

Mamata mulls ‘MINI CINEMA POLICY’ to boost film industry

The increasing demand for spaces to exhibit audio-visual content and the rising interest in small group movie viewings has prompted the state govt to launch a mini cinema policy. This policy was announced by chief minister Mamata Banerjee at the Business & Industry Conclave on Thursday. Tollywood believes this is the first of its kind in India by a state govt. It is expected to enhance the experience for cinephiles, boost the film industry and local businesses, and utilise small auditoriums in suburban and rural areas for entertainment and commerce. Speaking at the conclave, Banerjee said: "Today we introduced the 'Mini Cinema Policy' to revitalise Bengal's film industry. We have accepted actor Prosenjit Chatterjee's suggestion. Instead of a big cinema hall, there should be small theatres where many people can be accommodated."

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Morning India

‘Modi govt demolished 20 years of MGNREGA in one day’, claims Rahul Gandhi

MI News Service, New Delhi : Accusing the Narendra Modi government of demolishing 20 years of MGNREGA ‘in a single day’, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday dubbed the new VB-G RAM G legislation as “anti village”. Noting that the VB-G RAM G Bill is not a “revamp” of MGNREGA, Rahul Gandhi today said in a post on X, “Last night, the Modi government demolished twenty years of MGNREGA in one day.

“It demolishes the rights-based, demand-driven guarantee and turns it into a rationed scheme which is controlled from Delhi. It is anti-state and anti-village by design,” he alleged. The Leader of Opposition



PM Modi’s targets are clear: Weaken labour, weaken the leverage of rural India, especially Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, centralise power, and then sell slogans as reform --Rahul Gandhi

in the Lok Sabha also claimed that MGNREGA used to give the rural worker a bargaining power. “With real options, exploitation and distress migration fell, wages increased, working conditions improved, all while building and reviving rural infrastructure. That leverage is precisely what this government wants to break,” Rahul Gandhi further alleged. He said by capping work and creating more ways to deny it, the VB-G RAM G Bill weakens the one instrument the rural poor had. “We saw what MGNREGA meant during Covid. When the economy shut down and livelihoods collapsed, it kept crores from falling into hunger and debt,” the senior Congress leader claimed. It helped women the most – year after year, with women contributing more than half the person-days, the LoP said. “When you ration a jobs programme,

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Mamata Banerjee defends Bengal’s industrial growth and investment record

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that the World Bank is partnering with the state government to boost logistics and exports from the state. Referring to several new proposals for major investment in West Bengal soon, including that of JSW Energy’s ₹ 16,000 crore power project and the proposed battery storage expansion by the RP-Sanjiv Goenka Group, the Chief minister said here on Thursday that Bengal’s strategic location as a gateway to Southeast Asia besides Eastern and Northeastern parts of India, along with its capacity for 24x7 power supply, abundant coal reserve, large skilled workforce, and zero loss of mandays over the last 14 years, have encouraged the investors to come and invest in Bengal.

Moreover, Bengal has massive infrastructural support and one of India’s largest logistics hubs and Eastern India’s largest warehousing facility, the Chief minister said all these have encouraged several reputed global companies like Amazon and Flipkart to set up their units in Bengal with major investments. The Chief Minister listed that under her leader-



File Photo

“The state is marketed as a major logistics hub, with companies like Amazon and Flipkart investing, and World Bank partnerships supporting growth

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee

ship the state government had made several achievements across various sectors like tourism, MSMEs, IT, real estate and agriculture, leading to huge employment generation.

Citing NITI Aayog data, Mamata Banerjee said there was a sharp reduction in unemployment in the state

as the government continued its focus on inclusive growth, peace, and prosperity, asserting that “division is not the solution.” While some major players like IHCL and Ambuja Neotia have explored hospitality expansion, signalling a mix of claimed successes and ongoing development focus, Mamata

Banerjee said Bengal leads in IT investment, with exports growing significantly, attracting top firms with talent and infrastructure.

“The state is marketed as a major logistics hub, with companies like Amazon and Flipkart investing, and World Bank partnerships supporting growth”, she said and informed the Business and Industry Conclave about her new initiatives for industrial and pharmaceutical parks. Reiterating the easy availability of 24/7 power, skilled workforce, and improved ease of doing business as strengths, aiming to attract more investment, Mamata Banerjee told the Conclave that Indian Hotels Company (IHCL) and Ambuja Neotia are exploring joint ventures for new hospitality projects, showing private sector interest. She said the government is emphasizing fast-tracking project clearances through a synergy committee to convert proposals into on-ground investments. In essence, the narrative from the government highlights a burgeoning, diversified economy, especially in IT and logistics, while challenges remain regarding heavy industry and broader manufacturing growth,

Vandalism grips Bangladesh after student leader’s death



Bangladesh army stands guard at the premises of the Prothom Alo daily newspaper after angry protesters set it on fire after news reached the country from Singapore of the death of a prominent activist Sharif Osman Hadi, in Dhaka, Bangladesh

MI News Service, New Delhi / Dhaka : Mounting tension gripped Bangladesh on Friday after the death of prominent July Uprising leader Sharif Osman Hadi triggering protests, violence and vandalism in various parts of the country.

While no incidents of major violence and firing were reported till late in the afternoon, protesters were seen vandalising the already demolished structure of 32 Dhanmandi, the home of Bangladesh’s founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with stones and whatever they could have their hands on.

Various parts of the country were rocked Thurs-

day night by attacks and vandalism, including stone-hurling at the Assistant Indian High Commissioner’s residence in Chattogram, after Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus confirmed Inquilab Mancha leader Hadi’s death in a televised address to the nation. The Mancha had made the initial announcement of Hadi’s death in Singapore, adding that his body will be brought home later in the day. Hadi, a candidate in the scheduled February 12 general elections, died while undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital after fighting for his life for six days. He was shot in the head last week by masked gunmen as he initiated his

“We want to remind anti-India forces in Bangladesh that it was India that liberated Bangladesh from the oppression of Pakistan Army... It took only 13 days to turn East Pakistan into a sovereign country.

Suraj Debbarma
YTF president

election campaign at central Dhaka’s Bijoynagar area.

Protesters on Thursday took to the streets and attacked offices of leading newspapers, vandalised 32 Dhanmandi with hammers, and also demolished an office of deposed Prime minister Sheikh Hasina’s disbanded Awami League party in Rajshahi city. Regarded as the centre point of Bangladesh’s pre-independence struggle for autonomy for decades, 32 Dhanmandi was largely demolished with excavators on February 5 this year, while it was set on fire soon after the August 5,

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Biting cold conditions intensify in Kashmir

MI News Service, Srinagar :

After a brief respite, cold conditions intensified in Kashmir as the night temperatures dropped and settled much below the freezing point at most places in the valley, officials said on Friday. Pulwama town was the coldest recorded place with a minimum of minus 6 degree Celsius on Thursday night, they said. Srinagar recorded a low of minus 3.1 degree Celsius, two degrees down from the previous night’s minus 1.2 degree Celsius, the officials said. As winter tightened its grip over Kashmir since yesterday, mercury crashed throughout the region and temperatures plunged across the valley and Ladakh, deepening a cold wave that left several regions far below freezing. A biting cold wave is being witnessed in Jammu and Kashmir, while night temperatures tumbled across the Valley, with several areas sliding deep below freezing.

According to data compiled by Kashmir Weather, Pulwama was the coldest inhabited place, recording minus 6.5 degree Celsius, followed by Shopian at minus 5 degree Celsius. Srinagar logged a low of minus 3.6 degree Celsius, while its outskirts were even colder, with the Srinagar Airport area dipping to minus 4 degree Celsius. Qazigund

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Houseboats moored banks of river Jehlum in Srinagar

PM Modi to address first public rally at Ranaghat on Saturday before 2026 poll

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Ahead of the forthcoming organisational activities of the BJP in West Bengal before the 2026 Assembly elections, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a public meeting at Ranaghat in Nadia district, tomorrow. The Prime minister’s first meeting in the state before the poll at the Matua stronghold in bordering Nadia district is said to be held in recognition of district’s cultural and historical importance. This will be Prime minister’s third visit to Bengal in five months when he will be expected to address the Matua community, which has been on tenterhooks since the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls kicked off last month. The PM was in Bengal in August to address public rallies in North Bengal and in September in South Bengal to inaugurate a defence meet. Tomorrow’s rally will follow a host of



government programmes since a meeting at Ranaghat, scheduled earlier this year, could not be held due to bad weather, the same location was chosen for the PM’s first rally in the run-up to the assembly polls,” said sources within the state BJP.

As per the schedule the Prime minister PM reach the Kolkata Airport around 10 a.m, before proceeding to Taherpur near Ranaghat half hour later. He is expected to address a massive rally at around 11 a.m..

TMC MPs on overnight dharna in Parliament house against G RAM G Bill



TMC MPs Dola Sen, Ritabrata Banerjee, Sagarika Ghose and other opposition members stage a dharna at the Parliament House complex, amid the ongoing Winter session of Parliament, in New Delhi. Opposition leaders staged a 12-hour overnight protest dharna in the complex on Thursday night, while protesting against the passage of the VB-G RAM G bill that seeks to replace the MGNREGA rural employment programme.

MI News Service, New Delhi :

Overcoming the biting cold in harsh winter at the National capital, Trinamool Congress MPs held an overnight dharna in the Parliament complex against the passage of the G RAM G Bill, which they said was “bulldozed” through both Houses without any discussion. TMC MPs spent the night at the gate of the Samvidhan Sadan, with banners and portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore, slamming

rural poor to the rural workers. Therefore by destroying this Bill, the government has attacked the rural poor,” Ghose said.

“The Modi government has assassinated Mahatma Gandhi for the second time and it has also insulted Rabindranath Tagore,” she said. A banner at the protest read “Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. Gurudev gave the title Mahatma”. Tagore is known to have given the title of ‘Mahatma’ to Gandhi.

“The Modi government has assassinated Mahatma Gandhi for the second time and it has also insulted Rabindranath Tagore

TMC leader Sagarika Ghose

ming the government over the Bill, which replaces the UPA-era Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). “We MPs of the Trinamool Congress have been sitting on a 12-hour dharna. We started at midnight. Our dharna will go on till noon,” TMC leader Sagarika Ghose said. “We are sitting in dharna because of the manner in which the NREGA Act has been destroyed by the Modi government and it has been replaced by the VBGRG Bill. It was given to us just five hours before the government introduced it in the House. The Modi government is using bulldozer tactics to push through legislation,” Ghose said. She said an important bill like the NREGA Bill should have been sent to a select committee for discussion.

“The NREGA Act was giving employment to the

The Parliament on Thursday passed the VB-G RAM G Bill that seeks to replace the 20-year-old MGNREGA and guarantees 125 days of rural wage employment every year amid vociferous protests by the opposition. Placing the Bill in the Lok Sabha Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan asserted that the law was needed to fix shortcomings in the old scheme. The Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Bill was passed by the Rajya Sabha with a voice vote, hours after the Lok Sabha cleared it on Thursday. Opposition leaders protested over the removal of Mahatma Gandhi’s name from the existing rural employment guarantee scheme MGNREGA and accusing the government of putting the financial burden on states.

Trump signs defence policy bill for deeper engagement with India

MI News Service, Washington (DC)

: US President Donald Trump has signed into law an annual defence policy bill that highlights broadening America’s engagement with India, including through the Quad to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region and address the challenge posed by China. The National Defence Authorisation Act for Fiscal Year 2026, signed into law on Thursday, authorises fiscal year appropriations for the Department of War (DoW), the Department of Energy national security programmes, the Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Intelligence Community, and other executive departments and agencies.

“The Act will enable the DoW to carry out my Peace Through Strength agenda, protect the homeland from domestic and foreign threats, and strengthen the defence industrial bases, while



President Donald Trump speaks before signing an executive order in the Oval Office of the White House, in Washington

eliminating funding for wasteful and radical programmes that undermine the warfighting ethos of our Nation’s men and women in uniform,” President Trump said in a statement today. The Act outlines “sense of Congress on Defence Alliances and Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region”. Under this,

the Secretary of Defence should continue efforts that strengthen US defence alliances and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region to “further the comparative advantage of the US in strategic competition with China”.

This includes “broadening US engagement with India, including

“The Act will enable the DoW to carry out my Peace Through Strength agenda, protect the homeland from domestic and foreign threats, and strengthen the defence industrial bases, while eliminating funding for wasteful and radical programmes that undermine the war fighting ethos of our Nation’s men and women in uniform

President Trump said in a statement

through the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) to advance the shared objective of a free and open Indo-Pacific region through bilateral and multilateral engagements and participation in military exercises, expanded defence trade, and collaboration on humanitarian aid and disaster response; and to enable greater cooperation on maritime security.” The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, comprising India, the US, Japan and Australia, was set up in 2017 to counter China’s aggressive behaviour in the Indo-Pacific region.

The Act states that the Secretary of Defence, in coordination

with the Secretary of State, shall establish and maintain a security initiative to strengthen cooperation among the defence industrial bases of the US and allied and partner countries in the Indo-Pacific region. This, it said, would strengthen the collective defence industrial base by expanding capability, capacity, and workforce, including enhanced supply chain security, interoperability, and resilience among participating countries. The two Secretaries shall establish a process to determine which allies and partners of the US

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State Minister Indranil Sen inaugurates the cultural programme, expo and exhibition titled "Bangla Moder Gorbo", organised by the West Bengal Information and Culture Department at the Nandan-Rabindra Sadan on Friday.

Even being alive, listed as 'dead' in draft list! Some ran for 'death certificate', BLO show caused

MI News Service, Burdwan: Despite being alive, they are listed as 'dead' in the draft voter list! Voters in various districts of the state are complaining one after another. Some voters are worried. Some are rushing to get their 'death certificates'. Show cause has been given to BLO, AERO in Cooch Behar.

Maya Dalui, a resident of Punjabipara in Burdwan Municipality, is worried after the draft voter list was published. She has been marked as dead in the draft list. Maya, a resident of Burdwan South Assembly constituency, has a family of husband, son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. She works as a maid twice a day to meet the family expenses. However, Maya is now 'dead' in the government

records.

Maya said, "I submitted the enumeration form. The word 'dead' is not written anywhere on that form. Still, I don't understand how I was declared dead. I just want the commission to accept that I am alive and include my name in the voter list."

Debanand Chaurasia, BLO of booth number 48, said, "We had to work in a very short time. This is a draft list. I have informed my supervisor about Maya Dolui. I hope this mistake will not be there in the final list."

As soon as this incident came to light, political back and forth began. East Burdwan District Trinamool General Secretary Bagbul Islam complained, "We have been saying from the beginning

that the Election Commission is working as the BJP says. An atmosphere of panic is being created in the whole of Bengal. Here a living person is shown dead."

In response, BJP district spokesperson Shantaroop Dey said, "The Trinamool is conspiring in various ways to dilute the SIR process and spread panic among the people. BJP's BLAs have not been allowed to work. Some names are being selectively named in booths, and attempts are being made to create chaos by showing the living as dead."

On the other hand, Purna Saha, a resident of Kalinagar Para area of Ward No. 12 of Kalna Municipality, is also listed as 'dead' in the draft voter list. He appeared at the

municipality to collect her death certificate. He said, "I am a living person. Yet I am shown as dead. That is why I have come to collect the death certificate." His family said that he had filled out the enumeration form within the specified time. But the complaint is that while collecting the form, the concerned BLO mentioned him as dead in the receiving copy. Purna's wife Nirobhi Saha claims that the BLO did not come to the house to collect the form. The form was collected from somewhere else. At that time, it was not possible to properly note what was written on the form. The family further claims that they are not very well educated and could not understand what is written in English.

Road accident due to dense fog, two died, two injured, long traffic jam on state highway

MI News Service, Coch Behar: Dense fog since morning. Roads were not visible even a hand's length away. Two people died in a road accident due to low visibility. Cooch Behar incident on Friday. The road accident occurred on Friday in the Ashokhari area of the Mathabhanga-Maynaguri State Highway No. 16. Two trucks collided head-on. The front of both trucks was completely crushed due to the impact of the collision. Two people died on the spot. Two others were seriously injured. One of the deceased is 18 years old. His name is Amir Hossain. He lives in the Sutkabari area of Cooch Behar-1 block. The second person also lives in the same area. The injured are residents of the Bilasipara area. Upon receiving news of the accident, the police and fire brigade of Mathabhanga Police Station quickly rushed to the scene. They rescued the injured from the damaged truck and sent them to a local hospital. Traffic on the state highway was closed for a long time due to the accident. Commuters suffered a lot. Later, after the two trucks involved in the accident were removed with the help of a crane, traffic gradually returned to normal.

