



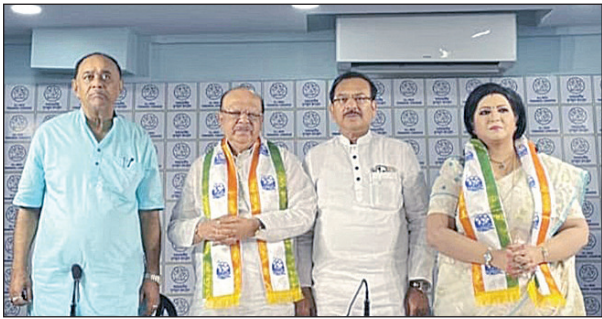
Sovan Chatterjee’s TMC Homecoming Fuels Buzz Over Behala Candidature

Tanya Bagchi

**Kolkata:** Former cabinet minister and ex-Kolkata Mayor Sovan Chatterjee’s return to the Trinamool Congress (TMC) after seven years has triggered intense speculation over whether he will replace his estranged wife and sitting MLA Ratna Chatterjee as the party’s candidate from Behala East in the 2026 Assembly polls.

Once one of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee’s most trusted lieutenants and endearingly called “Kanan,” Sovan formally rejoined the party earlier this week. His return was announced at Trinamool Bhavan, in the presence of minister Aroop Biswas and TMC state secretary Subrata Bakshi. He and his partner Baisakhi Banerjee later met TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, where Sovan was formally handed charge as Chairman of the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA).

Sovan’s quiet political re-emergence began in September when he met both Mamata and Ab-



hishek, reportedly resolving past differences. His appointment as NKDA chief—seen within the party as politically strategic rather than a routine administrative role—has fuelled talk of his imminent return to electoral politics.

Within TMC, conversations have now turned to the seat he may contest. Two constituencies are under consideration: Behala East and Behala West. Sovan twice represented Behala East in the Assembly, but his political career began in Behala West, where he served as councillor of Ward 132 for more than two decades before taking charge as Mayor in 2010.

Posters thanking Ma-

mata and Abhishek for appointing Sovan to NKDA have appeared in Behala West, particularly along Diamond Harbour Road near Boro Bagan in Ward 132. Issued by platforms such as “Behala Forum,” “Joytu Behala,” and “Behala Nagarik Mancha,” the posters lack party symbols but have strengthened speculation that the constituency—currently held by Partha Chatterjee, in jail since July 2022 on corruption charges—may be offered to Sovan.

His return also raises questions about the future of his estranged wife Ratna Chatterjee, who currently represents Behala East. Party insiders say TMC is unlikely to field both from

adjacent seats. Ratna may be shifted to Maheshtala, the constituency represented by her father Dulal Das, now over 80. Ratna, who maintains cordial ties with Mamata and Abhishek and was recently seen at the Chief Minister’s Kali Puja, is reportedly agreeable to the shift. If she moves to Maheshtala, Behala East may be offered to a former Rajya Sabha MP whom TMC wants to bring into the Assembly.

Ratna has responded cautiously to Sovan’s return. Welcoming his comeback, she reportedly said: “He had been sitting at home for long. When a hardworking person stays idle, they fall ill. Now he should work for the party.” She declined comment when asked about Baisakhi.

With Mamata’s endorsement and Abhishek’s guarded approval, Sovan appears poised for a full political rehabilitation. His re-entry is expected to recalibrate TMC’s internal equations as Bengal heads toward the 2026 Assembly elections.



Former Captain of World Cup winning German football team, and brand ambassador of Bengal Super League (BSL), Lothar Matthaus spent some quality time with budding footballers in a BSL program in Kolkata on Sunday.

‘No lapse or excuse will be tolerated’: Bengal CEO directs officials to finish SIR form collection by Nov-end

**MI News Service, Kolkata :** West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal has delivered a message to district election authorities: finish collecting the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) enumeration forms within this month. The directive was issued during a video conference with district officials. One official said, “The instruction to collect the enumeration forms by November-end came from the CEO. He has asked district officials to strictly follow the instruction.” By 6 pm on Saturday, 98.5 per cent of forms, over 7.55 crore, had been distributed across the state. Agarwal, however,

questioned why the final stretch was still pending even after weeks of groundwork. He made it clear that district administrations will be held fully accountable.

“District officials have been told that no lapse or excuse will be tolerated. They have been instructed to resolve any local issues immediately,” he told PTI. The Election Commission has also cautioned that the collection process must remain peaceful and free of misconduct. Agarwal said strict action would be taken against anyone who misbehaves with voters during the exercise.

**Pellets shot to drive away a wild elephant end up injuring nine people at Jalpaiguri**  
**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** Nine persons were injured by pellet shots that personnel of the state forest department fired to drive away a wild elephant in the west Damdim, Malbazar, in Jalpaiguri on Thursday night. Police took the injured to the rural hospital in Odlabari. They are in stable condition after receiving the necessary treatment.

A source said that on Wednesday, a herd of 30-40 elephants from the Targhera forest entered the paddy fields in west Damdim. Local farmers and members of the quick response team managed to drive the elephants back into the forest by 5am.

However, a tusker from the herd was trapped near Kalijhora, a stream, and later took shelter in a patch of forest nearby. Members of the wildlife squad of Malbazar began monitoring its movement. Soon, a crowd gathered to catch a glimpse of the animal. As forest workers attempted to guide the elephant into the forest, the elephant — agitated by the noise and commotion — charged towards them.

32 kg ganja seized from Krishnanagar-Karimpur bus, 7 arrested in Chapra raid

**Dipankar Edbar, Nadia :** Acting on a tip-off on early Sunday, Chapra Police intercepted a passenger bus near Baro Andulia crossing and seized 32 kg. of ganja concealed inside multiple bags on board. Police received secret information that a large consignment of ganja was being transported towards Chapra in a bus (registration WB 37C 5128) which plies between Krishnanagar and Karimpur. The vehicle was detained and subjected to a thorough search.



bus driver, contractor and helper. The narcotics and packaging were seized following all legal formalities.

Seven persons were arrested in connection with the case. They were identified as Bankim Biswas (42), of Kachudanga, PS Murutia, bus contractor, Apurba Halder (30), of same locality, bus helper, Taheruddin Mondal (58), of Madhubona, PS Jalangi, Rajjak Hossain (30), of Madhubona, PS Jalangi, Hamidul Islam Miya (40) of Kupita, PS Domkol, Tariba Khatun (45) of Kirtonia Para, PS Jalangi, Pravas Biswas (41) of Mahisbatan, PS Karimpur, bus driver.

Nadia police arrest 11 Bangladeshis hiding near border, 2 locals held for providing shelter

**Dipankar Edbar, Ranaghat (Nadia) :** In a major security operation near the Bangladesh border, Hanskhal police on Sunday arrested 11 Bangladeshis nationals, including five men and five women, who had allegedly been hiding in Umarpur, a village close to the international boundary in Nadia district.

Acting on a tip-off that came in late Saturday night, police carried out a swift raid in the border-side settlement and detained the group. On Sunday, all ten were produced before the Ranaghat Sub-Divisional Court, where the judge remanded them to 14 days’ judicial custody.

According to investigators, the Bangladeshis had been sheltered by some residents of the area. Police have also arrested two locals for allegedly providing them refuge. Officials said they are probing



whether more Bangladeshis nationals are hiding in nearby villages.

The arrests come amid heightened tension along the Bengal coast. Earlier, the Coast Guard intercepted a Bangladeshi fishing trawler that had “inadvertently” crossed the international maritime boundary into Indian waters in the Bay of Bengal. Twenty-nine Bangladeshi fishermen aboard the vessel were detained and

handed over to Frazerganj Coastal Police, who are expected to produce them in court today.

With two separate incidents within days, one at sea and another along the land border, security agencies are examining whether the cases are connected or simply coincidental breaches. Senior police officials said enhanced surveillance has been ordered across Nadia’s border belt.

Bangla Pokkho's grand march in Siliguri on five-point demands

**Nurul Islam Khan :** A grand march of several thousand Bengalis and Bhumiputra Janajati was held in Siliguri on the call of Bengali nationalist organization Bangla Pokkho. The procession started at 4:30 pm in front of the North Bengal Development Department (NBDD) building and ended at the Bidhan Market auto stand. The procession moved forward with five-point demands in mind. The demands included a local train network centered around Siliguri, AIIMS in Domohini, Jalpaiguri, sealing the Nepal border, and building a hospital equivalent to Kolkata’s PG Hospital in Siliguri, Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar or Cooch Behar. The procession was led by Bangla Pokkho’s general secretary Garg Chattopadhyay. This grand procession was organized on the initiative of Siliguri District Secretary Giridhari Roy. Organizing Secretary and Supreme Council Member Kaushik Maiti, Supreme Council Member Rajat Bhat-tacharya and Maha Sahin were present. Abhishek Mitra Majumdar of Jalpaiguri, Uttam Das of Alipurduar, Sahin Badsha of Malda, Soumya Bera of Kolkata, Akshay Bandyopadhyay of West Burdwan, Sutanu Pandit, District Secretary of Purba Medinipur, Debashish Majumdar, District Secretary of North 24 Parganas Rural and other district secretaries were present in the meeting.



This united procession of Bengalis with various land-based tribes of the north including Rajbangshi, Rava is of special significance in the politics of the northern districts. Garg Chattopadhyay said, “Those who do politics by saying that North Bengal is deprived, do not raise the demands of the people of this land. That is what the Bangla Pokkho is doing. The majority of Bengali MPs here are from the ruling party BJP in Delhi, and are also in the cabinet. None of them raise their voice in Parliament about a second AIIMS or local trains. If Bihar and UP have two AIIMS each, why not Bengal?” We want illegal Nepali infiltrators to be identified and removed from the voter list through SIR, just like illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators. The Nepali-speaking people of the land here are our friends, but not the infiltrators, we want strict action against them, the Nepal border must be sealed.”

Dinhata BJP leader held for 'scuffle with cops' amid row over unauthorised rally

**MI News Service, Cooch Behar:** Tension sparked at Babupara in Dinhata, Cooch Behar, on Friday night when police arrested Cooch Behar district BJP general secretary Ajay Roy. The police said they had received a complaint that Roy was preparing a victory rally without administrative permission to celebrate the NDA’s win in the Bihar Assembly polls. The police said they acted after residents complained that an unauthorised rally could trigger unrest.

A brief scuffle broke among the cops and Roy, his family and supporters, as they tried to prevent the arrest. Roy was booked for obstructing police duty. BJP leaders denied any plans of a rally. They claimed Roy was only celebrating the NDA victory outside his home.

Leader of Opposition Suwendu Adhikari accused the state government of political vendetta. District BJP president Abhijit Barman alleged north Bengal development minister and Dinhata MLA Udayan Guha was behind Roy’s arrest. Guha dismissed the charge. “The law will take its own course,” he said.

On Saturday, Roy was taken for a medical check-up and then produced in court, which rejected his bail plea. He was put in judicial custody till November 19.

On his way to court, Roy said he had been “unjustly arrested” and that the BJP “cannot be suppressed”.

BJP leaders later met senior police officers to protest the arrest. Dinhata police officers maintained that the arrest was needed as specific complaints of an unauthorised rally were received.

National Investigation Agency arrests youth in Bengal’s Uttar Dinajpur over suspected terror links

**MI News Service, N. Dinajpur :** A youth has been arrested in West Bengal’s Uttar Dinajpur district by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) over suspected links to terror organisations, a senior police officer said on Saturday.

According to officials, the youth was detained from the Sujapur area on Friday morning after NIA sleuths grew suspicious of his activities. “The arrested youth has been identified as Janisur Alam, a resident of Luthiana,” the officer said, noting that Alam had been spotted moving suspiciously around the station premises before officers intervened.

A source in the central agency said, “During questioning, he allegedly attempted to flee, following which he was taken into custody.” The source further suggested that the youth “may be linked to multiple acts of sabotage”. Investigators are still determining whether his activities have any direct connection to the recent blast in Delhi.

“We are yet to establish whether he has any direct connection to the Delhi blast. Digital devices and documents were seized from his possession,” the official said. The explosion near the Red Fort in New Delhi claimed 13 lives and left several others injured. The government has described the incident as a “terrorist incident”.

Following the blast, the NIA also conducted a raid on Wednesday at the Murshidabad residence of migrant worker Moinul Hasan, an officer said. An agency source told PTI, “Hasan had worked intermittently in Delhi and Mumbai, and during his time in Delhi, he shared accommodation with a Bangladeshi national with whom he is believed to have maintained long-term contact.”

Detectives are now examining whether Hasan had any links to extremist organisations during that period or if he had any connection to the youth arrested in Uttar Dinajpur.

