

'None will be spared for attempting to storm Falta police station to free Jahangir Khan' : Suvendu Adhikari

MI News Service, Falta: Giving a stern message, West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday said stringent action would be taken against those involved in the alleged attempt to storm the Falta Police Station in South 24 Parganas district and free jailed TMC leader Jahangir Khan on Tuesday.

Addressing a 'Janakalyan Shivir', a state government's outreach programme, here in Falta, on the southern outskirts of the city, the Chief minister said all those seen in the purported videos of the attack on police personnel and paramilitary forces would not be spared under any circumstances.

"I was in Kurseong on Tuesday. I saw on television that some people, under the leadership of the mafia's wife, tried to attack police personnel and paramilitary forces. The rule of law has been established in Falta. No matter how big a mafia is, the BJP government will teach them a lesson," he said.

On Tuesday, a group of people had staged a protest in Falta, demanding the release of Khan. The demonstration was allegedly led by his wife, and the police and paramilitary forces dispersed the crowd.

Videos purportedly showing protesters fleeing and jumping into nearby water bodies after being chased by the police went viral on social media.

"Those seen in the videos would not be spared. I am instructing the Superintendent of police from this stage to book those involved in anti-state activities under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. They must be punished in such a way that no one can dare to attack police, government employees or paramilitary forces again," Suvendu Adhikari said.

Khan, who called himself 'Pushpa' — inspired by the Allu Arjun-starrer Telugu blockbuster, was arrested near the India-Nepal border in north Bengal on June 8 after he was booked under various charges, including extortion.

"Not only jail, but the properties of those who have carried out the attack will be confiscated and put up for auction. Our double-engine government will ensure this. Establishing the rule of law is our objective," the Chief minister said.

He also asserted that his government would not tolerate any

form of lawlessness and urged people to refrain from taking the law into their own hands.

Incidentally, eight people have so far been arrested in connection with the incident, and the police named Khan's wife as the alleged mastermind behind the attack and allegedly attempting to storm the local police station to free jailed TMC leader Jahangir Khan.

Acting on specific intelligence inputs, security personnel were deployed in advance to prevent any attempt to attack the police station during a protest over Khan's arrest on Tuesday, said a senior police officer.

"We had received information that a section of local residents and followers of Jahangir was planning to storm the police station during the demonstration and forcibly free the accused. Adequate security arrangements had been made in advance, and prompt action by police and central forces foiled the attempt," he added.

Supporters of Khan, who remains in judicial custody, gathered in large numbers in Falta's Shatol Kolsa area and held demonstrations before marching towards the police station.

Investigators alleged that the protesters were attempting to secure Khan's release by force and create unrest in the area. Tensions escalated as the crowd advanced from outside Khan's residence towards the police station, about one KM away.

Police claimed that Khan's wife had been mobilising supporters since Monday. An FIR has been registered against her in connection with the incident.

According to investigators, several complaints against Khan's wife have emerged during the probe.

The officer indicated that further legal action, including her possible arrest, could follow depending on the outcome of the investigation.

Videos purportedly showing protesters fleeing and jumping into nearby water bodies while being chased by police have gone viral on social media.

Since Khan's arrest, police have carried out a series of operations in Falta aimed at dismantling his alleged criminal network and restoring law and order in the region.

Police said the investigation is ongoing and further arrests may follow.

PM Modi rebuilt India as 'bastion of security' in 12 years: Amit Shah



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah

MI News Service, New Delhi: Hailing the 12 years of Narendra Modi government, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said the country has been rebuilt as a "bastion of security" that shields its citizens and responds firmly to threats during this period.

In a post on X, Shah said that under the Modi government's leadership, India has set examples of its resolute commitment to national security for the world to admire.

"In the 12 years of the Modi government, our nation has been rebuilt as a bastion of security that shields the citizens and unleashes destruction upon its enemies," Shah said.

"Whether it is responding to enemies across the border with the firepower of surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor; abrogating Article 370; eradicating Naxalism; or fortifying internal security with over 12 accords in the Northeast, India has set examples of its resolute commitment to national security for the world to admire," Shah said.

He said India's pride, remov-

ing a 'mentality of servitude' and ushering in a cultural renaissance. Comparing PM Modi's tenure with that of Jawaharlal Nehru, highlighting political stability, robust defence policies and democratic endorsement. Shah underscored achievements such as the new Parliament building, three new criminal laws, and the National Education Policy enabling technical education in Indian languages.

In these 12 years, on one hand, the country's borders were secured. Article 370 was abrogated from Kashmir, the Ram Temple was built, Naxalism was eradicated, and terrorism was reined in with a befitting response to every terror incident; on the other hand, the collective strength of the nation learned to take pride in its heritage, culture, and capabilities by emerging from feelings of inferiority, he said.

Analysts note PM Modi's governance blends economic and developmental policies with civilisational themes, exemplified by initiatives like 'Vikas bhi, Virasat bhi'. Symbolic acts such as renaming public spaces, promoting mother-tongue education, and commemorating historical events reflect his emphasis on heritage alongside modernisation. International Yoga Day, Atmanirbhar Bharat, and Vocal for Local campaigns illustrate the integration of cultural pride with operational efficiency.

