

Shashi Panja Condemns Durgapur Med Student Gang-Rape
West Bengal Minister for Women and Child Development Shashi Panja on Saturday described the alleged gang-rape of a student at a private medical college in Durgapur as a very unfortunate incident, adding that the BJP was politicising the matter. She said the police have received a complaint and the case is being thoroughly investigated. The victim's parents, who arrived from Odisha, expressed faith in the ongoing investigation. Panja added that the girl has been admitted to the hospital, is being looked after, and is receiving medical counselling. She also emphasised the importance of the girl's deposition in the investigation. Panja said crimes against women should not be politicised, but regrettably, the BJP was doing so. "The BJP always views such incidents through its political lens, which is very unfortunate," she said. PG 3

Rs. 3

KOLKATA

SUNDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 2025

PG-8, YEAR—12, ISSUE—133

(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVETV.COM

Morning India

PM launches Rs 35,440-cr farm schemes, inaugurates projects worth Rs 5,450 cr

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday launched two major schemes for the agriculture sector with a combined outlay of Rs 35,440 crore, including a pulses mission aimed at reducing import dependency. The event coincided with the birth anniversary of socialist leader Jayaprakash Narayan.

He also inaugurated projects valued at over Rs 5,450 crore in the agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, while laying the foundation stone for additional projects worth around Rs 815 crore. The 'Mission for Aatmanirbharta in Pulses', with an outlay of Rs 11,440 crore, aims at increasing pulses production from the current 252.38 lakh tonne to 350 lakh tonne by the 2030-31 crop year and reducing the country's import dependency. The Rs 24,000-crore 'Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana' aims to transform 100 low-performing agri-districts. The scheme will focus on enhancing productivity, promoting crop diversification, improving irrigation and storage, and ensuring credit access in the select 100 districts. The two schemes, already approved by the Cabinet, will be implemented from the upcoming rabi (winter) season till 2030-31. Among the projects inaugurated



Prime Minister Narendra Modi during an interaction with farmers at Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi.

are artificial insemination training centres in Bengaluru and Jammu and Kashmir, centres of excellence at Amreli and Banas, an IVF lab in Assam under the Rashtriya Gokul

Mission, milk powder plants at Mehsana, Indore, and Bhilwara, and a fish feed plant under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana at Tezpur.

During the programme, PM Modi distributed certificates to farmers certified under the National Mission for Natural Farming, MAITRI technicians, and Primary

Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACS) converted to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhhi Kendras (PMKSKs) and Common Service Centres (CSCs). The event marked important milestones achieved under government initiatives, including 50 lakh farmer memberships in 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), of which 1,100 FPOs recorded an annual turnover of over Rs 1 crore in 2024-25. Other achievements include the certification of 50,000 farmers under the National Mission for Natural Farming, certification of 38,000 MAITRIs (Multi-Purpose AI Technicians in Rural India), sanction and operationalisation of over 10,000 multipurpose and e-PACS for computerisation, and the formation and strengthening of PACS, dairy, and fishery cooperative societies.

PM Modi also interacted with farmers engaged in pulses cultivation who have benefited from various government schemes aimed at establishing a value chain-based approach in agriculture, animal husbandry, and fisheries. Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, and Minister of State for Agriculture Bhagirath Choudhary were present at the event.



Mamata wishes Amitabh Bachchan on his birthday

MI NewsService, Kolkata :West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee extended heartfelt birthday wishes to Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan on his 83rd birthday on Saturday. Shedding light on their close bond and showering him with pure love, Manata Banerjee penned a beautiful birthday post for Amitabh Bachchan. She wrote in her X handle, "Wishing the legendary Amitabh Bachchan Ji a very happy birthday! May you be blessed with continued good health, happiness, and many more inspirational years for us all"

"I cherish the affectionate relationship I share with Amitabh ji since 1984 when we both became first-time Members of the Indian Parliament. It is our honour that he and Jaya Ji have enriched us many times by their graceful presence in the Kolkata International Film Festival They are members of our Festival Parivar. Many Happy Returns of the Day, Amitabh ji," she concluded.Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has turned a year older and wiser today. As the actor is celebrating his 83rd birthday, greetings and wishes are pouring in from all around. Fans have gathered outside Jalsa to catch a glimpse of their beloved star and extend their wishes. Amid all this, West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has also taken to her social media handle to pen a beautiful birthday post for Amitabh Bachchan.

Police detains man with gun near Mamata's residence

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid the heightened security in the special security zone, a man with a "gun" had sneaked close to West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat residence in South Kolkata on Thursday. Later, it was found that the gun he was carrying was an air gun. Police said the 51-year-old man, who had a bag in one hand and a cigarette in another, is a teacher of a reputed English medium school in the city. He had gone to Kalighat supposedly to meet the Chief minister, although without an appointment to seek her intervention in a personal issue. Identified as one "Debanjan Chatterjee, a resident of Block-CA 79 Salt Lake, the intruder was intercepted near the Chief minister residence by the police, and following a search one air gun was found in his bag. Immediately, he was taken to Kalighat police station. During the interrogation by senior police officials he disclosed that he was attached with Serampore Rifle Club and that he was a schoolteacher," said joint commissioner (crime), Kolkata Police, Rupesh Kumar. Later, police verified his statements and found them to be true. Chatterjee who was later released from the police station in the evening, said he had come in a car and alighted a few hundred metres away from the Chief minister's residence on Harish Chatterjee Street, near Kalighat temple. From there he walked straight to the high security zone when the cops spotted him and intercepted him on suspicion. Chatterjee reportedly told the police that his father — a state government employee — had recently passed away. He said he wanted to meet the Chief minister to request the early release of his father's posthumous pension benefits. In 2023 too, another man carrying arms and multiple identity cards was

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Mamata Banerjee condoles death of Army jawans from Bengal, in J-K

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed deep grief on Saturday over the death of two para

Banerjee wrote on X. She further stated "Salute to our Lance Naik Sujoy Ghosh from Birbhum and Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh from

”

Salute to our Lance Naik Sujoy Ghosh from Birbhum and Lance Havildar Palash Ghosh from Murshidabad for their exemplary valour, dedication, and supreme sacrifice to defend our country. --CM Mamata Banerjee

commandos hailing from the state during an anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district. She also extended condolences to the families of the deceased soldiers.

"Saddened by the martyrdom of two brave para commandos from our West Bengal, who succumbed while braving extreme weather during an anti-terror mission in Anantnag in Jammu and Kashmir,"

Murshidabad for their exemplary valour, dedication, and supreme sacrifice to defend our country. My heartfelt condolences to their families and friends. Our Government will extend all possible support in this hour of grief". Expressing her condolences Mamata Banerjee also praised the bravery of the soldiers who risk their lives to fight terrorism. In a similar message the Chief minister also condoled the martyr-



dom of another soldier and said "Deeply shocked to learn that our Siddhant Chetri, a 25 year young jawan from Bijanbari, Darjeeling, is among the five valiant soldiers of the Indian Army who lost their lives during an encounter with the terrorists in a special operation at Rajouri in J-K yesterday. Our patriotic jawans

laid down their lives to neutralise the terrorists and their supreme sacrifice will never be forgotten," Mamata Banerjee tweeted, adding "I offer my sincere condolences to the bereaved families of Siddhant Chetri and the other patriots who have lost their lives yesterday"

Meanwhile, the news of the martyrdom of Rifleman Siddhant Chhetri, a resident of Kijom Basti in Darjeeling Pulbazar block, has left his family and villagers in grief. Siddhant, who was just 25 years old and got married barely two months ago, was a member of the 9 Para Commando in the Indian Army. He made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting terrorists in a special operation in Rajouri. His family and villagers are mourning the loss of a young man who was loved by all. Siddhant Chhetri had promised his wife that he would return home soon. His death has left his newlywed

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Taliban Minister's news conference sparks row over women journalists' exclusion, MEA says 'not involved'



Afghanistan's Acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi speaks during a press conference in New Delhi.

MI News Service, New Delhi : A diplomatic visit by Afghanistan acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to India has sparked a political and gender rights controversy, after women journalists were allegedly barred from attending a press conference addressed by him in New Delhi.

TMC leader Mahua Moitra,MP, took to X on Saturday to express her shock, questioning how EAM Jaishankar allowed this kind of discrimination to fester on Indian soil. "How dare our government allow Taliban foreign minister Amir Muttaqi to exclude women journalists and hold a 'male-only' news conference on Indian soil with full pro-

tocol? How dare EAM Jaishankar agree to this? and why did our emasculated spineless male journos remain in the room?" she wrote on X.

Former union minister and senior Congress leader P Chidambaram also expressed his dismay, calling the exclusion of female media personnel "shocking" and suggesting that male journalists should walk out in solidarity. "I am shocked that women journalists were excluded from the press conference addressed by Amir Khan Muttaqi of Afghanistan. In my personal view, the male journalists should have walked out

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PM's silence exposes emptiness of his Nari Shakti slogans', says Rahul Gandhi on women scribes' absence in Afghan FM's presser

MI News Service, New Delhi : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the absence of female journalists from Afghan Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi's press conference here, saying by allowing "exclusion" of women scribes from a public forum, the Prime minister is telling every woman in India that he is "too weak to stand up for them". The Opposition leader in the Lok Sabha also said Prime minister Modi's silence in the face of such discrimination exposes the "emptiness" of his slogans on Nari Shakti. In a post on X, Rahul Gandhi said, "Mr. Modi, when you allow the exclusion of women journalists from a public forum, you are telling every woman in India that you are too weak to stand up for them."

"In our country, women have the right to equal participation in every space. Your silence in the face of such discrimination exposes the emptiness of your slogans on Nari Shakti," the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha said. The press conference addressed by Muttaqi on Friday saw



In our country, women have the right to equal participation in every space. Your silence in the face of such discrimination exposes the emptiness of your slogans on Nari Shakti

--Rahul Gandhi

participation restricted to a handful of reporters, while women journalists were conspicuous by their absence. Muttaqi held the interaction at the Afghan embassy in New Delhi, hours after hold-

ing wide-ranging talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. It is learnt that the decision on inviting journalists to the media interaction was taken by Taliban officials accompanying the foreign minister. People familiar with the matter said the Indian side suggested to the Afghan side that women journalists should be part of the invitees for the event. The Taliban regime in Kabul has faced severe criticism from various countries as well as global bodies like the United Nations for restricting the rights of women in Afghanistan. the Ministry of External Affairs said that the government had no involvement in Friday's press interaction held yesterday by Afghanistan's Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Delhi," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement today. The Taliban's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, is on a week-long visit to India, from October 9 to October 16. This is the first high-level

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Jaishankar meets US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar meets U.S. ambassador-designate Sergio Gor in New Delhi on Saturday

MI News Service, New Delhi : External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Saturday held talks with US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor amid continuing strains in the relations over Washington's imposition of 50 per cent tariffs on Indian exports. Gor, accompanied by Deputy Secretary for Management and Resources Michael J Rigas, is on a six-day visit to New Delhi, days after the Senate confirmed his appointment as the next US envoy to India. "Pleased to meet Ambassador-designate Sergio Gor of the US today in New Delhi. Discussed the India-US relationship and its global significance," Jaishankar said on social media.

The week-long visit till October 14 of Gor comes at a time when India and the US are working to strengthen strategic and trade ties, with both sides exploring ways to finalise a trade deal and boost cooperation in technology and defence sectors. Gor, is, however, set to formally present his credentials at a later date, according to the

US embassy. Foreign secretary Vikram Misri also met Gor earlier on Saturday.In a post on X, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal shared, "Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met US Ambassador-designate to India @SergioGor earlier today. They had a productive exchange on the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and its shared priorities. FS wished Amb-designate Gor all success for his assignment." Earlier, Jaishankar had met Gor on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) session in New York on September 24, where both leaders discussed deepening the India-US strategic partnership.

Following the meeting, the US State Department shared on X, "US Special Envoy for South and Central Asia and Ambassador Nominee to India Sergio Gor met with India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. They

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Campus horror returns: Durgapur Medical student allegedly gang raped

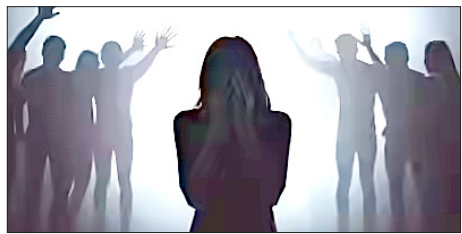
MI News Service, Durgapur: West Bengal's health and education administration has been jolted once again by a chilling case of sexual violence at a private medical college in Durgapur. A 23-year-old second-year medical student from Jaleswar, Odisha, was allegedly gang-raped after being abducted outside her college campus on Friday night, sending shockwaves across the state.

According to police and sources, the victim had stepped out around nidentified men intercepted them. The male student fled, while the woman was dragged to a nearby forested area, where she was reportedly assaulted. The perpetrators also allegedly snatched her mobile phone before fleeing the scene. Despite several days passing since the incident, no arrests have been made, prompting outrage among political parties, student groups, and civil society organizations. Left-affiliated student groups

and other students demanding immediate justice and enhanced security measures. In response, the West Bengal Health Department took suo moto cognizance of the case. Director of Medical Education Indrajit Saha has sent a notice to the college, seeking a detailed report on campus security measures and the incident by Sunday. The Health Secretary, Narayan Swaroop Nigam, emphasized that the department is reviewing safety protocols and will ensure corrective action. The National Commission for Women (NCW) has also intervened, with member Archana Majumdar expressing deep indignation, drawing parallels to the RG Kar Medical College case, and stating, "Such crimes continue unabated because offenders are not punished swiftly. Justice delayed is justice denied." Political backlash has been swift. BJP and CPM leaders have criticized the state government for failing to ensure the safety of students, partic-

ularly women, in educational institutions. The incident has again exposed glaring lapses in campus security, even after prior assurances following earlier cases of sexual assault in state medical colleges. Police confirmed that they are actively investigating the allegations and have interrogated several suspects, including the male student who fled the scene, and are pursuing all leads to apprehend the perpetrators. Meanwhile, the victim remains admitted to the same private medical college and hospital where she studied. The Durgapur case underscores a pressing need for systemic reforms and stringent safety measures in educational institutions, highlighting the gap between policy assurances and ground realities. As the investigation continues, the health and education authorities face mounting pressure to restore faith in institutional security and ensure justice for the victim.

