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Morning India

Amit Shah directs committee on demographic change to visit border districts



Home Minister Amit Shah.

MI News Service, New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday directed the high-level committee on demographic change to study the shift in population structure in border districts, officials said.

Chairing the meeting of the committee, Shah also asked it to visit border areas, metro cities and industrial towns for an on the spot assessment of changes because of illegal migration and other unnatural causes, they said.

The Home Ministry had formed the high-level committee to assess demographic changes across India due to "illegal immigration and other unnatural causes" and suggest measures to address these challenges.

Chairing a meeting, which was attended by all members of the panel, Shah asked them to conduct field visits to border regions, metropolitan centres and industrial towns to examine demographic changes attributed to illegal migration and other factors described by the government as "unnatural causes".

The committee was constituted by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) through a notification last month to assess demographic changes across the country and recommend measures to address challenges arising from illegal immigration and other abnormal population trends.

Headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Prakash Prabhakar Naolekar, the panel includes the Census Commissioner Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, former IAS officer Durga Shankar Mishra, former IPS officer Balaji Srivastava and economist Dr Shamika Ravi. The Joint Secretary in the Foreigners Division-1 of the MHA serves as the committee's member secretary.

During the meeting, Shah reiterated the importance of the exercise, describing demographic

change as a matter closely linked to national sovereignty, national security and law and order. He had earlier said that significant shifts in population patterns could also have far-reaching effects on social structures and the preservation of tribal communities.

According to the government, the committee has been tasked with conducting a comprehensive and scientific assessment of demographic changes occurring in different parts of the country. It will examine the causes behind such changes, identify emerging trends and recommend policy, legislative and administrative measures to address them.

The panel's mandate includes studying the impact of illegal immigration, cross-border activities, economic opportunities and socio-environmental factors that may influence population movements. It will also investigate what the government describes as abnormal settlement patterns and orchestrated migration.

As part of its work, the committee will analyse demographic shifts across religious and social communities, particularly in areas where population trends diverge significantly from broader regional or national patterns.

The panel is expected to deliberate on challenges arising from demographic changes and evaluate their social, economic and security implications. Its findings will form the basis for recommendations aimed at creating a structured and long-term framework to deal with such issues.

Among its key responsibilities, the committee has been asked to propose a streamlined and permanent mechanism for the identification, detention and deportation of illegal immigrants residing in the country. The government has said the process should be legal, fair and time-bound.

The committee's recommendations are expected to help shape future policy responses to demographic changes and migration-related concerns, particularly in sensitive border areas and regions witnessing significant population shifts.

Suvendu Adhikari listens to people's grievances at Janatar Darbar



Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari listens to public grievances at 'Janatar Darbar' at BJP party office at Salt Lake City in Kolkata on Saturday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: For the fourth time within a month of taking charge, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari held yet another 'Janatar Darbar' at the BJP office on Saturday, where he listened to people's grievances on several issues and instructed officials to redress them promptly.

After assuming the office of the Chief minister on May 9, Suvendu Adhikari held his first 'Janatar Darbar' on May 18. Soon after becoming the CM Suvendu Adhikari had announced that he would meet the common people and would listen to them to solve their plights and grievances once in every week. Accordingly he has been meeting hundreds of people every week

with other senior party leaders directly at the state party headquarters in the Salt Lake area. Though previously he scheduled his programme for at least two hours on every Monday, but today he had decided to meet the people and hold the Janatar Darbar on Saturday.

Accordingly, like on every previous occasion, large number of people suffering from serious ailments, health workers, and job seekers turned up from all corners of the state to register their complaints and apprise the Chief minister of their hardships.

One of the attendees, Karuna, said she had come to the Janata Darbar from Krishnagar in Nadia district seeking financial

assistance for her daughter's treatment.

Another woman, Tanima Chatterjee, a programme officer of the government's Mission Vatsalya initiative, attended the CM's weekly grievance redressal programme seeking job security.

"We promote family-based, non-institutional care for children in difficult circumstances. There are 876 staffers in the state, yet we lack job security. We receive only a consolidated payment for our services."

"The previous government never did anything for us, but we hope the BJP government will make our jobs permanent," she said.

Several others said they had come to lodge complaints against the police

and administrative authorities, alleging that the previous government had attempted to suppress murder cases and other crimes.

Among them was 73 years Old Pratima Bhattacharya, who accompanied by her 78 year old ailing husband, came from Patuli to get redressal from the Chief minister from untold misery that they have been facing for the past several years from the relatives of arrested councillor Bappaditya Chakraborty, who have been trying to illegally occupy the house of their only daughter by hook or by crook and using foul languages against senior citizens like them. Suvendu Adhikari gave them a patient hearing and asked the concerned authorities

to look into their problems and solve them early.

Several other visitors also complained about alleged inaction by police and administrative authorities, claiming that the previous government had attempted to suppress murder cases and other crimes.

The weekly outreach initiative is increasingly emerging as one of the BJP government's early public-facing governance exercises after coming to power in Bengal. Similar public hearing models have often featured in BJP-ruled states like in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha and are projected by the party as instruments of accessibility and quicker grievance redressal

Late night police raid at Abhishek's residence triggers political storm

MI News Service, Kolkata: In what could be seen as a poetic justice, city police personnel, accompanied by the central forces, in a pre-dawn raid searched TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee's residence here for more than four hours on Saturday in pursuit of his close aide in an alleged financial fraud, official sources said.

The unprecedented raid which is certain to deepen the political fault lines in West Bengal, was led by a team from Paschim Medinipur's Salboni Police Station and assisted by Kolkata Police personnel, began shortly after 3 am and triggered a confrontation, with the TMC alleging "political vendetta" and BJP leaders insisting that investigators were merely following due process.

Former Chief minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee rushed to Abhishek's Kalighat residence and remained there for a considerable period as the search was underway at the house of her nephew.

Police sources said the search was primarily aimed at tracing Abhishek Banerjee's personal assistant Sumit Roy, who is wanted in connection with an ongoing investigation into a "financial fraud" case registered at Salboni Police Station.

According to the sources, Roy's mobile phone was last traced to Abhishek Banerjee's Kalighat residence, prompting investigators to launch the operation.

The officials said the police personnel repeatedly knocked on the doors of Abhishek's residence but received no response.

The TMC alleged that the police team broke open a lock and entered the premises to carry out the search.

Coming out of the house after the operation, Abhishek Banerjee accused the police of forcibly entering his residence.

"They broke the lock and searched the entire house," he told reporters.

Sources in the investigating team said Roy could not be located despite the extensive search.

The premises in Kalighat's Patuapara area remained heavily guarded throughout the operation, with the deployment of central forces in the neighbourhood, while personnel from Kalighat and Bhabanipur police stations assisted the search team.

The police officers, however, declined to disclose details of the case or the evidence they were seeking.

Personnel, including women officers, participated in the exercise, which continued for more than four hours. At one stage, some officers briefly stepped out of the house for consultations before resuming the search.

The investigators eventually left the premises in the morning, though it was not immediately clear whether any documents or materials had been seized.

The operation came at a politically sensitive moment for Abhishek Banerjee, who has found himself facing scrutiny from multiple investigating agencies over the past week.

Just two days ago, the West Bengal CID questioned him in connection with the alleged forged-signature case linked to the state assembly.

He has been summoned once again on June 14 after investigators were reportedly dissatisfied with certain aspects of his responses.

The Calcutta High Court, while directing Abhishek Banerjee to cooperate with the probe, had observed that no coercive action should be taken against him for three weeks.

On Friday, CID officers also visited his Kalighat residence to serve him another notice in connection with a cyber complaint lodged over certain remarks allegedly made by him during the electioneering, aimed at inciting people.

Banerjee has been asked to appear before investigators on June 16 in that case.

PM Modi leaves for week-long France, Slovakia tour; G7 Summit

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday left for a week-long visit to France and Slovakia, during which he will attend the G7 Summit and hold discussions with world leaders on a range of bilateral and global issues.

In his departure statement, PM Modi said France occupies a special place in India's strategic vision, while his visit to Slovakia -- the first by an Indian Prime minister since the country's independence in 1993 -- marks a historic milestone and builds on the growing momentum in bilateral ties.

"France occupies a special place in India's strategic vision. Earlier this year, President Macron visited India, and we elevated our relationship to a Special Global Strategic Partnership," the Prime minister said.

"When I meet President Macron in Nice, we will review the progress made since February, and chart the next steps in our cooperation. I look forward to our discussions on pressing global issues of mutual interest as well," he said.

PM Modi said he was also looking forward to holding discussions with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini and Prime Minister Robert Fico in Bratislava.

Prime minister Modi said India's participation in the G7 Summit in Evian, France, reflects the confidence reposed in the country by its partners and its growing global profile.

"This is the eighth consecutive G7 Summit to which India has been invited. At the G7, India will not only speak for it-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday left for a week-long visit to France and Slovakia, during which he will attend the G7 Summit and hold discussions with world leaders on a range of bilateral and global issues.

self, but it will also give voice to the aspirations of the Global South," he said.

Expressing confidence about the visit, PM Modi said, "I am confident that my visits to both these European countries - France and the Slovak Republic - will reinforce India's deepening engagement with both Europe and the G7, and showcase our steadfast commitment to expanding the horizon of our partnerships with the continent and beyond."

PM Modi said he was also eagerly looking forward to inaugurating 'Bharat Innovates' alongside French President Emmanuel Macron in Nice on June 14.

The event, being held as part of the India-France Year of Innovation, will connect India's leading start-ups with

global investors and promote innovations emerging from the country's higher education ecosystem.

After France, Modi will travel to Slovakia for a state visit on June 14-15, marking the first visit by an Indian prime minister to the country.

"This historic visit builds on the strong momentum in our bilateral relationship. I look forward to holding discussions with President Pellegrini and Prime Minister Fico," he said.

Modi will hold talks with Slovak President Peter Pellegrini and Prime Minister Robert Fico in Bratislava and also interact with business leaders.

"Building on the momentum of the India-EU Free Trade Agreement, the visit will further energise our Strategic Partnership with the European

Union, of which Slovakia is an important and valued member," he added.

The Prime minister will then travel to Evian for the G7 Summit on June 16-17 before concluding his France visit in Paris on June 18, where he will attend VivaTech 2026 alongside President Macron.

5 IAF personnel killed in transport aircraft crash in Assam

MI News Service, Guwahati: Five Indian Air Force (IAF) personnel including a Squadron Leader, were killed when a Russian-origin AN-32 transport aircraft crashed in Assam's Jorhat army airbase while landing on Saturday.

The aircraft met with the accident during a routine sortie at around 10 am, the IAF said.

"The Indian Air Force (IAF) deeply regrets the loss of five personnel in the An-32 accident at Jorhat," the force said in a statement.

However, the co-pilot somehow survived the crash and is currently undergoing treatment, the IAF said.

In an updated statement, Indian Air Force officials confirmed that five personnel lost their lives in the accident and added that a court of inquiry has been ordered to determine the cause of the crash.

The Indian Air Force identified the five personnel who lost their lives in the crash as Squadron Leader Prashant Singh, Flight Lieutenant Shubham Kumar, Sergeant Jitendra Sharma, Agniveer Avayu Khemaram Kumawat and Agniveer Danish Alam.

The IAF said it extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved families and stands firmly with them in this hour of grief.

According to initial reports, the aircraft caught fire after landing within the airbase premises. Firefighting teams were rushed to the spot immediately after the incident.

Senior IAF officials reached the site after the accident and



Indian Air Force AN-32 transport aircraft crashed in a tragic accident while landing at the Jorhat airbase in Assam on Saturday.

emergency response measures were initiated. The IAF has also ordered a court of inquiry to ascertain the cause of the accident.

The circumstances leading to the crash remain under investigation and further details are expected once the inquiry progresses.

Earlier in the morning an IAF spokesperson here said one AN-32 transport aircraft of the force has crashed while landing in Assam's Jorhat army airbase.

The defence sources said the incident occurred while the aircraft was landing at the IAF's airbase in the Rowrah area. Senior IAF officials have rushed to the area and further details were awaited.

The AN-32 aircraft, be-

longing to 43 Squadron, was carrying cargo while landing at the IAF's airbase.

According to Defence PRO Lt Col M Rawat, "IAF AN-32 crashes while landing at Jorhat air base. Losses being ascertained."

Eyewitnesses said a loud explosion was heard, and the area was engulfed in smoke. Fire engines and ambulances were seen rushing to the spot.

IAF officials said firefighting teams were deployed at the crash site in Jorhat and rescue operations were underway following the accident.