Woman held for stealing silver jewellery posing as customer

MI News Service, Dhubulia: A woman who allegedly posed as a customer to steal silver jewellery from a shop in the Dhubulia area of Nadia district was arrested within 24 hours of a complaint being filed, police said on Thursday. Stolen items weighing around 300 grams were also recovered.



According to police sources, the thefts took place at a jewellery shop owned by Gopal Mondal at Gournagar village under Dhubulia police station. Mondal noticed over the past few days that several silver ornaments were missing from his shop. On Wednesday morning, after discovering

more items missing, he lodged a written complaint with Dhubulia police station. Police immediately launched an investigation and examined CCTV footage from the shop. The footage revealed a woman

visiting the shop multiple times posing as a customer and allegedly stealing silver ornaments when the shopkeeper was distracted.

The accused was identified as Sumi Halder, a resident of the Dhubulia area. She was arrested from her residence. During interrogation, she allegedly confessed to the crime and told police that she had sold the stolen jewellery to a local resident, Alkesh Debnath.

Debnath was subsequently arrested, and around 300 grams of silver jewellery were recovered from his possession. Further investigation is underway, police said.

"Will give reply to Sourav Ganguly": Uttam Saha after former Indian cricketer filed defamation case

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former India cricket team captain Sourav Ganguly initiated legal proceedings against Uttam Saha, who is the president of the Argentina Fan Club of Kolkata, filing a defamation suit seeking Rs 50 crore in damages.

The action follows Saha's public allegations linking Ganguly to the controversial incident at the Yuva Bharati Stadium (Salt Lake Stadium) during Lionel Messi's

GOAT India Tour visit to Kolkata on December 13.

Ganguly's complaint, filed at Lalbazar, said that Saha's statements have caused significant harm to his reputation and were made without any factual basis. The former India captain described Saha's remarks as "false, malicious, offensive, and defamatory" and accused him of acting knowingly to damage his reputation.

In response, Uttam Saha

said he will respond to Ganguly. He added that he respects him as a great player, but if anything goes wrong on the football field, we will not spare anyone.

"We will give a reply to Sourav Ganguly, as this is a football ground, not cricket. He is a great player, and we respect him, but if anything wrong happens on the football ground, we will not spare anyone, whether it is Sourav Ganguly or anybody else," Uttam Saha said to ANI.

The controversy erupted after Messi's Kolkata appearance, the first stop of the GOAT India Tour 2025, descended into chaos, with fans alleging that VIPs and politicians crowded the pitch, preventing spectators from getting a clear view of the football icon.

Angry fans vandalised parts of the stadium, accusing organisers of poor planning and mismanagement. In the fallout, Sports Minister Aroop Biswas resigned,

and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accepted it.

The state government has constituted an SIT comprising IPS officers Piyush Pandey, Javed Shamim, Supratim Sarkar and Muralidhar to conduct a thorough investigation.

Messi later completed the remaining legs of his India tour, visiting Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi, before departing from Jamnagar after a stop at the Vantara animal sanctuary.

From Hijli to Mountain View: 75 years of IIT Kharagpur, a conversation with Sundar Pichai on shaping the next frontier of global knowledge

MI News Service, Kharagpur : IIT Kharagpur Platinum Jubilee Year symbolizing the powerful confluence of tradition and future, Director of IIT Kharagpur, Prof. Suman Chakraborty met Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet, at Google's Mountain View headquarters during his recent visit to the United States. This interaction comes at a crucial time when IIT Kharagpur, as the founding institute of the IIT system, is entering its 75th year and reaffirming its global leadership in education, research and innovation. Prof. Chakraborty was accompanied by a distinguished alumni delegation, which included Dr. Ashok Deysarkar, Arjun Malhotra, Roy Da Silva and Shailendra Kumar. The presence reflects IIT Kharagpur's strong and enduring alumni network spanning continents and generations. The deliberations were strategic, visionary and impact-oriented, with an emphasis on leading cutting-edge academic and research initiatives with global relevance, leveraging technological leadership, and developing scalable solutions for local, national and global objectives. Mr. Pichai expressed strong support in principle for these initiatives and underlined our shared vision of technology as a transformative force for inclusive growth and social well-being. The professional in-



teraction was accompanied by emotional and memorable moments as Mr. Pichai fondly recalled his formative years at IIT Kharagpur. Memories of his wife Anjali Pichai's experiences were also shared, reviving the timeless bond between the institute and its alumni who are leading the world today. As an important confirmation of this enduring relationship, Mr. Pichai agreed in principle to consider the possibility of a visit to IIT Kharagpur, which could be aligned with one of the major events of the Institute as part of its platinum jubilee celebrations in the coming year. Such a visit will be a powerful symbol of IIT's legacy, from nurturing talent to enabling global leadership.

Additionally, Shri Pichai expressed his commitment to support IIT Kharagpur's global outreach initiatives, including the

establishment of a Global Outreach Center in the US, aimed at strengthening international collaboration, translational research, entrepreneurship and technology-driven social impact. Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Suman Chakraborty said the interaction is a powerful example of how "IIT Kharagpur's 75-year legacy intersects with the frontiers of global innovation and purpose-driven technology, the most striking testament to which is Sundar Pichai's leadership and influence at the helm of Google. Commemorating 75 years of nation-building and global excellence, this visit is a powerful testament to IIT Kharagpur's continuing role as India's intellectual beacon on the world stage.

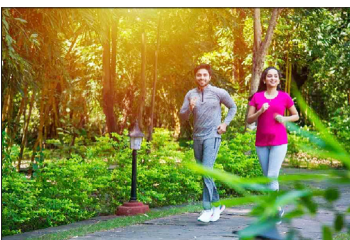
Rooted in legacy, inspired by the power of alumni, and fueled by the future

'RUN FOR GREEN SILIGURI' on Jan 25

MI News Service, Siliguri: Siliguri College will organise a half-marathon titled "Run for Green Siliguri" on January 25 next year, aiming to spread awareness of environmental conservation.

The event will be jointly organised by Siliguri College and the Siliguri Marathon Committee as part

Champasari More, Salugara Checkpost, Eastern Bypass, Fuleswari More, Agrani Sangha and Gopal More, before concluding at the Tara Tarapada Adarsha Vidyalaya schoolground in the Deshbandhupara area of the city.



The 'Dream Run', on the other hand, is open to participants aged 12 years and above. It will also start from the college ground and pass through the DBRCD flyover, NTS More and Dadabhai More, before ending at the Terai school ground. The run for specially-abled persons will be held entirely on the college grounds.

All the three events will start at 6 am. The total prize money for the marathon is 2.5 lakh. The winner of the half-marathon will receive 1 lakh, while the runner-up will be awarded 50,000.

In the 'Dream Run' category, the winner will receive 5,000 and the runner-up 3,000. Winners of other categories will also be awarded cash awards.

"In addition to cash prizes, medals and certificates will be presented to successful participants," said a source.

Shuvdarsini Hospital brings experience in healthcare at Raniganj

MI News Service, Raniganj: After a successful of hospital competition of one year, Shuvdarsini Hospital celebrates its milestone in complex surgery successful treatment of critical condition patients, quality improvement initiatives showing reduce mortality/morbidity.

Hospital with technological advancements, improved patient safety and focus on holistic care we are trying to reach excellence in medical care system.

At present hospital is running with 200 bedded with latest medical equipments with qualified medical professionals and qualified trained nurses,



CEO of the Hospital Antora Ganguly

managerial skills.

Hospital is empanelled with more than 25 TPA and insurance companies like Bajaj Allianz general insurance, Star health, future general, ICICI lombard, niva bupa, care health, saweay etc. and corporates like -coal India limited ECL, BCCL, CCL, ESI, Shyam Steel, Shyam sel, Bank of India etc. hospital is recognized as category a in Swasthya Sathi govt scheme. Hospital is now Nabh certified hospital and going for accreditation certificate.

Hospital is on verge of focusing in patient - centric care and efficiency to build trust and improve overall health metrics.

National and international Convention for integrated management legal framework on advocacy for the fully equally enjoy all human rights, School education, reducing stigma and discrimination persons with disabilities

MI News Service, Kolkata: The International Mission for Social Welfare and Charity (I.M.S.W.C) is organized its 45th Anniversary of "National and international Convention for integrated management legal framework on advocacy for the fully equally enjoy all human rights and empowerment of individuals with disabilities. By addressing social determinants of health and promoting social inclusion, rehabilitation professionals contribute to enhancing overall quality of life and promoting equal opportunities for participation in society. To ensure the highest quality of emerging rehabilitation professionals through Competency based curricula, which addresses the life cycle needs of persons with disabilities and to promote socialization, reduce isolation, and enhance participation in community life. IMSWC promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of community life, reducing stigma and discrimination on. 19th September, 2025 at Vannapuram, mangatukavala and nedumkandam village of idukki district within the State of Kerala. The 585 mental retardation, mental illness, blind and multiple disabilities Participated of this Programme.

20th September, 2025 IMSWC arranged integrated development Programme for Visual mentally, deaf, dumb, Speech

and hearing handicapped children school education. IMSWC Provides minimum standards of education and Workshop On Rural employment Generation training Programme for various categories of human resources dealing with persons with disabilities on Jute making, Mat making, Embroidered Sari, Rope making, Leather Shopping bag, Steel Photo frame and to ensure that the focus is on training in cross disability, inclusion and multispectral convergence, which lead persons with disabilities to live independently, confidently and productively in their own communities. IMSWC assist individuals in identifying career goals, acquiring job skills through training programs, and accessing employment opportunities suitable for their abilities and interests. Vocational rehabilitation involves job coaching, resume building, interview preparation and workplace accommodations to support successful employment outcomes and promote financial independence. IMSWC Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Protection of Rights at Sarpavaram, venkatnagar and panasapadu village of Kakinada district within the State of Andhra Pradesh. The 882 Visual mentally, deaf, dumb disabilities Participated of this Programme.

21th September, 2025 IMSWC organized access to integrated

management Legislative Framework on Prohibit discrimination based on disability in various spheres of life, ensuring equal opportunities for all and Full Participation of Persons with Disabilities. IMSWC aim to provide necessary support, special educators and learning aids, to facilitate the inclusion of children with disabilities in mainstream schools. Ensuring that all individuals, regardless of disability, enjoy equal rights and opportunities. To prepare professionals who will respect the rights, dignity, and autonomy Confidentiality and cultural diversity of persons with disabilities. IMSWC promotes the integration of people with disabilities into their communities, enhancing social inclusion and participation. IMSWC provides trained personnel restrict access to comprehensive rehabilitation services. IMSWC works to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equitable access to social services and education in all facets of community life at. Lalcherra, Khasiamangal and bajjalbari village of Khowai district within the State of Tripura. The 594 Speech and hearing, Cerebral palsy disabilities Participated of this Programme.

22th September, 2025 IMSWC organized Decentralization and Vigorous Campaign to create public highlighted about empower people with disabilities

to advocate for their rights and participate in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Emphasizing the potential of IMSWC to promote human rights, social justice, and sustainable development, thereby contributing to inclusive societies and improved quality of life for individuals with disabilities. Community-Based Rehabilitation is a comprehensive development of community's method that aims to reduce poverty and integrate persons with disabilities into society. IMSWC ensure continuity of rehabilitation services and access to preventive care due to cultural, linguistic or socioeconomic barriers. Effective healthcare interventions in cultural communities prioritize culturally sensitive care, Community engagement, to promote the highest attainable standards in the development of human and material resources, towards preparation and delivery of composite services in education, rehabilitation, research and technology at. Nokpu, Chandang and lakhuni village of Mokochung district within the State of Nagaland. The 697 Orthopedically, low vision, leprosy-Cured disabilities Participated of this Programme.

23rd September, 2025 IMSWC organized Innovative integrated programme for Entrepreneurship Development training Programme for Cerebral palsy, Orthopedic ally handicapped, low



vision, leprosy-Cured, locomotor disability children on Decorative toys, Artistic Novelty Stoneware and Decorative Flower and to ensure men, women and Girls with disabilities financially independent and Simultaneously raised their Standard of living and to Create income Security opportunities for the rural men, Women and Girls with disabilities. IMSWC conduct social skills training sessions to improve communication skills, assertiveness, conflict resolution, and interpersonal interactions. These skills are essential for building and maintaining relationships, navigating social situations, and enhancing community integration. To promote the training of rehabilitation professionals in un-served and IMSWC aims to provide people with disabilities with vocational training

education alongside their peers including teaching and are able to participate fully in school activities. This includes providing support services, special education teachers and accessible facilities. Providing accessible legal services and support to individuals with disabilities to protect their rights and seek redress for violations. Implementing measures to protect individuals with disabilities from violence, abuse, and exploitation. Protection of Rights and One of the primary objectives of IMSWC is to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities. This includes improving their physical, mental, and social well-being, as well as their access to education, employment, and other essential services. IMSWC seeks to provide people with disabilities with access to assistive devices and technologies that can help them to overcome barriers to participation in daily life. This includes devices such as wheelchairs, hearing aids, and communication devices. IMSWC ensure that every patient has access to care and that no patient is left behind and provide free health care including manual therapy, electrotherapy, and hydrotherapy, physical therapists audiologists, speech therapists, prosthetists and orthotists occupational therapy among medical professionals at. Karnajora, Chakulia and Bhelai Sarat Chandra High School of Uttar Dinajpur district

within the state of West Bengal. The 943 mental retardation, mental illness, blind and multiple disabilities Participated of this Programme. Renowned and respected personalities Mr. Debashish Ghosh-Secretary General of IMSWC and Chief Secretary of Indian Detective and Investigation Organization, Miss. Mali Bagchi-President of The International Mission for Social Welfare and Charity, Honorable Dr. Virendra Kumar-Union Minister, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Honorable Shri. Sudhansh Pant-Secretary, Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, Honorable Ms. V. Vidyavathi-Secretary, Department of Empowerment of persons with Disabilities, Government of India, Honorable Shri, Surendra Kumar Meena-IAS, District Magistrate, District: Uttar Dinajpur, Government of West Bengal, Honorable Shrimoti, Priyanka Singh Mehta-IAS-Additional District Magistrate(General), District: Uttar Dinajpur, Government of West Bengal, Honorable Shri, Maloy Chatterjee-District Social Welfare officer, District: Hooghly, Government of West Bengal, Sri, Dilip Choudhary, Sri, Nandan Majumder, Srimotho Swami, Bodhasarananda Moharaj, Srimoth Swami, Madhaveswanda Moharaj, Srimoth Swami. Shivatmananda Moharaj was present at this workshop.

Bengal now commercial capital of east & North-East India: MAMATA

MI News Service, Kolkata: Asserting that Bengal has emerged as the commercial capital of eastern and north-eastern India, driven by strong MSME-led growth and its strategic geographic location, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that two trade and export facilitation centres will be set up in Kolkata and Siliguri each, along with a business-to-business hub to channelise trade. Chief Minister also announced the setting up of a West Bengal Traders' Welfare Board and a single-window interface involving district chambers to resolve small business issues. She also launched a state trade portal to address payment delays. Banerjee assured that the registered MSMEs will be able to access funding from 72 banks and financial institutions through bill discounting mechanisms. "The state will offer plots for trade and business centres free across districts, with 10 more plots. If Bengal changes, the country will change," Banerjee said. chief minister said the state's exports have crossed Rs 1.15 lakh crore, while the number of registered companies has exceeded 2.5 lakh, which, she said, contradicts claims of business flight. More than 93 lakh MSME units are operating in the state, Banerjee said, adding that West Bengal's performance on ease of doing business has improved as per national rankings. She also highlighted that logistics has been accorded industry status to improve competitiveness and support businesses in the state.

