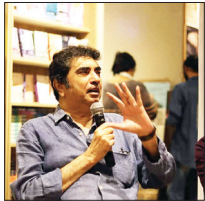




Rebuffed on social media, youth arrested in Delhi for circulating over 100 obscene photos and videos of a young woman and her mother using AI



Anik Dutta's mysterious death: police reconstruct the incident

Rs. 3
KOLKATA
FRIDAY, 29 May, 2026

PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-354
(RNI NO.-WBENG/2014/56803)

WEBSITE:WWW/LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Security forces launch fresh assault on terrorist hideouts in J-K

MI News Service, Jammu: Security forces on Thursday launched a fresh fire assault and multiple grenade launcher (MGL) attacks on specific suspected terrorist hideouts as the anti-terror operation in the dense forests of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri district entered its sixth consecutive day.

According to preliminary reports, two to three Pakistani terrorists, including a commander, are believed to be hiding in the area.

The fresh assault came a day after Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma visited the area and reviewed the ongoing anti-terror operation in the dense forests.

As the anti-terrorist operation Sheruwalli entered its sixth day today, joint teams of the Indian Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police's Special Operations Group, and paramilitary forces launched a fresh assault to smoke out foreign terrorists hiding in natural cave-like structures in the dense Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla forest belt of Rajouri.

Since the first contact on May 23, security forces have been relentlessly combing the thickly vegetated terrain in pursuit of the fleeing terrorists.

The Indian Army has also deployed helicopters to carry out aerial reconnaissance, besides relying on drone images and sniffer dogs to track down the footprints of terrorists on the run.

Joint teams of the Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police, and paramilitary forces have also expanded the scope of extensive searches in the adjoining areas to prevent their escape.

According to ground reports, the security forces targeted suspected hideouts of the terrorists to neutralise them. Till late evening, there was no official confirmation about the outcome of the fire assault. The Indian Army had mobilised additional troops in the area to strength-

en the cordon in the outer area further and prevent the terrorists from breaching the outer cordon.

According to local media reports, heavy gunfire and explosions were reported from the Dorimal-Gambhir Moghla forest belt of Rajouri district, amid an ongoing operation in the area. Thick smoke was seen billowing out after the suspected hideouts were targeted inside the forest.

Security forces are also tracking blood stains believed to have been left behind by the fleeing terrorists after a hideout was destroyed during an assault carried out on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat, has reviewed security arrangements for Eid-ul-Azha and Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

The meeting was attended by senior officers of the J-K Police, CRPF, ITBP, traffic police, railways and various security agencies, a police spokesman said.

"The DGP chaired a meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to

Prabhat directed the officers to ensure comprehensive crowd management arrangements at mosques and key congregation venues across the Valley.

The DGP stressed the need for strengthening security measures, safeguarding public movement and deploying personnel at sensitive locations to prevent overcrowding.

He instructed field officers to enhance surveillance, carry out random inspections at vulnerable areas and intensify patrolling to effectively address any potential security concerns during the festive occasion.

During the meeting, the participating officers presented detailed briefings on the proposed security and logistical arrangements as well as preparedness measures for the smooth conduct of SANJY-2026.

Officers from the paramilitary and other security forces also shared their assessments and underscored the need for seamless coordination and synergy among all agencies involved.



Security forces intensified anti-terror operation in Rajouri's dense forests on Thursday.

review security arrangements for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026 (SANJY-2026) at PCR Kashmir," the spokesman said.

Emphasising the importance of peaceful Eid celebrations,

The officers briefed the DGP regarding the administrative and logistical arrangements made for the incoming Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) companies.

Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah steps down

MI News Service, Bengaluru: Ending all doubts and speculations at different circles, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday submitted his resignation to the Governor's Special Secretary at Lok Bhavan here.

Special Secretary Prabhu Shankar received the resignation in the absence of Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, who had left for Indore, his native place for personal reason.

Earlier in the morning Siddaramaiah informed his cabinet colleagues of his decision to step down after remaining at the helm of power for two and a half years. He made this announcement during a breakfast meeting of all ministers at his residence this morning, official sources said.

His current deputy and possible successor, D K Shivakumar and all other cabinet colleagues attended the breakfast meeting.

In a picture shared by the Chief Minister's Office, Siddaramaiah is seen hugging an emotional Shivakumar, while in another picture, CM hopeful Shivakumar is seen touching the feet of Siddaramaiah and taking his blessings.

According to CMO sources, the



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

CM sought the Governor's appointment after the party High Command, particularly Rahul Gandhi had apparently asked him to make way for a leadership change in the state.

However, Lok Bhavan sources said Siddaramaiah has sought time to meet Governor Thawarchand Gehlot, who is however away in Indore.

As the political heat rises in the southern state in anticipation of a new CM, AICC General Secretary in charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, on Wednesday, had, however, clarified that the Congress has not called for a meeting of its legislature party in the state and that no other decision has been taken yet. He requested the media not to speculate on the issue.

Surjewala, who arrived here on Wednesday, also met Siddaramaiah and other senior leaders. As per the rules, the Legislature Party selects its leader, the obvious choice for CM.

The development follows the Congress High Command reportedly asking Siddaramaiah to make way for a leadership change in the state and offering him a central role in the party with a Rajya Sabha seat. As per reports, Siddaramaiah has not immediately accepted the central role.

Some sources indicate Siddaramaiah may have decided to step down because the message came directly from the top party leader, Rahul Gandhi. The CM has repeatedly stated that he would step down if the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha asked him to do so.

Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar were summoned to Delhi on Tuesday by the party, where there were back-to-back meetings at the Congress headquarters involving Rahul Gandhi, AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge, party General Secretaries K C Venugopal and Surjewala.

Suvendu Adhikari visits ISKCON headquarters in Mayapur



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari visited and offered prayers at the ISKCON temple in Mayapur, a holy place in Nadia on Thursday.

MI News Service, Kolkata / Mayapur : West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari for the first time after assuming office, visited the ISKCON headquarters at Mayapur in Nadia district on Thursday morning and interacted with monks at

the shrine after visiting the main Radha-Krishna temple.

He also met members of the temple management during his visit which lasted about two hours.

During his visit Suvendu Adhikari performed 'gau puja'

at the ISKCON headquarters. Dressed in a white dhoti-kurta, he entered the 'gaushala' (cow shelter) in the temple premises barefoot and performed rituals as part of the 'gau puja' and fed the cows fruits and sweets.

Later speaking to reporters he said his visit to the temple was part of his spiritual engagements which he has been following since his childhood.

"After taking oath on May 9, I visited many temples and also wanted to visit ISKCON

temple at Mayapur to receive blessings from the revered monks', Suvendu Adhikari said.

Also speaking ISKCON main trustee and Director of Communications Yudhisthir Govinda Das said they were very happy that Suvendu Adhikari, being a follower of the ISKCON for a long time, could manage time to visit Mayapur in less than a month after taking over as the Chief minister.

"The Chief minister has been a devotee and a well-wisher of the trust and the institution for a long time, and we are immensely happy that he could come here today" Govinda Das said.

Tight security arrangements have been put in place in and around Mayapur ahead of the Chief minister's visit, with a large deployment of police personnel and barricading at key entry points, officials said.

A large number of devotees and locals carrying banners and repeatedly shouting Jai Sriram slogans, gathered near the temple premises since morning to catch a glimpse of the Chief minister.

The sprawling ISKCON campus in Nadia district attracts lakhs of devotees from India and abroad every year, specially during the Ratha Yatra.

PM Modi asks states to resolve water disputes through cooperation

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked states to resolve inter-state water disputes through cooperation, timely clearances and technology-based monitoring, and said the Ken-Betwa project should serve as a model.

Chairing the 51st PRAGATI meeting, where seven critical infrastructure projects across railways, power and road sectors covering nine states worth around Rs 30,000 crore were reviewed on Thursday, he underlined that delay in implementation of public projects leads not only to cost escalation but also deprives citizens of timely access to essential facilities.

While reviewing the Ken-Betwa river inter-linking project, the Prime minister said it should serve as a model for other states to resolve inter-state water issues through cooperation, timely clearances, technology-based monitoring and mission-mode execution, an official statement said.

Prime Minister also stressed the need for a more proactive and time-bound approach in removing bottlenecks and ensuring timely execution of key public projects.

The Prime Minister pushed for expanded rooftop solar coverage in cities and urged state governments to fast-track waste management infrastructure under Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, Official sources



have said.

PRAGATI is an ICT-enabled multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, aimed at integrating efforts of the Centre and states for faster execution of public projects.

While reviewing power sector projects, PM Modi stressed the need to accelerate rooftop solar adoption in urban areas, particularly in cities, residential clusters and public institutions. He said rooftop solar should be implemented in a "mission mode" to reduce electricity costs, improve energy security and promote clean energy at the household level.

The Prime Minister referring to PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which provides direct financial subsidies to households for installing rooftop solar systems.

He further emphasised effective implementation of Swa-

plus water from the Ken River in Madhya Pradesh to the Betwa in Uttar Pradesh to irrigate drought-prone Bundelkhand.

He also urged states to explore similar river-linking, water conservation, groundwater recharge and efficient irrigation projects to ensure long-term water security.

The Prime Minister also emphasised the need to explore innovative use of canal networks, including installing solar panels along and over canals for clean electricity generation. He said this would optimise land use, reduce evaporation losses, and unlock additional economic value from water infrastructure.

PM Modi further underlined that delays in public projects not only escalate costs but also deprive citizens of timely access to essential infrastructure and development benefits.

He called for a more proactive and time-bound approach from ministries, departments and state governments to clear pending issues, remove bottlenecks and ensure faster implementation of projects and schemes.

PM Modi's emphasis on timely delivery of public projects comes against the backdrop of economic concerns linked to the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and appears aimed at sustaining the momentum of infrastructure development amid potential headwinds and medium-term uncertainties.

Second Police complaint filed against Abhishek Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata: A complaint has been lodged against Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee for his social media post, alleging that it could disturb communal harmony, a police officer said on Thursday.

The complaint was filed at Bhowanipur Police Station by one Arnab Kanti Das, who termed the post by the Diamond Harbour MP "highly irresponsible".

A copy of the social media post made on May 2 has also been submitted to the police, following which a preliminary inquiry has been initiated, the officer said adding that the social media post might incite communal tensions in the state if the assembly election result had gone in favour of the TMC. After preliminary investigation. Legal actions in the case might determine the findings, the officer added.

This development follows another FIR against Abhishek Banerjee which has also been lodged a couple of days ago, at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime police station for making alleged provocative remarks during election campaigning.

That complaint, filed by Baguati resident Rajib Sarkar, pertains to comments made by Abhishek Banerjee at a rally on April 27, where he purportedly challenged the BJP, leading to political unrest.

India, China hold 'constructive' talks on LAC; agree border peace

MI News Service, Beijing/ New Delhi: Amid the present volatile global scenario, India and China held "constructive" and "forward-looking" talks on the situation along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh, noting that maintaining border peace and tranquillity enabled progress in the normalisation of overall bilateral relations.

The two sides discussed various aspects of the border situation during a meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) in Beijing on Wednesday.

"The discussions were constructive and forward looking," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said a day after the talks.

India and China rolled out a series of measures in the last over one year to rebuild their relationship after it came under severe strain following the deadly Galwan Valley clashes in 2020 and the subsequent military face-off that lasted for over four years..

"The two sides reviewed the situation in the India-China border areas. They expressed satisfaction with the progress made in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas, which has enabled progress towards gradual normalization



of bilateral relations," the MEA said adding that the two sides also agreed to work together to make "substantive preparation" for the next meeting of the Special Representatives (SR) which is to be held in China.

In August last year, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi held Special Representatives dialogue in New Delhi that produced a number of outcomes to maintain peace along the border. "The two sides discussed issues pertaining to delimitation, border management, mechanism building and cross-border cooperation," the MEA said on the WMCC meeting. It said the Indian side stressed an early

Continued to Pg 3

Air India further suspends flights to Israel till July end

MI News Service, New Delhi/Tel Aviv : Amid continued geopolitical uncertainties in West Asia and the raging war with Iran and Lebanon by the US- Israel joint forces, Air India on Thursday said it is extending its suspension of operations on the Tel Aviv-Delhi route till July end.

Earlier this month, it had announced suspension till June end but with no clarity on the prevailing security situation in the region, the leading Indian carrier has decided to further extend its suspension of operations on the route by another month.

A senior executive heading the airlines' Israel operations said the "schedule amendment has already been notified by the airline. The step has been taken because of continued uncertainty in West Asiaregion".

The carrier had earlier suspended services on the route till the end of May, then June, but has now decided to prolong the halt till the end of July, he said.

The move comes despite a ceasefire between the US and Iran holding for some time, as concerns over the security situation in the region continue to affect international air travel.

As a result only a limited number of airlines have resumed operations to and from Tel Aviv. Apart from Israeli carriers such as El Al, IsraAir, Arkia and Air Haifa, only a few international airlines are operating flights, creating difficulties for passengers travelling for work, tourism or family reasons.

The continued suspension of Air India services has also added to concerns among the more than 40,000 Indians living in Israel, many of whom are seeking to travel to India for personal or professional reasons or due to uncertainty in the region.

Limited travel options have also pushed up airfare costs, posing a challenge for Indian workers who fear a significant dent in their savings, according to media reports.

Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar accuses party MP Kalyan Banerjee of verbal abuse, misogyny

MI News Service, Kolkata: Days after quitting from all posts of the TMC and attending the new state government's administrative meeting at Kalyani, Trinamool Congress MP Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar has decided to lodge a formal complaint to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, against party colleague Kalyan Banerjee charging him with verbally abusing her inside Parliament and misogynistic behaviour towards women parliamentarians.

The complaint comes amid deepening faultlines within the TMC following its drubbing in the assembly election by BJP, with public display of dissent and internal unease increasingly spilling into the open.

In her letter to Speaker Om Birla, Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar sought permission to formally register the complaint and demanded ac-



tion against Kalyan Banerjee.

Ghosh Dastidar, in her letter to the Speaker, sought action against his party colleague saying "I seek your permission to lodge a formal complaint to you for redressal against Lok Sabha Member of AITC Kalyan Banerjee, who has repeatedly verbally abused me inside the Lok Sabha. This misogyny has been against many lady members and needs to be punished," the MP from

Bengal's Barasat wrote in the letter. However, neither Kalyan Banerjee nor the TMC leadership immediately reacted to the complaint.

This comes barely a day after the four-term Barasat MP quit all organisational posts in the TMC and launched a stinging political diatribe against sections of the party leadership.

She, however, continues to be an MP of Barasat, which she won on a TMC ticket.

Kalyan Banerjee, also a four-time MP from Sreerampur in Hooghly district and one of the party's most combative parliamentarians, has frequently courted controversy over his remarks and confrontations with political opponents as well as colleagues.

Now it remains to be seen what action the Speaker initiates on the basis of these complaints.

Trinamool Leader Arrested for Allegedly Taking Lakshmir Bhandar Scheme Money

Action taken in Manoharpur area of Chandrakona; accused of misusing political influence

MI News Service, Kharapur : Police have arrested a local Trinamool Congress leader from the Manoharpur area under Chandrakona police station in the Ghatul subdivision of West Medinipur district for allegedly illegally receiving money under the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme. The arrested accused has been identified as Uttam Kumar Sahu. He is known as an active Trinamool Congress leader in the area and is also a contractor of the gram panchayat. According to police sources, the accused allegedly used false documents and political influence to avail benefits of the "Lakshmir



Bhandar" scheme, which was introduced by the state government for women. Police began an investigation after receiving

complaints regarding the matter. During the investigation, the allegations were found to be prima facie true, following which

the accused was arrested. After the incident came to light, political tension has intensified in the area. Local residents alleged that instead of reaching needy women, the benefits of government welfare schemes are being misused by influential individuals. Opposition parties have also targeted the state government and the Trinamool Congress over the issue. Police said that a detailed investigation into the matter is underway. Officials are also trying to determine whether the accused acted alone or if others were involved in the alleged fraud. More people may be questioned if necessary.