Jalpaiguri: Three die as bike collides with pick-up van on Teesta bridge

**MI News Jalpaiguri :** Three people riding a bike died after they collided with a pick-up van on the Teesta river bridge near Jalpaiguri town late on Friday night. The deceased are Abhishek Barman, 30, Gobinda Ram, 33, and Chanchal Das, 31. Chanchal was from Senpara, in ward number three of Jalpaiguri town. The other two were residents of Dakshin Sukantanagar in the Sadar block.

Chanchal and Gobinda were taken to the Jalpaiguri Government Medical College & Hospital, where doctors pronounced them dead. On Saturday morning, Abhishek’s body was recovered from the river.

Locals suspect that when the pick-up van hit

the bike, Abhishek was thrown off the bridge. No one realised there had been a third rider, so they did not look for him.

The victims’ families claim that the pick-up van rear-ended the bike. A police source, however, said they collided head-on.

Arindam Pal Chowdhury, the deputy superintendent of police (traffic) of Jalpaiguri, said: “The pick-up van was seized after the accident. The driver has fled, and we are searching for him. Two men were rescued from the spot at night and taken to the medical college, where they were declared dead. On Saturday morning, another body was recovered from the Teesta river. We have initiated a probe.”

Padmini Dutta Sharma: A sunshine crusader, writer and film maker

● **Padmini Dutta Sharma’s** profound storytelling blends literature and cinema, amplifying unheard voices through her stories, poems and short films.

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In the world of literature and cinema, few names resonate with as much depth and resonance as Padmini Dutta Sharma. Known for her emotionally compelling works that touch on the human experience with an unflinching eye for the unseen, she has carved a niche for herself as both a best-selling author and award-winning filmmaker. Yet, her path to success wasn’t paved with certainty; it was a journey marked by courage, compassion, and the unwavering belief that storytelling can change lives.

Padmini’s career began with a simple yet profound mission—to create art that could give voice to those who often went unheard. “To each their own,” she says, a sentiment that runs like a thread through all her works, from her books to her films. It is this deep empathy for the human condition that drives her creative pursuits, and it is this very trait that has made her work not only relatable but transformative.

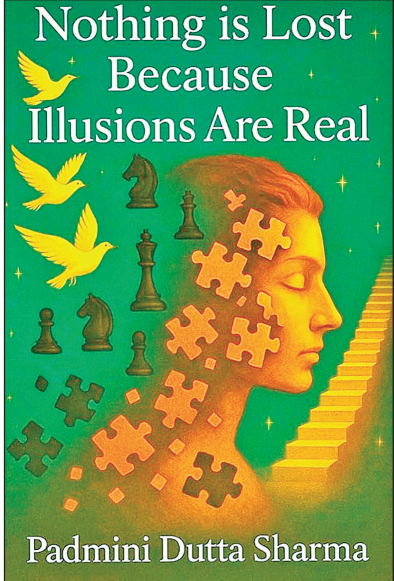
Padmini’s literary journey began long before her 17th book, *Nothing is Lost Because Illusions Are Real*, was released globally by Amazon Inc. USA. Her journey started with a spark, the realization that stories matter. She wanted to show the world that every individual’s experiences, no matter how difficult or marginalized, were worthy of exploration. And so, she began writing—penning poems that explored themes of love, identity, loss, and the moments in between.

Her first book was just the beginning. As she continued to write, she delved deeper into the complexities of human relationships and experiences. Her literary voice became a beacon for those who had been silenced, using poetry to illuminate their pain, joy, and resilience. From an unwed mother’s quiet strength to the silent suffering of transgender individuals on their journey to selfhood, Padmini’s words connected on a deeply personal level.

Her most recent work, *Nothing is Lost Because Illusions Are Real*, is a poignant collection of poetry that

spans a range of human experiences. The poems reflect her signature style—emotional depth mixed with simplicity. It’s a work that explores the supernatural, personal stories, and universal themes, challenging readers to reflect on the world around them, and their place within it.

Padmini’s journey has not been without its obstacles. The world of literature and film is one that often rewards conformity, and Padmini’s unique voice was not immediately embraced by the mainstream. Yet, she did not falter. She kept writing, kept creating, and kept her focus on the stories that mattered



to her, trusting that the world would eventually hear her. And it did.

The decision to venture into filmmaking was a turning point. After the success of her books, Padmini wanted to bring her stories to a broader audience, not just through words but through the visual medium of film. Her short film, *Black Quote*, is a powerful testament to her growth as a filmmaker. The film, which premiered in Kolkata, focuses on the silent suffering of women subjected to domestic abuse. The protagonist’s rebellion, breaking free from her oppressive circumstances, resonates deeply with audiences.

The decision to tackle such a difficult and often taboo subject matter was not easy. It required vulnerability and an immense amount of courage. But, as with her books, Pad-

mini was unafraid to push boundaries. *Black Quote* is not just a film—it’s a call for action, a plea for empathy, and an invitation for viewers to step into the shoes of those who endure abuse in silence.

Her breakthrough came when *Black Quote* gained the attention of international film festivals. Its powerful message and authentic portrayal of abuse caught the eyes of curators, leading to official selections at several prestigious festivals. But for Padmini, this recognition wasn’t about accolades—it was about making sure that her stories, especially the ones that delve into sensitive subjects, reached the right people.

What sets Padmini apart from other authors and filmmakers is her unwavering commitment to authenticity. She does not shy away from difficult subjects; rather, she leans into them, exploring the raw and unfiltered aspects of human existence. Through her works, Padmini challenges societal norms and offers a new perspective—one where empathy and understanding are the driving forces behind change.

Her literary and cinematic works are both profound and accessible, bridging the gap between high art and popular storytelling. Padmini’s ability to connect with audiences from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and experiences is a testament to her universal approach to storytelling. She doesn’t just create for one audience—she creates for all people, inviting them to reflect on their own lives and the world around them. But Padmini’s impact goes beyond just her work. As a philanthropist and social influencer, she uses her platform to support causes that align with her values of inclusion and compassion. Her advocacy for marginalized communities, particularly in the realms of gender and identity, positions her as not just a creator, but also a voice for change.

Beyond her titles as an author and

Commission cracks down on BLOs Over voter list errors

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Election Commission has issued a stern warning to Booth-Level Officers (BLOs) across West Bengal, making it clear that any lapse or false entry detected during the ongoing intensive voter list revision will invite strict punitive action. The message came during a high-level review meeting convened by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Kumar Agarwal on Saturday as part of the state's final preparatory phase before the arrival of a central delegation.

Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti is scheduled to visit Bengal on November 18 to assess the progress of the revision process. Ahead of that, the CEO met with all district magistrates to finalize "last-minute preparations" and review inconsistencies in the distribution of enumeration forms. Officials confirmed that 7.45 crore forms have already been distributed—covering nearly 97 percent of the target. The Commission, however, expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of work in certain districts, notably West Burdwan and South 24 Parganas. During Saturday's meeting, senior Commission officials took a firm tone, questioning the reasons behind the delay and instructing district authorities to ensure 100 percent coverage without further lapse. Inside sources said the Commission's directives were unequivocal: the accountability for data integrity rests squarely on field officers. From form distribution to verification and data entry, no error or manipulation will be tolerated. "Any instance of false entries or deliberate inaccuracies will attract disciplinary action against the concerned BLOs," an official present at the meeting stated. The warning comes at a time when a section of BLOs has voiced grievances against workload and resource gaps. Yet, the Commission has reiterated that impartiality and accuracy remain non-negotiable, adding that both BLOs and Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) must coordinate closely to maintain the credibility of the voter rolls. The ongoing revision process forms part of the Commission's statewide election preparedness exercise ahead of the next electoral cycle, with the final list scheduled for publication in early 2026.

ISRO to launch CHANDRAYAAN-4 in '2028

**From PG 1** currently around 2 per cent, and ISRO is working towards increasing it to 8 per cent by 2030, Narayanan said. India's space economy is currently valued at around USD 8.2 billion and is projected to grow to USD 44 billion by 2033, while the global space economy, he said, stands at about USD 630 billion currently and could reach USD 1.8 trillion by 2035. He said the space-sector reforms have sharply increased private participation. Narayanan said more than 450 industries and 330 startups are now active in India's space ecosystem -- a massive rise from just three startups a few years ago. "We now have a vibrant base ecosystem, and it will grow further," he said. India's private space industry has accelerated post regulatory reforms in 2020, enabling private rocket development, satellite manufacture and commercial launch services.

JAISHANKAR discusses bilateral partnership with Bahrain

**From PG 1** USD 1.64 billion in 2024-25. The Gulf nation has been home to close to 332,000 Indian nationals who comprise nearly a quarter of the total population of 1.5 million in that country. India is among the top five trading partners of Bahrain.



Indian players celebrate after dismissing a South African batsman at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Sunday.

Kolkata chokes on diversions as Vidyasagar Setu Shuts for repairs

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Traffic movement across the city faces a major disruption today as the iconic Vidyasagar Setu remains closed for sixteen hours, from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m., for essential maintenance work. The shutdown, announced by the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC), has triggered widespread diversions, affecting commuters and logistics services across key arterial routes connecting Kolkata to Howrah and beyond. The bridge, which serves as one of the city's busiest links over the Hooghly River, has been closed to facilitate critical inspection and structural maintenance ahead of the winter season.

This includes checking joints, tightening cables, and routine inspection of expansion bearings. Authorities said the decision was taken after technical reports called for immediate preventive upkeep to ensure long-term safety and structural stability of the bridge. The closure has compelled the Kolkata Police's Traffic Department to initiate extensive diversions. Vehicles heading from the heart of Kolkata toward Howrah have been redirected via Howrah Bridge and the Nivedita Setu, while those bound for Alipore, Behala, and Taratala are being advised to take



the Dufferin Road, Majerhat, or Garden Reach routes. Heavy vehicles and inter-district transports have been restricted from accessing key corridors during the shutdown period. The prolonged closure is expected to cause congestion in several critical pockets including Esplanade, Hastings, AJC Bose Road, and the Howrah approach. Traffic personnel have been deployed in additional shifts at major junctions to manage the anticipated surge, particularly during office hours and evening return traffic. Emergency vehicles, however, are

being given priority clearance through alternative corridors under police supervision. This is one of the longest maintenance shutdowns of Vidyasagar Setu in recent years, undertaken as part of the HRBC's preventive maintenance calendar. Officials said residual work may continue late into the night, but operations are expected to fully normalize by early Monday. The administration has urged commuters to plan their travel well in advance and avoid non-essential vehicular movement along the Howrah-bound routes.

ED seeks to grill former RG Kar chief Sandeep Ghosh in Jail

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The ED has stepped up its probe into the alleged corruption linked to RG Kar Medical Collage and Hospital, initiating fresh action to record the statement of former chairman Sandeep Ghosh, who is currently lodged at the Presidency Correctional home.

According to sources, the central agency has filed an application before the ED Special Court at Bihar Bhavan, seeking permission under Section 50 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), to visit the correctional facility and record Ghosh's statement. The agency has described his deposition as crucial to establishing the money trail and identifying beneficiaries in the graft case. The ED intends to approach the Presidency Correctional Home for questioning once judicial approval is granted. Investigators have indicated that the forthcoming statement could significantly advance the probe into financial irregularities surrounding the hospital's administrative and procurement processes. A progress report detailing the latest developments, including the anticipated recording, is expected to be submitted to the court by December 14. Meanwhile, in a separate but related matter, the mother of the deceased RG Kar doctor has renewed her allegations against the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) before the Sealdah court, accusing the agency of insensitivity during the probe. Her sharp remarks—calling the investigators "shameless"—reportedly left the CBI officials visibly shaken, with one investigator breaking down emotionally in court, saying, "I am also a mother."

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Gold trader murder: Shocking video nails BDO's role

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Newtown gold trader murder case taken a chilling turn with investigators captures BDO Prashant Barman and his aids brutally assaulting the victim. The footage, retrieved from the mobile phone of the BDO's driver, Raju Dhali, has reached the hands of the Bidhannagar Detective Branch, sending shockwaves through the investigating ranks. According to senior officers, the video clearly shows Prashant Barman personally thrashing the gold trader before directing his associates to continue the assault. When visibly tired, the BDO is seen sitting on a chair and instructing others to "keep beating until he dies." His voice, investigators confirm, is distinctly audible in the audio accompanying the footage. The Detective Branch is now conducting a forensic examination of the

video to verify authenticity, timing, and sequence of events leading to the trader's death. The BDO's car, previously suspected to have been used in the crime, was recovered on Saturday. Another vehicle, a blue-light-fitted car allegedly used to transport and dump the body, has also been seized from the Kolkata area following Raju Dhali's interrogation.

Preliminary findings suggest the trader was killed on October 28, and investigators tracked the second vehicle's movement through GPS data obtained from the driver's phone. Both vehicles are now under forensic inspection, as the police piece together the chain of events leading to the murder. Officials describe the video evidence as a potential breakthrough that could decisively link the district official to the crime.