Political leaders across parties hailed PM Modi's record tenure as a testament to public trust and

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Suvendu Adhikari, other ministers clean Ganga ghat as part of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari with State Ministers Agnimitra Paul, Purnima Chakraborty at Mayer Ghat for cleanliness drive during the "Swachhata Se Swagat" campaign in Kolkata on Wednesday. PIC : Prabir Bhattacharya

MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari and several other members of the state cabinet, cleaned the wharf (ghat) of the River Ganga at Bagbazar in north Kolkata on Wednesday morning.

Since the formation of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led state government, the new cabinet, especially Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, has taken steps to make the various wharfs of the Ganga River pollution-free.

On Wednesday morning, the Chief Minister, accompanied by the state municipal affairs and urban development

minister Agnimitra Paul and the state commerce and industries minister Tapas Roy, reached the Ganga wharf at Bagbazar in North Kolkata at around 7 A.M..

Upon reaching Bagbazar Wharf, the Chief Minister first planted a tree. After that, he garlanded the idols in the temple there and performed puja.

After that, Agnimitra Paul and Tapas Roy joined him in cleaning the Ganga wharf there with brooms in hand. The Chief Minister said that such cleaning of different Ganga wharfs in the state will continue throughout the year to keep the river and wharfs free from garbage and pollution, the official

launch of which was made on Wednesday.

Incidentally, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be in Kolkata on June 21 to participate in a government programme to mark the International Yoga Day. The Prime Minister himself will take part in the main programme to perform Yoga at the Red Road in central Kolkata.

"Our main aim is to give the Prime Minister a beautiful and clean Bengal," said Suvendu Adhikari.

The Union government has a project christened "Namami Gange" to keep the river Ganga clean, a project in which PM Modi himself has partici-

ipated. Accordingly, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari followed the footsteps of the Prime Minister by cleaning the Ganga wharf with a broom, himself.

Earlier this month, Suvendu Adhikari also announced that the state government will complete the beautification and renovation of six wharfs along the Hooghly River in Kolkata and Howrah before Durga Puja in October.

The state cabinet under the Chief Minister's leadership had already launched an extensive restoration initiative for Kolkata's traditional Ganga wharfs, with a focus on infrastructure upgrades, improved amenities and riverfront beautification.

Finance minister Swapan Dasgupta calls on Nirmala Sitharaman before Budget

MI News Service, New Delhi / Kolkata: West Bengal Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta met with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and NITI Aayog Chairman Dr. Ashok Lahiri in New Delhi on Wednesday to discuss certain financial issues prior to the presentation of his maiden budget under the newly elected BJP government in the state on June 22.

The state Finance Minister's unexpected trip to the National capital just days before he is scheduled to table the state's inaugural budget has also sparked statewide anticipation of significant financial announcements and "surprises".

Dasgupta recently took charge of the state's finances with an initial strategy centered around plugging revenue leakages, recovering outstanding debts, and improving overall tax collection without placing new burdens on citizens.

While official transcripts of the exact financial requests or allocations were kept confidential, images and announcements of the Dr Swapan Dasgupta and Nirmala Sitharaman's interaction were heavily circulated by both the Union Minister's office and the local media.

The inaugural budget session of the BJP government here is set to commence in Kolkata on Thursday, with the full budget presentation slated for next week on June 22.

While details of the discussions were not disclosed, the interaction comes amid ongoing engagements between the Centre and states on financial, developmental and policy matters.

Swapan Dasgupta recently assumed charge as West Bengal's Finance Minister and has been involved in discussions related to the state's fiscal priorities and economic agenda.



West Bengal Finance Minister Dr. Swapan Dasgupta met Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi as part of a crucial consultation ahead of the state's upcoming Assembly budget session, focusing on fiscal support, economic revival roadmaps, and pending central dues. The meeting was held in New Delhi on Wednesday.

"It was lovely to meet the finance minister of WB and an old friend @ dr.swapanddasguptabjp at his residence. Had a lovely conversation with Swapan da and Reshmi di on the arts, crafts and culture of West Bengal. There is much to do for the new

government," says an official Finance ministry post.

The Bengal economy, it appears, needs some heavy lifting. The new Finance Minister has a plan. The immediate priority, says the first-time Minister, is to find ways to generate

revenue without placing any additional tax burden on ordinary people. According to him, the central challenge is to bring fresh revenue into the state economy and provide the financial oxygen needed to revive economic activity while ensuring that citizens are not forced to bear the cost through higher taxation.

Dasgupta believes that the state must be pulled out of its prolonged economic difficulties through a combination of financial discipline, investment, and institutional support.

To explain his vision, he referred to the famous Marshall Plan that helped rebuild Europe after the Second World War.

Following the war, the economies of West Germany and several other European nations had collapsed. In response, the United States launched a large-scale economic assistance programme under the leadership of then US Secretary of State George C Marshall. Through this initiative, financial aid, loans, technical assistance, and development support were extended to war-ravaged countries.