Suvendu Adhikari, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, visited the ISKCON temple in the Holy land of Mayapur, Nadia on Thursday.

Massive fraud on 'Green City' project, three arrested

MI News Service, Hooghly: After the change of government in the state, strict action is being taken against corruption. This time, the police of Arambagh police station have arrested a total of three people, including two temporary municipal workers and a contractor, on charges of massive financial embezzlement in the 'Green City' project. Swapan Nandi, the former chairman of Arambagh Municipality and current Trinamool State Secretary, has been absconding from the area since this incident. The police are searching for him.

It is learnt that the current chairman of Arambagh Municipality, Sameer Bhandari, came to know about the huge irregularities and embezzlement of government funds in this project after taking charge in 2022. He alleged that during the tenure of the previous Trinamool Board, the then municipality chairman Swapan Nandi used his influence to award the project to a contractor of his choice before the tender process was completed.

Under the Green City project, solar panels were supposed to be installed in 12 schools in the municipal



ity area and a bill of about 40 lakh rupees per school was also issued. But in reality, no work was done. Despite the work not being completed within the stipulated time, the entire amount was paid to the contractor company along with Kaustov Mukherjee, a temporary employee of the municipality's light department, and Manas Kundu, a temporary engineer. Evidence of this corruption was also found in the audit of the then municipality. After that, the current chairman Sameer Bhandari filed a written complaint with the Arambagh police station.

Based on the complaint of the chairman, the Hooghly Rural Police acted promptly and arrested three people. The arrested are Kausthav Mukherjee, a temporary employee of the municipality, Manas Kundu, a temporary engineer, and

Swarnabh Ghosh alias Tumba, a contractor.

The Additional SP (ASP) of Hooghly Rural Police confirmed the arrest on a social media group. After the new BJP-led government came to power in the state, Chief Minister Subhendu Adhikari had given a strong message of 'zero tolerance' against corruption. Political circles believe that the administration has taken this proactive role to empower the police to work independently.

BJP MLA from Arambagh Hemant Bagh said, "The BJP government will run a transparent and corruption-free administration. Crores of rupees were misappropriated in Arambagh Municipality during the Trinamool rule. The real Raghav Boals must be caught. We want the police to immediately arrest the then Municipality Chairman Swapan Nandi."

Raw eggs were thrown at Trinamool MP! Huge excitement in Nimta

MI News Service, North 24 Pargana: Raw eggs were thrown at Dum Dum Trinamool MP Saugata Roy. It is alleged that slogans were also raised against him. There is a lot of tension in Nimta over this incident.

It is learnt that several Trinamool workers and supporters have been left homeless since the election results were announced. In addition, it is alleged that the houses of five Trinamool councillors were attacked on Wednesday. The Trinamool MP went to Nimta police station to lodge a complaint in this regard. At that time, several people gathered outside the police station. It is alleged that eggs were thrown at the MP after he left the police station. It is alleged that slogans of were also raised. Later, the senior MP got into a car and left the area under police protection.

He said, "On Wednesday, the houses of five Trinamool councillors were attacked. I went to the police station to report the complaint. While leaving the police station, they called me a 'thief'. I said, who are you calling a 'thief'? They are being rude. They are shouting. In fact, the BJP has no control." However, the saffron camp claims that the BJP has nothing to do with it. Trinamool leaders and ministers have committed so much theft and corruption. That is why the common people are angry. This is just an expression of anger. Nothing more than that.

Drinking water crisis in Uluberia, locals protest by blocking road

MI News Service, Howrah: There is a severe drinking water crisis in ward number 23 of Uluberia Municipality, Howrah. The locals claim that despite informing the municipality several times, no solution has been found. The locals are angry with this indifference of the municipality. In protest, they blocked the road on Thursday morning and staged a protest. This also caused temporary tension in the Jagdishpur Ghoshpara area of ward number 23 of Uluberia Municipality. Later, the police and administration went there and normalized the situation. The locals blocked the Uluberia-Shyampur road with buckets and started protesting. After the protest lasted for about half an hour, police reached the spot and spoke to the residents. Although the blockade was lifted, many more complaints have been filed by the residents.

Major STF Operation in Pingla, Two Suspects Arrested

Large number of SIM cards and important documents seized; interrogation underway

MI News Service, Kharapur : In a major operation in the Pingla area of West Medinipur district, the Kolkata STF team arrested two suspected youths. The arrested accused have been identified as Sheikh Mursholin and Gautam Khanra. The operation created a stir in the locality. According to sources, the Kolkata STF had been receiving secret information about the two accused for several days. Acting on the tip-off, a special STF team conducted a raid in the Pingla area and detained both suspects. During the operation, officials recovered a large number of SIM cards along with several important documents from their possession.

West Medinipur Superintendent of Police Papiya Sultana confirmed the inci-



dent and stated that an investigation has been launched, treating the matter seriously. The recovered SIM cards and documents are being examined to determine the purpose for which they were being used. At present, the STF team is continuously interrogating the two arrested suspects. Investigating agencies are

also trying to find out who else may be connected to the case and whether a larger network is involved behind the incident. Following the arrests, various discussions and speculations have started among local residents in the Pingla area. The police and STF teams are carrying out a detailed investigation into the entire matter.

A Joyous Eid Celebrated Amidst Anguish and Sorrow



Nurul Islam Khan : On Thursday, members of the minority community across the entire state offered Eid-ul-Adha prayers. However, as many observed, this particular Eid prayer was steeped in a sense of anguish and sorrow. The atmosphere was somber and tense; worshippers performed their prayers amidst suppressed resentment and deep frustration. Due to the overwhelming crowds, the congregational Eid prayers had to be held in three separate sessions in some locations. Nevertheless, no one offered prayers on the streets. The police administration had implemented strict security measures to ensure that no Eid prayers were conducted on public thoroughfares. For the first time in history, members of the minority community were unable to offer their prayers at the historic Red Road. Instead, the prayers were held at the Brigade Parade Ground, courtesy of the state government. Prior to the Qurbani (sacrifice), a precedent was set in the state by banning the sacrifice of cows. Furthermore, Muslims had voluntarily boycotted cow slaughter. They also actively campaigned for the recognition of the cow as the national animal. Their stance was unequivocal: the meat of this animal should not be exported. However, the usual eye-

catching crowds typically associated with this prayer were conspicuously absent. Although Qari Fazlur Rahman was present at the Brigade Parade Ground, the Eid prayers were led by Qari Imdadur Rahman. It is worth noting that, for people of all communities, this Eid prayer was a somber occasion; hearts were heavy with sorrow, unease, apprehension, and mental fatigue. No cows were sacrificed; instead, goats were offered as Qurbani. The streets, too, remained clean and uncluttered. "We kept our cool and endured every machination of this 'Bulldozer Government'," remarked Mohammed Salim of Park Circus. Worshippers also offered their Eid prayers at the shrine (Dargah) of 'Dada Huzur' in Furfura Sharif, Hooghly. Prayers were also held in various other areas, including Park Circus Maidan, Raja Bazar, Iqbalpur, and Topsia. It must be acknowledged that the customary joy of Eid, usually so vibrant among children, appeared significantly dimmed this time around. All things considered, this Eid prayer left behind a legacy of specific memories, unique experiences, and a slice of history. Prayers were offered for the welfare and prosperity of both the state and the nation, conveying a message of peace, harmony, and communal amity.

Heatwave Relief Camp by Shantipur Traffic Guard Offers Respite to Commuters

MI News Service, Nadia : South Bengal continues to witness severe heatwave conditions amid fears of a prolonged dry spell linked to the strong El Nino pattern expected between May and July 2026. According to weather officials, the probability of El Nino influence during this period stands at nearly 85%, raising concerns over deficient rainfall, rising temperatures and oppressive humidity across the region.

Medical experts have cautioned that prolonged exposure to extreme heat may lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion and respiratory complications, particularly among children, senior citizens and people suffering from chronic illnesses. Citizens have been advised to avoid outdoor activities between 11 am and 4 pm unless absolutely necessary.

Despite the warnings, economic compulsions continue to

force thousands of people outdoors every day. Daily wage earners, transport workers, vendors and commuters are among the worst affected, often travelling long distances under direct sunlight. Many have resorted to covering their heads and faces with cloth, carrying drinking water and taking brief shelter under flyovers or concrete structures to escape the harsh afternoon heat.

The ongoing crisis has also highlighted the shrinking availability of natural roadside shade along major highways. Residents recalled that the earlier NH-34 corridor once had dense rows of trees providing relief to travellers. However, after the expansion and modernization of the route into the present National Highway 12, many trees were removed as part of infrastructure development. Although plantation drives have been undertaken, the saplings will require



several more years to grow into effective green cover.

In response to the worsening conditions, several clubs, voluntary organisations and religious institutions across Nadia district have started distributing drinking water and refreshments to pedestrians and drivers. Administrative agencies have also stepped in with targeted public relief measures.

One such initiative began on Wednesday when the Shantipur Traffic Guard under Ranaghat Police District launched a heat relief camp near the Shantipur entry point from NH-12. The camp aims to support highway commuters, local pedestrians and vehicle drivers struggling in the extreme weather.

Police officials stated that wa-

termelon and chilled drinking water were distributed on the opening day of the initiative. Authorities further confirmed that jaggery-based refreshments, glucose support and regular drinking water supply will continue throughout the heatwave period.

The relief camp has gained attention particularly because it has been positioned near bridge underpasses that now function as temporary resting shelters for exhausted commuters. Local residents and drivers expressed satisfaction over the arrangement, saying access to safe drinking water during peak afternoon hours has become essential for survival in the present weather conditions.

Officials also indicated that a similar facility is being planned near the Panchpota stretch of the highway to widen the reach of the public assistance programme during the ongoing summer crisis.

From Smuggling Corridor to Green Border Model: Nadia's Kadipur Reinvents Itself Through 'Arogya Marg'

MI News Service, Nadia : Kadipur, once known as a vulnerable smuggling corridor along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Nadia district, is now witnessing an unlikely transformation. In a region where cattle smuggling and illegal cross-border activities once shaped the local economy, a green livelihood initiative named 'Arogya Marg' is attempting to rewrite the narrative. Spread across Kadipur, Digambarpur, Gobindapur and Bishnupur under Krishnaganj block, the pilot project has emerged as a model combining border security with rural employment generation. The initiative, launched under the Centre's Vibrant Village Programme with support from the Border Security Force (BSF), has been running for nearly a year.

Along stretches of the fenced border road, medicinal plantations, flower cultivation and bee-keeping units now occupy spaces that were earlier associated with smuggling routes. Aloe vera, tulsi and several herbal plants have been cultivated on both sides of the road, while bee-boxes installed across the area are being used for honey production and pollination support.

The project also carries an educational aspect. Informational boards describing the medicinal



benefits of various plants have been installed beside the border fencing, creating awareness among villagers and visitors alike.

Officials associated with the initiative say the objective is twofold: strengthening border management while creating alternative livelihood opportunities for vulnerable youth living in frontier villages.

To further restrict illegal movement, long water-filled trenches have been created along sensitive stretches of the border road. According to local administrative sources, these physical

barriers have significantly reduced the ease of cross-border smuggling activities in the area.

At present, around 35 local youths are directly engaged with the project. Significantly, several among them were allegedly earlier associated with smuggling networks operating in the border belt. Villagers say unemployment and lack of sustainable income opportunities had pushed many young men towards illegal activities, particularly cattle smuggling.

"Earlier, many youths worked as carriers and earned anywhere between Rs 1,000 and Rs 1,500 a

day. There were very few legal employment options here," said a local resident.

Now, those same individuals are reportedly earning through legal means under the Arogya Marg initiative. Sources involved with the project said the income generated from plantation and related activities is distributed among the workers engaged in the programme.

Security experts believe the initiative represents a shift in the approach towards border management. Instead of relying solely on fencing and surveillance, the project attempts to address the socio-economic factors that often fuel smuggling in remote frontier regions.

BSF officials indicated that there are plans to expand the programme further and include more villagers, particularly women through self-help groups. If successful, the Kadipur model may eventually be replicated in other vulnerable border pockets.

For a region once identified with illegal trade and economic desperation, the emergence of 'Arogya Marg' marks more than just a development project. For many residents, it represents a rare opportunity to move away from the shadow economy and towards a more stable and dignified future.

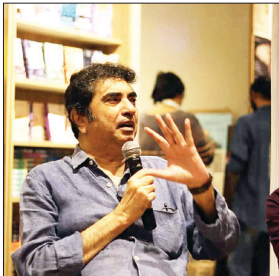
Jahangir's close associate Israili is in the police net

MI News Service, South 24 Pargana: Elections were held in Falta on May 21. Before that, Trinamool leader Jahangir Khan suddenly withdrew from the voting field. He has been 'missing' since then. There are fears that Jahangir may be arrested at any time. In the meantime, Israili Chakdar is in the police net. Police arrested this leader close to Jahangir Khan from Hasimnagar area of Falta police station late on Wednesday night. There are multiple charges against the arrested person, including extortion, intimidation, and assault.

Arrested Israili is the Trinamool chief of Banganagar 2 Gram Panchayat. After the elections on April 29, local women protested for two consecutive days in Hashim Nagar area of Banganagar 2 Gram Panchayat. The protest completely blocked the road. The protesters alleged that Trinamool-backed miscreants led by arrested Israili prevented them from voting. They were not allowed to leave their homes. Voting was rigged. The women also accused Israili of beating and molesting women. The demand for re-election in Falta arose from that movement in Hashimnagar.

Anik Dutta's mysterious death: police reconstruct the incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police have started investigation in the director Anik Dutta's mysterious death incident! on Thursday, the forensic team reached the accident site, i.e. Anik's wife's house in Hindustan Park. They went to the roof of the multi-storey building and collected samples. The Lalbazar investigation team also went to the spot and reconstructed the incident. They are trying to understand how Anik fell from the roof, by dropping heavy objects from above. Incidentally, according to investigators, while falling from



Director Anik Dutta

the roof, Anik got stuck in a tree branch near the house. After that, he fell down after breaking that branch. According to police sources, this is what is being tried to be

understood in the reconstruction process of the incident.

On the other hand On Thursday, the late director's wife Sandhi Dutta and daughter Rai jointly issued a written statement on social media. They said, "Anik Dutta's body will lie in state at New Theatres-1 (NT1) Studios in Tollygunge from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm on Friday, May 29. Family members, loved ones, friends and well-wishers will be able to pay their last respects there. The family has requested those who love Anik to be with him on his last journey."

Jailed Sujit Basu challenges arrest in High Court against ED

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jailed Trinamool leader Sujit Basu has approached the Calcutta High Court. It is worth to mention that Enforcement Directorate (ED) had arrested him in the municipal recruitment corruption case. In this situation the former fire services minister of the state has approached the High Court against the ED, challenging this arrest. It is learned that he has already filed a case in this regard through a lawyer. The case may be heard in the court of Justice Shampa Dutta Pal very soon.

It is worth to mention that Sujit Basu has been under the scanner of the ED for a long time in the public recruitment corruption case. He was accused of recruitment

in exchange for money. In the interest of investigating that case, former minister Sujit Basu received several notices from the ED from April 6, starting from the day of filing his nomination papers for the election and ending during the assembly elections. At that time, he approached the High Court seeking time saying that he was busy with election campaigning. Following the court's order, the Trinamool leader avoided appearing before the ED during the elections. However, he appeared in the public recruitment corruption case as soon as the elections were over. Sujit Basu was questioned several times. His house and office were also searched.