The Antonov AN-32 is a twin-engine turboprop military transport aircraft that

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Maulana Rahmani Applauds Defence Research After Interceptor Missile Triumph

Nurul Islam Khan, MI News Service: Maulana Muhammad Abu Talib Rahmani, a prominent social and religious leader and a member of the Working Committee of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, has expressed happiness and satisfaction over the successful test of an advanced interceptor missile developed under India's indigenous Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system. He described the achievement as a significant milestone in the fields of national security and defense self-reliance.



tribute to safeguarding the nation's borders but will also inspire the younger generation to pursue excellence in science, research, and innovation.

In a statement, Maulana Muhammad Abu Talib Rahmani said that this success is a practical manifestation of the extraordinary capabilities, tireless efforts, and patriotic commitment of Indian scientists, engineers, and defense research institutions. He remarked that self-reliance in advanced defense technology is indispensable for the security, sovereignty, and global stature of any nation, and that this successful test has further strengthened India's defense capabilities.

He further stated that, as a responsible Indian citizen, he takes pride in the country's scientific and defense advancements. Such progress in the defense sector, he said, will not only con-

Congratulating the country's scientists, defense experts, and all concerned institutions on this achievement, Maulana Muhammad Abu Talib Rahmani emphasized that national security and sustainable peace are inseparable. A strong and secure India, he noted, is better positioned to advance confidently toward the goals of development, prosperity, and social stability.

He prayed that Almighty Allah may bless our beloved nation, with strong defense capabilities, lasting peace, economic progress, mutual brotherhood, and national unity, and make it an effective model for peace, justice, and service to humanity in the world.

Wild Encounter: Market Panic After Elephant Breaks In

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Panic and property damage erupted in Lodashuli Market on Friday when a lone wild elephant, locally known as "Ramlal," entered the bustling bazaar in search of food, forcing a hurried response from forest authorities and leaving traders counting heavy losses. Eyewitnesses said the adult tusker emerged from adjoining forestland and made a beeline for the market, overturning stalls and breaching iron shutters to access food stocks. Several shop fronts were forced open as the animal grabbed sacks of rice, packets of biscuits, fruits and other edibles, scattering wares across the thoroughfare and inflicting structural damage to shutters and display units. "The animal started breaking the shutters one by one and everyone ran for cover," a shaken shopkeeper said. "By the time forest staff came, most food items had been eaten or destroyed." Traders estimated significant financial damage, with many livelihoods disrupted ahead of the weekend trade. The sudden incursion triggered a swift operation by the Forest Department. Officials mobilised a response team that used control measures and coordinated guidance to gradually drive Ramlal away from the commercial area and back towards forest cover. No human fatalities were reported, though several people suffered minor injuries in the scramble and were treated locally. Forest officials warned the public to maintain distance from wild elephants and to adhere to safety advisories as authorities monitor the pachyderm's movements. "We successfully



averted a major casualty. But repeated forays by elephants into human habitations underline persistent human wildlife conflict in the zone," a senior forest officer said, noting that the animal's behaviour suggested scarcity of natural forage or habituation to anthropogenic food sources. Local traders and residents demanded immediate compensation for damaged property and stronger preventive measures, including early warning systems, reinforced barriers and community awareness drives. "This is not the first time elephants have entered villages and markets here. We need a permanent plan, not temporary fixes," a market association representative said. Conservationists and administrators pointed to expanding agricultural frontiers, habitat fragmentation and seasonal forage shortages as contributing factors. As the Forest Department intensifies monitoring, district authorities face mounting pressure to reconcile farmer and trader safety with wildlife conservation imperatives. The episode has revived wider debate over long term mitigation: whether through habitat restoration, regulated deterrence or compensation frameworks to shield vulnerable communities from recurring elephant incursions.

Ashoknagar-Kalyangarh Municipality Chairman arrested for burning government documents at home!

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: There are allegations that important government documents were burned at the house of Ashoknagar-Kalyangarh Municipality Chairman Prabodh Sarkar in the dark of night. The police have arrested the Municipality Chairman in connection with this allegation. There has been a huge stir over this incident. It is being investigated to know which important documents of the municipality were burned, what was the motive behind it and whether anyone else was involved in this incident. According to sources, locals became suspicious after seeing a strong smell of burnt paper coming from Prabodh Sarkar's house on Saturday night. The matter was quickly reported to the local BJP leadership. BJP workers and supporters reached the spot after receiving the news. Later, the police of Ashoknagar police station also arrived at the spot. It is alleged that despite knocking on the door for a long time, there was no response from inside the house. After that police were forced to climb the wall and enter the house. Later, Chairman Prabodh Sarkar and his wife came out. The police were informed that some dry leaves of coconut and betel nut trees had been burnt in the garden of the house. However, the complainants claim that when the police reached the spot, they found the fire still burning.



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Three Trinamool leader's assets exceed Rs 100 crore! Posters demanding accounts appear in Uttarpara

MI News Service, Hooghly: Trinamool leaders allegedly own properties worth crores of rupees through illegal activities! Some have properties worth more than 100 crores, some less than 100 crores. Posters with the pictures and names of some such Trinamool leaders were put up in Uttarpara in Hooghly district. This allegation has been made against six Trinamool leaders including the chairman of the Municipality. An account of their properties has been

sought. Locals saw these posters in the area this morning. The posters were seen in the area surrounding the Kathal Bagan Bazar railway station. The poster read 'Promoted by the people of Uttarpara.' Locals have demanded a fair investigation into this allegation. According to the poster, out of the six Trinamool leaders, 3 have assets worth more than 100 crore rupees. They are Dilip Yadav, Subrata Mukherjee and Tukai. Trinamool leader Dilip is accused of extortion,



benami property, forcible transfer, and running a smuggling ring. Subrata Mukherjee owns a resort in North Bengal. He is also accused of illegal

promotion, illegal restaurant operation, and extortion. Tukai is accused of torturing of women, illegal promotion, and running a bar-cum-restaurant. He also has several illegal properties in his name. According to the poster, Chhota Pintu, Arnab Roy and Mousumi Biswas have assets under 100 crore rupees. There are allegations of corruption and extortion in the municipality against Pintu. Arnab Roy is also involved in extortion. On the other hand, there are multiple allegations

against Trinamool leader Mousumi Biswas. Locals said that there should be an investigation into the allegations of corruption. There is nothing wrong with that. However, Trinamool Congress Ward 17 Councillor Subrata Mukherjee said on this issue, "The people of Uttarpara do not like this kind of poster politics. I have nothing to hide about my property. Even the ED or Income Tax Department can go and see it if they can." However, it is not yet known who put up such posters.

Liquor Bust at Hotel Sparks Frenzy After Major Seizure

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Police conducted a special operation at a hotel in the Gomunda area under Mohanpur Police Station in West Midnapore district and seized a large quantity of liquor. The action created a stir in the locality and became a major topic of discussion among residents. According to police sources, acting on confidential information, Mohanpur Police carried out a raid at a hotel located in Gomunda. During the search operation, officers recovered a substantial quantity of liquor of various brands from the hotel premises. The exact quantity of



the seized liquor and its source are currently under investigation. Police officials stated that they are examining whether the liquor was being stored legally or was

intended for illegal trade. The hotel owner and other persons connected to the establishment are being questioned, and relevant documents are also being scrutinized. Local residents alleged that complaints regarding illegal liquor-related activities had been surfacing in the area for a long time. Following the police action, many expressed hope that such unlawful activities would now be curbed. Police have confirmed that the investigation is ongoing and that further legal action will be taken based on the findings. The seized liquor has been confiscated, and a detailed probe has been launched. Investigators are now trying to identify others involved in the alleged operation and determine where the liquor was brought from.

Kharagpur Camp Lays Bare Alleged Graft in Scheme Disbursements

MI News Service, Kharagpur: The Bharatiya Janata Party on Saturday staged a high profile "cut money return" camp at Metadaha East booth under Satbankura Gram Panchayat in Garbeta III block, alleging large scale extortion by Trinamool Congress functionaries in the disbursement of state welfare schemes. The party said recovered funds were publicly handed back to beneficiaries as proof of coercive collections under the previous state administration. BJP leaders claimed beneficiaries had been routinely forced to pay between 2,000 and 4,000 to secure entitlements such as housing and other social benefits. Citing months of local complaints, the party said it had tracked payments and recovered amounts from individuals it identified as responsible, then returned the cash before a sizeable gathering of villagers. Organizers recorded the names of recipients and obtained signatures on receipts to document the restitution. Several beneficiaries who received funds at the camp told reporters they had paid money on the assurance of inclusion in government schemes and had waited years for relief. "After so long, getting this money back brings relief," one recipient said, while others voiced hope that fu-



ture welfare allocations would reach the needy directly, without intermediaries or demands for bribes. BJP functionaries framed the exercise as part of a broader anti corruption push, vowing to hold similar events across the district to expose and reverse alleged "cut money" practices that they say disproportionately harmed the poor. "This practice became endemic in scheme implementation, victimising the most vulnerable," a senior local BJP organiser said, accusing Trinamool workers of systematic siphoning of public benefits. The event has sharply escalated political tensions in the area. Local observers said the staged restitution and public allegations signal an intensified campaign by the opposition ahead of forthcoming electoral battles, with the potential to trigger fresh rounds of accusations and counter accusations. The Trinamool Congress had not issued an official response at the time of filing. Party sources in the district indicated they were reviewing the BJP's claims and would respond formally in due course.

Pension Misrouted: Widow Left Without Funds for Years

MI News Service, Nadia: Allegations of systemic lapses in welfare disbursement surfaced on Saturday after a widowed resident of Dhaka Para in Asannagar accused officials of allowing her government old age pension to be credited to another person's bank account for several years, leaving her without vital support. The complainant, an elderly woman who relied on the monthly pension for basic sustenance, said payments into her account ceased in 2023. A review of her bank passbook and transaction statements, she claimed, revealed that the sanctioned pension instalments have been routed to a Bank of India account in Bagula belonging to a different individual. She first raised the issue with the local Block Development Officer and filed a formal complaint with Bhimpur police, but says repeated appeals to administrative offices have produced no redress. Local residents expressed shock and anger, questioning how a state sponsored entitlement could be diverted for an extended period without detection. "If true, this amounts to a serious breach of trust and administrative negligence," said a neighbour who wished to remain anonymous.

Stashed for Sale: Massive Recovery of Subsidy Fertilisers in Gobargeria

MI News Service, West Medinipur: A major cache of government-supplied fertilisers and pesticides was recovered from a Shishu Shiksha Kendra in Gobargeria village under Santarapur of Keshiary block, sparking public outrage and fresh political confrontation in the district. Villagers discovered several sacks of fertiliser and containers of pesticides stored inside the children's education centre after local complaints about delayed or non-delivery of agricultural inputs surfaced. Residents alleged that consignments meant for farmers under state distribution schemes had been diverted and stockpiled for illicit sale rather than distributed to entitled beneficiaries. Local agitation quickly drew a crowd to the centre, where accusations were directed at Gram Panchayat Pradhan Sunita Singh and local contractor and Trinamool Congress leader Sunil Das. Protesters claimed the duo orchestrated the alleged diversion, saying the materials appeared to be staged for commercial disposal. "These inputs belong to the farmers. Keeping them in an education centre for profit is unforgivable," a farmer who attended the scene



said. BJP district leader Prashant Hazra seized on the discovery, alleging systemic irregularities and demanding a prompt, impartial probe and immediate arrests of those responsible. Hazra said the incident was symptomatic of a broader pattern of misappropriation affecting agricultural welfare in rural pockets of the district. Keshiary Police responded to reports and brought the situation under control. Officers seized the recovered fertilisers and pesticides and launched an investigation into the circumstances of the storage and the chain of custody. Police officials said preliminary inquiries are under way and cautioned against premature conclusions until the probe is complete. Neither Gram Panchayat Pradhan Sunita Singh nor Sunil Das had

issued an official response at the time of filing. Their silence, residents said, has added to suspicions and inflamed local sentiment. The incident has widened political fault lines locally, with opposition parties promising rigorous follow-up and governing party supporters denying organised wrongdoing. Observers noted that the discovery at a children's education centre — a facility intended for vulnerable learners — has deepened the sense of betrayal among villagers and intensified calls for accountability. As the investigation proceeds, farmers and community leaders are pressing for swift recovery of the diverted stock and transparent action to ensure that government agricultural inputs reach the beneficiaries for whom they were allocated.

