

TMC Legal Cell to Launch Statewide Awareness Drive on SIR to Counter BJP 'Conspiracy'

Amid growing public fear and confusion surrounding the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced a massive state-wide outreach campaign to reassure citizens and provide legal assistance. The party claims that the BJP's "SIR conspiracy" has created unnecessary panic, leading to anxiety-driven incidents, including alleged suicides in parts of the state. Addressing a public meeting at Jorasanko on Tuesday, TMC's All-India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee urged people to remain calm, asserting that there was "no reason to worry." He assured that the TMC Legal Cell would stand firmly beside citizens and offer all necessary help in addressing any problems arising from the revision process. **PG 3**



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Fierce encounter with Pak based terrorists breaks out in J-K



A security personnel during 'Guddar' joint operation by Army, J-K police and CRPF Srinagar in the Guddar forest in Jammu and Kashmir.

MI News Service, Srinagar : A fierce gun battle broke out between Pakistan-backed terrorists and security forces early on Wednesday morning in the Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said.

X In an intelligence-based operation, launched in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police early this morning, alert troops of the White Knight Corps established contact with terrorists in the general area of Chhatru.

--the White Knight Corps

Quoting preliminary reports the sources said, the encounter began after the Jammu and Kashmir Police, assisted by the Indian Army and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), on the basis of specific intelligence inputs about the presence of some heavily armed foreign terrorists, launched a joint and coordinated operation in the Chhatru area in Kishtwar district of the Kashmir valley. As the coordinated search operation was initiated during the wee hours, the security forces came under heavy fire from the terrorists, forcing the security forces to retaliate leading to a prolonged exchange of fire from both sides. However, it was not yet known whether there was any casualty or injury on either side as the gun battle was still continuing till late in the evening, the sources said.

"In an intelligence-based operation, launched in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir Police early this morning, alert troops of the White Knight Corps established contact with terrorists in the general area of Chhatru," the White Knight Corps said in a post on X. "The operation is still in progress," it added. Incidentally, Kishtwar has seen as many as six such encounters in the past seven months as security forces continue their hunt for Pakistan-based terrorists hiding in these densely forested and mountainous area.

On September 21, a group of terrorists was engaged in a gunfight in the Chhatru area, while on September 13, two army men, one of them a Junior Commissioned officer, were killed and two more injured in an encounter with terrorists in the Naidgram area of Chhatru. Violent confrontations took place in Dul and Chhatru belts on August 11

and July 2, but the terrorists managed to escape. On May 22, a soldier and two terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Singapore area of the Chhatru belt. On April 12, three terrorists were killed in an encounter in the Kishtwar area, while the army foiled an infiltration bid by terrorists along the LoC in the Akhnour sector. The mountainous region has witnessed a series of such encounters in earlier also, as several Pakistani terrorists who are well-trained in jungle warfare are believed to be entrenched in the area. Recently, police said that 120 anti-terrorist operations are being launched every month in the Jammu region also to flush out foreign terrorists. Once a peaceful region, Jammu province is high on the terror radar, facing an increasing threat of foreign terrorists. Police have said that these large-scale operations are a daily routine which includes "speculative operations, pinpointed and information-based operations". Police also admit that the presence of foreign terrorists who are highly trained in jungle warfare and are posing a major security challenge in Jammu and Kashmir and these scales of operations are aimed at eliminating the looming terrorist threat. Over the last four years J-K has witnessed a spurt in terrorist incidents, as dozens of Pakistani terrorists are reportedly well entrenched in different forest areas.

BJP has crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' by conducting SIR in Bengal : Mamata

MI News Service, Kolkata : Accusing the BJP of "weaponising constitutional bodies to tilt the electoral scales in their favour", West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has said the party (BJP) after being "failed to win on votes, is now trying to win by notes, by misusing money and muscle power".

Making these charges against the ruling party at the Centre, the Chief Minister in a lengthy social media post through her X handle late last night said "The 2024 Lok Sabha election was a rude awakening for the BJP. The party that boasted 'Abki Baar 400 Paar' failed to secure a single majority.

Now they have begun weaponising constitutional bodies to tilt the electoral scales in their favour. The "Karte Loot, Bolte Jhooth" party failed to win on votes, so now they are trying to win

being carried out only in Opposition-ruled states among the four heading to polls? Why was BJP-ruled Assam exempted? If the aim was to eliminate "Bangladeshis" and "Rohingyas"

gled out. Similarly, states like Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, and Mizoram, which share borders with Myanmar, are exempted from SIR. Why?

Because SIR is nothing but

X SIR is nothing but NRC through the backdoor. Who gave the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and a certain Mir Jafar the authority to question our legitimacy as citizens on the very soil our forefathers bled for?

--CM Mamata Banerjee

by notes, by misusing money and muscle. They have crossed the 'Lakshman Rekha' by conducting SIR in Bengal. If electoral accuracy were the concern, why is SIR

from the rolls, why only target Bengal? Bengal shares a border with Bangladesh, just like Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, and Mizoram. But only Bengal is being sin-

NRC through the backdoor. Who gave the Prime Minister, the Home Minister, and a certain Mir Jafar the authority to question our legitimacy as citizens on the

very soil our forefathers bled for? Who authorised them to demand our parents' birth certificates and make us prove our existence? Do not mistake our civility for weakness. In this fight for people's identity, constitutional rights, and survival, the Bangla-Birodhis will confront a defeat like never before. Should any harm come to our people, should a single genuine voter be unfairly struck off the rolls, the people of Bengal will march to Delhi with the cry "BJP Hatao, Odhikaar Bachao." We will bring the zamindars to their knees and, through democratic means, consign this assault on our rights to dust".



Sikh devotees offer prayers on the occasion of 556th Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations in Kolkata on Wednesday.

EC colluded with BJP to steal Haryana polls : Rahul



LoP in the Lok Sabha and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with people from Haryana on the stage to share personal testimonies of alleged voter list manipulations during a press conference, in New Delhi.

MI News Service, New Delhi : Accusing the Election Commission of colluding with the BJP, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday cited electoral list data from Haryana to claim that 25 lakh entries were "fake" and the assembly polls there last year were "stolen", to

make the BJP win. The senior Congress leader said he is questioning the Election Commission's integrity and the democratic process in the country and is doing so with "100 per cent proof". Rahul Gandhi also alleged that Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and the two Election

Commissioners had colluded with the BJP to ensure the party's victory in Haryana and claimed that "they are in partnership" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"Operation Sarkar Chori" was launched to convert the landslide Congress victory into loss in Haryana, the former Congress president alleged. He also alleged that CEC Gyanesh Kumar is "lying" to the people of India when he stated that house number zero is given to homeless people and that is the reality of zero number houses. Addressing a press conference at the Indira Bhawan here, Rahul Gandhi cited the electoral list of Haryana to claim that 25,41,144 were fake voters with multiple examples of duplicate voters, invalid addresses and bulk voters. "Why is the Election Commission not removing duplicates? It is because if it does so, it would result in fair elections and it doesn't want fair elections," the senior Congress leader said. "All polls pointed to a Congress victory in Haryana. The five top exit polls said Congress is sweeping. The other thing that was surprising was that for the first time in Haryana, the postal votes were different from the result. In postal ballots, Congress got

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Mamata pays tribute to Deshbandhu CR Das on his birth anniversary



X On the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, one of the pioneers of India's independence movement, I convey my respectful salutations.

--CM Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday paid rich tributes to Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das on his birth anniversary and recalled his enduring legacy of unity and sacrifice. Mamata Banerjee described Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das as one of the pioneers of India's independence movement and extended her salutations to the legendary leader.

"On the birth anniversary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, one of the pioneers of India's independence movement, I convey my respectful salutations," Mamata Banerjee posted on X this morning. She highlighted Deshbandhu's unwavering commitment to the nation's welfare and his belief in communal harmony. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also noted that his "ideals of selfless patriotism not only shaped the freedom movement but also inspired leaders like Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose to dedicate their lives to the service of the nation". "His unwavering commitment to the welfare of the nation, his faith in Hindu-Muslim unity, and his sacrifices

and struggles for independence continue to inspire us as well," Mamata Banerjee said, emphasising the relevance of his values in today's social and political landscape. Chittaranjan Das, a former Mayor of Kolkata Corporation, remains a towering figure in Bengal's political and cultural history — a leader whose vision of inclusive nationalism continues to guide generations. In two other posts on her social media platform X this morning, Mamata Banerjee also paid tributes to the Birth anniversary of Guru Nanak and sent birthday wishes to former India cricket captain Virat Kohli.

In one post she said "WAHE GURUJI KA KHALSA | WAHE GURUJI KI FATEH My heartfelt tribute to Guru Nanak Dev Ji on his birth anniversary", and in another the Chief Minister said "Happy Birthday to the modern-day cricketing legend Virat Kohli! May this year be filled with more happiness, health, and continued success!"

'To get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us': Mamdani challenges Trump

MI News Service, New York : Soon after registering a historic election victory on Wednesday, New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani challenged US President Donald Trump, who has launched a crackdown on immigration, asserting that New York will be powered by immigrants and will also be "led by an immigrant". "To get to anyone of us, you will have to get through all of us," Mamdani said as he scripted history, becoming the first South Asian and Muslim to be elected to sit at the helm of the largest city in the US as the new Mayor of New York. "We refuse to let them dictate the rules of the game anymore. They can play by the same rules as the rest of

us. Together, we will usher in a generation of change and if we embrace this brave new course, rather than fleeing from it, we can respond to oligarchy and authoritarianism with the strength it fears, not the appeasement it craves," he said amid thunderous applause from the assembled crowd. "After all, if anyone can show a nation betrayed by Donald Trump how to defeat him, it is the city that gave rise to him," Mamdani said.

"And if there is any way to terrify a despot, it is by dismantling the very conditions that allowed him to accumulate power. This is not only how we stop Trump, it's

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Unpaid 'women's work' is worth over USD 427 billion

MI News Service, New Delhi / Washington (DC) : All those thousands of hours that ordinary people put towards unpaid household work and care like — cooking, cleaning and caring for family members — are an essential thread that keeps our economy stitched together. But they're not recognised in official economic statistics.

A new global research puts a dollar value on what all this unpaid labour is worth to the economy: about USD 688 billion. That's equivalent to around one-third of gross domestic product — and is mostly contributed by women. The System of National Accounts, which guides how countries worldwide define "production" and measure the size of their economy, is limited to activities that have a price tag or market wage. Unpaid work and care falls outside this official definition. In a new academic paper, published in the Economic



Record, it was calculated that a dollar value of this unpaid productive activity by adding up how much it would cost if we were to pay someone an hourly wage to do this work as their paid job. For example, we can value each unpaid

hour looking after children as the equivalent of a childcare worker's average hourly wage. Each hour spent on housework can be calculated by using a domestic cleaner's wage as a proxy. And time spent on meal preparation can be proxied

using a kitchen hand's typical wage. Women contribute the bulk (61.5 per cent) of total time spent on unpaid work and care, based on

Each hour spent on housework can be calculated by using a domestic cleaner's wage as a proxy. And time spent on meal preparation can be proxied using a kitchen hand's typical wage. Women contribute the bulk (61.5 per cent) of total time spent on unpaid work and care

US Bureau of Statistics' Time Use Survey data collected by the US Bureau of Statistics' Time Use Survey. The average time and type of unpaid work that women do, which tallies to 3 hours and 56 minutes per day, equates to USD 771 worth of labour per week.

Men's typical unpaid work and care, which averages 2 hours and 28 minutes per day, adds up to USD 493 weekly. Tallying up for the population, women's unpaid labour is worth the equivalent of USD 427.3 billion per year. Men's

unpaid work amounts to USD 261 billion. Yet none of this vital work is counted in our national accounts. Let's imagine we add another col-

umn to our national accounts ledger which now counts this invisible labour and adds it to our measurement of paid labour. We see that women's share of total labour effort in the economy expands to 47.2 per cent. This compares with just 36.8 per cent when we only count paid work. One problem with this "replacement wage" methodology is many of these proxy occupations used to

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Preparations underway for the upcoming 31st Kolkata International Film festival in Kolkata on Wednesday.



55 Kg Ganja seized, elderly woman among two arrested

MI News Service, Burdwan: In a major crackdown on interstate narcotics trafficking, the special STF arrested two women at Notunhat bus stand under Mangalkot police limits late Monday, seizing 55 kg and 272 grams of ganja brought allegedly from Odisha's Balasore district.

Acting on specific intelligence, STF personnel-backed by Mangalkot police cordoned off the area after spotting the two suspects with several heavy bags. On search, the officers recovered multiple packets of ganja meticulously packed inside the bags. The arrested duo have been identified as Adu Bibi alias Kundu (82), a resident of Bell Halt under Purbasthali police station, and Jyotsna Bibi (38) of Mollapara, Mysore village under Nabawip police station in Nadia district. Preliminary interrogation revealed that both had been extended in the drug trade an extended period. According to STF sources, the two women were tasked with delivering the narcotics consignment to a dealer in Pindira village of Mangalkot. The operation extended into the evening, prompting the STF to seek permission from the ACJM Court in Katwa for post-sunset arrest. The court granted conditional approval, following which the women were formally detained. A suo motu case under the NDPS Act has been registered at Mangalkot police station based on the STF complaint. The accused produced before the special narcotics court in Burdwan on Tuesday. Investigators sought five days' police custody to trace the supply network and locate other possible consignments. However, special court judge Manoj Kumar Rai remanded custody the accused to four days' police custody for further interrogation.