Odisha CM condemns incident, urges action; RG Kar victim's father slams administration



MI News Service, Durgapur: A second-year student of a private medical college in Durgapur, West Bengal, was allegedly gang-raped, police sources reported.

The victim, hailing from Jaleswar, Odisha, is undergoing medical examination, and an investigation is underway.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi strongly condemned the incident, terming it "highly condemnable and painful."

In a post on X, Majhi urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to ensure exemplary action against the accused as per the law.

"The unfortunate incident of gang rape involving an Odia student in Durgapur, West Bengal, is highly condemnable and painful. I am deeply shocked upon hearing this news. I strongly urge the West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to take exemplary action against the

accused as per the law... I have instructed senior officials to contact the West Bengal government and take necessary steps. All possible assistance will be provided to the victim's family on behalf of the Odisha government," he stated.

Meanwhile, in North 24 Parganas, the father of the RG Kar Medical College rape and murder victim expressed outrage over the Durgapur incident, criticising the West Bengal administration for failing to ensure the safety of doctors.

He also questioned the NCRB data, which labelled West Bengal's Kolkata as the safest place.

"They are doctors, first-class citizens of society, and they (government) cannot ensure their safety... This administration still raises all questions against the victim. Those who lack the ability to protect them should take the responsibility and resign from their posts. But, these people are greedy... This administration is not doing its job properly, that's why all these incidents are happening day in and day out... Despite all that's happening, a national report (NCRB) has come out calling West Bengal the safest. It has been ranked number one, calling it the safest state. We will challenge those who prepare these reports. How do they make these reports?... How does West Bengal come at number one in this report...?" he said.

Massive restoration, relief operations undertaken in flood and landslide-affected North Bengal districts

MI News Service, Siliguri: Massive restoration and relief operations undertaken in the flood and landslide-affected districts of North Bengal

In continuation of the massive restoration and relief operations undertaken over the last few days in the flood and landslide-affected districts of North Bengal, notable progress has been achieved in bringing normalcy back to the affected areas.

All district administrations, in close coordination with various departments, have been working tirelessly to ensure uninterrupted assistance to those in need. Distribution camps, gruel kitchens, and temporary shelters continue to operate round the clock, providing essential supplies, food, and safe shelter to affected families. In addition, special outreach camps are being organised to assist residents who have lost important personal documents in the floods, ensuring prompt re-issuance through the concerned authorities.



Special emphasis has been laid on reaching remote and inaccessible areas, such as Tabakoshi in the Sukhiapokhri Block amongst others, with outreach activities gaining significant momentum through coordinated efforts involving civil administration and disaster response teams.

The process of clearing debris and rubble from affected sites is being undertaken

on a priority basis, while disinfection of water bodies, ponds, and fishery areas has commenced to prevent any outbreak of waterborne diseases and to restore normal livelihood activities at the earliest. Simultaneously, the assessment of damage to infrastructure, including dwelling houses and crops, is being carried out by the district administration to facilitate appropriate relief and compensation measures.

Adda Celebrates Rotary Classic Golf Tournament's Role in Empowering HPV Vaccination Drive

MI News Service, Kolkata: In an inspiring confluence of ideas and social commitment, The Adda was conceptualised to acknowledge and appreciate the commendable efforts of The Royal Calcutta Golf Club (RCGC) and The Tollygunge Club in hosting the Rotary Classic Golf Tournament. The event has not only celebrated sporting excellence but also played a crucial role in generating substantial funds to support the HPV Vaccination Drive for underprivileged girls — a vital initiative aimed at protecting them against Cervical Cancer, one of the most distressing ailments afflicting women and their families across the nation.

The Adda witnessed the presence of several eminent personalities of the city, including Mr. Pradip Sureka, renowned builder; Mr. Subir Basu, architect; Mr. Indrajit Bhalotia, Captain, RCGC; Ms. Saloni Priya, Consultant for Emotional Health; and Mr. Nirmal Agarw-



al, noted educationist.

The gathering turned into a lively exchange of ideas, reflecting on how such prestigious institutions can continue to contribute meaningfully to social causes. The discussions highlighted the multifaceted benefits emerging from these clubs — blending sports, social responsibility, and community engagement.

The Adda further aimed to ignite new ideas for the

design and creation of more such community-oriented clubs, fostering networks that not only celebrate leisure and sport but also channel their influence toward the greater good of society.

As the participants reflected, initiatives like this showcase how passion, purpose, and partnership can come together to make a tangible difference — one swing, one conversation, and one good cause at a time.

Husband Arrested for Brutal Panihati Murder, Son Rescued

MI News Service, Panihati: Three months after a gruesome murder that shocked the quiet lanes of Panihati's Azad Hind Nagar, police have finally arrested Shrikant Nath, accused of brutally killing his wife Priyanka Nath inside their home before fleeing with their young son. The arrest was made from Noida, Uttar Pradesh, where the accused had been hiding and working in a hotel under a false identity.

According to investigators, the murder took place on July 6, when Shrikant allegedly attacked his wife with a sharp weapon in a fit of rage. Following the crime, he absconded with the couple's child, leaving the family of the victim in anguish and demanding justice. The Gholia Police Station had initiated a manhunt soon after a complaint was lodged, tracking the accused across states before tracing him to Noida. The missing child was safely rescued during the operation. During interrogation, Shrikant reportedly confessed that suspicions of an extramarital affair between Priyanka and another guardian at their child's school in Khardah had led to repeated domestic disputes. Despite several warnings, police sources said, Shrikant's suspicions turned to fury — culminating in the fatal assault that claimed Priyanka's life. The accused is being brought back to West Bengal and will be produced before the Barrackpore Court, where investigators are likely to seek 10 days of police custody for further interrogation. Meanwhile, the victim's family has demanded exemplary punishment for the accused, calling for swift justice. "He destroyed an entire family in one night. My sister deserves justice," said a grieving relative. The Panihati murder case, marked by betrayal, rage, and a long pursuit across states, has once again raised questions about the growing frequency of domestic crimes hidden behind ordinary lives. Police say the investigation is ongoing, and all aspects of the case — including the alleged extramarital link — are being thoroughly verified.

Cyber shock: Pakistani flag on district website

MI News Service, Alipurduar: In a major cyber security breach that has triggered alarm across administrative circles, the official website of the Alipurduar Zilla Parishad was allegedly hacked on Friday, with the Pakistani national flag and inflammatory anti-India messages appearing on the homepage. The shocking incident comes close on the heels of similar cyberattacks, including the recent defacement of the Alipurduar University website, and a high-profile hack on the Army Nursing College in Jammu and Kashmir, carried out by a Pakistani hacker group identified as 'Team Insane PK'.

According to reports, when users accessed the Alipurduar Zilla Parishad website on Friday, the Pakistani flag was prominently displayed along with provocative text that read, "The dream of building a Digital India will remain elusive." The defacement appeared to be a direct cyber provocation aimed at undermining India's digital infrastructure. District Council President Snigdha Shaib confirmed the breach, stating, "Yes, the website has been hacked. We have reported the matter to the concerned authorities and to the cyber crime department. The technical team has assured us that the site will be restored by Saturday morning. There is nothing serious; all data is safe." Meanwhile, Superintendent of Police Y. Raghuvanshi acknowledged awareness of the situation, saying, "We are looking into it." Cyber experts have been roped in to trace the source of the attack and assess the extent of the breach. The attack has reignited concerns about the vulnerability of government digital platforms in smaller districts, where cybersecurity frameworks remain underdeveloped. Administrative officials expressed shock over the recurring nature of such incidents in recent months, warning that these repeated intrusions could pose a serious national security concern if left unaddressed. The hacking of the Alipurduar Zilla Parishad website has once again underscored the fragility of local e-governance systems — and raised pressing questions about how prepared India truly is to safeguard its digital borders in an increasingly hostile cyber environment.

Raina leader's violent remark ignites political tension

MI News Service, Burdwan : Political tensions have escalated in East Burdwan after Trinamool Congress leader and Raina Block 1 president Bamdev Mandal made inflammatory remarks targeting BJP leaders. Speaking at a Vijaya Sarmelan in Shyamsunder Bazar, Raina, Mandal threatened to "tie up and beat" BJP members if they "spread communal poison" in the region. "If anyone tries to insult a community in the name of religion, I will tie them up and beat them to death before the

police arrive," he declared, reiterating previous controversial statements.

Bamdev Mandal accused the BJP of trying to divide society along communal lines for political gain, asserting such efforts would not succeed in Raina. His comments have drawn severe backlash, reigniting debates on Bengal's increasingly violent political rhetoric, especially ahead of local elections. BJP leader Mritunjay Chandra mocked Bamdev Mandal's rally turnout, claiming it was filled with women from

self-help groups rather than genuine supporters. This verbal spat comes amid rising tensions over the 'pushback' issue—allegations of harassment faced by Bengali-speaking workers outside Bengal—further inflaming communal sensitivities. Observers suggest Bamdev Mandal's remarks are a calculated move to consolidate Trinamool's rural base by invoking identity politics and emotional appeal. However, the use of such violent language has alarmed administrative circles, prompting calls for scrutiny from the Election

Commission and law enforcement agencies. Bamdev Mandal's history of provocative statements—including threats to break BJP workers' limbs—has made him a repeat offender in political incitement. His latest speech highlights a disturbing shift in Bengal's political discourse, where intimidation is replacing dialogue and threats overshadow democratic norms. As controversy grows, the remarks serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need to restore civility and accountability in the state's political arena.

Conman swindles jeweller with bronze bangle masquerading as gold

MI News Service, Shantipur : In a bizarre case of deception, a jeweller in Shantipur, Nadia district, fell victim to an ingenious con after a trickster duped him with a bronze bangle disguised as gold. The fraudster made off with two gold necklaces worth around Rs. 80 thousand from a shop at Bhadra Kalitala, Baigachi Para, under Shantipur police station in Nadia on Friday.

The shop owner, Krishna Gopal Karmakar, recounted that the incident took place around 11 am. on Friday when an unknown man entered his jewellery store. The man initially inquired about a pair of gold earrings priced around Rs. 40 thousand. When told that such an item wasn't available, he

expressed interest in viewing other ornaments and soon selected two gold necklaces.

During their conversation, the man casually mentioned that he ran a grocery shop nearby. Displaying a heavy-looking bangle, he claimed it was made of gold and requested the jeweller to keep it temporarily while he took the two necklaces home to show his family before making a final selection.

Trusting the man's claim, and believing the bangle to be genuine, Krishna Gopal handed over the necklaces without verifying the bangle using a touchstone or chemical test. At that moment, another customer had entered the store, leaving him distracted.

Hours passed, but the man

never returned. When Krishna Gopal went to check the so-called grocery shop, he found no such establishment existed. It was only then that he realised he had been conned. Later examination revealed the "gold" bangle was actually bronze, polished to resemble gold.

CCTV footage from the store captured the accused's image, which the jeweller shared with local traders and the police. Following a written complaint, Shantipur police have launched an investigation into the incident, police said.

Local jewellery associations have also been alerted, urging members to stay cautious against such innovative fraud tactics that exploit trust and appearance.

BSF Foils Gold Smuggling Attempt Along India-Bangladesh Border in Nadia; 2.3 kg Gold Seized

MI News Service, Krishnanagar: The Border Security Force (BSF) foiled an attempt to smuggle gold from Bangladesh into India and seized 20 gold biscuits weighing around 2.3 kg. along the international border in Nadia's Bhimpur on Saturday. One Indian national has been arrested in connection with the case, the BSF said in a statement.

According to officials, the incident occurred near Maluapara village under Bhimpur police station limits, when Bangladeshi smugglers allegedly handed over gold bars to their Indian counterparts through the border fence. Acting on spe-



cific intelligence, personnel of the BSF's 32nd Battalion intercepted the operation and apprehended one of the accused. The Bangladeshi smugglers managed to escape.

The seized gold, valued at over Rs.1 crore, has been handed over to the Customs Department for further investigation. Preliminary findings suggest that the consignment was a part of

a larger cross-border smuggling network operating along the India-Bangladesh frontier.

A senior BSF officer said the force had intensified surveillance in sensitive stretches of the border following recent intelligence inputs about increased gold trafficking. "Our troops acted promptly and prevented a major smuggling attempt. Efforts are on to identify other members of the network," the officer added.

The incident has drawn attention to the growing trend of gold smuggling amid rising bullion prices. The BSF and Customs are jointly investigating the case.

Garden Café Serves Up South Indian Feast This Puja

MI News Service, Kolkata: As the city decks up in lights and celebration for Durga Puja, Garden café—one for Kolkata's oldest vegetarian culinary landmarks—invites food lovers to take a delectable detour from the conventional festive spread. Established in 1968 and revitalized under the stewardship of Sandip Nowlakra in 1981, the café stands as a testament to tradition remained with innovation and warmth.

