

Morning India

Mamata congratulates Nepal's new Interim PM Sushila Karki

MBBS student dies, family alleges forced abortion

MI News Service, Malda/Kolkata:

The shadow of controversy surrounding RG Kar Medical College has deepened once again, following the mysterious death of a young MBBS student that has sent shockwaves across West Bengal. The incident has raised disturbing allegations of forced abortion, mental torture, and institutional neglect.

The deceased, a native of Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur, was pursuing her MBBS degree at the

prestigious Kolkata-based institution. According to family sources, she had travelled to Malda last Monday to meet a close friend — a junior doctor at Malda Medical College and a resident of Purulia. The two checked into a hotel in Malda town, where the young woman reportedly fell critically ill. She was rushed to Malda Medical College and Hospital and later referred to Kolkata. Tragically, she died en route late Thursday night. The victim's family has al-

leged foul play. Her mother claimed that the student was pregnant and had confided this to her friend, who allegedly pressured her into terminating the pregnancy. "My daughter was mentally tortured. She was forced into an abortion. Something was administered to her in the hotel," the mother stated. The accused doctor has since gone missing, and formal charges have been filed. English Bazar Police have initiated an investigation, and the body has

been sent for autopsy to ascertain the exact cause of death. However, no arrests have been made so far. This case has reignited serious concerns over the safety, mental health, and well-being of medical students in the state. Already under public scrutiny after previous controversies, RG Kar Medical College once again finds itself at the heart of a tragic episode — one that underscores urgent questions of abuse, coercion, and institutional accountability.

Migrant worker suddenly dies in Delhi, family appeal for urgent repatriation

MI News Service, Hooghly: A shadow of grief has fallen over Belmuri village in Dhaniakhal following the sudden death of Sanjeev Bhumij (28), a migrant worker from Hooghly, while working in Delhi. Sanjeev, who had been employed as a goldsmith for the past ten years, was the sole breadwinner of his family. His father passed away nine months ago, leaving the family dependent on him.

According to relatives, Sanjeev spoke to his mother, Rita Bhumij, on the evening of September 11. Hours later, the family received an urgent call that he was experiencing severe chest pain. He was taken to a hospital, treated briefly, and then transferred to another facility, but he succumbed to his illness before reaching the second hospital. His body has since been sent for autopsy. The sudden loss has left the family in shock and financial distress. Relatives have approached State Minister Becharam Manna and appealed to the Chief Minister's office to arrange for the rapid repatriation of Sanjeev's body, preferably by air, given the family's limited means. Unmarried, Sanjeev had planned to return home for Kali Puja. His aunt, Sandhya Maiti, expressed the family's anguish, stating, "We could never have imagined losing him while he was working in another state. The financial situation makes it impossible for us to travel that far to bring him back." Local officials, including the BDO of Dhaniakhal, labor department representatives, and police personnel, visited the family to coordinate the arrangements. Rajarshi Chakraborty, BDO of Dhaniakhal, confirmed that efforts are underway to expedite the return of Sanjeev's body, with support from the Panchayat Samiti to facilitate the family's travel to Delhi.

A miscreant drugged and robbed patient parties in government hospital, 3 admitted in hospital with illness following drugs

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar (Nadia) : In a disturbing incident that has raised serious concerns over hospital security, three close relatives of different patients at the Krishnanagar District Hospital were allegedly drugged and robbed within the hospital premises on Friday night.

According to sources, the victims, Lakshmi Haldar and Shanti Haldar from Chapra, and Manik Dutta from Tehatta-were attending to their respective patients admitted at the hospital. On Thursday night, while they were seated within the hospital campus, an unidentified man reportedly approached them, engaged in friendly conversation, and offered them cold beverages.

Unaware of the danger, the trio consumed the drinks, which are now believed to have been laced with sedatives. Shortly after, all three fell unconscious. Taking advantage of their incapacitated state, the suspect fled the scene, allegedly taking away with Rs.10 thousand in cash and gold ornaments the victims had in their possession.

Hospital authorities grew concerned when repeated announcements over the public address system went unanswered by the victims. Other patient relatives also attempted to wake them up, but failed. After several hours, the three eventually regained consciousness



but complained of nausea and weakness.

Police from Kotwali Police Station arrived at the scene upon receiving an alert. The victims were immediately shifted to Shaktinagar District Hospital for treatment. As of now, all three are reported to be in stable condition.

The incident has sparked outrage among hospital visitors and raised troubling questions about the effectiveness of security arrangements at the government-run facility. Authorities are yet to apprehend the suspect.

An official inquiry has been launched, and police have begun examining CCTV footage from the hospital premises to identify the accused, a police sources said.



Trinamool Congress sit-in protest against BJP's anti-Bengal stance at Dharmatala, in Kolkata on Saturday.

TMC worker bludgeoned to death, tension erupts

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas:

Tension gripped Jagatdal on Saturday morning after the blood-soaked body of a Trinamool Congress worker was discovered on the banks of a canal near the Kalyani Expressway. The victim, identified as Mohammad Ishaq alias Hira Qureshi (40), a resident of Ward 14 under Bhatpara Municipality and a meat trader by profession, was allegedly lured out at night on the pretext of a meat order and bludgeoned to death.

According to eyewitnesses, a local shopkeeper noticed bloodstains and a pair of shoes lying near the canal early in the morning and immediately alerted police. A brick, suspected to

be the murder weapon, was recovered next to the body. Preliminary investigation suggests Qureshi's head was smashed with it. The recovery sparked palpable unrest in the locality. Bhatpara Municipality Vice-Chairman Debajyoti Ghosh asserted, "We are certain this was murder. The police have already arrested two suspects. The culprits will be punished." Local Trinamool MLA Somnath Shyam echoed the demand for justice but admitted the motive remains unclear. However, political blame games began within hours. Former BJP MP from Barrackpore, Arjun Singh, claimed the killing stemmed from a land dispute. "For a long time, un-

scrupulous elements had been pressuring him to vacate his house. This murder is connected to that. Here, Trinamool is killing and Trinamool is dying," Singh alleged. The police, meanwhile, have launched a probe and sent the body for post-mortem examination. Officials maintained that the exact cause of death will be confirmed only after the autopsy report is filed. The brutal murder, allegedly triggered by something as trivial as a meat order, has once again exposed the volatile mix of crime, livelihood disputes, and political rivalry in Barrackpore's industrial belt — an area notorious for its history of blood-soaked political turf wars.

Autopsy confirms strangulations, wife held in Habra

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: A marital dispute turned deadly in Habra when 45-year-old Dipankar Mandal died on July 22, leading to the arrest of his wife, Shampa Mandal, following the final autopsy report. According to police, the couple had an argument at their Vidyasagar Palli residence, during which a physical altercation occurred. Dipankar, an electrician by profession, reportedly fell unconscious and was rushed to Habra State General Hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead. Initially, Shampa Mandal claimed her husband collapsed during the fight due to pre-existing health issues. However, the final autopsy report revealed that Dipankar Mandal died of asphyxiation, indicating strangulation. Following the report, the family lodged a formal complaint against Shampa Mandal, prompting her arrest nearly six weeks after the incident. She was presented before the Barasat Court the same day. Shampa Mandal has denied the murder charge, stating that the confrontation was mutual and that her husband was aggressive, slapping her and grabbing her throat, which led to minor injuries on her hands and stomach.

Explosives Case in Nadia's Kaliganj: 10 Named in Chargesheet, Probe Continues Against Others

Dipankar Edbar, Kaliganj (Nadia): In a major breakthrough in a sensitive explosives case, police in West Bengal's Nadia district have filed a comprehensive chargesheet against 10 individuals, all residents of Molandi village under Kaliganj Police Station. The case, registered under stringent sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Explosive Substances Act, has rocked the quiet border-adjacent region.

The Kaliganj PS Case No. 534/2025, dated June 23, 2025, was registered under Sections 190, 191(2), 191(3), 118(2), 109, 103, and 305 of the BNS, along with Sections 3 and 4 of the Explosive Substances Act, 1908. The investigation, which began in late June, culminated in the submission of Chargesheet No. 1/25 on September 13, 2025, comprising 340 pages detailing the alleged involvement of the accused.

The 10 accused named in the chargesheet are Goyal Sk, Anowar Sk, Adar Sk, Manoyar Sk, Kalu alias Suklal Sk, Sariful Sk, Nabab Sk, Habibul alias Rahibul Sk, Bimal alias Arfan Sk, Abul Kashem alias Bhutu.

All the accused are currently in judicial custody and are awaiting

trial in open court. According to law enforcement sources, the case originated from intelligence inputs and local leads indicating the illegal storage and possible circulation of explosive materials in the Molandi area. Preliminary raids revealed the presence of suspicious substances, allegedly linked to a larger network. Initial forensic assessments indicated these materials could be used to manufacture low-intensity improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

The investigation was immediately escalated under the Explosive Substances Act, and multiple suspects were detained for questioning. As evidence mounted, it led to the formal arrest and chargesheeting of the ten accused, all of whom belong to an extended family residing in Molandi.

Police have stated that while 10 individuals have been formally chargesheeted, the investigation is far from over. Several other names mentioned in the original FIR remain under scrutiny. Investigators are currently gathering further evidence to determine the extent of their involvement.

In addition, the police are awaiting forensic and expert opinion re-

ports from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL), Kolkata. The submission of a supplementary chargesheet is anticipated, contingent on those reports and subject to legal permission from the office of the District Magistrate, Nadia.

Given Kaliganj's proximity to the Bangladesh border, the case has raised serious concerns over regional security and the potential for cross-border implications. Police have not yet commented on whether any terror-related angles are being probed but have confirmed that national security agencies are being kept in the loop.

Local administration officials have assured the public that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the safety of the region. "The investigation is proceeding with full seriousness. If more individuals are found to be involved, they will not be spared," said a senior district official.

The incident has triggered palpable tension in Kaliganj and surrounding areas, with residents expressing both concern and relief, concern over the proximity of such activities, and relief that the law enforcement agencies are taking swift and decisive action.

Orange alert in North Bengal, Kolkata braces for showers

MI News Service, Kolkata: With just a week left for Mahalaya, Bengal's festive mood faces fresh uncertainty. A new low-pressure system has formed over the Odisha-Andhra coast, triggering renewed fears of widespread rainfall that could spill into the Durga Puja days. According to the Alipore Meteorological Office, Kolkata on Saturday (September 13) will witness partly cloudy skies with the likelihood of light to moderate rain. Some pockets may experience thunderstorms. The maximum temperature is expected to hover around 32°C, while the minimum will stay near 28°C. But despite showers, oppressive humidity — peaking at 91% — will continue to trouble the city, ensuring little relief from sultry discomfort. South Bengal districts are also likely to record scattered showers. However, it is North Bengal that is bracing for a severe spell. The MeT office has escalated its warning from yellow to orange alert in Alipurduar, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and North Dinajpur cautioning of heavy to very heavy rainfall accompanied by gusty winds reaching 30-40 kmph.

