

Mamata and Abhishek Plan Massive Rally Against SIR on Nov 4

Accusing the BJP of a deep-rooted conspiracy over the Special intensive Revision (SIR), West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced a massive protest march to be led by party supremo Mamata Banerjee and National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. According to party sources, the rally will take place on November 4 — the very day Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are scheduled to begin door-to-door verification under the SIR process. The march is slated to start at 1:30 p.m. from the base of the Gandhi statue at Dharmatala and proceed to the Jorasanko Thakurbari. Several TMC MPs, councillors, and senior leaders will join the march alongside Mamata and Abhishek. **PG 3**



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EC starts training BLOs in Bengal, TMC launches parallel booth-level assistance

MI News Service, Kolkata ; As announced last week, the Election Commission of India (ECI) launched an elaborate training programme for Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) in West Bengal on Saturday for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The training programme, which began in various district headquarters, besides in Kolkata, would be completed by November 3, as the SIR process is scheduled to begin on the very next day, officials said.

For instance, in south Kolkata's Nazrul Mancha, training was underway for BLOs of Bhabanipur, Rashbehari, Ballygunge, Tollygunge, Kasba, Jadavpur, Metiabruz, Behala Purba and Behala Paschim assembly constituencies, the election officials informed.. When the Election Commission began training Booth Level Officers across West Bengal for SIR of electoral rolls, the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has also launched a parallel voter-assistance operation simultaneously and accused the EC of deliberate deletions of many voters names in some booths. ECI officials said the first phase of training focused on the mobile application of BLOs, as they will use them for on-the-spot verification and distribution of enumeration forms.

"BLOs will be trained to operate the application, identify acceptable documents and explain procedures to voters," a senior ECI official said. The commission also



Election Commission officials during a training session for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, in Kolkata on Saturday.

moved to stabilise online services after heavy traffic threatened the old portal. The ECI also launched a new website to let voters search 2002 SIR lists without crashes.

Meanwhile, according to Trinamool Congress (TMC) sources, they have decided to simultaneously set-up "anchal" (Zone) -wise help desks from November 4 till December 4 (for SIR). Party All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee during a closed-door virtual meeting, told TMC's state functionaries that not a single BLO should be left "unattended for even a minute" and they should be shadowed all the time. He also directed Booth Level Agents (BLA-1s) in every district to appoint BLA-2s

to accompany BLOs during door-to-door verification and act as "shadow companions" to prevent any unfair deletions. Abhishek Banerjee announced that from November 4 the TMC will set up 6,200 voter-assistance camps across 2,861 municipal wards and 3,345 gram panchayats. Each camp, he said, will be equipped with laptops, printers and Wi-Fi and will operate from 9 am to 5 pm everyday for a month to help people check names, submit claims and objections, and report irregularities.

The party has also instructed MPs and MLAs to form "war rooms" in each of the state's 294 assembly constituencies to coordinate responses, with each war

“ first phase of training focused on the mobile application of BLOs, as they will use them for on-the-spot verification and distribution of enumeration forms.

--senior ECI official

“ If even one eligible voter's name is removed, one lakh people from Bengal will hold a dharna outside the Election Commission office in New Delhi.

--Abhishek Banerjee

room staffed by 15 workers handling on-ground monitoring and data entry. "On one hand BJP wants to divide and humiliate people in the name of SIR and NRC, while TMC workers will help people ensuring no one's name is deleted. I will myself be on the streets for the next few months," Abhishek Banerjee reiterated.

"This is our acid test," Abhishek told party insiders, "If even one eligible voter's name is removed, one lakh people from Bengal will hold a dharna outside the Election Commission office in New Delhi," he warned, reiterating his earlier statement made this week. The TMC second in command also reiterated the ruling party's contention that the SIR, which the party calls "Silent Invisible Rigging", is a political tool aimed at disenfranchising minorities and others ahead of the 2026 Assembly polls. The party claimed lots of early discrepancies found in North

24 Parganas, Nadia and Cooch Behar districts, saying hundreds of names visible in 2002 lists were now missing. In one Basirhat booth alone, the online list shows a blank stretch from S. No. 859-892. Names present in 2002 have simply vanished today. Barely days into the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Bengal is witnessing names vanishing from electoral rolls across Natabari, Mathabhangra, Ashoknagar and Basirhat, raising fears of a coordinated voter purge.

"We have to be with the people of Bongaon, Ranaghat. Just like in Assam where we saw lakhs of Hindus were left out – in Bengal due to SIR a lot of people will face difficulties. So Trinamool Congress workers must stand firm with them and provide all help," he said. He said the party would continue to pursue every democratic and legal avenue

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At least 9 devotees killed in Venkateswara temple stampede in Andhra Pradesh



Andhra Pradesh minister K. Atchannaidu visits the spot after a stampede occurred at Venkateswara temple, at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district,. At least nine people were killed and several others suffered injuries in the incident.

MI News Service, Hyderabad : At least 9 people, mostly women, were crushed to death and two others injured at a stampede among devotees in a temple at Kasibugga in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh on Saturday. According to Kasibugga sub-division in-charge DSP Lakshman Rao, the stampede occurred at Kasibugga's Venkateswara Swami temple at around 11.30 am in which at least "Seven devotees had died and two others were in-

jured". According to preliminary reports, the incident occurred as large crowds gathered at the temple during morning rituals. Soon after the incident local authorities and rescue teams rushed to the temple to assist other devotees and move the injured to nearby hospitals. Thousands of devotees had gathered at the Venkateswara Swami Temple to pray during 'Ekadashi', one of Hinduism's most sacred days,

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India always the first responder in any global crisis, says PM Modi

MI News Service, Raipur : India has always come forward as the first responder during any global crisis, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Saturday, adding the nation has always stepped forward as a reliable partner to provide help. Addressing a large gathering after inaugurating the Shanti Shikhar centre for spiritual learning and meditation of Brahma Kumaris in Chhattisgarh's Nava Raipur, PM Modi said his government's mantra is to ensure the country's development through continuous growth and development of the states.

"Whenever a crisis arises anywhere in the world today, whenever a disaster strikes, India steps forward as a reliable partner to provide help, and the country is always the first responder," the Prime minister said. "We are those who see Shiva in every living being," he said. "In our tradition, every religious ritual concludes with the proclamation that may the world prosper and may goodwill prevail among all beings," PM Modi added.

Guided by the mantra that the development of the state leads to the development of the nation, the government is engaged in the Viksit Bharat mission to make India developed, PM Modi said adding "In this crucial journey towards a developed India, institutions like Brahma Ku-



PM at inauguration of the 'Shanti Shikhar' of Brahma Kumaris at Nava Raipur, in Chhattisgarh on Saturday.

maris have a very significant role to play"... "I have been connected with

garh is completing 25 years of its es- tablishment. Jharkhand and Ut-

“ In our tradition, every religious ritual concludes with the proclamation that may the world prosper and may goodwill prevail among all beings

--PM Narendra Modi

all of you for several decades now. I am not a guest here; I am one of you," he told the gathering. "Today is a very special day. Today, Chhattis-

tarakhand are also completing 25 years. Many other states are also

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TMC MP Mamatabala Thakur threatens indefinite fast on SIR issue

MI News Service, Kolkata : Trinamool Congress MP Mamatabala Thakur on Saturday threatened an indefinite sit-in from November 5 if the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls by the Election Commission is directed against any single member of the Matua community.

People of the Matua community, a Scheduled Caste, had migrated from erstwhile East Pakistan after independence and settled in the border districts of West Bengal in the past several decades. Thakur said she will sit on a hunger strike before the residence of Matua patriarch Binapani Devi at Sangh headquarters, Thakurnagar in North 24 Parganas district.

In a fiery address that sent ripples of alarm across India's political landscape, TMC Rajya Sabha

MP and All India Matua Mahasangha president Mamata Bala Thakur framed the SIR—a rigorous voter list cleanup—as a veiled weapon to disenfranchise vulnerable communities like the Matuas, millions of Hindu refugees from Bangladesh now facing documentation nightmares. "Implement SIR, and you'll see India burn like Nepal did—Modi and Shah, hear this: we'll fight tooth and nail to protect every citizen's right," she declared, her voice a clarion call amid a sea of banners decrying electoral exclusion. This stark warning, elevates a regional grievance into a national flashpoint, igniting fears of widespread agitation as the 2026 elections loom.

Thakur's speech tapped into a deep vein of anxiety among the Matuas, whose ancestors fled per-



secution only to face a new battle for legitimacy in India's bureaucratic maze. The SIR, pitched by the Election Commission as a safeguard against fraudulent voters, demands stringent proof of citi-

zenship—birth certificates, pre-1971 residency documents—that many Matuas, displaced by Partition's chaos, simply don't possess.

“ Implement SIR, and you'll see India burn like Nepal did—Modi and Shah, hear this: we'll fight tooth and nail to protect every citizen's right

--Mamatabala Thakur

To the crowd, Thakur painted a vivid picture of families haunted by the specter of deleted names, stripped of voting rights earned through decades of struggle. "This isn't revision; it's erasure," she

charged, accusing the BJP-led center of using SIR to tilt electoral scales by targeting minority-heavy constituencies. Her words, met with roars of approval, transformed the rally into a crucible of resistance, where shared histories of exile fueled a collective resolve to defy what many see as state-sanctioned marginalization. Aiming Union Minister Shantanu Thakur, her BJP-aligned kin and rival, Thakur sharpened her attack, branding him a "traitor to Matua blood" for championing policies she claims betray the community. "Shantanu fronts for RSS-BJP's plot to chain us through SIR, stripping our votes to weaken Bengal's voice," she asserted, reigniting a bitter feud rooted in Thakurnagar's fractured legacy.

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Abhishek accuses BJP of 'hypocrisy' over party MP's comment on Indo-Bangla border

MI News Service, Kolkata ; All India General Secretary of the Trinamool Congress Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday slammed BJP MP Jagannath Sarkar for his comment on the India-Bangladesh border, and alleged that the "hypocrisy" of the saffron party has "fallen to new depths".

In a purported video, which was telecast on news channels, Sarkar was seen commenting at a meeting on Thursday in his constituency, Ranaghat in bordering Nadia district, that "if we win the assembly polls next year, there will be no barbed wire fencing with Bangladesh." Sarkar also claimed, "If the Trinamool Congress wins the elections, there will be no barbed wire fencing, as infiltration from Bangladesh will continue."

Reacting to this in a social media post on Saturday, Abhishek Banerjee demanded that the BJP should immediately suspend Sarkar if the party truly believes in the integrity of India. Taking strong exception to Sarkar's comments, the TMC MP alleged, "The hypocrisy of the BJP leadership has fallen to new depths. @BJP4India MP from Ranaghat, Jagannath Sarkar, declares that if the BJP comes to power, there will be no borders between India and Bangladesh- both nations will become one again!" He also claimed that the BJP government at the Centre and Union Home Minister Amit Shah "keep blaming the West Bengal government for not giving land to "protect the very borders their own MP wants to erase". "If the BJP truly believes in the nation's integrity, I challenge @BJP4India @



“ If the BJP truly believes in the nation's integrity, I challenge @BJP4India @JPNadda to suspend this MP immediately.

--Abhishek Banerjee

PNadda to suspend this MP immediately. Their silence will only expose that he spoke with full consent of the party's top leadership," said Abhishek Banerjee, the second in command in Trinamool Congress hierarchy after party supremo Mamata Banerjee. He also claimed that Sarkar's comment is "not for nationalism - this is deception". "Fooling and humiliating the people of West Bengal in the name of 'SIR' has become the BJP's trademark politics - A dangerous mix of hypocrisy and betrayal!" the Diamond Harbour MP alleged. "Look at their own words and decide who's fooling Bengal," Abhishek Banerjee said, attaching the purported video on

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'Jungle raj' will return to Bihar if RJD comes back to power : Amit Shah

MI News Service, Patna : Union Home minister Amit Shah on Saturday raked up the alleged high-handedness of Sadhu Yadav", former Bihar Chief minister Rabri Devi's estranged brother, to warn people of the poll-bound state that "jungle raj" will come back if RJD returned to power. Shah, who was scheduled to address an election rally in Gopalganj district, spoke virtually as bad weather prevented him from reaching the venue.

"This election is an opportunity to decide who should be entrusted with the future of Bihar. On one hand are those who had ushered in 'jungle raj' and on the other is the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the present Chief minister Nitish Kumar, who have brought all round development of Bihar," he said. "The people of Gopalganj have never voted for the RJD since 2002. I am sure they will keep up the trend... No-body knows the misdeeds (kaarname) of Sadhu Yadav better than the people of Gopalganj," he added.

Sadhu Yadav, who had been both the MLA and the MP from Gopalganj, was known to wield tremendous clout while her sister was the Chief Minister of the state. One of the incidents blamed on him was forcefully driving away with cars from a showroom during Rabri Devi's eldest daughter Misa Bharti's wedding in 1999. The incident was mentioned by PM Modi at a rally earlier this week, even as he did not name anyone.



