

*Come November 30, 2025 and the world is going to witness around fifteen thousand participants thronging in for the upcoming 'JBG Kolkata Marathon'. Registrations across all categories are now open. Embodying the ethos of "Cholo Dourai", the 2025 edition makes a historic shift to Red Road, Maidan, offering participants a world-class running experience against the city's most iconic backdrop. Fitness icon Milind Soman and his wife Ankita Konwar will continue as brand ambassadors for the event. As part of its philanthropic mission, the marathon will raise funds to support the Indian Para Athletes representing the nation at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi* **PG 3**



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# Morning India



*Candidates enter into an exam centre in Kolkata amid tight security for the SSC Exam being held on September 7, 2025 on Sunday.*

# SSC EXAM passed off peacefully amid tight security: **Bratya Basu**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal School Service Commission's (WBSSC) sponsored teachers recruitment examination for the government schools for class IX and X, first in nine year, was passed off peacefully on September 7, Sunday amid tight security in about 636 centres across the state. State Minister Bratya Basu informed it in the media after the exam. About 3.19,919 candidates, both male and female, appeared for the examination following the Supreme Court directive after it cancelled the 2016 panel for alleged irregularities in the recruitment affecting some 26,000 teachers, who lost jobs. State education minister Bratya Basu congratulated both the candidates as well as the WBSSC for peacefully conducting the exami-



nation. The peaceful exam marked the resumption of the School Service Commission (SSC) test after a nine-year gap, a period marred by a massive job scam

that led to legal challenges and protests.

The candidates, both fresh and old (dismissed teachers), said the question papers in all subjects were pretty easy. The candidates this time were allowed to take home the OMR carbon copy sheet and question paper, a brain child of education minister Bratva Basu.

One of the candidates, a lady who had secured rank 1 in 2016 panel, literally broke down in tears after coming out of her exam centre in central Kolkata. She told reporters she was a teacher in mathematics after made rank 1 in 2016. She was seen with her husband outside the centre and refused to answer further queries from the waiting reporters outside. Many outstation candidates, both male and female, like Bihar,

MP and UP also appeared in the SSC examination. Many dismissed teachers, who became the faces of the agitation demanding restoration of their posts, also appeared in the examination. Some of them wore black shirts and trousers and appeared in protest. The answer scripts, packed in steel trunks, were being transported to the SSC Bhavan in New Town amid tight security. Many candidates also wore shirts "Hok Protibad" and came into the centre." It is surprising for me to appear for the test after being a teacher for nine years in a government school. The examination started at 12 pm and ended at 1.30 pm. Another batch of 2,46,500 aspirants for teaching jobs in class XI and XII are scheduled to appear in 478 identified centres on September 14.

## **GST impact:** **Medicines, diagnostic tests prices** **might go down**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The overhaul of GST rates has renewed hope for families of patients with rare diseases, as life-saving medicines, diagnostic tests and essential medical devices are set to become more affordable.

Doctors, parents and advocacy groups say the reduced tax burden will ease the financial strain of treating rare conditions — many of which require medicines that cost several lakhs or even crores annually. Rare disease treatments often rely on extremely expensive drugs, with families typically turning to crowdfunding or government aid to meet costs. A drop in GST rates is expected to ease this pressure. The medicines that are comparatively cheaper and purchased directly by families are also likely to be more reasonably priced. For such families, out-of-pocket treatment expenses remained high. But once the GST is slashed, breathing appliances such as BiPAP or CPAP, and diagnostic and psychometric test prices will reduce, too. Advertisement

A good BiPAP machine, something that doctors advise parents to keep at home, costs between ₹70,000 and ₹1 lakh, said Mounita Ghosh, the mother of a girl diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy-II (SMA-II), a condition that leads to progressive muscle weakness and wasting. “Any GST rate cut for BiPAP machines will help families,” she said. A BiPAP is a device that helps with breathing. It is noninvasive ventilation. Price pinch Nitisinone, a drug used to treat hereditary tyrosinemia type I (HTI),

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# RED SEA cable fiasco hampers internet service in ASIA, WEST ASIA



**MI News Service, Dubai:** Undersea cable cuts in the Red Sea disrupted internet access Sunday in parts of Asia including India, and West East, experts said, though it wasn't immediately clear what caused the incident. There has been concern about the cables being targeted in a Red Sea campaign by Yemen's Houthi rebels, which the rebels describe as an effort to pressure Israel to end its war on Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

But the Houthis have denied attacking the lines in the past. NetBlocks, which monitors internet access, said "a series of subsea cable outages in the Red Sea has degraded internet connectivity in multiple countries," which it said included India and Pakistan. It blamed "failures affecting the SMW4 and IMEWE cable systems near Jeddah, Saudi Arabia." The South East Asia-Middle East-Western Europe 4 cable is run by Tata Communications, part of the Indian conglomerate. The India-Middle East-Western Europe cable is run by another consortium overseen by Alcatel-Lucent. Both firms did not immediately respond to requests for

comment. Saudi Arabia did not immediately acknowledge the disruption and authorities there did not respond to a request for comment.

In the United Arab Emirates, home to Dubai and Abu Dhabi, internet users on the country's state-owned Du and Etisalat networks complained of slower internet speeds. The government did not immediately acknowledge the disruption. Microsoft announced via a status website that West Asia "may experience increased latency due to undersea fiber cuts in the Red Sea." The Redmond, Washington-based firm did not immediately elaborate, though it said that internet traffic not moving through West Asia "is not impacted." The lines being cut comes as Yemen's Houthi rebels remain locked in a series of attacks targeting Israel over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

Israel has responded with airstrikes, including one that killed top leaders within the rebel movement. In early 2024, Yemen's internationally recognised

►► **Continued on page 3**

## Bihar SIR: Supreme Court to hear 8 pleas on Sept 8

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a batch of pleas, including those of political parties, challenging the June 24 decision of the Election Commission to conduct Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joyimalya Bagchi will consider the response of political parties like the Rashtriya Janta Da (RJD), AIMIM and other petitioners on the poll panel's note where it has submitted that 99.5 per cent of the 7.24 crore electors in the draft electoral roll had filed their eligibility documents in the SIR exercise. The top court will resume hearing on the batch of pleas including those filed by NGO, activists and political parties since August 22, when it had directed the Election Commission to allow excluded voters from the draft roll to submit their claims through the online mode, besides making physical submissions in the SIR exercise in Bihar.

On September 1, the top court, while hearing some applications filed by political parties for extension of deadlines, was told by the poll panel that claims, objections and corrections in the draft electoral roll prepared in Bihar under the SIR exercise can be filed beyond September 1 but these would be considered once the electoral roll is finalised. It had said claims and objections in the draft roll can

be filed till the last date of nomination forms in each assembly constituency. The top court also termed the confusion over the Bihar SIR as "largely a trust issue" and directed the state legal service authority to deploy paralegal volunteers to assist individual voters and political parties in filing claims and objections to the draft roll, which was published on August 1.

The poll panel, which had opposed any extension of the September 1 deadline for filing of claims and objections as per the SIR schedule, had submitted that post the top court's August 22 order, till August 30, only 22,723 claims had been filed for inclusion and 1,34,738 objections had been filed for exclusion.

According to the June 24 schedule of the poll panel for the Bihar SIR, the deadline for filing claims and objections to the draft roll ended on September 1, and the final electoral roll will be published on September 30. The top court had asked the political parties to submit their replies in response to the EC's note.

The top court had said the paralegal volunteers would submit a confidential report to the district judges concerned and the collated data of the state would be considered on September 8. It had said the EC has to follow the procedure prescribed in the June 24 order related to Bihar SIR and expressed concern over the

►► **Continued on page 3**

## Abujhmad Forest : Security forces envisage 'final assault' on MAOISTS



*Security personnel during an anti-Maoist operation in Bijapur, Chhattisgarh.* *File Photo*

**MI News Service, Raipur:** Union home secretary Govind Mohan and Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Tapan Deka arrived in Chhattisgarh on Friday and held meetings with senior security officials to draw up the blueprint for the final assault on armed Maoists holed inside the Abujmad forest, once dubbed a "liberated zone", sources in the security establishment said. "The Union home secretary and IB chief held several meetings with top security officials posted in Chhattisgarh to prepare an action plan for the final assault. They also reviewed the overall preparedness for anti-Naxal operations," said a security official attached to the Union home ministry. Deka has been appointed as the nodal point for all security agencies to report each and every development related to the anti-Maoist opera-

tion. Union home minister Amit Shah, who has declared March 31, 2026, as the deadline to wipe out Naxalism from the country, will visit Chhattisgarh on June 22 to review the anti-terror operations. Sources said all the security agencies have been asked to work in tandem so that the government's intention to make India Maoist-free by 2026 can be achieved. "According to intelligence inputs, Maoist action squad members are still hiding in the Abujhmad forest. It's just a matter of time before we launch an assault," said a Chhattisgarh police officer. As per the plan, the security forces will launch a pincer attack with several teams moving in from different directions to encircle them before carrying out an intense offensive. "The strategy is to trap the Maoists so they can't escape to states like Odisha-Jhark-

hand-Maharashtra corridor using the forest cover," the security official said. Sources said the Counter Terrorism and Jungle Warfare College in Kanker, Chhattisgarh, has been turned into a war room where senior security officials were drawing up a strategy before launching an attack. The college is at the northern tip of the Maoist-infested Bastar region, which extends into the dense forests of Abujmahad and abuts Maharashtra and parts of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. The Abujmahad forest, spread over 3,900sqkm, is part of the Bastar Lok Sabha constituency, where Maoists are said to have built several camps to provide arms training to recruits. Sources said that Maoists were now believed to be confined to only a handful of places in Chhattisgarh, "particularly the Sukma-Bijapur and Abujmahad regions". The security forces, which launched a massive operation against the Maoists in Chhattisgarh in September-October last year, have made repeated inroads into rebel strongholds since January this year, killing nearly 300 Maoists, including key leaders. Some Maoist leaders had initially moved towards the "MMC Corridor" — the forested areas at the trijunction of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh — to try and


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Minister Dr. Shashi Panja and TMC spokes person Kunal Ghosh attended the Progressive Health Association's sit-in protest against BJP's discriminatory attitude towards the Bengali language and Bengali people on Sunday in Kolkata.