Skeleton found hanging in abandoned quarter near India-Bangladesh border sparks panic in Nadia

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar (Nadia) : A grim discovery in the border village of Bhajanghat under Krishnanagar police station in Nadia has sent shockwaves through the local community on Saturday. The villagers stumbled upon a human skeleton hanging by a rope inside the bathroom of a long-abandoned government agricultural quarters, situated in a remote, jungle-covered area near the India-Bangladesh border.

The find came to light when a few locals, who had taken their cattle for grazing, noticed a foul odour emanating from the overgrown area. Upon closer inspection, they found the skeletal remains suspended from a rope in the dilapidated bathroom of the disused building. Within minutes, word of the incident spread rapidly, drawing large crowds of curious onlookers to the site.

Krishnanagar police soon arrived, recovered the remains, and sent them for forensic examination. While preliminary observations suggest suicide, officials have not ruled out foul play. It remains unclear whether the skeleton is of a male or female, and efforts are underway to establish the identity of the deceased.

Local sources confirm that the quarters have been uninhabited for years. However, the adjacent area,

which includes a government solar panel installation, reportedly sees regular foot traffic, with 50 to 100 workers present daily. BJP's Krishnanagar Mandal president, Shubhankar Bhat-tacharya, questioned the security and surveillance of such a sensitive location.

"There is an abandoned government farm near a functioning solar unit. While the exact spot where the skeleton was found is heavily overgrown, it's concerning that no one noticed anything until now. Who is this person? Were they murdered and hanged here? Are they even from the country? The matter demands a thorough investigation," Bhattacharya said.

Despite the disturbing find, police sources confirmed that no missing persons' reports have been filed at Krishnanagar police station in the last three months, adding to the mystery. The incident has raised fresh security concerns in this sensitive border zone, with villagers expressing unease over the possible implications of such an occurrence so close to international boundaries.

Police have launched a full-scale investigation and are treating the matter with urgency. Forensic and DNA analysis, as well as checks on missing persons across neighbouring districts, are currently underway.

First ever in West Bengal : Women police team rescues abducted young girl from Kerela, arrests miscreant

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar (Nadia) : In a landmark display of women's empowerment, an all-woman police team from Nadia's Krishnanagar has successfully rescued a young woman abducted from Nadia's Nakashipara and trafficked to Kerala. The team also apprehended the accused during a high-stakes operation conducted nearly 2,500 km. away from their home jurisdiction. The team returned with the rescued woman and the arrested miscreant on Friday night.

According to police sources, the victim, a resident of Badbilwa village under Nakashipara police station, had been missing since August 12 last year. Her family, after initial inquiries, suspected that one Mofizul Haldar had abducted her. A formal complaint was lodged on September 4, 2024, in the Krishnanagar district court. Following a court directive, Nakashipara



police registered a case and soon launched an investigation. The case was assigned to Woman ASI Dipali Khanam.

Early in the investigation, ASI Khanam traced the accused is a resident of Kulpi in the Sundarbans police district. However, lack of further information stalled progress for some time. It was only recently that authorities discovered the accused was a married man with four children, currently

working as a tailor in Kerala. He had allegedly lured the young woman there under the pretext of marriage and was holding her with suspected intent of trafficking.

Acting swiftly, ASI Khanam, along with SI Nilofar Sultana and constables Suchitra Sarkar and Krishna Biswas-forming a four-member all-woman police team-embarked on a journey to Kerala on September 2. On the night of September 4, they apprehended the ac-

cused from Thiruvananthapuram and rescued the victim.

The accused was produced before a local court the following day, which remanded him to judicial custody for four days. Subsequently, the team secured a transit remand and returned to Nakashipara with the accused and the survivor in the early hours of September 9.

Additional Superintendent of Police (Rural), Krishnanagar Police District, Uttam Ghosh, lauded the operation, noting, "This is the first time in Bengal that an all-woman police team has executed such a complex inter-State rescue mission. It marks a significant step forward in our commitment to women-led policing and empowerment."

The operation has been widely praised as a model of determined, gender-inclusive law enforcement in West Bengal.

Bengal buzz: Sweet surprises and pre-puja fun

MI News Service, Kharagpur & Krishnanagar: The festive spirit of Durga Puja is already lighting up towns across West Bengal as vibrant pre-Puja celebrations bring communities together in anticipation of the grand festival. On Saturday, crowds gathered in Kharagpur and Krishnanagar to witness a series of colorful events that combined cultural displays, music, and sweet surprises. In Kharagpur, the celebrations took place at Bazar Kolkata between 11 am and 3 pm, and later at Spencer Kharagpur from 4 pm to 8 pm, drawing large gatherings of families and children. Meanwhile, in Krishnanagar, the morning buzzed with excitement at Krishnanagar Girls School, followed by evening festivities at the Putul Patti Loknath Temple. Traditional **dhak beats filled the air, bringing alive the true spirit of Bengal's most awaited festival. A key attraction this year has been the introduction of a new tamarind-flavored candy, quickly becoming a favorite among children. Described by one student as "unlike anything I've tasted before," the tangy treat is being hailed as a fun new addition to the festive palette, possibly even rivaling traditional sweets in popularity. Adding to the festive mood, a spinning wheel game offering small gifts** has proven to be a hit among younger visitors, creating an atmosphere of joy, interaction, and shared celebration. The event has effectively turned ordinary town spaces into hubs of festivity, where people of all ages come together to soak in the culture, music, and flavors of the season. As the countdown to Mahalaya and Durga Puja continues, similar celebrations are expected to light up more towns across the state, turning the run-up to the festival into a time of collective joy and anticipation

Launch of Anila Rakhecha's Debut Hindi Poetry Collection Kajal Ki Med Published by Vaani Prakashan



Kolkata, September 13: Literary and cultural organisation Neelamber will host the launch and discussion of Kajal Ki Med, the debut poetry collection by poet Anila Rakhecha, published by Vaani Prakashan. The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, 2025, at 3:30 PM, at the Nandan-3 Auditorium, Kolkata.

Anila Rakhecha, a core committee member of Neelamber, has already made her presence felt through contributions to prominent Hindi magazines and blogs, as well as broadcasts via All India Radio and Doordarshan. Her first collection dives deep into the complexities of love, relationships, memory, and what defines our humanity.

Esteemed poet and Sahitya Akademi Award winner Arun Kamal, who will preside over the event, praised the work: "This first collection of poems by Anila Rakhecha is a magnificent bouquet of emotions, sentiments, and ideas. Rooted in compassion, the collection's poems will break poetic boundaries and create a new, fertile poetic world. It is my hope that readers will give her the love and support she deserves."

Event programme includes:

Welcome address by Mrityunjay Kumar Singh,

patron of Neelamber
Keynote by Anila Rakhecha on her poetic journey

Readings from Kajal Ki Med by actress Kalpana Jha

Discussion with invited speakers: Sahitya Akademi awardee Arun Kamal, poet and critic Priyanka Paliwal, critic Arun Hota, poet and author Yatish Kumar, young critic Vinay Mishra
Hosted by Chayanika Datta Gupta, radio and TV presenter

Vote of thanks by Anand Gupta, Secretary of Neelamber

About Neelamber

Neelamber is a distinguished literary organisation based in Kolkata, committed to promoting Hindi and Indian literature through readings, discussions, book launches, and cultural exchange. It believes in making literature accessible and creating platforms for emerging voices.

About Vaani Prakashan
Founded in 1960 and headquartered in New Delhi, Vaani Prakashan is one of India's leading Hindi publishing houses. Publishing across genres and multiple Indian languages, Vaani has played a pivotal role in nurturing and promoting literary diversity and emerging voices in contemporary literature.

RG Kar Med Student's Mysterious Death Sparks Probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: Mystery shrouds the death of a fourth-year student of RG Kar Medical College, whose body was brought back from Malda after she reportedly collapsed under suspicious circumstances. The deceased, identified as Anindita Soren, had gone to her native place in South Dinajpur's Balurghat before visiting her boyfriend in Malda earlier this week.

According to preliminary findings, the 22-year-old medical student may have died due to a drug overdose. However, police are investigating whether the case was a suicide or if there was foul play. The alleged tension in her relationship with her boyfriend, a student at Malda Medical College, has further deepened the mystery. Family sources said that Anindita had last spoken to them on Monday when she went to meet her



boyfriend. Soon after, her relatives received a call informing them that she had fallen ill and was admitted to Malda Medical College.

On Friday night, her condition deteriorated. Doctors attempted to shift her to RG Kar Medical College in Kolkata, but her health worsened en route. She was taken back to Malda Medical College, where she was declared dead on Saturday morning. The bereaved family has alleged foul play and directly blamed her boyfriend for her death. They lodged a formal written complaint at the local police station, demanding his arrest. "Our daughter did not take her own life. She was killed," a family member claimed. Police confirmed that an unnatural death case has been registered. The post-mortem report and forensic analysis of the suspected overdose will determine the cause. Investigators are also questioning the boyfriend and reviewing call records to ascertain the sequence of events.

PM Modi comes to Bengal to inaugurate armed forces' conference on Monday

From PG 1 forces in Kolkata the next day, officials said on Saturday. This will be the PM's second visit to Kolkata in less than a month. The conference, which will be held from September 15 to 17, will also be attended by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and several other dignitaries, they said. Prime Minister Modi is currently on a three-day visit to Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, West Bengal and Bihar to launch multi-core infrastructure projects, participate in the birth centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Bhuben Hazarika and attend the Combined Commanders' Conference in Kolkata. After visiting Mizoram and Manipur the Prime Minister will arrive in Assam on a two-day visit, which will include a special tribute meeting for Bhuben Hazarika, and inaugurating and laying foundation stones for projects worth over Rs 19,000 crore, the officials said. PM Modi will leave for Kolkata the same evening from Jorhat airport. He will spend the night at Raj Bhavan here On September 15, PM Modi will inaugurate the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference-2025 in Kolkata around 9:30 am. He will leave for Bihar the same day, where he will inaugurate the new terminal building of Purnea airport around 2:45 pm, said the officials. However this time the Prime minister has no plan to address any public meeting in Kolkata or anywhere else in West Bengal, the sources added



Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata, along with Rathendra Raman, Chairman of SMPK, during the stakeholders' meeting hosted by KMC, Kolkata Police, and SMPK to accelerate ghat revitalization on Saturday.