West Germany, in particular, used that assistance effectively and went on to achieve one of the most remarkable economic recoveries in modern history. Industrial production expanded, trade and commerce revived, employment opportunities increased significantly, and the country emerged as one of the strongest economies in Europe.

Drawing a parallel, Dasgupta argues that Bengal also requires a similar coordinated effort for economic revival. According to him, support from the Centre, access to funds from various financial institutions, and the proper implementation of central development schemes can together create what may be described as an internal "Marshall Plan" for the state.

15 lakh vehicles enter Shimla as tourists rush to hill resorts during summer holidays

MI News Service, Shimla: An unbelievable figure of about 1.5 million vehicles entered Shimla between May 1 and June 15, with police adopting a five-point strategy to tackle the summer tourist-rush.

With schools closing for summer holidays, tourists are making a beeline for destinations across Himachal Pradesh to get escape from the blistering heat in the plains on Noth India.

Burt this uninterrupted heavy tourist influx for the past one month has sparked frequent traffic jams along the highways and link-roads causing immense trouble for the local residents as well to the visitors.

According to hoteliers, average occupancy at almost tourist accommodation across Himachal Pradesh, specially at the higher regions which are still now blanketed by ice, stood at over 85 to 90 per cent during weekdays, rising to even 100 per cent on the weekend.

Among them is Lakarmandi which is a high-altitude mountain pass and key intersection in the Chamba district.

The route passing through the scenic region goes from Dalhousie to Khajjar — widely known as the "mini-Switzerland of India". In the absence of traffic, it takes about a hour to complete the journey, but now it takes about 10 to 12 hours on an average to cross this area because of the massive traffic snarls.

People caught in the jam for hours questioned the administration's rationale behind collecting various fees from tourists when even efficient traffic management can not be ensured in return.

Angru tourists from Bihar and Banaras said they were stuck in a jam for almost a day, but the authorities were "missing" and despite the huge influx of crowds every tourist season, there appears to be "no concrete plan for traffic management".

"We have spent so much money on this trip, but there are no toilets or water available and now, police have been deployed to regulate traffic," Vasundhara, a tourist from Bihar, said.

Locals pointed out that the volume of vehicles on the Dalhousie-Khajjar route rises steadily during the tourist season for several years now; yet, parking and traffic management facilities have not expanded proportionately. This is why prolonged traffic jams have become a common occurrence every season, they said.

Tourists and locals urged the administration to devise a long-term solutions — such as deploying additional police forces, implementing a better traffic plan and improving parking arrangements — to ensure smooth flow of vehicles.

The picturesque journey from Dhamamshala to Upper Dhamamshala (McLeod Ganj) in the Kangra district, once a pleasant 15-minute drive through the hills, was also fraught with jams of all sorts of vehicles over the weekend causing wide spread dischantment among the visitors.

The worsening gridlock has created alarming situations for emergency services. Ambulances transporting critically ill patients often find themselves trapped in bumper-to-bumper traffic, while government officials, school buses or vehicles and daily commuters face significant delays.

Locals said frustration among motorists due to such unbearable situation frequently leads to heated arguments and, at times, physical altercations on congested roads.

"Unless the number of vehicles entering Upper Dhamamshala is regulated, the situation will only worsen. Visitors are avoiding the area because of the congestion, and local businesses are suffering," Nilofer, a shopkeeper in McLeod Ganj, said.

Similarly, local transporter Abhay Dev said, "Many tourists are now reluctant to book trips to McLeod Ganj because they know they may spend hours stuck in traffic. This is directly affecting our livelihoods." Dhamamshala and McLeod Ganj attract thousands of domestic and international visitors every year, including pilgrims, spiritual seekers, trekkers, and tourists drawn by the presence of Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama and the scenic beauty of the Dhauladhar mountains.

Students Protest Over Alleged Extra Fee Collection at Government Girls' School in Nadia

MI News Service, Nadia : Tension prevailed in Nadia's Fulia on Tuesday after nearly 200 Class XI students of a government girls' school staged a demonstration outside the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO), alleging that the school authorities were demanding additional fees despite collecting money under various heads earlier.

The protesting students claimed that most of them come from middle-class and lower-middle-class families and had opted for a government school expecting affordable education and access to government-backed academic benefits. They alleged that the repeated demand for extra payments had placed an undue financial burden on their families. According to the students, they had raised the issue with the school administration on several occasions but received no satisfactory response. As a result,



they approached the local administration and organized a sit-in protest in front of the BDO office, raising slogans and demanding immediate intervention.

The students questioned the rationale behind charging additional fees in a government-run institution, arguing that such

practices could discourage economically weaker students from continuing their education. They expressed concern that increasing financial pressure could adversely affect the academic future of many girls.

As the protest gathered momentum, local administrative of-

ficials stepped in to defuse the situation. A meeting was subsequently held at the BDO office involving administrative representatives, school authorities and the agitating students. During the discussion, the students presented their grievances and sought clarification regarding the fee structure.

Officials assured the students that the matter would be examined thoroughly and appropriate steps would be taken after reviewing the allegations. The administration also appealed to all stakeholders to maintain calm while the issue is being investigated.