Nestled in the heart of Alipore, Garden Café offers a menu that celebrates authentic South Indian cuisine with a refined continental touch. From the ever-popular Crispy Masala Dose, steamed idli, and golden-fried Vada served with aromatic sambar and house-made chutneys, to creative twists such as Cheese Mushroom Garlic Dosa, Rava Masala Dosa, and the fiery Podi Dosa, the café continues to uphold its legacy of culinary experimentation. Pa-



trons can also relish unique dishes like Finger-Fried Idli, Thatte Idli, and Dahi Idli Fries, balancing nostalgia with novelty. A pioneer in Kolkata's vegetarian dining culture, Garden Café has been serving 108 varieties of dosa since 1982, and is credited with introducing pizza to the city—crafted from a treasured 1968 family recipe that continues to be a favorite across generations. The experience is incomplete without the café's signature South Indian filter

coffee, brewed strong and aromatic, embodying the soul of southern hospitality. What distinguishes Garden Café is its five-decade-long commitment to Quality, Service, Cleanliness, Hospitality, and Affordability. It remains a welcoming space for all, blending old-world simplicity with modern sensibilities. With five flourishing outlets across Jaipur and Kolkata, the brand remains deeply rooted in community and culture. The café's open kitchen, rotating art exhibitions, and tranquil, minimalist interiors make it an inviting retreat for family gatherings or quiet solo indulgence. Ample parking and thoughtful service further enhance the dining experience. This Puja, Garden Café invites Kolkata's to celebrate the spirit of festivity through timeless flavours, soulful food, and a taste of South Indian warmth — all served with the legacy and heart of a true Kolkata classic.

Scholarships Offered by Joygram Social Welfare Society, Amanat Foundation, and Taj & Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation

MI News Service, Sunderban: Scholarships for higher education are provided to poor and talented students by Sunderban's voluntary organization "Joygram Social Welfare Society" and "Amanat Foundation" and Taj and Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation.

Saturday, October 11, 2025, at 11:30 am, under the management of Joygram Social Welfare Society and Amanat Foundation and in collaboration with Taj and Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation, scholarship checks for higher education were handed over to poor and talented Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) students of West Bengal and Bihar at Jibananda Sabhaghar, West Bangla Academy Auditorium, Kolkata. Taj & Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation Chairman Syed Taj Uddin, Amanat Foundation Chairman Mohammad Shah Alam, Joygram Social



Welfare Society Secretary Dr. Pear Ali Gaine and President Kalyan Saha jointly attended the event.

Taj & Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation Chairman Syed Taj Uddin was present as the chief guest. While delivering his speech, he quoted a verse from the Quran and said, "Those who know and those who do not know can never be one." He also said, "Today's generation should not

just think about finding a job, but should develop itself as a job creator."

From this meeting hall, a total of 28 students, including 5 from Bihar and 23 from West Bengal, were handed over checks. On Saturday, October 4, Syed Taj Uddin, Chairman of the Taj & Zakir Syed Family Charitable Foundation, and Mohammad Arif Nasrullah, Representative of the Amanat Foundation, jointly handed

over checks to a total of 17 students, including 9 from Karnataka and 8 from Tamil Nadu. Also present at the Kolkata event were Ariful Islam Mandal, Founder Member of the Joygram Social Welfare Society, Jalal Uddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Amanat Foundation, and Khalid Faizullah, Software Engineer. Khalid Faizullah showed the students a new path in building a career. Muhammad Shah Alam said to the students, "This kind of financial assistance is not just help, it is a great step to encourage the future generation." Joygram Social Welfare Society Secretary Peer Ali Gain said that this organization has always been working for the overall welfare of people. President Kalyan Saha prayed to God that the students who received scholarships today can become people who provide scholarships to poor and talented students in the future.

Axis Bank and Antara Inaugurate Foundation of Mental Health Institute

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant step towards strengthening mental healthcare in Eastern India, Axis Bank, in partnership with Antara, laid the foundation stone of the Axis Bank Antara Institute of Health Sciences (AIHS) at Antaragram, Kolkata. The event coincided with World Mental Health Day 2025, highlighting the shared commitment to improving awareness, education, and access to quality mental health services across the country. The ceremony was attended by senior dignitaries, including Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO of Axis Bank; Reynold D’Souza, President & Head – Branch Banking (North & East) & TASC Business, Axis Bank; Dr. Matthew P. John, Hon. General Secretary, Antara; and Kamal Prakash, President, Antara, along with other senior representatives. The AIHS is designed to become a premier center for students and professionals aspiring to excel in mental health education and practice. Equipped with modern infrastructure, comprehensive academic programs, and advanced training resources, the Institute aims to address India’s shortage of skilled mental health professionals while promoting holistic care and research.

Payal Dance Troupe Presents “SRIJANI”

MI News Service, Kolkata: Payal Dance Troupe presented its annual creative dance evening “SRIJANI” at Bally Rabindra Bhawan under the artistic direction of Mousumi Bhandari. Over a hundred dancers captivated the audience with a stunning fusion of classical, modern, and thematic performances. The programme opened with “Pranavalaya”, a devotional piece, followed by vibrant acts like “Kanur Priti”, “Nat Khat Banshiwale”, “Swadhinota”, and “Isvar O Manobi”. Children from “Prayas”, Bhandari’s social initiative, also performed. The spectacular evening celebrated India’s artistic spirit and cultural harmony.

Jaishankar meets US ambassador-designate Sergio Gor

From PG 1 look forward to further promoting the success of the US-India relationship." Speaking before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Gor said, "India is a strategic partner whose trajectory will shape the region and beyond. India's geographic position, economic growth, and military capabilities make it a cornerstone of regional stability and a critical part of promoting prosperity and advancing the security interests that our nations share." Gor's appointment underscores Washington's commitment to strengthening ties with New Delhi amid the steep tariffs imposed on India by Donald Trump's administration. In August, Trump nominated Sergio Gor as India's next ambassador and Special Envoy for South and Central Asian Affairs.

PM's silence exposes emptiness of his Nari Shakti slogans', says Rahul Gandhi on women scribes' absence in Afghan FM's presser

From PG 1 delegation from Kabul to India since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. On the first day of his visit, Muttaqi held a bilateral meeting with EAM S Jaishankar and discussed cooperative efforts to strengthen ties between the two nations. India also announced several new projects for Afghanistan as part of its ongoing healthcare cooperation.



State Minister Aroop Biswas during the Vijaya Sammilani of the Sonarpur North Legislative Assembly on Saturday. The event was initiated by local MLA Ferdousi Begum and Rajpur-Sonarpur Municipality Chairman-in-Council Nazrul Ali Mandal.

Doctors' Forums Condemn Durgapur Med Student Rape, Seek SC Intervention

MI News Service, Kolkata: Multiple doctors' forums, including the West Bengal Doctors Forum (WBDF), on Saturday condemned the alleged gang-rape of a second-year medical student from Odisha outside a private medical college and hospital in Durgapur on Friday night. They sought the intervention of Supreme Court Chief Justice B. R. Gavai regarding the apex court-mandated directive for the formation of a National Task Force to ensure security in medical colleges. The forum demanded a judicial probe into the alleged rape case in Durgapur.

Students at the Durgapur medical college began an indefinite silent sit-in and gheraoed the principal to protest the incident. The BJP and CPI(M) also staged demonstrations outside the campus, demanding the immediate arrest of the culprits.

The BJP additionally held a protest at the concerned police station, pressing for action against those involved. Durgapur-Asansol Township Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Gupta said police had detained and interrogated several suspects. A medical student who accompanied the victim outside the campus was also questioned. The crime occurred when the victim, a second-year student from Jaleswar in Odisha, stepped out of the campus around 8 PM on Friday along with a male student. She was abducted by a group of three men outside the campus and allegedly raped by one of them in a nearby isolated bush under the jurisdiction of the Durgapur-Asansol Township police station. West Bengal Junior Doctors condemned the crime and demanded justice, drawing

parallels with the 2024 rape and murder of a trainee doctor at R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata. Aniket Mahato of the West Bengal Junior Doctors' Forum said, "Justice was not done in the R. G. Kar case, and now another incident has occurred." The incident has sparked renewed protests within the medical community, with calls for enhanced security on campuses. Some doctors' groups are demanding a more transparent and speedy investigation, citing slow progress in past cases. The father of the victim and other doctors' organizations criticized the lack of security, particularly in unguarded areas outside the campus. The college principal, other staff, and the student who accompanied the victim are being questioned regarding the security lapses.



Earthen lamps (diyas) freshly molded by potters at their workshop ahead of the festival of lights (Diwali), in Kolkata.

Police and KMC to Launch Surprise Inspections of Rooftop Restaurants

MI News Service, Kolkata: A month has passed since the reopening of rooftop restaurants in the city. Out of Kolkata's 83 rooftop eateries, only 21 resumed operations before Durga Puja after submitting undertakings as mandated by the authorities. But what about the rest? Are some continuing operations discreetly, evading the police and municipal oversight, or have they remained shut? To find out, the Kolkata Police and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) have now begun collecting detailed information and will soon conduct surprise inspections. After the tragic fire incident at a hotel in Mechuya that claimed 14 lives, the state government imposed strict regulations on all commercial establishments, including hotels and rooftop restaurants, across West Bengal. However, to prevent business losses during the festive season, those establishments that submitted undertakings and fulfilled fire and safety norms were allowed to reopen for three months. For this purpose, KMC's licence department had set up a special counter to process applications. According to official data from the licence department, only 21 of the 83 rooftop restaurants applied online for permission to reopen before the festival. A senior KMC official stated, "If any rooftop restaurant is found operating without submitting the undertaking or violating safety norms, strict action will be taken." He added that the civic body had shown leniency only for humanitarian reasons so that businesses could recover during the festive period. "But if anyone continues to flout the rules, tough measures are inevitable," he warned.

Police Tighten Rules Ahead of Firecracker Market Opening; Non-QR Fireworks to Be Seized

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police have announced strict new measures ahead of this year's festive firecracker markets, warning that any firecrackers without a valid QR code will be immediately seized. Sellers found dealing in unapproved or illegal fireworks will also face arrest, officials said on Wednesday following a coordination meeting with traders. The annual baji bazar (firecracker market) will operate from October 14 to 20 across four designated locations in the city, as in previous years. During the meeting held at the Police Training School auditorium, senior Kolkata Police officials briefed traders on safety rules, pollution control norms, and fire prevention measures. Assistant Commissioner Shekhare Nath chaired the session. According to police directives, only "green fireworks" approved by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) will be permitted for sale.

Each approved product must carry a scannable QR code verifying its legitimacy. Any firecracker lacking a valid QR code will be confiscated, and violators will face legal action under existing safety and environmental laws. This year's guidelines also stress enhanced safety measures for traders. Every stall must be equipped with at least one fire extinguisher, two buckets of water, and sufficient sand-filled buckets. Stalls must be constructed from fire-resistant materials, with a minimum gap of three metres between two outlets. No stalls may directly face one another, and each cluster will be limited to a maximum of 50 stalls. Electrical safety will also be strictly enforced. All wires and connections must be properly insulated, and vendors must submit prior approvals from the Fire Department, CESC, the Electricity Board, and the Land Department before opening stalls.

State Issues Advisory on Children's Cough Syrups After Deaths Reported in Other States

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Health Department has issued a special advisory cautioning against the sale and distribution of children's cough syrups, following reports of child deaths in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan allegedly linked to contaminated medicines. The state government has sent samples of over 150 brands of cough syrups to laboratories for testing and instructed all medical colleges and Chief Health Officers across districts to remain alert. According to sources at Nabanna, the advisory warns both manufacturers and sellers to exercise extreme caution while producing and marketing cough syrups. It specifically directs drug makers to ensure that all raw materials — particularly Propylene Glycol IP, Glycerin IP, and Sorbitol IP — are purchased only from government-approved vendors. The Health Department also noted that substances such as Ethylene Glycol and Diethylene Glycol are sometimes found contaminated, and therefore, mandatory retesting of all raw materials has been ordered before use.

The test reports must be submitted to the licensing authority under the Drug Control department. The advisory further instructs drug manufacturers and distributors to verify the quality of medicines during marketing and sale, in accordance with legal norms. Failure to comply with these safety checks will hold them liable. Additionally, they have been directed to regularly follow updates on drug safety through the official Drug Alert Portal. The government has also instructed all district reserve stores, government medical colleges, and hospital pharmacies to inspect existing medicine stocks and submit test reports confirming their safety.

Police detains man with gun near Mamata's residence

From PG 1 arrested while trying to enter Harish Chatterjee Street with the alleged intention to meet the Chief minister. However, the incident is being viewed as a serious security breach at the high security zone area near Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kalighat. The air gun, found Chatterjee's possession is typically used for sport shooting and training.

Shashi Panja Condemns Durgapur Med Student Gang-Rape

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Minister for Women and Child Development Shashi Panja on Saturday described the alleged gang-rape of a student at a private medical college in Durgapur as a very unfortunate incident, adding that the BJP was politicising the matter. She said the police have received a complaint and the case is being thoroughly investigated. The victim's parents, who arrived from Odisha, expressed faith in the ongoing investigation. Panja added that the girl has been admitted to the hospital, is being looked after, and is receiving medical counselling. She also emphasised the importance of the girl's deposition in the investigation. Panja said crimes against women should not be politicised, but regrettably, the BJP was doing so. "The BJP always views such incidents through its political lens, which is very unfortunate," she said. "We don't need to reiterate that Kolkata is one of the safest



metropolises in India, that West Bengal is committed to empowering women, or that the Chief Minister does not compromise on any form of injustice against women," Panja added. She noted that conclusions should only be drawn once the police investigation is complete. Panja further criticised the BJP for trying to take political advantage of the situation. She said, "We also recall the tragic cases of girls who self-immolated after harassment in Odisha, a BJP-ruled state, which is equally unfortunate. Therefore, the BJP should refrain from politicising this issue."