'Modi govt demolished 20 years of MGNREGA in one day', claims Rahul Gandhi

From PG 1 it is women, Dalits, Adivasis, landless workers and the poorest OBC communities who get pushed out first," he said. "To top it all, this law was bulldozed through Parliament without proper scrutiny. The opposition's demand to send the Bill to a standing committee was rejected. A law that rewires the rural social contract, affecting crores of workers, should never be rammed through without serious committee scrutiny, expert consultation, and public hearings. "PM Modi's targets are clear: Weaken labour, weaken the leverage of rural India, especially Dalits, OBCs and Adivasis, centralise power, and then sell slogans as reform," said Rahul Gandhi. Asserting that MGNREGA was among the most successful poverty alleviation and empowerment programmes in the world, he said, "We will not let this government destroy the rural poor's last line of defence.

Biting cold conditions intensify in Kashmir

From PG 1 recorded a temperature of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, and Kokernag recorded a temperature of minus 0.7 degree Celsius. Tourist destinations also shivered, with Pahalgam and Anantnag both at minus 4.6 degree Celsius. Gulmarg stood at minus 2.1 degree Celsius. Kupwara touched minus 3.6 degree Celsius, Baramulla plunged to minus 4.7 degree Celsius, and Zethan Rafiabad registered minus 4.8 degree Celsius. The Zojila Pass was among the coldest regions, freezing at minus 18 degree Celsius. Across south Kashmir, frost intensified and mercury in Budgam fell to minus 4.3 degree Celsius, Pampore to minus 3.5 degree Celsius, Avantipora to minus 4.2 degree Celsius, and Bandipora to minus 3.6 degree Celsius. Sonamarg recorded minus 1.3 degree Celsius, while Kulgam remained relatively milder at minus 0.6 degree Celsius.



Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata 2025-International top Elite athletes at the Iconic Victoria Memorial (L to R), Alphonce Felix Simbu (Tanzania); Agnes Keino (Kenya); Joshua Cheptegei (Uganda); Sutume Asefa Kebede (Ethiopia); Tebello Ramakonga (Lesotho) and Degitu Azimeraw (Ethiopia).



Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata 2025 Indian top Elite Athletes (L to R), Defending champion & Event Record Holder Gulveer Singh, Indian top athlete Sawan Barwal, Defending Champion Sanjivani Jadhav & VDHM 2025 winner Seema at the event media center.

Bengal's heritage resonates at PRAVASI RAJASTHANI DIWAS



MI News Service, Kolkata: A Bengal-based perspective on heritage-led development found a prominent platform at the recently organised event Pravas Rajasthani Diwas, where Sandip Nowlakha, Vice President of the Murshidabad Heritage Development Society addressed delegates as a guest speaker, drawing compelling parallels between Rajasthan's havelis and Bengal's historic homes. An

entrepreneur and heritage conservationist and a Pravas Rajasthani himself, Nowlakha spoke on "Havelis to Heritage: Unveiling the Legacy of Rajasthan's Pioneering Entrepreneurs." Rajasthan has over a million havelis lying closed with many owners having migrated to cities across India including Kolkata for business and professional pursuits. Nowlakha noted that Bengal faces a similar

challenge with its rajbaris, kothis and merchant houses. Citing successful restorations in Murshidabad such as Kathgola Palace, Bari Kothi, Jagat Seth's House and Nashipur Rajbari, he underlined the economic potential of conservation-led development. Kathgola Palace now attracts 1.2 million visitors annually, while Jagat Seth's House and Nashipur Rajbari each draw 1 million visitors yearly. The programme was attended by several distinguished dignitaries including Bhajan Lal Sharma, Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of Culture, Govt of India; Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan; Sundeeep Bhutoria, Managing Trustee, Prabha Khaitan Foundation, Kolkata among others.



Members of the Lepcha community arrived at Esplanade (Kolkata) from Kalimpong on Friday after a prolonged Awareness March demanding the inclusion of Lepcha Language in the West Bengal school curriculum. Pic :Prabir Bhattacharya

Bengal gets Eastern India's first Mobile Vision Van Camp



MI News Service, Kolkata: The city of Kolkata gets its first Mobile Vision Van Camp. Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute has successfully launched Eastern India's first-ever Mobile Vision Van outreach camp. The pioneering initiative was inaugurated by Atin Ghosh, Deputy Mayor of Kolkata, along with Dr. Anupam Bhattacharya, CMOH-2,

Basirhat Health District, in the presence of representatives from Cognizant and senior leadership of Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute. The Mobile Vision Van outreach programme aims to bridge critical gaps in eye-care accessibility by delivering free, on-the-spot vision screening, advanced diagnostics, and eye-health awareness to economically

and geographically challenged populations. Supported by the Cognizant Foundation and implemented by Sankara Jyoti Eye Institute, the Mobile Vision Van commenced its operations from Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) and is now expanding across Primary Health Centres in the Basirhat Health District. Specially trained medical teams are travelling from village to village, ensuring that quality tertiary eye-care services reach those who need them the most. The van is equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic technology, including a Retinal Imaging Machine, Non-Contact Tonometer, and Digital Auto-Refractometer. Atin Ghosh, Deputy Mayor of Kolkata, added, "The Mobile Vision Van reflects how technology, partnerships, and compassion can come together to create meaningful impact, especially for vulnerable populations."

Mamata mulls 'MINI CINEMA POLICY' to boost film industry



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and iconic actor Prosenjit Chatterjee at the Business and Industry Conclave at Dhanodhanyo Auditorium in Kolkata on Thursday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: The increasing demand for spaces to exhibit audio-visual content and the rising interest in small group movie viewings has prompted the state govt to launch a mini cinema policy. This policy was announced by chief minister Mamata Banerjee at the Business & Industry Conclave on Thursday. Tollywood believes this is the first of its kind in India by a state govt. It is expected to enhance the experience for cinephiles, boost the film industry and local businesses, and utilise small auditoriums in suburban and rural areas for entertainment and commerce. Speaking at the conclave, Banerjee said: "Today we introduced the 'Mini Cinema Policy' to re-

vitalise Bengal's film industry. We have accepted actor Prosenjit Chatterjee's suggestion. Instead of a big cinema hall, there should be small theatres where many people can be accommodated. We are setting up an International Information Technology Entertainment and Cultural Park in Rajarhat with an investment of Rs 1,000 crore. The tender is already floated. In three phases, more than one lakh people can assemble for cultural programmes." "The West Bengal Mini Cinema Policy was launched and I am pleased our chief minister has taken this step. I want to thank the I&CA department too for their efforts," actor Prosenjit Chatterjee told.

ICC hits a CENTURY



MI News Service, Kolkata: Marking a defining chapter in its storied journey, the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) commemorated 100 years of century-long contribution to India's economic and institutional growth with a prestigious Centenary Session held in Kolkata. The milestone celebration was distinguished by the presence of legendary cricketer and 1983 World Cup-winning Indian team captain Kapil Dev, Padma Bhushan awardee, alongside Mithali Raj, former Indian cricketer and Padma Shri recipient and Dr. Rajeesh Singh, Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce. The session was

expertly moderated by acclaimed sports broadcaster Jatin Sapru. Addressing the audience in the ICC Centenary Session about honesty and good leadership, Padma Bhushan Kapil Dev said, "In the 1983 World Cup, belief was not an individual idea; it emerged only when the entire team began believing collectively, and that shift occurred midway through the tournament." Speaking on this occasion, Mithali Raj, former Indian cricketer and Padma Shri recipient said, "Indian cricket has always been driven by belief, faith, and determination, and that belief is what has shaped its most defining moments."

Kolkata to host INDIAN ROSE CONVENTION

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Indian Rose Federation (IRF), the apex body for rose culture & promotion, has invited Bengal Rose Society (BRS) to host its flagship event, the Indian Rose Convention & All India Rose Show at Kolkata. BRS proposes to host the event in the Lions Safari Park in collaboration with Lions Safari Park (a Project of Lions Club of North Calcutta) on 3-5 January 2026. Arup Roy, MIC Food Processing Industries & Horticulture, Govt. of West Bengal is presumed to inaugurate the event. Pradip K. Mazumdar, MIC Panchayats, Rural Development & Cooperation, Govt. of West Bengal could also grace the occasion. More than 250 delegates from all over India have already registered for the event. The main attraction of this event is the All India Rose Show, where rosarians from across the country are expected to showcase their self-grown roses for competition.

Vandalism grips Bangladesh after student leader's death

From PG 1 2024, fall of the then Awami League government. Protesters also hurled bricks and stones at the residence of the Assistant Indian High Commissioner in Chattogram at 1:30 am, but failed to cause any damage as the Police immediately responded and took action with tear gas and baton charges, dispersing the crowd and detaining 12 protesters. A few injuries were also reported. Soon after the incident senior Bangladesh government officials have assured the Indian Assistant High Commissioner of enhanced security. Last night, the National Citizen Party (NCP), a large offshoot of Students against Discrimination (SAD) that led last year's violent protest -- dubbed the July Uprising, which ousted the Hasina-led government -- joined a mourning procession on the Dhaka University campus. Supporters of the group chanted anti-India slogans alleging that Hadi's assassians fled to India after committing the murder.

They called upon the Interim government to close the Indian High Commission until they were forced to return. "The interim government, until India returns assassins of Hadi Bhai, will close the Indian High Commission to Bangladesh. Now or Never. We are in a war!" said Sarjis Alm, a key leader of NCP. Sheikh Hasina, who fled Bangladesh after her ouster in August last year, is also in India. In Dhaka, protesters attacked the office of a leading cultural group, Chhayanaut, and brought out the furniture, setting it on fire. Sporadic violence was also reported from other parts of the country overnight. A group of people, believed to be part of the protesters, attacked the offices of Bangla newspaper Prothom Alo's office and the nearby Daily Star at the capital's Karwan Bazar, near the Shahbagh intersection. Reports said they vandalised several floors while journalists and staff of the newspaper were trapped inside, and the mob ignited a fire in front of the building.

Trump signs defence policy bill for deeper engagement with India

From PG 1 including Australia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, India, the Philippines, and New Zealand shall be invited to participate as member countries of the security initiative, it said. In a section titled 'Joint Assessment Between The United States And India On Nuclear Liability Rules', the draft states that the Secretary of State Marco Rubio shall establish and maintain within the US-India Strategic Security Dialogue a joint consultative mechanism with the Indian government. This mechanism would convene regularly to "assess the implementation of the Agreement for Cooperation between the US Government and Government of India Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy, signed in Washington in 2008," it said. The focus of this mechanism is to discuss opportunities for India "to align domestic nuclear liability rules with international norms; and to develop a strategy for the United States and the Republic of India to pursue bilateral and multilateral diplomatic en-

gagements related to analysing and implementing those opportunities." It calls on the Secretary of State to submit a report describing the joint assessment about this not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act, and annually thereafter for five years. In another section, the bill, now a law, states that an "ally or partner nation" means the government of any country that is a member of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; "the Government of the Republic of India", and the Government of any country designated as an ally or partner nation by the Secretary of State for purposes of this section. However, it is very interesting to note that all this moves have been made in the background of the US still imposing a record 50 per cent tariff on India and Indian goods on various export oriented sectors, though at the same time simultaneous efforts are being made to seek India's support in various defence cooperation for a permanent peace in the Indo-Pacific region.

Name Change
I, Kalyan Kr Dutta (Old Name As Per DI No Wb20 19970162512), Son Of Late N M Dutta, Residing At B/26, Atabagan, Boral Main Road, Garia, Po-Garia, South 24 Parganas-700084, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kalyan Kumar Dutta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 12/12/2025. Kalyan Kr Dutta And Kalyan Kumar Dutta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mumtaz Khanam, W/o- Md. Asif Ali, residing at 19, Temple Street, Princep Street, Kolkata-700072. That in my son's (Ahmed Ali) birth certificate my name has been recorded as Mumtaz Khanum Which are incorrect. So vide Affidavit before the L.d. Notary Public at Kolkata dt-17/12/2025 (No.54438) that Mumtaz Khanam & Mumtaz Khanum is same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md. Allauddin (Old Name), S/o- Md. Siddique, R/o- Chasa Patti Road, Naya Basti Road-4, Rahmat Nagar, Burnpur, P.S.- Hirapur, dist. Paschim Bardhaman, Pin-713325 (WB.) have change & shall henceforth be known as Md. Alauddin (New Name) vide Affidavit No. 17/2025, dt 19.12.2025, declare that before the Notary Public at Asansol Court. That, Md. Allauddin (Old Name) & Md. Alauddin (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Papri Sinha (Old Name), Wife of Indranil Mitra , residing at 128, Kanku- lia Road, Sarat Bose Road, Kolkata - 700029, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall hence- forth be known as Papri Mitra (New Name), as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore dated 27/08/2013. Papri Sinha (Old Name) and Papri Mitra (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Smt. Priyanka Roy, D/o Sri Rajkumar Roy, residing at 6/1, Ananda Khan Lane, VTC: Hatkhola, P.O- Hatkhola, Ward- 19, Sub-Dist- Kolkata, Dist- Kolkata, WB, Pin-700005 declare that the name of my minor daughter (DOB- 04.02.2011) is MISS TIYASHA GHORUI but due to my divorce with my Husband Sri Suman Ghori vide order No. 50 dated 28.12.2021, I have changed my daughter's Name from MISS TIYASHA GHORUI to MISS TIYASHA ROY and henceforth she will be known as TIYASHA ROY in all purpose vide affidavit dated 10.11.2025 before Parma Das, Notary Public Regd No. 03222, Calcutta. That Tiyasha Roy and Tiyasha Ghori both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Susmita Nag, D/o- Subhas Chandra Nag, R/o- Dighapara, P.O.- Barajuguli, P.S.- Haringhata, Dist- Nadia-741 221, declare that Saptak Guha is my son, since his birth residing with me, Sandip Guha is my ex-husband & divorce on 22.02.2023, my son using my maiden name, i.e.- Nag I dn't have any objection, I shall submit this affidavit before the authority concerned, vide Affidavit No. 83, dtd. 02.05.2025, in the Court of the Ld. A.C.J.M. 2 1st Class, Kalyani Nadia. Saptak Guha & Saptak Nag both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Subhash Chandra Nag, S/o.- Girish Chandra Nag, R/o.- Dighapara, P.O.- Barajuguli, P.S.- Haringhata, Dist- Nadia-741 221 declared that my name has been wrongly recorded in daughter's (Susmita Nag) Edu. Docs. as Subhas Ch. Nag & her aptt. letter as S.Ch. Nag. vide Affidavit No.82, Dtd. 02.05.2025, in the Court of the Ld.A.C.J.M. 2, 1st Class, Kalyani, Nadia. Henceforth, Subhash Chandra Nag, Subhas Ch. Nag & S.Ch. Nag all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Swami Satyamayananda Puri, Disciple of Swami Ranganathanandaji Puri, (Guru Pita), s/o.-Lt. Arun Kumar Raha, r.o.- Vill.- P.O.- Antpur, P.S.- Jangipara, Dist.-Hooghly, WB, declare that after "SANNYAS" my name has been change and shall henceforth be known as Satyamayananda Puri from Subhasish Raha vide Affidavit Sl. No. 23 dt 06.11.23, declare in the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Serampore Court, Dist. Hooghly, WB. Subhasish Raha & Swami Satyamayananda Puri both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Udip Mahato, S/o.- Gonar Mahato, R/o.- 64/A, Rail Quater, P.O. & P.S.- Sonarpur, Dist.- 24 Pgs. (S), Kol-150 declared that my Son's actual name is Subhodip Mahato, but my son's name has wrongly recorded in his Birth Certificate as Subhodip Kumar in place of Subhodip Mahato, vide an Affidavit No. 24904/25, dtd., 15.10.2025, before the LD 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore. That, Subhodip Mahato & Subhodip Kumar both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nazrul Islam Gyane, S/o- Late Kasem Ali Gan, R/o- Bodai Bhatpara, P.O.- Jugberia, P.S.- Ghola at present New Barrackpore, Dist- North 24 Parganas, Kolkata -700110, WB, shall be known as Nazrul Islam Gain, vide affidavit (No.58), 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Barrackpore Court, Dated: 02.07.2025, Nazrul Islam Gyane & Nazrul Islam Gain is the same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sadia Ishaque, D/O Asma Khaton, Residing At 13/H/3, Elliot Lane, Kolkata-700016, Have Changed My Name To Sadia Ruhul Amin After My Marriage To Md Ruhul Amin. Henceforth, I Shall Be Known And Identified As Sadia Ruhul Amin For All Purposes.