Ganga Turnaround: CIFRI's 265 kg Release Part of Basin Wide Recovery



MI News Service, Nadia: In a major ecological intervention aimed at arresting the rapid decline of aquatic life in the Ganga and bolstering the livelihoods of riverine communities, authorities on Saturday released about 265 kg of native fish fingerlings into the river under a targeted river ranching operation. The operation was executed by the Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore, with financial backing from the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti. Officials said the move is part of a larger, long term strategy to restore the river's biological integrity and reinforce the economic base of traditional fisherfolk who depend on inland fisheries. The stocking exercise, conducted under the supervision of CIFRI Director Dr. Pradip Dey and Namami Gange project coordinator Dr. Sanjib Kumar Manna, saw the release of indigenous species central to the Ganga's freshwater ecology — rohu, catla, mrigal, bata and kalbaush. Scientists and project leads described the species mix as deliberately chosen to revive native stocks that have suffered steep declines in recent years. "Declining fish populations signal acute ecological stress. Reviving indigenous species is essential not only for biodiversity but also for the

river's self purification processes and the survival of dependent communities," said senior scientist Dr. Dibakar Bhakta. CIFRI estimates indicate the institute has released nearly 15 million fingerlings across river stretches from Gangotri to Gangasagar since 2017. Experts involved in the programme warned that the release is a first step in a sustained, science led restoration push. Native species feed on plankton and organic detritus, helping to restore trophic balance and improve water quality, they said. The initiative is also intended to deliver measurable socio economic returns: once the stocked fingerlings mature and reproduce, local fish availability is expected to rise, offering improved incomes for traditional fisherfolk. Authorities stressed, however, that immediate exploitation of the recently released stock will be prohibited. The fingerlings require time to grow and establish breeding populations before benefits can be realised. Enforcement of no fishing windows and continued habitat conservation will be critical, officials added. Conservationists welcomed the move but urged complementary actions — pollution control, habitat restoration and strict regulation of overfishing — if the stocking programme is to convert into lasting recovery.

Superintendent's Court started at Balurghat District Hospital to hear Complaints from patients and families

MI News Service, South Dinajpur: Not a royal court, in other words, a court of the people. A platform for patients and their families to talk openly, Balurghat District Hospital is trying to improve services through such an effort. The 'Super Court' is being held daily in the old super office. The Balurghat District Hospital Superintendent has taken a novel initiative since June 1 to listen to the grievances of patients and their families. This time, you will no longer have to wait for a specific day of the month to report complaints, suggestions or medical problems regarding the hospital's services. You can meet the hospital superintendent at the same



time every day and tell them about your problems. On average, seven to eight people come. The meeting lasts for an hour. With this in mind, the 'Superintendent's Court' has started at Balurghat District Hospital this week. As it is the headquarters hospital of Dakshin Dinajpur district, a large number of patients come to Balurghat District Hos-

authorities have become active this time to solve that problem. Recently, the hospital authorities have launched this special service called 'Super Darbar'. Here, hospital superintendent Krishnendubikash Bagh will talk directly to patients and their relatives every day from 1 pm. Along with listening to complaints, immediate solutions are also being arranged in many cases. At the same time, complaints regarding nurses, doctors or other services can also be directly reported to the hospital superintendent. Along with this, hospital staff can also raise their various administrative or service-related problems on this platform.

Early-Hour Blitz Puts Spotlight on Madan Mitra's Finances

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate mounted a sweeping early-morning operation on Saturday, conducting searches at eight locations across the city in a probe linked to alleged recruitment corruption, officials said. Multiple addresses associated with Kamarhati MLA Madan Mitra were among those raided, with investigators arriving at several residences — including properties in Bha-

nipur, Joka, Belgharia and Dakshineswar — as central forces sealed the perimeters. ED officials reached one of Madan Mitra's Bhavanipur flats at around 6:00 am and launched a detailed search that continued well into the morning. Sources said the action at the MLA's premises was triggered by information provided by an accused named Ayan Shil, whose organisation has been at the centre of corruption allegations in connection with recruitment drives across seven municipal bodies, including Kamarhati. Investigators reported recovering multiple documents and tracking evidence relating to six bank accounts from the MLA's premises. Officers said they are probing the role of Madan Mitra, in his capacity as legislator, in alleged irregularities surrounding recruitments carried out through the accused's organisation. The probe focuses on the hiring of lower-level mu-



nicipal staff — Group D and typists among them — where the process allegedly involved manipulated OMR sheets, arranged interviews and large financial transactions. An ED spokesperson said searches were simultaneously carried out at a club in Belghata, premises in Santoshpur and an address in Behala, as investigators followed leads across a network of locations. The agency has previously arrested Ayan Shil — on March 20, 2023 — and has been examining alleged corruption implicating several municipalities. The raids form part of an

escalating investigation into how recruitments were allegedly conducted and whether sitting officials facilitated or benefited from the scheme. "We are following material leads and bank transaction trails," an agency source said, declining to elaborate on operational details. Separately, Madan Mitra faces a fresh allegation of forcibly occupying a businessman's shop beneath his Dakshineswar residence, with the complainant asserting threats and coercion. Local law-enforcement had earlier conducted searches at the house of a Kamarhati municipal official linked to the recruitment probe, sources added. Madan Mitra's current whereabouts were not immediately clear; the MLA is reported to be residing with family in a Bhawanipur flat where the ED search was concentrated. The enquiries are ongoing, and officials cautioned that further action could follow as forensic examination of seized records and bank data proceeds.

Institute of Oriental Studies and Research Holds Convocation in City



MI News Service, Kolkata: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh (Chairman of Bandhan Bank), Pradip Mallick (head of a renowned confectionery establishment), and Rupak Saha (General Secretary of East Bengal Club) were conferred the "Yugapurush" award at a felicitation and convocation ceremony organized by the Institute of Oriental Studies and Research at Vivekananda's ancestral home on Shimla Street. Distinguished guests present included Acharya Shyamal Bhattacharya (Chairman of the organizing institute), Swami Gyanlokhananda (Trustee of Belur Math and Mission), senior monks Swami Vishwanathananda and Swami Sudhakarananda, educationist Rajat Bhattacharya, and others. State Industries Minister Tapas Roy sent a message of greetings to the organizers for the occasion.

5 IAF personnel

Continued from Pg 1: has long been a mainstay of the Indian Air Force's transport fleet. Developed in the former Soviet Union to meet India's operational requirements, the aircraft is designed to operate in challenging conditions, including high-altitude airfields and hot tropical environments.

Capable of carrying up to 7.5 tonnes of cargo, around 50 passengers or 42 paratroopers, the AN-32 is widely used for troop movement, logistics support and supply missions to remote and difficult-to-access areas.

The latest accident comes barely months after an Indian Air Force Sukhoi Su-30MKI fighter jet crashed in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, killing both pilots on board.

The twin-seat fighter aircraft had taken off on March 5 for a routine sortie from the Jorhat Air Force Station before losing contact with ground control at around 7.42 pm. The aircraft subsequently crashed in a remote hilly area of Karbi Anglong, about 60 km from Jorhat, officials had said.

Abhishek's residence

Continued from Pg 1: said, "Political vendetta gets from bad to worse." Raja Sabha MP Sagarika Ghose alleged that police arrived at Banerjee's residence around 3 am and that a disaster management team was subsequently called in to break open a lock before the search began.

Claiming that the operation covered the premises from the second floor to the terrace, Ghose said the search lasted about 90 minutes and alleged that the seizure report recorded "nil".

"No evidence. No wrongdoing. Nothing," she wrote on X.

Calling the operation an instance of "political vendetta, intimidation and mental torture", Ghose alleged that leaders unwilling to submit to the BJP were being selectively targeted.

The BJP rejected the allegations, maintaining that "investigative agencies were functioning independently and that no individual was above the law".

The latest episode has added another layer to Bengal's turbulent political atmosphere, where legal battles, agency investigations and political confrontation have increasingly intersected post-2026 assembly polls.

For the TMC, the search has become another rallying point in its long-standing charge that opposition leaders are being subjected to selective targeting after its defeat in the assembly polls.

For investigators, it was part of an ongoing criminal probe.

But politically, the images of police and central forces entering the residence of Mamata Banerjee's heir apparent before dawn ensured that the operation resonated far beyond the confines of the case itself.



Kolkata Airport Director Bikram Singh addresses a press conference on Jatri Subidha Diwas at Kolkata Airport on Saturday.

Delhi visit fans talk of fresh TMC exodus

MI News Service, Kolkata: A brief but pointed meeting at 9 Motilal Nehru Marg on Saturday set political corridors abuzz as Trinamool Congress MP Sudeep Banerjee called on Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav in the company of party colleague Shatabdi Roy. The encounter, observers say, adds fresh momentum to growing speculation that a new wave of desertions may be under way within the regional party.

Sudeep referred to widely within political circles as "Sudipada" — arrived in the national capital and proceeded directly to Bhupendra Yadav's residence, accompanied by Shatabdi Roy, a vocal MP whose recent actions have already drawn attention. The closed-door meeting was short but decisive; party sources and onlookers say its timing, coming on the heels of an exodus of leaders from the Trinamool, is striking. The visit comes amid a pe-

riod of acute instability for the party after its rout in the May 4 state elections. Internal fissures have widened visibly: in the Lok Sabha, 19 of the party's 28 MPs have reportedly sent a letter to the Speaker expressing support for the ruling alliance, while the Raja Sabha has seen several resignations. High-profile departures and public defections have reduced the leadership's cushion considerably and intensified courtship efforts by rival power centers. Political analysts say the Motilal Nehru Marg meeting should be seen against this backdrop of rapid realignment. "When sitting MPs choose to meet senior leaders at such a venue, it always raises questions about shifting loyalties," said a senior analyst. "This is not an isolated social call; it is a signal that conversations about future alignments are on." Within the Trinamool's ranks there is caution and unease. Senior party func-

tionaries insist there has been no formal communication from Sudeep indicating an intention to quit. Yet the optics of an MP known for his organisational heft meeting an influential Union leader alongside a member already perceived as a dis-senter have done little to quell rumours. For Sudeep, the stakes are substantial: his next political move could alter the balance of parliamentary strength and accelerate the unravelling of the party's parliamentary unity. For the leadership, each high-profile contact outside party channels compounds an already volatile situation. As political watchers wait for clearer signals, parties on both sides are likely to intensify outreach efforts. The coming days will be pivotal: either Sudeep will reaffirm his commitment to the party fold, or his Delhi visit will be recorded as the latest turning point in a fast-moving realignment.

Messi Organiser's FIR Prompts Renewed Police Push Against Aroop

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bidhannagar South police have issued a third notice to former West Bengal sports minister Aroop Biswas in connection with allegations surrounding the organisation of the high-profile "Messi" event, directing him to appear before investigators within 48 hours of receiving the summons.

According to police sources, Aroop Biswas has so far failed to respond to earlier notices and has not appeared for questioning despite repeated attempts by investigators to secure his cooperation. The case stems from a complaint filed on May 17 by event organiser Satadru Dutta, who accused the former minister of several offences, including ticket black-marketing, extortion, criminal intimi-

dation, cheating and lapses in security arrangements during the event. Based on the complaint, Bidhannagar South police registered an FIR under multiple sections of the Indian Penal Code and launched an investigation into alleged irregularities related to ticket sales, financial transactions and event management practices. Investigators are examining whether proper procedures were followed and whether any administrative or regulatory norms were violated. Police first summoned Biswas to appear on June 4. He reportedly sought additional time citing health concerns but did not provide medical documents to support his claim. Authorities subsequently issued fresh notices and personally served summonses at his residence

before a June 8 deadline. However, he neither appeared before investigators nor communicated through legal representatives, police said. Meanwhile, Aroop Biswas sought anticipatory bail from the Barasat court, but his petition was rejected. He later approached the Calcutta High Court, which granted limited relief. The court directed that any fresh summons should provide at least 48 hours' notice but allowed the investigation to continue without interruption. The court also restricted Biswas from leaving the state without prior permission. Investigators say the latest notice reflects the growing urgency of the probe. Police are keen to record Aroop Biswas's statement as part of the evidence-gathering process. Officials have already



Hog Market hawkers face eviction in a Kolkata clearance operation on Saturday.

Nabanna's Green Push: Solar Panels for Government Buildings

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a decisive move aimed at curbing distribution losses and accelerating clean-energy adoption, the state government on Saturday directed the mandatory installation of domestic smart electricity meters in the residences of employees of state-aided institutions. The directive, issued from Nabanna, covers salaried personnel paid directly from the state treasury — including state government staff, employees of semi-government bodies, state-owned corporations, undertakings and other institutions.