Then on May 11, the Enforcement Directorate arrest-

ed the former minister after a long interrogation. Sujit Basu is currently in jail custody. While in jail, he approached the Calcutta High Court challenging the ED's arrest. If everything goes well, the case can be heard on an urgent basis on Friday in the court of Justice Shampa Dutta Pal. Meanwhile, the investigators claim that the former minister illegally recommended the names of more than a hundred job seekers in the Dum Dum Municipality. Not only that, a huge amount of money was also transacted in this case. However, the investigating officers are checking Sujit Basu's account to be more certain about this. In the meantime, the Trinamool leader has approached the court.

Multiple Aadhaar and voter cards were recovered from Trinamool office

MI News Service, Kolkata: A large number of voter and Aadhaar cards were again recovered from the Trinamool office! This time from an office in Kolkata. This has caused a lot of tension in the Tangra area. A large police force rushed to the spot on receiving the news. How so many Aadhaar and voter cards came to the Trinamool office is being investigated. Not only that, but it is also being reported that the people concerned are being contacted by looking at the names on the recovered cards. However, locals claim that the local Trinamool leaders used to take the cards in the name

of providing various services. But they would not return them. It is reported that such allegations are also being investigated by the police.

It is known that the Trinamool office in Tangra Lane No. 2 falls within the Belegghata assembly constituency. It had been locked since the election results were announced. Locals broke the lock and entered the office. When they opened a cupboard there, the locals were completely surprised. They saw that there were multiple Aadhaar and voter cards neatly arranged in the cupboard. Most of which were claimed to belong to local residents. After that, the

people of the area started protesting outside the Trinamool office. Police rushed to the spot after receiving the news.

It is worth mentioning that a few days ago, many voters and Aadhaar cards were recovered from a Trinamool office in Bidhannagar. The incident took place in the 36th ward area of Basanti Devi Colony. Locals alleged that the Trinamool-affiliated miscreants would forcibly take away the identity cards so that no one could vote. They would not give them back. A storm erupted in state politics over such allegations. As soon as the thread was cut, the same incident was repeated again.

BJP worker attacked in Muchipara area

MI News Service, Kolkata: A BJP worker was attacked in Kolkata's Muchipara area. He was allegedly beaten up with an iron rod. Tension has been high in the area since Wednesday night over the incident. Baranagar MLA Sajal Ghosh claimed that the attack was to sabotage a BJP meeting.

It is known that the victim's name is Biplob Nag. He was standing and talking to some people in Muchipara area on Wednesday night.

Allegedly, some people attacked him at that time. First, an argument started. Then Biplob was allegedly beaten with an iron rod. The young man's head was crushed by the rod. Biplob fell down in a bloody state. He was immediately rescued and taken to the hospital. According to sources, Biplob is currently undergoing treatment there.

In this context, BJP MLA from Baranagar Sajal Ghosh claimed that Trinamool is behind this attack. Sajal said,

"This attack is to foil the reception meeting." However, Trinamool claims that the allegations are baseless. In this context, councillor of ward number 48, Biswaroop Dey, said on behalf of the party, "Our worker has been beaten up. Our booth agent Dwipan Saha has been beaten up. However, we do not want to color it politically." It is worth noting that Biplob Nag's family claims that the young man had been receiving threats for a long time.

Biker dies in a tragic road accident in Nagerbazar

MI News Service, Kolkata: A biker was killed in a tragic road accident. It is learnt that the biker fell off from a flyover after being hit by a speeding four-wheeler in Nagerbazar. He died on the spot. The police have arrested the vehicle and the driver. The incident took place on Thursday afternoon. A car was coming from the direction of the airport. The motorbike was going in the opposite direction, i.e. from the direction of Nagerbazar, towards the airport. At that moment, the car, which was coming at a high speed, hit the bike. The impact of the collision was so severe

that the biker fell off from the flyover. Eyewitnesses claim that the speed of the car was extremely high. Suddenly, it lost control and hit the bike.



Upon receiving the information, the police of Nagerbazar police station reached the spot. The police have seized the vehicle and arrest the driver of the vehicle. The motor-

bike involved in the accident has also been taken to the police station. Locals rushed to the spot after seeing the biker falling from the flyover. The Nagerbazar traffic police rescued him from the spot in a bloody state and sent him to Dum Dum Municipal Hospital. The doctors declared him dead there.

According to police sources, the airbag in front of the car opened when the four-wheeler hit the bike. The Nagerbazar police have started an investigation into the exact cause of the accident, the speed of the vehicle, and whether the driver was drunk.

India, China hold 'constructive' talks on LAC

Continued from Pg 1: meeting of the next expert-level mechanism on trans-border rivers.

"Both sides agreed to maintain regular exchanges and contacts at the diplomatic and military levels through mechanisms including those that were agreed as part of outcomes of 24th Special Representative talks," the MEA said in a statement.

The Indian delegation was led by Sujit Ghosh, joint secretary (East Asia) in the MEA while the Chinese delegation was led by Hou Yangqi, Director General of the Boundary and Oceanic Affairs

Department of the Chinese foreign ministry.

Ghosh also met Liu Jinsong, Director at the Chinese foreign ministry's Department of Asian Affairs. The Indian Joint Secretary also made a courtesy call on Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Hong Lei. The WMCC meeting took place as India and China sought to reset their strained ties. Following a series of diplomatic and military talks, the two sides withdrew their troops from several friction points along the LAC in eastern Ladakh.

In October 2024, the two sides firmed up a disengagement pact

for Depsang and Demchok, the last two friction points in eastern Ladakh. Days after the agreement was finalised, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in Kazan and took a number of decisions to improve the ties. In August last year, PM Modi travelled to the Chinese city of Tianjin to attend the annual SCO summit. PM Modi and Xi also held extensive talks on the sidelines of the SCO summit. In the meeting, PM Modi said India is committed to taking forward its ties with China based on mutual trust, respect and sensitivity.



Muslim devotees offering prayers on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha festival at Brigade Parade Ground in Kolkata on Thursday.

PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

Big setback for Trinamool, Shantanu Sen resigns as party's national spokesperson

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Since the Trinamool Congress's debacle in the recently concluded assembly elections, there has been a rush to resign from party posts and responsibilities. Taking responsibility for the defeat and criticizing the party's mistakes, MPs and municipal office bearers have resigned from their posts. Now another senior Trinamool leader, Dr. Shantanu Sen, has joined the list. He resigned from the post of the party's national spokesperson on Thursday. In his resignation letter to party leader Mamata Banerjee, he clearly wrote, 'In the current situation, when the people of Bengal have rejected us for various immoral acts and corruption including the RG Kar issue, the Abhaya incident, and selling of jobs, my



Shantanu Sen

mind no longer agrees to support them as a spokesperson in any way.'

It is worth to mention that the Trinamool Congress suspended Santanu Sen from the party due to his role in the RG Kar issue. However, the suspension was later withdrawn, the leader was reinstated and he was reinstated as the national spokesperson as before. After the change of government in the state, the RG Kar file was reopened at the initiative of Chief Minis-

ter Subhendu Adhikari. Dr. Santanu Sen had welcomed the Chief Minister's initiative. On Wednesday, he faced the media and accused the then RG Kar principal Dr. Sandeep Ghosh and chairman and physician-MLA Sudipta Roy of corruption. He also said, "If Chief Minister Subhendu Adhikari wants, I am ready to help by providing information in the RG Kar case. I had kept my mouth shut for so long thinking only about my daughter's career. But now my daughter has become a doctor. So there is no turning back." He also spoke out against the much-criticized North Bengal lobby in the state's health sector.

Hearing his words, many suspected that he might not be in the party for much

longer. That fear was partly true. Dr. Shantanu Sen resigned from the post of national spokesperson on Thursday after criticizing the party. In the letter, he claimed to be a 'loyal soldier' of the Trinamool Congress and wrote, 'Even though my heart did not agree in various difficult times, I have fought for the party publicly in various media outlets, for which the common people have listened to me many times. In the current situation, when the people of Bengal have rejected us for various immoral acts and corruption including the RG Kar case, the Abhaya incident, and the sale of jobs, in that situation, my heart does not agree to support them as a spokesperson in any way.'

Many wards are without guardians! Services under the watch of municipal department

MI News Service, Kolkata: After the change of government several municipalities in the state have been facing administrative deadlock. Several Trinamool councillors are now in hiding due to allegations of post-poll violence or extortion. Many public representatives have left their areas due to fear of arrest. In this unprecedented situation, many wards of various municipalities in the state are now practically guardianless.

This has directly affected the daily lives of the common people. From garbage collection to street light repairs - daily municipal services have practically come to a standstill. With the monsoon ahead and the threat of dengue

fever increasing, there are fears. In this situation, the state's municipal and urban development departments have taken action.

Strongly criticizing the Trinamool, Municipal and Urban Development Minister Agnimitra Pal said, "Work is not being done properly in many municipalities. Trinamool people are running away. Municipalities cannot run like this. Where work is not being done, administrators will have to be appointed if necessary."

According to the municipal department, the municipal secretaries and municipal commissioners have been instructed to be more responsible and active to

bring the situation under control. Even senior officers of the department are being deployed in the field to check whether the work of the municipality is going on properly. They will suddenly go on 'surprise visits' to various municipalities. If the services are disrupted in any ward, strict action will be taken against the concerned municipal officials, the department sources also said.

The municipal Affairs minister's question, 'While standing by the people during the rainy season, all the Trinamool councillors ran away! Does this mean responsibility?' Rejecting the allegations, a Trinamool spokesperson countered by

claiming, 'Ever since the BJP came to power in the state, the municipal officers have been uncooperative. In this adverse situation, it is becoming impossible for our councillors to work.'

Amidst all this, the common man is suffering immensely. Many complaints have been filed with the municipal office from several municipal areas of the state, including Kolkata. Garbage is piling up on the streets, street lights are broken. Residents are also facing difficulties with even minor water and drainage problems. Many say that they used to approach the councillors for any problem, but now many cannot be found.

Trinamool councilor Arup Chakraborty resigned from the post of party spokesperson

MI News Service, Kolkata:

After the crushing defeat in the recently concluded assembly election, one after another Trinamool leaders have started speaking out publicly against the party. Many are also leaving their posts and responsibilities. In this atmosphere Trinamool councilor Arup Chakraborty resigned from the post of chairman of the municipal public accounts committee on Wednesday. This time he has also left his post as party spokesperson. He sent his resignation letter to Trinamool Congress All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee via email. Arup mentioned in the email that he is leaving this post for

personal reasons.

Trinamool councilors Sushanta Ghosh and Arup Chakraborty resigned from the municipal council on Wednesday, raising multiple allegations against the party. Sushanta resigned from the post of borough chairman and Arup from the post of chairman of the municipality's accounts committee together. After that, they held a press conference and targeted party leader Mamata Banerjee and several high-ranking leaders. They said, "We have to accept defeat. Even after 24-25 days have passed since the defeat in the elections, no minister has been seen. We could not have approached

Mamata Banerjee for them." Arup directly asked, where did all the heavyweights of the party who got the security of the X-Y category go after the defeat? Then they also thanked the BJP in a significant way. In this atmosphere, Arup asked for relieve him from the post of party spokesperson on Thursday. He said that he has spoken for the party even in many difficult situations. In many cases, he has fulfilled the role of party spokesperson despite not having any strong arguments. But after losing the election, is there no point in arguing? Is he tired of arguing for the party? This is the question that has started to arise in

political circles after his resignation.

It is worth to mention that after the change of government in the state, one after another Trinamool leaders are resigning from the party posts. Barasat MP Kakli Ghosh Dastidar has resigned from all the party posts after criticizing various party decisions. Senior Trinamool leader Dr. Shantanu Sen resigned from the post of the party's national spokesperson on Thursday morning. In addition, councillors and mayors of several municipalities and municipal corporations across the state are resigning en masse.

A committee was formed to modernize the Kolkata Police

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state government is considering modernizing the Kolkata Police Force as soon as it comes to power. Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nanda has formed a committee to review the needs and revamp the force to make it on par with the Delhi Police or the central forces. The committee will be headed by Kolkata Police Joint Commissioner IPS Nilanjan Biswas. The committee also includes Debashis Das, Deputy Commissioner of the 6th Battalion of the Kolkata Armed Forces. The five-member committee formed by Lalbazar will examine the equipment of the Kolkata Police Force. Lalbazar has ordered the committee to submit a report within 15 days after examining the preparedness of the force to deal with the law and order situation and unrest in the city.

On Wednesday, the Kolkata Police Headquarters said that the Kolkata Police will have to check the stock of sticks, shields, helmets, armor, weapons, rubber bullets, tear gas. It has also been asked to check the supply of water cannons. The committee has started working with the plan to make the Kolkata Police's stock of defense equipment equivalent to the kind of equipment available for the Delhi Police or the central forces. Basically, the committee's job will be to judge the equivalence of the equipment of the Kolkata Police with the equipment of the Delhi Police and the central forces. The difference in the stock of equipment in the two areas will be mentioned in the report. Lalbazar will take the next step based on the report given by the committee.

It is worth to mention that recently a chaotic situation arose in the Park Circus area of Kolkata. Hundreds of people gathered there and there was a huge tension. It was alleged that many of the protesters targeted the police and pelted stones. The police were also forced to use batons in return. The central forces had to be deployed to control the situation. It is believed that the forces are taking steps in advance to deal with such kinds of incidents in the future.

"Everything will be simplified": Dilip's comment on 'Annapurna Yojana' form

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief Minister Shuvendu Adhikari officially released the application form for the 'Annapurna Yojana' in Nabanna on Wednesday. State Women and Child Welfare Minister Agnimitra Pal was also present there. Since discrepancies have been found in the beneficiary list, it has been informed that the decision to finalize the beneficiary list will be taken only after verifying the application form. Although there are no end to the questions of the common people regarding the nearly 12-page application form. Many people are worried about knowing that so many documents have to be submitted along with it. Discussions are going on everywhere, it is quite difficult to fill up this form accurately alone.

The Chief Minister had informed the press conference on Wednesday that only eligible beneficiaries will get the benefits of this scheme. The form being given for the Annapurna Yojana asks for several details about the applicant's family. But the opposition has raised questions about why the form contains so much detailed and irrelevant information.

A Trinamool spokesperson said, "Filling this form is quite time-consuming and complicated. Many people will face a lot of difficulties while filling this form."

In this regard, state minister Dilip Ghosh said, "Everything will be simplified. It won't happen that whoever wanted it was given and the Bangladeshis took it. Earlier, there were complications with GST. Now it's better."

Free food distribution for the needy on World Hunger Day

MI News Service,

Kolkata: On the occasion of World Hunger Day, a free food distribution programme was organized on Thursday near the Metro station adjacent to Sealdah South Section Railway Station to help hungry and underprivileged people.

The initiative was taken by "Utkarshe Aarohan", a voluntary social welfare organization, with support from the popular Bengali restaurant "Bhuter Raja Dil Bor", which contributed cooked food for the programme.



Speaking on behalf of Utkarshe Aarohan, Anupam Majumdar said that the main objective of the programme was to spread awareness about World Hunger Day and encourage people to stand beside those who struggle for their daily meals.

The programme created a touching atmosphere of humanity and compassion in the area. Local residents and railway passengers appreciated the noble initiative and praised the efforts of the organizers.

Regulation Of Trains For Construction Of Foot Over Bridge At Bolpur Shantiniketan Station

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 28, 2026 : For construction of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at Bolpur Shantiniketan station limit in Khana – Rampurhat section under Howrah Division, 270 minutes (from 03:00 hrs. to 07:30 hrs.) Traffic & Power Block has been planned on 31.05.2026 & 07.06.2026. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains on 31.05.2026 & 07.06.2026:
From Rampurhat: 63582
From Barddhaman: 63063, 63581
From Tinpahar: 63064
Rescheduling of trains:
• 12378 New Alipurduar – Sealdah Padatik Express (journey commencing on 30.05.2026 & 06.06.2026) will be rescheduled by 180 minutes i.e. leave New Alipurduar at 20:40 hrs.
• 13150 Alipurduar – Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (journey commencing on 30.05.2026 & 06.06.2026) will be rescheduled by 180 minutes i.e. leave Alipurduar at 18:40 hrs.