Fireballs on wheels: Rider escapes blaze on NH-12

MI News Service, Murshidabad: A dramatic scene unfolded at the NTPC intersection in Farakka, on Wednesday morning when a moving motorcycle suddenly caught fire, triggering panic among commuters. The rider identified as Amiya Mandal, an employee of the Chanchal BDO office in Malda, narrowly escaped death.

According to eyewitnesses, Amiya Mandal was travelling from Chanchal to his residence in Brahmanram when he bike's engine while riding along National Highway 12. Realizing the danger, he immediately pulled over at the roadside near the NTPC intersection. Second after he applied the brakes, the vehicle erupted in flames. Within movements, the entire motorcycle was engulfed in fire drawing the attention of local residents and passerby. Eyewitnesses describe the incident as shocking, recounting how the fast-moving bike suddenly turned into a fireball movements after stopping. Officials from Farakka police station reached the spot soon after receiving information. The blaze created chaos in the area during the busy morning hours, through no injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is yet to be officially determined, but preliminary indications suggest an engine malfunction or short circuit may have triggered the blaze. The sudden eruption of flames in a moving motorcycle has created widespread concern in the locality, with many describing the sight as terrifying and unprecedented on the usually crowded highway.

Man held for duping villager with fake railway job offer in Nadia

MI News Service, Nadia: A youth has been arrested from the Palashpara area in Nadia district for allegedly duping a villager of over rupees 5 lakh by promising his son a job in the Indian Railways. Police said the accused even handed over a fake appointment letter to make the offer look genuine.

According to police sources, Madhab Halder, a resident of Nishchintpur Taranagar in Tehatta, lodged a complaint stating that two local youths, Rakesh Mondal and Anwar Sheikh, had approached him claiming they could secure a railway job for his son in exchange for money. Believing them, Madhab reportedly paid rupees 5.47 lakh.

After taking the money, the duo went missing. A few days later, Rakesh returned and gave Madhab's son, Tinkar Halder, an appointment



letter that later turned out to be forged. Realising he had been cheated, Madhab filed a police complaint at Palashpara police station. Investigators are now probing whether more people are involved in the racket. Police said they are interrogating the accused to trace others linked to the job scam.

BSF trains ITBP troops in beekeeping to curb border smuggling



MI News Service, Nadia: In an innovative step to strengthen border vigilance and promote self-reliance, the Border Security Force (BSF) has begun training Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) troops in beekeeping along the India-Bangladesh frontier in Nadia district.

The initiative, conducted by the BSF's 32nd Battalion

at the Kadipur Border Out Post (BOP), aims to use beekeeping both as a natural deterrent against cross-border smuggling and as a source of livelihood for local residents, especially women.

On Wednesday morning, the training camp witnessed the participation of 59 ITBP officers and jawans. The session was conducted by Dr.

Malabika Debnath, professor at Kalyani Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, who explained beekeeping techniques through live demonstrations and video presentations. The two-hour-long session covered the process of hive management, honey extraction, and sustainable practices.

The training camp, which began on November 5, will continue till November 7, BSF sources said. Local representatives also attended the session. ITBP officer Debashish Ray remarked, "Beekeeping serves a dual purpose, it enhances security by keeping smugglers at bay and opens up new income opportunities for women in border villages." BSF 32 Battalion Commandant Sujit Kumar was praised by ITBP officials for organizing the program. The BSF has been conducting similar community-oriented workshops to promote eco-friendly methods of border protection.

Rough Seas Continue Along Bengal Coast Amid Low-Pressure System

MI News Service, Kolkata: Cyclone Mantha's impact wanes, light rain possible in coastal South Bengal, no rain in North Bengal. The ongoing movement of cyclone "Mantha" has led to a new depression formation that will weaken into a low-pressure area and track northward. This has resulted in rough seas near the coast. Today, there is a slight chance of light rain in the coastal districts of South Bengal, including parts of South 24 Parganas. However, North Bengal is expected to remain dry with no rain forecasted for the near term.

South Bengal's weather

will predominantly remain dry in the coming days with intermittent possibilities of light to moderate rain accompanied by thunderstorms in some areas of South 24 Parganas particularly on Friday. Most other districts in the state will experience clear skies. Temperature insights reveal a mild drop in mercury, with western districts seeing lows below 20 degrees Celsius, prompting light winter conditions during the nights and mornings. The overall weather pattern suggests continuous dry and sunny conditions with a marginal increase in winter chill expected over

the weekend, including the potential for light fog in select morning hours. North Bengal will witness persistent dry weather without any rains for now, with minimum temperatures expected to fall by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius in the coming days. This dry spell will likely continue through to next Monday under clear skies. In summary, West Bengal is transitioning towards stable weather with minimal rainfall confined to coastal South Bengal, while North Bengal remains dry and cool. The rough sea condition due to the weakening cyclone is a key advisory for coastal activities.

BLO Posting in Taki Triggers Political Buzz Across District

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: A fresh controversy has gripped Bengal's political landscape after a Trinamool Congress leader publicly admitted to serving as a Booth Level Officer (BLO) despite clear Election Commission guidelines barring active political workers from holding such positions. The storm began in Hooghly where allegations surfaced that a Trinamool worker had been assigned the role of BLO in Chanditala. BJP leaders claimed that party loyalist Khagen Samadhar was performing BLO duties at booth number 289 under Chanditala Block 2. Soon after, another name surfaced — Debashis Sarkar — also reportedly associated with the ruling camp. Both

individuals had allegedly been seen participating in Trinamool programmes in the past. The issue has now intensified in Taki, where a similar case has come to light. Local Trinamool leader and booth committee member Gautam Mandal, currently a teacher at Na'para Primary School under Hasnabad Block, has reportedly been appointed as the BLO for part number 270 of ward number 6 under Taki Municipality. Faced with growing criticism, Mandal has made a candid admission. "The Election Commission decided that I should get the job, so I accepted it," he said, adding, "I have always been an active Trinamool worker and a local leader. If the Commission

feels I should be removed, I will step down. But teachers from all schools were asked to undertake BLO duties, and I filled my form accordingly." BJP district committee vice-president Priyanka Banerjee, however, questioned the process. "According to the rules, an active member or leader of any political party cannot serve as a BLO. It remains unclear how such appointments are being made," she remarked. The developments have sparked intense debate across Hooghly and North 24 Parganas, with opposition parties calling for greater scrutiny of BLO appointments. The Election Commission is yet to issue a formal clarification on the matter.

Minor targeted: Tourist faces POCSO charges

MI News Service, East Medinipur: A shocking incident has come to light at Mardarmani, where a four-year-old girl was sexually assaulted while visiting the seaside destination with her parents. Acting swiftly on a complaint, the Mandarmani coastal police arrested two tourists from Odisha in connection with the case. Police identified the primary accused as Situn Pradhan of Unchadiha in the Bangripoti area of Mayurbhanj district, and his associate as Manojit Acharya from Asanbani under Rairangpur police station.

A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act against Situn, while Manojit has been booked for involvement in the subsequent altercation. According to police sources, the victim's family—a couple visiting Mandarmani with their young daughter—was staying in a local hotel where the accused were also lodged. On Saturday, Situn allegedly approached the child in an intoxicated state and inappropriately touched her outside the hotel premises. When the girl's parents protested, the accused reportedly tried to justify his act as an affectionate gesture. The confrontation soon escalated into a heated argument and physical altercation, during which Manojit intervened to defend his friend. The victim's father lodged a formal complaint with Mandarmani Coastal Police, leading to the immediate detention and subsequent arrest of both accused from the hotel. Upon being produced before the court, their bail pleas were rejected, and they were remanded to judicial custody. Mandarmani Coastal Police Station officer-in-charge confirmed the arrests, adding that the matter is being thoroughly investigated and further legal action will follow based on evidence collected.

Voter List Scam Rocks Sreepur Migrant Living in Sutirati

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: Riazul Islam Gazi, a Bangladeshi migrant residing in North 24 Parganas, was discovered to have been living under the guise of his father-in-law, Abdur Rahim Ghazi. After marrying Ghazi's daughter, Riazul registered Ghazi's name as his own in the voter list and used this identity to avail government benefits and documents illegally. This deception reportedly spanned several years since Riazul entered India illegally a decade ago and took shelter in Ghazi's home under a financial arrangement.

The local Panchayat chief stressed a lack of cooperation in these matters and urged the Election Commission to take legal action if irregularities in the voter list are confirmed. Riazul's wife defended him, claiming he was unaware of any wrongdoing and has been a resident ever since she became pregnant, justifying their continued stay in India. This incident is part of a broader pattern of voter list irregularities and electoral roll fraud uncovered by officials in North and South 24 Parganas, prompting investigations and suspensions of election officials in West Bengal. The Election Commission has raised alarms over fictitious voter entries manipulated by some officials, emphasizing the need for strict verification to uphold electoral integrity amid ongoing political conflicts around citizenship and voter rights in the region.



Seth Bansidhar Jalan Smriti Mandir Hosts Grand Dev Deepawali on the Ganga Ghat — Graced by Shri Lakshmi Niwas Bangar, Mrs. Alka Bangar & Shri Sudhir Jalan."

Bhangar Youth's Suicide Fuels SIR Panic Debate in West Bengal

MI News Service, South 24 Pgs: South 24 Parganas witnessed another tragic suicide as 57-year-old Safikul Gazi, residing at his in-laws' home in Jaypur, Bhangar, was found hanging on Wednesday morning. The deceased, originally from North 24 Parganas, had reportedly been battling mental distress following a recent accident. According to family members, Gazi's anxiety intensified with the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, fearing he lacked proper documentation to remain on the voters' list. Gazi's wife revealed chilling details of his deteriorating state: "He kept telling me he didn't have any papers and that they would throw

him out. For two days, he repeatedly expressed these fears." On the morning of the incident, after having tea, he went to tend the goats; subsequently, his hanging body was discovered in the goat shed. Police have recovered the body and sent it for autopsy.

The incident reverberated politically. Canning East MLA Shawkat Mollah, after visiting the bereaved family, asserted the tragedy stemmed from frustration over lack of personal documentation despite his parents possessing valid papers. Shawkat Mollah held the BJP accountable, stating: "Till Tuesday, seven people have died; now, Bhangar adds the eighth. BJP must answer for this

death march." The BJP countered sharply, with leader Rahul Sinha accusing the ruling Trinamool Congress of exploiting these deaths for political gains, labeling the situation "corpse politics." Rahul Sinha described the SIR as a routine electoral exercise and warned against politicizing personal tragedies. This latest suicide adds to the mounting tension surrounding the SIR process, with opposition parties trading blame over the alleged creation of panic and the wellbeing of vulnerable communities. The intersection of electoral roll revision, identity documentation, and mental health continues to provoke deep societal and political ramifications in West Bengal.

Mamata Bala Thakur Leads Hunger Strike Against SIR in Thakurbari

MI News Service, North 24 Pgs: In a dramatic escalation of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) turmoil, Trinamool Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Bala Thakur has initiated a hunger strike to death in Thakurbari, North 24 Parganas. This protest, staged in front of the late Matua matriarch Binapani Devi's residence, signals the deepening divisions within the Matua community amid fears that the SIR process will erase vital voter names, especially impacting the Matuas who migrated from Bangladesh. Amid widening cracks in the Matua leadership, Gaighata MLA Subrata Thakur has formed a third parallel committee of the Matua Mahasangh, exacerbating factionalism.

Mamata Bala Thakur's followers continue the hunger strike with de-



Hunger strike at Thakurbari

mands for unconditional citizenship, rejecting the government's criteria that citizenship can be granted solely based on Bangladeshi documents. They insist on granting citizenship to all uprooted persons from Bangladesh up to 2024. Though Mamata Bala Thakur called for the strike, she was absent from the stage during the initial phase, being away

on other commitments. The movement's resolve is firm, as one protester declared, "Our struggle will continue till the government accedes to our demands." The sharp political fault lines deepen with rival factions within the Matua community and challenges to the BJP-led central government's policies, marking Thakurbari as a critical flashpoint in West Bengal's SIR dispute.

Basirhat Border Horror: Father Abandons 10-Year-Old Son in Dead of Night

MI News Service, Basirhat: In a deeply distressing incident that has shocked the border town of Basirhat, a 10-year-old boy was found abandoned near the India-Bangladesh border late on Monday night, allegedly left there by his own father following a domestic dispute. The child, identified as Tamal Ghosh, a fourth-grade student, was reportedly taken on a late-night motorcycle ride by his father, Pintu Ghosh, before being deserted near the border area under the cover of darkness.

According to local sources, the act followed a heated disagreement between Pintu Ghosh and his wife, Mad-

havi, who had reportedly refused to take the child back after a marital separation. Residents of the area were startled when they heard the child crying near the border fencing. On finding the frightened boy alone, locals immediately provided him food, comfort, and shelter before informing the Basirhat Police. Officers soon reached the spot and rescued the child. Police sources confirmed that both parents have been contacted and are currently undergoing counseling for their "grossly irresponsible and emotionally damaging" conduct. Authorities have also initiated a social welfare review to assess the child's

well-being and safety. "This is not merely a family matter — it's a case of grave negligence that could have had tragic consequences, especially in such a sensitive border zone," a senior police official said. The incident has triggered outrage among residents and child welfare advocates, reigniting debates about parental accountability, family disintegration, and child protection in vulnerable border regions. Community leaders have called for stricter monitoring and stronger interventions to prevent such incidents, emphasizing that "no child should ever be made a casualty of parental conflict."