The incident has sparked considerable discussion in the area, with many residents closely watching the outcome. The protesting students have demanded a transparent resolution and safeguards to prevent similar disputes in the future.



Former India cricket captain and Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) President Sourav Ganguly met West Bengal Youth Services and Sports Minister Dr. Indranil Khan as part of a courtesy visit aimed at strengthening sports development initiatives in the state. The meeting was held at the minister's office in Kolkata on Wednesday.

RSPL Group marks 50 years of growth

MI News Service, Gurugram: RSPL Group, a FMCG conglomerate, marks 50 years of operations with a short film narrated by Rajat Kapoor. Founded by Muralidhar and Bimal Gyanchandani, RSPL began with Ghadi Detergent and now serves 32% of Indian households. The company has expanded to 24 manufacturing plants in India and has a presence in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia, diversifying into personal care, dairy, and renewable energy. Employing over 24,000 people, RSPL emphasizes sustainable practices and aims for further domestic and global growth while focusing on community initiatives and innovation.

Allegations, anxiety and a Hanging: Probe launched in Basirhat

MI News Service, North 24 parganas: The body of Babul Sandhukha (60), secretary of the state committee of the Trinamool-affiliated workers' organisation INTUC, was found hanging at his residence in Ward No. 11 on Tuesday morning, prompting a formal police investigation and an autopsy at the Basirhat Health District Morgue. Family members discovered Sandhukha after he failed to respond to knocks on his door. Forcibly entering the premises, they found him suspended by the neck from the ceiling and immediately alerted law enforcement. Basirhat police subsequently recovered the body and registered the case; investigations are underway to determine the precise circumstances that led to his death. Local sources and family members reported that Sandhukha had been under visible mental strain in recent days. Allegations of financial impropriety and extortion circulated in the neighbourhood, with claims that he had collected substantial sums from several auto-rickshaw drivers. Family members told reporters that he had remained largely confined to his home over the past few days and had exhibited signs of distress. "Investigations must uncover the truth behind this death," said Subir Sarkar, former vice-chairman of Ward No. 11. "There was both mental and political pressure."

Former Minister Manas Bhunia and Two Trinamool Leaders Accused of Cheating Rs 5 Lakh on Job Promise, Complaint Filed with Police

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A case of alleged fraud involving lakhs of rupees in the name of providing a job has surfaced in the Sabang area of West Medinipur district, creating a stir in political circles. A written complaint has been lodged at Sabang Police Station against former minister Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia and two Trinamool Congress leaders said to be close to him, accusing them of taking ₹5 lakh on the promise of securing employment. The complainant, Bikash Kumar Tung, a resident of Bishnupur Gram Panchayat No. 16 under the Sabang Assembly constituency, alleged that before the 2026 Assembly elections, his wife Manju Sahu Tung was assured of a job. According to the complaint, the job offer was arranged through the mediation of then minister Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia and Trinamool leaders Sheikh Abu Kalam Box and Bholanath De, in exchange for ₹5 lakh. The complaint states that on March 1, 2026, Manju Sahu Tung joined as a Steward under CISB Service Private Limited at the Temathani Irrigation Bungalow. Her workman registration number was CISB/WB-46. The family claims that she performed her duties regularly, but after only two months, she was informed on May 6 that her services had been terminated.

According to the complaint, the termination order was sent to her via WhatsApp. The family further stated that ₹10,747 was credited to her bank account as salary for the month of March. However, after the sudden loss of employment, the family has been facing severe mental and social distress. Bikash Kumar Tung alleged that his wife has been emotionally devastated by the incident and has fallen into deep depression. He expressed concern that the situation could worsen if timely action is not taken. Demanding a fair and impartial investigation, the family has filed a written complaint with Sabang Police Station. Sources said that police have initiated an inquiry based on the complaint. However, no official response has yet been received from former minister Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia or the two accused Trinamool leaders regarding the allegations. Local residents claim that since the complaint was filed, Dr. Manas Bhunia and the two Trinamool leaders have not been seen locally and are reportedly unavailable. Police have not officially confirmed this claim.



Explosion During JCB Excavation at Residence of Narayanagarh Block Youth Trinamool President; Police Launch Investigation

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A mysterious explosion in the Narayanagarh police station area of West Medinipur district has created panic and sparked widespread concern. The explosion occurred while excavation work was being carried out with a JCB machine at the residence of Subhash Raychaudhuri, the Block Youth Trinamool Congress President of Narayanagarh. Following the incident, fear gripped the locality, and the police have begun a detailed investigation. According to reports, land-related work was underway using a JCB machine at the residence of Subhash Raychaudhuri in Keyajhuri village under Hemchandra Gram Panchayat of Narayanagarh. During the excavation, a sudden loud blast was heard, alarming local residents who rushed to the spot in large numbers. Eyewitnesses stated that the explosion was so powerful that its sound could be heard from a considerable distance.



However, the exact cause of the blast remains unclear at the time of reporting. Preliminary information has not established whether the explosion was caused by a bomb or by some other explosive or combustible material buried underground. Upon receiving information about the incident, Belda police immediately reached the spot, cordoned off the area, and started an investigation. Samples have been collected from the site and will be sent for examination. Sources said that, if necessary, assistance from the Bomb Disposal Squad and forensic experts may also be sought. The police are currently investigating all possible angles and trying to determine the actual cause of the explosion.

