

Bridges collapse, hills submerged: CM expresses alarm over North Bengal flood
 CM Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed grave concern over the widespread flooding that has severely impacted several parts of North and South Bengal following unprecedented rainfall and massive river inflows from neighbouring regions. In a detailed statement shared on her official X handle, Mamata Banerjee said she was “deeply worried and concerned” about the situation, which has resulted in the tragic loss of lives, large-scale damage to infrastructure, and widespread inundation, especially in the northern districts. “We are shocked and saddened to know that we have lost some of our brothers and sisters due to the massive rainfall and river-induced floods. PG 3



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Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with eminent personalities and distinguished guests at the Durga Pujo Carnival held at Red Road in Kolkata on Sunday. Pic: PRABIR BHATTACHARYA

DARJEELING LANDSLIDES Casualties cross 20



MI News Service, Darjeeling: At least 10 people died and several others went missing as incessant heavy rainfall triggered multiple landslides across the Darjeeling hills on Saturday, sweeping away homes, damaging roads, and cutting off several remote hamlets, officials said. Furthermore, due to the excessive rainfall, an iron bridge also collapsed.

The Dhudia bridge, which is an iron bridge over the Balason River at Dudhia, connecting Siliguri and Mirik, was damaged and collapsed due to the heavy rainfall in the region. Rescue and relief operations are underway by the local administration, police, and disaster response teams, Darjeeling Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Richard Lepcha told. The

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has joined the rescue operations in Mirik Lake area, one of the worst-hit zones, officials said. Chief Minister announced compensation for the victims without specifying the amount and said she would visit north Bengal on October 6 to assess the situation in the region where a large number of tourists have also been affected. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said he is “deeply pained” by the loss of lives in Darjeeling. “We are committed to providing all possible assistance to those affected,” he said on X. In a post on X, PM Modi said: “The situation in Darjeeling and surrounding areas is being closely monitored in the wake of heavy rains and landslides.” Banerjee described the situation as “grave”. “Due to incessant rain in Bhutan, the water has overflowed into North Bengal. This disaster is unfortunate - natural calamities are beyond our control.

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Mamata Banerjee plays 'Dhak' at Durga Pujo Carnival held at Red Road in Kolkata. Pic: PRABIR BHATTACHARYA

J&K Police attaches property of TRF founder SAJAD GUL under UAPA

MI News Service, Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir police on Saturday attached a property worth ₹2 crore belonging to designated terrorist Sajad Ahmad Sheikh alias Sajad Gul, the founding chief of The Resistance Front (TRF), who is reportedly hiding in Pakistan. The development comes days after the police attached the housecum-office of Hurriyat hawk Syed Ali Shah Geelani, marking a renewed crackdown on high-profile separatists or militants by government agencies. The TRF is believed to be responsible for orchestrating several attacks after the 2019 scrapping of the special status, including the Pahalgam massacre on April 22. The police said the ownership of the property, built on 15 mar-

las of land, is in the name of Gul's father, Ghulam Mohammad Sheikh, according to the revenue records. However investigation revealed that Gul is an active stakeholder, the police added. The house, located at Rose Avenue, HMT, has been attached under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The police said the attachment was carried out in connection with FIR No. 235/2022 registered at the Parimpora police station under Sections 13, 38 and 20 of the UAPA, and Sections 2/3 of the Enemy Agents Ordinance Act. The proceedings were initiated under Section 25 of the UAPA, which empowers authorities to attach properties used or intended to be used for terrorist

activities. The attachment was done in the presence of the executive magistrate. According to the police, Gul has been involved in militant activities, spreading anti-national propaganda and inciting disaffection against the government through online and social media platforms. “This attachment forms part of the ongoing strategy of Srinagar Police to disrupt the financial, logistical, and operational networks of terrorism, including their cross-border sponsors and sympathisers. The action sends a clear message that individuals or entities aiding terrorism will face strict legal consequences, including the forfeiture of illegally acquired assets,” a police statement said.

NIA names ABHIJOT SINGH in Chandigarh grenade attack

MI News Service, New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency has chargesheeted a key accused in the Chandigarh Sector 10 grenade attack case, masterminded by foreign-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorists, the agency said. Abhijot Singh alias Babba alias

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NEPAL FLOOD: Death toll rises to 51 as Modi offers support

MI News Service, Kathmandu: At least 51 people have been killed across eastern Nepal till Sunday morning in various incidents triggered by landslides and floods following heavy downpours since last night, an official of the Armed Police Force (APF) said. As many as 37 of the deaths occurred in Ilam district, Koshi province, where landslides triggered by continuous heavy rainfall have wreaked havoc over the past two days, said Kalidas Dhaubaji, APF spokesperson. Of the 37, eight people each were killed in Deumai and Majjogmai municipalities, six each in Ilam municipality and Sandakpur rural municipality, five in Suryodaya, three in Mangsebung, and one in Fakfokthum village, according to a press release by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and

Management Authority (NDRMA). Elsewhere, two people died in Udayapur and one in Panchthar due to floods and landslides. Separately, three people were killed in a lightning strike in Rautahat and two in Khotang district. Meanwhile, six people died in Panchthar district in an accident caused by roads damaged by the heavy rainfall. Four people went missing after being swept away by the swollen river in Langtang Conservation Area of Rasuwa district, and one each went missing in incidents of floods in Ilam, Bara, and Kathmandu. Additionally, four of the 16 people on a trekking expedition in the Langtang area remain unaccounted for, Dhaubaji said. Nepal Army, Nepal Police, and APF

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Durga Puja carnival held in Krishnanagar under district administration’s initiative

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar : The Nadia district administration, in collaboration with the West Bengal government and the Department of Information and Cultural Affairs, organised a Durga Puja carnival in Krishnanagar on Saturday evening to mark the conclusion of the festive season.

The procession began from the Krishnanagar Government College ground and proceeded through the Post Office More, culminating near the banks of the Jalangi River. A total of 21 puja committees and community clubs from across the city participated in the event, carrying their idols and tableaux in a colourful display of art and devotion, said Nadia DICO Subhamoy Mitra.

The carnival drew large crowds as residents lined the streets to witness the decorated idols, music, and cultural performances. The event aimed to celebrate the spirit of unity and cultural harmony that defines the Durga Puja festivities in Bengal.

Minister-in-Charge Ujjal Biswas, District Magistrate S. Arun Prasad, Krishnanagar Police District Superintendent Amarnath K., Ranaghat Police District Superintendent Aashis Maurya, and Zilla Parishad Chairperson Tarannum Sultana Mir were present, along with local legislators and senior government officials.

The administration ensured elaborate security and crowd management measures throughout the event. The carnival concluded peacefully, reflecting the collective enthusiasm and cultural vibrancy of Krishnanagar.



Processions of the Durga Pujo Organizers at Red Road during Durga Puja Carnival in Kolkata on Sunday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya.

Amid TMC protest, Nisith Pramanik reaches B JP worker’s home in Cooch Behar

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: BJP leader Nisith Pramanik faced protests from Trinamool Congress supporters near Dinhat in Cooch Behar district on Saturday afternoon while he was on his way to meet BJP workers whose houses had been vandalised by alleged Trinamool activists.

At Bhetaguri Chowpathi, a prominent crossing in Bhetaguri, Trinamool workers waved black flags and surrounded Pramanik’s convoy. The absence of police personnel at the scene has raised questions about his security arrangements.

Pramanik, however, was undeterred by the protest and reached the house of Sumita Barman, a BJP worker who was allegedly attacked. On Friday afternoon, she said, Trinamool workers had vandalised her home.

The former MP spoke to her, handed over a cheque for ₹2 lakh to her as financial assistance, and also checked the damage.

He also contacted Suwendu Adhikari, the leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, from there. Sumita spoke to Adhikari over the phone, and the latter assured full support from the BJP and promised to arrange a sewing machine for her.

“West Bengal is moving forward on the path of ‘SIR’ (special intensive revision of the electoral roll). No matter how hard the Trinamool tries to stop us, we will put in all efforts to ensure that the SIR is conducted in Bengal. We will also request the deployment of paramilitary forces in Bengal,” Pramanik said, while talking to newsmen.

Sources said that the political conflict began on Thursday night. Some BJP workers, who were in a Durga Puja pandal at the vegetable market in Bhetaguri, found two Trinamool workers, Tapan Barman and Naresh Barman, and assaulted them.

Both got injured and were hospitalised. On Friday afternoon, Trinamool workers allegedly attacked in retaliation and vandalised the house of four BJP workers, including Sumita Barman.

“Trinamool goons openly attacked four BJP homes in broad daylight on Friday, including that of an elected panchayat member. The role of the police is also under question,” said Biraj Bose, a district vice-president of Cooch Behar.

Sunil Ray Sarkar, a local Trinamool leader, however, denied the charge.

“It was our workers who were assaulted by BJP supporters on Thursday night. They ended up with head injuries, and we have filed a complaint with the police. I have no information that any house has been ransacked,” said Sarkar.

Police officers, when contacted, said the investigation is in progress. No arrests have been made so far, said sources.

Mamata to rush North Bengal after disaster strike in Darjeeling hills and major parts of northern districts



MI News Service, Kolkata / Darjeeling: West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday said she would rush to north Bengal on Monday after disaster struck in Darjeeling hills and in the plains of north districts following massive landslides and mudslides triggered by rains. “I am deeply worried and concerned that several areas in both North Bengal and South Bengal have been flooded due to sudden huge rains within a few hours last night as well as due to the rush of excessive river waters in our state from outside,” she said.

Yesterday night there was sudden rainfall exceeding 300 mm in 12 hours in North Bengal, and there was simultaneously excessive flow of water into Sankosh river and generally flow of river waters from Bhutan and Sikkim. “

This caused disasters,” she pointed out. “We have been shocked and saddened to know that we have lost some brothers and sisters in the situation evolved by huge rainfall and river floods. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and shall send all assistance to the families immediately,” she continued.

She said two iron bridges have collapsed, several roads have been damaged and flooded, and huge tracts of land in the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar have been inundated. There have been reports of worrying damages and losses particularly in Mirik, Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, Matigara and Alipurduar.

“I have been monitoring the situation from last night on a round-the clock basis. I have held virtual meetings

with the Chief Secretary, DG of Police, the North Bengal DMs and SPs, and the meeting has been attended also by public representatives like Gautam Deb and Anit Thapa. I am in constant touch and am personally going to North Bengal with my Chief Secretary tomorrow in this connection.

Meanwhile, the government advised the tourists in North Bengal to stay put where they are till the police evacuate them safely. “Rescue costs are ours and tourists need not be anxious,” she added.

Some places (like Mirik, due to natural position) have been affected severely, while many other places are also under our intensive monitoring. The chief minister was personally keeping information, giving instructions and surveying the situations continually. “Our officers and police will reach out all assistance to all affected persons everywhere,” she assured.

The state headquarters and the districts having 24x7 control rooms. The Nabanna Disaster Management Control Room at +91 33 2214 3526 and +91 33 2253 5185, while the Toll Free Numbers are +91 86979 81070 and 1070.

PM Modi condoles the loss of lives due to a bridge mishap in Darjeeling

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday condoled the loss of lives due to a bridge mishap in Darjeeling earlier in the day.

In a post on X, Modi said, “Deeply pained by the loss of lives due to a bridge mishap in Darjeeling. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon. He said the situation in Darjeeling and surrounding areas is being closely monitored in the wake of heavy rains and landslides. “We are committed to providing all possible assistance to those affected,” he said.

The iron bridge between Mirik and Dhudiyra has collapsed and Mirik to Siliguri communication was totally cut down. Due to continuous rain, Dooars of Jalpaiguri district were also badly affected. The water level high many river of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar districts was also in spate. Due to continuous rains, Teesta has again become very violent. According to police, landslides have occurred at several places along the highway from Chitre to Seti Jhoda, disrupting road traffic.



Siliguri hosts Durga Puja Carnival

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Trinamool Congress-led board of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) is all set to host a vibrant Durga Puja Carnival on Saturday. The event will feature participation by 11 prominent Durga Puja organising committees and clubs and cultural troupes representing the state information and cultural affairs department.

“On Saturday, we will begin the programme from Venus More (Hashmi Chowk) at 5pm, and the participants will proceed along the Hill Cart Road to the main venue at Mahatma Gandhi Chowk (Airview More), where they will perform,” mayor Gautam Deb told newsmen at the SMC on Friday. One of the key highlights of the event will be a special 15-minute-long “sandhya arati (evening prayer)” at the main venue. The carnival will also showcase a vibrant display of ethnic cultural groups in traditional attire, along with tribal artists who will perform with traditional musical instruments, thus adding rich cultural flavour to the celebrations.

In preparation for the event, Deb visited the venue and chaired a coordination meeting with representatives from cultural groups, the district administration, hoteliers’ associations, the state public works department and civic authorities. “We have made comprehensive arrangements for spectators,” he said. “These include seating arrangements and bio-toilets. Also, LED screens have been installed at all major junctions so that people can see the event live from different locations in the city.”

From Mahatma Gandhi Chowk, the idols will head for Lalmohan Moulik Ghat, which is nearby and is on the left bank of the Mahananda river, for immersion. For smooth conduct of the event, multiple agencies, including the Siliguri Metropolitan Police, civil defence, staff of the SMC and the PWD, and NCC cadets, will work in coordination throughout the programme, sources said.

Education camp for students in Malda part of year-long outreach to remote islets

MI News Service, Malda: The district secondary education department in Malda, in collaboration with teachers, has launched an ambitious year-long programme to support students, particularly those in remote and backward areas. The initiative has been planned to pay homage to social reformer and educationist Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, who dedicated his life to empowering the marginalised through education.

Banibrata Das, the district inspector of schools (secondary education) (DIS-SE), said a special programme would be organised each month over the coming year to support students from isolated islets such as Bhutni, Gada, and Hamidpur, where educational opportunities remain limited. “We intend to conduct dedicated education camps on these islets of the district to assist students. Our teachers will participate in these efforts,” he said. Alongside the academic camps, a focused drive will support Thurabari Ol Chiki High School, the sole Ol Chiki medium school in the district, where the first batch of students is preparing for the Madhyamik examinations next year. “Also, to foster scientific curiosity, we have resolved to organise a science congress in Malda,” added Das. The department has also planned to convene student-centric camps designed to help pupils manage academic and personal stress. “Students frequently face stress and, at times, depression. We will engage experts and psychologists alongside teachers to help students overcome these challenges,” said Jayanta Sarkar, an assistant inspector of schools (secondary education). Das emphasised they want to develop a culture of “happy learning”.

“We believe that when students experience joy in the learning process, attendance improves and dropout rates decline,” said the official, while adding that the event calendar was finalised on September 26, on the birth anniversary of Vidyasagar.