SSC under spotlight as full-score candidates miss interview chance

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The latest SSC teacher recruitment process for higher secondary and secondary levels has triggered widespread discontent among fresh candidates after several high scorers reportedly failed to receive interview calls. The controversy has deepened as 'in-service' teachers appear to have gained an edge through experience-based scoring under the prescribed selection criteria. The recruitment test for classes XI-XII was held on September 14, with 2,46,000 applicants, while the test for classes IX-X, conducted on September 7, saw 3,19,919 aspirants. Against a total vacancy of 35,726 posts — 12,514 for XI-XII and the remainder for IX-X — only a little over 20,000 candidates have been short-listed for interviews, according to SSC data. Sources indicate that the cut-off marks for various subjects remained high — 77 in English, 73 in Bengali, 71 in Arithmetic, and 75 in History. Yet, in some subjects, even candidates achieving perfect scores did not make the cut. SSC officials have clarified that selections are based on a combination of written marks, TET scores, and experience weightage, ensuring that both new entrants and currently serving teachers are considered within statutory guidelines. In English and Bengali, the competition has been especially intense, with many freshers missing out despite strong performances. Mathematics and History show similar patterns, where the experience component of scoring provided marginal advantages to in-service applicants. Officials, however, maintained that the selection process strictly follows the notified recruitment rules and transparency protocols. While 50 percent of the shortlisted candidates belong to the fresher category, many serving teachers failed to make it through XI-XII document verification but are expected to feature in the upcoming IX-X selection phase.

EC clarifies: Aadhar only for voter ID linking

**MI News Service, Kolkata/New Delhi:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified that the Aadhaar card cannot be treated as proof of citizenship, residence, or date of birth in any part of the Summary Intensive Revision (SIR) process for voter rolls. The clarification comes amid the ongoing drive to link the electoral database with the Aadhaar ecosystem following legislative amendments introduced in 2021. Responding to a public interest litigation filed by Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, the Commission has submitted an affidavit affirming that Aadhaar serves only as a tool for identity verification aimed at curbing duplicate voter registrations. It stressed that the document's role is limited under Section 23(4) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and does not extend to establishing citizenship eligi-

ibility. The ECI cited Section 9 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016, along with guidelines issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which clearly state that Aadhaar cannot be treated as proof of citizenship or domicile. The ECI's position reinforces its stance that linking Aadhaar to the electoral roll is an administrative measure to ensure accuracy, not an eligibility determinant for voter registration.



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Terror factory AL-FALAH UNIV under lens of security agencies

**From PG 1** Delhi Police, has since been transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

AL-FALAH UNIV: TERROR FACTORY IN DISGUISE?

The investigation has also turned the spotlight on Al-Falah University in Faridabad's Dhauj village, where three arrested doctors — including Dr Muzammil Ganaie and Dr Umar Nabi — were employed. Police said they conducted inspections across the 76-acre campus on Tuesday and questioned several staff members and students. "With educated individuals found to be acting at the behest of Pakistan-backed handlers, investigators are scrutinising how the university turned into a safe haven for such individuals," an official said. Pulwama-based Dr Umar Nabi, suspected to have been driving the explosive-laden Hyundai i20 that detonated near the Red Fort, was an assistant professor at Al-Falah University. The blast occurred hours after eight people — including three doctors connected to the university — were arrested, and 2,900 kilograms of explosives were

seized during the unearthing of a "white-collar terror module" allegedly linked to Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind, operating across Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh Established by the Haryana Legislative Assembly under the Private Universities Act, Al-Falah University began as an engineering college in 1997 and gained university status in 2014. It is run by the Al-Falah Charitable Trust, chaired by Jawad Ahmad Siddiqui, with Mufti Abdullah Qasimi M A as vice-chairman and Mohammad Wajid DME as secretary. The university has three constituent colleges and a 650-bed hospital where doctors provide free treatment. Its current Vice-Chancellor is Dr Bhupinder Kaur Anand, and Prof (Dr) Mohammad Parvez serves as Registrar.

Investigators are examining whether the institution's resources or networks were exploited to aid the terror module's operations. Not only NIA, but IB including ED are now in fray to grill the unearthen elements in the gravely dubious Al-Falah University.

SHAH to chair NORTHERN ZONAL COUNCIL meeting

**From PG 1** minister of Haryana is its vice-chairperson. The chief minister of one member state (rotating every year) acts as the vice-chairperson. From each member state, the governor nominates two ministers as members of the council. Each Zonal Council has also formed a permanent committee at the level of chief secretaries. Issues proposed by the states are initially presented to the permanent committee of the concerned Zonal Council for discussion. After consideration by the permanent committee, the remaining issues are then presented to the Zonal Council meeting for further deliberation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given the vision of 'TEAM BHARAT' and the zonal councils have been significantly contributing in this direction, the statement said. The role of the zonal councils is advisory. However, over the past few years, these councils have proven to be an important factor in promoting healthy bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation in various fields. With the cooperation of all state governments, central ministries and departments, a total of 63 meetings of the various zonal councils and their permanent committees have been held in the last 11 years, the statement said.

Name Change

I, Sk Atiar Rahaman (Old Name), Son Of Late Namajuddin Sekh, Residing At Vill-Jafarpur, Po&Ps-Falta, South 24 Parganas, 743504, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Atiyar Rahaman(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Sk Atiar Rahaman And Sk Atiyar Rahaman Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Asmeri Khatoun (Old Name), Wife Of Nisar Ahmad, Residing At Vill-Palsakhurd, Po-Chandradeep, Jamui-811301, Bihar, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Asgari Khatun (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Asmeri Khatoun And Asgari Khatun Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, SAMSUDDIN, S/O. LATE BIREN MIA, R/O. 18 ANWAR BAGAN, PO-PAKURDI, PS-Khetgram, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, 741329, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MD ASGAR ALI, S/O. MD. HOSEN (MD. HOSEN), R/O. 18 ANWAR BAGAN, PO-PAKURDI, PS-Khetgram, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, 741329. THE NAMES OF SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON WHO IS MY FATHER AND NOBODY ELSE, AS PER AFFIDAVIT NO. 16754 DATED 03-11-2025 BEFORE 1ST JUDGE, JUDICIAL, MAGISTRATE, ALIPORE.

Name Change

I, Sahebjan, S/o Late Md Safik, residing at Islampara, Shankahnagar, P.O-Bansberia, PS- Mogra, Dist- Hooghly, Pin- 712502 declare that in my child's birthcertificate my name was wrongly recorded as Sahebjan Khan as father instead of my actual name Sahebjan as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card. That Sahebjan Khan and Sahebjan both are same and identical person i.e., myself and father of my son Kurban Khan vide affidavit no. 10914 dated 13.11.2025 before 1d.1st Class Judicial Magistrate Hooghly at Chinsurah.

Name Change

I, Sanjoy Adhikary, S/O Lt. Samir Adhikary, R/D at Vill- Manasahati, P.O.-Duttapulia, PS.- Dhanatala, Dist-Nadia, Pin-741504 vide Affidavit Sworn before the court of 1d. Judicial Magistrate (1st class) at Ranaghat on 13/11/25. That my deceased father Samir Adhikary and Samiran Adhikary was the Same and one identical Person.

Name Change

I, Subrata Kumar Mukherjee (old name) son of Subodh Kumar Mukherjee, residing at Hijalpurkuria, Habra(M), Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 743271, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subrata Mukherjee (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 14/11/2025. Subrata Kumar Mukherjee (old name) and Subrata Mukherjee (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Biswanath Jain (old name) son of Ramkumar Jain, residing at BL-A, 5th Floor, Flat - 5C, 46B Matheshwartorai, Gobind, Khatiek Road, Kolkata - 700046, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bishwa Nath Jain (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 14/11/2025. Biswanath Jain (old name) and Bishwa Nath Jain (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Aminun Shaikh (Old Name) W/o Asraf Sk D/o Abul Kasem Sk Residing at Vill-Po - Balakhali, PS - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743503, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Aminun Sk (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 14-11-2025. Aminun Shaikh (Old Name) and Aminun Sk (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mustafa Shaikh (Old Name) S/o Amanat Sk Residing at Vill+Po - Balakhali, PS - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743503, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Golam Mostafa Sk (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 14-11-2025. Mustafa Shaikh (Old Name) and Golam Mostafa Sk (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Anowara Bibi (Old Name) D/o Ayub Sk Residing at Vill+Po - Balakhali, PS - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743503, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Anoyara Sk (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 14-11-2025. Anowara Bibi (Old Name) and Anoyara Sk (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, MOHD ANWARUL ISLAM, S/o Late MOHD HURMUZ (Old Name), residing at Vill- Taluhandaga, P.O- Goidal, PS- Paikar, Dist- Birbhum, West Bengal, PIN-731238, my deceased father shall henceforth be known as HURMUJ SEKH (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Katwa Court, Katwa, Purba Bardhaman, vide affidavit no. 4716/25 dated 06/11/2025 MOHD HURMUZ (Old Name) & HURMUJ SEKH (New Name) both are same & identical person.

Name Change

I, MOHAMMAD ALI (Old Name S/o Late MOHD HURMUZ (Old Name), residing at Vill- Taluhandaga, P.O- Angoria, PS- Keturgram, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN- 741329 shall henceforth be known as MAHAMMAD ALI (New Name) as declared before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate, Katwa, Purba Bardhaman, vide affidavit no 2070 Dated 18.09.2025. MOHAMMAD ALI (Old Name) MAHAMMAD ALI (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Rinku Pramanik (Old Name), Wife Of Bhimcharan Paramanik, Residing At Near Jhaupatra Kali Mandir, Po- Madhya Hingil, Ps-Mahishadaleast Medinipur- 721628, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rinku Paramanik (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Rinku Pramanik And Rinku Paramanik Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Bhimcharan Pramanik (Old Name), Son Of Nerapada Pramanik, Residing At Near Jhaupatra Kali Mandir, Po- Madhya Hingil, Ps-Mahishadaleast Medinipur- 721628, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bhimcharan Paramanik (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Bhimcharan Pramanik And Bhimcharan Paramanik Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sofikul Islam, Residing At Kaikala, Po Kaikala, Ps Haripal, Hooghly Rural- 712405, West Bengal, Do Hereby Notified That My Father Haidor Rahaman (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Haidar Rahaman(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Haidor Rahaman And Sk Haidar Rahaman Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Moorjani Shalini Ramesh (old name) son of Sanjay Shyamal Rohira, residing at SUNRISH HEIGHTS, FL-402, 134A BELIAGHATA ROAD, PO TANGRA, KOLKATA-700015, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Idika Sanjay Rohira (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/11/2025. Idika Sanjay Rohira (new name) and Moorjani Shalini Ramesh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Jumman Ali Molla (Old Name), Son Of Nuruddin Molla, Residing At Darogapara, Nookadangapara, Po Bidhanagar, Diamond Harbour- 700066, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Jumman Ali Molla (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Jumman Ali Molla And Md Jumman Ali Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Debashis Saha (Old Name), Son Of Goutam Kumar Saha, Residing At 77/21b/4, Baderai Pur Road, Ps-Jadavpur, Kolkata-700032, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Arindam Saha (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Debashis Saha And Arindam Saha Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rupa Mustafa (old name) wife of Altaf Alam and daughter of Md Mustafa, residing at 24/21/16, Bright Street, Kolkata- 700017, PS.- Karaya, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rupa Alam (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/11/2025. Rupa Alam (new name) and Rupa Mustafa (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sekh Majed & Sk Mazed (Old Name), Son Of Sk Tairuddin, Residing At Vill-Benudia, Po&Ps-Bhagabanpur, East Medinipur-721601, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Majed (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Sekh Majed & Sk Mazed And Sk Majed Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Md Nesar Ahmad & Md Nisar Ahmad (Old Name), Son Of Md Muslim, Residing At Vill-Palsakhurd, Po-Chandradeep, Jamui-811301, Bihar, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nisar Ahmad (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Md Nesar Ahmad & Md Nisar Ahmad And Nisar Ahmad Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rajesh Pratap Gandhi (Old Name), Son Of Pratap Raj Gandhi, Residing At 22 Rameshwahr Malia 1st Bye Lane, Po & Ps - Howrah, Howrah - 711101, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rajesh P Gandhi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/11/2025. Rajesh Pratap Gandhi And Rajesh P Gandhi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Jhuma Devi Sharma (Old Name), Wife Of Hemlal Sharma, Residing At 53 Shiba Chandra Chatterjee Street, Belurmath Bally, Howrah-711202, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Thuma Devi Sharma (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Jhuma Devi Sharma And Thuma Devi Sharma Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Shefali Rani Ghosh & Shefali Ghosh (Old Name), Wife Of Gobinda Chandra Ghosh, Residing At 455 P K Guha Road, Po & Ps - Dumdum, North 24 Parganas - 700028, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shafali Ghosh (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Shefali Rani Ghosh & Shefali Ghosh And Shafali Ghosh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Shefali Rani Ghosh & Shefali Ghosh (Old Name), Wife Of Gobinda Chandra Ghosh, Residing At 455 P K Guha Road, Po & Ps - Dumdum, North 24 Parganas - 700028, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shafali Ghosh (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Shefali Rani Ghosh & Shefali Ghosh And Shafali Ghosh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.