The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) has been entrusted with phased implementation, beginning with a pilot roll-out across 103 of its 554 customer care circles. Government sources said these initial areas were chosen because they account for disproportionately high

transmission and distribution losses, imposing a growing fiscal burden on the state exchequer. Officials indicated the programme will extend to the remaining centres in sequenced phases following evaluation of the pilot.

Under the scheme, smart meters installed in domestic premises will initially operate on a post-paid basis; billing cycles and procedures will remain unchanged during the transition. Consumers will, however, have the option to switch to pre-paid metering once installation is complete. The administration portrayed the dual model as a pragmatic pathway to modernise metering infrastructure while preserving consumer convenience during rollout.

Nabanna has also directed an administrative cascade to ensure compliance. All heads of departments, directors general, the inspector

general of police, divisional commissioners, the Commissioner of Kolkata Police and district magistrates have been instructed to coordinate and expedite meter deployment in their jurisdictions. The government framed the initiative as both an anti-loss measure and a push for fiscal discipline. "Cutting distribution losses will reduce the subsidy burden on the treasury and improve revenue realisation for the power sector," said a senior official, who asked not to be named. Technical teams from WBSEDCL are expected to reconcile meter data with billing systems and to trace irregularities through meter-level consumption profiles. Concurrently, Nabanna announced an ambitious rooftop solar plan focused on government buildings, proposing 5-15 kilowatt installations across departmental roofs and open

spaces. Initial estimates suggest about 300 square feet is required for a 5 kW peak installation; larger capacities will be configured where space and load profiles permit. The move aims to trim electricity consumption at public offices and raise the share of renewables in the state's energy mix. Energy planners say the combined strategy — smart metering to plug losses and rooftop solar to offset demand — could deliver measurable savings and environmental benefits if executed with tight monitoring and technical safeguards. Implementation challenges remain, including meter procurement, data integration, consumer outreach and maintenance protocols. Authorities have been urged to publish a clear timeline, grievance redress mechanism and safeguards to protect consumer data as the programme scales up.

Officials Say Targeted Camps Will Reach Vulnerable Groups

MI News Service, Kolkata: Nabanna has announced a statewide mobilization of public-welfare camps, slated to run from June 15 to 17, aimed at fast-tracking beneficiary outreach, accepting applications for government schemes and boosting public awareness, officials said on Saturday. The three-day "Jan Kalyan Shivir" will deploy senior administrative officers across districts to supervise operations and ensure standardized service delivery.

According to government sources, district-level camps have been mapped out to serve as one-stop counters for registration under multiple state schemes. The administration has instructed divisional commissioners to assume overall supervision, while senior

IAS officers and designated nodal officials will conduct advance inspections of district preparations on June 14 before the camps go live. The directive orders officers to visit as many camp sites as possible on June 15 and 16, with an additional day reserved on June 17 if operational demands warrant. Officials will be responsible for coordinating district administrations, monitoring application throughput and ensuring that applications received at the camps are processed within stipulated timelines.

Nabanna has set clear minimum infrastructure standards for the shivir. Camps must provide waiting areas, photocopying facilities, basic security and on-site health services. The guidelines further empha-

size robust publicity — both online and offline — to maximise citizen participation and clarity about scheme entitlements. Special teams will oversee digital and physical submission channels to prevent backlogs and ensure transparency. The government framed the exercise as an administrative push to simplify access to welfare programmes and to close gaps in outreach. "These camps are intended to reduce friction in registration and ensure timely delivery of benefits," said a senior official involved in planning. He added that measuring disposal rates and documenting outcomes will form part of the post-campaign assessment. Officials will also pay attention to vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, with arrange-

ments expected to be made for those requiring special assistance. The deployment of senior bureaucrats is aimed at quick resolution of inter-departmental impediments on the ground. The guidelines have been issued with immediate effect; district administrations were advised to complete logistical arrangements and publicise camp locations ahead of the June 15 start. With a concentrated three-day window, authorities say they hope to demonstrate administrative agility and deliver measurable improvements in beneficiary enrolments and service responsiveness. Observers will be watching closely to see whether the camp model translates into sustained improvements in scheme uptake and grievance redressal.

Daylight Deception: Gold Worth Rs 5.5 Lakh Stolen

MI News Service, Kolkata: A brazen daylight theft in Rajarhat has left residents alarmed after two women, one carrying a six-month-old infant, allegedly entered a house on the pretext of seeking food and escaped with gold jewellery worth around Rs 5.5 lakh, police said on Saturday.

The incident took place in the Jagadishpur Biswaspara area and has triggered a detailed investigation by Rajarhat police. According to the complaint lodged at Rajarhat police station, the theft occurred around 10:45 am on Tuesday when the two women knocked on the door of a residence claiming they were in distress and needed food for the infant. Moved by their plea, the housewife allowed them inside and went to the kitchen to arrange a meal. However, when she returned a few minutes later, the women and the child had disappeared. Suspecting some-

thing was amiss, she checked the house and found the bedroom cupboard ransacked. The complainant reported that several gold ornaments, including a pair of bangles, a necklace, earrings and a ring, had been stolen. The jewellery, weighing nearly 40 grams, is estimated to be worth approximately Rs 5.5 lakh based on current market rates. The incident has shocked local residents, many of whom expressed disbelief that an apparent appeal for help involving an infant could be used as a cover for theft. Neighbours said the case has heightened concerns about safety and trust within the community. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation. Officers are examining the crime scene, conducting door-to-door inquiries and reviewing CCTV footage from nearby streets, houses and commercial establishments to trace the movements of the suspects.

Investigators are also trying to determine whether the women were part of a larger network and if any accomplices were involved. "We are treating this as a premeditated act of theft carried out through deception," an investigating officer said. Local shopkeepers and residents have been asked to report any suspicious activity that may aid the probe. The case has renewed concerns about security in Rajarhat's rapidly expanding suburban neighbourhoods. Community leaders have urged residents to exercise caution while dealing with unknown visitors and to verify identities before allowing strangers into their homes. Police have also advised homeowners to install CCTV cameras, secure valuables properly and immediately report suspicious callers. Authorities have appealed to the public for information that could help identify and apprehend the accused.

Residents Watch as Kamarhati Chairman and Councillor Resign



MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: After the change of government chairman and councillors of several municipalities of the state had resigned from their post. In this atmosphere chairman Gopal Saha and municipal councillor of the 35-seat Kamarhati municipality resigned on Friday. It is learnt that chairman has sent a representative to the municipality's executive officer, Suresh Chandra Hira, to submit his resignation. He cited physical illness as the reason. On the other hand, ward 27 councillor Shyamal Chakraborty went to the municipality on Friday and submitted his resignation. However, he resigned accepting moral responsibility for the party's defeat. According to sources, the remaining councillors may also resign next Monday. It is learnt that Prabir Saha, the chairman of New Barrackpore Municipality under Dum Dum Lok Sabha, has already resigned. Bidhan Biswas, the chairman of North Dum Dum Municipality, and the majority councillors have also resigned. This time, with the resignation of the chairman of Kamarhati, political circles believe that the appointment of an administrator in this municipality is just a matter of time.

Tension in INDIA: Pinarayi Vijayan Slams Rahul Gandhi, Split Widens

MI News Service, Thiruvananthapuram: The simmering differences within the Opposition INDIA bloc have burst into the open as Leader of Opposition in Kerala assembly, Pinarayi Vijayan, on Saturday launched a sharp attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of adopting an approach that could weaken the anti-BJP front. Vijayan's strong reaction came after Rahul Gandhi's remarks at an INDIA bloc meeting, where the Congress leader reportedly referred to his inability to hug the Kerala leader. Turning the comment into a larger political argument, Vijayan said such statements and attitudes were damaging the unity of the Opposition alliance



and would ultimately benefit the BJP. The CPI(M) veteran pointed out that he had never followed the practice of hugging people during meetings and that in Indian culture, such gestures were not common. "When Rahul Gandhi and I meet, we either greet each other or shake hands. But the country has also seen him hugging Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Parliament. I have no objection to that. But the way he presented the issue at the INDIA meeting was different," Vijayan said. He alleged that Rahul

Gandhi's style of functioning and the Congress leadership's approach were among the reasons behind the crisis confronting the alliance. The controversy has brought to the surface deep disagreements within the INDIA bloc, particularly over the Congress's role and its handling of regional allies. At the Delhi meeting of the alliance, CPI(M) leader John Brittas is learnt to have strongly challenged Rahul Gandhi's arguments, defending the importance of regional parties and state-specific political realities. Sources said several Opposition partners expressed dissatisfaction with what they viewed as Congress's attempts to impose

a centralised approach on the alliance. Leaders such as Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav in Uttar Pradesh and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav in Bihar have also voiced concerns over the Congress strategy. The DMK's changing political position in Tamil Nadu has added to the uncertainty surrounding the future of the alliance. The latest confrontation has strengthened speculation within political circles that the CPI(M) may reconsider its continued association with the INDIA bloc. Party leaders have reportedly been questioning whether the alliance can survive unless the Congress adopts a more accommodating approach towards regional parties.

Three youths arrested hours after snatching iPhone and cash

MI News Service, Siliguri: Three youths were arrested by Matigara Police within hours of allegedly snatching an iPhone and cash from two bikers in the Chadmuni area of Siliguri. According to reports, two youths from Ambari were returning home on a motorcycle late on the night of June 11. At around 2:50 am, three youths riding a scooter allegedly intercepted them in the Chadmuni area. The accused allegedly snatched a costly iPhone and around Rs.10,000 in cash before fleeing the spot. The arrested accused have been identified as Santosh Rajbhar (18), Kokil Roy (20) and Nihal Mahato (18). Police have recovered the stolen iPhone from their possession, though the cash is yet to be recovered.

Two Friends Missing After Bathing in Bhagirathi River



MI News Service, Murshidabad: Two friends went missing while bathing in the Bhagirathi river. The incident took place at the Nrisinghapur ferry ghat in Shantipur, Nadia. The names of the missing youths are Akash Sheikh and Bapi Sheikh. They are residents of ward numbers 22 and 23 of Shantipur city. It is learnt that Akash and Bapi used to work as migrant workers in Pune, Maharashtra. They returned home a few days ago. On that day, six friends went to bathe in the river together. It is alleged that Akash and Bapi suddenly drowned in the river at that time. Although the local people went into the river for a long time and searched, the two youths could not be found till the last news received.

BJP leader filed complaint against Abhishek for corruption in 'Amphan' relief

MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: BJP leader Abhijit Das has filed an FIR against Trinamool MP Abhishek Banerjee. He filed a complaint at Bishnupur police station on Saturday. He submitted a written complaint to the IC of Bishnupur police station and Diamond Harbour SP. He has alleged corruption of about 250 crore rupees in the distribution of Amphan relief funds. However, there has been no response from MP Abhishek Banerjee on this complaint. Abhijit was the BJP candidate for the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency in 2024. On Saturday, he alleged in his complaint that irregularities were committed during the distribution of relief to the affected villagers after Amphan in 2020. As per the government instructions, the government had ordered to provide compensation of Rs



20,000 to the owners of houses completely damaged by Amphan and Rs 5,000 to the owners of houses partially damaged by Amphan. The complaint claims that money was collected by showing multiple pucca house owners as damaged on the portal. It has been alleged that separate money was given to multiple people under the same roof and 'cut money' was taken for applications. BJP leader Abhijit Das said, "The central government had sent a lot of money for financial assistance for Amphan. All that money has been embezzled. I received a file. It was seen there that compensation money had been issued multiple times in the name of one person. There are a bunch of such allegations."

Four Killed in Ramgarh After Toxic Gas Exposure at Abandoned Coal Mine



MI News Service, Ranchi: Four youths died after inhaling toxic gas during illegal mining inside an abandoned coal mine in Jharkhand's Ramgarh district on Saturday, officials said. The incident occurred in the Argadda forest area along the Giddi-Ramgarh border, where a group of youths had entered a closed mine for excavation work. Two of the deceased were residents of Ramgarh district, while the other two hailed from Hazaribagh. According to information received, one youth first lost consciousness after being exposed to toxic gas inside the mine. In an attempt to rescue him, his three companions descended into the mine one after another, but they too collapsed after inhaling the gas. The deceased have been identified as Ashish Rajwar (25), Kishor Ravani (35), Deva Kumar Bedia (25), and W Bedia (30). Deva Kumar Bedia and W Bedia were residents of the Sirka-Argadda area in Hazaribagh, while Ashish Rajwar and Kishor Ravani belonged to the Sirka Buddha Bazaar locality in Ramgarh. Following the incident, local police and villagers

reached the spot. A 14-member rescue team from Central Coalfields Limited's Naisarai mines was deployed, with seven members entering the mine equipped with safety gear. After nearly an hour-long operation, all four youths were pulled out and rushed to a hospital. Doctors declared two of them dead on arrival, while the remaining two succumbed during treatment. Administrative officials said preliminary findings indicate extremely low oxygen levels and a high concentration of toxic gases inside the mine. It is suspected that all four died due to suffocation, though the exact cause of death will be confirmed only after the post-mortem reports. The post-mortem examinations are being conducted under videography, and police have initiated an investigation into the incident. Local residents alleged that the risk of gas leakage in abandoned mines in the area has persisted for a long time. Meanwhile, state BJP president Aditya Sahu expressed grief over the incident and alleged administrative negligence, demanding accountability in the matter.

