

Indranil Sen Announces schedules of Kolkata Christmas Festival

Indranil Sen, MOS (IC) for Tourism and Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Departments, and MOS for Information and Cultural Affairs Department, during a press conference on Tuesday announced the schedule and highlights of the upcoming Kolkata Christmas Festival 2025. He informed that the Kolkata Christmas Festival was first inaugurated in 2011 under the inspiration of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and has since become one of the city's most celebrated annual events. This year marks the 15th edition of the festival, which will be organised by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, and the Apeejay Surrendra Group.

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Morning India

Bengal Sports Minister Aroop Biswas resigns



MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday accepted the resignation of state Sports minister Aroop Biswas after he expressed his desire to step down from the post to ensure an "unbiased investigation" into the logistical failures at the Salt Lake Stadium during an event with Argentine football superstar Lionel Messi on Saturday. In a letter to the Chief minister this morning, Aroop Biswas expressed his desire to resign from the Sports ministry in the wake of a major controversy erupted and public backlash over the alleged mismanagement of the Lionel Messi event at the Salt Lake Stadium. Mamata Banerjee after considering all aspects of the controversy, accepted the resignation and temporarily taken over charge of the sports ministry pending the outcome of an inquiry she had ordered. In his resignation letter, which was posted on social media by TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh, Biswas, who is also the state Power and Youth Affairs minister, explicitly stated that he wanted to step down from the Sports ministry to allow a neutral and impartial investigation into the incident.

PM Modi salutes armed forces on 'Vijay Diwas' for their valour

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday lauded the valour of the Indian armed forces on Vijay Diwas — the day the Indian Army defeated Pakistan in the 1971 war for the Independence of Bangladesh. "On Vijay Diwas, we remember the brave soldiers whose courage and sacrifice ensured India had a historic victory in 1971. Their steadfast resolve and selfless service protected our nation and etched a moment of pride in our history," PM Modi said in a message from Amman in the midst of his two-day visit to Jordan on the first leg of his ongoing three nation tour. "This day stands as a salute to their valour and a reminder of their unmatched spirit. Their heroism continues to inspire generations of Indians," he said. Vijay Diwas is celebrated on December 16 every year to honour the

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Helicopters showered flowers during the Vijay Diwas celebrations, commemorating the 1971 India-Pakistan War that led to Bangladesh's independence, at the Eastern Command headquarters of Fort William in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Indo-Jordanian ties expanded across all key sectors : PM Modi

MI News Service, Amman : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday highlighted the substantive outcomes of his visit to Jordan, noting a "meaningful expansion" of cooperation between the two countries across sectors, including clean energy, water management, culture and digital innovation. PM Modi arrived in Jordan's capital Amman on Monday on a two-day visit at the invitation of King Abdullah II. Jordan is the first leg of the Prime Minister's four-day, three-nation tour, which will also take him to Ethiopia and Oman. India and Jordan on Monday inked MoUs in the fields of culture, renewable energy, water management, digital public infrastructure and twinning arrangement between Petra and Ellora, aimed at giving a major boost to bilateral ties and friendship. Lauding Jordan and King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein's strong stance on countering terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation, Prime Minister Modi said that



Prime Minister Narendra Modi sits with Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah al-Hashimi in a car during his visit to Amman, Jordan.

Amman and New Delhi share a common, clear stance against terrorism. "We share a common and clear stance against terrorism.

Under your leadership, Jordan has sent a strong and strategic message to all of humanity against terrorism, extremism, and radicalisation. Dur-

“ I express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation. You have shared very positive ideas for taking India-Jordan relations to new heights. I sincerely thank you for your friendship and your deep commitment to India

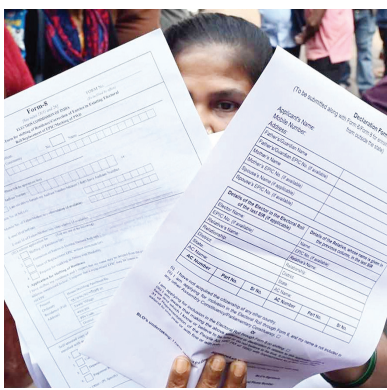
PM Narendra Modi

ing our restricted discussions, we discussed further enhancing cooperation on this matter," PM Modi said in his remarks during the delegation-level meeting with King

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Draft electoral rolls published in Bengal over 58 lakh names deleted under SIR

MI News Service, Kolkata : The Election Commission of India (ECI) published West Bengal's draft electoral rolls following SIR as per schedule on Tuesday, with officials indicating that the names of more than 58 lakh voters have been deleted on various grounds, including death, migration and non-submission of enumeration forms. After these deletions, the state's draft electoral rolls are expected to carry the names of 7,08,16,631 voters, 58,20,898 fewer than 7,66,37,529, which was the electorate before SIR, according to official data. With assembly elections likely to be held in the state early next year, the draft rolls, along with a detailed, booth-wise list of deleted voters and reasons for deletion,



have been made available on the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal website, the Election Commission's

voter portal and the ECINET application. But in a development likely to raise a political storm in poll-bound West Bengal, a total of 58 lakh names have been deleted from the state's draft voter list after the Special Intensive Revision to weed out duplication and errors. Of these 58 lakh names, 24 lakh have been marked as "dead", 19 lakh as "relocated", 12 lakh as "missing", and 1.3 lakh as "duplicate". The publication of the draft list marks the end of the first phase of the Special Intensive Revision. But whose names have been incorrectly excluded from the draft list can now raise objections and request corrections during the

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Union Minister moves to introduce VB-G RAM G Bill on rural employment in LS

MI News Service, New Delhi : In a major move, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday introduced in the Lok Sabha the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill, 2025, that seeks to replace the existing rural employment law MGNREGA. Opposition members strongly opposed the proposed legislation at the introduction stage and pressed for sending the bill to a parliamentary panel for greater scrutiny.

The MPs, including Priyanka Gandhi of the Congress, strongly objected to the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name as the government proposed the new rural employment law in place of MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005). According to a copy of the Bill, it will provide a statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to undertake unskilled manual work. Within six months from the date of commencement of the VB-G RAM G Act, states will have to make a scheme consistent with the provisions of the new law. In a statement, the Rural Development Ministry said the proposed legislation will establish a modern statutory framework aligned with the

Thai authorities deport Goa Nightclub owners Luthra brothers to India

MI News Service, Bangkok / Panaji / New Delhi : A week after their detention in the popular tourist resort of Phuket, Thailand authorities on Tuesday deported Gaurav Luthra and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of the Goa nightclub, to India. The deportation comes amid an ongoing probe into the deadly blaze in the Panaji nightclub which claimed at least 25 lives on December 6, triggering widespread outrage and led to scrutiny over alleged safety violations and lapses by the nightclub management.

The Luthras, co-owners of 'Birch by Romeo Lane' nightclub located in Arpora in North Goa, left for Phuket in Thailand, within hours after the fire incident. An Interpol Blue Corner Notice was issued against them. The two brothers were detained by Thai authorities in Phuket on December 11 following the intervention of the Indian mission, which was in close touch with the Thai government in the case. Several videos circulating online showed the Luthra brothers at Bangkok airport today ahead of their departure to India. They were handed over to the local authorities on arrival for further legal proceedings in the case. Five managers and staff members have al-



Gaurav Luthra and Saurabh Luthra, co-owners of Goa's Birch by Romeo Lane nightclub where a massive fire killed 25 people, upon their arrival in New Delhi. The brothers were deported from Thailand on Tuesday and taken into custody by Delhi and Goa police as soon as they landed in Delhi.

ready been arrested by the Goa Police in connection with the fire.

The brothers were brought back on an IndiGo flight (6E1064). Upon landing in Delhi, the two were produced before the Patiala House Court, with officials

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What were we really trying to achieve, "Uneasy"? Bindra asks on Messi's India Tour

MI News Service, New Delhi : Olympic gold-medalist former Indian shooter and a sporting icon Abhinav Bindra on Tuesday criticised the manner in which Argentine football great Lionel Messi's tour of India has unfolded, saying he feels a "quiet sadness" seeing millions being spent for "moments of proximity photographs and fleeting access" to the legend. Messi's three-day, four-city G.O.A.T Tour has expectedly triggered fan frenzy everywhere he has travelled. It has also caused chaos as politicians, film celebrities, industrialists and officials have jostled to click pictures with him.

In Kolkata this triggered a violent reaction from the general public, which failed to get even a



clear glimpse of him despite spending thousands for tickets. Bindra struck a reflective chord as the nation remained gripped by 'Messi mania'. The Argentine

football legend was on a four day tour to India which was concluded on Monday, with the final leg in New Delhi, where he attended a football clinic at the Arun Jaitley

✕ Great sporting nations are not built by moments, they are built by systems. By patience. By belief in the ordinary child with an extraordinary dream

sporting icon Abhinav Bindra

Stadium. While Bindra did not criticise Lionel Messi, he raised a hard-hitting question on whether India is truly investing in a sporting culture or merely celebrating global stars from afar. Messi's visit, which began last Saturday with a forget

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BLO Chief axed from group over CEO message share

MI News Service, Purulia: In a stark escalation of friction between Bengal's BLO and district election machinery, Sonali Banerjee, prominent leader of the BLO Odhika Manch and BLO for booth 196 in the Purulia Assembly constituency, has been unceremoniously removed from the official BLO WhatsApp group. The move, allegedly without notice or explanation, has ignited accusations of retaliation against accusation of the group's vocal protests for BLO right.

The purge followed Sonali Banerjee's sharing of a message from additional Chief Election officer Dibyendu Das in the group chat. The post pertained to demands raised during a high-profile BLO Odhika Manch sit-in outside the State Chief Electoral officer's office last Friday, where Sonali Banerjee emerged as a key face of the delegation. On Monday, she was abruptly excised, prompting frantic calls to the ERO and Sadar Sub-divisional Magistrate-calls initially ignored, then

dismissed with a vague claim of "rule violation." Sonali Banerjee unleashed a blistering critique: "The Election Commission instills hope, yet district officials unleash relentless pressure. BLOs here live in fear, facing harassment at every turn nerves- hardly a rule-breaker. Is this punishment for daring to protest?" She warned of deeper rot, citing BLO suicides linked to mounting distress and officials' contradictory directives, such as abrupt "no action required" reversals on app verifications that saddle BLO with sole blame. "This reeks of deliberate targeting," Sonali Banerjee charge, vowing to escalate to the Election Commission. "District bosses preach one line the CEO's office, then crush us with another. If agitation for BLO welfare invites expulsion, what fate awaits us next?" Contacted for response, the Purulia Assembly constituency ERO refused comment, leaving the allegation to fester amid broader BLO unrest in West Bengal.

RG Kar victim's parents' bombshell: Claim DNA of one woman and six men found

MI News Service, Kolkata: Justice for Tilottama remains a hollow echo in the corridors of RG Kar Medical College, where her parents unleashed a torrent of rage Monday, threatening to seize the law themselves. Dismissing the conviction of lone accused Sanjay Roy as a sham, they dropped a bombshell: DNA traces of a woman and six men litter the evidence, demanding the CBI unearth a sprawling conspiracy.

At a Barasat event in North 24 Parganas, Tilottama's father eviscerated the probe: "Many hands stained this crime—the DNA report screams it. A woman's traces, six men's shadows. We know their faces; the CBI must hunt them." He skewered investigators for dodging Seal-dah court queries, ignoring High Court directives, and admitting no "specific investigation" into accomplices.

"Seven months dragging in division bench limbo—when hearings ignite, answers will burn." Tilottama's mother, Praudha, painted a nightmare of institutional rot: "My girl uncovered corruption, burned midnight oil till 4 a.m. How did she 'sleep on duty'? Arrest those on shift that night. A killer stormed in like a taxman, slaughtered her, vanished—unseen? Impossible." Her voice cracked with vengeance: "Blood, not tears, oozed from her eyes. We'll rip justice from their grip—even if it means our hands wield the blade." The CBI, silent amid the storm, confronts a verdict their own filings call incomplete. As Tilottama's parents stare down a justice system they deem complicit, their ultimatum hangs heavy: investigate the full horror, or face the consequences of despair turned deadly.



Members of Jago Nari Jago Banhishikha organized a protest rally demanding justice for Abhaya and protesting against violence against women, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

BJP leader's switch rumors heat up Nandigram hot seat battle

MI News Service, Nandigram: Nandigram is once again at the centre of West Bengal's political imagination as the countdown to the 2026 Assembly elections begins. The constituency that witnessed intense political upheaval in 2021—when Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was defeated by Suvendu Adhikari amid power cuts, recants and heightened tension—has returned to the spotlight. This time, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is believed to be exploring a bold and strategic recalibration.

