

Body of JU student found in pond, investigation ordered

A fresh tragedy has struck Jadavpur University with the mysterious death of a third-year English Department student, whose body was discovered floating in a moss-covered pond on the campus late Thursday night. The deceased, identified as 21-year-old Anamika Mondal from Nimta in North 24 Parganas, was found unconscious around 10 p.m. in the pond opposite the UG Arts Building. Classmates and campus security rushed her to KPC Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Known affectionately as "Mistu" in her hometown, her sudden death cast a pall of gloom across her locality. PG 3



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Morning India

Bus carrying Indian tourists 'attacked' near Kathmandu, several injured

MI News Service, Kathmandu : In the first such incident amid the recent violence, an Indian tourist bus was allegedly attacked by protesters during the unrest in Nepal near Kathmandu's famous Pashupatinath Temple on Thursday leaving several passengers injured, informed sources said on Friday. The alleged incident took place on Thursday evening near Sonauli, en route to the India-Nepal border, when the agitators targeted the bus carrying 49 Indians. Stones were reportedly pelted, shattering windows and injuring passengers, including women and the old, the sources claimed. According to reports, the local authorities admitted all the injured, some of them seriously, to a hospital in Kathmandu, while the remaining passengers were flown back to India on a special plane arranged by the Indian Embassy with the help of the Nepalese authorities. According to the driver of the fateful bus Ramu Nishad, "We were returning after having darshan (at the Pashupatinath temple), when suddenly a mob surrounded our bus and attacked without reason. There were women and elderly people among the passengers, but the protesters did not care and attacked us", he said. Meanwhile, Youth-led Gen Z group, which spearheaded the anti-government protests in Nepal, continued their negotiations with the Aremy and said Parliament must be dissolved and the Constitution should be amended to reflect the will of the people, as the death toll from violence and arson rose to 34 on Thursday. The Gen Z protesters organised a press meet here to express their views, while some of their representatives were busy holding discussions with President Ramchandra Paudel and Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel at the Army Headquarters to find a solution to the current political crisis.

'Tariffs are imposed fearing if India grows strong': Bhagwat

MI News Service, Nagpur : Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat on Friday said tariffs were imposed on India out of fear of what might happen to them if the country became stronger. "Such measures are the result of a self-centred approach," he said without naming any country. He was speaking at the 7th foundation day of Brahma Kumaris Vishwa Shanti Sarovar here on Friday. "People in the world are afraid of what might happen to them if India grows stronger and of what their own position will be. That's why such unprecedented high tariffs (of 50 per cent) have been imposed on Indian goods. But we have done nothing. When you are seven seas away and there is no connection, why the fear?" he asked. US President Donald Trump has imposed a 50 per cent tariff on India, including a 25 per cent punitive duty for its Russian oil purchases. India has termed the tariffs "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable". Bhagwat said human beings and

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Non-confrontational C P Radhakrishnan sworn-in as 15th Vice President of India

MI News Service, New Delhi : Seen as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, the 67-year-old Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan took oath as the 15th Vice President of India here on Friday. He succeeds Jagdeep Dhankhar, who resigned as Vice President on the opening day of the last Monsoon session of Parliament on July 21, taking everyone by surprise. Named after first Vice President S Radhakrishnan and strongly rooted in the RSS and the BJP, C P Radhakrishnan brings with him a rich political and administrative experience as the 15th Vice President of India, which his supporters believe will also prove handy in his role as the ex-officio chairperson of the Rajya Sabha. He is also the third leader from Tamil Nadu to occupy the coveted post.

Dhankhar was known for his frequent run-ins with the Opposition, and had even faced an impeachment notice from them. Described as a 'Pachai Tamizhan' (true-blue Tamil) by well-wishers, Radhakrishnan was serving as the Governor of Maharashtra when he was named as the vice presidential nominee of the BJP-led NDA. On



The President of India, Droupadi Murmu administered the Oath of Office of Vice President of India to C. P. Radhakrishnan during the Swearing-in-Ceremony held at Ganantra Mandap, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi on Friday

Tuesday, he was elected as the 15th Vice President, securing 452 votes from over 760 members of both Houses of Parliament, while the opposition candidate, B Sudershan Reddy, polled altogether 300 votes.

The new Vice President was sworn-in by President Draupadi Murmu at a glittering ceremony at the Durbar Hall of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in presence of a host of gathering. Among others Prime Minister Narendra Modi, former President Ram Nath Kovind, C P Radhakrishnan's predecessor Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Union ministers including Amit Shah, Rajnath Singh, J P

Nadda, Piyush Goyal, and Nitin Gadkari were present on the occasion.

After taking the oath of office, Vice President C.P. Radhakrishnan paid floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat. He also paid homage to former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at Sadaai Atal. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Vice President Radhakrishnan a successful Vice Presidential tenure, dedicated to the service of the people. In a social media post, PM. Modi called C. P. Radhakrishnan, a dedicated public servant and said that he has devoted his life to nation-building, social



President Droupadi Murmu is along with Vice President CP Radhakrishnan and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday.

service and strengthening democratic values. Meanwhile, Radhakrishnan has described his

election to the country's second-highest Constitutional post as a victory of the nationalistic ideal-

ogy and vowed to work towards making India a developed nation by 2047. "The other side camp (opposition alliance) said that this (election) is an ideological fight, but from the voting pattern, we understand that the nationalistic ideology has emerged victorious," Radhakrishnan said in his first public remarks after the win. "It is a victory for every Indian; we all have to work together. If we have to develop Viksit Bharat by 2047, which means we should not do politics in everything, now we will have to concentrate on development," he had said. A two-term member of the Lok Sabha from Coimbatore during the tenure of former Prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Radhakrishnan came close to becoming a Union minister, but had to lose out to fellow Tamilian Pon Radhakrishnan in 1998 after some confusion over his name by the then floor managers of the BJP. His mother Janaki Ammal fondly recalled the story behind his name. She said "When my son was born, the then President Radhakrishnan was in office. He was a teacher, and I too was a teacher. In his memory, I named

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Mamata Banerjee condemns killing of former Nepal PM's wife, pens poem

MI News Service, Kolkata : Expressing deep concern over the present political turmoil and uncertainty in neighbouring Nepal for the past few days, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has strongly condemned the brutal death of a former prime minister's wife, as she was reportedly burnt alive in her own house. "West Bengal has always stood for humanity and compassion and nobody must allow violence and political opportunism to destroy lives under any pretext", the Chief minister said adding "Let our neighbouring country remain well. West Bengal gives birth to humanity and compassion. Burning a living person and celebrating it, is not humanity", she remarked. "People may have grievances against one another, but it should not result in cruelty and atrocities like this," Mamata Banerjee has said during her visit to North Bengal which concluded on Thursday. Incidentally, since she arrived in North Bengal on Tuesday, Nepal was rocked by a severe political crisis after Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli resigned in the face of massive protests and fled to an undis-



closed destination on the second day of the nationwide protest.

Demonstrators stormed several government buildings and set fire to Parliament building, the Prime minister's house and several residences of high-profile leaders. As many as 51 people have so far been killed with scores of others being injured during the three days of violence and arson. In Dullu, a mob set fire to the house of former prime minister Jhala Nath Khanal, whose wife, Rajyalaxmi Chitrakar, who was trapped inside, suffered severe burn injuries and later succumbed at a hospital, according to eyewitness accounts. Expressing her sadness at the incident Mamata Banerjee

said she had written a poem on the unrest in Nepal, reflecting her solidarity with the people of the adjoining Himalayan nation. In an indirect reference to political opportunism, she warned, "Some opportunists will try to take advantage, whether in the name of dividing states, districts, or even countries.

