About 83 percent "of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time", said Therese Pettersson from the Uppsala Conflict Data Programme, which tracks civilian casualties worldwide.

## Iranian forces smash "terror" team, kill 6 members: ministry

**MI News Service, Tehran:** Iran's Intelligence Ministry said on Saturday its forces had smashed a "terrorist" team in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, killing six of its members and arresting two others.

Members of the "terror" team, seven non-Iranian nationals, had entered Iran through the country's eastern border during the past days and sought to perpetrate "precarious and targeted terrorist operations," according to a statement published on the ministry's website, which did not specify the date of the operation.

The statement added the members were equipped with different kinds of weapons, ammunition and explosive devices, saying among the items seized from the "terrorists" were laser-guided grenade launchers, U.S.-made machine guns, grenades, explosive vests, two-way radios, ammunition as well as a number of vehicles and motorcycles.

According to the ministry, the team sought to attack a critical center east of Iran, "exactly the kind of military targets attacked by Israel during its 12-day war" with Iran in June.

It said the available evidence was indicative of the "terrorist" cell's Israeli-affiliated nature.

According to the statement, during the clash with the "terrorists," which took several hours, three Iranian security forces were wounded.

Sistan and Baluchestan, a province bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan, has suffered several terrorist attacks targeting both civilians and security forces in recent years.

On Friday, five policemen were killed in an attack by "terrorists" on two patrol units in the province, the semi-official Fars news agency reported.

## Israeli military uproots thousands of Palestinian olive trees in West Bank

**MI News Service, Gaza:** The Israeli military has destroyed about 3,000 olive trees in a village near Ramallah in the occupied West Bank, the head of the local council says, as Palestinians face a continued wave of violence across the territory in the shadow of Israel's war on Gaza.

The Israeli military issued an order to uproot olive trees in a 0.27sq-km (0.1sq-mile) area in al-Mughayyir, a village of about 4,000 residents northeast of Ramallah. The army justified the measure by saying the trees posed a "security threat" to a main Israeli settlement road that runs through the village's lands.

The destruction was carried out as al-Mughayyir has been under lockdown since Thursday after an Israeli settler said he was shot at in the area.

The deputy head of the village council, Marzouq Abu Naim, told Palestinian news agency Wafa that Israeli soldiers had stormed more than 30 homes since dawn on Saturday, destroying residents' property and vehicles.

For decades, the Israeli military has uprooted olive trees - an important Palestinian cultural symbol - across the occupied Palestinian territory as part of the country's efforts to seize Palestinian land and forcibly displace residents.

The West Bank also has seen a surge in Israeli military and settler violence since Israel launched its war on Gaza in October 2023, and tens of thousands of Palestinians have been forced out of their homes.

More than 2,370 Israeli settler attacks against Palestinians have been reported across the area from January 2024 to the end of July this year, according to the latest figures from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

a beacon of hope. What began as her personal journey after the loss of her mother and the upheaval of COVID-19 has grown into a volunteer-driven movement of compassion.

"I grew my IT business from scratch. When my mother passed away and then the pandemic hit, I started questioning everything. That's when the idea of a kitchen came about," she recalls.

## Jaishankar slams 'Politics of Convenience' in US-Pakistan ties, rejects mediation on India-Pakistan issues

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Saturday sharply criticized the nature of ties between the United States and Pakistan, describing their relationship as one built on a "politics of convenience," where past concerns are often overlooked to suit present-day needs. Speaking at the ET World Leaders Forum, Jaishankar drew attention to the recurring pattern in Washington-Islamabad relations.

"They have a history with each other. And they have a history of overlooking that history. It's not the first time we have seen such things," he said. In a pointed remark referencing the 2011 US raid in Abbottabad that killed al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, Jaishankar noted: "Sometimes when you look at the certificates that somebody in the military will give, it's the same military which went into Abbottabad and found you-know-who there."

While acknowledging the tactical advantages that shape such ties, the minister emphasized that India's engagement with Washington is guided by "larger structural strengths" rather than short-term considerations. "I know what I am about. I know what my strengths are. I know the importance and relevance of my relationship. So that's what guides me," he asserted.

Jaishankar also responded to criticisms raised during former US President Donald Trump's administration, which accused India of profiteering by buying discounted Russian crude oil and reselling refined petroleum products at higher prices in Europe and elsewhere. Rejecting the charge, he remarked: "It's funny to have people from a pro-business American administration accusing others of doing business. If you have a problem



buying oil or refined products from India, don't buy it. Nobody forces you. But Europe buys, America buys. So if you don't like it, don't buy it."