Political chatter suggests that TMC may consider fielding a prominent BJP leader from the Nandigram II block, a BJP organisational district office-bearer with deep local influence and long-standing roots in Trinamool politics. The leader reportedly switched allegiance to the BJP ahead of the 2021 polls, following Adhikari's exit from TMC. Now, amid visible fatigue within the saffron ranks and internal organisational strains, speculation is rife that old political equations may be shifting once again. Tea stalls, local clubs and party circles are abuzz

with talk of discreet meetings involving key TMC poll strategists, including those associated with the party's election planning apparatus. The idea being discussed, according to political observers, is to position a familiar local face against Adhikari himself—an approach that could consolidate anti-BJP sentiment while appealing to voters with shared political histories. Fuel was added to the speculation after Adhikari reportedly made a low-key visit to the leader's residence in Haripur without security cover, a move that triggered fresh rumours of unease within BJP ranks. BJP leaders, however, have dismissed such talk, insisting that there is no internal discord. TMC leaders, on the other hand, have hinted that several BJP functionaries remain in touch with the ruling party. As both camps officially maintain silence, Nandigram simmers with anticipation. Whether this evolving political narrative reshapes the battlefield or merely heightens the drama remains to be seen—but the constituency is clearly poised for another high-stakes contest.

Cylinder installation mishap triggers fireball in Dumdum residence

MI News Service, Dumdum: A devastating accident triggered by a suspected cooking gas leak left a mother and her son critically injured in the Nabpalli area of Dumdum on Tuesday morning, sending shockwaves through the locality. The incident occurred at a residence in Ward No. 3 of Dumdum Municipality, where 47-year-old Saraswati Sardar lived with her husband and two children. According to preliminary accounts, Saraswati was attempting to light the kitchen stove as part of her routine morning chores when the gas failed to ignite. She then called her elder son, Kushar Sardar, to assist in replacing or installing a new LPG cylinder.



(L to R) Advocate Sidhant Ghosh, Founder of the Rescue and Relief Foundation (RRF); Arati Kakatkar, Vice President, Procam International; Sarah Tabish, youngest fundraiser; Urmi Basu, Founder and Executive Director of New Light; Vivek Singh, Joint Managing Director, Procam International; Vikas Kumar, beneficiary of Rescue and Relief; Sharmistha Ghosh, Head of Corporate Communications and CSR at Gainwell Commosales Pvt Ltd; Jhelum Sarkar, fundraiser and cancer survivor; and Debashish Ray Choudhary, CEO of Impact 360, were present during the Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata 2025 Philanthropy Meet & Greet.

School management committee chairman arrested for molesting a minor student

MI News Service, Kharagpur: The chairman of the school management committee Amal das was arrested by the police for molesting a minor student inside the school in Manikpada area of Jhargram district. Anger was seen among the local people after the incident.

A protest was held in front of the school. According to police and local sources, a minor student of a school in Manikpada area became the victim of this torture.

In the written complaint, the student has said that the chairman of the management committee of the school called her to an old mud room of the school on the pretext of work.

It is alleged that he misbehaved with the student in that room.

It is alleged that on the call



Chairman of the school management committee Amal das was arrested by the police for molesting a minor student inside the school in Manikpada area of Jhargram district

of the Chairman of the Management Committee, a friend of the student had also gone to an old room of the school. But the student who accom-

panied her was asked to leave from there. After this, finding the girl alone, she was molested. She was also threatened not to

tell anyone about the incident. After returning home, the student told everything to her parents. The parents informed the school principal about the incident.

The headmaster also assured to investigate the matter. However, ultimately the family took refuge in the administration.

Written complaint lodged in the police station. A written complaint was lodged in the police station. The police arrested that person in the night itself.

A case has been registered under POCSO Act and the arrested person was produced in Jhargram court. Here, on this day AVBP and SFI protested in front of the school. A demand has been made to remove the school headmaster. The police is investigating the matter.

Shantipur Handloom Cluster Launched in Nadia

MI News Service, Shantipur: A major boost to the traditional handloom sector of Nadia district was announced with the inauguration of the Haripur Sribiddhi Handloom Cluster Development Project at Haripur under Shantipur block. The project has been initiated under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with financial support from the West Bengal government's Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Textiles.

The handloom cluster will directly benefit 509 weavers, including 234 male and 275 female artisans, officials said. The initiative aims to organise production and marketing of the world-famous Shantipur handloom sarees, ensuring fair pricing, reducing dependency on middlemen and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

ties for the weaving community. As part of the modernisation drive, 90 weavers have received new handlooms,



509 Weavers to Benefit

while another 90 artisans were provided yarn-winding charkhas. Additionally, 90 jacquard machines and 90 sets of jacquard accessories have been distributed to improve design capacity and produc-

tivity. The cluster has also been equipped with an automatic yarn winding machine to streamline operations.

The inauguration programme was attended by Shantipur MLA Brajakishore Goswami, senior officials from the MSME and Textiles department, local panchayat representatives and members of the weaving community. Weavers expressed gratitude to the Shantipur Handloom Development Officer for his key role in implementing the project and voiced optimism that the cluster would help restore the region's handloom heritage.

loom industry, despite its global reputation, has been facing severe challenges due to competition from cheaper powerloom fabrics, rising raw material costs and shrinking profit margins. Industry stakeholders believe the new cluster could play a crucial role in reviving the sector and retaining artisans in the profession.

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The Borough 7 office of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation has been relocated to the Shubhanandan Community Hall in Ward No. 63. The building was recently inaugurated by Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim, in the presence of South Kolkata MP and Corporation Chairperson Mala Roy, and local ward councillor and Borough 7 Chairperson Susmita Bhattacharya. The ground and first floors of the Shubhanandan Community Hall will serve as a community hall, while the second floor will accommodate the offices of Borough 7 officials and Chairperson Susmita Bhattacharya.

Two youths killed in motorcycle crash in Nadia

MI News Service, Krishnaganj: Two youths lost their lives in a tragic motorcycle accident in the early on Tuesday at Bhajan Ghat under Krishnaganj police station in Nadia district.

According to local sources, the incident occurred around 1 am when two friends were returning home on a motorcycle after attending the Lalon Mela at Bhimpur. Both were riding the same bike. Owing to excessive speed, the rider

lost control of the motorcycle, which rammmed into a roadside pillar and then hit a tree.

One of the youths died on the spot, while the other was rushed to Krishnaganj Rural Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police sources said that one of the deceased was a resident of Bhajan Ghat in Krishnaganj, while the other hailed from Mayurhat in Hanskhali. The bodies were taken to Krishnaganj police

station morgue and later sent to Shaktinagar District Hospital for post-mortem examination. The exact cause of death will be ascertained after the post-mortem report is received, police added.

The incident has plunged both families into deep grief.

Notably, incidents of road accidents have been on the rise in the district. Police and administrative sources pointed out that accidents are more frequent during winter nights

and early mornings due to foggy conditions, which severely reduce visibility. Over speeding under such conditions often leads to loss of control, resulting in fatal mishaps.

In this case too, the biker reportedly lost control before crashing into the pillar and tree. Officials said that several people have died in motorcycle accidents across the district in the past one month alone, raising serious concerns over road safety.

Voter list shock: Living TMC councillor marked 'deceased' Dankuni

MI News Service, Hooghly: In a startling and politically charged incident that has intensified the controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, a sitting Trinamool Congress councillor from Dankuni was officially listed as "deceased" in the newly published draft voter list—despite being very much alive.

Surya Dey, Trinamool Congress councillor of Ward No. 18 under Dankuni Municipality and a long-time resident of the area within the Chanditala Assembly constituency, found his name marked in the category of deceased voters when the draft electoral roll was released on Tuesday morning. According to the records, his name appeared at serial number 40 of Booth No. 226. Visibly angered and humiliated by what he termed a "grave administrative blunder," the councillor chose an extraordinary form of protest. Without prior announcement, Surya Dey reportedly made arrangements for his own "last rites" and proceeded to a local crematorium, carrying materials symbolically associated with funeral rituals. His pres-

ence there sparked immediate public attention and caused a stir across Dankuni. Speaking from the crematorium, Councillor Surya Dey launched a scathing attack on the Election Commission. "I have walked here myself for my own funeral," he said. "I am a living person, an elected public representative, yet I have been officially declared dead in the voter list. I strongly condemn this. I appeal to the Election Commission officials—if I am truly dead in your records, then come and burn me in the furnace." The incident has triggered sharp reactions in political and administrative circles, raising serious questions about the accuracy, verification process, and accountability involved in the ongoing SIR exercise. Critics argue that errors of this magnitude not only undermine public confidence in electoral institutions but also risk disenfranchising legitimate voters. As the controversy escalates, all eyes are now on the Election Commission's response—both in terms of immediate rectification and in addressing broader concerns over alleged irregularities in the voter list revision process.

SIR under scanner: Former panchayat Pradhan's name not dropped in Malda

MI News Service, Malda: The publication of the draft voter list under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) has reignited a major political and administrative controversy in Malda, with the name of former Trinamool Congress Panchayat Pradhan Lovely Khatun appearing in the list despite long-standing allegations questioning her citizenship status.

Lovely Khatun, formerly the Panchayat Pradhan of Rasidabad in Harishchandrapur block, Malda, had earlier been forced to relinquish her post following allegations that she had entered India illegally from Bangladesh and subsequently altered her identity. Her inclusion in the draft voter list has now raised serious questions over the verification process adopted during the SIR exercise. According to allegations on record, Lovely Khatun's original name is Nasiba Sheikh. It is claimed that she entered India without valid travel documents, later changing her name and identity. Her voter identity card was issued in 2015, while her birth certificate was reportedly issued in 2018. Discrepancies have also been alleged in her father's name—official documents list it as Sheikh Mustafa, while claims suggest her real father's name is Jamil Biswas. These inconsistencies had previously led to legal proceedings, including a case in the Calcutta High Court, and ultimately to her removal from the post of Panchayat Pradhan. With the commencement of SIR, speculation mounted over whether Lovely Khatun would be able to submit the enumeration form. Allegations surfaced that the form was submitted by exerting pressure on the Booth Level Officer (BLO). However, following the release of the draft voter list on Tuesday, it was confirmed that her name had not been omitted. This has become particularly contentious in Malda district, where more

than two lakh names have reportedly been removed from the draft list. In English Bazar alone, around 24,000 names were excluded, while several names were also deleted from Old Malda municipal areas. In some localities, entire families have allegedly vanished from the voter rolls, prompting complaints that genuine voters may have been wrongly excluded. Against this backdrop, questions are being raised over why Lovely Khatun's name remains in the draft list despite the existence of multiple allegations and documentary disputes regarding her nationality. Responding to the controversy, Mujibur Rahman, the BLO of the concerned booth, stated that his role was limited to collecting forms. "Her form was submitted. From my booth, 34 names have been omitted. Lovely Khatun's name was not among them. I was not instructed to verify documents. I only accepted the forms as filled and submitted them. I have done the same for everyone," Rahman said, adding that the authorities would take the final call. Election Commission officials have clarified that inclusion in the draft voter list does not guarantee a place in the final roll. If discrepancies are found, objections can be raised, and the individual concerned may be summoned for a hearing. During such hearings, all supporting documents are examined. If the documents fail scrutiny, the name can be excluded from the final voter list. Officials reiterated that just as names omitted from the draft list can be reinstated upon verification, names included can also be deleted if found ineligible. As the SIR process moves towards its next phase, all eyes are now on how the Election Commission handles the case of Lovely Khatun—an outcome that is likely to have significant political and administrative ramifications in Malda and beyond.

Liquor shop looted, premium bottle vanished

MI News Service, Hooghly: In a brazen late-night heist that has left both residents and the police stunned, a liquor shop in the Dadpur area of Hooghly district was looted by unidentified miscreants, who made away not only with cash but also with bottles of premium liquor brands.

The incident occurred at a licensed liquor outlet in Harite village under Dadpur police station, within the Pobra-Dadpur block, on a winter night. According to preliminary information, the thieves broke into the shop after closing hours and first targeted the cash stored inside. However, upon discovering shelves stocked with expensive liquor, they proceeded to loot several high-value bottles before fleeing the scene. In a calculated attempt to erase

evidence, the miscreants reportedly disabled the shop's surveillance system. They cut the CCTV camera cables and removed the DVR hard disk, ensuring that no visual footage of the crime remained. The theft came to light the following morning when the shop owner opened the premises and found the store ransacked. The incident has triggered panic in the locality and has also drawn attention for the audacity of the crime, with locals expressing both shock and disbelief at the manner in which the theft was carried out. Police from Dadpur police station reached the spot shortly after being informed and have launched an investigation. A case has been registered, and efforts are underway to identify the culprits through technical surveillance and local intelligence inputs.

State Acts Against Senior Officials After Yuva Bharati Vandalism, SIT Formed

MI News Service, Kolkata: Based on the preliminary investigation report into the large-scale vandalism at Yuva Bharati Krirangan, the West Bengal government has taken a series of disciplinary actions against several senior officials. The first major step includes issuing a show-cause notice to State Director General of Police (DGP) Rajeev Kumar. Show-cause notices have also been served to Bidhannagar Police Commissioner Mukesh Kumar and Secretary of the Youth Welfare and Sports Department, Rajesh Kumar Sinha. Bidhannagar Deputy Commissioner Anish Sarkar has been suspended, while the Chief Executive Officer of Yuva Bharati Krirangan, Devkumar Nandan, has been dismissed from service. Acting on the recommendations of the inquiry committee, the state has also formed a Special Investigation Team (SIT). Yuva Bharati Krirangan turned into a virtual battlefield during the visit of Argentine football legend Lionel Messi. Soon after Messi left the field, chaos erupted as bottles were hurled from the galleries and banners were torn down. Angry spectators broke barricades, stormed onto the turf, and indulged in widespread vandalism, causing significant damage to the stadium property. Following the incident, Messi left Kolkata immediately.

