

Vidyasagar Setu faces temporary closure for essential maintenance work

The Second Hooghly Bridge will be closed for essential maintenance work this Sunday, disrupting a critical arterial route into Kolkata. According to Howrah City Police, the bridge will remain shut from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., a total closure lasting eight hours, to facilitate urgent repairs on cables and bearings. This marks another scheduled halt on the Vidyasagar Setu, further compounding traffic challenges. As one of the primary connections linking Kolkata with Howrah, Hooghly, and several adjoining districts, the closure of the Second Hooghly Bridge poses a significant threat to commuter flow and urban mobility. PG 3



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LUCKNOW joins UNESCO's creative cities list

MI News Service, Lucknow: Lucknow has been added to the list of UNESCO "creative cities" for its rich and diverse culinary heritage. UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay has designated 58 cities as new members of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Creative Cities Network, which now includes 408 cities across more than 100 countries. Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, has been recognised in the category of "Gastronomy". "Proud Moment for India. Lucknow's rich culinary heritage now recognised on the global stage!" Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO said in a social media post on Friday. "On World Cities Day 2025 (30 Oct), Lucknow has been designated a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, joining 58 new cities included in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The UCCN, which now has 408 cities across 100+ countries, promotes creativity and culture as key drivers of sustainable urban development," it said. Lucknow is renowned for its rich and traditional gourmet food, from the popular street food 'chaat' to Awadhi cuisine and delectable desserts. The recognition, announced on World Cities Day, honours cities for their "commitment to championing creativity as a driver of sustainable urban development" as they bring their proven expertise in building resilient and vibrant communities. "UNESCO Creative Cities demonstrate that culture and creative industries can be concrete drivers of development. By welcoming 58 new cities, we are strengthening a Network where creativity supports local initiatives, attracts investment and promotes social cohesion," Azoulay said. Established in 2004, the UCCN aims to foster co-operation among cities that leverage culture and creativity to promote inclusive and sustainable growth. It supports initiatives that generate employment, enhance cultural vitality and strengthen social cohesion. UCCN encourages cooperation between cities, the sharing of experiences and the pooling of solutions and allows members to inspire each other and strengthen the economic, social and environmental impact of their cultural policies. UNESCO said the newly designated creative cities -- ranging from Kisumu (Kenya) and New Orleans (US) for Music, to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) for Design, Matosinhos (Portugal) and Cuenca (Ecuador) for Gastronomy, Giza (Egypt) for Film, Rovaniemi (Finland)

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NDA to get a massive win in Bihar: MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday claimed that the Congress was "never willing" to accept Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate but acceded to the demand when the RJD put a

head of the Congress. After the elections, the two alliance partners will be breaking each other's heads. Such elements can never do good for Bihar," he alleged. The PM, who was visibly pleased with the huge turnout, said, "The

When terror hideouts in Pakistan were being bombed, the royal family of Congress was losing sleep. Pakistan and the Congress have still not recovered from the shock of Operation Sindoor--PM Narendra Modi

"katta" on its head. The PM tried to fish in the troubled waters of the INDIA bloc in Bihar at a rally in Arrah, the headquarters of Bhojpur district. He predicted a record victory for the ruling NDA, which would continue providing a government that was "upright" and "foresighted" and build a "developed Bihar" that was necessary for "Viksit Bharat".

"The Congress never wanted to announce the chief ministerial candidate in favour of the RJD. The RJD secured it by placing a katta (country-made pistol) on the

youngsters here have filled me with enthusiasm. Analysts sitting in Delhi, who are racking their brains over poll arithmetic, would do well to come here and experience for themselves which way the wind is blowing". "Jungle raj wallahs" are set to get the worst drubbing in history. The people of Bihar have not forgotten the 'jungle raj', he claimed.

The PM said the manifesto released by the NDA last week was "honest" and put forth a "vision" for the future, unlike the charter of promises of the INDIA bloc, which



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bihar BJP President Dilip Jaiswal during a public meeting ahead of the state Assembly elections, in Arrah, Bihar.

was "a dossier of lies". Noting that Bhojpur and adjoining districts were known for providing a large number of recruits in the armed forces, he said national security and those who ensure it are of paramount importance to his government. "One rank one pension (OROP) has resulted in the dis-

bursement of Rs 1 lakh crore, which is benefitting families of servicemen," he said. The PM said it was "Modi's guarantee" that Article 370 would be scrapped, and it has been with the Constitution of India now in force in Jammu and Kashmir. "We had vowed to beat the terrorists on their home turf.

And we fulfilled that promise again with Operation Sindoor, which has made the nation proud," he said. Training his guns at the opposition, Modi alleged, "When terror hideouts in Pakistan were being bombed, the royal family of Congress was losing sleep. Pakistan and the Congress have still not recovered from the shock of Operation Sindoor." Raking up the riots that broke out in the wake of the assassination of the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Modi said, "It was around the same time of the year in 1984, on November 1-2, when Sikhs were massacred in Delhi. Those who were guilty are being promoted by the party. The Congress has been unapologetic about the carnage." Indirectly referring to the 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' taken out by Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, the PM alleged it was aimed to protect infiltrators (ghuspathiye) who must be driven out lest they capture the resources meant for the people of Bihar. "The jungle raj wallahs have very dangerous intentions. Be aware of them," said Modi, who also uttered a proverb in local dialect Bhojpuri,

a rough translation of which is "the one responsible for destroying the field is now claiming to sow fresh seeds". The PM, who has been pointing out region-specific instances of alleged misrule during the RJD regime, recalled the abduction of a doctor in Tarari, near Arrah, two decades ago, and the Naxal insurgency that took its toll on Dalmia Nagar, a once bustling industrial town in the adjoining district of Rohtas.

Modi also disclosed that the NDA was planning to develop the birthplace of Veer Kunwar Singh, the ruler of the erstwhile princely estate of Jagdishpur, who was one of the heroes of the Revolt of 1857, asserting that "we believe in development while protecting cultural heritage". "But Congress RJD are known for being disdainful towards our heritage. They berated the Maha Kumbh held at Prayagraj. Recently, the Congress 'naamdaar' (Gandhi) made fun of the Chhath Puja festival. These people must be taught a lesson. I would urge those who have returned home for Chhath Puja to stay back to vote in this election."

BENGAL: EC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO ACCESS 2002 VOTER LIST

MI News Service, Kolkata: The EC announced the special intensive revision for Bengal, where the Assembly elections are scheduled to be held in the summer of 2026, on Monday. The last such large-scale exercise in Bengal had happened in 2002. Under the rules devised by the EC voters whose names or their parents names are found in the 2002 list would not have to submit any fresh documents with the election office for fresh inclusion in the electoral rolls. The 2002 voter list has assumed fresh importance as the EC undertakes the SIR exercise across Bengal, covering nearly 7.62 crore voters, ahead of next summer's Assembly elections. In 2002, there were around 4.58 crore voters in Bengal. Since the announcement

unexpected surge in traffic, with thousands attempting to access the site simultaneously. The EC clarified that data migration from the National Informatics Centre (NIC), which remains under the central government, to the State Data Centre was also underway, causing temporary disruptions. The Commission has now assured that the new website is fully operational and allows voters to view PDFs of the 2002 electoral rolls. "Too many people were trying to log in at once. Work is ongoing to strengthen the servers," an EC official said, adding that the new link should resolve most issues. A helpline (1800-11-1950) has also been launched, though many callers reported long waits. Since the SIR was announced two persons died



thousands of voters attempted to verify their names in the list which for many was inaccessible. Users across the state reported repeated "HTTP Error 404" and "Service Unavailable" messages while attempting to access the rolls. The site occasionally opened on some devices but remained erratic overall. According to the Election Commission, the server crash occurred due to an

by suicide while a third survived. The decision has created panic among the voters as there is a genuine fear of being disenfranchised or losing other rights if the name is not found in the list. The ruling Trinamool has blamed the BJP's "politics of fear" for the distress.

Voters who managed to access the list have faced another challenge: tracing

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Sikh devotees participate in a rally (Nagar Kirtan) for the upcoming 556th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak in Kolkata on Sunday.

Majhi lays foundation for silicon carbide semiconductor facility

MI News Service, Puri: Odisha chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi laid the foundation stone for the country's first end-to-end Silicon Carbide semiconductor production plant with an investment of about ₹2,000 crore. The facility is expected to become operational by 2027-28. Silicon carbide chips are used for handling high-voltage applications in products such as renewable energy systems, electric vehicles and power inverters. Majhi said: "We are working for a strong, self-reliant and technology-driven economy in Odisha. The state is emerging as a key hub for semiconductor and electronics manufacturing. The Centre's guidance and the India Semiconductor Mission's initiatives have enabled the state to attract world-class investment, cutting-edge technology and high-value employment opportunities."

"Today's Bhoomi Pujan



Odisha CM Mohan Charan Majhi, during the foundation stone laying ceremony of the state's first compound semiconductor manufacturing unit, in Bhubaneswar.

and foundation stone laying of the Compound Semiconductor Fab and ATPM (Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging) Facility — a project by SiCSem Pvt. Ltd., approved under the India Semiconductor Mission — at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, marks a defining moment in Odisha's semiconductor journey. With a capital investment of ₹2,067 crore, this unit will create 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, and achieve an annual output of

60,000 wafers with a packaging capacity of 96 million units," he said Majhi further said: "The company is also establishing a ₹64 crore Research & Innovation Centre at IIT Bhubaneswar, while Union minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has approved ₹5 crore from his MP-LAD fund for a 'NaMo Semiconductor Laboratory' at the institute. These initiatives, along with the announcement of a

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Police arrest Odisha SI recruitment scam mastermind

MI News Service, Cuttack: The suspected mastermind of the sub-inspector recruitment scam in Odisha was arrested from the India-Nepal border in Uttarakhand, police said on Sunday. Shankar Prusty was on the run for over a month after the scam came to the fore on September 30. He was nabbed on Saturday with the help of Uttarakhand Police and brought to Bhubaneswar on Sunday morning on a transit remand, they said.

"A team under the leadership of DSP Anila Anand of CID CB was continuously following him. He was frequently changing his location. Finally, he was traced by the team and arrested near the Nepal border in Uttarakhand," said a statement issued by the Crime Branch. Prusty is the owner of Panchsoft Technologies, which was given a part of the contract to conduct the written examination for filling 933 sub-inspector posts in the police and other uniformed services. With this, a total of 124 people, including 114 job aspirants, have been arrested in the multi-crore scam. The job aspirants were, however, released on bail two days ago. Following his arrest, Prusty was flown to Bhubaneswar from Delhi. From the Bhubaneswar airport, he was directly taken to the Crime Branch headquarters



in Cuttack for interrogation, officials said. At the airport, he told reporters that he was in no way involved in the alleged irregularities. "I have no link to the scam, to Muna Mohanty, or any of the accused persons. I have already approached both the Orissa High Court and the Supreme Court seeking justice. I am sure I will get bail," he said. The recruitment examination was scheduled to be held on October 5 and 6, but was postponed after the irregularities were detected, officials said. The irregularities were detected after the 114 aspirants and three suspected brokers were nabbed on the night of September 29 at the state's border with Andhra Pradesh when they were going to a "special coaching" centre in Vijayanagaram from Bhubaneswar. The OPRB had outsourced the conduct of the

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Kerala's 'elimination of extreme poverty' claim a fraud: Cong

MI News Service, Kochi: Chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan declared that Kerala had become the first state to eliminate extreme poverty, a claim that the Opposition derided as "fraud" and a "public relations exercise" in view of upcoming local body polls. Vijayan made the announcement in a special session of the Assembly convened on the occasion of Kerala's formation day and later at a public event held at Central Stadium here in the evening. Several news channels reported that ₹1.5 crore belonging to the local self-government department's housing scheme for the extremely poor was used to organise the public event attended by Malayalam superstar Mammootty as the chief guest.

According to Vijayan, the decision to eradicate extreme poverty from the state was taken in the first cabinet of the second LDF government in 2021 and the beneficiaries were identified

This is nothing but a public relations exercise by the Left government ahead of the polls. The state government has not held any discussions with the stakeholders, and it's being done to hoodwink the people --Satheesan

through an extensive participatory process. The Extreme Poverty Alleviation Project was implemented on a pilot basis in the Wadakkanchery Municipality and the Anchuthengu and Thirunelli Gram Panchayats, and later extended throughout the state. As part of the project, micro plans were prepared for each of the 64,006 beneficiary families, he said. "Kerala has

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Vance controversy: Why not engage with Hinduism?' asks HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

MI News Service, Washington: The Hindu American Foundation (HAF) has strongly criticised US Vice President J.D. Vance for his recent remarks about his wife, Usha Vance, her Hindu heritage, and the possibility of her converting to Christianity. Vance has addressed the controversy surrounding his comments and clarified that it was his wife's faith that helped him reconnect with his own religion, but the HAF questioned why he never considered engaging with Hinduism as well.

"With respect, @JDVance, if your wife encouraged you to re-engage with your faith, why not reciprocate that and engage with

Hinduism too?" the HAF wrote on X. "Hinduism is inherently inclusive and pluralistic in this way. We do not seek to convert anyone," the HAF said. "Hinduism doesn't require the spouse to adopt your religious beliefs."

With respect, @JDVance, if your wife encouraged you to re-engage with your faith, why not reciprocate that and engage with Hinduism too? --HAF



US Vice President JD Vance and Second Lady Usha Vance

It also criticised what it described as "a compulsion from some religious communities to convert us to another way of

thinking," calling such actions disrespectful and harmful. Referring to what it described as "a long history of denigrating Hindu

beliefs and attempting conversions through sometimes unethical means," the HAF said such tendencies continue to manifest online. It cited "anti-Hindu" content shared by Christian accounts, noting that such posts reflect a belief that there is "only one true path to salvation — a concept that Hinduism simply doesn't have — and that path is through Christ." "Some of the most vocal voices in your base seem to not actually believe religious freedom — one of the core concepts this nation was founded upon, as you well know — should extend to Hindus," the HAF

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Swami Prabhavanandaji Maharaj at the Jagaddhatri Puja organized by Behala Adarsha Nagar Prayash.

Gour Banga University clarifies fee for certificates amid viral outrage over 'tatkal' charges



MI News Service, Malda: A recent video clip, which went viral on social media, drew ire as it purportedly showed authorities of the Gour Banga University (GBU) in Malda charging exorbitant fees for issuing certificates to students on an emergency basis. The video clip showed a woman in the controller of examinations (COE) office asking for ₹1,500 for same-day issuance of a certificate, stating that for ₹500, the certificate would be issued the next month.

The clip triggered widespread outrage following which the district administration sought a report from GBU. Shaikh Ansar Ahamad, the additional district magistrate (education) of Malda, said: "We requested a report from the GBU, and they complied."

"We are looking into the matter," said Preeti Goyal, the Malda district magistrate. GBU officials said the ₹1,500 fee was a "tatkal" charge applicable for issuing certificates

within 72 working hours, whereas the standard fee of ₹500 applied to certificates issued within 20 working days.

The certificates issued against the fees include pass certificates of UG and PG courses, migration certificates and certificates issued for post-doctoral research and other courses. "The fee structure was recommended by the finance department and approved by the university's Executive Council in 2024," said COE Biswarup Sarkar.

Sarkar said the woman in the video was not a permanent employee. "Also, her statement was misconstrued. She was asked to deliver the document next month against ₹500 before the Puja vacation. She meant the document could be delivered only when the varsity reopened after the vacation," he added.

GBU officials said charging additional fees for expedited services was standard practice across universities.