### Krishnanagar Kotwali Police arrests BSF Jawan, father of prime accused Deshraj in Ishita murder case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Krishnanagar Kotwali Police have arrested a BSF Jawan-Raghavendra Pratap Singh, father of prime accused Deshraj Singh, in the murder of a teenage girl in Nadia, from his Jaisalmer post in Rajasthan, official sources said on Sunday. Raghavendra Pratap Singh, attached to the 20th Battalion, has been accused of providing logistic support to hide his son Deshraj Singh before the West Bengal Police arrested him from a border district of Uttar Pradesh recently. The Kotwali Police have arrested the BSF Jawan on Saturday night from his post of the 20th Battalion and produced him before a court thereon Sunday and sought transit remand to Krishnanagar for further questioning. Before the arrest of prime accused Deshraj Singh near the Uttar Pradesh-Nepal border, Deshraj's maternal uncle Kuldeep Singh was also arrested from Gujarat in the murder case of 18-year-old college Ishita Malik. The deceased student Ishita Malik was allegedly shot three times in the head at her home in Krishnanagar on August 25. It was alleged that Deshraj shot Ishita after she ended their relationship. He allegedly pressured her to continue the relationship and had allegedly sent her a video of himself attempting to die by suicide. Police suspect that when she was still unwilling to reconcile, he "planned her murder". Investigators are currently interrogating Deshraj. Both Kuldeep Singh and Raghavendra Singh have been accused of providing logistics to Deshraj Singh to flee Bengal and hide elsewhere before his arrest from UP early this month. Sources said the BSF jawan, who is being brought from Jaisalmer, would be produced before a court in Krishnanagar on Monday.

## Four arrest for minor boy killing in Tehatta, one in police net for lynching

Dipankar Edbar, Tehatta (Nadia) : Tehatta police under Krishnanagar Police District in Nadia arrested 4 FIR accused persons on Saturday night for killing the minor boy, side by side one arrested on Sunday afternoon for lynching. While the 4, who had been arrested on Saturday night, were produced in Tehatta Court on Sunday, court ordered for 10 days police remand, said Uttam Ghosh, the Additional SP, (Rural), Krishnanagar Police District. There is police picketing at the area of occurrence at Tehatta Nischintapur. The cops are in search of other lynching accused persons. The FIR was lodged against around 200 villagers for lynching the Mandal Couple, a source said. A few, out of 200 villagers are specially marked but all the concerned FIR accused have been absconding. The Tehatta Court has ordered for 10 days police custody to the 4 accused who were



produced in Tehatta Court on Sunday, sources said. The unnatural death of Swarnabha Biswas (9) has sent shockwaves through Tehatta in Nadia district on Saturday, sparking mob violence that left two people dead and one injured. However, after autopsy, police had handed over the child body to the family and the same was taken to burning ghat on very Saturday night. But despite the completion of post mortems of the bodies of Biswas couple,

none came to take their bodies upto first half of the day, the sources added. The victim, identified as Swarnabha Biswas, a Class III student, left home around 3 pm. on Friday to play with friends. When he failed to return, his anxious family began searching the neighbourhood. Despite their frantic efforts and the help of villagers, the boy remained untraceable through the night. With hope fading, the family lodged a missing diary at

Tehatta police station late on Friday. "We pleaded with police to act quickly, but no real search operation was undertaken," alleged a family member. On Saturday morning, villagers spotted a large plastic-wrapped bundle floating in a local pond nearby victim's home. Suspicions deepened when a foul smell emanated as the bundle was pulled ashore. Inside lay the lifeless body of young Swarnabha, wrapped in plastic sheets. Soon after, suspicion fell on a neighbouring couple, Upal and Soma Biswas. Locals claimed the Biswas family had a long-running dispute with the Mondal family. In a surge of fury, hundreds of villagers stormed into the Biswas home. Witnesses said the goods in their home were smashed, and the couple's adjacent jute godown was set ablaze. E rickshaw driver Upal and his wife Soma were dragged out and thrashed mercilessly.



West Bengal Government Fire Service Minister and MLA Sujit Bose distributed puja materials to 350 Durga Puja committees under Bidhan Nagar North South East and Electronic Complex police stations of Bidhan Nagar Assembly Constituency. The function was attended by Bidhan Nagar Police Commissionerate Mukesh Kumar, Debashis Sen IAS and municipal representatives of Bidhan Nagar Municipality and other dignitaries. It is worth mentioning that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the puja of Sribhumi on 20th September, 2025.

## India force football powerhouse Qatar to sweat all along to win with narrow margin against India in Asian Cup Qualifiers

MI News Service, Doha: Football powerhouse Qatar were made to sweat full time to script a narrow 2-1 win over India in their second Group H encounter of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Qualifiers, at the Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium in Doha on Saturday night. The hosts were leading 1-0 in the first half from Al Hashmi Mohialdin inside the eighteenth minute of play. In the second session India equalised the score from Mohammed Suhail (52'). But the hosts emerged winner from Jassem Al Sharshani (67') penalty and earned 3 points. Buoyed by their 2-0 victory against Bahrain in the last match, India made a quick start to the game, Suhail getting an early chance, where he shot just inches over the crossbar from outside the box in the second minute. The hosts slowly gained control of the game, however, looking to make inroads into the Indian third. Qatar's Mohamed Surag broke into the India box just after the quarter-hour mark, with just India goalkeeper Sahil to beat, but

the latter made a smart save. The hosts took the lead in the 18th minute, when Mohialdin, off acorner, headed the ball powerfully into the ground, making it loop over the heads of the Indian defence after the bounce as it went into the top corner. An intense mid-field battle ensued after Qatar took the lead, India constantly looking to find their way back in the game. They began to gain more confidence and possession as the half neared its end. While the hosts' centre looked solid, India looked to utilise the space on the flanks. Parthib Gogoi's 41st-minute cross from a dangerous area on the right could have made the Qatar defenders a little uncomfortable, but it evaded all Indian attackers. In the first half injury time, Mohammed Sannan whipped in a cross towards Macarion Louis Nickson, but Qatar goalkeeper Ali Mohammed Ghulais plucked it out of the air. The Blue Colts were not ready to give up though, and came back fighting in the second half.

Their efforts paid dividends, when Macarion intercepted a ball in the middle and played Suhail through on the right. While Suhail's cross was a bit too long, it landed at Sannan's feet on the other wing. The left winger also decided to whip it in, but this time, it was sent in with pin-point accuracy, as Suhail nodded it in at the far post to equalise. The goal had changed the equations, and the match, much like the scoreline, was now an even affair, with both sides looking for inroads. Chhetri, in the 63rd minute, chipped a pass to Suhail behind the lines, but the ball was a yard too ahead of the latter, as Ghulais collected it. The complexion of the game completely changed a couple of minutes later, when India defender Pramveer brought down Noureldin Ibrahim inside the box, as the referee pointed to the spot. Pramveer had picked up his second yellow card of the match, and India were down to 10 men. Qatar captain Al Sharshani stepped up and converted the penalty despite

Sahil guessing correctly to put the hosts back in the lead. With more spaces to exploit, Qatar were constantly looking to secure the three points with a third goal. Nabil Irfan took a crack at the Indian goal after a bit of interplay between the Qatar attackers, but the Indian defenders, not ready to give in yet, blocked it. Abdulaziz Hasan was laid off by substitute Marwan Brimil just inside the penalty box. However, Sahil produced an acrobatic save to keep the latter out. India had one last chance to score, when they won a corner in injury time. Aimen's corner, aimed at the far post, missed the unmarked Shivaldo's head by a small margin. Qatar, with this win, have established firm control at the top of the Group H table, with six points from two matches. Bahrain, who had defeated Brunei Darusalam, earlier in the day, moved on to three points, the same as India, but remained third due to their inferior head-to-head record against the Blue Colts.

### Nadia Police arrests suspects in boy's kidnapping and murder case at Nishintapur

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police have arrested four suspects in relation to abduction and murder of a nine-year-old boy, which also led to a mob lynching of a couple at Nishintapur village in Nadia district. Additional Superintendent of Police (Grameen) of Krishnanagar police district Uttam Ghosh said that the arrest of the four accused was made on Saturday night after the boy's family filed an FIR against seven persons for kidnapping and killing the class III boy - Swarnabha Biswas of Nischintapur village under Tehatta region. However, there had been no arrest so far in relation to the mob lynching, for which the local police station filed a suo motu case. The boy, who went out to play on Friday afternoon, did not return home. His parents informed the police about the disappearance of the boy. However, on the following day in the early morning a search by the local people led to discovery of the body of the boy floating in an ear-py pond, which was wrapped in plastic. The discovery of the lifeless body of the boy infuriated the assembled neighbourhood people, who suspected a foul play and they attacked their neighbour. First they vandalized Upal Mondal (43) house and dragged him out along with his wife Soma (32) in the open and lynched them until they fell unconscious. The couple was also dumped into a nearby swamp. One of the couple's relatives was also manhandled by the mob and was hospitalised with critical wounds. The mob also set fire to the couple's house, suspecting their involvement in abduction and murder. Upal was a Toto driver by profession. Police later came and took all three to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared them dead on arrival. Additional SP Uttam Ghosh said altogether seven persons were named in the FIR lodged by the boy's parents and four so far have been arrested. Among the arrested persons were two women - Supriya Bhowmik and Suchitra Mondal and two others were Chottu Mondal and Kartick Mondal of the locality. Upal Mondal and Soma Mondal, who died of lynching, were also named in the FIR. Police said there had been a land dispute between the families for a long time. In the autopsy report, the boy was suffocated to death and then thrown into the water body.