Union Minister moves to introduce VB-G RAM & Bill on rural employment in LS

From PG 1 goal of 'Viksit Bharat 2047'. It said the Bill aims to create both employment and durable rural infrastructure through four priority verticals -- water security through water-related works, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and special works to mitigate extreme weather events. All assets created are aggregated into the Viksit Bharat National Rural Infrastructure Stack, ensuring a unified, coordinated national development strategy, the statement said. The ministry termed it a "major upgrade" over MGNREGA, fixing structural weaknesses while enhancing employment, transparency, planning, and accountability.

Mamata issues new directives for Gan-gasagar Mela in January

From PG 1 friendly and plastic-free event, with free biodegradable bags provided for puja items. Several state ministers will also be deployed to the fair ground from January 12 for on-ground monitoring and coordination of the entire event in a hassle free manner, the Chief minister said adding that the ministers are Becharam Manna,Pulak Roy, Firhad Hakim, Shehais Chakraborty, Manas Bhunia ,Sujit Bose and Aroop Biswas.



West Bengal Governor Dr C. V. Ananda Bose attended a programme organised on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, commemorating the 1971 India-Pakistan War that led to Bangladesh's victory over Pakistan and its emergence as an independent nation, at the Eastern Command Headquarters, Fort William, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Indranil Sen Announces Schedules of Kolkata Christmas Festival

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indranil Sen, MOS (IC) for Tourism and Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Departments, and MOS for Information and Cultural Affairs Department, during a press conference Tuesday announced the schedule and highlights of the upcoming Kolkata Christmas Festival 2025. He informed that the Kolkata Christmas Festival was first inaugurated in 2011 under the inspiration of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and has since become one of the city's most celebrated annual events. This year marks the 15th edition of the festival, which will be organised by the Tourism Department in collaboration with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata Police, the Information and Cultural Affairs Department, and the Apeejay Surrendra Group. The Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will inaugurate the festival on December 18, 2025, at 4:30 pm at Allen Park on Park Street. The festival will continue until De-



Indranil Sen, MOS (IC) for Tourism and Technical Education, Training and Skill Development Departments, and MOS for Information and Cultural Affairs Department, held a press conference regarding the announcement of the Kolkata Christmas Festival 2025, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

cember 30, 2025. To mark the festive spirit, the entire stretch of Park Street, Allen Park, St. Paul's Cathedral Church, and surrounding areas will be illuminated from December 18, 2025, to January 5, 2026.

State Targets 20% Renewable Energy by 2030: Ghulam Rabbani



(L-R): Shibashis Khan, Member – CII Energy Subcommittee (ER) and Sr Director - Digital Industries (Metals, Mining & Cement), Siemens Limited, Gyanesh Chaudhary, Chairman – CII ESG Subcommittee (ER) and Chairman & Managing Director, Vikram Solar Limited, Vineet Sikka, Chairman – CII Energy Subcommittee (ER) and Managing Director (Distribution), CESC Limited, Md. Ghulam Rabbani, Minister-in-charge, Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal, Barun Kumar Ray, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal, Dr Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata, Raghav Kanoria, Co-Chairman – CII Energy Subcommittee (ER) and Managing Director, India Power Corporation Limited, Debojyoti Banerjee, Deputy Director, CII during the 15th edition of Energy Conclave 2025, organised by the CII, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal aims to meet 20 per cent of its total energy requirements through renewable sources by 2030, State Energy Minister Md. Ghulam Rabbani said at the 15th edition of the Energy Conclave 2025 organised by CII Eastern

Region in Kolkata on Tuesday. He stated that the government is focusing on integrated renewable models combining solar power with biomass and hybrid systems to accelerate the transition to clean energy. The Minister noted that renewable sources already account for 25.12 per cent of the state's total energy potential and efforts are underway to make clean energy affordable for agricultural, residential, and commercial consumers. Additional Chief Secretary Barun Kumar Ray said electricity demand in West Bengal is projected to grow by 5 per cent annually in the utility sector and 19 per cent in the captive segment over the next two to three decades. Under the Renewable Purchase Obligation framework, renewable procurement will rise to 50 per cent by 2030, translating to targets of 15 GW by 2026 and 25 GW by 2032 for the state.

BLOs Protest in Kolkata Over Omitted Names in Draft Voter List

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tensions escalated in Kolkata on Tuesday following the release of the draft voter list, with members of the 'BLO Rights Protection Committee' staging protests outside the office of the State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO). The demonstrators raised concerns over the omission of valid voters' names, demanding explanations from the electoral authorities. They even sought a meeting with the CEO, but the Commission reportedly had not yet scheduled any time for such discussions. The protest intensified when the BLOs sat on the road, prompting deployment of a large police contingent to maintain order. The Election Commission released the draft voter list on Tuesday morning as scheduled. The list includes names of voters who submitted enumeration forms, as well as some who did not, organised booth-wise.

Thai authorities deport Goa Nightclub owners Luthra brothers to India

From PG 1 seeking their transit remand. The Luthra brothers, against whom a case of culpable homicide and negligence is registered, had fled to Thailand's Phuket hours after the tragedy on an IndiGo flight. They were allegedly attending a wedding in Delhi at the time of the incident. As soon as they got information about the fire and the potential scale of damage, Saurabh and Gaurav called their office in Delhi's Model Town and asked their staff to book flight tickets. They then rushed to their home, picked up documents and fled. But after a few days the two were detained in Phuket on December 9 as they stepped out of their hotel for a meal. Soon afterwards the Thai authorities verified their identities and travel details, following which efforts were made to deport the Luthra brothers to India. A musical night at the Goa nightclub turned deadly on December 6 night, with videos showing huge flames and smoke at the scene. Another video shows a dancer grooving to the beats of the Sholay chartbuster 'Mehbooba Mehbooba' when the first flames appear on the ceiling. Preliminary investigation into the tragedy has revealed that the violation of safety norms turned the nightclub into a tinderbox.

PM Modi salutes armed forces on 'Vijay Diwas' for their valour

From PG 1 soldiers who fought in the 1971 Indo-Pak war, which culminated in the surrender of Pakistan's Army in Dhaka and ending the Bangladesh war of Independence. Around 93,000 Pakistani soldiers, led by General A A Khan Niazi, laid down their arms in what was one of the largest surrenders seen since World War II.

What were we really trying to achieve, "Uneasy"? Bindra asks on Messi's India Tour

From PG 1 table Kolkata leg before smoother outings in Hyderabad and Mumbai, has drawn massive crowds, VIP-only meet-and-greet events and unprecedented media attention. As the tour showcased India's enthusiasm for global sporting icons, with politicians and Bollywood celebrities often taking centre stage, Bindra, an Olympic gold medalist, used the moment to flag a deeper and more uncomfortable question about the nation's sporting priorities. In a lengthy post on X, Bindra expressed "respect and admiration" for Messi and clarified that his remarks were not a critique of the Argentine. He described Messi as a rare athlete whose journey transcends sport and acknowledged that he understands the economics of modern sports, global branding, and the allure of elite icons. However, the scale of the 'Messi mania' prompted Bindra to urge India to look inward. He voiced concern over the resources spent on the four-city tour at a time when grassroots infrastructure, from playgrounds and coaching to talent development pathways, continues to struggle for attention and

funding. "Lionel Messi is one of those rare athletes whose story transcends sport. His journey from a child fighting physical odds to a footballer who redefined excellence has moved millions across the world. As someone who has lived the life of an athlete, I hold profound respect and admiration for what he represents: perseverance, humility and an uncompromising pursuit of greatness. Yet as his recent visit to India unfolded parts of it felt chaotic and left me quietly uneasy. It compelled me to pause and reflect not in judgment but in genuine concern about what we were really trying to achieve. I fully understand the economics of sport. I understand commercial realities, global branding and the magnetism of icons. I do not fault Messi in any way. He has earned every opportunity that comes his way and admiration for greatness is natural even beautiful. But admiration must also invite introspection. As a society are we building a culture of sport or are we simply celebrating individuals from afar. Millions (of rupees) were spent for moments of proximity photographs and fleeting access to a legend.

Indo-Jordanian ties expanded across all key sectors : PM Modi

From PG 1 Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein. PM Modi praised King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein's efforts to promote moderation, recalling his first meeting with the leader 10 years ago. "I recall that our first meeting also took place on the sidelines of the UN in 2015, at an event focused on countering violent extremism. Even then, you delivered inspirational remarks on this subject. Your efforts to promote moderation are extremely important not only for regional peace but also for global peace. We will continue to move forward concretely in this direction together. We will further strengthen all other dimensions of our mutual cooperation," he said in his

remarks. This is Prime Minister Modi's first full-fledged bilateral visit to Jordan – he had earlier transited through Jordan in February 2018 on his way to the State of Palestine. "I express my heartfelt gratitude for the warm welcome extended to me and my delegation. You have shared very positive ideas for taking India-Jordan relations to new heights. I sincerely thank you for your friendship and your deep commitment to India," said PM Modi during his meeting with King Abdullah. "This year, we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations. This milestone will continue to inspire us to move forward with renewed energy for many years to come.

Draft electoral rolls published in Bengal over 58 lakh names deleted under SIR

From PG 1 next one month. After addressing these objections, the final voters' list will be published on February 14 next year. The announcement of the Assembly polls in Bengal is expected after the publication of the final list. The last SIR was conducted in Bengal way back in 2002. Meanwhile, ruling Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy termed the deletion of 58 lakh names "injustice". "This is the BJP's conspiracy to remove legitimate voters from Bengal's list. We have set up voter assistance booths and we will help them submit forms to include their names in the voter list," he said outside Parliament today. Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee has also vehemently opposed the exercise and accused the Centre and the Election Commission of using SIR to 'deliberately delete' the names of lakhs of eligible voters ahead of the election. At a rally in Krishnanagar in bordering Nadia district earlier this month, Mamata Banerjee called on people, specially the women, to hit the streets if their names are deleted from the voter list. "You will snatch the rights of mothers and sisters in the name of SIR? They will bring police from Delhi during the election and intimidate mothers and sisters. Mothers and sisters, if your names are struck off, you have the tools, right? The tools you use during cooking. You have strength, right? You won't let it pass if your names are cut, right? The women will fight in the front, and the men will be behind them," she said. The BJP, on the other hand, has alleged that Mamata Banerjee's offensive against SIR is aimed at protecting her vote bank that comprises illegal immigrants. Earlier, the Trinamool Congress had slammed the Election Commission amid reports of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) dying by suicide due to work pressure. The party had then said the poll body has "blood on its hands". The publication of the draft list is likely to trigger another round of attacks from the Mamata Banerjee-led party.

MCCI Hosts Packaging Sustainability Conclave

MI News Service, Kolkata: The 'MCCI Packaging Sustainability Conclave' was organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) organised on Tuesday in Kolkata, featuring industry leaders discussing innovations and sustainability in packaging. Vagish Dixit, Managing Director & Partner, ALPLA India, highlighted the transformative role of plastics across ten industries, including healthcare, consumer goods, automotive, electronics, and food & beverage. He emphasised that plastics contribute to reducing carbon emissions, improving supply chains, and account for only a small portion of packaging waste and global carbon footprint. Ekta Narain, Co-Founder & Chief Business Officer, Recykal, spoke on technology-driven waste management and circular economy models, stressing transparency and



(L-R) Rohit Surana, Chairman, Council on Sustainability & Environmental Resources Management, MCCI; Vagish Dixit, MD & Partner, ALPLA India and CEO, ALPLA Global Group; Priti A. Sureka, President, MCCI; Ekta Narain, Co-founder and Chief Business Officer, Recykal; Utsav Dixit, Chief Sustainability and Growth Officer, ALPLA India; and Pradeep Kumar Pandey, President, Packaging Development, Emami Limited, at the MCCI Packaging Sustainability Conclave in Kolkata on Tuesday.

accountability in ESG reporting. Growth Officer, ALPLA India, highlighted reusable PET bottles, refill

systems, and eco-friendly packaging designs that significantly reduce carbon, water, and land use, along with innovative digital messaging for sustainability awareness. Pradeep Kumar Pandey, President, Packaging Development, Emami Limited, discussed the challenges of FMCG packaging, rising plastic waste in India, and the need for recyclable mono-material innovations and a New Plastics Economy. In her welcome address, Priti A. Sureka, President, MCCI, underlined that sustainable packaging is essential for businesses in 2025, with innovations such as plastic-free coatings, paper-based formats, and bioplastics meeting consumer demand and regulatory requirements. The conclave concluded with a vote of thanks by Rohit Surana, Chairman, Council on Sustainability & Environmental Resources Management, MCCI.

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

COIR BOARD

COIR BOARD, SUB REGIONAL OFFICE, KOLKATA

MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NOTICE

The Coir Board, Ministry of MSME, Govt. of India, Sub Regional Office, Kolkata, West Bengal is going to organize an one day Workshop for interested Coir Workers, Prospective Entrepreneurs etc. on 19.12.2025 at the Training Hall Sarkar Anushtthan Bhavan, Vill- Sahapur, P.O.- Islampur, Dainhat, Katwa, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal.

Interested people from the Coir Industry may participate in the programme and request to make their registration on 19.12.2025 at 10.00 am along with a Xerox copy of their Aadhaar Card and Cast Certificate (If any) on a first come first serve basis at the above place. Total seat limited to 50 Nos. of participants.