SMPK, KMC, Kolkata Police Meet to Boost Ghat Revitalization

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant push to restore Kolkata's historic ghats along the Hooghly River, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMPK) today convened a high-level stakeholders' meeting to streamline redevelopment plans. Chaired by Rathendra Raman, Chairman, SMPK, the session brought together civic authorities, heritage experts, law enforcement, and corporate partners to coordinate efforts for the ambitious riverfront revitalization initiative. Present at the meeting were Manoj Kumar Verma, IPS, Commissioner of Police, Kolkata; Devendra Prakash Singh, IPS, Additional Commissioner of Police-I; Rupesh Kumar, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic); Harikrishna Pai, IPS, DC (Port Division); P. K. Dhua, Technical Advisor to the Mayor;

Partha Sarathi Samanta, DG (Environment & Heritage); and representatives of the Archaeological Survey of India, along with SMPK officials including Deputy Chairman Samrat Rahi. The discussion focused on aligning efforts of organizations participating in SMPK's CSR program. Adani Ports and SEZ Ltd proposed beautifying the stretch between Kumartuli Ghat and Champatala Ghat. GRSE Ltd will develop Bagbazar Mayer Ghat and Surinam Ghat, while PS Group has adopted Nimtala immersion ghat. IHCL Group (Taj Hotels) will rejuvenate Chotala Ghat into a recreational zone, and TNS Logi Park Pvt Ltd will oversee Daighat. MoUs with all organizations have been signed, and projects are now in the design phase. Rathendra Raman emphasized, "The ghats are intertwined

with our heritage and daily life. This collaborative effort ensures redevelopment is inclusive, sustainable, and respectful of tradition while serving citizens and visitors." Manoj Kumar Verma added, "The ghats of Kolkata are more than just scenic waterfronts; they are sacred spaces that hold profound spiritual and cultural significance for the city's residents. Any renovation work, therefore, must be approached with a deep sense of responsibility, following the safety measures for the people, ensuring it is meticulously planned to be both public-centric and respectful of this rich heritage." Once refurbished, Kolkata's ghats are expected to regain their cultural, recreational, and tourism value, restoring the city's historic riverfront to its former glory.



The Indian community held a protest condemning atrocities in Palestine. Demonstrators highlighted the loss of homes, families, and schools due to Israeli bombings and raised concerns over shortages of food, water, medicine, and electricity in Gaza. The rally expressed solidarity with Palestinians and called for urgent international intervention to end the crisis. The rally was organised in Kolkata on Saturday.

Global Researchers Honoured with IEM Excellence Award



MI News Service, Kolkata: The IEM Excellence Award in Research 2025 was conferred on three globally recognised scientists at the inaugural session of the 4th International Conference on Sustainable Waste Management (ICSWM-2025) at IEM, Salt Lake. Prof. Sadhan Kumar Ghosh, Prof. Brajesh Kumar Dubey, and Prof. Sunil Kumar, ranked among the top 2% researchers worldwide by Stanford University, were honoured for their pioneering contributions. Prof. Ghosh, ranked 18th globally in waste management, stressed that such platforms encourage innovation. IEM authorities noted their research is shaping global sustainability efforts and inspiring future generations.

KMC Sets 14-Day Deadline for Post-Puja Park Clearance

MI News Service, Kolkata: As Durga Puja preparations transform parks across Kolkata into vibrant pandals, a recurring issue emerges once the festivities end. In several neighbourhoods, bamboo frames and makeshift tents remain standing for weeks after the celebrations, restricting public access to parks. Morning walkers, children, and senior citizens are often left without their regular open spaces. Complaints from residents over the years have mounted, prompting the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to take a firm stance.

JU Student's Death: Autopsy Suggests Drowning, Questions Remain

MI News Service, Kolkata: The preliminary post-mortem report in the Jadavpur University student death case has been made public. The report indicates that Anamika Mondal, a third-year English Honours student, died due to drowning. However, it does not clarify whether she was under the influence of alcohol at the time of her death, leaving open the question of whether the incident was accidental or intentional.

The incident, which occurred on Thursday night, has once again brought the campus under intense discussion. The autopsy revealed no external injury marks on Anamika's body. She had fallen into a campus lake with a depth of only four to five feet. This raised fresh doubts about how drowning in such shallow water could have occurred. Doctors, however, explained that even shallow water can prove fatal if a person's nose and mouth remain submerged long enough. Final confirmation on whether alcohol played a role will depend on the viscera report, police officials



said. According to investigators, friends of the deceased told police during questioning that a cultural programme was underway on campus that evening. Later at night, five friends, including Anamika, were sitting near the lake. They admitted to consuming alcohol. Police sources said Anamika expressed a desire to step into the water, allegedly saying, "It's hot, I want to get into the lake." Her friends, aware she could not swim, tried to dissuade her. However, since the water seemed shallow, they did not anticipate danger. Witnesses claimed Anamika suddenly entered the water and began to sink.

Bratya Basu Assures Peaceful SSC Exam

MI News Service, Kolkata: The State Education Minister Bratya Basu on Saturday assured candidates that the upcoming School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment examination for Classes XI and XII will be conducted smoothly, with strict security and full administrative support. "Tomorrow is the second phase of the test. As per the Hon'ble Chief Minister's instructions, we have conveyed every directive to SSC. I want to assure candidates that the administration has taken steps at the highest level. From the government to SSC, preparations are complete. I am confident the exam will take place peacefully and without disruption," Basu said. The second phase of the SSC exam will be held on Sunday, September 14, following last week's Class IX-X test. Around 2,46,000 candidates are scheduled to sit for the examination across 478 centres in West Bengal, including participants from other states.

According to the SSC, the exam will start at 12 noon and continue until 1:30 p.m. Differently-abled candidates



will get an extension till 2 p.m. The Commission has issued strict instructions to ensure the integrity of the examination process. Candidates must carry transparent pens with visible refills. In case they fail to arrange such pens, provisions have been made to supply them at the centres. As several centres lack cloakroom facilities, SSC has advised students not to bring valuables, bags, or unnecessary items. Admit cards are mandatory, and if the photograph on the card is unclear, candidates must carry valid government-issued identification along with a photocopy. The current phase covers 12,514 va-

cancies for Classes XI and XII. These fresh examinations follow the Supreme Court's cancellation of earlier panels tainted by corruption allegations. The apex court has directed close monitoring of the process, repeatedly stressing that no tainted candidates should be allowed to appear. On September 12, the court also demanded clarity on when accused individuals would refund money taken illegally. Against this backdrop, Sunday's examination is being seen as a major test of the government and SSC's ability to ensure transparency and credibility in teacher recruitment.

JU Tightens Security After Student's Death in Campus Lake

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the tragic death of a third-year student who drowned in a campus lake near Gate No. 4 on Thursday night, Jadavpur University has introduced a series of stringent security measures. The decision comes amid growing questions over safety lapses and the presence of alcohol and narcotics inside the campus.

The student, identified as an English Honours undergraduate, was pulled out of the lake and rushed to hospital but could not be saved. Her death has reignited concerns over alleged gatherings involving alcohol and cannabis on campus—an issue that has surfaced multiple times in the past. On the evening of the incident, a cultural programme organised by the university's drama club was taking place in the parking lot, and police sources claimed that drinking sessions were held simultaneously within the campus. In response, the university authorities have circulated a detailed set of directives aimed at tightening entry, monitoring movement, and cracking down on substance abuse. According to the new rules, only vehicles with official university parking stickers will be allowed inside. Others will require verification of details at the entry gate before access is granted. The university has reiterated its strict prohibition on alcohol and narcotics inside the campus. The notification states that anyone caught consuming such substances will face action in accordance with the law.

Another significant directive bans members of the general public from entering the campus for morning and evening walks, a practice that had long been permitted informally. From now on, access will remain restricted to authorised individuals only. Furthermore, anyone entering the campus after 7 p.m. must carry valid university-issued identity cards. Visitors without such IDs will have to present government-issued identification at the gate and disclose the purpose of their visit, including the name of the person they intend to meet.

This is not the first time that such measures have been announced. Critics argue that earlier security guidelines remained largely on paper and were poorly implemented. Acknowledging the shortcomings, Pro Vice Chancellor Amitava Dutta admitted, "There are some gaps in our security arrangements.

PM Modi urges all outfits in Manipur to 'embark on path of peace' as talks begin

From PG 1 Peoples' Party Youth Front raised slogans outside its office here and claimed that the PM's visit is "not aimed at restoration of peace and normalcy" in the state. The MPP office is close to the Kangla Fort, where the prime minister later inaugurated another slew of development projects and held a public rally. A similar protest by the Congress youth wing activists was also staged in front of the Congress Bhavan, around 100 metres from the PM's function venue. Protesters were prevented by police personnel from proceeding to the PM's programme venue.

Meanwhile, braving rains and waterlogging in different parts of the state

capital, thousands of people from various parts of the Imphal valley turned up at the Kangla Fort to attend PM Modi's public address where he said three-phase resettlement plan has been formulated to rehabilitate those displaced by the ethnic violence in the State. "A three-phase resettlement plan for IDPs (internally displaced persons) has been taken up to settle them at the earliest. The focus is now on connectivity, infrastructure, education and health care to bring hope and new opportunities to our youths. Today, as we look forward, we also acknowledge the challenges that we must face together, challenges of peace, development and trust," he added.

Nepal appoints first female PM after days of deadly protests

From PG 1 some protesters seen brandishing automatic rifles. Wedged between India and China, Nepal has grappled with political and economic instability since the abolition of its monarchy in 2008, while a lack of jobs drives millions to seek work in other countries and send money home. Shops began reopening on Friday, and cars again filled the streets while police held batons instead of the guns they carried earlier in the week — signs that normalcy may be re-

turning in Kathmandu. Some roads stayed blocked, though streets were patrolled by fewer soldiers than before. Authorities began handing the bodies of loved ones killed in the protests to mourning families. "While his friends backed off (from the protests), he decided to go ahead," Karuna Budhathoki said of her 23-year-old nephew, as she waited to collect his body at Kathmandu's Teaching Hospital. "We were told he was brought dead to the hospital," she said.

Northeast suffered due to 'vote bank' politics, now becomes India's growth engine: PM Modi

From PG 1 create jobs and boost tourism... Those neglected before are at the forefront now, those marginalised earlier are in the mainstream at present," he said. PM Modi said people of Mizoram have contributed greatly to India, whether in freedom movement or nation building. He said that the National Sports Policy would open doors of opportunities for players of Mizoram, which has produced many sportspersons who have brought many laurels for India.