MICROSOFT announces \$ 17.5 bill investment in India

MI News Service, New York/New Delhi: Microsoft Chairman and CEO Satya Nadella said the company is deepening its commitment to India's artificial intelligence ecosystem with massive infrastructure investments. Microsoft is also strengthening its cloud footprint and focusing on skilling millions of Indians for an AI-driven future, he said. Speaking at a Microsoft event here, Nadella said, "We are very excited about investing in India to make sure that we're able to bring the best in class infrastructure here, the USD 17.5 billion investment," calling it Microsoft's largest investment in Asia. The Microsoft Chairman underlined the rapid expansion of the company's cloud footprint across the country. "We're building on Azure as the world's computer and we have 70 plus data centre regions all over the world. In India, the footprint continues to grow. We now have central India, West India, South India, and we have a partnership with Jio as well," he said. He further said that a new data centre region



would become operational in 2026.

"We are very excited that in 2026, we will have a new DC in south central and then the most exciting part for me is that it's 100 per cent sustainable," he said.

Nadella also emphasised the importance of digital sovereignty and cybersecurity in an era of expanding AI deployment. "We are taking sovereignty and making sure that there's a portfolio of options for sovereignty. So you have the public cloud, you have sovereign controls in public cloud..." he noted.

He warned that sovereignty cannot be viewed in isolation from security. "Cyber security is a sig-

nals game--you can be sovereign and not have global intelligence--you'll be vulnerable in fact," he said, noting that Microsoft processes "trillions of daily signals" to secure platforms from Azure to Windows. Nadella said he recently met Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was very encouraging of this investment (USD 17.5 billion), in particular, to drive society, the economy and growth.

This commitment, he noted, comes on top of the USD three billion investment he had announced during his last visit.

On India's talent landscape, Nadella said the company will double down on its skilling programmes.

"We are now going to skill 20 million people across India in AI skills," he said, adding that initiatives such as the government's E-Shram programme demonstrate how AI can uplift unorganised workers. He also highlighted India's growing influence in the global developer ecosystem.

"India is slated to become the number one community in the world with GitHub by 2030," he said, praising the "engagement and the type of projects that are coming out of this place, the contributions from India." GitHub is a web-based platform for version control and collaboration that is primarily used by developers to store, manage, and share software code. It is built on top of Git, an open-source version control system, and provides a user-friendly graphical interface and a large suite of collaboration tools.

Nadella closed his speech by reiterating Microsoft's mission. "At the end of the day, this is all about empowering every person and every organisation in India to be able to achieve more. Let's keep building."

Niryat Cargo Express Runs From Ichhapuri, Gurugram to Mundra Port

● **Assured Rail Service Enables Faster and Cost-Effective Export**

MI News Service, New Delhi, 19 Dec.25 : Railways have achieved another milestone in freight transportation by operating the Niryat Cargo Express, an export-focused, assured transit service, as a double-stack container train from Ichhapuri Container Terminal in Gurugram to Mundra Port. Earlier 20 trips of assured transit service have been operated from Garhi, Gurugram. Such a time tabled train is being operated for the first time from Ichhapuri, Gurugram.

This assured, time-bound weekly service will help exporters by providing faster, reliable, and predictable movement of goods to Mundra Port, reducing delays and logistics costs.

Delhi Division, Northern Railway has strengthened assured freight movement for exporters. The train wasoperated as a crack train, means minimal halts, and uninterrupted movement, allowing faster



transit andtimely delivery—particularly useful for high-value export cargo.

RPF/ER Rescues Four Minor Boys Under “Operation Nanhe Faristey”

MI News Service, Kolkata, 19 Dec.25 : In a swift and compassionate response to safeguard vulnerable children, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway successfully rescued four minor boys under “Operation Nanhe Faristey” on December 18, 2025. The coordinated rescue was carried out by RPF personnel of Howrah, Sealdah and Asansol Divisions at different railway stations.

During the operation, two minor boys were found moving aimlessly at Howrah and Dankuni Railway Stations. One minor had mistakenly boarded Train No. 13152 DN (Kolkata Express) and reached Kolkata Railway Station, while another minor had reportedly fled from home due to family discord.



All four rescued minors were safely handed over to the concerned Childline authorities for further care, counselling and necessary legal action, as per established norms. The RPF of Eastern

Railway remains steadfast in its mission to protect, rescue and rehabilitate children in distress, working in close coordination with child welfare agencies to ensure their safety at railway premises and onboard trains.

Adani Group mulls \$15 bn India airports expansion

MI News Service, Mumbai: India's Adani Group is planning to invest \$15 billion to boost passenger capacity at its airports to 200 million annually in the next five years. The plan includes adding terminals, taxiways, and a new runway at the Navi Mumbai airport, which is due to open on December 25, the report said. The company will also carry out capacity upgrades at Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Lucknow, and Guwahati airports, according to the report. The group's airport unit operates eight airports across India, including the Navi Mumbai Airport, located on the outskirts of India's financial hub. Adani Group did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment. The group has been planning to list its Adani Airports unit by 2027, as part of a plan that requires \$100 billion in investments across businesses over the next few years.

Border 2 pays tribute to India's spirit & might

MI News Service, Mumbai/Kolkata: The makers of Border 2, T-Series and JP Films, unveiled the teaser of the most anticipated patriotic blockbuster on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, a day that celebrates the victory of the nation's brave-hearts at the 1971 India-Pakistan war. Inspired by the true events that shaped this war, Border 2 promises a stirring tribute to the courage, unity and sacrifice of Indian Armed Forces.

While the teaser offers audiences the first powerful taste of the epic tale that awaits, it also delivers a commanding glimpse of the four leading men, Sunny Deol, Varun Dhawan, Diljit Dosanjh and Ahan Shetty, as they step into their respective roles across the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, each introduced in moments charged with valour, intensity and purpose. Alongside the men, the teaser also proudly introduces the women of Border 2, Mona Singh, Sonam Bajwa, Medha Rana and Anya Singh, each embodying resilience, grace and emotional strength as they anchor the heart and human spirit of the story.

PM to visit West Bengal on 20th December

● **PM to Inaugurate and Lay Foundation Stone for two National Highway Projects worth around Rs. 3,200 Crore in West Bengal**
● **PM to inaugurate 66.7 km long 4-Laning of Barajuguli -Krishnanagar Section of NH-34 in Nadia district**
● **PM to lay the foundation stone for the 4-laning of the 17.6 kmlong Barasat-Barajuguli Section of NH-34 in North 24 Parganas district**
● **Projects will serve as a vital connecting link between Kolkataand Siliguri**
MI News Service, New Delhi, 19 Dec.25 : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will undertake a visit to West Bengal on 20th De-

cember. At around 11:15 AM, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate national highway projects atRanaghat in Nadia district, West Bengal. He will also address the gathering on the occasion.

Prime Minister will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of two National Highway projects wortharound Rs. 3,200 crores.

Prime Minister will inaugurate 66.7 km long 4-Laning of Barajuguli - Krishnanagar Section of NH-34 inthe Nadia District of West Bengal. He will also lay the foundation stone for the 4-laning of the 17.6 kmlong Barasat-

Barajuguli Section of NH-34 in North 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

The projects will serve as a vital connecting link between Kolkata and Siliguri. They will help to reduce travel time by approximately 2 hours, ensuring faster and smoother movement of vehicles for unhindered traffic flow, reduced vehicle operating costs, and improve connectivity between Kolkata and otherneighboring districts of West Bengal as well as with neighbouring countries. The projects will also boostthe economic growth in the region and will provide impetus to the growth of tourism across the region.

JFE Steel enters India with Rs 15,750 Cr investment

MI News Service, Tokyo/New Delhi: Japan's JFE Steel will invest ₹15,750 crore to pick up a 50 per cent stake in the steel business of Bhushan Power & Steel Ltd, ushering in fresh foreign direct investment in the Indian steel sector.

BPSL is majority owned by Sajjan Jindal-led JSW Steel, which holds an 82.65 per cent stake in the Odisha-based steel maker, which has primary steel-making capacity of 4.5 million tonne (mt).

JFE, which is the single largest non-promoter shareholder in JSW Steel with a 15 per cent stake, will invest in BPSL's steel undertakings in two equal tranches.

JSW had acquired BPSL, which has a steel processing unit on Delhi Road near Calcutta, in 2021 for ₹19,700 crore from the insolvency court and turned around the



loss-making unit. The Sajjan Jindal company then ramped up capacity to the present level, which now employs 25,000 people.

JSW Steel said the cash proceeds from the transaction would strengthen the balance sheet of the company and provide a clear runway for growth in a financially prudent manner across business cycles.

"The overall deleveraging which will take place post completion of the transaction is about ₹37,250 crore. The deal will accelerate our journey

beyond 50 mt," Jayant Acharya, joint managing director & CEO, told. According to the deal contours, JSW Steel will transfer BPSL's steel business, including the iron ore mine, to an entity by a slump sale for ₹24,483 crore. JFE will then pick up a 50 per cent stake in that entity by investing ₹15,750 crore. Moreover, the debt of ₹4,900 crore will also be moved towards the JV entity.

The cash component will include consideration of the slump sale and half of JFE's purchase value. The other half of ₹7,875 crore from JFE's investment would take the combined cash inflow to ₹32,358 crore, which JSW Steel will get, Acharya said. The overall deleverage would also take into account the debt shift. JSW's net debt stood at ₹79,153 crore at the end of September 30.

The promoter entity, which held 17.35 per cent of BPSL, will get JSW Steel shares following the transaction. Consequently, their holding in JSW Steel will go up by 1.4 per cent to 46.74 per cent. With the balance sheet in a stronger place, the company said it would pursue growth opportunities in Vijaynagar, Paradip and Salav in a financially prudent manner and target reaching 50 MT by 2031.

Masayuki Hirose, president and CEO of JFE Steel

Corporation, said that the relationship between JSW and the Japanese company is entering a new phase. "Since we signed the strategic comprehensive alliance agreement with JSW in 2009, we have engaged in various collaborations, including capital participation; licensing of manufacturing technology for automotive steel and non-oriented electrical steel sheets; and a JV for the manufacturing of grain-oriented electrical steel sheet," he recalled.

JFE said the JV plans to expand crude steel production at BPSL to 10 MT by 2030 and it already has the land to do so. There is also a potential to take the capacity to 15 MT in future to make it one of the largest integrated steel facilities in India. JSW said it would remain invested in the JV with JFE and participate in BPSL growth story going forward.

Marriage age no bar to live-in partnerships: RAJ HIGH COURT

MI News Service, Jaipur: The Rajasthan High Court has ruled that two adults are free to choose a live-in relationship even if they have not reached the legal age required for marriage.

The ruling came from Justice Anoop Dhand while hearing a protection plea filed by an 18-year-old woman and a 19-year-old man from Kota. The couple told the court they were living together voluntarily and had executed a live-in agreement on October 27, 2025. They said the woman's family opposed the relationship and had threatened to kill them. Their complaint to the Kota police, according to the petition, went unaddressed.

Public prosecutor Vivek Choudhary opposed the plea and argued that the man, being under 21, the minimum legal age for men to marry, should not be allowed to be in a live-



in partnership. The court rejected that argument. It said the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution cannot be curtailed "merely because the petitioners are not of marriageable age."

Justice Dhand added, "The state has a constitutional obligation to safeguard the life and liberty of every individual," and noted that live-in relationships are neither prohibited nor criminalised in Indian law.

The court has directed the superintendents of police of Bhillwara and Jodhpur (rural) to verify the facts mentioned in the petition, assess the threat and provide protection to the couple if required.

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Khurda Road Celebrates Annual Sports Day with Great Enthusiasm

MI News Service, Kolkata, 19 Dec.25 : PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya Khurda Road celebrated its Annual Sports Day with great enthusiasm and vibrant participation on the school campus, highlighting the true spirit of sportsmanship, discipline, and physical fitness among students.

Shri Pradeep Kumar Behra, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), Khurda Road Division, East Coast Railway and Nominee Chairman of the Vidyalaya Management Committee (VMC), graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. His presence added grace to the celebration and inspired students to pursue excellence in both sports and academics.

Dr. Sravani Kumari, Medical Officer, Community Health Centre, Sandhapur, Jatni and an alumna of the school, attended the event as the Guest of Honour and motivated students to adopt healthy and active lifestyles. The celebration began with a ceremonial march-past, flag hoisting, and an oath-taking ceremony emphasizing fair play and sportsmanship. A variety of track and field events, team games, and recreational activities followed, showcasing



ing the energy and talent of students across all age groups.

Addressing the gathering, Shri

P.K. Behra spoke about the vital role of sports in nurturing character, teamwork, and leadership among youth. He encouraged students to work with dedication, discipline, and integrity. Dr. Kumari highlighted the importance of physical fitness for holistic well-being and encouraged learners to maintain a balanced routine.

Mr. Kshitiz Vaibhav, Branch Manager, State Bank of India, Jatni Bazar also graced the occasion by presenting prizes to the winners. His presence inspired students and reinforced the school's commitment to excellence.

Principal Shri Niraj Kishore Pingua welcomed the dignitaries and expressed heartfelt gratitude to guests, teachers, parents, and students for their contributions to making the day a grand success. He reiterated the Vidyalaya's commitment to fostering overall development through academics, sports, and co-curricular pursuits.

The event concluded with the distribution of prizes and a vote of thanks, leaving everyone with cherished memories and fresh enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Regulation of trains for bridge maintenance work in Howrah division

MI News Service, 19 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Due to bridge maintenance work between Mal-larpur & Tarapith Road and Nalhati & Swadipur stations, Traffic & Power block has been planned on 21.12.2025 with following train regulations:-

Cancellation of MEMU/Passenger on 21.12.2025:

- From Rampurhat : 63584, 63026
- From Barddhaman: 63581, 63063
- From Tinpahar: 63064

Short termination/ short origination of trains on 21.12.2025:

- 63007 Katwa – Rampurhat MEMU will be short terminated at Azimganj
- 13187 Sealdah – Rampurhat Maa Tara Express will be short terminated at Sainthia instead of Rampurhat.
- 13188 Rampurhat – Sealdah Maa Tara Express will be short originated from Sainthia instead of Rampurhat.

Due to track maintenance work in Bandel – Katwa sec-

tion, 210 minutes traffic block has been planned for 10 days from 21.12.2025 to 31.12.2025 intermittently with following train regulations:-

CANCELLATION OF EMU LOCALS FROM 21.12.2025 TO 24.12.2025

From Bandel: 37749
From Katwa: 37748
CANCELLATION OF EMU LOCALS ON 27.12.2025, 30.12.2025 & 31.12.2025

From Bandel: 37741
From Katwa: 37742
RESCHEDULING OF EMU LOCALS ON 22.12.2025 & 23.12.2025

37924 Katwa – Howrah local will be rescheduled at 15:00 hrs. instead of 14:45 hrs.

Moreover, 13421 Nabadwip Dham – Malda Town Express (journey commencing on 29.12.2025) and 13431 Nabadwip Dham – Balurghat Express (journey commencing on 27.12.2025, 28.12.2025, 30.12.2025 & 31.12.2025) will be controlled for 20 minutes enroute.

Regulation of trains for track maintenance work at Bandel station limit

MI News Service, 19 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Due to track maintenance work at Bandel station limit over Howrah Division, 06 hours (from 23:30 hrs. of 20.12.2025 to 05:30 hrs. of 21.12.2025) Traffic Block has been planned with following train regulations:-

Cancellation of trains on 20.12.2025:

- From Naihati: 37557
- From Bandel: 37284, 37558
- From Howrah: 37289

Cancellation of trains on 21.12.2025:

- From Naihati: 37521
- From Bandel: 37522

Moreover, 63501 Howrah – Barddhaman MEMU will be diverted via Dankuni.