BJP MLA's Presence with BLO Sparks Political Storm

MI News Service, Berhampore: The voter list revision exercise in West Bengal has once again become a flashpoint of political controversy, after BJP MLA Subrata Maitra was seen accompanying a Booth Level Officer (BLO) during door-to-door verification under the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SIR) in Berhampore's Gorabazar area. The incident has triggered sharp allegations of political interference in the voter roll revision process, with opposition voices accusing the BJP of attempting to influence the impartial administrative exercise.

According to sources, Ayan Tiwari, the designated BLO, was conducting house-to-house visits as part of the SIR procedure when Maitra reportedly joined him, visiting around **50 households**. Images and local accounts of the MLA's presence

quickly circulated, fueling claims that political figures were encroaching upon an official electoral duty meant to remain apolitical. However, Tiwari defended his conduct, asserting that he was duly authorized as a party-neutral BLO and that the MLA's presence did not interfere with the verification process. "I followed all procedural norms. There was no pressure or political involvement in my duties," Tiwari said. Maitra, meanwhile, rejected the allegations, instead accusing the Trinamool Congress (TMC) of orchestrating a smear campaign to disrupt the SIR process. "The TMC is spreading fear and unrest to sabotage the revision drive. We are committed to ensuring that every eligible voter is enrolled and no citizen is left out due to intimidation," the BJP legislator said. The District Election Office has reportedly taken note of the

matter, with officials emphasizing that BLO activities must remain entirely free from political association. Any attempt to influence or accompany an election official during voter verification, they said, could compromise the integrity of the process. The controversy underscores the escalating political tension surrounding the SIR across Bengal, where both the BJP and the TMC have traded accusations of malpractice, voter manipulation, and intimidation. With the voter list revision forming the groundwork for upcoming electoral battles, the impartiality of the process has once again come under scrutiny. As the political rhetoric intensifies, election authorities face mounting pressure to reaffirm neutrality and ensure public confidence in one of democracy's most fundamental exercises — the right to vote.

TMC Sets Up Help Desks to Aid Citizens Amid SIR-Related Panic

MI News Service, Kolkata: State politics has been roiled by the SIR of the electoral rolls, with widespread anxiety among residents over the intensive verification exercise. As Booth Level Officers (BLOs) begin door-to-door enumeration and form distribution, many voters fear that if they are not at home when a BLO visits, their names might be removed from the voter list.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee sought to allay those fears on Tuesday, announcing that the Trinamool Congress would provide hands-on support through local party camps. She urged residents to share information only with official BLOs and not with anyone claiming authority, and advised voters on which documents to present during verification. "Our party will help people with everything within our power," she said.

Banerjee explained that BLOs started distributing enumeration forms on Tuesday and will collect them later. She acknowledged the public concern about what happens if a household is empty at the time of the visit, and said the party has set up neighborhood help desks to assist citizens in such cases. "If a BLO leaves your home without completing verification, will your name be removed? That is why we have established help desks across areas through the Trinamool," she told reporters. "They will support you."

The chief minister gave practical guidance on acceptable documents to prove residency and identity. Voters were told to show their Aadhaar card along with one additional document—property records where available, or a bank account passbook. School certificates, she noted, can serve as proof of birth, and OBC certificates can also be used where relevant. "Even if you sell utensils for a living, we will still help you," Banerjee emphasized, underscoring the inclusive reach of the party's assistance program. The reassurance comes amid heightened political tensions across the state, where opposition parties have accused the ruling party of trying to politicize the SIR process while the ruling party accuses opponents of stoking unnecessary panic. With enumeration underway, party-organized help desks and legal cells are likely to play a major role in guiding voters and ensuring that eligible citizens are not disenfranchised.

EC colluded with BJP to steal Haryana polls : Rahul

From PG 1
73 seats while the BJP got 17 seats," he said. Rahul Gandhi also claimed that thousands of people associated with the BJP, unconstitutionally voted both in UP and Haryana. During the news conference Rahul Gandhi showed a picture of a woman who appears on the voter list 22 times in 10 booths in the Rai assembly constituency, and said this shows that this was a 'centralised operation'. He claimed that the picture of the woman used for multiple entries is from Brazil. She is one of 25 lakh such records in Haryana which is proof of a centralised operation, Rahul Gandhi said. He alleged that there were 25,41,144 'vote chori' entries on the list which are fake in Haryana. "One in 8 voters in Haryana are fake and despite that the Congress loses by 22,779 votes which was the difference in eight seats," the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said. "I was in shock, I simply could not believe what we found. I asked the team to cross check multiple times. I want young people, Gen Z to understand this clearly as your future is being stolen," Rahul Gandhi said.



Sikh people partake of langar during the 556th Guru Nanak Jayanti celebration at Maidan in Kolkata on Wednesday.



Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma, along with members of the Sikh community, partake in a langar organized on the occasion of the 556th Guru Nanak Jayanti at the Maidan in Kolkata on Wednesday.

TMC Legal Cell to Launch Statewide Awareness Drive on SIR to Counter BJP 'Conspiracy'



MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid growing public fear and confusion surrounding the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has announced a massive state-wide outreach campaign to reassure citizens and provide legal assistance. The party claims that the BJP's "SIR conspiracy" has created unnecessary panic, leading to anxiety-driven incidents, including alleged suicides in parts of the state.

Addressing a public meeting at Jorasanko on Tuesday, TMC's All-India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee urged people to remain calm, asserting that there was "no reason to worry." He assured that the

TMC Legal Cell would stand firmly beside citizens and offer all necessary help in addressing any problems arising from the revision process. Acting swiftly on his instructions, the party has drawn up an extensive schedule of public meetings across the state. According to party sources, the Legal Cell will conduct a 10-day campaign from November 11 to 20, covering districts across Bengal, with special focus on North Bengal and East Midnapore—the stronghold of Opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari. The programme will commence in Kolkata on November 11, marked by a rally led by Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, fol-

lowed by a public meeting at Dorina Crossing at 3 PM. Party insiders said preparations began immediately after Banerjee's directive. The Legal Cell will travel district to district, holding awareness camps and public meetings to counter misinformation and guide people on SIR procedures. The initiative aims to ensure that citizens understand the verification process and are not misled by rumours or political propaganda.

BLOs have started visiting households to distribute voter verification forms. However, minor document errors have sparked widespread anxiety, with many residents fearing their names might be struck off the rolls or that they could lose their right to vote. Abhishek Banerjee has clearly stated that if even a single citizen's name is unfairly omitted, the party will launch a larger statewide movement. Until then, the TMC Legal Cell's mission will be to ease fear, spread awareness, and provide direct legal support to affected citizens.



State Minister Aroop Biswas, in the presence of local municipal representative Prasenjit Das and thousands of devotees, is addressing a religious meeting at Sri Guru Ashram in Naktala to celebrate the 134th birth anniversary of Sri Sri Durgaprasanna Paramahansa Dev (Sri Guru Sangha) on Wednesday.

WBBSE Allows Online Correction of Class 9 Registration Details

MI News Service, Kolkata: To prevent the recurring issue of errors in Madhyamik (Secondary) examination admit cards, the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has introduced a new system allowing students to edit or correct their registration details online. This step aims to reduce the annual flood of correction requests received before the exam season. However, the Board has made it clear that if mistakes persist even after this opportunity, the responsibility will lie with the schools, which may face penalties. Every year, in the run-up to the Madhyamik examinations, schools submit numerous correction requests for student details such as name spellings, birth dates, and parental information. To minimize this administra-

tive burden, the Board has decided to grant Class 9 students additional time to ensure their registration data is error-free.

According to the official notification, schools will be able to review and correct student information between November 6 and November 15, 2025, through a designated online portal. During this window, any inaccuracies in the registration certificates can be corrected digitally. After November 15, no further free corrections will be allowed. The circular further states that any post-deadline correction requests will attract a fine, the amount of which will be determined by the Board. Officials emphasized that schools must exercise caution while entering student data to avoid future complications.

11th edition of 'Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob' begins

MI News Service, Kolkata: With a view to bringing together several luminaries from the world of Bengali literature, art and culture to explore the soul of "Bangladesha", the three days of "Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob" marks the 11th edition of India's premier Bengali literary festival, is set to take place from 7 to 9 November at the iconic century-old Oxford Bookstore at Park Street.

Announcing the Utsob, Swagat

Sengupta, Festival Director and CEO of Oxford Bookstores said, "As the Apeejay Bangla Sahitya Utsob steps into its 11th edition, we shall witness how a long-cherished vision has grown into a much-loved celebration of Bangla literature and culture, thanks to all the well wishers". This year's edition weaves together diverse themes, including centenary tributes to iconic Bengali stalwarts, explorations of cinema, publishing, education and poetry.

Recorded sessions of the entire programme will be shared on our YouTube channel after the event, ensuring that the spirit of Bangla literature reaches global audiences, Sengupta said. The 2025 edition will feature a diverse and dynamic line-up of speakers—celebrated authors, poets, filmmakers, actors, journalists, researchers, academicians, musicians and cultural icons, alongside emerging voices of contemporary

Bangla writing. They include Anindya Chatterjee, Aniruddha Roy Chowdhury, Anjan Dutta, Aparajita Dasgupta, Avek Majumder, Bratya Basu, Jayanta Narayan Chatterjee, Mir Afsar Ali, Nrisingha Prasad Bhaduri, Parambrata Chattopadhyay, Samik Bandyopadhyay, Sanjoy Mukhopadhyay, Shankar Chakraborty, Srijato, Subarna Basu, Sudhanshu Sekhar Dey and Yashodhara Ray Chaudhuri among others



On the occasion of Dev Deepawali, lamps were lit and Aarti was performed on the banks of the Ganga in Kolkata.

ED Probes Businessman's Frequent Foreign Visits in Fake Passport Case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has turned its focus on Khardah-based businessman Vinod Gupta in connection with the ongoing fake passport investigation. According to ED sources, Gupta allegedly travelled to Bangkok nearly 900 times over the past ten years, raising serious questions about the purpose behind such frequent foreign trips.

Officials from the central investigating agency are now trying to determine the reason behind his repeated visits abroad. On Monday, the ED conducted raids across several locations in West Bengal, including Nadia district, as part of its probe into the fake passport racket. Acting on specific leads, a team of officers also searched Gupta's Khardah residence on Tuesday night. The raid reportedly continued till late at night, during which several crucial documents were seized. Sources claimed the officials unearthed multiple incriminat-

ing and suspicious details during the search. While Gupta has maintained that his frequent visits to Thailand were strictly business-related—claiming he is involved in the spices trade—ED investigators remain unconvinced. They suspect his Bangkok trips may be linked to forex trading operations, another line of business reportedly run by him. The agency is now closely examining his financial records and overseas transactions, which they describe as "highly irregular and suspicious." Given the emerging leads, the ED is likely to summon Gupta again for further questioning. The probe has already led to several arrests in recent days. Earlier, the agency apprehended Azad Mallik, a Pakistani national, for his alleged role in the fake passport racket. Following his interrogation, ED officials carried out searches in several areas along the India-Bangladesh border in North 24 Parganas and Nadia districts.

Bus Conductor Arrested for Pushing Passenger Off Moving Bus in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: A routine fare dispute between a bus passenger and a conductor took a horrifying turn in the city on Tuesday, when a man was allegedly pushed out of a moving bus in central Kolkata. The conductor has since been arrested on charges of attempted murder, police confirmed. According to police sources, the shocking incident occurred near the intersection of AJC Bose Road and Rawdon Street, involving a privately operated bus. Witnesses reported that the conductor and a passenger got into a heated argument over the fare. The verbal altercation soon escalated into a violent confrontation. In a fit of rage, the conductor allegedly shoved the passenger, identified as Mohammad Aziz Khan, out of the bus while it was still in motion. Khan fell onto the road and sustained severe injuries. He was immediately rushed to SSKM Hospital, where he remains under medical supervision. Hospital authorities described his condition as serious but stable.

'To get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us': Mamdani challenges Trump

From PG 1
how we stop the next one. "So, Donald Trump, since I know you're watching, I have four words for you - Turn the volume up," he said to another thunderous applause from his supporters. "We will hold bad landlords to account because the Donald Trumps of our city have grown far too comfortable taking advantage of their tenants. We will put an end to the culture of corruption that has allowed billionaires like Trump to evade taxation and exploit tax breaks."

"We will stand alongside unions and expand labour protections, because we know, just as Donald Trump does, that when working people have ironclad rights, the bosses who seek to exploit them become very small indeed. "New York will remain a city of immigrants, a city built by immigrants, and as of tonight, led by an immigrant. So hear me, President Trump, when I say this, to get to any of us, you will have to get through all of us," Mamdani declared. Mamdani said that his victory toppled a "political dynasty", as he quoted the words of former Indian Prime minister Jawaharlal

Nehru that with his win, the city has "stepped out from the old into the new". Mamdani emerged victorious in the closely-watched New York City mayoral election, defeating political heavyweight former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa. "Friends, we have toppled a political dynasty. I wish Andrew Cuomo only the best in private life, but let tonight be the final time I utter his name as we turn the page on a politics that abandons the many and answers only to the few. New York tonight you have delivered," Mamdani said in his victory speech. "We won because New Yorkers allowed themselves to hope that the impossible could be made possible, and we won because we insisted that no longer would politics be something that is done to us. Now, it is something that we do," he said. "Standing before you, I think of the words of Jawaharlal Nehru — a moment comes, but rarely in history, when we step out from the old to the new, when an age ends and when the soul of a nation long suppressed finds utterance."