The Prime minister said that the Northeast is steadily becoming a major hub for entrepreneurship, with 4,500 startups and 25 incubators operating in the region. On the new GST rates, he said the reforms have lowered taxes on as many as 300 many products of frequent uses and that will make life easier for the masses. The reforms would make medicines for diseases like cancer much cheaper and prices of vehicles are also being greatly reduced, PM Modi said. During the Congress rule, medicines and insurance policies were heavily taxed and healthcare was expensive, but today these have become affordable, he said. He said India's economy grew by 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the 2025-26 financial year, which is the fastest among major global economies. On Operation Sindoor, he said the country's soldiers "taught a lesson to those sponsoring terror", and 'Made in India' weapons played a major role in it. Also speaking on the occasion, Mizoram Chief Minister Lalduhoma said today was a historic day as the state entered the country's railway map. He was addressing a huge gathering as Prime Minister Modi inaugurated Mizoram's first railway line and flagged off the state's maiden Rajdhani Express, connecting Aizawl with Delhi Lalduhoma said the new railway line was a technical marvel and stood as a testament to engineering excellence.

Harbhajan Singh Emerges as Potential Contender After Sachin Declines BCCI Top Post

MI News Service, New Delhi: Former spin great Harbhajan Singh is emerging as a potential contender for the top post in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) after ex-batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar declined to contest.

The BCCI is preparing for another leadership transition as its Annual General Meeting (AGM) approaches later this month. With Roger Binny stepping down after reaching the age of 70, attention has shifted to the presidency, and a legendary Indian cricketer is now seen as a frontrunner.

Elections will be held for the posts of president, vice-president, secretary, joint secretary, and treasurer. Based on recent trends at BCCI AGMs, contests for these positions are expected to be minimal.

Current incumbents De-

vajit Saikia, Prabhtej Singh Bhatia, and Rohan Desai are likely to continue as secretary, treasurer, and joint secretary, respectively.

Harbhajan Singh's name has surfaced in cricket circles due to his stellar career and popularity during his playing days. While Sachin Tendulkar has officially declined to enter the fray, Harbhajan — who represented India in 367 international matches — has yet to clarify his position, sparking speculation about his interest in leading Indian cricket.

The Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) is reportedly backing the 45-year-old former right-arm spinner, who holds caps across formats. The official picture will become clear once nominations are filed, as only candidates supported by a state association can contest.

Traditionally, the ruling party at the Centre plays a significant role in selecting BCCI officials. Sources said policymakers prefer administrators with proven cricketing credentials, a trend seen in the appointments of Sourav Ganguly and Roger Binny in previous years.

According to BCCI electoral officer AK Joti, the nomination window will be open from September 20 to 21, with scrutiny scheduled for September 22. Candidates can withdraw nominations by September 23, after which the final list of contestants will be announced. The election and counting are set for September 28.

Harbhajan's eventual decision will be closely watched by cricket fans and officials alike, as the BCCI prepares for a new chapter in its leadership.

PM Modi extends best wishes to Nepal counterpart Sushila Karki on assuming office of the interim govt 2025

MI News Service, Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday extended his best wishes to Sushila Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of the interim government of Nepal.

He reaffirmed that India remains firmly committed to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal.

In a post on X, he wrote: "I extend my best wishes to Right Hon. Mrs. Sushila Karki on assuming office as the Prime Minister of the Interim Government of Nepal. India remains firmly committed to the peace, progress and prosperity of the people of Nepal."

Himachal monsoon havoc: 574 roads shut, 389 transformers and 333 water schemes hit; death toll 394, says SDMA

MI News Service, Shimla: Himachal Pradesh continues to grapple with a battered infrastructure and mounting human losses as the relentless monsoon takes its toll. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) on Saturday reported that 574 roads remain blocked, 389 power transformers disrupted, and 333 drinking water supply schemes damaged across the state.

According to the SDMA's evening public utility report, the overall death toll has climbed to 394 since June 20, when the monsoon set in. Of these fatalities, 221 people have died in rain-related incidents such as landslides, flash floods, and house collapses, while 173 lives were lost in road accidents triggered by slippery conditions and damaged highways.

The disruption has crippled connectivity in both rural and urban belts, with key national and state highways among those blocked. Local authorities have mobilised men and machinery to clear debris, but recurring rainfall continues to hamper restoration.

Power outages remain widespread, with nearly 400 transformers knocked out, leaving thousands without electricity. In parallel, water supply lines have been badly damaged, affecting over 300 schemes, posing a challenge for local administrations struggling to ensure safe drinking water.

Officials said emergency teams of the Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, and Jal Shakti Vibhag are working round the clock to restore essential services. Helicopter sorties are also being considered in the worst-affected belts where road access remains impossible.

The SDMA has warned of further disruptions if heavy rains persist, urging people to remain alert in vulnerable areas.

Earlier, Union Minister of State for Women and Child Development, Savitri Thakur, visited various regions of Himachal Pradesh affected by recent natural disasters, including sudden floods, landslides, and cloudbursts, as per a release.

The Minister inspected several locations along the Kullu-Manali route, covering Vaishno Mata Temple, Sabzi Mandi (Bandrol), Raisan, Dohlu Nala, Fozal Nala, Dua-da Vihal, Jatehar Vihal (Patlikuhai), Nalsu Nala, Manalsu Nala, Solang, Palchang, Samahan, Bahang and the 14th, 15th, 16th, and 17th Mile areas situated on the banks of the Beas River.

These regions had suffered extensive damage to road connectivity due to heavy rainfall and landslides. With the continuous efforts of the central government and the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), repair and reconstruction of damaged roads are being undertaken on a war footing to restore traffic movement and provide early relief to the affected population.

During the visit, Thakur interacted with affected families, listened to their concerns, and reviewed the progress of ongoing relief and rehabilitation measures.

A historic day for the people of Mizoram, as Aizawl gets connected India's railway map

MI News Service, Maligaon: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for development projects worth over Rs 9,000 crore in Aizawl, Mizoram. Addressing the gathering via video conferencing from the Aizawl airport, the Prime Minister highlighted the state's historic contributions in the freedom struggle and nation building, and said that Mizoram is today playing an important role in India's development journey.

The Governor of Mizoram-General (Dr.) (Retd.) Vijay Kumar Singh, Chief Minister of Mizoram Shri Lalduhoma, Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw; Minister, Govt. of Mizoram Dr. Vanlalhlana, Members of Parliament Shri K. Vanlalvena & Shri Richard Vanlalhmangaiba were present among other dignitaries at the event.

While dedicating the Bairabi – Sairang railway line to the Nation, he said that today is a historic day for the entire Nation and particularly for the people of Mizoram with Aizawl getting connected to



India's Railway map overcoming many challenges including difficult terrain. Prime Minister said that, this new rail line will be the life line of transformation and revolutionize the lives and livelihood of the people of Mizoram. Common people will have more options for Education and Healthcare apart from creating new employment opportunities in various sectors. He also mentioned that Mizoram has a major role in the "Act East Policy". With the Kaladan Multi Model Transit Transport Project, Mizoram will also get connected to the Southeast Asia further boosting Trade & Tourism.

On this occasion, the

Prime Minister also flagged off three new express trains. The Sairang-Delhi Rajdhani Express, Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express, providing direct safe, efficient and cost-effective rail connectivity for the people of Mizoram to major cities across the country and thereby providing new opportunities in trade, education, healthcare and tourism.

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation stone for key road projects including the 45 km Aizawl Bypass Road under PM-DevINE, the Thenzawl-Salsuk Road and the Khankawn-Rongura Road under NESIDS and the Chhimitpui River Bridge. These

Tracks of Transformation: Railways Redefining the Northeast

MI News Service, New Delhi: A Rail Renaissance: In the mist-clad hills and deep valleys of India's Northeast, a revolution is unfolding on steel tracks. What was once considered a distant terrain is now being threaded together with ambitious railway projects signaling not just connectivity, but a new era of commerce, mobility, and integration for India's northeastern frontier. Over the past decade, the Northeast has seen its railway map redrawn at an unprecedented pace. Long-pending projects have moved from survey sheets to reality, with new stations opening in states that had none for over a century, and capitals finally being connected to the national network. Among them is Mizoram's 51 km Bairabi-Sairang railway line, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a milestone that has finally put Aizawl on India's railway map. From the bustling hub of Guwahati to the serene borders of Mizoram and Nagaland, new lines are stretching across mountains, tunnels, and rivers, promising to transform not just connectivity, but also the very rhythm of life.

Railway Tracks between Bairabi- Sairang line in Mizoram

The Northeast's Expanding Railway Horizon

Once dependent on a handful of isolated stations, the region now stands at the cusp of a railway renaissance. Since 2014, railway allocations to the region have multiplied five times, touching ₹62,477 crore. Of this, ₹10,440 crore has been set aside for the current fiscal year. With projects worth ₹77,000 crore under way, the region is seeing the largest wave of rail investment in its history. In Mizoram, Nagaland, Manipur, and beyond, long-delayed projects are finally linking capitals to the national grid. In Tripura, railway line has reached the borders, Meghalaya has seen its first railway station, while Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, and Assam push forward with new lines, electrification, and doubling works. Each state's journey

shows how railways are shaping the Northeast.

Mizoram: Rails Reach the Hills

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 51 km Bairabi-Sairang line, built at a cost of over 8,070 crore, finally bringing Aizawl's grand debut onto the railway tracks.

The state also witnessed the flagging off of three new train services, the Sairang-Delhi Rajdhani express, the Sairang-Guwahati Express and Sairang-Kolkata Express.

Mizoram's railway journey began in the late 1980s with Bairabi station near the Assam border, as a Metre-Gauge station in the late 1980s.

In 2016, it was upgraded to broad gauge under the 83.55 km Kathakal - Bairabi Gauge Conversion Project, receiving its first freight train with 42 wagons of rice and a passenger service flagged off virtually by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Looking ahead, the ongoing 223 km Sairang-Hibichuah project aims to extend tracks to Mizoram's southern border, opening direct trade routes to Myanmar and Southeast Asia via Sittwe port.

Nagaland: From One Station to a Capital Link

Dimapur, opened in the early 20th century, remained Nagaland's lone railroad for over 100 years.

In 2022, Shokhuvi ended that isolation, becoming the state's second station.

The 82.5 km Dimapur-Kohima new line is progressing with Dhansiri-Shokhuvi section commissioned in October 2021 and the first passenger service, the Donyi Polo Express rolling out in August 2022.

The Shokhuvi-Molvom section was completed in March 2025 while the remaining section from Molvom to Zubza (near Kohima) is in progress.

By October 2026, the Molvom-Pherima stretch (14.09 km) is set to open, followed by the Pherima-Zubza section (37.57 km) in December 2029, a milestone that will finally bring rail connectivity to Nagaland's capital, Kohima.