E mail: cbsrokol@gmail.com
Phone: 033 22625735
12.12.2025

Officer-in-Charge
Coir Board, Sub Regional Office,
Kolkata

www.coirboard.gov.in

Name Change
I, Ramesh Thakkar (Old Name) S/o Chandul Thakkar Residing at 9, Nandan Road All Premises, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata South, West Bengal - 700025, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ramesh Kumar Thakkar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 008/2025 dated 16-12-2025. Ramesh Thakkar (Old Name) and Ramesh Kumar Thakkar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kalachand Khan S/o Abu Khan (Old Name) Residing at Vill - Narayanpur, Po - B. Narayanpur, Ps - Bhangan, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743502, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Unuch Ali Khan S/o Md Abu Hossain Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 16-12-2025. Kalachand Khan S/o Abu Khan (Old Name) and Unuch Ali Khan S/o Md Abu Hossain Khan (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Hedayet Saha (Old Name) S/o Oyarish Saha Residing at Vill - Kabra, Po - Hirapur, Ps - Ramnagar, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721441, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hedat Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 15-12-2025. Hedayet Saha (Old Name) and Hedat Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dharmendra Gupta (Old Name) S/o Radhashyam Gupta Residing at 26, Manicktalla Main Road, Kankurgachi, Ps - Manicktalla, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700054, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dharmendra Kumar Gupta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 16-12-2025. Dharmendra Gupta (Old Name) and Dharmendra Kumar Gupta (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SMRUTISANJITA BEHERA, W/o- Utsav Choudhury, D/o- Apari Behera, residing at P-192, Unique Park, P.O-Behela, P.S-Parnasree, Kolkata, Pin-700034, West Bengal, do hereby declare that in my daughter's Birth Certificate namely AAHRI CHOUDHURY being Certificate No. 1/09/2015/06433 (Old Regn. No 5522), issued by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, dated 21.01.2016, due to an inadvertent mistake my name is wrongly recorded as SMRUTISANJITA CHOUDHURY instead of SMRUTISANJITA BEHERA. On 24.06.2024 vide affidavit no. 37808 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, I affirm that SMRUTISANJITA CHOUDHURY & SMRUTISANJITA BEHERA is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bilkis Rehna, Wife of No. 14560153M Rank Ex Hav Name MD Shafigul Islam resident of Vill.- Debpur, P.O.- Debpur, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin- 713121 have change my Name & Date of birth from Bilkis Rehna & 13 SEP 1972 to Bilkis Rehana & 14 Aug 1971 vide Affidavit dated 11.12.25 before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Gopal Das S/o Late Suran Das residing at West Nabanagar, Sukanta Path, North Dum Dum (M), Birati, P.O-Birati, PS- Nimta, Kolkata-700051, Dist- 24 Pgs (N) declare that in my Voter Card my name has been wrongly recorded as Gopal Haladar S/o Mati Haladar in place of my actual name Gopal Das S/o Suran Das as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card and other documents. That Gopal Haladar S/o Mati Haladar and Gopal Das S/o Suran Das both are same and identical person i.e., myself vide affidavit no. 15299 dated 16.12.2025 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah.

Name Change
I, Nabanita Mallick, D/o Late Sunil Mallick, W/o Bappa Das residing at West Nabanagar, Sukanta Path, North Dum Dum (M), Birati, P.O-Birati, PS- Nimta, Kolkata-700051, Dist- 24 Pgs (N) declare that original name of my father was Sunil Mallick as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card and other documents but my father's name has been recorded wrongly in his Aadhaar Card, Voter Identity Card and his Death Certificate as Sushil Mallick and in his Certificate of Registration vide No. 253 dt 24.11.1956 issued by Sri S.C.Saha, Bagjola Rehab Camp No. XI, as Sushil Kumar Mallick. That Sunil Mallick, Sushil Mallick and Sushil Kumar Mallick all are same and one identical Person i.e., my father (Since Deceased) vide affidavit no. 15300 dated 16.12.2025 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah.

Name Change
I, Subhas Mallick, S/o Late Sunil Mallick, residing at West Nabanagar, Sukanta Path, North Dum Dum (M), Birati, P.O-Birati, PS- Nimta, Kolata-700051, Dist- 24 Pgs (N) declare that original name of my father was Sunil Mallick as mentioned in my SC Certificate vide Digital Cast Certificate No. WB2301SC1989000012 (722 Manual) and also in my other documents but my father's name has been recorded wrongly in his Aadhaar Card, Voter Identity Card and his Death Certificate as Sushil Mallick and in his Certificate of Registration vide No. 253 dt 24.11.1956 issued by Sri S.C.Saha, Bagjola Rehab Camp No. XI, as Sushil Kumar Mallick. That Sunil Mallick, Sushil Mallick and Sushil Kumar Mallick all are same and one identical Person i.e., my father (Since Deceased) vide affidavit no. 15301 dated 16.12.2025 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sealdah.

NAME CHANGE
I, PHAJILA BIBI W/O SHAHAD ALI SARDAR of R B Lane, Telinipara, Hooghly 712125 declared and affirmed that my name wrongly recorded as MOLINA DAS D/o ASHOK DAS in PAN & MOLINA DAS W/o Sudhir Das in Aadhaar. PHAJILA BIBI W/O SHAHAD ALI SARDAR & MOLINA DAS W/o Sudhir Das, D/o Ashok Das is same one identical person vide affd. 1st Class Magistrate, Hooghly Sadar dt. 27-11-2025.

Name Change
I, Mita Datta Halder (old name) W/O Satyaki Ranjan Halder, resident of Uttara Housing Complex Dwtiyya, Flat No.- 901, Tower- 2, New Town, Action Area- 2, Bidhannagar, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700161, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mita Datta Halder (new name), as declared Before the Notary Publi at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Mita Datta Halder (new name) and Mita Datta Halder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jannat Mondal (old name) S/O Md Musha Kalam Mondal, resident of Vill- Malatipur, P.O.- Chaita, P.S.- Matia, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743445, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jannat Ali Mondal (new name), as declared Before the 1ST Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit dated 12/12/2025. Jannat Ali Mondal (new name) and Jannat Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mostakin Mondal (old name) S/O Md Mohor Ali, resident of Vill-Chakla Saraberia, P.O.- Chakla, P.S.- Deganga, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743424, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Mostakin Mondal (new name), as declared Before the 1ST Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025. Md Mostakin Mondal (new name) and Mostakin Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gaffar Abdul (old name) S/O Keramat Dafadar, resident of Vill- Chandpur, P.O.- Mandra, P.S.- Baduria, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743438, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Gaffar Dafadar (new name), as declared Before the 1ST Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit dated 05/12/2025. Abdul Gaffar Dafadar (new name) and Gaffar Abdul (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Premlata Padiwal (old name) W/O Purushottam Dattulal Padiwal, resident of Infront of R T O PLADIWAL HOUSE, AMRAWATI ROAD, GIRIPETH, SHANKAR NAGAR, Nagpur MAHARASHTRA, PIN-440010, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Premlata Purushottam Padiwal (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Premlata Purushottam Padiwal (new name) and Premlata Padiwal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Purshottam Padiwal (old name) S/O Dattulal Kewalram Padiwal, resident of Infront of R T O PLADIWAL HOUSE, AMRAWATI ROAD, GIRIPETH, SHANKAR NAGAR, Nagpur MAHARASHTRA, PIN-440010, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Purshottam Dattulal Padiwal (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Purushottam Dattulal Padiwal (new name) and Purshottam Padiwal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Arun Guha (Old Name), son of Gita Shankar Guha, residing at Saktiya, Raina, Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal - 713408, do hereby declare that I have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as Arun Kumar Guha (New Name), as per an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 29/11/2022. Arun Guha (Old Name) and Arun Kumar Guha (New Name) refer to one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Md Abdul Hamid Kazi, S/O- Lt. Ajijur Rahman Kazi, residing at Vill-Dhola, P/S- Dholahat, Dist-24pgs(S). Have changed my name (shall henceforth be known as Abdul Hamid Kazi as declared before the Ld 1st class J.M. at D/Harbour vide Affidavit No. 14445 dt-05/12/2025 Md Abdul Hamid Kazi (old name) & Abdul Hamid Kazi (new name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nuresha Khatun (old name) W/o. Md Ibrahim, R/o. Bandel Manushpur Basti, Bandel, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712123, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nuresha Khatun to Nurasha Begam (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nurasha Begam in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 1813 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 16/12/2025. I, Nurasha Begam & Nuresha Khatun W/o. Md Ibrahim both are the same & one identical person. Md Najim is my son.

Name Change
I, Hapija Khatun D/o. Khorsed Ali, R/o. Taragun, Hoera, Magra, Hooghly-712147, W.B. do hereby declare that after marriage I have changed my name from Hapija Khatun D/o. Khorsed Ali to Hapija Alam Sarkar W/o. Badrul Alam Sarkar, D/o. Sk Khorsed Ali and henceforth I shall be known as Hapija Alam Sarkar W/o. Badrul Alam Sarkar, D/o. Sk Khorsed Ali in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 7231 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 11/08/2025. I, Hapija Alam Sarkar W/o. Badrul Alam Sarkar, D/o. Sk Khorsed Ali & Hapija Khatun D/o. Khorsed Ali both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bodrul Alam Sarkar S/o Yeakub Ali Sarkar, R/o. Taragun, Hoera, Magra, Hooghly-712147, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bodrul Alam Sarkar to Badrul Alam Sarkar and henceforth I shall be known as Badrul Alam Sarkar in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 9510 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 24/09/2025. I, Bodrul Alam Sarkar & Badrul Alam Sarkar S/o. Yeakub Ali Sarkar both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pradip Ch. Goldar (old name) S/O Raj Goldar, resident of 131/H/36, Raja R.I. Mitra Road, P.O.- K.G. Bose Sarani, Kolkata- 700085, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Goldar (new name), as declared Before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Pradip Goldar (new name) and Pradip Ch. Goldar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Molla Hasibur Rahaman, S/o- Molla Mosaraf Hosen, Residing at Vill.- Kalimba, P.O.- Nangulpara, P.S.- Khanakul, Dist.- Hooghly do hereby solemnly affirm & declare vide an affidavit no. 11861, Dated- 12.12.2025 before the In the Court of the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Sadar, Hooghly that my actual name is Molla Hasibur Rahaman. That in my daughter Nurjahan Khatun's educational documents my name has been written as Hasibur Rahaman. That Molla Hasibur rahaman, S/o Molla Mosaraf Hosen and Hasibur rahaman, S/o Molla Mosaraf Hosen are one same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tasdiq Nigar D/O Md Nawabuddin, declare that my father, said name Nawabuddin Qureshi (father old name), resident of 7, Gopal Chandra Mukherjee Road, Cossipore, Kolkata-700002, West Bengal, India, have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Md Nawabuddin (father new name), as declared Before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit No. 20798, dated 16/12/2025. Nawabuddin Qureshi and Md Nawabuddin both are same and one identical person (my father).

Name Change
I, Chittya Dutta (Old Name), Son of Nimay Dutta, Residing At Beraberiya, North 24parganas - 700121, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Chitta Dutta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/12/2025. Chittya Dutta And Chitta Dutta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Umme Kulsum Begam (old name) D/O Sk Aktar Ali, resident of Layek Para, Bhogauchi, Polba, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712148, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ummekulsum Khatun (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Ummekulsum Khatun (new name) and Umme Kulsum Begam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Saifuddin Sekh (old name) S/O Abdul Gaffar Layek, resident of Bhogauchi, Polba, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712148, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sekh Saifuddin Layek (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Sekh Saifuddin Layek (new name) and Saifuddin Sekh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ajmeri Begum (old name) W/O Abdul Hakim, resident of 42B, Golam Jalani Khan Road, P.O.- Tiljala, P.S.- Tiljala, Kolkata- 700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Azmari Begum (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Azmari Begum (new name) and Ajmeri Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Anowar Ali and Anwar Ali (Old Name), son of Sekh Jahurul Haque, residing at Khosarpur, Howrah- 711401, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Anwar Ali (New Name) vide an affidavit of sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 16/12/2025. Sk Anowar Ali and Anwar Ali (Old name) Also Sk Anwar Ali (New Name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sagir Aktar (Old Name), son of Sk Anwar Ali, residing at 131, Khosarpur, Howrah - 711401, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Sagir Aktar (New Name) vide an affidavit of sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 16/12/2025. Sagir Aktar and Sk Sagir Aktar both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anwar Ali (Old Name), son of Sekh Jahurul Haque, residing at N0013, Khosarpur, Howrah - 711401, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Anwar Ali (New Name) vide an affidavit of sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 16/12/2025. Anwar Ali and Sk Anwar Ali both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Muddasir Khan (Old Name), Son Of Asif Ali Khan, Residing At Kaikhal Mondal Ghandi, Mistri Para, North 24parganas - 700052, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Muddasir Khan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 15/12/2024. Md Md Muddasir Khan And Md Muddasir Khan Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sanjay Adhikary (old name) S/O Jayashankar Adhikary, resident of 131, A.M. Ghosh Road, Budge Budge (M), Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700137, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjoy Adhikary (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/12/2025. Sanjay Adhikary (new name) and Sanjay Adhikary (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Darjeeling philatelist earns international honour



Vivek Yonzone with his collection of stamps.