Rainfall probability predicted to drop by Sunday

MI News Service, Kolkata: The city woke up to a pleasant and comfortable morning on Saturday, October 11, 2025, with temperatures ranging between 24.6°C and 31.6°C and humidity hovering around 68%. The day began with bright sunshine and a gentle breeze, making it an enjoyable start for residents after a week of fluctuating weather conditions. The city's air quality remained moderate on Friday, with an overall AQI-IN (Air Quality Index-India) of 100. Levels of particulate matter stood at PM2.5 — 49 and PM10 — 93, indicating generally tolerable conditions for most residents, though those with respiratory sensitivities have been advised to exercise caution. Weather officials noted that the expected rain and breezy conditions on Sunday could further help improve air quality by dispersing suspended pollutants. "The combination of light showers and steady wind flow is likely to bring temporary relief from pollu-

tion levels," an IMD official said. The week ahead, from October 12 to 17, is forecast to remain mostly sunny and stable. Daytime temperatures are expected to hover between 31.4°C and 32.1°C, while nighttime temperatures will range from 21.9°C to 23.3°C, offering a pleasant early autumn climate for the city. Rainfall probability is predicted to drop sharply after Sunday, paving the way for clear skies and gentle breezes through the upcoming week. The weekend of October 14–15 is also expected to remain dry and comfortable, ideal for outdoor activities and festive preparations. Meteorologists added that Kolkata's moderate air quality marks an improvement from earlier this week, when readings fluctuated between satisfactory and poor levels. With drier and windier conditions expected to continue, the overall air quality is likely to remain steady in the moderate range for the next several days.

Taliban Minister's news conference sparks row over women journalists' exclusion, MEA says 'not involved'

From PG 1 when they found that their female colleagues were excluded (or not invited)," he said in another post on X. Taking a harder line, Congress MP Karti P Chidambaram directly accused the Modi government and EAM Jaishankar of enabling gender-based exclusion in the name of diplomacy. "I understand the geopolitical compulsions that force us to engage with the Taliban, but to accede to their discriminatory and plain primitive mores is outright ridiculous. It's very disappointing to note the conduct of the Ministry of External Affairs and S Jaishankar in excluding women journalists from the press briefing of the Taliban Minister," he said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the government had no involvement in Friday's press interaction of Afghanistan's Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Delhi. MEA had no involvement in the press interaction held yesterday by

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi, in Delhi," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said in a statement today. The Taliban's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Amir Khan Muttaqi, is on a week-long visit to India, from October 9 to October 16. This is the first high-level delegation from Kabul to India since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. On the first day of his visit, Muttaqi held a bilateral meeting with EAM S Jaishankar and discussed cooperative efforts to strengthen ties between the two nations. India also announced several new projects for Afghanistan as part of its ongoing healthcare cooperation. In a significant diplomatic step amid the present volatile geo-political scenario, India has announced its decision to upgrade its technical mission in Kabul to the status of an embassy with Jaishankar appreciating the Taliban set-up in Kabul for showing sensitivity towards New Delhi's security concerns.

Mamata Banerjee condoles death of Army jawans from Bengal, in J-K

From PG 1 wife and family devastated. Siddhant's mortal remains will be flown to Bagdogra, and his family and villagers will receive them with a heavy heart. Siddhant's childhood dream was to join the army, and he worked hard to make that dream come true in 2019. He was commissioned in Para SF in 2021 and had undergone several operations. The loss of Siddhant Chhetri is a reminder of the sacrifices made by the brave soldiers who serve our country. At least five soldiers were killed when a group of terrorists ambushed them inside a thickly forested area at Kandi in Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district on Friday when an operation was underway to flush out ultras. The terrorists are believed to be those who were behind the attack on an army truck on April 20 in Poonch which too had left five soldiers dead. An army major was injured in the operation.

"Unfortunate incident", SP MP Dimple Yadav condemns Durgapur Gangrape case; highlights UP crime statistics

MI News Service, Mainpuri: Samajwadi Party MP Dimple Yadav on Saturday strongly condemned the alleged gangrape of a medical student within a hospital premise in Durgapur, West Bengal, terming it a horrific incident that reflects the alarming rise in crimes against women across the country.

She further criticised the Uttar Pradesh government for its failure to ensure women's safety, noting that heinous crimes against women in the state have more than doubled in the past decade.

Dimple Yadav further accused the Yogi-led government of neglecting its responsibility to guide society and undermin-

ing initiatives like the SP's 1090 helpline, which provided crucial support to women.

"An unfortunate incident has occurred. What happened in West Bengal isn't just in West Bengal; such incidents against women are constantly increasing. If you look at the statistics for Uttar Pradesh, heinous crimes against women have more than doubled in the last 10 years. The government is responsible for this, as it doesn't take any steps to guide society. The Uttar Pradesh government should work to ensure women's safety. While the Samajwadi Party launched the 1090 helpline, where women were constantly being helped and assistance was being provided, the

government has consistently tried to weaken such facilities, and in some cases, has acted in a way that has made these services less effective," she told ANI.

A second-year student of a private medical college in Durgapur, West Bengal, was allegedly gangraped, police sources reported.

The victim, hailing from Jaleswar, Odisha, is undergoing medical examination, and an investigation is underway. Further details are awaited as authorities probe the case.

Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi strongly condemned the incident, terming it "highly condemnable and painful."

In a post on X, Majhi urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to ensure exemplary action against the accused as per the law.

"The unfortunate incident of gang rape involving an Odia student in Durgapur, West Bengal, is highly condemnable and painful. I am deeply shocked upon hearing this news. I strongly urge the West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee to take exemplary action against the accused as per the law... I have instructed senior officials to contact the West Bengal government and take necessary steps. All possible assistance will be provided to the victim's family on behalf of the Odisha government," he stated.

"Arrested seven persons so far..." SIT Chief Munna Prasad Gupta on Zubeen Garg death investigation

MI News Service, Guwahati: Special Investigation Team Chief and Special DGP of CID, Munna Prasad Gupta, provided an update on the investigation into the death of singer Zubeen Garg on Saturday.

In a statement to the media, Gupta revealed that approximately seven individuals have been arrested in connection with the case.

"We hope that the others will also join the investigation without any further delay... We have arrested seven persons so far..." said Gupta.

The SIT chief stated that they have issued notices to individuals in Singapore to give statements in person, and the investigation is currently ongoing.

"The investigation is ongoing. We have issued the notices to the people in Singapore to appear physically here and to give their statements. One of them has already appeared, and we have recorded his statement," said Gupta.

Meanwhile, the Assam Police has received the viscera report of late Zubeen Garg from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Delhi and sent it to the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH).

"We have sent the report to the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH). The Expert Committee of doctors from GMCH and AIMS Guwahati will prepare a final report, which we will submit to the court. A copy of the report will also be given to the family members of Zubeen Garg," Munna Prasad Gupta said.

Gupta also stated that the investigating team had already issued notices to 11 NRI Assamese individuals in Singapore, requesting their cooperation in the ongoing investigation process related to the case.

Earlier, the SIT and CID arrested seven people, including the main event organiser, Shyamkanu Mahanta, Zubeen Garg's Manager Siddharth Sharma, bandmate Shekhar Jyoti Goswami, co-singer Amritprava Mahanta, Zubeen's cousin Sandipan Garg (APS officer who was suspended by the State government), two PSOs, Nandeswar Bora and Paresh Baishya.

The celebrated singer passed away in Singapore on September 19, a day before he was supposed to perform at the Northeast India Festival.

Vivekananda Medical Trust inaugurates new hospital

MI News Service, Visakhapatnam: As part of the RSS's service initiatives, NGO Vivekananda Medical Trust inaugurated a hospital named Vivekananda Diagnostics & Research Centre, at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, on Saturday.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Dattatreya Hosabale, the Chief Guest and RSS Sarkaryavah, along with Dusi Ramakrishna, the Guest of Honour and RSS Sahakshtra Sangchalak. Professor Chilukuri Shanthamma, who donated the land for the hospital, was also present at the event.

During the ceremony, RSS Sarkaryavah Dattatreya Hosabale praised the services provided by the medical trust over the past five decades. He emphasised that such services cannot be sustained without a higher purpose.

Himachal Pradesh CM inaugurates, lays foundation stones of development projects worth Rs 132.8 crore in Karsog

MI News Service, Shimla: Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Saturday dedicated development projects worth Rs 132.8 crore to the people of the Karsog region and laid the foundation stones of several new initiatives aimed at strengthening infrastructure and public amenities in the area, according to an official release.

During his visit to Karsog, CM Sukhu inaugurated a series of projects, including the Combined Office Building, constructed at a cost of Rs 34.25 crore, the Subject Matter Specialist (Horticulture) Office Building, worth Rs 1.67 crore, and the Panchayat Community Centre at Tri-man, built for Rs 29.51 lakh.

He also inaugurated the beautification work of the Mahunag Temple Complex completed at a cost of Rs 90.11 lakh, developmental works in Maindhi Gram Panchayat worth Rs 71.57 lakh, Health Sub Centre at Bhanthal built for Rs 13 lakh, Gram Panchayat Community Centre at Sui Kufridhar constructed for Rs 32.74 lakh, and 'Apna Pustkaaly'

(Library) established at the Combined Office Building at a cost of Rs 13.75 lakh.

In addition, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stones for several key road infrastructure projects. These include the upgradation of the Bhakhrot-Karsog-Sanarli-Sainj road for Rs 31.80 lakh, the Kheel to Bhagelu road for Rs 13.18 crore, the Kheel to Bhagelu (Kelodhar-Garjooab) road for Rs 19.75 crore, the Chhalog to Baghail road for Rs 11.06 crore, and the Kelodhar to Sainj road upgradation worth Rs 18.60 crore.

Earlier, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0" in Shimla on Saturday, reiterating his government's commitment to improving public health and promoting awareness among the youth.

The Chief Minister flagged off an awareness rally from his official residence, Oak Over, urging young people to steer clear of tobacco and adopt a healthy lifestyle. On the occasion, he also flagged off 26 Advanced Life

Support (ALS) ambulances, which have been allotted to various Block Medical Officers (BMOs) across the state.

Speaking to mediapersons after the flag-off ceremony, CM Sukhu said, "Health remains one of the top priorities of the state government. We are bringing major reforms in the healthcare sector. Today, advanced ambulances have been handed over to different BMOs, and wherever gaps remain, they will also be addressed soon." Health Minister Dhani Ram Shandil and MLA Sanjay Awasthi were also present at the event.

Meanwhile, reacting to the arrest of Ramkumar Bindal, brother of Himachal BJP president Rajeev Bindal, the Chief Minister said, "The state government has acted based on the complaint filed by the victim. Appropriate legal action has been taken."

The "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign", now in its third phase, aims to bolster tobacco awareness efforts and promote a healthier, addiction-free lifestyle among the youth in the state.

Special Judge grants 2-day ED custody of Reliance Power CFO in fake bank guarantee case

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Special Judge granted two days' custody of Ashok Kumar Pal, CFO and Executive Director of Reliance Industries, to the ED. He has been arrested in a case involving a fake bank guarantee. He was produced at the residence of the Special Judge by the ED.

Special Judge Kiran Gupta granted 2 days' custody of Ashok Kumar Pal to the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Pal is to be produced in the Patiala House Court on Monday.

The ED had sought a 5-day ED custody of the accused, Ashok Kumar Pal. Advocate Vijay Agarwal appeared for Ashok Kumar Pal.

During the hearing, an application was filed by Advocate Vijay Agarwal, Counsel for the accused, seeking directions declaring the arrest of the accused/applicant as illegal.

The Defence Counsel submitted that the ED arrested the present accused without obtaining prior court permission, contrary to settled law, even after the complaint was filed before the present court.

After perusing the application, the court stated that the Defence Counsel's submissions--that prior permission of the court was not obtained for further investigation prior to the arrest of the arrestee -- suggest to me that the trial of the case has not yet commenced, and even cognisance has yet to be taken. Without prejudice to the rights and contentions taken by the Defence Counsel during arguments and in the application, ED is granted 2 days' custody of the arrestee till October 13.

The arrestee is to be produced before the court on

October 13 at 12 noon.

The court directed the ED to interrogate the accused at a place where CCTV cameras are installed.

The arrestee shall also be permitted to meet his advocate for half an hour daily between 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm during the said period of ED custody in a manner that the ED officials are unable to hear their conversations.

The Enforcement Directorate is also directed to provide the necessary medicines, if any, to the arrestee, as per his medical prescriptions. The court granted the ED time to file a reply to the application before the next date, October 13.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ashok Kumar Pal, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Reliance Power Limited (RPL), in connection with a fake bank guarantee and forged invoicing case linked to alleged fund diversion.

Officials said Pal was taken into custody late on Friday night after several hours of questioning at the agency's Delhi office.

According to sources, Pal, as the CFO of Reliance Power--a publicly listed company in which more than 75 per cent of the shares are held by the public--played a "crucial role" in the diversion of company funds and the submission of forged financial documents.

The investigation pertains to a fraudulent Bank Guarantee (BG) of over Rs 68 crore submitted to the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) tender.

Officials said Pal was empowered by a board resolution to finalise, approve, and execute documents on be-

half of RPL for the SECI bid. In this capacity, he allegedly conspired to submit a fake bank guarantee with the intention of cheating the PSU.