“ On one hand are those who had ushered in 'jungle raj' and on the other is the duo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the present Chief minister Nitish Kumar, who have brought all round development of Bihar.

--Amit Shah

Another incident in which Sadhu Yadav's name had cropped up was the Shilpi Gautam murder case that took place in the same year. It was recently in the news when Jan Suraj Party founder Prashant Kishor alleged the complicity of Samrat Choudhary, then an RJD leader who is now with the BJP and currently the

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Man Dies by Suicide Along with Wife and Daughter in Hooghly; Family Members Detained for Questioning

MI News Service, Hooghly: Tragedy struck Champdani when the bodies of a man, his wife, and their young daughter were found inside their home in Ward No. 13, Chandanpara, under Champdani Municipality.

According to Angus Police Station In-charge Atanu Majhi, police reached the spot around 9 a.m. after receiving information from local sources. "When we arrived, a large crowd had already gathered. The door was locked from inside. After breaking it open, we found a man, identified as Md Qiyamuddin, hanging from the ceiling, while his wife and minor daughter were lying lifeless on the bed," Majhi said.

Champdani Municipality Chairman Suresh Mishra also rushed to the spot after learning about the incident. In his presence, the bodies of Qiyamuddin, his wife, and their daughter—believed to be under ten years old—were taken to Chinsur-



ah Imambara Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examination.

Preliminary police investigations suggest that the family had been involved in a domestic dispute over land, property, and shareholding for several days. Police have detained Qiyamuddin's father, Abdul Qadir, his two brothers, and their wives for

questioning.

Chairman Mishra told reporters, "I was in my home office nearby when I received news that Abdul Qadir's son had committed suicide. I immediately informed Angus Police. When police broke open the door, we found the man hanging and his wife and child lying on the bed. I have urged the

police to conduct a thorough investigation and take legal action against anyone found guilty but to ensure that no innocent person is harassed."

Mishra added that the deceased's father had earlier discussed family property issues with him, mentioning that he had already divided his assets among his three sons. "I am shocked and deeply saddened. Seeing the little girl lying beside her mother was heartbreaking," he said.

Police suspect that Qiyamuddin may have poisoned his wife and daughter before taking his own life, though confirmation awaits the post-mortem report.

Locals described Qiyamuddin as a quiet and well-behaved man who had been under visible stress for the past ten to fifteen days due to ongoing family disputes.

Police have started a detailed investigation to determine the exact cause of the tragedy.

Jagatballabhpur people want Dr. Kashem back as MLA

Nurul Islam Khan

Eminent physician, social worker and former MLA Abul Kashem Mollah. In the 100-year-old history of the traditional century-old Indian Medical Association (IMA), no doctor from a minority community has been able to grace the post of president of the Bengal branch. In 2023, Doctor Abul Kashem is the only witness to setting that rare precedent. He is the All-India Associate Editor of 'Your Health' magazine. President of Haji Yunus Charitable Trust. He is the owner of a private hospital. His enviable humanity in that hospital has made the common people think. Despite his busy schedule, he speaks sincerely to everyone. He has won people's hearts by speaking politely on the phone. It is believed that there are very few such talented people in society. Overall, he has made outstanding contributions to social activities. On the other hand, while the excessive inhumanity of some nursing homes currently burdens us, Bellona Nursing Home is an image of humanity



for the common people. Poor people have got a sigh of relief in medical services. As an idealistic MLA, he was elected as a Trinamool candidate in the Howrah Jagatballabh Vidhan Sabha constituency in 2011 with a record vote. Intellectuals Sirajul Islam, Ananta Das, and the people of the region want Dr. Kashem to be brought back to that assembly constituency.

However, in the 2016 Raghunathganj Assembly constituency in Murshidabad, he was defeated by Congress' Akhruzzaman by a very small margin. Here, he received a large number of votes from the previous Trinamool MLA. Many Pirsabeh of Furfura Sharif have praised Dr. Kashem Sahib. They have given him certificates as an honest and virtuous person. Pirsabeh has commented that the people need such MLAs. Under the leadership of Mamata, the Trinamool Congress will return to power with more than 220 seats in the 2026 assembly elections. Dr. Kashem Commented that the people of Bengal will not accept Hindu-Muslim politics. This Bengal has been divided once, no one wants to divide that Bengal again. As a result, he claims that a huge stream of votes will work in favor of the Trinamool Congress. Above all, the Trinamool Congress supremo will give due respect to Dr. Abul Kashem Saheb as a public representative, with this hope that the general public of Jagat Ballabhpur is confident.

Pilgrims bound for Bodh Gaya injured in Jamalpur Highway Collision

MI News Service, Durgapur:

A midnight journey turned tragic when a bus carrying Bangladeshi pilgrims to Bodh Gaya was rammed from behind by a speeding container truck on the Durgapur Expressway late Friday night. The collision occurred near Musunda under Jamalpur police station in East Burdwan district on National Highway No. 19, leaving at least 23 people injured, including the container driver. According to police sources, the container, allegedly traveling at high speed, lost control and crashed into the Durgapur-bound tourist bus.

The impact was so severe that several passengers sustained serious injuries before local residents and police rushed to their rescue. All the injured were immediately admitted to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital, where doctors have reported their condition to be stable. Preliminary investigations suggest the container driver might have fallen asleep at the wheel, causing the accident. Jamalpur police have launched a probe to determine the exact cause and circumstances leading to the crash. Eyewitness accounts reveal that the bus was part of a religious convoy carrying 117 devotees who had set out from Chittagong, Bangladesh, on October 29 for a pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya.

Bangladeshi woman held in Tehatta for alleged cross-border drug trafficking



MI News Service, Tehatta: Border Security Force (BSF) personnel of the 56th Battalion arrested a Bangladeshi woman and a local resident from the Tehatta border area late on Thursday night on charges of attempting cross-border drug smuggling under the cover of darkness.

The accused have been identified as Minajul Mondal, a resident of Old Bistuganj village, and Selina Khatun alias Hawa (32), a resident of Bajitpur village under Meherpur police station in Bangladesh.

Acting on a tip-off about a major narcotics transaction near the international border, a BSF team along with woman constables raided Mondal's house, located within 50 metres of the zero line. During the search, officers allegedly seized a substantial quantity of liquid Methaqualone, a banned psychotropic substance valued at around rupees 5,000 per gram.

Officials also recovered Bangladeshi and Indian currency totalling rupees 18,250, a cutting machine, chemicals, a weighing scale, and a mobile phone with both Bangladeshi and Indian SIM cards. The total seizure value has been estimated at rupees 5.31 lakh, BSF sources said.

BSF officials claimed that Mondal had been sheltering the Bangladeshi woman, who is suspected to be involved in cross-border drug and contraband smuggling networks.

Both suspects were detained and later handed over to Tehatta Police, which has registered a case and begun interrogation. The duo was produced before the Tehatta Sub-Divisional Court on Friday.

Police officials said further investigation is underway to trace the network behind the racket and their cross-border links.

Innovation in Education Essential for India's Progress: Anand Kumar, Founder of Super 30

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The need for innovation in education to make learning more engaging and relevant for students was emphasized by Mr Anand Kumar, Founder of the Super 30 programme, today in CII Education East Summit in Kolkata. Mr Kumar highlighted that transforming education is essential to prepare the youth for the Super 30 programme, today in CII Education East Summit in Kolkata. Mr Kumar highlighted that transforming education is essential to prepare the youth for the Super 30 programme, today in CII Education East Summit in Kolkata. Mr Kumar highlighted that transforming education is essential to prepare the youth for the Super 30 programme, today in CII Education East Summit in Kolkata.

Region in Kolkata brought together eminent educationists and industry leaders to deliberate on the future of learning in an era of rapid technological change.

Speaking on the changing global landscape, Mr Ujjal Chakraborti, Chairman, CII Eastern Region Education & Skill Development Subcommittee and Executive In Charge – Tintplate Division, Tata Steel Limited, noted that we are living through the Fourth Industrial Revolution, a period marked by automation, artificial intelligence, robotics, and biotechnology, all of which



Anand Kumar, Founder of Super 30

are reshaping the way we work and live. He observed that education today is not just preparation for the future; it is the force that will define it.

Mr Chakraborti also underlined the importance of Education 4.0, which

aligns learning ecosystems with the needs of Industry 4.0. He stressed that alongside the traditional 3Rs — Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic, the new-age 4Cs — Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, and Collaboration must form the cornerstone of future-ready education.

The summit concluded with a collective call to reimagine India's education framework to nurture adaptable, skilled, and empathetic learners — ready to lead the nation's transformation in the decades ahead.

Matua faction announces indefinite fast from Nov 5; moves SC against amended immigration law

MI News Service, Kalyani:

A section of the Matua community aligned with All India Matua Mahasangha chief Mamata Bala Thakur has announced an indefinite hunger strike from November 5 protesting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the amended Immigration and Foreigners Act. The faction has also filed a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the new law.

Addressing the media at Thakurnagar on Saturday, Mamata Bala Thakur al-

leged that the SIR process could result in the deletion of a large number of voters' names in West Bengal, particularly from the Matua community. "When the 2002 voters' list is mapped against the present roll, we find that most Matua names did not exist then. Many from our community came from Bangladesh and lack the 11 documents demanded under SIR. How will they prove their identity?" she said.

Thakur claimed the community would be severely



impacted and asserted that the group "will not accept such procedures," adding that the indefinite hunger strike was a last resort.

In April, following Presidential assent, the Centre notified the amended Immigration and Foreigners Act, passed during the Budget session. As per the revised

law, authorities can prohibit the entry of any foreigner deemed "dangerous" and are not obligated to repatriate such individuals. The law also recommends mandatory reporting by educational institutions, hospitals, and homeowners on foreigners they come into contact with.

Terming the provisions "unconstitutional", Thakur said, "This law poses serious challenges to ordinary people, especially Matua refugees. Their lives will become more difficult."

Auspicious Ashirvaad Ceremony of the prestigious Roy family of Bhulai and Asansol held at The Fern Residency

MI News Service, Asansol:

The auspicious Ashirvaad Ceremony of Ram Rudra Roy (Rayan Roy) the son of Ram Mohan Roy and Malabika Roy of the prestigious Roy family of Bhulai and Asansol was held at The Fern Residency, Asansol on the 24th of September, 2025 (Wednesday)

The Ashirvaad ceremony was witnessed by the entire Roy family, the Dunlop family as well as friends and extended families. The bride-to-be Dr. Olivia Dunlop, daughter of Late Lovell Richard Dunlop and Anjali Dunlop will soon get married to the son of Ram Mohan Roy and Malabika Roy that is Ram Rudra Roy (Rayan Roy) in November, 2025.

The ceremony unfolded with the rituals of blessing the to-be groom, Ram Rudra Roy with Dhan and Dhruba along with Rosogollas galore by the elders of the both the families and love and regards from the young ones in the family. Ram's father and mother blessed the groom to-be first then the mother, Ms. Anjali Dunlop of the bride-to-be Dr. Olivia Dunlop blessed him to be son-in-law with Gold, Silver, Copper, along with a branded watch, and all other necessary items



which are considered Holy and Pure for the occasion.

The coming together of both the families was nothing short of a miracle. One belongs to the great legacy of the Dunlop family and the other is of the famous Jagat Ram Roy who was a Bengali Poet and he wrote the unique version of Ramayana in his village Bhulai, its a divine blessing that these 2 families have come together as one. The entire Karmakar family who are maternal side of Olivia's family blessed the groom-to-be with gifts and metals. The total number of people who blessed Ram the groom-to-be was 150 after the ceremony was over the event followed with beautiful songs sung by Ram himself which was dedicated to Olivia primarily the song Hero (Enrique

Iglesias).

The entire family had come together to bless the couple marking the beginning of the marriage ahead in the month of November 2025 and March 2026 respectively.

The food prepared by the Fern Residency, Asansol was spectacular with the bride-to-be and groom-to-be's favourite food items such as Mutton Razala, Kulcha, Pulao, Naans, Bhetki, Pompret, Katla, Natural Ice-cream and the list goes on.

A 4 tier cake was cut by the bride-to-be and groom-to-be as a beginning of their beautiful journey together with all their family members with music and dance along with dhakis as it was also the beginning of the festive season bringing the blessings of Maa Durga's arrival.

The celebrations which started from 23rd September 2025 evening ended till 25th September 2025 evening which was beautifully organised and executed by both the Dunlop, Roy and Karmakar families.

Now, looking forward to the Scottish Christian Indian Wedding in November 2025.