Car plunges into gorge, 4 dead and 3 injured near Kalimpong on NH10

MI News Service, Kalimpong: Four people died and three others were seriously injured when a car veered off NH10 and plunged into a 50-metre-deep gorge at Melli in Kalimpong late on Friday evening. A source in the district administration stated that the mishap occurred around 8pm near Melli-Kirney, under the jurisdiction of the Kalimpong police station. The vehicle, a Maruti Wagon R, was travelling to Gangtok from Dooars.

“Four passengers of the vehicle died in the accident, while three others suffered grievous injuries. The injured have been shifted to a hospital in Sikkim for necessary treatment,” said Bala-subramanian T, the district magistrate of Kalimpong. The deceased — the driver Kamal Subba, 44, his daughter Samira Subba, 20, Januka Darjee, 35, and Nita Gurung, 58 — were residents of Bojoghari in east Sikkim’s Third Mile.

The injured—Sunita Thapa, a minor boy and a girl from the same locality—are currently undergoing treatment. Preliminary investigations suggest that the glare from the headlights of an approaching vehicle impaired the driver’s visibility. Kalimpong and Sikkim police forces promptly arrived at the accident site, which is approximately 60km from Siliguri and around 20km from Kalimpong.

The Teesta Rangeet Rescue Centre & Welfare Association (TRRCWA) was also alerted, and they joined the rescue operations.

New mother ‘jumps’ to death from nursing home, family alleges medical neglect

MI News Service, Dinajpur: A 28-year-old woman who recently gave birth reportedly committed suicide by jumping from the second floor of a private nursing home in South Dinajpur’s Gangrampur on Friday morning. A source said locals heard a loud sound near the nursing home, which is located opposite the super-specialty hospital. They found the woman lying in a pool of blood. She was rushed to the hospital, where doctors pronounced her dead. Mamani Mahanta De was a resident of Ramakrishnapally, in ward 17 of Gangarampur. Last Sunday, she was admitted to the nursing home with labour pains, and on Monday, she gave birth to a boy. Both mother and child were initially reported to be stable. According to her family, Mamani fell ill on Thursday and was acting erratically, unable to recognise anyone. They repeatedly asked the nursing home authorities for consultation with a specialist, but their pleas were allegedly ignored.

“My wife gave birth to our first child on Monday. We were supposed to take them home today,” said Balaram De, the deceased’s husband. “We kept telling the nursing home staff that she was unwell, but they did not provide any treatment. We thought of taking her to a nerve specialist before going home, but we received this news. Why did the nursing home not treat her or at least refer her to another facility? And how could a patient leave the ward and jump without anyone noticing? We will file a police complaint,” Balaram added. The authorities, however, denied the charges. Krishnendu Tokdar, a representative of the private healthcare facility, said the family’s allegations are false and baseless.

2 jumbos damage tea garden school in Jalpaiguri, fifth attack in 3 years

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: The Tondou TG-III Primary School at the Bamandanga-Tondou tea estate in Nagrakata, Jalpaiguri, was severely damaged by two rampaging elephants late on Friday night.

Locals said that over the past three years, this is the fifth such incident of wild elephants damaging the school building in search of fodder. The most recent incident occurred on this year’s June 10. The elephants reportedly destroyed the school’s office, which had survived the previous rampages. The mid-day meal kitchen was also damaged.

Although the school is currently closed for the Durga Puja holidays, authorities are unsure whether academic and administrative activities will resume once it reopens.

Laxminarayan Sau, a teacher and a resident of the garden, said: “All the classrooms had already been damaged in previous elephant attacks. We had been conducting classes in those rooms despite risks. Now, even the office and kitchen have not been spared.”

“The school has no funds to carry out repairs. We desperately require administrative help and financial assistance to carry out repairs immediately. Also, a boundary wall is needed to protect the building. Otherwise, we doubt how long this damaged building will survive, and once it collapses, we have no idea where we will conduct the classes,” he

'Ma Balaichandi' puja begins after Dashami: Durga Puja in another form



MI News Service, Raiganj : While most parts of Bengal bid a farewell to Durga on Bijoya Dashami, the spirit of celebration remains very much alive in many villages across north Bengal as the goddess is being venerated in different forms and names after Dashami.

In Khadimpur, a village located in the Raiganj block of North Dinajpur district, the Durga Puja begins only after Dashami. While people in other areas immerse idols in rivers and ponds, the people of Khadimpur begin their own week-long worship of the goddess in her local form — “Ma Balaichandi”.

From children to the elderly, the entire village comes alive with devotional fervour, hosting a week-long celebration filled with worship, fairs and cultural performances. The origins of this puja are steeped in history. Situated in Kamalabari panchayat, the original shrine was set up under an ancient tree, with a tin-roofed structure surrounded by a brick wall on about 1.3 acres of land. Over the years, a permanent temple has replaced the old shrine.

According to tradition, the worship begins on the Dashami night, and this year too, the rituals started on Thursday night, with prayers and offerings going on throughout the day on Friday. A village fair is also hosted at the venue. On the day of the Puja, the goddess is adorned with gold and silver ornaments. Interestingly, the idol of “Balaichandi” is a deviation from the classical form of Durga. She is worshipped as “Ma Chandi,” with four arms instead of 10, and without “Mahishasura” (the demon) and the lion mount.

“People eagerly wait for this puja, not before Durga Puja begins, but after it ends,” said Nirmal Barman, a member of the puja committee. The entire village eats vegetarian meals on the Puja day, praying for family well-being, he said. The puja draws visitors from nearby Raiganj and Hemtabad, with hundreds visiting the temple and enjoying the fair.

In Alipurduar district, a similar vibrant celebration follows the Durga Puja — the “Bhandani Puja,” primarily observed by the Rajbanshi community in villages and tea gardens. Since Friday, the Bhandani Puja has been celebrated in Alipurduar 1 block, with fairs being held on grounds beside the temples. For the Rajbanshis, the goddess is worshipped in three names, “Bhandani,” “Bhandarani,” and “Bhandali.” In some places, she is also referred to as “Bondurga”. One of the prominent pujas is being held at Pradhanpara, adjacent to the Jaldapara National Park.

In 2025, the puja reached its 128th year in the village. “This puja began over a century ago as the villagers started venerating the goddess to keep themselves safe from wild animals,” said Shyamal Munda, secretary of the puja committee in Pradhanpara. A two-day fair accompanies the puja, and cultural events are being held at the venue.

In other places like Kalabari and Purba Bholardabri, the Bhandani Puja and celebrations are being held for three days, starting from Dashami. “It is an old custom to organise the Bhandani Puja. The puja begins after the Durga idols are immersed on Dashami and continues for four days,” said an Alipurduar resident. “These pujas give people an opportunity to continue their celebrations for some more days, and thousands congregate in these villages to witness the rituals and join the festivities,” he added.

Second leopard attack in Jalpaiguri village, 1 injured

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: Budhu Oraon, 55, was attacked by a leopard near his house in Kherkatabusty of Nagrakata block, Jalpaiguri, on Thursday evening. Budhu managed to fight off the animal but suffered minor injuries to his leg.

This caused panic among the residents since it followed the mauling of a minor boy from the village. On September 16, Asmit Roy was dragged out of the courtyard of his house by a leopard. Later, the child’s mutilated body was recovered. After the boy’s death, foresters put up seven cages in different locations, but the animal remained elusive.

Locals reported that Budhu, who lived close to Asmit’s family, was bringing his cattle back from behind his house when the animal pounced on him from a bush. He managed to avoid the attack and raised an alert, which caused the animal to flee. Locals rushed him to the rural hospital in Sulkapara. He was given primary treatment and released. “Our men are engaged in surveillance to trace the animal. We are trying to trap the animal,” said Ashesh Pal, range officer of the Diana forest range.

TMC MLA skips puja carnival over civic neglect, slams Raiganj municipality

MI News Service, Raiganj: Krishna Kalyani, the Trinamool Congress MLA of Raiganj, stayed away from the town’s Durga Puja carnival held on Saturday evening, citing poor civic conditions and administrative negligence. His decision, announced via a social media post earlier in the day, has brought to light internal tensions between him and the Trinamool-run Raiganj Municipality. In his post, Kalyani criticised the civic body and local administration for failing to maintain basic cleanliness and infrastructure during the festive period.



added. A local said the two elephants strayed into the garden from the nearby Gorumara National Park. The windows of the classrooms were ripped off, and furniture and equipment in the office were destroyed.

According to a source, there are 180 primary students at the school.

On Saturday morning, locals expressed their discontentment with the state forest department.

“We are perturbed by repeated elephant attacks at the tea estate, and yet, the forest department does not take any steps to prevent the animals from entering the garden. Also, the primary school education department should take initiatives to repair the school,” said a worker of the garden.



Celebration galore at Red Road as host of celebrities join Mamata Banerjee at Durga Pujo Carnival in Kolkata on Sunday.

Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

NEPAL FLOOD: Death toll rises to 51 as Modi offers support

From PG 1
personnel have been involved in rescue operations. Security forces rescued four people, including a pregnant woman, from Ilam district using helicopters and admitted them to a hospital in Dharan municipality. The monsoon is currently active in five of Nepal's seven provinces: Koshi, Madhes, Bagmati, Gandaki, and Lumbini. Offering help to the neighbouring country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a social media post, "The loss of lives and damage caused by heavy rains in Nepal is distressing. We stand with the people and Government of Nepal in this difficult time. As a friendly neighbour and first responder, India remains committed to providing any assistance that may be required." Meanwhile, the Nepal government has allowed some vehicles to travel to and from Kathmandu as weather conditions improved. On Sunday, Kathmandu Valley received less rainfall compared with the past two days, and road blockages caused by landslides have been cleared on some national highways. "As per the decision of the Monsoon Counter Command Post, vehicles operating for emergency services and vehicles transporting goods as well as passenger vehicles and short-distance vehicles halted in the middle of the national highways will be allowed to move towards their destinations keeping in view the conditions of the roads in coordination with the local authorities," read a statement from the NDRRMA. However, the statement added that vehicle movement will continue to be restricted at night on risky roads and highways until further notice. On Saturday, authorities had restricted entry and exit of vehicles from Kathmandu due to continuous rainfall and landslide risks, issuing a red alert for areas around the Bagmati and East Rapti rivers.

NIA names ABHIJOT SINGH in Chandigarh grenade attack

From PG 1
Gopi, a Punjab resident who was arrested in April for his involvement in the attack, has been chargesheeted. The conspiracy was orchestrated by Pakistan-based BKT terrorist Harwinder Singh alias Rinda, in collusion with US-based gangster Happy Passia, the NIA said. Both Rinda and Passia were charged heeded as absconders, along with two arrested accused, Rohan Masih and Vishal Masih, in March 2024. The NIA identified Abhijot as a co-conspirator in the case, leading to his arrest. Investigations have revealed that Abhijot had travelled to Armenia in December 2023, where he came in contact with Passia's terror node Shamsher Shera. Shera had recruited Abhijot into Passia's terror gang. Following his return to India, Abhijot conducted a recee of the target in July 2024 and, along with Rohan, attempted to kill the officer in August. Subsequently, Rohan and Vishal carried out the grenade attack in September 2024.

Bridges collapse, hills submerged: CM expresses alarm over North Bengal flood

MI News Service, Kolkata: CM Mamata Banerjee on Saturday expressed grave concern over the widespread flooding that has severely impacted several parts of North and South Bengal following unprecedented rainfall and massive river inflows from neighbouring regions. In a detailed statement shared on her official X handle, Mamata Banerjee said she was "deeply worried and concerned" about the situation, which has resulted in the tragic loss of lives, large-scale damage to infrastructure, and widespread inundation, especially in the northern districts. "We are shocked and saddened to know that we have lost some of our brothers and sisters due to the massive rainfall and river-induced floods. I convey my heartfelt condolences to the families of the deceased and assure that all assistance will be sent to them immediately," she stated. According to government reports, North Bengal recorded over 300 mm of rainfall within just 12 hours on Friday night. The deluge was intensified by heavy inflow into



the Sankosh River and water discharge from Bhutan and Sikkim, leading to widespread destruction across the region. The Chief Minister revealed that two iron bridges have collapsed, and multiple major roads remain either submerged or completely washed away. Extensive flooding has been reported in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Jalpaiguri, and Alipurduar districts, with especially dire conditions in Mirik, Matigara,

and surrounding hilly areas. Mamata Banerjee has been monitoring the situation closely since Friday night, conducting virtual meetings with Chief Secretary H.K. Dwivedi, Director General of Police, and district officials. Public representatives including Gautam Deb and Anit Thapa also participated in the discussions. She announced that she would personally visit North Bengal on Sunday to assess the ground situation and oversee rescue and relief operations. Advising tourists to remain calm, she urged those stranded in hill districts to stay where they are until safely evacuated. "Rescue costs will be borne by us. Tourists need not worry," she assured. To streamline emergency responses, 24x7 control rooms have been activated at both state and district levels. Citizens can contact the Nabanna Disaster Management Control Room at 033-2214-3526, 033-2253-5185, or call toll-free helpline numbers 86979-81070 and 1070. Rescue and rehabilitation work continues on a war footing, with the entire state machinery on high alert.

"Techie missing since Dashami found dead; suicide suspected"

MI News Service, Kolkata: The body of 34-year-old IT professional, missing since Dashami, was recovered in a decomposed state from a guest house in New Town on Saturday night, sending shockwaves through his family and the tech community. Police suspect suicide, through the exact cause of death remains under investigation. The deceased, identified as Chandranath Murkerjee, a resident of Shayamnagar North 24 parganas, had reportedly left home for office earlier in the week and did not return. His family, unable to reach him since Thursday night, lodged a missing complaint at Naopara police station after repeated calls to his phone went unanswered. Acting on the complaint, police began tracking his mobile tower location, which eventually led them to a guest house in the Gauranga Nagar area of New Town. Upon reaching the premises on Saturday evening, officers noticed a strong foul smell emanating from one of the rooms. When the door was forced open, they discovered Mukherjee's body lying inside. Several bottles of sleeping pills were reportedly found next to him. The body, which was already decomposing, was recovered and sent for post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause and time of death. Preliminary investigation suggests suicide, though police have not ruled out other possibilities. "We are probing whether anyone else was present at the guest house and the circumstances leading to his death," said a police official. Family members, devastated by the incident, have demanded a thorough probe. "My son left for work and never came back. I spoke to him last on Thursday night. Since Friday morning, his phone was unreachable and later switched off," said the victim's father. Local authorities, including the area councillor, have expressed deep concern over the incident and urged police to ensure a fair and transparent investigation.