Painkillers worth Rs 4 lakh seized by BSF in South Dinajpur

MI News Service, S Dinajpur: Troops of the Border Security Force (BSF) posted in South Dinajpur, acting on a tip-off, seized 1,200 strips of a painkiller tablet from Gobindapur, a village near the India-Bangladesh border, on Friday. According to a source, the cost of the seized tablets — used by substance abusers — is ₹4.14 lakhs. A source in the BSF said in the past week, 475 bottles of cough syrup, 24kg of cannabis, and nine cattle were seized from North and South Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri districts. These were supposed to be smuggled to Bangladesh.

Dr. Subrata Ghosh conducts CPR workshop in Guskara to save lives



MI News Service, Guskara: A few days ago, a 21-year-old man rescued a drowning teenager from the Kunur River in Guskara and saved his life by squeezing his chest to draw water out. The teenager was later taken to the hospital. Not only drowning, but sometimes the heart temporarily stops beating due to various reasons. In such situations, cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR can save lives. Doctor Subrata Ghosh, an eminent child specialist, demonstrated the method firsthand at Guskara PP Institution on Sunday. On this day, the Science Abhiksha exam was organized by the Paschim Banga Bigyan Mancha at Guskara PP Institution. He organized this camp with the parents of the candidates. He explained what CPR is and how to do it in which situations. Later, he demonstrated it by hand. The doctor also explained how to remove a piece of food or water from the esophagus

and keep the patient's heart moving if the piece of food or water gets stuck in the esophagus or drowns in water. He said, "There is a big difference between knowing about CPR and applying it in practice. Therefore, it is necessary to provide good training in this regard." He highlighted the need to train government employees and voluntary organization workers in this regard in various populated areas. It is learnt that this method will be included in the higher secondary curriculum in the coming days. Why such an initiative here? Guskara Science Center Secretary Dipankar Basu and President Vishnupada Singh said, "After the examinees enter the hall, the guardians spend their time in various ways. That is why this initiative has been taken. About a hundred guardians participated in this camp. Guardians like Gyandas Thakur and Malabika Mandal said that this camp will be useful in the future.

Hometown pitch cheers for Richa Ghosh: Siliguri girl part of historic World Cup clash

MI News Service, Siliguri : As Siliguri's own Richa Ghosh, the wicketkeeper-batter of the Indian women's cricket team led by Harmanpreet Kaur, prepares to take the field in Mumbai for the World Cup final on Sunday, her hometown is brimming with pride and excitement. The Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) has arranged a live screening of the final match on a giant screen at Baghajatin Park, allowing residents to come together and cheer for their hometown star.



"This is a proud moment for every resident, as Richa hails from our city and will play in the World Cup final tomorrow (Sunday)," said mayor Gautam Deb on Saturday. "We have received numerous requests from people to organise a live screening so that everyone can experience the thrill together. Though the weather remains unpredictable, we've decided to go ahead with the screening at the Rabindra Mancha in Baghajatin Park from 3pm," he said.

The civic body previously organised similar public screenings of major football and cricket matches at the centrally located park, turning it into a hub for sports enthusiasts.

The excitement for Richa is palpable across

the city, and people are eagerly waiting for the summit clash, indicating how popular women's cricket has become. Siliguri Mahakuma Krira Parishad (SMKP), the sub-divisional sports body, congratulated Richa for her stellar performance in the tournament while announcing the launch of its first women's cricket league. "We are eagerly waiting to see her in the final. We want our girls to bring the cup home," said Jayanta Saha, the working president of SMKP. "We will invite Richa to attend the final match of our own women's cricket tournament." Veteran cricket coach Jayanta Bhowmik, the childhood coach of former India cricketer Wridhiman Saha, is equally enthusiastic. "I will make sure to follow the world cup final from the very start," he said.

Friday's victory of the Indian women's team over Australia and their entry into the final has plunged Raiganj into cricket fever. From school students to political leaders, everyone is talking about the Sunday match. Krishna Kalyani, the Raiganj MLA, said: "I'm a cricket fan anyway, and this is the world cup final. We had planned a Diwali get-together with the Marwari community on Sunday night, but we have postponed it to Monday because of Sunday's final."

"I am a huge fan of Virat Kohli, but honestly hadn't followed women's cricket much before. When I watched the women's team's semi-final on TV, I was amazed. The way they stayed calm under pressure and fought tooth and nail to win — it was incredible," said Katha Sen, a Class XII student.

"I knew I had to watch the final from start to finish. I had two tuitions on Sunday afternoon, I requested our teacher to give us the day off. He agreed!" the student added. Utpal Saha, the secretary of the Amra Sobai Puja Committee, organising Saraswati Puja at Raiganj Institute for 32 years, said they postponed a Puja-related meeting planned for Sunday. "Our girls will fight for the world cup. We can't afford to miss a single ball," Saha said.

Posters target Trinamool MLA in Karimpur; political row erupts

Dipankar Edbar, Tehatta : Karimpur MLA Bimlendu Singha Roy has come under fire after a series of posters criticising him surfaced across parts of Tehatta and adjoining areas. Several posters accused the Trinamool Congress legislator of neglecting local development, calling him "forgetful MLA" and claiming he resides in Krishnagar rather than his constituency.

The posters allege that key development projects in Karimpur have been stalled, including the Murutia bridge over the Bhairab river, where heavy vehicles remain restricted, the incomplete Boxipur bridge, and the promised road-widening near Karimpur market to ease congestion.

Local residents critical of the MLA say public inconvenience and lack of progress triggered the protest in the form of posters. However, supporters of Singha Roy dismissed the claims, stating that he is a "polite and respected leader" and a President's Award-winning teacher,



adding that the posters are part of a misleading campaign. Reacting to the controversy, Singha Roy said, "I know who is behind this. They could not defeat me politically, so they are using unfair means. I will inform party leadership and expose them at the right time."

The incident has sparked speculation about whether the posters reflect public frustration or a factional feud within the ruling party in the constituency.

Wet trail in Montha's tail, snow in north Sikkim; Teesta river on watch

MI News Service, Siliguri : Rain caused by the remnants of Cyclone Montha continued throughout north Bengal and Sikkim for the second day on Saturday.

However, unlike Friday, the rain was less intense on Saturday. Weathermen said rain was likely across the region on Sunday too.

"There is a forecast of heavy rainfall for the next 24 hours in Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar, while remaining districts of north Bengal and Sikkim are likely to experience light to moderate showers, accompanied by gusty winds at isolated places," said an India Meteorological Department (IMD) source.

Since Thursday night, the sub-Himalayan Bengal and Sikkim saw rain. North and east Sikkim saw snow on Friday.

On Saturday, it snowed in north Sikkim. IMD data said Jalpaiguri recorded the highest rainfall, 170mm during the past 24 hours, that is, till 8.30am on Saturday, followed by Malda (120mm) and Siliguri (94mm).

Bridge traffic nod

MI News Service, Darjeeling : The Darjeeling district administration announced the resumption of traffic between Mirik and Siliguri through the alternative Hume pipe bridge (vented causeway) over the Balason river at Dudhia on Saturday. On Friday, traffic curbs were imposed over the bridge as the level of the river had swelled amid heavy rain. In the Dooars, the district administrations of Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar are still on alert because of the weather forecast. However, sources in the administration said that rivers that descend from Bhutan to the Dooars had not seen much of a rise in the water levels on Saturday.

Teesta swells

MI News Service, Darjeeling : Friday's rainfall in the upper catchments raised the Teesta's water levels on Saturday, prompting the state irrigation department to issue a yellow (primary) alert in the unprotected areas on both banks of the river from Domohoni (Mainaguri block) to Mekhliganj, where the river enters Bangladesh.

Anti-erosion work begins in Santipur's Tengridanga, residents see ray of hope

Dipankar Edbar, Santipur, Nadia : In a major relief for villagers living along the eroding banks of the Ganga, anti-erosion work officially began in Tengridanga under Santipur's Gayeshpur panchayat on Friday. The project, inaugurated with traditional rituals, has brought renewed hope to hundreds who have been living in fear of losing their homes and farmland to the river.

Over the past few years, large stretches of agricultural land and several houses in the area had been threatened by rapid erosion, triggering panic among residents. Local panchayat members and the panchayat chief had repeatedly flagged the issue with the irrigation department after the situation worsened in recent weeks.

Santipur MLA Brajakishore Goswami took the initiative, coordinating with the irrigation department and facilitating necessary paperwork. Under his supervision, officials commenced the erosion-control work on Friday in the presence



of elected representatives, education department officials and local residents.

Speaking at the inauguration, the MLA said, "Once this project is completed, agricultural land and residential settlements in the surrounding areas will be safeguarded, putting an end to a long-standing problem."

Most residents in Tengridanga depend on farming for their livelihood. With several riverside families at risk of displacement in recent months, the launch of the project has brought visible relief. Locals expressed gratitude, saying they hoped the initiative would finally free them from the constant fear of losing their land to the Ganga.



Swarna Kamal Saha MLA of Entally Constituency Kolkata, Amiruddin Bobby Councillor of Ward 54 and MMIC Market Kolkata Municipal corporation and Dr M.A.Ali Director of Forthcoming World Meet 2026 Thailand is seen in the picture during a Blood donation Camps held in front of Munshi talao ground. This blood donation utsav was organised by Unity Sports and Social Welfare Society in honour and in memory of Senior leaders and Social workers of ward 54 .

Farmer 'Assaulted by BSF on Bangladeshi Suspicion' in Nadia Village; Probe On



Dipankar Edbar, Nadia : A farmer from a border village in Nadia district has alleged that he was forcibly picked up and assaulted by Border Security Force (BSF) personnel on suspicion of being a Bangladeshi. The incident, reported from Hathkola village under Chapra police station, has sparked tension in the area. The victim, Rafikul Molla, is currently undergoing treatment for multiple injuries.

According to locals, Rafikul was seated at a tea stall on Wednesday morning when BSF personnel allegedly arrived and took him away. "They kept me confined for hours and forced me to admit that I am a Bangladeshi. When I refused, they beat me mercilessly. They even tied a chain to my leg," Rafikul claimed.

He also alleged that similar incidents had taken place earlier in the locality, with another villager reportedly taken away on similar suspicion. The incident has triggered anger among residents, who accused BSF of harassment in the name of anti-infiltration checks. Rafikul has filed a written complaint at Chapra police station. Police have begun an investigation into the allegations. The BSF has not yet issued a response on the matter.

Nadia: Co-operative staffer accused of siphoning lakhs from recurring depositors in Tehatta



Dipankar Edbar, Nadia : Allegations of large-scale misappropriation of recurring and daily savings deposits have triggered uproar in Betai, Tehatta. An employee of the Betai ULSPSCSCS Ltd co-operative society, identified as Bankim Halder, has been accused of siphoning off lakhs of rupees collected from depositors.

According to locals, Halder had been collecting deposits from residents for over a year, allegedly visiting homes and shops before and after office hours, assuring them their money was being deposited in recurring and daily savings accounts. To gain their confidence, he reportedly made handwritten entries in passbooks issued to depositors. The fraud came to light when several depositors failed to receive their money even after maturity dates had passed. Deben Das, a toto driver from Sadhubazar village, said he deposited around rupees 25,000 over time. "When I didn't get my maturity amount, I approached the co-operative office and was shocked to learn there was no account in my name," he told reporters.

Another depositor, Anand Biswas, who used

to deposit rupees 100 daily, claimed to have saved around rupees 36,000. "Even my passbook showed entries. But the office told me no such account exists," he said. Several others have made similar allegations, with residents claiming the misappropriated amount runs into several lakhs. As news spread, angry depositors gathered outside the co-operative office demanding immediate refund of their money.

Co-operative manager Sanjit Bhakta said daily collection services had been discontinued long ago. "Bankim Halder is a temporary worker. Whatever he did outside office hours is not the society's responsibility," Bhakta said, adding that the management would look into the allegations and assist depositors. Co-operative president Bishnu Halder confirmed efforts are on to trace the accused employee. "We have received complaints and are verifying the amounts involved. Depositors' concerns will be addressed. If required, legal action will be taken," he said. Bankim Halder is currently absconding, and the incident has caused panic among depositors in the area.



Today, Honorable Minister Shri Arup Biswas spoke at the Platinum Jubilee function of Vijaygarh Jyotish Roy College in Tollygunge. MP Sayani Ghosh, DC(SSD)Bidisha Kalita Dasgupta, President of the College Governing Body Sandeep Nandi Majumder and Principal of the College Smt. Rajshree Niyogi were present.

Threat of another flood looms large in north Bengal with rivers overflowing following incessant rain

MI News Service, Siliguri : The threat of another flood looms large in north Bengal, following incessant rain for the last two days due to the after-effects of Cyclone Montha, causing the water level of the rivers to start to rise above the danger level, triggering panic among the people of a fresh flood and landslides in the hill districts.

According to reports, the under-construction dam on the Shisamara River was breached by the water from Bhutan, flooding various areas of Shalkumar 1 and Shalkumar 2 gram panchayats. About 200 people have left their homes in the area and have taken shelter in the local Lalturnam High School. The local gram panchayat has made arrangements for their accommodation and food.

Subhash Roy, head of Shalkumar 1 Gram Panchayat, told media persons: "The dam on the Shisamara River, where it was built on an emergency basis, has broken and water has entered various areas, including Notun Para and Munshipara in Shalkumar. We have rescued 200 to 250 families and brought them to the local Notun Para Lalturnam High School. Efforts are being made to rescue livestock and other materials from the house. If the water level rises further, the situation will become serious." State Disaster Management Department personnel have been deployed in Shalkumar. The district council is also monitoring the situation. Officials are using loudspeakers to evacuate people from low-lying areas. It is worth mentioning that the worst damage was done to Shalkumar 1 and Shalkumar 2 gram panchayat areas of Alipurduar district in the disaster of October 5, when massive flooding and landslides were reported from north Bengal following overnight torrential rain.

Bengal Braces for Early Winter as Temp Drop by 3 degrees

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bengal braces for an early winter as temperatures are forecast to drop by three degrees Celsius over the coming days, signaling the approaching chill amid fluctuating low-pressure systems over the region. Following recent rainfall during Jagaddhatri Puja, the Meteorological Department reports a marked improvement in weather conditions starting Sunday, with generally decreasing precipitation across most districts. The cyclone that struck the region has steadily weakened, transitioning from a cyclone to a low-pressure area before briefly regaining cyclone status. Presently positioned near northern Bangladesh, this system is moving towards the Bangladesh-Myanmar coast and is expected to persist there over the next 48 hours. Meanwhile, a fresh low-pressure zone is forecast to develop in the Bay of Bengal later this week due to rising moisture levels along the coast. Northern Bengal will likely experience dry air from Monday onward, with Kolkata anticipating partly cloudy skies and consistent sunshine throughout the day.

CPM Launches Voter Rights Drive Amid SIR, Blasts Political Overreach

MI News Service, Kolkata: In response to the commencement of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) voter verification exercise, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has launched a comprehensive campaign across Bengal aimed at safeguarding voter rights and ensuring public cooperation with the process. CPM leaders contend that while voter list corrections are routine, the current measures have been exaggerated to a degree that risks endangering citizens and creating undue anxiety. The party has set up multiple voter rights protection centers and is actively conducting outreach camps to assist voters in verifying their inclusion on the 2002 electoral rolls. These camps also provide guidance on necessary documentation for those whose names are absent from the list. The CPM initiative seeks to equip citizens with accurate information amidst what it describes as politically motivated attempts by rival parties, particularly Trinamool Congress and BJP, to distort and politicize the SIR exercise for electoral advantage.