But this should not burn people's lives." The Chief minister said she has instructed district magistrates and police superintendents in north Bengal to remain vigilant, given the region's proximity to Nepal. "Nepal adjoins north Bengal. People living in border areas need to remain cautious. Some people will try to fish in troubled waters. I ask everyone to stay alert," she said. Mamata Banerjee, who was in Jalpaiguri had also decided to extend her stay in north Bengal till Thursday in the wake of the volatile situation in neighbouring Nepal. The state chief secretary, however, is scheduled to return to Kolkata for official work. "Once peace is restored, I may return to Kolkata on Thursday. Otherwise, the plan may change," Mamata Banerjee said.

Speaker of National Assembly urges to resolve crisis in Nepal within constitutional framework

MI News Service, Kathmandu: The Speaker of the House of Representatives in Nepal Devaraj Ghimire, and Chairman of the National Assembly Narayan Dahal have called to resolve the country's crisis within the framework of the present constitution. In a joint statement on Friday, they said President Ramchandra Paudel is taking initiative to address the situation while respecting the people's sovereignty, civil liberties, territorial integrity, national unity, and independence. They also urged all parties to address the demands of protesters and commit to a stronger, more prosperous democracy. Meanwhile life in the strife torn country is now limping back to normal with the Nepalese police gradually resuming operations in Kathmandu Valley. Normalcy in the work of most of the police stations and posts that were vandalised during the protests earlier this week, have also resumed their operations, officials said on Friday. Nepal Police and Armed Police

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Trump's economic policies "self-destructive" for USA, feels Ex RBI Guv Rangarajan

MI News Service, Hyderabad : Former Reserve Bank Governor C Rangarajan has stated that certain economic policies of US President Donald Trump not only brought global economic trends to a standstill but were also self-destructive for the North American nation. Addressing the 15th Convocation of Icfai Foundation for Higher Education

here on Friday, Rangarajan, without naming BRICS, said the emergence of different blocks of countries within which trade is freer is inevitable, but the ultimate goal must be one large world with free trade. "The world today is in a flux. The pursuit of certain economic policies by President Trump has brought world trade to a standstill. Hopefully good

sense will prevail and the policy makers in the US will realise the policies they want to pursue are self-destructive. India is the worst hit," the former Chairman of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council said. According to him, India's growth is uneven as six states- Maharashtra,

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Stage set for PM Modi's maiden visit to Manipur since 2023 ethnic clashes



Lt General Abhijit S Pendharkar, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Spear Corps, reviews security arrangements in Manipur. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Manipur on September 13.

MI News Service, Imphal : Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive in Manipur on Saturday, more than two years after deadly ethnic violence swept this tiny North eastern state, to unveil projects to the tune of Rs 8,500 crore, officials said. During his first visit since the beginning of the ethnic violence in 2023, PM Modi will lay foundation stones for various development projects worth Rs 7,300 crore

from Peace Ground in Churachandpur, where Kukis are in the majority. The PM will also inaugurate infrastructure projects totalling Rs 1,200 crore from Meitei-majority Imphal, they said. The Prime minister's visit comes amid repeated criticism by opposition parties for his not coming to the state following the ethnic strife between the Kuki and Meitei communities, which has left over 260 people dead and thousands

others homeless since May 2023. The Manipur government had on Thursday evening put up a large billboard, announcing the PM's programmes at Churachandpur's Peace Ground and Kangla Fort in Imphal on Saturday.

The hoarding came up at Keisampat Junction, a key location in Imphal, which is also close to the BJP's state headquarters. More such billboards were put up in the state's capital Imphal, ahead of the Prime minister's visit Manipur has been under the President's Rule since February, following the resignation of chief minister N Biren Singh. The state government on Thursday also issued an advisory, asking the public attending the VVIP programme in Peace Ground not to bring "key, pen, water bottle, bag, handkerchief, umbrella, lighter, match box, piece of cloth, any sharp objects or arms and ammunition. Another notification that did not mention the Prime Minister's name asked people to avoid bringing children below 12 years and

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IIT Kharagpur adopts art therapy to combat suicide

MI News Service, Kharagpur: IIT Kharagpur recently held an expressive art workshop last month to help students deal with stress, under the watch of a team of professional psychologists and certified expressive art therapists from a Mumbai-based health-tech company. The workshop held from August 1 to 3 focused on stress management, emotional regulation, problem-solving and building trust. IIT Kharagpur director Suman Chakraborty said that sessions on space visualisation, walking at varied pace and expressive art were held to encourage students to interact with each other, make new friends, work as a team and feel comfortable to share personal experiences in small groups. "This workshop gave the participants an opportunity to express their inner feelings and emotions for the first time using art and movement. Some of them shared that they were under a lot of

stress, having scored less in the exams recently. After attending this workshop, they felt relaxed, happy and calm. They also understood that acknowledging and accepting their emotions is the first step towards trying to manage stress or anxiety," the director said. The institute where four students were found hanging in their rooms in the past eight months is trying various methods to create a mechanism that could prevent deaths on the campus. An IIT official said such sessions teach students about emotional release by engaging the mind, body and spirit creatively. One of the students who was part of the session told Metro that it offered a "unique and powerful way to process feelings, gain self-awareness, and cultivate emotional resilience". The workshop included exercises called body drumming, which seeks to create a rhythm among the participants using their

hands and legs, and balloon balancing in which the participants were asked to imagine the balloon to be their life and try to balance it with their body, assuming various ups and downs which are a part of daily living. One of those who conducted the session said paced walking is considered an effective way to release stress and tension from the body by walking around the room with different intensities of emotions felt from within. "In safe space visualisation, the students are told to visualise a place where they feel most secure, safe and relaxed, imagine those people with them in that space whose presence made them feel good. Expressive through art was about drawing that safe place on a paper and filling it with colours, releasing so many emotions," a professional psychologist said. This year, the IIT conducted an induction programme for parents of new students and asked

them not to expose their children to "artificial pressure on internships or placements". Induction programmes so far were held only for students. Director Chakraborty said: "We have decided to engage with the parents periodically so we can keep reminding them gently about the things they should steer clear of. All the models are being attempted so we can prevent loss of lives on the campus." On July 27, a division bench of the Supreme Court expressed its concerns over the loss of lives on the campus. "What is wrong with IIT KGP? Why are students committing suicide? Have you given a thought to it?" the division bench said. The institute has appointed a full-time psychiatrist as part of the mental-health outreach. It is awaiting recommendations from a panel of external experts on what could be done to stop the spate of deaths.



Bengal chamber commerce organised bengal fair pic caption---Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry has organized the Bengal Festival Fair, featuring artisans from across West Bengal, including Malda, East Burdwan, Birbhum, Dinajpur, South Dinajpur, Raiganj, East Midnapore, West Midnapore, and Hooghly. A total of 75 artisans from sixteen districts, including 33 representatives from the Creative Bengal Foundation's Sonajhuri Hat, are participating. The fair, an innovative initiative by the Chamber, will continue at Khudiram Anushwani Kendra until September 14. Industries Minister Shashi Panja and Kunal Ghosh attended the fair on Friday.