DARJEELING LANDSLIDES Casualties cross 20

From PG 1
We are deeply saddened. I held virtual meetings with officials of five affected districts along with the chief secretary. I have been monitoring the situation since 6 am," she said. The chief minister said she would leave for North Bengal on Monday afternoon, accompanied by Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and monitor the situation from Siliguri. She had decided to go there after the conclusion of the Durga Puja Carnival in Kolkata on Sunday, in which over 100 puja committees will take part. According to Banerjee, more than 300 millimetres of rainfall occurred in just 12 hours, causing severe flooding and landslides across at least seven locations. She compared the situation to the intense flooding that Kolkata experienced last month during the festive season. "There has been continuous, heavy rain for 12 hours. Landslides have occurred at seven locations. I am keeping a close watch and hope to reach by around 3 pm on Monday," she said. Thousands of tourists have been stranded across the region due to the landslides and road blockages. The CM assured them that the state

government would make arrangements to bring them back safely and appealed to tourists not to panic or rush to leave. "Many tourists are stranded. I request them not to hurry. Please stay where you are. Hotels must not overcharge them. Their safety is our responsibility, and the administration will ensure that," she said. Banerjee also announced that the families of those killed in the disaster would receive government compensation and employment for one of their members, though she did not specify the amount. According to reports compiled by the NDRF and the district administration, 10 deaths have been confirmed so far, while two others remain untraced. Fatalities were reported from several locations - Sarsaly, Jasbirgaon, Mirik Basti, Dhar Gaon (Mechi), and Mirik Lake area. At least four people were rescued from the debris in Dhar Gaon, where heavy mudslides flattened several houses. The landslides disrupted traffic movement on key routes including the Mirik-Sukhi-apokhri road, while communication lines to several hilltop settlements were snapped.

NBBL onboards Bandhan Bank Retail Assets on Bharat Connect for Seamless Loan Repayments

MI News Service, Kolkata: NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), today announced the integration of Bandhan Bank on Bharat Connect. This integration enables Bandhan Bank customers to repay overdue EMIs across loan categories such as personal loans, auto loans and two-wheeler loans. Customers can repay EMIs using their preferred digital channels, such as the Bandhan Bank mobile app (mBandhan), Retail Internet Banking (RIB), or via more than 700 apps and websites powered by Bharat Connect. This expands digital repayment convenience for Bandhan Bank's loan customers. The integration with NPCI Bharat BillPay Ltd. (NBBL), broadens the range of digital channels available for timely loan repayment, contributing to improved customer convenience. The partnership aims to enhance customer convenience and accessibility in loan repayment and aligns with the Bank's ongoing efforts to strengthen its digital ecosystem, streamline collection processes, and deliver a more seamless and user-friendly experience. The integration makes the process seamless, repeatable, user-friendly, and minimises the risk of missed deadlines. It also supports India's financial inclusion goals by leveraging the Bharat Connect infrastruc-

ture and reinforces Bandhan Bank's commitment to digital-first, customer-centric banking. Commenting on the development, Noopur Chaturvedi, MD & CEO of NBBL, said, "At NBBL, we are committed to enabling seamless and accessible digital repayment solutions for customers and lenders alike. Our partnership with Bandhan Bank offers customers a simple and trusted way to manage their EMIs and helps the lender collect seamlessly through over 700 apps and websites, as well as 5 million offline agents across India. This collaboration with Bandhan Bank furthers our efforts to strengthen financial inclusion by leveraging digital public infrastructure." Commenting on the integration, Mr. Ratan Kumar Kesh, ED & COO, Bandhan Bank, said, "At Bandhan Bank, our focus has always been to place the customer at the heart of every digital innovation. The integration with NPCI Bharat BillPay on the Bharat Connect platform is a step forward in creating seamless, secure, and convenient repayment journeys for our customers. By leveraging this platform, we are not only simplifying loan repayments but also enabling greater accessibility and financial empowerment. This initiative reinforces our commitment to advancing a customer-first digital ecosystem and furthering financial inclusion across the country."



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee arrives at the Durga Pujo Carnival 2025, held at Red Road in Kolkata on Sunday. Pic : Prabir Bhattacharya

City of Joy bids spectacular goodbye to Goddess DURGA



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata's iconic Red Road came alive on Sunday evening as the city hosted the annual Durga Puja Carnival 2025, delivering a spectacular farewell to Goddess Durga. Thousands of spectators thronged the stretch to witness a vibrant procession featuring 113 award-winning Puja committees, pul-

sating performances, and dazzling tableaux, turning the city into a kaleidoscope of music, colour, and devotion. From high-energy dance troupes to rhythmic percussion performances, the carnival offered an electrifying mix of professional talent and local artistry. Committees such as Ballygunge Cultural,

Chetla Agrani, Suruchi Sangha, and Tridhara Akalbodhan enthralled the audience with innovative routines, while groups like Behala Natun Dal and Thakurpukur SB Park Sarbojanin showcased neighbourhood talent, ensuring a blend of tradition and contemporary flair. Several troupes rehearsed intricate synchronized movements, while colour-coded shobhayatras, notably by Chorbagan Sarbojonin, added to the visual spectacle. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee attended the event along with state ministers, senior administrative and police officials, observing the parade from the VIP dais. The carnival also hosted international guests and representatives from 15 countries, including Australia, Bangladesh, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Thailand, the United States, Bhutan, and China, reflecting Kolkata's global cultural outreach. The city's traffic management plan, overseen by Commissioner of Police Manoj Verma, was implemented meticulously. Red Road was closed early in the morning for preparations, while key adjoining roads such as Khidderpore Road, Mayo Road, Hospital Road, and Esplanade stretches remained restricted to ensure smooth movement of the procession.

Name Change
I, ABDUL MANNAN SEKH (old name) S/O SK HAPIZ, R/O Mundalika, Mundalika, Jangipara, Hooghly, 712404, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK ABDUL MANNAN (new name) vide and affidavit no. 13859 sworn before S.D.E.M. Serampore, Hooghly Court, on 25/09/2025. ABDUL MANNAN SEKH & SK ABDUL MANNAN S/O SK HAPIZ, both the names are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, KH AKBAR ALI (old name), S/o, KHANDAKAR ABDUL OHID, R/O, FURFURA, FURFURA, JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY, 712706, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KHANDAKAR AKBAR ALI (new name) vide an affidavit no. 68 sworn before Notary Public, Serampore, Hooghly Court on 25/09/2025. KH AKBAR ALI & KHANDAKAR AKBAR ALI, S/O, KHANDAKAR ABDUL OHID, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, KH MD SAHID ALI (old name), S/o, KHANDAKAR AKBAR ALI, R/o, FURFURA, FURFURA, JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY, 712706, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KHANDAKAR MD SAHID ALI (new name) vide an affidavit no. 67 sworn before Notary Public, Serampore, Hooghly Court on 25/09/2025. KH MD SAHID ALI & KHANDAKAR MD SAHID ALI, S/O, KHANDAKAR AKBAR ALI, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Saira Khatoun (old name) D/o Md Sahadat Hossain, resident of 3/A ISMAIL OSTAGAR LANE, P.O.- KHIIDIRPORE KOLKATA, 700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saira Bano (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Saira Bano (new name) and Saira Khatoun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Yeakub Ali (old name) S/O Oli Mohammed Gazi, resident of Vill.-Basirhat Paschimpara, P.O.- Basirhat, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743411, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Yeakub Ali Gazi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Md Yeakub Ali Gazi (new name) and Md Yeakub Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rubaiya Khatun (old name) W/o Md Yeakub Ali Gazi, resident of Vill.-Basirhat Paschimpara, P.O.- Basirhat, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743411, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rubaiya Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Rubaiya Bibi (new name) and Rubaiya Khatun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mahasin (old name) S/o Md Azizar Rahaman, resident of Vill.- Mathurapur, P.O.- Kholapota, P.S.- Matia, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743428, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Mohasin (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Md Mohasin (new name) and Mahasin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nimai Ch Das (old name) S/o Ranjan Kumar Das, resident of Vill.- Beri, P.O.- Ramnagar, P.S.- Gaighata, Dist. North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743273, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nimai Chandra Das (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Nimai Chandra Das (new name) and Nimai Ch Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Debdatta Bhowmik (old name) W/o Krishnendu Mukherjee, resident of 21, Baghajatin Road, P.S.- Baranagar, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700036, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debdatta Mukherjee (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Debdatta Mukherjee (new name) and Debdatta Bhowmik (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SUBAL PRAMANIK (old name) S/O SRIHARI PRAMANIK residing at FC-58, SALT LAKE BLOCK-FC, SECTOR-3, P.O.- IB MARKET, BIDHANNAGAR, NORTH 24 PARGANAS- 700106 in the state of West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SUBAL PRAMANIK (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit, dated 04/10/2025. SUBAL PRAMANIK (new name) and SUBAL PRAMANIK (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hasibul Sekh, S/o Atiar Rahaman SK, residing at Vill. Balgona Rai Station, P.O. Balgona T.D., P.S. Bhatar, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713125, West Bengal do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in my Aadhaar Card and bearing that in my Aadhaar Card being No. 2574 3456 1699, wherein in my name and my father's name has been written as Hasibul sek, S/o Atiar Rahaman SK, it is my original name. That in the Passport being No. N8221746, wherein my name and my father's name has been written as Hasibul Shaikh, S/o Atiar Rahaman of Purbaramchandrapur, Bhatar, Bardhaman, PIN-713520, West Bengal, India. That I myself i.e. Hasibul sek, S/o Atiar Rahaman SK of Vill. Balgona Rai station, P.O. Balgona T.D., P.S. Bhatar, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713125, West Bengal, India and Hasibul Shaikh, S/o Atiar Rahaman sk of Purbaramchandrapur, Bhatar, Bardhaman, PIN-713520, West Bengal, India is the same and one identical person vide Affidavit No. 35043, Dt.- 10.09.2025 sworn before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Manjila Begum (old name) W/o Rafikul Islam Molla, resident of V-113, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manjila Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Manjila Bibi (new name) and Manjila Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Upasana Adhikary (Old Name), Daughter Of Satyajit Adhikari, Residing At Dhanpota, South 24 Parganas- 743355, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Upasana Adhikari (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 02/09/2025. Upasana Adhikary And Upasana Adhikari Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Tahamina Begum (Old Name) W/O Md Shamsuddin Hossain And D/O Late Sk Motier Rahaman And Sheikh Matiyar Rahaman, Residing At Dakshin Para Chhappna New, Po-Patharghata, Dist-24 Pgs(North) West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tahamina Begum (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 03/10/2025. Tahamina Begum (Old Name) And Tahamina Begum (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Naushad Ahmed (Old Name) S/O Late Wasih Ahmed Residing At 3, Dock Dispensary Qrts., 22 No.Dock Gate, Khidderpore, Ps-West Port Station, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Nausad Ahmed (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 03/10/2025. Md Naushad Ahmed (Old Name) And Md Nausad Ahmed (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Abdul (Old Name) S/O Late Sk Abdul Gafur Residing At T/32/A/1c, Taltala Lane, Po-Park Street,Ps-Taltala, Kolkata-700016 West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Abdul (New Name) As Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kolkata Dated 21/08/2025. Md Abdul (Old Name) And Sk Abdul (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Rajneesh Arora And Rajnish Kumar Arora (Old Name), Son Of Darshan Lal, Residing At 266/D, 1 P Apartment 6th Floor, G T Road, Lluah, Howrah-711204, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rajneesh Kumar Arora (New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata. On 26/09/2025. Rajneesh Arora And Rajneesh Kumar Arora Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, MOHAMMED ZIAUL HOQUE LASKAR (old name) S/O MD ABDUL HAMID LASKAR, residing at Vill-Amtoli, PS- Usthi, South 24 Pgs - 743375, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD ZIAUL HOQUE LASKAR (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. MD ZIAUL HOQUE LASKAR (new name) and MOHAMMED ZIAUL HOQUE LASKAR (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Khaleque Zaman (old name) S/o Mohammed Sayeedu Zaman, resident of R-182, Akra Road, P.S.- Metia Burz, Kolkata-700024, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Khaleque Zaman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Md Khaleque Zaman (new name) and Mohammed Khaleque Zaman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ramkishore Singh (Old Name), residing at 13, Dey Narayan Singh, residing at Late Ostad Asgar Khas Sarani, Haridevpur, Tollygunge, Kolkata-700082, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ramkishor Singh (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 26/09/2025. Ramkishore Singh and Ramkishor Singh both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Amar Ali (old name) S/o Sk Amjad Hossain, resident of 15B, Mayur Bhaj Road, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shaikh Amar Hossain (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Shaikh Amar Hossain (new name) and Sk Amar Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Feroze Khan (old name) S/O Masal Khan, resident of 27/3A, Ekbalpur Lane, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Feroz Khan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Feroz Khan (new name) and Feroze Khan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SAIDUL ISLAM SEKH (old name) S/O SK ABDUL MANNAN, R/O Mundalika, Mundalika, Jangipara, Hooghly, 712404, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK SAIDUL ISLAM (new name) vide and affidavit no. 13846 sworn before S.D.E.M. Serampore, Hooghly Court on 25/09/2025. SAIDUL ISLAM SEKH & SK SAIDUL ISLAM S/O SK ABDUL MANNAN, both the names are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Samiruddin (Old Name) S/O Sekh Abdul Rahim, Residing At Arena Housing, Flat-B5/7, Street No.110, Action Area-1, New Town, Dist-24 Parganas (North), Pin-700101, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shaikh Samiruddin (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata. Dated 26/09/2025. Sk Samiruddin (Old Name) And Shaikh Samiruddin (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Noor Jahan Begam (old name) W/o Saifula Mir, resident of Vill- Kajipara, P.O.- Jagat Ballavpur, Howrah-711408, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mir Nurjahan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Mir Nurjahan (new name) and Noor Jahad Begam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mafjuddin Meer (old name) S/o Saifula Mir, resident of Vill- Kajipara, P.O.- Jagat Ballavpur, Howrah-711408, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mafjuddin Mir (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Mafjuddin Mir (new name) and Mafjuddin Meer (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Faizan Halder (old name) S/o Nasir Hossain Halder, resident of T-4, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Faizan Halder (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Md Faizan Halder (new name) and Mohammad Faizan Halder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sandip Kumar Fadikar (Old Name) S/O Subal Fadikar, Residing At Fc-11, Vidvasagar Pally, Po-Aswini Nagar, Ps-Baguiati, Dist-24 Parganas (North), Pin-700059, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sandip Fadikar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 26/09/2025. Sandip Kumar Fadikar (Old Name) And Sandip Fadikar (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Khursida Begum (old name) W/o Mehar Ali Molla, resident of V-113, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Khurshida Begum (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Khurshida Begum (new name) and Khursida Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rafikul Islam Molla (old name) S/o Mehar Ali Molla, resident of V-113, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rafikul Islam Molla (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Rafikul Islam Molla (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Farham Halder (old name) S/o Nasir Hossain Halder, resident of T-4, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Farham Halder (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Md Farham Halder (new name) and Mohammad Farham Halder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aisha (old name) W/o Sajahan Halder, resident of T-4, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aisha Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Aisha Bibi (new name) and Aisha (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sufia & Sofia Bibi (old name) W/o Nasir Hossain Halder, resident of T-4, S.A. Farooque Road, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata, Pin-700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sofia Bibi Halder (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 26/09/2025. Sofia Bibi Halder (new name) and Sufia & Sofia Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shek Hasan Ali & Asan Molla (old name) S/o Anej Ali, resident of Vill-Huchukpara, near Hotel Nest, puruliya (M), puruliya, Pin- 723101, West Bengal, India, (my Voter Card No. FT72202281) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Seikh Hasan Ali (new name), and also changed my father name Shek Anj Ali & Anech Molla (father old names) and he shall henceforth be known as Anej Ali (father new name), as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No. 96017, dated 24/09/2025. Seikh Hasan Ali and Shek Hasan Ali & Asan Molla all are same and one identical person (myself). Anej Ali and Shek Anj Ali & Anech Molla all are same and one identical person (my father).

