

# KMC to Build New Garbage Dump Yard Adjacent to Dhapa Amid Growing Waste Burden

With an eye on the city's future waste management challenges, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to construct a new dump yard adjacent to the existing Dhapa landfill. The project, initially planned with state government financial assistance, will now be undertaken solely by the civic body after funds were not sanctioned in time, despite positive recommendations from the Urban Development and Finance Departments. According to KMC sources, the proposal will be placed at the Mayor-in-Council meeting on September 8, followed by a formal tabling at the monthly civic session on September 10 for final approval. The plan involves developing the new landfill on nearly 73 hectares of land owned by the corporation. PG 3



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# Morning India

## SC seeks response from Centre and states about landslides and floods



MI News Service, New Delhi : Taking note of this year's unprecedented landslides and floods in several north Indian states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the Supreme Court on Thursday sought responses from the Centre, NDMA and others agencies besides observing that illegal felling of trees led to the disasters. A bench of Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran also issued notices to the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the National Highway Authorities of India (NHAI) as well as the governments of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab seeking their response. It was responding to a plea alleging illegal felling of trees as a key reason for such disasters. The bench listed the plea filed by one Anamika Rana for hearing after two weeks and asked Solicitor General Tushar Mehta to ensure remedial measures.

"We have seen unprecedented landslides and floods in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab claiming many lives. From the media reports it is noticed that in the flood a huge number of wood was flowing along. Prima facie it appears that there has been illegal felling of trees. Thus issue notice to respondents. Returnable in two weeks..." the CJI said. "Videos showing huge numbers of timber logs being washed down the hills by floodwaters", the Court said adding it prima facie appeared to be a case of illegal tree felling. The apex court was responding to a plea alleging illegal felling of trees as a key reason for such disasters.

## Rs 16.43 crore siphoned off from Municipal Corporation's account

MI News Service, Agartala : In a first such incident in this small land-locked North Eastern state of Tripura, "unknown fraudsters" have siphoned off a total amount of Rs 16.38 crore from the account of Agartala Municipal Corporation (AMC) by using a number of cloned cheques during the past few days, an official said on Friday. The Police have registered a case against this unprecedented incident of money laundering at West Agartala police station after the zonal manager of a public sector bank notified that Rs 16.38 crore was withdrawn from the civic body's account by six cloned cheques between late August and first week of September this year. "Following a specific complaint from a bank official, we have lodged an FIR for siphoning off Rs 16.38 crore from AMC's account, the police said adding Preliminary investigation reveals that the fraudsters operating from Hyderabad had used six cloned cheques to withdraw huge amount from the bank". The fraudsters forged the

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Death anniversary of Mother Teresa at the Mother House in Kolkata on Friday

## President Murmu Honours 45 Teachers with National Awards on Teachers' Day

MI News Service, New Delhi : President Droupadi Murmu on Friday gave the National Teacher Awards to 45 teachers from across the country for their exemplary contribution to teaching and learning. The day marks the birth anniversary of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, India's second President and a respected teacher and philosopher. From novel methods of teaching, dedication to students' growth to attempts to enhance learning achievements in difficult environments, the awardees were recognised at the annual award ceremony. Ranging from innovative pedagogy to inspiring first-generation learners, the awardees played a key role in shaping young minds across India.

Teachers' Day is celebrated every year on September 5 to honour the role of teachers in shaping society. The Union Education Ministry announced that the awardees were selected through a rigorous three-stage process at the district, state, and national levels. This year's list includes 24 male and 21 female teachers, representing schools from big cities to remote villages. The award recognises teachers for their innovative teaching practices, dedication to student development, and contri-



President Droupadi Murmu presents an award during the 'National Teachers Awards 2025' ceremony, at Vigyan Bhawan, in New Delhi.

butions to the education sector. From improving classroom learning with creative methods to inspiring students in rural areas, these teachers have made a lasting impact on their communities.

Among the 45 awardees are educators from states such as Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Gujarat, with two teachers each making it to the list. The group also features teach-

ers from the North-East, Union Territories, and southern states, showcasing the diversity of India's education system.

Ahead of the awards, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the National Award-winning teachers. In a light-hearted remark, he said that while teachers usually give homework to students, he wanted to assign one to them—to lead campaigns promoting swadeshi products and strengthen the "Make in India" and "Vocal for Local" movements. He urged teachers to sow the seeds of self-reliance in students and instill the value of building a nation that thrives on its own capabilities. President Murmu, in her message on the eve of Teachers' Day, described teachers as the guiding light of society and architects of the nation's future. She highlighted their role in nurturing generations of students with wisdom, knowledge, and values, while inspiring them to pursue excellence and innovation. "As India moves towards becoming a developed nation, the contributions of teachers in preparing responsible, skilled, and visionary citizens remain more crucial than ever", President Murmu said.

## Death toll in flood-hit Punjab risen to 43 with huge crop loss

MI News Service, Chandigarh : The death toll in the devastating floods in Punjab rose to 43 on Friday following the deaths of two more people at Gurdaspur, while crops on 1.71 lakh hectares have got damaged, official sources said here. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan who visited the flood-ravaged areas of the state on Thursday said two central teams would arrive today to assess the situation arising out of floods and submit a report to the Centre soon for appropriate action. After inspecting the extent of crop damage in vast areas, Chouhan called the situation as 'jal pralay' (deluge) and assured the farmers that the Centre would make every effort to bail them out of this crisis. Daring his visit the flood-hit areas in Amritsar, Gurdaspur and Kapurthala districts, the Union minister also interacted with the local people, particularly the farmers and their families who were mostly affected by unprecedented floods. Meanwhile, after incessant rain for the past about a week in the



An army officer of the Panther Division carries a 60-year-old snake-bite victim during an evacuation operation while wading through floodwater at Ramdass, in Amritsar district, Punjab.

state, the people got some relief after the intensity of rain stopped this morning, though light drizzles continued in most places. According to the weather department, among the few parts of Punjab which received light rain since Friday morning were Ludhiana 9.8 mm, Patiala 1.8 mm, Gurdaspur 1.7 mm, Faridkot 3.5 mm and Rupnagar 0.5 mm. Chandigarh, the common capital of Punjab and Haryana, received 0.9 mm rain during this period. In neighbouring Haryana

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## WhatsApp message claims 14 'terrorists' entered Mumbai with explosives

MI News Service, Mumbai : The police in Mumbai are on high alert after receiving a threat message claiming that 14 terrorists had entered the city with 400 kg of RDX and planted them in vehicles, an official said on Friday. The message also read the blast will "shake the entire city", the official said. As the police make security arrangements for Anant Chaturthi, the 10th day of the ongoing Ganpati festival, the traffic police control room on Thursday received a threat message on their WhatsApp helpline, the official said. He said that the Crime Branch has launched an investigation into the threat, and the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and other agencies have also been informed. The message, which claims to be from the 'Lashkar-e-Jihad' organisation, also said that 14 Pakistani terrorists have entered India. "Mumbai Police is alert, and security across the state has been enhanced. All angles of the threat are being investigated," an officer said. "We keep receiving such threatening messages from unknown numbers on our helpline, he said adding most of the time, they either

are from someone facing mental health issues or those under the influence of alcohol". "However, every time we receive such a message, we have to take it seriously and follow the protocol set up for such cases. If a specific location is mentioned, we have to evacuate the premises and carry out a check with the help of the bomb disposal squad," the officer said. In this case, the message does not mention a specific location, the officer said, adding that they are tracking the number and should be able to identify the sender soon. "Further legal processes, like registration of an offence in the matter, will take place soon at the local police station."

According to the details, the caller, identifying himself as a member of a Pakistan-based jihadi group and said that 14 terrorists had already entered the city. "Mumbai Police is alert, and security across the state has been enhanced. All angles of the threat are being investigated," the official said. On August 29, security was tightened at the Patna Civil Court after the authorities

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## Mamata Banerjee pays tribute to Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan on Teacher's Day



MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday said teachers are the main architects who build the new generation taking forward the society. Offering her heartiest wishes to all members of teaching community in schools, higher educational institutions, Mamata Banerjee paid her tribute to former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, whose birth anniversary day is being observed as Teachers' Day all over the country. "On this auspicious occasion, let me offer my best wishes to all teaching and non-teaching staff of educational institutions who lit up the path of new generation with their guidance, knowledge and wisdom. The teachers are the architects of new generation," she said in a post on her X handle in Bengali. She said teachers are the backbone of the society and the source of inspiration and strength. It may be recalled that after coming to power in 2011, she made it mandatory that the students of all the state-run colleges should pay respect to the teachers on Teachers' Day. She said "Our teachers are our guides, pillars of our inspiration and strength. They are the backbones of

our society. We will always be grateful to them for guiding us through our formative years, and even later. Apart from our parents, they are the only ones before whom we bow our heads in respect". Incidentally on the eve of the Teachers' day on Thursday, the Chief minister honoured a total of 73 teachers with Siksha Ratna awards and 12 schools received the Best School Awards. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief minister said there were only 12 universities in West Bengal when the Trinamool Congress came to power in the state in 2011. But now the number has risen to 47, she said. The state now also has 14 new Medical colleges, 51 government colleges, as many as 500 ITIs, over 7,000 new schools and 2.20 lakh new classrooms.