Court to pronounce order on charge, directs Lalu, others to appear in person

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Rouse Avenue court on Friday listed the Land for Job CBI case for order on framing of charge on January 9, 2026. The

court has directed former Rail-way Minister Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, Tejashwi Yadav, Tej Pratap Yadav, Misa Bharti, Hema Yadav and others accused to ap-pear in person on the next date.

This case is linked with the alleged offence of providing Railway grade D jobs to candidates in lieu of Land. Special Judge Vishal Gogne listed the case for order on framing of charges after receiving the death verification report of ac-cused Ashwani Kumar Malhotra and the report on the status of other accused persons.

Senior advocate D P Singh (Special Public Prosecutor), alongwith Manu Mishra, ap-peared for the CBI and sub-mitted that Ashwani Kumar Malhotra has passed away and the status of the other accused is verified. The death certificate of Malhotra was also filed with the death verification report.

The Central Bureau of In-vestigation (CBI) on December 15 informed the court that one more accused had died. Earlier, four accused died during the proceedings of the case.

The CBI had charge-sheeted 103 persons as accused. How-ever, five have died during the proceedings.

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Rouse Avenue court on Friday listed the Land for Job CBI case for order on framing of charge on January 9, 2026. The

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/722, Date: 18.12.2025.

Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 invites Open e-Tenders for the under-mentioned electrical work/s.

Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3495-R. Name of work: Electrical (general) work in connection with "Improvement with up-gradation of existing subway by provide roof covering of both approaches, cleaning of sump with water storage reservoir, drainage arrangement at both end etc. of Br.No. 77 at Bandel under jurisdiction of AEN/Bandel. **Tender value:** ₹ 15,54,947. **Bid Security (Earnest Money Deposit):** ₹ 31,100. **Completion Period:** 180 days. **Closing date and time of tender :** 07.01.2026 at 15:00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the notice inviting tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. (HWH-475/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.instagram.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

EASTERN RAILWAY

CANCELLATION OF TENDER

E-Tender No.: 190-2025-26 published earlier by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101, which closing date was 29.12.2025 has been cancelled on 16.12.2025 due to technical reason. (HWH-470/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Following E-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711101 [for the jurisdiction of **Sr.DEN/1/Howrah**] from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following works: **SI.No.-1. NIT No.: 208_2025-26, Date: 18.12.2025. Description of work:** Installation and commissioning and operation and maintenance for 2 years of STP cum recycling plant of capacity 40 KLD at Konnagar, Rishra, Shrirampur & Seoraphuli stations. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 29,41,455.89. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 58,800. **Completion Period:** 03 (three) months. **SI.No.-2. NIT No.: 209_2025-26, Date: 18.12.2025. Description of work:** Improvement and renovation of Relay Rooms at various locations under the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/1/Howrah. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 1,05,39,650.94. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,02,700. **Completion Period:** 06 (six) months. **SI.No.-3. NIT No.: 210_2025-26, Date: 18.12.2025. Description of work:** Construction of Gang Hut at Belur, Bally, Uttarpara, Konnagar, Rishra, Shrirampur, Bandel, Magra and Khanyan in the section of Sr. DEN/1/Howrah. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 2,04,69,219.33. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,52,400. **Completion Period:** 08 (eight) months. **SI.No.-4. NIT No.: 211_2025-26, Date: 18.12.2025. Description of work:** Repairing and renovation of RPF Barrack, Service Building, RPF Play Ground, white house etc. under RPF/HQ/Liluah in the jurisdiction of Sr.DEN/1/Howrah. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 49,23,167.98. **Earnest Money:** ₹ 98,500. **Completion Period:** 03 (three) months. **Cost of Tender Form:** Nil (for SI.No. 1 to 4 each). In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/ strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tender online will be done on next working day. **Closing date and time of tender:** 29.12.2025 at 14:00 hrs. (for SI.No. 1 to 4 each). The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. **Payment of EMD & TDC**– payment of earnest money deposit [EMD] and tender document cost [TDC] in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-468/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: [@EasternRailway](https://www.facebook.com/EasternRailway) [easternrailwayheadquarter](https://www.instagram.com/easternrailwayheadquarter)

Rescheduling of Sealdah – Lalgola passenger for track maintenance work

MI News Service, 19 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Due to Track maintenance work between Dhubulia & Muragacha stations in Sealdah Division, 240 minutes (from 23:15 hrs. to 03:15 hrs.) Traffic Block has been planned on 20/21.12.2025, 21/22.12.2025 and 22/23.12.2025. Consequently, 53181 Sealdah – Lalgola passenger will be re-scheduled by 60 minutes on 20.12.2025, 21.12.2025 & 22.12.2025 and will be short terminated at Krishnapur.

Regulation of trains for maintenance work

MI News Service, 19 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Due to maintenance work on different sections of Howrah Division on 21.12.2025, following trains will be regulated as under:-

CANCELLATION ON 21.12.2025

From Howrah: 37055, 37249, 37363, 36823

From Bandel: 37246, 37749

From Barddhaman: 36834

From Sheoraphuli: 37056

From Arambagh: 37364, 37396

From Katwa: 37748

Moreover, 37365 Howrah – Arambagh local will be short terminated at Tarakeswar and 53009 Katwa – Azimganj Passenger will be rescheduled at 12:30 hrs. instead of 12:00 hrs. on 21.12.2025.

Indian Army to buy 850 Kamikaze drones worth Rs 2000 crore

MI News Service, New Delhi: As part of lessons learnt from Operation Sindoor, the Indian Army is all set to buy 850 kamikaze drones, which will be used to equip all three defence forces and the special forces.

The Indian Army proposal is at an advanced stage of acquisition. It is likely to be cleared soon by a high-level meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council scheduled to be held in the last week of this month, Defence sources informed ANI.

As per the proposal to be implemented under the fast-track procedures by the force, the Army will get around 850 loitering munitions along with launchers from indigenous sources, they said.

The Indian Army uses a large number of loitering munitions acquired from different sources and is now looking to induct around 30,000 of them in the near future to equip all its fighting forces, they said.

The Army infantry battalions will now have one Ashni platoon each, which will be responsible for operating drones to be used against enemy locations and also in counterinsurgency roles, they said. The Indian Army heavily utilized drones to target terror headquarters inside Pakistan during Operation Sindoor. India took out seven of the nine terrorist targets on the first day of the operation, which was conducted in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed.

These endorsements were made in return for payments routed through foreign entities to conceal the illicit origin of the funds, which are linked to Proceeds of Crime (POC) generated from illegal betting activities," the agency said in a statement on Friday.

ED's investigation has further revealed that 1xBet operated in India without authorisation and used surrogate branding and advertising to target Indian users via social media, online videos, and print media.

"Payments for endorsements were structured through layered transactions using foreign intermediaries to disguise the illegal source of funds" it said.

The agency attached the properties of these celebrities under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, in connection with a case it registered based on multiple First Information

Jayer Dwarbasini Gram Panchayat

Dwarbasini, Pandua, Hooghly

Notice of Inviting e-Tender 2nd Call

Re e-Tender is invited from the experienced and resourceful Bidder for execution of the work(s) mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Estimated Amount	Earnest Money
1	NIT No.: 656/JDGP/2025-26, (Fund: APAS-2025)	₹ 18,12,2025	₹ 18,12,2025
1	18 Nos. Solar Light Installation at 230 Booth Area	5906700.00	11813.00

Date of Submission of Tender Paper : From 18.12.2025 to 27.12.2025 up to 06:00 PM. Technical Bid Opening Date: 30.12.2025 at 11:00 AM. For details information visit www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Pradhan
Jayer Dwarbasini Gram Panchayat

OFFICE OF THE

NABAGRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT

VIII + P.O. - Chanak, P.S-Nabagram, Murshidabad.

NleT. No.-17/APAS/NGP/2025-26, Memo No. 3427/18/ En/ NGP/ 2025. Dated-17/12/2025

Date of publishing: 19/12/2025 from 6.55 p.m on <http://wbtenders.gov.in>. Bid downloading starts from: 19/12/2025 from 6.55 p.m. Bid Downloading ends : 14/01/2026 up to 1.00 p.m. Last date of Bid submission: 14/01/2026 upto 1.00 p.m. Technical Bid opening date: 16/01/2026 at 1.00 p.m. For details logon to <http://wbtenders.gov.in> or contact with office of the undersign.

Sd/-Pradhan
Nabagram G.P, Nabagram Block

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd. BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091, CIN No: L651906G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Rina Dey/ Arpan Dey/ Mahamaya Road By Lane P.O. Hijaipukuria P.S. Habra District North 24 Parganas West Bengal North 24 Parganas- 700157/ LBCAL00004513761	Land With Two Storied Building, Municipal Holding No. 54, Maha Mayaroad, R.S. Dag No. 1614/2112, R.S. Khatian No. 1390, L.R. Dag No. 3686, L.R. Khatian No. 7789, Revenue Survey No. 313, Touzi No. 442, J.L. No. 72, Mouza Habra, Police Station Habra, Ward No. 14, Habra Municipality, A.D.S.R. Office Habra, D.S.R. Barasat, District North 24 Parganas, Pin 743271, West Bengal (Admeasuring an area of Bastu Land Measuring 2 Cottahs Together With Two Storied Residential Building Standing Thereon Having Covered Area 686 Sq. Ft. At Ground Floor And Pucca Covered Area of 307 Sq. Ft. and A G.I. Tin Shed Measuring 121 Sq. Ft. On The First Floor Along With All Easement Rights Along With All Sorts of The Easements Rights Over 12' Feet Wide Maha Maya Road Lying Towards Northern Side of The Said Property North: By 12; Feet Wide Maha Maya Road South: By Property of Anil Kumar Basu & Others East: By Property of Smriti Ghosh West: By Property of Anil Kumar Basu & Others; Date of Symbolic 17/12/2025	August 25,2025 Rs. 20,84,300.00/-	North 24 Parganas
2.	Munjurul Karim/ Saheli Sultana/ Rajapur Purbapara P.O. Champapukur Thana Basirhat, Near Rajapur Jama Masjid District- North 24 Parganas West Bengal Champapukur - 743291/ LBCAL00005864984/ LBCAL00006388292/ LBCAL00005864978/ TBCAL00006760542/ LBCAL00005901403	R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 224, Sthol No. 128, Present L.R. Khatian No. 53, J.L. No. 54 Touzi No. 600, Mouza Rajapur Gram, Pargana Balia, Champapukur Gram Panchayat, Police Station Basirhat, A.D.S.R. Office Basirhat, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area Of 08 Satak North: Kader Mondal South: 6 Feet Wide Kacchha Road East: Kashed Mallick West: Sahid Mallick/ Date of Symbolic 17/12/2025	September 16,2025 Rs. 35,54,102.96/-	Habra

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 20, 2025
Place: North 24 Parganas & Habra

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Air pollution should be discussed in next Parliament session: Priyanka Gandhi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Friday expressed disappointment that Parliament failed to discuss air pollution in the Winter Session, which concluded earlier in the day, saying the issue deserved urgent attention and should be scheduled in the next session.

"It could not be discussed, but it should have been discussed. I have put in a request that in the next session, this should be discussed," Priyanka Gandhi told reporters in Delhi, underlining the growing public health concerns linked to deteriorating air quality across several parts of the country.

Her remarks came on the final day of the Sixth Session of the 18th Lok Sabha, which concluded on Wednesday after commencing on December 1. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla described the session as productive, noting that the House held 15 sittings spanning 92 hours and 25 minutes, with a productivity rate of 111 per cent.

During the fortnight-long session, 10 government Bills were introduced, of which eight were passed. Among the key legislations cleared were the Manipur Goods and Services Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025; Central Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2025; Health Security and National Security Cess Bill, 2025; Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2025; Repealing and Amending Bill, 2025;



amendments to insurance laws under the Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha Bill, 2025; the Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear Energy for Transforming India Bill, 2025; and the VB-G RAM G Bill, 2025.

ED attaches Rs 7.93-cr assets of Yuvraj Singh, Robin Uthappa, Sonu Sood among seven celebrities in 1xBet betting case

Reports (FIRs) filed by various state police agencies against the operators of the betting platform 1xBet. ED said its investigation has revealed that "1xBet and its surrogate brand 1xBat, 1xBat Sporting lines were engaged in promoting and facilitating illegal online betting and gambling operations across India."

Earlier, on October 6, 2025, the ED had attached assets amounting to Rs 11.19 crore belonging to cricketers Shikhar Dhawan and Suresh Raina. Of this, Rs 4.55 crore pertains to Shikhar Dhawan, while over Rs 6.64 crore relates to Suresh Raina. So far, more than Rs 19.12 crore assets have been attached from these nine celebrities in the case.

ED cautions that illegal betting and gambling platforms cause severe economic harm and are widely used for money laundering and other unlawful activities. "The public is advised to avoid such platforms and report any suspicious transactions or advertisements to law enforcement agencies or the ED."

"Celebrities and social media influencers are specifically warned that endorsing or promoting illegal betting or gambling platforms, including through surrogate promotions, is a punishable offence that attracts action under applicable laws," it added.

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Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Notice inviting e-Tender 1 (One) no work of 15th FC FY-2025-26 (NIT NO-BAR-I/611/2025)

Within Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat Will be available at <https://wb.tenders.gov.in>

Bid Submission Start Date (online): 16/12/2025 at 06:00 P.M.

Bid Submission End Date (online): 12/01/2026 at 11:00 A.M.

Bid Opening Date (online): 14/01/2026 at 11:00 A.M.

Sd/- Pradhan
Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat

Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat

Notice Inviting e-Tender

Notice inviting e-Tender 1 (One) no work of 15th FC FY-2025-26 (NIT NO-BAR-I/473/2025)

Within Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat Will be available at <https://wb.tenders.gov.in>

Bid Submission Start Date (online): 09/12/2025 at 06:00 P.M.

Bid Submission End Date (online): 08/01/2026 at 11:00 A.M.

Bid Opening Date (online): 12/01/2026 at 11:00 A.M.

Sd/- Pradhan
Bargachia-I Gram Panchayat

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders are invited by the Proadhan **Bali-II Gram Panchayat** (Under Nowda Panchayat Samity), Shyamnagar Nowda, Murshidabad of NIET-05/ 2025-26. Last date of submission (online) is 29.12.2025 up to 10.00 AM. For more please visit www.tenders.wb.gov.in

Sd/- Pradhan
Bali-II Gram Panchayat

Parliamentary oversight remained active, with 300 starred questions admitted, 72 answered orally, and 3,449 unstarred questions. Additionally, 408 matters of urgent public importance were raised during Zero Hour, while 372 issues were taken up under Rule 377, reflecting sustained member participation even as concerns like air pollution await a full-fledged debate.

Office of the Principal

DEBRA THANA SAHID KSHUDIRAM SMRITI MAHAVIDYALAYA
(Government Aided, Autonomous, NAAC Accredited "A" Grade College, affiliated to Vidyasagar University)
P.O.-Chakshyampur, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, PIN-721124, W.B. INDIA

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Reference No. dtsksm/NIT74/25 dated: 19/12/2025
Tender ID-2025_DHE_976558_1

E-Tenders are invited from eligible suppliers/agencies having successfully completed similar nature of works with adequate working experience and financial capabilities. Intending bidder may download the tender documents from the website <https://wbtenders.gov.in>.

Information about the work:

Name of the work	Supply of food for 8th Regional Science and Technology Congress
Bid Submission Start Date.	19/12/2025 at 11AM
Bid Submission End Date	14/01/2026 at 6 pm

Sd/- (Dr. Rupa Dasgupta) Principal
Debra Thana Sahid Kshudiram Smriti Mahavidyalaya
Chakshyampur, Debra, Paschim Medinipur.