On questions surrounding Operation Sindoor and Trump's claims that Washington mediated a ceasefire between India and Pakistan, Jaishankar categorically denied any role for third-party intervention. "Since the 1970s, there has been a national consensus that we do not accept mediation in our relations with Pakistan," he said.

Acknowledging that several countries, including the US, had made phone calls urging restraint during the conflict, Jaishankar clarified: "That is not mediation. When Israel-Iran war was happening, I called. When Russia-Ukraine was happening, I called. In today's interdependent world, countries talk. But it is entirely different to suggest that an outcome negotiated directly between India and Pakistan was somehow imposed by outside mediation. It was not."

**MI News Service, Washington:** A former IT staffing entrepreneur, Nupur Panjabi walked away from a thriving business to build something very different, a community kitchen that now feeds thousands of homeless people across Virginia. "I'm not even a millionaire," she says, with a smile.

Her mission of compassion unfolds at a time when the US is grappling with stark contrasts. While volunteers in Virginia rally to serve hot meals to those in need, Washington DC has witnessed an extraordinary military-style deployment.

President Donald Trump has ordered nearly 2,000 National Guard troops into the capital as part of what he calls a crime crackdown. But instead of patrolling high-crime neighborhoods,

the troops have been stationed in tourist-heavy areas like the National Mall, among the safest parts of the city.

Critics, including Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, argue the deployment is more about political theater than public safety. "We have an armed militia in the nation's capital," she warned this week.

Although crime rates have declined in recent years, the

## Washington amid Trump's crackdown

Pentagon has confirmed that troops will soon carry weapons as part of their mission. Retired National Guard Major General Randy Manner called it "a step towards militarising America's cities" and predicted deployments to places like Chicago and New York.

Against this backdrop, Panjabi's kitchen, 'Anna Sudha' which implies food and nectar of love in Sanskrit, has become



# “All good things must come to an end”: Cheteshwar Pujara retires from all forms of Indian cricket

**NEW DELHI :** Cricketer Cheteshwar Pujara on Sunday announced his retirement from all forms of Indian cricket, ending a more than a decade-long career. The 37-year-old batter Pujara shared a post on his official 'X' handle informing about the development.

The seasoned right-handed batter said that he couldn't put his feelings into words and mentioned that all things have to come to an end. Pujara further thanked his fans and well-wishers for their love and support throughout his career.

"Wearing the Indian jersey, singing the anthem, and trying my best each time I stepped on the field - it's impossible to put into words what it truly meant. But as they say, all good things must come to an end, and with immense gratitude I have decided to retire from all forms of Indian cricket. Thank you for all the love and support!," Cheteshwar Pujara wrote on 'X'.

Cheteshwar Pujara made his international debut against Australia in Bengaluru on October 9, 2010. The latter played a total of 103 Tests and amassed 7195 runs at an average of 43.60. Pujara slammed 19 hundreds and 35 half-centuries throughout his international career with a highest score of 206\*.

Pujara is most remembered for India's Border-Gavaskar Trophy triumph in Australia in 2018 and 2020. He troubled Australia with his solid defence and technique.

The Indian red ball stalwart top-scored with 521 runs in four matches at an average of 74.42, three centuries and a fifty. His best score was 193.

In the 2020-21 series, he scored 271 runs from four matches at an average of 33.87, with three fifties and a best score of 77. In the final Test at The Gabba, he endured several body blows from Australian pacers on his body, making the win even more memorable.

Apart from international cricket, Cheteshwar Pujara was a domestic legend with over 21301 runs from 278 first-class games. The latter slammed 66 tons and 81 half-centuries through his first-class career.



## Outer Delhi Warriors fast bowler Shaurya Malik reflects on performance against New Delhi Tigers



**NEW DELHI :** Following Friday's intense encounter between Outer Delhi Warriors and New Delhi Tigers on August 22nd, the Warriors displayed commendable fighting spirit despite facing challenging conditions throughout the match. In their Delhi Premier League 2025 match on August 22, the New Delhi Tigers defeated the Outer Delhi Warriors by 7 wickets, as per a release from Outer Delhi Warriors.

Shaurya Malik of the Outer Delhi Warriors provided some resistance, notably by dismissing both Himmat Singh (58 runs) and Shivam Gupta (59 runs) during the Tigers' chase, finishing with figures of 2 wickets for 30.

Speaking about the team's performance and strategic decisions made during the match, Malik emphasized the importance of adapting game plans in real-time situations. He outlined his thoughts on the team's bowling strategy and fielding positioning while looking ahead to the upcoming fixtures with optimism and determination.