Tripura: Border Connect

and Beyond

The 152 km Badarpur-Agartala line was converted to broad gauge in April 2016.

The Agartala-Sabroom line (112 km) extended railways till the southernmost part of Tripura, close to the Bangladesh border in phases between 2016 and 2019.

Entire railway network in Tripura has been electrified.

Doubling works up to Agartala are planned.

Manipur: Linking the Valley to the Nation

Jiribam station, close to the Assam border, was converted from metre gauge to broad gauge in March 2016 under the 49.61 km Arunachal-Jiribam project.

The 110.625 km Jiribam-Imphal line is under progress. The first section from Jiribam-Vangaichungpao (11.8 km) was commissioned in February 2017 followed by Vangaichungpao-Khongsang (43.56 km) section.

Upcoming targets: Khongsang-Awangkhul (9.1 km) by March 2026, Awangkhul-Noney (9.15 km) by March 2027, Noney-Imphal (37.02 km) by March 2028.

Assam: Backbone of the Northeast Rail Grid

Gauge Conversion: Between 2014 to 2017, 833.42 km of Metre-Gauge tracks in the Northeast, including 671.52 km in Assam, were converted to Broad Gauge. Major gauge conversions include Lumding-Silchar (210 km), North Lakhimpur – Sripani (81.46 km), and Katakhal - Bairabi (75.66 km) among others.

Extensive doubling projects: Sections of Double Line Projects like Lumding-Furkating (140 km) will commence from 2026 while sections of Digaru-Hojai (102 km) have been completed between 2020-22.

The Rail and Road Bogibeel Bridge in Assam

New lines: Completion includes sections of Bogibeel bridge and connecting lines (73 km, 2018), Tetelia – Kamalajari (10.15 km, 2018), and others.

Arunachal Pradesh: Rails to the Frontier

Naharlagun station, connecting Itanagar, was com-

missioned in April 2014 under the 21.75 km Harmuti-Naharlagun New Line Project.

The Balipara-Bhalukpong line was converted to broad gauge in May 2015 as part of the 505 km Rangiyam-Murkongselek project.

Murkongselek-Pasighat line is under construction: Murkongselek-Sille (15.6 km) due October 2025; Sille-Pasighat (10.55 km) due February 2026.

Final Location Surveys (FLS) completed for new lines to Tawang, Pasighat-Parashuram Kund-Wakro, and Bame-Aalo-Mechuka.

Sikkim: The Rail Chapter Opens

The 44.96 km Sevoke-Rangpo line is under progress and targeted for completion by December 2027, providing Sikkim's first railway connectivity.

Meghalaya: First Steps on the Tracks

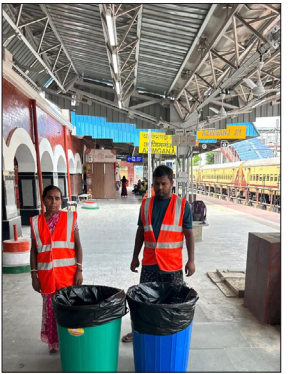
Mendipathar became Meghalaya's first railway station in 2014 under the 19.62 km Dudhnai-Mendipathar project which contains 8.67 km of railway tracks inside Meghalaya.

Electric Locomotive Train at Mendipathar Railway Station in Meghalaya

The Northeast on a New Track and Stronger Future

The story of railways in the Northeast is one of persistence and progress. In little more than a decade, the region has witnessed century-old Metre-Gauge lines upgraded, long-delayed projects revived, and capital cities like Aizawl and Imphal finally placed on the railway map. Assam has emerged as the backbone with electrification and doubling, while frontier states like Mizoram, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh push tracks toward borders and trade gateways. Tripura has already reached Bangladesh, and Meghalaya and Sikkim await their turn. Together, these milestones mark more than engineering feats, they signal a Northeast steadily moving from isolation to integration, with steel tracks carrying the promise of growth, connectivity, and new horizons.

Howrah division undertakes cleanliness initiatives under Swachhta Abhiyan



MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of its commitment to Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat, Howrah Division of Eastern

Railway organized a series of cleanliness drives on 13th September 2025 under the ongoing Swachhta Abhiyan. These initiatives were aimed at enhancing station hygiene, encouraging passenger participation, and ensuring sustainable waste management practices.

To promote effective waste segregation, separate dustbins for dry and wet waste were installed at Bandel, Azimganj, and Bardhaman stations. The initiative seeks to motivate passengers and station users to actively contribute towards maintaining a clean and eco-friendly sta-

tion environment.

In addition, special focus was given to ensuring the availability of safe drinking water. Filtration plants at Azimganj and Bandel stations were inspected to monitor cleanliness and hygiene standards, thereby reinforcing the division's efforts to provide hygienic water facilities for passengers.

Howrah Division reiterates its commitment to maintaining high standards of cleanliness and passenger amenities, in line with Indian Railways' vision of a cleaner and healthier travel experience for all.

More than 7.95 lakh passengers traveled in Metro on Friday

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway has carried about 7.95 lakh passengers yesterday i.e. on 12.09.2025 which is more than the passengers travelled on 11.09.2025. Day by day Metro Railway travel is becoming very popular mode of transport and patronage growing as public find Metro Railway is comfortable and cost effective. In Blue Line over 5.72 lakh passengers were carried yesterday. In Green Line more than 2.04 lakh passengers have traveled. In Purple and Orange Lines more than 7000 passengers and 5300 passengers have traveled respectively. Around 7300 passengers travelled in Yellow Line on 12.09.2025.

During morning and evening peak hours (i.e. from

9.00 hrs. to 11.00 hrs. and 18.00 hrs. to 20.00 hrs.) trains were operated at mostly in the range of 5.54 to 6.01 mins intervals in Blue Line. Around 97% of the services were run as per schedule on this Corridor throughout the day. On Yellow Line services were run at 12 mins interval as per schedule throughout the day. 100% punctuality was maintained in Green Line as services were run at 6 mins interval during peak hours. In Orange and Purple Line 100% punctuality was also maintained yesterday.

To avoid long queues, commuters are requested to use the Digital mode of the ticketing system like Smart Cards and Mobile QR tickets which comes with 5% bonus/ rebate if booked via app or

at the time of recharge. They are also requested to follow the instructions made through Public Address System in train and at Stations by on-duty staff.

Over the last 7 days, Metro Railway undertook a special campaign with the help of Eastern Railway to popularise Metro Smart Card and digital mode of ticketing among commuters. In this campaign, 16317 Smart Cards were sold.

It is to be noted that from today Metro Railway has started to operate services on Yellow Line on Saturdays and Sundays. On Saturdays, 44 services (22 UP & 22 DN) and on Sundays (20 UP & 20 DN) are being operated. Feedback received indicates there is overwhelming response to these services.

"Der aaye per durust nahi aaye," Jairam Ramesh takes a dig at PM's Manipur visit

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress leader Jairam Ramesh took a dig at Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his visit to Manipur, which has been grappling with violence and unrest for the past 28 months.

In a post on X, Ramesh criticised the PM for spending less than five hours in the state, questioning his commitment to addressing the plight of Manipur's people.

"The people of Manipur have been undergoing tremendous pain, distress, suffering, and agony for the past 28 months ever since the state erupted. The people of Manipur have waited patiently for the PM to visit the state. He has finally

obliged them today. But he was in the state, from landing till take-off, for less than 5 hours," he said.

Highlighting the brevity of the visit, Ramesh further remarked on X, "The PM has the time (and the inclination) to spend days campaigning and travelling across the world. But is Manipur worth only so much to him? It is shockingly insensitive."

He concluded with a Hindi phrase, "der aaye per durust nhiin aae," (PM's visit delayed, however, not adequate).

This is PM Modi's first visit after an ethnic conflict erupted in Manipur in May 2023, and the discord between the Meitei and Kuki communi-

ties has persisted for a significant length of time. The conflict has inflicted lasting damage on Manipur, hindering its economy, disrupting its society, and destabilising its political landscape.

During his visit to Manipur on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi appealed to various ethnic groups in Manipur to shun violence and work towards restoring peace in the State. He stated that a new dawn of "hope and confidence" is emerging in the northeastern state.

In a recent development, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth over Rs 7,300 crore at Churachandpur in Manipur.

Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu calls on Punjab Governor, discuss aid for flood-affected people

MI News Service, Chandigarh: Union Minister Ravneet Singh Bittu on Saturday paid a courtesy call on Punjab Governor and Administrator, UT Chandigarh, Gulab Chand Kataria at Punjab Raj Bhavan in Chandigarh.

According to a release, during the meeting, both dignitaries held detailed discussions on the recent flood situation in Punjab and the ongoing relief and rehabilitation operations. They reviewed the immediate measures being undertaken to support the affected families and restore normalcy in the flood-hit areas.

The deliberations also covered the assessment of damages to lives, houses, crops, and livestock, which was also discussed at length. Union Minister Bittu in-

formed the Governor that central teams have visited the flood-affected areas to ascertain the quantum of loss in so that appropriate compensation can be provided.

He assured that the Union Government is committed to extending all possible assistance for rehabilitation and reconstruction in the affected districts, and reiterated that no family would be left unsupported in this crisis.

The Governor appreciated the proactive role of both the State and Union Governments and emphasised that timely aid and coordinated action are essential to bring relief to the people of Punjab.

Earlier today, Punjab Minister Harpal Singh Cheema emphasised that the Punjab Government, under the

leadership of Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, is working day and night to serve the flood-affected persons.

"The flood-affected people need not worry about anything, as whatever loss they have suffered will be compensated by the Punjab Government. Cabinet Ministers and the entire administration are engaged in assisting the flood victims and will continue to be engaged in the service of flood-affected persons till the situation completely normalises," Cheema said, as per a release.

Social Security, Women and Child Development Minister Dr Baljit Kaur listened to the problems of flood-affected people of about 20 villages, including Ram Singh Bhaini of Fazilka district.

PM Addresses Foundation Stone Laying, Inauguration of Development Works in Mizoram

MI News Service, Mizoram: Governor of Mizoram, V K Singh Ji, Chief Minister Shri Lalduhoma Ji, My Colleague in the Union Cabinet Shri Ashwini Vaishnav Ji, Ministers of the Mizoram Government, MPs and other elected representatives, Greetings to the wonderful people of Mizoram.

I bow to supreme God Pathian, who watches over this beautiful land of the Blue Mountains. I am here at Mizoram's Lengpui Airport. Unfortunately, due to bad weather, I am sorry that I am not able to join you at Aizawl. But I can feel your love and affection even from this medium.

Friends, Whether it is the freedom movement or nation-building, the people of Mizoram have always come forward to contribute. The ideals of people like Lalnu ropuliiani and Pasal ha Khuangchera continue to inspire the nation. Sacrifice and service, courage and compassion, these values are at the centre of Mizo society. Today, Mizoram is playing an important role in India's development journey.