Regional Cooperative Excellence and Merit Awards Ceremony in Salt Lake – Call for more awareness and leadership training in cooperatives in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata:

"Although our scope of work extends to West Bengal, Bihar and Andaman, today's event is completely West Bengal-centric," said Niranjan Sinha, Regional Director of the National Cooperative Development Corporation. He said this at the Regional Cooperative Excellence and Merit Awards ceremony organized by the National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC). It was held on Friday at the West Bengal State Cooperative Union hall in Salt Lake.

Sinha said that this year is the International Year of Cooperatives, and the NCDC has been given the responsibility of promoting the cooperative tradition by UNESCO.

Speaking at the event, Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS), IAS Niranjan Kumar said, "Eight awards have been given out of ten



Swarna Kamal Saha, the chairman and MLA of the West Bengal State Cooperative Union was present in the program.

categories. "Suitable cooperatives were not found in the remaining two categories. More publicity and communication are needed." He urged those concerned to be more proactive in strengthening the cooperative sector.

West Bengal State Cooperative Union Chairman and MLA Swarna Kamal Saha said, "We have failed to move forward as we should have

due to lack of proper training." Cooperative means co-operation." He added, "More training needs to be provided, and we need to identify and correct our failures." He also emphasized the importance of publishing news and increasing advertisements related to cooperatives in regional media.

Director Vinod Ghoshal raised the question, "Where

there are more than 5,000 cooperatives in the state, why is the same organization having to be awarded for two consecutive years?" He emphasized on improving leadership qualities, saying, "Good leadership ensures the progress of cooperatives."

Ghoshal further said, "Call us for more training, we will provide training. Participation in competitive fields must be increased." "Not just profit, but growth is equally important. We need to think about what state we will take the cooperative to for future generations and how much we can involve them."

According to the National Cooperative Database, there are 31,993 registered cooperative societies in West Bengal, while the number of currently functional societies is around 30,811, according to the state's cooperative department.

ED files PMLA complaint against Amrit Feeds, promoter Harish Bagla in Rs 144.68-cr bank fraud case

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Enforcement Directorate has filed a prosecution complaint under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) against Amrit Feeds Ltd (AFL), its promoter Harish Bagla, and others over an alleged bank fraud of Rs 144.68 crore, official sources said on Saturday.

The complaint was produced before the chief judge of the city sessions court on October 23, 2025, following an ED probe triggered by a Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) complaint lodged on March 22, 2024.

The federal agency's probe revealed that the city-based company defrauded the bank loans and

the fund diverted elsewhere and laundered through a network of shell entities.

The alleged fraud related to an outstanding term loan of Rs 93.62 crore and an outstanding cash-credit facility of Rs 51.06 crore that turned into non-performing assets in 2015-16. The loans were reportedly from Axis Bank, Punjab National Bank, Bank of India and HDFC Bank.

The investigation was initiated based on a complaint filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) against AFL, its related companies, and its directors/promoters for siphoning off bank funds.

The total defaulted amount

stands at Rs 144.68 crore, comprising Rs 93.62 crore in outstanding term loans and Rs 51.06 crore in cash credit facilities.

The investigation further uncovered a series of financial transactions with several companies involved in layering the proceeds of crime generated by AFL.

Previously the ED had conducted searches on August 26, September 3, and September 4, 2025, leading to the seizure of valuables and the freezing of bank balances amounting to Rs 5.46 crore. The agency also arrested Harish Bagla, the main promoter and Managing Director of Amrit Feeds Limited, on August 26, 2025. He is currently in judicial custody.

Great success by Guskara Beat House Police: Returned a lost ATM card and fifty thousand rupees to a young woman within seven days

MI News Service, Gushkara:

The recovered ATM card had a PIN number written on it. As a result, without further delay, two people from Itachanda, Guskara, withdrew a total of 50,000 taka from the ATM in five installments. Meanwhile, a 27-year-old woman named Moumita Adhikari, a resident of Donaipur, Guskara, filed a complaint with the police after losing her ATM card. According to police sources, after receiving the complaint, they identified those who had obtained the ATM card by looking at the closed circuit camera. Later, they returned the money after being cross-examination by police. The police returned the money to Moumita at the Guskara outpost on Friday evening. Moumita said, "A few days ago, I went to withdraw money from the ATM counter. Then, inadvertently, my card got stuck. Later, when I received a message on my mobile, I came to know that my ATM card was lost. I filed a complaint with Cyber Crime. I didn't think I would get that money back." She claimed, "I have a few more ATM cards. So, so that



I don't forget the PIN number, I wrote the number on the card. "I made a big mistake." After returning the card, Bishwanath Das, the officer-in-charge of Guskara Beat House, advised not to write down the secret number on the ATM card. When the card return, there present Police personal of Gushkara Beat House Krishnendu koner & Avijit Dutta

Interactive session on Work Life Balance and Coping with Diseases at Genesis Hospital Kasba

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata held an interactive session on Work Life Balance and Coping with Diseases on the 16th September, 2025 at Rotary Sadan.

The session was beautifully organised by an organization named Signature who are stressing on how humans should understand the need of the hour which is the balance between Work and Life.

Dr. Purnendu Roy, a Laparoscopic Surgeon and Chairman & Managing Director of Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata vividly portrayed via audio visual powerpoint presentation the importance of having Work and Life Balance if one has to be successful in life.

The primary focus was to make humans understand and feel the need to visit our own Me Private Limited Company which is "Oneself" along with family members who are the key people in our lives.

Dr. Roy explained in this age where everyone is chasing some-



thing or in a rat race, it's important to stop and restart taking into consideration and balancing work and family life giving each member of the family time and effort to be united.

The best way to find what is lacking is by the SWOT analysis.

A SWOT analysis is a strategic planning to identify Strength, Weakness, Opportunity and Threat.

Strength and Weakness are internal factors whereas Opportunity and Threat are external factors that help in enabling informed decision-making on both professional and personal levels.

Working is important but not at the cost of family life. Balancing life between professional

responsibilities and personal commitments such as family time, hobbies, self care has to be defined.

Achieving healthy lifestyle is important which includes mental, emotional and physical well being.

Short term and long term goals should be defined which evolves as per the needs and priorities.

What matters is reduced stress levels and burnouts, increased quality of life, boosts productivity and improves retention in the company that support work life balance.

Dr. Roy created the awareness which was apt and relevant for today's day and age.

Creating the Work Life Balance and also Coping with Diseases can be a tough but everyone has to balance and we at Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata want to help each and everyone in terms of healthcare related issues.

Genesis Hospital Kasba Kolkata is a surgery related Hospital in South Kolkata, West Bengal.

Stamps of Honour Released at "Aaj Bikeler Dake"

MI News Service, Kolkata:

On the evening of October 27, a special event titled "Aaj Bikeler Dake", organised by Lokram Mission, was held at Sarat Smriti Mandir in South Kolkata. The occasion witnessed the release of postal stamps featuring eminent personalities — renowned musician Sanajit Mondal, Shiksharata Dr. Ashutosh Dutta, elocutionist Sukanya Roy, internationally acclaimed social worker Manab Bharati Anirban Samanta, actress Anamika Saha, and dance exponent Sra-boni Roy.

The awardees and guests were all praise for Anirban Samanta, whose compassionate social work has made a lasting impact on many lives. Despite being an IT professional, Anirban dedicates his leisure hours to serving the underprivileged — spending time with disadvantaged communities and celebrating his birthday with cancer-affected children and students with disabilities. His tireless humanitarian efforts have earned him numerous national and international accolades, establishing him as an inspiring figure of empathy and service.

The event was graced by several distinguished



guests, including journalists Gopi De Sarkar, Gautam Sarkar, and Aurobindo Bose, among others.

MCCI Hosts Session on Funding Opportunities for New Businesses and Entrepreneurs



Sanatan Mishra, General Manager, State Bank of India at the MCCI Special Session on Funding Opportunities for New Businesses & Entrepreneurs at MCCI Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) organised a Special Session on "Funding Opportunities for New Businesses & Entrepreneurs" on November 1, 2025, at its Conference Hall. The session featured Sanatan Mishra, General Manager, State Bank of India;

Prem Shankar Jha, General Manager, UCO Bank; Sujit Bose, Zonal Head, Business Banking, HDFC Bank; and Sunil Kumar, Deputy General Manager, Central Bank of India. Mishra highlighted that start-ups can access both bank funding and government grants, adding that entrepreneurs must show financial discipline and capacity. He noted SBI's pioneering start-up branch in Bengaluru and the growing ecosystem in Eastern India. Jha discussed MSME challenges such as delayed receivables, where TReDS and the GeM portal offer solutions. UCO Bank, he said, has launched 34 new loan schemes, including digital options, and provides training through CSR funds. Bose shared that HDFC Bank's lending is fully digital, requiring only four documents. The bank prioritises borrower discipline and credit history over collateral. Kumar of the Central Bank of India emphasised integrity and timely repayment.



Congress held a protest rally, led by state president Subhankar Sarkar, against the Assam BJP government's action of charging a Congress worker with sedition for singing the song "Amar Sonar Bangla." The rally was held at College Street in Kolkata.

TMC Instructs Workers to Assist Migrant Labourers and Students in Voter List Update

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list underway across West Bengal, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has directed its party workers to extend special assistance to migrant labourers and students residing outside the state in enrolling their names in the electoral roll. Abhishek Banerjee recently said, "Family members of migrant workers can fill out the enumeration forms using valid identification documents. However, these forms must be filled accurately, as any discrepancy could later require the individual to be physically present for verification. BLO-2s must clearly inform the families about this while filling out the forms." Abhishek advised the families of migrant workers to request their relatives to return home, if possible, before submitting the forms. "If they can manage a few days' leave and come home before submission, that would be best," he said. Highlighting the importance of full voter coverage, the TMC leader noted, "In Behrampore organisational district alone, around 700 new booths have been added. Many residents of the district are working in other states. It is essential that 100 percent enumeration forms are filled out for all." He also suggested that relatives in Malda should urge migrant family members to return home within the next month to complete the process.

Abhishek accuses BJP of 'hypocrisy' over party MP's comment on Indo-Bangla border

From PG 1 social media. BJP Chief Whip in West Bengal assembly Sankar Ghosh said the "party does not need to learn lessons about nationalism and the country's unity from Abhishek Banerjee". "Abhishek Banerjee should first put the mirror to himself and ask whether his every action as TMC leader (not as an individual) is helpful to the country's unity," he said. The BJP's Siliguri MLA also asked, "Does he (Abhishek Banerjee) take action against anti-national elements? Does he act for the interest of the country, ensure its security concerning stopping infiltration from across the border and stop demographic change in the state?" Ghosh said as far as Sarkar's comment is concerned, the top BJP leader will "go through the video and examine its contents before responding".

Birth Certificate Rush Grips KMC Amid SIR Panic; Mayor Assures Citizens

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata witnessed long queues outside the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) offices on Friday as panic spread among residents over the need for birth certificates following the recent SIR directive. To calm the anxious crowd, Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim personally visited the queues and spoke to applicants, assuring them that there was no cause for alarm. During a virtual meeting with Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, the Mayor also raised the issue, informing him about the prevailing

fear. "I assured the citizens not to worry. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is with them. Trinamool will extend all necessary assistance to ensure genuine voters are not left out," Hakim said. The rush began after the Election Commission listed eleven documents required for voter verification, one of which is the birth certificate. For those whose names were not included in the electoral rolls before 2002, the document serves as key proof of age and citizenship. As a result, hundreds of people—many in their forties or older—have been crowding the KMC headquarters over the past

two days, leaving aside daily work to obtain the certificate. Applicants have travelled from different parts of the city and even from districts such as Murshidabad. One such applicant, Anisur Rahman from Lalgola, arrived in Kolkata early Friday morning carrying an old hospital record from Eden Hospital showing a name and birth date but with an unclear stamp. He had been waiting in line at Gate No. 6 since 8 a.m. "There is a sudden rush for birth certificates. People are getting unnecessarily worried. They used central agencies like the ED and CBI to scare us earlier, and now they are

frightening ordinary citizens," the Mayor said. According to KMC's Chief Health Officer Dr. Ranita Sen-gupta, the corporation's infrastructure allows for issuing about 450 birth certificates per day. "The sudden surge has created pressure. Most of the applications we are receiving are for documents that are 50–55 years old, and retrieving such old records may not always be possible," she noted. Authorities have urged citizens to remain calm, assuring that necessary steps will be taken to streamline the process and assist all genuine applicants.



Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma inaugurates the "Kolkata Police Friendship Cup 2025" at Mohammedan Ground in Kolkata on Saturday.