Engagement of Retired Paramedical Staff on contract basis at B. R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah

No. E-22/Re-engagement /Paramedical Staff Dated: 08.12.2025

Applications are invited from interested Retired Paramedical Staff of Eastern Railway for filling up the vacant Post of 39 in Nurses, 02 vacant post in Pharmacist, 03 vacant post in Radiographer, 11 vacant posts in Laboratory Technician, 04 vacant posts in Dialysis Technicians, 01 vacant post in Optometrist at B. R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah. ● **Age Limit:** Upto 65 years. Entry Level of age will be above 60 and below 64 years. ● **Scale of Pay :** A fixed monthly amount shall be admissible as remuneration during the contract period, arrived at by deducting the pension from the pay drawn at the time of retirement. The amount of remuneration so fixed shall remain unchanged for the term of contract. ● **How to apply:** Retired Railway Paramedical staff who are desirous for re-engagement in the above categories, may submit their offline application in prescribed format at the Office of the Sr. Divisional Personnel Officer (OS/E-22 Cell)/DRM Building/Eastern Railway/Sealdah or Online application through email to E-mail ID srdspealdah@gmail.com on or before 06.30 p.m. of 23.12.2025 positively. ● **Mode of Selection:** The candidate will be screened by a Committee nominated for this purpose and their suitability will be adjudged keeping in the view the job requirements, service particular, work experience, etc.

For detail notification and format for application visit Railway website https://e.r.indianrailways.gov.in/cris/uploads/files/1755071508638-Scan2025-08-13_137111.pdf

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

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Stall / Kiosk at Different Stations over Howrah Division

Under 'One Station One Product' Scheme

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah hereby invites application from Individuals, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Marginalised or Weaker Sections of Society etc., dealing with indigenous products for participation in "One Station One Product" scheme for 113 stalls at 105 stations (Not including Howrah Station) over Howrah Division. ● **Salient Features of the Scheme:-** Duration of the Project: 15 days – 90 days for One Station One Product stalls over Howrah Division (excluded stalls at Howrah station). **List of One Station One Product stalls at different identified stations :** 03 (Three) stalls each at Bolpur Shantiniketan, Memari & Bardhaman Stations, 02 (Two) stalls each at Rampurhat & Jaugram Stations and 01 (one) stall each at rest of the 100 stations over Howrah Division i.e. at Adisaptagram, Agradwip, Ahmadpur, Ambika Kalna, Arambag, Azimganj Jn., Azimganj City, Baghnapura, Bahirkhanda, Baidyabati, Bainchi, Bainchigram, Balagarh, Balarambati, Balgona, Bally, Bandel, Bansberia, Baruipara, Bazarsau, Begumpur, Behula, Belanagar, Belerhat, Belmuri, Belur, Bhadreswar, Bhandarkuri, Bhedia, Bishnupriya, Chandannagar, Chandanpur, Chuchura, Dainhat, Dankuni, Debipur, Diara, Gangatikuri, Garifa, Gobra, Guptipara, Gurap, Guskara, Haripal, Hazigarh, Hindmott, Hooghly, Hooghly Ghat, Janai Road, Jirat, Kaikala, Kamarkundu, Katwa, Khagraghat Road, Kharnagachhi, Khana, Khanyan, Konnagar, Kuntighat, Lakshmpur, Liluah, Loknath, Madhusudanpur, Mallarpur, Mankundu, Masagram, Mayapur, Mirzapur Bankipur, Magra, Nabadwip Dham, Nabagram, Nalhati, Nalikul, Nasibpur, Pakur, Palla Road, Palsit, Pandooah, Patuli, Porabazar, Prantik, Purbasthali, Rajgram, Rasulpur, Rishra, Sainthia, Saktigarh, Salar, Samudragarh, Sheoraphuli Jn., Shibaichandi, Simlagarh, Singur, Somrabazar, Shrirampur, Talandu, Talit, Tarakeswar, Tribeni & Uttarpara. ● **Registration Fee:** (i) Rs. 500/- (including GST) for 15 days' spell for stalls at Guskara, Ahmadpur, Bhedia, Khana, Talit, Prantik, Pakur, Mallarpur, Nalhati, Rajgram, Sainthia, Azimganj City, Azimganj Jn., Bazarsau, Gangatikuri, Khagraghat Road & Salar stations (ii) Rs. 1000/- (including GST) for 15 days' spell for rest of the stations. ● **Infrastructure:** (i) Stall to be provided by Railways. (ii) 20 units of electricity per One Station One Product stall is permitted for spell of 15 days as basic facilitation subsumed in the registration charges. For spell of more than 15 days, electricity will be provided on pro rata basis. Over and above the basic facilitation unit, the applicable charges shall apply on actual consumption basis. ● **Eligibility Criteria:** (a) Holder of Artisan / Weaver ID Card issued by Development Commissioner - Handicrafts, Development Commissioner - Handloom or by the requisite State / Central Government Authority. (b) Individual artisans/ weavers/ craftsmen enrolled/registered with Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)/ National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC)/Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC) etc. (c) Self Help Groups registered with PMEGP (Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme). (d) Marginalised or weaker sections of society. (e) Individual artisans/weavers/craftsmen etc. associated with registered micro enterprise on the Udyam Portal of Ministry of MSME & NGOs. (f) Individuals/ artisans/ weavers/ craftsmen etc. associated with Social Organizations, State Government bodies etc. (However no separate Logo shall be allowed). Application in the letterhead of the Organisation/plain white sheet of paper alongwith photocopy of documents (as mentioned above in Eligibility Criteria), addressed to **The Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New Divisional Railway Manager Office (4th Floor), Near Railway Museum, Howrah Railway Station, Howrah-711101**, is to be submitted in sealed envelope. ● (i) Detailed application alongwith documents for One Station One Product Stall at Stations mentioned above (except Howrah station) should be submitted in a sealed envelope at Concerned Station at designated place outside the Office of Station Master / Station Manager. (ii) Open lottery/ public draw of lots will be done at concerned stations for One Station One Product Stall at stations in case of receipt of more than one application.

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Adven Biotech Becomes India's First Homoeopathic Brand to Receive Ayush Premium Certification

Patna : In a landmark achievement that reflects India's soaring global standing in natural and integrative healthcare, Adven Biotech has officially become India's first homoeopathic brand to receive the prestigious Ayush Premium Certification, a recognition that places the company at the forefront of world-class homoeopathic manufacturing and challenges the long-held perception that global-standard quality can only come from imported brands.

This milestone comes at a time when India's homoeopathic sector is undergoing rapid transformation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives are propelling the AYUSH industry toward international prominence.

The Ministry of Ayush, in partnership with the Ayush Export Promotion Council (AYUSHEXCIL), has introduced the Ayush Quality Mark Programme to establish a globally trusted seal of quality for Ayush products and services. This Quality Mark ensures that certified brands meet stringent international standards of purity, safety, and consistency, providing a critical differentiator in global markets. With benefits such as enhanced consumer trust, stronger export readiness, and sector-wide

standardisation, the Ayush Quality Mark is poised to become a defining feature of India's holistic healthcare identity.

Expressing pride in this historic accomplishment, Mr. Adesh Sharma, CEO of Adven Biotech, said: "Receiving the Ayush Premium Certification is a powerful validation of our commitment to delivering world-class quality homoeopathic medicines to consumers at an accessible and affordable price. This recognition strengthens our mission to make scientifically validated, globally trusted homoeopathic medicines in India. We see this as not just an achievement, but a responsibility to elevate the standards of Indian homoeopathy and demonstrate that India can lead the world with quality, integrity, and innovation."

Mr. Adesh Sharma further said "The government's focus on strengthening quality frameworks through initiatives like NAM, AOGUSY, and the Ayush Quality Mark has created an environment where Indian companies can compete confidently on the world stage. With this certification, Adven Biotech is more determined than ever to contribute to India's rise as a global homoeopathic powerhouse."

Adven Biotech's recognition under this programme showcases the company's longstanding commitment to



top-tier manufacturing, scientific validation, and uncompromising quality control. Its India's first fully automated, zero-human-touch state-of-the-art facility, equipped with precision-based processes, fully automated machineries, analytical laboratories, and digitally monitored systems, exemplifies how Indian manufacturers are combining the legacy of homoeopathy with advanced global manufacturing practices. The certification marks a major step toward positioning Indian homoeopathic products as symbols of reliability and excellence worldwide. Commenting on India's momentum in the sector, Mr. Rajeshwar Tiwari, Senior Representative, Ministry of AYUSH, stated briefly: "India is setting new benchmarks in Ayush quality and global credibility. The Ayush Premium Mark will accelerate our journey toward international leadership."

This national momentum is also strengthened by major government interventions such as WHO-GMP compliance enforcement, the AyushOushadhiGunvattaevamUtpadanSamvardhanVojana (AOGUSY), continued upgrades in testing standards, and supportive digital platforms, including the e-AUSHADHI portal. Together, these initiatives are enabling Indian manufacturers to meet global expectations and expand their foot-

print across continents. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) continues to modernise drug control laboratories, strengthen manufacturing clusters, and upgrade infrastructure across states, ensuring that even small-scale producers adhere to unified quality benchmarks. Parallely, the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy (CCRH) is playing a pivotal role in conducting scientific validation and standardisation studies that build global confidence in Indian homoeopathic medicines.

Today, India exports homoeopathic medicines to more than 100 countries, with demand steadily increasing in Europe, Latin America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Backed by modern research, standardised manufacturing, strong regulatory oversight, and globally recognised certifications, India is reshaping the global perception of traditional medicine - making it more evidence-based, technologically advanced, and internationally competitive. With Adven Biotech becoming the first homoeopathic brand in India to receive the Ayush Premium Certification, the nation takes a decisive step toward establishing itself as the world's most trusted source of high-quality homoeopathic medicines - a symbol of India's New Age modernisation, scientific rigour, cultural strength, and global ambition.

CDSCO labs flag 205 drug samples as 'not of standard quality' in November



New Delhi : The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) on Friday declared 205 drug samples tested by the Central and state drugs regulatory authorities as 'Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)' in its monthly drug alert for November.

While the Central Drugs Laboratories identified 64 drug samples as NSQ, the State Drugs Testing Laboratories identified 141 drug samples as NSQ.

As per routine regulatory surveillance activity, the list of Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and Spurious drugs is being displayed on the CDSCO portal on a monthly basis.

"For the month of November 2025, Central Drugs Laboratories have identified 64 Drug Samples to be Not of Standard Quality (NSQ) and State Drugs Testing Laboratories have identified 141 Drug Samples as Not of Standard Quality (NSQ)," the alert said.

Identification of drug samples as NSQ is done based on failure of the drug sample in one or the

other specified quality parameters. The failure is specific to the drug products of the batch tested by the government laboratory, and it does not warrant any concerns on the other drug products available in the market, the health officials said.

Further, in November, "two drug samples from North Zone, Ghaziabad, were identified as spurious drugs, which were manufactured by unauthorised manufacturers using brand name owned by other company," they added. The matter is under investigation, and action will be taken as per the Act & Rules.

This action of identifying NSQ and Spurious medicines is taken regularly in collaboration with state regulators to ensure that these drugs are identified and removed from the market.

In October, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) had declared 211 drug samples tested by the Central and state drugs regulatory authorities as NSQ.

AIIMS conducts India's 1st Deep Brain Stimulation workshop for Parkinson's, movement disorders



New Delhi : The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), here, is hosting India's first workshop on advanced Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) to enhance doctors' expertise in device-assisted therapies for Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders. The workshop, to be held from December 19 to 20, is dedicated exclusively to DBS in movement disorders and was endorsed by the International Movement Disorders Society. DBS is a well-established and highly effective treatment that significantly improves motor symptoms and quality of life in carefully selected patients.

"Deep Brain Stimulation has transformed the management of Parkinson's disease, and building expertise in advanced imaging, surgery, and programming is essential to deliver optimal and equitable care for patients across

India," said Dr. Elavarasi A. and Dr. Animesh, Movement Disorders Faculty, AIIMS New Delhi. Over 1 million people suffer from Parkinson's in India, in which brain cells producing dopamine die, leading to movement issues like tremors, stiffness, and slow movement. When the condition is no longer optimally controlled with standard medical management, it can be effectively treated using device-assisted therapies. While DBS is available in India, its successful delivery requires advanced technical expertise for surgical implantation as well as sophisticated post-operative programming. The workshop aims to highlight recent advances in DBS, including image-guided programming and emerging closed-loop approaches, enabling tailored, patient-specific management and improved clinical

outcomes. The programme provides structured training to over 200 registered delegates and faculty members from across the country. Five international faculty members also shared their expertise through focused lectures, hands-on sessions, and case-based discussions, facilitating an in-depth understanding of advanced DBS programming strategies. Dedicated sessions were also conducted for clinicians new to DBS, supporting skill development among beginners.

"The workshop reinforced AIIMS New Delhi's commitment to advancing cutting-edge neurological care, fostering multidisciplinary collaboration, and building national capacity to improve outcomes for patients with Parkinson's disease and other movement disorders," the hospital said.

Indian scientists find missing link in body's cells to boost therapies for Alzheimer's, cancer

New Delhi : Researchers from the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) have uncovered a surprising player in autophagy, or the "self-eating" process that removes damaged parts of cells that can pave the way for developing therapies for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer. Autophagy is a key biological process where cells clear out damaged and unwanted materials. When a cell fails to clear waste, its health suffers, especially in long-lived neurons. The autophagy pathway, which removes damaged material and defends against infections, is disrupted in diseases like Alzheimer's and Huntington's. In cancer, autophagy plays dual roles. Autophagy initially prevents cancer but later supports tumour growth. Autophagy also acts as a tumour suppressor by maintaining genome integrity and cellular homeostasis by clearing cellular junk such as protein aggregates and damaged mitochondria.

But it is also a double-edged sword as certain types of cancer cells hijack autophagy for their own survival and propagation. Understanding its regulation is crucial for the development of effective therapies.

The team from JNCASR, an autonomous institution under the Department of Science and

Technology (DST), found that a group of proteins called the exocyst complex, which normally helps move important molecules to the cell surface, also plays a key role in autophagy.

This complex comprises a team of 8 proteins; interestingly, 7 of the 8 proteins are required to help the cell grow the trash bag so that it can completely wrap up the waste. When this complex is missing, the cell's bag-making factory stops working properly and even starts producing faulty, non-functional factories.

The researchers led by Prof. Ravi Manjithaya used simple yeast cells to elucidate the formation of autophagosomes (cellular "trash bags"), thereby providing insights into how this vital process operates in higher organisms. They elucidated the mechanism by which a protein complex, exocyst, previously recognised for its role in secretion, also contributes to the autophagy pathway, which is crucial for maintaining cellular health. Since defects in autophagy are linked to several neurodegenerative diseases and cancers, the findings published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences will open new avenues for modulating this pathway to restore cellular balance and develop potential therapeutic.

Children's brains are altered by the time they spent on electronic devices

WASHINGTON : According to a review of 23 years of neuroimaging research, time spent watching television or playing computer games has significant and long-term implications on children's brain function, which, while exhibiting some negative effects, also shows some favourable ones.

The researchers, however, stop short of endorsing screen time limits, which they believe can lead to conflict. Instead, they advocate for legislators to assist parents in navigating the digital world by promoting programmes that promote positive brain development.

The evidence review, which was published today in the peer-reviewed journal Early Education and Development, is an examination of 33 research pieces that used neuroimaging technology to assess the influence of digital technology on the brains of children under the age of 12. There are almost 30,000 participants in all.

The study discovered that screen usage causes alterations in the pre-frontal cortex of the brain, which is the foundation of executive skills including working memory and the ability to plan or respond flexibly to situations.

It also discovers effects on the parietal lobe, which aids in the

processing of touch, pressure, heat, cold, and pain; the temporal lobe, which aids in memory, hearing, and language; and the occipital lobe, which aids in the interpretation of visual information.

"It should be recognized by both educators and caregivers that children's cognitive development may be influenced by their digital experiences," said the study's corresponding author, Chair Professor Hui Li, from the Faculty of Education and Human Development Faculty of Education and Human Development, at The Education University of Hong Kong.

"Limiting their screen time is an effective but confronting way, and more innovative, friendly, and practical strategies could be developed and implemented."

"Those in policymaking positions should supply suitable guidance, involvement and backing for children's digital use."

The research team, which as well as experts from the Education University of Hong Kong, included those from the Shanghai Normal University in China and Macquarie University in Australia, wanted to know how digital activity affected the brain's plasticity - or malleability - during critical periods of development. It



is known that visual development mostly takes place before the age of eight, while the key time for language acquisition is up to 12.

