

Firhad Hakim leads Kolkata Marathon: Run for joy, stay healthy”

Kolkata Mayor and West Bengal Municipal Minister Firhad Hakim took to the city streets on Sunday morning to deliver a powerful message: "Health is wealth." Leading by example, Hakim participated in a marathon that commenced at St. Thomas School in Khidirpur, demonstrating his commitment to public health and physical fitness. The event drew prominent figures, including the Kolkata Police Commissioner, who also joined the run, symbolizing a collective drive toward community well-being. Hakim urged the youth of Bengal to embrace fitness, emphasizing that a healthy body fosters a healthy mind and greater concentration. Addressing runners and spectators, Hakim remarked, "Many have come from across the city. I ran alongside them today. Fitness has become a way of life for people waking up every morning. Run for joy."



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EC to act against errant BLOs

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Election Commission has asked election officials in districts to identify booth-level officers (BLOs) who did not do their work properly during the special intensive revision (SIR) of the voter list, indicating that steps could be initiated against those found responsible for uploading lakhs of erroneous enumeration forms. The move, sources said, was significant as it appeared that the EC wanted to send a message to the officials, who would be conducting the hearing and verification of voters, that errors in carrying out the SIR process would not be tolerated.



Booth Level Officers (BLOs) protesting alleged excessive workload during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Kolkata.

"The EROs and AEROs have been asked to identify BLOs who did not do their work properly. Once the enumeration process is over on December 11, steps could be initiated against errant BLOs. This will send a message to the EROs and the AEROs, who would conduct the hearing and verification process, from December 16," said an official aware of the development. Voters, who have their names on the 2025 rolls but could not establish links to the 2002 list, will be called for verification and a hearing. They will have to explain why their names or their parents' names were not listed in the 2002 rolls. These voters would have to submit documents required to establish their claims to get enrolled in the post-SIR voters' list. "As the EROs and AEROs will decide on the inclusion of voters' names in the electoral rolls after hearing and verifying the documents of such voters, the EC wants to ensure that the exercise is done in a free

and fair way. This is why the poll panel wants to send a message to these officials ahead of the verification exercise," said another official. Sources said the decision to identify errant BLOs was taken after it was noticed that lakhs of erroneous forms were uploaded and the EC felt that it could have been averted if the BLOs had worked properly. Sources said that about 30 lakh forms had been uploaded where voters linked themselves to the 2002

rolls but their parents' names differ in the two lists. Moreover, the photographs attached by the voters do not match. "Some male voters have attached photographs of women. Some aged voters have attached photographs of a 20-year-old. All these raise questions about the identity of these voters. These errors could have been averted if the BLOs worked properly and checked the forms before uploading them," said a source. The errors at the end of the BLOs have forced the EC to go for progeny mapping even before the draft rolls are published. The EC was also forced to issue an order to check whether all the dead voters were identified during the enumeration process. "All these had to be done as many BLOs did not work properly either under polit-

ical pressure or intentionally. Now, if they are not punished, the officials who would conduct the hearing and verification could take it lightly," said a bureaucrat.

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said an official

Another official explained why setting an example ahead of the hearing process was important. "If the EROs and AEROs don't verify the documents properly, illegitimate names would make entry into the voters' list," the official said. "Soon after the verification of voters, who won't be able to establish their links with the 2002 rolls, the final electoral rolls will be published. It would draw severe controversy if any name were deleted after the publication of the final rolls. This is why it is important to prevent any wrong entry into the final list," added the official.

USA sends senior diplomat, trade delegation to INDIA

MI News Service, Washington/New Delhi: A senior US State Department official was due in India just as US trade negotiators returned to restart a long-stalled agreement. US under secretary of state for political affairs Allison Hooker will be in New Delhi and Bengaluru from December 7 to December 11 to advance the "strategic partnership" between the two countries, the US Embassy in India said in a statement. Her meetings will include an interaction with foreign secretary Vikram Misri, reported Bloomberg.



Hooker's agenda is expected to focus on expanding economic and commercial ties, with the embassy noting that she will look to "boost US exports" and explore avenues for collaboration in AI and space exploration. The visit reflects Washington's push to deepen cooperation across sectors where the two countries have been building traction over the past few years. Her arrival coincides with another American delegation's trip to India. Deputy US Trade Representative Rick Switzer and his team "will also be in India this week," Bloomberg News reported earlier. The timing of these engagements follows Russian President Vladimir Putin's two-day stop in India. The US imposed a 25 per cent tariff plus an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian imports, citing India's purchases of Russian crude oil as support for Moscow's war efforts in Ukraine. India has continued importing discounted Russian crude oil despite US pressure, which Washington links to its tariff penalties on Indian goods.

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GOA NIGHTCLUB FIRE claims 25 lives

MI News Service, Goa: In the early hours of Sunday, a blaze tore through Birch by Romeo Lane, a nightclub in North Goa's Arpora village, leaving 25 people dead and six others injured. What began as a regular weekend at a popular party spot ended in panic and loss, with emergency teams pulling bodies from the charred structure as smoke continued to rise through the morning. Police initially confirmed 23 deaths but later updated the toll. An official said the deceased included four tourists and 14 staff members, while seven bodies



I am closely reviewing the situation arising from the tragic fire incident at Arpora, in which 25 people have lost their lives and six have been injured

Goa CM Pramod Sawant

were yet to be identified. Six others were admitted to the Goa Medical College and Hospital in Bambolim. The nightclub, which opened last year, was operating during peak tourist season. Many of the dead were kitchen staff, including three women. Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant on Sunday ordered a magisterial inquiry into the fire at a nightclub which claimed 25 lives. Sawant said an FIR has been lodged against the owner and the general manager of the nightclub and they would be arrested. CM Sawant, in a post on X, said, "I am closely reviewing the situation arising from the tragic fire incident at Arpora, in which 25 people have lost their lives and six have been injured." "All six injured persons are in a stable condition and are receiving the best medical care. I have ordered a magisterial inquiry into the entire incident to identify the cause and fix responsibility," he said. Sawant said the police have registered an FIR against the owner and the general manager of the nightclub, and they would be arrested. He said this is the first time that such an incident has happened in Goa. A preliminary inquiry has

INDIA & USA push UN for stricter measures against ISLAMIC TERRORISTS

MI News Service, New Delhi/Washington: India and the US have called for more stringent and punitive measures like global asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo by the UN against Pakistan-based terror groups Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad and their proxy groups. These terror groups were designated by the UN and they have been facing various punitive actions under the global body's sanctions regime. At the 21st meeting of the India-US joint working group (JWG) on counterterrorism held in Delhi, the Indian side thanked the US state department for designating The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of LeT, as both a foreign terrorist organisation and a specially designated global terrorist. The TRF had claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. "The meetings underscored the importance of bilateral cooperation in countering terrorism, re-

flecting the spirit and breadth of the India-US comprehensive global strategic partnership. Both sides unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism," said the joint statement released on

and stressed that those responsible for terrorism should be held accountable," it added. The two sides reviewed traditional and emerging threats and challenges such as terrorist recruitment, abuse of technology for terrorism

required concerted action in a sustained and comprehensive manner and renewed their commitment to strengthening multilateral cooperation to counter terrorism, including in the UN, Quad and the Financial Action



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joint statement released on Saturday.

Saturday. "They expressed concern over the increasing use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), drones, and AI for terrorist purposes. They strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on 22 April 2025, and the recent heinous terror incident near the Red Fort, New Delhi, on 10 November 2025,

and financing of terrorism. "Both sides discussed ways to strengthen cooperation against challenges, including through training, cybersecurity, exchange of best practices, and information sharing through continued bilateral and multilateral efforts," the statement said. Both sides emphasised that confronting terrorism

Task Force. "The two sides called for additional designations of ISIS and al-Qa'ida affiliates, and LeT and JeM and their proxy groups, supporters, sponsors, financiers and backers, under the UN 1267 sanctions regime, ensuring their members face a global asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo," the statement said.

Brigade Parade turns SAFFRON for GITA recital

MI News Service, Kolkata: Lakhs of devotees, including sadhus and sadhis from across West Bengal and neighbouring states, gathered at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground for a massive Bhagavad Gita recital, organisers said. Clad in saffron robes, monks read shlokas in unison, holding up copies of the scripture as the chanting rolled across the historic venue. Senior BJP leaders such as former state chief Sukanta Majumdar, ex-MP Locket Chatterjee and MLA Agnimitra Paul, along with religious figures including Swami Pradiptananda Maharaj, popularly known as Kartik Maharaj, and Dharendra Shastri, joined the programme. Christened 'Panch Lakkho Konthe Gita Path' (Gita chanting by five lakh

voices), the event has been put together by the Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad, a collective of monks and spiritual leaders representing multiple monasteries and Hindu institutions. The organisers say the effort aims to highlight Bengal's spiritual heritage and build social harmony through shared recitation. Paul said, "The Gita is not for Hindus alone, it is for all 140 crore people of India." The scale of the gathering has also been projected as the largest collective recital of the Gita attempted in the state, and possibly the country. In his address, Kartik Maharaj noted the current social mood. "In a climate of division, spiritual practice can restore calm

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PM Narendra Modi receives a badge on the occasion of the Armed Forces Flag Day.

RED FORT terror attackers should not be spared: QUAD

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Quad grouping called for bringing the perpetrators, organisers and financiers of last month's terror incident near the Red Fort in Delhi to justice and urged all UN member

remained central to discussions at a two-day Quad Counter Terrorism Working Group meeting held this week in New Delhi. "Quad partners unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its

called for the perpetrators, organizers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice and urged all UN Member States to cooperate in doing so

The Quad partners

states to cooperate toward that end. The coalition comprising India, the United States, Australia and Japan also unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terrorism. Fifteen people were killed and several others injured in the attack on 10 November. The incident and the broader challenge of terrorism

forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism," a joint statement said. "They also expressed their condolences for the heinous terror incident on November 10 near the Red Fort in Delhi," it said. The Quad partners "called for the perpetrators, organizers,

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A child reads Gita during the Gita Path spiritual program organised by Sanatan Sanskriti Sansad at Brigade Parade Ground, in Kolkata on Sunday.

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Nadia couple ends life after domestic discord; both die after consuming poison

Dipankar Edbar, Shantipur (Nadia) : A senior citizen couple from Shantipur in Nadia district allegedly died by suicide after consuming poison, reportedly following prolonged domestic discord. The incident occurred on Friday at Bibadi Palli in Ward 23 under Shantipur police station. The deceased have been identified as Narayan Singh (72) and his wife Rina Singh (65). According to family members, Rina had suffered a paralytic attack about a month ago and had been unable to move without assistance. Narayan had been taking care of her, but frequent quarrels with their son and daughters-in-law reportedly worsened the situation. Narayan's son said, "After my mother fell ill, my father became more short-tempered. Arguments between him and my sisters-in-law became common. On Thursday, there was another altercation."

Following the argument, Narayan allegedly forced Rina to consume poison and later consumed poison himself, police said. Family members rushed the couple to Shantipur State General Hospital, where Rina died first during treatment. Narayan passed away a short while later. Shantipur police reached the spot after being informed and sent both bodies for post-mortem examination. The couple's son added, "If parents stay with their son, it is natural they must adjust. My father was stubborn. He had attempted suicide earlier as well."

Bangladeshi national arrested while attempting to enter India through Nadia border



Dipankar Edbar, Chapra (Nadia) : Amid ongoing SIR-related movement along the Indo-Bangladesh border, where several Bangladeshis without Aadhaar or voter ID are returning home, security forces encountered a reverse situation on Friday night. A Bangladeshi youth attempting to enter India illegally was apprehended near the Hridoypur border under Chapra police station limits. According to BSF officials, a patrol team spotted a group of youths hiding inside a bamboo grove close to the zero line. The

group allegedly attempted to cross into Indian territory. As the BSF personnel approached, most of them fled the spot. However, one individual was captured.

The detained youth has been identified as Monirul Sheikh, a resident of Sonapur Machapara village under Mujibnagar police station in Bangladesh.

Officials stated that similar infiltration attempts have been reported earlier from the same stretch of the border. Monirul was handed over to Chapra police for further investigation.

He was produced before the Krishnagar court on Sunday, police sources confirmed.

Nadia: One arrested in Bhimpur with counterfeit Rs. 500 notes; police probe possible network

Dipankar Edbar, Bhimpur (Nadia) : Cracking down on the rising circulation of counterfeit currency in the region, Bhimpur police on Saturday arrested a man with fake Rs. 500 notes during a planned operation based on specific intelligence inputs. The accused has been identified as Debabrata Biswas, a resident of Masterpara in Bhimpur.



Police said the seized notes appeared to be high-quality counterfeits, potentially capable of misleading unsuspecting traders and residents. "The quality of the notes suggests that they may have been sourced from an organized network. We are investigating the origin and the individuals involved," a senior officer said. Following his arrest, Debabrata was brought to the police station for questioning. On Sunday, he was produced before the Krishnagar district court. Police are seeking custody to determine whether he is directly linked to a larger racket or merely a carrier in the chain of distribution.

Local residents said that concerns over fake currency had been growing over the past few months, with sporadic complaints emerging from small marketplaces in and around Bhimpur. Traders had reportedly encountered questionable notes but were often unable to identify the source. Given the region's proximity to the India-Bangladesh border, police are also examining whether the counterfeit notes might be linked to an inter-district or cross-border syndicate. Officers have intensified surveillance in vulnerable pockets and are coordinating with other units to track possible routes of circulation. The investigation is ongoing, and police expect further breakthroughs once they complete detailed interrogation and forensic analysis of the recovered notes.

'Prachichetana Mahotsav' in Alipurduar on the 138th Birth Anniversary of Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra



MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : The 138th birth anniversary of Param Premamoy Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra was observed with great devotion and solemnity at the 'Prachichetana Mahotsav' held at the Alipurduar Parade Ground. The festival aimed to rekindle Thakur's teachings, ideals, and his path of constructive living within society, creating a serene, spiritual, and peaceful atmosphere throughout the town. On Saturday, as part of the preparatory events, fruits were distributed to patients and residents of Alipurduar District Hospital, Railway Hospital, Kumargram Block Hospital, and the

Alipurduar Correctional Home, spreading the message of human service. At Sunday's main event, notable attendees included eminent Kolkata-based physician and Chairman of the Prachichetana Mahotsav Committee Dr. B. P. Das, Secretary Dr. Debi Prasad Das, President Nityananda Nandi, Shyamal Basak, Saurav Paldhi, Abhijit Chakraborty, Abhijit Kar, Snehashish Kar, along with many other distinguished personalities. The biggest highlight of the festival was the free health camp, where experienced doctors from Kolkata and North Bengal conducted health check-ups and provided essential medicines.