BLOs Protest During SIR Training in Bengal Allege Pressure and Lack of Safety Measures

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tension flared during the final phase of Booth Level Officers' (BLO) training at Nazrul Mancha on Saturday as several officers staged a protest against the Election Commission during the ongoing SIR preparation in West Bengal. The officers alleged that despite being on official duty, the Commission had failed to ensure their safety and well-being. They also complained of being overburdened with dual responsibilities — managing school duties along with SIR fieldwork. The discontent among BLOs had been simmering ever since the announcement of the SIR process. On Saturday, it escalated during the training session when officers voiced their frustration. Many claimed they were being marked absent in their respective schools despite performing official election duties. "The Commission has

clearly stated that BLOs are on duty during the SIR period. Yet, no coordination is being made with school authorities, which is creating unnecessary pressure," said one agitated officer. The SIR process — part of a Special Intensive Revision of the electoral rolls — officially began across West Bengal last week. BLOs are being trained on how to conduct door-to-door voter verification, collect information, and upload using a designated mobile application. The data collected will ultimately determine which names remain on the voter list and which are deleted. Training for BLOs started across the state on October 28 and will continue until November 3. In Kolkata, two major sessions were held on Saturday at Derozio Hall, College Street. Officers from Chowringhee, Beliaghata, and Jorasanko participated in the morn-

ing session (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), while BLOs from Entally, Shyampukur, and Kshipur-Belgachia attended the afternoon session (2 p.m. to 4 p.m.). Separate training was also held for Manikata zone BLOs at the conference hall of Jessop Building. Sources said SIR forms have already been downloaded and printing will be completed by Saturday. BLOs are expected to receive them by November 3, and door-to-door distribution will begin from November 4. The Election Commission has rolled out the training in phases — starting from the Chief Electoral Officer's office, followed by district and assistant electoral officers, who then train BLO supervisors and finally the field-level BLOs. The SIR process has already been completed in Bihar, where around 30 lakh "invalid" names were reportedly removed from the rolls.



Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata, has received the prestigious Maritime Excellence Award in the Heritage Category at India Maritime Week 2025, held on October 30, 2025. The honour recognises the port's 155-year contribution to India's maritime development and its enduring cultural legacy. The award was presented by Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal and Minister of State Shantanu Thakur to Chairperson Rathendra Raman and Deputy Chairperson Samrat Rahi. The recognition highlights SMPK's evolution from a historic maritime gateway to a modern, forward-looking port driving trade, connectivity, and regional growth.

Mamata and Abhishek Plans Massive Rally Against SIR on Nov 4

MI News Service, Kolkata: Accusing the BJP of a deep-rooted conspiracy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced a massive protest march to be led by party supremo Mamata Banerjee and National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee. According to party sources, the rally will take place on November 4 — the very day Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are scheduled to begin door-to-door verification under the SIR process. The march is slated to start at 1:30 p.m. from the base of the Gandhi statue at Dharmatala and proceed to the Jorasanko Thakurbari. Several TMC MPs, councillors, and senior leaders will join the march alongside Mamata and Abhishek. The party aims to highlight what it calls the BJP's "malicious attempt" to manipulate the voter list and exclude genuine voters under the guise of the SIR process. The protest announcement follows a spate of tragic incidents — three deaths allegedly linked to panic over possible voter list exclusions. Family mem-



bers of the deceased have claimed that fear of being removed from the rolls drove their loved ones to extreme distress. Mamata Banerjee, who has been vocal on the issue, has repeatedly accused the BJP on social media of spreading fear and confusion among citizens ahead of the voter verification exercise. The Election Commission has initiated a special intensive revision of the electoral rolls across 12 states, including West Bengal, ahead of next year's Assembly elections. The TMC has consistently opposed this move, expressing concern that the SIR drive could be misused to delete the names of legitimate voters. Calling it a "BJP conspiracy," the party has vowed to resist what it

sees as an attempt to destabilize the democratic process. In preparation for the verification drive, Abhishek Banerjee held a virtual meeting with booth-level agents (BLAs) on Friday, instructing them to launch 6,200 help desks across the state from November 4. These desks will operate for a month to assist citizens with SIR forms, documentation, or related issues. Symbolically, on the same day, Mamata and Abhishek will take to the streets in protest against what they describe as the BJP's "politics of deception." The march will culminate at Jorasanko, where both leaders are expected to address the crowd and deliver a key message to the people of Bengal.

'Jungle raj' will return to Bihar if RJD comes back to power : Amit Shah

From PG 1 This personal-political clash, played out under Hooghly's humid skies, underscores the high stakes: Matua voters, pivotal in swing seats like Bangaon, could sway West Bengal's electoral fate, and SIR's roll-out threatens to shrink their influence. As supporters chanted "No SIR, No Silence," the rally morphed into a broader indictment of Delhi's top-down governance, with Thakur positioning herself as the community's unyielding shield against a tide of exclusion. The process, already underway with training in West Bengal, risks alienating millions if

TMC MP Mamatabala Thakur threatens indefinite fast on SIR issue

From PG 1 This personal-political clash, played out under Hooghly's humid skies, underscores the high stakes: Matua voters, pivotal in swing seats like Bangaon, could sway West Bengal's electoral fate, and SIR's roll-out threatens to shrink their influence. As supporters chanted "No SIR, No Silence," the rally morphed into a broader indictment of Delhi's top-down governance, with Thakur positioning herself as the community's unyielding shield against a tide of exclusion. The process, already underway with training in West Bengal, risks alienating millions if

timelines remain rushed—months instead of years to verify crores of voters. Thakur echoed Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's call for Aadhaar-based flexibility, arguing that without it, SIR could swell the ranks of the stateless. This isn't mere posturing; it's a calculated bid to unite disparate communities—Matuas, tribals, urban poor—into a pan-India front against electoral pruning. By invoking Boro Maa, the Matua matriarch whose legacy binds the community, Thakur transforms a policy fight into a cultural crusade, leveraging faith to galvanize a movement that could reshape the national discourse on voter rights.

EC starts training BLOs in Bengal, TMC launches parallel booth-level assistance

From PG 1 to ensure no eligible voter is disenfranchised. Abhishek Banerjee said the party's Booth and Territorial Electoral Review Systems (BERS and TERS) had already been activated to prevent manipulation during the revision. "Knowing what the BJP is capable of, we had already set up BERS and TERS. Now it's time to put them into full action," he said. The meeting, also addressed by TMC state President Subrata Bakshi, was convened to chalk out the party's strategy for the voters list revision and coordinate the campaign across all districts, blocks and booths. That charge prompted an immediate exchange on social media be-

tween the TMC and the West Bengal CEO's office. The party posted that voters were "disappearing" from online rolls in several booths and called the pattern "a deliberate, state-directed operation to erase voters." The CEO's office responded on X, citing the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and said district election officers in North 24 Parganas and Cooch Behar had been asked for reports. The TMC accused the Commission of deflecting responsibility saying, "The fact that instead of clear answers, the EC has chosen to respond with tweets, passing responsibility to District Magistrates, a deflection strategy reminiscent of the Bihar voter list row."

At least 7 devotees killed in Venkateswara temple stampede in Andhra Pradesh

From PG 1 marked by fasting and prayers to Lord Vishnu. Police said the situation spiralled out of control as the crowd swelled beyond capacity, triggering a stampede near the temple main gate. "Several people, mostly women, collapsed as devotees surged forward all at once," another senior police official said. He said the exact cause of the stampede is being investigated, while efforts are underway to identify the victims. Visuals from the temple complex showed utter chaos as some devotees tried to help those trapped in the melee. As the news of stampede reached Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was in neighbouring Chhattisgarh today, he immediately announced payment of ex-gratia for those killed and injured from the PM's fund. "Pained by the stampede in Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon," said the statement from Modi. An ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from PMNRF will be given to the next of kin of those who lost their lives, while those injured will receive Rs 50,000, the PMO announced. Reacting to the incident, when a day of worship turned into tragedy, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, in a post on X said, "The stampede at Kasi-ugga Venkateswara temple in Srikakulam district anguished me. It is very sad that devotees have died in this unfortunate incident. I convey my deepest sympathies to the families of the victims." The CM also said that he directed officials to ensure the best treatment for the injured and that he instructed the authorities and local leaders to monitor the relief work at the stampede site. The state government has also announced compensation to the victims.

"Urge both State and Central Govts to act immediately":
Rahul Gandhi on devastation caused by Cyclone Montha in Andhra Pradesh

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress MP Rahul Gandhi on Saturday expressed his deep concern over the devastation caused by Cyclone Montha in Andhra Pradesh. The cyclone has resulted in significant losses, with estimated damages amounting to Rs 5,244 crore. Gandhi emphasized the need for immediate relief and assistance to the affected people, particularly farmers who have lost their crops.

In a post on X, he urged both the State and Central Governments to act immediately. He said, "The destruction caused by Cyclone Montha in Andhra Pradesh has caused immense hardship across many districts. My thoughts are with everyone who has lost their loved ones, homes and livelihoods. It's heartbreaking to see our farmers, who worked tirelessly for months, lose their entire crop overnight. The Congress Party in Andhra Pradesh is on the ground, listening to people and assessing the damage. We urge both the State and Central Governments to act immediately - the scale of devastation demands urgent and compassionate action."

Crops over 1.38 lakh hectares were damaged, affecting 1.74 lakh farmers and causing losses of Rs 829 crore. 4,794 km of roads, along with 311 culverts and bridges, were damaged, causing losses of Rs 2,794 crore. The government has taken steps to provide relief, including distributing essentials like rice, lentils, onions, sugar, and palm oil to those in relief camps.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has credited technology-driven real-time monitoring and best practices for ensuring people's safety. The government has announced compensation for damaged crops and financial assistance to flood-affected families. Minister Dola Sree Bala Veeranjanya Swamy assured that every farmer who suffered crop loss would receive full support and compensation from the government.

Earlier in the day, Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee Chief YS Sharmila Reddy demanded "National Disaster" status to the farmers affected by Cyclone Motha. She visited Bantumilli Mandal in Pedana Constituency of Krishna District today to inspect the extensive crop damage caused by Cyclone Motha.

During her visit, she interacted with farmers, observed the devastation firsthand, and expressed deep concern over the unprecedented losses suffered by the farming community.

Speaking to the media, Sharmila Reddy said, "Farmers across the region have lost everything due to the cyclone, which wreaked havoc on thousands of acres of cultivated land. She remarked that the destruction is visible everywhere, with crops completely flattened and livelihoods shattered. Despite such extensive damage, the state government has deliberately understated the extent of the losses in its official reports. The government's preliminary estimate of Rs 800 crore in damages is grossly misleading and far from reality."

According to the Congress Party's assessment, crop damage has occurred across nearly 20 to 22 lakh acres in the state, with losses amounting to more than Rs 20,000 crore. Paddy alone was damaged in over 13 lakh acres, cotton in 3 lakh acres, and groundnut and maize together in more than 4 lakh acres.

Sharmila Reddy said that the government's reluctance to acknowledge the real extent of the damage raises serious questions about its intentions. She wondered if the administration was deliberately downplaying the losses to avoid paying fair compensation to farmers.

She pointed out that farmers were already struggling under heavy debts even before the cyclone struck, and their situation has worsened dramatically since then. Each farmer has invested nearly Rs 35,000 per acre in cultivation, and today, that investment has been completely lost. She accused the state government of failing to conduct proper ground-level surveys and of ignoring the cries of farmers who are desperate for support and relief.

Taking strong exception to the silence of the central leadership, Sharmila Reddy criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for failing to even acknowledge the crisis. She said that the Prime Minister visits Andhra Pradesh for political reasons but never speaks about the problems of its people. She alleged that deceiving Andhra Pradesh has become a habit for the Modi government, while leaders like CM Chandrababu Naidu and deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan remain silent spectators, offering tacit approval. She said that the BJP continues to exist in the state only because of the support of the people, but once in power, it conveniently forgets the state's issues. For the Prime Minister, she added, Andhra Pradesh seems to mean only votes, not people.

"State-sponsored deaths caused by negligence":
YSRCP on Andhra temple stampede

MI News Service, Tadepalli: Former YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) Minister Vellampalli Srinivas on Saturday lashed out at Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu after nine people were killed in a stampede at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Andhra Pradesh's Srikakulam.

"Whether a temple is public or private, ensuring safety and crowd control is the government's responsibility. Can the state abandon devotees just because a temple isn't under its Department?" he told reporters here.

He said the temple tragedies under the coalition "echo Chandrababu's past record", reminding that "29 devotees lost their lives in the 2015 Godavari Pushkaram stampede, which was caused



by Chandrababu's obsession with publicity and event-shooting," the release said.

"This government has no devotion to God, no concern for devotees, only an appetite for publicity," he remarked. "Is intelligence being used only to target YSRCP leaders instead of protecting the public?" he asked.

He alleged that the state government's negligence caused the deaths.

"Devotees go to temples seeking blessings, not death. These are state-sponsored deaths caused by negligence. If people cannot return safely after darshan, what kind of governance is this?" he asserted, Earlier in the day, Pres-

ident Droupadi Murmu expressed shock and grief over the tragedy.