Friends, This is a historic day for the nation, particularly for the people of Mizoram. From today, Aizawl will be on India's railway map. A few years ago, I had the opportunity of laying the foundation stone for the Aizawl railway line. And today, we proudly dedicate it to the people of the nation. Overcoming many challenges, including difficult terrain, this Bairabi Sairang railway line has become a reality. The skills of our engineers and the spirit of our workers made this possible.

Friends, Our hearts have always been directly connected with each other. Now, for the first time, Sairang in Mizoram will be connected directly with Delhi by the Rajdhani Express. This is not just a railway connection, but it is a life-line of transformation. It will revolutionise the lives and livelihoods of the people of Mizoram. Farmers and businesses of Mizoram can reach more markets across the nation. People will be able to access more options for education and healthcare. This will also create employment opportunities in tourism, transport and hospitality sectors.

Friends, For a long time, some political parties in our country practiced vote-bank politics. Their focus was always on places which had more votes and seats. The entire North East, including states like Mizoram, suffered greatly because of this attitude. But our approach is very different. Those who were earlier neglected, are at the forefront now. Those who were once marginalised, are the mainstream now! For the past 11 years, we have been working for the development of the North East. This region is becoming the growth engine of India.

Dalai Lama congratulates Karki on appointment as interim Nepal PM

MI News Service, Dharamshala : Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Saturday extended congratulations to Sushila Karki upon her appointment as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal. In a message shared by his office, Dalai Lama said, "As you know, the Nepalese and Tibetan peoples have historically enjoyed a close relationship," he wrote. "I am very grateful to the government and the people of Nepal for providing facilities for the rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees following their forced escape from Tibet after 1959. Indeed, although the Tibetan community is relatively small, I believe it has been making a notable contribution towards Nepal's economic growth."

In his message, Dalai Lama reflected upon the increasing prosperity and development of Nepal. "Over the years, there has been significant development and increasing prosperity in Nepal in all spheres of life. Such achievements are all the more meaningful when they really improve the lives of poor and needy people," he said.

In his concluding remarks, Dalai Lama said, "I wish you every success in fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people of Nepal in these challenging times. With my prayers and good wishes." Earlier on Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Sushila Karki for taking over as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Heartfelt congratulations to the Honourable Sushila Karki Ji on assuming the office of Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government. India is fully committed to the peace, progress, and prosperity of Nepal's brothers and sisters."

Nepal's Parliament was formally dissolved late Friday and fresh elections were scheduled for March 5, 2026, hours after former Chief Justice Sushila Karki was sworn in as the country's new interim Prime Minister.

Announcing the decision, the President's Office said the dissolution was approved in the first cabinet meeting convened by Karki at 11 pm, marking the start of a six-month transitional government tasked with steering the country to the polls.

Friends, Over the years, many states of the North East have been put on the rail map of India for the first time. Rural roads and highways, Mobile connectivity and internet connections, Electricity, tap water and LPG connections, The Government of India has worked hard to strengthen all kinds of connectivity. Mizoram will also benefit from the UDAN scheme for air travel. Soon, helicopter services will begin here. This will improve access to remote areas of Mizoram.

Friends, Mizoram has a major role in both our Act East Policy and the emerging North East Economic Corridor. With the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and Sairang Hmawngbuchuah Railway line, Mizoram will also get connected to the Bay of Bengal through South East Asia. Due to this, trade and tourism will be boosted across North East India and South East Asia.

Friends, Mizoram is blessed with talented youth. Our work is to empower them. Our government has already started 11 Eklavya Residential Schools here. Work is going to start at 6 more schools. Our North East is also becoming a major hub for start-ups. I am happy that around 4,500 start-ups and 25 incubators are operating in the region. Young people of Mizoram are actively joining this movement and creating new opportunities for themselves and others.

Friends, India is quickly becoming an important hub for global sports. This is also creating a sports economy in the country. Mizoram has a wonderful tradition of sports, producing many champions in football and other sports. Our sports policies are benefiting Mizoram as well. Under the Khelo India scheme, we are supporting the creation of modern sports infrastructure. Recently, our government has also come out with a National Sports Policy. Khelo India Khel Niti. This will open new doors of opportunities for the youth of Mizoram.

Friends, Whether in our country or abroad, it gives me great happiness to play the role of an ambassador of the beautiful culture of the North East. Encouraging platforms that showcase the potential of the North East is important. A few months ago, I had the opportunity to participate in the Ashta Lakshmi Festival in Delhi. It showcased the textiles, crafts, GI-tagged products and tourism potential of the North East. At the Rising North East Summit, I encouraged investors to tap into the potential of the North East. The Summit is opening up the path for massive investments and projects. When I talk about being Vocal for Local, it greatly benefits the artisans and farmers of the North East too. Mizoram's bamboo products, organic ginger, turmeric and bananas are well-known.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays foundation stone, inaugurates development works worth over Rs 9,000 crore in Aizawl, Mizoram

- A historic day for the nation, particularly for the people of Mizoram, from today, Aizawl will be on India's railway map: PM
- North East is becoming the growth engine of India: PM
- Mizoram has a major role in both our Act East Policy and the emerging North East Economic Corridor: PM
- NextGenGST means lower taxes on many products, making life easier for families: PM
- India is the fastest growing major economy in the world: PM

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone, inaugurated development works worth over Rs 9000 crore in Aizawl, Mizoram today. These projects will cater to multiple sectors including Railways, Roadways, Energy, Sports among others. Addressing the gathering via videoconferencing, the Prime Minister bowed to Supreme God Pathian, who watches over the beautiful land of the Blue Mountains. Expressing regret, he stated that he was present at Mizoram's Lengpui Airport and was unable to join the people at Aizawl due to bad weather. Despite the circumstances, the Prime Minister remarked that he could feel the love and affection of the people even through this medium.

Highlighting that whether it was the freedom movement or nation-building, Shri Modi said the people of Mizoram have always come forward to contribute. He remarked that the ideals of figures such as Lalnu ropuliiani and Pasalha Khuangchera continue to inspire the nation. Shri Modi emphasized that sacrifice and service, courage and compassion, are values deeply embedded in Mizo society. "Today, Mizoram is playing an important role in India's development journey", stated the Prime Minister.

Describing the day as historic for the nation, particularly for the people of Mizoram, Shri Modi said, "from today, Aizawl will be on India's railway map". Recalling the past, the Prime Minister noted that he had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for the Aizawl railway line a few years ago. He proudly dedicated the railway line to the people of the nation. Shri Modi underlined that despite many challenges, including difficult terrain, the Bairabi-Sairang rail line has now become a reality. He commended the skills of engineers and the spirit of workers, stating that their efforts made this achievement possible.

Affirming that the hearts of the people and the nation have always been directly connected, the Prime Minister announced that for the first time, Sairang in Mizoram will be directly connected with Delhi by the Rajdhani Express. He emphasized that this is not merely a railway connection, but a life-line of transformation and it will revolutionize the lives and livelihoods of the people of Mizoram. Shri Modi highlighted that farmers and businesses in Mizoram will now be able to reach more markets across the nation. He noted that people will gain access to more options for education and healthcare. The Prime Minister added that this development will also generate employment opportunities in tourism, transport, and hospitality sectors. The Prime Minister stated that for a long time, some political parties in the country practiced vote-bank politics. He remarked that their focus remained on places with more votes and seats. As a result, the entire North East, including states like Mizoram, suffered greatly due to this attitude. Shri Modi emphasized that the current approach is very different and those who were earlier neglected are now at the forefront. He added that those who were once marginalised are now part of the mainstream. The Prime Minister noted that for the past 11 years, the government has been working consistently for the development of the North East. He affirmed that this region is becoming the growth engine of India. Underscoring that over the years, many states of the North East have been placed on the rail map of India for the first time, the Prime Minister highlighted that the Government of India has worked diligently to strengthen all forms of connectivity—rural roads and highways, mobile and internet connections, electricity, tap water, and LPG connections. He also announced that Mizoram will also benefit from the UDAN scheme for air travel and informed that heli-



copter services will commence soon in the region. This, he remarked, will significantly improve access to remote areas of Mizoram. "Mizoram has a major role in both the Act East Policy and the emerging North East Economic Corridor", exclaimed the Prime Minister. He stated that with the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project and the Sairang-Hmawngbuchuah rail line, Mizoram will be connected to the Bay of Bengal through South East Asia. He further emphasized that this connectivity will boost trade and tourism across North East India and South East Asia. Underlining that Mizoram is blessed with talented youth, Shri Modi emphasized that the government's mission is to empower them. He informed that 11 Eklavya Residential Schools have already been established in Mizoram and work is underway to start 6 more schools. The Prime Minister highlighted that the North East is emerging as a major hub for start-ups. He expressed happiness that around 4,500 start-ups and 25 incubators are currently operating in the region. He remarked

that young people of Mizoram are actively participating in this movement and creating new opportunities for themselves and others. Emphasising that India is rapidly emerging as an important hub for global sports, the Prime Minister remarked that this growth is also giving rise to a sports economy in the country. He highlighted Mizoram's rich tradition in sports, noting its contribution in producing many champions in football and other disciplines. He affirmed that the government's sports policies are benefiting Mizoram as well. Under the Khelo India scheme, Shri Modi stated that support is being provided for the creation of modern sports infrastructure. He informed that the government has recently introduced a National Sports Policy—Khelo India Khel Niti. He stressed that this initiative will open new doors of opportunity for the youth of Mizoram.

The Prime Minister expressed great happiness in playing the role of an ambassador of the beautiful culture of the North East, both within the country and abroad. He emphasized

the importance of encouraging platforms that showcase the potential of the North East. Recalling his participation in the Ashta Lakshmi Festival held in Delhi a few months ago, Shri Modi noted that the festival showcased the textiles, crafts, GI-tagged products, and tourism potential of the North East. At the Rising North East Summit, the Prime Minister said he encouraged investors to tap into the region's vast potential and stated that the Summit is paving the way for massive investments and projects. Shri Modi further remarked that the Vocal for Local initiative greatly benefits the artisans and farmers of the North East, highlighting that Mizoram's bamboo products, organic ginger, turmeric, and bananas are well-known. Underlining that the government is consistently taking steps to boost Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, the Prime Minister said, "the next-generation GST reforms have recently been introduced and it means lower taxes on many products, making life easier for families". He recalled that before 2014, even daily essentials such as toothpaste, soap, and oil were taxed at 27%. Today, he noted, only 5% GST is applicable on these items. Shri Modi remarked that during the opposition rule, medicines, test kits, and insurance policies were heavily taxed. He stated that this made healthcare expensive and insurance inaccessible for ordinary families. He emphasized that today, all these services and products have become affordable. The Prime Minister added that the new GST rates will also make medicines for serious diseases like cancer more inexpensive. He informed that after September 22nd, cement and construction materials will also become cheaper. Shri Modi noted that many companies manufacturing scooters and cars have already reduced prices. He expressed confidence that the upcoming festive season will be even more vibrant across the nation.