Army XI defeated Indian Air Force 2-0 in the final of the 126th Beighton Cup, the world's oldest hockey tournament, at the newly built Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Hockey Stadium in Salt Lake to become the champion. The prize distribution ceremony of the final was attended by Sports Minister Aroop Biswas and World Cup winning German legendary footballer Lothar Matthaus. Minister Sujit Bose and former legendary hockey star Gurbax Singh were also present.

TMC sets up SIR help desks at tea gardens

MI News Service, Alipurduar: The Trinamool Cha Bagan Sramik Union (TCBSU) leadership instructed their local units across the tea gardens in the Dooars to conduct door-to-door visits to help tea workers and their families in the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) process of the electoral roll that has been initiated by the Election Commission of India across the state.

The union has set up help desks in every tea garden of the Alipurduar district to assist the workers in filling up forms required for SIR and in resolving document-related queries. In Alipurduar, there are 64 tea estates, of which three are closed. According to representatives of the TCBSU, around 40 per cent of people from these tea gardens live and work outside the state, while around 25 per cent of the migrants are voters.

“We have instructed our garden units to visit every household. The Election Commission of India has provided an online option to fill the forms, but most tea garden residents are not familiar with digital platforms. Our members will assist them through help desks, which have been functioning in every tea garden since yesterday (Monday),” said Nakul Sonar, the TCBSU chairman.

He said that the initiative had been taken to ensure no tea garden worker or their family member was left out of the SIR loop because of lack of awareness or accessibility. While in towns and villages, people are actively discussing the SIR process and reaching out to the booth-level officers (BLOs) to ensure their documents are in order, the situation in the tea garden areas is different. Most tea workers are indifferent or unaware of the exercise.

Abir Chatterjee inaugurates Travel Carnival

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abir Chatterjee recently inaugurated the ‘Travel Carnival’ in Kolkata. Travelixia, in a grand affair, hosted the Travel Carnival, bringing together travel enthusiasts and industry partners of Kolkata for a vibrant celebration of exploration and discovery. The event inauguration and poster launch were conducted by renowned Bengali actor Abir Chatterjee, the Brand Ambassador of Travelixia.

Name Change

I, Mosammat Najma Begum (old name) wife of Mohammad Toha Siddique, residing at VILL & P.O-FURFURA, PS-IANGIPARA, DIST-HOOGHLY, PIN-712706, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Najma Begum (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/11/2025. Najma Begum (new name) and Mosammat Najma Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Pradeep Kumar Biswas (Old Name), son of Nirmal Biswas, residing at 87/1 Churhat Bhag 1, Churhat, Sidhi - 486771, Madhya Pradesh, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradeep Biswas (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 06/11/2025. Pradeep Kumar Biswas and Pradeep Biswas both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sadhana Bodhwani (old name) wife of Ramesh Kumar, residing at SOUTH DHADKA ROAD, ANSANSOL, Paschim Bardhaman, 743302, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sadhana Bodhwani (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/11/2025. Sadhana Bodhwani (new name) and Sadhana Bodhwani (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Jostna Pramanik (Old Name), Wife Of Late Nirapada Paramanik, Residing At Near Jhaupatra Kali Mandir, Po- Madhya Hingil, Ps-Mahishadaleast Medinipur- 721628, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jyotsna Paramanik (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/11/2025. Jostna Pramanik And Jyotsna Paramanik Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

“Most of us do not have land rights and thus, no land-related documents, unlike those living in towns and villages. Also, our family members have migrated to other states and may find it difficult to return home to complete formalities. That is why we are concerned whether our names would be there in the voter list

after the SIR,” said a worker of the Kalchini tea estate.

Another worker who lives in a closed tea estate — Ramjhora tea estate in Madarhi block of the district — said job records in the tea garden’s office were a major document for people like them to prove they were living in the garden for years.

D2L Brightspace comes up as new learning platform

MI News Service, Kolkata: D2L, a global leader in learning technology, announced that the JIS Group has chosen D2L Brightspace as its new learning platform. This strategic move is a key milestone in Group’s goal to fully digitize its campuses, enhance academic delivery, and elevate the learning experience for both students and faculty. D2L Brightspace will benefit students by helping to provide them with a unique experience through a blended learning approach. D2L Brightspace will also support faculty by helping to enable more dynamic, highly interactive teaching methods.

JU issues notifications to fill key admin posts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jadavpur University has initiated the process of filling major administrative vacancies by issuing recruitment notifications on Wednesday for several key officer-level posts, including the registrar.

Along with the registrar, the university has invited applications from Indian nationals for the posts of dean of students, finance officer, development officer, deputy registrar, secretary to the Faculty Council for Postgraduate and Undergraduate Studies in Science, secretary to the

Faculty Council for Postgraduate and Undergraduate Studies in Engineering & Technology, and officer of Placement and Training.

The university has been without a permanent vice-chancellor (V-C) since the retirement of Suranjana Das in May 2023. Although three interim vice-chancellors briefly held charge, the post had remained vacant for nearly seven months, creating an administrative vacuum. The situation changed when Chiranjib Bhattacharya, formally assumed office as the permanent V-C on November 3.

আমার মজেল দিলি বঙ্গ শ্রী, স্বামী-স্বামী, ২০২৫ সালে A.D.S.R. হোমলুইজ অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রার ২০২২ নং দলিল দ্বারা কনসারভেড ৫৪১১/২১ নং (A.D.S.R.) আমোক্তার প্রদত্ত পত্রা (বর্তমান) দলিল দ্বারা সৌভাগ্যবশত উক্ত অফিসে, সাবেক-১০৬০ নং, ফার্ম-১৪৯২, ৫০০৩ ন

Counter Intelli-  
gence continues  
raids across Valley

**MI News Service, Srinagar:** The Counter Intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police on Thursday carried out raids at several locations across the Valley in connection with the "white-collar terror module" and the recent blast near Delhi's Red Fort, officials said.

Around 10 persons, including three government employees, have been picked up for questioning from various parts of Kashmir. The officials said the investigators picked up the suspects from Anantnag, Pulwama and Kulgam districts during overnight raids. The raids are currently being carried out by Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) at 13 locations, they said. Around 15 people have been detained for questioning, and several digital devices and incriminating materials have been recovered, the officials said. Further details are awaited, they added. Earlier on Wednesday, Anantnag Police carried out coordinated raids in the district amid a massive crackdown against the banned organisation Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI). Meanwhile, in Kulgam, police are carrying out a crackdown against the anti-national elements, checking vehicles at the Navyug tunnel. The raids were based on credible intelligence inputs indicating attempts by JeI-linked elements to revive their activities under different fronts, police officials said. They said the raids were carried out at several locations across the 10 districts of the Kashmir valley - Srinagar, Ganderbal, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Kupwara, Anantnag, Kulgam, Pulwama, and Shopian. In north Kashmir's Baramulla district, police in Sopore launched a major coordinated operation and carried out a district-wide counter terror and separatist ecosystem action, by conducting simultaneous raids at over 30 plus locations across Sopore, Zaingeer, and Rafiabhad areas with the assistance of other security forces, they said.

Meanwhile, security agencies have recovered the diaries of Delhi blast case accused Dr Umar and Dr Muzammil, which mention the dates November 8 to 12, indicating that the planning was underway for such an incident during that period, sources said. According to the sources, the diary also contained the names of about 25 individuals, most of them hailing from Jammu and Kashmir and Faridabad. According to the information from the diaries, it can be said that the blast was to be carried out as part of a well-planned conspiracy. These diaries were recovered on Tuesday and Wednesday from Dr Umar's room number four and Muzammil's room number 13. Additionally, police recovered a diary from Muzammil's room, the same location where they recovered 360 kg of explosives in Dhauj, located just 300 meters from Al-Falah University. The diaries carried code words which investigators are now piecing together. The agencies are also looking into whether different vehicles were being prepared for the blasts.



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar being congratulated by Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha on NDA's victory in the State Assembly elections.

India to outpace China as world's  
oil demand powerhouse: IEA



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India is set to overtake China as the biggest engine of oil demand growth, reshaping global energy dynamics for the next decade, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said. The world's third-

China accounted for more than 75 per cent of oil demand growth over the past ten years, but this picture is changing, and India becomes the new epicentre of growth in oil demand," the IEA said. Energy demand in

consumption will jump from 5.5 million barrels per day (mbpd) in 2024 to 8 mbpd by 2035, the steepest rise worldwide. The surge is driven by an explosion in car ownership, greater demand for plastics and aviation fuel, and higher LPG use for cooking.

"Oil demand in India increases by 2 mbpd to 2035 — the largest increase in any country — and continues to rise through to 2050. The next largest increases to 2035 are in Africa (1.2 mbpd), and Southeast Asia (1 mbpd)," the IEA said. But this growth comes at a cost, a heavier import bill. India's crude oil import dependence will climb from 87 per cent in 2024 to 92 per cent by 2035, despite ongoing efforts to boost domestic production. At the same time, India is consolidating its position as a refining powerhouse. "Since 2022, India has emerged as a global swing supplier, refining volumes of Russian crude oil exports that previously flowed to Europe. India's refining capacity grows from 6 mbpd in 2024 by 1.5 mbpd to 2035 which solidifies its role as a key exporter of transport fuel," the IEA said. Asia will witness a net refining capacity increase of 3 mbpd between 2024 and 2035, and India will lead that growth.

International Energy Agency (IEA)

largest oil importer and consumer will drive nearly half of the additional global oil consumption through 2035, powered by rapid economic growth, industrial expansion, and a surge in vehicle ownership.

"Oil remains the dominant fuel to 2050 in the CPS (current policies scenario).

India is rising faster than in any other major emerging economy, expanding by 3 per cent every year until 2035. "India leads global oil demand growth over the next ten years, with almost half of the additional barrels produced globally to 2035 heading in its direction," the agency added. India's oil



Union Minister Chirag Paswan with his family during a visit to the Takhat Sri Hari-mandir Ji Patna Sahib, in Patna.

VANDE MATARAM  
to be compulsory  
in UP schools: Yogi

**MI News Service, Ayodhya:** Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath said singing Vande Mataram would be made mandatory in all schools across the state, seeking to mine the controversy over the national song to draw political mileage for the BJP ahead of the second phase of polling in Bihar.

Addressing an Ekta Yatra (Unity March) in Gorakhpur, he said this step would inspire a feeling of reverence and pride among citizens towards "Bharat Mata" and the motherland. "There should be a sense of respect for the national song Vande Mataram. We will make its singing compulsory in every school and educational institution of Uttar Pradesh," he said at the event to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Ballabhbhai Patel. BJP governments across the country have planned month-long celebrations in Patel's honour.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ignited a political row last week by reciting extracts from Vande Mataram that carry religious connotations and alleging that the Congress's adoption of only the first two stanzas as the national song in 1937 "sowed the seeds for the division of India". A Hindutva hardliner, Adityanath had campaigned extensively in Bihar, where the last phase of polling on 122 seats would be held on Tuesday. BJP sources have said the party didn't get encouraging feedback from the ground after the first phase of polling on 121 seats on November 6.

"Our internal reports suggest that projecting Nitish Kumar once again as the NDA's chief ministerial face may hurt us in Bihar. We need something else to pull voters in the second phase. But we don't need to be on the spot to campaign. The news of Adityanath's decision will reach Bihar through the media and may help us," a senior BJP leader said. At the Gorakhpur event, Adityanath said: "Vande Mataram has also completed 150 years.

Lothar Matthäus hails  
BENGAL SUPER LEAGUE

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Legendary FIFA World Cup-winning captain and global football icon, MrLothar Matthäus, visited Kolkata as the Official Ambassador of the Bengal Super League (BSL), an ambitious and professionally structured football initiative spearheaded by Shrachi Sports.