They synthesized and evaluated studies on children's digital use and associated brain development published between January 2000 and April 2023, with the ages of participants ranging from six months upwards.

Screen-based media were the most commonly used by the participants, followed by games, virtual visual scenes, video viewing

and editing, and internet or pad use.

The paper concludes that these early digital experiences are having a significant impact on the shape of children's brains and their functioning.

This was deemed as both potentially positive and negative, but mainly more negative.

For example, negative impacts were witnessed in some studies on how screen time influences the brain function required for attention, executive control abilities,

inhibitory control, cognitive processes, and functional connectivity. Other studies suggested that higher screen time is associated with lower functional connectivity in brain areas related to language and cognitive control, potentially adversely affecting cognitive development.

Some device-based research was assessed in the research pool. Tablet device users were found to have worse brain function and problem-solving tasks. Video gaming and high internet users were

found, in four studies, to produce negative changes in brain areas, impacting intelligence scores and brain volume.

General "intensive media usage" was shown to potentially impact visual processing and higher cognitive function regions.

There were six studies, however, demonstrating how these digital experiences can positively impact a child's brain functionality.

Such as, one found improved focusing and learning abilities in the frontal lobe of the brain. Meanwhile, another study suggested playing video games can increase cognitive demand, potentially enhancing children's executive functions and cognitive skills.

Overall Chair Professor Li's team conclude that policymakers must act on these findings to support evidence-based practice for teachers and parents.

Lead author, DrDandan Wu of the Education University of Hong Kong, states: "This investigation contains significant implications for practical improvement and policymaking. Foremost, it should be recognized by both educators and caregivers that children's cognitive development may be influenced by their digital experiences. As such, they should supply

suitable guidance, involvement, and backing for children's digital use.

"It is imperative for policymakers to develop and execute policies grounded in empirical evidence to safeguard and enhance brain development in children as they navigate the digital era."

"This could involve offering resources and incentives for the creation and examination of digital interventions aimed at bolstering brain growth in children."

A limitation of the study, the authors comment, is the lack of research reviewed, which they state maybe because this topic is "novel and emerging, and research technologies are also evolving". Additionally, "this scoping review", they add, "has not addressed the critical questions, such as whether it is the early digital use (for example, screen time) or the cognitive processes (i.e., learning experience) that have driven the change of brain function and structure, and whether there are different effects of digital equipment types and the mode of use."

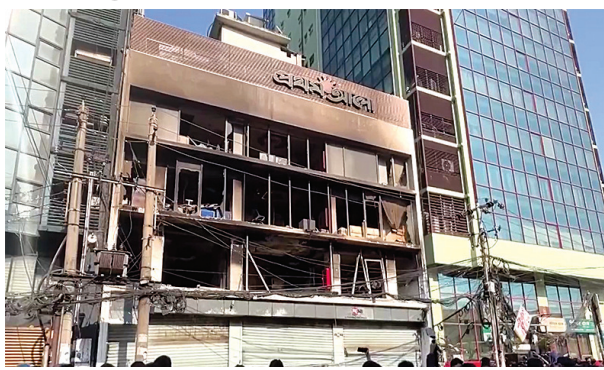
Therefore, the authors recommend future research should explore techniques such as longitudinal research on the impact of screens on brain functions.

Bangladesh uprising leader's death sparks nationwide protests, violence

MI News Service, Dhaka: Tension gripped Bangladesh on Friday after the death of prominent July Uprising leader Sharif Osman Hadi triggered protests and violence in various parts of the country.

While no incidents of violence were reported in the morning, Thursday night saw attacks and vandalism in various parts of the country after Chief Adviser Yunus confirmed Inquilab Mancha leader Hadi's death. In a televised address to the nation late Thursday night, Chief Adviser Yunus announced Hadi's death and promised swift action to catch his killers.

"Today, I came before you with very heartbreaking news. Sharif Osman Hadi, the fearless frontline fighter of the July Uprising and spokesperson of the Inquilab Mancha, is no more among us," Yunus said.



In his address, Yunus vowed to bring those involved in Hadi's brutal murder to justice quickly, saying, "No leniency will be shown" to the killers. "I sincerely call upon all citizens - keep your patience and restraint," he said. Hadi, a candidate in the scheduled February 12 general elections, died while undergoing treatment at a Singapore hospital after fighting for his life for six days.

He was shot in the head

last week by masked gunmen as he initiated his election campaign at central Dhaka's Bijoy Nagar area.

Protesters on Thursday took to the streets and attacked offices of newspapers and vandalised 32 Dhanmandi, the home of Bangladesh's founding father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Protesters also hurled bricks and stones at the residence the Assistant Indian High Commissioner in

Chattogram, at 1:30 am, but failed to cause any damage.

Police responded with tear gas and baton charges, dispersing the crowd and detaining 12 protesters. Senior officials assured the assistant high commissioner of security.

Supporters of the group chanted anti-India slogans alleging Hadi's assailants fled to India after committing the murder. They called upon the interim government to close the Indian high commission until they were returned.

"The interim government, until India returns assassins of Hadi Bhai, the Indian High Commission to Bangladesh will remain closed. Now or Never. We are in a war!" said Sarjis Alm, a key leader of NCP.

In Dhaka, protesters attacked the office of a leading cultural group, Chhaya Nat and brought out the

furniture, setting it on fire.

Sporadic violence was also reported from other parts of the country.

A group of people, believed to be part of the protesters, attacked the offices of Bangla newspaper Prothom Alo's office and the nearby Daily Star at the capital's Karwan Bazar, near the Shahbagh intersection.

Reports said they vandalised several floors while journalists and staff of the newspaper were trapped inside, and the mob ignited a fire in front of the building.

Yunus said Hadi's death has caused an irreparable loss to the country's political and democratic sphere.

"I pray for the eternal peace of his departed soul and convey my deepest sympathy to his bereaved wife, family members, relatives and colleagues," he said.

GSV to Advance Maritime Sector, Bridge & Tunnel Engineering, Defence Logistics and Multimodal Transport Planning - Ashwini Vaishnaw



● Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya Held its 2nd Meeting of University Court MI News Service, New Delhi, 19 Dec.25 : Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) held its 2nd Court meeting in Rail Bhawan in New Delhi. Chairing the meeting as the University Chancellor, Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw (Union Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology) said "GSV has made tremendous progress with its Industry-driven approach within 3 years of its operationalization, becoming a role model for the country. While continuing its strong focus on Railways and Aviation Sectors, GSV shall deepen their curricula in Bridge and Tunnel Engineering, Maritime Sector with emphasis on Ship Building, contribute more to upskill the Defence Forces and Railways; and to perform applied research for integrated transport planning."

This meeting was attended by Her Highness Shubhangini Raj Gaekwad (Rajmata of Baroda), Satish Kumar (Chairman & CEO, Railway Board), Lt. Gen. Pushpendra Singh (Vice-Chief of the Army Staff), Amardeep Singh Bhatia (Secretary, DPIIT), TP Singh (DG-BISAG), Prof. Rajat Moona (Director, IIT GN), representatives of Ministry of Civil Aviation, MoRTH, leading industries such as L&T, AMD, and the functionaries of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice-Chancellor, GSV) presented a detailed progress and status report. All the members wholeheartedly praised the excellent progress of the university in such a short time, particularly its collaborations with Industry, executive training for Railways, Defence Forces and PM Gati Shakti for Civil Services. The members of the Court offered several suggestions and collaborative inputs for future progress in bridge and tunnel engineering, ship building, railways, de-

fense sectors logistics and supply chain. The Vice-Chief of Army Staff advocated for affiliating sector related academies of the Indian Army with the University as well as enhancing scope and scale of the training programs. The University shall design and conduct the probationary training for IRMS officers from this year and work with Industries to set up more Chair Professorships. On the occasion, BISAG and GSV announced MOU to further accelerate impetus to PM Gati Shakti while AMD announced financial support for the incubation facility at GSV. Additional Campus infrastructure is being built and a master plan will be prepared for additional campus for which land is already acquired. The Annual Reports and Annual Accounts of the university or the FY 2024-2025 were also approved to be tabled before the Parliament.

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), India's leading University in Transportation and Logistics sector, was established as a Central University by the Act of Parliament in 2022. Working under the Ministry of Railways (Govt. of India), the University covers the entire transportation sector including Railways, Highways, Ports, Aviation, Maritime, Shipping, Inland Waterways, Urban Transport and complete Logistics and supply chain networks.

Air purifiers to be installed in 10,000 classrooms: Delhi Edu min



MI News Service, New Delhi: Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood on Friday announced that air purifiers will be installed in 10,000 classrooms to ensure clean air for the students.

Addressing a press conference, Sood said that the government is committed towards tackling the problem of pollution through long-term administrative measures.

"We are not those who flaunt IIT degrees and do campaigns like Odd-Even or Gaadi On, Gaadi Off campaign. We are tackling the issue of pollution through long-term administrative measures," he said, taking a dig at the previous Aam Aadmi Party government.

He added, "We want our children to study smart and also breathe smart air. In the first phase, air purifiers will be installed in 10,000 classrooms."

The minister, who also holds the urban portfolio, said the Public Works Department, using the environment cess, will also procure mechanical road sweepers for each of the assembly constituencies.

Sweden summons Iran envoy after reports of citizen's death sentence

MI News Service, Stockholm: Sweden summoned the Iranian ambassador this week following reports that a Swedish citizen had been sentenced to death in Iran, the Scandinavian country's foreign minister says. Iran's judiciary on Tuesday said that a dual national, arrested during the recent 12-day war with Israel and who has since been put on trial for espionage, was an Iranian and Swedish citizen.

Swedish Foreign Minister Maria Malmer Stenergard tells AFP that Sweden's foreign ministry received reports that the man had been handed the death penalty. "We have received reports that he has been sentenced to death in the first instance, but we have not been able to confirm those reports. We are naturally trying to do so. "We have summoned Iran's ambassador, on Wednesday, to clearly condemn the death sentence," she says.

"Sweden and the EU's position on the death penalty is very clear. We always oppose it, everywhere and regardless of circumstances, and this is well known," Stenergard tells reporters. Tehran itself has released little information on the case, one of multiple arrests that took place during and after the brief war in which Israel and then the United States bombed Iran's nuclear facilities, and Iran responded with barrages of ballistic missiles at Israel.

Putin calls EU's attempts to seize Russian assets robbery

MI News Service, Moscow: Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday called the European Union's attempts to seize Russian assets "robbery," warning that such actions could have serious consequences for Europe's financial credibility and the global financial system.

Speaking during his annual press conference, Putin said Russia will defend its interests related to overseas assets primarily in courts, stressing that confiscating Russian property abroad would not be easy and would face legal challenges.

Putin warned that seizure of Russian assets in the EU would go beyond reputational damage, undermining trust in the eu-



rozone and shaking confidence in Europe as a safe place to hold reserves. He said some countries have already begun to doubt the security of their assets stored in Europe.

Putin also said that proposals to extend loans to Ukraine backed by Russian assets would increase the financial obligations of EU member states, many of which are already dealing with budgetary pressures.

UNGA elects former Iraqi president as next UN high commissioner for refugees

MI News Service, United Nations: The UN General Assembly (UNGA) on Thursday elected former Iraqi president Barham Ahmed Salih as the next United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to succeed Filippo Grandi of Italy.

In a statement, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres welcomed the election of Salih for a term of five years beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

According to the statement, Salih served as Iraqi president from 2018 to 2022 and has a career spanning more than three decades of governmental service in Iraq and the Kurdistan Region.

Salih, born in 1960, served twice as prime min-



ister of the Kurdistan Regional Government (2001-2004; 2009-2012) and as deputy prime minister of Iraq (2004-2009). He played a central role in Iraq's post-2003 reconstruction and economic recovery, the statement said. In addition to his native Kurdish and Arabic, Salih is fluent in English, the statement said.

Malda Division Intensifies Winter Safety Measures to Ensure Safe Train Operations

MI News Service, Kolkata, 19 Dec.25 : With the onset of winter and the possibility of dense fog across operational sections, Eastern Railway, Malda Division has intensified comprehensive safety protocols to ensure safe, secure and uninterrupted train movement under the guidance of Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda.

Night Footplate Inspections & Monitoring

Regular night footplate inspections are being carried out across fog-prone sections, including Malda Town-Jangipur Road, Malda Town-Sahibganj-Bhagalpur-Jamalpur-Kiul, Bhagalpur-Godda and Bhagalpur-Dumka. Chief Loco Inspectors, supervisors and Branch Officers are conducting intensive checks which will continue throughout the season for real-time corrective action.

Fog Safety Devices & Digital Tracking

All locomotives in fog-affected sections have been equipped with advanced Fog Safety Devices, whose performance is continuously monitored through a dedicated WhatsApp-based digital reporting system. This ensures prompt feedback, swift rectification and operational readiness.

With effective deployment, permissible fog-time speed has been rationalised from 60 kmph to 75 kmph, ensuring both safety



and efficiency. A total of 347 Fog Safety Devices are in active working condition in Malda Division.

Engineering & Infrastructure Preparedness

To reinforce safety under low visibility, the Division has ensured:

- Adequate detonators across all fog-prone territories
- Repainting of signal boards, whistle/caution boards and LC gates with luminous strips
- Upgradation of tail lamps with LED flasher lights
- Senior Engineering officers (DENS, AENs) are conducting round-the-clock supervision, night patrolling by Track Maintainers and morning patrols by Keymen—all monitored through GPS at Divisional level with prescribed safety gear issued.

South Africa defends immigration operation, rejects U.S. allegations amid rising tensions

MI News Service, Johannesburg: South Africa on Thursday defended an immigration operation that led to the deportation of seven Kenyan nationals, rejecting U.S. accusations of misconduct toward American officials. In a statement issued by the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), the South African government said the deportation of seven Kenyan nationals by the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) was carried out in full compliance with the country's immigration statutes.

The individuals were found to be engaging in employment without required work permits, in violation of immigration regulations, it said, adding that South Africa will not negotiate its sovereignty and the implementation of the rule of law.

During the operation, DHA officials, in cooperation with the police department, arrested and later deported the Kenyan nationals who were allegedly employed at a facility processing applications for so-called "refugees" seeking resettlement in the United States. Several U.S. media outlets reported that two U.S. staff were "briefly detained and then released" during the operation.

The DIRCO's statement rejected allegations concerning the handling of private information of U.S. officials, describing such claims as "unsubstantiated."

"South Africa treats all mat-



ters of data security with the utmost seriousness and operates under stringent legal and diplomatic protocols. We categorically reject any suggestion of state involvement in such actions," the statement said.

The DIRCO said that while firmly dismissing unfounded claims, Pretoria remains committed to principled and transparent diplomacy, and official channels have been opened with the U.S. government to seek clarity on the matter and to reinforce the importance of mutual respect and fact-based dialogue in bilateral engagements.

The statement was issued against the backdrop of heightened diplomatic tensions between South Africa and the United States following an operation conducted by South African immigration authorities in Johannesburg on Tues-

day.

The U.S. State Department issued a statement condemning what it described as the detention of U.S. officials. "The U.S. condemns in the strongest terms the South African government's recent detention of U.S. officials performing their duties to provide humanitarian support to Africans."

Claiming U.S. officials' passport information had been publicly released, the U.S. State Department called it "an unacceptable form of harassment."

"We are seeking immediate clarification from the South African government and expect full cooperation and accountability," said U.S. State Department deputy spokesperson Tommy Pigott, adding that interfering in U.S. refugee operations is "unacceptable."

Houthi group detains 10 more UN staff in Yemeni capital: UN

MI News Service, Sanaa: A UN spokesperson said on Thursday that Yemen's Houthi group had detained another 10 UN staff members in Sanaa, raising the total number of UN personnel held by the group to 69. In a statement seen by Xinhua, Farhan Haq, deputy spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, confirmed "the arbitrary detention of 10 UN staff members by the Houthi de facto authorities in Sanaa," adding that the total number of detained UN staff has risen to 69.

Earlier, a Yemeni UN employee in Sanaa, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that Houthi forces had arrested four Yemeni staff members working for the UN Department of Safety and Security, the UN Development Programme, and the UN Children's Fund. The source said Houthi security personnel raided their homes before detaining



them.