NAME CHANGE
I, Hamida Khatoun, W/O- Jalaluddin Ahmed, residing at Vill - Uttar Durgapur, P/O - Joy nagar, Dist- 24pgs(S), Pin- 743337 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hamida Kazi as declared before the Ld. Notary Public at Barupur vide Affidavit No.- 119/26 dt-08/06/2026. Hamida Kazi & Hamida Khatoun both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRANAB ROY(OLD NAME) SON OF LATE GOPAL ROY RESIDENT OF C/5,PODDAR NAGAR-2,PO -JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY,KOLKATA-700032, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM PRANAB ROY(OLD NAME) TO PRONAB ROY(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS PRONAB ROY(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 43 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. PRONAB ROY(NEW NAME) AND PRANAB ROY(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Trinamool teacher leader arrested in Uluberia
MI News Service, Howrah: Trinamool councillor and teacher leader arrested in post-poll violence case. It is learnt that Trinamool councillor of Uluberia Municipality, Nirmal Yadav, was arrested on multiple charges including threatening opposition party members and framing them in false cases after the 2021 assembly elections. He was arrested by the Bauria police station on Saturday morning. Nirmal Yadav is a primary school teacher. He is also the president of the Trinamool Education Cell of Howrah District Primary Schools. Nirmal has been accused of threatening opposition party members, framing them in false cases and being involved in various post-election violence after the 2021 assembly elections. A written complaint was filed at Bauria police station. After that, the police arrested him. On Saturday, while he was being taken from the police station to the court, the agitated crowd shouted slogans against him. Regarding Nirmal's arrest, Uluberia BJP leader Rudraprasad Banerjee said, "The Trinamool Congress was guilty of abusing power. They have oppressed many people while in power. Modiji said that everyone will be held accountable. The accountability has begun. All injustices will be held accountable. Not only Nirmal, but also those who are involved in this injustice will be held accountable." However, the arrested Trinamool Congress leader has denied all the allegations against him. He has been arrested for political vendetta. On the other hand, on Friday night, various items including government documents and files were recovered from a closed shop in the area adjacent to the Garh Bhabanipur bus stand in Udayanarayanpur. Tension spread in the area over this incident. Police and central forces reached the spot after receiving the news. Then the situation came under control.

NAME CHANGE
I, NAMECHHA MONDAL (Old Name), W/O- AHED MANDAL, R/O: Vill- Durgapur Purba Para, P.O- Sarapur, P.S.- Swarupnagar, North 24 Pgs. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NURNECHA BIBI (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court affidavit no. 2396/26 dt. 10-06-26. NAMECHHA MONDAL (Old Name) and NURNECHA BIBI (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Minister Shankar Ghosh visits Siliguri Regulated Market, directs officials to resolve the issues promptly
MI News Service, Siliguri: State Minister and Siliguri MLA Shankar Ghosh visited the Siliguri Regulated Market on Saturday morning to assess various issues affecting traders and market operations. During the visit, the minister toured different sections of the market and interacted with traders to hear their grievances firsthand. It is learnt that traders have long been facing problems including poor drainage, illegal encroachments, indiscriminate parking and traffic congestion within the market premises. In view of these complaints, Minister Shankar Ghosh inspected the area along with concerned officials, market authorities and representatives of the trading community. Following the inspection, the minister directed the market secretary to take immediate steps to address the issues. He stressed the need for a planned approach to resolve each problem in a phased manner. Shankar Ghosh also warned that administrative action would be taken if there was negligence in addressing the issues and said action could be initiated against the secretary if required. Several traders also took the opportunity to highlight their day-to-day difficulties before the minister, who assured them that efforts would be made to resolve the problems at the earliest.

Mother-Son duo electrocuted to death in Bihar's Samastipur district
MI News Service, Patna: A tragic electrocution incident claimed the lives of a young woman and her six-year-old son in Bihar's Samastipur district late Friday night, leaving the entire village in mourning. The incident occurred at Chatra village under the Vidyapatnagar police station area in the district. The deceased have been identified as Rangila Devi (24), wife of Kanhaiya Paswan, and her son Ratan Kumar. The family lived in Ward No. 15 of Chatra village under Barhauna Panchayat. According to family members, Rangila Devi and her son were sleeping inside their home when a stand fan placed nearby suddenly toppled over during the night. Police and relatives suspect that a damaged wire in the fan had caused electrical current to pass through the appliance. As the fan fell, both mother and son reportedly came into contact with the live current and were electrocuted. Kanhaiya Paswan said his wife and son were sleeping near the fan when the accident occurred. He stated that the faulty wiring made the fan electrically charged, leading to the fatal incident. Family members rushed to rescue the two and attempted to take them for treatment, but both had already died by the time help arrived. After receiving information about the incident on Saturday morning, personnel from the Bihar Police reached the village and began an investigation. Vidyapatnagar Station House Officer Suraj Kumar said police prepared the inquest reports and sent both bodies to Samastipur Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examinations. The incident has triggered grief and shock across the village, with residents mourning the sudden deaths of the mother and child. The tragedy has also renewed concerns about electrical safety and the dangers posed by faulty household appliances and exposed wiring.

Name Change
I, Kanchan Bhunja Barman, W/O Bidyut Baran Barman Residing at Vill& PO: Shibrampur, P.S.: Namkhana, District: South 24 Parganas. My name appears as 'Kanchan Bala Barman' in my land records (L.R. Khatian No. 2520) and as 'Kanchan Barman' in my Aadhaar card. By virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Court of the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Kakdwip on 20/01/2026, I have adopted the name 'Kanchan Bhunja Barman'. Henceforth, Kanchan Bhunja Barman, Kanchan Bala Barman, and Kanchan Barman (wife of Bidyut Baran Barman) shall be considered one and the same identical lady.

Mother-Son duo electrocuted to death in Bihar's Samastipur district
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Name Change
I, Avishkek Manna son of Santu Kumar Manna, R/O- 37/1/A/2, Kali Charan Ghosh Road, Baranagar, Sinthee, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700050 Vide an Affidavit (No. 839) from 1st class Judicial Magistrate Calcutta on 19/05/2026 my father Santu Kumar Manna and Santu Manna both are same & one identical person.

Mother-Son duo electrocuted to death in Bihar's Samastipur district
MI News Service, Patna: A tragic electrocution incident claimed the lives of a young woman and her six-year-old son in Bihar's Samastipur district late Friday night, leaving the entire village in mourning. The incident occurred at Chatra village under the Vidyapatnagar police station area in the district. The deceased have been identified as Rangila Devi (24), wife of Kanhaiya Paswan, and her son Ratan Kumar. The family lived in Ward No. 15 of Chatra village under Barhauna Panchayat. According to family members, Rangila Devi and her son were sleeping inside their home when a stand fan placed nearby suddenly toppled over during the night. Police and relatives suspect that a damaged wire in the fan had caused electrical current to pass through the appliance. As the fan fell, both mother and son reportedly came into contact with the live current and were electrocuted. Kanhaiya Paswan said his wife and son were sleeping near the fan when the accident occurred. He stated that the faulty wiring made the fan electrically charged, leading to the fatal incident. Family members rushed to rescue the two and attempted to take them for treatment, but both had already died by the time help arrived. After receiving information about the incident on Saturday morning, personnel from the Bihar Police reached the village and began an investigation. Vidyapatnagar Station House Officer Suraj Kumar said police prepared the inquest reports and sent both bodies to Samastipur Sadar Hospital for post-mortem examinations. The incident has triggered grief and shock across the village, with residents mourning the sudden deaths of the mother and child. The tragedy has also renewed concerns about electrical safety and the dangers posed by faulty household appliances and exposed wiring.

Name Change
I, Rabindra Samanta, Rabindra nath Samanta (old name) S/O Late Mritunjay Samanta Residing at vill- Narayanganj PO+PS-Namkhana, Dist- South 24 Parganas. WB. That My Son Sunirmal Samanta's his Passport my name has been wrongly recorded as Rabindra Samanta (old name) and my son's educational certificate my name has been wrongly recorded as Rabindra nath Samanta (old name) but my actual name is Rabin Samanta (new name) vide an affidavit before the Ld. 1st class judicial magistrate at Kakdwip, South 24 Parganas. Date-05.06.2026. That Rabin Samanta, Rabindra nath Samanta and Rabindra nath Samanta both are the same and one identical person.

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Name Change
I, Binay Yadav my father Sahendra Yadav my mother Basanti Devi, Vasanti Devi R/A - 21H/1, Dover Terrace, P.O.- Ballygunge, P.S.- Gariahat, Kolkata- 700019 (WB) have changed his/her name and shall henceforth be known as Sahindar Yadav (father), Ranju Yadav (mother) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate Court, 1st Class at Alipore (WB) vide Affidavit No.- 50909 dated 11.06.2026. Sahindar Yadav and Sahendra Yadav (father), Ranju Yadav, Basanti Devi, Vasanti Devi (mother) both are same & identical person.

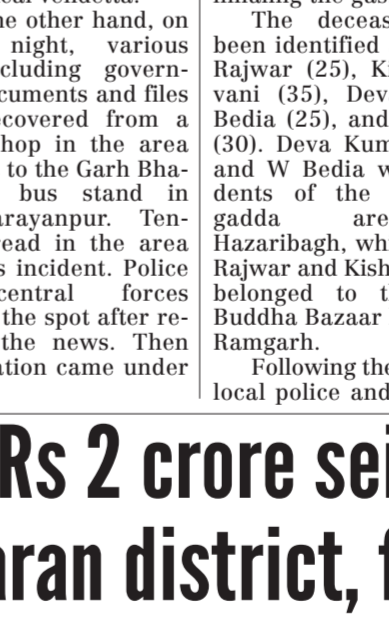
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NAME CHANGE
I, Monuara Bibi, W/O- Md. Anes Sheikh, residing at Vill.-Gondia Raghunathpur, P/S-Ramnagar, Dist- 24pgs(S) do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monuara Bibi to Monuara Khatun and henceforth I shall be known as Monuara Khatun as declared before the Ld.1st class J.M. at Alipore vide Affidavit No.- 51460 dt-12/06/2026. Monuara Khatun & Monuara Bibi both are same and one identical person.

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Opium worth Rs 2 crore seized in Bihar's East Champaran district, four arrested

MI News Service, Patna: In a major crackdown on narcotics smuggling in Bihar's East Champaran district the police and STF seized 10.540 kilograms of opium worth nearly Rs 2 crore from a car on NH 27 under the Dumariyaghat police station area. Four members of an interstate drug trafficking network were arrested during the operation. The operation was launched following a confidential tip off received by the STF regarding the transportation of a large consignment of opium from Jharkhand to Bihar. Acting swiftly, a joint team of the STF and Dumariyaghat police conducted intensive vehicle checking near the Narsingh Baba Temple on NH 27. During the checking drive, the team intercepted a white car and recovered 10.54 kg of opium hidden inside a specially designed secret compartment built into the vehicle to evade police detection. The three accused travelling in



a resident of Saraiya Khas under Govindganj police station area in East Champaran. Investigators said he was responsible for supplying the opium to the smugglers. Police officials stated that the gang had allegedly been involved in trafficking narcotics from Jharkhand into Bihar for a long period. A case has been registered against all four accused under various sections of the NDPS Act at Dumariyaghat police station. The investigating officer said the operation was carried out on STF inputs and confirmed that the network's links, supply chain and other associates were currently under investigation. Police teams are trying to uncover the entire inter-state racket. East Champaran SP Swarn Prabhakar congratulated the police and STF teams for the successful operation and reiterated the district administration's commitment to eliminating the narcotics trade.