As part of his visit, Lothar Matthäus participated in a special interactive event titled "Masterclass with Lothar Matthäus", held at South City International School. The session was attended by prominent dignitaries including Barbara Voss, Consul General of Germany, Ravi Todi, Director, South City International School, Bavesh Janavlekar, Business Head, Zee Sports and Tamal Ghosal, Chairman, Shrachi Sports. Around 150 students from over ten reputed schools attended the event, where the football legend conducted a short session, shared insights from his illustrious career and demonstrated select techniques and football skills. "The Bengal Super League is a remarkable initiative that has the potential to redefine football in Bengal and inspire a new generation of players. Bengal has always had a deep love for the game and with the

“  
The Bengal Super League is a remarkable initiative that has the potential to redefine football in Bengal and inspire a new generation of players. Bengal has always had a deep love for the game and with the right structure, investment and vision, that passion can once again make this region a powerhouse of Indian football.” said Lothar Matthäus, Official Ambassador, Bengal Super League (BSL). “We are privileged to host a football icon of Matthäus's stature. His presence in Kolkata will not only inspire aspiring footballers but will also strengthen our collective vision of taking Bengal football to the next level through the Bengal Super League,” said Rahul Todi, Managing Director, Shrachi Group. The event, which

Lothar Matthäus

right structure, investment and vision, that passion can once again make this region a powerhouse of Indian football.” said Lothar Matthäus, Official Ambassador, Bengal Super League (BSL). “We are privileged to host a football icon of Matthäus's stature. His presence in Kolkata will not only inspire aspiring footballers but will also strengthen our collective vision of taking Bengal football to the next level through the Bengal Super League,” said Rahul Todi, Managing Director, Shrachi Group. The event, which

hosted approximately 300 distinguished guests, raised funds to support grassroots football development initiatives in Bengal. The Bengal Super League, conceptualized and organized by Shrachi Sports, represents a major step towards revitalizing Bengal's football ecosystem. The inaugural season is scheduled to commence on the second week of December, featuring eight participating teams from across the state. Matches will be conducted at leading venues and are expected to attract wide public and media attention.

All Bengal Super League matches will be telecast LIVE exclusively on Zee Bangla Sonar and streamed LIVE on ZEE5, ensuring that fans can catch every thrilling moment anytime and anywhere. The Bengal Super League will feature some of the state's most dynamic and competitive teams, each representing the rich footballing spirit of their respective regions. Among the participating clubs are Kopa Tigers Birbhum, Sunderban Bengal Auto FC, North Bengal United FC, North 24 Parganas FC, FC Medinipur, JHR Royal City FC, Howrah - Hooghly Warriors and Bhadrashwar Burdwan Blasters.

Kerala HC asks  
Kerala to ap-  
proach SC on SIR

**MI News Service, Kochi:** Kerala High Court suggested that it would be appropriate for the state government to approach the Supreme Court for deferment of the special intensive revision of electoral rolls being carried out by the Election Commission.

Taking up the Kerala government's plea, Justice V.G. Arun said that since similar petitions from Bengal, Bihar and Tamil Nadu were pending before the Supreme Court, it would be appropriate for Kerala to move the apex court.

The Kerala government has been opposing the SIR, especially when the state is to hold local body polls in two phases on December 9 and 11. The state government highlighted administrative and logistical challenges because of the upcoming elections. Advocate-general Gopalakrishna Kurup said 1.76 lakh government employees and 68,000 security personnel would be deployed for the local body polls, and the SIR would require an additional 25,668 employees. The state said that if the SIR is implemented at this juncture, the government machinery would come to a standstill. The high court will give its verdict on the writ petition on Friday. When the high court asked why the state had not approached the Supreme Court, Kurup said the state election commission had already started implementing the SIR. Senior lawyer Rakesh Dwivedi, representing the Election Commission, clarified that half of the SIR exercise has been completed in Kerala. The preparation for the SIR had started in October, and the enumeration forms are being distributed.

Ukraine war a 'living lab' for modern warfare: INDIAN ARMY CHIEF

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India's Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi described the battlefields of Ukraine as a "living lab" for modern warfare, saying the lessons drawn from it are shaping India's defence preparedness, especially along its own borders. Speaking at the Delhi Defence Dialogue, Dwivedi said, "We are watching closely Ukraine battlefields because it is the living lab in terms of the conditions what we are having along our borders."

"Drones are stalking the armoured columns, EW is jamming the radios, precision fires are reaching much beyond 100 kms range, info-campaigns win wars even before a single shell lands," he said, noting how rapidly evolving battlefield dynamics are redefining strategy.

Outlining what he called the three "Ds" transforming warfare, the Army Chief said: "Democratisation — the newest technology coming in; Diffuse — geographically independent but dependent; and Demography." On India's own military outlook, Dwivedi emphasised that geography continues to dictate strategy. "As far as India is concerned by virtue of our land borders, the way we are having it, land will remain the currency of victory," he said. "If you take your mind back to the meeting which took place between President Trump and Putin in Alaska, they also discussed about the land only." Dwivedi also



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We are watching closely Ukraine battlefields because it is the living lab in terms of the conditions what we are having along our borders.

Upendra Dwivedi

highlighted India's growing use of artificial intelligence and data analytics in military operations. "AI in the box" is something which we are looking at... we have tried out, it has been very successful," he said. He added that open-source and predictive analysis had played a significant role in Operation Sindoor 1.0, and that similar approaches would be expanded in "Sindoor 2.0 or any other battle thereafter." "We are looking at in a big way how to harness this initiative," Dwivedi said, framing India's approach as one that blends traditional territorial defence with emerging technology-driven warfare.

SC bans mining activities within 1 km of national parks, sanctuaries

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Thursday banned mining activities within an area of one km from national parks and wildlife sanctuaries, noting that such activities will be hazardous to the wildlife. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran was considering pleas on issues related to the notification of areas under Saranda Wildlife Sanctuary (SWL) and the Sasang daburu Conservation Reserve (SCR) as a conservation reserve in Jharkhand. "It has been the consistent view of this court that mining activities within one km of the protected area will be hazardous to the wildlife. Though in the case of Goa Foundation, the said directions were issued with respect to the State of Goa, we find that such directions need to be issued on a pan-India basis. "We direct that

mining within national parks and wildlife sanctuaries and within an area of one km from boundary of such national park or wildlife sanctuary shall not be permissible," the bench said. The top court also directed the Jharkhand government to notify the region as a wildlife sanctuary.

It clarified that the rights of the tribals and forest dwellers in the region should be protected as per the Forest Rights Act and asked the state government to widely publicise it. Earlier, the bench had asked the Jharkhand government to take a decision to declare the ecologically-rich Saranda region as a reserve forest. The matter pertained to a long-pending proposal to notify the Saranda and Sasangdaburu forest areas in West Singhbhum district as a wildlife sanctuary and conservation reserve, respectively.

DIABETES COMBAT: Kolkata hosts interaction with world's top physicians

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** On the occasion of 'World Diabetes Day', Kolkata recently hosted an interesting interaction with world's renowned doctors, especially the 'Diabetes Specialist'. The experts hinted at taking quality food, especially protein to combat the menace of diabetes. A healthy and balanced diet can be as effective as medicine in managing and controlling diabetes, doctors said at an awareness meet. Reducing stress, having adequate sleep and exercising are the other factors that are important in controlling the "chronic metabolic disease", doctors said. A healthy diet will include good carbohydrates, fats and protein. The doctors have said that they should be consumed in the right amount and not in extremes, as excess of anything is not good for health.



"A healthy diet is important in managing diabetes. A healthy diet will include healthy carbohydrates that have a lot of fibre from plants, healthy fats that have mono-unsaturated or polyunsaturated fats and high biological value protein." Said Jeffrey Mechanick, an endocrinologist and professor of medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in the US. Car-

bohydrates that do not spike blood sugar levels are better than other forms of carbohydrates, said doctors. "The quality and quantity of carbohydrates consumed are also very important. Consuming low-glycemic carbohydrates like nuts and seeds that do not spike blood sugar levels is a good option," said Agnes Siew Ling Tey, senior lead,

A healthy diet will include healthy carbohydrates that have a lot of fibre from plants, healthy fats that have mono-unsaturated or polyunsaturated fats and high biological value protein.

--Jeffrey Mechanick

endocrinologist and professor of medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in the US

clinical science and nutrition at the pharmaceutical company Abbott. Mechanick highlighted that the management of diabetes no longer focuses on only managing the glucose levels in the bloodstream, but comprehensively on what can be the health impacts of diabetes. "It can impact the kidneys, eyes and nerves," said Mechanick. "In India, people go from pre-diabetes to Type 2 diabetes rather quickly," he added. "The general populace is getting their information from non-scientists and non-doctors

who are everywhere on social media. There is a need to plug these knowledge gaps. We have science-based information, but we do not have the awareness," said Dr. Shashank Joshi, an endocrinologist and diabetologist at Lilavati Hospital and Research Centre in Mumbai. "screening the blood sugar levels from an early age can help." He added. Dr Joshi further said, "A man who is 25 years or older and has a waist circumference of more than 90cm should undergo screening.

# Brain scan reveals why Parkinson's drugs don't always work: Study

**Washington DC [US] :** Simon Fraser University Researchers are using an advanced brain imaging method called MEG to understand why Parkinson's drug levodopa doesn't work equally well for everyone.

By mapping patients' brain signals before and after taking the drug, they discovered that it sometimes activates the wrong brain regions, dampening its helpful effects.

This breakthrough could pave the way for personalised treatment strategies, ensuring patients receive medications that target the right areas of their brain more effectively.

The new study by the Simon Fraser University (SFU) researchers, published in the journal *Movement Disorders*, looks at why levodopa - the main drug used in dopamine replacement therapy - is sometimes less effective in patients.

The drug is typically prescribed to help reduce the movement symptoms associated with the neurodegenerative disorder.

While it is effective in improving symptoms for the vast majority of patients, not everyone experiences the same level of benefit.

In order to find out why this is the case, an SFU collaboration with researchers in Sweden has used magnetoencephalography (MEG) technology to determine how the drug affects signals in the brain.

"Parkinson's is the second most prevalent neurodegenerative disease worldwide and it is the most rapidly increasing, in terms of incidence," says Alex Wiesman, assistant professor in biomedical physiology and kinesiology at SFU.

"Treating this disease, both in terms of helping people with their symptoms, but also trying to find ways to reverse the effects, is becoming more and more important. If clinicians can see how levodopa activates certain parts of the brain in a patient, it can help to inform a more personalised approach to treatment," added Wiesman.



The study was a collaboration with researchers at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, who used MEG to collect data from 17 patients with Parkinson's disease - a relatively small sample size.

MEG is an advanced non-invasive technology that measures the magnetic fields produced by the brain's electrical signals. It can help clinicians and researchers to study brain disorders and diseases, including brain injuries, tumours, epilepsy, autism, mental illness and more.

Using this rare brain imaging technology, Wiesman and team developed a new analysis that lets them "search" the brain for off-target drug effects.

"With this new way of analysing brain imaging data, we can track in real time whether or not the drug is affecting the right brain regions and helping patients to manage their symptoms," says Wiesman.

"What we found was that there are sometimes 'off-target' effects of the drug. In other words, we could see the drug activating brain regions we don't want to be activating, and that's getting in the way of the helpful effects. We found that those people who showed 'off target' effects are still being helped by the drug, but not to the same extent as others," said Wiesman.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder, meaning parts of the brain become progressively damaged over time.

It affects predominately the dopamine-producing neurons in a specific area of the brain called the substantia nigra.

People with Parkinson's disease may experience a range of movement-related symptoms, such as tremors, slow movement, stiffness and balance problems.

Wiesman hopes that a better understanding of how levodopa affects an individual's brain signals could improve how drugs are prescribed to treat Parkinson's.

This new type of brain imaging analysis is not only for studying Parkinson's disease; any medications that affect brain signaling can be studied using the method developed by Wiesman and colleagues.

## Researchers find how areas of brain are associated with helping decisions

**BIRMINGHAM [UK] :** Researchers found that a particular brain region-which they identified through a study of patients who had brain damage to that region-controls our willingness to assist others.

Understanding the areas of the brain associated with "helping" decisions is crucial to comprehending how people could be inspired to take on major global issues like infectious diseases, climate change, and international conflict. It is also necessary to discover novel treatments for social interaction difficulties.

Researchers from the Universities of Birmingham and Oxford conducted the study, which was published in *Nature Human Behaviour*. It demonstrates for the first time how the ventromedial prefrontal cortex (vmPFC), a brain region, plays a crucial role in helpful, or "prosocial," activities. Lead author Professor Patricia Lockwood said: "Prosocial behaviours are essential for addressing global challenges. Yet helping others is often effortful and humans are averse to effort. Understanding how effortful helping decisions are processed in the brain is extremely important."