In a post shared on X, President Murmu said, "Shocked to learn about the loss of lives in a tragic incident at Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh. I extend my deepest condolences to the bereaved families and pray for quick recovery of those injured."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conveyed condolences and announced ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) for the kin of the deceased, and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Several injured devotees were rushed to nearby hospitals, and an inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

"See Bihar then and now": Pawan Singh counters Khesari Lal's remarks, says there's clear difference in state's development

MI News Service, Patna: Bhojpuri actor and BJP leader Pawan Singh on Saturday compared Bihar's progress over the last fifteen years, saying there is a "visible difference in development" between then and now.

Responding to remarks by singer-actor and RJD leader Khesari Lal Yadav, Singh told reporters, "You should see the Bihar which was 15 years back, and the Bihar, which is now. Is there a difference or not? You will definitely be able to see what development is..."

He also backed Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's claim that being called a Bihar is a matter of pride. "Absolutely," Singh said



briefly.

Earlier, Khesari Lal Yadav told ANI that the Mahagathbandhan would at least provide 50 lakh jobs. "If we don't provide two crore jobs, we will at least provide 50 lakh jobs. At least our leaders are talking about providing employment. The NDA government doesn't even

make promises; it only talks about jungle raj. Otherwise, they'll talk about Hindu-Muslim issues... they'll only talk about issues that are unrelated to your lives..."

Khesari Lal Yadav, also known as Shatrughan Yadav, is contesting for the Mahagathbandhan from the Chapra constituency

against the BJP's Chhoti Kumari and Jan Suraj's Jai Prakash Singh. The Mahagathbandhan, led by RJD and Congress, has promised to pass a law within 20 days of forming the government to provide government jobs to one member of every family in the state.

Pawan Singh, who was expelled from the BJP in 2024 due to his anti-party activities after he contested as an independent candidate in the Karakat Lok Sabha constituency, continues to extend support to the party's leadership.

Polling for the 243-seat Bihar Assembly will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11. The results will be declared on November 14

Jyotiraditya Scindia lays foundation stone for Integrated
Sohra Tourism Circuit under PM-DevINE

MI News Service, Sohra: Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M Scindia, on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the Integrated Sohra Circuit Development under the Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme, the ministry said in an official statement.

Scindia also launched multiple DoNER projects worth Rs 233 crore in the presence of Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Sangma, senior state officials, and tourism stakeholders, it said.

Speaking on the occasion, Scindia described Meghalaya as "a heaven on earth, the abode of clouds and cascading waterfalls, where every breeze carries the fragrance of dignity, faith, and the freedom of progress," and reaffirmed the Government's unwavering commitment to advancing responsible, inclusive, and

heritage-based tourism across the North Eastern Region.

The Minister noted that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the last decade has marked a period of transformation for the Northeast, turning it from a "landlocked" region into a "land-linked powerhouse."

He underlined that over Rs 6.2 lakh crore has been channelled into the region through the 10 per cent Gross Budgetary Support policy, fostering connectivity, enterprise, and empowerment across sectors. Meghalaya, he said, has been one of the foremost beneficiaries of this renewed focus, achieving 12-16 per cent growth in the post-COVID years through targeted investments in infrastructure, air connectivity, and tourism.

The statement added that Scindia highlighted landmark projects, such as the 166.8 km Shillong-Silchar Greenfield Express-

way (Rs 22,864 crore) and the expansion of Umroi Airport to accommodate larger aircraft, which will enable a sharp rise in annual flight operations.

The New Shillong City project, he added, will emerge as a "smart-green township" and a knowledge hub for the Northeast.

The Minister emphasised that the Sohra Circuit will ensure that "the first smile a tourist sees in Meghalaya becomes the first income earned by a local family."

He reiterated that the Ministry of DoNER is committed to creating inclusive growth pathways that preserve the state's natural and cultural wealth while ensuring sustained livelihoods for its people.

The Integrated Sohra Circuit, conceptualised jointly by the Ministry of DoNER and the Government of Meghalaya, represents one of the most ambitious tourism initiatives in the Northeast. With total investments

exceeding Rs 650 crore, including Rs 221 crore under MDONER, the project aims to transform Sohra into a multi-day experiential tourism destination rooted in sustainability and local livelihoods.

The Sohra Experience Centre at Kutmadan, being developed at an investment of Rs 115 crore, will serve as the cultural nucleus of the circuit, showcasing Meghalaya's diverse tribal heritage through amphitheatres, rain experience parks, art galleries, and craft pavilions.

Supporting projects include the Nohkalikai Falls precinct (Rs 26 crore), Mawmai Eco Park (Rs 29 crore), Seven Sisters Falls Viewpoint, Shella Riverside Development, and Wahkaiar Canyon with adventure tourism features such as hot-air balloon rides. Collectively, these projects are expected to increase tourist spending sixfold, while generating over 4,600 direct and indirect employment opportunities.

Gujarat: CM Bhupendra Patel inaugurates Bharat Parv-2025 at Ekta Nagar

MI News Service, Gandhinagar: Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated Bharat Parv-2025 at the Statue of Unity premises, Ekta Nagar, in the presence of Assembly Speaker Shankar Chaudhary, Minister of State for Tribal Development and Food and Civil Supplies PC Baranda, and other dignitaries on Saturday.

According to the Chief Minister's Office (CMO), this Bharat Parv has been organised at Ekta Nagar as part of the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The Chief Minister said that Bharat Parv truly represents the mantra given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi-Rajya Anek-Rashtra Ek, Samaj Anek - Bharat Ek, Bhasha Anek-Bhaav Ek, Rang Anek-Tiranga Ek' (Many states, one India; many communities, one nation; many languages, one emotion; and many colours, one Tricolour). The festival offers citizens a glimpse of India's unique cultural unity in diversity.

He added that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister, the world's tallest statue, the Statue of Unity, stands as a grand tribute to

Sardar Patel. "The Prime Minister is now leading the nation on the path of development to build 'Shreshtha Bharat', just as Sardar Patel united 562 princely states to create 'One Bharat,' he said.

The Chief Minister said that we are truly fortunate to have, decades after independence, a Prime Minister whose leadership embodies the spirit of Nation First -- placing collective interest above self-interest. He further stated that for years after independence, the celebration of Sardar Jayanti had remained a mere formal government event. "However, our visionary leader, Narendra Modi, has transformed it into a meaningful celebration of national unity. He has rightfully given due honour to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's invaluable contribution to the unification of India," CM Patel said.

The Chief Minister mentioned that it was Prime Minister Modi who, since 2014, inspired the nation to celebrate Sardar Patel's birth anniversary as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day). He emphasised that the Statue of Unity, as grand as Sardar's monumental work, has brought this tribal region into global recognition. "With the same systems

and machinery, PM has shown how visionary leadership can bring transformative change through the creation of SOU and Ekta Nagar," he said.

Speaking about Bharat Parv, the Chief Minister said that every evening, two states will present their cultural performances. A total of 45 food stalls and a live studio kitchen have been set up, featuring dishes from different states and Union Territories. Additionally, 55 stalls of handicrafts and handlooms have been installed. The Bharat Darshan Pavilion will showcase pavilions from various states, each highlighting their famous tourist destinations and cultural features.

The Chief Minister added that on the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, a special presentation will be organised on November 15 at Ekta Nagar.

He remarked that just as the spirit of unity in diversity defines Ek Bha rat - Shreshtha Bharat, the same sentiment comes alive through our festivals and celebrations. "From Gujarat's Navratri Garba and Maharashtra's Ganesh Utsav to Bihar's Chhath Puja and West Bengal's Durga Puja, these festivals are celebrated across the

nation wherever families from these regions have settled, symbolising cultural harmony," CM Patel said.

He further stated that under the inspiration of Narendra Modi, the Madhavpur Fair has become a symbol of national unity, connecting the North-Eastern states with Western India. Similarly, events like the Saurashtra-Tamil Sangamam and Kashi-Tamil Sangamam have further strengthened India's unity and integrity -- a spirit that Bharat Parv also celebrates.

The Chief Minister stated that through Bharat Parv, for 15 days, the essence of India and its traditions will be revived at Ekta Nagar, fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of "Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi". He also mentioned that Prime Minister has envisioned making the Statue of Unity and Ekta Nagar world-class tourism destinations by integrating several attractions alongside the statue.

He said that the Prime Minister is committed to building an Atmanirbhar Bharat and has urged people to follow the path of unity shown by Sardar Patel and adopt Swadeshi. He visited various stalls set up at Bharat Parv in the Statue of Unity premises.

Police say Srikakulam temple stampede occurred at unregistered private shrine; no prior permission taken for event

MI News Service, Srikakulam: The stampede that claimed nine lives at the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple in Srikakulam occurred at a privately built, unregistered shrine where organisers had not taken prior permission or informed authorities about the event, police officials said on Saturday.

According to officials, the tragedy took place after an iron grill collapsed, causing several devotees to fall from a height of about seven feet. At the time, nearly 3,000 to 5,000 people were present at the temple premises for the religious event. Two of the injured are said to be in serious condition.

Srikakulam Superintendent of Police, KV Maheswara Reddy, told ANI that the incident occurred within the limits of Kasibugga police station.

"A total of nine people have lost their lives -- eight women and one boy. There was a queue; the same queue line was used for entry and exit. The iron grill collapsed, and people fell from around seven feet to the ground, leading to the incident," Reddy said.

He confirmed that the Sri Venkateswara Swamy

Temple was constructed on private land without registration or official oversight. "It's a private temple, where a private person has constructed this on his private land. He hasn't taken any permission and hasn't informed the local Police about today's program....," Reddy said.

He said that the police rushed to the site soon after receiving information about the stampede. "In the morning, when we got the information, we had sent the force, but it was too late by then because there was no prior information from the temple person who was organising this program. As a result, there was no communication yesterday or today. Once we have got the information, we have sent it," he said.

SP Reddy added that the situation is now under control. "The situation is peaceful now. Around 3,000-3,500 people were present here. Only two are in serious condition, while the rest of the injured are stable," he added.

Earlier in the day, President Droupadi Murmu expressed shock and grief over the tragedy.

In a post shared on X, President Murmu said,

"Himanta Biswa Sarma will run away to Dubai or Singapore after losing power": Gaurav Gogoi

MI News Service, Guwahati: Assam Congress chief Gaurav Gogoi on Saturday said that Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma will "run away" to Dubai or Singapore the very next day he loses power in the state.

Speaking to reporters here, Gogoi said that the allegations levelled by the Assam CM regarding him about a Pakistani agent were "ad nauseam and fictional". He slammed Sarma for not being able to produce evidence backing his allegations.

"Himanta Biswa Sarma has been repeating ad nauseam false, baseless, and fictional allegations about me since February this year. He has many times said that he will reveal all the facts on September 10. However, he has not given a shred of evidence to back his fictional claims. Therefore, his own credibility today is zero. The chief minister has repeatedly

lied and misled people of Assam," Gogoi said.

The Assam Congress chief added that Sarma was in "constant fear" of losing power in the state since he would have to answer the public that he had "terrorised, intimidated, threatened, and arrested". "I believe he is in a constant fear of losing power because he will have to answer to the public in the future. He won't have the Home Department to protect him. He is afraid to answer the people. In the future, he might have to run away and go to Dubai or Singapore, where his interests lie. Because he will not be able to face the justice demanded by the people of Assam," he said.

Gogoi asserted that Sarma will face justice of the people, but "won't be able to look them in the eye". s

"Jail comes after the judge convicts. However, immediately after losing

'If NDA doesn't return to power, jungle raj will be back in Bihar,' warns Piyush Goyal

MI News Service, Patna: Union Minister Piyush Goyal on Saturday warned that Bihar could witness the return of "jungle raj" under Congress, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Tejashwi Yadav if the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) fails to retain power in the Bihar Assembly elections.

Speaking at a press conference in Patna, Goyal said that corruption and lawlessness would rise, and the liquor ban would be lifted if the Mahagathbandhan came to power.

"...I am confident that on 6th and 11th November, the people of Bihar will choose development through their votes. They will respond to those who promote the politics of jungle raj, corruption, and violence, and those who, in effect, gain

political advantage by keeping Bihar backwards," he said.

He expressed confidence that the people of Bihar would vote for development and help the NDA, led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, secure a two-thirds majority in the upcoming assembly elections.

"If by any mistake, an NDA government led by the BJP does not come to power, then Congress, Lalu Prasad Yadav, and Tejashwi Yadav will once again unleash jungle raj here, corruption will rise, and their government will also lift the liquor ban. I urge the people of Bihar not to make this mistake... I believe the NDA government will win again in Bihar with a two-thirds majority and serve the people under the lead-

ership of Nitish Kumar," Goyal said. NDA includes the Bharatiya Janata Party, Janata Dal (United), Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), Hindu-stani Awam Morcha (Secular), and Rashtriya Lok Morcha.

Mahagathbandhan, led by Rashtriya Janata Dal, includes Congress party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) (CPI-ML) led by Deepankar Bhattacharya, the Communist Party of India (CPI), the Communist Party of India (Marxist) (CPM), and Mukesh Sahani's Vikasheel Insaan Party (VIP).