MI News Service, Darjeeling: A Darjeeling philatelist has stamped his mark on the global stage. Vivek Yonzone, 40, of Singamari won a “Vermeil Medal” at AUSVIPEX 2025, an international virtual exhibition of postage stamps organised by the Australian Philatelic Federation. The Australian Virtual Philatelic Exhibition 2025, which began on November 27 and will remain open online till February 28, 2026, has drawn participants from across the world, right from Afghanistan to the US. Yonzone, the only entrant from Darjeeling among several Indian participants, was honoured with the vermeil for his

thematic collection “CHORDOPHONES – The Stringed Element of Music.” His five-frame (80-page) exhibit showcases stringed musical instruments through stamps and other philatelic materials. A 16-member jury selected Yonzone's work for the award.

Through the stamps, Yonzone explored the history of stringed instruments, classifications, playing methods, production of sounds, its music and its association with the social and cultural aspects of the world. “The storyline was subdivided into nine major sections,” said Yonzone.

The exhibits were to be classified in 19 broad classes. Yonzone competed in the thematic class. With numerous district, state and national awards to his credit, this marks Yonzone's second international recognition, the first being at Phillex 2020 organised by the Bangladesh National Philatelic Association. Beyond collecting stamps, Yonzone emerged as one of the region's strongest advocates for philately, organising workshops in schools and collaborating with the department of posts for exhibitions.

Yonzone founded Alpine Philatelic and Numismatic Society in 2018 and has since hosted multiple exhibitions in and around Darjeeling. “I am very happy with the latest win. This definitely motivates me to do more. Stamp collection is a very intellectual hobby and should be introduced to students at an early age,” said Yonzone.

At a recent exhibition, ALPINE 2025, Yonzone's society encouraged students to write postcards, post them, and even handed out packets of stamps to help them start their own collections.

Mass fish deaths in Rangati trigger alarm

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: Hundreds of fish poisoned to death were found floating in the Rangati river of Jalpaiguri district on Wednesday morning, barely 24 hours after a similar incident of aquatic mortality in the Teesta.

Residents of Dhupguri and Banarhat blocks — particularly those living in Salbari and Angrabhasha 1 and 2 panchayats — noticed large numbers of dead fish in the Rangati.

Local fish species tyagra (Gangetic mystus), baim (eel), taki (spotted snakehead) and puti (pool bard) were found dead in significant quantities. A group of local people was seen collecting the dead fish that were drifting along the river.

According to sources in the state fisheries department, a toxic oil-like substance may have been used in both the Teesta and Rangati rivers, causing the fish deaths.

On Tuesday morning, large numbers of fish were found dead in a stretch of the Teesta near Donohoni in Jalpaiguri district. Water and fish samples were collected from the



Teesta by the department for laboratory testing.

The Rangati is shallow and the residents noticed the dead fish accumulating near the Rangati bridge, where the river flows from a higher to a lower level. Many people gathered to collect the fish that had floated on the surface.

Kartik Ray, a resident who collected some of the dead fish, said he believed unknown individuals had poisoned the river.

Debarshi Biswas, a member of the Banarhat panchayat samiti, said illegal sand lifting had already altered the river's natural flow and poisoning the water to catch fish was “unfortunate”.

Officials from the fisheries department visited the area and expressed doubt that toxic substances could be detected in water samples because of strong river currents. They collected dead fish samples from residents and buried the remaining fish to prevent further contamination.

Drinking water project in Kalimpong triggers tug-of-war

MI News Service, Kalimpong: The Kalimpong municipality on Monday laid the foundation stone of a 196.97 crore drinking water project for the hill town that opened a floodgate of political onepmanship. Under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0) of the Union ministry of housing and urban affairs, a drinking water project has been sanctioned. The foundation stone of the project was laid in Kalimpong on Monday.

Anit Thapa, the chief executive of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), was present at the foundation-laying. Thapa said he was proud of the chairmanship of the board of administrators of the Kalimpong municipality, Rabi Pradhan. “It was proved today that I was right in

choosing Rabi Pradhan as the leader of the municipality,” Thapa said. He said under the project, water would be pumped from the Bhalu Khola, a tributary of the Teesta, and the same would be distributed in 23 municipal wards.

Thapa said the drinking water project included a 50 per cent share from the Centre, 45 per cent contribution from the state government and 5 per cent contribution from the municipality. The project is to be completed within 30 months, said Thapa. Raju Bista, Darjeeling BJP MP, said the Centre had consistently supported the development needs of north Bengal. Bista, however, added that it was important to reflect that the three hill municipalities of Kalimpong, Kurseong and Mirik were not being “governed democratically”.

St Xavier’s Univ mulls medical college

MI News Service, Kolkata: St Xavier's University, New Town, plans to set up a medical college and will seek land from the state government for the project, vice-chancellor Father Felix Raj announced on Tuesday. The private university also intends to start a nursing school as the first step toward its expansion into medical education.

“We will first start with a nursing school,” Father Felix Raj said at a news conference. “Whether a nursing college or a medical college, you have to link it with a hospital.

Once you start a medical college, you need to have a hospital, or you tie up with some hospitals. Even for a nursing school, you need hospital tie-ups.”

He said the university has begun consultations with hospital CEOs and medical administrators. “First we will start a nursing school, then we will gradually get into the medical college,” he said.

Three essentials are required to set up a medical college: land, a functioning hospital or a tie-up with one, and approval from the National Medical Council.

Advertisement
St Xavier's had earlier requested 10 acres from the state government for infrastructure expansion, but approval is still awaited. “We have reminded the government. We will need more land,” Father Felix Raj said. “The nursing school could start on the current campus or on a new one.”

Erwoo Felicitates Meritorious Students and Winners Of “All India Essay & Drawing Competition – 2025”



MI News Service, Kolkata, 16 Dec.25 : Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO) felicitated the meritorious students, achieved 90% and above marks in 10th & 12th standard Board Examination for the academic year 2022-23 & 2024-25 and winners of “All India Essay & Drawing Competition – 2025” on 16/12/2025 at Eastern Railway Officer's Club, Belvedere Park, Alipore, Kolkata.

President/ERWWO, Mrs. Seema Deouskar along with all members of ERWWO were present on the occasion and extended their warm greetings to all the awardees by awarding certificates and gifts to encourage writing skills and artistic talent amongst the children of rail-fraternity followed by lunch.

A total of 79 nos. meritorious students & 58 nos. winners of “All India Essay & Drawing Competition – 2025” were awarded. At the end of the programme, President/ERWWO, Mrs. Seema Deouskar addressed the awardees encouraging with her motivated words and vote of thanks was given by Mrs. Gunjan Nigam, Secretary/ERWWO. During the event, a small cultural programme was also presented by the cultural staff of Eastern Railway which enriched the felicitation programme.



Under “Mission Sewa”, showcasing the humanitarian approach of the Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel of Barasat Post under Sealdah Division, Eastern Railway, promptly rescued an injured male person from the railway line on December 15, 2025. The RPF team rendered immediate assistance and safely shifted the injured person to the nearest Government Hospital for medical treatment, reaffirming their steadfast commitment to humanitarian service and passenger welfare.

RPF of Malda Division Apprehends Person with Illegal Firearm at Jamalpur Railway Station

MI News Service, Kolkata, 16 Dec.25 : The Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Malda Division apprehended one person in possession of an illegal country-made firearm during vigilant checking in the railway premises at Jamalpur Railway Station.

On December 15, 2025, acting on specific intelligence, RPF personnel of RPF Post Jamalpur were maintaining surveillance in the marshalling yard area. During the vigil, a person was observed moving suspiciously and attempted to flee upon noticing the presence of RPF personnel. He was immediately chased and apprehended by the RPF team. During checking, a silver-coloured country-made pistol along with a mobile

phone was recovered from his possession. The recovered articles were seized following due legal procedure.

The apprehended person has been identified as a 19-year-old male, a resident of Munger district, Bihar. During interrogation, he admitted his involvement in snatching activities by threatening people with the illegal firearm. Subsequently, the apprehended person along with the seized articles was handed over to GRP Jamalpur for further legal action as per law. The RPF of Malda Division remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of passengers, railway staff and railway premises through continuous vigilance and proactive measures.

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AI Good at some tasks, but bad with Maths says Deutsche Bank research



NEW DELHI : Generative AI, while gaining widespread attention, is not without its flaws. A recent report by Deutsche Bank Research highlighted that despite its strengths, the technology still struggles with certain tasks, particularly when it comes to mathematical calculations.

The report noted that though generative AI has proven useful in many areas, such as summarizing, translating, and even generating creative content on a wide range of topics, its limitations in reasoning, learning abstract concepts, and developing an understanding of the world remain significant obstacles.

"Generative AI is certainly

flawed... while Generative AI is surprisingly good at some activities, it is surprisingly bad at others, such as making mathematical calculations" said the report.

As per the report one of the key issues is the tendency of generative AI systems to produce hallucinations, or inaccurate information, despite using reliable data. It noted that these systems can also introduce bias or irrelevance into their outputs, and existing solutions have not fully addressed these problems. This remains a challenge, even as AI models continue to evolve.

The report also pointed out that much of the optimism surrounding AI's potential to boost

productivity comes from controlled experiments. However, real-world applications show that the technology may not be as effective in every setting.

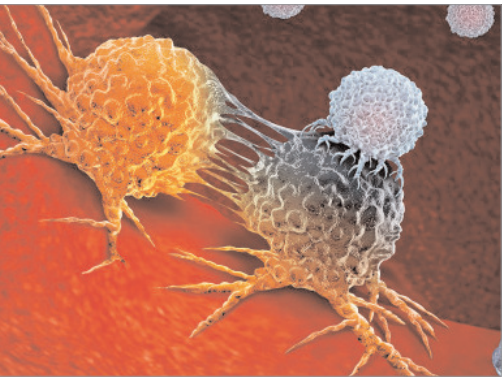
For instance, highly regulated industries like financial services and healthcare, where the stakes are especially high, have been slow to adopt generative AI despite the potential benefits of analyzing vast amounts of unstructured data.

The risks in these sectors--where errors could lead to serious consequences--make it harder for them to integrate AI into everyday use.

"The gap between high experimentation and low uptake is particularly striking in regulated industries such as financial services and healthcare" the report added.

In some cases, generative AI is showing potential in unexpected ways, such as generating novel research ideas, identifying irony, and even creating game engines that simulate real-world environments. However, as per report the generative AI tools will only get better from here. And indeed even if they never did, it would take years for companies and individuals to find and implement the best use cases of AI.

Long-term metastatic melanoma survival dramatically improves on immunotherapy: Study



NEW YORK [US] : Long-term data from a landmark international trial show that about half of patients with metastatic melanoma treated with a combination of immune checkpoint inhibitors live cancer-free for 10 years or more, according to a new report from Weill Cornell Medicine and Dana-Farber Cancer Centre investigators and colleagues.

The 10-year follow-up research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, will bring the phase 3 CheckMate 067 trial to a conclusion. The research, which followed 945 patients treated at 137 sites across 21 countries, found that combining nivolumab and ipilimumab, immunotherapies that suppress two separate immune checkpoint proteins, significantly improved outcomes for a condition that had previously been nearly deadly. Subsequent studies of patient outcomes at three, five, and 6.5 years after the trial began revealed that the effect lasted several years for individuals who responded to the medication.

"This was a practice-changing trial," said first author Dr. Jedd Wolchok, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center and professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and an oncologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. "The median survival for this population is now a little over six years, and people who are free from cancer progression at three years have a high likelihood of remaining alive and disease-free at the 10-year time point." In 2011, the median survival

for patients with metastatic melanoma was just six and a half months. However, the emergence of immune checkpoint inhibitors, which facilitate the ability of the immune system to attack cancer, as a treatment option gradually began to increase survival. The CheckMate 067 trial demonstrated that nivolumab alone or in combination with another checkpoint inhibitor, ipilimumab, is a more effective approach than ipilimumab alone.

"This trial is a key part of how we talk to patients about the lasting benefits of immune checkpoint therapy and the potential of combining multiple immune therapies to improve treatment outcomes," said Dr. F. Stephen Hodi, the director of the Melanoma Center and the Center for Immun-Oncology at Dana-Farber and the co-senior author of the study. Dr. James Larkin of The Royal Marsden Hospital in the UK is the other co-senior author.

In addition to confirming long-term survival in about half of patients treated with the combination, the 10-year analysis found no new safety signals for the treatment. Some physicians worried that treatment-related health problems might emerge later because patients must continue taking the drugs long-term. But the 10-year analysis found no concerning signals of long-term toxicity. There was also no resurgence of well-documented acute toxicities and few recurrences of melanoma.

The team analyzed melanoma-specific survival and overall survival at 10 years and found the two diverge long-term, showing that metastatic melanoma survivors become increasingly likely to die of other causes as they age, an indication of long-term treatment success, according to the investigators.

"After a decade of follow-up, we can now confidently tell our patients that there are treatments available with the potential to transform metastatic melanoma into a manageable, long-term condition, instilling confidence about the future," said Dr. Hodi.

In addition to demonstrating a reassuring long-term efficacy and safety profile for this immune checkpoint inhibitor combination, the investigators hope the data will also help improve the care protocols for metastatic melanoma survivors.