Police rescue missing Malda girl from Delhi

MI News Service, Malda/New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl from Malda, who went missing around two months ago, was rescued from Malviya Nagar in New Delhi in a joint operation by Delhi Police, West Bengal Police, and child rights NGO Shakti Vahini. A youth hailing from Jharkhand, who had taken her to the capital, was arrested on the spot. The girl went missing from her home in early July. Her family filed a missing persons complaint with Malda Police, but there was no lead on her whereabouts for weeks. The breakthrough came in September when police tracked down a relative of the accused youth who was living in Delhi. According to a source, a team of officers from West Bengal Police and Delhi Police, supported by members of Shakti Vahini, entered Malviya Nagar and rescued the girl. The accused, who had been staying with the girl, claimed that he was married to the teenager. Investigators stated that the girl is a minor and the case falls under kidnapping

and child marriage-related provisions of the law. Police have initiated further proceedings. Arrangements are underway to reunite the girl with her family. Rishi Kant, the founder of Shakti Vahini and a long-time activist for child protection rights, said that such incidents highlight the risks faced by minors in border districts like Malda, which are vulnerable to human trafficking. "We see a pattern where girls are trafficked or lured away under the pretext of marriage. This case again shows why a strong rescue mechanism and inter-state coordination are so crucial," Kant said. "More awareness and vigilance at the local level is needed to protect young girls from falling prey to traffickers and predators," he added. A source said that the girl's family expressed relief after learning of the rescue operation. "Authorities have indicated that counselling and rehabilitation support will be extended to the girl in the coming days," the source added.

HMD launched two new feature phones

Patna: HMD Global has launched the HMD Vibe 5G and two new feature phones, HMD 101 4G and HMD 102 4G, to cater to festive season demand in India. The Vibe 5G is priced at ₹8,999 and features a 6.67-inch HD+ display, 50MP dual rear cameras, and a 5000mAh battery. The HMD 101 4G and HMD 102 4G are designed for dependable connectivity and cater to rural and entry-level markets.



Police seized over Rs 72 lakh from Kolkata bound bus

MI News Service, Memari: West Bengal Police have seized over Rs 72 lakh of Indian currencies during the frisking of a Kolkata bound bus from Bihar and arrested four suspects for carrying unaccounted cash, official source said on Thursday. Police had to get a money counting machine from a bank after seizing the cash from Palsit toll plaza, located on National Highway 2 between Panagarh and Palsit in East Bardhaman. Sources said the Police laid a trap at

midnight last night following input and during frisking the bus two bags of money were recovered. The passenger bus was coming to Kolkata from Bhagalpur. Police also arrested a carrier Sanhubasth Verma, drivers Bablu Das and Naveen Kumar and helper Krishna Das in this connection after police failed to get details from them about the source of money. Memari Police station lodged a case in this connection.

Judge transfer : DARJEELING BAR ASSOCIATION goes on strike

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Darjeeling Bar Association launched an indefinite cease-work, demanding the transfer of judicial magistrate Alakananda Sarkar from the Mungpo court, about 30km from here. Pranay Rai, the vice-president of the association, said: "All members of the bar association started an indefinite cease-work from today demanding the immediate transfer of the judicial magistrate from Mungpo." Sarkar had been embroiled in a controversy in August following an allegation that she was restricting the use of the Nepali language in the Mungpo court. "Following the incident, she had gone on leave, but we had demanded that she be transferred. We have found that she has joined work at Mungpo," said Rai. Following the incident, Bengal law minister Moly Ghatak had written to the chief justice of Calcutta High Court on the issue. Later, the judicial magistrate issued a written apology. "I, Alakananda Sarkar, a member of WBJS, presently posted as Judicial Magistrate at Mungpo wish to extend my sincere and unconditional apology for the incident that happened on my part to the member of Bar Association, Darjeeling," the letter signed by Sarkar and released by the bar association last month read. The magistrate also said she understood that her action might have hurt the sentiments of not only lawyers but also the Nepali-speaking community at large. "However, I had no intention to hurt the sentiment of Nepali Speaking people, if any person or the community got hurt, I am tendering my unconditional apology. The word was casually uttered by me out of my frustration and ill health," the letter said. Ghatak said in his letter that on August 18, the Darjeeling Bar Association had received a representation from the Mungpo Bar Association. "...wherein it has been alleged that Smt Alokananda Sarkar, judicial magistrate 1st Class in Mungpo Court has stated in open Court that She would not allow the use Nepali Language in the Court as well as in the normal communication between the employees of the Court and the legal fraternity as Nepali is a language of Nepal and not of India (sic)," read Ghatak's letter.

CBI Arrests Absconding Accused in 2017 Bank Fraud Case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested a fraudster accused of causing a wrongful loss of ₹11.79 crore to the Government of India during the 2017 demonetisation, official sources said. The anti-corruption wing of the federal agency had registered a case on January 1, 2017, against the accused, alleging his involvement in fraudulent transactions of demonetised currency through fictitious bank accounts. Investigations revealed that the accused had opened a bank account under a false identity to facilitate the financial crime. The accused, identified as Biranchi Narayan Das, was arrested from a hideout in Kolkata on September 10, after the CBI pursued him for eight years. Following his absconding, a charge sheet naming him as an absconder was filed in December 2019. Das consistently evaded trial, ignored repeated summons and non-bailable warrants, and deliberately concealed his identity by frequently changing residences and keeping a low profile. "His arrest in Kolkata on September 10, 2025, was made possible through the use of advanced technological tools applied across multiple databases, combined with extensive professional fieldwork. These efforts successfully tracked his current whereabouts," the CBI said.

CISCE pilot assessments classes to be held in Oct across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) will provide schools a 15-day window to select their assessment dates for Classes III, V, and VIII. The assessments — a pilot project — are likely to be held in the first half of October, and the question papers will have to be downloaded onto the computer and will be different for each day. "A 15-day window will be provided to conduct the assessments, and schools can choose their days as per their convenience and timetable," said Joseph Emmanuel, chief executive and secretary of the CISCE. "We are giving schools the flexibility because if they have any internal assessments during that period, they can choose their dates accordingly," Emmanuel told. The flexibility will allow schools to choose multiple dates for one particular class. It can be held in batches or on different days, as well. "It has to be a joyful experience. It is a diagnostic assessment that will assess the learning outcomes. If students get into any kind

of preparation for these assessments, it will fail the purpose," said Emmanuel. The assessments scheduled in October will be conducted in 50 schools across Bengal that include 21 in Kolkata. Nationally, 300 schools will participate in the pilot before the assessments are rolled out across all affiliated schools in the next academic session. "The assessments will bring out the actual competency of a student..." said Emmanuel. The council has so far conducted two meetings with the schools — one on the technical aspects of implementing the pilot project and the another on the academic aspects. "The assessments are not syllabus-based, but the concepts children have learnt throughout the year, their understanding of it, and their ability to apply it to real-life situations. It won't be testing students on the questions given at the end of each chapter," said Suchandra Laha, headmistress, Future Foundation School. Future Foundation School is one of the 21 schools where the assess-

Youth found dead

MI News Service, Malbazar: Rupchan Oraon, 22, from Nidam tea estate in Jalpaiguri's Malbazar, was found dead in a drain of the garden, on Wednesday. He had been missing since September 4.