Name Change
I, Rajneesh Arora And Rajnish Kumar Arora (Old Name), Son Of Darshan Lal, Residing At 266/D, 1 P Apartment 6th Floor, G T Road, Lluah, Howrah-711204, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rajneesh Kumar Arora (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 26/09/2025. Rajneesh Arora And Rajneesh Kumar Arora Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.



When pandal hopping wasn't possible, Swiggy's Shrestho Pujo 2.0 brought the magic home. Running from 27th September to 1st October on the Swiggy app, the contest featured 50+ iconic pandals, showcasing artistry and traditions. Users explored, voted for favourites, and received 50 Swiggy Cash in return. On 2nd October, winners were honoured: Arjunpur Amra Sabai Club (5 lakh), Ajeya Sanghati Club (2 lakh), and Dum Dum Park Bharat Chakra Club (1 lakh). Actor Sauraseni Maitra joined the celebrations, while Swiggy's VP Supriya Shankar awarded prizes. Blending technology with tradition, Swiggy created an inclusive way to experience Kolkata's Pujo spirit.

MORE THAN 1.57 LAKH COMMUTERS BOOKED MOBILE QR TICKETS IN LAST 4 DAYS

● MORE THAN 22.15 LAKH COMMUTERS TRAVELLED IN OCTOBER
MI News Service, Kolkata: More than 22.15 lakh commuters have travelled in Metro in the first 4 days of October. Yesterday (i.e. on 04.10.2025) more than 5.56 lakh commuters have travelled in the Metro out of which Blue Line has carried around 4 lakh commuters. It has been observed that after the Puja, ridership has fallen a bit due to holidays. But it is expected that the passenger count will increase once offices, schools, colleges open after the recess. Today special Metro services will be operated in Blue and Green Lines to facilitate the Puja Carnival lovers to go back home smoothly at night. It is expected that ridership will increase today as a sizable chunk of carnival lovers will prefer Metro to go back home. In order to avoid rush, passengers are requested to book tickets through AAMAR KOLKATA METRO app and as well as use Smart Cards to save time and money.

Textile expert Sir John Gillow promotes Indian art & craft

MI News Service, Kolkata: John Gillow, a prominent author and textile expert, to showcase his vast collection of handcrafted textiles from around the world. This event aimed to promote Indian art and craft, highlighting the country's rich textile heritage. The event would be organised by iLead.

As a significant part of India's cultural identity, textiles have played a crucial role in the country's trade and cultural exchange with the world. From the ancient Silk Route to modern times, Indian textiles have been highly prized for their craftsmanship and beauty.

The presentation featured rare textile exhibits from John's personal collection, including pieces from Africa, Europe, Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Far East – prominent textiles on the silk route. The audience was treated to a visual journey through the history of textiles, with Sir John sharing his expertise and experiences.

John Gillow has authored books on textiles, including 'Indian Textiles' and 'Textiles of the Islamic World', showcasing his in-depth knowledge of the field.

Motor Vehicle Tax shouldn't be levied if vehicle not used in 'public place': SC

MI News Service, New Delhi: Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature and if a vehicle is not used or not kept for use in a 'public place', then its owner should not be burdened with motor vehicle tax for such period, the Supreme Court has said. A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan delivered its verdict on an appeal challenging a December 2024 judgement of the Andhra Pradesh High Court.

"Motor vehicle tax is compensatory in nature. It has a direct nexus with the end use. The rationale for levy of motor vehicle tax is that a person who is using public infrastructure, such as, roads, highways etc. has to pay for such usage," the apex court said. Referring to section 3 of The Andhra Pradesh Motor Vehicle Taxation Act, 1963, the bench said the legislature has consciously used the expression 'public place' in this provision.

"If a motor vehicle is not used in a 'public place' or not kept for use in a 'public place' then the person concerned is not deriving benefit from the public infrastructure; therefore, he should not be burdened with the motor vehicle tax for such period," the top court said in its judgement delivered on August 29. It said section 3 of the Act is the charging provision and it authorises the state government to impose tax on motor vehicles.

The bench said the taxable event under section 3 is when a vehicle is



used or kept for use in a 'public place' in the state. "Therefore, the tax is on the user or intendment for use of motor vehicle in a 'public place'. Thus, if a vehicle is actually used in a 'public place' or kept in such a way that it is intended to be used in a 'public place' then the tax liability accrues," it said. The top court said when admittedly the motor vehicles of the appellant firm in this case were confined for use within the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) premises which is a closed area, then question of the vehicles being used or kept for being used in a 'public place' does not arise. The bench said in this case, the motor vehicles in question were used or kept for use only within the restricted premises of RINL which was not a 'public place'. "Therefore, the said vehicles are not liable to be taxed for the period the said vehicles were used or kept for use within the restricted premises of RINL," it said, while allowing the appeal. The bench delivered its verdict on

IT Dept imposes Rs 23 Cr penalty on Adani Cement

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Income Tax (I-T) department has imposed two separate fines on ACC Ltd, totalling Rs 23.07 crore, which will be contested by the Adani Group firm before the appellate authorities. The I-T department has slapped a penalty of Rs 14.22 crore allegedly "for furnishing of inaccurate particulars of income" for Assessment Year 2015-16. The department has also levied a penalty amounting to Rs 8.85 crore "for under-reporting of income" for Assessment Year 2018-19.

"The company will be contesting both orders by filing appeals before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals) within the prescribed timelines and, in parallel, will seek a stay

RAILWAY BOARD SANCTIONED MORE THAN ₹396 CRORE FOR DOUBLING OF RANAGHAT – BANGAON SECTION

► Creation of More Social Overhead by Indian Railways for ease of living of the people of West Bengal.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ranaghat – Bangaon section is a key section of Eastern Railway's Sealdah division connecting Bangaon station near the international boarder to the Sealdah – Krishnanagar main line at a shorter distance enabling quicker movement of freight as well as of local passengers between adjacent districts Nadia & North 24 Parganas. The doubling of Ranaghat-Bangaon section will enable seamless movement of freight & passengers from erstwhile remote areas of different stations in the section viz. Cooper's Halt, Naba Raynagar Halt, Gangnapur, Majhergram, Akaiapur Halt, Gopalnagar, & Satheria to other part of West Bengal as well as to the other states in the country.

Railway Board has sanctioned ₹396.04 crore for Ranaghat – Bangaon doubling work (32.93 km) which will act as impetus for the speedy completion of the project. The doubling work of this section will envisage a total of 9 stations and 2 Limited Height Subways (LHS) one between Ranaghat & Majhergram



and another between Majhergram and Gopalnagar. Ranaghat Jn is a station situated on Sealdah – Krishnanagar – Lalga Main Line section whereas Bangaon is a Junction station situated at Sealdah/Kolkata- Dum Dum Bangaon – Petrapole (near Bangladesh border) section. Physically these two stations situated at the remote end of the two districts Nadia & North 24 Parganas which are now connected with a Single Line railway network. But with the growing population and requirement of faster logistic as well as passenger movement there will be dire need of faster connectivity. Recently AC EMU local trains service has been introduced between Ranaghat & Sealdah via Bangaon (through Ranaghat-Bangaon route) has also enhanced the passenger service in this region and doubling work between Ranaghat & Bangaon will give impetus to the Railway's endeavour for augmentation of Railway

service for the socio-economic development of this region.

The doubling work will help in decongestion of the section keeping in view the present capacity utilisation of 114% of the section thereby mobilising both passenger & freight traffic. Once doubling work is completed there will be no detention for crossing of trains like in single line section and speedy movement will be established between Ranaghat & Bangaon. The doubling of this section will also create avenues for additional freight traffic of 0.88 MTPA and services of additional 10 passenger train per day in each directions over this stretch of double line between Ranaghat & Bangaon resulting in additional earning of ₹8.66 crore.

Doubling of this section will also create social overhead for the inhabitants of this area with seamless movement of freight & passenger trains and ease of living.

ASANSOL DIVISION CONDUCTS SWACHH STATIONS DRIVE UNDER SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 5.0

MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the ongoing Special Campaign 5.0 and Swachhata Pakhwada, the Asansol Division of Eastern Railway conducted a Swachh Stations drive on 4th October 2025 to ensure intensive cleaning and maintain high standards of hygiene across the Division.

The campaign focused on cleanliness at station premises including Asansol station, platforms, circulating areas, drains, toilets and waiting halls. The use of Plastic Bottle Crushing Machines was promoted and separate dustbins were placed at key points to encourage proper waste segregation. Railway staff actively monitored these facilities to maintain an organized and cleaner environment.

Intensive cleaning activities were carried out at Asansol, Raniganj, Panagarh, Pandabeswar, Deoghar, Vidyasagar, Sitarampur, Chittaranjan, Jamtara, Andal, Kumardubi and Kalubthan stations. Colony drains and toilets were thoroughly cleaned with inspections before and after the activities highlighting signif-



icant improvements. The CHI (West) office and staff also participated actively ensuring hygiene in office and operational areas.

These activities highlight Asansol Division's continuous efforts to create clean, green and passenger-friendly stations. By emphasizing waste segregation, zero-waste initiatives and intensive hygiene measures, the Division contributes to the nationwide Swachh Rail – Swachh Bharat movement under Special Campaign 5.0 and Swachhata Pakhwada 2025.

Diversion, Cancellation and Short Termination of trains in Alipurduar Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to heavy rain and water flowing over the railway tracks at certain locations in North Bengal under Alipurduar Division, it has been decided that a number of trains will be diverted/ cancelled/ short terminated as follows.

- Diversion of trains:
- Train No. 13149 (Sealdah-Alipurduar Jn.) Kan-chankanya Express, commenced journey on 4th October, 2025 will be diverted
 - Train No. 15483 (Alipurduar Jn. -Delhi Sikkim Mahananda Express, commencing journey on 5th October, 2025, will be diverted
 - Train No. 19306 (Kamakhya -Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) Express, commencing journey on 5th October, 2025, will be diverted

Cancellation of trains on 05th October, 2025:

- Train No. 15777/15778 (New Jalpaiguri - Alipurduar Jn. -New Jalpaiguri) Tourist Special
 - Train No. 75742 (Dhubri - Siliguri Jn.) DEMU
 - Train No. 15467 (Siliguri Jn. -Bamanhat) Express
- Short Termination of trains:
- Train no. 15768 (Alipurduar Jn.-Siliguri Jn.) Intercity Express of 05th October, 2025 will be short terminated at Binnaguri
 - Train no. 75741 (Siliguri Jn. - Dhubri) DEMU of 05th October, 2025 will be short terminated at Gulma

Mandirbazar Panchayat Samiti
South 24 Parganas
Memo No: 97/MBPS
E-Tenders are invited for 68 nos. of different development works under Mandirbazar Panchayat Samiti. Bid Submission End Date - 20.10.2025 at 18.00 Hrs. Date of Opening of Technical proposal for Tender- 21.10.2025 at 13.00 Hrs. For details visit-www.wbtenders.gov.in and office of the undersigned.
Sd/-
Executive Officer
Mandirbazar Panchayat Samiti

Supreme Court refuses to ban 'THE SATANIC VERSES'

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court refused to examine a plea seeking a ban on Salman Rushdie's controversial novel "The Satanic Verses". The plea came up for hearing before a bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta. The petitioners' counsel referred to the Delhi High Court's November last year order. The high court had closed the proceedings on a petition challenging the Rajiv Gandhi government's decision to ban the import of "The Satanic Verses" in 1988. The high court observed since authorities failed to produce the relevant notification, it has to be presumed that it does not exist. The Centre banned the import of the Booker Prize-winning author's "The Satanic Verses" for law-and-order reasons in 1988, after Muslims across the world viewed it as blasphemous. "You are effectively challenging the judgement of the Delhi High Court," the apex court observed and dismissed the plea filed by three Mumbai residents. The petition, filed through advocate Chand Qureshi, alleged the book was available due to the order passed by the high court. The plea said the petitioners discovered on June 14 this year that vendors in Mumbai were selling the "controversial and blasphemous book" and it was also available on a prominent online shopping platform. It alleged the order was passed by the high court "perfunctorily" on the government's submission that it was unable to find the notification. "The legal basis for the ban was Section 11 of the Indian Customs Act, 1962, due to which the ban was imposed. However, after the Delhi High Court revoked the ban... the blasphemous book was being sold in India for the first time in 36 years," the plea said. It further claimed the book was highly likely to violate public order as in the past several decades, not only the author but also the booksellers and those circulating the book were physically attacked and international relations between Iran and the UK were severed. The plea said several other countries had also strictly put restriction over selling this book in the market.

Home Guards recruitment exam draws PGs & MBAs

MI News Service, New Delhi: The recruitment test for Home Guards in Koraput saw an overwhelming response, drawing graduates, postgraduates, MBAs, and ITI holders — a reflection of the current employment crunch. The written examination was held for 125 posts, with 5,690 candidates appearing out of 7,281 applicants. Candidates needed at least a Class V pass with basic knowledge of Odia and English. Successful candidates will serve in Koraput district police stations and must later pass a physical test. Applicants aged 20–60 were eligible. Superintendent of police Rohit Verma said: "The examination was held smoothly for one-and-a-half hours." Results will be announced in a week. The voluntary post lasts three years, extendable if conduct is satisfactory. Salary is ₹18,360 per month, with a daily wage of ₹612. Postgraduate aspirant Santosh Mohapatra said: "For the last two years, I have appeared at interviews. No opportunity so far. Any job is important for me." Biju Yuva Janata Dal president Chinmaya Sahoo criticised the government for lacking a concrete youth policy, noting only 57,000 appointments in 15 months against a promised 1.5 lakh and highlighting irregularities in several recruitment exams.