BENGAL: EC LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE TO ACCESS 2002 VOTER LIST

From PG 1 names from a pre-delimitation era. With constituency and booth boundaries redrawn after the delimitation exercise - once in 2008 and a limited one in 2015-16, several electors have struggled to locate their polling stations. The EC has maintained that there is no cause for concern and that all eligible voters will have opportunities to verify and update their details during the ongoing SIR process.

LUCKNOW joins UNESCO's creative cities list

From PG 1 for Architecture, Malang (Indonesia) for Media Arts, and Aberystwyth (UK) for Literature -- exemplify how local creativity promotes a distinct cultural expertise, rooted in its territory and generating social cohesion and economic dynamism. The Creative Cities will gather for the Network's 2026 Annual Conference in Essaouira (Morocco), which was named a Creative City for Music in 2019.



The book "Nagariker Sarkatha" (The Essence of Citizenship) by author Manik Fakir, revealing the secrets of CAA and SIR was launched by Education Minister Bratya Basu and author Manoranjan Byapari & others at Kolkata Press Club on Sunday in Kolkata.

Vidyasagar Setu faces temporary closure for essential maintenance work



Children play on a nearly deserted road leading to the Vidyasagar Setu, also known as the second Hooghly bridge, on which vehicular movement has been restricted citing repair and rehabilitation in Kolkata on Sunday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Second Hooghly Bridge will be closed for essential maintenance work this Sunday, disrupting a critical arterial route into Kolkata. According to Howrah City Police, the bridge will remain shut from 6 a.m. until 2 p.m., a total closure lasting eight hours, to facilitate urgent repairs

on cables and bearings. This marks another scheduled halt on the Vidyasagar Setu, further compounding traffic challenges. As one of the primary connections linking Kolkata with Howrah, Hooghly, and several adjoining districts, the closure of the Second Hooghly Bridge poses a significant threat to commuter flow and urban mobility. Authorities anticipate a sharp increase in congestion on alternate routes, particularly the Howrah Bridge, which will bear the brunt of diverted traffic throughout the maintenance window. To mitigate the impact, Kolkata Police has installed prominent hoardings near the Science City entrance advising commuters to utilize alternative routes. Vehicles approaching Kolkata from Kolaghat or Dankuni will be rerouted via the Nivedita Bridge. Traffic moving from Kolkata towards Howrah must rely on the Howrah Bridge, with potential supplementary diversions across the Nivedita Bridge as needed. Additionally, passenger vehicles departing Kolkata will be diverted along National Highway 16 via Kazipara, GT Road, and Andul Road. Police also expect increased traffic pressure on Shailen Manna Sarani, Howrah Amta Road, and Bali Bridge, necessitating vigilant traffic management. While the closure coincides with a Sunday holiday, potentially easing congestion somewhat, the maintenance work on this vital link underscores the urgent need for sustained infrastructure upkeep to ensure safe and efficient connectivity for the metropolitan region. Commuters are urged to plan their journeys accordingly and remain attentive to official advisories to avoid severe delays.

Milan Bala Allegedly Tries to Kill Wife Kajal in Brutal Assault

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a disturbing domestic violence case under Thakurpukur police jurisdiction, Milan Bala surrendered at the local police station after assaulting his wife, Kajal Bala, violently with a stone. The incident unfolded on Saturday night in Anandnagar, Behala, revealing deep marital discord rooted in Milan's long-standing suspicions of his wife. Neighbours had reportedly witnessed persistent tensions between the couple over several years. On the night in question, an intense argument escalated into a brutal attack when Milan allegedly struck Kajal multiple times on the head and face with a stone, inflicting severe injuries. Bloodied and visibly shaken, Milan then appeared at Thakurpukur police station, confessed to the assault, and stated, "I have finished everything." Despite the savage attack, Kajal Bala survived but was left in critical condition. Emergency responders and police intervened promptly, transporting her first to Vidyasagar Hospital before she was shifted to the Intensive Care Unit of SSKM Trauma Care due to worsening health. Medical reports indicate she sustained multiple deep wounds requiring extensive stitches on her head and face. The police have taken Milan into custody and launched a formal investigation into the attempted murder.



Press conference of Desh Bachao Ganamanch at Kolkata Press Club, protesting against the conspiracy to make Bengalis stateless, the intimidation of a community in the name of SIR on Sunday in Kolkata.

Park Street and Alipur Police Stations Expand Territory

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Police has implemented a significant redrawing of police station boundaries, reshaping jurisdictional control and strategic priorities within the city. Effective from Saturday under directives issued by Mayor Manoj Verma, the territorial limits of five key police stations—Alipur, Park Street, Watganj, New Market, and Ekbalpur—have been redefined, triggering a notable shift in policing dynamics around the crucial Lalbazar area. The revised boundaries have notably expanded the jurisdictions of Alipur and Park Street police stations, elevating their operational im-

portance. Conversely, Watganj, New Market, and Ekbalpur have ceded considerable portions of their territories, contracting their areas of command. Specifically, segments previously under Watganj and Ekbalpur now fall within Alipur's jurisdiction, while a substantial part of New Market's former area has been absorbed by Park Street police station. This realignment has sparked widespread speculation and raised critical questions regarding the rationale behind shifting sensitive zones from Watganj and Ekbalpur—areas historically known for their complex law and order challenges—to

Alipur. Authorities have yet to clarify the strategic motives driving these boundary changes. The reorganization underscores a key operational tenet of policing: the size and influence of a police station are directly linked to its territorial jurisdiction. Enlarged boundaries bring greater responsibility but also risk undermining police efficiency if resource allocation and performance capacities are not properly balanced. Experts warn that an imbalance between area coverage and station capabilities could precipitate serious governance and law enforcement issues, potentially compromising public safety.

Bengal CM Pays Tribute to Former Farakka MLA Moinul Haque

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee extended her heartfelt condolences on the passing of senior party leader Moinul Haque. In a statement on her official social media platform, she praised Haque's longstanding dedication to the party, noting his tenure as a former legislator from Farakka and his continued service at senior levels within the party in recent years. The Chief Minister conveyed her deepest sympathies to Haque's family, friends, and supporters during this period of mourning, acknowledging his significant contributions to the party and the state's political landscape.

Dumdum Horror: Three Held for Gang Rape of Minor Girl

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a chilling incident that has once again spotlighted the grave issue of violence against women in Kolkata, three men have been arrested for the brutal gang rape of a 14-year-old minor girl in Dumdum. The accused have been detained by police and are scheduled to be presented before the Barrackpore court today for remand proceedings. The victim, a seventh-grade student, had gone out for tuition on Saturday evening when she encountered a known acquaintance on the street. After spending time together in a local park, the young man reportedly coerced her into boarding a toto vehicle. Instead of taking her home, he diverted to a secluded colony in the area where the girl was forcibly confined inside a slum dwelling. Subsequently, the accused's two associates arrived, and the three men allegedly subjected her to repeated sexual assault. The minor managed to return home later that night, visibly distressed and physically unwell, and recounted the harrowing ordeal to her family. Immediately upon receiving the report, her family filed a formal complaint at the Dumdum police station. Rapid police action led to the arrest of the three suspects, who now face charges including gang rape and unlawful detention. This incident adds to a disturbing pattern of sexual violence in the region. Just a day prior, a similar case was reported in Birbhum, where a minor girl was reportedly raped by a minor accused following a tuition class. Two arrests have been made in that case as well. Earlier incidents, including the molestation case inside SSKM Hospital, have further intensified public outrage and demand for stringent protective measures. The recurrence of such heinous acts underscores an urgent need for comprehensive reforms and heightened vigilance to ensure the safety and dignity of women and minors in Kolkata and across West Bengal. Enforcement agencies face mounting pressure to deliver swift justice and prevent future atrocities against vulnerable population

'Families vanish from North Dumdum's old Bakra as SIR begins - Mystery deepens'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid mounting speculation, several families have reportedly vanished from Ward No.1 in Old Bakra, North Dumdum Municipality, sparking intense questions about the true reason behind their sudden disappearances. Local authorities, upon visiting the area, observed that multiple behind their local authorities, upon visiting the area, observed that multiple houses were found locked, with residents either absent or whereabouts. The area is primarily inhabited by worked such as paper collectors and domestic helper, many of whom claim to have migrated from Murshidabad to employment opportunities. However, the abrupt departure of these families raises serious concerns, especially amid heightened security measures prompted by the ongoing measures prompted by the ongoing Special Intensive Survey (SIR) initiated by the Election Commission of India, focusing on infiltration and illegal crossings. Political parties and local residents remain tight-lipped, with some residents denying any knowledge of the families' departure, asserting their longstanding presence in the locality. A woman resident confirmed that two neighboring families had left recently, heading back to Murshidabad, but refused to comment on the sudden migration of others. Adding to the atmosphere of suspicion are claims from certain quarters suggesting that Bangladeshi infiltrators might have sought refuge in the area, or perhaps been driven out amid the intensified SIR operations. The exact whereabouts of these families and the true nature of their disappearance remain unverified, but the situation has ignited concerns over possible infiltration and security lapses in the region. Authorities are yet to provide clarity on whether there is any factual basis linking this mass disappearance to infiltration activities or other security threats.

Vance controversy: Why not engage with Hinduism?' asks HINDU AMERICAN FOUNDATION

From PG 1 wrote in response to Vance's post. The organisation said that given the "growing anti-Hindu sentiment online", it would be reasonable for the vice president to publicly acknowledge the positive influence of Hinduism on him. "You are the Vice President," the HAF wrote. "It's more than reasonable, and well within precedent, for a Christian public figure like yourself to recognise Hinduism's positive impact and the rights of Hindus to practise their faith." Amid the criticism, Vance on Friday responded by saying it was "disgusting" to interpret his remarks as an attack on his wife's religion. He clarified that Usha Vance is not a Christian and has no plans to convert, but like many in interfaith marriages, he hopes that she may one day share his beliefs. "Regardless, I'll continue to love and support her and talk to her about faith and life and every-

thing else, because she's my wife," Vance said, describing Usha as "the most amazing blessing" in his life who encouraged him to re-engage with his faith. The comments were originally made during an address at the Turning Point USA event in Mississippi on Wednesday, where Vance was asked whether he hoped his wife would eventually "come to Christ." He candidly expressed his wish that she might one day embrace Christianity while affirming her free will and their mutual respect in an interfaith marriage. Following the backlash, Vance later defended his statements on X, calling the criticism "anti-Christian bigotry." "Yes, Christians have beliefs. And yes, one of those beliefs is that we want to share them with others. That's a completely normal thing," he wrote. Vance maintained that he was merely expressing his faith and not seeking to impose it on anyone.

Police arrest Odisha SI recruitment scam mastermind

From PG 1 Combined Police Service Examination (CPSE) 2024 to PSU ITI Ltd, which further sub-contracted the work to Bhubaneswar-based Silicon Techlab. Silicon Techlab, in turn, assigned key responsibilities to Panchsoft Technologies, headed by Prusty. The arrested aspirants had paid Rs 10 lakh each to the racket, and were supposed to pay another Rs 25 lakh after securing the job, police said. Later, some more brokers

were arrested, including the aides of the mastermind. However, the mastermind is yet to be nabbed. Another 110 candidates were supposed to get similar 'coaching' in West Bengal's Digha, which is located on the Odisha border, on September 30, but due to the police action in Berhampur, it was cancelled, police said. The state government has recommended a CBI investigation into the scam as it has inter-state implications, involving organised gangs.

Kerala's 'elimination of extreme poverty' claim a fraud: Cong

From PG 1 spent more than ₹1,000 crore on extreme poverty eradication," he added. The Congress-led United Democratic Front boycotted the special Assembly session. Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan said Vijayan's statement was "pure fraud" and in "contempt" of House rules. "So, we cannot join in that and are completely boycotting the session," Satheesan said. The Opposition then walked out of the House. "This is nothing but a public relations exercise by the Left government ahead of the polls. The state government has not held any discussions with the stakeholders, and it's being done to hoodwink the people," Satheesan told reporters. Developmental economists M.A. Oommen and K.P. Kannan also brushed aside Vijayan's claims, observing that the state government had not conducted any study to arrive at the conclusion. At the mega public programme, Vijayan claimed that the eradication of extreme poverty from the state "was a reality and not a fraud". "This is a new beginning, and it's a real Kerala Story. With the help of the society, Kerala has become the first state in the country to achieve the feat," said Vijayan. He said that the achievement had proved that if people stepped up and moved forward with a sense of purpose, nothing was impossible.

Name Change
I, Sekh minhajuddin S/o Sekh Ruhul Amin Residing at Vill-Kantilia Sekh Para, P.O.-Nibra, P.S.-Domjur, Dist-Howrah(W.B), Pin-711409. My Son's name wrongly recorded in his Passport no.U9673476 as Sekh Afride (Old name) but his actual name is Sk Afride(New name) as per Aadhar id no.5687 9027 9659 vide an affidavit before the 1st class Executive magistrate at Howrah. Dated-31.10.2025. That Sekh Afride(Old name) & Sk Afride(New name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pramod Baid (Old Name) S/o Sumer I, Pramod Baid Residing at 21/2D, Monohar Park Road, Sarat Bose Road, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700029, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pramod Kumar Baid (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 31-10-2025. Pramod Baid (Old Name) and Pramod Kumar Baid (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Susmita Manna D/o Jayanta Manna, aged about 29 Years, Resident of 52/1B, Mahendra Bagchi Road, P.S. Bally, Howrah-711201, have embraced Islam on 13/01/2025 and adopted the new name Susmita Hossain. Susmita Manna and Susmita Hossain are one and the same person, by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Alipore.

Name Change
I, Rukhsana Khatoon (Old Name) W/o Md Jawed Residing at O.K Road Railpur, P.O - Asansol, P.S - Asansol (North), District - Paschim Bardhaman, Pin - 713302, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rukhsana Parveen (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 31-10-2025. Rukhsana Khatoon (Old Name) and Rukhsana Parveen (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kuddus Ali Mondal (Old Name) S/o Late Fajal Karim Mandal Residing at Vill - Huda Bishnupur, P.O - Shimulia, P.S - Gopalnagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743262, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kuddus Ali Mandal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 31-10-2025. Kuddus Ali Mondal (Old Name) and Kuddus Ali Mandal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tajmilla Mondal (Old Name) W/o Kuddus Ali Mandal Residing at Vill - Huda Bishnupur, P.O - Shimulia, P.S - Gopalnagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743262, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tachmina Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 31-10-2025. Tajmilla Mondal (Old Name) and Tachmina Bibi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sekh minhajuddin S/o Sekh Ruhul Amin Residing at Vill-Kantilia Sekh Para, P.O.-Nibra, P.S.-Domjur, Dist-Howrah(W.B), Pin-711409. My Son's name wrongly recorded in his Passport no.U9673476 as Sekh Afride (Old name) but his actual name is Sk Afride (New name) as per Aadhar id no.5687 9027 9659 vide an affidavit before the 1st class Executive magistrate at Howrah. Dated-31.10.2025. That Sekh Afride(Old name) & Sk Afride(New name) both are the same and one identical person.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Samir Ghori, S/o Late Ajit Ghori, residing at 100/83, Sukanta Sarani Rail Park, P.O. Morepur, Dist-Hooghly, Pin-722500, West Bengal, do hereby declare that, in my son's Birth Certificate (being no. 1077/2025) issued by Rishra Municipality father's name has been recorded as Samir Kumar Ghori in place of Samir Ghori. That Samir Ghori & Samir Kumar Ghori is same one & identical person vide an Affidavit no. 12254 sworn before Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kolkata on 16.06.2025.