### State govt envisage launching 210 'MOBILE HOSPITALS'

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bengal government is all set to launch 210 "mobile hospitals" to provide health services on the doorstep in rural pockets, particularly in remote areas where local hospitals are far away, as part of an effort to woo communities ahead of next year's Assembly elections. A senior health official at Swasthya Bhavan — the state health headquarters — said that the project would be inaugurated soon, along with the announcement of the scheme's name by chief minister Mamata Banerjee. Each mobile medical unit, equipped with a specially designed vehicle, will have a doctor, a nurse, and arrangements for different health tests such as ECG and blood tests. There will be 30 such units with additional facilities for X-ray and USG. The government is expected to spend around ₹100 crore on this scheme. "Everything is ready, and the scheme will be launched by chief minister Mamata Banerjee very soon," said an official. A source said the initiative was Mamata's brainchild, aimed at taking healthcare services to the doorsteps of people in remote areas where reaching the nearest hospital often takes a long time. "Recently, there were reports of many people dying on the way to hospitals because of poor road conditions or because hospitals were located too far away.

## Bharat Sevashram Sangha Relief work for Rain-Affected Families in Jammu and Uttarkashin



MI News Service, Kolkata: In the wake of heavy rains that caused severe damage across several villages in Jammu and Uttarkashi, the Bharat Sevashram Sangha has extended support to the affected families. Monks and volunteers from the Sangha's Jammu branch and Uttarkashi ashram have been distributing essential relief materials to the distressed families over the past few days. In Jammu, Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma and former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta joined the efforts to support the relief initiative. Families in the worst-hit villages Kishanpur, Kanha Pota, Kanyala, Chhurta, Jhajjar Kotli, Mand, Dansal, and Bajtala are receiving dry food packets, ration supplies, and tarpaulins. Srimat Swami Satyamitranandaji Maharaj, Secretary of the Bharat

Sevashram Sangha Jammu and Kashmir branch, said: "Our mission is to stand beside people in times of crisis. These relief materials may be limited, but they will help families meet immediate needs and recover from the calamity." MP Jugal Kishore Sharma remarked: "Due to the heavy rains, villagers are facing immense difficulties. This assistance will be of great help to them." Former Mayor Chander Mohan Gupta added: "I urge the local administration and citizens to ensure that this relief effort continues." The Principal Secretary of Bharat Sevashram Sangha, Swami Bishwatmananda Maharaj, further stated that, along with rescue work in affected areas, the Sangha is also providing clothes, food, tarpaulins, and all other necessary items to the families in distress.

## Demand for transparency in SSC recruitment exam

Nurul Islam Khan

Finally, after a long 9 years, the SSC job recruitment exam for class 9 and 10 has ended in the state. In this exam, several questions have been raised including transparency, opacity of recruitment. In fact, as per the orders of the Supreme Court, the exam was given to qualified and ineligible job candidates. Many unemployed candidates were also candidates who had worked for a long time for 8 years. Recruitment candidates are in a state of confusion over all these issues. They are suffering from the fear of hope and aspiration. After going to work, there have been protests on the streets for many days. They have been attacked by the police. Many have even died of suppressed anger. Still, a little more than 9 lakh 19 thousand candidates sat for that exam. 2 lakh more than last time. There are 23 thousand 212 vacancies in this exam. For the sake of transparency in this time's recruitment exam, every candidate has been given a carbon copy of the OMR seat. Still, many have expressed their anger and said that in fact, the entire education system is full of corruption. Several officials, including the Education Minister, are in jail. Several qualified candidates have

lost faith in the commission. The exam started at 12 noon and ended at 1:30 pm. The specially able candidates were given an extra twenty minutes. They took the exam for recruitment at a total of 636 centers. After the cancellation of the job, numerous candidates from Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh participated significantly in this first recruitment exam. There are no jobs in the BJP-ruled states. As a result, they took the exam thinking that they would work in Bengal for work! Many intellectuals have spoken out about this. They have protested. Garg Chatterjee, the head of an organization called Bangla Paksha, said that we will have to be beaten in different states. Migrant workers will be attacked. They have been pushed back because they are Bangladeshis. And those foreigners will get jobs, while the sons of this state will not get jobs despite having qualified talent? He warned that this cannot be accepted. He expressed strong anger over language terrorism. Is this exam a farce or the right path? Many questions have been raised. Yet, well-wishers say that the deserving ones should get jobs in a transparent manner. May the countless families who are suffering be saved. May the path ahead not turn into a death march.

## Cong takes out rally against SIR

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Congress organised a march in Siliguri in protest against the special intensive revision (SIR) of the electoral roll and highlighted some issues about north Bengal. Led by Bengal Congress president Subhankar Sarkar and AICC leaders Ghulam Ahmed Mir and Amba Prasad, hundreds of party leaders and workers from different districts of the region took out the march. "The central government is trying to delete the names of bona fide voters, who exercised their franchise in the Lok Sabha polls, in a planned manner. They have done it in Bihar, and now they are planning to do it in states like Bengal and Assam. We will not let it happen," Mir told the media. The Congress leaders also highlighted regional issues of north Bengal, like the lack of industrial development, proper healthcare facilities, and the absence of employment opportunities. "North Bengal, both the plains and the hills, needs extensive development. People here, like other parts of the state, are affected by the corruption of the state government and the divisive policies of the BJP," said Sarkar. He also said the Congress would organise "Ut-tarkonya Gherao", a demonstration at Uttarkanya, the state's branch secretariat in Siliguri. "We will announce the date soon," said the PCC president. The rally was the first major event that was organised by the Congress after Shankar Malakar, who was the Darjeeling district president of the party, had defected to Trinamool.





1. Examinees in que at an exam centre in Kolkata for the SSC Exam taken on September 7, Sunday. 2. An Exam centre is bustling with examinees and security personnel in Kolkata regarding the SSC Exam taken on sept 7, Sunday.



Total lunar Eclipse: Kolkata Sky turns red

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Skywatchers in Kolkata and across India are in for a rare cosmic spectacle on Sunday night as a total lunar eclipse is set to cast the moon in a striking blood-red hue. The phenomenon, visible to the naked eye without the need for special glasses, will also be observable from major cities including Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and Chennai, provided the sky remains clear.

According to Sanjeev Sen, former Director of the Positional Astronomy Center, the lunar eclipse will begin at 9:57 pm, with totality commencing at exactly 11:01 pm and lasting until 12:23 am. The moon will gradually emerge from the Earth's shadow by 1:27 am. The full duration of the eclipse is expected to span approximately three and a half hours, with totality enduring for 1 hour and 22 minutes. "This is a spectacular astronomical event where the moon completely enters Earth's shadow, giving it a deep red appearance," said Sen. He noted that such conditions are rare, citing previous eclipses including the 1 hour 43-minute total eclipse of July 27-28, 2018, and the 1 hour 25-minute total eclipse on November 8, 2022. The next similar total lunar eclipse visible from India is expected on December 31, 2028. The eclipse will also be visible across a wide swath of the globe, including Australia, Asia, Africa, Antarctica, and the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans.

Bihar SIR: Supreme Court to hear 8 pleas on Sept 8

**From PG 1**

high rate of objections filed for exclusion of names from the draft roll. "Political parties need to activate themselves," it had said and posted the matter for September 8. The RJD's plea filed through advocate Fauzia Shakil and the AIMIM's through advocate Nizam Pasha have sought extension of the deadline to file claims and objections in the poll revision exercise in poll-bound Bihar. The special intensive revision of the voter list in Bihar -- the first since 2003 -- sparked a huge political row, with the opposition parties alleging that the exercise is aimed at depriving people of their right to vote. The EC has maintained that SIR is being conducted to clean the voter list by deleting names of people who are dead, have duplicate voter cards or are illegal immigrants. The SIR's findings reduced the total number of registered voters in Bihar, from 7.9 crore before the exercise to 7.24 crore after conducting it.

WBCUPA leader Krishnakoli Basu passes away, Bratya Basu expresses grief

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The academic and political fraternity in West Bengal was plunged into grief on Sunday following the demise of Krishnakoli Basu, General Secretary of the West Bengal College and University Professors' Association (WBCUPA). She was also a professor at Barrackpore Rashtraguru Surendranath College. Bratya Basu, who had been battling kidney-related complications for several years, had been in a critical condition for the past week. Despite being placed on ventilation, her health deteriorated sharply, and she breathed her last on Sunday. Her passing has left a deep void in the state's education sector and within the Trinamool Congress-backed professors' organization. Known for her tireless work in championing the rights of teachers and academic staff, Bratya Basu was regarded as a steadfast leader and an influential figure in academic circles. Education Minister

Bratya Basu, mourning the loss of his long-time colleague, wrote on his official X handle: "I am deeply saddened by the untimely demise of my long-time colleague and General Secretary of WBCUPA, Mrs. Krishnakoli Basu. My deepest condolences to her family and may her soul rest in peace." Tributes have since poured in from colleagues, students, and fellow educators, many recalling her unwavering dedication to academic causes and her commitment to improving the working conditions of professors across Bengal. Her death comes as a major loss to the academic community, with several leaders noting that her leadership had been instrumental in strengthening the collective voice of professors in West Bengal's higher education system. Funeral arrangements are expected to be announced shortly, as the education fraternity continues to mourn the loss of one of its most prominent voices.