Malda & Jalpaiguri road accidents claim 4 lives

MI News Service, Malda / Jalpaiguri: Four youngsters, including two minors, died in two separate accidents in Malda and Jalpaiguri districts. In Malda, two higher secondary semester examinees died at Motiganj area under Rataua police station while they were on their way to the exam centre at Rataua High School. Tanmay Pramanik and Md Rehan, both around 18 years old, were moving on a two-wheeler to reach the exam venue on time to write their English papers. In a bid to overtake a vehicle going ahead of them, the two-wheeler collided head-on with a pick-up van around 9 am. The two-wheeler went under the van. Both examinees suffered critical injuries. Rushed to the rural hospital in Samsi, they were declared dead by doctors. The duo were not wearing helmets, police sources said. Tanmay's father, Tapan Pramanik, is a barber, and Sohail Rana, Rehan's father, is a farmer, said sources. In the second accident, a group of boys were stopping vehicles in Jalpaiguri's Nathuahat area to collect donations for Durga Puja. As they tried to stop a pick-up van on its way to Dhupguri from Nathuahat, the driver refused and drove off. This made three boys take a bike and chase the vehicle.

Tiger deaths: Forest Minister orders probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: Two back-to-back deaths of tigers have occurred in Alipore Zoological Gardens with the zoo authorities attributing both the cases to age-related ailments. 17-year-old 'Payel' died on Tuesday after suffering from several health complications. She had recently lost her ability to move and had stopped intake of any food for the last few days. Payel was brought from Nandankanan Zoo in Odisha in the year 2017. The second death of tigress Rupa whose age was 21 years occurred on Wednesday morning. Rupa was a white tigress born at Alipore Zoo. She was also suffering from age-related ailments. One of her legs was severely affected in the recent past. Interestingly, Rupa was born to white tiger Anirban and striped tigress Krishna. State Forest minister Birbaha Hansda confirmed that both the deaths were natural and related with old-age health complications. "The post mortem report of both the tigress has made it clear that deaths were natural. Our zoo employees are very committed and dedicated to animal care," said Hansda. The minister, however, added that she has asked the Principal Secretary of her department to conduct an internal probe and submit a report on the deaths. A senior official of the Forest department said that they would soon hold a meeting to decide whether any tiger needs to be brought to Alipore through an exchange programme with the population decreasing by two. "If we decide on bringing any tiger, we will seek a nod from the Central Zoo Authority as per norms," he added.

IMD predicts sporadic rainfall in South Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Regional Meteorological Centre in Alipore has predicted scattered rainfall in several South Bengal districts in the next 24 hours. Humidity level will continue to affect the people in South Bengal in the next couple of days, the MeT office added. According to the weather office prediction, in East India, light to moderate rain or thunderstorms are expected at many places of Bengal more particularly in South Bengal and other states like Odisha, Jharkhand, Bihar and Sikkim until September 14. Thunderstorms with gusty winds will be common, particularly in Bengal, Bihar and Jharkhand, the MeT office added. Incidentally, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted continued heavy to very heavy rainfall across sev-



eral parts of the country, driven by an active monsoon trough and lingering cyclonic circulations. "The depression over the northeast Arabian Sea is weakening but still influencing weather patterns, causing isolated heavy downpours expected in Northeast India, East India and Cen-

tral India over the next few days," the weather prediction said. The IMD has also stated: "Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely to occur at isolated places over Sub-Himalayan West Bengal and Sikkim. Heavy rainfall and thunderstorms are also expected at isolated places." Meanwhile, the month of September may receive above normal rainfall with south Bengal districts expected to receive rainfall during Durga Puja. The MeT office already stated that the last two weeks of the month may receive more than average rainfall. There has been a forecast of patchy rain on the weekend — September 13 and 14. The city received record rainfall of 634 mm in July, highest in the past five years. The city receives 571 mm rainfall on an average basis in July every year.

Kolkata police chalks out Puja safety & traffic plans

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma has urged Durga Puja organisers not to pay heed to rumours during the festive days and assured citizens of elaborate safety and traffic arrangements. At a coordination meeting with leading puja committees, Verma said history-sheets will be kept under close watch to prevent any untoward incident. "This is not the first year that police are managing such a big event. We will have to work together to achieve success," he told organisers, requesting them to deploy an adequate number of volunteers for crowd management alongside police personnel. To spread awareness about cyber fraud, police will set up kiosks at different points across the city. Puja organisers have also been advised to maintain continuous liaison with local police stations and report immediately if they require assistance. Representatives of the Fire and Emergency Services department, Kolkata Municipal Cor-



poration (KMC), CESC, PWD and other agencies also attended the meeting. Reassuring citizens, Kolkata Police posted on social media: "The session reviewed past challenges and fine-tuned plans for a smoother, safer and more vibrant Puja this year. Together, we're

committed to making Durga Puja 2025 truly memorable for all." Meanwhile, the city police issued a notification announcing traffic restrictions for Mahalaya and the Puja days. On Mahalaya (September 21), when thousands of devotees gather along the Hooghly ghats for tarpan

rituals, movement of goods vehicles above 1,600 kg will be barred between 3 am and 10 pm, except those carrying essential items such as LPG cylinders, petroleum, oxygen, vegetables and medicines. Smaller goods vehicles will be allowed only after 4 pm. Key stretches, including Strand Road near Babu Ghat, Auckland Road, Kingsway and Clyde Road, will remain closed or diverted for several hours to facilitate movement of devotees. From Tiritiya (September 25), traffic restrictions across the city will come into effect. About 27 roads in North Kolkata, 25 in Central, 25 in South and South-East, along with 16 each in South Suburban and South-West Kolkata will have no entry, except for local property-line vehicles. Vehicular traffic on 170 thoroughfares will be regulated. Kolkata Police has advised citizens to check its website and Facebook page for regular updates and plan their journeys well in advance, especially while travelling to Railway stations or the airport.

Cal HC Seeks Centre's Clarification on Deportation of Bengali Migrant Families

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Calcutta High Court has directed the Union government to submit a detailed affidavit explaining the circumstances under which two families of Bengali migrant workers, allegedly deported from Delhi, were sent across the border into Bangladesh. A Division Bench comprising Justice Tapabrata Chakraborty and Justice Reetobrata Mitra passed the order on Thursday while hearing two habeas corpus petitions filed by the families of Sonali Bibi and Sweety Bibi, residents of Birbhumi district in West Bengal. According to the petitions, the families were apprehended during a drive against "illegal infiltrators" in Delhi and subsequently pushed into Bangladesh without any formal deportation order. The bench directed the Centre to clarify not only the legal basis of the deportation but also the precise location from where the detainees were allegedly handed over to Bangladeshi authorities. "In plain terms, no deportation order was ever issued, yet people were removed from Indian soil and dumped in a foreign jail," a court source observed. The controversy has escalated as the petitions claim that the Delhi Police acted unilaterally, declaring the families "Bangladeshi nationals" without consulting the West Bengal govern-

ment. The state administration has since verified the families' residential documents and forwarded the details to Delhi Police, but has reportedly received no response. In a strongly worded statement, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) accused the authorities of violating constitutional protections. "These people are languishing in Bangladeshi custody for the only 'offence' of speaking their mother tongue. This is a betrayal of the Constitution and every basic duty of the state. It is an abuse of police power that amounts to denial of citizenship rights," the party said. The case has sparked political and legal debate over the handling of suspected undocumented migrants and the rights of Indian citizens mistaken as foreigners. Legal experts point out that deportation requires a structured process under existing laws and cannot be executed without prior verification and due process. The High Court has fixed September 23 as the next date of hearing, directing the Centre to place its affidavit on record before the bench. Until then, the fate of the detained families remains uncertain, even as questions mount over the legality of their removal and the accountability of the authorities involved.