Unpaid 'women's work' is worth over USD 427 billion

From PG 1
value unpaid work and care are female-concentrated – and systematically undervalued on the basis of gender. We can fix this by estimating a wage equation, using HILDA Survey data, to measure the extent by which an occupation is systematically paid less (or more) on the basis of its gender composition. While we're at it, we can also estimate the wage premium enjoyed by men irrespective of their industry and occupation. When we adjust for these sources of gender-based undervaluation, women's share of total labour climbs to 50.5 per cent. In other words, women and men are contributing roughly equal labour effort to our economy. But it's not reflected in the way we measure our economy, or in the gender gaps that persist in pay, wealth, assets and control over resources.

These findings have practical use in setting wages, dividing up household assets, and even measuring productivity. The observed decline in measured productivity – occurring at the same time the care sector is rapidly swelling in size – could very well be due to an economic system that is failing to fully recognise the value of female-concentrated sectors. The invisibility and under-recognition of "women's work" – that is, the work that society assigns to women – is not just a matter of numbers. It's an erasure and diminishing of the value of women's capabilities and contributions to our economy. The gender biases embedded in conventional economic architecture are a marker, and driver, of women's lower status, power and decision-making authority. Feminist economics have long been pointing out the shortcomings of economic frameworks that centre on the productive activities traditionally assigned to men.

"Case of misunderstanding": Official on alleged police-BSF scuffle in Bengal's Nadia

MI News Service, Nadia: "It was a case of misunderstanding" and the "matter has been resolved", said a BSF official a day after a scuffle broke out allegedly between BSF personnel and police in West Bengal's Nadia district.



The matter was resolved following the intervention of senior officials, the official added. Regarding the scuffle between police and BSF personnel in West Bengal's Nadia district on November 4, Border Security Force Deputy Inspector General of the South Bengal Frontier, Nilotpal Kumar Pandey, told ANI that the matter has been resolved.

"As far as the incident is concerned, it was a case of misunderstanding and confusion. With the intervention of senior officials, the matter has been resolved." More details are awaited in this case.

Meanwhile, a team of the Election Commission reached Bagdogra airport to visit the three border districts of Cooch Behar, Alipurduar & Jalpaiguri. Led by Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti, Principal Secretary SB Joshi, and Deputy Secretary Abhinav Agarwal, the team will review the progress of voter list revision. These districts, which share a border with Bangladesh, have been selected for the ECI team's inspection to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

During their visit, the team will conduct field reviews and inspect the work of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) who are responsible for conducting house-to-house verification of voters. Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal will accompany the team to facilitate the review process. The SIR aims to update voter lists across West Bengal's 294 assembly constituencies. Over 80,000 BLOs are conducting house-to-house visits until December 4 to verify and update voter information. To assist voters, 659 helpdesks have been set up across the state.

The Election Commission of India has launched the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls across nine states and three Union Territories, covering nearly 51 crore electors.

UMA BHARATI vows to contest 2029 LS Poll

MI News Service, New Delhi: Unwilling to directly blame the Narendra Modi government at the Centre and the Pushkar Singh Dhami and Yogi Adityanath dispensations in Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh for the unclean Ganga, BJP leader Uma Bharati has restarted her independent campaign to clean up the holy river.



The BJP national vice-president also expressed her wish to contest the 2029 Lok Sabha elections from Jhansi. She took a bath in the Ganga at Sangam in Allahabad on Tuesday along with over 2,000 people and pledged to clean it with the help of the common man.

work continuously wherever they are," she said in Allahabad while claiming that she herself has decided not to take up any assignment because she wanted to devote her time to the Ganga and cows.

Ganga. Bharati was the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh in 2003-04 and the Union minister of water resources, river development and Ganga rejuvenation from 2014 to 2017. While she launched a massive campaign to clean the river, her portfolio was changed to drinking water and sanitation in 2017. She headed the ministry till 2019, before she was dropped from the Modi cabinet.

"I administered an oath to the people that they will work to make the Ganga clean and uninterrupted. It is not a one-day programme. All those who attended today's (Tuesday) event must

The Modi government had launched the Namami Gange project soon after becoming Prime Minister. Since then, Modi and Adityanath have claimed on several occasions that they have cleaned the

Samudra Janala Bakkhali poetry festival 2025- The ecstasy of the poetry of the saline winds



MI News Service, Namkhana: Coasts do not transcend solely into mad gusty waves, they also transcend into the echoes of poetry. These echoes have spread their quintessential melodies all over Bakkhali. This Monday marked the commencement a two day long "samudra janala bakkhali poetry festival 2025" in Bakkhali Eco-park-laced with poetry, music and discussions. Poet Prabal Kumar Basu, Poet Jasodhara Choudhury and poet Bibhas Raichowchury were felicitated.

witnessed a massive crowd who enjoyed various programmes like poetry reading, music and literature discussions.

Artists like Palash Das, Manishankar Aparup, Mrinal Kanti Gayen and Debashish Saha captured many moments of this festival on their canvases.

A thrilling experience altogether. The names of the poets ran through the veins of the trees and colourful papers bore the beauty of the lovely poems written. The sound of the poems and music echoed through the pine cones of Bakkhali for these two days. The wind, sky, sand and waters all experienced this thrilling experience. A large number of poets from different states and regions gathered together in this festival. Almost 150 poets gathered together to participate.

To quote the words of the eminent poet Swapan Kr Das, "Poetry alone holds the power to guide mankind towards enlightenment. So it is our duty to support poetry of all kinds and in turn support humanity." When the sun set on the horizon on Wednesday it seemed that not only did the waves echo but the trace of the poems and their rhythm lingered on. It once again proved that poetry is still the most beautiful window of life.

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DELHI battles eye problems from toxic smog

MI News Service, New Delhi: A thick shroud of smog and toxic air continues to blanket Delhi, leaving the city's residents battling a surge in eye-related ailments and forcing families to rethink even their wedding plans. While doctors report a sharp rise in eye allergies, dryness, and burning sensations, wedding planners say air purifiers have become the latest must-have item at indoor functions.

have dry eyes are experiencing much more discomfort than usual. The combination of pollution, dust, and chemical exposure is proving extremely harmful for the ocular surface.

damage to the ocular surface, affecting both comfort and long-term vision.

Ophthalmologists across the capital have seen a nearly 60 per cent spike in patients suffering from eye irritation after Diwali, blaming the toxic mix of smoke, particulate matter and chemical residues from firecracker burning. The hazardous air, they warn, is not only harmful to the lungs but also to the eyes.

Dr Rajesh Sinha, Professor of Ophthalmology at the RP Centre in AIIMS, said the number of patients suffering from dryness, burning and watery eyes has increased by around 50 per cent in recent days. "Many of them come in complaining that their eyes feel gritty or heavy, which are symptoms typical of pollution-induced ocular allergy. Even healthy individuals are experiencing irritation due to the poor air quality," he said.

Pollutants like nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and carbon particles react with the moisture in the eyes, leading to chemical irritation and inflammation.

Dr Ikeda Lal, Senior Cornea, Cataract and Refractive Surgery Specialist at Delhi Eye Centre and Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, said, "Every year after Diwali, we brace for a rise in eye complaints. The number of patients complaining of itching, redness, and irritation has gone up by almost 50-60 per cent. We are seeing patients with severe eye allergies, and those who already

Even short exposure to smog can make eyes sting, itch or water. Contact lens wearers and makeup users are particularly at risk, as particles trapped between the lens and cornea can worsen inflammation. Doctors have advised avoiding contact lenses and heavy eye makeup during high-pollution days. They recommend lubricating eye drops, protective glasses and frequent washing of the eyes with clean water to reduce the effects of pollution. Wearing eyewear outdoors, limiting exposure during peak smog hours and using air purifiers indoors are also among the preventive measures suggested.

Dr. Lal said that pollution disturbs the delicate tear film balance, leaving the eyes dry, red and prone to infection.

He added that repeated exposure to high pollution levels could cause chronic inflammation and progressive

Persistent redness, pain or blurred vision should prompt an immediate visit to an ophthalmologist, they cautioned.

The South Asian nation is the world's biggest importer of yellow peas, which it imports mainly from Canada and Russia.

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JAISHANKAR backs Gaza peace plan

MI News Service, New Delhi: External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Tuesday articulated India's support for the Gaza peace plan with the hope that "it paves the way for a durable and lasting solution".



However, the 20-point plan drawn up by US President Donald Trump in consultation with other stakeholders does not envisage a clear pathway to Palestinian statehood.

ers in Israel. Though earlier the Indian working community in Israel comprised mainly caregivers for the elderly, a new opportunity opened up for construction workers after the October 7, 2023, attack, when Tel Aviv cancelled work permits for Palestinians engaged in the sector. A number of Indian workers, recruited through labour camps, have moved to Israel over the past year. "Indian workers are also

present in Israel in growing numbers today as a result of our mobility understandings. They have some issues which need attention, and I hope that we can take that dimension of our ties forward," Jaishankar said.

The two sides also discussed connectivity projects. While Jaishankar did not refer to any one of them in particular, Sa'ar specifically mentioned I2U2 (the strategic partnership among India,

Israel, the UAE and the US) and IMEC — the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor. Both have been affected by the Hamas-Israel conflict.

The two sides also discussed terrorism. "It is essential that we work towards ensuring a global approach of zero-tolerance towards terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations," Jaishankar said.

Sa'ar condemned the Pahalgam attack before dedicating a sizable portion of his opening remarks to his country's fight against terrorism. "In the Middle East, Israel faces a unique phenomenon — 'terror states'. The radical terror states of Hamas in Gaza, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen have established themselves over the past decades. Uprooting them is necessary for the security and stability of our region... Hamas must be disarmed. Gaza must be demilitarised. We won't compromise on it."

DMK moves SC to quash EC's SIR order

MI News Service, Chennai/New Delhi: The ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has moved the Supreme Court for quashing the Election Commission of India's October 27 order to conduct the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in several states and Union Territories on the ground that it would disenfranchise lakhs of voters across the country, besides affecting the citizenry rights of several others.

provisions of the Representation of the People Act (ROPA), 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

which addressed issues such as migration, deaths and deletion of ineligible voters.

"The SIR and the orders, if not set aside, can arbitrarily and without due process disenfranchise lakhs of voters from electing their representatives, thereby disrupting free and fair elections and democracy in the country, which are part of the basic structure of the Constitution. The documentation requirements of the directive, lack of due process as well as the unreasonably short timeline for the SIR in Tamil Nadu make this exercise bound to result in removal of names of lakhs of genuine voters from electoral rolls leading to their disenfranchisement," the petition filed through advocate Vivek Singh by R.S. Bharathi, organising secretary of the DMK and a former Rajya Sabha member, said.

"The existing electoral roll in Tamil Nadu was updated and published on January 6 under the special summary revision, and has been updated since then, it said. "The respondent (EC) is seeking to supplant the existing statutory framework, which already governs the preparation and revision of electoral rolls. The manner in which the SIR has been directed to be conducted is found neither in ROPA nor the 1960 Rules, and the said exercise departs from the procedure prescribed therein and is therefore ultra vires of the same. "Section 28(3) of ROPA requires all rules to be notified in the official gazette and laid before Parliament. No such notification has been issued for the SIR, and the same has not been laid before Parliament. Therefore, the SIR is without the force of law and lacks statutory basis," the petition said.

ted that the poll panel has, through the notification, claimed the power to assess the citizenship of individuals, a power that rests solely with the Union government, and the poll panel is vested with only the power to prepare and revise electoral rolls for the conduct of elections.

"By imposing a citizenship-like burden of proof, the SIR appears to be acting beyond its statutory purpose, effectively functioning as a de facto National Register of Citizens (NRC). Through this exercise, the respondent has reversed the settled presumption of legitimacy accorded to an enrolled elector and placed an onerous burden on registered voters to re-establish their citizenship, without adequate notice. "...Given the quasi-judicial character of such an exercise, it would require careful and detailed scrutiny of evidence and cannot be conducted by the respondent summarily," the petition stated, adding that the SIR is bound to create confusion as seen in Bihar.

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Other than Tamil Nadu the SIR is also being conducted in Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Kerala and Puducherry. Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry are due for polls next year.

According to the petitioner, there was no need for the current SIR as a special summary revision was conducted in Tamil Nadu between October 2024 and January 2025,

The DMK has submitted

STARLINK conducts security & tech demo runs in India

MI News Service, Mumbai: Elon Musk-led Starlink recently conducted demo runs in Mumbai to show compliance with security and technical conditions for satellite broadband services, sources said.

BPCL clarifies stance on Russian oil imports

MI News Service, New Delhi: State-owned BPCL has said its crude procurement is based on techno-commercial viability for its refineries and it buys from every geography including Russia.

company ensures the reliable operations," Khanna told.

say that all my three refineries are working in this direction," he said.

The demo, done before law enforcement agencies based on the provisional spectrum assigned to Starlink, sources told.

BPCL Chairman and Managing Director Sanjay Khanna said that currently preparation of Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) is underway for the company's proposed Greenfield Refinery and Petrochemical Complex near Ramayapatnam Port in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh and obtaining necessary environmental clearances.

A senior official of the Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas replying to a query on the crude imports from Russia on Tuesday said those decisions are not taken at the country level but at respective company level. "Companies decide what the most economical oil is and in compliance with the law," the official told PTI.

Khanna said BPCL's biofuel complex at Bargarh, comprising 1G and 2G plants, is progressing well, with the 2G unit expected to be commissioned by December.

The move would mark a significant step ahead of its planned entry into the Indian satellite broadband market, as these demos are an essential requirement for Starlink to secure clearances before it can launch commercial services.