Name Change
I, Sirdhartha Ghosh (Aadhar Card), s/o. Lt. Sristidhar Ghosh, r/o. Vill & P.O.-Sangrampur, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- 24 Pgs. (N), declare that my name have changed & shall henceforth be known Siddhartha Ghosh (EPIC Card)/Madhyamik Admit Card as Sirdhartha Kumar Ghosh & Pass Port as Siddhartha Kumar Ghosh, in the Court of the LD. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Basirhat, 24 Pgs. (N), vide Affidavit No.-24489 Dtd. 30.10.2025. Henceforth, Sirdhartha Ghosh, Siddhartha Ghosh & Sirdhartha Kumar Ghosh/Siddhartha Kumar Ghosh all are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, MANOJ BALDEV GUPTA, S/o - Late Baldev Gupta, R/O- 11B, Nebu Bangar Lane, Bagbazar, Kolkata - 700003, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MANOJ FAROOQ GUPTA as declared before the Notary Public at Bankshall Court vide affidavit No.24/25 dated 01.11.2025. MANOJ BALDEV GUPTA and MANOJ FAROOQ GUPTA both are the same and identical person.

Name Change
I, MOHD FAROOQ S/O MO USMAN residing at Mohalla Nai Basti, Nawabganj, Dist Baroilly, UP shall henceforth be known as MOHD FAROOQ ANSARI as declared before the Notary Public at Nawabganj, UP vide affidavit NO IN-UP-20350007909711X dated 01 NOV 2025. MOHD FAROOQ & MOHD FAROOQ ANSARI both are same & identical Person.

Kolkata hosts 'City Corpus 2025'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata recently hosted the 'City Corpus - 2025', a unique Business Conclave designed by and for group of young school students. 8 schools from Kolkata including host South City International School participated in this mega and most innovative affair. Kolkata's leading institutions — St. Xavier's Collegiate School, Don Bosco School (Park Circus), St. James' School, Modern High School, Calcutta International School, Sushila Birla Girls' School, Birla High School (Moira Street), and South City International School were there for City Corpus - 2025.



The affair eventually transformed the campus into a dynamic simulation of the corporate world. Under the theme "Comprehend, Compete, Conquer.", the conclave offered students a unique platform to

experience the thrill and challenges of entrepreneurship, strategic thinking, and leadership through eight exciting business modules.

Participants competed in real-world inspired

events such as the real-estate simulation, City Sky-lines; the mock stock exchange, City Bulls; the crisis war-room, City Collapse; the recruitment showdown, City Recruit; the franchise battlefield, City Bid; the collaborative merger, City Synergy; the boardroom battleground, City Command; and the ultimate business challenge, CityBiz.

Rupika Nath, Acting Principal of South City International School, said, "It's inspiring to see our students conceptualize and execute a conclave that mirrors real-world corporate challenges with such creativity, confidence, and collaboration."

Police nab man for fake birth & death certificates

MI News Service, Siliguri: The detective department of Siliguri Metropolitan Police arrested a person on Wednesday for allegedly making fake birth and death certificates.

The arrested individual has been identified as Lalan Kumar Ojha, a resident of Bagdogra. He was apprehended during a joint raid by the detective department of Siliguri Metropolitan Police and a team of the army intelligence. "During the raid, 11 birth and death certificates, along with a few Aadhaar cards and EPICs, were recovered from him," said a source.

This is the third arrest in the Siliguri sub-division in recent weeks linked to the issuance of fake documents. On October 17, the block medical officer of health (BMOH) of the Kharibari block in the sub-division, had filed a complaint with the police, alleging that a racket is being run in the local rural hospital in illegally making fake birth and death certificates.

IIMC turmoil deepens as CAO seeks early retirement

MI News Service, Kolkata: IIM Calcutta is facing a deepening administrative crisis with its chief administrative officer (CAO) seeking voluntary retirement and the director, Prof. Alok Kumar Rai, reportedly at odds with the Board of Governors chairman, Shrikrishna G. Kulkarni.

Alok Chandra, the institute's chief administrative officer, submitted his voluntary retirement request to the institute last week, seeking to be relieved by November 30 — two years before his tenure ends. Sources say Chandra is uncomfortable with the director's functioning style, though his request has not yet been accepted. Chandra could not be contacted for his comments.

Meanwhile, director Rai — who took charge just three months ago on July 30 — met senior ministry of education officials in Delhi on Monday. During a two-hour meeting, sources said, he expressed displeasure over the Board of Governors' decision-making process, which he believes is overly influenced by chairman Kulkarni. Rai is reportedly frustrated on multiple fronts: the Board's lack of support for his proposal to relocate the innovation park from the Joka campus to a new New Town site, and the delay in arranging suitable accommodation for him over the past two months. There is speculation that he may step down, though the government is working to address the crisis. The turmoil comes as the institute continues its academic operations. On Tuesday, IIM Calcutta welcomed its first batch of Executive Doctoral (PhD) students at an event attended by Prof. Bhaskar Chakrabarti, who was listed as Director (Acting) in the institute's LinkedIn announcement. This crisis marks a troubling pattern for IIM Calcutta. Over the past seven years, the institute has had only two regular directors, both of whom resigned after approximately two years in office. Prof. Anju Seth, who resigned in 2021, also complained about interference in day-to-day operations by the Board of Governors under Kulkarni's chairmanship.

Kulkarni's continuation as chairman has itself become contentious. The chairpersons of about a dozen IIMs, including IIM Calcutta, completed their regular terms in 2022. Before those terms ended, the ministry of education directed the IIMs to extend their chairpersons' tenures by one year while it developed procedures for forming Search-cum-Selection Committees for new appointments.

Raju Bista meets Gadkari to share hill problems

MI News Service, Darjeeling: BJP Darjeeling MP Raju Bista has sought information from hill residents about the condition of roads and the status of implementation of the "Har Ghar Jal" (drinking water scheme) in their areas through online mode so that the problems can be properly recorded and the necessary follow-up can be done. The legislator, who has visited different locations of his Lok Sabha constituency in recent weeks, has mentioned that he has found during his visits that people are facing two major problems: damaged roads and incomplete water supply projects.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Shawkat Ali**, S/O- Sekh Sadek Ali, residing at Vill- Balikukhari, P.O- Harit, P.S- Dadpur, Dist- Hooghly have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as **Sekh Shaokat Ali** as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate, Judges Court, Hooghly, vide affidavit no- 9698, dated- 08/10/2025. **Shawkat Ali** and **Sekh Shaokat Ali** both are same and identical person.

Metro Railway Organises Sit And Draw Competition As Part Of Vigilance Awareness Week

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : Metro Railway has been observing 'Vigilance Awareness Week' from 27th October to 2nd November, 2025. This year's theme of the week is "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility". Various programmes are being organised during the week as part of spreading awareness against the corrupt practices.

As a part of it, a Sit & Draw Competition on the



Theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility" was organized on 01.11.2025 at Metro Railway Officer's Club

at Tollygunge. Children of Metro staff studying in class 4 to 12 took part in this competition.

Kolkata sees massive EV surge

MI News Service, Kolkata: The city of Kolkata in recent years has been experiencing massive surge in E- Vehicles. The latest in the fray of EV came through recent launch of BLive EZY, India's leading e-mobility platform. The company plans to deploy 5,000 electric 2W and 3W vehicles (EVs) over the next 36 months, marking a major step toward sustainable & carbon-free deliveries in Kolkata.

The model offers investors a profitable business opportunity — BLive manages end-to-end operations, including deployment, maintenance and rider management — allowing franchise partners to earn 2X return on their investment within 48 months, right from the comfort of their homes. The entire fleet operation is efficiently managed on BLive's AI-powered 'Smart Fleet' tech platform, allowing vehicle tracking, digital rider onboarding, and digital payments & real-time vehicle data.

"Kolkata represents the next big leap in India's EV growth story," said Sandeep Mukherjee, CEO & Co-Founder, BLive.

Same Day Issuance Of Birth Certificates And Aadhaar Enrolment For Newborns By Ser's Divisional Hospital Chakradharpur

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : A landmark achievement of same-day issue of Birth Certificate and Aadhaar Enrolment for Newborns delivered today at Divisional Railway Hospital, Chakradharpur has been achieved.

This milestone of same-day issuance of birth certificates and Aadhaar enrolment for newborns has been achieved for the first time in any hospital across the State of Jharkhand, as well as for the first time in any Railway Hospital under South Eastern Railway. With this system in place, parents will no longer



need to apply separately for their newborn's birth certificate and Aadhaar card as both documents will now be provided along with the discharge certificate of the newborn. This has been made possible through the coordinated efforts of Chakradharpur Division, in collaboration with UIDAI and the District Collector, West Singhbhum, Jharkhand.

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
আমার মজেলদান ১) দিল্লী মণ্ডল, স্বামী- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ২) ভারত জ্যোতি মণ্ডল, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৩) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৪) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৫) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৬) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৭) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৮) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ৯) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১০) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১১) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১২) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৩) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৪) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৫) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৬) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৭) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৮) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ১৯) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ২০) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ২১) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- স্বপন কুমার মণ্ডল, ২২) অজিত কুমার জালা, পিতা- 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ODISHA to operationalise National Waterway-5 & 64

MI News Service, Puri: Odisha will develop and operationalise National Waterway-5 and National Waterway-64 to facilitate seamless transportation of coal and other bulk cargo from the Talcher coalfields to Paradip and Dhamra ports through inland waterways. The waterways will be developed with an estimated investment of ₹12,200 crore. Once operational, coal, minerals and steel from Angul and neighbouring industrial zones can be transported more efficiently.

National Waterway-64 on the Mahanadi, considered the lifeline of Odisha, stretches from Paradip to Cuttack, while National Waterway-5 connects Talcher and Dhamra via the Brahmani, Matai, East Coast Canal and Mahanadi delta. The system is expected to significantly reduce pressure on road transport, officials said. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on Tuesday during India Maritime 2025 in Mumbai among the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWA), the Odisha government, Paradip Port Authority (PPA) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL). The MoU was signed in the presence of Union ministers Kiren Rijiju and Shantanu Thakur. Odisha commerce and transport secretary Usha Padhee said: "This agreement marks a major step toward harnessing Odisha's riverine system for sustainable freight movement. It will cut logistics costs, decongest road and rail networks, and promote green transport, aligning with Viksit Bharat @2047."

The project will be executed through a special purpose vehicle — Inland Waterways Consortium of Odisha Limited (IWCOL). IWA will prepare project proposals, secure clearances and build terminals, barges and navigation systems. The state will provide land and approvals, MCL will ensure cargo movement and PPA will promote cargo handling.

SC raps Odisha govt for failing to recover illegal mining dues

MI News Service, Cuttack: The Supreme Court's displeasure over the Odisha government's failure to recover over ₹2,700 crore from mining leaseholders for extracting minerals beyond permissible limits and violating environmental norms has given the Opposition and environmentalists fresh ammunition to target the Mohan Charan Majhi government. They accused the government of shielding mine owners at the cost of the state exchequer.

Senior Congress leader and former Union minister Srikanth Jena said: "Both the BJP and the previous BJD government are hand in glove with these mining operators. The Justice M.B. Shah Commission had recommended the strongest action against these looters, but successive governments have ignored its findings and even the Supreme Court's direction. The defaulting mining operators should be asked to deposit the fine money with interest immediately, or their operations should be stopped." Senior CPM leader Janardan Pati said: "Earlier, the BJD government protected mine owners. Now the Majhi government is following suit. They are two steps ahead of the BJD and have quickly handed over mines to industrialists of their choice. The Majhi government is acting on the Centre's directions."

He added: "The government must make a public statement on how it plans to recover fines imposed on leaseholders." On Wednesday, the Supreme Court rebuked the Odisha government for its slow pace in recovering dues from defaulting mining leaseholders accused of illegal extraction of iron and manganese ore in Keonjhar, Mandargarh and Mayurbhanj districts without environment clearance.



President Droupadi Murmu being received by Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on her arrival in Dehradun. State Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.) was also present.

Gadkari launches QR code on highways

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union minister for road transport and highways Nitin Gadkari has directed the installation of QR codes on all national highway projects across India, enabling citizens to access real-time project information and contact details of those responsible for each road stretch.

"Why should I alone get blamed? The QR code will display who the contractor, consultant, and officials are," Gadkari said, adding that the system decentralises accountability and promotes diligent performance. The initiative aims to improve transparency and accountability in highway construction and maintenance. Commuters will be able to scan QR codes displayed on infor-



mation boards along highways to view details such as contractor names, project costs, deadlines, and funding sources. Emergency helplines will also be included.

Gadkari said the move follows persistent public demand for clar-

ity over the quality of roads and infrastructure spending. The push gained momentum after Bengaluru entrepreneur Anuradha Tiwari's viral post questioned why consumers can trace a product's maker but not road project details. To enhance transparency further, the ministry has asked the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and project developers to share construction progress videos on YouTube. Officials said drone footage already captured during construction can be used for this purpose. Road transport secretary V. Umashankar said that feedback from YouTube and social media would be incorporated into project monitoring. "We get valuable insights from videos uploaded by independent users," he noted.

Gadkari reiterated that all road development must be "people-centric", focusing on comfort, safety, and sustainability. He said the ministry's annual toll revenue, currently around Rs 55,000 crore, could rise to Rs 1.4 lakh crore within two years, driven by upgraded road infrastructure and logistics efficiency. The minister added that 25,000 km of highways are being upgraded to four lanes under a Rs 2 lakh crore plan, with a focus on linking major ports and religious tourism circuits. Environmental balance remains a key concern, he said, citing the transplantation of 8,500 trees along the Dwarka Expressway. "Every rupee invested in infrastructure generates three rupees of economic growth," Gadkari said.

IIT student builds world's first speech-to-speech AI Model



Launched under his startup Pixa AI, Luna AI directly processes audio to generate human-like speech instead of converting it to text and back, resulting in faster, more expressive, and emotionally aware conversations

MI News Service, Jaipur: Jaipur-based 25-year-old founder Sparsh Agrawal has unveiled one of the first speech-to-speech foundational AI models that can sing, whisper, pause, and respond with emotional intelligence -- all developed without big-tech infrastructure or venture capital funding. Launched under his startup Pixa AI, Luna AI directly processes audio to generate human-like speech instead of converting it to text and back, resulting in faster, more expressive, and emotionally aware conversations.

The system's architecture allows it to whisper, modulate tone, and even sing -- creating an experience that feels more human than machine, Agrawal said. He recently met with Union IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and got appreciation from industry leaders for his achievement. "Where is India's AI? Every WhatsApp group, every conference hallway, every founder call asks the same question. Today, we're sharing the answer. Meet Luna, world's first speech-to-speech foundational AI model to unify audio, music and speech," Agrawal posted on X after launching the model. Benchmark results show Luna outperforming leading global systems such as OpenAI's GPT-4 TTS and ElevenLabs, with 50 per cent lower la-

tency and greater naturalness in speech output. "I didn't have a research lab or a USD 100 million runway," Agrawal said. "I borrowed GPUs, cloud credits, and even took on credit card debt to build Luna. This is proof that world-class technology can come from India -- built with resourcefulness, not just resources." Agrawal is an IIT-BHU graduate. His other teammates are Nitish Kartik, Apoorv Singh and Pratyush Kumar. Backed by investors including Kunal Shah, Kunal Kapoor, and Nikhil Kamath, Pixa AI aims to make Luna the "voice layer" for global entertainment, wellness, and automotive ecosystems. Early demand has already emerged from automakers, gaming platforms, and consumer AI companies. "While most voice models are built for customer support, Luna is built for emotion," Agrawal said. "It's not just about responding -- it's about feeling." HCL co-founder Padma Bhushan awardee Ajai Chowdhry posted on X on this achievement. "Sparsh has created an amazing product.. India's first!", Chowdhry said.