Mamata Banerjee also said her government had so far spent a staggering amount of Rs 10,000 crores for providing free school supplies. "There are 95 lakh Kanyasri beneficiaries. I felt proud when we received a Public Service Award in 2013 from the United Nations. I went to the Netherlands to accept the prize. I will always remember that moment", she said.

## Cess 'slitting throat of federalism' says TMC's Derek O'Brien

MI News Service, New Delhi : Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha leader Derek O'Brien has stated that the cess going to the Centre is "slitting the throat of federalism", and noted that several states have voiced concern over the shrinking divisive pool of tax revenues. In a blogpost on Friday, the TMC Rajya Sabha Leader said, "In all the hoopla about GST, the four-letter word which is slitting the throat of federalism is CESS".

"Funds collected as cess go 100 per cent to the Union government. Not a rupee is shared with the State governments," he claimed. O'Brien said the Parliamentary select committee in its 2015 report on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) bill had recommended the taxes should not exceed 18 per cent and multiplicity of taxes should be avoided. "Now, done. Better late than never," wrote O'Brien, who was a member of the Select Committee, said in his latest blog published today. The GST council on Wednesday night had announced a two-tier structure (of 5 and 18 per cent), which the Union government has piped as major reforms. O'Brien said economist Amit Mitra, the former Chairperson of the Empowered Committee of state finance ministers on GST and Principal Chief advisor to West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, too welcomed the GST rationalisation with the rider that the benefits would now reach the people. "There was an anti-profiteering



committee that ensured the lower GST would be passed on to the consumers. That committee has been discontinued. Second, there also remains the question of how states will be compensated. Eleven ministers in the GST Council had asked for compensation, their voices were muffled," O'Brien wrote quoting Mitra. "The Revenue Secretary said that revenue loss will be Rs. 48,000 crore. But he did not take into account the supply chain. It will, easily, be over Rs. One lakh crore," he wrote. The Trinamool's Rajya Sabha leader said while much is being made about the GST, the Centre is silent on cess.

"In all the hoopla about GST, the four-letter word which is slitting the throat if federalism is cess. Funds collected as cess go 100 per cent to the Union government. Not a rupee is shared with the State government," he wrote. In 2012 cess formed seven per cent of the Union government's total tax revenue, according to O'Brien. "In 2025, cess is

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As Durga Puja draws closer, an artist at Kumartuli is busy giving final touches to an idol in Kolkata, on Friday.

## Model Villages for Rainwater Harvesting to Prevent Water Wastage in West Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** To ensure safe drinking water in arsenic- and fluoride-affected areas and to curb wastage of potable water, model villages for rainwater harvesting are being developed across West Bengal. These initiatives aim not only to provide clean drinking water in rural areas but also to raise awareness about water conservation and sanitation.



Model villages for rainwater harvesting are being developed across West Bengal.

The international organization Water for People India has taken a leading role in implementing the program. With its support, rainwater harvesting projects have already been launched in several districts, including Birbhum and South 24 Parganas. Awareness campaigns have also started in Howrah, Jhargram, and other districts.

Speaking at a press workshop held at the Kolkata Press Club, Sujata Tripathi, State In-charge of Water for People India, said, "We have been working on this for the past 15 years. So far, 17 rainwater harvesting projects have been set up in Birbhum and 9 in South 24 Parganas. Similar projects are ongoing in Howrah and other districts as well." She further added, "Rainwater harvesting not only protects people from the harmful effects of arsenic- and fluoride-contaminated water but also helps in significantly reducing wastage of water in rural areas."

In addition, in villages where toilets exist but are underutilized, and where communities lag behind in maintaining personal hygiene, menstrual hygiene, safe sanitation, and waste management, awareness campaigns and behavioral change programs are being carried out. These efforts are being integrated with Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Nirmal Bangla, and Anandadhar projects, with the active involvement of self-help groups to strengthen the initiative. Experts believe such projects will not only help tackle arsenic and fluoride contamination but will also play a crucial role in addressing West Bengal's looming water crisis in the coming years.

## Kolkata hosts musical event by senior citizens

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** They are eight passionate senior citizens. Their skin might have wrinkled with age, but their passion for music are still as young as they were ages back. They are members of the musical group - 'Gaanevale'. It successfully celebrated its second anniversary with a memorable musical evening recently in Kolkata. It was founded by Madhusudan Das Mundhra. This year's celebration marked a new chapter for the group, as they welcomed female singers into their ranks for the first time. The performances of Shyam Sundar Daga, Chandra Narayan Mohta, Prakash Mimani, Vijay Damani, Madhav P. Mohta, Raj Bagri, Balesh Bagree, Manju Bhattar, Shikha Daga, and Ritika Thawani, - left the audience awestruck.

## BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul admitted to city hospital with mild brain stroke



BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul admitted to city hospital with mild brain stroke.

Paul was under medical observation but out of danger. The legislator is expected to remain in hospital for a few more days under the care of a neuromedicine expert in a critical care unit cabin at Fortis Healthcare. Doctors reiterated that she was out of danger but would continue under close supervision for some more time. However, Paul's private secretary dismissed reports that the MLA had suffered a brain stroke, saying she was doing well. Paul had had a hectic day in the Assembly yesterday, actively participating in a fierce debate between the treasury bench and opposition MLAs.

## Bengal hosts International Med Conference

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The 8th Annual Congress of the Indian Neurogastroenterology and Mortality Association organised by Indian Neurogastroenterology and Motility Association (INMA) was recently held in Kolkata. Representatives from various countries of the world including America, Britain, Australia, Malaysia participated in the gathering. About three hundred doctors participated in this event. Discussions and workshops were held on various topics such as stomach diseases and new innovations in their treatment and their proper application.

## Swapan Samaddar celebrates Prophet's and Teacher's Day

**Nurul Islam Khan:** Like every year on the occasion of Prophet's Day in Islam too, the Mayor of Kolkata Municipality, member of the council, municipal representative of ward number 56, president of North Kolkata INTTUC and member of North Kolkata Core Committee, Swapan Samaddar toured various areas including Motijheel and Bibi Bagan, distributing fruits, sherbet, and biscuits to the common people and spread the message of peace. He also celebrated Teachers' Day. On behalf of Swapan Samaddar, a total of 442 teachers including ward number 30 and ward number 56 were honored with fruits, sweets, pens, and gifts. Each teacher thanked Swapan Samaddar.



## Centre mulls TRIBAL VARSITY, SAINIK SCHOOL in North Bengal: Shankar Ghosh

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** The Union education ministry is mulling proposals to set up a National Tribal University and a National Sainik School in north Bengal, Siliguri's BJP MLA Shankar Ghosh said. "I, along with some other BJP MLAs from north Bengal, had met Union education minister Dharmendra Pradhan in Delhi last month and requested him to consider setting up such a varsity, a Sainik School and some other educational institutions in the region," Ghosh said. "Recently, I received a letter from him (the Union minister) where he said that he

forwarded our letter to the departments concerned for appropriate action. We are confident that our demands will be met in due course," the MLA added. Ghosh, who had met Pradhan on August 8, said that a considerable portion of north Bengal's population comprises people from the tribal community. "I had underscored that to enhance their education, a National Tribal University was needed in this region. Also, there is a trend among the youths in our region, especially in the hills, to join the defence and central security forces. That is why we need a National Sainik School here, and we have proposed that such a school come up at Bidhanagar," said Ghosh. Bidhanagar, located around 35km from Siliguri, is in the Darjeeling district and close to North Dinajpur. The Siliguri MLA also said that North Bengal University - the oldest and largest state-run varsity in the region - has joined hands with the Indian army to open a research centre named the North Bengal University Research Centre on Diplomacy and War, to take up research work in different fields in association with the armed forces.

# Kolkata Pujo comes alive with landmark Yellow Taxi Project

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Pujo of Kolkata came alive once again with landmark Yellow Taxi Project coming to surface with a bang. Asian Paints Sharad Shamman, Kolkata's most iconic celebration of Durga Pujo creativity, completes 40 years in 2025 with a landmark project called "Cholte Cholte 40" that transforms Kolkata's yellow taxis into moving time capsules. With richly painted exteriors and interiors crafted as immersive environments using wall-papers, fabrics, and textures, each taxi becomes a multisensory portal into its decade, crowned by the Asian Paints crown as a symbol of elevating the everyday. Together, these taxis carry four decades of Asian Paints Sharad Shamman' cultural archive back into the streets of Kolkata, reaffirming its motto: 'A celebration of tradition, a festival of fervour'. This unique tribute to



Kolkata was unveiled in the presence of Amit Syngle, MD and CEO of Asian Paints Ltd, and acclaimed West Bengal personalities Abir Chatterjee and Sauraseni Maitra. Asian Paints Sharad Shamman was instituted

in 1985 with a newspaper advertisement that redefined how the city viewed its festival. To mark these four decades, Asian Paints turned to another Kolkata emblem - the yellow taxi - a vehicle that has been inseparable from the city's Pujo journeys yet is now slowly disappearing from its streets. Speaking on the occasion, Amit Syngle, MD and CEO of Asian Paints Ltd, said, "When Asian Paints Sharad Shamman began in 1985, it set out to honour the imagination of Pujo. Forty years later, it has become a living chronicle of Kolkata's creative spirit. On this milestone year, the yellow taxi felt like the most fitting tribute."