"We buy oil from every geography and the oil which is most techno-commercially viable for the refinery, not only me (BPCL), every refiner goes for it. So that is the stand, be it Russian oil or any oil for that matter. That is how we go for it. Whichever is giving us the highest value for the

The official further said there was no direction for the government to any crude importers whether to buy or not to buy from Russia.

BPCL and OIL have signed a non-binding MoU to explore collaboration in developing BPCL's upcoming Greenfield Refinery and Petrochemical Complex in AP.

Sources said Starlink will run a demo to show compliance with the security and technical conditions of GMPCS authorisation.

Microsoft CEO Nadella to visit India in Dec

MI News Service, New Delhi/Washington: Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella is set to travel to India in December, his second visit to the South Asian country this year where he plans to hold meetings with top government officials, two sources with direct knowledge said.

Khanna further said in line with the PM's vision of net zero for the country by 2070, BPCL has chalked out a detailed plan of net zero by 2040. As part of that plan, one of the key components was improving the energy efficiencies of BPCL's refineries. "And I am very happy to

The proposed facility, with a refining capacity of 9-12 Million Metric Tons Per Annum (MMTPA) and an estimated investment of Rs 1 lakh crore (USD11 billion), will be a cornerstone of India's downstream expansion.

India imposes 30% import duty on yellow peas

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has imposed a 30 per cent import duty on yellow peas. It got effective from November 1.

Nadella will address two AI-related conferences in Bengaluru and Mumbai during his visit, which also includes meetings in New Delhi, said one of the sources.

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment. Like other big tech execu-

Under the MoU, the companies will evaluate opportunities for collaboration, including the possibility of OIL taking a minority equity stake in the proposed joint venture.

The government had earlier allowed duty-free imports of yellow peas until March 31, 2026, but domestic farmers had urged authorities to curb the influx of cheap imports that were pressuring local prices.

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment. Like other big tech execu-

ties, the Indian-born Nadella enjoys strong popularity in a country where engineering degrees are seen as a path to prosperity. News of his planned visit comes as New Delhi and Washington are trying to iron out trade differences, and as Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his officials are promoting the use of local apps over US firms. Among those is Zoho, which offers cheaper alternatives to cloud-based software tools made by Microsoft.

Companies are ramping up their focus on AI in India, where Microsoft-backed OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, and Elon Musk's Grok have exploded in popularity. Microsoft's AI assistant Copilot is used widely too, particularly in companies.

The South Asian nation is the world's biggest importer of yellow peas, which it imports mainly from Canada and Russia.

Microsoft did not respond to a request for comment. Like other big tech execu-

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RTGS transactions volume grew from 14.8 crore in CY 2019 to 29.5 crore in CY 2024, while transaction value increased from Rs 1,388.7 lakh crore to Rs 1,938.2 lakh crore during this period.

The top court made the observation while dismissing appeals filed by a vehicle owner and insurer, The New India Insurance Company Limited.

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In CY 2025, by H1 alone, RTGS recorded 16.1 crore transactions amounting to Rs 1,079.2 lakh crore, indicating sustained growth and usage. During CY 2019-2024, NEFT transactions more than tripled in terms of volume, from 262.2 crore to 926.8 crore. However, during the same period, in terms of value, it grew to Rs 432.8 lakh crore from Rs 232.9 lakh crore.

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court has said that insurance companies cannot deny compensation to accident victims merely because there was deviation in route of the vehicle involved and that it was in violation of the permit.

On October 7, 2014, a motorcyclist was hit by the offending vehicle being driven in a rash and negligent manner, resulting in his death on the spot.

The insurance company also challenged the Tribunal's order on the grounds of violation by the insurer of the conditions enumerated in the policy.

Google this month said it would invest \$15 billion over five years to set up an AI data centre in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh. Nadella will also likely meet key customers and India employees during his visit, the second source said. Microsoft has more than 20,000 employees across 10 Indian cities.

A bench comprising Justices Sanjay Karol and Prashant Kumar Mishra said the purpose of an insurance policy in the present context is to shield the owner/operator from direct liability when such an unforeseen/unfortunate incident takes place.

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal awarded an amount of Rs 18.86 lakh as compensation along with interest. Being aggrieved with the amount of compensation awarded, the petitioner filed an appeal before the Karnataka High Court on the grounds that the compensation was not correctly calculated by the Tribunal.

The high court directed the insurance company to satisfy the award as passed by the Tribunal and granted the right to recover the amount from the owner of the bus. While the insurer challenged the high court's direction to pay compensation first and later recover from the owner, the owner challenged the high court's order allowing recovery from him.

The volume of UPI transactions has increased significantly to 17.221 crore transactions in CY 2024 from 1.079 crore transactions in CY 2019. The total value of transactions increased from Rs 18.4 lakh crore in CY 2019 to Rs 246.8 lakh crore in CY 2024.

Digital payments account for 99.7% transactions by volume: RBI

MI News Service, Mumbai: Digital payment transactions accounted for 99.7 per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in value in the payments system during calendar year 2024, and the trend continued in the first half of 2025, according to a Reserve Bank report released.

The payments ecosystem in India has witnessed remarkable growth in recent years, said the RBI's half-yearly Payment System Report, June 2025. The payments landscape in India consists of a bouquet of payment systems designed to cater to the diverse needs of users, which include paper-based instruments (cheques) as well as digital payment systems.

Digital payment systems include NEFT, IMPS, RTGS, NACH, debit and credit cards, prepaid payment instruments, and UPI. The report also showed an increasing trend across all categories, except for paper-based instruments. Cheques account for 2.3 per cent of the total transactions in terms of value. In terms of volume, the payment transactions grew from 3.248 crore in CY 2019 to 20,849 crore in CY 2024, and in terms of value, they rose from Rs 1,775 lakh crore to Rs 2,830 lakh crore during this period.

In the half-year ended June 2025, transaction volume was 12,549 crore, amounting to Rs 1,572 lakh crore. Also Read - Make life easier for honest taxpayers, provide no comfort to dishonest ones: FM tells GST officers the report said. Almost all of the growth in payments is attributable to digital payment transactions. In CY 2019, digital payments accounted for approximately 96.7 per cent of the total payment transactions by volume and 95.5 per cent by value. "By CY 2024, these figures had risen to 99.7 per cent in terms of volume and 97.5 per cent in terms of value.

This trend continued in H1 of 2025, with digital payments comprising 99.8 per cent of volume and 97.7 per cent of value," the report said. In terms of volume, UPI (Unified Payments Interface) accounted for the largest share at 85 per cent during the first half of 2025 (H1 2025). It accounted for a modest nine per cent in terms of value during the same period.

On the other hand, during this period, the Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) system recorded the largest share of 69 per cent in terms of value but accounted for the lowest share of 0.1 per cent in terms of volume. "Being a large value payment system, also called a wholesale payment system, RTGS, with a minimum transaction amount of Rs 2 lakh, contributes higher in terms of transaction value but records fewer transactions than other payment systems," the report said. UPI, on the other hand, processes a large number of small-value transactions, resulting in a high share in terms of volume, but a relatively lower share in terms of value.

RTGS transactions volume grew from 14.8 crore in CY 2019 to 29.5 crore in CY 2024, while transaction value increased from Rs 1,388.7 lakh crore to Rs 1,938.2 lakh crore during this period.

In CY 2025, by H1 alone, RTGS recorded 16.1 crore transactions amounting to Rs 1,079.2 lakh crore, indicating sustained growth and usage. During CY 2019-2024, NEFT transactions more than tripled in terms of volume, from 262.2 crore to 926.8 crore. However, during the same period, in terms of value, it grew to Rs 432.8 lakh crore from Rs 232.9 lakh crore.

In H1 of CY 2025, NEFT has already processed 490.5 crore transactions, amounting to Rs 237 lakh crore, indicating sustained growth and widespread adoption, the report said. It further said UPI has become the most widely used retail fast payment system (FPS) in India due to its efficiency, round-the-clock availability, and ease of use. The volume of UPI transactions has increased significantly to 17.221 crore transactions in CY 2024 from 1.079 crore transactions in CY 2019. The total value of transactions increased from Rs 18.4 lakh crore in CY 2019 to Rs 246.8 lakh crore in CY 2024.

Addressing health, lifestyle variables might minimise the risk of young-onset dementia: Study

A wide range of risk factors for young-onset dementia have been found by researchers. The findings call into question the concept that genetics is the only cause of the disease, paving the way for novel preventative techniques.

The large-scale study identified 15 risk factors, which are similar to those for late-onset dementia. For the first time, they indicate that it may be possible to reduce the risk of young-onset dementia by targeting health and lifestyle factors.

Relatively little research has been done on young-onset dementia, though globally there are around 370,000 new cases of young-onset dementia each year.

Published in *JAMA Neurology*, the new research by the University of Exeter and Maastricht University followed more than 350,000 participants younger than 65 across the United Kingdom from the UK Biobank study. The team evaluated a broad array of risk factors ranging from genetic predispositions to lifestyle and environmental influences. The study revealed that lower formal education, lower socioeconomic status, genetic variation, lifestyle factors



such as alcohol use disorder and social isolation, and health issues including vitamin D deficiency, depression, stroke, hearing impairment and heart disease significantly elevate risk of young-onset dementia.

Professor David Llewellyn of the University of Exeter emphasized the importance of the findings: "This breakthrough study illustrates the crucial role of international collaboration and big data in advancing our understanding of dementia. There's still much to learn in our ongoing mission to prevent, identify, and treat dementia in all its forms in a more targeted way. This is the

largest and most robust study of its kind ever conducted. Excitingly, for the first time it reveals that we may be able to take action to reduce risk of this debilitating condition, through targeting a range of different factors.

Dr Stevie Hendriks, Researcher at Maastricht University, said: "Young-onset dementia has a very serious impact, because the people affected usually still have a job, children, and a busy life. The cause is often assumed to be genetic, but for many people we don't actually know exactly what the cause is. This is why we also wanted to

investigate other risk factors in this study."

Sebastian Kohler, Professor of Neuroepidemiology at Maastricht University, said: "We already knew from research on people who develop dementia at older age that there are a series of modifiable risk factors. In addition to physical factors, mental health also plays an important role, including avoiding chronic stress, loneliness and depression. The fact that this is also evident in young-onset dementia came as a surprise to me, and it may offer opportunities to reduce risk in this group too."

The study's support was provided by Alzheimer's Research UK, The Alan Turing Institute/Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Alzheimer Nederland, Gieskes Strijbis Fonds, the Medical Research Council, the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration South West Peninsula (PenARC), the National Health and Medical Research Council, the National Institute on Aging, and Alzheimer Netherlands.

Dr Janice Ranson, Senior Research Fellow at the University

of Exeter, said: "Our research breaks new ground in identifying that the risk of young-onset dementia can be reduced. We think this could herald a new era in interventions to reduce new cases of this condition."

Dr Leah Mursaleen, Head of Clinical Research at Alzheimer's Research UK, which co-funded the study, said: "We're witnessing a transformation in understanding of dementia risk and, potentially, how to reduce it on both an individual and societal level. In recent years, there's been a growing consensus that dementia is linked to 12 specific modifiable risk factors such as smoking, blood pressure and hearing loss. It's now accepted that up to four in 10 dementia cases worldwide are linked to these factors."

"This pioneering study shines important and much-needed light on factors that can influence the risk of young-onset dementia. This starts to fill in an important gap in our knowledge. It will be important to build on these findings in broader studies."

The full study is entitled 'Risk factors for young-onset dementia in the UK Biobank: A prospective population-based study', published in *JAMA Neurology*.



Study finds how type of allergy remedy help treat lung cancer

NEW YORK [US] : Researchers at Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine have discovered an allergy route that, when inhibited, activates antitumor immunity in animal models of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

In preliminary human research, combining immunotherapy with dupilumab - an Interleukin-4 (IL-4) receptor-blocking antibody widely used to treat allergies and asthma - improved patients' immune systems, with one out of six patients having substantial tumour decrease.

The findings were described in the December 6 issue of *Nature*.

"Immunotherapy using checkpoint blockade has revolutionized treatment for non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of lung cancer, but currently only about a third of patients respond to it alone, and in most patients, the benefit is temporary," says senior study author Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Director of the Marc and Jennifer Lipschultz Precision Immunology Institute and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Immunotherapy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

"A big focus of our program TARGET is to use single cell technology and artificial intelligence to identify molecular immune programs that can dampen tumor immune response to checkpoint blockade."

Also known as a PD1 inhibitor, checkpoint blockade is a type of cancer immunotherapy that can unleash the cancer-killing activity of T cells.

"Using single cell technologies, we discovered that the immune cells infiltrating lung cancers, as well as other cancers we studied, exhibited characteristics of a 'type 2' immune response, which is commonly associated with allergic conditions like eczema and asthma," said first study author Nelson LaMarche, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow in the lab of Dr. Merad.

"These results led us to explore whether we could repurpose a medication typically used for allergic conditions to 'rescue' or enhance tumor response to checkpoint block-

ade," says Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, Director of the Early Phase Trial Unit at Mount Sinai's Tisch Cancer Center, and co-senior author of the study.

"Strikingly, we found that IL-4 blockade enhanced lung cancer response to checkpoint blockade in mice and in six lung cancer patients with treatment-resistant disease. In fact, one patient whose lung cancer was growing despite checkpoint blockade had nearly all their cancer disappear after receiving just three doses of the allergy medication, and his cancer remains controlled today, over 17 months later."

The researchers are encouraged by the initial results but emphasize the need for larger clinical trials to validate the drug's efficacy in treating NSCLC.