Non-confrontational C P Radhakrishnan sworn-in as 15th Vice President of India

From PG 1

At that time, my husband looked at me and asked, 'are you giving this name because you want your son to become the President one day?' After 62 years, just as my husband had said, it has come true," she had told reporters in Tamil Nadu. Radhakrishnan joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) as a teenager and rose through the ranks in the organisation and later in the BJP, gaining acceptability in the party and the state. A member of the socially dominant and economically prosperous Kongu Vellalar Gounder community, he became the secretary of the BJP's Tamil Nadu unit in 1996 and served as the party's state unit president between 2003 and 2006. An avid sportsperson, Radhakrishnan was a college champion in table tennis and a long-distance runner. He also enjoys cricket and volleyball. Radhakrishnan is considered an untainted leader with rich political and administrative experience for the Vice President's office and this would also prove useful as the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. "Thiru CP Radhakrishnan Ji has rich experi-

ence as MP and Governor of various states. His Parliamentary interventions were always incisive. During his gubernatorial tenures, he focused on addressing challenges faced by common citizens. These experiences ensured that he has vast knowledge of legislative and Constitutional matters. I am confident he will be an inspiring vice president." Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said after the NDA chose Radhakrishnan as the Vice Presidential candidate. The Tamil Nadu leader is said to be held in high esteem across party lines in his state, resulting in the BJP giving him multiple gubernatorial assignments in Jharkhand, Telangana, Maharashtra and Puducherry. Radhakrishnan's candidature also seeks to disarm the Opposition of a key political narrative, as he is the first OBC leader from South India to be named for the Vice President's office. An official profile circulated by the NDA projects Radhakrishnan as a leader who is eminent, knowledgeable and untainted by any legal accusations. Radhakrishnan's political innings started with his association with organisations such as the RSS and the Jan Sangh.

Trump's economic policies "self-destructive" for USA, feels Ex RBI Guv Rangarajan

From PG 1

Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, and West Bengal contribute 52 per cent of the national income while the rest contribute the balance of 48 per cent. And for example, Goa's per capita income is 10 times higher than that of Bihar, he said. The required nominal growth rate to reach the per capita income of USD 18,000 by various states is revealing, Rangarajan said. Among the major states, the required nominal growth rate is as low as 8.71 per cent for Tamil Nadu, 9.63 per cent for Gujarat, 8.77 for Karnataka, and 9.53 for Maharashtra. At the other end, the required nominal growth rate is as high as 17.4 per cent for Bihar, and 14.5 per cent for Uttar Pradesh, the former RBI chief said. Rangarajan further

said the vision of Viksit Bharat is not just a statistical goal - it has to be a transformative journey that requires the collective effort of government and society. He opined that five focused areas-increasing the investment rate by two percentage points to support higher growth, absorbing new technologies to remain competitive, focusing on relatively labour-intensive sectors to provide employment and expanding social infrastructure such as health and education to ensure social justice must form part of the strategy of development, are essential to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. Though one need not belittle the achievements in Indian higher education, there is an inescapable need to strengthen the sector in terms of quality and effectiveness, Rangarajan added.

Death of JU Student Found in Pond, Investigation Ordered



The pathway leading to a lake inside the Jadavpur University campus in Kolkata where a woman student was found dead, has been sealed by police.

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh tragedy has struck Jadavpur University with the mysterious death of a third-year English Department student, whose body was discovered floating in a moss-covered pond on the campus late Thursday night. The deceased, identified as 21-year-old Anamika Mondal from Nimta in North 24 Parganas, was found unconscious around 10 p.m. in the pond opposite the UG Arts Building. Classmates and campus security rushed her to KPC Hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Known affectionately as "Mistu" in her hometown, her sudden death cast a pall of gloom across her locality. According to university officials,

Mondal was last seen chatting with classmates near the pond. The exact circumstances remain unclear. The Jadavpur police were informed immediately, and officers visited the hospital to begin a probe. Pro-Vice Chancellor Amitava Dutta, who also visited the hospital, said the case is being jointly investigated by the university and local police. Primary findings suggest drowning, though the body has been sent for post-mortem to determine the cause of death. Police have registered a case of unnatural death, and a forensic team is expected to examine the site. Sources revealed Mondal had attended a cultural programme on campus earlier in the evening. Her death

comes just two years after the high-profile case of a first-year Bengali Honours student, who died after allegedly being ragged and falling from a hostel balcony. That incident triggered a statewide uproar and the arrest of several students.

Jadavpur University's Pro Vice-Chancellor, Amitava Dutta, on Friday morning addressed the media following the death of a third-year English department student whose body was recovered from a pond inside the campus late Thursday night. "We informed the police immediately at night. The student was rescued and rushed to KPC Hospital, but doctors could not save her. Her family has already arrived, and we have spoken to them. We stand with them in grief," Dutta said. On campus security, he admitted there is a manpower shortage. "Over the years, many security personnel have retired, leaving us with fewer guards than required for such a large campus. Our limited staff manage patrolling, but perhaps no patrol team was present in that spot at the time. We will take steps to prevent such incidents in the future."

Though three CCTV cameras cover the vicinity, none face the pond from where the student's body was recovered, leaving unanswered questions on how she fell in. Police have registered a case of unnatural death and begun investigation. The body has been sent for post-mortem, while the pond area remains cordoned off.



Mayor Firhad Hakim has announced a historic move in Bengal's administration by sanctioning building plans in the Bengali language for the first time. Speaking at the "Talk to Mayor" program, he highlighted that this step aims to make government services more accessible to residents who prefer Bengali. Applicants can now choose the language of their building sanction plan—those applying in Bengali will receive the plan in Bengali, while applicants opting for English will receive it in English. The mayor emphasized that this initiative reflects Bengal's commitment to promoting regional language use in official processes and simplifying public access to urban planning services.

CBI Court Frames Charges in Teachers' Recruitment Scam

MI News Service, Kolkata: A special CBI court in Alipore has framed final charges against former West Bengal education minister Partha Chatterjee and 20 others in connection with the multi-crore teachers' recruitment scam in state-run schools, court officials said on Friday. The case, probed by the CBI following a Calcutta High Court directive, involves alleged irregularities in the 2016 recruitment of Class XI and XII teachers. The accused include ex-junior education minister Parash Chandra Adhikari, his daughter Ankita, and several senior West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) officials. Among them are former WBSSC chairman Subir Bhattacharya, ex-WBBSE president Kalyanmoy Gangopadhyay, former secretary Ashok Saha, screening committee head Santa Prasad Singh, and staffers Samarjit Acharya and Parna Basu.