The Impact of Neurobion Forte on Hair and Skin Health

NEW DELHI : Most people resort to a good many supplements and vitamins in the quest for glowing, healthy skin and hair. One of those dietary supplements, that gives rise to hobby for advantages to hair and pores and skin is Neurobion Forte. This is accompanied by important B Vitamins of Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Nicotinamide and Calcium Pantothenate. This will difficult on how Neurobion Forte allows hair and skin fitness and why you need to take it as a part of your everyday regime.

What is Neurobion Forte?

Neurobion Forte is a combination of three very essential B vitamins: Specifically, the B1, B6, and B12. In essence, these vitamins being in the lifeless class play rather important roles within the body such as in manufacture of energy, proper functioning of nerves and also in the formation or development of red blood cells. Neurobion Forte is occasionally prescribed for persons who are deficient in these vitamins or who require additional support for their enhanced functioning of the nervous system and good health.

How Neurobion Forte Benefits Hair Health

Hair health is directly proportional to the nutrition we consume. Among these, B vitamins have been found to have major roles in maintaining strong and healthy hair. Here are some of the ways each component of Neurobion Forte works for your healthy hair:

1. Hair growth stimulation
1. Vitamins B1, B2, and B6 are regarded to play a role in the introduction of blood cells, which might be efficacious in bringing oxygen and other vitamins to the scalp and hair follicles. This provides nourishment for maintenance of healthy tresses and also stops falling hair.
2. Strengthening Hair

- Vitamin B5 is Calcium Pantothenate for which is well-known for strengthening hair follicles. It tremendously prevents thinning and snapping of hair; hence, will always maintain it to be so.
3. Hair Damage Reduction
- Vitamin B3, or Nicotinamide, increases the drift of blood in the hair scalp. It ensures that the hair follicles get hold of their suitable share of nourishment and oxygen so that the hair grows healthful and loose from any sort of damage.
4. Reduces Hair Fall
- Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, or Vitamin B6, is concerned in good sized protein metabolism. Because hair is basically made from a protein, this diet ensures that your frame consumes the best amount of protein with a purpose to keep your hair in healthy shape and hence lessen the probabilities of hair fall.
- Effect of Neurobion Forte on Skin**
- As well as hair, phases of skin good health depend a great deal on vitamins and nutrients one consumes. Besides, B vitamins that Neurobion Forte contains, have a lot of the positive effects at the level of the skin:
1. Skin Moisturizing
- Vitamin B2, also known as Riboflavin, works on maintaining most reliable pores and skin moisture to prevent dryness and gain a smooth and supple complexion. It additionally enables to nourish healthy pores and skin cells.
2. Enhances Radiance
- Vitamin B3 or Nicotinamide is well known for radiance of skin. It tends to reduce redness, blotchiness, or other variations in skin color, making one's natural skin tone obtainable.
3. Reduces the Appearance of Fine Lines and Wrinkles
- Vitamin B5 is anti-aging. Fine lines and wrinkles are greatly reduced for the reason that it retains the elasticity and skin moistur-



izing. This vitamin may also help in healing the skin itself and therefore bringing down blemishes or scarring to the skin.

4. Resists Skin Infections
- Vitamin B6, otherwise referred to as Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, is very important in maintaining healthy skin by freeing it from sev-

Study finds how weight loss could reduce chances of severe infections in diabetic people

WASHINGTON : According to new research, weight loss therapies may lower the risk of severe flu cases and other infections in patients suffering from diabetes.

The research will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (9-13 September).

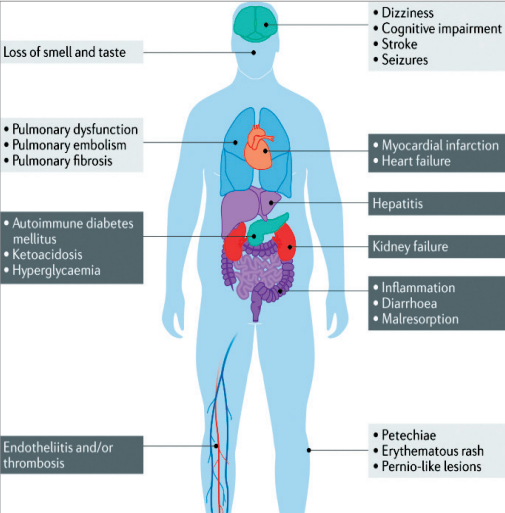
The study by Rhian Hopkins and Ethan de Villiers, of the University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter, in the United Kingdom, there is evidence to support the link between severe illnesses and a higher BMI.

In contrast, there was no evidence that mild hyperglycaemia contributes to the likelihood of a severe infection.

Hopkins says: "Up to one in three hospitalisations in people with diabetes are for infections and people with diabetes are twice as likely to be hospitalised with infections than the general population. They are also at high risk of readmission."

"Previous studies have found that a higher BMI and poor blood sugar control are associated with severe infections. However, these studies have been observational and so haven't been able to prove that the links are causal."

"If one or both of these factors can be shown to be causal, it may be possible to design interventions to lower the risk of severe infections in those at high risk, such as people with diabetes." The new study used data from the UK Biobank, which holds medical and genetic data on around 500,000 people in the UK, to explore the effect of higher BMI and poor blood sugar control on hospitalisation for bacterial and viral infections. The 486,924 participants were classified into three groups: those with a record of hospitalisation for a bacterial infection, such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection, (n=64,005) or a viral infection, such as flu, (n=14,562) and an infection-free control group (n=408,357). A higher BMI was found to be associated with hospitalisation with infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection



increased by 30 per cent per 5-point increase in BMI (for instance, an increase in BMI from 30 kg/m2 to 35 kg/m2). Similarly, every five-point increase in BMI was associated with a 32 per cent increase in the likelihood a severe viral infection.

Mild hyperglycaemia was also found to be associated with severe infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 32 per cent per 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c, a measure of blood sugar levels. Similarly, every 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c was associated with a 29 per cent increase in the likelihood of a severe viral infection.

The team then used Mendelian randomisation, a technique that uses genetic information to establish whether a factor actually causes ill health, to determine if the relationships were causal.

This suggested that a higher BMI is one of the causes of severe bacterial and viral infections.

However, mild hyperglycaemia did not appear to be a cause of severe infections.

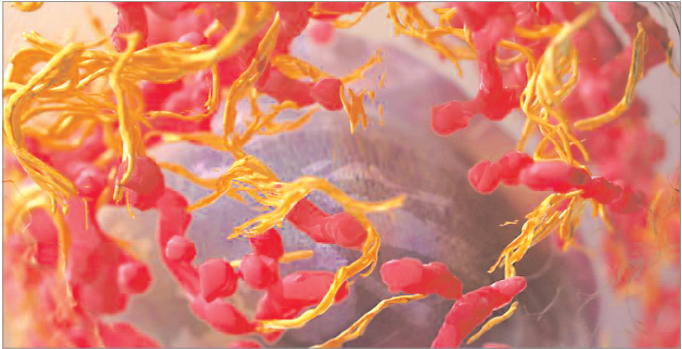
Study finds how skin cancer occurrence in young adults declines

SOLNA [SWEDEN] : A recent study suggested that the risk of malignant melanoma, or skin cancer, may be declining in Sweden, at least for people under the age of 50. "We can see a trend break in young adults around 2015 where the incidence curves are falling," says first author Hildur Helgadottir, senior consultant and associate professor of oncology at the Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet.

Her research colleagues have examined the incidence and death of melanoma for various age groups over time by analysing data from the Swedish Melanoma Registry. This indicates that they have made a comparison between people in the same age range at one point in time and people in the same age range at another.

The findings indicate that while the new-onset curves for individuals over 50 continue to rise, they began to decline about 2015 for those in the younger age groups.

"This is the first time we see this in Sweden, and we are actually the first European country to report a decline," said Hildur Helgadottir. In terms of mortality, the curves have also turned downwards for ages up to 59, but not for those over 60. Hildur Helgadottir believes that the decrease in mortality in the younger groups is due both to a



reduction in the incidence of the disease and to the introduction of new oncological drugs that have improved the prognosis for the disease. She believes that the fact that mortality is not decreasing in the elderly is because the incidence of the disease is still so high in this group. "The question is why the risk of melanoma has decreased. "We have not directly analyzed the causes in our study, but we have hypotheses about factors that we believe have interacted," said Hildur Helgadottir.

"There are four main factors," she said. The first is increased awareness of sun protection.

"The first national 'Sun Safe' campaign in the 1990s specifically highlighted the importance of protecting children. About 20 years later, we believe that this has led to a reduction in the incidence of the disease in younger adults,"

said Hildur Helgadottir.

Another factor is that access to sunbeds has decreased drastically. Since 2018, there has been an 18-year age limit on sunbeds, but the number of public sunbeds decreased much earlier.

Third, mobile phones and computers mean that children and young people are spending more time indoors and are not exposed to sunlight in the same way today. Finally, immigration means that there are more individuals in Sweden with darker pigmentation who can tolerate the sun better. "We see that it is necessary to continue the work of emphasizing the importance of sun protection so that the reduction of melanoma in younger people is maintained and that the incidence will eventually also decrease in older people," said Hildur Helgadottir.

Philippines looking into reports that Australia shooters travelled to country, month prior to attack

MI News Service, Manila: The Philippines is looking into reports that the father and son behind the recent deadly mass shooting in Australia had travelled to the country a month before the attack in which at least 16 people died, state media reported on Tuesday.

The National Security Council (NSC), which advises the president, is "aware of reports that the individuals involved in the Bondi Beach shooting in Australia had previously travelled to the Philippines, and these reports are currently being validated," Palace Press Officer Claire Castro said in a press briefing, according to PNA news agency.

The statement comes in the wake of reports that father-son gunmen Sajid and Naveed Akram underwent "military-style" training in the Philippines a month before attacking a Hanukkah event at Sydney's Bondi Beach, the



news outlet said. Sajid was shot and killed by Australian police at the scene, while Naveed remains hospitalized.

The attack occurred while members of the Jewish community were gathered to mark the first day of Hanukkah and has been officially declared a terrorist act. According to community representatives, a 12-year-old girl and a

rabbi are among those killed.

New South Wales Police said the area around Bondi Beach remains sealed as investigations continue, with restrictions imposed on aerial activity. Police also confirmed that explosive devices found in a nearby vehicle were safely secured and removed.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese,

addressing the nation, described the shooting as a "devastating terror attack" and a "targeted act of antisemitism" against Jewish Australians. "There is no place for this hate, violence and terrorism in our nation," he said, expressing solidarity with the Jewish community.

In a X post on December 15, Albanese said, "Today I convened National Cabinet to respond to the act of terror and antisemitism in Bondi last night. We stand with Jewish Australians and we stand against hatred and violence. Australia is stronger than those who try to divide us and we will come through this together."

Australia has rarely witnessed mass shootings since the introduction of strict gun laws in 1996, making the Bondi Beach attack one of the country's deadliest terror incidents in recent years.

UKPNP condemns prolonged load shedding, power shortages, communication blackouts in PoJK

MI News Service, Switzerland: The United Kashmir People's National Party (UKPNP) has strongly condemned the ongoing power crisis, communication disruptions, and collective punishment in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

The party's spokesperson, Sardar Nasir Aziz Khan, released the statement on his X account.

The people of PoJK are enduring hours-long load shedding, dangerously low electricity voltage, and frequent collapse of internet and mobile networks. Daily life has become unbearable, and UKPNP stands in full solidarity with the shutter-down strike currently underway in Rawalakot, Poonch, and surrounding areas", the statement said.

The statement emphasised that the ongoing crisis is a consequence of unchecked authority. "For over two and a half years, citizens have peacefully protested for their basic rights under the banner of the Joint Awami Action Committee. Yet, local authorities and Islamabad continue to exercise absolute power without accountability, disregarding democratic demands," it added.

The party recalled the history of resistance in the region, stating, "Massive protests, shutter-down strikes, and wheel-jam actions forced the Government of Pakistan and PoJK administration to sign agreements promising electricity at production cost and essential



infrastructure. The authorities suffered public humiliation due to the scale and inclusivity of these protests. However, instead of honouring these commitments, brutal force was used against peaceful protesters, three people were killed in Muzaffarabad in May 2024, followed by twelve deaths in October 2025. Fabricated stories and propaganda were spread to discredit the rights movement."

Despite these attempts to suppress the movement, the party asserted, "Islamabad and Muzaffarabad were ultimately compelled to concede to several demands of the Joint Awami Action Committee. Yet today, the people are being collectively punished through prolonged power cuts, dangerously low voltage electricity, deliberately slowed inter-

net speeds, and failing mobile networks. Millions of Kashmiris living abroad struggle to communicate with their families, many unable to contact loved ones for hours or days."

UKPNP demanded that all agreements made under public pressure be fully implemented without delay. The party also stressed that such punitive measures will not silence the people. "The legitimate demands of the residents of PoJK must be respected, and their basic rights upheld," UKPNP stated.

Highlighting the international dimension, the party noted: "Reports by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2018 and 2019, along with the European Parliament's 2007 report on Kashmir, clearly document serious human rights concerns in the region. These findings must not remain symbolic. Pakistan must respect human rights in practice and ensure the provision of essential infrastructure and basic services to the people of PoJK and Gilgit Baltistan."