Voting for the 243-seat Bihar Assembly will be held in two phases on November 6 and 11. The results will be declared on November 14.

"Local administration showing no interest in investigation":
RJD's Veena Devi on Mokama incident

MI News Service, Patna: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) candidate Veena Devi on Saturday alleged that the local administration is not showing interest in investigating the recent incident in Mokama.

Speaking to ANI in Mokama, Veena Devi said, "...I had no information about the incident, as I was in Marachi at a rally. When we were having dinner around 6 p.m., I received this information. I met family members of the deceased... The local administration is showing no interest in the investigation..."

On October 30, the man, identified as Dularchand Yadav, was found dead, and several others were injured following a clash between alleged supporters of the Jan

Suraaj Party and the Janata Dal (United) in Mokama assembly constituency.

Mokama, known for its long association with influential and controversial "strongmen" in Bihar politics, such as Anant Kumar Singh, his brother Dilip Singh, and Surajbhan Singh, has once again drawn attention following the murder.

The constituency, which votes in the first phase on November 6, is set for a high-stakes contest in the 2025 polls. The JD(U) has fielded Anant Singh, while the RJD has nominated Veena Devi, wife of former MP and influential leader Surajbhan Singh.

Earlier today, the Election Commission of India (ECI) ordered the immediate transfer

of key administrative and police officials posted from the Mokama Assembly constituency and directed disciplinary action against them.

According to an official statement from the poll body, the Commission has approved the transfer of Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) Barh-cum-Returning Officer, Chandan Kumar; Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Barh-1, Rakesh Kumar; and SDPO Barh-2, Abhishek Singh, in connection with Mokama Assembly Constituency.

The ECI has approved the posting of IAS officer Ashish Kumar, currently serving as Additional Municipal Commissioner, Patna Municipal Corporation, in place of Chandan Kumar.

GURUPARAB SPECIAL: DEVOTION ON THE PLATE

The celebration of **Guruparab**, marking the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, is incomplete without the preparation and sharing of Satvik food — pure, wholesome, and imbued with devotion. Prepared without onion, garlic, or excessive spices, Satvik bhojan reflects the Sikh values of simplicity, purity, and humility. Every ingredient is chosen with mindfulness, representing a conscious act of service (seva) to both the Guru and humanity. The food served in Langar—the community kitchen—is entirely Satvik.



THE SACRED ESSENCE OF KADA PRASAD

Ingredients:
Atta - 100 gm
Ghee - 100 ml
Sugar - 100 gm
Water - 100 ml

Method:
Melt the ghee in a thick bottom pan/kadhai.

Add the sieved flour to melted ghee and cook.

When mixture starts changing colour to little brown,

Pour the water and keep stirring to avoid lumps formation.

In the last, add sugar and cook it till sugar melts.

Kada Prashad / Karah Prashad is ready to serve.



PINDI CHOLE

Ingredients

Main:
Kabuli Chana (Chickpeas) – 500 gm
Black Cardamom – 4 no
Cinnamon Stick – 2 no
Salt – as per taste
Coriander Seeds – 5 gm
Cumin Seeds – 3 gm + 5 gm
Black Peppercorn – 3 gm
Dry Pomegranate Seeds – 20 gm
Refined Oil – 100 ml
Cumin (for tempering) – as required
Red Chilli (whole) – 2 no
Bay Leaf – 3 no
Ajwain – 10 gm
Hing (Asafoetida) – 5 gm
Onion – 200 gm
Tomato – 200 gm
Ginger – 25 gm
Garlic – 25 gm
Turmeric Powder – 10 gm
Chilli Powder – 5 gm
Lemon – 1 no
Fresh Coriander Leaves – 2 sprigs

Method

Soak & Boil the Chana:
Wash and soak kabuli chana overnight. Boil it with a potli of tea leaves, black cardamom, cinnamon stick, and salt until tender.

Prepare the Chana Masala:
Dry roast coriander seeds, cumin seeds, black peppercorn, black cardamom, and dry pomegranate seeds in a pan. Grind to make chana masala.

Make the Base:
Heat oil in a thick-bottomed pan. Add cumin seeds, whole red chilli, bay leaf, hing, and ajwain. Sauté briefly.

Add Aromatics:
Add chopped onions and sauté till golden brown. Then add ginger-garlic paste and cook until the raw smell disappears.

Build the Masala:
Mix turmeric powder, chilli powder, and the prepared chana masala. Stir and cook for a minute.



Tomato Purée:
Add tomato purée and cook till the oil separates from the masala, releasing a rich aroma.

Combine:

Add the boiled chana along with a little of its water. Mix well and simmer till the gravy thickens and coats the chickpeas.

Finish & Serve:

Add lemon juice and adjust salt. Garnish with fresh coriander leaves. Serve hot with bhature or poori for a divine Guruparab feast.

Happy Guruparab!



These festive recipes are curated by Chef Rajnish Singh who is ex-Oberoi Grand Kolkata chef. He is currently posted as lecturer at IHM, Ranchi.

BHATURE RECIPE

Bhature-the golden, puffed bread paired with spicy Pindi Chole-is an essential part of Guruparab celebrations. Prepared with love and patience, this North Indian classic reflects abundance, warmth, and the spirit of sharing that defines langar. Here's the authentic recipe to make soft, airy bhature at home:

Ingredients (for 8-10 Bhature)
2 cups maida (refined flour)
2 tbsp sooji (semolina)
2 tbsp dahi (curd/yogurt)
½ tsp baking powder
¼ tsp baking soda
1 tsp sugar
1 tsp salt
1 tbsp oil or ghee (for

dough)
Warm water - as needed to knead
Oil - for deep frying

Method
1. Prepare the Dough
In a large bowl, mix maida, sooji, baking powder, baking soda, sugar, and salt. Add curd and oil. Gradually pour warm water and knead into a soft, elastic dough.

2. Rest the Dough
Cover with a damp cloth and let it rest for 2-3 hours in a warm place. This resting time gives bhature their signature fluffiness and light texture.

3. Shape the Bhature

Divide the dough into lemon-sized balls. Roll each into an oval or round shape about 5-6 inches wide. Avoid dusting with dry flour-use a little oil for smooth rolling.

4. Fry to Perfection
Heat oil in a deep kadhai. Once hot, gently slide a rolled bhatura into the oil. Press lightly with a slotted spoon-it will puff beautifully. Flip and fry until golden on both sides.

5. Serve Hot
Drain excess oil on paper towels. Serve immediately with Pindi Chole, sliced onions, green chutney, and a tall glass of lassi for the perfect Guruparab feast.



Dark chocolate, berries may help boost memory and relieve stress

NEW DELHI: Struggling with memory and stress issues? A bite of dark chocolate or a handful of berries may help boost your memory levels and also cut down stress, according to an animal study.

The improved memory and cognition may be due to flavanols, found abundantly in cocoa and berries, said the team from Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan.

The study, published in the journal Current Research in Food Science,

demonstrated that flavanol intake can trigger wide-ranging physiological responses resembling those induced by exercise -- functioning as a moderate stressor that activates the central nervous system and enhances attention, arousal, and memory. Flavanols also protect against neuronal damage.

"Stress responses elicited by flavanols in this study are similar to those elicited by physical exercise. Thus, moderate intake of flavanols, despite their poor bioavailability,

can improve the health and quality of life," said Dr. Yasuyuki Fujii from the Shibaura Institute.

In the study, the team investigated how flavanols affect the nervous system through sensory stimulation. They tested the hypothesis that the astringent taste -- a dry, puckering, rough, or sandpapery sensation in the mouth -- of flavanols may act as a direct signal to the brain.

The researchers conducted experiments in 10-week-old mice, administering flavanols orally at

doses of 25 mg/kg or 50 mg/kg body weight, while control mice received only distilled water.

Behavioural tests showed that flavanol-fed mice exhibited greater motor activity, exploratory behaviour, and improved learning and memory compared to controls.

Flavanols enhanced neurotransmitter activity across several brain regions. Dopamine and its precursor levodopa, norepinephrine, and its metabolite normetanephrine were



elevated in the brain immediately after the administration.

These chemicals regulate motivation, attention, stress response, and arousal.

Furthermore, enzymes critical for noradrenaline

synthesis (tyrosine hydroxylase and dopamine-beta-hydroxylase) and transport (vesicular monoamine transporter 2) were upregulated, strengthening the signalling capacity of the noradrenergic system.

In addition, biochemical analysis revealed higher urinary levels of catecholamines -- hormones released during stress -- as well as increased activity in the hypothalamic paraventricular nucleus (PVN), a brain region central to stress regulation.

Israel continues attacks on Gaza as Palestinians fear return to war



MI News Service, Gaza: The Israeli military has attacked the Gaza Strip for a fourth day, killing at least three people in another test of the fragile US-brokered ceasefire.

The Red Cross says it transferred the unidentified bodies of three people to Israel after they were handed over by Hamas.

Gaza residents say they fear a return to Israel's full-scale bombing as they struggle to find food, water and medicine during the US-brokered truce.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 68,527 people and wounded 170,395 since it began in October 2023. A total of 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks and about 200 taken captive

Walkathon Organized at Howrah Division as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

MI News Service, Kolkata, 1 Nov.25 : As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 (27th October – 2nd November 2025), a Walkathon was organized on 31st October 2025 from the DRM Office, Howrah, under the leadership of Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from ADRM (Administration), Branch Officers, and a large number of officers and staff of Howrah Division. The Walkathon aimed to promote the core values of integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service, aligning with the theme of the week — "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation." Participants carried placards and banners spreading messages on ethical conduct and collective responsibility towards building a corruption-free organization. The event concluded with a pledge to uphold honesty and integrity in all spheres of work.

Partial remains handed over by Hamas are not of hostages, Israeli authorities assess 2

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The partial remains of three bodies that Hamas handed over to Israel on Friday night via the Red Cross were assessed by Israeli authorities as not belonging to any hostages. The Times of Israel has learned. The assessment on Saturday was made following the completion of identification efforts at the Abu Kabir forensic institute in Tel Aviv. The terror group's military wing confirmed it handed over the remains of three bodies to Israel. According to the Al-Qassam Brigades, it had offered samples of the unidentified bodies it found, but "the enemy refused to receive the samples and requested to receive the bodies for examination." Hamas said it handed over the remains "to counter the enemy's claims."

'We stand ready to save our great Christian population around the World': Donald Trump



MI News Service, Washington DC: US President Donald Trump on Friday termed Nigeria as a "country of particular concern", claiming that Christianity is facing an "existential threat" in the country. Trump, in a social media post, highlighting the violence between the Muslim and Christian communities and blamed "radical Islamists" for the persecution of the Christian minority in Nigeria.

"Christianity is facing an existential threat in Nigeria. Thousands of Christians are being killed. Radical Islamists are responsible for this mass slaughter. I am hereby making Nigeria a "COUNTRY OF PARTICULAR CONCERN" But that is the least of it. When Christians, or any such group, is slaughtered like is happening in Nigeria (3,100 versus 4,476

US review links Israeli forces to widespread rights abuses in Gaza

MI News Service, Washington, DC : A classified assessment by the US State Department's inspector general has reportedly found that several Israeli military units were responsible for hundreds of incidents that may constitute serious human rights violations in Gaza during the two-year campaign against Palestinians.

The internal investigation disclosed by 'The Washington Post' represents the first known acknowledgment within the US government of the magnitude of Israeli actions potentially breaching the 'Leahy Laws', which bar American military assistance to foreign forces implicated in atrocities such as torture, extrajudicial killings, or targeting civilians.

Officials familiar with the findings said the inspector general's report was finalized shortly before the recent ceasefire. Two senior US officials confirmed that the assessment documented extensive instances where Israeli conduct appeared to violate these human



rights standards.

The Leahy Laws, authored by former Senator Patrick J. Leahy, were designed to ensure that US-supplied weapons or funding do not enable abuses by allied security forces. However, successive administrations including those of Donald Trump and Joe Biden have consistently avoided enforcing these laws on Israel, despite growing evidence of violations in Gaza

and the occupied West Bank.

One former senior State Department official, Charles Blaha, expressed concern that accountability could fade as attention to the conflict wanes. "My fear is that once the fighting quiets down, so will the calls for justice," he said.

Sources told The Post that reviewing each case could take "several years," partly because of an unusual process specific to Israel.

Hezbollah leader accuses U.S. of fueling "Israeli aggression" in Lebanon

MI News Service, Beirut: Hezbollah leader Naim Qassem on Friday accused the United States of fueling "Israeli aggression" in Lebanon, saying Washington presents itself as a mediator while working to undermine the country's sovereignty.

"America has given Lebanon nothing and justifies violations," Qassem said at an event in Beirut's southern suburbs, accusing the United States of exerting political pressure on Lebanon. He reaffirmed Hezbollah's commitment to resisting Israel and defending Lebanon's sovereignty. "Every piece of land in Lebanon is

Lebanon. No land belongs to one sect over another... this land belongs to all of us," he said.