EEPC India Seeks Cheaper Export Fin, Support to Absorb US Tariff Burden

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) India has urged the Union government to reinstate the Interest Equalisation Scheme (IES), ensure affordable export finance, and share the burden of punitive tariffs recently imposed by the United States on Indian engineering exports. At a meeting with Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra, EEPC India Chairman Pankaj Chadha stressed the vulnerability of the sector, pointing out that India's engineering exports to the US average around USD 20 billion, nearly 45% of total exports exposed to American tariffs. "This underscores the urgent need for government intervention to mitigate the adverse im-

act," he said on Friday. Chadha pressed for the reinstatement of IES, at least for small and medium enterprises in the engineering sector. He highlighted difficulties faced by MSME exporters in securing collateral-free loans, noting that high collateral requirements and bank credit ratings force them to pay higher interest rates in addition to providing substantial guarantees. He further observed that the US tariff exposure has negatively affected exporters' credit ratings, and urged that rating agencies exclude such exposure while calculating ratings, at least for the current year. EEPC India also flagged that duty differences between India and competing nations average 30%.

Stage set for PM Modi's maiden visit to Manipur since 2023 ethnic clashes

From PG 1

sick persons to the venue. The Manipur government had earlier banned air guns in Churachandpur district in view of PM Modi's visit. Meanwhile, security measures have been tightened further both in Imphal and Churachandpur district headquarters town, the officials said. Large number of state and central forces' personnel were deployed in and around the nearly 237-acre Kangla Fort in Imphal and the Peace Ground in Churachandpur, where a grand stage is being readied for the event. Central security teams, accompanied by state personnel, are conducting round-the-clock inspection of the Kangla Fort, and boats of the Manipur disaster management force have been engaged for patrolling the moats that surround the fort, they said. Police and paramilitary forces have also been deployed and bamboo barricades constructed along the route leading to the Peace Ground. Manipur's lone Rajya Sabha MP Leishemba Sanajaoba described the PM's visit as a "very fortunate" one for the people and the state. "It's a great fortune that PM Modi will be listening to the hardships faced by the people of Manipur which has had a history of violent clashes in the past. However, no Prime minister has visited the state during such times and listened to people," the BJP MP said. Leading Kuki-Zo groups have also welcomed the Prime Minister's visit to Manipur, terming it as a "historic and rare occasion". The Kuki-Zo Council, one of the organisations representing the community, claimed that the Prime Minister's visit comes nearly four decades after another PM last came to the region. "We place our trust in your leadership to heal our wounds, restore our dignity, and safeguard the future of the Kuki-Zo people," the council said, referring to PM Modi's visit. Several other organisations representing the Kuki-Zo community also hailed the PM's visit, but opposed a planned dance programme as part of a ceremony to welcome him.



State Forest Minister Birbaha Hansda, along with other leaders, joined the Trinamool Congress sit-in protest against the BJP's anti-Bengal stance at Dharamtala in Kolkata on Friday.

Speaker of National Assembly urges to resolve crisis in Nepal within constitutional framework

From PG 1

Force personnel have reappeared on streets across the Valley, the Kathmandu Valley Police Officer said. The Supreme Court of Nepal and banks in Kathmandu will also resume their operations in phases from tomorrow after suffering heavy damage during Gen Z-led protests that left many people dead. Additionally, following relaxations of curfew, markets are reopening for brief periods, though public transport remains suspended as the army enforces fresh restrictions. However, around 55 inmates who escaped from Bharatpur Jail in Chitwan have returned voluntarily. Meanwhile, efforts to form an interim government in Nepal remain mired in uncertainty as President Ram Chandra Poudel insisted that any solution to the crisis must be found within the framework of the existing Constitution. His remarks directly contradict Nepal Army chief General Ashok Raj Sigdel, who persuaded Sushila Karki to accept the post of interim Chief Executive with backing from some Gen Z protest groups. However, Nepal's Constitution bars retired justices from holding political or constitutional office, raising fresh hurdles. Poudel's stance has gained support from major parties including the Nepali Congress, CPN (UML), Maoist Centre and Madesh-based groups, signalling a return of the issue to Parliament where Oli's alliance still holds a majority.

'Tariffs are imposed fearing if India grows strong': Bhagwat

From PG 1

countries will continue to face problems unless they understand their real self. "If we show compassion and overcome fear, we will have no enemies," he said. The RSS chief said if humans change their attitude from "me to us", all issues will be resolved. "The world today is looking for solutions, as it has been unable to find a way forward due to its incomplete vision. It is impossible for them to find the way because of their 'only me' approach," he said. Bhagwat said India is now fully capable of finding solutions to the world's problems and showing the way for-

ward. The RSS chief said India is great and that Indians must strive to be great as well. He said India is big and it wants to grow bigger. Bhagwat said Indians embody a strong sense of togetherness and remain happy and content even in times of scarcity. "There should be no scarcity, but if it exists, it will change when the time comes. Yet, even in hardship and sorrow, people here remain satisfied because of this spirit of belongingness," he said. Praising the Brahma Kumaris, a women-led spiritual movement, he said RSS works like them to awaken inner consciousness.

Digital Success Summit 2025 Showcases AI-Led Growth in Eastern India



Abhishek Rungta, Founder & CEO, and Santanu Mukherjee, Director of Indus Net Technologies, attended the Digital Success Summit 2025 in Kolkata.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Innovation and technology took centre stage at the Digital Success Summit 2025 (DSS 2025), which concluded on Friday in Kolkata. The two-day event, hosted by Indus Net Technologies (INT), brought together more than 500 professionals, including over 400 CXOs, VPs, founders, and investors, with 60+ thought leaders sharing insights through keynotes, panel discussions, fireside chats, and workshops. Marking its 4th edition, DSS 2025 reinforced its reputation as the region's flagship forum for advancing conversations on how artificial intelligence, cyber-

security, and digital transformation are reshaping enterprises and society at large. Abhishek Rungta, Founder & CEO of INT, highlighted the central role of digital strategy in economic growth, stating, "AI and digital strategy are no longer enablers—they are engines of growth. They help businesses reimagine processes, unlock innovation, and scale at speed. Digital Success 2025 is where we bring these possibilities to life."

Santanu Mukherjee, Director at INT, underlined the summit's practical orientation, noting, "What sets DSS apart is its focus on solving real business problems. We bring together doers, innovators, and decision-makers to share actionable insights that drive transformation."

Event highlights included keynotes from Abhishek Rungta, Santosh Panda, Umesh Bhutoria, and Sushobhan Mukherjee; fireside chats with Manish Vij; workshops on AI-powered marketing and Gen AI in operations. The summit was held at the New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi-110005. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand (RS)	Name of Branch
1.	Vijendra Singh/ Surendra Singh/ LBKAP00004629052	House Pertaining to Khata No. 00435, Khassa No. 107/3 Min., Village Ginnikhera, Tehsil Khasipur, District Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand/ 10/09/2025	July 30, 2022/ Rs. 22,56,556/-	Bardhaman/ Kashiipur/ Moradabad/

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: September 12, 2025 Place: Bardhaman Sincerely Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Study finds new ways to prevent, treat type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON [US]: Pancreatic cells, like human cells, have a limit to how much stress they can handle before they start to break down. Through overstimulation of these cells, certain stresses like inflammation and hyperglycemia lead to the onset of type 2 diabetes.