• 53048 Rampurhat – Howrah Viswabharati Passenger (journey commencing on 31.05.2026 & 07.06.2026) will be rescheduled by 90 minutes i.e. leave Rampurhat at 06:40 hrs.
Moreover, 03466 Digha – Malda Town special will be controlled by 120 minutes enroute.

It also mentioned that, 13153 & 13072 will be the last train before Block and 22301 & 12378 will be the first train after Block.

B.R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah conducted Mega Health Camp at Bongaon



MI News Service, Kolkata, May 28, 2026 : As part of an ongoing healthcare series, B.R. Singh Hospital, Sealdah, organized a Multi-Purpose Health Drive at Bongaon Health Unit. Bringing specialized medical care & camp provided expert consultations in Cardiology, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, and Dental Surgery.

In a unique and highly commendable initiative, the benefits of this camp were extended not just to regular and retire employees, but also to contractual staff, ensuring inclusive healthcare for all and reach every corner.

PSU OMCs Ensure Uninterrupted Fuel Supplies Amid Demand Surge
Kolkata, May 28, 2026 : Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) — IndianOil, BPCL and HPCL — continue operations and logistics coordination across the country to ensure uninterrupted availability of Petrol, Diesel and LPG amid a sudden and sharp increase in fuel demand in several regions.

Public Sector OMCs are ensuring uninterrupted supplies through their extensive nationwide network of terminals, depots, pipelines, LPG bottling plants and retail outlets. Supply teams, transport networks, terminal operations and select Retail Outlets are functioning 24x7 to ensure seamless product movement and timely replenishment across markets. Public Sector OMCs are maintaining close coordination with state administration for seamless fuel supplies.

The Oil Industry would like to reassure consumers that adequate stocks of Petrol, Diesel and LPG are available across the country, and all necessary measures are being taken to maintain smooth and uninterrupted supplies.

Public Sector OMCs are continuously reviewing stock positions and closely coordinating on logistics and distribution planning to efficiently meet the enhanced demand scenario.
All consumers are advised to continue with normal purchasing behaviour and avoid unnecessary panic buying. All are requested to rely only on official communications issued by authorised agencies and Oil Marketing Companies for accurate information related to fuel availability.

Bridges of Safety, Pathways of Progress: How Eastern Railway Is Erasing the Danger at Level Crossings

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 28, 2026 : There was a time when a simple journey across the railway tracks felt like a high-stakes gamble with time and life itself. Imagine an ambulance carrying a critical patient, its siren wailing in desperation, only to be halted by a closed level crossing gate as a distant train approaches. Think of the daily commuter, the school child, or the farmer watching precious minutes slip away, stranded in long queues of honking vehicles under a blazing sun or torrential rain. For decades, these level crossing gates were not just physical barriers; they were symbols of anxiety, unpredictable delays, and tragic accidents. Every crossing carried a silent prayer for safety, leaving families waiting in fear for their loved ones to return home.

Recognizing these deep-seated challenges, Eastern Railway has consistently prioritized the comfort, convenience, and safety of its passengers and the public. To transform this narrative of danger into one of seamless connectivity, Eastern Railway has embarked on a massive infrastructural mission to replace hazardous level crossings with Road Over Bridges (ROBs) and Road Under Bridges (RUBs). These structures serve as



vital lifelines—eliminating the risk of track accidents, ensuring uninterrupted road traffic, and allowing trains to speed through safely without compromising local mobility. This massive transformation across the zone is being executed under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway. Under his vision, the zone has systematically mapped out high-risk areas to build robust infrastructure that permanently bridges the gap between safety and progress.

The scale of this ongoing safety revolution is evident across all

major divisions of Eastern Railway, with a formidable grand total of 579 Road Under Bridges and 207 Road Over Bridges either commissioned or actively transforming the landscape. Leading the infrastructural surge is the Howrah Division, which accounts for the highest number of safe passages with 244 Road Under Bridges and 53 Road Over Bridges. The Sealdah Division follows closely in protecting urban and rural commuters with 119 Road Under Bridges and 37 Road Over Bridges. Meanwhile, the Malda Division has reinforced its regional connectivity by construct-

ing 112 Road Under Bridges and 50 Road Over Bridges, and the Asansol Division has successfully eliminated major traffic bottlenecks by establishing 104 Road Under Bridges alongside an impressive 67 Road Over Bridges. By steadily dismantling the vulnerabilities of traditional crossings, Eastern Railway is ensuring that journeys both on the tracks and on the roads are smoother, faster, and more secure than ever before.

Highlighting the profound impact of these projects, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, stated that every ROB and RUB built represents a promise kept to the people. He emphasized that the railway is not just constructing concrete structures, but is actively dismantling fear and replacing it with absolute safety, noting that a closed gate should never stand between a citizen and their destination. He further affirmed that under the guidance of the General Manager, Eastern Railway remains fully dedicated to making the entire network completely accident-free, ensuring that every single journey—whether by train or by road—is defined by comfort, speed, and absolute peace of mind.

Train Travels Set to Get Smoother & Safer: Eastern Railway Upgrades Panagarh Station with Ultra-Modern Signaling System

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 28, 2026 : In a major boost to train operations and passenger safety, Eastern Railway has successfully upgraded the signaling system at Panagarh Station. Under the leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, and under the close guidance of Shri Sangrah Maurya, Divisional Railway Manager of Asansol, the station has transitioned to an advanced Electronic Interlocking system. This massive technological upgrade was successfully commissioned on Wednesday, May 27, 2026, at 5:25 PM by the Signal and Telecommunication (Open-line) department.

An Electronic Interlocking system acts as a digital brain for the railway station, using computer microprocessors to manage the movement of trains, tracks, and signals safely. By replacing the old mechanical systems, this new setup eliminates human error, ensures that trains cannot be given conflicting routes, and dramatically speeds up operations. Along with the digital system, two critical Level Crossing Gates (Gate No. 102/SPL/T and Gate No. 103/SPL/T) have been upgraded from heavy, hand-cranked Mechanical Lifting Barriers to modern, effortless Electrical Lifting Barriers. Another nearby level crossing, Gate No. 104/C/T, has been permanently removed to further streamline both train and road traffic.

For the everyday commuter and local residents, this upgrade brings immense relief. Previously, road traffic would often pile up at the level crossing gates while trains stood waiting. Thanks to the new signaling design, trains can now be brought directly into the station layout while keeping the road gates open for a longer duration.



This will drastically cut down road traffic congestion and prevent frustrating traffic jams in the Panagarh station approach area.

Beyond public relief, the project greatly boosts the region's economy and industrial movement. Panagarh is a vital hub for military movements and heavy industries like Matix Fertilizers and NuVistas Corporation Limited. Previously, goods trains had to perform complex, time-consuming shunting maneuvers to switch between tracks, wasting hours. The new system creates flexible Common Loops, allowing trains to move smoothly in either direction. This saves a massive three hours per train movement, eases congestion on the heavily saturated Khana-Andal section, and allows military special trains to be dispatched without delays.

This technological overhaul spreads across three vital control rooms, namely the Central Cabin, East Hut, and West Hut. The upgraded network features a total of 147 safe train routes and 62 high-tech signals, including main signals, shunt signals, and emergency calling-on signals to guide loco pilots. To track train positions automatically, the team installed 143 Multi-Section Digital Axle Counter Detection Points manufactured by Frauscher across 106 track sections, which act as smart sensors to ensure

a track is completely clear before another train enters. Additionally, 24 track points are now operated by 42 modern point machines to seamlessly shift tracks. The entire layout is protected by advanced safety features, including three Integrated Power Supplies, three Earth Leakage Detectors to prevent electrical failures, digital Dataloggers to record operational data, and three automated Fire Alarm Systems. Crucially, the layout also includes successful modifications for Kavach, India's home-grown Automatic Train Protection system, to prevent train collisions.

Highlighting the importance of this achievement, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated, "The successful commissioning of the Electronic Interlocking system at Panagarh is a stellar example of Eastern Railway's commitment to safety and modernized infrastructure. By reducing train shunting delays by three hours and upgrading our level crossing gates to electrical systems, we are not just increasing operational capacity for industries and the military, but we are also directly improving the daily lives of local road commuters. This megaproject, executed smoothly by our dedicated Signal and Telecommunication team, marks another milestone in making Indian Railways safer, faster, and much more efficient."

Mass resignation in the Bhadreswar Municipality! 8 councilors including the Chairman resign

MI News Service, Hooghly: After the change of government in the state, Trinamool councilors are resigning one after another in several municipalities. This time, a total of 8 councilors of Bhadreswar Municipality submitted their resignations to the EO (Executive Officer) of the municipality on Thursday. Among them is Bhadreswar Municipality Chairman Proloy Chakraborty. He is known to be close to former Trinamool MLA Indranil Sen. This incident has created widespread unrest in Bhadreswar Municipality.

The political equation has changed after the Trinamool Congress's crushing defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections and the defeat of the party's heavyweight minister and Chandannagar MLA Indranil Sen. Due to this, 8 councilors, including the chairman of Bhadreswar Municipality, resigned in the wake of other municipalities and municipal corporations in the state.

On Thursday, a total of 8 Trinamool councilors, including the chairman of Bhadreswar Municipality, Proloy Chakraborty, submitted

their resignation letters to the executive officer of the municipality. It is reported that this resignation is due to the difficulty in running the board after the defeat of Trinamool Congress in the assembly elections. According to Trinamool sources, even if 8 Trinamool councilors of Bhadreswar Municipality resign, there will be no difficulty in running the municipal board. The board will run under the leadership of Vice Chairman Feroz Khan.

This is the first time that councilors have resigned from any municipality in Hooghly district after the disaster in the assembly elections. Bhadreswar municipality, which is under Chandannagar assembly constituency, has 22 wards. Indranil Sen was defeated by 13,000 votes in Chandannagar in the recently concluded assembly election. He was also trailing in Bhadreswar Municipal area. Taking moral responsibility for the party's disaster, Trinamool Chairman of Bhadreswar Municipality, Proloy Chakraborty, resigned.

INDIA to host WORLD YOGASANA CHAMPIONSHIP 2026

MI News Service, Kolkata/ New Delhi: In a historic milestone for Indian sport and global wellness, the inaugural edition of the World Yogasana Championship (WYC) 2026, the first-ever global championship dedicated to Yogasana as a competitive sport, was officially unveiled recently in New Delhi by Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in presence of Federation leaders. WYC 2026, scheduled to be held from June 4 – 8, 2026 at the Eka Arena, Ahmedabad, will bring together elite Yogasana athletes and delegations from over 60 nations including Uganda, Zambia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Kenya, Japan, Oman, Mauritius and Netherlands, marking the beginning of

India's ambitious journey to establish Yogasana as a globally recognised sporting discipline and pave its pathway towards Olympic recognition. The official unveiling ceremony featured the launch of the very creative championship logo, trophy, official jersey, and Veer the lion mascot, collectively symbolising the emergence of Yogasana as a modern global sport rooted in India's timeless heritage. The championship identity reflects athletic excellence, global unity, youth aspiration, and India's leadership in wellness and sport. It's a fusion of our heritage with the movement of a Viksit Bharat. The World Yogasana Championship 2026 is supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Ministry of Ayush, Sports Authority of India (SAI), Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism and Gujarat Yogasana Sports Association, representing a collaborative national effort to position Yogasana on the world sporting map.

Name Change
I, Aptar Ali Mondal (old name), S/o Nur Bakhsh Mondal, residing at Arbelia, Dakshindia, Baduria, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743437, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Aptar Ali Mondal (Old Name) to Aaptar Ali Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Aaptar Ali Mondal (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit No 13 dated 26/05/2026. Aaptar Ali Mondal (New Name) and Aaptar Ali Mondal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Amritlal Ramji Taank (old name), S/o Ramji Gokul, residing at 65 Block B, 5th Floor, Bangar Avenue, North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700055, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Amritlal Ramji Taank (Old Name) to Amritlal Ramji (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Amritlal Ramji (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 27/05/2026. Amritlal Ramji (New Name) and Amritlal Ramji Taank (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

ECL secures legal victory at Calcutta HC

MI News Service, Kolkata/ Sanctoria: Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has successfully secured a favourable judgment from the Calcutta High Court in WPA 8870 of 2024 titled Eastern Coalfields Ltd. Vs Union of India & Anr., delivered on 11.05.2026. The Court has set aside the Award dated 26.04.2023 passed by the Central Government Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court, Asansol relating to enhancement of House Rent Allowance (HRA) for certain employees working within the Asansol Municipal Corporation area. The Court reaffirmed that the provisions relating to HRA for coal industry employees are governed strictly by the National Coal Wage Agreements (NCWA) and the related implementation instructions mutually settled through collective bargaining under the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI). The Court further held that Government notifications applicable to Central Government employees cannot override the specific provisions of NCWA applicable to coal sector employees. The judgment also clarifies that HRA shall be regulated only in accordance with the applicable NCWA and corresponding implementation instructions from time to time. Further, employees refusing company accommodation/quarters allotted to them shall not be entitled to HRA as per NCWA provisions.

Name Change
I, Deb Nath Beldar (old name), S/o Bhagratish Beldar, residing at 24/25, Tinkorinath Bose Lane, Salkia, Howrah, 711106, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Deb Nath Beldar (Old Name) to Deo Nath Beldar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Deo Nath Beldar (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 9 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 26/05/2026. Deo Nath Beldar (New Name) and Deb Nath Beldar (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dipali Biswas (old name), Daughter of Bharat Mondal, resident of Vill-Dakshin Para, Jayghata, Dist-Nadia, Pin- 741508, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Dipali Biswas (old name) to Dipu Biswas (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Dipu Biswas (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 38 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 22/05/2026. Dipu Biswas (new name) and Dipali Biswas (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Swapan Kr Das (Old Name), Son Of Narayan Chandra Das, Resident Of 20d Trinath Pally, Bidhannagar(M), North 24 Pargana- 700105, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Swapan Kr Das (Old Name) To Swapan Das (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Swapan Das (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/05/2026. Swapan Das (New Name) And Swapan Kr Das (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Moni Chanda (old name), wife of Gopal Chanda, resident of Sree Niketan, Krishnanagar Road, Po- Noapara, Ps- Barasat, Dist- 24-PGS(N), Pin-700125, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Moni Chanda (old name) to Moni Chanda Das (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Moni Chanda Das (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 22/05/2025. Moni Chanda Das (new name) and Moni Chanda (old name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Robiul Hossain (old name), C/o Sahajamal Sekh, residing at Vill- Mandal Para, PO.- Noapara, PS.- Dhubulia, Dist.- Nadia, Pin- 741140, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Robiul Hossain (Old Name) to Rabiul Hossain (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Rabiul Hossain (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 27/05/2026. Rabiul Hossain (New Name) and Robiul Hossain (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Josana Biswanath Gain (old name), wife of Biswanath Gain, resident of Sashadanga, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743245, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Josana Biswanath Gain (Old Name) to Jotsna Gain (new name) and henceforth I be known as Jotsna Gain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit No. 53, Dated 26/05/2026. Jotsna Gain (New Name) and Josana Biswanath Gain (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Harison Bibi (old name), W/o Altah Hosen Mondal, residing at Vill- Krishnanagar, PO.-Purba Nowapara, PS.- Dhantala, Dist.- Nadia, Pin- 741501, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Harison Bibi (Old Name) to Harichhan Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Harichhan Mondal (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 27/05/2026. Harichhan Mondal (New Name) and Harison Bibi (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bishwanath Gain (old name), son of Ganesh Gain, resident of Vill & PO - Sashadanga, PS- Gaighata, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bishwanath Gain (Old Name) to Biswanath Gain (new name) and henceforth I be known as Biswanath Gain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit No. 51, Dated 26/05/2026. Biswanath Gain (New Name) and Bishwanath Gain (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kailash Chand Kalani (Old Name), Son Of Late Radhe Shyam Kalani, Resident Of Club Town Heights, Block-5, 3rd Floor, Flat-C, 14, Barrackpore Truck Road, PO-Belgharia, Kolkata- 700056, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Kailash Chand Kalani (Old Name) To Kailash Chandra Kalani (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Kailash Chandra Kalani (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 22 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/05/2026. Kailash Chandra Kalani (New Name) And Kailash Chand Kalani (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Ajanta Sen (old name), wife of Abhishek Chatterjee, residing at B173, DLF Newtown Heights, Action Area III, Opposite Shapoorji Complex, Newtown, PO.- Patharghata, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700135, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ajanta Sen (Old Name) to Ajanta Sen Chatterjee (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ajanta Sen Chatterjee (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 27/05/2026. Ajanta Sen Chatterjee (New Name) and Ajanta Sen (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Bandipur panchayat deputy chief arrested on charges of extortion and threats

MI News Service, North 24 Pargana: He built the palatial 'P Galaxy House' by threatening and collecting extortion money! If we sit down to determine its market value, the water of calculation will flow far. But this way cannot be ruled for long! After the Trinamool government crushing defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections, the police arrested the Trinamool leader of Khardah, the deputy head of the Panchayat of Bandipur and the owner of Galaxy, Prosenjit Saha, on charges of extortion and threats. On Thursday, the police of Rahra police station arrest Prosenjit Saha and present him in the Barrackpore court.



enjit in the political circles of the area is that he was constantly involved in extortion and threats by showing his power as the deputy head of the panchayat. Apart from this,

there were serious allegations against him of filling up the vast wetlands on both sides of the Kalyani Expressway and selling it at a high price. Prosenjit's influence in the area was

increasing day by day. He was warned before the assembly elections. But he did not listen to it. The miscreant was continuing the violence using his position. On April 29, during the elections in Khardah, the central forces searched his 'Galaxy' to arrest him. But Prosenjit was not found, he was on his way back. This time the police arrested him.