Sudarshan Kamath, a known figure in voice AI research and founder of smallest.ai, said, "Truly amazing deep tech founders building silently from India!"



Indian Navy's GSAT-7R (CMS-03) communication satellite ahead of its launch by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Over 1.7 million deaths in India linked to air pollution: REPORTS

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Lancet Countdown on health and climate change, which works in coordination with the World Health Organisation, has released a report that says more than 1.7 million people died in India in 2022 because of exposure to PM 2.5, the ultra-fine particulate pollutant that can seep into the deeper crevices of the lungs and trigger a range of diseases. The figure shows a sharp increase compared to the values recorded 12 years ago.

A senior Union environment department official, when asked about the figure, forwarded a recent Union environment ministry post on X that rebutted a social media claim of around 2 million deaths linked to air pollution in the country. The Lancet report, released at midnight London time on Tuesday, has been prepared by 128 experts from 71 academic institutions and UN agencies, to which the WHO is a strategic partner. The report also states that in 2024, the world faced "a record-high number of heat-wave days", with more than 300 per cent rise compared to two decades ago. "The report showed that 13 out of 20

indicators tracking health threats have reached unprecedented levels," said Mariana Romanello, an executive director of Lancet Countdown and a lead author of the report. The official said that heat-related deaths had surged by 23 per cent. The trend is pronounced here as well, with every Indian, on average, having faced nearly 20 days of heat wave during 2024, about one-third of which could be attributed directly to climate change. The deaths from air pollution, however, remain the key concern. "There were over 1,718,000 deaths attributable to anthropogenic air pollution (PM 2.5) in 2022 in India, an increase of 38% since 2010," the report says. The report pointed out that "fossil fuels (coal and liquid gas) contributed to 752,000 (44%) of these deaths in 2022, while coal accounted for 394,000 deaths, primarily from its use in power plants (298,000 deaths)", adding that "use of petrol for road transportation contributed to 269,000". The report has found that burning of fossil fuels, particularly by cars and in thermal power plants, played a key role in triggering the deaths from air pollution.

Expelling infiltrators must to save our culture & nation: MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: India must pledge to expel each infiltrator and safeguard the nation's borders and demography, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said. "Due to Congress party's weak policies, a part of Kashmir fell into Pakistan's illegal occupation," Modi said. "We must now pledge to expel each infiltrator and safeguard the nation's borders and demography."

Modi's comments come weeks after he warned of a "demographic change" caused by "infiltrators" while addressing the 100th anniversary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) earlier in October. Then, he had said India's unity in diversity was "under threat from infiltrators causing a demographic shift," calling it a "risk to social harmony and internal security."

"If this strength is broken, India will weaken," he

had said during that address, linking the issue to his Independence Day speech, in which he announced a "Demographic Mission" aimed at protecting Indian citizens from infiltrators "snatching the livelihood of youth and targeting our sisters and daughters".

Earlier this month, Union home minister Amit Shah, speaking at the Narendra Mohan Memorial Lecture in New Delhi, cited census data from 1951 to 2011 to argue that infiltration, not fertility, had driven demographic changes. Shah said infiltration from neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh had significantly altered border demographics, but stressed that India's constitutional framework ensured religious freedom and refuge to persecuted minorities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Christians.

Azharuddin enters Reddy's cabinet



MI News Service, Hyderabad: Congress leader and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin was sworn in as a minister in Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy's cabinet. In a simple function held at Raj Bhavan, Governor Jishnu Dev Verma administered the oaths to the former Indian skipper in the presence of important leaders, including the CM.

With the inclusion of Azharuddin, the total strength of the cabinet rose to 16, with room for two more. As per the Assembly strength, Telangana can have 18 ministers. The former cricketer's appointment to the ministry is seen as a

crucial step as the Congress party has been fighting tooth and nail in the Jubilee Hills bypoll, where over a lakh Muslim voters could play a decisive role. The bypoll is necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June this year, following a heart attack. Azharuddin was nominated as a Member of the Legislative Council (MLC) under the Governor's quota by the Telangana government in August last week. However, Governor Jishnu Dev Varma is yet to clear the appointment. Azharuddin unsuccessfully contested from the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency in the 2023 polls.

Kolkata riverfront to have retail & office hub

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata port has awarded a four-acre plot on Strand Road to Srijan Realty to build retail and office space as part of a broader plan to transform the Hooghly riverfront on both banks. Srijan will hold a 60-year lease on the plot, near the erstwhile Armenian warehouse, where an 800,000sqft project will come up at an investment of ₹350 crore. The developer intends to complete the project in four years.

The plot is one of at least 10 projects that the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, formerly Kolkata Port Trust, is tendering out for the redevelopment of both banks of the river, port deputy chairman Samrat Rahi told. "We have already selected bidders for six land parcels, equally split on the Calcutta and Howrah sides, while the tender process is on for the rest," Rahi said from Mumbai, venue of the India Maritime Week where Kolkata port has signed agreements for multiple projects. "The port is looking at a few more land parcels that can be leased out. Once they come up, the riverfront in Calcutta and Howrah will change comprehensively for the better."

The port has chosen the Kolkata-based Eden Group to build a convention centre at Timber Pond on Fore-shore Road, Howrah. Keshav Agarwal, a director with Srijan, said the devel-

oper hoped to come up with a design that reflected the storied past of Strand Road, which was a key trading hub in British India.

"We will have retail space, food and beverage outlets, banquets, and public space in the project," Agarwal said. Kolkata has struggled to capitalise on its waterfront at a time when riverfronts in most big cities around the world have become prized locations for commercial, retail and residential development. Most of Kolkata's riverbank area is now filled with filth and occupied by encroachers, barring places such as Millennium Park.

One key reason, town planners say, is a lack of coordination among the multiple authorities whose involvement is necessary for any redevelopment of the waterfront. While the port owns the land parcels on both banks, commercial development requires approvals from several state government departments and agencies, including civic authorities. "I hope the port is looking at comprehensive development on either side of the river and not letting out vacant plots on a piecemeal basis," architect Abin Chaudhury said. What the city needs, he said, is "a master plan that maintains the homogeneity of the different projects". Prof. Manish Chakraborty, architect, urban planner and heritage expert, agreed.

Kidney stone risk is lowered by a class of diabetes medications: Study

LOS ANGELES [US] : Kidney stones are becoming increasingly common around the world. Type 2 diabetes is related to an increased risk of kidney stones; however, various forms of treatment for this condition may potentially reduce the risk of kidney stones.

Researchers at Mass General Brigham discovered that using sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors was associated with a decreased chance of acquiring kidney stones.

The findings were published in JAMA Internal Medicine.


The study included data from three nationwide databases of patients with type 2 diabetes who were seen in routine clinical practice. The team analyzed information from 716,406 adults with type 2 diabetes who had started taking an SGLT2 inhibitor or two other classes of diabetes medications known as GLP1 receptor agonists or dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) inhibitors.

Patients who began taking SGLT2 inhibitors had a 30 per cent lower risk of developing kidney stones than those taking GLP1 agonists and about a 25 per cent lower risk than those taking DPP4 inhibitors.

Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, founding members of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, worked together to conduct the analysis.

The findings were consistent across sex, race/ethnicity, history of chronic kidney disease and obesity.

"Our findings could help inform clinical decision-making for patients with diabetes who are at risk for developing kidney stones," said corresponding author Julie Paik, MD, ScD, MPH, of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics and the Division of Renal (Kidney) Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



Škoda Auto India hits all-time high annual sales within 10 months of 2025

Also records best-ever monthly sales in October

- * Sold 61,607 cars from January to October 2025
- * Beats its previous annual record of 53,721 cars sold in CY 2022
- * Sold 8,252 units, its highest-ever monthly sales in October 2025

Patna : The year 2025 is a landmark year for Škoda Auto India, as it marks 25 years in the country. In October 2025, the brand crossed yet another milestone by achieving its highest-ever sales in the country. Between January and October 2025, Škoda Auto India sold 61,607 cars. Adding to this strong performance, which already included its best-ever quarterly and half-yearly sales, the brand has now recorded its highest-ever monthly sales as well, with 8,252 cars sold in October 2025.

The growth is driven by Škoda Auto India's first-ever sub-4m SUV, the Kylaq, with steady demand for the Kodiaq, Škoda's flagship luxury 4x4, sustained contributions from the Kushaq and Slavia, and the high-performance Škoda Octavia RS getting sold out within 20 minutes.

Commenting on the landmark sales, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "We began the year 2025 with the intent to significantly strengthen the brand and surge ahead in India. This milestone of our "biggest sales ever" is a testament to the strength of purpose, clarity of vision and agility of execution, all of which are pivotal to our surge in India. Our product offensive, culturally relevant communication, network expansion to 318 Customer Touchpoints, and increased presence in new geographic regions, are other landmarks that have fuelled our 25th anniversary to be our biggest year in India."

Being Relevant Škoda Auto India's biggest year has been anchored by its product offensive and network expansion strategy. Kylaq sales have reached close to 40,000 units since its launch this year. Limited editions of the Kushaq and Slavia further enhanced the value proposition, while the flagship 4x4 Kodiaq upped the luxury quotient. Enthusiasts' had their



appetite for performance whetted with the iconic Octavia RS.

Škoda has now achieved a milestone of selling over 200,000 locally produced cars - Slavia, Kushaq, and Kylaq, with a reach of 318 Customer Touchpoints across 180 cities. With the Kylaq, Kushaq, and Kodiaq, Škoda now has an SUV for every aspiration, while continuing its sedan legacy with the Slavia and the return of the Octavia RS.

Driving Differentiation In parallel, the brand has focused on building a unique voice through purposeful storytelling and meaningful narratives. India is also the first market for Škoda Auto globally to complete 100% rebranding of its entire network with the updated Corporate Identity and Design. The popular 'I love my Doda' campaign highlighted the brand's 'Fans, not Owners' ethos by putting Škoda customers at the heart of the story.

Enhancing Trust Škoda Auto India continues to strengthen confidence through its focus on customers and service excellence. The brand plans to increase the total sales and aftersales workforce at its dealers by 50% to 7,500+ by the end of 2025, alongside an investment of over 25,000 training days to further enhance aftersales quality and customer satisfaction. This commitment to enhancing trust and building a community was also reflected in the Fans of Škoda initiative, where over 60 fans drove 28 Škoda cars to set a record of the largest convoy to reach Umling La at 19,024 ft, recognised by the India and Asia Book of Records.

India delivers over 16 tonnes of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat vector-borne diseases

Kabul : India has delivered over 16 tonnes of medicines to Afghanistan to help combat vector-borne diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis, a Taliban spokesperson announced on Sunday.

Taliban spokesperson Sharafat Zaman stated that the medicines and diagnostic kits will support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Programme. He noted that supplies sent by India will help enhance Afghanistan's capacity to combat diseases like malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis. In a post on X, Zaman stated: "India Donates over 16 Tonnes of Anti-Vector Borne Disease Medicines to Afghanistan. The government of India has extended a significant gesture of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan by gifting over 16 tonnes of anti-vector-borne disease medicines and diagnostic kits to the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH). This donation is part of India's continued commitment to supporting the health sector in Afghanistan and strengthening bilateral cooperation in public health and disease prevention." "The medicines and diagnostic kits will directly support Afghanistan's National Malaria and Other Vector-Borne Diseases Prevention Programme. The supplies are aimed at enhancing the country's capacity to combat diseases such as malaria, dengue, and leishmaniasis, which continue to pose serious public health challenges across several regions of Afghanistan," he added. Zaman said that Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health expressed appreciation for the Indian government's timely and valuable assistance. "The Ministry noted that these medicines and diagnostic kits represent a crucial step toward improving public health infrastructure and ensuring effective disease control, especially in vulnerable and high-risk communities. This latest donation underscores India's longstanding partnership and developmental support to Afghanistan. By contributing essential medical supplies, India reaffirms its role as a reliable partner in promoting health, stability, and humanitarian cooperation in the region," he added.

India's medical assistance to Kabul comes after the recent visit of Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Mawlawi Amir Khan



'Mama's gift': Nutritious diet for infants in Manipur relief camps

Imphal : Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla on Saturday extended financial assistance to the Manipur State Rural Livelihoods Mission (MSRLM) to strengthen the development and distribution of "Mama's Gift", officials said. A Raj Bhavan official said that "Mama's Gift" is a locally prepared nutritional supplement designed to meet the needs of ethnic violence-hit displaced children aged nine months and above. Developed under the technical guidance of doctors and nutritionists from the National Health Mission (NHM), Manipur, "Mama's Gift" is prepared by the Lamyambi Village Level Federation (VLF), Khurai, under the MSRLM. The initiative has so far benefited over 1,000 children in relief camps across nine districts, including Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur, Thoubal, Jiribam, Kakching, Tengnoupal, and Kangpokpi. The Governor lauded the collective effort behind the initiative, describing "Mama's Gift" as a symbol of community care and resilience. He noted that the contribution from Raj Bhavan, Imphal, is a humble gesture to support the well-being of children and to encourage continued compassion in action. Another official said that in an endeavour to fulfil the nutritious dietary requirements of infants, particularly of those who are currently lodged at the relief camps of displaced persons of violence-hit Manipur, the MSRLM, under the department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, launched "Mama's Gift", a complementary food for infants, in June 2023. Mama's Nutrimix is a ready-to-eat complementary food with high calorific value for infants, the official said.

Lakshadweep woman diagnosed with amoebic meningoencephalitis in Kerala's Kochi

Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala's Kochi has reported its first case of amoebic meningoencephalitis, a rare but potentially fatal brain infection, after a 25-year-old woman from Lakshadweep tested positive for the disease. The patient, who resides in a hostel in the city, is currently under treatment at a private hospital and is said to be in stable condition.

According to health officials, the woman was admitted with symptoms of fever and headache. Initial diagnostic tests for amoebic encephalitis returned negative, but a third wet-mount microscopic examination confirmed the presence of the amoeba.

"She is totally stable and recovering well. We understand she had recently visited a resort, but the exact timeline is being verified to determine the incubation period," a Health Department official said. This case comes amid rising concern over the spread of the infection across Kerala. So far this year, the state has recorded 153 cases and 33 deaths attributed to amoebic meningoencephalitis.

The most recent fatality was a 65-year-old woman from Palathara in Kollam district.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is currently conducting a detailed study on the disease in Kerala, focusing on identifying sources and patterns of transmission. Surveys are being carried out across four districts - Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thiruvananthapuram, and Kollam. In October alone, 65 new cases were confirmed, indicating a worrying rise in infections. Health officials have warned that the infection, caused by free-living amoebae commonly found in contaminated water sources such as ponds and lakes, can enter the body through open wounds or the nasal passage.

The state Health Department recently revised its public health advisory, warning elderly and immunocompromised individuals against washing wounds or feet in contaminated water.

Investigations into recent cases revealed that several patients had cleaned wounds using pond water. A related study on pathogenic and opportunistic amoebae found that multiple Acanthamoeba species have been isolated from infected individuals' brains, lungs, skin, and corneas. While the exact environmental source in the latest Kochi case remains under investigation, officials have urged the public to exercise caution and maintain strict personal hygiene, especially while handling untreated water sources during the post-monsoon period.