IT hubs face uncertain future as AI looms

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The rise of Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is prompting urgent questions about the future of IT hubs such as Kolkata's New Town and Salt Lake Sector Five. Researchers caution that the widespread adoption of AI could radically reshape the labor market within the next decade. Roman Yampolsky, a leading AI researcher, warned in a recent podcast that AGI—expected to arrive by 2027—could think and reason like humans. According to him, this technological leap could put 99 percent of the global workforce at risk by 2030. The initial wave of automation, he explained, will target computer-based tasks, putting software professionals and IT employees under unprecedented pressure. Beyond office work, humanoid robots may soon replace physical laborers such as masons, plumbers, and delivery personnel. "People don't understand the scale of this threat," Yampolsky said. "An Uber driver told me, 'No one can drive a car like me.' Professors think the same. But this mindset is dangerously misleading." He stressed that only roles requiring genuine human presence or emotional engagement are likely to survive. While automation raises economic concerns, Yampolsky emphasized the psychological impact of a workless society. He suggested that systems such as Universal Basic Income could provide financial security, but warned that the loss of work as a source of purpose and identity could have profound social consequences. "For many, work is not just income—it defines self-worth and personal identity," Yampolsky explained. "If that foundation disappears, people may struggle to find meaning in life. The challenge of the future is not only to master new technologies but also to redefine human purpose beyond employment." As India's IT hubs prepare for rapid technological transformation, policymakers, educators, and industry leaders face the urgent task of equipping the workforce for a future where human labor may no longer be the cornerstone of economic and social life.

**CM Mamata Banerjee pays tribute to Sunil Gangopadhyaya on his birth anniversary**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** On the birth anniversary of renowned literature Sunil Gangopadhyaya, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee paid tribute to the celebrated author and poet. Taking to her official handle on X, the CM wrote, "On the birthday of the renowned literature Sunil Gangopadhyaya, I offer humble tributes"

Video message before death: 22-year-old ends life

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A pall of grief and shock has descended over Bansdrani after the tragic death of 22-year-old Sudipta Maiti, who allegedly took her own life on Saturday shortly after sending a chilling video message to a friend. Sudipta, who was living in a rented flat near Vivekananda Park, was discovered hanging from a ceiling fan with a veil when police forced open the locked room. By the time officers arrived and brought her down, she had already succumbed.

According to investigators, the young woman's final video hinted at her intention to end her life. Alarmed, her friend rushed to the house but could not save her. His cries drew in neighbors, who immediately informed the police. Police have launched a detailed probe into the circumstances surrounding her death. The friend who received the video is being questioned to ascertain the nature of his relationship with Sudipta and whether any recent disputes or emotional distress could have triggered the fatal decision. Family members have also been called in for statements, with officers trying to piece together the events leading up to the tragedy. Investigators have not ruled out personal or emotional issues as possible causes.

GST impact: Medicines, diagnostic tests prices might go down

**From PG 1**

costs about ₹2.5 lakh a year. Trientine, used in Wilson disease, costs between ₹2 lakh and ₹2.5 lakh, and Miglustat, for Gaucher disease, costs between ₹3 lakh and ₹6 lakh a year. Risdipam, used for Spinal Muscular Atrophy, costs ₹72 lakh a year. "Most families depend on crowdfunding or government assistance to buy the medicines. If the cost of a medicine reduces, the total cost can be crowdfunded faster," said Prasanna Shirol, co-founder and executive director of the Organisation for Rare Diseases India. Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday announced the reduction of GST from 12 per cent to nil on life-saving drugs and medicines, and from 5 per cent to nil on three life-critical drugs for the treatment of cancer and rare diseases. The GST on all other drugs and medicines has been reduced from 12 per cent to 5 per cent. The cut in GST rates for medicines is expected to increase the purchasing power of government-supported treatment centres and improve long-term access to medication. The additional funds can now be used in distributing medicines for a longer duration, said a genetic counsellor. Centres of excellence such as SSKM Hospital in Calcutta, which provides care for around 800 rare disease patients from across eastern India, will benefit from the revised rates. Officials say the price reduction will allow them to stretch funds further and continue distributing medicines without interruption. At present, many centres face sudden shortfalls in funding, which lead to abrupt halts in treatment. "If a medicine costs less because of the GST rate cut, the centres will spend less to buy a medicine."

RED SEA cable fiasco hampers internet service in ASIA, WEST ASIA

**From PG 1**

government in exile alleged that the Houthis planned to attack undersea cables in the Red Sea. Several were cut, but the Houthis denied being responsible. On Sunday morning, the Houthis' al-Masirah satellite news channel acknowledged that the cuts had taken place. From November 2023 to December 2024, the Houthis targeted more than 100 ships with missiles and drones over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip. In their campaign so far, the Houthis have sunk four vessels and killed at least eight mariners. The Iranian-backed Houthis stopped their attacks during a brief ceasefire in the war. They later became the target of an intense weekslong campaign of airstrikes ordered by US President Donald Trump before he declared a ceasefire had been reached with the rebels. The Houthis sank two vessels in July, killing at least four on board with others believed to be held by the rebels. The Houthis' new attacks come as a new possible ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war remains in the balance. Meanwhile, the future of talks between the US and Iran over Tehran's battered nuclear programme is in question after Israel launched a 12-day war against the Islamic Republic in which the Americans bombed three Iranian atomic sites.

Abujhmad Forest : Security forces envisage 'final assault' on MAOISTS

**From PG 1**

evade the crackdown. However, the sizeable force deployment and regular combing operations in these areas forced them to look for an alternative escape route.

Under a plan drawn up earlier, the security forces moved deeper into the Maoist bastions of Bastar and set up forward bases and camps as part of an area-domination exercise, an official said. He said the forces had set up nearly 300 new forward operating bases and camps in areas once considered Maoist "liberated zones".

According to the official, these forward bases have restricted the movement of the Maoists and helped the forces carry out counter-offensives inside the rebel fortress as their stronghold areas have shrunk fast. Last week, Shah felicitated the CRPF, Chhattisgarh Police and specialised anti-Maoist force CoBRA jawans in Delhi, who successfully carried out "Operation Black Forest" on Karreguttalu hill in Chhattisgarh between the third week of April to the second week of May.

In the "biggest ever" 21-day-long operation against Maoists, the security forces had killed 31 Maoists on Karreguttalu Hill at the Chhattisgarh-Telangana border.

Karreguttalu is an extremely difficult hilly region, approximately 60km long and 5 to 20km wide, with a very tough and challenging geographical terrain. Over the past two and a half years, the Maoists had established their base in this area, where around 300-350 armed cadres, including the technical department, took refuge. In the last two months, as many as 104 Maoists have surrendered, 62 apprehended, and six neutralised. The security forces also recovered 22 arms, 156 IEDs, 985 ammunitions, 27 grenades, one bomb, 18,137 detonators, .05kg explosives and 79 gelatine sticks.



With Durga Puja knocking the door, Kolkata maidan provides a mind blowing collage of blue sky, towering clouds along with its iconic flora and fauna.

KOLKATA MARATHON: Over 15K participants expected in 10th edition

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Come November 30, 2025 and the world is going to witness around fifteen thousand participants thronging in for the upcoming 'JBG Kolkata Marathon'. Registrations across all categories are now open. Embodying the ethos of "Cholo Dourai", the 2025 edition makes a historic shift to Red Road, Maidan, offering participants a world-class running experience against the city's most iconic backdrop. Fitness icon Milind Soman and his wife Ankita Konwar will continue as brand ambassadors for the event. As part of its philanthropic mission, the marathon will raise funds to support the Indian Para Athletes representing the nation at the World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi (Sept 27 – Oct 5, 2025). On 30th November, Kolkata will run not just for health and celebration — but for its Para Athletes. To commemorate its



milestone edition, the JBG Kolkata Marathon 2025 introduces the 21.1K Half Marathon, joining the popular Elite 10K, Open 10K, 5K Cosplay Run, and Special Heroes categories. With over 15,000 participants expected, this will be the largest edition yet, proudly titled-

Kusum Kumar Dwivedi, Honorary General Secretary, Kolkata Police Athletic Club & Chief Mentor, JBG Kolkata Marathon, Dr. Sujay Deb Barman, COO, IRIS Multispecialty Hospital & Medical Director, JBG Kolkata Marathon.

Several celebrated para-athletes were also honored at the occasion, including: Rudransh Khandelwal – Paris Paralympian, Asian Para Games Double Silver Medallist, 4x World Record Holder

**Suchitra Parida** – International Medallist & National Record Holder, Women's T-55 Javelin

**Shreyansh Trivedi** – Asian Para Games Medallist & National Record Holder

**Rakesh Bhatt** – Asian Para Games participant, International Grand Prix Medallist

**Mariyappan Thangavelu** – 3-time Paralympic Medallist (High Jump)







## Ranchi Police busts sex trafficking racket, 10 women and hostel manager detained

**MI News Service, Ranchi:** Ranchi Police busted a sex trafficking racket on Sunday, which was being run from a girls' hostel in the Lalpur area of Ranchi. Deputy Superintendent of Police Ranchi said that 10 women and the manager of a hostel were detained for their alleged involvement in the crime.

KV Raman, Deputy SP city, Ranchi, said, "Senior Superintendent of Police received information that some people are getting girls from other states here in an organised manner and getting this kind of work done. A raid was conducted at Om Girls Hostel. Ten girls have been detained from there. They are being questioned. Their documents are being verified. The criminals involved in this

work have been identified and action is being taken."

He further said that the girls are linked to different professions, and most of them are from West Bengal, and they are adults.

"The girls stay in the hostel. The manager of the hostel has also been detained and legal action will also be taken against the hostel owner. The criminals involved in this, those who arrange their deal here, send them to other places, their verification is being done. The mode of payment is being verified and other criminals who are actively involved in this will be arrested and sent to judicial custody."

He further said that the police is investigating whether this is an isolated incident or there is a network, and operating in more than one hostel.

## Police apprehend Gangster Goldy Brar's associate with five pistols, ten live cartridges

**MI News Service, Chandigarh:** In a significant advancement in the fight against organised crime, in alignment with the initiative to establish Punjab as a secure and safe state, as directed by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of Punjab Police has apprehended an associate of the foreign-based gangster Goldy Brar.

During this operation, law enforcement officials recovered five .32 caliber pistols and ten live cartridges from the individual's possession, as reported by the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab, Gaurav Yadav, on Sunday.

According to the release, the arrested accused has been identified as Baljinder Singh alias Rainch, a resident of Mahi Nangal in Bathinda. The accused also has a criminal history with a case under the NDPS Act registered against him.