Beyond the clinical trial findings reported in the current *Nature* paper, the investigators have now expanded the clinical trial, adding dupilumab to checkpoint blockade for a larger group of lung cancer patients, and Dr. Marron recently received a grant from the Cancer Research Institute to study the effects in early-stage lung cancer as well.

Through these trials, they are searching for biomarkers that can predict which cancer patients might benefit from dupilumab treatment and which may not.

"In our relentless pursuit of progress, the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) proudly supports the visionary team at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Their findings validate our commitment to funding research across the entire discovery continuum, from the lab to clinical implementation, driven by cutting-edge technology and data. We're eager to witness our support delivering new hope by uncovering pathways to enhance checkpoint blockade responses. We champion this discovery and take pride in being part of its journey from lab to clinic, reinforcing our commitment to transforming lives," said Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, PhD, CEO and director of scientific affairs at CRI.

Researchers reveal impact of aldehydes on DNA damage, ageing



A team of researchers from Nagoya University in Japan determined that aldehydes are metabolic waste linked to premature ageing.

Their findings, published in *Nature Cell Biology*, shed light on premature ageing illnesses as well as prospective techniques for combating ageing in healthy people, such as limiting exposure to aldehyde-inducing chemicals including alcohol, pollution, and tobacco.

Aldehydes can have a negative impact on one's health. However, the group's findings indicate that these negative impacts also include ageing, which was discovered by Yasuyoshi Oka, Yuka Nakazawa, Mayuko Shimada, and Tomoo Ogi of Nagoya University.

"DNA damage is linked with ageing phenotypes," said Oka. "However, for the first time, we propose a relationship between aldehyde-derived DNA damage and premature ageing."

The researchers hypothesised that there might be a link between aldehydes and ageing since individuals with premature ageing disorders, like AMeD syndrome, exhibit inadequate activity of enzymes, like ALDH2, that break down aldehydes.

For healthy individuals, ALDH2 is also important in our response to alcohol. When a person drinks wine or beer, the liver metabolises the alcohol into aldehydes so it can be eliminated from the body. The activity of ALDH2 is important for converting the aldehydes into a non-toxic substance.

Aldehydes are harmful because they are highly reactive with DNA and proteins. In the body, they form DNA-protein crosslinks (DPCs) that block important enzymes in typical cell proliferation and maintenance processes, causing these processes to malfunction and the patient to age.

Focusing on DPCs caused by aldehyde, the scientists used a method called DPC-seq to investigate the link between aldehyde accumulation and DNA damage in premature-ageing disease patients.

In a series of experiments, the researchers discovered that the TCR complex, VCP/p97, and the proteasome are involved in the removal of formaldehyde-induced DPCs in actively transcribed regions. This was confirmed by a mouse model lacking both aldehyde clearance processes and the TCR pathway that showed worse AMeD syndrome symptoms.

These processes are important because they are related to the clearance of aldehydes. It suggests an association between premature ageing diseases and aldehyde accumulation.

Professor Ogi is hopeful about the implications of their findings, stating: "By elucidating the mechanism by which DNA damage heals quickly, we have revealed part of the cause of genetic premature ageing." "Our research opens up new avenues for understanding the underlying mechanisms of premature ageing diseases and offers potential targets for therapeutic intervention," Oka said. "By elucidating the role of aldehydes in DNA damage and ageing, we are paving the way for future studies aimed at developing novel treatments and interventions."

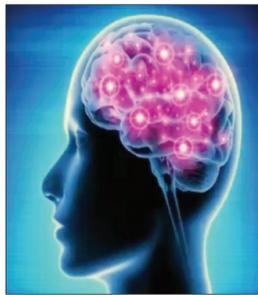
Artificial intelligence decreases barrier to treating ultrasonic brain illness

Focused ultrasound therapy is a non-invasive therapy procedure that employs ultrasound energy to treat neurological problems by focusing it on a few millimetres of the brain, even deep regions, without opening the skull. It has been used to treat a variety of refractory brain illnesses, including depression and Alzheimer's disease because it has a low impact on surrounding healthy tissue and lowers side effects like problems and infections.

However, its application has been limited thus far since it is difficult to reflect the distortion of ultrasound waves generated by the varied shapes of patients' skulls in real time. A research team led by Dr. Kim, Hyungmin of the Bionics Research Center at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) has developed a real-time acoustic simulation technology based on generative AI to predict and correct the distortion of the ultrasound focus position caused by the skull in real-time during focused ultrasound therapy. Until now, the clinical applicability of AI simulation models in the field of non-invasive focused ultrasound therapy technology has not been validated.

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time during focused ultrasound therapy. Until now, the clinical applicability of AI simulation models in the field of non-invasive focused ultrasound therapy technology has not been validated.

To predict the location of the invisible acoustic focus, navigation systems based on medical images taken before treatment are currently utilized, which provide information about the relative position of the patient and the ultrasound transducer. However, they are limited by their inability to account for the distortion of ultrasound waves caused by the skull, and while various simulation techniques have been used to compensate for this, they still require significant computational time, making them difficult to apply in actual clinical practice.

The research team developed a real-time focused ultrasound simulation technology through an artificial intelligence model based on a generative adversarial neural network (GAN), a deep learning model widely used for image generation in the medical field. The technology reduces the update time of three-dimensional simulation information reflecting changes in ultrasound acoustic waves from 14 s to 0.1 s, while

showing an average maximum acoustic pressure error of less than 7% and a focal position error of less than 6mm, both of which are within the error range of existing simulation technologies, increasing the possibility of clinical application.

The research team also developed a medical image-based navigation system to verify the performance of the developed technology in order to rapidly deploy it to real-world clinical practice. The system can provide real-time acoustic simulations at the rate of 5 Hz depending on the position of the ultrasound transducer, and succeeded in predicting the position of the ultrasound energy and focus within the skull in real-time during focused ultrasound therapy.

Previously, due to the long calculation time, the ultrasound transducer had to be precisely positioned in a pre-planned location to utilize the simulation results. However, with the newly developed simulation-guided navigation system, it is now possible to adjust the ultrasound focus based on the acoustic simulation results obtained in real-time. In the future, it is expected to improve the accuracy of focused ultrasound and provide safe treatment for patients by being able to quickly respond to unexpected situations that may occur during the treatment process.

"As the accuracy and safety of focused ultrasound brain disease treatment has been improved through this research, more clinical applications will emerge," said Dr. Kim, Hyungmin of KIST. "For practical use, we plan to verify the system by diversifying the ultrasound sonication environment, such as multi-array ultrasound transducers."

STUDY SHOWS SLEEP DEPRIVATION MAKES US LESS HAPPY, MORE ANXIOUS

Sleep deprivation does more than just make us sleepy.

According to a study released by the American Psychological Association that synthesised more than 50 years of research on sleep deprivation and mood, it may hinder our emotional functioning, diminish good emotions, and increase our risk of anxiety symptoms.

"In our largely sleep-deprived society, quantifying the effects of sleep loss on emotion is critical for promoting psychological health," said study lead author Cara Palmer, PhD, of Montana State University. "This study represents the most comprehensive synthesis of experimental sleep and emotion research to date, and provides strong evidence that periods of extended wakeful-

ness, shortened sleep duration, and nighttime awakenings adversely influence human emotional functioning."

The study was published in the journal *Psychological Bulletin*.

Palmer and her colleagues, including co-lead author Joanne Bower, PhD, of East Anglia University, analyzed data from 154 studies spanning five decades, with 5,715 total participants. In all those studies, researchers disrupted participants' sleep for one or more nights. In some experiments, participants were kept awake for a shorter-than-typical amount of sleep, and in others, they were periodically awakened through-

out the night. Each study also measured at least one emotion-related variable after the sleep manipulation, such as participants' self-reported mood, their response to emotional stimuli, and measures of depression and anxiety symptoms.

Overall, the researchers found that all three types of sleep loss resulted in fewer positive emotions such as joy, happiness and contentment among participants, as well as increased anxiety symptoms such as a rapid heart rate and increased worrying.

"This occurred even after short periods of sleep loss, like staying up an hour or two later than usual or after losing just a few hours of sleep," Palmer said. "We also found that sleep loss increased anxiety symptoms and



blunted arousal in response to emotional stimuli."

Findings for symptoms of depression were smaller and less consistent, as were those for negative emotions such as sadness, worry and stress.

One limitation of the study is that the majority of participants were young adults - the average age was 23. Future research should include a more diverse age sample to better understand how sleep deprivation affects people at different ages, according to the researchers.

Other directions for future research could include examining the effects of multiple nights of sleep loss, looking at individual differences to find out why some people may be more vulnerable than others to the effects

of sleep loss, and examining the effects of sleep loss across different cultures, as most of the research in the current study was conducted in the United States and Europe, according to the researchers.

"Research has found that more than 30 per cent of adults and up to 90 per cent of teens don't get enough sleep," Palmer said.

"The implications of this research for individual and public health are considerable in a largely sleep-deprived society. Industries and sectors prone to sleep loss, such as first responders, pilots and truck drivers, should develop and adopt policies that prioritize sleep to mitigate against the risks to daytime function and well-being."

Democrat Zohran Mamdani wins race for New York City mayor

MI News Service, New York: Democratic candidate Zohran Mamdani won the New York City mayoral election Tuesday night, becoming the first muslim mayor of the most populous city in the United States.

By 00:30 a.m. East Time (0530 GMT) Wednesday, Mamdani had seized around 50.4 percent of the votes, while former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, running as an independent, had collected 41.4 percent, and Republican candidate Curtis Sliva had garnered only 7.1 percent, according to the preliminary results issued by the



Board of Elections in the City of New York.

Mamdani, born in Uganda, is currently a member of the New York

State Assembly and is set to take office on Jan. 1, 2026.

"We're in City Hall now. This victory is for all of

you," Mamdani told a jubilant crowd in Brooklyn. "In this moment of political darkness, New York will be the light."

In his victory speech, Mamdani acknowledged that he is young, Muslim and a democratic socialist. "I refuse to apologize for any of this," he said.

The 34-year-old mayor-elect ran a campaign focused on making New York City more affordable, energizing tens of thousands of young voters in the process.

His campaign platform includes freezing rents for all stabilized tenants, pro-

viding free buses and childcare, increasing publicly subsidized housing, and raising taxes on the wealthiest and corporations.

In June, Mamdani stunned the nation by defeating Cuomo, a three-term governor, in the Democratic primary, generating national buzz.

The race is one of New York City's most closely watched elections in recent years. According to election officials, early voting, which wrapped up Sunday, saw a record turnout of more than 735,000 voters across the city.

Mumbai Police register FIR over journalist Rana Ayyub's death threats

MI News Service, Mumbai:

Prominent Indian journalist Rana Ayyub and her father received death threats on Saturday, November 2. According to reports, Ayyub received a threat call who claimed to know her address. Following the incident, the Committee to Protect Journalists has demanded that the Indian government act swiftly and hold accountable those responsible and ensure the safety of all journalists in India so that they can work without fear of intimidation or violence.

In her complaint filed with the Mumbai police, Ayyub stated that she received multiple threat calls and WhatsApp messages in a span of 20 minutes. The caller demanded that the journalist write an article on the 1984 riots in which 3,000 Sikhs were killed. The massacre occurred after the then-Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated by her bodyguards.

The caller threatened to



send people to her residence to attack her and kill her father if she didn't publish the article. In her complaint, Ayyub noted that the profile image of the caller matched a photograph of Indian gangster Lawrence Bishnoi, who is currently in prison in Gujarat. Following the complaint, the Navi Mumbai Police deployed security at the journalist's house. In 2024, Ayyub's personal contact number was leaked online. She has been constantly targeted for her reporting.

The journalist's contact was leaked by a right-wing account known as "Hin-

dutva Knight". This incident has exacerbated the ongoing threats she faced throughout her career, particularly from the supporters of the ruling BJP and its associates.

Ayyub, who gained recognition for her book "Gujarat Files: Anatomy of a Cover-Up" which investigated the 2002 Gujarat riots, expressed her grave concern regarding the implications of the leak of her personal data and phone number. She underlined this incident as part of more systemic attempts to suppress dissent in the country of India.

DMK to Supreme Court: ECI's SIR is "de facto NRC" threatening voter purge



MI News Service, Chennai: The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), Tamil Nadu's ruling party, has petitioned the Supreme Court under Article 32, accusing the Election Commission of India (ECI) of "constitutional overreach" through its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The DMK contends that the ECI's orders dated June 24 and October 27, 2025, impose citizenship-like verification, transforming the Commission into a "de facto National Register of Citizens (NRC)."

A Special Summary Revision (SSR) was finally completed in Tamil Nadu, with final rolls published on January 6, 2025, and provisions for continuous updates. Despite this, the ECI mandated a fresh SIR under Article 324 and Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, requiring voters to submit from a limited list of 13 documents—initially excluding Aadhaar and omitting common IDs like ration cards, PAN, or voter IDs—to retain their franchise.

The DMK argues that citizenship ver-

ification falls exclusively under the Union Government per the Citizenship Act, 1955, and is absent from the ROPA, 1951, or Registration of Electors Rules, 1960. No parliamentary notification was issued as required under Section 28(3) of the RPA.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been granted sweeping powers to mark voters as "absent," "shifted," or "duplicate" via neighbour inquiries, with automatic deletions for non-submission. Electoral Registration Officers can refer "suspected foreign nationals" directly to citizenship authorities, bypassing due process.