# A Durga Made of Paper: Soham's Eco-Friendly Innovation

**MI News Service, Shantipur:** In a modest home in Shantipur, the quiet rustle of coloured paper and the faint smell of glue replace the more familiar sight of clay and bamboo. Bent over a half-finished idol of Goddess Durga, 19-year-old Soham De works patiently, giving form to a 24-inch deity made entirely of paper. For many, Durga Puja is synonymous with dazzling lights, the beat of the dhak, and the majestic clay idols that dominate pandals across Bengal. But Soham, a former student of Shantipur Municipal High School, has chosen a different path, crafting idols that are lightweight, portable, and entirely eco-friendly. "I made my first idol in Class V, using pieces of cardboard. Slowly, I experimented with old newspapers and then coloured sheets. This year I wanted to create something more detailed," he says, pausing briefly before returning to his work.



The son of a retired schoolteacher and a homemaker, Soham completed his Higher Secondary examinations in 2024 and is now preparing for medical entrance tests. While academics remain his priority, he admits that art has been inseparable from his life. "No matter how much I study, I can't let go of idol-making. It's a part of me," he adds. This year's idol, begun in mid-July, is progressing in stolen hours between books and practice tests.

Beyond idols, Soham experiments with paper crafts for home decor. Social media has brought attention to his work, with many intrigued by the idea of a light, eco-friendly Durga idol that could adorn both homes and community spaces. Balancing dreams of becoming a doctor with a passion for art is no easy task. Soham appeared for NEET this year but did not secure the result he had hoped for. Undeterred, he plans to try again next year. "Medicine is my career goal, but this," he gestures at the paper idol, "this is my heart's work." In a season when conversations about sustainability grow louder with each passing year, Soham's quiet experiment in Shantipur stands out. His paper Durga is not just an idol, it is a reminder that devotion and creativity can coexist with responsibility towards the environment.

# Jalpaiguri to get Rs 150 Cr water project

**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will reach north Bengal next week for a three-day visit and attend a public service distribution programme in Jalpaiguri, senior administrative officials said. During her visit, she is likely to meet senior Trinamool Congress leaders of the region to discuss the party's activities, keeping in mind the upcoming Assembly polls. The chief minister is likely to reach Siliguri on September 9, and the following day, she will attend a public service distribution programme on the ABPC Ground in Jalpaiguri. On September 11, she is likely to return to Kolkata," said a source in the administration.

In Jalpaiguri, the chief minister will lay the foundation stone of a drinking water project of Rs 150 crore. Under the project, water will be pumped from the Teesta to provide drinking water to households in Jalpaiguri town. "In the first phase, there is a plan to provide drinking water to around 19,000 households in the town," said a representative of the local civic body. With less than a year left for the Assembly elections, Mamata's visit to north Bengal is significant as Trinamool and the BJP are steadfastly focusing on the region that has 54 Assembly seats. In 2021, the BJP had bagged 30 seats while Trinamool had won 23 seats. However, Trinamool won

some byelections later. "BJP is desperate to retain all these seats as was evident from the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Alipurduar in May, his first tour of Bengal after last year's Lok Sabha elections. Since then, the Prime Minister has been regularly visiting Bengal," said a political observer. Trinamool, on the other hand, has been consistently playing the development card and is now highlighting the harassment faced by migrant workers who hail from north Bengal in BJP-ruled states. "We expect there will be some important announcements about development as well as the initiation of some infrastructural projects during the visit of the chief minister. Mamata Banerjee and her party want to drive home the point that the BJP, despite having legislators from the region, has not done much for north Bengal," the observer said. Administrative and police officials, along with representatives of the Jalpaiguri municipality, visited the ABPC Ground where the public service distribution will be held. Engineers of the state public works department were present at the venue. "The chief minister will attend the event on September 10. We visited the ground today and are drawing up plans for the government programme," Jalpaiguri district magistrate Shama Parveen said.

# Sandeshkhali's 11km lifeline turns into death trap

**MI News Service, Sandeshkhali:** If roads are a benchmark of development, Sandeshkhali in the Sundarbans delta of North 24-Parganas paints a grim picture despite the state government's claims of rural development. The 11km arterial road that cuts through the Bermajur 1 and 2 gram panchayats - linking Dhamakhali, the gateway to Calcutta, on one end and Najat (Bansirhat) on the other - has virtually become inaccessible. Craters and potholes, left unattended for years, have turned this lifeline into a nightmare for commuters. The stretch begins at Rampur market in the Bermajur 2 panchayat and runs up to Gajikhali ghat leading to Dhamakhali. Once a proud witness to the historic Tebhaga movement, Bermajur now stands as a symbol of neglect and endless suffering for the island's residents. Bermajur was one of the storming grounds of the Tebhaga movement in the late 1940s, which sought to secure a fairer share for sharecroppers. During the Bengal famine of 1943, the communists provided relief to peasants in the region. In 1946, the CPI's peasant wing launched the Tebhaga agitation across Bengal, insisting that one-third

of the yield belonged to the farmers. The movement continued until 1950 when the Bargadari Act was enacted. Decades later, this same place became the epicentre of mass protests in 2024 against alleged atrocities by some Trinamool Congress leaders, particularly against women. Today, however, parts of the 11km stretch resemble a canal, with rainwater stagnating in deep potholes. Large sections have been waterlogged for years because of the complete absence of maintenance. Local people say they could not recall when the road was last repaired, alleging that, except for a few patchworks, no real work had been done for over two decades. "I fell off an e-rickshaw recently as it overturned in a crater, as the operator failed to guess the depth of the hole in the waterlogged stretch. This has become a recurring incident here," said Sabita Biswas, a homemaker in Bermajur. The CPM has launched a movement demanding the reconstruction of the entire stretch. Local CPM leaders said the struggle was a tribute to the peasants of the Tebhaga movement. The party has also de-

mandated that a memorial plaque of the movement, currently under alleged illegal occupation, be restored. "Bermajur is a place of our pride for the Tebhaga movement. But it is a matter of shock that for the past few years, the main road from Rampur market to Gajikhali ferry ghat has been in terrible condition. No one dares to travel on it. Even taking patients to hospitals has become a serious concern as vehicles cannot ply smoothly. Ferrying expecting mothers has turned out to be a risky affair. In some areas, the waterlogging is knee-deep, often causing e-rickshaws to overturn with passengers," said Pradipta Sarkar, a teacher and CPM activist in Bermajur. The road is used extensively to reach the police station, the office of Sandeshkhali 1 block development officer, and several markets. "Ambulances carrying patients to Calcutta hospitals or even local health centres take this route, while countless commuters rely on it for their daily needs," Sarkar added. CPM's Sandeshkhali 2 committee secretary, Bilas Burman, said: "We have repeatedly appealed for repair or reconstruction of the road and submitted

**Intermittent Rain Continues Across South Bengal During Festive Month**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Even as the festive season begins, rain continues to cast its shadow across parts of South Bengal. The Alipore Meteorological Department reported scattered rainfall in several districts, including Kolkata. However, there is no immediate forecast of heavy showers for South Bengal. Instead, the mercury is expected to rise by three to four degrees Celsius over the next 24 hours, accompanied by high humidity levels, which could increase discomfort for residents. Officials said rainfall with thunderstorms is likely to reduce by the weekend. But by Monday, the weather may once again shift, with the possibility of rainfall increasing across the region.

While heavy rain is not anticipated immediately, certain districts are likely to receive moderate showers. These include Howrah, South 24 Parganas, East Midnapore, Birbhum, and Murshidabad. Coastal and adjoining districts may also experience gusty winds with speeds ranging from 30 to 40 kmph. For Kolkata, the forecast suggests a partly cloudy sky with light to moderate rain. On Friday, the maximum temperature in the city is expected to be around 32°C, while the minimum may hover near 27°C. On Thursday, Kolkata recorded a maximum temperature of 31.2°C — 1.2 degrees below normal — and a minimum of 27.2°C, which was 0.9 degrees above normal.