21st Memorial Meeting of Moinuddin Saheb

Nurul Islam Khan : The 21st memorial meeting of the village builder, the late Master Mashai Moinuddin Saheb, was organized on Thursday by the social service organization Taj Mahal Gram Bikash Kendra and Nari O Shishu Kalyan Kendra of Howrah district. The speakers highlighted various aspects of his career. The two organizations built by Master Mashai, Taj Mahal Gram Bikash Kendra and Nari O Shishu Kalyan Kendra, have spread to different parts of the state through the hands of his worthy successor, his daughter Rahima Khatun, who is highly educated. Along with the organization of health camps on this day,



saplings were distributed. A total of 25 meritorious students were felicitated and two readers were specially awarded for reading the most books by coming to the library. Prominent lawyer Ansar Mondal, prominent journalist Firoz Hossain, Dr.

Nayeb Siddiqui, Secretary of the Women and Children Welfare Center Rahima Khatun, President Saleha Jahan, Isha Mallick were present at the event. The entire event was conducted by Tapas Kumar Roy and Mahima Khatun.

Israeli strikes kill 65 in Gaza, including 14 from one family: Report

MI News Service, Gaza: Heavy Israeli air and artillery strikes on Friday killed at least 65 Palestinians across Gaza, including 14 members of the same family, according to Al Jazeera. Al Jazeera reported that according to medical sources, 48 of the deaths were recorded in Gaza City and northern parts of the territory. Among those killed on Friday were 14 members of the same family. They died when an Israeli strike hit their home in the at-Twam neighbourhood of Gaza City. Palestinian group Hamas condemned the raids, accusing Israel of committing "terror and organised war crimes" by destroying residential buildings and targeting civilians.

India to host 5th Coast Guard Global Summit in 2027

MI News Service, Delhi: In a major achievement, India has won the bid to host the 5th Coast Guard Global Summit (CGGS) in 2027, a decision taken unanimously by the CGGS participants. This recognition marks the growing stature of India in the global maritime domain and reaffirms the country's leadership role in advancing international maritime cooperation, an official statement highlighted.

As per the statement, the announcement was made during the 4th Coast Guard Global Summit held in Rome, Italy, from September 11-12. The Indian delegation was led by Director General Paramesh Sivamani. The Summit, attended by delegates from 115 countries and international organisations, underscored its importance as a premier global forum for Coast Guard cooperation. During the ceremony marking the handover of the CGGS Presidency, the

Director General of the Indian Coast Guard highlighted the Summit's role as a beacon of global Coast Guard cooperation in addressing shared maritime challenges. He expressed appreciation to the Italian Coast Guard for their warm hospitality and to the Japan Coast Guard for its role as Secretariat of the CGGS.

Outlining India's vision, Director General ICG announced that India will host the 5th CGGS in Chennai in 2027, coinciding with the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Indian Coast Guard. This will be a three-day event featuring an International Coast Guard Fleet Review and a World Coast Guard Seminar, designed to showcase maritime unity and provide a platform for dialogue on emerging challenges and opportunities in the maritime domain. He emphasised that no single nation can address the full spectrum of maritime chal-

lenges alone, and that the 5th CGGS in Chennai will serve as an inclusive forum to foster interoperability, trust, and stronger global cooperation, the statement highlighted.

During the Summit, Director General ICG also held a meeting with the Commandant, Italian Coast Guard (ITCG).

The official statement said that in alignment with the Defence Cooperation Clause of the India-Italy Joint Strategic Action Plan 2025-2029, discussions with ITCG reaffirmed the shared commitment of both sides to strengthening cooperation in Maritime Search and Rescue (M-SAR), Marine Pollution Response and Environmental Protection, prevention of transnational maritime crimes, information exchange, and maritime domain awareness, as well as capacity building, training, and technical assistance.

Calls for peaceful resistance grow as tensions escalate in PoJK

MI News Service, London: Shabir Choudhry, a political activist and writer from Pakistan-occupied Jammu Kashmir (PoJK), in a recent address, raised serious concerns over the escalating tensions in PoJK, warning against violent uprisings and calling for a peaceful and strategic approach to resistance. Speaking from London, Choudhry criticised inflammatory rhetoric and urged activists to avoid crossing "red lines" that could provoke severe retaliation from Pakistani authorities.

Shabir Choudhry, in his recent video released on YouTube, referring to the recent speech by Sardar Aman involving the JKLF and Poonch protests, condemned the use of harsh language and called on the Action Committee and other stakeholders to act responsibly. He stated that even during conflict, Islamic teachings prohibit violence against civilians and non-combatants, emphasising the need to preserve human rights and avoid unnecessary bloodshed.

Choudhry cautioned that while Pakistan is often criticised for human rights violations in PoJK, the Chinese occupation is rarely questioned. He focused his warning on the Pakistani establishment, intelligence agencies, and military, suggesting they may be waiting for a pretext to crush any unrest with force. He pointed to Pakistan's long history of suppressing dissent through militarised means, stating that they are well-trained in warfare but unprepared to face peaceful res-

sistance.

Citing past armed movements and their devastating toll on human life, Choudhry urged activists not to repeat such mistakes in PoJK. He revealed that two individuals, Kamran Qadir and Umar Saleem, were recently arrested. He stated that the period between September 15 and October 15 could be perilous, with potential for significant unrest across South Asia.

He dismissed rumours of violent protests, such as storming or

burning the legislative assembly, saying such actions would only harm the cause. Choudhry stated that PoJK is not a part of Pakistan's federal structure and that its people must safeguard their own interests by staying united and peaceful.

Shabir Choudhry warned against foreign-based influencers who may be instigating chaos for personal or political gain. "Do not act on emotion," he urged, "and don't give the establishment a reason to strike."

UAE sends 2500 tonnes of aid to support quake-affected people in Afghanistan

MI News Service, UAE: The UAE aid ship set sail heading to Gwadar Port in Pakistan, in preparation for transporting its cargo by land to Afghanistan to assist the Afghan people following the earthquake that struck the country recently. The ship carries 2,500 tonnes of food, shelter, and medical supplies, in implementation of the directives of President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. This comes as part of the UAE's relief bridge to support the friendly Afghan people following the earthquake that struck the eastern regions of the country.

The Joint Operations Command confirmed that the ship was prepared in cooperation with the UAE AI Agency with the participation of several charitable and humanitarian organisations and institutions in

the UAE, reflecting the spirit of national solidarity and the integration of efforts among various entities to provide urgent relief support to Afghanistan. The Emirati aid ship comes within the framework of the UAE's keenness to strengthen the urgent humanitarian response for the friendly Afghan people, helping them overcome the repercussions of these exceptional circumstances and working to meet their basic needs. This humanitarian support reflects the noble values adopted by the UAE, aimed at enhancing peace and stability in the region, providing aid and assistance to those affected by humanitarian crises, and affirming its commitment to supporting relief efforts around the world.

'Links between India-Georgia never been so close, tight before': Georgia Amb to India

MI News Service, Delhi: Ambassador of Georgia to India, Vakhtang Jaoshvili, has highlighted the growing ties between India and Georgia, noting that the relations between the two countries have reached unprecedented levels in recent years, with increasing people-to-people exchanges, tourism, and connectivity. Speaking to ANI on Saturday, Jaoshvili acknowledged the surge in Indian tourists and students visiting Georgia, noting that it reflects the deepening partnership between the two nations. "It was a pleasure and honour to travel to promote Georgia and India. You know that we have more and more Indians choosing Georgia as their travel or tourist destination and study destination, and the links between the two countries have never been so close and so tight before," he stated. "Last year we had about 124,000 Indian tourists visiting Georgia, and in the last six months we have had about a 40 per cent increase, which makes us very happy, and we are seeing more and more Indians coming to Georgia because we believe we have a lot to offer to Indian society, Indian people," the envoy said.



Hong Kong Open: Satwiksairaj-Chirag march to first finals of 2025

HONG KONG, : India's popular men's doubles duo of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the finals of the ongoing Hong Kong Open badminton tournament on Saturday. Satwik and Chirag managed their first-ever appearance in the final for this year, defeating Chinese Taipei duo of 21-17, 21-15 in just 38 minutes.

India's two-time world championship medalists duo will now face sixth seeds Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang of China in the finale, as per a Badminton Association of India (BAI) press note.

On Friday, Satwik and Chirag

earned their spot in the final four with a win over Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap in an exciting three-game contest. The Indians took the opening game 21-14 against Malaysia's Junaidi Arif and Roy King Yap, before narrowly conceding the second 20-22. They bounced back in the decider, sealing it 21-16 to book their semifinal berth.

Satwik and Chirag had to settle for a bronze medal in the World Championships following a heart-breaking loss to China's Chen Bo Yang and Liu Yi in the semifinals by 19-21, 21-18, 12-21 back in August. The first two games remained a closely knitted affair,

but the Chinese pair ran rampant, dominating the Indian duo in the decider. This marked the pair's second World Championships medal, after a bronze medal back in 2022 at Tokyo.

Earlier, the Indian Paris Olympics semifinalist, Lakshya Sen, also made it to the quarterfinals on Thursday.

India's top-ranked singles player and world No. 20 Lakshya Sen beat HS Prannoy, 34th in the men's singles badminton rankings, 15-21, 21-18, 21-10 in an hour and eight minutes, as reported by Olympics.com. Competing at the Hong Kong Coliseum, Lakshya Sen made a sluggish start, allow-

ing HS Prannoy to dictate terms and pocket the opening game.

Lakshya, the Paris 2024 semi-finalist, began the second game slowly too, trailing 11-9 at the break before clawing back to 13-all. Though Prannoy edged ahead at 18-17 again, Lakshya earned four straight points to snatch the game and force a decider.

The decider followed a familiar script with Lakshya Sen starting cautiously before finding his rhythm to lead 11-8 at the interval. He then conceded only two more points en route to wrapping up the match with ease and earning his sixth win in nine meetings against Prannoy. (ANI)



"Have to win this match at any cost...score 250 runs....": Kuldeep Yadav's childhood coach on Asia Cup IND-PAK clash

KANPUR : Ahead of India's clash against Pakistan, the childhood coach of spinner Kuldeep Yadav, Kapil Pandey, urged the team to maintain pressure on the arch-rivals, not lose their temper in the light of the current strained political relations between both nations and score at least 250 if batting first.