FIR Filed Against MP Mahua Moitra Over 'Burqa' Remark in Nadia; BJP Alleges Religious Sentiments Hurt

MI News Service, Nadia : Fresh controversy has erupted around Trinamool Congress MP Mahua Moitra after a BJP leader lodged a police complaint against her over remarks made in a social media video, alleging that the comments hurt the religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims.

The complaint was filed at the Hogleberia police station in Nadia district by BJP leader Hiralak Bhatnagar, who accused the Krishnanagar MP of making provocative statements that could disturb communal harmony. The controversy stems from a series of videos posted by Moitra following reports that a group of BJP women workers had gathered outside the Krishnanagar district court carrying eggs and tomatoes, allegedly intending to throw them at her if she appeared in connection with an old case. In her first video message, Moitra



warned that she would file police complaints against those involved and, if necessary, approach higher courts, including the Supreme Court, should the police fail to act. In a subsequent video, she reiterated that legal action would be taken against the women seen in the footage. Referring to the threat of eggs being thrown at her, she remarked that while others may throw eggs, she too knows how to make an omelette. She also made a comment suggesting that those intending to throw eggs should wear a burqa so they could not be identified.

The remark quickly went viral on social media and triggered sharp reactions from the BJP. In his complaint, Bhatnagar alleged that the statement was offensive to both Hindu and Muslim communities and amounted to an attempt to inflame communal sentiments. Speaking to reporters after filing the complaint, the BJP leader said Moitra's remarks were "highly provocative" and questioned why Hindu women should be asked to wear a burqa. He further alleged that the statement was disrespectful towards Muslim women as well. Police confirmed that a written complaint had been received and that the matter has been forwarded to the cyber crime wing for examination. Officials said the content of the videos and related social media posts would be scrutinised before any further action is taken.

156 kg Cannabis Seized in Nadia: STF-Ranaghat Police Bust Major Drug Trafficking Attempt

Dipankar Edbar, Ranaghat (Nadia) : In a significant breakthrough against drug trafficking in West Bengal, the Special Task Force (STF) and Ranaghat Police carried out a joint operation in Nadia district, seizing approximately 156 kilograms of cannabis from a pickup van and arresting two suspected traffickers.

Police sources said the operation was launched following specific intelligence inputs regarding the movement of a large consignment of narcotics through the district. Acting on the tip-off, STF personnel and officers from Ranaghat Police Station kept surveillance on a suspected vehicle moving along the Shantipur-Shimuruli route. The pickup van was intercepted at Habibpur, where officers conducted a thorough search. During the inspection, police discovered four sacks of cannabis hidden behind bags of paddy. The total weight of



the seized contraband was found to be around 156 kg.

Preliminary investigations indicate that the consignment had originated from Cooch Behar in North Bengal and was allegedly being transported for delivery in the Habibpur area. The two arrested individuals are currently being interrogated to determine the source of the narcotics, identify the intended recipients and uncover the wider trafficking network involved in the operation. Law enforcement

officials believe the seizure has prevented a substantial quantity of illegal drugs from reaching the local market. The estimated street value of the confiscated cannabis is believed to run into several lakhs of rupees, although authorities are yet to release an official valuation. The seizure highlights the continuing challenge posed by narcotics trafficking across eastern India. Security agencies have intensified surveillance on transport routes frequently used by traffickers to

move contraband between districts and states. Experts warn that the growing availability of drugs such as cannabis, heroin and synthetic narcotics poses a serious threat to young people. Substance abuse can lead to long-term physical and mental health problems, educational disruption, unemployment and increased involvement in criminal activities. Social scientists and public health experts stress that alongside strict law enforcement, awareness campaigns, family support systems and community-based interventions are essential to prevent drug abuse among youth.

Police said the investigation remains ongoing, with efforts focused on identifying other members of the trafficking syndicate and tracing the supply chain behind the seized consignment. The operation is being viewed as a major success in Nadia district's ongoing campaign against illegal narcotics.

'Patthar': A Stone at the Door, A Society That Refuses to See Its Own Walls

MI News Service, Kolkata : Little Thespian's latest offering, Patthar - Uma Jhunjhunwala's Hindi translation of Ismail Choonara's The Stone - is not easy to shake off. It was staged on 12th June 2026 at 6:30pm at Anuchintan Art Centre. For the next 40 minutes, the audience sits in the same claustrophobia as the two characters on stage, and walks out questioning the invisible walls we build around ourselves. That is the mark of theatre that works. Patthar strips life down to two people: a husband and wife. Their ordinary domesticity is shattered by the sudden appearance of an "unseen stone" blocking their door. What begins as a physical obstacle mutates into psychological terror. The stone grows in meaning - fear, inertia, societal pressure, depression - until leaving home feels impossible. Director Dr. Gaurav Das resists the urge to over-explain. He lets the metaphor breathe. The result is a play that feels both absurd and painfully real. The stage becomes a trap and you feel the shrinking of their world. Gunjan Azhar and Md. Asif Ansari carry the weight of the play