**WhatsApp message claims 14 'terrorists' entered Mumbai with explosives**

**From PG 1**  
There received a bomb threat via email. Patna (Central) SP Diksha said a bomb disposal team and a dog squad were immediately deployed to conduct a thorough search of the court premises. "A bomb threat received via email said explosives were planted inside the civil court premises. Security was immediately tightened, and a bomb disposal team and a dog squad were engaged. After a thorough search, nothing was found," Diksha told reporters. The operation was carried out without causing any inconvenience to the public, she added. "Prima facie, the mail appears to be a hoax. The mail also spoke about labourers," the SP said. Earlier, a high-security alert was sounded across Bihar on Thursday following inputs suggesting three terrorists from Pakistan entered the state through Nepal. Bihar Police headquarters issued an alert to all district police and also issued the names and photographs of the terrorists, belonging to the banned terror outfit Jaish-e-Mohammed.

**Rs 16.43 crore siphoned off from Municipal Corporation's account**

**From PG 1**  
signature of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the civic body, DK Chakma, to withdraw the money while the original cheques are lying with the authority, he said. The police said the investigating officer has already collected CCTV footage from Kolkata head-quartered public sector bank's Kaman Chowmuhani branch to check who had visited the bank to submit the forged cheques. "Once we find the persons who had submitted the forged cheques at the bank, we will be able to get vital clues in the investigation process", the official said.



State Ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya and Shashi Panja along with MP Mala Roy led the Trinamool Congress' protest programme against atrocities on Bengali migrant workers in other states and the deprivation of the Bengali language, in Kolkata on Friday.

**Kolkata Hosts Fest5 International Film Festival 2025 with Grand Opening**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Fest5 International Film Festival (F5IFF'25) opened on Friday at the Anthropological Survey of India (AnSI) Auditorium, Salt Lake, beginning a four-day

celebration of cinema, culture, and climate awareness. The festival, running from September 5-8, received over 550 submissions from 69 countries, with 30 films selected for

screening. Following its successful debut last year, F5IFF has returned with wider participation and a sharper focus on environmental concerns and climate change. The festival was inaugurated by acclaimed actress and Padma Shri awardee Mamata Shankar, who said, "Cinema has always been a mirror to society. F5IFF, with its focus on environment, climate change, and human dignity, is deeply relevant in today's times."

Festival Director Sourav De highlighted the addition of new categories such as the Satyajit Ray Student Film Awards, Bibliophilia, and Films on Anthropology, calling the festival "a cultural movement that gives space to independent voices alongside global cinema." Prof. B.V. Sharma, Director of AnSI, welcomed the collaboration, noting that the festival's themes align with understanding communities and ecology. F5IFF'25 will also engage youth through partnerships with universities, cementing Kolkata's place on the global cinematic map.

**Bengal Transport Dept Issues Guidelines to Curb Fraud in Old Car Transactions**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** With cases of fraud in the sale and purchase of old vehicles rising steadily across West Bengal, the state Transport Department has released a set of detailed guidelines aimed at protecting citizens from financial losses and legal entanglements. Transport Minister Snehasis Chakraborty, announcing the move on Thursday, said that an extensive awareness campaign will also be launched across the state. "Fraudsters are taking advantage of people's lack of awareness. If citizens remain cautious and follow due process, many of these fraudulent practices can be prevented," the minister emphasized. The guidelines advise vehicle owners to thoroughly verify the credentials of the buyer before handing over their cars. Crucially, ownership should only be transferred to the person in whose name the vehicle will be registered. Owners have been asked to personally

complete the ownership transfer at the Regional Transport Office (RTO) with all necessary documentation. For those purchasing old vehicles from dealers, the guidelines stress the importance of checking whether the dealer holds a valid license. Unlicensed intermediaries, officials warned, have been at the center of numerous fraudulent deals. According to Transport Department sources, several cases have been reported where vehicle ownership was not legally transferred after sale. In some instances, fake dealers duped unsuspecting buyers. The consequences can be severe: once a car is sold but remains officially registered under the original owner's name, that individual could be held responsible if the vehicle is later used in thefts, robberies, or other criminal activities. "Many people assume their responsibility ends once they hand over the car and receive payment," a senior officer said.

**State Police Cancels Leave for Officers and Personnel During Festive Season**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** After Kolkata Police, now the West Bengal Police Directorate has issued an advisory to all district police chiefs directing that no leave applications from officers and personnel be entertained during the upcoming festive season. The directive, issued by Additional Director General (Law and Order) Javed-Shamim, aims to ensure round-the-clock vigilance across the state during Durga Puja, Kali Puja, Diwali, and Chhath Puja celebrations. According to police headquarters, the instructions will remain in force from September 20 to October 29, 2025. During this period, all ranks of the state police—from senior officers to constables—are expected to remain on duty. Exceptions will only be made in cases of medical emergencies or other unavoidable circumstances, subject to approval by

higher authorities. Senior officials said the decision was taken keeping in mind the massive footfall, traffic congestion, and heightened security concerns during Bengal's festive season. "From Durga Puja to Chhath, crores of people will be on the move. Ensuring their safety and maintaining peace is our top priority," a senior officer at BhawaniBhawan explained. The advisory also stressed the need for intensified patrolling and surveillance across urban and rural areas alike. Officers have been instructed to remain alert to any signs of unrest, rumor-mongering, or potential law-and-order problems. In such situations, swift preventive action must be taken without delay. Durga Puja, the state's largest festival, is scheduled to begin in the third week of September, followed by Kali Puja and Diwali in October.

**West Bengal Cabinet Approves Key Land Allocation Decisions for Industry and Housing**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal state cabinet has taken several important decisions on land use for industrial, housing, and commercial purposes, paving the way for fresh investments and infrastructure growth. At a cabinet meeting held on Thursday in the state assembly, multiple projects across different districts received approval. According to government sources, HIDCO has been allotted land in Digha, East Midnapore, through an e-auction process. The land will be used for hotels and other commercial activities to boost tourism and local business in the coastal town. In another major decision, Technomac Engineering has been granted land in Polba, Hooghly, to

set up a new factory. Officials said the project will generate local employment opportunities and strengthen the state's industrial base. The cabinet also approved the allocation of freehold land in Liluah, Howrah, for the development of an Industrial and Logistics Park. This project is expected to improve warehousing and supply-chain infrastructure, supporting both small and large businesses. Apart from industrial projects, Thursday's meeting cleared the conversion of several non-residential plots into residential use. These plots may now be developed into housing estates, providing a push to the state's real estate and housing sector. However, the conversion will not be free of cost. The

government has decided to impose a fixed fee for such land-use changes. While the exact percentage and calculation method for this fee have not yet been finalized, officials confirmed that a detailed policy framework will be announced soon. The fee is expected to ensure transparency in land-use conversion and generate additional revenue for the state exchequer. In South 24 Parganas and Daspur in West Midnapore, both leasehold and freehold land parcels have also been approved for allocation, signaling a broader strategy to distribute industrial and residential development opportunities across districts rather than concentrating them only in urban centers.

**Three Owners of Gun Shop Arrested by Bengal STF**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** a major breakthrough in the recent Rahara arms seizure case, the Bengal Special Task Force (STF) has arrested the three owners of a century-old gun shop in Kolkata's Bowbazar area. Acting on intelligence inputs, an STF team carried out a raid on Thursday night and arrested SubirDey, AbhirDey, and SubrataDey, proprietors of the licensed firearms store. Police also seized a large cache of weapons from the shop, including a total of 41 guns—both single-barrel and double-barrel varieties. The shop has been sealed following the raid.

The arrests come in connection with the recovery of a massive stockpile of arms and ammunition from a flat in Rahara's Regent Park area last month. During that raid, Khardah police had seized huge quantities of cartridges and firearms from a ground-floor apartment of a five-storey building. The case was later transferred to the Bengal STF for further investigation. Preliminary findings revealed that several cartridges seized in Rahara had links to the Bowbazar-based gun shop, which prompted the recent crackdown. According to investigators, this is not the first time the shop's name has surfaced in connection with illegal arms trafficking. The century-old licensed store, once a reputed establishment in central Kolkata, had previously come under the scanner after weapons recovered in different incidents were traced back to it. Police are now probing how a legally licensed shop repeatedly figures in such cases. The investigation has also widened beyond Rahara. In a separate incident, Jibantala police in South 24 Parganas had earlier recovered 199 rounds of two types of bullets along with a double-barrel gun. Several employees of the same Bowbazar shop were arrested in that case as well.

Although the shop was briefly shut down and later reopened, it is once again at the centre of controversy after being linked to fresh instances of arms trafficking. An STF officer stated that the three owners will be produced in court, where police will seek custody for interrogation. "We are trying to uncover the entire network behind the illegal circulation of licensed weapons and ammunition. This arrest is a crucial step toward dismantling the racket," the officer said. With the shop now sealed again, investigators are working to determine whether the establishment had been systematically misusing its licence to supply weapons to the black market.

**KMC to Build New Garbage Dump Yard Adjacent to Dhapa Amid Growing Waste Burden**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** With an eye on the city's future waste management challenges, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to construct a new dump yard adjacent to the existing Dhapa landfill. The project, initially planned with state government financial assistance, will now be undertaken solely by the civic body after funds were not sanctioned in time, despite positive recommendations from the Urban Development and Finance Departments.