Police arrest doctor after 14 children die from toxic cough syrup

MI News Service, Bhopal (MP): A doctor in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara district has been arrested following the deaths of 14 children allegedly linked to contaminated Coldrif cough syrup. Most of the affected children had been treated at the private clinic of Dr Praveen Soni, a government-appointed doctor practising in Parasia, according to media reports. Soni is accused of prescribing Coldrif syrup to children who presented with routine cold and fever symptoms in early September, according to a report. Following initial recovery, the children's conditions worsened, with reduced urine output and kidney infections, ultimately leading to fatalities. Kidney biopsies later revealed

diethylene glycol contamination in the syrups. The Madhya Pradesh government has banned the sale of cough syrup due to suspected renal failure, with officials stating the drug samples were found to contain a highly toxic substance. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) has also initiated risk-based inspections at the manufacturing units of 19 drugs, including cough syrups and antibiotics, across six states, the Union health ministry said on Saturday. A sample of the syrup, tested by the government drug analyst at the Drug Testing Laboratory in Chennai, was declared "Not of Standard Quality" by the Tamil Nadu Directorate of Drug Control, officials said here. The action by

the Madhya Pradesh government came in the wake of the deaths of 14 children in Chhindwara district due to suspected kidney failure. Of these, 10 deaths were reported in Parasia subdivision since September 7, local officials said. Financial assistance of Rs 4 lakh was sanctioned for the kin of the 14 deceased children, officials said. Of those who died, 11 were from Parasia sub division, two from Chhindwara city and one from Chaurai tehsil. SDM Yadav said that as a precautionary measure, the local administration had already banned the sale of Coldrif and another cough syrup, 'Nextro-DS', on Monday. The test report for Coldrif arrived on Saturday, while that of Nextro-DS was awaited. The Tamil Nadu drug

control authorities, in their report dated October 2, declared the Coldrif syrup sample (Batch No SR-13; Mfg: May 2025; Exp: April 2027) manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals, Kancheepuram, as adulterated because it contained diethylene glycol (48.6% w/v), a poisonous substance "which may render the contents injurious to health". Following the report, the Madhya Pradesh Food and Drug Administration issued instructions to stop further sale and distribution of Coldrif statewide and immediately seize any available stock for investigation under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It also ordered that other products manufactured by Sresan Pharmaceuticals be removed from sale pending testing.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, in a post on X, called the deaths "extremely tragic" and said strict action will be taken against those responsible. "The sale of this syrup has been banned across Madhya Pradesh. A ban is also being imposed on other products of the company that manufactures the syrup," the CM stated. The Tamil Nadu government on Friday banned Coldrif following reports of deaths in Madhya Pradesh and at least three similar fatalities in Rajasthan due to suspected kidney infections. Samples from the affected children have been sent to the National Institute of Virology in Pune, while further tests on the syrup's adulteration and contamination are underway. The CDSCO has initiated risk-based

inspections at the manufacturing units of 19 drugs, including cough syrups and antibiotics, across six states, the Union health ministry said. A team comprising experts from the National Institute of Virology, the Indian Council of Medical Research, National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, CDSCO and AIIMS-Nagpur, among others, are analysing various samples to assess the cause of deaths in and around Chhindwara, it stated. India has faced scrutiny over the quality of its pharmaceutical exports after the World Health Organization linked cough syrups made by another company to the deaths of 70 children in Gambia in 2022 — a finding that New Delhi later disputed.



Workers pack varieties of firecrackers for sale ahead of the 'Diwali' festival, in Ahmedabad.

Chennai mangrove cover doubles in 3 yrs

MI News Service, Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Forest Department's ambitious goal of expanding the mangrove cover in the state yielded encouraging results, with the area doubling in three years, from 4,500 hectares in 2021 to 9,039 hectares in 2024, a forest official said. Chennai's Adyar Estuary, which is part of the success story, now sports a lush green look, he told. The new mangrove green belt in the heart of the city at Adyar was created under the Tamil Nadu Mangrove Mission, an initiative of the state's Green Tamil Nadu Mission, to plant and restore mangrove forests in nine coastal districts, the official added. According to him, the primary goal is to create natural bio-shields to protect coastal communities from natural disasters like cyclones and tsunamis. The move also supports the livelihood of the locals by providing fish breeding grounds and boosting biodiversity, he said. Meanwhile, Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Tamil Nadu Forest Department, said that her department has planted 5,000 mangrove saplings across 5 hectares, adding a

shining green jewel to the city's biodiversity heritage. "At the Adyar Estuary near Broken Bridge, the Chennai Forest Division has created a fishbone with three main canals and 62 distribution canals across the Battle of Adyar Island. To protect these from grazing 582 metres of fish nets and even used sarees have been fixed as barriers," she said in a social media post. This initiative would contribute to shielding Chennai's coast from cyclones and sea-level rise, Sahu added. Ahead of the Tamil Nadu Mangrove Conclave 2025 which begins today in Mahabalipuram, the forest department brought out a video on the breathtaking Picchavaram Mangrove Forests in Cuddalore district. Organised by the Tamil Nadu government, the conclave will be inaugurated by Forests Minister R S Rajakannappan. Delegates from six states would participate in the event in which besides Sahu, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force Srinivas R Reddy, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden Rakesh Kumar Dogra, and other senior officials will participate.

ODISHA registers over 37K crimes against women in 14 months

MI News Service, Cuttack: Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi informed the assembly that 37,611 cases of crime against women were registered in the state between June 2024 and July this year. In reply to a query of Congress MLA Sofia Firdous, the chief minister said 2,933 cases of rape, 9,181 molestation, 1,278 sexual harassment, 2161 public disturbing of women, 8,227 kidnapping/abduction of women, 5,464 dowry-related torture and 6,134 non-dowry torture were reported in the state during those 14 months. Similarly, 702 eve-teasing cases, 174 attempt to rape, 334 refusal to marry after sex, 447 stalking, three acid attack cases, three attempt to acid attack cases, 127 trafficking of women, 264 dowry homicide and 44 dowry suicide cases were also registered in different police stations across the state, Majhi said. In connection with the above crime against women cases, 5,979 people, including 225 women, were arrested, he said. Noting that preventive measures were taken to improve the safety and security of women in the state, the chief minister said all sensitive cases against women, such as rape, POCSO and acid attacks, are being monitored and supervised by SP or additional SP-level offi-

cers. A children and women online abuse monitoring unit is functioning under the CID-crime branch to look into cybercrime against women and children, he said. Similarly, Majhi said that Investigative Units on Crime Against Women (IUCAW) is functioning in 29 districts, which takes up the investigation of important and sensitive cases of crime against women. The CM further said that CCTV cameras have been installed in many districts to monitor the activities of anti-socials and criminals to prevent crimes and to promote safety of women. The state government has been trying to expand the CCTV surveillance, he added. While 24 Special POCSO courts have been functioning to expedite trial in sexual offences against children, steps are being taken by district police to improve patrolling in important public places to prevent sexual harassment of women, as per the statement, he said. Besides, Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPO) under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Protection officers under the Protection of Women under Domestic Violence Act, 2005, Dowry prohibition officers under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, are functioning for the cause of safety and security of women, he added.

Govt to examine state inputs on HIMALAYAN weather crisis

MI News Service, New Delhi: The environment ministry has informed the National Green Tribunal (NGT) that it will examine the responses of the governments of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand on the management of abnormal weather conditions in the higher Himalayas. Himachal Pradesh has stressed the need for a water inflow and flood warning system, whereas Uttarakhand has sought to carry out scientific studies at the national level on the flow of the Ganga and the Yamuna. The suggestions made by Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand came in separate affidavits filed in response to recommendations made by the joint committee appointed by the NGT on various issues, including abnormal weather conditions, river flow, snowmelt and cloudbursts, in the higher Himalayas. The reply was filed in a pending suo motu petition by the NGT on the issue related to the protection and declaration of the higher Himalayas as an eco-sensitive zone. Himachal Pradesh, which has recently witnessed massive floods, informed the NGT that there is a need to develop an inflow and flood warning system basin-wise for all major rivers to get alerts in case of cloudbursts and glacial lake outbursts. Uttarakhand, where a flash flood in the Kheer Ganga river in Uttarkashi's Dharali village caused widespread devastation recently, submitted before the NGT that policies and scientific studies must be undertaken at the national level through central institutions on the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. Aneesh Arputham and Ankit Sharma, appearing for the environment ministry, submitted before a bench headed by NGT chairperson Prakash Shrivastava that they needed four weeks to examine the suggestions of the two states. The tribunal posted the matter for November 28.

Centre envisages reforms in IIMs

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government is set to pressure the IIMs to allow students to pursue part of their courses at other institutes and accept the academic credits they earn there, a system that the elite B-schools have been resisting for nearly four years. The government had in December 2021 notified rules that brought the Institutions of National Importance (INIs) such as IITs, IIMs and ISERs under the Academic Bank of Credit policy under which students can pursue up to 50 per cent of a course from an institution other than the one in which they are enrolled. The IIMs have not implemented the policy, citing quality concerns. A former IIM faculty member said the older IIMs were reluctant to accept academic credits earned by students from other institutions, particularly non-IIMs. "The IIMs, particularly the older IIMs, are concerned about the brand and quality. They are not interested in accepting the credits of new IIMs. It would be very difficult for them to accept academic credits from universities and private institutions," he said. A director of an IIM said the government might prod the IIMs to accept the academic credits of institutions of a certain standard. To achieve the government's Viksit Bharat@2047 goal, the Centre may ask the IIMs to increase their seats and introduce MBA courses in Indian languages. The IIMs have already enhanced the number of seats by 25 per cent in all courses to implement the 10 per cent reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). At the meeting, the government may also direct the IIMs to strictly implement the reservation policy in the recruitment of faculty and non-faculty members.



MI News Service, Guwahati: A newborn elephant calf in Kaziranga National Park has become a living tribute to Assam's late cultural icon, Zubeen Garg. The female calf, born on October 4 to one of the park's oldest elephants, has been named Mayabini, after Garg's beloved song that resonated through his funeral procession just weeks ago. Kuwari, a veteran elephant who has served the Assam Forest Department for nearly four decades, gave birth to her second offspring inside the Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. Her first, Griharaj, was born several years earlier. The announcement came with a fitting coincidence, it was World Animal Day, a day that celebrates compassion for all living beings. Assam's Environment and Forest Minister, Chandra Mohan Patowary, confirmed the news on X (formerly Twitter): "Heartening news on #WorldAnimalDay — Kuwari, the elephant of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, has given birth to a healthy female calf! With immense affection and public

goodwill, we've named her 'Mayabini' — a symbol of new life, hope and harmony in the wild." The choice of name carries a deep emotional weight. 'Mayabini ratir buku', one of Garg's most loved songs, became an anthem during his last rites in Guwahati after his death in Singapore on September 19. The song was one Garg himself had once said should be sung when he died. On social media, fans have embraced the gesture. One X user wrote, "Welcoming Mayabini, the newest member of Kaziranga's elephant family. This name is a tribute to the everlasting legacy of the legendary Zubeen Garg." Zubeen

Garg's bond with animals was as instinctive as his music. Garg personally arranged medical care for abandoned or hurt animals and frequently visited the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) in Kaziranga, run by the Wildlife Trust of India (WTI). During floods, when animals were displaced or injured, he would help relocate them to safety. Since his passing, images on social media have captured striking scenes — dogs, cows, monkeys, and even crows gathered around his photograph as if silent witnesses to the absence of a friend who spoke their language without words.

HIMACHAL: Snow leopards count up 62% in 4 yrs

MI News Service, Shimla: The population of rare snow leopards in high-altitude tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh has increased by 62 per cent over the past four years, says a newly released survey. The count stood at 51 in 2021, according to the baseline survey conducted by the Wildlife Wing of the state Forest Department. It has now increased to 83, officials said on Friday, citing the study conducted during the past one year. The survey also involved strong community participation, indicating that the long-term conservation plans with community involvement are bearing results, they added. The new survey released on Thursday (the first day of the Wildlife Week being observed from October 2 to 8) said the count excluded cubs and exceeded the estimated upper confidence limit of 73 over the 2021



survey, reflecting possible expansion of habitats. The survey was conducted through a large-scale camera trapping exercise across six sites over an area of 26,000 sq km. The snow leopards and their habitats were detected in the tribal areas of Lahaul-Spiti, Kinnaur and the Pangri valley. However, the study also recorded their presence beyond the protected areas, which comprise the Kibber Wildlife Sanctuary, Great Himalayan National Park, Sechu Tuan Nallah Wildlife Sanctuary and Asrang Wildlife Sanctuary. In addition to snow leopards, the survey also drew distribution maps for key prey species such as the blue sheep, Himalayan ibex and musk deer, as well as other high-altitude mammals such as Himalayan wolves, brown bears, leopards, red foxes, and martens. Notably,

the study reported the first official sighting of Pallas's cat in Kinnaur and the rediscovery of the woolly flying squirrel in Lahaul, highlighting the rich biodiversity of the state. According to the officials, community involvement was key to the survey's success. Local youths and women from Kibber village in Spiti assisted with camera trap deployments and data analysis, while frontline forest officers and other community members supported field operations. The survey was completed in one year compared to the three-year timeline in 2021, they said. The survey was cost-effective and prepared a scalable framework for long-term snow leopard monitoring in India. Himachal Pradesh is now the first state in the country to conduct a second statewide snow leopard assessment, they added.

Study finds how bacterial vaccine demonstrates potential as treatment for cancer immunotherapy

NEW YORK [US] : Columbia researchers developed probiotic bacteria that train the immune system to eliminate cancer cells, paving the way for a new class of cancer vaccinations that take advantage of bacteria's innate tumour-targeting abilities. These microbial cancer vaccines can be tailored to each person's specific original tumour and metastases, perhaps preventing future recurrences.

In mice models of advanced colorectal cancer and melanoma, the bacterial vaccine stimulated the immune system, causing primary and metastatic malignancies to shrink - or in many cases disappear entirely. All while leaving healthy body parts alone.

The findings were published in Nature.

The bacterial vaccine proved to be particularly more efficacious than peptide-based therapeutic cancer vaccines that have been used in numerous previous cancer clinical trials.

"The important advantage of our system is its unique ability to coordinately restructure and activate all arms of the immune system to induce a productive antitumor immune response. We believe this is why the system works so well in advanced solid tumor models which have been particularly difficult to treat with other immunotherapies," says Andrew Redenti, an MD/PhD student at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons who helped lead the study.

"The net effect is that the bac-

terial vaccine is able to control or eliminate the growth of advanced primary or metastatic tumors and extend survival in mouse models," says Jongwon Im, a PhD student at Columbia University who helped lead bacterial engineering aspects of the study.

The bacterial vaccine is personalized for each tumor. "Every cancer is unique - tumor cells harbor distinct genetic mutations that distinguish them from normal healthy cells. By programming bacteria that direct the immune system to target these cancer-specific mutations, we can engineer more effective therapies that stimulate a patient's own immune system to detect and kill their cancer cells," says Nicholas Arpaia, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology in the Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons who directed the research with Tal Danino, PhD, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia's School of Engineering.