Housewife, partner booked with cannabis worth Rs 60 lakh

MI News Service, Kalna: On hot pursuit, cops of two police stations intercepted the vehicle loaded with psychotropic substances and booked a housewife and her 'business partner' on a state highway in Kalna on Saturday.

Thirty three-year-old Babli Mallik of Balagarh, Hooghly was accompanying her partner Raju Das of Nadanghat in Kalna and the duo was fleeing desperately towards Kalna town with a consignment of cannabis worth Rs 60 lakh along the Saptagram - Tribeni - Kalna - Katwa state highway this morning.

Soon the police received a tip-off, forces from the Kalna and Purbasthali police stations were mobilised. The SP,

East Burdwan, Sayak Das said that the suspected vehicle finally was apprehended between Nandai bridge and Parulia Bazar in Purbasthali and the cops cordoned the vehicle and detained the duo. In presence of an Executive Magistrate, a thorough search of the vehicle was conducted and 83 kg of cannabis wrapped in 98 plastic packets were seized from inside. The police immediately arrested Babli and Raju and slapped charges of possessing and trafficking narcotics under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances Act 1995. The Kalna Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court granted 10 days police remand for them.

Jalpaiguri BJP MP Jayanta Roy plans private bill on Rajbanshi language

MI News Service, Siliguri : Jayanta Roy, the BJP MP of Jalpaiguri, has demanded the inclusion of the Kamtapuri (Rajbanshi) language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution while announcing his intention to introduce a private member's bill in the Lok Sabha. After he posted the video of his speech on social media, a section of netizens alleged that the BJP was offering yet another "lollipop promise" to the Rajbanshi voters of north Bengal ahead of the Assembly elections.



Some others said the BJP sought the community's sympathy only during election seasons with tall promises that seldom materialised. They said if commitments such as the formation of Narayani Sena battalion in the central security forces, or constitutional recognition for the language were not delivered before elections, "the community knows what to do with its vote". Political observers believe the BJP aims to leverage the private bill to consolidate support among Rajbanshis, who hold considerable influence in north Bengal.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, the party had won seven of eight seats in north Bengal, while in 2021, it bagged 30 of 54 Assembly seats. This time, the BJP wants a similar sweep in the region by positioning the Rajbanshi identity politics again as a trump card. "Being an MP, several organisations had formally submitted this demand to me. As a representative of the Rajbanshi community, inclusion of the language in the Eighth Schedule is a highly relevant demand," said Roy.

"Although a private member's bill does not originate from the government, I believe such an initiative will compel the Centre to clarify its stand and speed up the process," he added. Along with social media users, the post has also drawn reactions from outfits and political parties, which have been voicing the demand for years now.

Amit Ray, chairman of the Kamtapuri Bhasha Academy, said: "BJP got our community's votes for years by making big promises. This time, recognition must come first. Only then will we think about anything else." Abhijit Ray, central office secretary of the Kamtapuri Progressive Party, and Nikhil Ray, president of the Kamtapuri Peoples' Party (United), spoke in similar terms.

"Ahead of every election, promises are made to us, but those are eventually not met. Enough is enough. The BJP should first include the language in the Eighth Schedule... only then will we decide our political stance," said Nikhil.

Suresh Ray, the working president of the Kamtapuri Bhasha Sanskriti Manch, said the Centre had informed them in writing that the proposal was "under consideration". "The community will wait to see whether the government responds positively before deciding its stand in the elections," he said. Leaders of the saffron camp, however, defended the MP's initiative. "He has done the right thing. We also want the recognition of Kamtapuri and Rajbanshi languages and hope the Centre will come up with a positive response," said Bapi Goswami, a BJP leader based in Jalpaiguri.

676 jumbos in DNA-led count in north, focus on improving wild elephant habitats

MI News Service, Siliguri: The number of wild elephants in north Bengal is now 676, up by 188 from 488 in 2017, according to the latest nationwide elephant status report released by the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) in November this year.



The nationwide elephant census was conducted by WII from 2021 to March 2025. For the first time in the country, DNA analysis on dung samples collected from protected forests was done, thereby providing a more accurate population estimate for the country's elephant habitats.

In addition to it, elephant census teams undertook extensive on-foot tracking, ground surveys and direct elephant observation. Between 2017 and 2021, no census was done. Hence, the elephant population of 2017 was treated as the baseline for the latest survey. In Bengal, teams covered a total area of 4,011 sqkm, of which 1,203 sqkm was surveyed on foot. "This area was divided into 2,174 dung-plot units for systematic sampling. Observations were

conducted both during the day and night," said a source.

The previous elephant census in 2017 was done on the basis of visual counts and dung samples. That census reported 488 elephants in north Bengal and 194 in south Bengal. No DNA-based survey was done then. On 188 elephants more in north Bengal since the last census, Dwijapratim Sen, the divisional forest officer of the Gorumara wildlife division, said it was natural.

"An increase in elephant numbers is natural. But when elephants enter human settlements, we often do not receive community cooperation to guide them back to forests. Given our geography and the rise in elephant population, this situation is

likely to continue," he said. In its elephant status report, WII has expressed serious concern over the condition of elephant habitats and corridors in north Bengal and the Northeast, which share borders with countries like Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

"The report states that widespread encroachment, infrastructure expansion and construction activities have disrupted traditional elephant movement paths. As a result, herds are increasingly splitting into smaller groups and often entering human settlements, leading to a rise in human-elephant conflicts," said a source. It highlights that the expansion of farmland, mushrooming human settlements and tea estates in

the forest fringe areas of north Bengal have significantly squeezed elephant habitats. Infrastructural projects like NH31, 715 and 717, along with four-lane expressways near forests, have further fragmented elephant movement routes.

"Although herds of 30-40 elephants are still seen occasionally, they often split into two or three groups due to shrinking corridors," the source added. The findings have made wildlife conservationists repeat the demand to restore elephant corridors. "To stop human-elephant conflict and for better conservation of elephants, restoration of the corridors is essential," said Shyamaprasad Pande, a wildlife conservationist based in the Dooars. Joydeep Kundu, a member of the state board for wildlife, said elephants were natural wanderers, moving in herds across large landscapes. "The Bengal forest department, along with tea estates and the district administration, has initiated the restoration of several old elephant corridors in the Dooars," he said.

Woman's half-naked body found in Nodakhali forest, murder probe underway

MI News Service, Kolkata: A shocking incident rattled the Nodakhali area of South 24 Parganas on Sunday evening when the partially clothed body of a woman was discovered in a forested area near her residence. The discovery has sent waves of fear and distress through the local community, with residents and family members alleging that the woman may have been raped and murdered. The body was found around 8 p.m., showing signs of multiple injuries, and the victim's clothing was found in disarray. The unsettling scene prompted an immediate response from law enforcement officials, who cordoned off the area and began preliminary investigations. Authorities, however, have refrained from officially confirming any sexual assault, pending the results of a detailed forensic autopsy. The case falls under the jurisdiction of the Nodakhali police station, and investigators are meticulously combing the area for evidence. Officers have also begun questioning neighbors, family members, and potential witnesses to piece together the circumstances surrounding the woman's death.

Study links child undernutrition to multidimensional poverty

MI News Service, Raiganj: Child undernutrition in India remains overwhelmingly concentrated in districts weighed down by multidimensional poverty, according to a new study that warns of deepening vulnerabilities unless targeted district-level interventions are urgently adopted. Published in the November 2025 edition of BMC Public Health, the research presents a detailed picture of how deprivation across health, education and living standards continues to shape child health outcomes with alarming consistency. Authored by Partha Das, Tamal Basu Roy, Tanu Das, Priya Das, and Subhadeep Saha of Raiganj University, along with Dr Samiran Bisai of the Public Health Nutrition Research Unit at Sidho Kanho Birsha University, the study uses NFHS-5 data and NITI Aayog's MPI Progress Review to examine stunting, wasting and underweight among children under five. What emerges is a striking spatial clustering: the districts grappling with the highest poverty burdens are also the ones where children are most likely to suffer chronic undernutrition. States such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Odisha and West Bengal appear prominently in the analysis, forming what the researchers describe as "critical hotspots" of overlapping deprivation and nutritional vulnerability. These are regions where limited access to healthcare, poor sanitation, inadequate diets, low maternal education and fragile livelihood conditions reinforce each other, creating a cycle that undermines early childhood development.



The authors argue that while national schemes like POSHAN Abhiyaan and ICDS have expanded coverage, the layered nature of deprivation in high-burden districts requires sharper, district-specific strategies. They recommend designating severely affected districts as high priority development zones,

enabling more focused public investments and stricter monitoring of child health indicators. Expanding community-based and mobile health services for women and children is identified as a crucial step, especially for geographically remote pockets where health infrastructure remains thin. Strengthening nutrition-specific schemes, increasing district-level public health funding and ensuring tighter coordination between health, education and social welfare departments are also flagged as essential measures.

The study underscores that tackling child undernutrition cannot be limited to nutritional interventions alone. A child born into a household experiencing multidimensional poverty—characterised by overcrowded housing, unsafe drinking water, limited schooling and irregular income—faces disadvantages that begin early and compound over time. Without addressing these structural deficits, improvements in nutrition indicators will remain slow and uneven. By linking the depth of poverty to persistent child malnutrition, the research adds weight to ongoing concerns about India's progress toward achieving its sustainable development goals. The authors caution that unless high-burden districts receive tailored attention, India risks entrenching cycles of undernutrition and intergenerational inequity—an outcome that could have long-term consequences for the nation's human development trajectory.

TMC area president killed in Birbhum, no arrests yet

MI News Service, Birbhum: Rashbihari Sardar (50), alias Dodon, Thuspura anchal president of the Trinamul Congress, was killed and five others were injured after two rival groups clashed at Nanoor in Birbhum district today.

He was attending a meeting with villagers at the local Natmandir in Patichara village under Thuspura Anchal when a group of assailants attacked him with rods and

sharp weapons. He collapsed on the ground, and when other villagers tried to save him, they were also beaten.

Five injured persons were taken to a nearby hospital, while the body was sent for post-mortem by Nanoor police station. All five injured were later shifted to Mongalkote Block Hospital in neighbouring East Burdwan district for better treatment. A large police contingent has

been deployed in the village as the situation remains tense. No arrests have been made so far, and the accused are absconding.

Nanoor police have received the FIR and initiated a murder case. Despite repeated warnings from TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee to rival groups in Birbhum to stop feuding and work together, the infighting appears far from over.

In the Era of GST Scrutiny, Accuracy Becomes the Backbone of Compliance

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : With the due date for filing annual returns GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C for FY 2024-25 fast approaching, every registered taxpayer must ensure proper reconciliation of their Books of Accounts with GST returns.

Since the introduction of GST, the Government of India and the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) have issued several important amendments, notifications, and circulars to ensure easy and transparent compliance. Amid these changes, Input Tax Credit (ITC) continues to remain the most sensitive and crucial area that every registered taxpayer must understand thoroughly.

In an exclusive conversation with Morning India, renowned Chartered Accountant Mr. Anup Kumar Loharuka emphasized that accurate reconciliation between GST returns and Books of Accounts is not only mandatory under law but also the strongest defence against potential notices, litigations, and disputes.

GST has evolved into a robust pillar supporting India's economic progress. However, timely and accurate reconciliation is essential for maintaining transparency and compliance," CA Loharuka said.

Taxpayers must match the ITC



available in GSTR-2B with the ITC recorded in their Books of Accounts to ensure accuracy. ITC relating to exempt supplies should be reversed as per Rules 42 and 43, in line with GST law. Additionally, any excess ITC that has been wrongly claimed must be reversed within the prescribed timelines to avoid interest and future disputes.

He emphasised that inaccuracies in ITC reporting remain one of the primary reasons for notices issued under Section 73 and Section 74 of the CGST Act.

Businesses are required to reconcile the Books of Accounts with GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B to ensure correct reporting of outward supplies. All amendments made between April 2025

and November 30, 2025, pertaining to FY 2024-25, must be properly disclosed in the relevant tables of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C. Proper reconciliation of credit notes and debit notes is essential, and the aggregate turnover reported in GST returns must match the turnover recorded in the Books of Accounts.

Taxpayers must ensure correct reporting of the Principal Place of Business and Additional Places in their GST registration details. E-Way Bills should be reconciled with invoices reported in GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B, and balances in the Electronic Credit Ledger and Electronic Cash Ledger must match the Books of Accounts. Furthermore, all outward and inward adjustments must be accurately reported in the correct tables of GSTR-9 and GSTR-9C to ensure full compliance.

CA Anup Kumar Loharuka further mentioned that incorrect reporting in the wrong column often leads to litigation. He further stated that "Timely reconciliation of Books and GST records helps taxpayers avoid unnecessary notices, interest, penalties, and prolonged proceedings. It strengthens compliance and ensures financial ease for businesses" Note: These are the personal views and opinions of the author regarding reconciliation of Books of Accounts and GST.

Bowbazar roof collapse sparks safety alarm

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata's historic Bowbazar area is once again under the shadow of structural danger following a roof collapse in Madan Dutt Lane on Sunday afternoon, raising renewed fears among residents about the stability of old buildings in the vicinity. A local resident, Pappu Singh, sustained serious injuries to his head and shoulder when part of the ceiling gave way as he was moving through the house's inner courtyard. The affected building, reportedly over 60 years old, shelters 16 families. Residents allege that persistent vibrations beneath the ground have compromised the structural integrity of their homes. The family recounted having evacuated during significant underground construction activities, returning only after receiving official clearance certifying the building as safe. Despite this certification, incidents of falling debris have continued to provoke anxiety. A resident directly affected expressed deep worry: "Our kitchen is in the area where the ceiling cracked. I fear what might happen if the entire floor collapses." Authorities, including the city's Disaster Response Team and local lawmakers, promptly arrived to assess the severity of the damage and coordinate relief efforts. An official commented, "Experts acknowledge that surface tremors are a natural consequence of such underground transit activities. We are currently reviewing measures to ensure safety and minimize risk."