DGP Gaurav Yadav said that the arrested person was actively involved in facilitating the supply of illegal firearms to the Goldy Brar gang to disturb peace and harmony in the border state. Preliminary

investigation has revealed that the weapons were procured on the directions of Goldy Brar, through his key associate Malkit Singh alias Kitta Bhani, who is currently lodged in Kapurthala Jail, he said.

The DGP stated that a further investigation is underway to establish both forward and backwards linkages in this case, to uncover the entire nexus.

Sharing operation details, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) AGTF Punjab Promod Ban said that police teams led by DSP AGTF Bathinda Range Jaspal Singh had received specific human and technical inputs about the Goldy Brar gang hatching a conspiracy to commit a sensational crime in the state.

Acting swiftly, teams from AGTF Punjab have successfully apprehended the suspect Baljinder Rainch from the Under flyover bridge, New Bypass at Malout-Muktsar road in Malout, Sri Muktsar Sahib, he said.

In this regard, today a case has been registered under sections 25 and 25(7)(8) of the Arms Act at Police Station Sadar Malout.

## Security forces recover arms cache, explosive-making equipment from Maoists' dump

**MI News Service, Bijapur:** In a joint operation carried out by security forces in Bijapur district, a significant cache of weapons concealed by Maoist groups was recovered on Sunday.

The operation was carried out within the forest regions near the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Gunjaparti area, located under the jurisdiction of the Usoor police station in the district, Bijapur police officials said.

The operation also yielded equipment intended for explosive preparation, various auxiliary tools, and a substantial quantity of explosive materials.

The operation involved a joint team comprising 205th Battalion of the CRPF's CoBRA commandoes, KERP 196 Young Platoon Bastariya, and KERP 229.

The security forces recovered a Lethal machine, an electric generator, a water pump, an electric cutter, and heavy equipment, including a hydraulic cylinder, jacks, a spooler, and motor parts. The wires, toolbox, drill bits, containers, steel plates and materials for explosive manufacturing and medicines were also seized.

All recovered equipment and materials were destroyed in accordance with security protocols, thereby foiling a potential major conspiracy by the Maoists.

This action marks a significant success in weakening the Maoist network.

Earlier on August 30,



Security forces recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition during an anti-Naxal operation in the Abujhmad area of Narayanpur district, an official said.

Narayanpur Superintendent of Police Robinson Guria stated on Friday that a joint operation was carried out on August 24 by the District Reserve Guard (DRG), Special Task Force (STF), and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

"DRG, STF, and ITBP conducted an anti-Naxal operation on August 24, in which we recovered a huge amount of arms and ammunition. We conducted operations at various places in the Abujhmad area, and we found that the surrendered Naxalites were dumping their weapons. We recovered these weapons from 4-5 places," he said.

On August 27, 30 Naxals surrendered and were rehabilitated in the Bijapur district of Chhattisgarh's Bastar region, officials said.

Chhattisgarh Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma stated that the surrender and rehabilitation of 30 Naxals in Bijapur had been the result of the state government's rehabilitation policy, the efforts of security forces, and ongoing development work.

He also urged Naxals to join the mainstream and improve their lives.



Devotees bid farewell to Lalbaugcha Raja during the Ganesh immersion, in Mumbai on Sunday.

## Himachal Pradesh monsoon toll rises to 366; 203 rain-related, 163 in road accidents: SDMA

**MI News Service, Shimla:** The ongoing monsoon season in Himachal Pradesh has claimed 366 lives, including 203 in rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, drowning, lightning strikes and other weather-triggered disasters, and 163 in road accidents, according to the State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA).

Since June 20, the hill state has witnessed widespread destruction. A total of Rs 4,08,097.49 lakh of losses have been reported, covering damage to public and private property, crops, livestock, and infrastructure.

Public infrastructure has been severely hit -- 5,284 roads damaged, 2,743 water supply schemes and 2,518.54 lakh worth of power infrastructure affected. Schools, health centres, rural and urban development projects, and agriculture have also suffered heavy losses.

District-wise, Mandi has



recorded the highest human toll with 37 rain-related deaths and 22 in road accidents, followed by Kangra (31 rain-related, 19 accident deaths) and Chamba (21 rain-related, 22 accident deaths). Kinnaur reported a disproportionately high number of accident fatalities (14) compared to its population.

In rain-related causes, landslides accounted for 42 deaths, flash floods for 9, cloudbursts for 17, drowning for 34, and the rest were due to lightning, fires, snakebites, avalanches, electrocutions, and falls

monsoon continues.

Earlier in the day, BJP leader and former chief minister Jairam Thakur said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh on September 9 to take stock of the loss of life and property due to heavy rainfall in the state.

"Day after tomorrow, the Prime Minister is coming to Himachal Pradesh to take stock of the loss of life and property due to the heavy rainfall here. I will also go to Dharamshala to attend that meeting and brief him about the situation here," Thakur, the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, told ANI.

Prime Minister Modi will also visit Punjab on September 9 to take stock of the flood situation.

Himachal Pradesh, grappling with the relentless monsoon, continues to face significant disruptions to public utilities, with hundreds of roads, power transformers, and water schemes affected.

Authorities have urged residents to follow advisories, avoid travel on vulnerable stretches, and stay alert for sudden weather changes as the

## Heavy rains trigger landslides in Kheri village, residents say several houses damaged

**MI News Service, Jammu:** Residents of Kheri village, situated in the Bantalab area of Jammu, say that 15 to 20 houses have been damaged or destroyed due to landslides caused by heavy monsoon rains over the past few days.

The relentless downpours over past few days have also resulted in deep cracks in the soil, rendering homes unsafe and forcing villagers to seek shelter in makeshift tents.

With the terrain still unstable and more rain threatening lives and property, residents need to move to safer places right away.

Displaced families, many of whom invested their life savings into these homes, are now enduring dire living conditions.

Javed, a resident affected by rain damage, said, "Our house, built with years of hard-earned money, is now destroyed. We have nowhere to stay, no money even to build a makeshift shelter. I haven't eaten food for three days. The administration promised help, but we have received nothing so far. We



urgently need their support to rebuild our lives."

Rafia, another affected resident, said, "The landslide struck suddenly at 3 a.m., destroying our household items due to heavy rain. We managed to save some of our belongings, but most are ruined and scattered. We are currently taking shelter in neighbours' homes. Around 10-15 houses here, and there is nearly 20-30 total houses in the colony. The MLA visited and assessed the situation, but we are still waiting for government assistance to provide us with a safe place to live."

Rubina, a resident, said, "Both of my brothers' houses have been severely damaged. We have small children, and we don't know where to go. Returning to our homes is not an option; this isn't a one-day problem, and it could happen again. We appeal to the government to step in and provide immediate assistance to help us rebuild."

Another resident stated, "Everything is destroyed--doors, walls, Everything has collapsed. It's dan-

gerous to even enter the house. My two sons were outside when the incident occurred, but we are now facing immense challenges. I built this house with great difficulty over the course of three years, and now it's gone. Where will we go? We need urgent help to find a safe place to live."

Sumit Dhar, a resident of Talab Tillo in Jammu, stepped forward to provide essential relief to affected families. Dhar mobilised support through social media, shared details of his initiative with ANI.

"I came to know about this situation through social media, and then I got the number of the administration through social media. We spoke with the tehsildars and patwaris; they informed us about the location of this place. Then we liaised with the concerned patwari of this area and reached this place," Dhar recounted.

He added, "We from our Royal Palm Society contribution, helping here 40-50 families with basic needs like fruits, vegetables, and some food items."

## PM Modi to visit Himachal on Sept 9 to assess rain-inflicted damage

**MI News Service, Shimla:** BJP leader and former chief minister Jairam Thakur on Sunday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Himachal Pradesh on September 9 to take stock of the loss of life and property due to heavy rainfall in the state.

"Day after tomorrow, the Prime Minister is coming to Himachal Pradesh to take stock of the loss of life and property due to the heavy rainfall here. I will also go to Dharamshala to attend that meeting and brief him about the situation here..." Thakur, the Leader of Opposition in the state Assembly, told ANI.

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Himachal Pradesh, grappling with the relentless monsoon, continues to face significant disruptions to public utilities, with hundreds of roads, power transformers, and water schemes affected.

The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) reported a high number of disruptions as of 10:00 a.m. on September 7.

The cumulative death toll, since the start of the monsoon season, has reached 366, with fatalities

from rain-related incidents and road accidents reported separately. Of the total deaths, 203 were due to rain-related incidents, while 163 were a result of road accidents.

According to the latest status report from the SEOC, a total of 866 roads were blocked across the state as of the morning of September 7. This includes three National Highways: NH-03, NH-05, and NH-305.

Kullu is the worst-hit district of the state in terms of roads blocked, followed by Mandi and Shimla.

The maximum number of road blockages was reported in the Kullu dis-

trict, with 225 roads affected, followed by Mandi with 191 and Shimla with 154. The primary cause for these blockages is heavy rainfall.

The number of road blockages in other districts was reported as: Chamba (116), Sirmour (45), Kangra (42), Una (33), Solan (22), Bilaspur (18), Lahaul & Spiti (11), Kinnaur (6) and Hamirpur (3).

Power supply has also been severely affected, with 1,572 Distribution Transformers (DTRs) out of order. The Kullu district was the worst-hit, with 873 disrupted DTRS, followed by Mandi with 259 disruptions and Lahaul & Spiti (L&S) with 142.

## Rajasthan Govt announces Rs 5 crore aid for disaster-hit Uttarakhand

**MI News Service, Dehradun :** In view of the natural disaster situation in Uttarakhand, the Government of Rajasthan has extended financial assistance of Rs 5 crore to the Government of Uttarakhand.

According to the Chief Minister's Office, "this aid will be utilised for immediate relief and rehabilitation measures for disaster-hit Pausari village and nearby areas, stressing that the government is prioritising restoration of washed-away bridges, damaged roads, and disrupted electricity and water supply, while also planning necessary displacement measures."