Qassem praised President Joseph Aoun's order for the army to confront Israeli incursions, calling it a "responsible stance" that deserves national backing. He urged the government to strengthen the military to better counter Israel, describing resistance as a "national, not partisan, duty."

Addressing Lebanon's political factions, Qassem warned against internal divisions and "serving Israeli interests." "We ask our partners not to stab us in the back or serve Israeli interests," he said.

bones and teeth," he said.

The Israeli military has previously told The Associated Press that all bodies returned so far are those of combatants, a claim the AP was unable to verify. The military has said it operates in accordance with international law.

Al-Bursh said recently that many of the bodies handed over appear to be fighters or others killed during the 2023 attack. Several relatives who have identified the bodies of family members said they weren't fighters.

In Israel, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said late Thursday that the remains returned by Palestinian militants had been confirmed as those of Sahar Baruch and Amiram Cooper, both taken hostage during the 2023 attack.

US: 13-year-old suspect in grandmother's murder shot dead during chase

MI News Service, Washington DC: A 13-year-old boy was shot and killed by a deputy in US's North Carolina after he allegedly charged at the officer with a piece of lumber during a chase, Associated Press reported.

The incident occurred on Thursday and is now under review by the State Bureau of Investigation, as per standard protocol.

According to officials, as per AP, the sequence of events began unfolding in Raeford, about 90 mile southwest of Raleigh, where deputies discovered 68-year-old Connie Linen dead inside her home during a welfare check. The Hoke County Sheriff's Office identified her death as a homicide and named her grandson — the 13-year-old — as the primary suspect. Paperwork had already been completed to charge him with first-degree

Dalit youth publicly humiliated and beaten in Bharthana, UP

MI News Service, Lucknow:

A disturbing incident unfolded in the town of Bharthana in Uttar Pradesh's Etawah district, where a young man from the Dalit community was subjected to public humiliation and assault. The victim, identified as Sumit Diwaker, lodged a formal complaint claiming that on 8 October he was stopped in Rani Nagar locality by three men—Nandan Gupta, Laddu Gupta and Satyendra Kumar, residents of Purana Bharthana Mohalla.

According to Sumit's statement to the police, the accused hurled caste-based slurs at him, forced him to assume the "murga" (rooster) posture in the middle of a road, brutally beat him and threatened to kill him. He said the attackers even recorded the distressing spectacle on video, which later went viral on social media.

Following the complaint and the circulation of the footage, the local Bharthana police registered a case under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act (SC/ST Act) along with relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code.

The Superintendent of Police (Rural), Shri Shree Chandra, confirmed that the in-

Walkathon Organized at Howrah Division as part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025

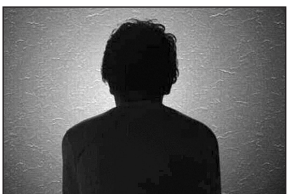


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The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from ADRM (Administration), Branch Officers, and a large number of officers and staff of Howrah Division. The Walkathon aimed

to promote the core values of integrity, transparency, and accountability in public service, aligning with the theme of the week — "Say No to Corruption; Commit to the Nation."

Participants carried placards and banners spreading messages on ethical conduct and collective responsibility towards building a corruption-free organization. The event concluded with a pledge to uphold honesty and integrity in all spheres of work.



cident was taken seriously; one of the accused has reportedly been arrested and the video is under examination as part of the investigation. He also clarified that while the viral clip clearly shows the assault, one allegation made by the victim of his face being urinated upon has not been corroborated by the evidence so far.

Residents in the area say the incident has rattled the local Dalit community, with many expressing fear and frustration about the slow pace of official action. A number of activists have criticized the silence around caste-based violence, saying that such public acts of humiliation reflect a culture of impunity. The police have appealed to the public not to share rumours and to allow the investigation to proceed based on verified facts.

The viral nature of the video has once again highlighted how digital exposure is forcing authorities to act but also exposing how deeply entrenched caste-based abuse remains in certain regions. As the investigation continues, community leaders are calling for the prompt arrest of all accused and for the state to ensure protection and justice for the victim, so that such incidents do not continue unchecked.

Eastern Railway RPF Apprehends Touts Under "Operation Uplabdh"

Continuous drive to ensure fair access to railway reservation system

MI News Service, Kolkata, 1 Nov.25 : In a determined effort to curb illegal ticketing and safeguard the interests of genuine passengers, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway carried out a special operation under "Operation Uplabdh." On 31.10.2025, RPF officials from Asansol and

Sealdah Divisions successfully apprehended three touts from PRS/Asansol, Satsang Ashram Deoghar, and Ballygunge areas.

During the operation, six live railway tickets valued at ₹22,330/- were recovered from their possession. The arrested individuals have been prosecuted under the relevant provisions of the Railways Act by the concerned

RPF Posts. Eastern Railway remains steadfast in its mission to eliminate unauthorized ticketing practices and ensure the availability of railway reservation facilities to bona fide passengers only. The RPF continues to maintain strict vigilance and conduct regular drives to prevent exploitation of the railway ticketing system.

Earthquake of magnitude 3.6 strikes Pakistan



MI News Service, Islamabad : An earthquake of magnitude 3.6 struck Pakistan on Saturday, a statement by the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said.

As per a statement by the NCS, the earthquake occurred at a depth of 160km. In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 3.6, On: 01/11/2025 15:19:59 IST, Lat: 36.60 N, Long: 72.70 E, Depth: 160 Km, Location: Pakistan."

Earlier on October 24, another earthquake of magnitude 3.7 struck the region at a shallow depth of 10km, making it susceptible to aftershocks.

In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 3.7, On: 24/10/2025 10:14:26 IST, Lat: 36.64 N, Long: 72.77 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Pakistan."

Shallow earthquakes are generally more dangerous than deep earthquakes. This is because the seismic waves from shallow earthquakes have a shorter distance to travel to the surface, resulting in stronger ground shaking and potentially more damage to structures, as well as greater casualties.

Afghanistan, Pakistan,

and northern India lie in one of the most seismically active zones in the world, where the Indian and Eurasian tectonic plates meet. The region frequently experiences moderate to strong earthquakes, often felt across borders due to the proximity of fault lines.

Pakistan is among the seismically active countries in the world, crossed by several major faults.

This collision zone makes the country highly vulnerable to violent earthquakes. Provinces such as Balochistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Gilgit-Baltistan lie on the southern edge of the Eurasian plate, while Sindh and Punjab are located on the northwestern edge of the Indian plate, contributing to frequent earthquake activity.

Balochistan is located near the active boundary between the Arabian and Eurasian tectonic plates.

Other vulnerable regions, such as Punjab, which lies on the northwestern edge of the Indian plate, are susceptible to seismic activity. Sindh, though less prone, is still at risk due to its location.

China using religion and matchmaking to infiltrate Taiwan's society: MAC Dy Minister Shen Yu-chung

MI News Service, Taipei : China is reportedly manipulating religious exchanges and matchmaking programs to subtly infiltrate Taiwan's society and sway public sentiment, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council (MAC) Deputy Minister Shen Yu-chung told lawmakers, as reported by The Taipei Times.

According to The Taipei Times, during a recent session of the Legislative Yuan's Foreign Affairs and National Defense Committee, Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) legislator Chen Chun-yu cited findings from the Taiwan Information Environment Research Center, revealing that more than 16,000 Taiwanese citizens participated in cross-strait matchmaking activities organised by religious groups in China last year.

Most of these gatherings reportedly took place in Fujian Province, a region long recognised as a focal point of China's "united front" campaigns targeting Taiwan.

Shen emphasised that while the government welcomes genuine cultural and religious exchanges, evidence has emerged that Beijing has embedded political motives into these interactions. He said Chinese temples have been instructed to portray Matsu as a "Chinese goddess," and that many tour packages connected to these religious events include pro-Beijing propaganda and narratives designed to shape the participants' perceptions.

"The Chinese Communist Party is using religious celebrations and matchmaking platforms to bring young Taiwanese closer to Chinese citizens, subtly pushing a shared cultural identity that undermines Taiwan's sovereignty," Shen stated. He warned that such efforts reflect a deliberate soft-power strategy by Beijing aimed at advancing cultural assimilation and long-term influence over Taiwan's younger generation, as cited by The Taipei Times.

UN Security Council renews authorization of EU-led stabilization force in Bosnia and Herzegovina

MI News Service, United Nations: The UN Security Council on Friday renewed the authorization of an EU-led stabilization force in Bosnia and Herzegovina for another 12 months.

The 15-member council unanimously adopted Resolution 2795, which reauthorizes European Union Force Althea (EUFOR ALTHEA) and the NATO presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina for a further period of 12 months, starting from the date of the adoption of the resolu-



tion.

EUFOR ALTHEA, a successor to a NATO-led stabilization force, has a

mission to ensure continued compliance with the 1995 Dayton Peace Agreement, which put an end to

the 1992-1995 Bosnian War.

The resolution authorizes UN member states to take all necessary measures, upon request, in defense of EUFOR ALTHEA or the NATO presence respectively, and to assist both organizations in carrying out their missions.

It recognizes the right of both EUFOR ALTHEA and the NATO presence to take all necessary measures to defend themselves from attack or threat of attack.

INDIA WINS TWO SILVER MEDALS IN TEAM COMPETITION AT ASIAN SCHOOLS CHESS C'SHIPS IN MONGOLIA

ULAANBAATAR (MONGOLIA) : A team comprising young Indian chess prodigies proved its mettle on the international stage once again, clinching the silver medal for the country in the Under-7 Rapid Team Category at the prestigious Asian Schools Chess Championship 2025 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The Indian Under-7 team, led by Laksh Satyen Jain of Mumbai, and including ACM Kavish Bhattad and Sivansh Naga Aditya Kasukurthy of Pune, delivered a commendable performance and finished with a combined tally of 12 points, ending just behind the Mongolian team, which secured the gold with 16.5 points. The event, which started on October 24 and ended on Friday.

Despite the fierce competition and challenging conditions, the young Indian trio displayed remarkable composure, tactical brilliance, and fighting spirit throughout the event, continuing India's proud legacy of producing world-class chess champions at a young age. India has had tremendous success in age-group competitions at the Asian and global levels for the last four decades. "This achievement is a testament to the discipline, consistency, and maturity our young players have shown at such an early age. Competing on an international stage and bringing home a silver medal is a proud moment for India and reflects the strength of our youth chess training programs," said Durga Nagesh Guttula, Principal & Chief Coach - Chess Division, Russian Centre of Science and Culture, Mumbai. In the Under-9 Team Category, India secured another silver medal through the team led by AFM Shreyan Thipparthi, Nova Ayer Jugal, and Hriday Garg, reaffirming India's growing dominance in youth chess across Asia. This year's championship witnessed the participation of over 800 players from 16 countries, making it one of the largest and most competitive editions of the Asian Schools Chess Championship.

'Officially hanging up my racquet': Rohan Bopanna announces retirement

NEW DELHI : India's two-time Grand Slam winner Rohan Bopanna announced his retirement from professional tennis on Saturday, bringing an end to his 20-year-long celebrated career, which saw him bring many laurels to the country.

Bopanna's decision to hang up his boots came days after his last appearance at the Paris Masters 1000, where he teamed up with Alexander Bublik. The duo ultimately lost the Round of 32 match, falling 5-7, 6-2, 10-8 to John Peers and James Tracy.

"How do you bid farewell to something that gave your life its meaning? After 20 unforgettable years on tour, it's time I'm officially hanging up my racquet," he wrote in a lengthy social media post.

Widely regarded as one of India's greatest tennis players, Bopanna built a remarkable lega-

cy based on a powerful serve, deft net skills, and a lasting influence in both men's and mixed doubles. Over a career spanning more than twenty years, the 45-year-old has been a cornerstone of Indian tennis, representing the nation with pride in numerous Davis Cup campaigns and at the Olympic Games.

Bopanna's breakthrough moment came in 2017, when he lifted the French Open mixed doubles title alongside Gabriela Dabrowski, cementing his place among the sport's elite. Yet, it was in 2024 that he achieved one of the most extraordinary feats of his career - clinching the Australian Open men's doubles crown and ascending to World No. 1 at the age of 43, a testament to his resilience, professionalism and enduring love for the game.

"As I write this, my heart feels both heavy and grateful. Starting my journey from a small town of



Coorg in India, chopping blocks of wood to strengthen my serve, jogging through coffee estates to build stamina and chasing dreams on cracked courts to standing under the lights of the biggest arenas in the world - it all feels surreal. Tennis hasn't been just a game for me - It has given me pur-

pose when I was lost, strength when I was broken and belief when the world doubted me," Bopanna's post read.

"Every time I stepped onto a court, it taught me perseverance, resilience to rise, to fight again when everything inside me said I couldn't - and most of all, remind-

ed me why I started and who I am. To my wonderful parents - you are my heroes.