According to KMC sources, the proposal will be placed at the Mayor-in-Council meeting on September 8, followed by a formal tabling at the monthly civic session on September 10 for final approval. The plan involves developing the new landfill on nearly 73 hectares of land owned by the corporation. Farmers currently cultivating on the site—identified as 883 individuals—will be compensated in line with government norms. DebabrataMajumder, Member, Mayor-in-Council (Solid Waste Management), confirmed that while financial approval from the state's Fi-

nance Department has not been forthcoming, the KMC is determined to go ahead independently. He acknowledged that besides Kolkata's own waste, garbage from Bidhannagar, Dum Dum, Panihati, and the NKDA is also dumped at Dhapa. To compound the problem, for the last six months, around 300 metric tonnes of solid waste from Howrah Municipal Corporation has also been offloaded daily at Dhapa. Altogether, nearly 5,200 metric tonnes of waste is dumped there every day, far exceeding its sustainable capacity.

Experts describe the move as one of the most significant waste management decisions in recent times. The National Green Tribunal and the state's Environment Department had recommended over a decade ago that the KMC identify an alternative dumping ground. After multiple surveys, the civic body zeroed in on its own land in Borough No. 7. A senior official explained, "Over the past year, several rounds of discussions were held with farmers, local councillors, and borough chairpersons.

**Cess 'slitting throat of federalism' says TMC's Derek O'Brien**

**From PG 1**  
estimated to be about 20 per cent of the Union government's total tax revenues. A whopping Rs. 5.7 lakh crore of cess and surcharge has been lying unutilised since 2019," said O'Brien. He said even the BJP ruled states had protested against the shrinking divisible pool of revenue. "These states (22 in total) asked the 16th Finance Commission for a larger share of tax collections — currently 41 per cent to be raised to 50 per cent. As per Reserve Bank of India, the divisible pool has shrunk from 89 per cent of gross tax revenue in 2011 to 79 per cent in 2021. This, despite the 10 per cent increase in tax devolution to states as recommended by the 14th Finance Commission," O'Brien wrote. "Between 2015 and 2024, cess (in operation) has increased by 462 per cent (over Rs. Two lakh crore)," he added.

**Death toll in flood-hit Punjab risen to 43 with huge crop loss**

**From PG 1**  
remaining suspended for the fifth straight day on Friday because of torrential rain. The heavy to very heavy rain in the region led to mudslides and boulders sliding off slopes at several places on the 250-km road linking the Valley to the rest of the country. As a result the traffic on the highway, the only all-weather road linking Kashmir with rest of the country, was suspended after landslides at various places between Samrol and Banihal sector, officials said. A traffic department official said vehicular movement could not be allowed as a precautionary measure in view of the bad weather and heavy rain forecast at least till next Sunday. The pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir however, remained suspended for the 11th consecutive day on Friday.

The yatra was suspended after a landslide on August 26 claimed 34 lives and left 20 others injured. Though the weather has improved significantly with the sun shining brightly after ten days of heavy rains, flash floods, and landslides, the authorities are yet to take a call on resuming the yatra. "Yatra is still suspended. This is due to the decision taken by authorities last week, keeping in view the safety of pilgrims," an official said. In view of this grim situation Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high-level meeting on flood relief meas-



Eastern Railway's Sports Association (ERSA) organizes 90th All India Railway Athletic Championship



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Sports Association (ERSA) organizing 90th All India Inter Railway Athletic Championship 2025-26 at SAI (Sports Authority of India) Ground, Salt Lake, Kolkata. This 3-day event starts from today (5.9.2025) and will continue till 7th September 2025.

Border dispute with China biggest security challenge: CDS General Anil Chauhan

MI News Service, Gorakhpur: Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said on Friday that the border dispute with China is the biggest security challenge for India, and the second major challenge is Pakistan's proxy war.

"100% sure of winning this election": Vice Presidential Candidate B Sudershan Reddy

MI News Service, Guwahati: Ahead of the upcoming Vice Presidential elections slated to take place on September 9, the Opposition Candidate B Sudershan Reddy stated that he is "100% sure" of winning the elections.

No traffic block MI News Service, Kolkata: There will be no traffic block between Shahid Khudiram and Mahanayak Uttam Kumar stations of Blue Line on 07.09.2025 (Sunday).

Why is BJP worried about use of ballot papers in local body elections?: Karnataka DCM DK Shivakumar

MI News Service, Bengaluru: Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday questioned the BJP for expressing reservations about the use of ballot papers in local body elections.

"Cong's mindset has always been against Biharis": Chirag Paswan

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Minister Chirag Paswan attacked the Congress party on Friday, accusing them of "defaming" the people of Bihar by comparing them to 'bidis'.

"Inconsiderate, designed to hurt people's sentiments": CM Omar Abdullah slams J-K admin's refusal to shift Eid-e-Milad holiday



MI News Service, Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday criticised the administration for not rescheduling the Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi holiday despite the government calendar mentioning that holidays were "subject to the appearance of the moon."

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NOTICE: Notice is given to all that Smt. Sampa Ghosh, is the present owner of Flat being No. 2C, on the Second Floor, measuring about 650 sq.ft. super built up area equivalent to 398 sq.ft. carpet area, more or less, together with undivided proportionate share of land measuring 2 Cothas 5 Chittaks 22 sq.ft. comprising in Kuzta - Aradhya, R.S. Dag No. 3380, R.S. Khaitan No. 976 and 2034, Holding No. 3024 (P-88), Ram Krishna Pally, Police Station - Behrighara, ward No. 11, within Kamarnah Municipality, District - North 24 Parganas. The copies of Deeds being No.04250 for the year 1989 and being No.04255 for year 1970 and being No.03714 for the year 2008, and being No. 03713 for the year 2008 and being No.06542 for the year 2007, and being No.16657 for the year 2012 and being No.01770 for the year 2014 are not available with the present owner.

Table with 3 columns: Station, Schedule, Reschedule. Rows include Sealdah (S), BBD Bag, Sealdah (S), Sonarpur, Sealdah (S), Canning, and BBD Bag.

Rescheduling of Three trains over Sealdah Division

Due to operational exigency, the timings of 30416 Sealdah-BBD Bag local, 34432 Sealdah-Sonarpur local and 34538 Sealdah-Canning local trains will be rescheduled w.e.f. 06.09.2025. The changes are as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Station, Schedule, Reschedule. Rows include Sealdah (S), BBD Bag, Sealdah (S), Sonarpur, Sealdah (S), Canning, and BBD Bag.

Eastern Railway RESTORATION OF STOPPAGES OF SOME TRAINS

Table with 4 columns: Train No. & Name, Station, Arr. Dep. Rows include 22301 Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Vande Bharat Express, 22302 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Vande Bharat Express, 13145 Kolkata-Radhikapur Express, 13146 Radhikapur-Kolkata Express, 13053 Howrah-Radhikapur Express, 13054 Radhikapur-Howrah Express, 13141 Sealdah-New Alipurdur Express, 13142 New Alipurdur-Sealdah Express.

PUJA SPECIAL TRAINS between Kolkata & Lucknow and Malda Town & Anand Vihar (T)

Table with 5 columns: Day, Arr. Dep., STATIONS, Arr. Dep. Day. Rows include 03107/03108 Kolkata-Lucknow-Kolkata Special (Weekly), 03435/03436 Malda Town-Anand Vihar Terminal-Malda Town Special trains.

## US employers added just 22 000 jobs last month amid uncertainty over President Trump's policies



**Washington :** US employers added just 22,000 jobs last month as the labour market continued to cool under uncertainty over President Donald Trump's economic policies.

The Labour Department said Friday that hiring decelerated from 79,000 in July. The unemployment rate ticked up to 4.3 per cent, also worse than expected and the highest level since 2021, the Labour Department said.

When the department put out a disappointing jobs report a month ago, an enraged President Donald Trump responded by firing the economist in charge of compiling the numbers and nominating a loyalist to replace her.

Talking to reporters Thursday night at a dinner with wealthy tech executives, Trump had seemed to shrug off whatever hiring numbers would come out Friday. "The real numbers that I'm talking about are going to be whatever it is, but will be in a year from now," the president said.

The US job market has lost momentum this year, partly because of the lingering effects of 11 interest rate hikes by the inflation fighters at the Federal Reserve in 2022 and 2023 and partly because President Donald Trump's policies, including his trade wars, have created uncertainty that leaves managers reluctant to make hiring decisions.

So far in 2025, the economy has generated 85,000 new jobs a month, down from 1.68,000 last year and an average 4,00,000 a month during the hiring boom of 2021-2023 as the United States roared back from COVID-19 lockdowns. "The labour market is showing signs of cracking," said Heather Long, chief economist at Navy

Federal Credit Union. "It's not a red siren alarm yet, but the signs keep growing that businesses are starting to cut workers."