In the study, the researchers focused on the vmPFC, a region located right at the front of the brain, which is known to be important for decision-making and other executive functions. Previous studies using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI scanning) have linked the vmPFC to choices that involve a trade-off between the rewards available and the effort required to obtain rewards. However, these techniques cannot show whether a part of the brain is essential for these functions. Three groups of participants were recruited for the study. 25 patients had vmPFC damage, 15 patients had damage elsewhere in the brain, and 40 people were healthy age and gender-matched control participants. These groups allowed the researchers to test the impact of damage to vmPFC specifically. Each participant attended an experiment where they met another person anonymously. They then completed a decision-making task that measured how willing they were to exert physical effort (squeezing a grip force device) to earn rewards (bonus money) for themselves and for the other person. By enabling participants to meet - but not see - the person they were 'working' for in advance, researchers were able to convey the sense that participants' efforts would have real consequences, but hide any information about the other person that could affect decision-making. Each choice the participants made varied in how much bonus money for them or the other person was available, and how much force they would have to exert to obtain the reward. This allowed the researchers to measure the impact of reward and effort separately, and to use advanced mathematical modelling to precisely quantify people's motivation. The results of the study clearly showed that the vmPFC was necessary for motivation to help others. Patients with vmPFC damage were less willing to choose to help others, exerted less force on even after they did decide to help, and earned less money to help others compared to the control groups. In a further step, the researchers used a technique called lesion symptom mapping which enabled them to identify even more specific subregions of the vmPFC where damage made people particularly antisocial and unwilling to exert effort for the other person. Surprisingly, damage to a nearby but different subregion made people relatively more willing to help. Co-lead author Dr Jo Cutler said: "As well as better understanding prosocial motivation.

## Study gives insight into effectiveness of CT scan to assess people with chest pain



**WASHINGTON [US] :** Previous investigations indicated that less than 40 per cent of patients with stable chest discomfort who underwent invasive coronary angiography had obstructive coronary artery disease. Recent randomized clinical trials have shown that using computed tomography angiography (CTA) first in evaluating these patients is beneficial, and a new study presented at the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Summit backs up this strategy, finding that CT was associated with a higher likelihood of revascularization when compared to other imaging modalities or no testing.

Stable angina is a type of chest pain that happens when the heart muscle requires more oxygen than usual-for example, under stress, exercise, or cold weather-but does not receive it, frequently due to blocked coronary arteries. Patients with stable angina are typically treated with guideline-directed pharmacological therapy and lifestyle adjustments, but they may also require a coronary revascularization operation to restore enough blood flow and alleviate their symptoms.

"Right now, when a patient presents to their primary care physician or cardiologist with symptoms suspicious for angina, they are commonly referred for additional testing," said Markus Scherer, MD, Director of Cardiac CT and

Structural Heart Imaging at Atrium Health-Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and the study's senior author.

Between October 2022 and June 2023, researchers at Atrium Health-Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina, assessed 786 patients who had no prior diagnosis of coronary artery disease and underwent elective invasive coronary angiography (ICA) for the evaluation of suspected angina. The pre-ICA testing strategies were: no noninvasive testing with direct referral to ICA (44%), stress echocardiogram (3%), stress myocardial perfusion imaging (15%), stress MRI (2%) and coronary CTA (36%). The study cohort had a mean age of 66 years, was 63% male, 37% female, 81% White, 13% Black, 1% Asian, 1% Hispanic and 1% other.

The researchers compared rates of subsequent revascularization between patients whose initial evaluation was coronary CTA versus stress testing or clinical judgement (no testing). The "CT first" strategy was associated with subsequent revascularization in 62% of patients compared to 34% for the combination of other modalities or direct ICA referral.

The 2021 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain suggests either non-invasive functional imaging or coronary CTA as the initial

test without specifying a preference for one or the other.

According to the researchers, there are a multitude of reasons health systems don't currently use a CT first approach, including the availability of high-quality CT scanners; availability of qualified cardiac CT interpreting physicians; and challenges in transitioning to a newer approach after decades of pre-established patterns (i.e. stress testing). Furthermore, a CT first approach is predominately advocated for patients with unestablished coronary artery disease and does not apply to all, as some patient factors may reduce the accuracy and utility of coronary CTA.

"While care must be individualized, for patients with unknown or unestablished coronary artery disease, the transition to a 'CT first' strategy should be a high priority for cardiovascular care providers," Scherer said. "The non-invasive approach has a lower risk and cost than a diagnostic heart catheterization and, for the CT approach-but not stress testing-provides information on the absence, presence and extent of coronary atherosclerosis and whether or not there are high risk plaques as well as vessel blockages, which helps streamline patient management and risk reduction."

Since coronary CTA is less expensive than both nuclear myocardial perfusion imaging and ICA, there is a direct cost saving to patients and third-party payers with the CT first approach, according to Scherer. From the perspective of a health system, the most financially efficient evaluation approach becomes more important during the transition to a value-oriented health care system.

According to the authors, the study demonstrates "real world" credence to the randomized trials showing similar benefits to a "CT first" strategy and should promote increased adoption of this strategy for the evaluation of patients with chest pain and an unestablished history of coronary artery disease.

"Cardiac catheterization labs are a capital and human resource intensive care environment. Using them for their maximum potential of treating disease, rather than diagnosing it, bring the highest yield for these resources to the health care system," Scherer said.

THE AHA/ACC GUIDELINE FOR THE EVALUATION AND DIAGNOSIS OF CHEST PAIN SUGGESTS EITHER NON-INVASIVE FUNCTIONAL IMAGING OR CORONARY CTA AS THE INITIAL TEST WITHOUT SPECIFYING A PREFERENCE FOR ONE OR THE OTHER.

## This oil can be natural treatment for dry eye conditions

**AUCKLAND [NEW ZEALAND] :** Following a successful pilot study, researchers at the University of Auckland are conducting a clinical trial of castor oil as a potentially safe and natural treatment for dry eye conditions.

It is estimated that dry-eye illness affects approximately 58 per cent of the population aged 50 and up in Australia.

Some risk factors for developing dry eye disease include advanced age, menopause, increased screen time, and contact lens wear.

Blepharitis is the leading cause of dry eye illness, accounting for more than 80 per cent of cases. It is a chronic disease with no known cure.

"Currently, patients are left grappling with symptoms of dryness, grittiness and, in some cases, watery eyes that feel uncomfortable impacting on their quality of life and work productivity," says doctoral candidate and lead clinical investigator Catherine Jennings.

Current treatments, such as antibacterials and anti-inflammatories, are generally unsuitable for long-term use, due to significant side effects and the potential for antimicrobial resistance.

"Often patients are left feeling helpless when attempting to manage a chronic condition," Jennings said.

The current trial is of a product containing cold-pressed castor oil enhanced with manuka and kanuka oils applied using a rollerball attached to a small glass bottle.

"The previous pilot study, conducted by our research team, was unique in its use of castor oil in such an application on the eyelids, with the product not known to be used anywhere else in the world for treating blepharitis," said Jennings.

Castor oil comes from a flowering tropical or subtropical shrub from the species *Ricinus communis*. It has been used therapeutically for millennia, including more recently in eye cosmetics and eye makeup removers.

In the pilot study, 26 patients with blepharitis were treated with cold-pressed castor oil over four weeks. They had measurable improvements in symptoms, such as reduced redness of the lid margin, decreased thickening of the eyelid, and a decline in bacterial profusion, as well as reduced eyelash crusting.

Building on the success of the pilot study, the research team is now engaged in a more extensive double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled study. They are aiming to recruit 92 participants and generate robust scientific evidence for clinicians.

The ultimate goal is to sustainably improve the quality of life for this large group of patients using a natural, safe and effective product, principal investigator Professor Jennifer Craig said.

"Castor oil has been proposed as a natural product that could offer a safe, effective and easy-to-use alternative to existing therapies," Craig said.

"My hope is this study will produce evidence-based guidance for clinicians about offering castor oil as a possible management option for patients suffering from blepharitis, so they continue to enjoy a great quality of life, read the books they love, be productive in their work environment and enjoy other visual hobbies."



# Polycystic ovary syndrome linked to memory, thinking problems: Research

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

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

"Polycystic ovary syndrome is a common reproductive disorder that impacts up to 10% of women," said study author Heather G. Huddleston, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco. "While it has

been linked to metabolic diseases like obesity and diabetes that can lead to heart problems, less is known about how this condition affects brain health. Our results suggest that people with this condition have lower memory and thinking skills and subtle brain changes at midlife. This could impact a person on many levels, including quality of life, career success and financial security."

The study involved 907 female participants who were 18 to 30 years old at the start of the study. They were followed for 30 years, at which time they completed tests to measure memory, verbal abilities, processing speed and attention.

At the time of testing, 66 participants had polycystic ovary syndrome.

In a test measuring attention, participants looked at a list of words in different colors and were asked to state the color of the ink rather than

read the actual word. For example, the word "blue" could be displayed in red, so the correct response would be red.

Researchers found for this test, people with polycystic ovary syndrome had an average score that was approximately 11% lower compared to people without the condition.

After adjusting for age, race and education, researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower scores on three of the five tests that were given, specifically in areas of memory, attention and verbal abilities, when compared to those without this condition.

At years 25 and 30 of the study, a smaller group of 291 participants had brain scans. Of those, 25 had polycystic ovary syndrome. With the scans, researchers looked at the integrity of the white matter pathways in the brain by looking at movement of water molecules in the brain tissue.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits under-construction Bullet Train Station at Surat, Gujarat; reviews Progress of Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor

- PM interacts with team of India's first Bullet train project
- PM highlights Importance of Documenting Learnings from Bullet Train Execution
- PM emphasises that when the feeling arises of working for the nation and contributing something new, it becomes a source of immense motivation

**MI News Service, New Delhi, 16 Nov.25 :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the under-construction Bullet Train Station at Surat in Gujarat yesterday and reviewed the Progress of Mumbai–Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor. He also interacted with the team of India's first Bullet train project and enquired about the progress of the project, including adherence to speed and timetable targets. Workers assured



him that the project was advancing smoothly without any difficulties.

An engineer from Kerala shared her experience of working at the Noise Barrier Factory in Navsari, Gujarat, where robotic units are being deployed for welding rebar cages. Modi asked her how she personally perceived the experience of building India's first Bullet Train, and what they share with their families

about this historic achievement. She expressed pride in contributing to the nation's first Bullet Train, describing it as a "dream project" and a "proud moment" for her family.

Reflecting on the spirit of national service, the Prime Minister emphasised that when the feeling arises of working for the nation and contributing something new, it becomes a source of immense moti-

vation. He drew a parallel with India's space journey, recalling how the scientists who launched the country's first satellite must have felt, and how today hundreds of satellites are being launched.

Another employee, Shruti from Bengaluru, serving as Lead Engineering Manager, explained the rigorous design and engineering control processes. She highlighted that at every stage of execution, her team evaluates pros and cons, identifies solutions, and explores alternatives to ensure flawless implementation.

Prime Minister Modi remarked that if the experiences gained here are recorded and compiled like a Blue Book, the country can move decisively towards large-scale implementation of bullet trains.

He emphasized that India must avoid repeated experimentation and instead replicate the learnings from existing models. Modi highlighted that replication will only be meaningful if there is a clear understanding of why certain actions were taken. Otherwise, he cautioned, replication may occur without purpose or direction. He suggested that maintaining such records could benefit future students and contribute to nation-building. "We will dedicate our lives here and leave behind something valuable for the country," the Prime Minister affirmed.

An employee expressed his commitment in heartfelt words through a poem to which the Prime Minister lauded his dedication and responded with appreciation.

## G20 summit to proceed despite U.S. absence, says South African president

**MI News Service, Johannesburg:** South African President Cyril Ramaphosa has reaffirmed that the upcoming Group of 20 (G20) Leaders' Meeting will proceed as planned despite the United States' decision not to participate.

Speaking in Kliptown, Johannesburg, on Friday, Ramaphosa said South Africa is ready to welcome world leaders and deliver a successful meeting. "The summit will go on. We are not going to stop because they are not here," he said, adding that most G20 leaders have confirmed their attendance.

Ramaphosa noted that U.S. President Donald Trump had withdrawn all



U.S. representatives, citing allegations of ill-treatment of Afrikaners and "genocide."

Stressing "boycott politics never work," he said, "If you boycott an event or a process, you lose be-

cause the show will go on."

The G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for Nov. 22 and 23 in Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city and economic hub.

## JeM-linked Dr Umar Nabi was seeking a suicide bomber since last year: Officials

**MI News Service, New Delhi/Srinagar:** The sophisticated 'white-collar' terror module, spearheaded by a group of doctors recently busted by Jammu and Kashmir Police, had been actively scouting for a suicide bomber since last year, with key planner Dr Umar Nabi pushing the agenda, officials said on Sunday. Interrogation of an arrested co-accused was indicative that Umar, believed to have been killed while driving the explosive-laden car that blew up near the Red Fort on November 10, was a "hardcore radical" and insisted that a suicide bomber was essential for their operations.

Immediately, Srinagar police sent a team to Qazigund in south Kashmir and detained Jasir alias 'Danish', a bachelor in political sciences, based on questioning of the co-accused, including Dr Adeel Rather and Dr Muzzamil Ganaie.