with remarkable control. There is no melodrama. Gunjan's wife moves from irritation to panic to resigned numbness in tiny increments. Asif's husband swings between false bravado and helplessness. Their silences are as articulate as their words. Together, they make the central relationship feel lived-in. Light design by Rahul Sardar and music by Biplab Naskar brought out the mood of the play so was the choreography by Samar Mridha and Nayan Sadak. Patthar is a poignant reflection on how fear, once allowed in, can become architecture. It asks: Are we stuck because of real barriers, or because we've convinced ourselves escape is futile? In a post-pandemic world where

many still feel "trapped" in jobs, homes, or anxiety, the play feels unnervingly timely. Play Patthar was followed by Santoshpur Anuchintan's presentation Ve Aankhen - A dramatic presentation based on the poem by Sumitranandan Pant. If Patthar turns inward, Ve Aankhen dramatized and directed by Gaurav, forces us to look outward. This theatrical adaptation takes Pant's poem and builds a portrait of a farmer - his endless labor, his bond with the land, and the exploitation and uncertainty that define his life despite being "the backbone of society." Dr. Gaurav Das's own soulful voice, used as background melody, adds a haunting, folk-like layer.

Police File Case Against Alleged Ringleader After Station Attack

MI News Service, Falta: Eight persons were arrested and a formal FIR lodged after a violent attempt to storm Falta police station, police said, in an effort to free a detained local figure known as "Pushpa." Authorities allege the operation was orchestrated by followers of jailed inmate Jahangir Khan and led on the ground by his wife, who is now the subject of an active inquiry.

Police said trouble began when a crowd assembled in the Shatol Kalsa area and blocked roads leading to Falta. On Tuesday, the group moved from the vicinity of Jahangir's residence toward the police station in a bid that investigators say aimed to overpower station staff and forcibly remove the detainee. Sensing a serious threat, local police and reinforcement units intervened to prevent the mob from breaching the premises. "Intelligence indicated there was a concrete plan to snatch the prisoner and create disorder at the station," a senior officer said. "We acted to protect lives and property and to maintain law and order." Officers resorted to baton charges to disperse the crowd after demonstrators reportedly ignored repeated dispersal orders and advanced on the station. Several suspects fled but were later apprehended; police recovered makeshift weapons at the scene, officials added. Eight individuals have been taken into custody and will be produced in court. Investigators have filed an FIR naming Jahangir's wife as a principal accused for allegedly organising the rally and mobilising supporters since Monday. Police sources say they are probing multiple complaints implicating her in the



unrest and will question other participants to unearth the chain of command behind the attack. Two pieces of CCTV footage showing the escalation circulated widely on social media, fuelling local alarm; police cautioned that videos remain under forensic verification. Eyewitnesses described chaotic scenes as demonstrators clashed with uniformed personnel, with some participants reportedly jumping into a nearby pond to evade arrest. No serious injuries were reported at the time authorities briefed the media, though several participants were treated for minor wounds. The episode follows the arrest of the individual known locally as "Pushpa," who was detained on June 8 near the Nepal border. Since then, tensions in Falta have periodically flared as supporters staged demonstrations demanding release. Local administrators urged calm and reiterated that violent attempts to undermine due process will face firm legal response. Officials said the probe will include scrutiny of communications, examination of CCTV evidence and statements from detainees and witnesses.

Major Setback for Trinamool in Kharagpur: Former MLA Pradip Sarkar Quits Party

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A significant political development has emerged in West Medinipur district, as former Kharagpur Sadar MLA and Trinamool Congress leader Pradip Sarkar has resigned from the party, severing all ties with the ruling political organization. His decision has sparked intense discussion in the district's political circles. According to sources, Pradip Sarkar sent a letter to Trinamool Congress State President Chandrima Bhattacharya, seeking relief from his party responsibilities. While he initially cited personal reasons in his resignation, he later openly stated that factionalism and neglect within the party were the primary reasons behind his decision. Sarkar alleged that he had been a victim of internal groupism within the party for a long time. He claimed that despite repeatedly bringing the issue to the attention of the party leadership, neither was a fair investigation conducted nor were any effective steps taken against leaders whom he believes were weakening the party from within. As a result, he said, he increasingly felt sidelined and ignored. He clarified that he would continue serving the public and would carry on his responsibilities as the councillor of Ward No. 6 of Kharagpur Municipality. However, he has resigned from all positions in the Trinamool Congress and has formally ended his association with the party. Notably, in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly



elections, Pradip Sarkar contested from the Kharagpur Sadar Assembly constituency as a Trinamool Congress candidate but was defeated by BJP candidate Dilip Ghosh. Prior to this, Sarkar had also served as the Chairman of Kharagpur Municipality and has long been regarded as an influential figure in the district's political landscape. His departure from the party is being viewed as politically significant, especially after he was earlier removed from the post of District General Secretary of the state Trinamool Congress. Political analysts believe that his decision could impact local political dynamics in Kharagpur and influence future electoral equations in the region. The statement attracting the most attention is Sarkar's remark: "Time will tell which party I will join." This comment has fueled speculation about his political future. Political observers are now debating whether he may join another political party or choose to pursue an independent political role. For now, Pradip Sarkar's resignation has created considerable buzz in Kharagpur politics, with all eyes focused on his next political move.