The Labour Department reported Thursday that the number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits - a proxy for layoffs - rose last week to the highest level since June, though the number of claims remained within a healthy range.

The outplacement firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas said Wednesday that US-based employers have announced more than 8,92,000 jobs cuts this year through August, more than the 7,61,000 reported for all 12 months of 2024.

In a sign that US hiring gains are limited and fragile, nearly 80 per cent of new private sector jobs this year have been created in just one industry: healthcare and social assistance, a Labour Department category that spans hospitals to daycare centres.

After seeing the weak July jobs numbers, Trump fired Erika McEntarfer, head of the Bureau of Labour Statistics, baselessly claiming the hiring report had been rigged to hurt him politically.

He has nominated a partisan ideologue, E J Antoni, to replace her. But for now, pending Antoni's confirmation by the

Senate, the jobs report is in the hands of the acting BLS commissioner, William Wiatrowski, a career Labour Department official.

Economists and others familiar with how the jobs numbers are collected have expressed confidence that Labour Department procedures will keep the data safe from political interference.

What set Trump off a month ago wasn't the July hiring or unemployment figures. It was BLS revisions, which shaved a stunning 2,58,000 jobs off May and June payrolls and slashed average monthly hiring from May through July to a mere 35,000.

The revisions are standard practice, and necessary because many companies surveyed by the government submit their responses late or correct what they've already sent in.

Government economists are also contending with a big drop in the share of companies that respond to the surveys. A decade ago, about 60 per cent of companies surveyed responded. Now only about 40 per cent do.

And it's an international problem for data collectors, especially since COVID-19. The United Kingdom even suspended publication of an official unemployment rate because of inadequate responses.

"I remember being at an international conference where the chief statistician of the Russian Republic was complaining about how the Russians don't want to complete their surveys," William Beach, BLS commissioner from 2019 to 2023, said in an interview last month. "What could he do? If you can't compel completion in Russia, you can't compel it anywhere."

## Avaada Electro to Showcase PV Modules at RE+ 2025

**Kolkata:** Avaada Electro, the solar PV manufacturing entity of the Avaada Group, will present its solar modules and cells at RE+ 2025, to be held in Las Vegas from September 8-11, 2025. Visitors can explore Avaada Electro's product portfolio at Booth V13804.

Specializing in N-Type TOPCon solar cells and modules, Avaada Electro is driving efficiency gains while scaling power output to deliver greater performance and longevity.

Currently operating with 8.5 GW of PV module the company expects to expand further in future. It currently has two manufacturing facilities in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra and are designed for scalability.

The flagship Nagpur facility features production lines and a smart energy management system with a Takt time of just 16 seconds.

Avaada Electro's modules are certified to international standards including IEC, UL, and ISO, seeking to ensure consistent performance in different geographies-from utility-scale solar parks to C&I and rooftop installations.

Commenting on the company's participation, Vineet Mittal, Chairman of Avaada Group, said: "Our presence at RE+ 2025 marks a pivotal step in establishing Avaada Electro as a trusted global partner in the clean energy transition. With our solar cells and modules, we are not only showcasing India's technology leadership but also aim to introduce U.S. customers to reliable and cost-efficient solutions tailored for large-scale utilities, EPCs, and C&I users. We remain committed to empowering businesses, communities, and nations to accelerate renewable energy adoption and advance their net-zero ambitions."

## MP 5.2-kg baby born at govt-run hospital in Jabalpur doctor says such weight is 'rare'

**Jabalpur :** A woman delivered a baby boy weighing 5.2 kg at the government-run Rani Durgawati Hospital in Madhya Pradesh's Jabalpur district, a doctor has said, describing the birth of such "heavy infants" as "rare".

The child was born through caesarean section on Wednesday to Shubhangi, wife of Anand Chouksey, a resident of Ranjhi area, unit head gynaecologist Dr Bhavana Mishra told PTL.

"I have not seen such a heavy child in many years," she said on Thursday, adding that such babies are generally kept under observation for 24 hours as their sugar levels fluctuate.

"The baby is in SNCU because such babies face the threat of congenital anomalies. The paediatrician has said she was watching the blood sugar level. Overall, she said the infant was fine," Mishra informed.

The average weight of a full-term male newborn is between 2.8 and 3.2 kg, while for female newborns it ranges from 2.7 to 3.1 kg, Mishra said.

But the weights of babies have been improving gradually due to good lifestyle, nutrition and better medical care, the doctor added.

## Restaurateur Camellia Panjabi celebrates 'Vegetables The Indian Way' in London

**London :** A new cookbook launched in London this week celebrates India's immense variety and range of vegetable dishes, infused with nutritional and health benefits through the ingredients used and methods of cooking.

"Vegetables: The Indian Way" by Mumbai-born restaurateur and author Camellia Panjabi brings together 120 recipes incorporating a broad range of vegetables and lentils from across all parts of India.

Following years of research, Panjabi has incorporated nutritional notes, Ayurvedic influences and insights into traditional cooking techniques that naturally enhance digestion and absorption.

"I felt it was time to look at vegetables differently, instead of it being tucked away at the end of a restaurant menu, often as sides," Panjabi shared during a launch event at Masala Zone in Piccadilly Circus - one of the flagship restaurants within her family's MW Eat Indian dining group in the UK.

"I decided, why not group the vegetables, one by one, get their entire story, give all the recipes defined by how they grow - under the ground, on the ground, on a shrub, under the water or on a tree. And, if a recipe did not have oomph and taste fantastic, it would not go into the book. That was the easy part, as I had been collecting recipes all my life," she reminisced. As a book that has been in her mind's eye ever since the release of her bestselling cookbook '50 Great Curries of India' 30 years ago, it took the enforced lockdown of the COVID pandemic to finally bring things together in chapters. Panjabi credits her fellow restaurateur sister Namita and brother-in-law Ranjit Mathrani for encouraging her to "put pencil to paper" while locked down in London, even though much of her research notes were left behind in Mumbai.

The book's tagline of 'A definitive collection of recipes from the simple to the special' references her efforts to dig deeper into each known and lesser-known household dish, from bitter gourd's link to blood sugar regulation to lentils taking on a complete healthy package when paired with rice, rich in amino acids. "For Western vegetables, there are lots of books and coverage. So, off I went to the National Institute of Nutrition, which I didn't know much about until then, and the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in the Pusa complex in New Delhi, as well as consulting herbalists and Ayurveda experts. They were not amused by my multiple questions, but it made my research process thoroughly enjoyable," she recalled. The recipes, accompanied by Jonathan Gregson's photography, offer a savoury and sweet mix of dishes associated with vegetables such as broccoli and pumpkin grown on the ground, beetroot and carrot found under the ground, beans and okra found on shrubs and vines, apple and mango found on trees, and lotus stem and water chestnut found under water. From the gut-friendly benefits of soaking lentils and fermenting batters to the anti-inflammatory power of spices like turmeric and fenugreek, the cookbook is designed to blend ancient Indian food wisdom with modern nutritional science. Panjabi has been a champion of plant-based recipes through the course of her long career in the hospitality industry, including with the Taj Group of hotels. With her new book, she hopes to shine a light on how vegetables are essential not just for flavour and sustainability, but for metabolic health, gut function and longevity. "Vegetables: The Indian Way", available in bookshops and online from this month, is her way of celebrating Indian techniques like tempering (tadka), sprouting and spice layering that transform simple vegetables into powerhouse meals.

## Central govt's revenue loss due to GST rate reduction will be Rs 3700 crore for FY26: SBI

**New Delhi :** The revenue loss of the central government due to the recent GST rate reduction will be around Rs 3,700 crore in FY26, as higher growth and a boost in consumption have reduced the impact on revenues, according to a report by the State Bank of India (SBI). The report highlighted the data that by taking the baseline of FY24, the government had estimated a gross loss of Rs 93,000 crore due to GST rate cuts. However, after adjusting for extra revenue collection, the net loss stood at Rs 48,000 crore.

For FY26, SBI estimates the gross revenue loss to be higher at Rs 1.11 lakh crore. But with strong consumption trends and higher tax revenue, the net loss is projected to decline sharply to Rs 25,794 crore for the full FY26 including centre and states share.

For a six-month period, the Centre's share of loss is significantly smaller. As per FY24 base-

line, it stood at Rs 6,960 crore, while in FY26 it is expected to reduce further to Rs 3,740 crore. It stated "based on the trend growth and consumption boost, we expect Rs 3,700 crore revenue loss in GST".

On an annualized basis, the government estimates the net fiscal impact of GST rationalisation at around Rs 48,000 crore. However, SBI's calculations, based on trend growth and consumption boost, point to a much smaller revenue loss of Rs 3,700 crore, which is just about 1 basis point impact on the fiscal deficit.

The report also pointed out that in the past, GST rate cuts have led to additional revenues of nearly Rs 1 trillion.

It emphasized that rationalisation of tax rates should not be seen as a temporary stimulus to demand but rather as a structural reform. The simplified framework is expected to reduce com-

pliance burdens, encourage voluntary compliance, and widen the tax base in the long run.