GOA NIGHTCLUB FIRE claims 25 lives

From PG 1 indicated that the fire started on the first floor of the club, and due to congestion and small doors, the customers could not move out, the CM said. "Some of them rushed to the ground floor and got trapped there," he said. Sawant added that early information pointed to lapses. "As per initial information, the nightclub had not abided by the fire safety norms," he said. He promised action against both the management and officials who cleared the establishment. "We will take action against the club management and also against the officials who allowed it to operate despite flouting safety norms." Later, speaking to reporters, Sawant said three people died of burn injuries while the others succumbed to suffocation. Emergency services remained on-site through the morning. "The police and fire department are conducting the investigation and legal action is being taken," a police official said. The cause of the fire is still unclear. The incident drew immediate responses from Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, "The fire mishap in Arpora, Goa is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest." He added that he had spoken with the chief minister: "Spoke to Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant Ji about the situation. The State Government is providing all possible assistance to those affected." The PMO later announced financial assistance: "An ex-gratia of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be given to the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in Arpora, Goa. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

INDIGO CHAOS: Parl panel may summon airlines, DGCA

From PG 1 regularly to monitor the situation. The company's Board of Directors is doing everything possible to take care of the challenges faced by its customers and ensure refunds to passengers, it said.



The Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Sunday experienced the footfall of lakhs of Hindu devotees who participated in the iconic 'GITA' recitation Utsov.



The Sadhus can be seen reading and chanting the slokas of 'Bhagawat Gita' with full devotion and discipline at the Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Sunday at the Holy occasion of 'Gita Recital Ceremony'.

Eastern Command Concludes 'Vijay Rally 2025 - Ride for Valour'

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Eastern Command of the Indian Army successfully concluded the Vijay Rally 2025 - "Ride for Valour", a motorcycle expedition held to commemorate Vijay Diwas and India's historic victory in the 1971 War in which 93000 soldiers of Pakistan Army surrendered had surrendered on 16 Dec 1971; largest surrender since the Second World War. The rally began on 25 November 2025, with riders from all the states of North-East joining this journey that had officially started from Guwahati on 01 Dec 2025. Covering 1350+ km, the rally passed through key locations including Dimapur, Tezpur, Shillong, Guwahati, Binnaguri, Sukna, Hilli, Siliguri, Malda, Panagarh and Nabagram, before culminating at Vijay Smarak, Vijay Durg. Along the route, solemn tribute was paid to the soldiers who had laid down their lives in the line of duty in 1971 by conducting wreath-laying ceremonies at the Albert Ekka, Karimganj, Kilpara, Sukna, Bogra and Hilli War Memorials. The final leg of the rally was led by Lt Gen RC Tiwari, PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, GOC-in-C, Eastern Command, who joined the



symbolic ride in Kolkata on 07 Dec 2025. To honour the victory in 1971, a total of 71 service riders and 71 civil riders participated in the Rally, symbolising their valour, courage and sacrifice. The concluding 25 km ceremonial ride

through Kolkata saw riders pay homage to the fallen heroes in a solemn ceremony at the Vijay Smarak which stands as testimony to the invaluable contribution of Eastern Command and its valiant warriors. Enthusiastic bikers

joined enroute adding patriotic fervour to the event. The completion of the Vijay Rally 2025 marks the formal start of Vijay Diwas Celebrations 2025 (14-16 December), honouring the courage and sacrifice of the Indian Armed Forces.

BJP leaders charges vote divide at Murshidabad Amid massive gits rally

MI News Service, Kolkata: Murshidabad. He alleged that certain political forces were attempting to divide the Hindu vote while consolidating Muslim support, a strategy he argued was deepening communal polarization and eroding mutual trust among crucial voter groups. His remarks added fuel to the ongoing political discourse, highlighting the growing friction among competing parties. Despite the charged environment, the former state president emphasized that the Gita recitation itself should not be viewed through a political lens. He reiterated that the scripture's spiritual significance remains timeless and independent of electoral motivations, even as the event unfolds amidst heightened political sensitivities. This evolving situation reflects the complex and often delicate interplay between religion and politics in West Bengal. Amid this backdrop, a massive Gita recitation program was organized today at the Brigade Parade Ground, drawing an audience of nearly five lakh people. The event saw the presence of several prominent BJP leaders along with influential religious figures, including Swami Gyananand Ji Maharaj, Sadhvi Ritambhara, Ramdev, and Dhirendra Shastri. Their participation underscored a rising wave of political and religious fervor, drawing parallels to the emotionally charged backdrop of the historical Babri Masjid movement. Addressing the large gathering, the former BJP state president delivered sharp criticism regarding the recent developments in

Kolkata is once again witnessing heightened political tension following a controversial foundation stone laying ceremony for the Babri Masjid in Murshidabad. The move has triggered extensive political debate, further intensifying the already competitive electoral atmosphere in West Bengal. The police and fire department are conducting the investigation and legal action is being taken, a police official said. The cause of the fire is still unclear. The incident drew immediate responses from Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, "The fire mishap in Arpora, Goa is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest." He added that he had spoken with the chief minister: "Spoke to Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant Ji about the situation. The State Government is providing all possible assistance to those affected." The PMO later announced financial assistance: "An ex-gratia of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be given to the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in Arpora, Goa. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

Coldest day hits 14 C, fog warning sounded in North Bengal



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata witnessed its coldest day of the season on Saturday as the minimum temperature plunged sharply to 14 degrees Celsius, marking a significant 2.1 degrees drop below the seasonal norm. The Alipore Meteorological Department confirmed this temperature dip as the most severe cold snap so far this winter. Although the mercury inched up slightly to 15.2 degrees Celsius on Sunday, temperatures remain notably below average, signaling sustained cold conditions across the city and surrounding districts. The city's maximum

temperature also took a hit, failing to climb above 25.3 degrees Celsius on Saturday, nearly 3 degrees lower than normal. Clear skies prevailed Sunday, with lingering morning fog conditions predicted to dissipate by afternoon. Weather officials emphasize that the state's climate will remain predominantly dry in the absence of any cyclonic or low-pressure systems in the Bay of Bengal, allowing cold northerly winds to sweep unimpeded into the region. Forecasts indicate minimal temperature variation over the next seven days across both North and South Bengal.

Tangra mansion in ruins: Debt decay haunt De family after triple murder

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ten months after a shocking triple homicide sent shockwaves through Tangra, the once-grand De family mansion stands locked, neglected, and burdened with mounting debts.

The imposing four-story residence on Atal Shur Road—formerly a symbol of affluence and celebration—has now fallen into disrepair, its blackened windows dust-covered, while urgent electricity and loan default notices affix the dilapidated front door. The sprawling "Chittanibas," once bustling with family gatherings, children's outings, and social functions, has been reduced to a grim relic of its former self since February 12's grisly events.

On that fateful night, three family members were brutally killed by the youngest son, Prasun De, who subsequently attempted suicide alongside relatives but survived a car accident en route. The two adult brothers now remain in custody, their teenaged sibling housed with relatives, far removed from the neighborhood that bears the scars of tragedy.

Firhad Hakim leads Kolkata Marathon: Run for joy, stay healthy"

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Mayor and West Bengal Municipal Minister Firhad Hakim took to the city streets on Sunday morning to deliver a powerful message: "Health is wealth." Leading by example, Hakim participated in a marathon that commenced at St. Thomas School in Khidirpur, demonstrating his commitment to public health and physical fitness. The event drew prominent figures, including the Kolkata Police Commissioner, who also joined the run, symbolizing a collective drive toward community well-being. Hakim urged the youth of Bengal to embrace fitness, emphasizing that a healthy body fosters a healthy mind and greater concentration. Addressing runners and spectators, Hakim remarked, "Many have come from across the city. I ran alongside them today. Fitness has become a way of life for people waking up every morning. Run for joy. In Bengal, we live joyfully. We live together." He highlighted the inclusive spirit of Khidirpur, remarking on the harmony among residents regardless of caste or religion, all united in pursuit of health and happiness. Firhad Hakim's rallying cry embodied a broader



cultural ethos, underscoring Bengal's tradition of communal cohesion and collective joy. His daughter's presence alongside him underlined the personal significance of health in his life. This public display of fitness leadership aligns with recent developments within the Trinamool Congress, where All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee has also showcased a strong focus on personal health, sharing glimpses of his gym routine on social media, sparking notable public attention. The marathon emerges as more than just a fitness event; it stands as a testament to Bengal's resilient spirit—uniting diverse communities through the pursuit of health, happiness, and harmony.

Kunal Ghosh slams BJP's political use of Gita recitation at Brigade rally

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kunal Ghosh, a senior leader of the Trinamool Congress, expressed strong criticism of the large-scale Gita Path event held on Sunday at Brigade Parade Ground, which drew a massive crowd and featured the recitation of the Gita in five lakh voices. While he acknowledged the spiritual significance of chanting Lord Ram and Jai Shri Ram, Ghosh condemned the event for being used as a political platform ahead of upcoming elections, peaking to the media, Kunal Ghosh emphasized that while Gita Paths have been organized prior to previous elections, exploiting such religious events for political gain is unacceptable. "We respect religious chants and traditions," he said, "but we oppose the use of the Gita or Ram Mandir narratives to divert attention from urgent public issues such as food, clothing, and shelter." He further highlighted the timing of the event, which coincided with the birthday of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, as an indication of the political motives behind the gathering rather than a purely spiritual celebration. Kunal Ghosh also drew attention to the presence of prominent political leaders alongside well-known religious figures at the event, arguing that this combination underscores the event's role as a politically driven spectacle. According to him, such events blur the line between faith and politics, transforming sacred gatherings into tools for electoral mobilization.

RED FORT terror attackers should not be spared: QUAD

From PG 1 and emerging challenges," the statement said. The Quad underscored the importance of ensuring that the Indo-Pacific remains open and free from the threats of terrorism. The Quad also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in multilateral fora. "They also emphasized the value of continued information sharing on terrorists, terrorist organisations, and their proxies," the statement said.

MI News Service, Kolkata: The police and fire department are conducting the investigation and legal action is being taken, a police official said. The cause of the fire is still unclear. The incident drew immediate responses from Delhi. Prime Minister Narendra Modi posted on X, "The fire mishap in Arpora, Goa is deeply saddening. My thoughts are with all those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover at the earliest." He added that he had spoken with the chief minister: "Spoke to Goa CM Dr Pramod Sawant Ji about the situation. The State Government is providing all possible assistance to those affected." The PMO later announced financial assistance: "An ex-gratia of Rs two lakh from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) will be given to the next of kin of each deceased in the mishap in Arpora, Goa. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000."

Brigade Parade turns SAFFRON for GITA recital

From PG 1 and direction," he said, adding that thousands from across the state had pledged participation. To manage the turnout, organisers have arranged extensive crowd regulation, stepped-up security, and emergency medical services. Three large stages have been built across the expanse of Brigade, and security presence has increased across central Kolkata. Swami Gyananandaji Maharaj of the Geeta Manishi Mahamandal is leading the spiritual component of the gathering, while yoga guru Baba Ramdev and several noted monks have been in-

MI News Service, Kolkata: The political landscape of West Bengal stands on the cusp of potential upheaval as Humayun Kabir, a twice-suspended legislator, embarks on a controversial path to reshape minority vote dynamics. On December 6, coinciding with the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, Kabir laid the foundation stone for a mosque in Bel-danga, Murshidabad, signaling the formal launch of his new political venture with ambitious electoral targets. Humayun Kabir's unabashed declaration of aiming for

Babri Masjid move: Humayun Kabir's bold challenge to Bengal politics

MI News Service, Kolkata: The political landscape of West Bengal stands on the cusp of potential upheaval as Humayun Kabir, a twice-suspended legislator, embarks on a controversial path to reshape minority vote dynamics. On December 6, coinciding with the anniversary of the Babri Masjid demolition, Kabir laid the foundation stone for a mosque in Bel-danga, Murshidabad, signaling the formal launch of his new political venture with ambitious electoral targets. Humayun Kabir's unabashed declaration of aiming for

90 assembly seats, with plans to field candidates in 135 constituencies, marks a direct challenge to the established political order in Bengal. Murshidabad, with its significant minority population—66 percent Muslim as per the 2011 census—and neighboring districts like Malda and Nadia further underscore the critical role of Muslim votes in the state's political calculus. Data from the 2021 assembly elections reveal that of the 294 seats, 74 have minority voter populations exceeding 40 percent, where the incumbent party se-

cured 69 seats. Another 57 seats fall into the 35-40 percent minority voter range, with 46 seats going to the incumbent. These figures highlight the considerable electoral weight minority communities hold, raising questions about how Humayun Kabir's new party could disrupt the prevailing vote patterns. Despite repeated disciplinary actions, including multiple suspensions, Kabir remains defiant and vocal, positioning himself as a minority leader intent on altering Bengal's political narrative. His recent public speeches have

not only stirred communal sensitivities but have also spotlighted grievances regarding cultural and religious state funding policies, adding complexity to his political stance. However, skeptics question whether Humayun Kabir's electoral ambitions can translate into tangible gains or remain largely symbolic. Political analysts note the challenges of fragmenting the minority vote in a state where loyalty has been predominantly consolidated, and caution against underestimating the entrenched party machinery.

Name Change

I, Niketa (old name) wife of Vijay Sethia, residing at 64, Subarban Park Road, 3rd Floor, Howrah-711011, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Niketa Sethia (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Md Juman Sardar (old name) son of Abulakam Sardar, residing at JARDAHA, SONARPUR, DAIMOND HARBOUR-743613, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Juman Sardar (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Santosh Chowdhury & Santosh Chowdhuri (Old Name), Son Of Late Manik Chowdhury, Residing At 28/136A, Roshangaj Road, Berhampore, Cossimbazar, Murshidabad-742102, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Santosh Chowdhury (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Pappia Das Chanda W/O Subodh Chanda D/O Binoy Krishna Das Residing at Rabindra Sarani, Vill&Po-Banipur, PS-Habra, Dist-North24 Parganas, Pin-743233. I declare that before my marriage I used my surname as Pappia Das Chanda ever since. In my daughter Sayantika Chanda discharge medical birth certificate issued by Uma Medical Related Institute (P.L.I.D), my name was written as Pappia Chanda which shall henceforth be known as Pappia Das Chanda vide an affidavit before the 1st class Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Barasat on 04.12.2025...