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Study finds men more likely to fall sick die from 3 common health conditions

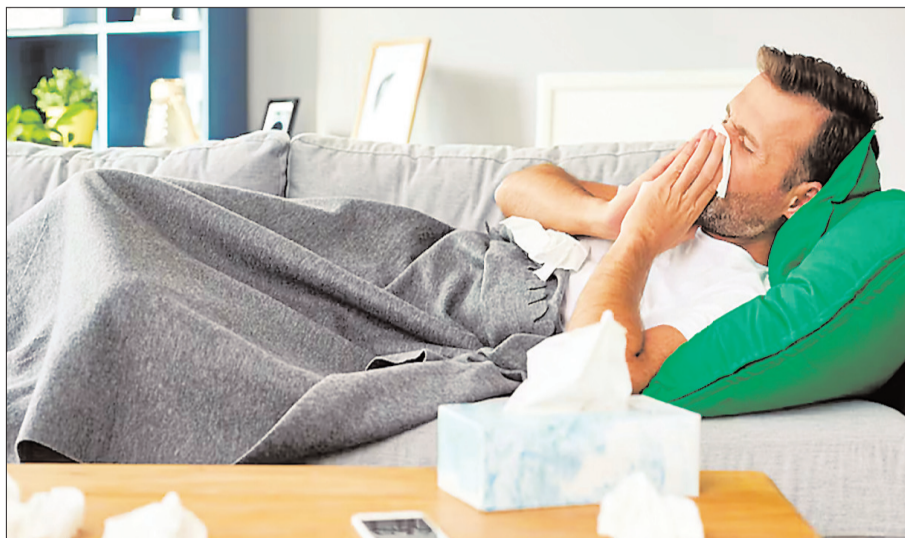
NEW DELHI: Men in many countries are more likely to fall sick and die from hypertension, diabetes, and HIV/AIDS as compared to women, according to a new study.

However, compared to women, men were found to be less likely to seek medical care and adhere to treatment for these common health conditions due to norms related to masculinity and healthcare financing.

Men were also more likely to smoke, while women were more likely to be obese and engage in unsafe sex, the study, published in the journal PLOS Medicine, found. The research highlights

sex-based differences at each step of the "health pathway", which includes being exposed to a risk factor -- such as smoking -- developing a condition, diagnosis, treatment and death, study authors said.

"Most of these differences are not explained by sex (biology) alone, but by socially-constructed gender -- highlighting the importance of taking a gender justice approach to reducing health inequities. A gender analysis can help to shape systems of health for all," Kent Buse, co-founder of Global 50/50, a UK-based research initiative seeking to achieve gender equality in global health,



said. The findings are in line with those from previous studies showing men using fewer preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services for conditions such as HIV and COVID-19, compared to women.

The study found that men and women received different care for hypertension in 200 countries.

Also in 39 countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Ecuador and Ethiopia, men and women received different care for diabetes, and in 76 countries, including Australia, Chile, Italy and Lesotho, they received different care for HIV.

Overall, the authors said

strategies need to be developed for encouraging men to participate in preventive and health care services.

"We have long advocated the benefits of publishing sex disaggregated data. As our Gendered Health Pathways demonstrates, such data can reveal where the health journeys of men and women diverge be it in relation to the risk factors they are exposed to, their health care seeking behaviours or their experiences in health care systems. That is an important first step towards health equity," Buse said.

"Males had significantly higher prevalence rates of conditions in 56 per cent of

countries for HIV and AIDS, 30 per cent for diabetes, and four per cent for hypertension," the authors wrote.

"Females, on the other hand, had significantly higher prevalence rates of conditions in 14 per cent of countries for HIV and AIDS, five per cent for diabetes, and only in India for hypertension," they wrote.

Further, compared to women, death rates were found to be higher among men in 131 countries (64 per cent) for HIV/AIDS, 107 for hypertension (53 per cent) and 100 for diabetes (49 per cent). Death rates among women were higher, compared to men.

Researchers find link between adverse childhood experiences, muscle dysmorphia

Adolescents and young adults who had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prior to the age of 18 were shown to have a much higher likelihood of exhibiting signs of muscle dysmorphia, according to a recent study.

The findings were published in the Clinical Social Work Journal.

These new findings emphasize the need for greater understanding of the relationship between muscle dysmorphia, or the pathological pursuit of muscularity, and adverse childhood experiences (such as emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence), as prior research has shown that over half of North American children and adolescents experience at least one adverse childhood experience in their lifetime. "Those who experience adverse childhood experiences may engage in the pursuit of muscularity to compensate for experiences where they once felt inferior, small, and at risk, as well as to protect against future victimization," says lead author Kyle T. Ganson, PhD, MSW, an assistant professor at the

University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. "The experience of adverse childhood experiences may also increase body dissatisfaction, specifically muscle dissatisfaction, which is a key feature of muscle dysmorphia." Previous studies have shown that adverse experiences in childhood can lead to harmful health effects. While prior research has demonstrated that adverse childhood experiences are highly common in people with eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder, few studies have looked at the association between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia.

The study's researchers analyzed data from over 900 adolescents and young adults who participated in the Canadian Study of Adolescent Health Behaviors. In total, 16% of participants who experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences were at clinical risk for muscle dysmorphia, underscoring the significant traumatic effects that such experiences can have on mental health and well-being.

Ribosomes help to recognise RNA crosslinking damage: Study

LOS ANGELES: According to a study, ribosomes can act as a sensor for crosslinking damage. Ribosomes are made of RNA and protein, and are responsible for protein synthesis in cells. Ribosomes read the messenger RNA (mRNA) sequence and translate it into a string of amino acids. Recently, Professor Julian Stinglee of the Gene Centre Munich and colleagues demonstrated that RNA crosslinking damage is deleterious because it interferes with protein synthesis.

"It was previously difficult to study specifically RNA crosslinking damage, as most chemicals also damage DNA," said lead author Jacqueline Cordes. "We, therefore, utilized a new approach to induce and study RNA damage in the absence of DNA damage," added Dr Shubo Zhao, also lead author of the study. The study used a new approach to study RNA damage without DNA damage. The researchers discovered that ribosomes get stuck when they encounter a lesion. This causes collisions with other ribosomes, which triggers the removal of the damage. Aldehydes are toxic chemicals produced by metabolic processes in the body. They are dangerous because they bind to and crosslink biological macromolecules like DNA, RNA, and proteins. Crosslinking damage to DNA must be repaired by the cell to prevent premature ageing and cancer. However, whether and how cells detect and repair single-stranded RNA cross-linking damage was previously unknown.

Using this novel experimental system, the researchers uncovered a previously unknown mechanism by which the ribosome can act as a sensor for crosslinking damage. Ribosomes run along the messenger molecule mRNA to translate the information stored in the mRNA into proteins.

Rise in temperature increases death rate in cardiovascular patients, warns top expert

NEW DELHI: Amid intense heatwave conditions in the country, long exposure to the sun can lead to an increase in the death rate in cardiovascular patients.



Speaking to ANI on heatwave, Interventional Cardiology Fortis Escorts Heart Institute, Executive Director Dr Atul Mathur said, "Our country is facing aggressive temperatures. Due to this, people can face issues related to the cardiovascular system. If you are not drinking enough water, then your body will be dehydrated. For those who have pre-existing heart issues, their BP becomes high... The main concern is dehydration. So, everyone should regularly drink water to keep themselves hydrated. Senior citizens should avoid going out during peak hours." Mathur further said, "There is a slight increase in heart attack cases. Among them, most of the patients are coming with low BP... you cannot attribute the heart attacks that are

coming only to heat, but we are seeing heart attack patients also coming into the hospital, which is slightly more than normal. Generally, heart attack cases increase in winter but currently due to heat waves people are coming to the hospital with low BP problems."

According to the India Meteorological Department, heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are very likely in few parts of Punjab, Haryana-Chandigarh-Delhi, West Rajasthan, isolated pockets of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and heatwave conditions are very likely in few parts of Uttar Pradesh, East Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, isolated pockets of Jammu division, Himachal Pradesh, Vidarbha, and Chhattisgarh

AI systems must be tested on diverse, population-scale datasets before deployment: NHA CEO

New Delhi: Artificial intelligence models in healthcare must be tested on large and diverse population datasets before being deployed on the ground to ensure trust, accuracy and inclusion, National Health Authority (NHA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, said on Sunday.

Speaking at the Federated Intelligence Hackathon on Health AI, organised as a pre-event to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at IIT Kanpur, Dr Barnwal said India is now moving from experimentation to building benchmarked and reliable AI models for healthcare.

He stressed that federated and consent-driven AI systems allow innovation to scale without centralising sensitive health data, thereby protecting privacy and strengthening public trust.

Referring to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the Ayushman Bharat



Digital Mission (ABDM), he said AI solutions must be context-ready and reflect India's demographic and regional diversity. The national-level hackathon was organised by the National Health Authority in collaboration with the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science (NIRDHDS) and IIT Kanpur. It was held from January 19 to January 24, 2026, with a focus on developing secure, privacy-preserving and scalable

Digital Public Goods for Health AI. The inaugural session also saw addresses by Prof Sandeep Verma, Head of the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology, IIT Kanpur Director Manindra Agrawal, and Ritu Maheshwari, Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare and State Mission Director, ABDM-Uttar Pradesh. The speakers highlighted the growing role of technology, research institutions and governments in

shaping India's digital health ecosystem.

Dr R S Sharma, Distinguished Visiting Professor at IIT Kanpur and former CEO of the National Health Authority, said Digital Public Infrastructure and interoperable Digital Public Goods are key to building secure, scalable and citizen-centric health data systems.

He underlined that such frameworks ensure both innovation and accountability. Vivek Raghavan, CEO and Co-founder of SarvamAI, spoke about the importance of India's layered digital health architecture in enabling AI-driven healthcare at both population and individual levels. He said high-quality data, strong privacy safeguards and security are essential for effective AI adoption. He also stressed the need for indigenous, open-source AI models to ensure local AI sovereignty and reduce dependence on external systems.

Vitamin D medicine do not protect children from bone fractures : Study

A large clinical research sponsored by Queen Mary University of London and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health discovered that vitamin D supplementation do not strengthen bone strength or prevent bone fractures in vitamin D-deficient youngsters. The findings call into question widely held beliefs about vitamin D's benefits on bone health.

Around one-third of children have at least one fracture before the age of 18. This is a major global health issue, as childhood fractures can lead to life years of disability and/or poor quality of life. The potential for vitamin D supplements to improve bone strength has attracted growing interest in recent years, based on vitamin D's role in promoting bone mineralisation. However, clinical trials designed to test whether vitamin D supplements can prevent bone fractures in children have not previously been conducted.

Working with partners in Mongolia, a setting with a particularly high fracture burden and where vitamin D deficiency is highly prevalent, researchers from Queen



"It is also important to note that children who were found to have rickets during screening for the trial were excluded from participation, as it would not have been ethical to offer them placebo (dummy medication)."

Mary and Harvard conducted a clinical trial to determine if vitamin D supplementation would decrease risk of bone fractures or increase bone strength in schoolchildren. The study, published today (1 December) in *Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology*, is the largest randomised controlled trial of vitamin D supplementation ever conducted in children. Over the course of three years, 8,851 schoolchildren aged 6-13 living in Mongolia received a weekly oral dose of vitamin D supplementation. 95.5% of participants had vitamin D deficiency

at baseline, and study supplements were highly effective in boosting vitamin D levels into the normal range. However, they had no effect on fracture risk or on bone strength, measured in a subset of 1,438 participants using quantitative ultrasound. The trial findings are likely to prompt scientists, doctors and public health specialists to re-consider the effects of vitamin D supplements on bone health.

Dr Ganmaa Davaasambu, Associate Professor at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health,

said: "The absence of any effect of sustained, generous vitamin D supplementation on fracture risk or bone strength in vitamin D deficient children is striking. In adults, vitamin D supplementation works best for fracture prevention when calcium is given at the same time - so the fact that we did not offer calcium alongside vitamin D to trial participants may explain the null findings from this study."

Professor Adrian Martineau, Lead of the Centre for Immunobiology at Queen Mary University of London, added:

"It is also important to note that children who were found to have rickets during screening for the trial were excluded from participation, as it would not have been ethical to offer them placebo (dummy medication)."

Thus, our findings only have relevance for children with low vitamin D status who have not developed bone complications. The importance of adequate vitamin D intake for prevention of rickets should not be ignored, and UK government guidance recommending a daily intake of 400 IU vitamin D remains

Hotter weather due to climate change could lead to more mosquitos: Study

VIRGINIA [US]: A recent study conducted by Virginia Commonwealth University scientists found that a warmer environment may result in more mosquitos as predators struggle to maintain their number.