On the inflation front, the report mentioned that the reduction in GST rates on essential items, around 295 in total, has brought down rates from 12 per cent to 5 per cent or NIL. This is expected to reduce CPI inflation in this category by 25-30 basis points in FY26, considering a 60 per cent pass-through effect on food items.

Additionally, the rationalisation of GST rates on services is estimated to lower CPI inflation by another 40-45 basis points, with a 50 per cent pass-through effect on other goods and services.

Overall, SBI expects CPI inflation to moderate by 65-75 basis points over FY26-27, providing further relief to consumers while ensuring minimal impact on government finances.

## Assam's Tezpur University signs MoU with Far Eastern Federal University of Russia

**Guwahati :** Assam's Tezpur University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Far Eastern Federal University (FEFU) of Russia to explore research work and other related areas of mutual interest.

The agreement, effective for a period of five years, was inked on Wednesday on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum in Russia's Vladivostok, an official release said. FEFU, a prestigious public university located in Vladivostok was established in 1899 and is one of Russia's leading educational institutions, offering a wide range of programmes - medicine, engineering, humanities and natural sciences - it said.

The MoU calls for various areas of activities that include

establishing joint dual degree educational programs in the field of construction and civil engineering, intention to implement research work on construction, civil engineering, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

The partnership will also open other activities like field trips, exchange of students and faculty members, joint research projects, conferences and cultural programmes, the release said. Such a collaboration would broaden the horizons of students of Tezpur University, its Vice Chancellor Prof Shambhu Nath Singh said. He hoped that the exposure to two distinct educational ecosystems, research cultures, and societal needs would make students more agile in responding to complex global problems.

# Politics or relief on GST

The reduction in GST rates is a sign of relief for the public, but the frequently changing arguments raise questions on the policies of the government.

After the implementation of GST, the government for nine years called high rates necessary and enumerated their benefits. Now the same argument is being given in reverse form for reducing the rates. The tax relief to be implemented from Navratri is definitely a positive message for consumers and the business world, but this contradiction in policies weakens the public's trust. Instead of linking the tax policy to politics or festivals, it is important to make it stable and fair in the long term, so that the real spirit of "one country, one tax" can be meaningful.

GST or "Goods and Services Tax", which was implemented in the Indian tax system in the year 2017, was considered a historic reform at that time. It was presented as the concept of "one country, one tax" and the public was assured that this would simplify the tax system, curb corruption and provide convenience to businessmen. At the very beginning, the government and its economic advisors justified the high tax rates and said that it is in the national interest and in the long run, it will increase revenue, accelerate the growth rate and also strengthen the states.

But in the last nine years, the public saw that the burden of GST only increased on the common consumers. Tax rates remained high on essential goods as well as everyday items. Inflation kept increasing and the budget of every household kept deteriorating. The business community also complained many times that the complex system of GST and high tax slabs affected their business. Small and medium industries had to fight for their existence many times.

Now suddenly the same government is saying that GST rates will be reduced and this will provide direct relief to the public. On the occasion of Navratri, this announce-



ment is being called "Diwali of tax relief". Certainly, this step is a message of relief for the common consumer. Reducing tax on items like shoes, clothes, TV, DTH will directly affect every family. People will be able to shop during festivals and there will be more activity in the market. But the question arises that why the same arguments that were given earlier in support of higher tax are being given today in support of reducing it?

This contradiction is not limited to tax rates only. It also raises questions on the thinking of the government's economic policies. If high taxes were the basis of development, then how did reducing them after nine years suddenly become necessary for development? And if lower taxes can actually provide relief to the market and the public, then why did the public have to bear the burden of high taxes for so many years?

The common citizen wants answers to these questions. He is seeing that tax policies are changed many times due to politics

and electoral strategies. The announcement of tax cuts on the occasion of festivals certainly attracts people, but is it a long-term solution? Changing the tax policy from time to time and each time saying it is in the public interest raises questions on transparency and credibility. Today when the government says that reducing taxes will strengthen the economy, it is true. When the tax burden is reduced, people's purchasing power increases, consumption increases and the market becomes vibrant. This increases production and also creates employment. But then the same question arises-what purpose was achieved by keeping taxes high for so many years? During that time, did the public become only a machine for revenue collection?

The truth is that in a developing country like India, tax policy should not be just a means of raising revenue, but it should also be the basis of socio-economic balance. The tax burden on essential goods and everyday items should be kept to a minimum so that

the poor and the middle class get relief. Whereas relatively high taxes can be imposed on luxury items. But in the past years we have seen that many times this balance got disturbed and the pocket of the common citizen was directly affected.

It is also worth noting that tax relief also affects the government's revenue. When revenue decreases, the government either increases the deficit or recovers from somewhere else. In such a situation, how much relief the public actually gets is also a big question. If the burden of tax directly or indirectly remains on electricity, fuel, education and health services, then the effect of reducing tax on other goods will be limited.

The dream of "one country, one tax" that was shown in the name of GST is still incomplete. Different slabs on different items, complaints from states, complicated return filing and frequent changes in rules, all these have been making it complicated. Now that the decision to reduce tax rates has been taken, there is a need to not make it a relief limited only to festivals, but to make the entire system stable and balanced.

The government should decide tax policies above politics and with a long-term economic perspective. People should feel that tax is actually their contribution to nation building and not just a burden. For this, it is necessary that the revenue obtained from tax is used properly and transparently. If the public sees that the tax paid by them is being used on education, health, employment and infrastructure, then they will not hesitate in paying tax.

Today's tax relief should be welcomed, but at the same time it is important to raise the question whether this is just an immediate attraction or the beginning of a long-term reform. Instead of linking a major reform like GST with politics and electoral gains, it should be taken forward in the real interest of the public and the economy. Only then will the "Diwali of tax relief" really bring light to the life of every citizen.





## India hockey team begins Women's Asia Cup 2025 campaign with resounding 11-0 win over Thailand

**HANGZHOU** : The Indian hockey team kicked off their Women's Asia Cup 2025 journey on a stellar note by defeating Thailand with a commanding scoreline of 11-0 in their Pool B fixture.

Mumtaz Khan (7', 49'), Udita (30', 52') and Beauty Dung Dung (45', 54') scored two goals apiece for India while Sangita Kumari (10'), Navneet Kaur (16'), Lalremsiami (18'), Sharmila Devi (57') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (60') also featured on the scoresheet.

India asserted their dominance early on with two field goals from Mumtaz Khan (7') and Sangita Kumari (10') in the first quarter. The second quarter saw India further increase their attacking intensity with three more goals to expand their advantage.

Experienced forward Navneet Kaur (16') and midfielder Lalremsiami (18') scored two back-to-back field goals, followed by a penalty corner conversion from Udita (30') to end the first

half on a strong note. The second half followed a similar trend with India's constant attacks inside Thailand's circle as they won four penalty corners in the third quarter, through which Beauty Dung Dung (45') scored her first goal in the 45th minute. The final quarter of the match saw India score five goals on the trot to seal a big win in their opening encounter. Mumtaz Khan (49'), Udita (52') and Sharmila Devi (57') scored through penalty corners while

Beauty Dung Dung (54') and Rutuja Dadaso Pisal (60') scored field goals for their side.

India will be looking to lift the title for the third time after winning the Women's Asia Cup twice, first in 2004 and again in 2017. In the last edition of the event, India finished third in the tournament. The 20-member team is being led by captain Salima Tete, who aims to win the tournament to secure India's spot in the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2026 next year.

## Haryana leads Indian contingent with 31 athletes for World Para Athletics Championships 2025

**NEW DELHI** : India proudly announces a strong and diverse contingent of para-athletes from across the country who have qualified for the World Para Athletics Championships 2025, set to take place at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, from September 27 to October 5, 2025.

Led by star javelin thrower and two-time Paralympic gold medalist Sumit Antil, the team features a powerful blend of experienced medalists and emerging talent.

The squad boasts illustrious names such as Praveen Kumar, Nishad Kumar, Hokato, Simran Sharma, Preeti Pal, Navdeep, Dharambir Nain, Pranav Soorma, and many more.

Paralympic gold medalist Dharambir Nain and double bronze medalist sprinter Preeti Pal have been honoured with the prestigious role of flag bearers for the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony, as per a release from the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI). The qualifiers represent a wide geographic spread, highlighting the growth of para athletics infrastructure and support nationwide. Haryana leads with 31 players, followed by Uttar Pradesh with 12 players, Gujarat with 5 players, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand with 4 each. Tamil Nadu 3 players, Telangana 2 players, and several other states—including Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Delhi, Punjab, Meghalaya, Andhra Pradesh, and Kerala—each contributing one athlete.

The New Delhi 2025 World



Para Athletics Championships is set to be India's biggest-ever para sporting event with over 2200 athletes and support staff from more than 104 countries competing in 186 medal events.