Name Change

I, Pinky Xavier (Old Name) W/o Kevin Joseph Xavier Residing at 9A/2, Ismail Street, P.O - Entally, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700014, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pinky Roselene Xavier (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 05-12-2025...

NAME CHANGE

I, SUSHUNTA KARMAKAR F/O Siddhartha Karmakar R/o 119/14A/1, Sarat Ghosh Garden Road, P.S.-Kasba, Kolkata-700031 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SUSANTA KARMAKAR as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Court vide affidavit no.108 dated 15.10.2025...

NAME CHANGE

I, ANJU KARMAKAR W/O Siddhartha Karmakar R/o 119/14A/1, Sarat Ghosh Garden Road, P.S.-Kasba, Kolkata-700031 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ANJALI KARMAKAR as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Court vide affidavit no.108 dated 15.10.2025...

Name Change

I, Ayub Khan (Old Name) S/O Ibrahim Khan Residing at Vill - Dakshin Simla, P.O - Simla Durgapur, P.S - Baduria, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743401, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ayub Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 05-12-2025...

Name Change

I, Jashnara Begum (Old Name) W/o Sk Motior Hossain Residing at 31, Topasia Road, P.O - Gobinda Khatic Road, P.S - Topasia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046 West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jashnara Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 05-12-2025...

Name Change

I, Rahima Bibi (Old Name) W/o Sajedat Rahaman Biswas Residing at Saiyadkat, P.O - Sanrapul, P.S - Swarnapnagar, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743286, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rahima Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 05-12-2025...

Name Change

I, Kanika Debnath Chowdhury, w/o, Rajib Debnath, D/O - Binay Chowdhury, R/O at Village - Ramnagar, Tut Bagan P.O + Ps-Ranaghat, Dist. Nadia, . That Birth Certificate of my daughter (vide Reg. No.-W.B.-BR-2015/20058/1/1543, dated-21/05/2015) my name has been Recorded as Kanika Debnath, vide Affidavit Sworn before the court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Ranaghat on 03/12/25. That I Kanika Debnath Chowdhury, w/o Rajib Debnath and Kanika Debnath, w/o Rajib Debnath and Kanika Debnath chowdhury, D/O Binay Chowdhury am the Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I Ravi Agarwal S/O, Shiv Shankar Agarwal R/O Lalkhoti 2nd Floor, 106 Girish Ghosh Road, Belur, Belur Math, Howrah, West Bengal, 711202 have changed my name to Ravi Kumar Agarwal.

India logs strongest GDP growth in 18 months

MI News Service, New Delhi: Despite a wave of punitive US tariffs, the Indian economy surged by a better-than-expected 8.2 per cent last quarter, marking its strongest growth performance in 18 months. The question now is whether this pace can be sustained once the full effects of Washington's trade measures kick in.



Washington's tariff hikes, which pushed the duty on Indian exports to a massive 50 per cent in August, had sparked fears of a serious hit to export manufacturers. Yet the economy gained speed, partly because manufacturers rushed to front-load shipments ahead of the tariff deadlines, a surge that was reinforced by strong domestic demand.

trade agreement persists. India remains one of the few major economies yet to finalise a deal with Washington. "Going forward, the tariff impact is yet to play out as the front-loading effect fades," said HDFC economist Sakshi Gupta. It's also unclear whether the festive-season "jump in demand will sustain, especially given that urban hiring remains tentative."

Tour drivers accuse hill 'syndicates' of bullying

MI News Service, Siliguri: Transporters and tourism stakeholders in and around Siliguri on Wednesday alleged harassment of drivers and tour operators from the plains travelling to the Darjeeling hills. Representatives of nine organisations of transporters, tour operators and drivers' associations held a joint news meet in Siliguri on the matter. They said they would wait for another 48 hours to see if the administration stopped such harassments, and launch a movement.

GTA, the Darjeeling district administration, and the commissioner of Siliguri Metropolitan Police to ensure the safety of transporters and end "intimidation" by hill-based local syndicate groups, Maitra said. Mehboob Khan, the secretary of the Terai Chalak Sangathan Siliguri, said its members were being threatened in the hills despite carrying valid travel permits.

Debasis Maitra, the chairman of the transport committee of the Eastern Himalaya Travel and Tour Operators Association, said several videos on social media showed local "syndicate members" and self-styled groups in the hills issuing verbal threats to Siliguri-based drivers who ferry tourists to Darjeeling and take them for sightseeing. "We consider such threats extremely serious. We have informed officials of the administration, including the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration, to take preventive measures by December 5. If no concrete steps are taken, we will initiate a larger movement," Maitra said.

"If our members continue to face threats from self-proclaimed local hooligans despite valid permits, it will create an atmosphere of fear," Khan said. The transport association represents over 500 passenger SUVs which run between the hills and the plains every day. Stakeholders said thousands of tour operators and drivers from the plains and the hills depend on tourism. "Such unauthorised interference by syndicate-driven groups could severely impact the entire tourism ecosystem," said a senior tour operator in Siliguri.

Min temp drop across Gangetic Bengal, further dip expected: IMD

MI News Service, Kolkata: Minimum temperatures dropped at several places in Gangetic West Bengal, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecasting a further fall of around two degrees Celsius in the region over the next two days. "There will, however, be no major change in the minimum temperature over the districts of sub-Himalayan West Bengal," the IMD said.

Jayanta Majumder, the assistant secretary of the Himalayan Hospitality and Tourism Development Network, said they had not yet taken any decision that could potentially disrupt tourism. "But how can drivers go to hills if they are regularly intimidated?" he asked.

Name Change

I, Sk Aftabuddin & Sk Aftab (Old Name), S/O Sk Samsuddin, Residing At Village & Post Dakshin Santoshpur Dist Howrah Pin 711404, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Aftabuddin (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Quayeskalim Shaikh (old name) son of Sk Khalilur Rahaman, residing at Uluberia, Jagadishpur, Howrah-711315, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Quayes Kalim (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Khalilur Rahaman Shaikh (old name) son of Sk Abdul Bari, residing at Uluberia, Jagadishpur, Howrah-711315, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Khalilur Rahaman (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Md Abu Zafor (Old Name), Son Of Rajab Ali Mondal, Residing At Paschim Para(Part), Marakpur, Habra, North 24 Parganas-743704, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abu Jafar Mondal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Rejaul Hasan Mallick (Old Name), Son Of Jashbed Ali Mallick, Residing At Vill-Pashchim Bainan, Po-Bainan, Ps-Bagnan, Howrah-711303, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rejaul Hasan Mallick (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Mijanur Rahaman Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Akram Ali Mondal, Residing At Banihat, Jessure, Ps-Habra, North 24 Parganas-743233, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mizanur Rahaman Mondal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Rakhi Ghosh Marik (Old Name), Wife Of Satkarni Ghosh, Residing At Vill-Purahi, Po-Kanpur, Ps-Penro, Howrah-Bural-711410, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rakhi Ghosh (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Ziaul Mallick (old name) son of Abul Kuddus Mallick, residing at Anantapur, Bahipur, Anantapur, Hooghly, 712707, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jiyaul Haque Mallick (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Kaychar Shek (Old Name), Son Of Motalap Shek, Residing At 9/5, P B Road Kumar Garden, 2nd Lane, Behala, Kolkata-700024, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kaychar Shek (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Mohammed Nasiruddin Molla (Old Name), S/O Late Mohammed Najibul Islam, Residing At Vill-Ramnagar, P.O-Gumukberia, P.S-Kulpi, Sundarban-743332, W.B.Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Molla Md Nasiruddin (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Avantika Borar (old name) C/o Raunig Mehta, residing at AVENUE HEIGHTS 5TH FLOOR, 24 SOUTH-ERN AVENUE, Kalgihati, PO:Kalgihati, DIST:Kolkata, Pin- 700026, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Avantika Mehta (new name), as declared Before Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025...

Name Change

I, Tanjila Begum & Tanzila (Old Name) W/O Sk Aftabuddin, Residing At Vill & P.O - Dakshin Santoshpur Pin-711404, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tanjila Begum (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/12/2025...

Heart-Warming "Baby Show" Organised At Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : Under the inspiring leadership of Smt. Priti Kapoor, President, Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO), Howrah, a vibrant and joyful "Baby Show" was organised today at the auditorium of the Divisional Railway Hospital (DRH), Howrah.



A total of 72 adorable babies participated enthusiastically across three age groups—0-1 year, 1-2 years, and 2-3 years. The children were assessed on key developmental and health parameters, including growth milestones, nutrition, immunisation status, and overall well-being.

Prizes were awarded to winners from each age group, and refreshments were provided to all participants, making it a memorable day for both children and parents.

The programme was graced by Dr. Sarita Dhan, Chief Medical Superintendent, Howrah, along with other doctors, nursing staff, medical personnel, and members of ERWWO/Howrah, whose warm presence added to the significance of the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Smt. Priti Kapoor expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the overwhelming participation. She emphasised that such initiatives contribute meaningfully to promoting child health, supporting early development, and paving the way for a brighter future for every child.

Regulation Of Trains For Ni Work At Khana

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : Due to non-interlocking work at Khana, following trains will be regulated as under: - Cancellation of Trains:- • 13179 Sealdah - Siuri Memu (Journey commencing on 07.12.2025) and 13180 Siuri -Sealdah Memu (Journey commencing on 08.12.2025).

Two More Special Trains To Run From Howrah

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : To clear the extra rush of passengers, Railway has decided to run one way special train from Howrah to Jodhpur and one pair special train between Howrah & New Delhi. 3100 berths will be generated by running these special trains.

04462 New Delhi - Howrah special will leave New Delhi at 18:15 hrs on 07.12.2025 to reach Howrah at 23:30 hrs on the next day and 04461 Howrah - New Delhi special will leave Howrah at 01:30 hrs on 09.12.2025 to reach New Delhi at 08:20 hrs on the next day. The train will stop at Bandel, Bardhaman, Durgapur & Asansol stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute.

04808 Howrah - Jodhpur one way special will leave Howrah at 23:00 hrs on 09.12.2025 to reach Jodhpur at 11:50 hrs on the third day. The train will stop at Bardhaman, Durgapur & Asansol stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second class, sleeper class and Air-conditioned accommodation.

The booking of 04808 Howrah - Jodhpur one way special and 04461 Howrah - New Delhi special are available through PRS and Internet.

NOTICE OF DEED LOST

Notice to all concern that one original Sale Deed vide Deed No. 1968/2021 dated 26/10/2021 of D.S.R.-I, Hooghly, Chinsurah in the name of Smt Chandana Das W/o. Raju Das, R/o. Sherpur, Nayasari, Balagarh, Hooghly-712513, Purchaser, and one original Sale Deed vide Deed No. 1963/2015 dated 09/11/2015 of D.S.R.-I, Hooghly, Chinsurah in the name of Smt. Arati Malo W/o. Sri Tapan Kumar Malo S/o. Sri Madhusudan Malo, R/o. Basudebpur Brahmachari Colony, Tribeni, Hooghly-712503, Purchaser (Chain Deed) and one original General Power of Attorney Deed vide Deed No. IV-0351/2015 dated 16/09/2015 of A.D.S.R., Chinsurah, Hooghly in the name of Srimatya Maya Das W/o. Lt. Subal Chandra Das, R/o. Ghoshaliya, Dumurdaha, Balagarh, Hooghly-712515, Power Doner. Total three original deed concerned to the "Shall" Land of 14 Shatak out of 28 shatak in 16 ans lying under Dumurdaha Nityanandapur G.P. 1, District Hooghly, P.S. Balagarh, Mauza Dumurdaha, J.L. No. 124, under L.R. Khayata No. 2221 & 2222, Dag No. R.S. 182/1805 and Hal L.R. 195, which was lost. In this regard a missing Deed No. 1844, dated 28/1/2025 under P.S. Balagarh, Hooghly is lodged and also hereby solemnly affirm and says vide Affidavit No. 11761, dtd. 27/11/2025, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court. At present my client Smt. Chandana Das W/o. Raju Das, is the owner of the above property. If any person, Bank or Financial institution having any objection, demand or information against the above property or about above original lost Sale Deed please intimate the undersigned in writing with supporting within 15 days from this publication. No claim and demand shall be entertained after the stipulated period. If any transaction is made with any person/s and authority by the strength of this lost said Sale & Gift deed, shall be deemed to be null and void.

JSW MG Motor rolls out 'Midnight Carnival'



MI News Service, Kolkata: JSW MG Motor India has announced the nationwide rollout of its exhilarating 'Midnight Carnival' campaign across its full range of vehicles from December 5-7, 2025. All MG showrooms will remain open until midnight for these three days, giving customers more time and convenience to explore their preferred MG vehicles while being part of a festive, carnival-like experience.

The Midnight Carnival underscores JSW MG Motor India's focus on making customers a central part of its journey by blending product innovation with memorable ownership experiences. Vinay Raina, Chief Commercial Officer, JSW MG Motor India, said, "We truly believe in going beyond cars to create experiences."

Bengal Tennis: Double Crown for Abhinansu, Akansha & Aaleena

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhinansu Borthakur went on to win the Men's Singles and Men's Doubles title without dropping a single set throughout the tournament. Akansha Ghosh also had a dream run throughout the tournament winning both the Girl's Under 18 Singles and Women's Doubles title without dropping a single set.

Results : Boys U-18 Singles: (3) Mayand Tewary Beat (1) Shounak Chatterjee 6-3, 6-0. Girls U-18 Singles: (1) Akansha Ghosh Beat (2) Aaleena Farid 6-2, 6-3. Men's Singles : (1) Abhinansu Borthakur Beat (3) Mayand Tewary 6-2, 6-3. Women's Singles : Aaleena Farid Beat (1) Saijayani Banerjee 7-5, 6-3.

ANIL AMBANI moves SC against SBI's 'fraud' tag

MI News Service, New Delhi: Industrialist Anil Ambani has taken his battle with the State Bank of India (SBI) to the Supreme Court, challenging a Bombay high court order that upheld the bank's decision to classify his and Reliance Communications' accounts as fraud. The petition is yet to be listed for hearing, but it marks the latest turn in a dispute that has been building for more than a year. The Bombay high court was heard on October 3 dismissed Ambani's plea, observing that "there was no merit in the plea." Ambani had argued that SBI's move lacked procedural fairness, insisting that the bank had "not followed the principles of natural justice" because he was not granted a hearing before the classification.