Leprosy now a 'notifiable disease' in Maharashtra

New Delhi : In a major boost to fight leprosy, the Maharashtra government on Saturday declared that the chronic infectious condition is a "notifiable disease".

The mandate will help curb the spread of leprosy and ensure early treatment for the patients.

As per the new directive, every diagnosed case must be notified within two weeks to the respective District Health Office, Assistant Director (Health Services - Leprosy), and local municipal health authorities.

Leprosy, or Hansen's disease, is a chronic infectious disease caused by Mycobacterium leprae bacteria. Symptoms include discoloured skin patches, lack of ability to feel touch, pressure, pain, muscle weakness, deformities, particularly in hands, feet, and face, and the inability to close eyes and poor vision.

Despite being completely curable, fear, stigma, and misconceptions have prevented people from seeking proper treatment.

The Health Department emphasised that early detection and complete treatment are crucial to preventing deformities and disabilities among patients.

The state has also set an ambitious target of achieving a "Leprosy-Free Maharashtra by 2027."

The target includes breaking the chain of infection, reducing disease transmission to zero, eliminating deformities in children, and eradicating social discrimination against those affected. To achieve this, health authorities directed all doctors, both in public and private sectors, along with pathologists, microbiologists, healthcare workers, and field officers, to ensure proper treatment and follow-up. They have also asked to administer Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) to close contacts of patients. As of September 2025, Maharashtra recorded 7,863 new leprosy cases, with 13,010 patients currently under treatment. Notably, health officials in the state appealed to the public not to panic, emphasising that leprosy is entirely curable if diagnosed and treated on time. Citizens have been encouraged to visit their nearest health centre immediately if any symptoms appear.

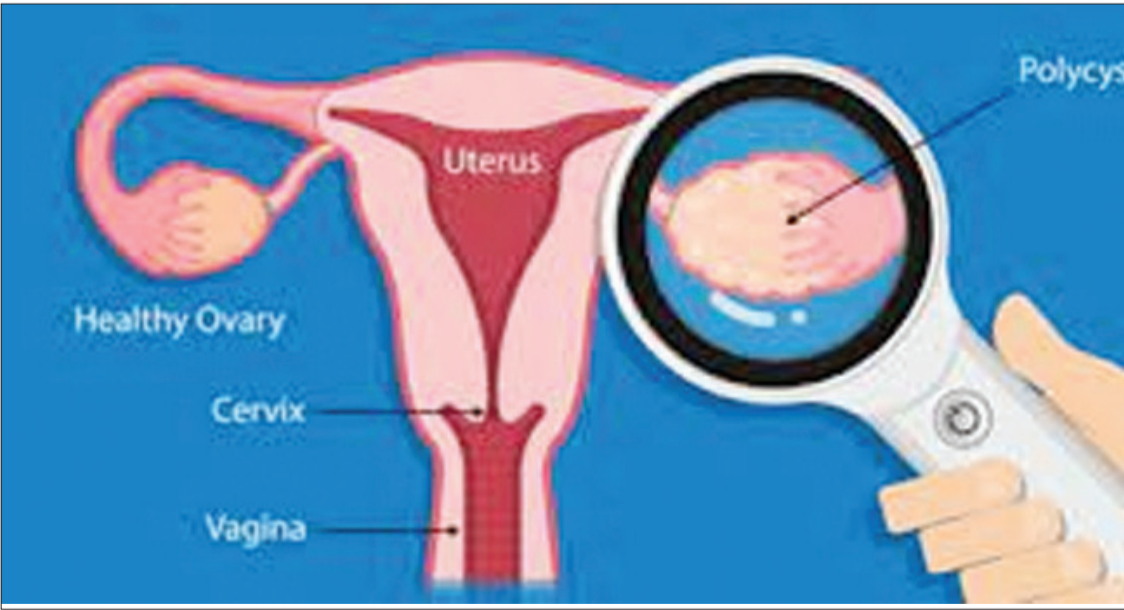
Polycystic ovary syndrome linked to memory, thinking problems: Research

WASHINGTON [US] : According to research published in the online edition of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, people with polycystic ovary syndrome may be more prone to experience memory and cognitive issues in middle age. The study does not establish a link between cognitive deterioration and polycystic ovarian syndrome. It merely displays a correlation.

Polycystic ovary syndrome is a hormonal disorder that is defined by irregular menstruation and elevated levels of a hormone called androgen. Other symptoms may include excess hair growth, acne, infertility and poor metabolic health.

"Polycystic ovary syndrome is a common reproductive disorder that impacts up to 10% of women," said study author Heather G. Huddleston, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco. "While it has been linked to metabolic diseases like obesity and diabetes that can lead to heart problems, less is known about how this condition affects brain health. Our results suggest that people with this condition have lower memory and thinking skills and subtle brain changes at midlife. This could impact a person on many levels, including quality of life, career success and financial security."

The study involved 907 female participants who were 18 to 30 years old at the start of the study. They were followed for 30 years, at which time they completed tests to



measure memory, verbal abilities, processing speed and attention.

At the time of testing, 66 participants had polycystic ovary syndrome. In a test measuring attention, participants looked at a list of words in different colors and were asked to state the color of the ink rather than read the actual word. For example, the word "blue" could be displayed in red, so the correct response would be red.

Researchers found for this test, people with polycystic ovary syndrome had an average score that was approximately 11% lower compared to people without the condition. After adjusting for age, race and education, researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower scores on three of the five tests that were given, specifically in areas of memory, attention and verbal abilities, when compared to those without this condition. At years 25 and 30 of the study, a smaller group of 291 participants had brain scans. Of those, 25 had polycystic ovary syndrome. With the scans, researchers looked at the integrity of the white matter pathways in the brain by looking at movement of water molecules in the brain tissue.

Researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower white matter integrity, which may indicate early evidence of brain aging.

"Additional research is needed to confirm these findings and to determine how this change occurs, including looking at changes that people can make to reduce their chances of thinking and memory

problems," Huddleston said.

"Making changes like incorporating more cardiovascular exercise and improving mental health may serve to also improve brain aging for this population."

A limitation of the study was that polycystic ovary syndrome diagnosis was not made by a doctor but was based on androgen levels and self-reported symptoms, so participants may not have remembered all the information accurately.

The study was funded by the University of California, San Francisco.

Learn more about brain health at BrainandLife.org, home of the American Academy of Neurology's free patient and caregiver magazine focused on the intersection of neurologic disease and brain health.

When posting to social media channels about this research, we encourage you to use the hashtags #Neurology and #AANscience.

The American Academy of Neurology is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, migraine, multiple sclerosis, concussion, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

Israeli air strike kills four in Lebanon, straining fragile ceasefire

MI News Service, Beirut : An Israeli air strike has killed at least four people in southern Lebanon, according to the country's Ministry of Public Health, in an attack that put more pressure on a nearly year-long truce with Hezbollah.

In a statement on Saturday, the Lebanese Health Ministry said the Israeli attack in the town of Kfarsir in the Nabatieh district also wounded three.

The state-run Lebanon News Agency reported that the strike, which involved a "guided missile", targeted a car at about 2:15pm (16:15 GMT).

The attack came a day after Lebanese President Joseph Aoun accused Israel of escalating strikes in response to his offer to negotiate a more lasting end to the cross-border attacks.

The conflict began in 2023 when Hezbollah began launching attacks on Israel in solidarity with



Palestinians in Gaza, in the wake of the Hamas-led October 7 attacks on southern Israel. After more than a year of fighting, the two sides agreed to a ceasefire in November 2024.

Despite the truce, Israel has kept troops in five areas of southern Lebanon and has continued near-daily air raids, repeatedly violating the truce. Israel claims it is targeting Hezbollah, but civilians, first responders and journalists have also been killed.

According to the United Nations, Israeli forces have killed at least 111 civilians in Lebanon since the ceasefire went into effect.

Aoun, who called for negotiations with Israel in mid-October, after United States President Donald Trump brokered a ceasefire, said his proposed talks seek to "end the Israeli occupation".

For its part, Israel has claimed Lebanon's government has not upheld its side of the ceasefire by

failing to constrain and disarm Hezbollah.

The armed group rejects the pressure for it to disarm.

In another sign of heightening tensions, Aoun earlier this week instructed Lebanon's armed forces to confront any new Israeli incursion in the south.

The order came hours after Israeli soldiers entered the border town of Blida.

They stormed the town hall, killing municipal worker Ibrahim Salameh, who had been sleeping there, the state-owned National News Agency (NNA) said.

Israel's military said the operation was meant to destroy Hezbollah infrastructure, saying that soldiers had opened fire in response to an "immediate threat".

They did not provide further details or evidence behind the killing.

Hamas continues search for captives' remains as Israel blocks aid

MI News Service, Tel Aviv : Israel has only allowed a fraction of the aid deliveries agreed on as part of the US-brokered ceasefire – an average of 145 trucks per day instead of the 600 it pledged to allow into the besieged Gaza Strip.

An Israeli strike on southern Lebanon has killed four people as Israel's ramped-up attacks raise fears for a nearly yearlong truce with Hezbollah. Ministers from Arab and Muslim nations will meet in Istanbul on Monday to discuss the next steps in moving the Gaza truce forward, including the deployment of troops for an international stabilisation force.

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 68,858 people and wounded 170,664 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 were taken captive.

Iran's president pledges full support for "peaceful" nuclear industry

MI News Service, Tehran: Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Sunday his government is fully committed to supporting the development of the country's "peaceful" nuclear program, according to a statement from his office.

Pezeshkian reiterated that Iran's nuclear program is intended to meet domestic needs and improve living standards, not to develop weapons. He said Iran's nuclear activities have been the target of "negative and biased propaganda" aimed at convincing the public that nuclear energy is synonymous with atomic weapons.

The president said his administration will "strongly back the progress and ex-

pansion" of Iran's nuclear capacities, so Iran's nuclear industry can gain a bigger share of the global market.

He said Iran should accelerate the production of radiopharmaceuticals and the development of modern medical technologies, describing them as essential. "Colonial powers are trying to prevent independent nations, including Iran, from acquiring advanced technologies," he added. Western governments have long accused Iran of seeking to build nuclear weapons. Tehran denies the charge, saying its nuclear program is peaceful and focused on power generation and medical uses.

Reopened Waqf case intensifies harassment of IMC leader Dr. Nafees in Bareilly

MI News Service, Bareilly : The woes of Dr Nafees, a key ally of Ittehad-e-Millat Council (IMC) president Maulana Tauqeer Raza, have escalated as Bareilly Police revive a closed Waqf property dispute case. This follows his arrest linked to the September 26 violence during the 'I Love Muhammad' procession.

Sources reveal the police reopened a complaint

by Sajda Begum, accusing Dr Nafees's sons—Noman and Farhan—along with three others of illegally occupying Waqf land. Filed at Qila police station, the case was previously dismissed as "baseless" in a final report. However, Sajda's recent appeal via the SSP's confidential helpline prompted a fresh probe ordered by the Circle Officer.

Hamas rejects U.S. accusations of looting humanitarian aid

MI News Service, Gaza: Hamas on Sunday rejected U.S. accusations that its members looted humanitarian aid bound for the Gaza Strip, calling the claims false and politically motivated.

"We strongly condemn the false accusations made by U.S. Central Command regarding the alleged looting of an aid truck," Hamas said in a statement. It described the U.S. allegations as "baseless and unjustified," accusing Washington of trying to justify "further reductions of already limited humanitarian aid."

Hamas said no international or local aid agencies, nor any drivers working with convoys, had reported such an incident.

"The continued U.S. adoption of the Israeli narrative only deepens its immoral bias and makes it a partner in the blockade and the suffering of the Palestinian people," the group said.

U.S. Central Command said Saturday that a U.S. drone had observed suspected Hamas operatives seizing an aid truck from a convoy in southern Gaza. CENTCOM said the truck was part of a humanitarian convoy carrying supplies provided by Israel and that the driver's fate remained unknown.

Hamas said the image released by CENTCOM was fabricated.

Excellent Work Done By RPF Of Eastern Railway

Swift action under "Operation Aahat" and "Operation Nanhey Faristey"

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway continues its unwavering commitment to ensuring passenger safety and protecting vulnerable persons across its jurisdiction. On 01.11.2025, RPF personnel displayed exemplary vigilance and dedication by successfully detecting a case of human trafficking and rescuing a minor girl in two separate incidents.

1. Detection of Human Trafficking under "Operation Aahat".

On 01.11.2025, RPF officials of RPF Post/Bandel under Howrah Division, Eastern Railway, acting promptly under "Operation Aahat", rescued one minor girl and arrested one female trafficker from Bandel Railway Station. The rescued child and the arrested accused were handed over to GRPS/Bandel. A case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act has



been registered against the accused, identified as Mamoni @ Mimi Mandal.

2. Rescue of Minor under "Operation Nanhey Faristey".

In another commendable effort on the same day, under "Operation Nanhey Faristey", RPF officials of Asansol West Post under Asansol Division rescued one minor girl found wandering in Train No. 12301 UP Rajdhani Express at Asansol Railway Station. The rescued

girl was safely handed over to the concerned Child Help Line for necessary care and counselling.

The dedicated and timely actions of RPF officials once again demonstrate their commitment to curbing human trafficking and safeguarding children in distress. Eastern Railway commends the vigilant efforts of its RPF personnel in ensuring passenger safety and upholding humanitarian values across the railway network.

At least 22 killed in store explosion in northern Mexico

MI News Service, Mexico city: At least 22 people were killed after an explosion triggered a fire at a department store in Hermosillo, capital of the northern Mexican state of Sonora, local media reported Saturday. The explosion occurred in the afternoon at a chain department store in the city center, according to the reports. Witnesses said the fire quickly spread through the building and nearby vehicles, trapping several people inside. Rescue teams rushed to the scene to conduct search-and-rescue operations and transport the injured

to local hospitals. Preliminary investigations suggest that the fire may have been caused by smoke from a malfunctioning transformer. Authorities in Sonora said the possibility of a terrorist attack has been ruled out. People gather near the site of a fire-damaged chain department store in Hermosillo, Sonora state, northern Mexico, on Nov. 1, 2025. At least 22 people were killed after an explosion triggered a fire at a department store in Hermosillo, capital of the northern Mexican state of Sonora, local media reported Saturday.

Tejashwi confident of forming next govt in Bihar, declares swearing-in date

MI News Service, Patna : INDIA bloc Chief Ministerial candidate Tejashwi Yadav on Sunday asserted that the opposition coalition was certain to form the next government in Bihar, and the swearing-in will take place four days after the results of assembly polls are declared.

"On November 14, the results of the Bihar assembly polls will be declared, and on November 18, swearing-in will take place", the RJD leader told reporters here. He made the remark while reacting to the arrest of Anant Singh, former Mokama MLA, who is in the fray as the candidate of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's JD(U). "It was bound to happen, such a serious incident had taken place", said Yadav, referring to the arrest of Singh, in connection with the

killing of Dular Chand Yadav, who was supporting Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party in that area. The young leader added, "Today, the Prime Minister is visiting Bihar. He should take note of the situation in the state where not a day passes without some heinous crime taking place. But this will change as soon as the Mahagathabandhan (the name by which INDIA bloc is known in Bihar) forms government".