The Houthis did not immediately comment. The arrests come a day after UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the continued detention of UN personnel in Yemen. Speaking to reporters on Wednesday following a closed-door UN Security Council meeting, Guterres said: "I strongly condemn the continued arbitrary detention of 59 UN colleagues and partners, as well as individuals from non-governmental or-

ganizations, civil society organizations, and diplomatic missions. I call for their immediate and unconditional release in accordance with international law." He noted that the Houthis had recently referred three UN staff members to a special criminal court, adding: "This referral must be rescinded." Guterres described the ongoing detention of UN personnel as "a profound injustice to those who have dedicated their lives to helping the people of Yemen."

"Free Market, Humanity for Humanity"



Nurul Islam Khan: With the slogan 'Humanity for Humanity', students of Aliah University have been running a free market for several years. On Thursday, the second phase of this market was held at the Aliah University Park Circus campus in Kolkata.

This exclusive humanitarian project is now 8 years old. It is being conducted in various districts of the state. The main objective of the organizers is to help the poor and helpless people. This organization is fulfilling the basic needs of many underprivileged people. They said that they are trying to bring a little light of solace to the helpless people by providing winter clothing. This program runs throughout the year. It is known that they collect usable old clothes of all sizes through social media, various student hostels, and special announcements on

Friday at mosques; and distribute them among the helpless during the winter and times of natural disasters. They also provide them with medical services. In total, these students spend five lakh rupees on this initiative, providing financial assistance. The organizers said,

"Our goal and future is 'Humanity for Humanity'." They stated that this humanitarian principle is the foundation of society. Conscious citizens of society have extended a helping hand in this work. The main organizers include: Sajidur Rahman, Ziaul Haque, Hasibul, Suraiya Parvin, Abdul Quayyum, Humayun and many others. This market camp will continue in Jalanga of Malda; Faranagar Nadibhagan and Beldanga of Murshidabad; Nadia and Cooch Behar, including many other districts.

**VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY:
PANT APPOINTED AS
DELHI'S CAPTAIN, KOHLI
CONFIRMS AVAILABILITY**

NEW DELHI : India wicket-keeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been named as Delhi's captain for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy, starting on December 24 in Bengaluru.

Delhi's squad has also been boosted by the availability of batting stalwart Virat Kohli, as well as senior pacers Ishant Sharma and Navdeep Saini. With BCCI making a mandate for India players with central contracts to feature in domestic cricket, seam-bowling all-rounder Harshit Rana will link up with the Delhi side once he becomes available, said the DDCA on Friday.

The senior men's selection committee met at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday to finalise Delhi's squad from a bumper list of probables announced earlier. The meeting was attended by selectors Yashpal Singh, K. Bhaskar Pillai and Manu Nayar, chief coach Sarandeep Singh, CAC member Robin Singh (Jr.), secretary Ashok Sharma and joint secretary Amit Grover.

Delhi will play its first two Elite Group D games in the Vijay Hazare Trophy against Andhra and Gujarat at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru, which serves as Kohli's home ground when playing for his IPL team Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). Delhi is also scheduled to play its remaining five games at the Alur Cricket Ground, on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Kohli comes on the back of being Player of the Series in the 2-1 ODI series win over South Africa, while Pant will be itching to get some game time after being an unused player in the 50-over fixtures against the Proteas.

The duo will be available for Delhi till India's ODI series against New Zealand happens from January 11-17, 2026. Kohli last played Vijay Hazare Trophy for Delhi in the 2009/10 season.

**Chotrani, Suraj enter
quarterfinals of
Western India Squash**

MUMBAI : Top four seeds in the men's category continued to have a field day in the 80th CCI Western India Squash as they moved into the quarterfinals quite easily on Friday.

Men's top seed Veer Chotrani got the better of Rounak Yadav 11-7, 11-2, 11-5. Second seed Suraj Chand was tested a little before he edged past Hridhaan Shah 11-9, 11-9, 11-8 on the courts of the Cricket Club of India (CCI).

"I enjoyed my time on the court. I usually don't play early in the morning, but it was a lot of fun. I am looking forward to the upcoming challenges," said Chotrani.

Spectators have been treated to high quality squash marked by sharp movement, tactical awareness and impressive resilience.

Results: MIXU9: Devyansh Gupta [5/8] bt Lakshanya Rajawat [1] 11-4 11-7 ; Sabir Khubchandani [2] bt Aarush Suklikar [5/8] 11-7 11-9;

BU11: Rudransh Prabhakar [5/8] bt Viraraj Wadhvani [3/4] 6-11 11-8 11-6 11-2 ; Aavyanveer Luthra [2] bt Viraj Shinde [5/8] 10-12 12-10 11-3 11-4 ; BU13: Viaan Khemani [5/8] bt Thanuj Reddy Puli [3/4] 11-2 11-6 11-5 ; Dhairya Gogia [1] bt Ridaan Gupta [5/8] 11-9 11-5 11-5 ; BU15: Swarit Patil [3/4] bt Vinay Shinde [5/8] 8-11 11-8 11-6 11-7 ; Yusuf Pardiwala [2] bt Rishabh Shyam 11-3 11-9 9-11 7-11 11-9; BU17: Agastya Bansal [3/4] bt Pradeepsingh Rathore [9/16] 11-4 11-4 3-11 11-8 ; Saharsh Shahra [1] bt Bhaskar Chahu Darvada [9/16] 11-4 11-1 11-3; BU19: Rachit Shah [1] bt Ravi Lachka 11-1 11-4 11-3 ; Arjun Morey [5/8] bt Shravin Jain [3/4] 11-9 11-6 4-11 14-12



PC.JHA

RANCHI : The Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) on Friday hosted an exclusive felicitation ceremony to honour the state's Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy-winning team, marking a landmark moment in Jharkhand cricket history. The champions were accorded a red-carpet welcome at the JSCA International Stadium Complex, where the atmosphere resonated with pride, celebration and applause.

The glittering ceremony was attended by JSCA President Ajaynath Shahdeo, Secretary and former international cricketer Saurabh Tiwary, Vice President Sanjay Pandey, along with other senior officials, selectors, coaches and support staff. In recognition of the team's extraordinary achievement, JSCA announced a cash



reward of ₹2 crore for the players and support personnel, underlining the association's commitment to rewarding excellence.

Addressing the gathering, JSCA President Ajaynath Shahdeo termed the triumph as a defining chapter for the association. "This

is not just a tournament win; it is the realization of a long-cherished dream for Jharkhand cricket. Today proves that with the right

**Hemant Soren Felicitates Jharkhand Team After
Historic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Triumph**

RANCHI : Members of the Jharkhand cricket team, who created history by winning the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025, called on Chief Minister Hemant Soren on Thursday. Team captain and international cricketer Ishan Kishan, along with his teammates, symbolically handed over the winner's trophy to the Chief Minister and celebrated the landmark achievement.

Congratulating the players, support staff and the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA), the Chief Minister termed the victory a proud and defining moment for the state.

At the Chief Minister's residential office, players were felicitated with shawls in the presence of Minister Sudhivya Kumar, MLA Kalpana Soren and Chief Secretary Avinash Kumar. During the interaction, Ishan Kishan and other team members shared their experiences and performances from the prestigious T20 tourna-



ment.

The Chief Minister said Jharkhand's triumph in the Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Tournament has set a new benchmark in domestic cricket and enhanced the state's stature on the national sporting map. He noted that such victories play a crucial role in promoting sports culture and inspiring young talent. Highlighting Jharkhand's growing sporting footprint, he said athletes from the state are excelling not only in cricket but

also in hockey, archery and other disciplines at national and international levels.

Emphasising the need to build a strong sports ecosystem, the Chief Minister stressed integrating sports at the school and college levels to provide early exposure and quality platforms for talented players. He assured that the state government would extend all possible support in this direction.

Addressing JSCA officials, he underlined the vital role of sports

associations in grooming players and urged efforts to facilitate overseas exposure and advanced training. Such initiatives, he said, would help players gain experience in diverse conditions and further refine their skills. He also expressed hope that Jharkhand would continue its impressive run in upcoming tournaments.

The Chief Minister advocated regular organisation of sports competitions from the ??? to state level, stating that consistent events help identify and nurture emerging talent.

He reiterated the government's commitment to making Jharkhand a strong and competitive force in Indian sports.

JSCA President Ajay Nath Shahdeo, Vice-President Sanjay Pandey, Secretary Saurabh Tiwary, Joint Secretary Shahbaz Nadeem, other association members, team players and support staff were present on the occasion.

**National Shooting C'ship: Army's Lakshita Bishnoi
and Sharvan Kumar clinch senior mixed team gold**



NEW DELHI : The Army pairing of Lakshita Bishnoi and Sharvan Kumar produced a commanding performance in the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team gold medal match to secure the gold medal at the 68th National Shooting Championship Competitions (Shotgun), currently underway at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here. Lakshita and Sharvan defeated Haryana's Suruchi Singh and Samrat Rana 16-10 to seal the title.

Lakshita (290-12x) and Sharvan (292-9x) also shot 582-21x to qualify on top to the gold medal match, while Haryana finished second on 582-14x, with Suruchi Singh shooting 293-8x and Samrat Rana adding 289-6x, advancing to the gold medal match on inner-10 count. Rajasthan finished third with 576-21x through Anjali Shekhawat's 288-11x and Amit Sharma's 288-10x, while Railways took the

fourth qualification spot with 576-20x, courtesy Sakshi Anil Suryavanshi's 289-8x and Saurabh Chaudhary's 287-12x.

In the Senior Mixed Team bronze medal match, Rajasthan claimed the bronze medal after Anjali Shekhawat and Amit Sharma defeated Railways' Sakshi Anil Suryavanshi and Saurabh Chaudhary 17-13 in the bronze medal match.

Karnataka's Jonathan Gavin Antony and Avantika Madhu claimed the gold medal in the Junior Mixed Team event, with a commanding 17-11 win over Haryana's Kapil Bainsla and Palak Gulia in the final. Karnataka's pair controlled the match from the early stages to convert their qualification consistency into gold. Madhya Pradesh secured the bronze medal as Aaradhya Mishra and Yugpratap Singh Rathore registered a dominant 16-2 victory over Uttarakhnad's Abhinav Deshwal and Yashsavi Joshi.

Earlier in the junior qualification round, Haryana topped the standings to secure the gold medal match with 580-21x, led by Palak Gulia's 292-10x and Kapil Bainsla's 288-11x. Karnataka followed closely with 580-16x through Jonathan Gavin Antony's 292-8x and Avantika Madhu's 288-8x to qualify for the gold medal match.

Uttarakhand placed third with 579-21x via Abhinav Deshwal's 290-10x and Yashsavi Joshi's 289-11x, while Madhya Pradesh completed the top four with 574-13x, with Yugpratap Singh Rathore shooting 288-9x and Aaradhya Mishra adding 286-4x.

**Pathan, Uthappa earmark Abhishek, Varun
as key figures in India's T20 WC defence**

NEW DELHI : With 50 days remaining for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 to get underway in India and Sri Lanka, anticipation around how the defending champions campaign would pan out has intensified. Defending champions India are scheduled to announce their squad at the BCCI HQ in Mumbai on Saturday afternoon, a move that is expected to set the tone for their title defence.

Former India players Irfan Pathan and Robin Uthappa, who were a part of the 2007 T20 World Cup-winning side in South Africa, have identified Abhishek Sharma and Varun Chakaravarthi as key figures in India's bid to retain their title.

"Abhishek Sharma is actually going out there and scaring the opposition's new ball bowlers, which is very important to put them on the back foot. I actually said it recently as well - he's doing the same role as the someone who's actually bowling with the new ball, taking the early wicket in the first or second over. When you do that, you're actually

putting your team ahead of the other team.

"This is exactly what Abhishek Sharma is doing. So if he does that, what he has done so far, especially after the World Cup, which was there one and a half years ago in the West Indies - if he does the same thing, what he's been doing, I think we'll be fine. There'll be some innings he might actually take the game away from the opposition in the first 6-7 overs. That's the kind of role he's playing and it will be very crucial," said Pathan, while replying to a query from IANS, on the JioStar Press Room show.

Since July 2024, Abhishek has easily filled in the opener's void left by Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format after the T20 World Cup triumph. In 32 games, Abhishek's explosive batting has fetched him 1081 runs at an average of 36.03 and high strike rate of 188.98, including hitting two centuries and six fifties.

On Chakaravarthi, who's picked 49 wickets in 26 games since his return to the Indian team in late 2024, JioStar expert



Pathan highlighted the spinner's mental fortitude being a key element following his comeback from a disappointing 2021 T20 World Cup campaign.

"Varun Chakaravarthi, apart from his skill, confidence, and his role which he plays in the power play as well as in the middle overs, his mindset to come back after a setback, becomes very crucial at a big stage.

"If you remember in 2021, he was in the World Cup, he went astray, then he came back and he actually worked on his bowling, he added the variations. But the

vision, infrastructure and support, our players can compete with and defeat the best teams in the country," he said. Shahdeo also credited grassroots development and disciplined planning for the team's rise.

JSCA Secretary Saurabh Tiwary, who has himself represented India at the highest level, described the victory as deeply emotional.

"I have seen Jharkhand cricket grow from close quarters. This title belongs to every player who trusted the process and to every coach and support staff member who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. The boys showed character, hunger and belief throughout the tournament," Tiwary remarked.

Vice President Sanjay Pandey highlighted the collective effort behind the success. "This champi-

onship is the result of teamwork on and off the field. From selectors to physios, from administrators to ground staff, everyone played a role. JSCA will continue to stand firmly with its players and provide them every possible resource to scale greater heights," he said.

Team members, visibly elated, expressed gratitude to the association for the unwavering backing and world-class facilities. The evening concluded with a trophy display, group photographs and a renewed sense of confidence that Jharkhand cricket has firmly arrived on the national stage.

The Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 title is Jharkhand's maiden triumph in a major BCCI domestic tournament, and Friday's felicitation ceremony fittingly celebrated a journey that has inspired a new generation of cricketers in the state.

**Ranchi Royals' Beauty Dung
Dung & Sangita Kumari set
to thrill home fans as Hero
HIL returns to Ranchi**

RANCHI : As the second season of the Hero Women's Hockey India League (HIL) gets underway on December 28, excitement is building among players and fans alike, especially in Jharkhand. For Ranchi Royals' homegrown stars Beauty Dung Dung and Sangita Kumari, the tournament presents a special opportunity to represent their home franchise in front of a passionate home crowd.



Both Sangita and Beauty made their senior India debut in 2021 and have since established themselves on the international stage. Sangita has emerged as a consistent goal-scorer with 30 international goals to her name, while Beauty has contributed six goals along with strong midfield performances. Now, the duo is ready to begin a new chapter with Ranchi Royals in the Hero HIL.

Expressing her excitement, Sangita, who was part of India's bronze medal-winning squad at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, said playing in Ranchi Royals at her home ground makes the occasion even more special, especially with family members and local fans expected to turn out in large numbers. According to her, the hockey-loving crowd in Ranchi creates an atmosphere that motivates players to perform at their best.

Beauty Dung Dung echoed similar sentiments, highlighting the strong fan culture in the city. She said matches in Ranchi are always played in front of packed stands and added that the team is determined to give their best to secure victories on home soil.

The midfielder also underlined the importance of the Hero HIL in the growth of women's hockey. She pointed out that the league provides young and junior players a rare platform to play alongside top international stars, helping bridge the gap between junior and senior levels. She believes raising standards at the elite level will have a positive impact on grassroots hockey as well.

Both players also spoke about the value of interacting with foreign players in the league. Sangita said sharing ideas and learning new skills from international teammates is invaluable, while Beauty added that players now feel more confident approaching experienced foreign stars for advice during challenging moments in matches.

The duo is particularly excited about playing alongside Argentine Olympians Agustina Albertario and Agustina Alonso, describing them as experienced players from whom there is much to learn.

The Hero Women's Hockey India League will begin on December 28, with hosts Ranchi Royals facing SG Pipers in the opening match. All matches will be broadcast live on Sony Sports Ten 1, Sony Sports Ten 3 and DD Sports, and live-streamed on Waves and the Hockey India League YouTube channel.