Public Notice

This is to notify that Sri. KASHINATH DAS S/O KAMLAKANT DAS Address NURUDIN ROAD ASANSOL PS-ASANSOL SOUTH Dist-Paschim BURDAWAN has/have purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of deed/deeds no.2240 dated 20/09/2006 (A.D.S.R./DSR/D.S.R) with the help of power of attorney deed no.47 dated 19/01/2001 (A.D.S.R./ADS/R) executed by Sri. HEMANT KUMAR DAS S/O KAMLAKANT DAS address NURUDIN ROAD ASANSOL PS-ASANSOL SOUTH Dist PASCHIM BURDAWAN and the said applicant has/have applied with the same land schedule for mutation vide mutation case no.MN/2025/2305/11489 at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O (EP-1) dist.Paschim BURDAWAN. If there is any objection for mutation in this respect, any concerned principle are requested to submit objection along with relevant documents to the concerned revenue office at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O (EP-1) within one month from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise work will take its own course.

Special Train between Kamakhya & Kolkata

Table with 7 columns: Date, Arr, Dep, STATIONS, Arr, Dep, Date. It lists train schedules for Kamakhya-Kolkata Special and Kolkata-Kamakhya Special, including dates like 09.12.25 and 09.12.25, and times like 12.35, 12.45, 17.10, 17.20.

SC asks BCI to ensure 30% reservation for women in state bar council polls

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked the Bar Council of India to ensure 30 per cent reservation for women in the upcoming state bar council elections. The direction came during the hearing of a petition seeking mandatory women's representation in state bar councils. The Bar Council of India informed the bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joydalya Bagchi that implementing such reservation would require amendments to the Advocates Act.

Senior advocate Gurukumar, appearing for the BCI, also told the court that several state bar council election processes had already begun, making immediate changes difficult. "We expect that the BCI will construe the rules in such a manner that it will ensure 30 percent reservation in State Bar Councils; such a position should also be available for some posts of office bearers," CJI Kant said. When the BCI expressed uncertainty over whether a sufficient number of women lawyers would contest, the court referred to a workshop held by the Supreme Court Bar Association based on a survey among women lawyers. "You were not there in yesterday's workshop. 83 per cent of the women want to be members in the SCBA," the CJ said.

The bench was hearing pleas filed by Yogamaya MG and Shehla Chaudhary seeking reservation of one third of the seats for women in all state bar councils. They also sought that at least one office bearer post be reserved for women lawyers on a rotational basis. The pleas relied on a 2 May, 2024 order of the Supreme Court directing one third reservation for women in the executive committee of the SCBA including one office bearer post.

Mosque can't claim loudspeaker use as right: BOMBAY HIGH COURT

MI News Service, Mumbai/Nagpur: The Nagpur bench of the Bombay High Court has refused to grant relief to a mosque seeking permission to use loudspeakers for prayers, ruling that the device cannot be claimed as a matter of religious right. Relying on earlier Supreme Court judgments, a bench of Justices Anil Pansare and Raj Wakode said that no religion mandates prayers through amplifiers or drums. The court said it was taking suo motu cognisance of recurring noise-pollution issues and asked the Maharashtra government to propose an effective framework.

In its order dated December 1, the court dismissed a petition by Masjid Gousiya in Gondia district, which had sought permission to install and use loudspeakers. The bench noted that the petitioner had not produced any material showing that loudspeakers were "mandatory/necessary" for practising its faith. "The petitioner, therefore, is not entitled to seek relief for the installation of a loudspeaker, as of right. The petition is accordingly dismissed," the bench said.

Citing Supreme Court rulings, the judges reiterated that no religion requires practices that disturb others' peace.

They also underscored the importance of protecting the rights of other citizens, "particularly those who are of tender age and those who are aged, sick, and people afflicted with psychic disturbances."

The bench, however, noted that the issue of noise pollution was recurring. "Noise pollution is a serious threat to public health and welfare. It causes 'fight or flight' syndrome, releasing cortisol and other harmful chemicals into the bloodstream," the court said.



Smoke and flames billow after fishing boats caught fire, at Ashtamudi Lake in Kollam, Kerala. Around 10 boats, anchored at the lake, were gutted in the incident.

Over 3,200 Indians deported from USA in '25: JAISHANKAR

MI News Service, New Delhi: The scale of deportations from the United States emerged as a core focus in the Rajya Sabha, as External Affairs minister S. Jaishankar detailed the sharp rise in removals this year. Since January 2025 alone, 3,258 Indian nationals have been deported, a number that already exceeds the totals for the past two years combined.

"Since January 2025, a total of 3,258 Indian nationals have been deported by the United States to India. Of these, 2,032 individuals (approximately 62.3 per cent) were deported on regular commercial flights, while the remaining 1,226 (37.6 per cent) arrived on US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operated charter flights," Jaishankar said in his written reply. "The NIA has registered and investigated 27 human trafficking cases, resulting in 169 arrests and chargesheets against 132 individuals. The NIA arrested two important traffickers in Haryana and Punjab on August 7 and then in Himachal Pradesh, two more people on October 2," he informed the House. State agencies, he added, are also pursuing illegal travel agents and traffickers. "The maximum number of trafficking cases is from the state of Punjab. The



Punjab government has constituted an SIT and a fact-finding committee. As per information given by them to us, 25 FIRs have been registered against 58 illegal travel agents, and 16 accused have been arrested," he said. Jaishankar also pointed to action in other states. "In the case of state of Haryana, 2,325 cases have been registered and 44 FIRs have been registered and 27 people have been arrested. Also, one significant trafficker has been arrested by the state of Gujarat," he said. The minister's reply placed the year-wise de-

portation numbers in context. A total of 617 Indians were deported in 2023 and 1,368 in 2024, compared to the 3,258 already sent back in 2025, marking a dramatic escalation. Since 2009, India has received 18,822 deportees from the US. Jaishankar told the House that India continues to raise concerns with the US over the treatment of deportees, especially on ICE-operated flights. "The Ministry has strongly registered its concerns with the US authorities on the treatment of deportees, particularly with respect to the use of shackles, especially on women and children," he said.

However, he added that there have been no recent instances involving minors or women. "No instance of shackling of women and children has been brought to the notice of this Ministry since the 5th February deportation flight," he said. According to him, the US has defended its procedures. "They have also conveyed that their policy of shackling deportees is followed to ensure the safety and security of all passengers on these flights. In the past, they claim that there have been instances of violence by deportees against fellow deportees and supporting crew members on such deportation flights."

GURUGRAM CLUB BLAST: NIA files supplementary charge-sheet against 3 more

MI News Service, New Delhi: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a supplementary chargesheet against three more accused in the 2024 Gurugram club blast case linked to the proscribed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). The chargesheet, filed before a special NIA court in Panchkula, names Vijay, Ajit Sehrawat and Vinay for their alleged involvement in planning and conspiring the explosions at Warehouse Club and Human Club in Gurugram's Sector 29 on December 10 last year.

According to the agency, the three accused were closely associated with foreign-based gangster Randeep Malik and Rohit Godara, a known aide of Canada-based designated terrorist Satinderjit Singh alias Goldy Brar. The NIA had earlier chargesheeted Brar and four others in June. Investigators stated that the accused trio had received explosives and funds from overseas handlers of a wider terror syndicate. The agency said these resources were meant to carry out acts aligned with BKI's extremist agenda. "The conspiracy was aimed at disrupting peace and destabilising law and order in Haryana and other northern states," the NIA said in its statement. The agency added that a broader network of operatives had emerged during the investigation. "Investigations further revealed a wide network of operatives engaged in terror activities at the direction of the foreign-based terror handlers. Efforts to track these operatives and their other conspirators, as well as the financial channels involved in the conspiracy, are underway," the statement said.



BJP Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade visits the Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub, where a fire claims the lives of 25 people, in Arpora on Sunday.

India to procure more HERON MARK II DRONES from Israel

MI News Service, New Delhi/Tel Aviv: India's defence ministry is all set to procure more sitcom-enabled Heron Mark II drones from Israel to boost surveillance along the frontiers with China and Pakistan, government sources said.

At present, the army, navy and air force operate a significant number of Israel-origin Heron Mark-I and Mark-II drones from their own bases. These unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) were also extensively used for intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance during Operation Sindoor against Pakistan in May. "We are soon going to procure more Heron drones, especially the more advanced Mark II which will significantly enhance India's surveillance capabilities along the Line of Control with Pakistan and Line of



A file image of Heron Mk II UAV

Actual Control with China," said a defence ministry official. The proliferation of drones over the past five years has transformed battlefield dynamics and their effective-

ness in real-time combat has already been underlined by the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, the official said. The debut of attack drones during the India-Pakistan military

conflict in May also reflected a broader shift in modern warfare methods, prompting military veterans to call for more investment in military technology to meet evolving demands. Heron Mark-II is an advanced model of the Heron UAV, used by the Israel Air Force.

These drones can remain in the air for 45 hours and can fly over 1,000km without refueling, and can gather intelligence from tens of kilometres away from enemy fire and without crossing borders. Mark-I drones have a maximum endurance of over 24 hours. The Indian Army, for the first time, had inducted Mark-II drones following the Chinese incursion in May 2020 in eastern Ladakh to boost surveillance along the Line of Actual Control.

HEALTHCARE: Bengal govt calls for stronger public-private collaboration



MI News Service, Kolkata: Highlighting the goal of state government to provide healthcare service to all, Chandrima Bhattacharya, Minister of State, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal underscored the optimal collaboration between the public and private sector in the 19th edition of Healthcare East initiated by CII West Bengal at Kolkata.

She highlighted the significant rise in medical tourism in the state, noting that it has played a pivotal role in placing West Bengal second among all Indian states in terms of foreign tourist arrivals. Referring to the Swasthya Sathi scheme which covers 2.5 crore families across the state, Bhattacharya emphasized that West Bengal's robust healthcare infrastructure has been fundamental in strengthening the sectoral backbone and ensuring accessible, quality healthcare for its people.

NS Nigam, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal advocated about the optimal design of healthcare market so that profit of every stakeholder of the sector get maximised without compromising the quality of healthcare service. Speaking about the effectiveness and growing impact of telemedicine, Principal Secretary outlined ₹23,000 crore has been allocated to the healthcare sector in the state budget. He also highlighted

the establishment of five new cancer centres across West Bengal, underscoring the government's continued commitment to expanding specialized healthcare services.

Harinarayan Sharma, CEO, Manipal Foundation, emphasized the need for a vibrant primary care delivery system in the state.

Jayanta Roy, Managing Director, Peerless General Finance & Investment Company Limited, spoke about their upcoming investments in Barasat and Kolkata. C. S. Ghosh, Chairman, Bandhan Group, underscored the importance of initiatives aimed at increasing health awareness among mothers in rural villages, stressing that empowering grassroots communities is vital for holistic development. Prashant Sharma, Managing Director, Charnock Hospital, highlighted the marked differences in healthcare services across different regions of India. Addressing the issue of Out-of-Pocket Expenditure (OOP), Rupak Barua, Managing Director & CEO, Woodlands Hospital, pointed to the encouraging downward trend in recent years, reflecting improved financial protection for patients.

To sustain growth and diversify the visitor base in the state's medical tourism sector, Debasish Dutta, Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council & Director, BGS Group, recommended strengthening international air connectivity with Central Asia, the GCC countries, African nations.

Gujarat ATS arrests ex-Army man & woman for espionage



MI News Service, Surat: Gujarat ATS has arrested a retired Army man and a woman for allegedly sharing sensitive information about Indian military establishments and personnel with Pakistani agents, officials said. While accused Ajaykumar Singh was lured by a Pakistani intelligence officer to provide information about movements of the Indian Army's regiments and transfers of key military officers, the other accused, Rashmani Pal, was told to honeytrap certain individuals, they said. Singh (47), a native of Bihar, was arrested in Goa, where he was working at a distillery after retirement in 2022. Pal (35), originally from Uttar Pradesh, was picked up from the Union Territory of Daman, where she used to take private tuitions, the ATS said. The agency said that a Pakistani intelligence officer, who identified herself as 'Ankita Sharma', was in touch with Singh. Pal, who operated under the fake identity of 'Priya Thakur', allegedly acted at the behest of her Pakistani handlers to extract information from military personnel by befriending them, said ATS Superintendent of Police Siddharth Korukonda. Singh was contacted by 'Ankita Sharma' when he was still a Subedar in the

Indian Army in the Nagaland city of Dimapur in 2022, said the official in a press conference here. "Singh then took up the job of a security guard in Goa after his retirement. After befriending him and winning his trust, the Pakistani agent requested sensitive information, such as movements of regiments and transfers of key Army officers," he said. As requested by the Pakistani spy, Singh had allegedly shared the information in the form of text, photos and videos, the official said. The spy from the neighbouring country also sent a Trojan malware file to Singh's mobile phone, instructing him to save and install it so that sensitive information would not need to be shared via WhatsApp. The malware allowed the agent to access Singh's device remotely, he said. Citing Pal's questioning, the official said that she had agreed to work as a key facilitator for Pakistani handlers -- "Abdul Sattar" and "Khalid" -- for money, said the official. "As directed by Abdul Sattar and Khalid, she created her fake identity under the name Priya Thakur and started cultivating friendships with Indian Army personnel, whose details were shared by Sattar and Khalid, to extract confidential military information," he said.

Why winter makes you more vulnerable to colds – public health nurse explains science behind season

WEST LAFAYETTE : The Conversation) You've probably heard "Don't go outside in the winter with your hair wet or without a coat; you'll catch a cold."

That's not exactly true. As with many things, the reality is more complicated. Here's the distinction: Being cold isn't why you get a cold. But it is true that cold weather makes it easier to catch respiratory viruses such as the cold and flu.

Research also shows that lower temperatures are associated with higher COVID-19 rates.

As a professor of nursing with a background in public health, I'm often asked about infectious disease spread, including the relationship between cold and catching a cold. So here's a look at what actually happens.

Many viruses, including rhinovirus – the usual culprit for the common cold – influenza, and SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, remain infectious longer and replicate faster in colder temperatures and at lower humidity levels. This, coupled with the fact that people spend more time indoors and in close contact with others during cold weather, are common reasons that germs are more likely to spread.