The ED's probe revealed that the bogus guarantee was issued in the name of "FirstRand Bank, Manila, Philippines"--a location where the bank has no operational branch.

"The guarantee was arranged through Biswal Tradelink Pvt. Ltd (BTPL), a small entity operating from a residential address with no credible record in providing such guarantees. BTPL director Partha Sarathi Biswal, already in judicial custody, is alleged to have assisted in executing the forged document," said the officials.

Investigators further alleged that Pal approved fake transport invoices worth several crores to facilitate fund diversion. He reportedly cleared payments and managed paperwork through Telegram and WhatsApp -- bypassing Reliance Power's official SAP and vendor master systems.

The ED also found that Pal used the services of a fake bank guarantee racket operating through spoofed email domains resembling those of major Indian banks, such as "s-bi.co.in" instead of the genuine "sbi.co.in".

Similar lookalike domains were used to impersonate other banks, including Indian Bank, IndusInd Bank, and Punjab National Bank.

Officials said Pal's actions form part of a broader criminal conspiracy involving forged instruments and fraudulent communication channels aimed at deceiving public institutions and misappropriating funds from a listed company.

Former Jahanabad MP Arun Kumar rejoins JDU, vows to strengthen Nitish Kumar's development agenda



MI News Service, Patna: With the Bihar Election dates coming closer, former Jahanabad MP Arun Kumar rejoined the Janata Dal (United) (JDU) on October 11 after a period of being a vocal critic of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar. He was re-inducted into the party in the presence of JDU working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, Union minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', and State unit chief Umesh Kushwaha.

Former MLA Arun Kumar announced his joining and said, "I am happy to announce that under the leadership of Nitish Kumar ji, I have received the opportunity to serve the people of Bihar again. The state of Bihar is on the path of development, and I assure you all that we will form our government in Bihar again."

"Do an introspection and see how weak you are": Owaisi's dig at allegations of being 'BJP's B-team'

MI News Service, New Delhi: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has hit out at the opposition parties, which accuse AIMIM of being the 'B team of BJP' and said that instead of introspecting on their own weaknesses, they falsely target his party.

In an interview with ANI, the AIMIM chief said there is no perception among people that his party is the 'B team of the BJP, but noted that attempts are made by some parties in the opposition in this direction.

He took a dig at these parties and said if they think that "bringing Owaisi into everything will cure the disease" then he has no problem.

Owaisi stated, "There is no such perception... If you (opposition) think that bringing Owaisi into everything will cure the disease, then I have no problem with that... There is no perception like this. People want to create that. But we have said it many times, and we are saying it again today, that if Narendra Modi has become the Prime Minister of this country three times, it's not the fault of Indian Muslims." PM Narendra Modi is getting

ting about fifty per cent of the non-Muslim votes in the polls. He's getting 37-38%, so what's my role in that? If you want to crown me, I'll accept. I have no objection. If you think that bringing Owaisi into everything will cure the disease, then I have no problem with that. Do an introspection and see how weak you are," he added.

The AIMIM chief further denied allegations of having ties with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stating that his meetings with BJP ministers were solely for work-related purposes. He explained that once he met with Union Minister Giriraj Singh to discuss issues related to the textiles sector, particularly the powerlooms in Malegaon.

"I have no connection with the BJP... Before Operation Sindoor, I issued a statement asking why you didn't invite me to the all-party meeting? The Home Minister called me and asked me to come. I met with Giriraj Singh about the Malegaon powerlooms. Giriraj Singh spoke with us for an hour. He's a minister, shouldn't I go to him for work related to textiles? ...I'm politically opposed to you, but I want to get work done, and

you're in the government..." Owaisi asserted.

Speaking on bye-elections in Jubilee Hills assembly constituency of Telangana, Owaisi has stated that his party hasn't made any final decision yet regarding an alliance with the Congress for the upcoming bye-elections.

He said, "No decision has been made yet on (an alliance with the Congress) for the Jubilee Hills bye-elections. Yes, I have a good relationship with Revanth Reddy. I've said this before, and I'm saying it again. The metro line wasn't built in a part of my constituency, so we were supporting the TRS in the elections... The people have elected me; I have to work. We won't compromise on ideology. We are not compromising with the BJP, nor will we compromise with anyone else..."

The bye-elections in Telangana's Jubilee Hills constituency will be conducted on November and the results for the same would be announced on November 14.

Congress has announced Naveen Yadav as the party's candidate for the ensuing by-poll to the Telangana legislative assembly from Jubilee Hills constituency.

Bihar elections: LJP (Ramvilas) Parliamentary party meeting underway in Delhi

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) convened a key Parliamentary party meeting in the national capital on Saturday to strategise ahead of the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections.

The first phase will take place on November 6, and the second phase will occur on November 11. The counting of votes will take place on November 14.

Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) MP Shambhavi Chaudhary said the party held a central parliamentary board meeting, chaired by party chief Chirag Paswan, and added that the party's National President will take the final decision on seat sharing.

She also added that "talks are still ongoing".

Speaking to ANI, LJP (RV) MP said that all MPs and senior office-bearers participated in the meeting, which she described as "very positive and good."

"Today, there was a meeting of our central parliament-



tary board. This meeting was chaired by the national president, Chirag Paswan. All MPs and office-bearers of the party were present in it. A very positive and good discussion took place," Chaudhary said.

"We have authorised our national president, Chirag Paswan, to take the final decision. Whatever the final decision regarding the alliance, seat or selection of seats will be, our national president, Chirag Paswan, will take it," she added.

Chaudhary added that talks of seat sharing with par-

ty members are still ongoing.

Earlier today, Rashtriya Lok Morcha chief and Rajya Sabha MP Upendra Kushwaha termed the reports in the media about the "consensus" on seat-sharing in the National Democratic Alliance for the two-phased Bihar assembly polls as "incorrect", and talks are still underway in the NDA.

His clarification came as he was heading to New Delhi to participate in the seat-sharing talks, which were scheduled to resume there.

"The reports in the media about consensus on seat sharing in the NDA, which show some seats being allotted to my party also, are incorrect. Discussions are still ongoing within the NDA. I have been called to Delhi by the BJP leadership, and I am heading to Delhi, and talks will resume there," Upendra Kushwaha clarified.

Meanwhile, Lok Janshakti Party (Ramvilas) Chief Chirag Paswan remained tight-lipped about the seat-sharing announcement.

"I have nothing to say now. All seat-sharing-related announcements will be made later," Paswan said in a brief remark as he was on his way from his residence in Delhi to the party office to have a possible discussion on seat-sharing.

This upcoming electoral contest will be between the NDA, led by the BJP, and Janata Dal (United) (JD(U)), and the INDIA bloc, led by Tejashwi Yadav of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD).

10th steel bridge launched for Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project

MI News Service, Ahmedabad: The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project has successfully completed the launch of its 10th steel bridge in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The bridge, spanning 60 meters in length, was launched over a western railway facility (laundry) situated adjacent to the railway tracks.

After months of meticulous planning and preparation, the bridge launching was executed with precision in just seven hours. This marks the first steel bridge launched in the Ahmedabad district as part of the project.

For the transverse launching of the bridge, it was assembled at a height of 16.5 metres above the ground on temporary trestles. Subsequently, the structure was side-slewed into position using two semi-automatic jacks, each with a 200-ton capacity, supported by locking trolleys for enhanced stability.

The bridge, which weighs 485 metric tons, measuring 12 metres in height and 11.4 metres in width, was fabri-

cated at a dedicated workshop in Wardha (Nagpur, Maharashtra) and transported to Ahmedabad using specially designed trailers. The construction involved approximately 20,360 Tor-Shear Type High Strength (TTHS) bolts, coated with C5 system protective paint and equipped with elastomeric bearings to ensure durability and vibration control.

A temporary platform measuring 35 by 60 metres was constructed for assembling the main structure. Additional temporary brackets were installed to strengthen the track beam during the transverse movement, improving its stability. In total, 14 skid arrangements were utilised, four of which were specifically dedicated to the transverse launching process.

The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train viaduct in Ahmedabad will pass through 31 crossings, including railway tracks, flyovers, a canal, a river bridge spanning the Sabarmati River, and six steel bridges. Across

the entire corridor, a total of 28 steel bridges are planned, with 17 located in Gujarat and 11 in Maharashtra.

Earlier on September 20, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw interacted with workers engaged in the construction of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train tunnels, congratulating them on achieving a breakthrough using the New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM).

"Today, an important milestone has been achieved in the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project. An undersea tunnel is being constructed beneath the creek between Mumbai and Thane," Minister Vaishnav told ANI.

According to the minister, the bullet train project aims to reduce the travel time between Mumbai and Ahmedabad from two hours to just seven minutes. The project is also expected to boost the economies of other major cities along the route, including Thane, Vapi, Surat, Baroda, and Anand.

Minister Vaishnav further stated that the plan is to run

trains every half an hour during peak hours in the morning and evening, with eventual plans to have trains available every ten minutes during peak times.

"This means that if you want to travel from Mumbai to Ahmedabad, the system of pre-reserving tickets will be eliminated. Simply arrive at the station, catch a train in ten minutes, and reach your destination in two hours. This will create a new approach to the entire service," Vaishnav said.

A significant milestone was also achieved for the ambitious undersea tunnel project between BKC and Shilphata, where the NATM successfully completed a breakthrough for its five-kilometre tunnel stretch.

This critical section, which runs 4.881 km, includes a challenging seven-kilometre segment beneath the Thane Creek. Tunnelling commenced in May 2024, and on July 9, engineers celebrated the first breakthrough for a continuous 2.7 km section connecting the ADIT to the Savali shaft.

India showing remarkable dynamism, resilience amid global uncertainty: Shaktikanta Das

New Delhi : Former RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das on Saturday said India is showing remarkable dynamism and resilience amid global uncertainty and a fragmented trade order.

Delivering the 85th Kale Memorial Lecture at the Gokhale Institute in Pune, he noted that long-standing globalisation norms and cost-based trade principles have been disrupted by the pandemic, geopolitical conflicts and supply chain vulnerabilities, pushing nations toward self-reliance and regional trade pacts.

He said that India, powered by structural reforms, domestic demand and prudent macro policies under Atmanirbhar Bharat, has weathered global headwinds and is set to contribute nearly one-fifth of global GDP growth.

"India has also been actively reshaping its trade engagements to align with the changing global order. India is a signatory to 14 free trade agreements (FTAs) and six preferential trade agreements (PTAs), with the UK, Australia and the UAE being the recent additions among FTAs," Das told the gathering.

Additionally, members of European Free Trade Association - Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and India have signed a comprehensive Trade and Economic



Partnership Agreement in March 2024.

At present, India is in free trade agreement negotiations with the US, the EU, Peru, Oman, New Zealand, among several others.

"The underlying priority of our trade negotiations is to secure fair and balanced agreements in the best interest of our

nation and the people," he mentioned.

Amidst such a changing global order, it would be important to focus on the robust fundamentals that impart strength to the Indian economy and the structural reforms that have strengthened these fundamentals.

"These factors have enabled India to

navigate through the tumultuous world order," Das added.

India is fast emerging as an economic powerhouse and is projected to become the fourth-largest global economy in 2025 and the third-largest in 2028, driven by domestic reforms and a strong global positioning under the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

At the broad sectoral level, India's manufacturing sector has expanded at an average pace of 5.9 per cent over the past decade, said Das.

"Measures like adoption of technology for delivery of services, FDI reforms, opening up sectors like space and mining to private sector participation and consistent emphasis on reduction of compliance burden have led to increase in capacity and efficiency of the economy," he noted.

The higher focus on government capex, infra initiatives like the recently announced 12 industrial cities and 100 industrial parks near urban centres are increasing the efficiency of logistics and costs for the manufacturing sector, according to Das.

"A new sense of confidence is now palpable in the country. India's journey towards becoming an economic powerhouse is a testament to its inherent strength and the policy initiatives of the government," Das mentioned.

Rat fever scare in Tirunelveli: TN Health Dept allows bank exam under strict conditions



Chennai : Tamil Nadu Health Department has granted conditional approval for a scheduled bank recruitment examination to be held on October 12 at a private college in Melathediyoor, Tirunelveli, even as the district grapples with a fresh rat fever (leptospirosis) scare among students.

Earlier this week, several students from the college were hospitalised with high fever, body pain, and other symptoms consistent with leptospirosis.

Medical tests confirmed the infection, prompting health officials to close the college and inspect the premises temporarily.

The affected students are undergoing treatment at a nearby government hospital, and their condition is reported to be stable.

Health Department teams, during inspection of the hostel campus, identified contaminated water as the likely cause of the outbreak. The officials also collected water and food samples for testing.

Food Safety Department authorities subsequently found multiple hygiene lapses in the hostel mess and two campus canteens.

Following the inspection, both canteen licences were

temporarily suspended, and the college was ordered to remain closed until proper sanitation measures were completed. After several days of cleaning and disinfection, a follow-up inspection was conducted.

Health Department officials confirmed that the premises earmarked for the bank recruitment exam had been sanitised and that all classrooms, restrooms, and common areas were disinfected.

The department then granted conditional permission for the exam to proceed as per schedule, warning the management against any lapses in hygiene protocols.

Meanwhile, the recent incident has heightened public concern as Tirunelveli district recorded multiple cases of rat fever in recent weeks, particularly in schools and hostels in rural areas.

Health authorities have launched awareness drives, urging residents to maintain clean surroundings, ensure safe drinking water, and immediately report any symptoms of fever or jaundice.