In a letter addressed to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed deep condolences over the tragic circumstances, stating, "In this difficult time of natural calamity, we consider the suffering of the people of Uttarakhand as our own."

He further added that the people of Rajasthan stand shoulder to shoulder with their brothers and sisters in Uttarakhand during this crisis. He also expressed confidence that under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the rehabilitation and reconstruction work will be completed at the earliest.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has conveyed his gratitude to Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma and the Government of Rajasthan.

Meanwhile, work to open the Nandanagar-Nandprayag road, which was blocked in Chamoli district, is underway, police said.

In a post on X, the

Chamoli Police said, "Traffic update - The work of opening the Nandanagar-Nandprayag road, which was blocked in Chamoli district, is underway. The rest of the Badrinath National Highway is open for traffic."

On Saturday, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami assured speedy relief and rehabilitation measures for disaster-hit Pausari village and the surrounding villages have also raised their concerns, including the issue of displacement, and we have already planned for it. Where displacement is necessary, we will work on it. Currently, our primary focus is on restoring the bridges that have been washed away in this area, repairing the damaged roads, addressing the lack of electricity, and resolving the water supply issues. We are working to address all these."

"Every district in the state is affected by the disaster, and there has been significant damage. After assessing everything, we will take swift action. Once the rains subside, we will work on a war footing," he said.

## 481 teams in field to protect livestock in flood-affected areas

**MI News Service, Chandigarh:** In the wake of the devastating floods in the state, Punjab Animal Husbandry department's 481 teams have been working relentlessly in flood-affected areas to ensure the care and well-being of livestock, according to an official statement.

Each team has four members comprising a veterinary officer, a veterinary inspector or a pharmacist and a class four employee, informed S Gurmeet Singh Khudian, Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Punjab.

Highlighting the devastating effects of the deluge, S Gurmeet Singh Khudian said that 504 cattle, 73 sheep and goats and 160 pigs had perished across 14 districts, including Pathankot, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ferozepur, Fazilka, Kapurthala, Barnala, Bathinda, Hoshiarpur, Tarn Taran, Patiala, Jalandhar, Rupnagar and Moga.

Additionally, 18,304 poultry birds died in Gurdaspur, Rupnagar and Fazilka due to the collapse of poultry sheds.

He further informed that approximately 2.52 lakhs animals and 5,88,685 poultry birds were affected by the floods.

Underlining the key relief efforts being carried out by the Animal Husbandry department, he

said that 481 teams have been deployed to provide treatment and arrange medicines for affected livestock. To date, 22,534 animals have received treatment.

Additionally, 24/7 control rooms have been established at both the state headquarters and district-level offices to co-ordinate relief efforts and respond to emergencies. He urged the public to co-operate with relief efforts and report animal distress to the dedicated control rooms.

He further said that the department has distributed relief supplies, including over 12,170 quintals of feed and 5090.35 quintals of green fodder, dry fodder and silage, to support livestock in flood-affected districts, in collaboration with the district administration and social organisations. Uromin licks were also being supplied to the animals to boost their immune system.

Principal Secretary Animal Husbandry Rahul Bhandari said that the department has already released a total of Rs 31.50 lakh for the treatment of animals affected by the floods.

Bhandari also directed officials to ensure prompt response to distress calls, provide timely medical care and supplies to affected animals, and co-ordinate with district administrations and social organisations for effective relief work.

## BJYM to mobilise 10 lakh youth for 'NaMo Yuva Run', promote fitness, drug-free India

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on Sunday took a historic step in inspiring India's youth by launching the flagship campaign "NaMo Yuva Run - For a Nasha Mukti Bharat".

Under the leadership of Tejasvi Surya, National President of BJYM, the event marks one of the largest youth-led fitness and social responsibility movements in India's history.

The launch ceremony was graced by the presence of Manu Sukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, BJYM National President and Member of Parliament from Bangalore South Tejasvi Surya, and celebrated fitness icon Milind Soman, who was officially appointed as the National Run Ambassador of the initiative along with BJP National Media Co-Incharge Sanjay Mayukh and BJYM National General Secretary Raju Bista.

The event witnessed the unveiling of the campaign's official registration portal ([www.namoyuvarun.com](http://www.namoyuvarun.com)).

Logo, Mascot, and T-shirt, which embody the spirit of Seva, Fitness, and a Nasha Mukti Bharat.

It was announced that on September 21, 2025, BJYM will organise 100 simultaneous runs across the country, each engaging a minimum of 10,000 young participants.

"These runs are expected to mobilise over 10 lakh youth, reinforcing BJYM's role as the driving force behind India's largest youth-driven fitness and social awareness campaign," BJYM said in a statement.

This monumental effort forms an integral part of Seva Pakhwada (September 17-October 2), observed annually in honour of the birthday of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The initiative reflects BJYM's alignment with the Prime Minister's vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, advocating fitness, discipline, and the powerful message of a drug-free India through collective youth action."



# TO BHUPEN DA

## A TRIBUTE TO ONE OF THE MOST EXTRAORDINARY VOICES INDIA



NARENDRA MODI

Today, 8th September, is a very special day for all those who are passionate about Indian culture and music. It is particularly more special for my sisters and brothers of Assam.

After all, it is the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika, one of the most extraordinary voices India has ever known. As you are all aware, this year marks the beginning of his birth centenary celebrations. It is an occasion to revisit his monumental contributions to Indian artistic expression and public consciousness.

What Bhupen Da gave us extends far beyond music. His works embodied emotions that transcended melody. More than just a voice, he was the heartbeat of the people.

Generations have grown up listening to his songs, each word resonating with themes of kindness, social justice, unity and deep-rooted belonging.

From Assam emerged a voice that flowed like a timeless river, crossing borders and cultures, carrying with it the spirit of humanity.

Bhupen Da travelled the globe, rubbed shoulders with the who's who across all spectrums of society, but he remained deeply connected to his roots in Assam.

The rich oral traditions, folk melodies and community storytelling practices of Assam deeply shaped his early childhood.

These experiences formed the bedrock of his artistic vocabulary. He always carried the spirit of Assam's indigenous identity and the ethos of its people.

Brilliance came to Bhupen Da at a very young age. At the age of just five, he sang at a public event and quickly caught the attention of none other than Lakshminath Bezbaruah, the pioneering figure of Assamese literature. By the time he was a teenager, he had recorded his first song. But music was only one part of his personality.

Bhupen Da was as much an intellectual at heart...curious, articulate and driven by an insatiable desire to understand the world. Cultural legends like Jyoti Prasad Agarwala and Bishnu Prasad Rabha left a deep impression on his mind and also deepened his spirit of enquiry. It was also this desire to learn that made him excel at Cotton College, Banaras Hindu University and took him to the United States, where he interacted with leading academics, thinkers and musicians of those times. He met Paul Robeson, the legendary artist and civil rights leader. Robeson's song "Ol' Man River" became the inspiration for Bhupen Da's iconic composition 'Bistirno Parore.'

The much-admired former

American First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, awarded him a Gold Medal for his performances of Indian folk music.

Bhupen Da had the option of remaining in the US, but he returned to India and immersed himself in music.

From radio to theatre, films to educational documentaries, he was well-versed in each of these media. Wherever he went, he emphasised supporting young talent. His works combined lyrical flair and also gave social messages, touching upon justice for the poor, rural development, strength of common citizens, to name a few.

Through his music, he gave voice to the aspirations of boatmen, tea garden workers, women, farmers, etc. In addition to being nostalgic, Bhupen Da's works also became a powerful lens to view modernity. A lot of people, especially from the socially backward classes like him, derived strength and hope from his music.

The spirit of 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat' found powerful expression in Bhupen Hazarika's life journey. His works transcended linguistic and regional boundaries to unite people across the country. He composed for films in Assamese, Bengali and Hindi.

He made Assam visible and audible to the rest of India. It is no exaggeration to say that he helped shape the cultural identity of modern Assam, both for those within the state and for the Assamese diaspora across the globe.

Bhupen Da, although not really a political person, did remain connected to the world of public service as well. In 1967, he was elected as an independent MLA from Naubhoicha constituency in Assam, demonstrating how deeply his public persona was rooted in the people's trust. Though he never became a career politician, his passion for serving others was highly impactful.

The people and Government of India have recognised his enormous contributions over the years. He was conferred with several awards, including the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan, Padma Vibhushan, Dadasaheb Phalke Award and more. In 2019, it was an honour for me personally and for the NDA government that the Bharat Ratna was conferred upon him during our tenure. People from across the world, especially those from Assam and the Northeast, expressed joy that this honour was conferred upon him. This honour celebrated the principles that Bhupen Da held dear to his heart—that music, when grounded in truth, can transcend all barriers. That a song can carry the weight of a people's dreams and move hearts across the world.

I remember the time Bhupen Da passed away in 2011. I had seen on television how lakhs of people attended his funeral. Every eye was moist that time. Even in death, like in his illustrious life, he brought people together. It was thus fitting that he was cremated at the Jalukbari hillock overlooking the Brahmaputra, the very river that had been the lifeline of his music, metaphors and memories. It is gladdening that the Assam Government has supported the work of the Bhupen Hazarika Cultural Trust, which is working to popularise his life journey among youngsters.

Bhupen Hazarika's life teaches us



**From radio to theatre, films to educational documentaries, he was well-versed in each of these media. Wherever he went, he emphasised supporting young talent. His works combined lyrical flair and also gave social messages, touching upon justice for the poor, rural development, strength of common citizens, to name a few.**

**Through his music, he gave voice to the aspirations of boatmen, tea garden workers, women, farmers, etc. In addition to being nostalgic, Bhupen Da's works also became a powerful lens to view modernity. A lot of people, especially from the socially backward classes like him, derived strength and hope from his music.**

the power of empathy, of listening to people and of staying rooted. His songs continue to be sung by young and old alike. His music teaches us to be compassionate and courageous. It asks us to remember our rivers, our labourers, our tea workers, our Nari Shakti and our Yuva Shakti. It encourages us to believe in unity in diversity.