As it turns out, pancreatic cell stress tolerance to two distinct types of molecular stress is correlated with DNA sequence variations that are known to raise an individual's risk for diabetes. These findings were made by researchers at The Jackson Laboratory (JAX). Stress and inflammation may increase the risk of failure or death of the insulin-producing cells in individuals with these genetic alterations in the pancreas.

"Ultimately we want to develop new ways to prevent and treat type 2 diabetes by targeting the genes and pathways that are perturbed in people who are most susceptible to the disease," said Michael L. Stitzel, associate professor at JAX and co-senior author of the new study with JAX professor Dugyu Ucar, published in the Oct. 8 advanced online issue of Cell Metabolism. "These findings give us new insight into some of those genes and pathways."

The work points toward dozens of genes that connect cell stress and diabetes risk, including one that is already under investigation as a drug target for type 2 diabetes complications. When living cells face challenges, including damage, inflammation, or nutrient changes, they activate protective responses to try to cope with and reverse the stress. But over time, sustained stress can overwhelm the cells, causing them to slow down or die. In the pancreas' islet beta cells, two types of cell stress have previously been implicated in



the development of type 2 diabetes. In both cases, the stress can eventually lead islet beta cells to stop producing insulin or die off. Stitzel and his colleagues wanted to know what genes and proteins were used by islet cells to respond to both ER stress and cytokine stress.

"Researchers have completed multiple studies looking at what molecular pathways are important in regulating insulin production in happy, healthy islet cells," said Stitzel. "But we were working on this hypothesis that islet cells are not always happy. So what pathways are important when the cells are under stress, and how do diabetes-linked DNA sequence changes in each of us affect them?"

Stitzel's group exposed healthy human islet cells to chemical compounds known to induce either ER stress or cytokine stress. Then, they tracked changes to levels of

RNA molecules in the cells as well as how tightly or loosely packed different stretches of DNA were inside the cells—a proxy for what genes and regulatory elements are being used by the cells at any given time.

To analyze the results, the team collaborated with Ucar, a professor and computational biologist at JAX. Together, the scientists found that more than 5,000 genes, or nearly a third of all the genes expressed by healthy islet cells, change their expression in response to ER stress or cytokine stress. Many were involved in the production of proteins, which is crucial for islet cells insulin-producing role. And most of the genes were only involved in one or the other stress response, raising the idea that two separate stress pathways play a role in diabetes.

In addition, around one in eight regula-

tory regions of DNA typically used in islet cells were altered by stress. Importantly, 86 of these regulatory regions had been previously found to contain genetic variants in people most at risk of type 2 diabetes.

"What this suggests is that people with these genetic variants may have islet cells that respond worse to stress than other people," said Stitzel. "Your environment—things like diabetes and obesity—pulls the trigger with type 2 diabetes, but your genetics loads the gun."

Stitzel hopes that the new list of regulatory regions and genes eventually lead to new drugs to prevent or treat diabetes by potentially making islet cells more resilient to stress. The researchers homed in on one gene that was altered by both ER stress. Called MAP3K5, the gene was shown to alter islet beta cell death in mice containing a diabetes-causing mutation in the insulin-encoding gene. In the new paper, Stitzel and his colleagues showed that higher levels of MAP3K5 led to more islet beta cells dying in response to ER stress. Eliminating or blocking MAP3K5, on the other hand, made the islet cells more resilient to ER stress and less likely to die.

Early studies of Selonsertib, a drug targeting MAP3K5, have shown that it could reduce the risk of severe complications of diabetes. The new results point toward another possible role of the drug—in the prevention of diabetes in people most at risk of the disease, to help their islet cells remain functioning and alive in the face of cellular stress.

"It's really exciting that this therapeutic is already in clinical trials but much more work is needed to understand whether the drug might be able to be leveraged in primary prevention," said Stitzel.

M S Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India By Priyambada Jayakumar



Author Priyambada Jayakumar is proud to announce the release of M S Swaminathan: The Man Who Fed India, a definitive biography of one of India's greatest scientists and humanitarians. The book is now available at all leading bookstores across India and online on Amazon. The Book is published by HarperCollins Publishers India. Often hailed as the "Father of the Green Revolution," M. S. Swaminathan's work transformed India from a country on the brink of famine into a nation self-sufficient in food production. This moving and meticulously researched biography chronicles his extraordinary journey—from his childhood in Kumbakonam to his groundbreaking partnership with Nobel Laureate Norman Borlaug, and the engineering of the Green Revolution that changed India's destiny. The book captures the many facets of Swaminathan: a scientist, conservationist, feminist, Gandhian, institution builder, diplomat, and philosopher. It also highlights his profound belief that food is not just sustenance, but life, dignity, and hope. Swaminathan's illustrious career spanned over ten decades, earning him countless accolades, including the Ramon Magsaysay Award, the inaugural World Food Prize, and in 2024, India's highest

civilian honour—the Bharat Ratna. TIME magazine also ranked him among the three most influential Asians of the 20th century, alongside Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. This book is both a celebration and a tribute in his centennial year—a story of grit, vision, and humanity that will inspire generations to come. About the Author: Priyambada Jayakumar was raised in India, specifically in the City of Joy - Kolkata. Born to a Bengali mother and a Tamil father, she completed her schooling at La Martiniere for Girls, Kolkata. The capital city of Delhi soon beckoned, where she received her BA (Hons) degree in History from St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi. A Tripos in Social and Political Sciences followed thereafter from the University of Cambridge. Subsequently, she attended Harvard University for a further period of study. She has lived variously between Delhi, London, and Boston. She is married with three children and currently lives in Singapore.

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Simple measurement may predict risk of worsening kidney disease: Study



WASHINGTON DC [US]: Aarhus University researchers discovered a simple way for predicting which people are most likely to develop chronic kidney disease rapidly. This could be a key step towards improved prevention and treatment.

About ten percent of the Danish population suffers from chronic kidney disease, and some individuals experience rapid deterioration after the diagnosis is made.

Now, a team of researchers from Aarhus University in a comprehensive study has investigated the precise risk of rapid progression, and the result could be a significant step towards more effective treatment of the disease.

The study, which is based on data from Danish health registers, provides healthcare professionals with new insights into how to better identify patients at high risk of rapid worsening of kidney disease.

"We chose to investigate chronic kidney disease because some of the patients experience rapid deterioration of their condition without us knowing exactly who. Our goal was to understand which patients are most at risk and whether we can intervene early to delay or even prevent this progression," says Professor at the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University, Christian Fynbo Christiansen, one of the authors of the study.

A simple measurement The study showed that patients with newly diagnosed mild to moderate chronic kidney disease within three years have a 15 percent risk of rapid progression, which could lead to severe cardiovascular disease or even death.

Surprisingly, the study also showed that the risk of rapid progression varied significantly among patients.

A simple measurement of protein in the urine proved to be a strong indicator of the course of kidney disease. For women without diabetes or elevated blood pressure/cardiovascular

disease and without the protein albumin in their urine, the risk of rapid progression was seven percent, while the risk peaked at 47 percent for men with both diabetes, elevated blood pressure/cardiovascular disease, and albumin in their urine.

"This is an important finding since albumin can be used as an indicator of kidney disease progression, thereby making it possible to identify patients at high risk of rapid deterioration of the disease, and it can improve the prevention of complications and hopefully increase patients' quality of life," explains Christian Fynbo Christiansen, adding:

"It underscores the need to use this simple test to a far greater extent."