After the arrest of the Trinamool deputy chief of Bandipur, his house is being talked about as 'P Galaxy House.' Starting from the entrance, the interior is comparable to a seven-star hotel! The expensive wooden furniture, fluffy mattress, and window and door curtains really show off the elegance.

When you enter the house through the long entrance, your eyes are about to be dazzled!

It is said that he has gradually built such a big palace with the money of extortion, which costs several crores of rupees. That is, it was completely built illegally. Despite the long-standing allegations about these things, Prosenjit has been ruling openly for so long. Now the police of Rahra police station have arrested him and sent him to court. Chief Minister Shuvendu Adhikari had already said that such Trinamool's misdeeds will end during the tenure of the new government. This time it is being implemented in the palm of his hand.

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Universal Sampo General Insurance Co Ltd
PUBLIC NOTICE
RELOCATION BRANCH OFFICE
All our Customers, Constituents and Members of Public are hereby informed that our Branch office located at Unit No -1217,12th Floor, Aurora Waterfront, GN Block, Sector V, Bidhannagar, Kolkata -700091 India will be relocated and would remain operational from Awfis, Infinity Benchmark, 8th Floor, Unit 802 & 803, street no 25, GP Block, Salt lake sector V, Bidhan Nagar, Kolkata 700091, India w.e.f Friday, August 07 - 2026. Additionally, for any queries , feel free to contact us at our toll-free number 1800 22 4030 / 1800 200 4030/1800 200 5142 or write touts on contactus@universalsampo.com. We shall be most pleased to service you at all time.

Head Administration

Rebuffed on social media, youth arrested in Delhi for circulating over 100 obscene photos and videos of a young woman and her mother using AI

MI News Service, New Delhi: A young woman rejected a friendship request on social media. A young man has been arrested on charges of creating nude images and videos of the woman and her mother using artificial intelligence (AI) and subsequently circulating them on social media. The incident took place in Delhi. The arrested individual has been identified as Sumit Nemchand Sharma.

According to police sources, the young woman resides in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. A young man from Delhi had sent her a friendship request on social media; however, the woman rejected the overture. It is alleged that immediately thereafter, the young man began secretly stalking her on social media plat-



forms. Sumit had attempted to strike up a friendship with her on Instagram. Initially, he initiated conversations regarding various religious topics; however, as he gradually began attempting to get closer to her, the young woman started avoiding him.

After his friendship proposal was rejected, Sumit

began stalking the young woman online. It is alleged that he downloaded photographs of the woman and her mother from social media. Investigators discovered that he subsequently used AI to manipulate these images, transforming them into distorted or offensive forms. Sumit created three fake Ins-

tagram accounts specifically to harass the young woman, through which he began posting the manipulated images. Furthermore, it is alleged that Sumit created fake accounts not only on Instagram but on several other social media applications as well.

Upon discovering these distorted images of herself and her mother, the young woman immediately approached the cyber police. Acting on her complaint, the police launched an investigation and successfully identified the perpetrator. Subsequently, a team from the Ahmedabad Police traveled to Delhi and arrested the young man. According to police sources, he is currently being brought back to Gujarat under transit remand.

Agnipath & Regular Cadre online CEE dates announced

MI News Service, New Delhi: Online Common Entrance Examination (CEE) for recruitment in Indian Army for Recruiting Year 2026-27 will be held from 01 June 2026 to 12 June 2026 in eight cities-Asansol, Durgapur, Hooghly, Howrah, Kalyani, Kolkata, Pashim Medinipur & Siliguri. The formal announcement came from the central government.

The registration window to apply for Online Common Entrance Examination has been closed on 10 Apr 2026. Candidates may check and download their Admit Cards from www.joinindianarmy.nic.in. The successfully registered candidates who have not received their Admit Card, may approach their respective Army Recruitment Offices. Candidates are also



advised to visit www.joinindianarmy.nic.in website to understand and practice Computer Based Online Test.

Post Online CEE, selected candidates will be intimated about the Recruitment Rally. Candidates are advised not

to fall prey to any touts. The candidates should contact their nearest Recruitment Office for any query.

VINESH PHOGAT: WFI moves SC against Delhi HC order

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's order permitting wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the selection trials for the 2026 Asian Games.

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe is scheduled to hear the federation's plea on Friday.

The development comes days after the Delhi High Court allowed the celebrated wrestler to compete in the trials scheduled for May 30-31, while sharply criticising the WFI's selection policy as exclusionary and unfair towards athletes returning from maternity break.

"The appellant shall be permitted to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games, 2026, which are scheduled for 30.05.2026 and 31.05.2026," the high court said in its order passed on May 22.

The division bench of Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia also directed that the trials be video-recorded by the WFI and ordered the presence of one independent observer each from the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) during the process to ensure transparency.



Vinesh Phogat in Gonda.

"The policy and the circular are clearly exclusionary in nature as it does not give any discretion to Respondent No.1 (WFI) to consider iconic players like the appellant in view of the sabbatical taken on account of her maternity leave," the court observed.

The bench also raised concerns over procedural fairness, noting that the

grounds cited in the show-cause notice "appear to be pre-meditated and reopening the closed issues" and stating that "it is necessary that the appellant is permitted to participate in the selection trials in the interest of the sport and justice".

The order came on Phogat's appeal against a May 18 single-judge ruling

that had denied her immediate relief regarding participation in the trials.

During the hearing, the court had strongly questioned the WFI's decision declaring Phogat ineligible for domestic competition till June 26, 2026, and asked the Centre to consider setting up an expert panel to evaluate her case.

"Ask the experts to evaluate her chances.. Ensure that she participates," the court orally remarked, adding that it would revisit the matter later in the day after receiving further details from the government counsel.

The bench stressed that motherhood should not become a disadvantage for athletes and criticised the feder-

ation's approach.

"She became a mother in July 2025. We are in May. She is a wrestler of international repute. Why can't it be presumed that you changed it (selection criteria) for her. Whatever may be the feud or dispute, why should the cause of sports suffer? Motherhood is celebrated in the country, should it come to the detriment of a person?" the court said.

"The change in circular says all. Don't conduct yourself like this. This is not in the best interest of sports. Deviation from the earlier circular speaks volumes," it added.

Phogat had challenged the WFI's decision declaring her ineligible for domestic events till June 26, 2026, citing mandatory six-month notice requirements linked to athletes returning from retirement under anti-doping rules.

A wrestler of international repute, Phogat was disqualified from the 50-kg category final at the Paris Olympics in August 2024 after being found 100 grams overweight during the morning weigh-in. She was also among the wrestlers who led the 2023 protests alleging sexual harassment against former WFI president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh.

Demolish illegal structures within 15 km of international border: AMIT SHAH

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union home minister Amit Shah has directed the authorities to strictly enforce a 'zero tolerance' policy against illegal constructions within 15 km of the country's borders and demolish all such structures that have come up over the years.

The Ministry of home affairs has assigned enhanced responsibility to the district magistrates to ensure legal and financial compliance of banking transactions in the border areas by all banks, verify big business establishments, examine their funding sources, track mule accounts and false companies, identify fake Aadhaar cards and control cross-border smuggling, officials said.

Chairing a security review meeting in Bikaner on Tuesday, Shah assessed security related issues concerning the border districts of Rajasthan along the India-Pakistan border.

Rajasthan chief minister Bhajanlal Sharma, senior state officials, and the district magistrates and superintendents of police of five border districts - Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Sri Ganganagar and Phalodi - were present at the meeting.

In a statement, the home ministry said the border districts have been directed to carry out an in-depth study of the sources, patterns and networks behind crimes and the drug menace, and to develop lasting solutions so that these problems do not resur-

face.

Shah stressed formulating a 360-degree security cover for every border district involving citizens, state machinery and security agencies.

The home minister called for strict enforcement of the zero tolerance policy against illegal constructions, particularly within 0 to 15 km of the internal borders, and to demolish all such structures, officials said.

He underscored the importance of a coordinated approach to border management involving the BSF, CBDT, NCB and the state machinery to address issues of infiltration, narcotics smuggling, encroachment, terror financing and other trans-border crimes.

"Emphasis was laid on the successful implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)-II for strengthening last mile governance, curbing economic crimes, fulfilling infrastructural gaps and supporting border population," the ministry statement said.

At the meeting, Shah also directed to ensure 100 per cent saturation of all government schemes in the border villages, and called for the effective use of the '1930' call centre to tackle cybercrimes.

"A review and feedback on these issues will be undertaken again after two months; therefore, the districts will have to ensure result-oriented action," the statement said.

BENGAL jute mills pin hopes on new BJP govt

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jute millers in Bengal are seeking the new BJP government's intervention to avert large-scale mill closures and job losses amid an acute shortage of raw material and spiralling prices, industry sources said.

At least 14 mills across the Hooghly industrial belt have either suspended operations or are facing severe production disruptions due to non-availability of raw jute and unviable costs, according to Indian Jute Mills Association (IJMA) sources.

"With the last JBA (Jute Balers' Association) rate frozen at Rs 17,100 per quintal, trade banned, and the new crop ten weeks away, Bengal's mills are being asked to run operations without raw material," a former IJMA chairman told PTI.

Millers hope that the new government will act for the "release of residual stocks, permission for emergency imports, and restoration of a viable price corridor to support mills where two lakh workers are engaged", he said.

According to the millers'

estimates, around 75,000 workers are already facing "involuntary unemployment" because of partial shutdowns, curtailed production and irregular operations in mills located across North 24 Parganas and Hooghly districts and adjoining industrial belts.

Industry representatives said the crisis has intensified sharply over the past four months, with the Jute Balers' Association (JBA) quotation - the raw jute trade's benchmark rate - rising from Rs 11,600 per quintal on January 1 to Rs 17,100 per quintal on May 6, more than three times the minimum support price (MSP) of Rs 5,650.

The Jute Commissioner recently ordered traders and balers to maintain zero stock from May 5 in a bid to improve raw jute availability for mills. But millers and traders said the move has aggravated the problem.

The JBA stopped publishing quotations from May 7 after the Jute Commissioner's Office (JCO) trade ban came into force, effectively removing the market's main reference price, they said.

SC 'SIR' verdict exposes Opposition: BJP

MI News Service, New Delhi: The BJP seized on the Supreme Court verdict upholding the constitutional validity of the SIR, claiming that the judgment had punctured the Opposition campaign against the exercise.

The BJP trained its guns particularly on the leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, describing the verdict as a "political, moral and constitutional defeat" for him and the Opposition INDIA bloc.

At a media address at the BJP headquarters, party MP Sudhanshu Trivedi said the

verdict had exposed what he called the Opposition's "false narrative" on the electoral roll revision. He alleged that the judgment had bared the Opposition's "real face", its "anti-Sanatana Dharma" stand and that it patronised "infiltrators".

"After suffering decisive defeats in Bihar and Bengal and failing in their design to create anarchy in the country, the Congress has now faced a constitutional defeat as well," Trivedi said.

He alleged that the Opposition's attempts to question democratic institutions to mask its political failures had been

rebuffed by the apex court. "All their malicious efforts to accuse and malign every institution of democracy to cover up their political incompetence have today been rejected by the Supreme Court," he said.

Trivedi argued that the court had categorically held that the SIR exercise was not in conflict with the Representation of the People Act and was intrinsically linked to the constitutional objective of ensuring free and fair elections, thereby undercutting the very basis of the Opposition's objections.

The Congress defended its opposition to the SIR drive,

maintaining that its objections were never to the poll panel's powers but to the manner in which the exercise was conducted.

"The issue was always one of substance, never merely of form. What was being questioned was not the power to conduct the SIR, but the mode, manner, timing and style in which it was carried out," Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi said.

Singhvi also flagged what he described as inconsistencies in the Supreme Court's ruling. Referring to paragraph 171 of the judgment, he noted

that the court had held that the Election Commission could not make a formal and final determination on citizenship, a power vested in the Union home ministry under the Citizenship Act.

"Yet, the ECI has already excluded people on the basis of citizenship. Is this not a contradiction? Should this not have invited notice, findings and comment from the Supreme Court?" he asked.

The Congress leader argued that many of the concerns stemmed from what he called an "excessively constricted and telescoped timeline". He

questioned why the Election Commission had sought to complete the exercise covering crores of voters in Bihar and Bengal within four to five months instead of initiating the process a year ahead of the elections.

Citing the Bengal case, Singhvi alleged that names were struck off the electoral rolls before the adjudication process was completed, by which time the elections had concluded. "This amounts to a major deprivation and should have invited a stronger observation from the Supreme Court," he said.

Govt invites pvt bids for stealth fighter jet project

MI News Service, New Delhi: The defence ministry on opened the door for the private sector to manufacture India's fifth-generation stealth fighter jets and issued a request for proposal (RFP) to three shortlisted private sector-led consortia for the 15,000-crore project.

Tata Advanced Systems, the L&T-BEL-Dynamatic consortium, and the Bharat Forge-BEML-Data Patterns consortium have been invited for the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme - the country's first indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter jet project, sources said.

This is the first time state-owned defence major Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) has been kept out of the race, marking a major shift in India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

The AMCA programme, considered India's most ambitious project, is expected to boost the combat capability of the Indian Air Force, which is grappling with a shrinking fighter fleet. These fighter jets are expected to take at least another decade to enter service.

According to a defence ministry official, an RFP is a document through which the government invites selected firms



to submit technical and commercial proposals for a project. The winning bidder will work

with the Aeronautical Development Agency of the Defence Research and Development Or-

ganisation to build five flying prototypes and one structural test aircraft.

The shortlisted firms, selected based on their technical capabilities, will compete to build prototypes of the fighter aircraft before a final production contract is awarded to the lowest bidder.

Sources said the five prototypes of the fifth-generation fighter jets were set to be rolled out by 2031, with the first expected by 2028. The IAF plans to have seven squadrons of the AMCA, starting 2035.

The IAF currently has fourth-generation aircraft, including the Rafale, Su-30MKI,

Mirage-2000, MiG-29 and the Tejas Mk-1. They lack the features of China's advanced J-35 and J-35A stealth fighters and its newly unveiled sixth-generation jets.