Suvendu Promises Action against Violence and Corruption, Declares Falta a Model Constituency

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday visited Falta Assembly constituency in South 24 Parganas for the first time after the historic electoral victory of BJP candidate Debangshu Panda. The Chief Minister addressed a public gathering at Fatepur Football Ground.

During his speech, Adhikari asserted that Falta will be developed as a "model constituency" under the state government's development agenda. He said, "I have visited Falta twice earlier for political programmes. Today I have come for an official programme. I have repeatedly said



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari. File Pic

that Falta will be developed as a model constituency and we are working towards that goal."

The Chief Minister also made strong remarks on law and order, stating that there would be no tolerance for violence or illegal activities in the region. "There will be no hooliganism, looting or extremism in Falta. Rule of law has been established here," he said, adding that strict action will be taken against those involved in unlawful activities.

In an indirect warning, Adhikari referred to recent incidents of alleged attacks on police and security forces, stating that those identified in video

footage would not be spared. He directed senior officials to ensure legal action under stringent sections and hinted at property seizure and auction of offenders' assets.

The Chief Minister also alleged large-scale corruption in previous relief distribution schemes, including misuse of funds under cyclone relief and housing projects. He claimed that irregularities had been identified and assured that corrective action would be taken soon.

The visit is being seen as a significant political and administrative outreach in the region following the recent electoral developments in Falta.

One More Day Extension for Jan Kalyan Shibir

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal government has extended the duration of the Jan Kalyan Shibir by one more day, allowing citizen to access public services until 18 June, Thursday, up to 5 pm. The three-day camp, which was scheduled to conclude today, has been extended in view of public demand and convenience. Officials said the camp now provides 57 types of services, including 100 days work scheme, widow pension, old age pension and other welfare benefits. On the third day of the programme, BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari visited Falta in South 24 Parganas and interacted with beneficiaries. According to reports, over 26 lakh people have registered for the scheme across the state so far, with women forming a significant share. District-level camps have already been held in more than 2,043 locations across West Bengal. Further announcements regarding South 24 Parganas development projects are expected from the administration during the concluding session of the camp. Officials added that more services may be included soon also.

Bandhan Bank Inaugurates Corporate Banking Branch at BKC, Mumbai

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bandhan Bank has inaugurated a dedicated Corporate Banking Branch at Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC), Mumbai, strengthening its presence in India's financial capital and expanding its corporate banking footprint.

The new branch, located at INS Tower, BKC, was inaugurated by MD & CEO Partha Pratim Sengupta in the presence of senior leadership including ED & CBO Rajinder Kumar Babbar, ED & COO Ratan Kumar Kesh, and Head - Wholesale Banking Satish Kumar.

The specialised branch is designed to cater exclusively to corporate and institutional clients, offering customised financial solutions, structured finance, and sector-specific advisory services. It aims to serve large corporates, mid-sized enterprises, and institutional customers with a relationship-driven approach and faster service delivery.

Bank officials said the BKC hub will play a key role in strengthening client engagement and enhancing corporate banking capabilities in a highly competitive market.

PM Modi rebuilt India

Continued from Pg 1: democratic strength. Commentators emphasise that 12 years of uninterrupted leadership have provided rare strategic continuity in governance and foreign policy, enabling consistent multi-alignment and stable domestic policy direction. This contrasts with political upheavals in neighbouring countries, highlighting India's relative stability under Modi.

PM Modi's tenure also saw decisive security measures, from the abrogation of Article 370 to responses against terrorism, alongside symbolic and infrastructural projects like the Ram Temple. Shah and Rajnath Singh highlighted strengthened borders, counter-Naxal efforts, and fostering national confidence. These actions are framed as reinforcing both citizen safety and cultural self-respect, bolstering India's domestic and global standing.

Axis Bank Strengthens Safe Banking Framework



Gaurav Gupta, Head of Financial Crime Intelligence; Sameer Shetty, Group Head - Digital Business, Transformation and Strategic Programs; and Reynold D'Souza, Group Head - Branch Banking, North and TASC Business, during a session on Axis Bank's 'Safe Banking' initiative focused on AI-led fraud prevention and real-time customer controls in Kolkata on Wednesday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Axis Bank has reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening digital security through its 'Safe Banking' initiative, highlighting significant progress in AI-driven fraud prevention, real-time monitoring, and customer-controlled security features.

The bank reported a ~40% reduction in fraud incidents across retail mobile banking, internet banking,

and other channels in FY26 compared to FY25. At the same time, it recorded a 4.5 times increase in prevented digital frauds due to AI-based monitoring and risk-based controls. Customer engagement with its Safety Centre has also grown, with around 57,000 monthly interactions reflecting rising awareness around secure banking practices.

Axis Bank has implemented real-time risk-based in-

tervention systems that flag or block suspicious transactions before funds are transferred. The bank also noted over 1,000 financial literacy camps across West Bengal in FY26, along with more than 3,500 mobile banking registrations enabled through Aadhaar-based face authentication as of March 2026.