Bharat is blessed to have Bhupen Hazarika. As we celebrate the beginning of his centenary year, let us reiterate our commitment to spreading his message far and wide. May it also inspire us to keep working to support music, art and culture, to encourage young talent and make India a nurturing ground for creativity and artistic excellence.

It is only fitting that one of India's most significant infrastructure projects, the bridge connecting Dhola and Sadiya, bears the name of Bhupen Hazarika.

Just as his songs connected hearts across regions, this bridge connects lands and people.

### JOURNALISTS IN NEPAL TAKE TO STREETS AGAINST SOCIAL MEDIA BAN, CALL FOR NATIONWIDE PROTEST

**KATHMANDU:** Scores of Nepali journalists took to the streets against the social media ban in the capital Kathmandu imposed by the government since last week. The Gen-Z has also called for a nationwide protest on Monday against the same cause.

The protest was called by the former office bearers and members of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, the umbrella organisation of journalists in Nepal.

The participating journalists carried placards with slogans reading "#NoBan," "Freedom of Expression Is Our Right," "The People's Voice Cannot Be Silenced," and "Democracy Is Being Hacked, Dictatorship Is Coming Back," among others.

The government claims that the companies' social media platforms are not following their administrative order and the registration provision according to those directives. The government issued the order to the Nepal Telecommunication Authority, which later issued an order to all the ISPs (internet service providers) to ban the major social media platforms. We are here to protest against this government order," Taranath Dahal, the former president of the Federation of Nepali Journalists, told ANI.

Rage is slowly increasing in Nepal against the government's decision to shut down over two dozen social media platforms, which it claims is an effort to tax the revenue they generate in the country, and to control content critical of the government.

Following the order from the government, social media sites have gone dark past midnight on September 4.

The government says it took the action after repeated warnings to the platforms to open offices in Nepal, a Cabinet decision last month setting a deadline, as well as a 17 August Supreme Court ruling that also required them to register and pay the requisite taxes.

However, the Bill cited in the ban, 'The Operation, Use, and Regulation of Social Media in Nepal' has not yet been passed by Parliament. Some social media platforms, which were already paying taxes in Nepal even though they are not officially registered, have also been blocked.

## SCO TRADE MINISTERS MEET

# INDIA CAUTIONS AGAINST MISUSE OF EXPORT MEASURES

**NEW DELHI:** India has cautioned against weaponising export-related measures or misusing them to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains at an SCO meeting, an official statement said on Sunday.

At the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) Trade Ministers' Meeting in Vladivostok on September 6, India said that calibrated and transparent use of these steps is essential to maintain trust in international com-

merce. India has also called for addressing persistent trade deficits by ensuring greater market access and simplifying processes for trade facilitation.

These remarks are important as India's auto and electronics sector faced issues due to export restrictions on rare earth magnets and fertiliser by China.

China is a member of the organisation. India also warned that trade-linked climate measures should not result in arbitrary or unjusti-

fied discrimination.

"...persistent trade imbalances must be addressed through better market access, cooperation on standards, and streamlined trade facilitation.

"India cautioned that export-related measures should not be weaponised or misused to create artificial scarcity, distort markets, or disrupt supply chains, and emphasised that their calibrated and transparent use is essential to maintain trust in international commerce,"



the commerce ministry said in the statement.

India's trade deficit with China has increased to about USD 100 billion in 2024-25.

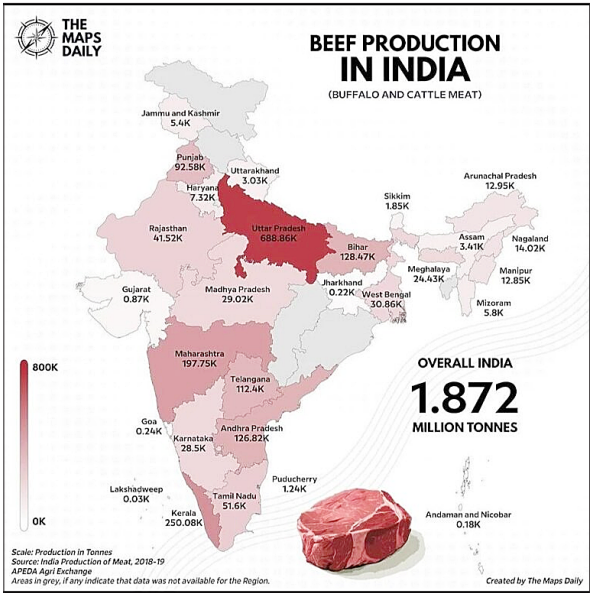
With the SCO accounting for 42 per cent of the world's population and 17.2 per cent of global trade, India emphasised the importance of coordinated action to enhance trade flows, address vulnerabilities, and support inclusive growth across the region. Representing India, Amitabh Kumar, Additional Secretary, Department of

Commerce, underlined the need for an open, fair, inclusive and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core.

He also highlighted the importance of a development-centred agenda that includes a permanent solution on Public Stockholding for food security purposes, effective Special and Differential Treatment for developing countries, and restoration of a fully functional two-tier WTO dispute settlement system.



# India's lucrative Beef Export Industry is Flourishing Under Modi's Rule



**MI News Sevice, New Delhi:** When out of power, PM Narendra Modi was vocal in criticizing the Congress Party for the “Pink Revolution”—the nickname for India’s rising beef exports. He blamed Manmohan Singh’s government for encouraging the beef trade to woo the 14% Indian Muslims.

Putting the brakes on India’s beef industry isn’t as easy as it sounds. The lack of a comprehensive, uniform law regarding cow slaughter makes it easier for people to find ways to kill cows if they want to. Inside India’s borders, people dodge the law by smuggling cows to states where there are little or no penalties for cow slaughter.

So things go on, as it was going before.

India now ranks as the second-largest beef exporter globally, earning around \$4.3 billion annually. The world’s largest beef exporter is Brazil, followed by India, Australia, the USA, and the UK.

Indian beef export began in the 1960s, but it grew significantly in the last decade under the Modi rule. Today, India exports beef to 65 countries. The demand for Indian beef is especially high because it comes from free-ranging buffaloes fed on natural pastures.

The cow vs buffalo’s meat export is something that’s always being debated in India. It is said that

the bulk of India’s meat export is buffalo meat. India has 115 million buffaloes, more than half the world’s population, and produces about 1.53 million tons of beef every year.

Those who argue for cow meat say there are 76 million cows, and India is now the world’s largest milk producer. Most cows, past their milk-producing age, end up being turned into leather and beef export rather than living out their years in cow shelters.

Even though some Hindus might argue that the beef export comes from buffalo meat, many in India’s beef industry say it’s likely that the cow meat too is supporting the lucrative beef export industry in India.

The business opportunities in the beef export industry are tremendous. The lucrativeness of the beef export business is attracting Hindus into this trade. Money from exporting meat to oil-rich Gulf countries has brought Hindus to this trade.

Among the six largest meat exporters in India, four are Hindus.

1) Al-Kabeer Exports Pvt. Ltd company owned by Mr. Shatish & Mr. Atul Sabharwal

2) Arabian Exports Pvt.Ltd company owned by Mr.Sunil Kapoor

3) M.K.R Frozen Food Exports Pvt. Ltd. Company owned by Mr. Madan Abot

4) P.M.L Industries Pvt. Ltd. Company owned by Mr. A.S Bindra.

## Love Jihad representation in Ganesh procession triggers tensions in MP's Mahidpur

**MI News Sevice, Mahidpur:** In Mahidpur town of Madhya Pradesh’s Ujjain district, tensions erupted on Friday after a “Love Jihad” representation was put up during the Ganesha procession.

The representation featured effigy of a Muslim man and a woman in burkha. Objecting to the representation, members from the minority community alleged that it hurts religious sentiments. They said that representation consisting of effigies of a man wearing a skull cap or a burkha-clad woman is offensive.

The police officials were informed and a complaint was registered.

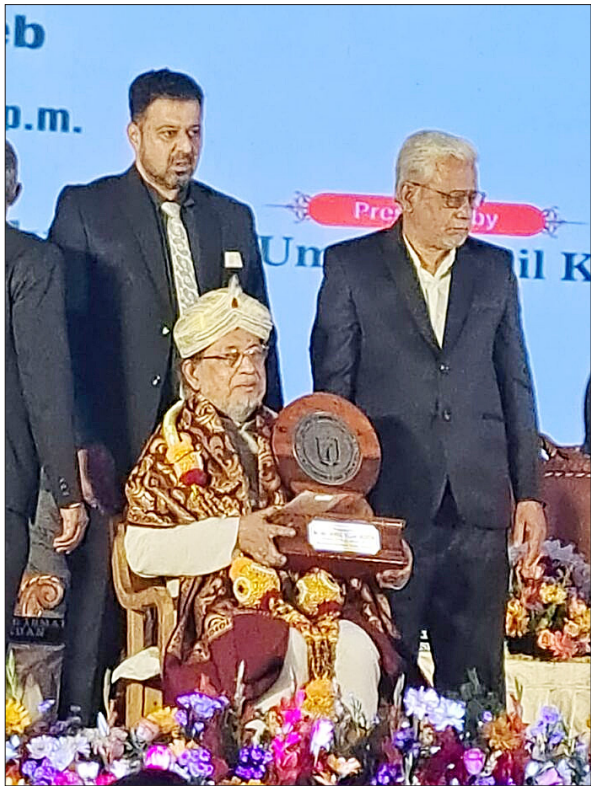
Allegedly, some youths pelted stones when the procession was around 500 metres away near a Moti Masjid.

Ujjain district police superintendent Pradeep Sharma said, “Some youths who were hiding their faces hurled stones near the police posse escorting the procession.”

Police retorted to mild force and calmed the environment. A flag march was also taken out and police forces have been deployed to maintain law and order.