Pakistan is said to have planned to acquire 40 J-35s, which could give it a technological edge over the IAF.

The fifth-generation stealth fighter is likely to be a single-seat twin-engine jet and is expected to feature advanced low-observable capabilities, internal weapons bays, sensor fusion and next-generation avionics, placing it in the same class as some of the world's most advanced combat aircraft.

Centre approves ED manpower boost

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre on Wednesday authorised more than 1,200 additional investigators and staff members for the Enforcement Directorate (ED), which is probing several high-profile cases involving politicians mostly belonging to Opposition parties.

Sources said the restructuring of the anti-money-laundering agency covered executive, legal, adjudication, security and support staff in a move aimed at strengthening its operational

and administrative capacity.

There is a sharp increase in the executive cadre - the strength of deputy directors has been increased from 148 to 267, that of assistant directors from 254 to 531, enforcement officers from 355 to 606 and assistant enforcement officers from 425 to 803.

"The expenditure for the additional manpower will be met from the ED's sanctioned budget grant. The agency was reeling from a manpower crunch, con-

sidering the rising caseload of money-laundering cases handled by the agency," an ED official said.

Over the past few years, the ED has become one of the most busy central probe agencies. According to official data, searches or raids conducted by the agency under the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act almost doubled to 2,892 in 2025-26, while it also effected the "highest-ever" provisional attachment of assets in that year.

Media reports have suggested that 95 per cent of all politicians who have been raided, booked, arrested or questioned by the ED since the Narendra Modi government came to power in 2014 are from Opposition parties. The ED reports to the finance ministry.

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Eating more vitamin C can physically change your skin: Study

Washington DC [US] : Scientists discovered that vitamin C from food travels through the bloodstream into every layer of the skin, boosting collagen and skin renewal. People who ate two vitamin C-packed kiwifruit daily showed thicker, healthier skin. The findings suggest glowing skin really does start from within.

Scientists at the University of Otago, Faculty of Medicine Christchurch Otautahi, have identified a direct connection between how much vitamin C people eat and how well their skin produces collagen and renews itself.

The findings show that skin health responds measurably to dietary vitamin C, not just topical treatments.

Published in the Journal of Investigative Dermatology, the research found that vitamin C levels in the skin closely mirror levels in the blood (plasma). Increasing intake through vitamin C rich foods was shown to raise both blood and skin concentrations.

Eating Vitamin C Raises Skin Levels and Thickness

The study followed 24 healthy adults in Aotearoa New Zealand and Germany. Participants who raised their plasma vitamin C levels by eating two vitamin C rich SunGold™ kiwifruit each day showed a clear increase in vitamin C within their skin. This increase was associated with thicker skin (collagen production) and greater renewal of the outer skin layer. Lead author Professor Margreet Visser from Matai Haora -- Centre for Redox Biology and Medicine within the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine described the results as striking.

The strength of the association between skin thickness and vitamin C intake is "compelling," she explained.

Vitamin C Moves From Blood to Skin

According to Professor Visser, the relationship between blood vitamin C and skin vitamin C stood out compared to other organs.

"We were surprised by the tight



correlation between plasma vitamin C levels and those in the skin this was much more marked than in any other organ we have investigated," she says.

The research team also found that vitamin C circulating in the bloodstream reaches every layer of the skin and supports healthier skin function.

"We are the first to demonstrate that vitamin C in the blood circulation penetrates all layers of the skin and is associated with improved skin function. I am very proud of my team and excited about what the data is telling us."

Why Diet Matters More Than Creams. Professor Visser says the findings reinforce the idea that skin health begins internally, with nutrients delivered naturally through the bloodstream. Vitamin C is essential for collagen production, which is why it is commonly added to skincare products. However, vitamin C dissolves easily in water and does not absorb well through the outer skin barrier. The study showed that skin cells are highly efficient at absorbing vitamin C from the blood, with uptake into the outer epidermal layer appearing to be a priority.

How the Study Was Conducted
The research was funded by New Zealand company Zespri International, along with a University

of Otago Research Grant, and included two phases.

The first phase examined the relationship between plasma and skin vitamin C levels using healthy skin tissue from patients undergoing elective surgical procedures at Te Whatu Ora Canterbury (with support from the Otago campus's He Taonga Tapu Canterbury Cancer Society Tissue Bank). The second phase involved a controlled dietary intervention carried out in Christchurch and Germany. Each location included 12 healthy participants.

Eight Weeks of Dietary Change
Participants were asked to eat two Kiwi Gold kiwifruit daily for eight weeks. This provided the equivalent of 250 micrograms of vitamin C. "All were instructed to consume two Kiwi Gold kiwifruit daily -- the equivalent of 250 micrograms of vitamin C -- for eight weeks. We then collected skin samples before and after the intervention, with separate analyses allowing us to look at the skin basal layers in Christchurch and the outer dermal skin layer and skin function tests in Germany," Professor Visser explains.

German participants were recruited and tested by the SGS Institute Fresenius in Hamburg, which has the technical capability to collect samples from the outer dermal skin layer (the

blister "roof").

The institute evaluated skin regeneration using ultrasound measurements of skin thickness, elasticity UV protection and epidermal cell renewal to assess overall skin function.

Clear Gains in Collagen and Skin Renewal

One of the most significant findings was a measurable rise in skin thickness among participants, indicating increased collagen production along with faster regeneration of epidermal cells.

"The other really substantial finding showed a significant increase in the participants' skin thickness levels, reflecting collagen production and an upsurge in the regeneration of their epidermal cells, in other words skin renewal," Professor Visser says.

Other Vitamin C Foods Likely Offer Similar Benefits

SunGold kiwifruit was selected for the study because of its consistently high vitamin C content. However, the researchers expect similar benefits from other vitamin C-rich foods, especially fresh fruits and vegetables such as citrus, berries, capsicums and broccoli.

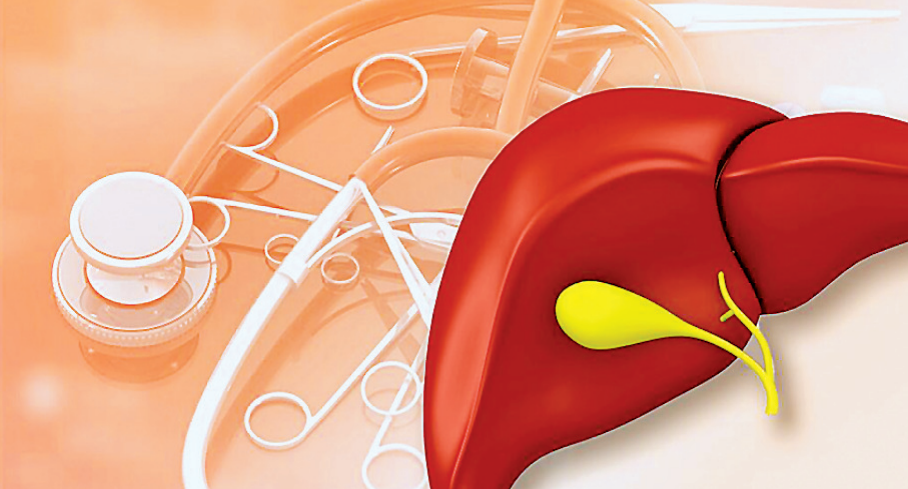
"We suggest that increasing your dietary vitamin C intake will result in effective vitamin C uptake into all compartments of the skin," Professor Visser says.

Daily Intake Is Key

Maintaining steady vitamin C levels in the blood is essential, since the body does not store the vitamin long term. Professor Visser notes that healthy individuals can reach optimal plasma levels with about 250mg of vitamin C per day.

"The important thing is to keep your plasma levels optimal, which we know can be easily achieved in a healthy person with a vitamin C intake of around 250mg per day. The body however does not store the vitamin, so we recommend 5+ a day, every day, with one of those five being a high vitamin C food, as a good habit to cultivate." (ANI)

High blood pressure linked with environmental contamination by tellurium: Study



These results provide a direct link between tellurium exposure and increased blood pressure, confirming findings in humans." Professor Kato and his team also studied foods that raise the levels of tellurium in urine. They discovered that the consumption of cereals and legumes caused high levels of tellurium, but further testing did not establish a direct link to high blood pressure rates.

We found that despite raising tellurium levels in the urine, cereal/legume intake did not directly increase the risk of hypertension," said Takumi Kagawa.

"Cereals/legumes may contain many diverse nutrients that can mitigate the risk of hypertension despite high levels of tellurium. However, considering that increased tellurium exposure is a latent risk factor for hypertension and foods contribute to this association, careful and continuous monitoring of tellurium levels in individual foods may be crucial."

Nagoya, Japan : Higher amounts of tellurium, a pollutant transported from mining and manufacturing to foods, increase the risk of having high blood pressure (hypertension). Improved monitoring of tellurium levels in certain meals may help reduce high blood pressure in the general population.

The study was led by Nagoya University in Japan. According to Takumi Kagawa, one of the researchers involved in the study, the findings are significant as they indicate that tellurium exposure may contribute to elevated blood pressure, a significant public health concern. "The results indicate diet was the most significant contributor to increased urinary tellurium levels, compared to other lifestyle factors, such as smoking and working status, and physiological factors, such as age and sex. Dietary intake, an important aspect of our lifestyle, plays a significant role in increased urinary tellurium concentrations." The journal Environment International published the findings of research looking

at the link between tellurium exposure and hypertension. In Japan, cereals and legumes, represented by rice and natto (fermented soybeans), are popular dietary choices. These foods are packed with essential nutrients, such as high-quality carbohydrates, vitamins, and minerals, that support a person's health. However, tellurium, a rare metalloid, can also be present in these foods. Mining and manufacturing activities release dust, ash, and slag, which are responsible for the presence of tellurium in the soil. In certain cases, it can be transferred from the soil to crop plants, such as cereals, carrots, and garlic. Consequently, people are exposed to tellurium through food. The study conducted by Professor Masashi Kato, Takumi Kagawa, and their colleagues involved 2,592 Japanese adults. It revealed that higher levels of tellurium in urine were associated with higher blood pressure and a greater occurrence of hypertension. The results were the same in both mice and humans. "We administered tellurium to

mice in amounts equivalent to what humans might encounter daily and observed an increase in blood pressure," Tomoko Misawa, the lead author of the study, explained. "When we stopped the exposure, both the blood pressure and the tellurium levels in their urine decreased. These results provide a direct link between tellurium exposure and increased blood pressure, confirming findings in humans." Professor Kato and his team also studied foods that raise the levels of tellurium in urine. They discovered that the consumption of cereals and legumes caused high levels of tellurium, but further testing did not establish a direct link to high blood pressure rates. We found that despite raising tellurium levels in the urine, cereal/legume intake did not directly increase the risk of hypertension," said Takumi Kagawa. "Cereals/legumes may contain many diverse nutrients that can mitigate the risk of hypertension despite high levels of tellurium. However, considering that increased tellurium exposure is a latent risk factor for hypertension and foods contribute to this association, careful and continuous monitoring of tellurium levels in individual foods may be crucial." The urinary level of tellurium in this study was comparable with the levels in general populations in other countries," Professor Kato said, "Our results indicate an increased potential risk of hypertension by tellurium exposure may be applicable to general populations all around.

Researchers find how physical exercise prevents nerve damage during chemotherapy

BASEL [SWITZERLAND] : Damage to nerves brought on by cancer therapies frequently results in symptoms that endure a lifetime. In some circumstances, medication has not worked. Simple exercises can prevent nerve injury, according to research.

The research was conducted by an interdisciplinary German team led by a sports scientist at the University of Basel. Over time, advancements have been made in cancer therapy. The quality of life following rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important; it is no longer only about surviving. Unfortunately, many cancer medications, from chemotherapy to modern immunotherapies, attack the nerves as well as the tumour cells. Some therapies, such as oxaliplatin or vinca alkaloids, leave 70 to 90 per cent of patients complaining of pain, balance issues, or feelings of numbness, burning or tingling.

Study shows high-fat diets give liver cancer a dangerous head start

Washington DC [US] : A high-fat diet does more than overload the liver with fat. New research from MIT shows that prolonged exposure to fatty foods can push liver cells into a survival mode that quietly raises the risk of cancer.

Faced with ongoing metabolic stress, these cells abandon their normal roles and revert to a more primitive state that helps them endure harsh conditions.

Over time, that shift leaves the liver less functional and far more vulnerable to tumour formation, helping explain why fatty liver disease so often precedes liver cancer.

A diet high in fat is one of the strongest contributors to liver cancer risk. New research from MIT sheds light on why this happens, showing that fatty diets can fundamentally alter liver cells in ways that make cancer more likely to develop.

The researchers discovered that when the liver is repeatedly exposed to a high-fat diet, mature liver cells called hepatocytes undergo a major change. Instead of remaining fully specialised, these cells shift into a more primitive, stem-cell-like state.

This transformation allows them to better withstand the stress caused by excess fat, but over time, it also increases their vulnerability to becoming cancerous.

"If cells are forced to deal with a stressor, such as a high-fat diet, over and over again, they will do things that will help them survive, but at the risk of increased sus-

ceptibility to tumorigenesis," says Alex K. Shalek, director of the Institute for Medical Engineering and Sciences (IMES), the J. W. Kieckhefer Professor in IMES and the Department of Chemistry, and a member of the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research at MIT, the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT, and Harvard, and the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard.

The team also identified several transcription factors that appear to regulate this cellular shift. These factors may eventually serve as targets for drugs designed to reduce the risk of tumour formation in people who are especially vulnerable.

Shalek; Omer Yilmaz, an MIT associate professor of biology and a member of the Koch Institute; and Wolfram Goessling, co-director of the Harvard-MIT Program in Health Sciences and Technology, are the senior authors of the study, which was published on December 22 in Cell. MIT graduate student Constantine Tzouanas, former MIT postdoc Jessica Shay, and Massachusetts General Brigham postdoc Marc Sherman are the co-first authors of the paper.

How Fatty Diets Trigger Liver Cell Reversion
High-fat diets can cause inflammation and fat accumulation in the liver, leading to a condition known as steatotic liver disease. This disease may also arise from long-term metabolic stressors such as heavy alcohol consumption and can progress to cirrhosis, liver failure, and ultimate-

ly cancer. In this study, the researchers set out to understand how liver cells respond at a molecular level when exposed to a high-fat diet, focusing on which genes become more or less active as the stress continues.

To investigate this process, the team fed mice a high-fat diet and used single-cell RNA-sequencing to analyse liver cells at key stages of disease development.

This approach allowed them to follow changes in gene activity as the animals progressed from liver inflammation to tissue scarring and eventually cancer.

Early on, hepatocytes began activating genes that help cells survive harsh conditions. These included genes that reduce the

likelihood of programmed cell death and promote continued cell growth. At the same time, genes essential for normal liver function, including those involved in metabolism and protein secretion, were gradually shut down.

"This really looks like a trade-off, prioritising what's good for the individual cell to stay alive in a stressful environment, at the expense of what the collective tissue should be doing," Tzouanas says.