Scheduled for completion by February 7, 2026, amid monsoons and festivals, the SIR's appeal window (December 9, 2025–January 31, 2026) overlaps with verification, rendering redress ineffective. The DMK warns of large-scale disenfranchisement, especially among the poor, women, youth, migrants, and marginalized groups, citing Bihar's precedent.

The petition alleges violations of Articles 10, 14, 19, 21, and 326, undermining voting rights, equality, and federal balance. It seeks to quash the ECI orders and declare the SIR unconstitutional.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin vowed to "resist disenfranchisement and defeat VoteTheft," accusing the ECI of opaque tactics to "delete" dissenting voters. However, Tamilanga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay criticized the DMK for alleged hypocrisy, noting its failure to pass an assembly resolution like Kerala's and urging opposition unity against the SIR.

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

MI News Service, Kolkata, 5 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 05.11.2025 by Metro staff at all stations of Blue Line, Green Line, Orange Line, Purple 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.

RPF Eastern Railway Strengthens Preventive Measures Against Touting Activities

MI News Service, Kolkata, 5 Nov.25 :

Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway has intensified its preventive measures to curb touting activities and ensure fair ticket availability to bonafide passengers. Under the ongoing special drive "Operation Uplabdh", continuous surveillance and enforcement actions are being carried out across all divisions of Eastern Railway.

Between 1st April and 31st October 2025, RPF registered 137 cases and arrested 150 persons.

Division-wise figures are as follows:
Asansol Division: 13 cases and 15 arrested
Sealdah Division: 80 cases and 81 arrested
Malda Division: 7 cases, 6 arrested
Howrah Division: 37 cases, 48 arrested

RPF teams are actively using cyber monitoring tools, digital analytics, and field intelligence to detect touting networks involved in illegal e-ticketing and misuse of railway facilities. Special focus is being given to preventive checks at reservation counters, common service centres, and online platforms.

Eastern Railway appeals to passengers to book tickets only through authorized sources such as IRCTC or genuine PRS counters. Passengers are also encouraged to report any suspicious ticketing activity to the nearest RPF post or through official railway helplines.

New Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal Commissioned At Jakhapura

MI News Service, Odisha: Boost to Freight Infrastructure and Industrial Connectivity in Odisha

A new Gati Shakti Cargo Terminal (GCT) has been commissioned at Jakhapura, under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway, on 16th October 2025. This terminal, located in Jajpur District of Odisha, marks another milestone in strengthening the PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for integrated and seamless multimodal connectivity.

The total project cost, as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is ₹36.85 crore. The terminal has a handling capacity of four lines and is designed for exclusive use. It will handle cement as an outward commodity, while clinker, slag and gypsum will be managed as inward commodities.

As per projections, the terminal is expected to handle around 86 rakes per month, including 36 outward and 50 inward rakes, contributing significantly to the movement of raw materials and finished products for cement and allied industries.

The commissioning of this GCT will enhance freight handling efficiency, reduce logistics costs, and strengthen the industrial supply chain in the region, benefiting both the Railways and the local economy.

This initiative reflects East Coast Railway's continued efforts towards promoting the Gati Shakti vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to ensure faster logistics movement and greater synergy between industry and infrastructure.

Russia concerned over NATO exercises involving Kaliningrad blockade

MI News Service, ST. Petersburg:

NATO forces are practicing a scenario involving the blockade of Russia's Kaliningrad region during their ongoing military exercises, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Grushko said in an interview published by the Russian newspaper Izvestia on Wednesday.

"During NATO exercises, scenarios such as the blockade of the Kaliningrad region are being rehearsed. The region of the Baltic Sea is undergoing active militarization, with coalition forces and assets being built up," Grushko

Sealdah Division Initiates Robust Fencing Drive to Eliminate Rly Track Trespassing and Human Run-Over Cases

MI News Service, Kolkata, 5 Nov.25 :

Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway has taken a decisive and crucial step towards eradicating the menace of fatal human run-over incidents by launching a focused, station-wise safety enforcement drive. Recognizing that unauthorized track crossing for shortcuts is the leading cause of these preventable tragedies, Sealdah Division is implementing a strategic physical barrier/fencing installation across identified vulnerable points.

This pioneering initiative directly targets the unsafe practice of Rly track trespassing, which risks not only the lives of passengers but also the safety of train operations. Your single act of taking a shortcut can endanger not just your own life, but the lives of many co-passengers as well.

Strategic fencing work has commenced on installing robust physical barriers and fencing along platform edges and critical

areas at select stations to physically prevent entry onto the tracks. The initial phase of this vital work has begun at Jadavpur Station, with plans in place to rapidly extend this safety measure to other identified stations throughout the Division. To ensure that all passenger movement is channeled strictly through designated safe crossings, such as Foot Over Bridges (FOBs), Subway and designated pathways, thereby drastically reducing the incidence of people being run over by moving trains.

Moreover, DRM Sealdah Sri Rajeev Saxena said that Safety is not just a priority, it is our foremost commitment. The installation of these physical barriers is a necessary, to stop avoidable tragedies caused by momentary lapses in judgment. We urge every passenger, please do not trade your precious life for a few saved minutes. Use the safe infrastructure provided. We are building safer stations, but you must choose the safe path.

Eastern Railway To Run One Way Unreserved Special-Trains For Lokmanya Tilak And Smvb Bengaluru From Bhalgaur On 07.11.2025

MI News Service, Kolkata, 5 Nov.25 :

To clear the extra rush of passengers, Eastern Railway has decided to run unreserved one way special trains for Lokmanya Tilak & SMVB Bengaluru from Bhalgaur. 03401 Bhalgaur - Lokmanya Tilak one way unreserved special will leave Bhalgaur at 05:00 hrs. on 07.11.2025 to reach Lokmanya Tilak at 17:20 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Sultanganj, Bariarpur, Jamalpur, Abhaipur and Kajra stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction enroute. The train will have General Second Class accommodation. 03403 Bhalgaur - SMVB Bengaluru one way unreserved special will leave Bhalgaur at 22:30 hrs. on 07.11.2025 to reach SMVB Bengaluru at 22:30 hrs. on the 3rd day. The train will stop at Sultanganj, Jamalpur, Dharhara and Abhaipur stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction enroute. The train will have General Second Class accommodation.

Malda Division Intensifies Public Awareness on Railway Safety
MI News Service, Kolkata, 5 Nov.25 : With an unwavering commitment to ensure the safety of passengers and the general public, Eastern Railway's Malda Division has intensified its ongoing awareness campaigns across the division's jurisdiction. The initiative focuses on preventing unsafe and unlawful activities near railway premises and educating people about the importance of responsible behavior around railway tracks.

As part of the drive, Railway officials and supervisors are actively engaging with passengers and residents through audio-visual announcements, interactive sessions, and station-level awareness programmes. The campaign emphasizes the critical message — "Do not cross railway tracks; always use Foot Over Bridges (FOB) and Subways for your safety."

People are being sensitised that crossing railway tracks at unauthorized locations is not only life-threatening but also a punishable offence under the Railway Act. Special attention is being given to children and villagers living near railway lines. They are being counselled not to play, loiter, or graze cattle near railway tracks. The public has also been cautioned against taking selfies or making videos on or near railway tracks — a trend that has tragically claimed several lives in the past.

During these awareness programmes, railway staff are laying particular emphasis on safe practices at Level Crossing Gates. People are being urged not to cross when gates are closed and to avoid using mobile phones while crossing, as such distractions can lead to fatal consequences.

These awareness drives are being conducted daily at multiple key locations including Malda Town, Jangipur Road, New Farakka, Barharwa, Bhalgaur, Sahibganj, Jamalpur and several accident-prone areas across the division. To enhance outreach, informative posters, banners, and audio messages are being prominently displayed and broadcast to spread the message of safety effectively.

Reaffirming its motto of "Seva Hi Sankalp", the Malda Division remains steadfast in its mission to build a culture of safety and awareness among passengers and local communities. Through continuous and people-centric initiatives, the Division strives to ensure that every journey remains safe, disciplined, and accident-free.

SIR of electoral rolls begins across nine states, three UTs on November 4

MI News Service, Delhi:

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has launched the second phase of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), a nationwide voters' list clean-up drive, across nine states and three Union Territories (UTs) from Tuesday, November 4. The large-scale electoral roll revision aims to ensure greater accuracy, transparency, and legitimacy in the country's voter database ahead of upcoming elections.

The SIR 2.0 exercise comes just two days before the first phase of the Bihar Assembly polls, where a similar revision was recently carried out.

During that exercise, over 68 lakh names were deleted from Bihar's electoral rolls after verification, as part of the Commission's effort to remove duplicate, shifted, or deceased voters.

This phase of SIR will cover nearly 51 crore voters across Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh,



Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and Lakshadweep. Notably, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal, and Puducherry are among the states scheduled to hold Assembly elections in 2026.

Under the new schedule, the enumeration process begins today and will continue till December 4, following which the draft electoral rolls will be released on December 9. Citizens will have the opportunity to file claims and objections between December 9 and January 8, 2026, while hearings and verifications are slated to be completed by January 31, 2026. The final electoral rolls will be published on February 7, 2026.

Chief Election Commis-

Priyank Kharge slams RSS over unregistered status and taxpayer-funded security

MI News Service, Bengaluru:

Karnataka Minister and Congress leader Priyank Kharge has launched a scathing attack on the Rashtriya Swayam-sevak Sangh (RSS), questioning its unregistered status, financial opacity, and the lavish security provided to its chief, Mohan Bhagwat, at taxpayers' expense.

"If the RSS claims to be an NGO, why doesn't it register, file income tax returns, or disclose its donors like thousands of other organisations?" Kharge asked. He pointed out that the RSS has officially stated it is not a registered entity, yet operates nationwide without scrutiny. "Where do their donations come from?"

Who funds full-time pracharaks and large-scale campaigns?" he demanded, accusing the organisation of evading accountability while claiming to serve the nation.

Kharge also criticised the Advanced Security Liaison (ASL) protocol granted to Bhagwat in Au-



gust 2024, which includes 60 CISF commandos, bullet-proof vehicles, and coordination matching Union Home Minister Amit Shah's security. "Why spend public money protecting someone who hasn't paid a single rupee in taxes? They already have sticks and battalions—why more?" he remarked.

The Congress leader mocked the RSS's sensitivity to criticism: "They react as if stung by a scorpion whenever accountability is demanded." He asserted that the majority of Indians neither support nor accept the RSS, which he said is "not above the nation, Constitution, or law."

This follows death threats received by Kharge and his family after he demanded a ban on RSS activities in government properties. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge echoed the call, citing Sardar Patel's 1948 letter blaming the RSS for creating the atmosphere leading to Mahatma Gandhi's assassination.

Founded in 1925, the RSS has been banned thrice—post Gandhi's assassination, during the Emergency, and after the Babri Masjid demolition—over concerns of communal disharmony and national security. — With Agencies Inputs

Kerala couple sentenced 180 years for sexual assault of daughter

MI News Service, Kerala: Kerala: A couple in Kerala's Manjeri area of Malappuram district were sentenced to 180 years of imprisonment each for repeated sexual assault of a minor girl by a Special Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) court on Tuesday, November 4.

The couple was also fined Rs 11.75 lakh each, and failure to pay would result in an additional prison sentence of 20 years.

"Today, the court has convicted both of the accused - 180 years of rigorous imprisonment and ₹11.75 lakh," Special Public Prosecutor Somasundaram was quoted by ANI.

The case was registered against the victim's mother and her lover, who had eloped with the minor to Malappuram. The crime spanned the period from 2019 to 2021.

"Originally living in Thiruvananthapuram, the mother eloped with her lover and her 11-year-old daughter to Malappuram, where they resided in a rented cottage. There, with the aid and help of the mother, her lover sexually assaulted the little girl for two years, from 2019-2021. He not only raped her, but also forced her into oral sex," the prosecutor



said Special POCSO court judge Ashraf AM gave the verdict, citing various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Juvenile Justice Act, and the POCSO Act.

According to the prosecution, the victim's stepfather used intimidation tactics by claiming a "hidden camera" had been implanted in her head and that any effort to expose the abuse would be discovered.

The prosecution further said that the prime accused had repeatedly assaulted the minor for two years at rented houses in Anamangad and Vallikapatta. Meanwhile, the mother, who is the second accused in the case, was charged with aiding, abetting, and encouraging the assault. She had left her husband and started living with her lover in 2019, when the abuse began

Pant returns, Akash Deep included in India's squad for Tests against South Africa



NEW DELHI : Wicketkeeper-batter and vice-captain Rishabh Pant has made a return to India's squad for the upcoming two-match Test series against South Africa, starting on November 14 in Kolkata. The second game of the series was held in Guwahati on November 22, with the latter set to make its debut as a Test venue. IANS had previously reported that the squad was picked earlier in an online meeting of the Ajit Agarkar-led selection committee held on

Wednesday. While Pant replaces N Jagadeesan in the Test squad, fast bowler Akash Deep has also earned a return to the Test team in place of Prasad Krishna. Pant missed the 2-0 Test series win over the West Indies due to his recovery from a foot fracture sustained during the fourth Test against England at Manchester in July. Pant, 28, proved his match fitness and readiness by captaining India A to victory in the first four-day match against South Africa A at the BCCI Centre of

Excellence Ground in Bengaluru. Pant scored 90 in the second innings as India A successfully chased down a target of 275 in a thrilling fashion. Akash Deep, meanwhile, had to undergo rehab for a back injury post the England tour that ruled him out of the Duleep Trophy. Since then, he's turned out for Rest of India in the Irani Cup and played Bengal's home games against Uttarakhanda and Gujarat in the ongoing Ranji Trophy - picking four scalps. India are currently at third

place on the World Test Championship points table with 61.90% points, while South Africa are fifth with 50%, following a 1-1 draw in Pakistan. Following the Test series, India and South Africa will also play three ODIs and five T20Is.