The flu and respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, tend to have a defined fall and winter seasonality. However, because of the emergence of new COVID-19 variants and immunity from previous infections and vaccinations decreasing over time, COVID-19 is not the typical cold-weather respiratory virus. As a case in point, COVID-19 infection rates have surged every summer since 2020.

Virus transmission is easier when it's cold. More specifically,



cold weather can change the outer membrane of the influenza virus, making it more solid and rubbery. Scientists believe that the rubbery coating makes person-to-person transmission of the virus easier.

It's not just cold winter air that causes a problem. Air that is dry in addition to cold has been linked to flu outbreaks. That's because dry winter air further helps the influenza virus to remain infectious longer. Dry air, which is common in the winter, causes the water found in respiratory droplets to evaporate more quickly. This results in smaller particles, which are capable of lasting longer and traveling farther after you cough or sneeze.

How your immune system responds during cold weather also matters a great deal.

Inhaling cold air may adversely affect the immune response in your respiratory tract, which makes it easier for viruses to take hold. That's why wearing a scarf over your nose and mouth may help prevent a cold because it warms the air that you inhale. Also, most people get less sunlight in the winter. That is a problem because the sun is a major source of vitamin D, which is essential for immune system health. Physical activity, another factor, also tends to drop during the winter. People are three times more likely to delay exercise in snowy or icy conditions.

Instead, people spend more time indoors. That usually means more close contact with others, which leads to disease spread. Respiratory viruses generally spread within a 6-foot radius of

an infected person. In addition, cold temperatures and low humidity dry out your eyes and the mucous membranes in your nose and throat. Because viruses that cause colds, flu and COVID-19 are typically inhaled, the virus can attach more easily to these impaired, dried-out passages.

What you can do
 The bottom line is that being wet and cold doesn't make you sick. That being said, there are strategies to help prevent illness all year long:

- Wash your hands often.
- Avoid touching your face, something people do between nine and 23 times an hour.
- Stay hydrated. Eight glasses a day of water is a good goal, but that could be more or less depending on lifestyle and the size of the person.

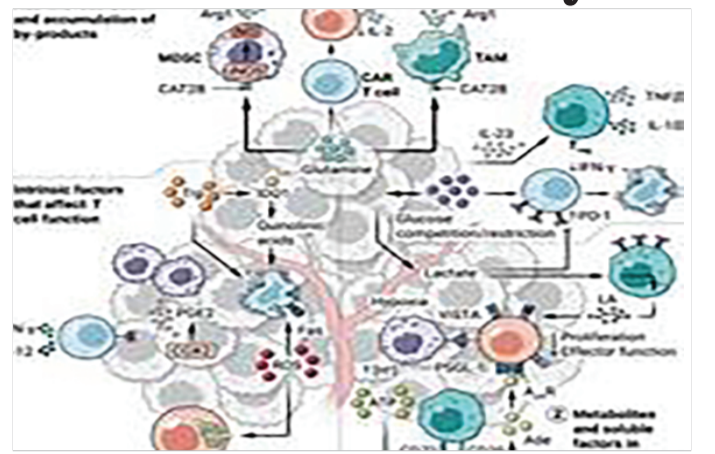
Keto diet metabolite may power up CAR T cells to kill cancer: Study

PENNSYLVANIA [US] : Researchers at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Centre and the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine have found that a straightforward dietary supplement may offer a novel way to enhance CAR T cell performance.

The early research, presented at the 66th American Society of Haematology (ASH) Annual Meeting and Exposition (Abstract 4), suggests a potentially economical way to enhance CAR T cell function and cancer-fighting capabilities, even though the strategy needs to be evaluated in clinical trials. CAR T cell therapy is a personalized treatment approach, pioneered at Penn Medicine, that reprograms patients' own immune cells to kill their cancer.

"Thousands of patients with blood cancers have been successfully treated with CAR T cell therapy, but it still doesn't work for everyone," said co-lead author Shan Liu, PhD, a postdoctoral fellow who presented the study at ASH. "We took an outside-the-box approach to improve CAR T cell therapy, by targeting T cells through diet rather than further genetic engineering."

Liu co-lead the study with Puneeth Guruprasad, PhD, who earned his PhD at Penn and is now a medical student in the Perelman School of Medicine. The lead authors worked under the mentorship of co-senior authors Marco Ruella, MD, an assistant professor of Hematology-Oncology, a researcher with the Center for Cellular Immunotherapies and the scientific director of Penn Medicine's Lymphoma Program; and Maayan Levy, PhD, an assistant professor of Microbiology. First, the research team tested the effect of several different diets, including



ketogenic, high-fiber, high-fat, high-protein, high cholesterol, and a control diet, on CAR T cell's tumor-fighting capabilities using a mouse model of diffuse-large B-cell lymphoma. They found improved tumor control and survival in the mice receiving a ketogenic diet compared to all other diets. In subsequent studies, they found higher levels of beta-hydroxybutyrate (BHB), a metabolite produced by the liver in response to a ketogenic diet, was a key mediator of this effect.

The research builds on previous work from Levy's team, which found that BHB strongly suppressed the growth of colorectal tumors in lab experiments.

"Our theory is that CAR T cells prefer BHB as a fuel source rather than standard sugars in our body, such as glucose," Guruprasad said. "So, increasing the levels of BHB in the body gives the CAR T cells more power to take out the cancer cells." Next, the research team tested a BHB supplement combined with CAR T cell therapy in laboratory models of human cancer (on a standard diet); the results showed complete obliteration of the cancer in the

vast majority of mice and resulted in higher CAR T cell expansion and activation. To see if BHB, which occurs naturally at various level in our bodies, had a similar effect in humans, the team assessed blood samples from patients who had recently received CAR T cell therapy and found that greater BHB levels were associated with better CAR T cell expansion in patients. They also looked at T cells of healthy volunteers who took a BHB supplement and found similar changes in how normal T cells generated energy after exposure to BHB. Past studies across several cancer types have looked at the impact of dietary interventions, such as a high-fiber diet, on the response to cancer immunotherapy, however the mechanism behind the BHB effect in this study appears to stem from metabolic changes in the blood, rather than via the gut microbiome, as in the case of a high-fiber diet.

The theory that BHB supplementation could improve response to CAR T cell therapy is being tested in a Phase I clinical trial at Penn Medicine's Abramson Cancer Center.

Semaglutide ingredient can help protect kidney function in people with obesity: Study

WASHINGTON [US] : Semaglutide, a glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonist, has been shown in the SELECT Trial to be effective in preventing the loss of kidney function in people who are overweight or obese and have established cardiovascular disease but do not have diabetes. The remarkable secondary analysis from the SELECT (Semaglutide Effects on Heart Disease and Stroke in Patients with Overweight or Obesity) experiment, a randomised trial with a participant pool of 17,604 people, was unveiled by researchers today at the 61st ERA Congress.

The study's findings, according to experts, give individuals who suffer from obesity hope since this illness is known to increase the risk of renal function decline and macroalbuminuria, or abnormally high levels of the albumin protein in urine.

With an average follow-up of approximately 3.5 years, among patients who were administered a

once-weekly subcutaneous injection of semaglutide 2.4 mg (n=8,803) adverse kidney-related events were experienced by 22% fewer persons (1.8%) compared to those receiving placebo (n=8,801) (2.2%) (p<0.05). These events included death from kidney causes, initiation of chronic kidney replacement therapy, significant (>= 50%) decline in kidney function, or onset of persistent macroalbuminuria. Semaglutide's ability to prevent the onset of macroalbuminuria was highlighted as a pivotal factor in reducing the likelihood of kidney-related complications.

The study also assessed the impact of semaglutide on estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), a measure of kidney function in removing waste and excess water from the blood through urine. The findings indicated a significantly lesser decline in eGFR among semaglutide recipients compared to the placebo group, with the effect

being more pronounced in participants with baseline eGFR below 60 ml/min/1.73 m² (p<0.001).

These results indicate the potential for semaglutide to particularly protect kidney function in individuals with a pre-existing kidney impairment. The reduction in urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR) further substantiated semaglutide's beneficial effect on kidney health, with a significant decrease observed in semaglutide-treated individuals compared to placebo (p<0.001). UACR analysis measures the ratio of albumin (a protein) to creatinine (a waste product) in urine, aiding the detection of albuminuria, which can signal kidney damage or dysfunction. With semaglutide, there was a net 8.1% decrease in UACR in those with normal albumin levels at baseline, a 27.2% decrease in those with microalbuminuria (slightly raised albumin) at baseline, and a 31.4% decrease in those with macroalbuminuria at baseline relative to placebo.

Importantly, the study found no increased risk of acute kidney injury associated with semaglutide treatment, irrespective of baseline kidney function.

Over one billion people worldwide are affected by obesity. Rates of obesity are rising significantly, having doubled among adult women (8.8% to 18.5%) and nearly tripled in adult men (4.8% to 14.0%) between 1990 and 2022. The total number of children affected by obesity in 2022 was nearly 160 million, compared to 31 million in 1990.

Professor Helen M. Colhoun, lead study author, commented, "By addressing key markers of kidney health, semaglutide 2.4 mg weekly may contribute to a significant reduction in the risk of kidney-related complications, including chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. This could lead to improved management.

into the molecular regulation of osteoclast differentiation. Receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa B ligand (RANKL) stimulation induces the differentiation of macrophages into osteoclasts. Further, bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) and transforming growth factor (TGF)-b signaling pathways have been implicated in the regulation.

of RANKL-mediated osteoclast differentiation. In the current study, the researchers sought to investigate the role of Ctdnep1 - a phosphatase (an enzyme that removes phosphate groups) that has been reported to suppress BMP and TGF-b signaling.

Giving further insight into their work set to be published on July 30, 2024, in Volume 719 of Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, Prof. Hayata states, "RANKL functions as an 'accelerator' for osteoclast cell differentiation. Driving a car requires not only the accelerator but also the brakes. Here, we find that Ctdnep1 functions as a 'brake' on osteoclast cell differentiation."

First, the researchers examined the expression of Ctdnep1 in mouse-derived macrophages treated with RANKL and untreated control cells. They noted that Ctdnep1 expression remained unchanged in response to RANKL stimulation. However, it localized in the cytoplasm in granular form in the macrophages and differentiated into osteoclasts, distinct from its normal peri-nuclear localization in other cell types, indicating its cytoplasmic function in osteoclast differentiation.

Further, Ctdnep1 knockdown (downregulation of gene expression) resulted in an increase in

tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive (TRAP) osteoclasts; wherein TRAP is a marker for differentiated osteoclasts. Additionally, Ctdnep1 knockdown led to an increase in the expression of crucial differentiation markers including 'Nfatc1', a RANKL-induced master transcription factor for osteoclast differentiation. These results support the 'brake function' of Ctdnep1, whereby, it negatively regulates osteoclast differentiation.

Moreover, Ctdnep1 knockdown also led to increased absorption of calcium phosphate, suggestive of the suppressive role of Ctdnep1 in bone resorption. Lastly, while, Ctdnep1 knockdown did not alter BMP and TGF-b signaling, cells deficient in Ctdnep1 showed elevated levels of phosphorylated (activated) proteins downstream of the RANKL signaling pathway. These findings suggest that the suppressive effect of Ctdnep1 in osteoclast differentiation may not be mediated by BMP and TGF-b signaling, but, through the negative regulation of RANKL signaling and Nfatc1 protein levels.

Overall, these findings provide novel insights into the process of osteoclast differentiation and reveal potential therapeutic targets which can be pursued to develop treatments that address bone loss due to excessive osteoclast activity. In addition to diseases characterized by bone loss, Ctdnep1 has also been reported as a causative factor in medulloblastoma - a childhood brain tumor. The authors are, therefore, optimistic that their research can be extended to other human diseases beyond bone metabolism.

With an ageing population and a rise in osteoporosis cases, the burden on healthcare resources for long-term care is clear. As a result, there is a need to understand the mechanisms that cause osteoporosis and develop effective targeted therapeutics to mitigate its long-term effects.

Osteoblasts and osteoclasts are two types of cells that play critical roles in bone tissue maintenance and remodelling. Osteoblasts are bone-forming cells that synthesise and deposit new bone tissue, whereas osteoclasts break down and remove old or damaged bone tissue. Increased proportion of osteoclasts causes bone mass loss in situations such as osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis (joint inflammation), and bone metastases (cancer that has spread to the bones). Osteoclasts develop from the development of macrophages or monocytes, two types of immune cells. Suppressing osteoclast differentiation could thus be used as a therapeutic technique to prevent bone loss. However, the precise molecular pathways driving the complicated process of bone remodelling are unknown.

In a new groundbreaking study, Professor Tadayoshi Hayata, Mr. Takuto Konno, and Ms. Hitomi Murachi from Tokyo University of Science, along with their co-workers, delved deeper

Researchers discover protein that help prevent cancer treatment-related heart damage

Washington [US] : Blocking the protein CDK7 could prevent heart damage caused by a routinely used cancer chemotherapy treatment, according to a study conducted by scientists at Washington State University. Importantly, the researchers discovered that blocking CDK7 could improve the medication's cancer-killing efficacy.

Based on an animal model, the study's findings potentially lay the groundwork for future treatment options to decrease chemotherapy-related heart damage and improve treatment efficacy. This has the potential to help people with cancer live longer lives. Heart damage caused by chemotherapy can manifest decades later and lead to heart attacks, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and other types of heart disease.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, the WSU study focused on doxorubicin, a chemotherapy drug used to treat breast cancer, lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers.

Capable of killing a wide range of cancer cells, doxorubicin and other similar chemotherapy medications are known to be toxic to the heart. Despite this toxicity, the drug still sees a lot of use.

"Doxorubicin remains the mainstay treatment for certain cancer types for which targeted therapies or other better treatments are not available," said senior study author Zhaokang Cheng, an associate professor in the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. Cheng has been working to unravel the underlying mechanisms of doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity to make the use of doxorubicin safer for patients who rely on the drug. This new study builds on findings from earlier research that showed that doxorubicin activates a protein known as CDK2. That protein then activates another known as FOXO1, which causes heart cells to die. Cheng's team



collaborated with WSU cancer biology researcher Boyang (Jason) Wu to take a closer look at CDK7, a protein that helps fuel cell growth and has been shown to play a role in the development of cancer.