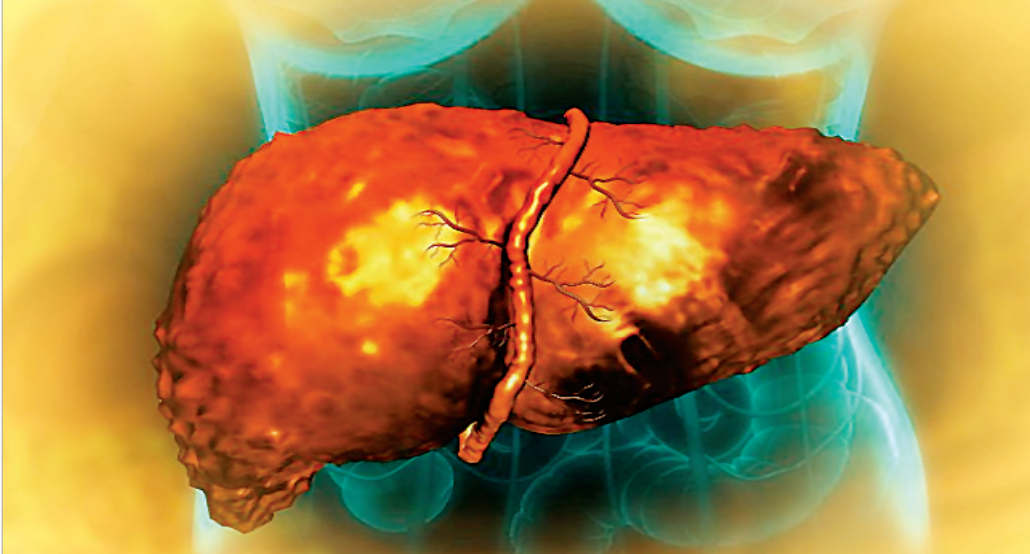
Some of these genetic shifts occurred quickly, while others unfolded more slowly. The decline in metabolic enzyme production, for example, developed over a longer period. By the end of the study, nearly all mice fed a high-

fat diet had developed liver cancer.

Why Immature Liver Cells Fuel Cancer Development

The researchers found that when liver cells exist in a less mature state, they are more likely to become cancerous if a damaging mutation occurs later. "These cells have already turned on the same genes that they're going to need to become cancerous. They've already shifted away from the mature identity that would otherwise drag down their ability to proliferate," Tzouanas says.

"Once a cell picks up the wrong mutation, then it's really off to the races, and they've already gotten a head start on some of those hallmarks of cancer," added



Iran seeks "unconditional & full" release of frozen assets: Official
MI News Service, Tehran: A senior Iranian security official has called for the "unconditional and full" release of Iran's frozen assets, the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported on Thursday.

"We seek the release of all Iranian assets frozen by the United States, and this is the Iranian nation's legal right," said Ali Bagheri Kani, deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council. He stressed that the Iranian assets must be returned to the country "in their entirety and unconditionally."

A high-level Iranian delegation arrived in Doha, the capital of Qatar, on Monday for talks with Qatari officials on a possible peace agreement with the United States and the potential U.S. release of the frozen funds as part of a final deal. Iran has demanded the release of its frozen assets worth 24 billion U.S. dollars during the negotiations with the United States on ending the war, Tasnim reported on Tuesday.

Iran, the United States and Israel reached a ceasefire on April 8 after 40 days of fighting. Following the truce, Iranian and U.S. delegations held peace talks in Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, on April 11 and 12, which failed to yield an agreement. Over the past weeks, the two sides have reportedly exchanged several proposed plans on conditions for ending their conflict via Pakistani mediation.

Trump says US 'not satisfied' in talks with Iran, days after claiming deal imminent

MI News Service, Washington: Iran "wants to make a deal," but the US is "not satisfied" yet with what it is seeing, Trump said at the White House, threatening that the US will "have to just finish the job" if talks fizzle out.

The president later suggested he may not sign a deal with Iran if neighboring Gulf countries do not normalize ties with Israel under the Abraham Accords.

"I'm not sure we should make the deal if they don't... join the Abraham Accords," Trump said, referring Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, and others. He insisted they "owe it" to the US after Washington launched the war against Iran — a conflict that placed them in Tehran's crosshairs for weeks.

Trump tied Iran talks with the Abraham Accords for the first time on Sunday, seemingly in a bid to secure diplomatic wins amid questionable results on the battlefield, with the Islamic Republic still in power and in control of missile and uranium stockpiles as well as the Strait of Hormuz.

Vessels are seen anchored in the Strait of Hormuz, off the port



city of Khasab on Oman's northern Musandam Peninsula, on May 17, 2026. (AFP)

Saudi officials were quick to reiterate that Riyadh will only normalize ties with Israel if the latter agrees to establish an irreversible pathway to a Palestinian state — something Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to reject.

In Wednesday's meeting, Trump took a step back from the bluster when asked if he would go as far as to specifically make the Iran deal contingent on countries

normalizing ties with Israel.

"I'm not going to tell you what's contingent, and what's not," he responded. Tehran and Washington have in recent days been swapping proposals to end the war, which broke out on February 28 and engulfed the Middle East, while a fragile ceasefire has been in place since April 8.

Trump declared Saturday that an agreement was "largely negotiated" and that the details would be "announced shortly," but talks appeared to slow in the days that followed.

2 dead, 9 presumed dead after chemical tank implosion at Washington paper mill

MI News Service, San Francisco: The death toll from a chemical tank implosion at a paper mill in Longview in the U.S. state of Washington rose to two on Wednesday, and nine others remain missing and are presumed dead, local officials said.

The incident involved a tank containing "white liquor," a corrosive chemical solution used in pulp and paper processing, with a capacity of about 900,000 gallons, officials said.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board announced Wednesday that it had opened an investigation into the incident and that a team of its investigators would be arriving at the site.

Local fire officials said the tank released a large amount of the corrosive chemical, noting that recovery efforts would be "slow, methodical and deliberate" due to the struc-



tural instability of the damaged tank and the risk of exposure to corrosive chemicals.

Any recovered victims would undergo decontamination before being transported to the coroner's office for identification and family notification, officials added.

Local officials said the rupture had not affected the safety of air and drinking water in Longview, though some contamination had reached the Columbia River and testing was ongoing.

Washington Governor Bob Ferguson said Wednesday that officials

were bracing for the possibility that the incident could become "the deadliest industrial tragedy in modern Washington state history."

The tank implosion occurred at a facility operated by Nippon Dynawave Packaging Co., a subsidiary of Japan's Nippon Paper Group. A company official said Wednesday that the company was focused on helping emergency responders search for the missing and supporting the victims' families and employees.

The cause of the incident remains under investigation.

Donald Trump escalates pressure: US strikes Iran and warns Oman over Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Washington: The United States launched fresh military strikes on southern Iran on Thursday, escalating tensions in the volatile region. The action follows President Donald Trump's strong warning that Washington would "finish the job" unless Tehran agrees to a comprehensive peace deal.

In a pointed message, Trump also cautioned Oman, a longstanding US ally and key mediator in the conflict. When asked about a possible short-term arrangement allowing Iran and Oman joint control over the Strait of Hormuz, the President firmly rejected the idea. "No, the strait is going to be open to everybody," he declared, emphasizing that it constitutes interna-



tional waters.

He added that Oman "will behave just like everybody else or we'll have to blow them up. They understand that, they'll be fine."

The US strikes targeted what Washington described as an Iranian drone operation endan-

gering American forces and commercial shipping in the strategic waterway. In response, Iranian forces fired on four ships attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz the same day.

Meanwhile, Kuwait came under attack as its air defense systems inter-

cepted hostile missiles and drones. Kuwaiti authorities did not specify the source of the threats but confirmed that explosions heard across the country resulted from defensive intercepts. Citizens were urged to adhere to official safety protocols.

It growing risks to maritime traffic and regional stability. The Strait of Hormuz, a critical chokepoint for global oil supplies, remains at the center of the conflict.

Analysts warn that continued escalation could disrupt international energy markets and draw more nations into the fray. Trump's aggressive rhetoric underscores America's determination to maintain open access to vital sea lanes amid the ongoing crisis.

Karnataka: Farmers protest after Muslims boycott cow slaughter in Hassan

MI News Service, Karnataka: Significant tension gripped Hassan district on Tuesday, May 26, as anxious dairy farmers staged protests following a sharp decline in cattle sales at the weekly market.

The situation arose after sections of the Muslim community announced a collective boycott on the slaughter of cows, bulls, buffaloes, and oxen, severely impacting local livestock trade.

Farmers arrived at the Hassan cattle fair, held every Tuesday between 4:30 am and 8:30 am, expecting brisk business. Instead, they encountered a near-total absence of buyers. For many, proceeds from these weekly sales form a critical source of income to finance seeds, fertilisers, and other inputs for the upcoming agricultural season.

Vokkaliga Gowda, a protesting dairy farmer, expressed deep concern: "We have been selling cattle for generations; it is our primary livelihood. Right now, I desperately need Rs 40,000 to purchase seeds



and fertilisers. I do not care if the money comes from the government, an independent organisation, or the Muslim community. If they prevent us from trading our livestock, we

will have no choice but to take our cattle to the deputy commissioner's doorstep."

The protesting farmers warned that they would escalate their agitation by marching their cattle to the district administration office if their grievances were not addressed.

Representing Muslim organisations, advocate Anshad-e-Palya defended the boycott, citing rising intimidation by self-styled cow vigilante groups. He pointed to threatening posters that appeared in Muslim-majority areas, warning against cattle purchases and threatening to raze houses.

Local authorities, including the police and municipal corporation, have distanced themselves from the posters. Hassan Superintendent of Police Shubhanwita clarified that no government agency was involved. "The stuff mentioned in the banner is totally false, and no one has the authority to raze houses," she said, adding that an investigation into the origin of the posters is underway

Hezbollah conducts 37 attacks on Israeli forces amid ceasefire violations

MI News Service, Beirut: Hezbollah announced on Thursday that it carried out 37 attacks against Israeli military positions in southern Lebanon and northern Israel over the past 24 hours. The group described the operations as defensive measures to protect Lebanon and respond to alleged Israeli violations of the ceasefire agreement.

The attacks involved explosive drone strikes, rocket barrages, and anti-tank missile fire. Key targets included an Iron Dome platform at the Jal al-Allam site in northern Israel, several Merkava tanks, and military engineering vehicles.

Hezbollah fighters also engaged Israeli troops at close range in Zawtar al-Sharqiya, forcing them to retreat before



Israeli forces responded with heavy bombardment.

Additional strikes targeted Israeli soldiers at the Galilee Forest camp and a troop tent in Naqoura.

The escalation comes despite a US-mediated ceasefire that took effect on April 17 and was later extended to early July.

Since launching an expanded offensive on March 2, Israel has conducted daily operations in Lebanon, resulting in over 3,200 deaths, more than 9,600 injuries, and the displacement of approximately 1.6 million people, according to Lebanese official figures.

The situation remains tense as both sides continue cross-border operations.

3 wounded in knife attack at Swiss train station, suspect arrested; attacker reportedly yelled 'Allahu Akbar'

MI News Service, Bern: Swiss police say officers arrested a man suspected of injuring three people in a knife attack at a train station in the Swiss city of Winterthur near Zurich.

Police say the attack happened early this morning and the suspected perpetrator, a 31-year-old Swiss national, has been arrested. The three victims of the attack are receiving hospital care, according to the police statement.

Swiss newspaper Blick says it had obtained a video showing a man running out of the station concourse shouting "Allahu Akbar," an Arabic phrase meaning God is great.

The paper cites an eyewitness as saying the man held a knife, while people around him were screaming and running away. The incident prompted a major police operation, it adds.

Police say the man's motive is being investigated.

U.S. sanctions Iran's Persian Gulf Strait Authority

MI News Service, New York: The Persian Gulf Strait Authority, an Iranian authority overseeing shipping control in the Strait of Hormuz, has been added to the Specially Designated Nationals List in a fresh sanction move under the U.S. Economic Fury campaign, the U.S. Treasury Department said on Wednesday.

In a press release posted on its website on Wednesday, the department's Office of Foreign Assets Control claimed the strait authority sought to impose illegitimate tolls on commercial traffic and force vessels to follow Iranian direction in return for safe passage.

It also warned that anyone cooperat-



ing with the authority may be exposed to sanctions risk.

"The Iranian military's latest attempt to extort global maritime trade is proof that Economic Fury has left the regime desperate for cash," said U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Scott Bessent.

On May 18, Iran launched the Persian Gulf Strait Authority, a new body to manage the Strait of Hormuz. In a statement posted on X on May 20, the authority defined its supervisory jurisdiction over the strait, noting that vessels transiting the area through the Strait of Hormuz are required to coordinate with Iranian authorities and obtain authorization.

Ukraine claims strike on oil refinery in Russia

MI News Service, Kiev: Ukrainian forces struck the Tuapse oil refinery in Russia's Krasnodar region overnight on Wednesday, the General Staff of the Ukrainian Armed Forces said Thursday.

According to the statement, fire and smoke were observed at the facility, while the extent of the damage is still being assessed.

The refinery is one



of the largest oil processing facilities in southern Russia, with an annual processing capacity of about 12 million tons of oil, it said.

Deaths from Kenya school fire rise to 16

MI News Service, Gilgil, Kenya: The death toll from an early-morning fire in northwestern Kenya rose to 16 after six more students succumbed to their injuries, police confirmed on Thursday.

The fire broke out at around 1:00 a.m. Thursday local time (2200 GMT Wednesday) while the students were asleep in the dormitory at Utumishi Girls Academy in Gilgil, Nakuru County, initially claiming 10 lives before the toll rose. Meanwhile, more than 70 remain hospitalized with injuries of varying severity. A police report said that most of the injured are currently in stable condition. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

Yemen's Ex-President Hadi dies in Saudi Arabia, says source

MI News Service, Sanaa: Yemen's former president Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi has died in Saudi Arabia, a source in the Yemeni presidency tells AFP.

Hadi, who was in his eighties, "died in the Saudi capital following a sudden health crisis," the source says, requesting anonymity.

Hadi fled to Saudi Arabia in 2015 when civil war erupted between the Iran-backed Houthis rebels, who



had forced the government from the capital Sanaa, and a Saudi-led coalition.

Life in DR Congo's Goma grinds to standstill amid Ebola outbreak

MI News Service, Goma: At the Grande Barriere crossing in Goma, once bustling with traders, porters, motorbike taxis, and travelers moving between the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, silence now prevails.

For many residents here, the closure of border crossing points with Rwanda added another layer of uncertainty over daily trade, transport, and household incomes already strained by conflict and displacement.

Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province, has long depended on cross-border exchanges with neighboring Rwanda's Gisenyi for imported goods, informal commerce, and small cash flows.

On May 17, just two days after the Ebola outbreak was declared, Rwandan authorities shut down the Grande Barriere crossing, allowing only Congolese and Rwandan nationals to return to their respective countries.

Days later, Rwanda further tightened its border controls following a confirmed case reported in Goma.

"The sales have taken a huge hit," said Dieumerici Shabani, a street vendor selling eggs



near the Grande Barriere. Before the closure, he could sell five trays of eggs daily, while now he struggles to sell two.

"It is mainly because of the critical socio-economic situation caused by the closure of the borders," Shabani said. "Most of our customers are travelers and cross-border traders."

With fewer people moving toward the Grande Barriere and Petite Barriere, another crossing between the two border cities, motorbike taxi drivers had to lower fares and accept trips that barely covered rising fuel costs.

"We are forced to reduce transport prices because fewer and fewer people need to move," said Murhula Munguko, a motorbike taxi driver in Goma. "Sometimes we take unprofitable trips for lack of clients, unlike before, when there were

travelers who had to wait for a motorbike during peak days."

"We don't know how to get supplies of manufactured products such as energy drinks because of the border closure... It is handicapping us and leading to price speculation," said Justin Kasereka, an energy drink seller.

According to Alphonse Muanda, an economist in Goma, commercial ties between Goma and Gisenyi are so dense that restrictions on movement immediately impact merchants on both sides.

"In cross-border trade, some traders in Goma depend on those in Gisenyi, and vice versa," Muanda said. "When the DRC and Rwanda each decide to close the border, those who depend on trade in rice, soap, and other goods are directly affected."

The border closure comes as the DRC is bat-

tlung an Ebola outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo strain, a rare type for which there is no licensed vaccine or specific treatment. The World Health Organization said that the response is being complicated by insecurity, displacement, dense population movements, and trade links across the region.

According to a situation report released Wednesday by the DRC's Ministry of Health, as of Tuesday, the country has recorded 1,077 suspected Ebola cases, 121 confirmed cases, and 238 suspected deaths since the outbreak was declared on May 15.