The clash between India and Pakistan during the ongoing Asia Cup, the first nation between these two meetings since the Pahalgam terror attacks and in April and consequent launch of Operation Sindoor by Indian Armed Forces, will take place in Dubai on Sunday. The match is still taking place despite plenty of opposition from fans and politicians alike. Just like nearly India-Pakistan match, tempers could flare up during the course of the match, with both teams aiming to maintain the upper hand over each other.

Speaking to ANI, Kapil said, "There is a lot of hype for this match and a lot of opposition as well. Despite this, the match is being played. To play that match at this time, there is a lot of pressure within the players. Because we have to win this match at any cost. And to play something to win 100 per cent, there is a lot of pressure on us."

"The government and our people have given a befitting reply to the deeds done by Pakistan, and we stayed united. The team should also stay united and play and wreck havoc on Pakistan team, show them the ground. The batters should not lose their temper, keep that pressure up and handle it just like any other normal match. The Pakistan team is not a "hausa" (something extraordinary)," he added.

The coach also said that Team India's batting and bowling is at "top level".

"Our openers are Abhishek Sharma and Shubman Gill. We also have Sanju Samson, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Tilak Varma and a strong middle order, who can change the game. In the bowling, we have Pandya, Jasprit Bumrah, Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy, and we look compact as a unit," he added.

Kapil admitted that the while legends Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, the "Bhismas Pitamahs" of Indian cricket are no longer playing T20Is, the current skipper Suryakumar Yadav is leading team well.

Over 100 Paris Paralympics medallists to battle for glory at New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships

NEW DELHI: The New Delhi 2025 World Para Athletics Championships, scheduled from September 27 to October 5 at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, is set to be a historic sporting spectacle. More than 2,200 athletes and support staff from 104 countries will compete across 186 medal events, making it India's biggest-ever para sporting event.

The Championships, sponsored by IndianOil, promise thrilling drama, fierce rivalries, and unforgettable performances as over 100 medallists altogether who won 308 medals in the Paris Paralympics--including 112 gold, 96 silver, and 100 bronze medallists--return to test their mettle on the grandest para athletics stage, as per a press release from the Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).

This edition marks the first time India hosts this prestigious event and includes an expanded competition programme with 186 medal events--15 more than the last edition in Kobe, featuring 101 events for men, 84 for women, and one mixed event.

Leading the charge is Germany's Markus Rehm, the four-time Paralympic champion and seven-time world champion in the men's long jump T64. Known as the Blade Jumper, Rehm holds a world record that surpasses every Olympic gold medal jump this century.

India's pride, Sumit Antil, two-time Paralympic gold medalist and defending WPAC champion in Men's Javelin F64, is set to dazzle the home crowd once again.

Catherine Debrunner of Switzerland, who made headlines with five golds and a silver across six events at Paris, will compete in five races in New Delhi, aiming to replicate her monumental success, the release said.

Paralympian Praveen Kumar, Men's High Jumper



Leading the charge is Germany's Markus Rehm, the four-time Paralympic champion and seven-time world champion in the men's long jump T64. Known as the Blade Jumper, Rehm holds a world record that surpasses every Olympic gold medal jump this century.

T64, is eager to complete his medal collection with a World Para Athletics Championships gold on home soil.

Other stars include Brazil's Petrucio Ferreira, the fastest Paralympian on the planet, who will be chasing his fifth consecutive world title in the men's 100m T47, and India's flag bearer Preeti Pal, who clinched two bronze medals at Paris 2024 and competed strongly in Kobe.

Australia's Vanessa Low, gold medalist in Long Jump T63 at Paris, will be back on the familiar grounds of JLN stadium, continuing to lead an



Pakistan cannot compete with India: Former cricketer Yograj Singh's jaw-dropping take on Asia Cup clash

CHANDIGARH : Former cricketer Yograj Singh doesn't see any real contest between India and Pakistan ahead of their upcoming fixture at the Asia Cup in Dubai on Sunday. According to him, Pakistan doesn't possess the necessary firepower to compete against India, even though the Men in Green recently engineered a win in the final of the T20I Tri-Series against Afghanistan.

India will march into the Dubai International Stadium as the clear favourite to take down Pakistan, who continue to rue the performances of their misfiring batters. According to Yograj, the chasm that exists between the two sides stems from the introduction of the Indian Premier League, which has elevated the status of Indian cricketers. He even used a metaphor to highlight the void between the two sides.

"As far as Pakistan is concerned, what will it do? It cannot compete with India. Since the IPL came to India, Indian players have become very big. Why? To get money. There is money here. It is a good thing. There should be money. Why not? Players should get money. Where there is money, there is prosperity," Yograj said while speaking to ANI.

ISSF World Cup Ningbo: Esha Singh starts India's medal tally with 10 m air pistol gold

NINGBO: Indian shooter Esha Singh secured a gold medal in women's 10 m air pistol event at the ongoing ISSF World Cup 2025 in Ningbo, China on Saturday.

Esha's podium finish helped India earn their first medal at Ningbo meet, the fourth and final ISSF WC tournament of the year for pistol and rifle shooters, as per Olympics.com.

None of the other Indian shooters could make it to the finals in any events or categories during the first four days before Esha and Rhythm Sangwan made it to the medal match for the women's pistol final on Saturday.



Rhythm (578 - 22x) and Esha (578 - 16x) were the final two players to make it to the medal match, finishing ninth and tenth during the qualifiers. Also, another Indian, Palak, topped the qualification round, but was playing for Ranking Points Only (RPO).

Rhythm secured the fifth spot in the medal match, but Esha managed a brilliant comeback from qualifiers to take home the gold with 242.6 points, edging out China's Yao Qianxun by 0.1 points. Things boiled down to the final shot, with Esha managing 10.5, while Yao got 10.4 points. Olympic record holder Oh Yejin of South Korea completed the podium with a bronze medal.

It is Esha's first-ever individual gold medal in any ISSF World Cup event, having got the silver for the same category way back in 2022 at Cairo and had to settle for silver in 25 m pistol variant in Argentina earlier this year.

The win also saw India sweep all four World Cup gold medals in women's events this year. Suruchi Singh had claimed the gold in Buenos Aires, Lima and Munich.

Coming to the men's 25 m pistol event, none of the Indian shooters made it to the medal match, with Bhavesh Shekhawat and Pradeep Singh Shekhawat finishing 22nd and 23rd, respectively in the qualifiers.

India's Paris Olympics 2024 bronze medalist Swapnil Kusale will be in action in the men's 50 m rifle 3 positions event on Sunday, which marks the final day of the competition. Meanwhile, the double Olympic medalist at Paris, Manu Bhaker, is not competing at the event.

Yash Rathod's 194 puts Central Zone in driver's seat in Duleep Trophy final (Day 3, Stumps)

BENGALURU : Yash Rathod missed out on what could have been an incredible double ton, but nonetheless put Central Zone in a commanding position at the end of day three of Duleep Trophy final against South Zone at Bengaluru on Saturday.

At the end of the day, South Zone was 129/2, with Ravichandran Smaran (37*) and Ricky Bhui (26*) unbeaten and the team trailing by 233 runs.

Central Zone started the day at 384/5, with Yash unbeaten at 137, with Saransh Jain (47*) by his side. The duo continued their partnership, with Saransh reaching his 50 in 128 balls, with seven fours and the team beyond the 400 run mark as well in 111.5 overs.

Ankit Sharma (4/180) finally cleaned up Saransh (69 in 193 balls, with seven fours), at the score of 442 runs, ending a 176 run partnership for the sixth wicket.

However, Deepak Chahar paired up with Yash to take Central Zone to 500-run mark in 140.1 overs, but spinner Gurjanpreet Singh denied Yash his double ton, casting him for a 286-ball 194, consisting of 17 fours and two sixes at the score of 500.

Chahar contributed a valuable 37 in 49 balls, with three fours and two sixes, but CZ was skittled out for 511 runs in 145.1 overs.

Gurjanpreet (4/124) was the top bowler for South Zone.

South Zone, who were bundled out for 149 runs in their first innings, were now trailing by 362 runs, with Kumar Kartikeya (4/53) and Saransh (5/49) unleashing destruction in the first innings after Central Zone put them to field first.

In the second innings, Tanmay Agarwal (26 in 42 balls, with two fours) and Mohit Kale (38 in 61 balls, with seven fours) started well for South Zone with a 62-run opening stand, before Kuldip Sen and Saransh picked up one each to leave them at 76/2.

It was Bhui and Smaran who made sure that South made it through the remainder of the day unscathed.

Brief Scores: Central Zone: 511 (Yash Rathod 194, Rajat Patidar 101, Gurjanpreet Singh 4/124), lead South Zone: 149 and 129/2 (Mohit Kale 38, R Smaran 37, Saransh Jain 1/32) by 233 runs.

"Team India a significant challenge...": Aussie legend Lanning names contenders for 2025 Women's WC

MUMBAI : Aussie legend and former skipper Meg Lanning pointed out that Team India is a "significant challenge to everybody" during the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup at home.

Defending champions Australia will begin their 2025 World Cup campaign against neighbours New Zealand on October 1 in Indore, while the hosts will take on Sri Lanka in the opening match on September 30 in Guwahati.

Lanning has revealed the teams she believes that have the most chance of winning the upcoming ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025.

Australia, who will start as the defending champions, know more than a thing or two about winning trophies, having won seven women's ODI World Cups and are gunning for their eighth title.

While Lanning admitted she would love to see Australia lift the trophy again, the former skipper also pointed out that hosts India could prove to be one of the strongest contenders in the upcoming edition.

"I know Australia has dominated a lot of it, but it's certainly not a foregone conclusion," Lanning said, speaking to ICC Digital as quoted by ICC. "I would still love Australia to win obviously, but I think India are the main competitors. I think India are a significant challenge to everybody." "Talent-wise, they are as good as anyone, and I think they are really starting to understand how to win, which probably has been something for them to work on, and I think they are doing that really nicely," she concluded her point. Lanning had led Australia in the 2017 World Cup semi-final, where they fell short against a spirited India, who themselves went on to narrowly miss their maiden title in the final against England at Lord's. With five World Cup triumphs as captain - four at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup and the 2022 ODI crown - few understand better than Lanning what it takes to lead from the front and navigate the high-pressure moments in big tournaments. "They (India) are well led by Harmanpreet Kaur, and there are really good players who have got some good experience now. So I expect them to do well," Lanning added. "And if they put it together and play well, I do not think anyone can actually get close to them. They are very good," he added. Since the last Women's World Cup in 2022, India has participated in 35 ODIs, winning 24, losing 10 and one tied. They have participated in 11 bilateral series, winning eight of them.