The UKPNP called on the international community, including the United Nations, the European Parliament, the United States, and the United Kingdom, to take urgent notice of the punitive restrictions and collective punishments imposed on the people of PoJK. "Continued silence will only embolden repression and deepen the humanitarian and political crisis facing the region," the statement concluded.

US Senate clears Porcupine Act to fast-track defence sales to Taiwan



MI News Service, Washington: The United States Senate has passed the Porcupine Act to speed up US defence sales and make it easier for American allies to transfer military equipment to Taiwan, reported focus Taiwan.

The bill, formally called the Providing Our Regional Companions Upgraded Protection in Nefarious Environments Act, was cleared by the Senate by unanimous consent last week. It will now be taken up by the US House of Representatives. If approved in identical form, it will be sent to the president for signature before becoming law.

MS Patiyal appointed as Ambassador of India to Timor Leste

MI News Service, New Delhi: MS Patiyal has been appointed as India's next ambassador to Timor Leste, as per an official statement from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a statement on Monday, MEA said, "MS Patiyal (YOA: 2007), presently posted at Embassy of India, Tunis, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste."

He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.

India and Timor-Leste enjoy warm and friendly relations based on shared commitment to the values of democracy, pluralism and diversity.

India was one of the early countries to establish diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste and was represented at its Independence Day celebrations in May 2002 by a high-level delegation led by the then MOS for External Affairs Omar Abdullah. An MOU formally establishing diplomatic relations was signed on 24 January 2003, according to the Embassy of India in Timor Leste.

It further noted that Timor Leste supports India's permanent membership of the UNSC. This was formally announced by PM Alkatri in 2003 at the UNGA. Timor Leste supported India's candidature for a non-permanent seat during 2011-12, and in 2021-22. Timor Leste co-sponsored the Resolution on Yoga in the UNGA.

On 7 September 2023, PM Modi announced at the ASEAN-India Summit that India would open a Resident Mission in Timor Leste. Accordingly, on 5 September 2024, the new Indian Embassy was established in Dili, Timor-Leste. Subsequently, the Government of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste also established its resident Mission in New Delhi, India in October 2024.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in January 2003, India and Timor Leste have been cooperating at bilateral, regional and international levels. India has been offering economic, technical and capacity building assistance to TL through several projects such as cooperation in health sector, and capacity building and projects under India-UN development partnership fund and the IBSA fund.

Trump administration weighs easing marijuana classification, cites boost to research and industry

MI News Service, Washington: US President Donald Trump on Monday (local time) said his administration is "considering" reclassifying marijuana as a less dangerous drug, a move that could ease restrictions on research and provide relief to the cannabis industry.



Trump's remarks came days after reports of that he is expected to sign an executive order directing federal agencies to move ahead with the reclassification process, The Hill reported. "We are considering that. Because a lot of people want to see it, the reclassification, because it leads to tremendous amounts of research that can't be done unless you reclassify. So we are looking at that very strongly," Trump said in the Oval Office when asked about the issue.

This was first initiated under former President Joe Biden, whose administration began the process in 2024 to shift marijuana to Schedule III under US drug laws. However, the process was not completed before Biden left office.

US strikes three boats in Pacific Ocean, kills eight in Operation Southern Spear

MI News Service, Washington: The US military has carried out lethal strikes on three vessels operated by designated terrorist organisations in international waters, killing eight alleged narco-terrorists, US Southern Command said on Tuesday. According to a post by US Southern Command, the strikes were conducted on Monday under the direction of US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth as part of Operation Southern Spear. The operation was carried out by Joint Task Force Southern Spear in the Eastern Pacific.



US Southern Command said intelligence confirmed that the three vessels were moving along known narcotics trafficking routes and were actively engaged in narco-trafficking. "A total of eight male narco-terrorists were killed during these actions, three in the first vessel, two in the second and three in the third," SOUTHCOM wrote in an X post.

The latest strikes add to a growing toll from Operation Southern Spear, a campaign launched by the administration of US President Donald Trump to curb drug trafficking in the region. According to previous US military statements, at least 95 people have been killed so far in strikes targeting suspected drug boats since the operation began.

Earlier this month, US forces struck another suspected drug vessel in the Eastern Pacific on December 4, killing four people on board, CNN reported, citing a separate statement from the United States Southern Command. The campaign has drawn scrutiny from lawmakers and legal experts.

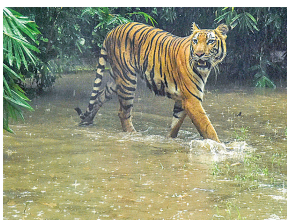
The Trump administration has informed Congress that the United States is in an "armed conflict" with drug cartels, which it says began with the first strike on September 2. That day, US forces carried out a second strike on a suspected drug vessel in the Caribbean after an initial attack failed to kill everyone on board, according to earlier CNN reports.

Some Democratic lawmakers and legal analysts have questioned the legality of the strikes, arguing that follow-up attacks could amount to war crimes. The administration has defended its actions by labelling those killed as "unlawful combatants" and citing a classified Justice Department determination that allows lethal strikes without judicial review.

The military campaign forms part of broader US pressure on Venezuela, including the deployment of thousands of troops and a carrier strike group to the Caribbean, as well as repeated warnings directed at Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro. Last week, the United States also announced fresh sanctions on shipping companies and vessels accused of helping transport Venezuelan oil, a day after US authorities seized a sanctioned tanker off Venezuela's coast, CNN reported.

Nationwide tiger census begins in Nepal with 1,100 camera traps

MI News Service, Kathmandu: Nepal on Tuesday officially launched its nationwide tiger census, conducted every four years, deploying around 1,100 advanced camera traps across major tiger habitats in the country.



The scientific exercise is being led by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) under the Ministry of Forests and Environment, in coordination with the Department of Forests and Land Conservation.

Technical and logistical support is being provided by the National Trust for Nature Conservation, World Wide Fund for Nature Nepal, and the Geological Society of Nepal. The Nepali Army, along with buffer zone and community forest users' committees, has also been mobilised for the exercise. According to the DNPWC, the census is expected to be completed within two-and-a-half to three months. A total of 25 technical personnel have been deployed nationwide.

DNPWC Director General BuddiSagar Paudel said the tiger population would be estimated through the analysis of photographic captures obtained from camera traps installed in tiger habitats. "The census will provide reliable data on the current tiger population and help guide future conservation efforts," Paudel told ANI over the phone. The estimated cost of the census is around 30 million Nepalese rupees. The budget includes mobilisation of manpower, management of camera trap memory cards, tents, sleeping bags and other logistical requirements. The camera traps used in the exercise were procured earlier, with each unit costing about 35,000 Nepalese rupees.

Nepal has been conducting systematic tiger

population counts using automated camera traps since 2009. Under the Tiger Conservation Action Plan, censuses were carried out in 2013, 2018 and 2022. The current exercise is aimed at the 2026 tiger population assessment. Official data shows a steady rise in Nepal's tiger population over the years. The number of tigers stood at 98 in 1995, 109 in 2000, 126 in 2005, 121 in 2009, 198 in 2013 and 235 in 2018. Nepal has been observing National Tiger Day since 2067 BS.

Addressing concerns over increasing human-tiger conflict, Paudel said alternative livelihood options must be provided to communities living near forest areas. He stressed that reducing dependence on forest resources and promoting positive attitudes towards wildlife are key to mitigating conflict. Meanwhile, the number of so-called problematic tigers has also increased. At present, 18 such tigers are being kept in captivity across the country. Of these, five are housed at the Central Zoo in Jawalakhel, seven in Chitwan National Park, four in Bardia National Park, and one each in Banke National Park and Parsa National Park. The government spends a significant amount annually on their feeding, treatment and management. Globally, tiger numbers have risen to 5,357 as of 2025. India leads with 3,167 tigers, followed by Russia (750), Indonesia (400), Nepal (355), Thailand (189), Bhutan (151), Malaysia (150), Bangladesh (146), Myanmar (22), China (20), Vietnam (5) and Laos (2).

Taiwan detects heightened Chinese military activity around its territory

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan detected the presence of 7 PLAN vessels operating around its territory along with 13 sorties of PLA aircraft, the Ministry of National Defence (MND) shared on Tuesday.



In a post on X, the MND said that 9 out of 13 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ.

"13 sorties of PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 9 out of 13 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

The frequent incursions and maritime operations reflect rising tensions between Taiwan and China, a relationship long fraught with geopolitical strain. Taiwan, officially known as the Republic of China (ROC), governs itself independently with its own distinct political and economic systems.

However, China continues to claim Taiwan as part of its territory under

the "One China" principle, insisting there is only one China with its capital in Beijing.

The dispute's roots trace back to the end of the Chinese Civil War in 1949, when the ROC government fled to Taiwan after the Communist Party, led by Mao Zedong, took control of mainland China.

Since then, Beijing has maintained its goal of reunification, using military, diplomatic, and economic means to apply pressure on Taiwan and diminish its international space.

Despite these efforts, Taiwan maintains its de facto independence, backed by strong public support, and

continues to assert its sovereignty amid ongoing external pressures. The MND regularly monitors and publicly reports such military movements to ensure transparency and national security awareness.

Meanwhile, the US Congressional-Executive Commission on China (CECC) has released its annual report denouncing China's deepening repression, particularly drawing attention to the case of Taiwanese activist Yang Chih-yuan, who has been detained on politically motivated charges.

The comprehensive report details numerous instances of arbitrary detention and unfair prosecution by Chinese authorities and urges US lawmakers to address these abuses in future dialogues with Beijing, as reported by The Taipei Times.

According to The Taipei Times, the CECC, established under the US-China Relations Act of 2000, monitors China's human rights conditions and the state of the rule of law, submitting its findings annually to both the US President and Congress.

India-Bangladesh exchange visits to celebrate Victory Day

MI News Service, Dhaka: India and Bangladesh invited each other's War Veterans and serving officers to participate annually in the Victory Day celebrations to commemorate the Liberation War of 1971, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka said in a Facebook post on Tuesday.

On the 54th anniversary of the Liberation War, eight valiant MuktiJoddhas and two serving officers of Bangladesh Armed Forces arrived in India on December 14 to participate in Vijay Diwas celebrations at Kolkata. Similarly, eight Indian War Veterans and two serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces reached Dhaka on December 15 to participate in Bangladesh's Victory Day celebrations, it added.

"These exchange visits provide a platform for Bangladeshi MuktiJoddhas and Indian War Veterans to celebrate the unique friendship between our two countries and to renew memories of the Liberation War, which epitomises the shared sacrifices of the armed forces of Bangladesh and India for Bangladesh's freedom from occupation, oppression

and mass atrocities," the Indian High Commission said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday extended greetings on the occasion of the 54th Vijay Diwas through a social media post.

In a post on X, PM Modi remembered the courageous armed forces who fought tooth and nail in the 1971 war that led to the liberation of Bangladesh. He paid tribute to the unmatched spirit of nationalism of the brave soldiers.

"On Vijay Diwas, we remember the brave soldiers whose courage and sacrifice ensured India had a historic victory in 1971. Their steadfast resolve and selfless service protected our nation and etched a moment of pride in our history. This day stands as a salute to their valour and a reminder of their unmatched spirit. Their heroism continues to inspire generations of Indians," he wrote on X.

President Droupadi Murmu also paid her respects, recalling the devotion and patriotism of the Indian Armed Forces in the battle. She also recalled their



courage and valour showcased during Operation Sindoor, India's responsive strike to Pakistan after the horrific Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 individuals.

"On the occasion of Vijay Diwas, I pay my humble respects to the brave sons of Mother India. Their courage, valour, and unparalleled devotion to the motherland have always filled the nation with pride. Their heroism and patriotism will continue to inspire the people of the country. The Indian Army's 'Empower-

ment through Indigenisation' initiative reflects a commitment to being prepared for future challenges. In Operation Sindoor, the army has demonstrated self-reliance, strategic resolve, and the effective use of modern warfare techniques, which serve as an inspiration for the entire nation. I extend my best wishes to all soldiers and their families. Jai Hind!" she wrote on X.

The Indian Army also recalled the heroism and nationalism of the Indian Armed Forces by sharing the historic tale of the

liberation of Bangladesh through a social media post by the Additional Directorate General of Public Information.

In a post on X, the Indian Army wrote, "Vijay Diwas is not just a date – it stands as the symbol of the historic and decisive victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the 1971 War."

They described the battle as a triumph that reshaped India's military history and said, "It was a victory where the MuktiBahini and the Indian Armed Forces fought shoulder-to-shoulder, together giving the Bangladesh Liberation struggle its decisive thrust toward freedom... A triumph that reshaped India's military history, redrew the map of South Asia and gave birth to a new nation – Bangladesh," the post read.

The Indian Army noted that the victory ended the mayhem and cruelty of the Pakistani Army, faced by a large community. Indian Army, in 13 days dissolved at least 93,000 Pakistani soldiers into surrendering, marking it as one of the largest military surrenders in the world.

U19 Asia Cup: Abhigyan Kundu's unbeaten 209 guides India to a massive win over Malaysia

DUBAI : Abhigyan Kundu delivered a record-breaking innings to lead India to a dominant win over Malaysia in their Under-19 Asia Cup Group A match in Dubai. He scored an impressive 209 not out off 125 balls as India set a total of 408 for 7, bowling Malaysia out for just 93.