Medical teams have also intensified field inspections and distributed preventive medication in affected areas to curb the spread of the disease.

Targeted steroid use shows promise against TB



New Delhi : Treating patients with steroids may offer a universal complementary treatment to fight tuberculosis (TB) -- affecting more than 10 million people annually worldwide, according to a study.

The study published in the journal Scientific Reports showed that targeted use of steroids enhances the function of the immune cells called macrophages to kill the mycobacteria, while diminishing pathways of inflammatory damage.

While steroids like dexamethasone are used in certain TB cases (e.g., TB meningitis), their impact on immune cells is not well understood.

Dexamethasone, a potent glucocorticoid, reduces glycolysis in human lung and blood-derived macrophages. This reduces the amount of energy available in the cell.

The study showed that dexamethasone also reduced the production of both pro and anti-inflammatory cytokines measured in the study. Although helpful for immunity, limiting the production can also limit damage from excessive inflammation.

"In clinical practice, steroids are the most used adjunctive therapy for TB. We often rely on steroids to manage inflammation in tuberculosis, particularly in severe forms like TB meningitis," said Prof Joseph Keane, Professor of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin in Ireland.

"What's reassuring from this study is that dexamethasone not only tempers inflam-

mation but also appears to support the macrophage's ability to control infection. This study provides new evidence to help us redefine steroid use in TB care -- targeting inflammation without compromising antimicrobial defense," he added.

The researchers studied macrophages derived from the blood of healthy volunteers or isolated from lung fluid donated by patients undergoing routine bronchoscopies.

By treating and infecting these macrophages in the lab with Mtb, the scientists could examine and understand how dexamethasone affects the immune response that protects the lungs during infection.

Mtb-infected macrophages have increased survival when they are treated with dexamethasone. This suggests that dexamethasone may protect macrophages from dying due to the harmful effects of infection or detrimental immune responses to infection.

Dexamethasone also reduces bacterial burden in infected macrophages, and the team identified that this is at least partly mediated by autophagy and phagosomal acidification. Dexamethasone can enhance the macrophages' ability to degrade and clear bacteria, helping to overcome infection with Mtb.

The findings support the use of steroids as an extra therapy in conjunction with existing antimicrobial therapies in TB treatment, especially in cases with excessive inflammation.

Japan reports flu outbreak, over 4,000 people affected

New Delhi : Japan has reported a significant outbreak of flu, with more than 4,030 people being affected nationwide, according to local media reports.

The country is experiencing a flu season about a month earlier than last year. It is also the second earliest in 20 years, Japan Today reported, citing the health ministry.

"About 3,000 hospitals across the country reported a combined 4,030 flu patients", the report said. Okinawa Prefecture reported the most patients per hospital, followed by Tokyo and Kagoshima.

The caseload has crossed the epidemic threshold, with an average of 1.04 patients per institution, the country's health ministry stated. More than 100 schools, kindergartens, and childcare centres have been closed due to outbreaks among children.

Flu season in Japan usually spans from December through March. The previous season started in early November and peaked in late December before it was deemed over in April.

In the wake of the rising cases,

Affordable, accessible and quality healthcare key for self-reliant India: Jitendra Singh

New Delhi : Affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare both for body and mind is crucial for a self-reliant India, said Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh.

Singh said this while virtually inaugurating the 10th Annual "Cell and Gene Therapy" Symposium at the Christian Medical College (CMC), Vellore, organised by the Centre for Stem Cell Research (CSCR), supported by the Department of Biotechnology.

"Affordable, accessible, and quality healthcare, whether physical or mental, is essential for building a self-reliant India," he said.

Singh lauded the landmark achievement of CSCR, which recently completed India's first-in-human gene therapy trial for Hemophilia A. The inherited bleeding disorder, caused by the deficiency of clotting Factor VIII, has long required costly lifelong treatment. CSCR's approach, using lentiviral vectors instead of the commonly used AAV, expanded patient eligibility and showed sustained Factor VIII expression with no bleeding episodes.

"This is not just a scientific milestone -- it is a transformative step toward affordable, accessible gene therapy for India and other low- and middle-income countries," the MoS said.

These "exemplify how our institutions are driving innovation to meet the aspirations of India@2047," he added.

The Minister noted that CSCR,

a translational unit of in Stem, Bengaluru, under DBT, is preparing for the next phase of clinical development. Several technologies for hemoglobinopathies are being transferred to commercial partners, and CSCR is building a GMP-compliant haplobank of iPSCs as part of the Global Alliance for iPSC Therapies," he added.

The Union Minister also inaugurated a new 42-bed medium-cost private ward in the Department of Psychiatry.

The medium-cost facility has been designed to serve patients across socioeconomic groups.

The Department of Psychiatry already runs three key wards -- the fully subsidised Annexe Ward, the partly

subsidised low-cost private ward, and the private ward whose revenues sustain the others. But many of the private ward rooms, built in the 1950s, are now structurally outdated. This new ward responds to that need, adding 42 beds that meet modern safety standards and provide the highest quality of psychiatric care," he said.

The Minister emphasised that the ward balances affordability with excellence.

"By fostering a nurturing environment that encourages family participation in the healing process, this facility will elevate patient care while also ensuring subsidised treatment for underprivileged communities," he added.

A healthier gut may help improve depression and anxiety, says study

New Delhi : Gut microbiome may hold the key to improving depression, anxiety and other mental health conditions -- one of the world's most pressing health challenges affecting nearly one in seven people globally, according to a study. Researchers from the University of South Australia explored the connections between the gut and the brain to decipher their role in mental health and wellbeing. They examined the growing evidence that the gut and the brain are deeply connected. Their findings, published in the journal Nature Mental Health, found the strongest proof yet that changes in a person's gut microbiome can directly affect their brain chemistry.

"The gut-brain connection is one of the most exciting frontiers in mental health research," said lead author Srinivas Kamath, a doctoral candidate at the varsity. "We

already know that the trillions of microbes in our digestive system talk to the brain through chemical and neural pathways, affecting our mood, stress levels, and even cognition.

"But the big question is whether changes in gut bacteria actually drive mental illness or mirror what's happening elsewhere in the body," Kamath said. The team's review of studies found strong causal evidence that gut microbes can change brain chemistry, stress responses, and behaviours in animal models, as well as disrupted gut patterns in conditions like depression and schizophrenia. They also found that early trials of probiotics, diet changes, and faecal microbiota transplants help improve mood and anxiety, and psychiatric medications can change the microbiome, demonstrating the gut-brain connection. Globally, mental health disorders

affect nearly 970 million people, with depression and anxiety ranking among the leading causes of disability. Yet up to one-third of patients do not respond to current medications or therapies, highlighting the need for new and accessible treatments.

"If we can prove that gut bacteria play a direct role in mental illness, it could transform how we diagnose, treat, and even prevent these conditions," said co-researcher Dr Paul Joyce.

"Microbiome-based therapies such as probiotics, prebiotics, or tailored diets may offer accessible, safer, low-cost, and culturally adaptable options that complement existing care," Joyce added. The researchers called for future studies to track gut changes over time and include more diverse, larger populations to better understand how diet, environment, and culture shape the gut-brain connection.

Death toll from Rift Valley Fever outbreak in Senegal rises to 17

Dakar : Seventeen people have died since the outbreak of Rift Valley Fever (RVF) in Senegal, a senior official from the country's Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene said. Boly Diop, head of epidemiological surveillance at the ministry, told local media that since September 21, a total of 119 confirmed cases have been reported nationwide.

Most of the confirmed cases were living in livestock-raising areas in the north of the country, he said on Thursday.

The ministry said on social media on the same day that hospitals in Saint-Louis, northern Senegal, have recently received modern intensive care equipment, which would significantly enhance its capacity to admit and treat patients, especially severe cases, Xinhua news agency reported.

Senegalese Minister of Health and Public Hygiene Ibrahima Sy said that the immediate priority is to strengthen medical infrastructure to ensure timely and effective treatment for patients, particularly those in critical condition, in order to save lives and contain the spread of the epidemic.

Rift Valley Fever is a zoonotic disease caused by the Rift Valley Fever virus. It primarily spreads among animals but can also infect humans.

Human infection is often linked to contact with the blood or organs of infected animals, particularly during slaughtering, butchering, assisting with animal births, or handling carcasses.

Common symptoms include fever, headache, muscle pain, and fatigue. While most cases are mild, delayed treatment can lead

to hemorrhagic complications that may be fatal.

As most human cases of RVF are relatively mild and of short duration, no specific treatment is required for these patients. For the more severe cases, the predominant treatment is early intensive supportive care, including fluid management and treatment of specific symptoms.

Forecasting can predict climatic conditions that are frequently associated with an increased risk of outbreaks, and may improve disease control. In Africa, Saudi Arabia and Yemen RVF outbreaks are closely associated with periods of above-average rainfall; in East Africa, they are closely associated with the heavy rainfall that occurs during the warm phase of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation phenomenon.

New seaweed-based tablet to transform menstrual cups into health tracking tools



in the conversation around menstrual care. Some of that is due to stigma and some is lack of interest, but cups have the potential to make a serious difference in the lives of women around the world," Hosseinidoust added.

Beyond convenience and safety, the technology has the potential to significantly reduce the environmental impact of disposable menstrual products and improve access to menstrual care in lower-income communities.

Each cup is designed to last for several years, offering a cost-effective and sustainable solution for users who may not have reliable access to tampons or pads.

Though menstrual cups have

New Delhi : In a breakthrough, Canadian researchers have enhanced the existing menstrual cup into a safer, easier, and more environmentally sustainable tool, using seaweed, to track women's health.

The new menstrual cup can be leveraged to detect infections, monitor reproductive health, and improve diagnostics for conditions, such as endometriosis and urinary tract infections, said researchers at McMaster University in Ontario.

The new component, described in a paper published in the journal ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, is a flushable tablet made from highly absorbent seaweed-based material.

It's designed to hold menstrual blood and minimise spills during removal -- a common barrier to wider adoption of menstrual cups.

"This project opened my eyes to how urgently innovation is needed in menstrual care," said Zeinab Hosseinidoust, Associate Professor of biomedical and chemical engineering from the varsity.

"There's been little movement

North Korea displays new hypersonic, nuclear missiles at military parade on ruling party's 80th anniversary

MI News Service, Pyongyang: North Korea displayed new hypersonic and long-range nuclear missiles during a large military parade in Pyongyang on Friday night to mark the 80th anniversary of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea, Yonhap News reported, citing state media.

The parade took place in Kim Il Sung Square and showcased two major weapons the Hwasong-11Ma hypersonic missile and the Hwasong-20 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), which North Korean state media described as the country's "most powerful nuclear weapons."

Speaking at the event, Kim called for the armed forces to continue to develop into an "invincible" entity, as per Yonhap News. "Our army should continue to grow into an invincible entity that destroys all threats approaching our range of self-defence by dint of its political, ideological, military and technical superiority overwhelming the enemy, and it should steadily strengthen itself into elite armed forces which win victory after victory on the strength of morality and discipline," he said.

As per CNN, pictures and videos shared online showed soldiers marching, large missile launchers rolling through the streets, and crowds cheering under bright lights. It was North Korea's first big military parade in two years. The event came a month after leader Kim Jong Un attended a military parade in Beijing, where he stood alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin. That visit strengthened North Korea's ties with China and Russia.

The newly shown Hwasong-11Ma is designed to fly at hypersonic speed, more than five times the speed of sound, and can change direction during flight, making it very difficult for defence systems to stop. CNN reported that North Korea has used the new 11Ma model with a warhead carried in a boost glide vehicle system, meaning it can move unpredictably towards its target. It also uses solid fuel, which allows for faster launch and easier transport than older liquid-fuel rockets.

The parade also introduced the Hwasong-20, North Korea's newest ICBM, which is believed to be capable of carrying nuclear warheads and reaching targets as far as the United States. CNN reported citing KCNA. Earlier this year, North Korea said it had completed final testing of a new high-powered rocket engine made from carbon-fiber materials for the Hwasong-20. The same engine is also expected to be used for the Hwasong-19, another long-range missile that experts believe can reach anywhere in the US.

Friday's parade was attended by senior North Korean officials and possibly guests from China, Russia, and Vietnam. While Kim Jong Un was seen at the event, it is not clear if he gave a speech or was joined by his daughter, Kim Ju-ae, who often appears beside him at important military events.

"Swachh Neer" (Clean Water) Initiative Carried Out Under Swachhata Pakhwada And Special Campaign 5.0

MI News Service, Kolkata :As part of Swachhata Pakhwada and Special Campaign 5.0, Howrah Division of Eastern Railway organized the "Swachh Neer (Clean Water)" initiative to ensure the availability of safe and hygienic drinking water across railway premises.

The campaign focused on the cleaning of water bodies, inspection of water treatment and filtration plants, and cleanliness drives at drinking water tap areas. Staff were sensitized on proper maintenance and hygiene at water filling points in stations and depots. Inspections were also carried out in railway colonies, hospitals, and schools to verify the availability of water testing kits, clean storage tanks, and well-maintained pipelines.

The drive was undertaken across major stations including Howrah, Sheoraphuli, Sripur, Kamarkundu, Bandel, Bardhaman, Katwa, Konnagar, Pandua, Magra, Bolpur, Rampurhat, and Azimganj.

Efforts were also made to strengthen rainwater harvesting and water recycling

India, Czechia hold 7th Joint Defence Committee meeting in Prague to expand bilateral cooperation

MI News Service, Prague: India and Czechia held the 7th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) Meeting in Prague from October 7 to 9, focusing on strengthening defence industrial collaboration, military training, and expanding overall bilateral cooperation, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary and Director General (Acquisition) A. Anbarasu, while the Czech side was headed by Radka Konderlova, Director General of the Industrial Cooperation Division at the Czech Ministry of Defence.