Sharma confirmed that an FIR will be registered and action will be taken.

# M. Nurul Islam Honoured With Prestigious ‘Al Ameen All India Community Leadership Award’ on Founder's Day Event in Bengaluru



**MI News Sevice, Bengaluru:** Commemorating its Founder's Day, the Al-Ameen Educational Society honoured the Founder and General Secretary of Al-Ameen Mission West Bengal, M. Nurul Islam, with its most prestigious award for his contributions, on Saturday.

The event is organised every year at Bengaluru on the occasion of Founder's Day on memory of the institution's Founder Late Dr. Mumtaz Ahmed Khan Saheb who is known for his sacrifices and contributions in establishing a prestigious educational institution.

Nurul Islam was invited as a Chief guest for the event and was felicitated with “Al-Ameen All India Community Leadership Award 2025” for his continued contributions for the progress of Al Ameen Mission.

All members associated with Al-Ameen Movement graced the event with their presence.

Islam started the Al-Ameen Mission, an educational movement that transformed the lives of

thousands of underprivileged students especially Muslims in West Bengal.

He established the Institute of Islamic Culture and a hostel in 1986 via donations from every household in Khalatpur. In 1987, he officially renamed the institution as Al Ameen Mission, inspired by the name given to the Prophet Muhammad — Al-Ameen (the trustworthy).

The event honoured his contributions to the academic success of the institution; over 2400 doctors and 2500 engineers have graduated from the Mission. The mission expanded into 77 residential branches accommodating more than more than 22000 students, 50000 alumni and produced 550 doctors and engineers and other professionals.

In the year 2022, around 500 students secured admissions in the fields of MBBS and BDS.

The Founder, Dr Mumtaz was a renowned Indian educator, humanitarian and social reformer. He earned his MBBS from Madras University and an MSc in surgery and went on to build a legacy dedicated to educational upliftment. He founded the Al-Ameen educational society when he was 30-year old, in Bengaluru in the year 1966 laying the groundwork for the larger Al-Amin movement that was aimed at expanding its educational network especially for India's Muslim community.

## Russian attacks on Ukraine's Kyiv kill at least 3, gov't building struck

**MI News Sevice, Kyiv:** At least three people have been killed, 18 wounded, and dozens of buildings set on fire in Kyiv, including the seat of the government, following a Russian drone and missile attack in Ukraine’s capital, according to officials and local news reports.

Ukraine said Russia launched 805 drones and decoys and 13 missiles overnight into Sunday. It was the largest such attack since the full-scale invasion. Yuriy Ihnat, a spokesperson for Ukraine’s Air Force, confirmed to The Associated Press news agency.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko was initially quoted by the Reuters news agency as saying that the attack early on Sunday killed an infant and a young woman, and sparked fires at several high-rise buildings in the city’s west and east.

Tymur Tkachenko, the head of Kyiv’s city administration, later confirmed the body of a one-year-old child was dug out of the rubble by rescuers.

Medics were called to the leafy Darnytskyi district to the east of the Dnipro River, where a four-storey apartment building caught fire from the debris of drones destroyed in the overnight attack. Klitschko added.

Drone debris also caused fires atop a 16-storey and two nine-storey buildings in the Sviatoshynskiy district in Kyiv’s west, he said.

Witnesses told Reuters they heard a series of explosions shaking the city, which sounded like air defence units in operation.

The Ukrainian news website Kyiv Independent also reported that an elderly woman died in a shelter in the city’s Darnytskyi district following the attack, although the cause of her death was not immediately clear.

The state emergency service confirmed at least one death in Kyiv and 18 injuries.

The attacks, which also knocked out power in the city, left smoke rising from the roof of Ukraine’s cabinet, housing the offices of its ministers.

# Millions displaced in severe Pakistan flooding as India impacted too

**MI News Sevice, Multan:** Four million people have been affected by devastating floods in Pakistan, and thousands of farmers across the border in India are also experiencing the loss of their crops as experts say global warming has worsened the scale of the monsoon rains both nations are now suffering.

Over the past week, heavy rains swelled three rivers that run through Punjab, Pakistan’s most populous province, causing widespread devastation in the country’s agricultural heartland.

Entire towns have been submerged, Al Jazeera’s Kamal Hyder reported from Multan, Pakistan, on Sunday.

“The floods have left thousands of farms inundated. Valuable crops are lost,” he said, noting that the government was trying to offer relief to those affected.

Mohammed Ajmal, a spokesperson for the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League, told Al Jazeera that the damage caused by



the floods was “unimaginable”.

“Our party ... is working round the clock to help those affected around the country. This disaster is so vast that the government alone cannot tackle it,” he said.

Meanwhile, Sobia Bibi, a flood survivor, spoke of the devastation the flooding has left in its wake: “In these floods, we lost everything: our homes, our crops – all that we worked for,” she said.

“Help is limited, and there are too many of us in need. Our children are sitting under the open sky

in the sun or in rain. We desperately need tents to protect them.”

During the rescue efforts, a boat carrying people to safety in eastern Pakistan flipped on Saturday when it struck an underwater object, killing a 70-year-old woman and four children, authorities confirmed on Sunday.

“Ten other people were rescued, but unfortunately, five people lost their lives in the incident,” Irfan Ali Kathia, the director general of the Provincial Disaster Management Authority, told local media.

According to Punjab Relief

Commissioner Nabil Javed, the flooding of the Ravi, Sutlej and Chenab rivers has forced more than two million people to flee their homes.

Pakistani authorities have set up hundreds of relief camps, medical facilities and veterinary posts to help both people and livestock.

Since June, more than 900 people have died in Pakistan as a result of the monsoon floods, the United Nations said.

In neighbouring India, tens of thousands of people have recently been evacuated due to the floods.

Thousands of farmers who had been preparing to harvest their crops are now worried about the future as authorities in India’s Punjab region reported that 1,620sq km (625sq miles) of farmland had been damaged.

“The rice varieties we have sown in the past – everything is gone,” farmer Satkar Singh told Al Jazeera from the region where 40 percent of the country’s basmati rice exports are grown.

## Israeli military says drone launched from Yemen hits airport arrivals hall

**MI News Sevice, Eilat:** Israel’s Ramon Airport near the Red Sea city of Eilat has resumed operations after being briefly shut when a drone launched from Yemen struck the arrivals hall, Israel’s Airports Authority have said.

Takeoffs and landings at the airport were halted for around two hours on Sunday as the Israeli military said it was investigating the crash of a drone that was launched from Yemen and fell in the area of the airport.

“Following the completion of all safety and security checks, compliance with international civil aviation standards, and receipt of final approval from the Air

Force – Ramon Airport has now been reopened for full operations, for both departures and arrivals,” the authority said in a statement.

“The first flight from Ramon to Ben Gurion Airport (near Tel Aviv) is expected to depart shortly.”

Earlier, the Israeli military said the air force had intercepted three drones launched from Yemen. It said two were “intercepted prior to crossing into Israeli territory” but did not elaborate on the status of the third.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz, citing the Israeli rescue services, reported that two people were lightly wounded in the drone strike. A 63-year-old man

was injured by shrapnel, and a 52-year-old woman was injured after she fell. It said emergency workers evacuated them to a hospital in Eilat, while others who suffered panic attacks received medical care at the scene.

Israeli Army Radio reported that a preliminary investigation into the damage at the airport indicated the drone had not been spotted by the air force’s detection systems at all.

The airport, located near the resort city of Eilat on the border with Jordan and Egypt, mostly handles domestic flights.

The Houthis in Yemen have been launching missiles and drones thousands

of kilometres north towards Israel in what the group says are acts of solidarity with the Palestinians under relentless Israeli fire. It has also been attacking vessels in the Red Sea since the start of Israel’s war on Gaza in October 2023.

There has been no immediate comment from the Houthis on the drone strike on Ramon Airport.

Israel has bombed Houthi-controlled areas of Yemen, including the vital Hodeidah port. Its latest barrage killed senior Houthi officials a week and a half ago, including its prime minister and other cabinet officials. Large numbers of civilians have also been killed in Israeli strikes.

## Israeli attacks on school, tents and homes kill at least 31 in Gaza



**MI News Sevice, Gaza:** Israeli forces continue to

bombard Gaza, killing at least 31 people in strikes

on a school, tents and houses.

Two people injured after drone launched from Yemen hits airport in southern Israel.

Families and supporters of Israeli captives take to the streets, demanding Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sign a deal to secure the release of their loved ones.

Almost 900 people arrested after thousands of protesters rallied in London on Saturday, calling for an end to the ban on the campaign group Palestine Action.

Israel’s war on Gaza has killed at least 64,368 people and wounded 162,776 others since October 2023. Thousands more are believed to be under the rubble. A total of 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7 attacks, and about 200 were taken captive.

## Mahmood Madani says “Ready to speak to Sangh, praises RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

**MI News Sevice, Delhi:** Speaking about the Hindutva organisation the RSS, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind President Mahmood Madani said that he is willing to engage in a dialogue with them on any subject.

Madani welcomed the Sangh’s Chief Mohan Bhagwat’s recent remarks on sensitive religious issues.

Speaking to ANI, Madani stated that Jamiat had earlier

passed a resolution that proposed exchange of dialogue with the Sangh. He said that although there were differences, effort should be made to reduce them.

He said, “My organisation passed a resolution seeking engagement. There are differences but we need to reduce them. Hence we are in favour of efforts made for exchange of dialogue.”

His remarks come after Bhagwat spoke about Mathura Kashi disputes. He stated that the Ram temple was the only movement the Sangh supported although its members are allowed to advocate for the Kashi Mathura movements.

Bhagwat also mentioned the presence of Islam in the country and urged Indians to have three children to maintain demographics and also alleged that conversion and illegal migration are responsible for imbalances.

Madani then condemned the inappropriate use of words when it comes to the political domain by opposition leaders, state leaders etc.

A few days ago, Arshad Madani I had expressed his thoughts to meet Bhagwat and openly praised him.