The BCCI also announced the India A squad set to play a three-match 50-over series against South Africa 'A' at the Niranjan Shah Stadium in Rajkot on November 13, 16 and 19.

Left-handed batter Tilak Varma has been named the captain, while Rituraj Gaikwad is appointed as the vice-captain. Other capped India players include Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, and Khaleel Ahmed.

India's Test squad: Shubman Gill (C), Rishabh Pant (WK) (VC), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Devdutt Padikkal, Dhruv Jurel, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Jasprit Bumrah, Axar Patel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Mohammed Siraj, Kuldeep Yadav, Akash Deep

India A squad: Tilak Varma (C), Rituraj Gaikwad (VC), Abhishek Sharma, Riyan Parag, Ishan Kishan (WK), Ayush Badoni, Nishant Sindhu, Vipraj Nigam, Manav Suthar, Harshit Rana, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Khaleel Ahmed, Prabhshirman Singh (WK).

NZ vs WI: West Indies go one up in T20I series with seven-run win in opener

AUCKLAND : West Indies secured a clutch win against New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series between the two sides that started here on Wednesday at Eden Park. In what turned out to be a low-scoring thriller, the visitors clinched a victory by seven runs.

The hosts' decision to bowl first after winning the toss backfired as they failed to chase an above-par target of 165 runs. Put to bat first, the Windies lost the wicket of Brandon King in the first over as the Kiwis got off to a flyer.

Alick Athanaze notched up a quick nine-ball 16, while Akeem Auguste was dismissed cheaply, scoring just two runs, as the visitors were reduced to 43/3 in seven overs. It was skipper Shai Hope's composed half-century, studded with four fours and three sixes, followed by Roston Chase and Rovman Powell's knocks of 28 and 33 that helped the side reach 164-6 in their 20-over quota.

As for New Zealand, Jacob Duffy and Zakary Foulkes picked up two wickets apiece, while Kyle Jamieson and James Neesham finished with one scalp each.

Chasing 165, New Zealand started decently as openers Tim Robinson and Devon Conway put up 30 runs in the first three overs before Matthew Forde struck to dismiss the latter. Thereon, the Men in Maroon kept striking at regular intervals, making it difficult for the batters to find momen-



tum. While Robinson and Ravindra scored 27 and 21 runs, respectively, he hit Forde for 23 runs in one over and kept scoring boundaries, bringing the game to the last over. The all-rounder took the game deep as New Zealand required 20 off the final over, but his unbeaten 55-run knock went in vain as the visitors managed to defend the total to clinch a seven-run victory.

Brief Scores: West Indies 164-6 in 20 overs (Shai Hope 53, Rovman Powell 33, Jacob Duffy 2-19, Zakary Foulkes 2-35) beat New Zealand 157-9 in 20 overs (Mitchell Santner 55, Tim Robinson 27, Roston Chase 3-26, Jayden Seales 3-32) by seven runs.

and the West Indies seemed headed for a large victory.

However, Santner had other plans; he hit Forde for 23 runs in one over and kept scoring boundaries, bringing the game to the last over. The all-rounder took the game deep as New Zealand required 20 off the final over, but his unbeaten 55-run knock went in vain as the visitors managed to defend the total to clinch a seven-run victory.

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Central Office Clinches Title at Power Grid Inter-Regional Kabaddi Tournament



PC JHA
RANCHI: The three-day Power Grid Inter-Regional Kabaddi Tournament 2025, hosted in Ranchi, concluded today with the Central Office (CC) team emerging as the champions after an intense display of skill and teamwork.

A total of ten teams participated in the high-energy competition, which saw fierce contests across league and knockout stages.

In the semifinals, Southern Region-II (SR-II) defeated Northern Region-I (NR-I) to book their spot in the final, while Central Office (CC) triumphed over Northern Region-III (NR-III) in the second semifinal. The grand finale

witnessed a gripping encounter between CC and SR-II, where the Central Office team showcased superior strategy and coordination to secure the championship title. In the playoff for the third position, NR-I edged past NR-III to claim the bronze medal.

The tournament concluded with a felicitation ceremony, where Rakesh Kumar, Executive Director, Eastern Region-I, Power Grid Corporation, honored the winners and participants for their exemplary performances. Final Results: Champion: Central Office (CC), Runner-up: Southern Region-II (SR-II), Third Place: Northern Region-I (NR-I).

Watson hails Gill as 'ridiculously talented' batter ahead of Gold Coast T20I

GOLD COAST : Former batting great Shane Watson has praised India opener Shubman Gill for maintaining consistency in his batting and stated it won't take him long to adapt across different formats. He described the opener as a 'ridiculously talented' batter with amazing technique.

While Gill remains a key figure across formats, his T20I performances since returning to the format in September 2025 reveal a worrying trend, as he has scored just 170 runs in ten innings at an average of 24.14 and a strike rate of 148.24. In the ongoing Australia tour, he is struggling, having scored 37 not out, 5, and 15 in the first three games of the five-match series. Speaking to reporters here on Wednesday, Watson reflected on how challenging it is for a modern team batter to go through the phase of frequently changing formats and said, "It definitely is a challenge and the more you do it, the better you get at really understanding the little adjustments that you have to make to your technique, to your game plan, your mindset around each format to be able to then get into the best version of you every time you have to make that adjustment." The fourth T20I



will be a historic game, as it will be the first time India and Australia play at the Carrara Oval (formerly known as the People's First Stadium) in Gold Coast. Watson expressed excitement about this stadium hosting a major event and said, "It's an amazing opportunity for the Gold Coast to be able to show

off its incredible natural beauty. For the Indian team to be able to come here, for the Gold Coast to be able to get a game of this calibre, is something very special to the Gold Coast community. So I'm sure the players and the Indian fans who have made their way here will certainly enjoy the tournament."

IND v AUS: Morkel says management seeks right team combination 'with T20 WC around the corner'



GOLD COAST : Morne Morkel, India's bowling coach, spoke in depth about the importance of forming the right combination after the team's loss in the recently concluded third T20I against Australia, saying that with the T20 World Cup fast approaching, the team management is not leaving any stone unturned to strike balance in the squad.

The two teams are locked in a five-match T20I series, with the fourth game set to be played on Thursday here at the Carrara Oval. The series witnessed a fierce clash between the two sides, with

the Men in Blue winning the second game and the hosts clinching the third match after the first T20I was washed out. However, both teams were tested equally, and questions were raised about the Indian management's team selection after the visitors lost the second game at MCG before bouncing back in Hobart. Morkel addressed the media ahead of the 4th T20I and spoke about the difficulty team management faces in forming the right combination.

"There will always be disappointment regarding players' selection, but that's something, you know, at times, it's uncontrollable. We just keep asking them to work hard, train hard, and be ready for when they do get the opportunity. And like you said, there are limited games now leading into the T20 World Cup. So it's important for us to see how guys can react in certain situations under pressure; otherwise, it will be unknown for us. So it's about playing those sorts of games and maintaining the mindset to win if we can," he said.

The former Protea cricketer was also asked if setting the combination for the World Cup was important even if it came at the risk of the team facing defeat, to which he stated, "Like I said, you need to have options available. Every team, if you look across the world, are playing around with options. Yes, we'll probably know one or two combinations that we seek, but I think you need to be in this game; you need to be adaptable, you need to know where certain players can give you options in different roles."

"And if you're not going to try those roles and see how they handle the pressure in those situations, you're never going to know. And with a World Cup around the corner, you don't want to leave any stones unturned. You don't want to sit two years down the line and say, 'if only we tried that or give this combination a bit more time, we would have developed.' So, yeah, it's about playing it smartly," he added.

Champions League: Arsenal, Bayern stay perfect, Liverpool beat Real Madrid

NEW DELHI : Arsenal and Bayern Munchen made it four wins from four in the league phase of the 2025/26 UEFA Champions League. Liverpool beat Real Madrid and Tottenham were also victorious on Matchday 4.

Mikel Merino scored twice and Max Dowman became the youngest player in Champions League history as Arsenal stayed perfect with victory in Prague. Having gone ahead through Bukayo Saka's precise 34th-minute penalty, the visitors doubled their lead when Merino struck a minute after the restart from Leandro Trossard's cross.

Merino headed in Declan Rice's delivery in the 68th minute before Dowman, 15, came on to break Youssoufa Moukoko's record in a Gunners win that was an eighth successive clean sheet in all competitions, equalling a club record set in 1903, and left Slavia on two points.

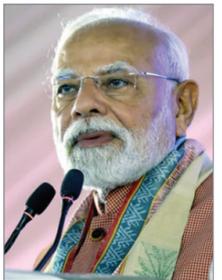
Bayern held on to claim a statement win at Parc des Princes, maintaining their 100% record while handing Paris their first defeat. Luis Diaz scored twice but was dismissed at the end of a first half in which Bayern were good value for a 2-0 lead. The Colombian winger struck in the fourth minute, collecting and converting after Michael Olise's poked effort was saved before adding a second 28 minutes later after dispossessing Marquinhos, but was then sent off for a stoppage-time challenge on Achraf Hakimi. The visitors set up to defend their lead in the second half and ultimately succeeded in holding off Paris, though they faced heavy pressure after João Neves applied an acrobatic finish to Kang-in Lee's 74th-minute cross. Liverpool claimed a second win against Real Madrid in as many campaigns thanks to Alexis Mac Allister's emphatic header as the Reds edged Madrid 1-0. The Argentinian midfielder, who opened the scoring in last season's encounter, nodded powerfully past Thibaut Courtois shortly after the hour having been picked out by Dominik Szoboszlai's sumptuous delivery.

PM Modi meets Women's ODI World Cup winning Indian team

NEW DELHI : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday met the Indian women's cricket team following their historic ODI World Cup triumph at his official residence at Lok Kalyan Marg here. Modi congratulated the Harmanpreet Kaur-led side, dressed in smart formal dresses and with the winner's medals around their neck, on their historic achievement and praised their remarkable comeback in the tournament after a string of three defeats in the league stage and the trolling they had faced on social media platforms.

The Indian team had arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday for a scheduled meeting with PM Modi, amidst tight security measures. The side ended their wait for a major ICC trophy when they defeated South Africa by 52 runs in the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup final held at DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai on Sunday. Captain Harmanpreet Kaur recalled meeting PM Modi in 2017 when they had met him without the trophy, and now that they were meeting him with the trophy, she said the side wishes to meet him more often.

Vice-Captain Smriti Mandhana said PM Modi had motivated them and has been an inspiration for all of them. She also spoke about how girls are doing well in all fields today, and it is because of PM Modi's efforts. Player of the Tournament Deepthi Sharma said she had been waiting to meet PM Modi and recalled their meeting in 2017 when he had asked them to keep working hard, and then they would achieve their dreams. PM Modi also discussed that Deepthi Sharma has written Jai Shri Ram on her Instagram account and the tattoo of Bhagwan Hanuman she has on her arm, to which the all-rounder replied that it gives her strength. Harmanpreet asked PM Modi how he manages to always remain in the present. To this, PM Modi said, being so has been a part of his life and has become his habit. He also recalled the famous catch of Harleen Deol in 2021 against England, about which he had posted on social media at that time. He further discussed how Harmanpreet pocketed the ball after the final match. To this, she said she was lucky that the ball came to her, and she kept it. PM Modi discussed the now-famous catch of seam-bowling all-rounder Amanjot Kaur, which she took after several fumbles. She said this is one fumble that she likes to see. PM Modi said: "While catching you must be seeing the ball, but after the catch, you must be seeing the trophy."



Sarala Devi Birla U-14 Cricket Tournament 2025-26 Kicks Off in Ranchi

MI CORRESPONDENT
RANCHI: The Sarala Devi Birla Under-14 Cricket Tournament (2025-26), organized by the Ranchi District Cricket Association (RDCA), was inaugurated today at the Golchakkar Ground, Dhurwa. RDCA Secretary Shailendra Kumar inaugurated the event by introducing the players of all four participating teams. The opening matches were played between Birsra Cricket Academy vs RSA Cricket Academy and Vivekananda Vidya Mandir vs Loyola Convent. Both RSA Cricket Academy and Vivekananda Vidya Mandir emerged victorious in their respective encounters, marking an exciting start to the tournament. The opening ceremony witnessed the presence of several RDCA officials, including Treasurer Saumitra Patnaik, Executive Members Chanchal Bhattacharya, Muzaffar Ali, and Munna, Assistant Secretary Sunil Pal, along with Nandji Pandey, Muktesh Singh, and Himanshu, among others. The tournament aims to promote young cricketers in Ranchi and provide a competitive platform for budding players at the grassroots level.

Khalid Jamil names probables for Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh; Chhetri misses out

NEW DELHI : Indian senior men's national team head coach Khalid Jamil on Wednesday announced 23 probables for the upcoming FIFA International Match Window with the country's football legend Sunil Chhetri missing out. Chhetri, who came out of retirement and made himself available for the third round of the AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifiers campaign in March, was part of the list of 30 probables for the October FIFA International Window, which was announced last month, after sitting out India's campaign at the CAFA Nations Cup. He is the only Indian player to record an appearance in three AFC Asian Cups. India are scheduled to play Bangladesh at the National Stadium in Dhaka in their AFC Asian Cup 2027 Final Round Qualifiers match on November 18. The team will set camp in Bengaluru from Thursday and are set to travel to Dhaka on November 15.