"As we continue to integrate additional safety optimizations through further genetic programming, we are getting closer to the point of testing this therapy in patients," he added. Bacteria have been utilized in the treatment of cancer since the late 19th century, when Dr. William Coley, who was a surgeon at New York Hospital, observed tumor regression in a subset of patients with inoperable tumors injected with bacteria. Bacteria are still employed as a therapeutic today in patients with early-stage bladder cancer.



Researchers now know that some bacteria can naturally migrate to and colonize tumors, where they can thrive in the often oxygen-deprived environment and locally provoke an immune response.

But used this way, bacteria do not usually precisely control or direct the immune response to attack the cancer. "These qualities alone don't typically give bacteria enough power to stimulate immune responses capable of destroying a tumor, but they're a

good starting point for building a new domain of cancer therapeutics," said Nicholas Arpaia, PhD.

The new system starts with a probiotic strain of E. coli bacteria. The researchers then made multiple genetic modifications to precisely control the way in which the bacteria interact with and educate the immune system to induce tumor killing. The engineered bacteria encode protein targets - called neoantigens - that are specific to the cancer being treated.

These bacterially-delivered neoantigens train the immune system to target and attack cancer cells that express the same proteins. Neoantigens are used as tumor targets so that normal cells, which lack these cancer-marking proteins, are left alone. Due to the nature of the bacterial system and additional genetic modifications engineered by the scientists, these bacterial cancer therapies also simultaneously overcome immunosuppressive mechanisms

tumors use to block the immune system.

These genetic modifications are also designed to block the bacteria's innate ability to evade immune attacks against themselves. As a safety measure, this means the engineered bacteria can be easily recognized and eliminated by the immune system and are quickly cleared from the body if they do not find the tumor.

When tested in mice, the researchers found that these intricately programmed bacterial cancer vaccines recruit a wide array of immune cells that attack tumor cells, all the while preventing responses that would normally suppress tumor-directed immune attacks. The bacterial vaccine also reduced the growth of cancer when administered to mice before they developed tumors, and prevented regrowth of the same tumors in mice that had been cured, suggesting the vaccine may have the ability to prevent cancer from returning in patients who've experienced remission.

In people, the first step in creating these microbial vaccines would be to sequence a patient's cancer and identify its unique neoantigens using bioinformatics. Next, the bacteria would be engineered to produce large quantities of the identified neoantigens, as well as other immunomodulatory factors. When infused into the patient whose tumors are to be treated, the bacteria would head to the tumors, make themselves at home, and steadily produce and deliver their payload of engineered "medicines." Once activated

by the bacterial vaccine, the immune system would be prompted to eliminate cancer cells that have spread throughout the body and prevent further metastatic development.

Since each tumor has its own set of neoantigens, the immunotherapy will be customized for each patient. "The time to treatment will first depend on how long it takes to sequence the tumor. Then we just need to make the bacterial strains, which can be quite fast. Bacteria can be simpler to manufacture than some other vaccine platforms," Danino says.

The bacteria are also designed to counteract cancer's ability to rapidly mutate and evade treatment. "Because our platform allows us to deliver so many different neoantigens, it theoretically becomes difficult for tumor cells to lose all those targets at once and avoid the immune response," says Arpaia.

The researchers think their approach may succeed where earlier cancer vaccines have not. In the latter, while immune responses against tumor neoantigens may be induced, direct modulation of the immunosuppressive tumor environment is not accomplished to such a degree.

Arpaia adds, "Bacteria allow delivery of a higher concentration of drugs than can be tolerated when these compounds are delivered systemically throughout the entire body. Here, we can confine delivery directly to the tumor and locally modulate how we're stimulating the immune system."

Study gives insights into quality of life for adults with congenital heart disease



WASHINGTON : Adults with congenital heart disease (CHD) can now gain vital insights into their long-term quality of life according to data from the Congenital Heart Initiative (CHI). CHI is the nation's first and largest patient-focused registry for people with CHD, and it recently launched its inaugural research, which included over 4,500 participants from all 50 states.

This study, published in JAMA Network Open, represents a big step forward in providing better information to the 1.5 million adults in the United States who were born with CHD.

"Studies like this that leverage actual patient voices and experiences help us get a better sense of how to advise, support and treat people with CHD as they age," says Anitha John, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Washington Adult

Congenital Heart program at Children's National Hospital and senior author of the study. "Also, researchers get a clearer picture of the questions that need to be answered to make sure they have the best quality of life possible."

Treatments for children born with congenital heart disease have improved so significantly in the last two decades that life expectancy continues to increase as well.

"There are now more adults living with congenital heart disease than there are children with CHD," says Scott Leezer, patient co-principal investigator for the Congenital Heart Initiative registry and co-author of the study. "However, a significant gap remains in what we know about the adult CHD population. As an adult CHD patient, I was excited to contribute to creating this reg-

istry, bringing more answers to people like me who want to know how our unique hearts impact our bodies and quality of life over time."

The authors note that the study's findings and the registry data currently have a few limitations. First, the registry only contains patient-reported outcomes and no clinical data. The first sub-study of the CHI, the CHI-RON study, addresses this challenge by incorporating additional data sources for a subset of consenting CHI participants.

Additionally, recall bias, underlying neurocognitive challenges and survey fatigue, may have limited participation in the CHI to a smaller subset of adults with CHD. Efforts are underway to develop methods for people with congenital heart disease who have neurodevelopmental deficits or other disabilities to engage in the registry. The CHI is temporarily closed to new registrants as the study team redesigns the study to better align with the needs of the community.

"We are grateful for everyone who joined this registry, answered survey questions and shared their experiences," says Thomas Carton, Ph.D., chief data officer at Louisiana Public Health Institute and study co-author. "The CHI registry is a big step forward for adults with CHD, but also can serve as a model for how to bring together physicians, researchers and patients as active participants in care, research and advocacy."

As the registry grows in the

Study finds novel approach to treat neurological diseases

SAN FRANCISCO : The matter of what causes complicated neurological disorders like Alzheimer's or multiple sclerosis continues to perplex scientists and doctors, with unknowns impeding early diagnosis and successful treatment.

Even when identical twins have the same genetic risk factors, one may acquire a specific neurological condition while the other does not.

That's because, unlike diseases like cystic fibrosis or sickle-cell anaemia, which are caused by a single gene, most neurological problems are linked to a large number--sometimes hundreds--of rare genetic variants. Furthermore, these polymorphisms cannot identify who will develop disease on their own, because neurological diseases are heavily influenced by environmental factors and vascular hazards such as high blood pressure, ageing, heart disease, or obesity.

But there's one often-overlooked thread that connects most neurological diseases, says Katerina Akassoglou, PhD, a senior investigator at Gladstone Institutes: They're marked by a toxic immune reaction caused by blood that leaks into the brain through damaged blood vessels.

"Interactions between the brain, blood vessels, and the immune system are a common thread in the development and progression of many neurological diseases that have been traditionally viewed as very different conditions," says Akassoglou, a senior investigator with the Gladstone



Institute of Neurological Diseases and director of the Center for Neurovascular Brain Immunology at Gladstone and UC San Francisco. "Knowing that leaked blood is a key driver of brain inflammation, we can now approach these diseases from a different angle."

She and her collaborators share their insights on this topic in a commentary article published in Cell's 50th anniversary "Focus on Neuroscience" issue. Akassoglou and her lab have long investigated how blood that leaks into the brain trigger neurological diseases, essentially by hijacking the brain's immune system and setting off a cascade of harmful often-irreversible effects that result in damaged neurons. One blood protein in particular--fibrin, normally involved in blood coagulation--is responsible for setting off this

detrimental cascade. The process has been observed in conditions as diverse as Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, premature birth, and even COVID-19. However, Akassoglou and her team found that the process could be prevented or interrupted by "neutralizing" fibrin to deactivate its toxic properties--an approach that appears to protect against many neurological diseases when tested in animal models.

"As a first step, we know that neutralizing fibrin reduces the burden posed by vascular dysfunction," Akassoglou says. Regardless of what initially caused the blood leaks, be it a head injury, autoimmunity, genetic mutations, brain amyloid or infection, neutralizing fibrin appears to be protective in multiple animal models of disease.

The scientists previously developed a drug, a therapeutic mono-

clonal antibody, that specifically targets fibrin's inflammatory properties without affecting its essential role in blood coagulation. This fibrin-targeting immunotherapy has shown, in mice, to protect from multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's, and to treat neurological effects of COVID-19. A humanized version of this first-in-class fibrin immunotherapy is already in Phase 1 safety clinical trials by Therini Bio, a biotech company launched to advance discoveries from Akassoglou's lab.

In the Cell commentary, Akassoglou and her colleagues make the case that seemingly disparate neurological diseases must be viewed differently in light of new research on the blood-brain-immune interface. They say that in the coming decade, scientific breakthroughs will emerge from collaborative networks of immunologists, neuroscientists, hematologists, geneticists, computer scientists, physicists, bioengineers, drug developers, and clinical researchers. These partnerships--forged across academia, industry, and foundations--will catalyze innovation in drug discovery and transform medical practice for neurological diseases.

"This is a new opportunity for drug discovery that goes beyond addressing genes alone or environmental factors alone," Akassoglou says. "To usher in this new era, we must leverage new technologies and embrace an interdisciplinary approach that accounts for the important roles of immune and vascular systems in neurodegeneration."

Study: Biomarker may predict response to immunotherapy in liver cancer

NEW YORK [US] : According to a preclinical study conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine researchers, it may soon be feasible to detect whether individuals with hepatocellular carcinoma, a kind of liver cancer, may benefit from immunotherapy.

The work, published on October 17 in Molecular Cell, sheds fresh light on a pair of proteins known as p62 and NBR1, and their conflicting roles in regulating the interferon response in hepatic stellate cells, an important immunological component in the liver's fight against tumours. The study shows that high amounts of the immune-suppressing NBR1 in these specialised cells can help identify patients who are unlikely to respond to immunotherapies. It also reveals that NBR1-lowering techniques can decrease tumours in animal models, indicating a potential new therapy option for the subgroup of patients who do not.

"P62 and NBR1 are yin and yang," said the study's co-principal investigator Dr. Jorge Moscat,

the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology and a member of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. "In contrast to NBR1, if p62 is high in hepatic stellate cells, a patient is protected from cancer, but if it is low, the immune system is knocked down. If NBR1 is high, the immune system is impaired, but if NBR1 is low, the immune response increases."

Until recently, patients with hepatocellular carcinoma had few treatment options, and those that were available extended life by only a few months. Immunotherapy has offered a new alternative for these patients and may extend their lives for up to two years.

"The liver is an organ that is tremendously immune suppressed," said co-principal investigator Dr. Maria Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology and a member of the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. "Reactivating the immune system



is a very attractive approach that is now bearing fruit."

However, not all patients respond to immunotherapy, and only a small percentage achieve

long-term remission. Clinicians cannot currently predict which patients would benefit. "We need biomarkers to identify which patients will respond and who will

achieve long-term survival," she said. Drs. Moscat and Diaz-Meco worked with co-first authors Dr. Sadaaki Nishimura and Dr. Juan F. Linares, a postdoctoral associ-

ate and an instructor, respectively, in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and Dr. Antoine L'Hermite, formerly of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, on the study.

The investigators aimed to identify biomarkers and potential therapeutic targets by studying what goes wrong in the liver's healing mechanisms that leads to cancer. Prior research has found that levels of the tumor-suppressing protein p62 are irreversibly depressed in patients who develop hepatocellular carcinoma. The new study shows that, usually, p62 helps promote an immune response by activating a protein called STING, which pushes NBR1 out of the way, triggering an immune response that destroys tumor cells. NBR1, by contrast, promotes the breakdown of STING and blocks the immune response. Deleting NBR1 from hepatic stellate cells in mice with hepatocellular carcinoma rescues the immune response and shrinks tumors even when p62 levels

remain low. The team is now investigating how they can develop a therapy that would degrade NBR1 in patients and block it from interacting with STING. The goal is to reactivate the immune system and help increase the effectiveness of immunotherapy. Drugs that activate STING are also in development and might provide another approach to help boost the immune response in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. The team will also study whether knocking down NBR1 might help prevent the metastasis of many types of cancer or prevent tumors from becoming resistant to therapy. Dr. Moscat and Dr. Diaz-Meco plan to continue their studies of the pathways that regulate the immune response in the liver.

"If we don't fully comprehend the molecular mechanisms regulating these processes, immunotherapy will not progress, and we won't be able to understand why it works in some patients and not others," Dr. Diaz-Meco said.

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: Poland deploys air defence system

MI News Service, Warsaw:

The latest deployment of Polish and allied aircraft on Sunday comes as the transatlantic security bloc NATO is stepping up its air patrols in response to suspected Russian airspace incursions and drone sightings in several member states.

Polish and allied air defences have been deployed to secure the country's airspace, its military said, as Russia launched new deadly air strikes on neighbouring Ukraine.

The latest deployment on Sunday comes as the transatlantic security bloc NATO steps up its air patrols across the region in response to suspected Russian airspace incursions and drone sightings in several member states.

"Polish and allied aircraft are operating in our airspace, while ground-based air defence and radar reconnaissance systems have been brought to the



highest state of readiness," Poland's operational command said in a post on X early on Sunday.

"These actions are preventive in nature and are aimed at securing the airspace and protecting citizens, especially in areas adjacent to the threatened region," the statement added.

The Polish military said it is monitoring the current situation, stating that its forces under its command

southeast of the capital, Warsaw, after Russia launched a major attack across Ukraine. Earlier that month, Polish and NATO forces also intercepted Russian drones which entered Poland's airspace, marking their first direct military engagement with Moscow since the Kremlin's full-scale invasion of Ukraine began in 2022. On Sunday, NATO member Lithuania reopened its main airport after shutting it for hours following sightings of a "series of balloons" in its airspace. Get instant alerts and updates based on your interests. Be the first to know when big stories happen.

Airports in Germany, Denmark, Norway and Poland have also recently suspended flights due to unidentified drones, while Romania and Estonia have pointed the finger at Russia, which has dismissed the allegations.

IRAN executes 6 accused of ties to Israel

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran has executed six fighters accused of waging armed attacks in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, according to state media, as the country continues its accelerated executions of people it says have ties to Israel following the 12-day June conflict with Israel and the United States.

"The death sentence for six separatist terrorist elements, who in recent years had carried out a series of armed operations and bombings targeting security in Khuzestan province, was carried out at dawn today," the judiciary said. The identities of all those executed and details of their arrests and sentencing were not immediately clear. But Mizan reported that they were involved in the killings of four security personnel, including two police officers and two members of the Basij paramilitary force, in 2018 and 2019.