Kundu came in at No. 5 in the 11th over and anchored India's innings all the way to the end. His score ranks among the highest in youth cricket. However, Kundu's double hundred does not have official youth ODI status. Jorich Van Schalkwyk from South Africa holds the recognised double century with his 215 off 153 balls against Zimbabwe earlier this year in Harare. Bangladesh's Soumya Sarkar also scored 209 off 135 balls against Qatar in 2012, but that match lacked official status as well. Kundu took control after Vaibhav Suryavanshi got India off to a quick start with a



50 off 26 balls. Kundu then formed a massive 209-run partnership for the fourth wicket with Vedant Trivedi, who made 90 off 106 balls. This partnership lasted from the 11th to the 41st over. When Trivedi was out, Kundu was already well set with 128 off 92 balls. In the final 10 overs, Kundu changed gears dramatically, adding 81 runs in just 33 balls, helping India surpass the 400-run mark. Earlier in the tournament, he had also contributed 32 not out off 17 balls against the UAE and 22 off 32 balls against Pakistan.

For Malaysia, left-arm medium pacer Muhammad Akram was the standout bowler, taking 5 wickets for 89 runs in his ten overs, which included key dismissals of Suryavanshi, Vihaan Malhotra, and Harvansh Pangalia.

In response, Malaysia's chase got off to a shaky start as they lost openers Azib Wajdi and Mohammad Hairil for ducks.

Medium pacer Deepesh Devendran dominated the lineup, taking a wicket in each of his first five overs, leaving Malaysia struggling at 38 for 7. He finished the innings with five wickets as Malaysia was all out for 93. Hamza Panggi and Jaashwin Krishnamurthi provided brief resistance with a 36-run partnership for the tenth wicket, but India ended the match soon after.

This strong victory keeps India at the top of the Group A table, following earlier wins against the UAE and Pakistan. Meanwhile, Malaysia remains at the bottom of the group after losing to the same teams.

BRIEF SCORES:

India U19 408/7 in 50 overs (Abhigyan Kundu 209, Vedant Trivedi 90; Muhammad Akram 5/89) beat Malaysia U19 93 all out in 32.1 overs (Deepesh Devendran 5-22, Udhav Mohan 2-24) by 315 runs.

Jharkhand Fall to Andhra Pradesh but Clinch Spot in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Final

PC JHA



RANCHI : In a thrilling Super League Group A encounter of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite 2025-26, Andhra Pradesh edged Jharkhand by 9 runs in a high-scoring T20 clash at the DY Patil Academy in Ambli. Andhra posted a competitive 203 for 7 in their allotted 20 overs, with contributions from their top order laying a strong foundation. Jharkhand, in reply, fought valiantly but managed 194 for 8 in pursuit of the target, falling just short despite determined batting efforts.

The loss, however, does little to dampen Jharkhand's campaign as they had already secured a place in the final of the prestigious domestic T20 tournament. Their overall performance in the Super League stage, highlighted by earlier victories including a nail-biting one-run win over Madhya Pradesh, ensured they finish among the top qualifiers for the title clash later this week.

Jharkhand's batting showed grit and intent, but Andhra's disciplined bowling in key moments prevented a full recovery. The defeat does little to overshadow Jharkhand's consistency throughout the Super League, which earned them a berth in the championship match despite today's narrow reversal. Fans now look forward to the final, where Jharkhand will aim to cap off a memorable Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy campaign with silverware.

IPL 2026 AUCTION: PLAYING FOR RAJASTHAN ROYALS WILL FEEL LIKE HOME, SAYS RAVI BISHNOI

ABU DHABI : India leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi said it felt "like playing at home" after being picked up by former champions Rajasthan Royals for Rs 7.2 crore at the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction at the Etihad Arena in Abu Dhabi, with the franchise securing the spinner following competitive bidding.

Hailing from Jodhpur, Bishnoi adds proven quality and energy to the Royals' bowling attack. Speaking on his move to Rajasthan Royals, Ravi Bishnoi said, "Playing for Rajasthan Royals will feel like playing at home. I started my cricket journey as a practice bowler at RR, and now representing a team that carries the name of my state means a lot to me."

RR Lead Owner Manoj Badale said, "Ravi is a special talent and someone our fans were eager to see in Royals colours. His return to the franchise feels like a homecoming, especially knowing he began his journey here as a net bowler. He's a highly skilled bowler, a terrific fielder, and someone who embodies the hunger and spirit we value at this franchise."

During the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025-26, the leg spinner bowled with an economy of 8.40 and claimed nine wickets in seven games. In the 2025 Indian Premier League, Bishnoi was a member of the Lucknow Super Giants. The 25-year-old has played for the Punjab Kings and the Lucknow Super Giants and, with 77 appearances, has taken 72 wickets.

Bishnoi entered the auction with a base price of Rs 2 crore. The Rajasthan Royals quickly opened the bidding for the leg-spinner. The Chennai Super Kings soon joined in after asking for some time. They pushed the price up steadily with fixed increments as the two teams competed.

CSK raised the bid to Rs 4.2 crore before the Royals briefly stepped back. They returned at Rs 4.4 crore, starting another round of frenetic bidding that brought the total to Rs 5.8 crore. After a long discussion at the Royals' table, RR jumped back in at Rs 6 crore, and CSK chose not to respond. Just when it seemed like the Royals had secured the player, the Sunrisers Hyderabad entered with a bid of Rs 6.2 crore, sparking the bidding war again. The price kept rising before finally settling at Rs 7.2 crore.



Hockey India Delegation Meets Sports Secretary, Highlights Success of FIH Men's Junior World Cup 2025

PC JHA

RANCHI : Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh, along with Treasurer Sekar J. Manoharan and Director General Cdr. R. K. Srivastava, called on Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, Secretary (Sports), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS), Government of India, and presented him with a memento of the FIH Hockey Men's Junior World Cup Tamil Nadu 2025.

During the meeting, the Hockey India Secretary General briefed the Sports Secretary on the successful organisation and smooth conclusion of the prestigious global tournament, which was hosted in Tamil Nadu. He highlighted India's commendable bronze medal finish and described it as a reflection of the country's growing strength in junior hockey and the effectiveness of long-term talent development programmes.

Bhola Nath Singh underlined the wider significance of the tournament, stating that hosting the Junior World Cup not only elevated India's standing in international hockey but also provided a major boost to grassroots development. He noted that the exposure

gained by young Indian players through competing against top international teams would play a crucial role in shaping the future of Indian hockey.

The Hockey India delegation also discussed the tournament's impact on infrastructure development, fan engagement and the promotion of hockey across the state and the country. They expressed gratitude for the continued support and guidance of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in successfully staging such a large-scale international event.

Hari Ranjan Rao, IAS, appreciated Hockey India's efforts in organising the Junior World Cup and congratulated the team on India's podium finish. He acknowledged the importance of junior-level success in building a strong pipeline for the senior national teams and reaffirmed the Ministry's commitment to supporting hockey and other sports through focused policies and initiatives. The meeting concluded on a positive note, with both sides reiterating their shared vision of strengthening India's position as a global hockey powerhouse through sustained investment in youth development, infrastructure and high-performance programmes.



IPL 2026 Auction: Pathirana was our priority, we went to our absolute limit for him, says LSG owner Goenka

ABU DHABI : Lucknow Super Giants suffered a heartbreak in their attempts to bag Sri Lanka star Matheesha Pathirana, losing him to the Kolkata Knight Riders. But LSG expressed satisfaction with their auction strategy, having secured key international targets aligned with their team requirements.

LSG owner Sanjiv Goenka highlighted the successful acquisition of Wanindu Hasaranga and Anrich Nortje as part of a well-planned and disciplined bidding approach in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 mini-auction.

Pathirana stole the limelight in early bidding by fetching Rs. 18 crore from Kolkata Knight Riders. He sparked a bidding war between the Delhi Capitals and LSG, with the sum crossing Rs. 15 crore. Just when Delhi backed out, KKR joined in, taking the youngster's fee even higher. The three-time champions eventually won the battle and roped in the 22-year-old pacer for a massive sum of Rs. 18 crore.

Pathirana made his IPL debut for the Chennai Super Kings and represented them till the 2025 edition of the tournament.

On losing Matheesha to KKR, Goenka said they went to their absolute limit to get him as he was their priority, but that was not to be. "Yes, our captain and vice-captain were both very keen on Matheesha Pathirana, as was I. We were also very interested in Anrich Nortje. Pathirana was our priority, and we went up to ₹17.8 crore, which was



our absolute limit - we didn't have the purse to go beyond that. When Anrich Nortje came up later, we were pleasantly surprised and delighted to secure him at the base price. So overall, it was a very considered, concerted, and well-thought-out decision," Dr Goenka said on JioHotstar's 'Match Centre Live Auction 2026'.

Goenka also spoke about their auction strategy and wins so far, and said they have progressed well in achieving their key objectives.

"We are very close to our primary targets. Our key objectives were to secure one quality international leg-spinner and one reputed international fast bowler. Wanindu Hasaranga was our first-choice leg-spinner, and for the fast-bowling option, it was between Matheesha Pathirana and Anrich Nortje. We are delighted to have acquired two players who were part of our shortlisted three, so we are extremely happy with how the auction has unfolded," he said.



The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 trophy is displayed at the historic Ram Setu as part of the Trophy Tour ahead of the tournament to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, Tuesday, December 16, 2025. (IANS/X/@JayShah)

Shooting Nationals: Aishwary Pratap Singh bags 50m 3P world record score to claim gold; Gurjoat Singh wins skeet title



NEW DELHI/BHOPAL : World Championship silver medallist Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar produced a landmark performance on Tuesday, firing a world record score of 470.5, a full 1.6 more than the current world record, to clinch gold in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final of the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Range in Bhopal.

In simultaneous shotgun action being held at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range near New Delhi, Gurjoat Singh came up with a composed display to bag gold in the men's skeet with 55 hits, narrowly defeating nine-time national champion Mairaj Ahmad Khan, who finished second with 54 hits.

Tomar was clinical from the start, equalling his own national record of 597, which he had first achieved at the recently-concluded International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Final in Doha, to finish on top of the qualification.

Navy shooter Niraj Kumar secured the silver with 463.7, and Uttar Pradesh's Akhil Sheoran completed the podium with 451.8.

Defending National champion Kiran Ankush Jadhav finished fourth with 440.0, followed by Paris Olympic bronze medallist Swapnil Suresh Kusale with 429.7, and his teammate Arjun Babuta in sixth with 414.9. Monu Kumar, with

403.2, and Manvendra Singh Shekhawat, with 401.6, completed the final lineup.

Earlier in the qualification, Swapnil Kusale (594-33x) finished behind Tomar, followed by Arjun Babuta (594-32x), with Manvendra Singh Shekhawat (591-31x) placing fourth. Akhil Sheoran and Niraj Kumar both shot 589, finishing fifth and sixth on inner tens, while Monu Kumar (589-28x) placed seventh and Kiran Ankush Jadhav (588-32x) secured the final qualification spot in eighth.

In New Delhi, Gurjoat Singh claimed the gold medal in the Men's Skeet final with 55 hits, edging past Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan, who settled for silver with 54 hits. This was Mairaj's 26th podium at the National Shooting Championship Competitions. He had earlier topped the qualification round with 122 hits, finishing level with Parampal Singh Guron but securing the top rank after a shootout, where he scored +11 against Parampal's +10. Harmehar Singh Lally claimed the bronze medal in the senior category with 43 hits and followed it up with the gold in the junior final. Angad Vir Singh Bajwa finished fourth with 35 hits, followed by Parampal in fifth with 24 hits and Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodiya in sixth with 16 hits. Earlier in the qualification round, Gurjoat was placed third with a score of 121, while Harmehar finished fourth with 120. Angad (+4) and Jyotiraditya (+3+2) both hit 119 targets and advanced to the

final after a shootout.

Harmehar claimed the gold medal after a commanding performance, topping the qualification round with a score of 120 before going on to register 54 hits in the final. Zorawar Singh Bedi settled for silver with 51 hits, while Jyotiraditya Singh Sisodiya secured the bronze medal with a final score of 40. Ishaan Singh Libra finished fourth with 32, followed by Gurfateh Singh Sandhu (24), and Harviraj Singh with 14 hits. In the junior men's 50m 3P final, Rohit Kanyan won the gold with 457.4, while Adriyan Karmakar took the second position, finishing with 455.5. Vedant Nitin Waghmare secured third place to claim the bronze with 443.0. S Hitesh finished fourth with 431.2, followed by Manvendra Singh Shekhawat (418.9), Kushagra Singh Rajawat (408.8), Anshul Jangid (398.3), and Gaurav Dinesh Desale (396.4). In the Men's Team 50m 3P, Railways secured the gold medal with a combined score of 1764-90x, led by Swapnil Suresh Kusale (594-33x), Arjun Babuta (594-32x), and Shahu Tushar Mane (576-25x). The Navy team finished second to take silver with 1760-99x, through Niraj Kumar (589 - 34x), Kiran Ankush Jadhav (588 - 32x), and Nikhil Tanwar (583 - 33x). The Army Marksmanship Unit claimed the bronze medal with an aggregate of 1756-93x, with contributions from Nishan Budha (587-38x),