The talks centred on new opportunities for joint defence production, research and development, technology sharing, and capacity-building. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepen cooperation in defence manufacturing and training, in line with their growing strategic partnership. An India-Czechia Defence Industry Seminar was also held alongside the meeting, which saw active participation from defence industries and representatives of both countries. The seminar served as a platform



form to explore new avenues for partnership and enhance industrial engagement between Indian and Czech defence companies. India and the Czech Republic share a long-standing defence relationship dating back to the establishment of diplomatic ties with Czechoslovakia in 1947. Following the country's dissolution in 1993, India immediately recognised the Czech Republic, and the two nations have since maintained close cooperation, especially in defence and industrial development, as per Ministry of External Affairs.

Bilateral defence cooperation gained renewed momentum with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Defence Cooperation in October 2003, leading to the creation of the Joint Defence Committee. Six JDC meetings have been held so far, with the last one taking place in New Delhi in February 2020.

Czech defence companies have been regular suppliers of military equipment to the Indian armed forces and continue to explore collaborative projects in line

with India's 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

The latest JDC meeting builds on the outcomes of Czech Prime Minister Petr Fiala's visit to India in January 2024, during which both sides underlined the importance of innovation in defence technology, R&D, and joint production.

Following that visit, a joint statement was issued by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said, "Both partners underline the importance of innovations in the defence field and the defence industry. They note with satisfaction the existing connections among their entities in these areas and are committed to further encouraging cooperation, including R&D, training, and innovative production solutions involving Czech and Indian stakeholders."

Both partners also reaffirmed their shared intent to enhance cooperation in cybersecurity, countering hybrid threats, CBRN defence, and space security, as well as to continue coordination in multilateral forums such as the United Nations on cyber and security issues of mutual interest.

UP Dy CM Maurya leads delegation of monks to transport Buddha relics to Russia

MI News Service, Delhi: Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya, in the early hours of Saturday, is leading a high-level delegation of 11 senior Indian monks transporting sacred Relics of Gautam Buddha to Russia's Kalmykia Republic for an exposition. The exposition will be held in the capital city of Elista, the capital city of Kalmykia, from October 11 to 18.

Before their departure, Dy CM Maurya offered prayers to the relics at Palam Airport. "This is a very fortunate moment in my life... I thank PM Modi from the bottom of my heart for this... These remains have a very long history... It is a very big day," he said. National Museum Director General Gurmeet Singh Chawla and the delegation of 11 senior Indian monks also offered prayers before departing for Kalmykia for an exposition. International Buddhist Confederation Director General Abhijit Halder said, "... It is certainly going to strengthen the relationship between the two countries because Buddhism has been popular in Russia... Keshav Prasad Maurya is leading the delegation, and upon their return, Manoj Sinha will escort the delegation back. We have 11 monks from the Theravada and Mahayana traditions... We have the good honour that the 43rd Sakya Trizin Rinpoche is accompanying us."

Trump reacts to 2025 Nobel Peace Prize, says Venezuelan opposition leader accepted it "in honour" of him

MI News Service, Washington: US President Donald Trump outlined his upcoming visits to Israel and Egypt, following the Israeli government's approval of phase one of the Gaza peace plan. Describing the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas as a "great deal" for the world, Trump said that the deal would secure the release of hostages and the return of approximately 28 bodies. "It is a great deal for Israel, but it's a great deal for everybody, for Arabs, for Muslims, everybody, for the world. On Monday, the hostages come back. They're in some pretty rough places under Earth. Only a few people know where they are... They're also getting approximately 28 bodies. Some of those bodies are being unearched right now as we speak. It's a tragedy. I'll be going to Israel. I'll be speaking at the Knesset. Then I'm also going to Egypt."

"The person who got the Nobel Prize called me today and said, 'I am accepting this in honour of you because you really deserved it'... I didn't say, 'Give it to me', though. I think she might have... I've been helping her along the way. They needed a lot of help in Venezuela during the disaster. I am happy because I saved millions of lives..." Trump said while speaking to reporters at the White House. Machado was awarded the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for promoting democratic rights for the people of Venezuela and for her struggle to achieve a just and peaceful transition from dictatorship to democracy. Trump, who had expected to receive the prize for his efforts to "end seven wars," also linked the conflict in Ukraine to his broader peace-making claims.

"I said, 'Well, what about the seven others? I should get

a Nobel Prize for each one'. So they said, 'but if you stop Russia and Ukraine, sir, you should be able to get the Nobel'. I said I stopped seven wars. That's one war, and that's a big one," he told the gathering, listing conflicts he said were halted under his leadership, including "Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kosovo and Serbia, Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Congo."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday also said that Trump deserves the Nobel Peace Prize. In a post on X, he wrote, "Give @realDonaldTrump the Nobel Peace Prize - he deserves it!" The Norwegian Nobel Committee described Maria Corina Machado as a "brave and committed champion of peace" and stated that the Prize has been awarded to a "woman who keeps the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness."

"Democracy is a precondition for lasting peace. However, we live in a world where democracy is in retreat, where more and more authoritarian regimes are challenging norms and resorting to violence. Machado has spent years working for the freedom of the Venezuelan people," the Committee said.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Inspects New, State-of-the-Art Yatri Suvidha Kendra at New Delhi Railway Station, Designed to Accommodate Approximately 7,000 Passengers

● Yatri Suvidha Kendra to Provide Greater Comfort to Passengers Amid Surge in Travel During Festival Season: Union Minister

● Yatri Suvidha Kendra Like This Shall be Developed at Other Stations Across the Country: Ashwini Vaishnaw

● New Yatri Suvidha Kendra Divided into Pre-Ticketing, Ticketing, and Post-Ticketing Zones to Reduce Congestion and Enhance Comfort

● Yatri Suvidha Kendra Features 22 Ticket Counters, 25 ATVMs, Advanced Security Systems, and Comprehensive Passenger Amenities Including Seating, Cooling, Sanitation, and Information Facilities

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant boost to passenger experience at one of the country's busiest terminals, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today inspected the newly constructed Yatri Suvidha Kendra (Permanent Holding Area) at New Delhi Railway Station (NDLS). The center is designed to accommodate approximately 7,000 passengers at any given time, dramatically enhancing pre-departing comfort and flow.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The newly developed state of the art Yatri Suvidha Kendra will provide comfort to passengers during festival season as there is a surge in the passenger volume. Yatri Suvidha Kendra like this shall be developed at other stations in the country."

The new Yatri Suvidha Kendra is strategically divided into three zones to streamline passenger movement, a Ticketing area spanning 2,860 sqm, a Post Ticketing area of



1,150 sqm, and a Pre Ticketing area covering 1,218 sqm. This spatial separation is designed to reduce congestion and improve passenger comfort across the terminal's main entrance.

Northern Railway has equipped the Kendra with comprehensive, modern amenities to ensure passenger convenience and security.

Key Features:

Ticketing: 22 modern ticketing counters and 25 Automatic Ticket Vending Machines (ATVMs).

Capacity & Comfort: Seating capacity for 200 passengers and 18 High Volume Low Speed (HVLS) Fans for efficient cooling.

Sanitation & Water: A dedicated toilet block built over 652 sqm, along with an RO-based drinking water system.

Information & Safety: A robust passenger announcement system with 24 speakers, three LED electronic train information displays, and 7 units of modern fire-fighting system.

Security: State-of-the-art security measures including 18 CCTV cameras, 5 luggage scanners, and 5 Door Frame Metal Detectors (DFMD).

Northern Railway successfully navigated several

complex challenges during the construction, including the necessary demolition and shifting of existing structures such as ATMs, a Delhi Police cabin, and hoarding boards. Furthermore, the sensitive relocation of essential utilities like water lines, drainage systems, and OFC cables was executed without disruption to daily operations.

In parallel, an essential infrastructure upgrade was completed with the extension of Foot Over Bridge 1 (FOB 1). This extension ensures that passengers de-boarding trains at NDLS can now directly exit towards the Metro Station, significantly improving multimodal connectivity and reducing platform congestion.

The Union Minister was accompanied by Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman and CEO Railway Board; Shri Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager Northern Railway, and other senior Railway officials, who provided a detailed briefing on the facility's planning and execution. The inspection underscored the Railway Ministry's commitment to modernizing crucial infrastructure and ensuring world-class facilities for commuters.

Sonali Ghosh becomes first Indian to win global IUCN Kenton Miller Award

MI News Service, Abu Dhabi: India's conservation efforts received global recognition as Dr Sonali Ghosh, Field Director of Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve, became the first Indian to win the prestigious WCPA-Kenton Miller Award for innovation in National Parks and Protected Area Sustainability at the IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Abu Dhabi.

The award, presented by the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), honours individuals who have made innovative contributions to the long-term sustainability of national parks and protected areas worldwide. It is named after Dr Kenton R. Miller, a pioneer in conservation and former Director General of IUCN.

Dr Ghosh's recognition highlights India's growing leadership in biodiversity conservation, particularly the sustainable management of Assam's protected ecosystems such as Kaziranga, Manas, and Orang National Parks. Her work focuses on strengthening park management, engaging local communities in conservation efforts, and promoting eco-friendly tourism models that ensure both environmental protection and sustainable livelihood generation.

The award also brings global attention to India's extensive network of protected areas and its innovative conservation strategies led by field officials and scientists. Earlier in the day, Union Minister of State for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change, as well as External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, attended the IUCN



Congress and reaffirmed India's commitment to working with global partners towards a sustainable and green future.

"Enjoyed a constructive discussion with Dr Grethel Aguilar, Director-General, IUCN, and other Ministers on the way forward for our shared mission of conservation and sustainability," the minister said in a post on X.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), founded in 1948 and headquartered in Switzerland, is the world's largest environmental network, bringing together governments, NGOs, and experts from over 160 countries. Every four years, it holds the World Conservation Congress, where global priorities for protecting nature and biodiversity are set.

In 2023, the Kenton Miller Award was presented to Maria del Carmen Garcia Rivas of Mexico for her pioneering work in advancing marine protected areas through community-led governance and scientific monitoring.

Enjoy Festivity Of Diwali And Chhath At Your Home By Availing Festive Special Trains From Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata: Durga Puja season has just passed but the festive season is not over yet. Diwali and Chhath festivals are coming. A lot of people who are working in and around West Bengal or in Eastern Railway network having their native town or village at a distant place might be eager to unite with their family members to enjoy the festivity of Diwali and Chhath. To facilitate easier movement of the persons intending to travel to unite with their family members during Diwali and Chhath festivals, a total of 952 trips of Special Trains will be available in Eastern Railway network. Among these, 301 trips will be available on the occasion of Diwali between 05.10.2025 and 20.10.2025, 144 trips of Special Trains will be available between 21.01.2025 and 27.10.2025 for Chhath and in post-Chhath period 507 trips of Special trains will be available between 28.10.2025 and 30.11.2025 so that all the passengers migrated during Diwali and Chhath may return to their desired destination comfortably.

This Diwali and Chhath Special Trains starts their journey from different important stations like Howrah, Sealdah, Kolkata station, Asansol and Malda Town towards different places throughout the country viz Raxaul, Patna, Gorakhpur, New Jalpaiguri, Digha, Madhubani, Lumding, Malaitpur, Charlapalli, Anand Vihar Terminal, Lucknow, Khatipur, Vododara, Udhna. Lakhs of berths and seats are generated by running these special trains for more comfortable accommodation of passengers.

Apart from running of the Special Trains, Eastern railway is also taking crowd control measures during Chhath and Diwali this year so that the intending passengers face no inconvenience for boarding or alighting the trains from different stations. Holding area has been identified at important stations to reduce the rush of passengers at the station platform, Officers and Supervisors are deployed round-the-clock at stations and Control Rooms for monitoring the situation, Scouts & Guides and Civil

Defence Volunteers are kept ready for helping and assisting the passengers, strict monitoring of punctuality of Special Trains are going on, increased number of security personnel have been deployed at several stations for crowd control and looking after the security aspect, passenger amenities at different stations are being monitored strictly so that the basic amenities like drinking water, food etc are available to the passengers.

Eastern Railway is in all out endeavour for a pleasant journey experience for the passengers during festive season. However, passengers are advised not to indulge in any activities which affect the safety and security of Railway operations as well as of themselves. It is advised please do not carry any inflammable articles during journey, do not lean out from the train compartment, do not pass through Railway track at station and other areas - only use Foot Overbridge (FOB) or other designated places for this purpose and above all, maintain cleanliness at Railway station premises.

THEEGALA DROPS DOUBLE BOGEY ON 18TH, LIES EIGHTH AT BAYCURRENT IN JAPAN

YOKOHAMA : Sahith Theegala was cruising along at 3-under and was inside the Top-3 when he went into the water and then missed a bogey putt to drop two shots on the 18th on the third day of the Baycurrent Classic in Japan.

His round of 1-under 70 gave him a total of 8-under and he was Tied-eighth and four shots behind the leading duo Max Greyserman and Xander Schauffele.

Greyserman finished with an even-par 71 with Schauffele carding a 67 at the Yokohama Country Club. Both are on 12-under 201. Theegala is trying to make up for missing a lot of events during the regular season due to a neck injury.

Playing on a rainy day, he birdied the second and the fourth but dropped a shot on the 12th. He got that shot back and another on the 14th. However, a double on the 18th pulled him back.

In his first two rounds Theegala hit 22 of the 30 fairways. His ball-striking has been good but he has been giving some bogeys, which need to be tightened.