The researchers found that CDK7 activated CDK2, which set off the chain of molecular signals that eventually led to heart cell death. They also showed that mice that lacked the CDK7 gene were protected from doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity. Next, they used a CDK7 inhibitor drug known as THZ1 to block the protein's activity and examine the impact on heart health and cancer growth. A similar inhibitor is currently being tested as an anti-cancer drug in clinical trials, but its effect on the heart is still not clear.

"We are the first to study the effect of THZ1 on the heart and tumour growth in the same

model," said study first author Jingrui Chen, a WSU research associate. "And what we found is that this CDK7 inhibitor drug can increase heart function and at the same time inhibit tumour growth."

Though more research is needed, the researchers said their findings suggest that combining doxorubicin and THZ1 could help prevent heart damage and increase the effectiveness of chemotherapy treatment.

The researchers' next step is to test the effect of THZ1 on heart damage and cancer growth in younger mice and follow them longer. This would more closely mimic long-term doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity seen in childhood cancer survivors. They also plan to look at other proteins that may somehow be involved in the signaling pathway that underlies doxorubicin-related heart damage.

Tuberculosis: Role Of Diagnosis In Timely Intervention

KOLKATA: This article highlights the pivotal role of various diagnostic measures when it comes to detecting Tuberculosis (TB). Timely detection is key for prompt intervention.

Tuberculosis, (TB) is a bacterial infection that takes a toll on the lungs. It is considered as top infectious killer. Millions of people with TB are unaware of their health status, suffer in silence, and lose their precious lives. The symptoms of TB are cough, constant cough with mucus or blood, fatigue, weight loss, fever, breathing problems, fever and chills. TB spreads through the air when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

The cause: Conditions like HIV/AIDS, diabetes, or certain medications can make you more susceptible. Smoking tends to damage the lungs and raise the chances of TB. If left untreated, TB can cause permanent scarring of lung tissue, leading to breathing difficulties. Apart from this, one can suffer from pleural effusion which means the fluid can accumulate

between the lungs and chest wall, causing chest pain and breathing problems. TB can infect the bones of the spine, leading to back pain and possible spinal cord compression. It is the need of the hour to diagnose TB without any further delay for prompt treatment and outcome.

The diagnosis: Early diagnosis of tuberculosis is a ray of hope for patients. It transforms a potentially devastating journey into a manageable path, saving lives and protecting communities from this fatal disease. Remember, every moment counts in the race against TB. Everyone is advised to consult an expert on experiencing symptoms such as cough and breathlessness. AFB smear, Gene Xpert test, TB DNA PCR, TB culture, and drug sensitivity are the other critical tests for TB diagnosis and initiate timely management. The Mantoux tuberculin skin test (TST) and the blood test, called the interferon-gamma release assay (IGRA), CT scan, x-ray, sputum, and lung fluid are some of the other measures.

Syrian president warns Israel against tampering with 1974 ceasefire agreement



MI News Service, Damascus: Syrian President Ahmad al-Sharaa warned Saturday that any attempt by Israel to alter the 1974 Disengagement Agreement or pursue alternative arrangements, including a proposed buffer zone, would turn the region into "a dangerous place with unknown consequences." Speaking during a dialogue session at the Doha Forum 2025, Sharaa said Israel is attempting to "export its crises to other countries" and avoid responsibility for the ongoing massacres in Gaza.

He accused Israel of justifying all actions under the pretext of security concerns, while Syria, since its liberation, has "sent positive messages aimed at strengthening regional stability." Sharaa said Syria insists that Israel must adhere strictly to the 1974 agreement governing the ceasefire line in the Golan Heights. He questioned the logic behind calls for a demilitarized buffer zone, saying such proposals fail to address who would secure the area if Syrian forces are excluded.

"There are many questions surrounding the demand for a demilitarized zone. Who will protect this area if the Syrian army is not present?" he said. "Any agreement must guarantee Syria's interests," he said. "Syria is the party exposed to Israeli attacks, so who is more entitled to demand withdrawal and security arrangements?" The Syrian leader revealed that there are negotiations with Israel with US participation, and that all countries support Damascus' demand for Tel Aviv to withdraw to the lines prior

to Dec. 8, 2024.

"Model for regional stability" Sharaa affirmed that Syria has regained many of its international relations after Bashar al-Assad's fall and has shifted from "a region exporting crises to a region that can be a model for regional stability." He pledged to continue working to convince the US to fully lift the Caesar Act sanctions. "President Trump's administration supports the path of lifting sanctions on Syria," and that economic recovery "will greatly help achieve stability," he said.

Regarding state-building efforts, Sharaa said Syria has transitioned to a system of governance unlike the previous one following the "success of the popular revolution." "Everyone is represented today in the government based on competence rather than quotas," he said, adding that the new governing system will be founded on a temporary constitutional declaration, to be followed by drafting a constitution and moving toward elections after four years.

"Syria is developing based on elections, and although we are not ready for them at this moment, we held the People's Assembly elections in a manner consistent with the transitional phase, and the principle that the people choose who governs them is fundamental." "After liberation, we held a comprehensive national dialogue conference from which a temporary constitutional declaration emerged," he said.

"This declaration granted the president authority to remain for five years, during which many laws will be issued and the constitution—which will be the fundamental reference for the governing system—will be drafted. After four years, we will certainly go to elections." The Syrian government has been stepping up efforts to stabilize security across the country since Assad's overthrow on Dec. 8, 2024, after more than two decades in power.

RSF massacre in South Kordofan: 116 killed, including 46 children at preschool



MI News Service, Kalogi, South Kordofan: In a horrific attack on Thursday, Sudan's Rapid Support Forces (RSF) struck a preschool and multiple civilian sites in Kalogi locality, South Kordofan state, killing at least 116 people, among them 46 children. Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) officials and the locality's executive director confirmed the details to Al Jazeera.

According to military sources, the RSF first bombed the kindergarten, then deliberately targeted civilians who

rushed to aid the wounded. The paramilitary also hit the local hospital and a government office. A communications blackout has blocked information flow, preventing timely medical care and suggesting the death toll will rise further.

UNICEF's Sudan representative, Sheldon Yett, condemned the killings: "Killing children in their school is a horrific violation of children's rights. Children should never pay the price of conflict." He urged all parties to halt attacks and grant immediate humanitarian access.

The assault fits a wider pattern of alleged RSF atrocities in Sudan's nearly three-year civil war, though the SAF has also been accused of serious abuses. South Kordofan has become a vital battleground after the RSF captured el-Fasher, Darfur's last major army-held city, last month.

Controlling the state—strategically located between RSF strongholds in Darfur and government areas in the north and east—could give the RSF a direct route to Khartoum or allow the army to protect its bases and counter-attack into Darfur.

The war has already killed tens of thousands, displaced over nine million people, and left roughly 30 million in need of aid.

On Thursday, UN human rights chief Volker Türk warned that South Kordofan risks mass atrocities similar to those seen in el-Fasher, stating: "It is truly shocking to see history repeating itself in Kordofan so soon." He called for urgent international action to prevent another large-scale massacre.

Iran backs SCO anti-terror cooperation: senior diplomat

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran supports the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's (SCO) counter-terrorism plans and cooperation efforts, a senior Iranian diplomat has said, Mehrdad Kiaei, director general for SCO and BRICS Affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, made the remarks during a meeting with Ularbek Sharshev, head of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS), on the sidelines of a joint anti-terror exercise, the ministry said in a statement on Saturday. Kiaei highlighted the central role of the SCO and RATS in Iran's foreign policy, calling RATS a "window into the region's future security architecture."

He said Iran's experience in combating terrorism enables its security and military institutions to play a "constructive and pivotal" role within the SCO's counter-terrorism framework. Sharshev praised Iran's hosting of the five-day drill, Sahand-2025, held in East Azarbaijan Province, and noted Iran's "active and influential" participation in RATS's activities. Sahand-2025 was the second joint counter-terrorism drill conducted by the SCO member states. The first, coded "Interaction-2024," was held in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region in July last year. The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and international security organization grouping China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India, Pakistan, Iran and Belarus.



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Israeli military kills 2 Palestinians at West Bank checkpoint

MI News Service, Jerusalem: The Israeli military said Saturday that its troops shot and killed two Palestinians in the southern West Bank city of Hebron after the pair drove a vehicle toward soldiers at a checkpoint. In a statement, the Israel Defense Forces said the soldiers opened fire after the vehicle accelerated toward them during an "operational activity." One soldier was slightly injured, according to the Israeli Kan public broadcaster, which said the troops were from the 202nd Battalion of the Paratroopers Brigade.

The Palestinian news agency Wafa offered a different account, reporting that Is-

raeli forces fired on a vehicle carrying Palestinian civilians in the Bab al-Zawiya area of central Hebron and then blocked Palestinian Red Crescent ambulances from reaching the scene. The West Bank has witnessed a sharp escalation of violence since Oct. 7, 2023, resulting in the deaths of around 1,000 Palestinians, hundreds of injuries, and the demolition of dozens of homes, according to Palestinian statistics.

Israel captured the West Bank and East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle East War. The settlements it has built there, and its military occupation, are considered illegal under international law.

Venezuelan, Turkish presidents discuss military deployment in Caribbean



MI News Service, Caracas: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, spoke by phone on Saturday about global geopolitics and the military deployment in the Caribbean.

During the phone conversation, the Turkish president "expressed deep concern over the threats recently facing Venezuela, particularly the military deployment and various actions intended to disrupt peace and security in the Caribbean," Venezuelan Foreign Minister Ivan Gil said in a statement. The two leaders exchanged views on global geopolitics and the latest international developments affecting stability and the future of humanity, said the statement. Maduro said the maneuvers in the Caribbean constitute an "illegal, disproportionate, unnecessary and even extravagant" act of aggression, adding that Venezuela will continue working for peace.

On bilateral cooperation, Maduro said Venezuela is willing to move forward with Ankara to reach the goal of 3 billion U.S. dollars in trade. According to the statement, the two sides also agreed on the importance of restoring direct air service between Caracas and Istanbul to facilitate travel for "thousands of tourists and investors."

In late November, Turkish Airlines suspended its operations to Venezuela following a warning issued by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, which urged "extreme caution" when flying over Venezuela and the southern Caribbean. Maduro also invited Erdogan to visit Venezuela in 2026 for the fifth Joint Cooperation Commission meeting.

BJP MP pushes Bill to drop 'secular' and 'socialist' from Constitution, calling their inclusion during Emergency 'undemocratic'

MI News Service, New Delhi: BJP Rajya Sabha MP Bhim Singh has introduced a private member's Bill in Parliament seeking to remove the words secular and socialist from the Preamble of the Indian Constitution. He argued that these terms, included through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment in 1976, were added under the Emergency without democratic debate and therefore should not remain. Singh told reporters that the original Constitution adopted in 1949 did not carry these terms and claimed their addition was "politically motivated." He said, "During the Emergency, most Opposition members including Atal Bihari Vajpayee, L.K. Advani, and George Fernandes were jailed, leaving no space for meaningful discussion in Parliament." He asserted that India's constitutional framework already embodies secularism, as Dr B.R. Ambedkar and the Constituent Assembly had clarified, and that no explicit label was required to ensure equal treatment of all religions.

Lost Bag Returned To A Metro Commuter

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : On 06.12.2025, at 11:00 hrs, an on-duty lady RPF staff posted at Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Metro station while conducting a routine patrolling recovered an unclaimed bag and deposited it to the Station Master's Office. After opening the bag, some valuable items were found therein.

Thereafter, the Station Master made repeated announcements requesting the owner of the bag to collect it from the Station Master's Office and a control message was also communicated to all the stations.

After sometime, a male commuter came to the Station Master's Office of Mahanayak Uttam Kumar Metro station and claimed the ownership of the recovered bag and the items containing therein. After proper verification and fulfilling all official formalities, the bag along with all other items were handed over to him.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to Metro Railway authorities for helping him to get back the lost bag along with all other items.

A voluntary blood donation camp

Nurul Islam Khan : On Sunday, a voluntary blood donation camp was organized by Shri Swapan Samaddar, President, North Kolkata District INTUC and MMIC of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, ahead of the upcoming 9th December Foundation Day of the Trinamool Trade Union. Health check-up camps, eye check-up camps and distribution of winter clothes among the working people were organized on this day. Some cultural programs were also held.



The program was auspiciously started by Shri Ritabrata Banerjee, State President and MP of the Trinamool Trade Union, by hoisting the Trinamool Trade Union flag and the Trinamool Congress flag.

MLA Ashok Deb, Smt. Supti Pandey, North Kolkata Youth President Shantiranjana Kundu, Municipal Representative Tarakanth Chatterjee, Tarun Saha, Papiya Ghosh, Sunanda Sarkar, Rita Chowdhury, Mitali Saha, Meenakshi Ganguly, Kakli Sen, Rajesh Sinha, Tinku Verma, Maya Maiti and various representatives

and dignitaries were present at the function. Winter clothes were distributed among about 500 working people in the meeting. About 250 people donated blood voluntarily and many people got health check-ups and eye tests. Presiding over the program, Shri Swapan Samaddar said, "On the foundation day of the Trinamool Trade Union Day on December 9th, a road show will be held in all the wards and units of North Kolkata to protest against the central government's anti-labor laws and deprivation of Bengal, and to highlight the social security projects and overall development of the Honorable Chief Minister of Bengal, Mamata Banerjee." Photo by Nurul Islam Khan.

Hamas says to give up weapons if occupation ends

MI News Service, Gaza: Head of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Khalil al-Hayya, said on Saturday that the group will give up its weapons "if the (Israeli) occupation ends." "Our weapon is linked to the presence of the occupation and aggression, and if the occupation ends, this weapon will be handed over to the state," he said during an interview with Al Jazeera. "Weapons are still under discussion with the factions and mediators, and the agreement is still in its early stages," he added. During the interview, al-Hayya also mentioned that "new areas will be entered on Sunday to search for some bodies of (Israeli) occupation prisoners."

French President Macron stresses cooperation, mutual understanding in speech at Chinese university

MI News Service, CHENGDU: French President Emmanuel Macron has stressed the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding in tackling contemporary challenges during a speech he delivered at a university in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province.

Macron has wrapped up his three-day state visit to China, during which he delivered a speech at the Chengdu-based Sichuan University on Friday.

Macron noted that humanity is experiencing a profound transition in habits, lifestyles, and landscapes. He emphasized the necessity of not only cooperating but also fostering mutual understanding, getting to know one another, and engaging in collective reflection to develop practical solutions for pressing issues like the climate crisis.