Reflecting on his tactical approach with the ball, Shaurya Malik, explained how he planned to exploit specific bowling variations at crucial moments.

He explained, "I just had a plan to use the slower ball more because there was due and we had to go for the Yorker. There was a stage where they were going to chase the target quickly," as quoted from a release by Outer Delhi Warriors.

Sharing thoughts about the team's defensive strategy during crucial phases, Shaurya Malik said, "Rather than defence, we went to counter attack. We brought up the fielders and took chances. Of course, the runs were not the priority at that time. Taking wickets was the priority at that time. So, our focus was to take 2-3 more so we can close the gap."

Reflecting on the overall match outcome and the team's preparation for upcoming fixtures, Shaurya Malik, acknowledged the mixed results while maintaining a positive outlook.

He stressed "It happened both ways. There were ups and downs. The result was not what we had expected. But, no worries, we will take the positives from here. Yes, we will finish the season on a good note. That's all."

The Outer Delhi Warriors will be back in action on Tuesday, as they continue their campaign with renewed focus and determination. The team management and players are confident about finishing with a win, building on the tactical insights and team spirit demonstrated in their recent outing against the New Delhi Tigers. (ANI)

## Sourav Ganguly appointed head coach of Pretoria Capitals for SA20 2025-26 season

**NEW DELHI :** Former India captain Sourav Ganguly has been appointed as the head coach of the Pretoria Capitals ahead of the upcoming SA20 season, which kicks off on December 26. Ganguly replaces former England batter Jonathan Trott at the helm, marking his first-ever stint as a head coach in franchise cricket, as per ESPNcricinfo.

The Capitals will be hoping that Ganguly's appointment brings a change in fortune. After topping the group stage in the inaugural season of the SA20, the franchise fell short in the final against Sunrisers Eastern Cape. However, their performance has dipped in recent years, finishing fifth in both the 2023-24 and 2024-25 seasons, missing out on the playoffs on both occasions.

This new chapter adds another dimension to Ganguly's cricketing journey. While this is his first formal role as a head coach, the former Indian skipper brings plenty of leadership experience to the table. Between 2015 and 2019, he



served as the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal. After that, he became the mentor of the Delhi Capitals in the 2019 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. Soon after, Ganguly took over as the president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), a position he held until 2022.

Ganguly's move to the Pretoria Capitals also aligns with his role as Director of Cricket at JSW, the co-owners of both Delhi Capitals

## Afghanistan to host Bangladesh for white-ball series after Asia Cup



**NEW DELHI :** Afghanistan is set to host Bangladesh after the conclusion of the upcoming Asia Cup on September 28.

With the ICC T20 World Cup 2026 fast approaching, Afghanistan is all set to build their squad for the marquee tournament in India and Sri Lanka with a host of T20I outings, as per the ICC website.

The series will commence with the T20I leg on October 2, followed by the three-match ODI series beginning on October 8.

Naseeb Khan, CEO of the Afghanistan Cricket Board and Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the BCB CEO, look forward to the much-anticipated series and to strengthening the relationship between the two countries.

Naseeb Khan said, "We are proud to host Bangladesh in this highly anticipated series. This tour highlights the strength of our

**Afghanistan's white-ball schedule against Bangladesh:**

- First T20I: Thursday, Oct 2 - UAE
- Second T20I: Friday, Oct 3 - UAE
- Third T20I: Sunday, Oct 5 - UAE
- First ODI: Wednesday, Oct 8 - UAE
- Second ODI: Saturday, Oct 11 - UAE
- Third T20I: Thursday, Oct 14 - UAE
- First T20I: Thursday, Oct 2 - UAE
- Second T20I: Friday, Oct 3 - UAE
- Third T20I: Sunday, Oct 5 - UAE
- First ODI: Wednesday, Oct 8 - UAE
- Second ODI: Saturday, Oct 11 - UAE
- Third T20I: Thursday, Oct 14 - UAE.

partnership and our joint commitment to delivering world-class cricket experiences, even in neutral venues. Fans can look forward to exciting matches and top-level competition."

While Nizamuddin Chowdhury, the BCB CEO, stated, "We look forward to taking on Afghanistan in what promises to be a competitive and exciting white-ball series in the UAE. This tour not only presents valuable competition following the Asia Cup but also reflects the mutual respect and strong relationship between our two cricket boards."

The upcoming tri-series against the UAE and Pakistan will be Afghanistan's first T20I series this year, while Bangladesh, after their successful T20I series against Sri Lanka and Pakistan, will be taking on the Netherlands in a three-match T20I series.