Srinagar police, led by its SSP, Dr G V Sundesh Chakravarthy, cracked the entire 'white collar' terror module. The detained person agreed to have met the 'Doctor module' in October last year at a mosque in Kulgam, from where he was taken to a rented accommodation at the Al Falah University in Faridabad, Haryana.

He said that while others in the module wanted him to be an over-ground worker (OGW) for the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed, he was intensely brainwashed by Umar for several months to become a suicide bomber. The plan, however, collapsed in April this year after the man backed out, citing his poor economic condition and the belief that suicide was forbidden in Islam. The suicide bomber scouting plot adds a dangerous new dimension to the investigation into the interstate terror network linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). As reported by PTI earlier, Umar, a 28-year-old doctor from Pulwama, emerged as the most radicalised and

key operative in the network spanning Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh, and officials believe he was planning a powerful vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) blast timed around the Babri Masjid demolition anniversary on December 6.

However, he planned to place a VBIED around a crowded place, either in the national capital or at some place of religious importance, and disappear, the officials said, piecing together the evidence. According to the interrogation of the co-accused, Umar's transformation began after a trip to Turkey in 2021 with co-accused Dr Muzammil Ahmad Ganaie, where they allegedly met JeM OGWs. Following the trip, Umar and Ganaie, who taught at the Al Falah University, began accumulating vast quantities of chemicals from the open market, including 360 kg of ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate, and sulphur, much of which was stored near the university campus.

The December plot fell apart when Srinagar police's meticulous investigation led to Ganaie's arrest and the seizure of the explosives, triggering a possible panic in Umar, which finally ended with a premature blast outside the Red Fort that left 13 people dead. The intricate interstate terror network was exposed after a small but significant incident of JeM posters appearing on the walls in Bunkpora, Nowgam, on the outskirts of Srinagar, on October 19. Srinagar police registered a case and reviewed CCTV camera footage, leading to the arrest of three locals — Arif Nisar Dar alias Sahil, Yasir-ul-Ashraf, and Maqsood Ahmad Dar alias Shahid, all with prior stone-pelting cases against their names. Their interrogation led to the arrest of Maulvi Irfan Ahmad, a former paramedic-turned-imam from Shopian, who allegedly supplied the posters and used his access to radicalise the doctors.

## UN accuses Israeli forces of firing near peacekeepers in S. Lebanon

**MI News Service, Beirut:** The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said on Sunday that Israeli forces opened fire near its peacekeepers in southern Lebanon, calling the incident a "serious violation" of UN Security Council Resolution 1701. UNIFIL said Israeli troops fired from a Merkava tank positioned near an Israeli post inside Lebanese territory, with heavy machine gun rounds landing about five meters from

peacekeepers on foot. The peacekeepers took cover and immediately contacted the Israeli forces through UNIFIL liaison channels to halt the firing, the statement said. They were able to withdraw safely about 30 minutes later after the tank retreated. No injuries were reported. UNIFIL called on the Israel Defense Forces to "cease any aggressive behavior and attacks on or near peacekeepers," emphasizing that UN personnel

are working to help restore stability in the region. There is no immediate response from the Israeli side. UNIFIL positions have been targeted several times since cross-border clashes erupted after the Gaza war began in October 2023. Despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah, Israel has continued periodic strikes in Lebanon, citing Hezbollah threats, and has maintained border positions past a Feb. 18 withdrawal deadline.

## Delhi Blast Probe: Central Agencies Detain Man from Nadia's Palashipara

**Dipankar Edbar, Palashipara (Nadia) :** In connection with the recent explosion in Delhi, central intelligence agencies on Thursday conducted a search operation at Naldaha village in Palashipara, Nadia, and detained a man identified as Faizar Ahmed.

According to agency sources, the raid followed interrogation of Faizar's elder brother Sabir Ahmed, who is currently lodged in Presidency Jail in a narcotics case. Information extracted during questioning led investigators to the family home in Palashipara. Officials said several documents were seized from the premises during the operation, though the district police claimed they had not been officially informed about the action.

Central agencies have reportedly identified three individuals, all currently in jail, who are suspected of spreading anti-India content on social media. Sabir Ahmed is among them. Investigators also recovered mobile phones from inside the prison, raising serious questions about how the devices entered the facility.

## Blood donation is a good deed : Waizul Haque



**Nurul Islam Khan :** A blood donation camp and blanket distribution meeting was held on Sunday at Zakaria Street under the initiative of Saifur Rahman Saheb of Khidmat-e-Awam Foundation.

Honorable Professor Sheikh Maha Waizul Haque, State President of Bengali Minority Intellectuals Forum and member of the State Trinamool Congress Executive Committee, was present as the guest. Also present were MP Sana Ahmed, MLA Naina Banerjee, Sanjay Bakshi, Mr. Ehtasamul Haque Siddiqui, Dr. Hasan Jamil, Azizul Haque

Pokhraj, Nasim Ahmed Tinku and others. Waizul Haque said that he was proud to be present at such a direct humanitarian service event. Blood donation is a great gift. Regardless of caste, religion, and creed, all people become very helpless in times of need due to blood. Therefore, it is an act of worship. He further said that the Bengali Minority Intellectuals Forum has been serving people of all communities, irrespective of the rich or poor, throughout the year. He concluded his speech by greeting and congratulating all those present.

## Indian man carries 20 chairs on bike, surprises Polish traveller

**MI News Service, Warsaw:** A traveller from Poland was impressed by a man carrying 20 chairs on a bike in India, exemplifying the Indian "Jugaad."

Jugaad is the Indian term that describes the skills people use to overcome problems in any situation. The Polish traveller, Dominika Patalas-Kalra, shared a reel on her Instagram with a caption, "India is not for beginners" The text overlay on the video read: "Carrying more than 20 chairs on bike. In India, everything is possible". People selling chairs in India are a common sight, most of these

chairs are available at a reasonable rate and are durable.

The reel has garnered over 20,000 views, and Instagram users praised the motorcycle rider's effort to carry the bundle of chairs. It is not clear from which Indian city the reel was shared. Reacting to the video, one Instagram user said, "This is only chairs we have people carrying complete shop setup on their two wheelers." A second commented, "Everything is possible from Jugaad." A third comment read, "Yes Indians are multi-talented....we play with safety also."

## Japanese parliament members urge PM to retract erroneous remarks on China's Taiwan

**MI News Service, TOKYO:** Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi recently made erroneous remarks about China's Taiwan during a hearing in the Diet, prompting parliament members to demand that she retract those remarks.

Japanese Communist Party and House of Councillors member Taku Yamazoe said Friday that Takaichi's remarks had exacerbated tensions between Japan and China and led to mutual distrust. To prevent further deterioration of bilateral relations, Takaichi, as prime minister, should retract her statements, Shimbun Aka-hata reported on Saturday.

Japanese Communist Party and House of Representatives member Kazuo Shii demanded once again



on Friday that Takaichi retract her remarks. He said that Takaichi's remarks on Taiwan are evolving into a serious international issue, stressing that for Japan-China relations to develop in a positive direction, it is necessary to pursue the course based on

consensus determined by both countries, by wisdom and calm dialogue, rather than making provocative remarks that further escalate tensions.

During a Diet hearing on Monday, Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan and House of Representa-

## Afghan police seize illicit drugs, arrest 21 smugglers

**MI News Service, Kabul:** Afghan counter-narcotics police seized a quantity of illicit drugs, including crystal meth, and arrested 21 suspected smugglers in separate operations across multiple provinces, the Ministry of Interior Affairs said in a statement on Sunday. The seizure included 86 kg of raw hashish, 5 kg of crystal meth, a quantity of methamphetamine, stimulant tablets, and some other types of narcotics.

tives member Hiroshi Ogushi urged Takaichi to retract her remarks, as past cabinets have been cautious on the issue.

At a Diet meeting on Nov. 7, Takaichi claimed that a Taiwan emergency involving the use of military vessels and military force from the Chinese mainland could constitute a "survival-threatening situation" for Japan. According to legislation, Japan's Self-Defense Forces could exercise the right of collective self-defense if such a situation is recognized as "survival-threatening."

On Monday, Takaichi insisted that her remarks were in line with the government's longstanding view, and she had no intention to retract the remarks.

## Israel reiterates opposition to Palestinian state before UN vote as Hamas denounces "expansionist tendencies"

**MI News Service, Jerusalem/Gaza:** Israel on Sunday reaffirmed its opposition to the creation of a Palestinian state, a day before the United Nations Security Council is scheduled to vote on a U.S.-backed resolution supporting the so-called 20-point Gaza peace plan. Hamas later condemned the remarks, saying they revealed Israel's "expansionist tendencies."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu restated the position at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting. "Our opposition to a Palestinian state west of the Jordan River stands firm and has not changed in the slightest," he said. Netanyahu said the U.S. plan calls for a demilitarized Gaza and the dismantling of Hamas's military capabilities. "Hamas will be stripped of its weapons, either the easy way or the hard way," he said, adding that U.S. President Donald Trump shares this view.

Defense Minister Israel Katz repeated the message, saying Israel's policy remains clear and that there would be no Palestinian state. He said that Gaza would be "fully demilitarized, down to the last tunnel." Katz said that in the so-called "yellow zone," a cordoned-off strip where Israeli forces remain deployed, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) would carry out the disarmament. In other parts of the enclave, the task would be undertaken by an international security force, "or by the IDF itself."

In a statement, Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem said that Katz's comments in support of continued blockade and rejection of Palestinian statehood "confirm the expansionist tendencies of the occupation." Qassem accused "Israel of working to perpetuate the state of conflict and instability throughout the region."

The United States is pressing the Security Council to approve a resolution that "welcomes the establishment of the Board of Peace," a transitional governing body for Gaza that Trump would theoretically lead through the end of 2027. It would also authorize a temporary "International Stabilization Force" that would work with Israel, Egypt, and newly-trained Palestinian police to secure border areas and advance demilitarization.

According to media reports, the latest draft differs from earlier versions by acknowledging the possibility of a future Palestinian state. Palestinians seek a sovereign state that includes the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, with East Jerusalem as the capital, a goal supported by many countries. As of September, Palestine had been recognized as a sovereign state by 157 of the 193 UN member states.

## Ukraine says ready to resume prisoner exchange with Russia

**MI News Service, Kiev:** Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said Saturday that Ukraine has agreed to resume the prisoner exchange process with Russia during recent consultations mediated by Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates. "As a result of these negotiations, the parties agreed to activate the Istanbul arrangements. This concerns the release of 1,200 Ukrainians," Umerov wrote on Facebook. Technical consultations will take place soon to finalize all procedural and organizational details, said Umerov, adding that Kiev aims to bring Ukrainians home from captivity by the winter holidays. Ukraine and Russia held three rounds of negotiations in Türkiye in May, June and July, reaching the so-called Istanbul agreements on exchanging their captives and bodies of fallen soldiers.



## RPF, ER Rescued Six Children Under "Operation Nanhey Faristey"

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 15 Nov.25 :** Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of Asansol Division, Eastern Railway (ER), successfully rescued six minor boys on 15.11.2025 under "Operation Nanhey Faristey." The minors were traced from different trains and station premises at Asansol, Dumka and Simultala Railway Stations and were immediately handed over to the concerned Childline authorities for further counselling and care. Among the rescued children, four were found travelling alone in Train No. 19436



(Ahmedabad Weekly Express) without any guardian. One minor had fled from home due to family-related issues, while another was found roaming aimlessly in Train No. 13207 (Patna MEMU Express). The swift and vigilant action of the RPF ensured the timely rescue and safety of all six minors.

# 1st Test: SA beat India by 30 runs in Kolkata, take 1-0 series lead (Ld)



**KOLKATA :** Despite being bowled out for 159 on day one after choosing to bat first, World Test Championship winners South Africa executed a remarkable comeback to defeat India by 30 runs in the first Test at Eden Gardens on Sunday. Chasing a modest target of 124, South Africa dismissed India for only 93 in 35 overs on Day 3.

The 30-run victory also marked South Africa's first Test win in India after 15 years, as the visitors now hold a 1-0 lead in the two-match series. Off-spinner Simon Harmer starred with figures of 4-21, while the rest of the attack combined to dismantle India's batting order on a challenging pitch, where anything above 100 to chase was always going to be a tough ask.