As the cover feature in *Ecology*, a journal published by the Ecological Society of America, the study -- "Warming and Top-Down Control of Stage-Structured Prey: Linking Theory to Patterns in Natural Systems" -- found that rising temperatures, often linked to climate change, can make predators of mosquito larvae less effective at controlling mosquito populations.

Warmer temperatures accelerate the development time of larvae, leading to a smaller window of time for dragonflies could eat them.

This means there could be nearly twice as many mosquito larvae that make it to adulthood in the study area. The researchers looked at riverine rock pools at Belle Isle along the James River in Richmond and found that warmer temperature pools had more aquatic mosquito larvae, even when their predators that naturally control the populations were present. The native rock pool mosquito is not an important disease vector, but it is one of the few local mosquitos that doesn't have to feed



as an adult to lay eggs. So the findings might apply to similar taxa, like the invasive Asian rock pool mosquito. "We might see larger populations of everyone's least favorite bug, mosquitos. While the mosquito larvae we studied here [are] the North American rock pool mosquito, these findings likely apply to species of mosquito that do act as vectors for diseases like West

Nile or even Zika virus," said Andrew T Davidson, PhD, lead researcher on the study. He conducted the research through the PhD program in VCU's Center for Integrative Life Sciences Education. Predators help stabilize ecosystems and food webs, and the study looked at predator-prey interaction between dragonfly nymphs and mosquito larvae. Before fieldwork, the research was rooted in concepts of thermal physiology and short-term lab experiments that yielded predictive models of the relationship between predators, prey and temperature in the field. The field study then tested the models in a completely natural environment. The study builds on Davidson's earlier research in Functional Ecology as well as work by lab mate C. Ryland Stunkle and the rest of the VCU rock pool team. The team also acknowledges the collaborative support of professor Brian Byrd of Western Carolina University's College of Health and Human Sciences. The recent work led by Davidson was part of a larger National Science Foundation grant that has involved scientists from VCU, the University of Richmond, Radford University, Western Carolina University and Eastern Carolina University. The collaborative award of nearly USD 1 million has included nearly USD 400,000 for VCU.

Ebola cases in DR Congo rise to 689

MI News Service, Kinshasa: The number of confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has risen to 689, including 139 deaths, according to the latest situation report released by the country's health authorities.

A total of 17 new confirmed cases, including five deaths, were reported on Thursday, all in the eastern province of Ituri, the report said. The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, has affected 29 health zones across three eastern provinces, namely Ituri, North Kivu and South Kivu. A total of 168 suspected cases, including 64 deaths, had been reported as of Thursday.

The report also highlighted several operational challenges, including reluctance to undergo post-mortem swabbing, insufficient capacity in Ebola treatment centers, shortages of infection prevention and control materials in North Kivu, weak alert reporting across the three provinces, and a fund-



ing gap of \$21.5 million.

Two Ebola-related deaths have been reported in a camp for internally displaced people in Ituri, according to a report released on Thursday by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

It is worth to mention that the current outbreak, officially declared on May 15 by the DRC's health ministry, is the country's 17th Ebola outbreak since the virus was identified in 1976.

An Ebola outbreak was confirmed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and in Uganda in May 2026. The Bundibugyo species of Ebola involved is one for which there is no vaccine or specific treatment, though work is ongoing to test promising candidates. The outbreak is occurring in a challenging context: humanitarian crisis and a remote and densely populated area, combined with insecurity and high population and

trade movements. It is worth to mention that Ebola disease first occurred in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks: one outbreak was of Sudan virus disease in Nzara in what is now South Sudan, and the other outbreak was of Ebola virus disease in Yambuku, in what is now the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The latter occurred in a village near the Ebola River, from which the disease takes its name.

Deal with US closer than ever, says Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's foreign minister Abbas Araghchi said Friday that a deal with the United States to end the Middle East war was closer than ever, as a senior US official and key mediator Pakistan both expressed mounting optimism for an elusive agreement.

Publicly, however, the warring sides' negotiating positions remain far apart, with Iranian state media publishing a breakdown of what was purportedly on the table that stood sharply at odds with Washington's longstanding red lines.

Araghchi's statement came shortly after US President Donald Trump lashed out at Iran accusing it of negotiating in bad faith following the Iranian media reports.

In a social media post, Trump dismissed the Iranian accounts as having "NOTHING to do with the terms that were agreed to, in writing".

"Very dishonorable



people to deal with," he continued. "They better get their act together, and FAST!"

But the Iranian minister appeared to play down the row.

"The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer," he wrote in a social media post, referring to the Pakistani capital that hosted previous US-Iran talks.

"Pending its finalization, the media should refrain from entering speculation about its content," he added.

Trump later posted a screenshot of Araghchi's

message on his own feed.

Disputing Trump's "bad faith" accusation, foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said an agreement had now been reached with Washington "on most points."

He added that a meeting was also currently underway in Iran to finalise a consensus.

"We are in the last phases of arriving at a conclusion," he said.

Over weeks of halting negotiations -- marked by threats and exchanges of fire despite an April truce -- President Trump has re-

peatedly insisted that a deal was all but signed, only for talks to drag on. The US president had repeated that assertion on Thursday.

Meanwhile Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, whose country has been a key mediator since the initial talks, confirmed that "a final, agreed-upon text of the peace deal has been reached."

"Peace has never been as close as it is now," Sharif said, while acknowledging "incessant misinformation" surrounding the deal.

A senior US official also voiced optimism that the parties would be "signing this agreement over the next few days".

"If I were to give you a confidence that we were going to be signing this agreement, I maybe would have said 75 percent this morning, it's probably more like 80-85 percent now, but it's not 100 percent," the official added.

7 Bangladeshi nationals held for staying illegally in Hyderabad

MI News Service, Hyderabad: In a joint operation, the Special Operations Team (SOT), Kukatapally Zone, and Jeedimetla police apprehended seven Bangladeshi nationals who were allegedly residing illegally in the city without valid travel documents.

Acting on credible information and intelligence inputs that a few Bangladeshi nationals were staying in a rented house in the HAL area of Gajulararam under the limits of Jeedimetla police station, a police team led by the Station House Officer (SHO) conducted a search operation at the premises.

During the raid, seven Bangladeshi nationals were found residing in the house. On verification, police found that none of them possessed valid passports, visas or any other documents authorising their stay in India.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the individuals had allegedly



entered India illegally and had been residing unlawfully in different parts of the country before reaching Hyderabad, said G Mahesh, SHO Jeedimetla.

All seven persons were taken into custody. Following directions issued by the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Quthbullapur Zone, and senior police officials, necessary detention and restriction-on-movement orders were obtained against them.

The apprehended individuals are being shifted to the Deportation Centre at Jogipet in Medak district.

Police said their deportation process has been initiated in accordance with legal procedures. After completion of the required formalities and verification by the competent authorities, they will be deported to Bangladesh and repatriated to their respective places of origin.

Police officials said efforts are being intensified to identify and take action against foreign nationals residing illegally in the city and urged citizens to share information about any such suspicious activity with law enforcement agencies.

Three Indian seafarers dead in US strike; Iran demands global action against Washington

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran on Friday, June 12, sharply criticized the United States following a military strike on a commercial vessel in the Gulf of Oman that resulted in the deaths of three Indian seafarers. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei described the attack as an act of "armed robbery and state piracy," accusing Washington of endangering international peace and maritime security.

In a post on X, Baqaei expressed condolences to the families of the victims as well as to the people and government of India. He urged the international community to hold the United States accountable, arguing that such actions threaten freedom of navigation and global stability.

The remarks came a day after Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal confirmed that three Indian crew members, earlier reported missing after the strike, had been found dead. The victims were identified as Aditya Sharma, a deck cadet from Himachal Pradesh; Shivanand Chaurasiya, an engine fitter from Uttar



Pradesh; and chief engineer Suresh Patnaala from Andhra Pradesh.

India has lodged a strong protest against the attack, with the Ministry of External Affairs describing assaults on commercial shipping in the region as deeply concerning.

New Delhi also summoned US diplomat Jason Meeks and formally conveyed its objections to Washington. Officials said 21 of the 24 Indian crew members aboard the vessel were rescued and reiterated India's call for restraint and a diplomatic resolution to escalating tensions in the Gulf.

Russian forces conduct 7 strikes on Ukrainian military infrastructure: defense ministry

MI News Service, Moscow: Russian forces carried out seven retaliatory strikes over the past week targeting infrastructure facilities used by the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Russian Defense Ministry said Friday.

"Between June 6 and June 12, ... the Russian forces delivered two massive strikes and five group strikes employing high-precision weapons and attack drones," the defense ministry said in a briefing.

The ministry added that the strikes successfully hit fuel and energy infrastructure, transport and port facilities utilized by the Ukrainian forces, military airfields, ammunition depots, sites for the assembly, storage, preparation and launch of long-range drones and



unmanned boats, as well as temporary deployment hubs housing Ukrainian armed units and foreign mercenaries.

"Air defense systems shot down 74 guided aerial bombs, 11 US-made HIMARS rockets, four Flamingo ground-launched cruise missiles, three Neptune long-range guided missiles, and 4,776 fixed-wing unmanned aerial vehicles," the ministry said.

PM Modi has time for celebrations, but not to condemn Indians' deaths: Owaisi

MI News Service, Hyderabad: AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi has sharply criticised the BJP-led central government following the death of three Indian seafarers in a United States military strike on a commercial vessel off the coast of Oman. Accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi of remaining silent on the incident, Owaisi said the government has failed in its primary duty of protecting Indian citizens.

In a post on X, Owaisi expressed grief over the deaths and questioned the government's response. "Saving the lives of Indians is the first duty of the government. It is sad and distressing that the prime minister has time for celebrations but not for condemning the US military for killing Indians," he said.

The Hyderabad MP further alleged that the Modi government has repeatedly failed to safeguard Indian nationals abroad. Referring to reports of Indians being recruited by Russia for military service, Owaisi claimed that the government has been unable to prevent such incidents.

He also criticised the government's handling of issues involving China, alleging that authorities avoid references to China and the Galwan Valley clash in films and public discourse. "As a country, we deserve better than this," he said.

India has confirmed that three merchant vessels with Indian crew members were attacked by US forces near Oman, resulting in three deaths, and said it has strongly raised the matter with Washington.

UAE denies reports of fund transfers to Iran

MI News Service, Dubai: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Saturday denied media reports alleging that funds had been transferred from the UAE to Iran, including claims involving \$3 billion U.S. dollars.

In a statement, the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the allegations were "entirely false and unfounded," adding that no frozen Iranian funds had been released, transferred or facilitated through the UAE.

The denial came after some international media outlets, citing unnamed sources, reported that the UAE had agreed to unlock billions of dollars for Iran as part of broader efforts to end the U.S.-Israeli conflict with Iran. The reports cited differing estimates, saying the arrangement involved between 10 billion and 20 billion dollars, with at least 3 billion dollars already made available, possibly in exchange for a halt to Iranian attacks on the UAE.

Since the United States and Israel launched massive attacks on Iran on Feb. 28, the UAE has been targeted by rounds of Iranian strikes, with the latest reported on May 4-5.

Israeli military to remain in "security zones" in Syria, Lebanon, Gaza: defense minister



MI News Service, Jerusalem: Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz said on Friday that the Israeli military will not withdraw from the "security zones" it holds in Lebanon, Syria and Gaza.

In a statement, Katz framed the decision as a response to threats and a lesson from the Oct. 7, 2023 Hamas attack, saying that the military will continue to protect Israel's borders and citizens.

He added that the Israeli army will also not withdraw from evacuated refugee camps in the northern West Bank, and the move could be ex-

panded to additional "terror" camps if necessary.

Regarding ongoing negotiations between the United States and Iran, Katz said that Israel expects U.S. President Donald Trump to uphold shared U.S.-Israeli interests in preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and curbing Tehran's missile program and regional "proxies."

He noted that Israel must retain the ability to act "independently" to achieve that goal, and that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and he have instructed the military to prepare accordingly.

UN Security Council condemns killing of peacekeeper in Lebanon

MI News Service, United Nations: UN Security Council members on Friday condemned the killing of a Serbian peacekeeper from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on June 4.

According to a Security Council press statement, the peacekeeper died from critical injuries sustained when mortar shells struck his position, and two other peacekeepers were injured.

Council members called on the United Nations to swiftly investigate the attack through UNIFIL, and called for those responsible for the attack to be held accountable without delay.