You gave me everything so I could chase this dream. The sacrifices you made, the quiet strength you carried, the faith you never lost...I owe it all to you. To my sister, Rashmi - you've been my gentle constant and my cheerleader through it all.

You've always seen the best in me, even when I couldn't. To my family - thank you for being my anchor, my safe haven, and the love that kept me standing through every high and low.

"To my wife, Supriya - my greatest partner off court. You've lived this journey with me, the long flights, sleepless nights, and moments I've missed. You have carried our world with such grace while I chased mine. Your love, patience and strength are the quiet reasons behind every suc-

cess I've ever had. To my daughter, Tridha - you've changed the way I see everything. You have given me new purpose and a softer strength. Every match I played in these last years, I played for you, to show you that dreams are worth fighting for and that kindness and courage matter more than winning. You are my heart.

"To every coach, partner, trainer, physio, my team, and my world of friends who walked this path with me - thank you for pushing me, lifting me, and believing in me through every chapter. To Scott - my coach, mentor and friend for 12 incredible years. You've seen me through every phase - the highs, the frustrations, the vulnerabilities, the comebacks - and helped shape not just the player, but the man I am today. Your belief, guidance and calm through it all have been my grounding.

IND-A vs SA-A: Rishabh Pant scores 64 not out to conclude evenly poised Day 3

BENGALURU : India A finished at 119/4 in the final innings against South Africa A in what was an evenly-poised outing for both sides on Day 3 of the first unofficial test, happening here at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1. India A survived an early scare as they kicked off the fourth innings, courtesy of Rishabh Pant's half-century.

To start the proceedings on Day 3, Gurnoor Brar got an early breakthrough in the first session to add pressure on the visitors. Just when the opposition batters looked to get going, Manav Suthar made his first strike as the hosts continued to enjoy wickets.

Tanush Kotian finished his eight-over spell with four wickets while Anshul Kamboj picked three as the Rishabh Pant-led India A held the visitors to 199 runs in their second innings. With that, the hosts set themselves a 275-run target, with more than two days in hand to chase. However, India's start to the final innings was not as they would have hoped, as the team's top-order faltered. The South African bowlers made early inroads as India's top three -- Sai Sudharsan, Ayush Mhatre, and Devdutt Padikkal -- walked back to the dugout scoring 12, 6, and 5 runs, respectively.

Tshepo Moreki got his side an early breakthrough by dismissing India A opener Mhatre before Okuhle Cele joined his team's celebrations by sending Padikkal



packing. With that, India were reduced to 25/2 in nine overs before the teams took Tea.

The third and final session of the day was relatively slow as middle-order batters Pant and Rajat Patidar played sluggish knocks to save their wickets. The duo shared an 87-run partnership in 148 deliveries before Tiaan van Vuuren struck.

Patidar fell prey to the 24-year-old all-rounder as India A sustained another blow before the close of play. Ayush Badoni survived a scare on the final delivery of the last over of the day

as India ended the session scoring 94 runs at the loss of two wickets.

India A need 156 more runs to win with six wickets in hand heading into Day 4, with Pant, unbeaten on 64, and Badoni (0 not out) in charge of the batting.

Brief scores: India A 234 & 119-4 in 39 overs (Rishabh Pant 64 not out, Rajat Patidar 28; Tshepo Moreki 2-12, Tiaan van Vuuren 1-20) trail South Africa A 309 & 199 all out in 48.1 overs (Lesego Senokwane 37, Zubayr Hamza 37; Tanush Kotian 4-26, Anshul Kamboj 3-39) by 156 runs.

Jharkhand Off to a Cautious Start at 91/2 on a Rain-Marred Opening Day Against Nagaland

PC. JHA

RANCHI : Inclement weather and a delayed start dominated proceedings on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy encounter between Jharkhand and Nagaland at the JSCA International Stadium Complex, Ranchi here on Saturday.

After repeated interruptions and overcast skies, only 31 overs could be bowled on the first day, with Jharkhand reaching 91 for 2 at stumps. Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Jharkhand's top order had to contend with a damp pitch and a bit of swing in the early overs. Opener Shikhar Mohan displayed grit and composure, holding the innings together with a patient unbeaten 42. He looked confident against both pace and spin, driving fluently whenever the bowlers erred in length. At the other end, captain Virat Singh joined Mohan after the early dismissals and steadied the ship with an assured 16 not out. The pair added valuable runs through sensible batting, showing maturity and restraint as the bowlers extracted some move-

ment off the surface.

Earlier, opener Sharandeep Singh got off to a promising start, striking a few crisp boundaries, but his stay was cut short for 22 when he was trapped in front after misjudging a delivery that nipped back in. The second wicket fell soon after, putting Jharkhand briefly under pressure before Mohan and Virat steadied the innings.

Nagaland's bowlers, led by Jonathan Rongsen and Saurabh Kumar, bowled disciplined spells, sharing one wicket each. Despite the limited play, both extracted decent movement under cloudy conditions, keeping the Jharkhand batters in check.

Persistent drizzle and a wet outfield meant that play began late and was further reduced by fading light in the evening session.

As the teams look ahead to Day 2, Jharkhand will aim to build on their cautious but steady start, hoping for a full day's play to set up a commanding first-innings total. Nagaland, on the other hand, will bank on early breakthroughs with the new ball to claw their way back into the contest.



Women's World Cup: Once India crosses ropes, all good work will have to be redone again, says Anjum Chopra

NEW DELHI : A new champion will be crowned when the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup on Sunday will see India and South Africa both chasing a historic first title at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai.

For the hosts, who won the U19 Women's T20 World Cup earlier this year, a run to the final has been brightened by a stunning semi-final win over Australia, which in turn has electrified fans and reignited hopes of a lasting legacy for women's cricket.

Anjum Chopra, the former India captain, has been present at every game of the Indian as part of her commentary work in the tournament. Ahead of the final, Anjum took out some time from a hectic schedule to speak exclusively to IANS on the final, witnessing an epic semi-final win, its architects and more. Excerpts:-

Q. From your vantage point, how do you see the Indian team shaping up for the final?

A. So the crystal ball is something that I don't have. But there are very many indicators to feel confident about the fact that India should be in a good space getting into the final. That's about as essential as it is before starting a World Cup final. But the moment they cross those ropes and they're in it at the start of the game till the end, I think it will all have to be redone.

All the good work will have to be redone all over again, because that's something where the scores start from 0-0. Of course, getting into the final, the confidence will be there, yet again when you are in a big game, you still have to play the ball to its merit, score runs or chase down the target.

Q. What were your emotions while watching India win that semi-final over a mighty Australia?

A. I was as calm as what I saw the chase to be and having this conversation with a couple of people from the Indian team as well on the ground later. I asked them, how did they maintain their calmness on and off the field? What they just told me; I reflected it back on what I was doing at that time



during the contest. I will not say only about the last 20-30 runs. I'll say from the first ball of the match when Australia started and as Alyssa Healey and Phoebe Litchfield started batting, I was feeding off the energy from what I was witnessing on the ground from the Indian team. The way they were batting, fielding, and bowling, I thought it was very good and conscious awareness of remaining in the moment, contest, and being in the present. That was just a reminder and an indicator for me as well that whilst I'm watching the game as a broadcaster, obviously, I'm seeing it as a player also. But how to remain in that very moment and believe in the process that the team is showcasing out there in the centre in all possible manner, I was telling myself that it really doesn't matter how we start, or what is the middle phase.

It was like let's wait till the end of the match, or the last ball of this 100-over contest is bowled and then we'll know what the result is. Let's not think of what is happening, whether it is good or bad. We'll see what the result of this match is, and that's how I played it out in the entire 100 overs.

Q. Jemimah Rodrigues' unbeaten 127 was not just a match-winning knock, but a statement of maturity and control. How do you see her shaping for the final? A. So, I personally feel that it (the lows Jemimah had before the Navi Mumbai leg began), happens to any and every cricketer. Any cricketer or sports person who comes into a team like an Indian team will find themselves in a situation where things are not going ideally the way that they would want it to be. For Jemimah also to find it out - it's not only Jemimah. I mean, there are players in this Indian team who have not even got a game.

There are players who, when they come into the Indian team, even in the future, will find themselves in difficult scenarios. So, it's a very normal life for a person in a team, especially in an Indian team. But how you come out of it is obviously a very individual battle, as Jemimah put it rightly, that she was in tears almost every night right through this World Cup and various other things that she said.

So, it's about how that player comes out and showcases on the stage that they are put on. She did very well in the

game against New Zealand by getting a quality 70-odd runs (76 not out) in a crucial game. She did very well in the field, even when she was left out from the Indian eleven against England. Prior to that also, when she played in the game against Australia, she fielded really well. So, that was always up to her, how she manages her skill, and temperament, but how she has come out is for everyone to see. That's all credit to her and how she has made sure that when she comes out, she's able to deliver on that front. It's never been an alone journey. You don't rise in an individual manner, but you can fall as an individual.

But when you look at that rise again, it's never an individual journey. There are many people who have assisted her. There are many people who would have helped her. It's a compliment to everyone by the kind of performance that she showcased on the ground.

Q. Harmanpreet Kaur hit a crucial 89 in the semi-final. What is it about her game or mindset that allows her to hit those high notes in knockouts?

A. It's nice. As I said, every moment of that game is something that I have

very close to my heart, as to how that game was played out. Not only because the result makes it out to be so sweet, but the manner in which the cricket was played. Again, I say the way we started bowling, fielding, then the chase.

So, when Harman came in at the fall of Smriti's wicket, I saw her walk from the dugout onto the centre, then how she was taking guard, stance and played that first run down the ground. From there on, I was very surprised that she got out the way she got out. I thought she would not make a mistake as she did in the game against England - 70 off 70.

But probably there was a little concentration error or for whatever reason, she got out. But it was very special to see Indian cricket, and the women's cricket game, shift a gear or shift a base completely, not just a gear, but shift a base.

It was just in terms of how the game was played out, how the result came out, how individuals have participated in getting this result for the Indian cricket team. This victory against Australia is a massive shift in the women's game in India and globally. The game has actually magnified this shift, with the result going India's way.

Q. How do you see this Indian team going from the emotional high of a semi-final win to resetting for the final?

A. Next morning, they would have been very normal. I mean, after the game, it was a high, they would have gone back and I'm sure there were celebrations and speeches. We saw a few that came out from the handle of the Indian women's cricket team. They would have celebrated, gone back to their rooms, and slept.

Next morning at breakfast, it might have been smiles. But I'm pretty certain that by next afternoon, everything would have been back to normal. Because a team or players who would have prepared in the manner they would have to get this sort of result would not let them go out of that zone for too long a time.

GOA TURNS INTO A GLOBAL PLAYGROUND FOR IRONMAN 70.3 AS STAR TRIATHLETES SET FOR MEGA ENDURANCE RACE

PANAJI (GOA) : As the countdown begins to the next leg of the IRONMAN 70.3 GOA to be held on November 9, international triathletes are turning their focus to India not just for the competition, but for the experience that surrounds it. For many athletes, the event represents more than a test of endurance; it is a celebration of spirit, community, and the charm of India's coastal paradise.

The race has witnessed registrations from 62 countries across the five editions so far. Among the growing international field this year are Atul Dutt from Hong Kong and Jongjin Lim from South Korea, both of whom reflect the determination and passion that define the IRONMAN journey.

Atul, an Indian-origin triathlete who has been based in Hong Kong for two decades, has competed in races across Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines. However, he describes IRONMAN 70.3 GOA, INDIA as a particularly meaningful milestone.

"I've completed five 70.3 races across Asia, but coming back to Goa feels personal. I wanted to race in my home country, wear my Indian colours, and be part of something that puts India on the triathlon map," Atul was quoted as saying in a release on Saturday.

"Goa already enjoys a global reputation as a world-class travel destination, and I'm sure the event will match that energy with great hotels, scenic routes, and an enthusiastic crowd," he added. For Jongjin Lim, a South Korean triathlete who has been living in India for six years, the Goa race will mark his first IRONMAN 70.3. Having recovered from an ACL injury and survived COVID-19, he views the triathlon as a way to celebrate life and resilience.

"For me, triathlon is not about speed; it is about endurance, mindset, and never giving up," he said. "Every race reminds me how precious life is. I'm excited that my first IRONMAN 70.3 will be in Goa. Everyone tells me it's beautiful, and I can't wait to experience it with my wife."

Both athletes represent the growing international appeal of Goa as a destination that combines competition with leisure and cultural discovery. With its coastal course, warm hospitality, and family-friendly environment, Goa offers athletes and their loved ones the perfect setting to celebrate their achievements together.

"It's inspiring to see athletes from around the world choosing Goa as their race destination. Over the past five editions, we have welcomed participants from 62 countries, and that diversity has become the heart of this event.