In the chase of 124, India sorely missed Shubman Gill, who was

ruled out due to neck surgery and needed hospitalisation. After skipper Temba Bavuma's fighting 55 not out, and his handy 44-run stand with Corbin Bosch, South Africa's lead was extended to 123. Harmer's excellent bowling, along with key wickets from Marco Jansen, Aiden Markram, and KeshavMaharaj, helped the Proteas stun India and leave the crowd silent. Resuming day three from 93/7, India were the early favourites to make further inroads and take control of the game. However, South Africa seized control by adding 60 crucial runs, with Bavuma's unbeaten 55 helping them reach 153 in their second innings. Bosch started by sweeping RavindraJadeja for four and scored singles to advance the total. With Bavuma providing stability from the other end, South Africa added 27 runs in the first

30 minutes. Bavuma continued to gain confidence - defending firmly with soft hands - even as Bosch swept and reverse-swept KuldeepYadav for four and six respectively, before his off-stump was rattled by JaspritBumrah'sinswinger. With steely composure and risk-free batting, Bavuma reached his first half-century of the Test with a streaky four to fine leg. Bavuma also scored his seventh fifty-plus inning in his last 11 Tests, earning warm applause from the crowd. Mohammed Siraj then delivered a decisive burst, rattling Harmer's off-stump with a length ball before trapping Maharaj lbw with a yorker to conclude South Africa's innings.India's chase of 124 began uncertainly as Jansen had YashasviJaiswal poking at a length ball, which took the outside edge to keeper Kyle Verreynne,

dismissing the opener for a four-ball duck. In his subsequent over, Jansen's extra bounce surprised KL Rahul, who edged to Verreynne. Facing a disciplined Jansen and consistent off-spinner Simon Harmer, Jurel and Sundar survived nervous moments before the lunch break. The post-lunch session began with Jurel's fluent flicks and Sundar's patience helping India reduce their target to under 100 runs. It also helped that South Africa was briefly without Jansen, who left the field after lunch but returned quickly.

There was a moment of drama when Bosch thought he had Jurel caught behind, only for the review to show the ball had missed the bat. Just as India looked settled, Harmer struck with his innocuous short ball, for which Jurel went on the back foot to pull but miscued it to deep midwicket. His dismissal

resulted from South Africa's relentless pressure, which produced only one run from 20 deliveries. The crowd's disappointment was set to grow when South Africa believed they had Rishabh Pant caught at backward short leg off Maharaj. However, the crowd cheered happily when the large screen showed "not out," as replays revealed the ball had deflected off the fielder's forearm.

But Harmer struck again when, on another innocuous delivery, Pant played a firm straight shot that returned to the off-spinner, who took a simple catch to dismiss the stand-in India captain for two. With Sundar displaying patience in his solid defensive batting, Jadeja demonstrated proactiveness by taking a boundary off both Jansen and Harmer. A hush fell over Eden Gardens when Harmer released some dip on a fuller ball to hit Jadeja on the boot and trap him lbw, with the dismissal also costing India a review. Aiden Markram's useful off-spin bowling provided South Africa with another vital breakthrough as he found Sundar's outside edge and had him caught at first slip, ending the all-rounder's resistance at 31 off 92 balls. Harmer struck again when his off-break spun past Kuldeep's defensive shot and hit him on the back leg, trapping him lbw. Kuldeep reviewed, but it was in vain as Harmer took his fourth wicket. Axar had the crowd roaring with delight by slog-sweeping Maharaj for four, before smashing him for two sixes. But Maharaj had the last laugh when Axar tried to slog-sweep his slower delivery, but the bat turned at the point of impact and the top edge was caught by Bavuma running back from mid-wicket. On the very next ball, Maharaj had Siraj edging to first slip, sparking jubilant victorious scenes in the Proteas camp.

**Brief Scores:** South Africa 159 and 153 in 54 overs (Temba Bavuma 55 not out, Corbin Bosch 25; RavindraJadeja 4-50, Mohammed Siraj 2-2) beat India 189 and 93 in 35 overs (Washington Sundar 31, Axar Patel 26; Simon Harmer 4-21, Marco Jansen 2-15) by 30 runs

## 'Shubman is very assertive about his thinking', says GT's assistant coach Parthiv Patel

**NEW DELHI :** Gujarat Titans' assistant coach Parthiv Patel detailed the reasoning and approach behind the IPL 2026 retention strategy, also sharing insights from discussions with captain Shubman Gill and the coaching team, saying that the skipper is 'very assertive about his thinking,' and added that the trait helps in building the squad.

GT retained their core and released DasunShanaka, MahipallLomror, KarimJanat, Gerald Coetzee, and KulwantKhejroliya from their squad, while trading Sherfane Rutherford to the Mumbai Indians.



Speaking of the team's strategy behind taking the calls, Parthiv, while speaking on JioStar's IPL 2026 'Retention Special' show, said, "The kind of squad we had built, it is very important for us to make sure that we keep that continuity going. And that's exactly what we tried to do. I thought last year in the auction we had built a solid squad. And unfortunately, we could not go all the way. I think that is the reason why we have not let go of a lot of players."

"Yes, but you still want to keep space for a few young players to come in or for few new comers to come in. And that is the reason why we've let go of Sherfane Rutherford, Gerald Coetzee, who again has not played too much of cricket after the IPL finished. The rise of Washington Sundar in the last year, I think that is something which we also thought about it and that is the reason why we've let go of Sherfane Rutherford," he added.

Speaking about the conversations between him and skipper Gill, the former India cricketer added, "Yes obviously retaining players or letting go of players is not an overnight process. You try and see a lot of combination and permutations, and then come to a conclusion. Obviously, we've seen Shubman Gill together very closely. I was fortunate enough to see his progress as a captain, the way he led side in England, the way he led this experienced side in one-day cricket also. So, that is something obviously we did take that in account. And I've had quite a few chats with Shubman."

He is someone who's very assertive about his thinking, and that is what actually helps us to

build that squad. And it's great to see that how he's leading the team in the international cricket. And hopefully, we can try and build on what we've done so far."

Parthiv believes that the 2022 champions have an excellent and settled squad, as he said, "We've let go of few young players also, because we have quite a few young players in the side. I think we have a very solid and settled squad. That is the reason why we've not let go of a lot of players."

The team will look to strengthening their overseas contingent when the management heads to the IPL 2026 auction next month. Having released many of their overseas players, GT will need to revamp that section to strategise accordingly in their hunt for a second title.

"That's definitely there in mind. If you look at all the young players, see, NishantSindhu has been very regular in India A set-up, GurnoorBrar is someone who's regular in set-up, Kumar Kushagra is in great form in Ranji Trophy, and so is AnujRawat. So, we have a lot of Indian options and that is the reason why we could actually play with only two overseas players. And we have SaiSudharsan, Shubman Gill, Washington Sundar, Rahul Tewatia, Shahrukh Khan."

"These are all established names in terms of playing IPL. And that's something which definitely have taken in account. We've let go of three international players and I was just going through the retention list of other players. We'll have to go all scouting really well. We'll have to try and see once the last list comes out," Pathiv concluded.

# U.S downed World Cup-bound Paraguay 2-1 in friendly



**CHESTER :** The U.S Men's National Team started a two-match series against World Cup-bound South American opponents during the November international window with a confident display, securing a 2-1 victory over a lively Paraguay side at Subaru Park. The team took an early lead with a fourth-minute goal from midfielder Gio Reyna and clinched the win with a second-half winning strike by striker FolarinBalogun.

The victory extends the USMNT's current unbeaten streak against World Cup-qualified opponents to four consecutive matches. In September, Paraguay secured qualification for the FIFA 2026 World Cup, marking the nation's return to the tournament for the first time in 16 years.

The USMNT started the match aggressively; the opening moments proved to be exciting,

and the fans at Subaru Park witnessed two goals in the first 10 minutes of action.

The US team were rewarded with the opening goal from a recycled corner kick as Giovanni Reyna put the hosts ahead with a glancing header after Max Arlsten's pass. For the second, Paraguayan forward Alex Arce finished a superb first-time cross from Atlanta United standout Miguel Almirón to level the match 1-1.

The United States seized a good opportunity to take the lead in the 19th minute. Fullback SerginoDest, making his second start under Pochettino, faced his defender 1v1 on the right flank in the US attack and advanced towards the goal.

Dest's superb cutback created a precise, low pass to Roldan, who was free inside the 18-yard box. Roldan struck a powerful, first-

time shot on target, but Paraguay's goalkeeper Orlando Gill made the save.

The two World Cup-bound sides went into the half-time break at 1-1, though the U.S. held a slight advantage in first-half possession at 55 percent.

Around the 64th minute, the U.S. increased its intensity in and around the goal, including a tantalising chip across the six-yard box from midfielder Tanner Tessmann.

Moments later, Balogun delivered a clever backheeled pass to Dest running forward, but Paraguay managed to recover and clear the ball from danger in both attacks. Dest then followed up on the next U.S. possession with a precise shot from his left foot. Gill's reach parried the accurate shot over the crossbar for a U.S. corner kick.

**With the advantage, the U.S. was quick to capitalise, and Balogun worked with Reyna on the left flank. The deflection off Reyna's low cross went straight to Balogun, and the striker scored his third goal in as many consecutive matches starts.**

Finally, the relentless effort by the Americans to find the winner paid off, and in the 71st minute, the U.S. went back in front. The play started with vigorous pressure from Roldan and midfielder Diego Luna, who had entered the match as a substitute four minutes earlier.

With the advantage, the U.S. was quick to capitalise, and Balogun worked with Reyna on the left flank. The deflection off Reyna's low cross went straight to Balogun, and the striker scored his third goal in as many consecutive matches starts.

In the previous possessions, both sides missed clear chances. Almiron fired a shot on target from about 25 yards out, and Freese made a crucial save to tip it over the crossbar, resulting in a Paraguay corner kick.

On the other end, a deflected cross from Luna rolled into the path of striker Ricardo Pepi, who came on as a substitute in the 75th minute. Pepi took a few dribbles to gather the ball in front of goal, but Paraguay regrouped quickly to block his close-range shot.

In three days, the USA faces 16th-ranked Uruguay in Tampa at Raymond James Stadium.



## Theegala moves up marginally despite triple bogey in Bermuda

**SOUTHAMPTON PARISH :** SahithTheegala made a marginal upward move despite a triple bogey as he shot 1-under 70 in the third round of the Butterfield Bermuda Championship as the Fall season moved towards the end for 2025. Indian-American Theegala 76-65 added the 71 in strong windy conditions and moved to 2-under for three days and it T-39th, up from T-46th at the halfway stage.

Theegala, who opened from the tenth had birdies on the 10th and the 14th but gave away a shot on the 15th. He got it back on the 17th and added one more birdie on the par-3 third to go to a healthy 3-under for the round. All that work was undone when he incurred a penalty and made a triple bogey on the par-4 fourth. A birdie on the par-5 seventh was a small compensation as he turned in a card of 70. Adam Schenk played bogey-free for a 4-under 67, giving him a share of the lead with Braden Thornberry. Thornberry, a PGA TOUR rookie, shot a 69 to join Schenk at 12-under 201 going into the final round.Schenk and Thornberry are among 10 players from the top 11 on the leaderboard who arrived in Bermuda outside the top 100 in the FedEx Cup with time running out. The RSM Classic at Sea Island next week ends the season, the first one.

## 'You lived it, we loved it, thank you for everything': RCB pen farewell note for Livingstone

**NEW DELHI :** Royal Challengers Bengaluru shared a farewell note for Liam Livingstone after the English player was released from their squad ahead of the Indian Premier League 2026 auctions. Ten teams will get into a bidding war on December 16 at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi. Livingstone was released from the RCB's squad as the franchise announced their retentions on Saturday evening. With November 15 being the retention deadline, the all-rounder was among the eight members released by RCB, as the 2025 champions let go of players from their championship-winning squad.



The Bengaluru-based franchise shared a farewell note for the English cricketer on their official X account, writing, "Stepped up when it mattered the most and left his mark on our most glorious chapter. You lived it, Liam, and we loved it! Thank you for everything. You'll always be an RCBian at heart." Last year, RCB signed Livingstone for Rs 8.75 crore during the mega auction, but he scored only 112 runs in 10 matches. With the franchise now sharing a farewell note, the all-rounder is unlikely to be repurchased by them. The RCB's most significant snub was England all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who was released due to his underwhelming performance last year. Additionally, South African pacer Lungi Ngidi was also released by the franchise. RCB tasted glory for the first time in 18 years as they lifted the coveted silverware in 2025. The Bengaluru-based franchise finished second in the points table after the league stage. They then achieved consecutive victories over Punjab Kings in Qualifier 1 and the final, held on May 29 and June 3, respectively, ending an 18-year wait for their inaugural IPL title. ViratKohli was the top scorer for the RajatPatidar-led squad in IPL 2025, while Australian fast bowler Josh Hazlewood recorded the most dismissals.

**Retained:** RajatPatidar (c), ViratKohli, DevduttPadikkal, Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma, KrunalPandya, Swapnil Singh, Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Jacob Bethell, Josh Hazlewood, YashDayal, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, NuwanThushara, Rasikh Salam, Abhinandan Singh, Suyash Sharma

**Released:** Liam Livingstone, SwastikChikara, MayankAgarwal, Tim Seifert, ManojBhandage, Lungi Ngidi, Blessing Muzarabani, MohitRathee