"On November 14, the results of assembly polls will be out, followed by swearing in on November 18. Between November 26 and January 26, which includes a month-long kharmaas period, Tejashwi will ensure that all criminals, irrespective of their caste and religion, are in jail and face the strictest possible action", said Yadav.

Special Camps To Facilitate Commuters For Recharging Smart Cards Online And Promote Upi Payment-Based Ticketing System

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : In order to make different digital payment modes introduced in Metro Railway familiar to the commuters and enhance the share of digital transactions in ticketing, Special Camps were organised today on 02.11.2025 by Metro staff at all stations of Blue Line, Green Line and Yellow Line. In these camps, Metro users were made aware about improved 'Aamar Kolkata Metro' app, additional payment facility with HDFC Smart Gateway and how to download it from Google Play Store (Android) and App Store (iOS). Metro staff also showed them the procedures to use it. Metro commuters were also helped to purchase tokens and recharge/buy their Smart Cards through ASCRM machines with the help of UPI Payment Based



Ticketing System. They have shown keen interest to shift to digital system and adopt smart ways to purchase tokens, Mobile based QR code tickets, Smart Cards and recharge it. They were visibly happy as this digital mode is helping them to save their valuable time as they don't need to stand in the long queues in front of the booking counters to recharge or purchase their Smart Cards or purchase tickets.

50th Annual Scientific Conference And CME Program Organised By Indian Railway Health Service Association, B.R. Singh Hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : The 50th Annual Scientific Conference and Continuing Medical Education (CME) Programme organised by Indian Railway Health Service Association, B. R. Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway with the theme: "Comprehensive Patient Care: Where Disciplines Meet," at B. C. Roy Auditorium, Sealdah on 01.11.2025.

The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries including Dr. Jagdish Chandra, Director General, Railway Health Services (DGRHS); Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway; Swami Sarvottamananda, Vice Chancellor, Ramkrishna Mission Vivekananda University; Dr. Nataraj Basappa, Principal Chief Medical Director/Eastern Railway and Chief Patron, IRHSA; Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah; and Shri S. Mukhopadhyay, Secy / IRHSA/ B. R. Singh Hospital, along with senior officers from headquarters, distinguished guests, and members of the Railway medical fraternity.

The programme was inaugurated with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries—Dr. Jagdish Chandra, Shri Milind Deouskar and other eminent guests—marking the formal commencement of the conference.

Prior to the inauguration of the programme, Dr. Jagdish Chandra, Director General, Railway Health Services (DGRHS), in the presence of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager,



Eastern Railway; Shri Sheelendra Pratap Singh, Additional General Manager, Eastern Railway; Dr. Nataraj Basappa, Principal Chief Medical Director/Eastern Railway and Chief Patron, IRHSA; Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah and members of the medical fraternity, inaugurated a state-of-the-art 3 Tesla MRI Machine and the renovated Blood Centre at B. R. Singh Hospital for the benefit of Railway beneficiaries.

In his address, Dr. Jagdish Chandra, DGRHS, highlighted the importance of organizing health camps and awareness programmes. He emphasized the need to strengthen antenatal, prenatal and perinatal care to improve overall healthcare services. Dr. Chandra also stressed upon the upgradation of health units and divisional hospitals along with B. R. Singh Hospital for the well-being of Railway beneficiaries.

Shri Milind K. Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, appreciated these remarkable initiatives and

acknowledged their contribution towards enhancing the quality of Railway health services. He also suggested further improvements in medical facilities with greater care and attention. Swami Sarvottamananda delivered his inspirational words to improve the connection between doctors & patients. Dr. Nataraj Basappa, Principal Chief Medical Director, Eastern Railway, and Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah, also appreciated the dedicated efforts of the medical and paramedical staff, whose commitment played a key role in the successful organization of the conference.

The scientific extravaganza witnessed participation from Principal Chief Medical Directors of different zones, Medical Directors of Divisional Hospitals, Chief Medical Superintendents, administrative officers, doctors of Indian Railways, and post-graduate trainees. A booklet on the 50th Annual Conference and CME Programme was also released by the dignitaries on this occasion.

Regulation Of Trains For Non-Interlocking Work Over Asansol Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, 2 Nov.25 : Due to Pre Non-Interlocking / Non-Interlocking work from 02.11.2025 to 23.11.2025 at Durgapur in Bardhaman – Asansol section over Asansol Division, following trains will be regulated as under: **Cancellation:** (1) 12175 Howrah - Gwalior Chambal Express (JCO: 23/11/2025); (2) 12176 Gwalior - Howrah Chambal Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (3) 12177 Howrah - Mathura Chambal Express (JCO: 21/11/2025); (4) 20976 Agra Cantt. - Howrah Chambal Express (JCO: 20/11/2025); (5) 12325 Kolkata - Nangal Dam Gurumukhi SF Express (JCO: 20/11/2025); (6) 12326 Nangal Dam - Kolkata Gurumukhi SF Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (7) 12329 Sealdah-Anand Vihar Sampark Kranti Express (JCO: 18/11/2025); (8) 12330 Anand Vihar - Sealdah Sampark Kranti Express (JCO: 19/11/2025); (9) 12333 Howrah - Prayagraj Rambagh Vibhuti Express (JCO: 19, 20, 21 & 22/11/2025); (10) 12334 Prayagraj Rambagh - Howrah Vibhuti Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (11) 12339 Howrah - Dhanbad Coalfield Express (JCO: 23/11/2025); (12) 12340 Dhanbad - Howrah Coalfield Express (JCO: 24/11/2025); (13) 12357 Kolkata - Amritsar Durgiana Express (JCO: 18/11/2025); (14) 12358 Amritsar - Kolkata Durgiana Express (JCO: 20/11/2025); (15) 12359 Kolkata - Ara Express (JCO: 20/11/2025) and 13127 Kolkata - Ara Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (16) 12360 Ara - Kolkata Express (JCO: 21/11/2025) and 13128 Ara - Kolkata Express (JCO: 23/11/2025); (17) 13025 Howrah - Bhopal Weekly Express (JCO: 17/11/2025); (18) 13026 Bhopal - Howrah Weekly Express (JCO: 19/11/2025); (19) 13043 Howrah - Raxaul Express (JCO: 21/11/2025); (20) 13044 Raxaul - Howrah Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (21) 13167 Kolkata - Agra Cantt. Express (JCO: 20/11/2025); (22) 13168 Agra Cantt. - Kolkata Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (23) 15233 Kolkata - Darbhanga Maithili Express (JCO: 20/11/2025); (24) 15234 Darbhanga - Kolkata Maithili Express (JCO: 19/11/2025); (25) 15235 Howrah - Darbhanga Weekly Express (JCO: 22/11/2025); (26) 15236 Darbhanga - Howrah Weekly Express (JCO: 21/11/2025); (27) 22387 Howrah - Dhanbad Black Diamond Express (JCO: 23 & 24/11/2025); (28) 22388 Dhanbad - Howrah Black Diamond Express (JCO: 22 & 23/11/2025); (29) 22912 Howrah - Indore Shipra Express (JCO: 20 & 22/11/2025); (30) 22911 Indore - Howrah Shipra Express (JCO: 18 & 20/11/2025); (31) 12383 Sealdah - Asansol SF Inter City Express (JCO: 20, 21 & 22/11/2025); (32) 12384 Asansol - Sealdah SF Inter City Express (JCO: 20, 21 & 22/11/2025); (33) 13179 Sealdah - Siuri MEMU Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (34) 13180 Siuri - Sealdah MEMU Express (JCO: 21, 22, 23 & 24/11/2025); (35) 22321 Howrah - Siuri Hool Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (36) 22322 Siuri - Howrah Hool Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (37) 12353 Howrah - Lal Kuan Weekly SF Express (JCO: 31/10 & 14/11/2025); (38) 12354 Lal Kuan - Howrah Weekly SF Express (JCO: 01 & 15/11/2025); (39) 63505 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 03, 04, 05, 14 & 15/11/2025); (40) 63507 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 03, 04, 14, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (41) 63511 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 03 & 14/11/2025); (42) 63513 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 12, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (43) 63515 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 12, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (44) 63517 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 02 & 12/11/2025); (45) 63521 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (46) 63523 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 02, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (47) 63527 Durgapur - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 02, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (48) 63549 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 02, 12, 15, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (49) 63508 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 03, 04, 14, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (50) 63512 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 03, 04, 05, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (51) 63516 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (52) 63518 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 12, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (53) 63522 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 02, 12, 13 & 16/11/2025); (54) 63524 Asansol - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 02, 12, 13, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (55) 63528 Asansol - Durgapur MEMU (JCO: 02, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (56) 63550 Andal - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 02, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); (57) 63552 Bardhaman - Andal MEMU (JCO: 12/10, 02, 12, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025); **Diversions:** 13029 Howrah - Mokama Express (JCO: 02, 03, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 & 22/11/2025) will be diverted via Khana - Rampurhat - Dumka - Jasidih instead of Khana - Asansol - Jasidih; 13030 Mokama - Howrah Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) will be diverted via Jasidih - Dumka - Rampurhat - Khana instead of Jasidih - Asansol - Khana; 13045 Howrah - Deoghar Mayurakshi Express (JCO: 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) will be diverted via Khana - Bolpur Shantiniketan - Sainthia instead of Khana - Andal - Sainthia; 13046 Deoghar - Howrah Mayurakshi Express (JCO: 03, 21, 22, 23&

24/11/2025) will be diverted via Khan - Rampurhat - Dumka - Jasidih instead of Khana - Asansol - Jasidih; 22322 Siuri - Howrah Hool Express (JCO : 02, 12 & 16/11/2025) will be diverted via Siuri - Sainthia - Bolpur Shantiniketan - Khana instead of Siuri - Andal - Khana; 22197 Kolkata - Virangana Lakshmbai Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Express (JCO : 23/11/2025) will be diverted via Khana - Rampurhat - Dumka - Jasidih instead of Khana - Asansol - Jasidih; 22198 Virangana Lakshmbai - Kolkata Pratham Swatantrata Sangram Express (JCO : 21/11/2025) will be diverted via Jasidih - Dumka - Rampurhat - Khana instead of Jasidih - Asansol - Khana. 12551 SMVT Bengaluru - Kamakhya AC SF Express (JCO : 01, 08, 15 & 22/11/2025), 13417 Digha - Malda Town Express (JCO : 06, 13 & 20/11/2025), 13426 Surat - Malda Town Express (JCO : 03, 10 & 17/11/2025), 15629 Tambaram - Silghat Town Nagaon Express (JCO : 03, 10 & 17/11/2025), 15639 Puri - Kamakhya Express (JCO : 04, 11 & 18/11/2025), 15661 Ranchi - Kamakhya Express (JCO : 05, 12 & 19/11/2025), 15929 Tambaram - New Tinsukia Express (JCO : 06, 13 & 20/11/2025) and 22611 Dr. MGR Chennai Central - New Jalpaiguri Weekly Superfast Express (JCO : 05, 12 & 19/11/2025) will be diverted via Asansol - Andal - Sainthia instead of Asansol - Andal - Durgapur - Andal - Sainthia. 12552 Kamakhya - SMVT Bengaluru AC SF Express (JCO : 05, 12 & 19/11/2025), 13418 Malda Town - Digha Express (JCO: 06, 13 & 20/11/2025), 13425 Malda Town - Surat Express (JCO: 08, 15 & 22/11/2025), 15630 Silghat Town - Tambaram Nagaon Express (JCO : 07, 14 & 21/11/2025), 15640 Kamakhya - Puri Express (JCO: 02, 09 & 16/11/2025), 15662 Kamakhya - Ranchi Express (JCO : 04, 11 & 18/11/2025), 15930 New Tinsukia - Tambaram Express (JCO : 03, 10 & 17/11/2025) and 22612 New Jalpaiguri - Dr. MGR Chennai Central Weekly Superfast Express (JCO : 07, 14 & 21/11/2025) will be diverted via Sainthia - Andal - Asansol instead of Sainthia - Andal - Durgapur - Andal - Asansol. **Short Termination/Short Origination:** 13503 Bardhaman - Hatia MEMU Express (JCO : 03, 04, 14, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24/11/2025), 63509 Bardhaman - Jhajha MEMU (JCO : 03, 04, 14, 15, 17, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) and 63519 Bardhaman - Bokaro Steel City MEMU. (JCO : 12, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) will be short originated from Asansol and the service between Bardhaman & Asansol will remain cancelled. 13504 Hatia - Bardhaman MEMU Express (JCO : 02, 03, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025), 63510 Jhajha - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO : 02, 03, 13, 14, 16, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) and 63520 Bokaro Steel City - Bardhaman MEMU. (JCO : 12, 20, 21, 22 & 23/11/2025) will be short terminated at Asansol and the service between Asansol & Bardhaman will remain cancelled. **Rescheduling:** (1) 12023 Howrah - Patna Jan Shatabdi Express (JCO : 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 13, 17 & 18/10/2025) will be rescheduled by 1 hour 10 minutes. (2) 13105 Sealdah - Balia Express (JCO : 06, 07, 08, 09, 10, 11, 13, 17 & 18/10/2025) will be rescheduled by 40 minutes. (3) 12019 Howrah - Ranchi Shatabdi Express (JCO : 03 & 04/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 2 hours and 12019 Howrah - Ranchi Shatabdi Express (JCO : 14/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 1 hour 30 minutes. (4) 12020 Ranchi - Howrah Shatabdi Express (JCO : 03 & 04/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 2 hours and 12020 Ranchi - Howrah Shatabdi Express (JCO : 13/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 2 hours 15 minutes. (5) 12304 New Delhi - Howrah Poorva Express (via Patna) (JCO: 11/10/2025) will be rescheduled by 30 minutes. (6) 11447 Jabalpur - Howrah Shaktipunj Express (JCO: 01/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours, 11447 Jabalpur-Howrah Shaktipunj Express (JCO: 12 & 15/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 1 hour 40 minutes and 11447 Jabalpur - Howrah Shaktipunj Express (JCO: 22/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 40 minutes. (7) 22303 Howrah - Gaya Vande Bharat Express (JCO: 03, 04 & 14/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour 20 minutes. (8) 22304 Gaya - Howrah Vande Bharat Express (JCO: 02/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours 30 minutes, 22304 Gaya - Howrah Vande Bharat Express (JCO: 03, 04, 14 & 23/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour 20 minutes and 22304 Gaya - Howrah Vande Bharat Express (JCO: 16/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 2 hour 15 minutes. (9) 22321 Howrah - Siuri Hool Express (JCO: 03, 04 & 14/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour (10) 22387 Howrah - Dhanbad Black Diamond Express (JCO: 03, 04 & 14/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour 15 minutes and 22387 Howrah - Dhanbad Black Diamond Express (JCO: 14/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 45 minutes. (11) 22388 Dhanbad - Howrah Black Diamond Express (JCO: 02, 13 & 16/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 03 hours 30 minutes. (12) 12259 Sealdah - Bikaner AC Duroto Express (JCO: 23/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour 20 minutes. (13) 12313 Sealdah - New Delhi Rajdhani Express (JCO: 23/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour 20 minutes. (14) 63507 Bardhaman - Asansol MEMU (JCO: 18/11/2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour.