Seven UNIFIL peacekeepers have been killed and several others wounded while performing their duties in southern Lebanon since hostilities escalated on March 2.

Council members reaffirmed their full support for UNIFIL and urged all parties to take all measures to respect the safety and security of UNIFIL personnel and premises, as well as the freedom of movement of the mission.

BRICS nation adopt Urban Ministerial Declaration, reaffirming shared commitment for people centric development

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a significant step toward strengthening urban cooperation, member countries at the 13th BRICS Urbanisation Forum adopted the Urban Ministerial Declaration, reaffirming their shared commitment to building inclusive, sustainable, resilient, and people-centred urban development.

The declaration emerged as the key outcome of the forum, where representatives from BRICS nations discussed pressing urban challenges and explored collaborative solutions for the future of rapidly growing cities. The member nations emphasized that urban development must focus on improving the quality of life for citizens while ensuring equitable access to essential services, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities.

The two-day forum concluded on Friday. The event was convened by



the ministry of housing and urban affairs under India's BRICS chairship. Delegations from Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South America and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) participated in the Forum, alongside India as the host nation.

While briefing about the outcome, Lal said that at the Forum delegations highlighted a wide range of national initiatives and policy approaches. These included programmes for affordable housing, slum upgrading, public transport, climate adaptation,

sustainable infrastructure, municipal reforms, solid waste management and use of technology in urban governance.

To take forward the learnings of the Forum, India proposed establishment of the "BRICS Urban Research and Knowledge Network", which was appreciated by the member nations. This Network will be a chair-led institutionally connected knowledge mechanism for applied urban research knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning.

The Network will support systematic knowl-

edge-sharing and mutual learning, while helping bridge the gap between policy and implementation through the exchange of practical solutions, city-level experiences and operational lessons. Operating through a virtual, low-cost and flexible model, the Network will be coordinated each year by the lead institution of the BRICS Chair country, with activities and outputs handed over to the next Chairship," said Lal.

A major theme of the discussions was climate resilience, which delegates identified as a critical urban priority. Participants noted that cities are increasingly facing threats from extreme heat, flooding, water scarcity, air pollution, coastal risks, and other climate-related hazards. The forum called for integrating climate considerations into urban planning, infrastructure development, housing, land use, mobility, and service delivery systems.

8 killed in train car collision east of Cairo

MI News Service, Cairo: Eight people were killed on Friday when a train collided with a private car at an unauthorized railway crossing in Egypt's eastern province of Suez, authorities said.

The accident occurred in the Shaloufa area of El-Ganayen district, east of Cairo, when a train traveling on the Suez-Ismailla line struck a car that was "illegally" crossing the tracks, the Suez Governorate said in a statement.

The crash sparked a fire, which civil defense forces managed to extinguish.

The public prosecution has launched an investigation into the accident.

Egypt's railway network has long struggled with outdated equipment and poor management, leading to frequent accidents. The country's deadliest rail disaster occurred in 2002, when a fire on a Cairo-Luxor train in Giza's Ayyat district killed over 380 people.



FIFA WORLD CUP

2026
US, MEXICO, CANADA

Morning India

BALOGUN BRACE POWERS DOMINANT USA TO 4-1 VICTORY OVER PARAGUAY IN OPENER

CALIFORNIA: Folarin Balogun struck twice as the United States launched their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign in emphatic fashion, cruising to a 4-1 victory over Paraguay in their Group D clash at SoFi Stadium in California on Saturday.

Playing a World Cup match at home for the first time since 1994, the co-hosts took control from the start and rarely let Paraguay get into the game. An early own goal from Damian Bobadilla set the tone. Then, Balogun's two goals in the first half put Mauricio Pochettino's team firmly in charge.

Paraguay managed to score through Mauricio in the second half, but Gio Reyna's fantastic goal in stoppage time ensured the Americans kicked off their tournament with a solid win and three important points.

The United States had the perfect start just seven minutes in. Paraguay midfielder Bobadilla accidentally turned Weston McKennie's dangerous pass into his own net while trying to clear the ball.

This early goal allowed the hosts to dominate possession and put pressure on the South American team. Paraguay found it hard to contain the movement and creativity of the American attack, with Christian Pulisic involved in most of the threatening plays.

Balogun thought he had scored again before the half-hour mark, but his goal was ruled offside. He didn't have to wait long to find the net. In the 31st minute, Pulisic



threaded a well-placed pass through the Paraguay defense, and Balogun calmly finished it first time to make it 2-0.

Balogun then delivered the goal of the match in first-half stoppage time. After receiving a pass from Malik Tillman on the right side of the area, Balogun skillfully cut inside two defenders and curled a beautiful shot into the top corner, giving the United States a commanding 3-0 lead at half-time.

Pulisic was substituted at halftime by Pochettino. While the Americans created fewer chances after the break, they stayed in control.

Paraguay showed more urgency in the second half and cut the deficit in the 74th minute. Julio Enciso reacted quickly to a loose ball and set up Mauricio, who beat goalkeeper Matt Freese with a low shot, giving his team a glimmer of hope.

However, any comeback hopes were dashed quickly. Substitute Ricardo Pepi nearly restored the three-goal lead moments later but was stopped by goalkeeper Orlando Gil.

Reyna eventually sealed the win deep into stoppage time, finishing off a quick counterattack with an impressive outside-of-the-boot shot that flew past Gil and into the net. This victory temporarily puts the United States at the top of Group D, ahead of Türkiye's match against Australia later on Saturday. The hosts will next face Australia in Seattle on June 19, while Paraguay will try to bounce back against Türkiye on the same day.



Larin rescues Canada to historic first point with draw against Bosnia

TORONTO: Substitute Cyle Larin scored within minutes of coming on to rescue Canada from defeat and secure a historic 1-1 draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina in their opening Group B match on Friday, earning the World Cup co-hosts their first-ever point at the tournament.

Playing in front of a packed home crowd at Toronto Stadium, Canada looked set to suffer a seventh consecutive World Cup defeat after falling behind in the first half. However, Larin came off the bench in the 76th minute and made an immediate impact.

"It was special for me. I was ready to come and help the team," said Larin. "I thought the goals would come. I score when Canada needs me, and always have done."

He scored the equalizer just two minutes later, igniting celebrations among the sea of red-clad supporters. This goal was a significant moment for Canadian football, as it became the country's first World Cup goal scored on home soil.

Bosnia struck first in the 21st minute. Jovo Lukic guided home a flick-on from a corner to score his

first international goal and give the Dragons the lead. Canada responded well and created several opportunities but struggled to finish. Jonathan David, the country's all-time leading scorer, missed a great chance when he shot straight at goalkeeper Nikola Vasilj.

"The subs came on and made a big difference. The tempo got higher, and we could see that they were fading," said Canada coach Jesse Marsch. "So, I told them that we've got them now. It's time to put your foot on the jugular and go for the goal."

The hosts came agonizingly close to leveling shortly after halftime. Richie Laryea raced through on goal in the 53rd minute and seemed certain to score, only for Sead Kolasinac to make a remarkable goal-line play, deflecting the ball onto the crossbar and away from danger.

POLICE PROBE THEFT OF ENGLAND TRAINING EQUIPMENT IN KANSAS CITY: REPORT

England's preparations for the FIFA World Cup have suffered a setback after training equipment being transported to the team's base in Kansas City was reportedly stolen, said a report.

The incident is understood to have occurred while equipment was being transferred from England's pre-tournament training base in Florida to Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City, where the team is set to start training once they land on Saturday.

Local police confirmed that the case has been opened as a theft investigation.

"We are investigating a possible theft of equipment from a team vehicle that arrived in Kansas City with items missing this evening," they said in a statement, as reported by the BBC.

"The investigation is ongoing. Two subjects of interest were taken into custody pending further investigation."

A range of footballs and boots are believed to have been taken as the vehicle being used to transport equipment was broken into, according to the BBC report. The alleged incident has occurred only days before England's World Cup campaign.

SUN, JUNE 14

B	Qatar	vs	Switzerland	12:30 AM	Santa Clara
C	Brazil	vs	Morocco	3:30 AM	New Jersey
C	Haiti	vs	Scotland	6:30 AM	Foxborough
D	Australia	vs	Turkey	9:30 AM	Vancouver
E	Germany	vs	Curaçao	10:30 PM	Houston

Neymar set to miss Brazil's opener, Ancelotti hopeful of group-stage return

NEW JERSEY: Brazil will be without Neymar for their opening FIFA World Cup group-stage match against Morocco, with coach Carlo Ancelotti admitting the superstar forward could miss the entire group phase as he continues his recovery from a calf injury.

Speaking before Saturday's matchup against the 2022 World Cup semi-finalists in New Jersey, Ancelotti mentioned that Neymar is making progress but is not ready to return yet.

"He is working hard to be fit again as quickly as possible. We hope he can return to full training next week," Ancelotti said.

Brazil also faces Haiti on June

19 and Scotland on June 24 in Group F. However, the coach did not guarantee Neymar's availability for either game.

The 34-year-old Santos striker was absent from training again on Friday and has not played since being unexpectedly called up by Ancelotti. Neymar also missed Brazil's warm-up matches against Panama and Egypt as he continued his rehabilitation from the injury.

Despite concerns about his fitness, Ancelotti explained why he included the veteran in his World Cup squad. "He can be a good example for the younger players in our squad," the Italian said.

Ancelotti, who is the first non-

Brazilian manager to lead the five-time world champions, believes Neymar's influence goes beyond his on-field performance. His experience is valuable for a squad aiming for a record-extending sixth World Cup title.

Brazil winger Vinicius Júnior also expressed his admiration for his international teammate and hopes to see him back soon. "He inspires me. I wish him a speedy recovery and I am looking forward to him finally being back on the pitch," Vinicius said.

Morocco, however, insists that Neymar's absence will not change their preparations for the tournament opener. Coach Mohamed Ouahbi stated that his

team had prepared for both situations. "We prepared for a match with and without Neymar. Nothing changes for us," the 49-year-old said.

Morocco captain Achraf Hakimi admitted he was disappointed at the chance of not facing one of football's biggest stars. "I want to play against the best players, and Neymar is among the best," said the Paris Saint-Germain defender and Champions League winner.

While Ancelotti remains hopeful about having the forward available later in the tournament, Brazil will need to manage their opening matches without one of their most impactful players.

TIM REAM'S YELLOW CARD OVERTURNED AFTE VAR CONFUSION

CALIFORNIA: Tim Ream found himself at the centre of a historic VAR moment as the United States launched their FIFA World Cup campaign with a commanding 4-1 victory over Paraguay in Group D at SoFi Stadium on Saturday. The 38-year-old veteran defender was originally yellow-carded by Dutch referee Danny Makkelie, who appeared to have brought down Paraguay captain Miguel Almiron during the second half. However, in a completely unprecedented turn of events, the VAR intervened once the free kick had been taken and confusion ensued between both the fans.



WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH AUSTRALIA VS TURKEY, KNOW DETAILS

Australia will start their campaign in the FIFA World Cup 2026 against Turkey in the second match of Group D, in which the hosts USA have made a great start, defeating Paraguay by 4-1 in their campaign opener. Australia is competing at the global finals for a sixth consecutive edition, while Turkey are making their third appearance and their first since they stormed all the way to the semi-finals at Korea/Japan 2002.



WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH BRAZIL VS MOROCCO, KNOW ALL DETAILS

Brazil will kick off their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign against Morocco, likely the highlight fixture of the opening round. Group C also includes Haiti and Scotland, but Brazil and Morocco are regarded as the strongest teams and favourites for direct passage to the Round of 32. Head coach Carlo Ancelotti leads a star-studded Brazilian team with high expectations, while Morocco, under Mohamed Ouahbi.



NORA FATEHI STARS IN THE SECOND OPENING CEREMONY AT TORONTO

The maiden FIFA World Cup in Canada started on Friday with a star-studded second opening ceremony ahead of the Group B match between co-hosts Canada and Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto. Bollywood actor and dancer Nora Fatehi was the headline attraction, performing the official World Cup song 'Siir Siir'. Canada is hosting the FIFA World Cup for the first time in history, and begin their highly-anticipated campaign.



JUDE BELLINGHAM REFLECTS ON ENGLAND'S EURO 2024 STRUGGLES

As he gears up for the FIFA World Cup 2026, England midfielder Jude Bellingham has admitted the national team struggled with off-field issues during UEFA Euro 2024, revealing that the squad lacked the togetherness needed despite reaching the final under former manager Gareth Southgate. Reflecting on England's campaign in Germany, where they reached the final but came under scrutiny for a series of underwhelming show.