Humanity has the capacity to go beyond borders to develop the same agenda for peace, prosperity, and climate, with respect and a sense of responsibility, which allows humanity to move forward, Macron added.

In recent years, Sichuan Univer-



sity has established and deepened cooperative partnerships with a number of universities in France, including the Paris Institute of Political Studies, Paris Nanterre University, University of Toulouse, and National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilizations.

In 1981, Chengdu and the French city of Montpellier established a friendship city relationship, becoming

the first pair of sister cities between China and France.

Following his visit to the university, Macron met with French paddlers who were competing in the 2025 International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) Mixed Team World Cup in Chengdu on Friday afternoon. He played alongside the French players against the Chinese paddlers in a friendly match.

12 terrorists killed in exchange of fire in SW Pakistan



MI News Service, Islamabad: The Pakistan Army said on Sunday that 12 terrorists were killed during a security operation in the southwestern province of Balochistan.

The Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan army, said the security forces had conducted an intelligence-based operation in Kalat district of the province.

It added that the killed terrorists had been actively involved in multi-

ple terrorist attacks in the area, and that a large quantity of weapons, ammunition and explosives were recovered from the site.

Following the incident, a clearance operation was carried out to ensure no other terrorists remained in the vicinity, the ISPR said.

The military affirmed that security forces remain committed to thwarting the efforts of those who threaten peace in Pakistan.

1440 Berths To Be Generated By Running Special Train Between Kolkata & Kamakhya

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : To clear the extra rush of passengers, Railway has decided to run a special train between Kolkata and Kamakhya. 1440 nos of berth will be generated by running this special train.

05694 Kamakhya-Kolkata special will leave Kamakhya at 05:40 hrs on 08.12.2025 to reach Kolkata at 00:40 hrs on the next day.

05695 Kolkata - Kamakhya special will leave Kolkata at 02:30 hrs on 09.12.2025 to reach Kamakhya at 22:05 hrs on the same day. The train will stop at Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Azimganj and Malda Town stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute. The train will have sleeper class and Air-conditioned accommodation.

RPF/ER Rescues Five Vulnerable Children Under "Operation Nanhe Fariste"

MI News Service, Kolkata, 7 Dec.25 : Eastern Railway continues its unwavering commitment to child protection through its dedicated initiative "Operation Nanhe Fariste." This mission aims to safeguard vulnerable children found alone, lost, or in distress at railway stations and onboard trains, ensuring their timely rescue and rehabilitation in coordination with Child Help Line authorities.

On 06.12.2025, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of Howrah, Sealdah, and Asansol Divisions rescued five minor boys and girls from trains and station premises at Bolpur, Kolkata, Dumka, and Madhupur Railway Stations. All rescued children were safely handed over to the concerned Child Help Line for care, counselling, and further rehabilitation.

Among the rescued children, three had fled from their homes without informing their families, one minor boy had accidentally boarded the wrong train, and another minor boy was found wandering aimlessly on-board a train.

Colorful meeting at Maniktala Fateh Ali Huzoor's Darbar

Nurul Islam Khan : A social program was held at Maniktala Darbar Sharif for two days on Saturday and Sunday. This meeting of the prominent social reformer, the great Shaqsi Persian language poet Rasule Noma Hazrat Shah Fateh Ali Owaisi (RA) entered its 139th year. This social meeting is being held on his death anniversary.

On the first day, an exceptional blood donation camp was held inside the mosque. On one side, people offered prayers and on the other side, a voluntary blood donation camp was held where the Hindu community was more among the blood donors, including men and women.

The religiously devout scholar and social reformer Pir Fateh Ali Owaisi was a learned Persian poet. Pirzada Taha Siddiqui, Qutubuddin Tarafdar and many others appeared to encourage the blood donors. Pir Sahebra said, Hazrat Fateh Ali Owaisi Huzoor was a great example of communal harmony. That is why voluntary blood donation camps were held in holy places like the mosque of his court. He was a strong bridge for the Hindu-Islamic community. The Pir Dada Huzoor of Furfura Sharif was a famous Persian poet. He has made an outstanding contribution in the field of social reform. This highly educated scholar has enriched the society by writing many poetic books. He especially had immense respect and love for the beloved Prophet (PBUH). That latent love has been manifested in his powerful writings.

In this camp, poor meritorious students of the area were felicitated. Mosquito



nets were provided to the needy of the area and the eyes of many helpless people were checked. The 139th Isaale Sawab was held on Friday under the management of Haji Rahim Buksh Waqf State. The great Isaale Sawab was held on the last day. In this traditional prayer gathering, Pirzada Sanaullah Siddiqui, Qazi Jalal, Shamim Ahmed and other eminent Islamic speakers of the state delivered their speech. The message of peace and harmony was given.

The Pir of Furfura Sharif's Pir Dada Huzoor Ali Owaisi (RA) was the famous Persian poet and scholar. This Maniktala Darbar had a total of 14 bighas of land, much of which has now been occupied! Now a little land is intact, that too with the help of the kind-hearted people of the area. Extensive development activities and philanthropic work have been done, including shrines and mosques. On this holy and great day of Isaale-e-Sawab, various speakers protested against the unconstitutional Waqf Act brought by the central government. At the end, Pirzada Taha Siddiqui prayed for the welfare of the entire mankind. A medical camp provides health services to countless people. Poets Abdul Karim and Sheikh Taher Ali Rang provide services to people at the charity clinic every year.

Ashes: Nesar picks five as Australia beat England by 8 wickets in Gabba Test



BRISBANE : Powered by Michael Nesar's maiden five-wicket haul, Australia strengthened their hold on the Ashes by securing an eight-wicket victory over England in the second Test at the Gabba on Sunday.

On day four's play, England

briefly resisted with a 96-run partnership between captain Ben Stokes, who scored a fifty, and Will Jacks, who made 41. However, the lower order collapsed once Nesar, drafted ahead of Nathan Lyon, delivered the decisive blows to take 5-41, leaving Australia to

chase only 65 for victory. Australia's pursuit of the target was swift, with Steve Smith's unbeaten 23 off nine balls dashing any hopes of a late England comeback. The victory gave the hosts a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, with the third Test set to start in

Adelaide on December 17, followed by matches in Melbourne and Sydney. Resuming from 143/6, England demonstrated resistance through a defiant seventh-wicket partnership between Stokes and Jacks. However, their dismissals in consecutive overs, Smith taking a superb catch to dismiss Jacks, and Alex Carey brilliantly standing up to the stumps to dismiss Stokes, sparked a major collapse. With the rest of the batting line-up offering no resistance, England lost their last four wickets for just 17 runs and were bowled out for 241. Nesar, playing a Test match after nearly three years, was the standout for Australia by claiming his career-best figures at his home ground.

Travis Head and Jake Weatherald gave Australia a quick start by adding 37 runs for the opening wicket, before Gus Atkinson struck after the dinner break to dismiss Head. The England seamer then dismissed Marnus Labuschagne in his next over, but Smith ensured there were no further setbacks and finished the chase with a spectacular six over backward square leg.

Brief Scores: England 334 and 241 (Ben Stokes 50, Zak Crawley 44; Michael Nesar 5-42, Scott Boland 2-47) lost to Australia 511 and 69/2 (Steve Smith 23 not out; Gus Atkinson 2-37) by eight wickets

'Everyone in India excited to have Gill back', says Steyn ahead of T20I series

NEW DELHI : Former South Africa fast bowler Dale Steyn said the return of India vice-captain Shubman Gill for the upcoming T20I series, starting on December 9 in Cuttack, will lead to widespread excitement among Indian supporters.

Gill sustained a neck injury during the first Test against South Africa in Kolkata last month and underwent rehabilitation before being cleared by the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru. Following India's 2-1 ODI series win over South Africa on Saturday, head coach Gautam Gambhir confirmed Gill's readiness for the five-match T20I series.

"Sounds like he's back for India, so that makes every fan in India pretty excited to have him back," said Steyn in a video posted by Star Sports on their 'X' account in terms of three things to look forward to in the T20I series.

Apart from Gill, India are also boosted by the return of seam-bowling all-rounder Hardik Pandya after a quadriceps injury sustained during the Asia Cup in September had kept him out of action.

Steyn also expressed excitement over the return of South Africa batter David Miller, who will be back in action after suffering a grade one right hamstring strain which led him to miss the T20I series against Pakistan.

"He's back for South Africa. Big hitting David Miller, he hits the ball out of the ground. I'm excited

SHUBMAN GILL
 IN T20I IN 2025

10 MATCHES
 184 RUNS
 23 AVERAGE
 146.03 STRIKE RATE
 0/0 50s/100s
 @NewsLine Live

to watch him back," added Steyn.

Following the opening game in Cuttack, India and South Africa will play T20I matches in New Chandigarh (December 11), Dharamsala (December 14), Lucknow (December 17) and

Ahmedabad (December 19).

"Last time I watched South Africa play India in a T20 was in a World Cup final in Barbados. It's going to be a great thing to watch and very excited to be a part of it," concluded Steyn.



Yashasvi Jaiswal to join Mumbai's squad for SMAT: Report

NEW DELHI :After smashing a century in the final ODI against South Africa in Visakhapatnam, India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is reportedly set to join the Mumbai squad for the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT).

As per the Cricbuzz report, a senior Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) official has confirmed Jaiswal's availability for SMAT. "He has made himself available for the SMAT campaign," the official said on Sunday.

Defending champions Mumbai, captained by Shardul Thakur, are currently stationed in Lucknow and sit atop Elite Group A with five wins in six outings. Their final league clash is slated for December 8 against Odisha. From there, the top two teams in each of the four Elite Groups will progress to the Super League. The next stage will be played in Pune on December 12, 14, and 16, culminating in the championship final on December 18.

Jaiswal, who last featured in the 2023-24 quarter-final, skipped the previous edition owing to international duties. Across 28 appearances in the competition, the 23-year-old has accumulated 648 runs from 26 innings, averaging 27 with a strike rate of 136.42, and has three fifties to his name. The Indian national selection committee rested Jaiswal for the upcoming five-game T20I series against South Africa while naming a 15-member squad led by Suryakumar Yadav on December 3.

Rohit Sharma's availability for SMAT, however, remains uncertain. Despite reports hinting at his potential inclusion, the Mumbai Cricket Association has yet to receive confirmation. Team sources had earlier suggested that Rohit was likely to take part in the T20 competition, but as of Sunday morning, his participation was still unconfirmed.

Jaiswal's inclusion in Mumbai's squad will strengthen the team's chances as the youngster will be entering the tournament on the back of an unbeaten ODI century. He notched up a magnificent 116* in 121 deliveries to help India chase a 271-run target with ease and clinch the three-game series 2-1.

Aishwary Tomar wins silver in 3P on World Cup debut



DOHA : India's Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar won a silver medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions, completing a full set of medals at all possible world and continental championships at the ISSF World Cup Final debut here on Sunday. Jiri Privratsky of the Czech Republic, who shot 414.2 in the final contested in the new ISSF format of 40 shots, finished 0.9 points ahead of the Indian. Bronze went to Olympic champion Liu Yukun. On the particular day, two competitors failed to advance past the qualification stage: Sift Kaur Samra in the women's 3P and Manu Bhaker in the women's 25m pistol. Manu finished ninth in her qualification round with a score of 581, while Sift finished tenth in her relay with a score of 584. Aishwary, the current Asian champion, a previous junior world champion, and a double Olympian, also took home a silver medal at the World Championship last month. Aishwary finished second in qualification with a score of 595, trailing only China's Tian Jiaming, who set a world record with a score of 598. Three Chinese made it through the top eight, which also

included Hungarian star Istvan Peni and Norwegian athlete of the year Jon-Hermann Hegg. After taking ten shots in the first kneeling position over two series of five shots each, Aishwary finished fourth with a score of 102.8. Aishwary gained momentum throughout the next ten strokes of the second prone position, rising to second place on the leaderboard with impressive series of 52.9 and 52, respectively.

Fit India Sundays on Cycle celebrates India's CWG 2030 hosting rights, contribution of private security guards

VARANASI : The 52nd edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle took place across more than 10,000 locations nationwide, with the flagship event held in the culturally vibrant city of Varanasi. Focusing on India's landmark achievement of securing the hosting rights for the Commonwealth Games 2030, the morning featured a compelling mix of fitness, culture, and national pride. This edition of Fit India Sundays on Cycle featured private security guards as its special focus group, continuing the initiative's unique campaign of partnering with diverse professional communities across the country. In past editions, the movement has effectively involved lawyers, doctors, government staff, nutritionists, and various other groups, creating a genuinely inclusive, community-led fitness revolution. Spearheaded by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya, the movement approaches its first anniversary, scheduled for December 21 in Puducherry. "In just one year, the Fit India Sundays on Cycle initiative is being organised at more than 10,000 locations, connecting over 1 lakh people every week. From athletes and artists.

NEW DELHI : Indian cricketer Smriti Mandhana has called off her wedding with music composer and singer Palash Muchhal and issued an official statement on the matter on her social media handle, requesting "privacy and space to move on at her own pace".

"Over the past few weeks there has been plenty of speculation around my life and I feel it is important for me to speak out at this time. I am a very private person and I would like to keep it that way but I need to clarify that the wedding is called off," wrote Mandhana.

"I would like to close this matter here and implore all of you to do the same. I request you to please respect the privacy of both families at this time and allow us the space to process and move on at our own pace."

Mandhana further said her forever focus will be to continue "to play and win trophies for India".

"I believe there is a higher purpose driving us all and for me that has always been representing my country at the highest level. I hope to continue to play and win trophies for India for as long as possible and that is where my focus will forever be. Thank you for all your support. It's time to move forward," she added.

Mandhana and Muchhal's wedding had been tipped to be a significant occasion, particularly in the glow of India's recent Women's World Cup triumph. But the festivities came to an unexpected halt when Mandhana's father reportedly fell ill on the wedding day -- November 23, prompting a pause in the ceremonies.

In the aftermath, social media was flooded with unfounded claims and speculation, with Muchhal facing allegations of infidelity. His family, however, rejected the rumours, criticising those responsible for circulating what they described as baseless and defamatory stories about the music composer.

Mandhana and her Team India mates, who had attended the ceremony, have also removed all wedding-related photos from their social media and refrained from making any state-

'I would like to close this matter...': Smriti Mandhana calls off wedding with Palash Muchhal