Ranji Trophy 2025:

Jharkhand Dominate with Mammoth 510/8d; Shikhar Mohan Slams Double Century



PC JHA
RANCHI: On the second day of the Ranji Trophy encounter between Jharkhand and Nagaland, Jharkhand's batsmen delivered a commanding performance to seize firm control of the match. Resuming from their overnight score of 91, Jharkhand piled up a massive total of 510 for 8 declared, showcasing their batting depth and intent at JSCA International Stadium Complex, Dhurwa on Sunday. The highlight of the innings was a magnificent double century by Shikhar Mohan, who played a masterclass knock of 207 runs, laced with 21 boundaries and 3 towering sixes. Skipper Virat Singh provided solid support with a fluent 105 runs, featuring 11 fours and 2 sixes, further strengthening

Jharkhand's position. Adding to the fireworks, Robin Minz played a blistering cameo, smashing an unbeaten 75 off just 31 balls, decorated with 8 sixes and 3 fours, before the team declared their innings. For Nagaland, Jonathan Rongsen was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 wickets, while Tahmeed and Imliwati bagged two wickets each. In reply, Nagaland made a steady start, reaching 37 without loss at stumps on Day 2. Siddhjali (19)* and Nischal (18)* held firm to ensure no early damage before the close of play. Jharkhand now hold a commanding position heading into Day 3, with their bowlers eyeing early breakthroughs to press home the advantage.

3rd T20I: Washington, Arshdeep star as India beat Australia to level series (Ld)

HOBART : Although all-rounder Washington Sundar didn't get to bowl, he stepped up when it mattered most to smash an unbeaten 49 off 23 balls as India defeated Australia by five wickets in the third T20I at the Bellerive Oval on Sunday. Chasing 187, India's top seven contributed in patches, but it was Sundar's late flourish, laced with three fours and four sixes, that sealed the win for India with nine balls remaining and levelled the five-match series 1-1. The result also marked Australia's first defeat in six T20 Internationals at Hobart. Despite Nathan Ellis' three-wicket haul, Australia couldn't halt India's momentum in the closing stages. Arshdeep Singh also played a crucial role in India's victory by striking early and maintaining the pressure on to pick a three-fer, as Australia scored 186/6, thanks to Tim David's 74 and Marcus Stoinis' 64. India began their chase with intent, as Abhishek looked in fluent touch to slice Xavier Bartlett for six, before carting Sean Abbott for two fours and a six. But the momentum shifted when Nathan Ellis struck twice in quick succession - Abhishek mistimed a pull and the top-edge was caught by the keeper, while Shubman Gill was trapped lbw. With both openers back in the hut, Suryakumar Yadav began stabilising the innings by hitting Ellis and Abbott for a six each, before slicing off Matthew Kuhnemann for a boundary. But Suryakumar fell in the eighth over when he chipped a slower ball from Marcus Stoinis to extra cover. Four overs later, Axar Patel



fell when he was cramped for room by a bouncer from Nathan Ellis and top-edged a pull to mid-wicket. Amidst all this, Sundar's onslaught began by clobbering Ellis over mid-wicket for six, before pulling Matthew Kuhnemann for a boundary. He then turned the tide in India's favour by taking 19 runs off Sean Abbott in the 14th over - a tennis-style swat for four through deep extra cover was followed by a powerful whip over square leg for six and pulling a short ball for another maximum. Australia bounced back when Tilak Varma looked to scoop, but got it off the top edge and gave a simple catch to the keeper off Bartlett. With Jitesh Sharma

scooping and driving for his boundaries, Sundar swung hard to clear backward square leg for six, before smashing a full toss from Stoinis over the bowler's head for four. Jitesh finished off the chase in style with a lofted drive over extra cover. Previously, David's explosive knock came off 38 balls, featuring eight fours and five sixes. Stoinis kept the momentum going by hitting eight fours and two sixes during his 39-ball innings. While a returning Arshdeep took 3-35, Varun Chakaravathy claimed 2-33. Arshdeep and Jasprit Bumrah delivered a masterclass of yorkers and low full tosses to concede only 16 runs in the final two overs. Australia's innings started with Travis Head swiping Arshdeep for

four, but he then mis-hit a swat-pull to mid-off on the very next ball. Arshdeep struck again when Josh Inglis pulled straight to square-leg. Promoted to number four, David's intent was evident from the start - driving and lofting Arshdeep and Jasprit Bumrah for boundaries. He then dispatched Chakaravathy for a six and a four in the spinner's first over, before being given a reprieve on 20 when Washington Sundar dropped a sharp chance at point off Bumrah. After lofting Bumrah for another boundary, David greeted Axar Patel with two sixes - the second of which was a colossal 129m hit that went on top of the stadium's roof. He then pounced on Shivam

Dube's deliveries to hit a brace of boundaries, before reaching a rapid half-century off just 23 balls by cutting the all-rounder through backward point for four. However, Chakaravathy shifted the momentum for India with a double strike in the ninth over, dismissing Marsh and Mitchell Owen on successive balls. While Marsh, struggling to find his rhythm, mistimed a lofted shot to long-off off a slower delivery, Owen lasted just one ball as Chakaravathy bowled a slower ball that turned sharply from outside off, and he went past his cut to rattle the middle stump. However, David retaliated by smashing the World No. 1 bowler for two sixes. Stoinis joined the boundary-hitting party by pulling and flicking Shivam Dube for consecutive sixes. But the seamer had the last laugh as David mistimed to long-off, who held on to the chance. Stoinis and Matthew Short hit three boundaries each to take Australia past 150, before the former received a reprieve when a low diving catch by substitute Rinku Singh was shown to have made contact with the ground. Despite Stoinis falling in the final over when he flicked to Rinku at deep mid-wicket off Arshdeep, Australia managed to cross the 180-mark. **BRIEF SCORES:** Australia 186/6 in 20 overs (Tim David 74, Marcus Stoinis 64; Arshdeep Singh 3-35, Varun Chakaravathy 2-33) lost to India 188/5 in 18.3 overs (Washington Sundar 49 not out, Tilak Varma 29; Nathan Ellis 3-36, Marcus Stoinis 1-22) by five wickets.

Lohardaga's Golden Girl Sanjana Verma Wins Bronze at Indonesia Para Badminton Level 1 Tournament



MD QUAIYUM KHAN
LOHARDAGA: International para-badminton player Sanjana Kumari Verma, popularly known as Lohardaga's Golden Girl, made her district and state proud by winning the bronze medal in women's doubles at the Indonesia Para Badminton Level 1 Tournament, held from October 29 to November 2, 2025. Paired with Santhiya Vishwanathan, Sanjana showcased remarkable skill and determination through-

out the tournament. The duo defeated Brazil's pair M. Almeida and partner 21-19, 21-15 in the fifth round, and earlier triumphed over India's pair Neeraj and A. Patil with a score of 21-15, 21-14. However, they were defeated by Indonesia's team in the semifinals with 21-09, 21-09, settling for the bronze medal. Currently ranked 13th in the world, Sanjana will next compete at the Japan Open Para Badminton Championship scheduled from November 5 to 9, 2025. Speaking about her performance, Sanjana said that she had been working hard but would need even more technical improvement and training to become one of the world's best players. Lohardaga Deputy Commissioner Dr. Kumar Tarachand has been a constant source of encouragement and support, for which Sanjana expressed deep gratitude. She said she would remain forever thankful to the DC for his motivation. District Sports Officer Ratan Kumar stated that both he and the district administration were providing full support to Sanjana, expressing confidence that she would soon become one of the world's top para-badminton players.

IPL 2026 auction likely to be moved overseas again: Report



NEW DELHI : While news about the IPL 2026 mini-auction taking place in India surfaced earlier, there seems to be a change in approach concerning the auction location, which is now likely to take place abroad. While the franchises haven't been officially notified of the exact city, they have probably received hints. The expected destination is likely to be somewhere in the Gulf area, like the previous auctions. Abu Dhabi in the UAE appears to be a leading candidate, but other Middle Eastern sites, such as

November 15 being the last date for player retentions. Moving the auction overseas marks a significant shift from an earlier plan, which indicated that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) was eager to hold the auction in India. While Mumbai and Bengaluru emerged as the top options for the auctions, securing an appropriate venue has reportedly become challenging because the chosen timeframe overlaps with the country's festival and wedding season. The Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the previous edition of the IPL, which was also their maiden title victory in the tournament in 18 years. With the chatter around the retentions hyping up, it'll be interesting to see how RCB shape their squad in their quest to defend the title and retain the crown. The BCCI is likely to officially reveal the date and venue before November 15, which is the deadline for franchises to submit their list of retained and released players for IPL 2026.

46th Edition of 'Fit India Sundays on Cycle' highlights connection between fitness and environment

NEW DELHI : The 46th edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle, called 'Pedal for Clean Air', became a strong rally for both fitness and environmental awareness today as nearly 500 citizens cycled through the streets of New Delhi and thousands more took part from over 10,000 locations across the country. The Central Pollution Control Board, the Centre for Science and Environment, and the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports collaborate to promote clean air and healthy living. Organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with the Cycling Federation of India (CFI), Yogasana Bharat, and MY Bharat, this week's edition featured special participation from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), emphasising that "Clean Air, Fit Body" should be India's shared goal. At Delhi's Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium, about 500 participants, including athletes, students, and fitness fans, joined the morning cycling rally. The event featured gymnasts Sneha Tariyal, an international medalist at the Asian Championships, and



Priyanshu Nath Thakur, a sub-junior national gold medalist, alongside Olympian gymnastics coach Lakhan Sharma. CSE Director-General Sunita Narain, present at the event in Delhi, highlighted the strong link between physical fitness and environmental health. "Our air has to be clean, and in the same way our health will improve," she said. "The Sports Ministry's and SAI's Fit India initiatives go hand in hand with cleanliness of the environment. Our lungs will be healthy if the air is clean. Cycling is very essential because it is the biggest mechanism to combat pollution." Reflecting on her message,

15-year-old gymnast Priyanshu Nath Thakur stated, "We are all looking for fresh air. Cycling keeps our body and mind healthy and strong." Beyond Delhi, Fit India Sundays on Cycle events took place simultaneously across the country, including locations such as SAI STC Kargil, SAI Lucknow, SAI Rohtak, STC Mastuana Sahib, STC Rajnandgaon (Chhattisgarh), STC Golaghat, NCOE Jagatpur, STC Cuttack, and SAI Guwahati. What began in December 2024 with around 500 participants in Delhi and 1,000 locations across the country has now evolved into a vibrant public movement that

attracts over 50,000 people weekly from 6,000 locations. The Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative has involved more than 14.5 lakh citizens across 1.25 lakh locations so far, developing into a nationwide campaign for fitness, sustainability, and social harmony. Olympic gymnastics coach Lakhan Sharma provided insights into the development of the movement over the years. "This is a great initiative which is completing close to a year now. So many people have joined us across the length and breadth of the country in all these months, and we must keep expanding it further." Gymnast Sneha Tariyal highlighted that cycling offers benefits to all, no matter their age or profession. "Old to young, everyone is here to cycle. It keeps you healthy and helps combat pollution. I see cyclists training daily at the IG Stadium where I train and it gives them great physique and strength. Even normal people should cycle, run, and stay fit to inspire others." The significance of Fit India Sundays on the Cycle was highlighted in the 117th episode of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat. He praised how people from various backgrounds come together

every Sunday to promote health, happiness, and unity through fitness. This movement is supported weekly by over 3,500 NaMo Fit India Cycling Clubs, which form the core of this citizen-driven fitness initiative, ensuring that thousands across India participate in cycling and health celebrations each Sunday. Under the guidance of the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, the initiative has evolved into a genuine Jan Andolan for fitness, engaging new groups and communities every week. Participants have ranged from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Doctors, Teachers, Government Employees, Schoolchildren, Members of Parliament/Legislative Assemblies, public representatives, Lawyers, Postmen, Healthcare Workers, Safai Senanis, State Police Forces, to Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs). These diverse groups, representing various professions and generations, have expanded the campaign's reach across every part of the country, transforming local streets and parks into vibrant hubs of energy and camaraderie.

Pant, Kamboj take India 'A' to 3-wicket win over South Africa 'A' in 1st unofficial Test



BENGALURU : Rishabh Pant's (90) and Anshul Kamboj's late strike of an unbeaten 37 guided India A to a composed three-wicket win against South Africa A in the first unofficial Test on Sunday, which was played here at the BCCI Centre of Excellence Ground 1. After being set a 275-run target to chase in the final innings, India A captain Rishabh Pant and lower-order batters shone with the bat as the hosts pulled off a win under pressure. With that, they now lead the two-match series 1-0. Batting first, South Africa A put up 309 runs in 91.2 overs before the Indian bowlers dished them out. Jordan Hermann, Zubayr Hamza, and Rubin Hermann stood out in the innings and scored half-centuries, while Tiaan van Vuuren supported with a well-made 46. Tanush Kotian was the pick of the bowlers for India, as he finished with a four-wicket haul. Batting next, India were bowled out for 234 runs in 58 overs, courtesy of Prenelan Subrayen's five-wicket haul, and handed a 75-run lead to the visitors. However, the Proteas couldn't replicate their performances from the first innings and could only extend their lead to 274, adding 199 runs on board in 48.1 overs, as the hosts set themselves a 275-run target. India's start to the chase wasn't how they expected, as the top order lineup of Sai Sudharsan, Ayush Mhatre and Devdutt Padikkal was dismissed in quick succession. However, Pant resurrected the innings with a fine 90(113) and carried his side's momentum. Ayush Badoni joined hands with Pant as the duo stitched a composed partnership to start Day 4's proceedings before the latter was dismissed. Pant and Badoni's wickets added pressure on India, but lower-order batters Tanush Kotian, Manav Suthar and Kamboj pulled off the chase with brisk scores. While Kotian scored a quick 30-ball 23, Kamboj took charge of the fireworks as he notched up four fours and two maximums to score an unbeaten 37. Suthar supported him well from the other end as India chased down the total in 73.1 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the series.

Brief Scores: India A 234 & pant 77-7 in 73.1 overs (Rishabh Pant 90, Anshul Kamboj 37; Tiaan van Vuuren 3-56, Tshupo Moreki 2-33) beat South Africa A 309 & pant 199 all out in 48.1 overs (Lesego Senokwane 37, Zubayr Hamza 37; Tanush Kotian 4-26, Anshul Kamboj 3-39) by three wickets. **Rashtrapati Nilayam conducts 'Pedal for Planet' to promote healthy living** **HYDERABAD :** Rashtrapati Nilayam, the winter retreat of the President in Secunderabad here, organised 'Cyclothon-Pedal for Planet' on Sunday to promote environmental sustainability and healthy living. The second edition of Cyclothon was organised in collaboration with the Hyderabad Cyclists Group and sponsored by the National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC). The event witnessed active participation from 1,200 people, including defence, police personnel and various cycling groups of the city who covered a 20-km route from Rashtrapati Nilayam to Secunderabad Parade Ground and back. The cyclists pedalled through the streets of Secunderabad, spreading awareness about the importance of environmental conservation and adopting a healthy lifestyle. Team Telangana & Andhra Sub Area (TASA) of the Indian Army enthusiastically participated in the event, which was flagged off by Maj Gen Ajay Misra, General Officer Commanding Telangana & Andhra Sub Area and badminton Olympic medallist Saina Nehwal. The TASA said that the participation of its team in the event reflects their commitment to nation-building initiatives and promoting a greener tomorrow. The event concluded with a sense of accomplishment and a renewed commitment towards protecting the planet. Meanwhile, NMDC conducted Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 from October 27 to November 2 with the theme "Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility." Addressing the valedictory session of the Vigilance Awareness Week, Maj Gen Misra lauded NMDC's contribution to the nation's economic growth and commended its commitment to upholding morality, integrity and ethical governance. He emphasised that strong organisations are built by committed people and vigilance is not merely a departmental duty but a collective obligation of every employee. Highlighting parallels between the armed forces and public.