The report also said they had "confessed to planning and executing acts of sabotage such as making and planting bombs, blowing up the Khorramshahr gas station". Iran usually links what it calls "separatist and terrorist" groups to its arch-nemesis, Israel. In a separate execution, authorities hanged Kurdish fighter Saman Mohammadi after convicting him for "Moharebeh" – waging war against God. Mohammadi, arrested in



2013, was reportedly involved in the 2009 killing of the Friday prayers imam in the western city of Sanandaj, as well as in armed robberies and kidnappings, including the killing of a conscript. The executions came less than a week after Iran said it hanged Bahman Choobiasl, a man it described as "one of the most important spies for Israel in Iran". Mizan reported that Choobiasl was executed over his meeting with officials from the Israeli spy agency, Mossad. Get instant alerts and updates based on your interests. Be the first to know when big stories happen.

According to Mizan, Choobiasl had worked on "sensitive telecommunications projects", Iran's Supreme Court rejected the defendant's appeal and confirmed the death sentence on charges of "corruption on Earth", it said. Entangled in a

decades-long shadow war with Israel, and a full-blown conflict this June, Iran has put to death many individuals it accuses of having links with Mossad and facilitating its operations in the country.

Israel's offensive in June involved 12 days of air attacks, including several that targeted Iran's top generals and nuclear scientists, as well as civilians in residential areas, for which Iran retaliated with barrages of missiles and drones. The US also carried out extensive strikes, on Israel's behalf, on Iranian nuclear sites during the conflict. According to Amnesty International, Israeli attacks on Iran killed at least 1,100 people. In response to the June war and protests in recent years over the state of the economy, women's rights and some calls for regime change, Iran has sentenced more people to death. According to the Oslo-based group Iran Human Rights and the Washington, DC-based Abdoorrahman Boroumand Center for Human Rights in Iran, the number of people executed in 2025 was more than 1,000, but it notes that the number could be higher as Tehran does not report each execution. Iran is the world's second most prolific executioner after China, according to human rights groups including Amnesty International.

JIHADIS rape man in Dresden Rly Stn

MI News Service, Dresden (Germany): Brutal attack on a 19-year-old young man at Dresden's main train station transmits shock waves in Germany. According to police, two 15-year-old Syrians allegedly threatened, robbed, and then raped a young Czech man on Sunday morning.

The Syrian youths allegedly attacked their victim around 4:15 a.m. The 19-year-old was on his way home at Wiener Platz near the main train station early Sunday morning when he was allegedly first ambushed and then sexually assaulted. The police, in response said: "The suspects allegedly robbed the man of 300 euros at knife-point and raped him."

The victim immediately called the police after the incident, who were able to apprehend the perpetrators shortly thereafter. The police stated: "The two were in the immediate vicinity of the crime scene." The suspects were arrested, and the investigating judge in Pirna issued an arrest warrant. They are in custody. The two are said to live in Heidenau and Neustadt and, according to a spokesperson for the Dresden public prosecutor's office, have not yet come to the attention of the police.

The young man from the Czech Republic lives in Dresden. He received outpatient medical treatment. The severity of his injuries has not been disclosed. The public prosecutor's investigation is ongoing. Just in August, a knife attack on US citizen John Rudat (20) caused outrage in Dresden.

Modi to inaugurate Navi Mumbai International Airport on Oct 8

MI News Service, Mumbai:

The airport, which received its aerodrome licence from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) on September 30, is set to begin commercial operations from December. The airport was developed in multiple phases by Navi Mumbai International Airport, with the Adani Group holding a 74 per cent stake and the remaining 26 per cent owned by Maharashtra government's land development authority, CIDCO.

CIDCO vice chairman and managing director Vijay Singhal said at a briefing on Saturday, "The Prime Minister will inaugurate the airport at 2:40 pm on October 8, and it will be operational from December." Navi Mumbai International Airport, with airport code 'NMI', will be the second airport serving the Mumbai Metropolitan Region. Once fully operational, it is expected to handle 90 million passengers and manage 3.2 million metric tonnes of cargo annually, making it one of the largest aviation hubs in Asia. Initially, the airport will start with one runway and a terminal capable of handling 20 million passengers per year, about one-third the capacity of Mumbai airport.

Commercial airline flights are likely to start in mid-November, with ticket sales commencing weeks before. Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that the airport will be named after the late DB Patil, a politician and social activist who ensured fair compensation for farmers who gave up land for the building of Navi Mumbai. "While granting permission for the airport construction earlier, the Centre had approved the name 'Navi Mumbai International Airport'. With the proposed renaming, it will now be known as 'Loknete DB Patil Navi Mumbai International Airport'. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the state's proposal," Fadnavis said.

He also added that approvals for renaming Pune airport after Jagadguru



Sant Tukaram and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar (Aurangabad) airport after Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj are in the pipeline. "The official name announcement will coincide with the commencement of passenger operations. During the interim 'dry run' period, advance bookings and technical readiness procedures will be conducted," he said.

Gautam Adani shared his excitement ahead of the inauguration on X, posting a video on October 1: "Ahead of the inauguration of Navi Mumbai International Airport on 8 Oct, I met with our differently-abled colleagues, construction workers, women staff, engineers, artisans, fire-fighters and the guards who helped bring this vision to life. I felt the pulse of a living wonder—a monument shaped by thousands of hands and hearts. When millions of flights take to the skies and billions walk through these halls, the spirit of these people will echo through every takeoff and every step—and to them, I offer my deepest gratitude. Jai Hind."

Regarding flight operations, Air India plans to operate 20 daily flights connecting 15 Indian cities in phase one, scaling up to over 55 daily flights—including five international routes—by mid-2026, and 60 daily flights by winter 2026. Fadnavis also noted that cases registered against activists who had protested over the airport's name will be withdrawn to ensure their employment opportunities at the airport are not affected, including cases filed during the COVID period, following due judicial procedure.

सानाए टाकाichi to become Japan's first female PM

MI News Service, Tokyo: Japan's governing party elected former Economic Security Minister Sanae Takaichi, a hard-line ultra-conservative and China hawk, as its new leader, making her likely to become the country's first female prime minister. In a country that ranks poorly internationally for gender equality, the 64-year-old Takaichi makes history as the first female leader of Japan's long-governing conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Takaichi is one of the most conservative members of the male-dominated party.

An admirer of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Takaichi is a protégé of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ultra-conservative vision and a regular at the Yasukuni Shrine, seen as a symbol of Japan's wartime militarism, which could complicate Tokyo's relations with its Asian neighbours. Takaichi beat Agriculture Minister Shinjiro Koizumi, the son of popular former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, in a runoff in a vote by the LDP. Takaichi replaces Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba as the party hopes to regain public support and stay in power after major election losses.

She is likely to be Japan's next prime minister because the party remains by far the largest in the lower house, which determines the national leader, and because opposition groups are highly splintered. Takaichi vows to strengthen Japan-US alliance. Takaichi later said she will immediately work on stemming rising prices, while also focusing on diplomatic and security challenges. A parliamentary vote is expected in mid-October. The LDP, which has been criticised by opposition leaders for creating a prolonged political vacuum, said Takaichi needs to hurry because the winner will soon face a diplomatic test: a possible summit with US President Donald Trump, who could demand that Japan increase its defence spending.

A meeting is reportedly being planned for late October. Trump will travel to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in South Korea starting October 31. Takaichi said en-



suring the Japan-US alliance is her top diplomatic priority. "It is essential to... confirm the reinforcement of the Japan-US alliance," she said. Takaichi stressed the importance of their cooperation through three-way frameworks that also include regional partners such as South Korea, Australia and the Philippines, pledging Japan's greater role in achieving a free and open Indo-Pacific. She said she respects all tariffs and investment agreements struck between Tokyo and Washington under the Ishiba government.

Takaichi faces major domestic challenges. The LDP, whose consecutive losses in parliamentary elections in the past year have left it in the minority in both houses, needs its new leader to quickly bring back voter confidence and stability and to address challenges in and outside Japan. Takaichi will also need cooperation from key opposition groups to implement her party's policies.

Ishiba, who achieved a 15 per cent tariff deal with Washington and put Japan's ties with South Korea and other Asian countries on track during his one-year stint, said "I hope the LDP will band together under new (party) president Takaichi to serve for the country and the people, as well as the world and for the new era." Ishiba, a centrist known as archrival of Abe, was virtually forced into resigning by ultra-conservative wings in the party.

Direct air cargo mission flagged off to Antarctica from Goa

MI News Service, Goa: The Goa-based National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) has sent a direct air cargo flight from the state to Antarctica, marking a significant step in enhancing logistical efficiency for India's polar expeditions, an official has said. The cargo flight loaded with 18 tons of essential supplies, including scientific equipment, medicines, and annual provisions for Indian research stations in the Antarctic, took off from Manohar International Airport, Mopa, in North Goa. Dr Thamban Meloth, director of NCPOR, flagged off the flight, a DROMLAN-operated IL-76 aircraft, the official said. NCPOR, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, is a premier institution responsible for India's research activities in the polar and Southern Ocean realms.

"This direct route strengthens India's self-reliant polar logistics and underscores our commitment to cutting-edge Antarctic research," said Dr Meloth. A senior NCPOR spokesman said this shipment, routed via the gateway city of Cape Town in South Africa, marks a significant step in enhancing logistical efficiency for India's polar expeditions. "The cargo will support ongoing scientific research in glaciology, oceanography, and climate studies at stations like Bharati and Maitri," the spokesman said. He said that the mission was facilitated by GMR Aero Cargo and Logistics, with support from Alpha Crux, Ultima Antarctic Logistics, and South Africa.

Ethanol blending changed sugar mills' fortunes: AMIT SHAH

MI News Service, Mumbai: Ethanol blending has transformed the balance sheets of sugar mills and India's sugar cooperatives sector has benefited immensely after Narendra Modi became the prime minister, Union minister Amit Shah said.

He also said that the Centre, under PM Modi's leadership, will extend all possible assistance to farmers in Maharashtra who have suffered losses due to heavy rains in the state recently. The Union Minister for Home and Co-operation was addressing a farmers' rally after inaugurating the expanded capacity of Dr Vitthalrao Vikhe Patil Cooperative Sugar Factory in Maharashtra's Ahilyanagar district, which has increased its crushing capacity to 10,000 tonnes of sugarcane per day.

MI News Service, Thimpu/Darjeeling: Darjeeling is reeling from widespread devastation after torrential rains and landslides killed at least 18 people, washed away roads, and cut off villages.

As the region struggles to recover, authorities in north Bengal are now on high alert for potential flooding in the Dooars following a technical failure at Bhutan's Tala Hydropower Dam.

The National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) said the Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) reported that dam gates failed to open, causing river water to spill over.

Bhutan has alerted the West Bengal government, warning of possible downstream impacts.

The NCHM alert warned: "The National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) received information from the Druk Green Power Corporation (DGPC) that Tala Hydropower Dam gates failed to open and river water is overflowing the dam. It is requested to be ALERT and inform the State

ISRAEL pounds Gaza, killing 70

MI News Service, Tel Aviv:

Israeli attacks across the besieged Gaza Strip have killed at least 70 Palestinians, medical sources said, despite calls from United States President Donald Trump for Israel to stop its bombardment after Hamas said it had accepted some elements of Trump's 20-point plan to end Israel's war. At least 45 of the victims killed in bombardments and airstrikes were in the famine-struck Gaza City, where the Israeli army has been pressing an offensive in recent weeks, forcing some one million residents to flee to the overcrowded south.

Govt draft rules to make online money gaming violations non-bailable offences

MI News Service, New Delhi:

The government has proposed to make violation of online money gaming rules a non-bailable offence and hold the entire company staff liable for facilitating the breach, according to the draft rules released on Thursday.

Draft rules proposed to allow any authorised officer under the rules to enter any place, whether physical or digital, and search and arrest without warrant any person found to be suspicious of having committed or about to commit any offence under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming (PROG) Act 2025.

"Notwithstanding anything contained in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, offences under section 5 and section 7 shall be cognizable and non-bailable," according to the draft rules.

Section 5 under the draft rules prohibits enti-

ties from offering, aiding, abetting, inducing or engaging in online money games and online money gaming services.

Section 7 bars banks, financial institutions, or any other person from facilitating financial transactions for any online money gaming service.

The draft rules have been framed under section 19 of the PROG Act, which received the President's assent and was notified on August 22. The Act approved by Parliament in August bars online money games and money-based gaming services in the country, as well as their promotion. The rules propose protection to officers or persons authorised to conduct searches of suspicious places, including devices under the Act, from any sort of lawsuit or legal proceedings. The Ministry of Electronics and IT has invited feedback and comments on the draft rules by October 31.

USA bomb scare at GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

MI News Service, Miami (USA):

A 27-year-old man was arrested following a bomb scare at St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in Kendall, according to the Miami-Dade Sheriff's Office. Isaac Lopez, a Cuban national, was reportedly acting suspiciously while carrying a backpack, prompting a church member to alert an usher, reports say. When confronted about his backpack, Lopez allegedly told the usher, "It's a bomb," before handing over the bag. The usher secured the backpack in a nearby room.

Minutes later, a loud, high-pitched alarm resembling a ticking countdown sounded throughout the church, disrupting the service. Deputies said Lopez ran to the room where the backpack had been placed, put his phone—which was making the ticking noise—inside the bag, and returned to the service.



Government of West Bengal, India to prepare for eventualities. The Office of TMD, Flood Warning under the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM), Bhutan will continue to update the situation in coordination with the DGPC."

The alert has been circulated

to Bhutan's Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources and DGPC authorities for immediate follow-up.

India's National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has put its Alipurduar unit on the "highest alert level." All personnel on leave have been recalled, and an additional 15 rescuers from Siliguri

are being sent to reinforce ground operations.

A storm system moving eastward from eastern Uttar Pradesh is approaching Madarihat in the Dooars. Officials warn that heavy rainfall in Bhutan's hills could swell rivers in north Bengal rapidly, increasing the risk of flash floods.

Meanwhile, NDRF teams are conducting rescue operations in Mirik after landslides triggered by heavy rains claimed lives and stranded villagers.

NDRF deputy inspector general Mohsen Shahedi said, "Our personnel are engaged in intensive rescue and relief operations to locate missing persons and assist the stranded villagers."

He added that three teams have been mobilised from Darjeeling, Siliguri, and Alipurduar, while two more teams from Malda and Kolkata are on their way.

The destruction has been severe in Mirik and Sukhia Pokhari, where roads, houses, and infrastructure have been washed away.



International Series: Ormsby turns season around with play-off win over Vincent as Bhullar's challenge falters in Jakarta

JAKARTA : Australian Wade Ormsby defeated Scott Vincent from Zimbabwe on the first hole of a sudden-death play-off to win the Jakarta International Championship, as Gaganjeet Bhullar's hopes of a sixth win in Indonesia faltered on the final day at the Damai Indah Golf - PIK Course on Sunday.