The rough at Yokohama Country Club can be penal, but it's hardly U.S. Open-level punishment, which makes the results feel more unlucky than anything else.

As his second round 67 showed, his form is showing improvement and Theegala could well go low and contend on the final day. Greyserman is seeking his first PGA Tour title after being second in this event a year ago.

Schauffele is looking to add more silverware to his collection of two major championships, a gold medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, and numerous other PGA Tour titles. Add to that, Schauffele's mother was born in Taiwan but grew up in Japan. Winning, of course, would be a dream.

Greyserman, who has shared or held the lead outright since the first round, described just holding on.

Five players were three strokes back going into the final round including defending champion Nico Echavarria (69), Michael Thorbjornsen (66), Byeong Hun An (66), Garrick Higgo (68) and Si Woo Kim (69).

It is the only PGA Tour tournament in Japan. The event was moved this year to Yokohama after being played east of Tokyo. The event was won by Tiger Woods in 2019.

Archery Premier League: Learnt a lot from overseas players, says Deepika Kumari

NEW DELHI : The Archery Premier League (APL), the world's first professional archery league, successfully concluded its debut season with a press conference and gathering here at the Yamuna Sports Complex, and India's ace archer Deepika Kumari shared her experienced of playing the league and sharing the stage with some of the top archers from around the world.

The event united league stakeholders, prominent archers and dignitaries to celebrate its significant role in raising India's profile in global archery, with APL flag-bearer and actor Ram Charan also being a part of it.

Deepika said that the Indian archers learned a lot from their foreign counterparts, about their style of work, how they train, and a lot about their mentality, adding that all this will help them improve and develop their game.

"We were thrilled when the league began, as it was happening for the first time. We never expected overseas players to participate if a league was to happen, but the top 20 players in the world

2nd Test: Jadeja, Kuldeep reduce WI to 140/4 after Gill's unbeaten 129 propels India to 518/5

NEW DELHI : Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav took four wickets collectively as India strengthened their position in the second Test by reducing West Indies to 140/4 in 43 overs, trailing by 378 runs at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Shai Hope remained unbeaten on 31 to offer some resistance for the visitors after Jadeja (3-37) and Kuldeep (1-45) struck in tandem to trigger a collapse of the visitors from 87/1 to 107/4. While West Indies showed more grit than they did in Ahmedabad, their innings was punctuated by lapses in concentration - errors that have repeatedly cost them in this series.

India's dominance in front of 15,700 spectators on day two was established by declaring a commanding first-innings total of 518/5. It was led by Shubman Gill's unbeaten 129 - his tenth century in the format and fifth as the Indian captain, featuring 16 fours and two sixes, while Yashasvi Jaiswal scored a majestic 175. As the pitch begins to show signs of wear and tear, the hosts will aim to press home their advantage on day three.

The day began with a heart-break for India as Jaiswal's attempt at a third Test double hundred was cut short by a strange run-out in the second over. After driving a full ball to mid-off, Jaiswal set off for a quick single, but Gill had already called no.

By then, Tagenarine Chanderpaul threw in a direct hit to the keeper's end, and although Jaiswal desperately turned back



after being more than halfway down the pitch, keeper Tevin Imlach quickly disturbed the stumps. Nitish Kumar Reddy, promoted to number five with the aim of getting some game time by the Indian team management, survived a close lbw appeal on the second ball he faced from Jayden Seales, before square driving him for four.

Reddy had some luck again when he went hard on a drive and

went just past second slip for four, even as Gill found boundaries easily through flicks, drives, and slashes, before reaching his fifty with a superbly timed flick through mid-wicket for four off Seales. Luck was once again on Reddy's side when, on 20, Anderson Philip dropped his catch at mid-off off Jomel Warrican's bowling. Reddy then launched Warrican for two sixes and a four, even as a calm Gill received huge

cheers from a lively weekend crowd by leaning into a half-volley from Greaves and driving through wide of mid-off for four, before thrashing him through the gap at extra cover for another boundary.

But Reddy fell seven runs short of his fifty when he attempted to clear Warrican with a slog sweep, but he holed out to long-on. With West Indies' bowling being unthreatening, Gill swept Pierre for four, before Dhruv Jurel

brought out his solid leg-side shots to secure quick boundaries.

Gill then effortlessly drove Chase for four, before reaching his fifth Test century as India's captain in 177 balls with a fine cut through cover for three runs, earning warm applause from the eager crowd. After that, Gill shifted gears by smashing Chase for six, then sweeping and cutting to find his boundaries, even as Jurel was given a reprieve at 39.

Jurel, who impressed with his ability to select lengths quickly, went for a pull shot on an over-pitched ball from Chase but was bowled for six runs short of his fifty. As he walked off, Gill arrived too, as India declared in the middle of the second session and invited West Indies to bat out the remaining 43 overs of the day.

West Indies displayed early composure as John Campbell and Tagenarine Chanderpaul carefully negotiated Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj's initial swing and low bounce under the afternoon sun. Campbell looked promising, collecting two boundaries off Siraj and Jadeja with a leaning drive and a deft paddle sweep respectively. However, he was dismissed in a freak manner for eight runs, courtesy of a sharp take by B Sai Sudharsan at forward short leg - the ball coming off a sweep hit Sudharsan's helmet and ensured it didn't pop out of his hands.

Both Chanderpaul and Alick Athanaze appeared confident in defence, moving confidently either forward or backwards, and did

not seem flustered even when four consecutive maidens were delivered. Athanaze enjoyed facing Kuldeep Yadav's bowling, as he cut, lofted, swept, and reverse-swept him for a six and three fours.

The wrist-spinner almost trapped Chanderpaul lbw, but an inside edge saved him. With Chanderpaul hitting convincing boundaries off Ravindra Jadeja and Athanaze playing sweep and lap shots off Washington Sundar, the West Indies managed to secure their first fifty-run stand of the series.

But Jadeja ended the 66-run partnership by forcing Chanderpaul to edge to a juggling first slip. Athanaze was the next to go, as he dragged a slower ball from Kuldeep to mid-wicket and fell for 41. Skipper Roston Chase was also dismissed - trying to flick a length ball to the leg side, but offering a simple return catch to Jadeja. Hope kept fighting for the West Indies with his elegant drives to collect five boundaries in his first 38 balls. He and Imlach (14 not out) ensured that West Indies didn't suffer another loss in the wickets' column before curtains came on day two's play, again in India's favour. Brief Scores: India 518/5 in 134.2 overs (Yashasvi Jaiswal 175, Shubman Gill 129 not out; Jomel Warrican 3-98, Roston Chase 1-83) lead West Indies 140/4 in 43 overs (Shai Hope 31 not out, Tagenarine Chanderpaul 34; Ravindra Jadeja 3-37, Kuldeep Yadav 1-45) by 378 runs

Parth Singh Sets New National Meet Record in Long Jump at 40th National Junior Athletics Championship



PC JHA
RANCHI : Jharkhand athletes continued their impressive performance on the second day of

the 40th National Junior Athletics Championship-2025, clinching one gold, one silver, and one bronze medal at the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar.

The championship, being organized by the Athletics Federation of India, New Delhi, and the Odisha Athletics Association, is being held from October 10 to 14, 2025.

Ranchi's Parth Singh created history in the Boys Under-20 Long Jump category by setting a new National Meet Record with a remarkable jump of 7.82 meters, surpassing the previous record of 7.79 meters set by S. Lokesh L. Sathanathan of Karnataka during the 35th National Junior Athletics Championship held in Mangalagiri, Guntur (Andhra Pradesh) in 2019. Parth's stellar performance earned him the gold medal and brought pride to Jharkhand.

In the Boys Under-16 80m Hurdles, Latehar's Anit Oraon clocked 10.37 seconds to secure the silver medal. Jamtara's Savita Murmu also bagged a silver in the Girls Under-18 Javelin Throw with a fine effort of 47.97 meters. In the Boys Under-18

110m Hurdles, Bokaro's Sajid claimed the bronze medal with a timing of 14.20 seconds.

With these results, Jharkhand's medal tally now stands at a total of five-two gold, two silver, and one bronze-reflecting the athletes' consistent excellence across categories.

Several other Jharkhand athletes also delivered commendable performances and qualified for the final rounds in their respective events.

Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Sports Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu, Sports Secretary Manoj Kumar, Sports Director Shekhar Jamuar, and officials from the Jharkhand Athletics Association, including Planning Committee Chairman Dr. Madhukant Pathak, President C. D. Singh, Secretary S. K. Pandey, and Prabhakar Verma, congratulated the athletes, team managers, and coaches for bringing laurels to the state through their outstanding achievements.

39TH ZONAL MINE RESCUE COMPETITION CONCLUDES UNDER DGMS SUPERVISION

PC JHA
RANCHI : The 39th Zonal Mine Rescue Competition-2025, organized by Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) under the aegis of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), concluded with a grand award distribution and closing ceremony held at CCL Headquarters, Ranchi.

The competition was conducted from October 8 to 9, 2025, at the Mine Rescue Station in Ramgarh and the Bhurkunda underground mine.

The closing ceremony was chaired by CCL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Nilendu Kumar Singh, while Dr. S. S. Prasad, Deputy Director General of Mines Safety (South Eastern Zone), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Also present were Director (Finance) Pawan Kumar Mishra, Director (Technical/Operations) C. S. Tiwari, and Chief Vigilance Officer Pankaj Kumar, along with several senior officials of DGMS and CCL.

Ajit Kumar, Director of Mine Safety, served as the Chief Judge from DGMS, supported by a panel of senior officers from DGMS and CCL as judges.

Displaying outstanding performance, the NK Area team emerged as the Overall Best Team of the competition. The Barkasayal Area team secured the Second Best Team award, while the Magadh-Sanghamitra team stood third. Participants who excelled in various categories were also felicitated with awards and certificates.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Guest Dr. Prasad emphasized the critical importance of mine safety and lauded the rescue teams for their readiness, discipline, and dedication. He urged all personnel to adopt the highest safety standards and make safety an integral part of their work culture.

CMD Nilendu Kumar Singh congratulated all participating teams for their commendable efforts and appreciated the organizers for the successful conduct of the event. He reiterated that safety remains the topmost priority for CCL.

Adding a cultural touch, the Punjab Regiment Military Band presented a captivating musical performance to welcome the guests. The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and the rendition of the Coal India corporate anthem.

Students of D.A.V. School, Gandhinagar, Ranchi, enthralled the audience with performances including Ganesh Vandana, instrumental recitals, the Mahishasur Mardini dance, and a thematic play on mine rescue operations.

The ceremony was attended by General Manager (Safety & Rescue) Vinod Kumar, heads of various departments, Area General Managers, Superintendent (Rescue Services) Vikas Kumar, officers and employees of CCL, and representatives from JCSC, the Safety Board, and the Welfare Board in large numbers.

ADDRESSING THE GATHERING, CHIEF GUEST DR. PRASAD EMPHASIZED THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF MINE SAFETY AND LAUDED THE RESCUE TEAMS FOR THEIR READINESS, DISCIPLINE, AND DEDICATION. HE URGED ALL PERSONNEL TO ADOPT THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS AND MAKE SAFETY AN INTEGRAL PART OF THEIR WORK CULTURE.



INDIAN KICK OFF SULTAN OF JOHOR CUP CAMPAIGN WITH 3-2 OVER GREAT BRITAIN

JOHOR BAHRU : The Indian Junior Men's Hockey Team opened their Sultan of Johor Cup 2025 campaign with a well-deserved 3-2 win over Great Britain at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia, on Saturday.

Captain Rohit (45+, 52') and Ravneet Singh (23') were the goalscorers for India while Michael Royden (26') and Kaden Draysey (46') scored for Great Britain.

The first quarter saw both sides play an entertaining end-to-end brand of hockey, however neither team could break the deadlock. In the 13th minute India received their first penalty corner of the day but they were stopped by the Great Britain rushers. India showed great attacking intent with multiple circle entries and good attempts on goal but Great Britain too were resilient in their defending.

India received another penalty corner in the 16th minute but the Great Britain goalkeeper protect-

ed his goal with great valour by making two back-to-back crucial saves. India came close to scoring in the 22nd minute but Manmeet Singh's shot on goal was met with a goaline clearance by Great Britain's defence. However, India finally found their opening goal in the very next minute.

Gurjot Singh made a strong run from the right into the circle and passed it through the Great Britain defence to the far post where Ravneet Singh (23') finished the ball into the net in style. Moments later, in the 26th minute Great Britain levelled the game again with a crucial equaliser.

Captain Max Anderson made a run from right and passed it in the centre for Michael Royden (26') who slotted the ball in the top left corner. By the end of first half, India had made 10 circle entries while Great Britain had made nine, highlighting the close nature of the match.

The third quarter started off slow with both sides exchanging possession looking for an opening

on goal but the defenders were in top form and fended off the attacks.

In the 45th minute, Great Britain received a penalty corner but couldn't make the most of it, thanks to a brilliant save by Indian goalkeeper Prince Deep Singh. Seconds later India too received a penalty corner at the other end of the field.

Captain Rohit (45'+) stepped up on the occasion and scored with a brilliant dragkick right on the buzzer to give India the lead again.

In the 46th minute Great Britain were fortunate to receive a penalty stroke which was converted by Kaden Draysey (46') to equalise again. India won successive penalty corners in the 50th, 51st and 52nd minute respectively and although they couldn't capitalise on the first two chances. Captain Rohit (52') delivered a spectacular strike in the third attempt to claim the lead and the win for India. India will next face New Zealand on Sunday.