According to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in addition to the two affected countries, 11 others across the continent are now at high risk, namely South Sudan, Rwanda, Kenya, Zambia, the Central African Republic, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Somalia.

Near the Grande Barriere crossing, Shabani arranged his unsold trays of eggs as another quiet morning slipped by.

The danger of Ebola felt real to him. "Before, people crossed and bought," he said. "Now everything has slowed."

Norway to join French-led nuclear deterrence initiative



MI News Service, Oslo/Paris: Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store said Wednesday that Norway will join French President Emmanuel Macron's nuclear deterrence initiative, while stressing that the decision will not change Norway's basic policy on nuclear weapons.

Store traveled to Paris on Wednesday for talks with Macron. Speaking to Norwegian media, he said Norway's decision was based on the current security situation in Europe and that Europe must assume greater responsibility for its own security.

Store also emphasized that Norway's nuclear weapons policy remains unchanged. Norway will not allow nuclear weapons to be stationed

on its territory in peacetime, he said, adding that Norway will not contribute financially to France's nuclear weapons program.

In March, Macron announced plans to strengthen France's nuclear arsenal by increasing the number of nuclear warheads. He also said France was prepared to add "a European dimension" to its nuclear deterrence strategy, noting that several European countries, including Britain, had expressed interest in the initiative.

Later on Wednesday, Norway and France signed a new defense agreement in Paris, under which the two countries commit themselves to providing military support to each other if needed.

WFI CHALLENGES
DELHI HC RELIEF
TO VINESH
PHOGAT IN
SUPREME COURT

NEW DELHI : The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has moved the Supreme Court challenging the Delhi High Court's order permitting wrestler Vinesh Phogat to participate in the Asian Games 2026 selection trials.

As per details available on the apex court's official website, the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by the WFI is scheduled to come up for hearing before a bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and Alok Aradhhe.

The SLP challenges the judgment delivered by the Delhi High Court allowing Phogat, a three-time Olympian, to participate in the selection trials for the Asian Games 2026 despite not fulfilling the eligibility criteria under the WFI's policy.

In its order passed last week, the Delhi High Court had held that motherhood could not be treated as a "disability" or a ground for exclusion from professional opportunities, and directed the WFI to permit Phogat to compete in the trials scheduled for May 30 and 31.

A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia had observed that the selection policy failed to account for Phogat's maternity-related sabbatical and post-partum recovery, which coincided with the qualifying tournaments prescribed under the eligibility criteria.

"Motherhood must be viewed as a natural and deeply significant aspect of life that deserves accommodation and institutional sensitivity," the Delhi High Court had said, while finding a prima facie case in favour of the wrestler. It had also directed that the selection trials be video-recorded and conducted under the supervision of independent observers nominated by the Sports Authority of India and the Indian Olympic Association.

It had further clarified that Phogat's participation would remain subject to the outcome of the pending writ petition before the single-judge Bench examining the validity of the WFI's selection policy, circular, and show-cause notice.



Gujarat Titans captain Shubman Gill during a training session ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 Qualifier 2 match against Rajasthan Royals at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in Mullanpur, New Chandigarh on Thursday.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has given
new identity to Bihar Cricket, says
BCA president Harsh Vardhan
after batter breaks Gayle's record

MUKESH KUMAR SINGH

PATNA : The Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) has congratulated Bihar's young batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi for breaking Chris Gayle record and achieving a historic milestone in IPL on Wednesday.

In the IPL Eliminator match against Sunrisers Hyderabad, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi registered the record for hitting the most sixes in a single IPL season. During the match, he struck his 60th six of the season, surpassing Chris Gayle's record of 59 sixes in a single IPL edition.

Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) President Harsh Vardhan said that Vaibhav Sooryavanshi has given Bihar cricket a new identity through his hard work, discipline, and dedication towards the game. He said that creating multiple records, including the most sixes in a single IPL season, is a remarkable achievement.

He further added that, along with millions of fans around the world, he was eagerly waiting for Vaibhav's century. He expressed confidence that no record in world cricket would remain beyond the reach of this extraordinary player.

"Along with millions of fans around the world, I was eagerly waiting for his century. I firmly believe that no record in world cricket will remain beyond the reach of this extraordinary player," said BCA president Harsh Vardhan.

Suryavanshi's explosive



innings of 97 runs off just 29 balls against SRH, which included 12 sixes and 5 fours, has become a matter of immense pride for the entire state of Bihar.

Throughout the IPL 2026 season, he played several crucial innings and strengthened his team in decisive matches.

Bihar Cricket Association Secretary Ziaul Arfeen said that Vaibhav's brilliant and consistent performances have opened a new pathway of energy, inspiration, and immense possibilities for young cricketers not only in Bihar but across the world. He said that Vaibhav is emerging as an ideal role model for the younger generation. The Bihar Cricket Association is proud of his achievements and extends its best wishes for many more accomplishments in the future. Officials, staff members, and cricket fans associated with all district units of the Bihar Cricket Association were also expressed their happiness and pride over Vaibhav's achievement.

French Open: Cerundolo scripts a huge
upset, sends Sinner packing from Paris

PARIS : Argentina's Juan Manuel Cerundolo cause a huge sensation in the French Open on Thursday, by stunning World No.1 Jannik Sinner in the second round, ending 'the Italian star's attempt to complete the Career Grand Slam in a physically-draining 3-6, 2-6, 7-5, 6-1, 6-1 defeat at Stade Roland Garros in Paris.

Sinner appeared on course for victory when he led 5-1 in the third set of his second-round match, but he soon began to appear to struggle with cramp in a dramatic turn of events.

The 24-year-old Italian twice failed to serve out the match and also required an off-court medical timeout at 5-4, 0/40.

From that moment, Sinner was unable to recover his physical condition, and Cerundolo took full advantage, claiming 18 of the final 20 games to seal the biggest upset of the 2026 season so far. The Argentine, who is competing as the World No. 56, is the first man to oust the top seed at the clay-court major before the third round since Karol Kucera in 2000.

"It's tough for him," Cerundolo said of Sinner. "I couldn't win more than three games in a set, so I was a little bit lucky. He deserved to win this match, and then I don't know what happened. But I feel sorry for him and hope he recovers."

With Roland Garros the only Grand Slam title missing from his collection, Sinner was aiming to become just the seventh man to complete the Career Grand Slam in the Open Era. The Italian was also riding a career-best 30-match winning streak, having swept all five ATP Masters



1000 titles in 2026.

Despite struggling physically, Sinner was able to show his shotmaking and hit a series of stunning forehands with his feet planted on the court. Yet due to his hindered movement, Cerundolo could pull the Italian from side to side and throw in drop shots to take advantage of his opponent's physical limitations.

The defeat adds another painful chapter to the Court Philippe-Chatrier for Sinner, who last year let slip three championship points against Carlos Alcaraz in the final.

The World No. 1 departs Paris with a 37-3 record in 2026, according to the Infosys ATP Win/Loss Index.

Sinner and Alcaraz have

won the past nine major titles between them. With Sinner now out of Roland Garros and Alcaraz sidelined through a wrist injury, the tournament is open for a new champion to emerge for the first time since the Australian Open in 2024.

Cerundolo, who is in the third round of a Grand Slam tournament for the first time in his career, will next face #NextGenATP Spaniard Martin Landaluce or Czech player Vit Koprivra.

Sinner's coaching team, including Darren Cahill and Simone Vagnozzi, tried to lift their player through the setback, but the conditions and physical strain in the Paris heat ultimately proved too much to overcome.



Singapore Open: Prannoy bows out;
Sindhu, Lakshya, Satwik-Chirag,
Tanisha-Dhruv secure QF spots

SINGAPORE : India's campaign at the Singapore Open gathered significant momentum on Thursday, with four entries confirmed in the quarterfinals across singles, men's doubles, and mixed doubles, highlighted by commanding performances from PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen, and gritty comeback wins from the country's doubles combinations.

The biggest statement once again came from Sindhu, who continued her impressive resurgence with another clinical display in women's singles. The two-time Olympic medallist dismantled Japan's Riko Gunji 21-9, 21-12 in only 37 minutes to storm into the last eight. Having already knocked out Indonesian fifth seed Putri Kusuma Wardani earlier in the tournament, Sindhu barely allowed Gunji any rhythm, controlling the pace of rallies from the outset and maintaining relentless pressure throughout both games.

The Indian star now faces her toughest challenge yet against reigning Olympic champion and world No. 1 An Se-young. Sindhu has yet to register a victory against the Korean in eight previous meetings. In men's singles, Lakshya Sen progressed under unusual circumstances after Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn was forced to retire almost immediately after the match began. Only two points had been played before the Paris Olympic silver medallist pulled out, sending Lakshya through to the quarterfinals with minimal time spent on court. Lakshya will next take on Japan's Koki Watanabe for a place in the semi-finals.

India's top men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty were pushed hard before overcoming Chinese Taipei's Lee Jhe-huei and Yang Po-hsuan 21-15, 11-21, 21-18 in a fluctuating contest. The fourth-seeded Indians looked dominant while taking the opening game, but lost control completely in the second as the Taiwanese pair dictated the tempo and forced a decider.

Satwik and Chirag, however, regained composure at crucial moments in the third game to maintain their unbeaten record against the pair, extending their head-to-

head advantage to 7-0. Awaiting them in the quarterfinals are Malaysia's Aaron Tai and Kang Khai Xing, the same duo who ended the Indians' campaign at the All England Open earlier this season.

The most dramatic turnaround of the day came in mixed doubles, where Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila recovered from a disastrous opening game to produce a memorable comeback victory. The Indian pair were thoroughly outplayed in the opener against Japan's Maya Taguchi and Yuta Watanabe, losing 8-21 in just over 10 minutes.

But the momentum shifted sharply thereafter as Dhruv and Tanisha tightened their defence, attacked the net more aggressively, and gradually wore down the Japanese pair to win the next two games 21-17, 21-16. The victory marked a timely boost for the Indian combination after a difficult run of results in recent tournaments. Their next assignment, however, will be a stern examination against Malaysian third seeds Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei. HS Prannoy faced disappointment after a tough three-game match against Singapore's former world champion Loh Kean Yew. Prannoy lost 18-21, 21-16, 15-21, after losing a promising lead in the final game of their 61-minute contest.

He began the match strongly, leading 11-7 in the first game, but Loh gradually gained control by tightening his shots and forcing Prannoy into difficult defensive positions. Despite saving four game points, Prannoy couldn't prevent Loh from winning the first game when a wide shot from Prannoy clinched the set for Loh. Prannoy delivered a strong performance in the second game despite the challenging drift inside the arena. He consistently targeted Loh's forehand and exploited loose returns to gain control, ultimately forcing a decider with a precise cross-court winner.

The pivotal moment occurred late in the third game. Prannoy appeared poised to complete the comeback after building a 14-11 lead, but a sudden spree of unforced net errors allowed Loh to dramatically turn the tide.

Shooting World Cup Munich: Sakshi
Padekar finishes seventh on debut

NEW DELHI : Sakshi Sunil Padekar finished seventh in the 10m Air Rifle women's final on Day Three of the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol at the iconic Olympiaschießanlage in Munich, Germany.

The 22-year-old from Maharashtra qualified for the final in third place after shooting a very high 635.1, only behind World No. 1 Wang Zifei of China and Paris Olympics champion Hyojin Ban of South Korea.

The 18-year-old Anđelija Stevanovic of Serbia, also in her debut senior World Cup, clinched the gold with a total score of 252.3 in a final that was decided in the final shot. Japan's Nobata Misaki also secured her first-ever senior World Cup medal, securing the silver with a score of 252.0. Wang Zifei won bronze after shooting 231.1, while Olympic champion Ban finished in fourth.

Sakshi responded well with a 10.8 and 10.7 after hitting a 9.7 and 9.8 in the second and third shots, respectively, after starting the final



with a 10.5 to end the first series with 51.5 to take the sixth spot. In the second series, she shot 10.6, 10.4, 10.6, 10.0, and 10.5 for a total of 52.1, which maintained her spot in sixth.

In the first of the single shots, Sakshi hit two shots of 10.3 to maintain her spot in sixth position, and she followed it up with two 10.5 shots in the 13th shot to take a lead of 0.4 above Oceanne Mueller, who was in seventh position. The French shooter

score of 627.6 in a highly competitive field of 146 shooters, where the top 12 shooters finished with a score of 633.0 or more, underlining the high level of competition in the event.

Vidarsa K. Vinod (630.6) and Tloltama Sen (630.1), competing for ranking points, finished in 27th and 32nd places, respectively. Anish Bhanwala is the best-placed Indian after Stage 1 of the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol.

Olympian Anish Bhanwala ended Stage 1 of the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol with a score of 290-10x, in 18th place and keeping his hopes of a top eight spot tomorrow alive. Suraj Sharma, also making his debut in the senior level, shot 284-11x (97,87,100), and Udhayveer Sidhu (288-14x), also making his senior debut in an Olympic event, will have their work cut out to make a place in tomorrow's finals. Three finals in the 10m Air Pistol Women, 50m Rifle 3 Positions Men, and 25m Rapid Fire Pistol will be held tomorrow, the penultimate day of competitions in Munich.

India drawn with Uzbekistan, Syria, Bangladesh
in AFC U20 Asian Cup 2027 Qualifiers

KUALA LUMPUR : India U20 men's team has been drawn with Uzbekistan, Syria and Bangladesh in Group B of the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 Qualifiers after the draw was conducted at the AFC House here on Thursday.

Uzbekistan will host Group B in the capital city of Tashkent between August 25 and September 6, 2026, in a centralised single round-robin format. As per the new format of the AFC youth competitions announced earlier this year, a two-phase system featuring a promotion and relegation mechanism has been introduced in the AFC U20 Asian Cup Qualifiers.

In the Qualification Phase, 32 teams were divided into eight groups of four, with the group winners and the seven best second-placed teams advancing to the 43rd edition of the AFC U20 Asian Cup. At the same time, the bottom team of each group will be relegated to the Development Phase of the subsequent edition.

For the Development Phase in the upcoming Qualifiers, 12 teams are divided into three groups of four, with the three group



winners and the three second-placed teams of each group to be promoted to the Qualification Phase of the next edition.

Seeding for the teams were based on the performances in the three most recent editions (2018, 2023, 2025) and the number of teams entering the competition. India, ranked 20th, were allocated Pot 3 in the Qualification Phase.

India will aim to qualify for the AFC U20 Asian Cup for the first time since 2006 when they hosted the tournament. Their best result at the tournament was joint champions alongside Iran in 1974.

In the previous edition (2025), the Blue Colts narrowly missed out on qualification on the basis of goal difference.

In Group A of the Qualification Phase, 12-time champions Korea Republic will face hosts Kyrgyz Republic, Philippines and Lebanon while standing in hosts Uzbekistan's way in Group B will be Syria, India and Bangladesh.

Group C will see Islamic Republic of Iran being challenged by Vietnam (hosts), DPR Korea and Palestine for the automatic slot to the finals, while Jordan, Tajikistan, Bahrain (hosts)

and Afghanistan are the Group D contestants.

Group E will see Saudi Arabia, Qatar (hosts), Oman and China doing battle, while Iraq, Thailand (hosts), United Arab Emirates and Turkmenistan will face off in Group F.

Group G is also set for exciting match-ups with Japan, Yemen, Cambodia (hosts) and Kuwait hoping to advance while defending champions Australia headline Group H with Indonesia, Malaysia and Laos (hosts) their challengers.

Group I of the Development Phase will see hosts Mongolia, Guam, Nepal and Northern Mariana Islands vying for the two promotion spots while Chinese Taipei, Singapore, Bhutan (hosts) and Macau are the Group J sides. Myanmar (hosts), Maldives, Brunei Darussalam and Sri Lanka were drawn in Group K.

India's schedule in the AFC U20 Asian Cup China 2027 Qualifiers:

Matchday 1: Syria vs India

Matchday 2: India vs Uzbekistan

Matchday 3: India vs Bangladesh