Benefit for patients and society

The measurement can help healthcare professionals to target treatment and follow-up to patients at high risk. This could potentially be a significant gain for patients both in Denmark and the rest of the world.

"We hope that this result can contribute to increased awareness of the importance of using readily available markers—including albumin in the urine—to identify patients at high risk of rapid progression," says Christian Fynbo Christiansen.

And it's not only the patients who can benefit from the results. Faster and more effective prevention could also potentially help to reduce healthcare costs.

"I think we will focus much more in the future on patients with milder stages of the disease, like those we included in this study. If we get better at preventing and treating chronic kidney disease and its associated complications, it could potentially benefit both patients and society," explains Christian Fynbo Christiansen.

He emphasizes that further research and development of precise treatment methods are still needed. Although the study provides important insight into risk groups, a precise model for predicting individual patient outcomes is still lacking.

Researchers discover that unique immune cells stop metastatic cancer

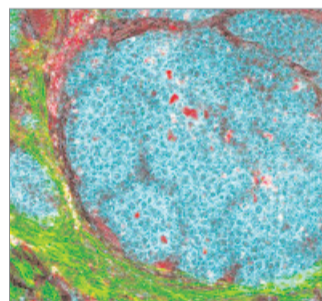
NEW YORK [US]: The majority of cancer deaths are caused by metastatic disease, which occurs when cancer spreads from the primary tumour to other areas of the body, and researchers understand how cancer cells escape the primary location to seed new tumours, it is unclear why some cancer cells produce new tumours decades later and others do not.

A research team at the National Cancer Institute-designated Montefiore Einstein Comprehensive Cancer Centre (MECCC) has uncovered a natural immunological response in mice that prevents escaping cancer cells from growing into tumours elsewhere in the body. The study was published today in the journal Cell.

"Preventing or curing metastases is the most critical challenge in cancer," said study leader Julio Aguirre-Ghiso, Ph.D., director of MECCC's Cancer Dormancy Institute. "We think our findings have the potential to point to new therapies to prevent or treat metastatic disease." The study's co-first authors are Erica Dalla, Ph.D., a former student, and Michael Papanicolaou, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso's lab.

Cells that migrate from primary tumors and seed metastatic tumors are called disseminated cancer cells (DCCs). Some DCCs behave aggressively, immediately starting tumors in new tissue, while others remain in a state of suspended animation referred to as dormancy. "It's long been a

mystery how some DCCs can remain in tissues for decades and never cause metastases, and we believe we've found the explanation," said Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso, who is also professor of cell biology, oncology, and of medicine and the Rose C. Falkenstein Chair in Cancer Research at Albert Einstein College of Medicine.



Breast cancer and many other types of cancer metastasize to the lungs. In research involving three mouse models of metastatic breast cancer, Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso and colleagues determined that when breast cancer DCCs spread to the lung's air sacs (alveoli), they are kept in a dormant state by immune cells known as alveolar macrophages.

"Alveolar macrophages are the lung's first responders, defending the organ against bacteria and dangerous substances like environmental pollutants," said Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso. These specialized macrophages, he notes, appear early in embryonic development and reside within lung tissue for life.

"Our findings demonstrate a

new role for these macrophages, in which they recognize DCCs and actively interact with them, and—by secreting a protein called TGF- β 2—produce signals in the cancer cells that keep them in a dormant state," Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso said. "Since every organ in the body has its own set of tissue-resident macrophages, they may function to keep DCCs in check in those organs as well. Our study has shown for the first time that these specialized macrophages function to actively induce dormancy in DCCs."

Confirming the importance of alveolar macrophages in keeping DCCs dormant, Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso and his team found that depleting them in the mice significantly increased the number of activated DCCs and subsequent metastases in their lungs compared to mice with normal levels of the immune cells. As DCCs become more aggressive, the researchers found, they become resistant to the pro-dormancy signals produced by alveolar macrophages. Ultimately, this evasion mechanism enables some DCCs to "wake up" from dormancy and reactivate to form metastases.

"Understanding how immune cells keep DCCs in check could lead to new anti-metastatic cell therapies among other strategies," Dr. Aguirre-Ghiso said. For example, he noted, it may be possible to strengthen macrophage signaling so that DCCs never awaken from dormancy or find ways to prevent older DCCs from becoming resistant to dormancy signaling.

Researchers find self-monitoring improves physical activity of elderly who require care

WASHINGTON DC: Self-monitoring of physical activity with an accelerometer and feedback is an effective method for improving physical activity in the elderly who need long-term care.

The Kobe University study is the first to show that this demographic's physical activity can be increased using simple and safe methods, potentially lowering long-term care costs and preventing serious illness.

Taking more steps and sitting less is well understood to have a significant impact on a variety of noncommunicable diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, orthopaedic diseases, and stroke.

This is particularly problematic in senior citizens who depend on long-term care such as in day-care centers, as it is known that they take fewer steps and spend more time sitting than healthy people of similar age. The resulting higher risk of falling ill not only decreases health-related quality of life in these people, it also stretches already scarce resources in healthcare systems. And while it is known that self-monitoring can improve the physical activity even among the elderly, the effectiveness of this approach has not been shown for this high-risk demographic. The Kobe University research team of health scientists IZAWA Kazuhiro and KITAMURA Masahiro filled this gap by conducting a comparative analysis with 52 long-term care patients at a day care center in Japan on the effectiveness of self-monitoring of physical activity.

They educated the participants on the importance of increasing physical activity and asked participants to wear



accelerometers that record steps, sitting time and activity of various intensity. The 26 participants in the intervention group were additionally asked to record their progress in a calendar daily and received weekly feedback and advice.

The results now published in the journal European Geriatric Medicine show that the intervention group took more steps, spent less time sitting and were more engaged in light physical activity. The authors write, "The results of this intervention promoting physical activity in this target population were novel to this study. Older people with long-term care needs have reduced mobility and activity compared to healthy older people, so increasing physical activity is not easy. However, goals such as increasing the number of steps can be easily understood and practiced, and

Study finds relaxing words in sleep slows down cardiac activity

WASHINGTON DC [US]: Researchers from the GIGA - Centre of Research Cyclotron at the University of Liege shed new light on brain-heart interactions during sleep. They discovered that the body reacts to the external world when sleeping, explaining how sensory input might affect sleep quality. Researchers worked with the University of Fribourg in Switzerland to study if the body genuinely disconnects from the

outside world while sleeping. To do so, they examined how the heartbeats varies when we hear different words while sleeping. They found that relaxing words slowed down cardiac activity as a reflection of deeper sleep and in comparison to neutral words that did not have such a slowing effect. This discovery is presented in the Journal of Sleep Research and sheds new light on brain-heart interactions during sleep.

While this study clearly shows the effectiveness of such simple measures as wearing an accelerometer, self-monitoring and receiving feedback on one's progress on the physical activity, its five-week period was too short to capture actual benefits on health-related quality of life. Izawa and Kitamura said, "The results of this study may serve as an important foundation for future research on promoting physical activity among older adults in need of assistance. In particular, self-monitoring interventions have been shown to contribute to improved physical activity and can be applied to care prevention strategies. Future studies should include larger samples, a broader range of activities and long-term follow-up to verify the sustained effectiveness of the intervention."