## 'Aiming to play some games before': Sophie Molineux ahead of World Cup 2025



**NEW DELHI**: Defending champions Australia have locked in Sophie Molineux for their ICC Cricket World Cup 2025 squad, as per the ICC website.

The seven-time winners, who have ten members of the squad that featured in the previous edition back in 2022, have added the returning left-arm spinner to bolster the spin attack in sub-continental conditions.

The Australian spin attack will

now feature Ashleigh Gardner, leg-spinner Alana King, and Georgia Wareham, alongside Molineux.

Molineux expressed her hope on getting some game time before the Cricket World Cup. But ongoing rehabilitation for a knee injury she sustained last year could keep her away from action, with direct participation in the tournament instead.

"We were aiming to play some

games before that World Cup, but the way it's panned out is I'll probably get into it at the World Cup - no (better) way to rip a Band-Aid off than that. Traditionally, I'd bowl and bowl and bowl, and feel really confident and comfortable through bowling a heap of overs each week and playing games at cricket, but it's not the case now," Molineux said.

"So I think I've been able to tap into some different things to prepare for a World Cup and to perform, hopefully, straight away," she added.

Since her debut in 2018, Molineux has played 13 ODIs, taking 23 wickets at an impressive average of 14.39 and an economy rate of 3.29. Though the journey to recovery has been challenging, the spinner is looking forward to her participation in what will be her maiden Cricket World Cup.

"The cherry of a World Cup is definitely something big. I've never been to a one-day World Cup, so the sound of that was always chiming in the back of my head throughout the winter. But I think it's (also) just about getting back and feeling good out on the cricket field again, no matter what colours I am in," Molineux concluded.

Molineux is unlikely to feature in the three-match ODI series against India before the marquee event begins as a precautionary measure, with the defending Cricket World Cup champions hoping for her full recovery ahead of the tournament starting September 30.

Australia will take on New Zealand in the first game of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2025 on October 1 in Indore.

## Formula 1 to race on streets of Monaco through 2035

**NEW DELHI** : Formula 1 has today announced an extension of the Monaco Grand Prix until 2035, inclusive, building on the existing agreement with the Automobile Club of Monaco that runs through the 2031 season, as per a release from F1.

The Monaco Grand Prix, which is one of the sport's most enduring races, having featured on the World Championship calendar in Formula 1's inaugural year in 1950, has given the sport iconic memories and incredible triumphs and heartbreak.

Since those early days, the Circuit de Monaco has demanded the ultimate skill and concentration from the drivers. Combined with its glamour and unique setting, the race in Monte Carlo is recognised as one of the most famous sporting events in the world.

In 2024, hometown hero Charles Leclerc created history when he became the first Monegasque in Formula 1 history to win the Grand Prix, and this year, Lando Norris secured his first-ever win in the Principality. From the rest of the current lineup of drivers, Fernando Alonso, Lewis Hamilton, and Max Verstappen have all won multiple times on the streets of Monaco, too.

They join legends including Ayrton Senna, Alain Prost, Michael Schumacher, Niki Lauda, Sir Jackie Stewart and Graham Hill, who have all triumphed around the 3.3km circuit.

The Paddock and F1 Paddock Club have both seen significant investment to provide an exten-



sive range of packages for fans to enjoy the glamour of the race in comfort and in a first this year, Formula 1's Global Partner, MSC Cruises' EXPLORA II ship, was docked in the heart of Port Hercules, offering guests a prime spot by the Paddock throughout race week and a series of events around the race.

Stefano Domenicali, President and CEO at Formula 1, said, "The streets of Monaco have been echoing with the sound of Formula 1 since the earliest days of the sport, so I'm delighted to announce the extension of this fantastic event to 2035. It is an iconic race that is loved by all drivers and fans, with a unique vibe thanks to its location on the world's most glamorous Principality. I would like to

say a special thank you to His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco, Michel Boeri, President of the Automobile Club of Monaco and everyone involved in securing the long-term future of this historic partnership."

His Serene Highness, Prince Albert II of Monaco, said, "The renewal of the Monaco Grand Prix until 2035 is in keeping with a sporting and historical tradition to which the Principality remains deeply attached. I can only welcome this renewed commitment, which is a testament to our collective success, the excellence of our collaboration with Formula 1, and the unique place that Monaco occupies in the international motorsport landscape."

Michel Boeri, President of the

Automobile Club of Monaco, said, "I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco for his unwavering support, as well as to Stefano Domenicali for his continued trust. The Automobile Club de Monaco is delighted with this four-year extension, which reflects the strong and enduring relationship between Formula 1 and the Principality of Monaco. This agreement reaffirms, more than ever, our commitment to delivering an exceptional, unmatched, and world-renowned race weekend to the passionate fans who travel from all over the globe to attend the Monaco Grand Prix, first held in 1929. I would also like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the F1 community."

## Mansukh Mandaviya launches mascot Jalveer and logo for 11th Asian Aquatics Championship 2025

**NEW DELHI** : Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), along with officials from the Swimming Federation of India (SFI), on Friday launched mascot Jalveer and logo in New Delhi for the forthcoming 11th Asian Aquatics Championship, Ahmedabad 2025, a release said.

According to the release, the event was held at the Hon'ble Minister's residence in New Delhi with Monal Chokshi, Secretary General of SFI, Virendra Nanavati, Senior Vice President of SFI, and VPs Anil Vyas, Rajkumar Gupta, and Anil Khatri in attendance, according to a press release from MYAS.

The 11th edition of the prestigious event will be held from September 28 to October 11, 2025, in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, marking the first time the event will be held in India. The event



will take place at the newly constructed Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, built to Olympic specifications, and will host over 30 participating nations across multiple disciplines.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya, Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs, said, "It was a pleasure to launch the logo and mascot Jalveer for the 11th Asian Aquatics Championships.

This championship marks a historic milestone for Indian aquatics, offering our athletes the opportunity to showcase their talent against the finest in Asia. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Swimming Federation of India and the Government of Gujarat for their joint efforts in bringing this prestigious event to our nation." With over 1000 participants expected to arrive in

Gujarat for the Championships later this month, the showcase event will provide Indian swimmers a huge opportunity to shine in front of the home crowd.

Expressing his gratitude to the Sports Authority of Gujarat (SAG) and MYAS, RN Jayaprakash, President of SFI, said, "We are grateful for the unparalleled support provided by the SAG and MYAS in hosting this mega event. The infrastructure is world-class and, alongside providing Indian swimmers with home-ground advantage and exposure to elite competition, the championship also carries significance as a recognised qualifying event for the 2026 Asian Games, offering athletes a chance to secure their berth/qualification standards."

"The significance of this edition lies not only in the competitive opportunities it offers but also in the legacy it will create. We are

grateful to Asia Aquatics for their vote of confidence in the Swimming Federation of India and allotting this event to SFI," expressed Monal Chokshi, Secretary General of SFI as quoted by the MYAS press release.

He further added, "The event will help popularise aquatic sports in India, strengthen the nation's athlete development pipeline, and cement Ahmedabad's image as an emerging global sports destination. For the Government of Gujarat, this championship aligns perfectly with its long-term vision of hosting the 2036 Olympics, showcasing organisational excellence, infrastructure readiness, and the ability to host high-calibre, multi-nation sporting events."

For Gujarat and India, hosting the championship is more than a sporting milestone—it is a statement of capability and ambition. Ahmedabad has positioned.

## Saina Nehwal joins Hyderabad Pickleball League as co-owner of Keerthi Warriors

**HYDERABAD** : Olympic medallist and badminton legend Saina Nehwal has officially come on board as the co-owner of the franchise Keerthi Warriors in the Hyderabad Pickleball League (HPL).



This marks her first venture into team ownership, opening a new chapter in her journey as an athlete and mentor. Nehwal, whose achievements have inspired generations of Indians, said her association with the Keerthi Warriors is driven by a desire to nurture and grow pickleball at the grassroots level, HPL said in a release.

"For me, sport has always been about inspiring people and creating pathways for young talent. Pickleball is at a stage today where badminton was many years ago; it has enormous potential to grow across India. Through the Hyderabad Pickleball League and Keerthi Warriors, I want to contribute to building the grassroots, create opportunities for children and youth, and help this sport reach every corner of the country. I am excited to help build a sporting culture in the city," said Saina Nehwal as quoted in the HPL release. Keerthi Reddy from Keerthi Warriors, owned by Keerthi Estates, added, "Having a champion like Saina Nehwal join our team, Keerthi Warriors, is a landmark moment for the Hyderabad Pickleball League. Her journey in badminton perfectly reflects what we are trying to achieve in pickleball: nurturing the sport from the grassroots, providing platforms for young athletes, and making India a powerhouse. Saina's involvement will give the team and the league credibility and inspire thousands to pick up pickleball." Launching in October 2025, the Hyderabad Pickleball League is India's first city-based pickleball league, designed to make the sport accessible to players of all levels. The league focuses on local participation, inclusivity, and community engagement, with each team blending experienced and emerging players.