The 45-year-old Ormsby had gone into the final round tied on -11 with Vincent, the International Series Morocco victor, and 2023 BNI Indonesian Masters champion Bhullar.

Although Bhullar and Vincent both picked up a birdie on the first, the Indian dropped three shots on the front nine to fall away. Two early birdies after the turn gave the Indian hope, but two costly doubles on 15 and 18 dashed any hope he had.

That left Vincent and Ormsby in a play-off, and the man from Down Under triumphed after making a routine par on the par-four 18th, where Vincent found water with his second shot. Both had finished on -12 with one-under rounds as the nerves kicked in, one ahead of a packed bunch including Scott's younger brother Kieran Vincent, Doyeob Mun of Korea, and the Thai trio of Pavit Tangkamolprasert, Poom Saksansin, and Sadom Kaewkanjana.

While Bhullar was the highest-placed Indian on seven under overall, Viraj Madappa carded a 66 to finish on three under, and Chikkarangappa S. finished a shot further back on two over after a 74.

It is Ormsby's fifth victory on the Asian Tour and second on The International Series. His last win came at the 2023 International Series Thailand.

The victory also made up for being penalised one shot after his third round when he was judged to have accidentally moved his ball when he addressed it on the fourth. He had been enduring a poor season with his best finish a tied 21st at the International Series India presented by DLF.

"It was a bit of a grind," said Ormsby, who made nine straight pars on the back nine.

"Probably didn't have my best stuff out there, but I was just hanging in there. Feel bad for Scotty, you know, he kind of let a couple slip at the end there. But I hit a couple of great shots in that play-off hole, so that makes me feel better about the whole thing."

Vincent was attempting to become the first player to win back-to-back events on The International Series, having won the International Series Morocco in July. It means he has now finished runner-up in his last two Asian Tour events, as he was joint second in the Shinhan Donghae Open last month.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle: Dr. Mandaviya leads the way with teachers in Delhi on World Teachers' Day



NEW DELHI : Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, led the 43rd edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle, commemorating the World Teachers' Day at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in the national capital this morning. The event simultaneously took place in over 10,500 locations nationwide.

Over 1,000 participants, including educators from across Delhi, joined in alongside athletes, fitness influencers, and youth. The athletes included Olympic medallist Abhishek Nain, a key member of the Indian hockey team, chess icon Tania Sachdev, as well as rising javelin star Sachin Yadav, and

Rohtash Chaudhary, referred to as India's Push-up Man. It also featured a vibrant nukkad natak dedicated to teachers, yoga sessions, skipping, fitness games, and participation zones for children.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Mandaviya called the initiative a true nationwide movement. "Through this movement, lakhs of citizens across more than 10,500 locations are pedalling every Sunday to keep themselves fit. It has become a celebration of the Fit India vision given by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi," he said.

"If every citizen dedicates even an hour to physical activity, Bharat will

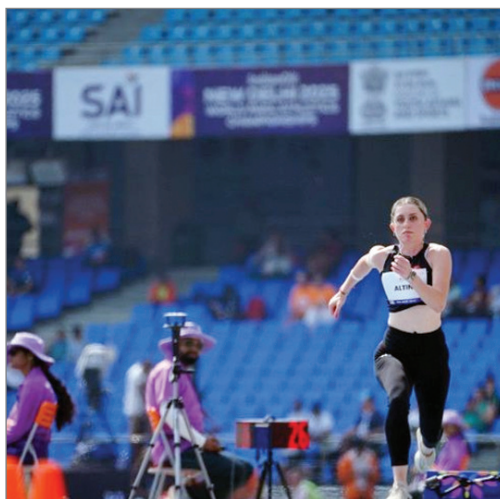
march ahead stronger, healthier, and more united towards the dream of Viksit Bharat. Today, several teachers have participated in this event, giving a message to students to maintain a balance in life. Bicycle pedals teach us the greatest lesson of life that we move forward only when we maintain balance. This balance is the foundation of life, and it comes from fitness," he added.

Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Yogasana Bharat, and MY Bharat, the cycling movement has now firmly established itself as one of India's most impactful fitness campaigns. The event also saw the launch of the official anthem of the Fit India Sundays on Cycle. The New Delhi event was also conducted in collaboration with Raahgiri Foundation and Fitspire, while the Rope Skipping activity was led by Dr. Shikha Gupta.

Meanwhile, Rohtash Chaudhary, popularly known as the "Pushup Man of India," who is also a Guinness World Record holder and Brand Ambassador of the Fit India Movement, informed Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya during the event of his attempt for another Guinness World Record for the Most Push-ups in one hour with a 60 lb pack on the back, scheduled to be held on November 2, 2025 at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.

Abhishek Nain, who won bronze at the Paris 2024 Olympics with the Indian hockey team and lifted the Asia Cup in Rajgir, spoke passionately about the initiative in New Delhi: "As athletes, fitness is our foundation. What I see here is not just people cycling, but India embracing a culture of health. It is also very motivating that the movement has expanded over the last few months," he said.

Grandmaster (GM) Tania Sachdev, making her second appearance at Sundays on Cycle, struck an emotional note linking the movement to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision. "I admire our Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts—he is such a big supporter of sports and has transformed fitness into a people's movement. This initiative shows how fitness can bring communities together. Today, seeing teachers, students, and athletes cycle side by side was heartwarming." Following 43 editions, the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative has seen a huge scale of participation from over 1,00,000 locations nationwide, engaging over 12 lakh individuals. Events were also organised on Sunday in venues like the SAI NCOE Guwahati, STC Rajnanaogaon in Chhattisgarh, SAI STC Kokrajhar, SAI NSRC Lucknow, SAI STC Jabalpur, and more. Events are organised from State and Union Territory capitals to Sports Authority of India (SAI) Regional Centres, National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs), SAI Training Centres (STCs), Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCES), and Khelo India Centres (KICs).



WPAC 2025: Zileide, Fatma hand Polish long jump legend Karolina a rare defeat

NEW DELHI : Zileide Cassiano Da Silva of Brazil and Fatma Damla Altin of Turkiye became only the second and third athletes in history to defeat Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska (Poland) in a global women's long jump T20 competition when they relegated her to a bronze medal at the World Para Athletics Championships here on Sunday.

Zileide Cassiano Da Silva and Fatma Damla Altin, who finished behind the Polish athlete at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, found their pace, rhythm, and flight to leap 5.88m and 5.72m, securing gold and silver.

The legend Kucharczyk-Urbanska, who was returning to the World Para Athletics Championships after missing 2024, had a best of 5.55m.

It was only the third defeat in a global competition for Karolina Kucharczyk-Urbanska in 10 global competitions since making her debut in 2011. She has won gold in four World Championships and three Paralympic Games. Although she has breached the 6m often, an ankle injury has meant she had to settle for a season's best jump for bronze.

Kucharczyk-Urbanska said the bronze felt like gold because she is dealing with an injured ankle. She also said she liked how she fought till the end to be on the podium despite competing in unfamiliar heat and humidity. "I had a lot of fun today," she said. I fought hard to get on the podium," she said.

Interestingly, Mikela Ristoski (Croatia), the athlete who had beaten the Polish jumper both at the World Para Athletics Championships in Christchurch in 2011 and the Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 - was engaged with Kucharczyk-Urbanska in the fight for bronze but was unable to edge her renowned rival off the podium.

From the shot put circle, the Netherlands' Lara Baars threw the iron ball over 9.77m to set a new World Record in the women's F40 class. The only competitor to surpass the 9m mark, the 28-year-old broke her own World Record twice, making it the 30th world record in New Delhi 2025.

Meanwhile, on Sunday morning, the Jury of Appeal reversed an earlier decision and reinstated four marks of Brazilian Paulino dos Santos Thiago in the men's Shot Put F57 final, including a best of 14.82m that gave him the silver medal and relegated India's Soman Rana to bronze and Finland's Teijo Kopplikka out of the podium.

While India's count of medals remained at 18, it now has six medals of each colour and is placed seventh on the table. India's hopes of rising higher rest on sprinter Simran Sharma's shoulders as she competes in the women's 200m T12 final, where she will go up against Clara Barros Da Silva (Brazil) and Venezuela's Alejandra Paola Perez Lopez.

A part of me will always be here: Inter Miami honour legendary retiring midfielder Sergio Busquets

FORT LAUDERDALE : Inter Miami CF honoured the legendary Spanish midfielder Sergio Busquets, who recently announced that the 2025 MLS season would be his last as a player, after Saturday's 4-1 home victory over the New England Revolution.

Miami played a video tribute for Busquets on the Chase Stadium scoreboard featuring fellow FC Barcelona icons Pep Guardiola, Xavi Hernandez and Lionel Messi - with whom he forms the club's "Core Four" along with Luis Suarez and Jordi Alba.

"I have no words. A part of me, of my heart, will always be here with you," Busquets said. "Hopefully, it can end in the best way possible. Which is being in the playoffs and going for the title."

Busquets, who joined Miami in July 2023 from Barcelona FV, has been crucial to the club's ongoing growth, offering his vision and skill in midfield, along with his experience and leadership. He has won the Leagues Cup 2023 and the 2024 Supporters' Shield with the Herons. Overall, he has made 107 appearances across all competitions, scoring one goal and providing 19 assists.

Busquets further revealed plans to take a sabbatical from football after retirement at the end of the 2025 MLS season, before chasing a coaching career.

I think in the future, yes (I'd want to be a coach), but for now I'd rather take a sabbatical," he



said. "It's a long time, with hardly any weekends. Like any footballer, obviously, playing for the national team and everything gives you another plus, but you also have less time. "You want to enjoy time with your family, time for me, for them, seeing my children, being with them, travelling more, watching football from a different perspective. And then, in the future, we'll see."

Busquets made his Barca debut on September 13, 2008, when Pep Guardiola (already familiar with him from Barca Athletic) handed him his chance

against Racing Santander.

The defensive midfielder made 722 appearances for Barcelona, the third highest in the club's history. He has won 32 trophies, including nine La Liga titles, seven Copa del Rey wins, and three UEFA Champions League victories. His career total of trophy wins stands at 36 major titles across Barcelona, Spain, and Inter Miami. At the international level, Busquets made 143 appearances for Spain while being part of the 2010 World Cup winning squad and the UEFA Euro victory in 2012.

Messi becomes second player in MLS history to reach at least 40 combined goals and assists

FORT LAUDERDALE : Lionel Messi has added another milestone to his crowded mantle after recording three assists in the 4-1 home win over the New England Revolution, reaching 41 goal contributions this season. Messi became only the second player in MLS history to reach at least 40 combined goals and assists in a regular-season campaign, following Carlos Vela's record 49 with LAFC in 2019.

He assisted Tadeo Allende's goal in the 32nd minute, which opened the scoring. Then, before the half-time break, he linked up with former FC Barcelona teammate Jordi Alba with a fine piece of dribbling inside the box. The classic combination doubled Miami's lead, MLS reports.

Dor Turgeman pulled one back for the visitors in the 59th minute, but Miami responded almost immediately. Messi, just a minute later, set up Allende's second goal of the night, shortly before Alba added a brace of his own to round out the scoreboard.

"He gave us the possibility of opening the score and then securing the result," head coach Javier Mascherano said post-game of Messi's latest standout performance. "Not only with the pass for Jordi, but when they [New England] made it 2-1, and in the next play with an assist that only he can give. He keeps showing the ability he has and, more than anything, the ambition and desire to go for more." Messi has two more games to increase his goal contributions and possibly challenge Vela's record, starting with Saturday's regular-season.

PKL 12: Shadloui has started to find his rhythm, opines Rishank Devadiga

CHENNAI : Rishank Devadiga was impressed with Gujarat Giants captain Mohammadreza Shadloui's performance during the team's recent outing against Bengal Warriorz and said that the skipper had finally started to find his mojo.

Gujarat Giants rose from the bottom of the points table after a commanding 47-40 victory over Bengal Warriorz. Meanwhile, Purneri Paltan secured a narrow yet crucial 41-36 win against Jaipur Pink Panthers in a tightly contested match.

Speaking to JioStar, Rishank Devadiga analysed Gujarat's well-rounded, dominant display, pointed out Bengal's defensive errors, and praised Purneri Paltan's balanced raiding partnership of Pankaj Mohite and Aditya Shinde.

On Bengal Warriorz's defensive struggles against Gujarat Giants, Devadiga said, "Devank Dalal is the kind of player who will always bring you points in raids. He can fit into any team. But it's the responsibility of the defence to back him up, and that support was missing against the Gujarat Giants. The Bengal Warriorz's defence was disappointing, managing only five tackle points in the entire match."

"Gujarat, on the other hand, showed complete dominance, playing as a cohesive defensive unit. Rakesh was particularly impressive with the way he started the game. The battle between Mohammadreza Shadloui and Devank Dalal was also exciting to watch."

Speaking about Gujarat Giants' collective team effort against Bengal Warriorz and Shadloui's contribution to the team's win,



Devadiga added, "The Gujarat Giants played like a complete unit against the Bengal Warriorz, and that's what led to their success. Every defender did a commendable job, and the way Mohammadreza Shadloui looked to break Bengal's morale early on set the tone."

"In the opening phase, he attacked Devank Dalal, while Ankit Dahiya also targeted Devank twice and from there, Gujarat established a firm grip on the game. Shadloui contributed in both departments, earning two raid points and five tackle points. We can say this mighty player has truly started to find his rhythm."

Devank Dalal put forth a noteworthy performance. Devadiga praised his efforts, calling him a 'fearless raider,' and also lauded his variation and skills. "Devank is an unstoppable player, a fearless raider in every sense. Whenever he goes on a raid, he shows great

variation and skills, whether it's through kicks, running hand touches, or bonus points. His performances have been outstanding. But when a player consistently brings you more than 20 points, it becomes the defenders' responsibility to back him up."

"Against Gujarat, however, the Bengal Warriorz defense completely failed. They gave away points far too easily. Rakesh capitalized on these mistakes with 18 raid points."

"From the defensive unit of the Warriorz, Ashish Malik struggled, Shivansh Thakur couldn't secure a single point, and Nitesh Kumar had a poor outing before being substituted. Continuous defensive errors pushed the game away from Bengal. Despite Devank's multi-point raids keeping them in the contest, the lack of defensive support cost them the match."

In the other match on Saturday, Purneri Paltan narrowly defeated Jaipur Pink Panthers with a 41-36 score in a closely fought contest. Speaking of their close victory, Devadiga said:

"Despite the win, Purneri Paltan will still be slightly disappointed. They started well, but couldn't maintain that momentum until the end. In terms of raid points, Jaipur impressed, earning more than Pune, but the difference came from the tackle points, where Pune's defenders stepped up. Ali Samadi, however, deserves huge praise."

"The way he fought back single-handedly in the second half was exceptional. Even though his team was trailing by a big margin, he didn't lose hope and kept fighting till the end. Hats off to Ali Samadi for that performance."