So far Afghanistan have faced Bangladesh in 19 ODIs, and have won eight while the Tigers have been victorious 11 times. The equation flips in T20Is, wherein Afghanistan have won seven out of 12 games.

## SPORTSCOM Conclave to energize India's sports startup ecosystem; MoS Raksha Khadse to address gathering

**NEW DELHI :** India's sporting ambitions are set for a fresh boost with the launch of the first-ever SPORTSCOM 'Giving Wings to Dreams' Conclave. The platform is dedicated to nurturing startups that are driving innovations across the country. Taking place on August 25, in New Delhi, the conclave will bring together over 200 stakeholders from across the sporting ecosystem—including federations, corporates, innovators, entrepreneurs, and investors.

As a first-of-its-kind initiative, SPORTSCOM aims to unite sport and enterprise, spotlighting breakthrough ideas and sustainable business models that can accelerate India's journey towards becoming a global sporting hub, as per a release from SPORTSCOM conclave. Leading the initiative are some of the top voices of Indian sports, including Raksha Nikhil Khadse, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, Shobhit Jain, Joint Secretary (Development), Department of Sports, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Sanjiv, Joint Secretary at the Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry who will be joined by SPORTSCOM's leadership team and President, Jalaj Dani, Vivek Singh, Joint MD, ProCam, and Udit Sheth, MD, TransStadia.



## Japan Hockey team touchdown in Bihar for Men's Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025

**RAJGIR :** The Japan Men's Hockey Team arrived in Bihar late Saturday night ahead of the prestigious Hero Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar 2025, as per a release from Hockey India.

Despite being a consistent contender, Japan has finished fourth on five occasions in the tournament's history but has yet to claim a podium finish. This time, they will be determined to break the jinx and secure a top-three spot.

Currently ranked 18th in the FIH World Rankings, Japan has been drawn into Pool A alongside hosts India, China, and Kazakhstan.

They will begin their campaign against Kazakhstan on 29th August, before facing host India in what promises to be a high-voltage encounter on 31st August. In their final Pool match, Japan will take on China on 1st September.

After the team's arrival, Japan Captain Raiki Fujishima stated, "We are thrilled to be here in Rajgir for our very first tournament in this city. Our primary target is to secure qualification for the 2026 World Cup by winning the Asia Cup 2025, and for that we are determined to play with full fighting spirit. The team is motivated to give its best and showcase top-level hockey throughout the tournament."

# Australia's Connolly shatters 38-year-old record, while Mulder, South Africa hit new low in 3rd ODI



**MACKAY :** Wiaan Mulder and South Africa hit a new low while Australia's Cooper Connolly soared to new heights after the Baggy Greens ruthlessly pummelled the Proteas in the final ODI in Mackay on Sunday.

After allowing an unassailable 2-0 lead slip into South Africa's hands, Australia offered no clemency to the visitors at the Great Barrier Reef Arena. The purple patch that had evaded captain Mitchell Marsh and swash-buckler Travis Head returned in the third ODI. Australia fired all cylinders on its way to a daunting 431/2. Connolly ripped apart

South Africa's batting order with his sizzling five-wicket haul. He cleaned up the middle order with his left-arm orthodox spinning deliveries.

Just two days after turning 22, Connolly became the youngest to scythe a five-wicket haul for Australia, taking the record over from Craig McDermott, who scripted it at the age of 22 years 204 days against Pakistan in 1987. Connolly's magic with the ball left South Africa reeling and eventually surrendering a 276-run defeat, their biggest loss margin in terms of runs. Connolly returned with figures of 5/22 in six

overs as Australia celebrated a consolation win. In the first innings, Marsh (100) and Head (142) were greeted by bright sunshine in Mackay after opting to bat. The plot of the series heavily favoured the team that batted first, and the explosive pair ensured that it remained intact.

The opening pair upped the ante to raise a 250-run opening stand, the fifth-highest in the format for Australia. Cameron Green joined the party, played his heart out and handsomely contributed to the prevailing blitzkrieg.

He took a mere 47 balls to raise his bat and celebrate the

second-fastest hundred for Australia in the format. Alex Carey flaunted his boundary-hitting muscle and contributed with a quick-fire 50\* from 37 balls. With the top three firing centuries for fun, this was just the second such instance in the 50-over format, behind South Africa's rollicking effort against the West Indies in Johannesburg in 2015. While Australia implemented its destructive approach, Mulder emerged as the ideal target practice. Mulder, who made headlines for his decision not to pursue Brian Lara's elusive 400 against Zimbabwe last month, leaked.