Senior leaders including Sameer Shetty (Digital Business & Transformation), Reynold D'Souza (Branch Banking), and Gaurav Gupta (Financial Crime Intelligence) outlined how AI and behavioural analytics are being used to detect fraud patterns, identify mule accounts, and prevent organised cybercrime networks.

The bank also emphasized customer-controlled safety tools such as mobile app authentication, face verification, Safety Centre, SMS Shield, and FD Lock features, allowing users greater control over their accounts.

Mamata Leads Protest March against Hawker Evictions in Kolkata



Former West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee joined a protest march by hawkers expressing solidarity with street vendors and their concerns at Dharamtala in Kolkata on Wednesday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday took to the streets of Kolkata protesting against alleged eviction drives targeting hawkers and small traders across the state. The demonstration began near Dharmatola and proceeded towards Wellington, drawing significant political attention and participation from senior Trinamool Congress leaders including Kunal Ghosh and Dola Sen.

Banerjee, who was seen wearing a placard on her chest, led a human chain and marched alongside party supporters under the banner of the "Kalighat Trinamool" leadership. The protest was organised in response to what the party described as large-scale eviction of street vendors at key transport hubs including Sealdah and Howrah stations.

Party sources stated that the movement aims to safeguard the livelihood of hawkers and small business

owners, who they claim are being displaced under recent administrative actions. The protest march was marked by slogans demanding protection of street vendors and restoration of their rights to livelihood in urban spaces.

The march witnessed active participation from Trinamool leaders and supporters, with the rallying call centered on protecting the rights of urban informal workers and opposing forced evictions without rehabilitation.

Extortion Case Deepens: Five Bank Accs of Sabyasachi Dutta Frozen, Wife Untraceable

MI News Service, Kolkata: The investigation into the alleged extortion case involving former Trinamool Congress MLA and Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation councillor Sabyasachi Dutta has intensified, with police freezing five of his bank accounts and expanding searches into his financial and property holdings.



Sabyasachi Dutta

Investigators are also examining several fixed deposits linked to the family. In addition, authorities have identified two bank lockers believed to contain jewellery and other valuable assets.

The development comes days after police conducted a

search at Dutta's residence, where documents allegedly related to the purchase of nearly 50 kilograms of gold were recovered. Officials are currently verifying the authenticity and financial trail associated with those documents.



In the presence of West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, an MoU signing ceremony between Rashtriya Raksha University and West Bengal Police was held, followed by a press briefing at Nabanna on Wednesday.

Messi Management Team Raises Security Concerns, Writes to KP Commissioner

MI News Service, Kolkata: The controversy surrounding Lionel Messi's visit to Kolkata continues to gather momentum, with the football icon's management team reportedly writing to the Kolkata Police Commissioner and expressing serious concerns over security arrangements at Yuvabharati Kriangan. His Team slammed the former TMC Minister of trying to get too close to Messi!

According to the letter, strict protocols had been established before Messi's appearance at the stadium. Under those guidelines, no VIPs or special guests were supposed to enter the field during the football star's scheduled activities. Only three designated camera operators had been granted permission to remain on the ground.

However, the management team alleged that the protocol was violated when then Sports Minister Arup Biswas entered the field. The letter claims that actions taken by him were not part of the approved programme and created discomfort during the event. It further alleges that while photographs were being taken, repeated attempts were made to move very close to Messi and engage in unnecessary physical contact, including placing hands on the footballer's shoulder and waist.

The letter also highlights broader concerns regarding security lapses inside the stadium. According to Messi's representatives, a large number of unauthorised individuals gained access to restricted zones. Nearly 40 photographers and camera operators were reportedly present without prior approval, resulting in confusion and a breakdown of crowd-control measures.

Messi's team stated that the situation adversely affected the player's security, comfort and personal space. Owing to the circumstances, several planned activities were allegedly cancelled, and the delegation left the venue much earlier than scheduled.

Suvendu Clarifies Annapurna Bhandar Eligibility, Links Benefits to Schooling and Vaccination Criteria

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday clarified the eligibility criteria for the state government's Annapurna Bhandar scheme, addressing growing public speculation over who will qualify for the financial assistance programme and who will be excluded.

Speaking at a government function in Falta, the Chief Minister explained that families whose children study in government or government-aided schools will be eligible to receive benefits under the scheme. He further stated that families with children enrolled in private schools may also qualify for assistance, provided those institutions are recognised by the government. According to the Chief Minister, eligible beneficiaries in such cases would receive financial support of up to ₹3,000 under the programme.

The clarification comes amid widespread discussions surrounding the extensive in-

formation being sought from applicants through the Annapurna Bhandar application forms. Applicants are required to provide detailed information about every member of their household, including land ownership details, the names of schools attended by their children, and COVID-19 vaccination records. These requirements had led many residents to believe that income levels and other socio-economic indicators would play a significant role in determining eligibility.

Since assuming office, the state government has been rolling out several promises made during the election campaign. Thousands of beneficiaries reportedly received Annapurna Bhandar payments earlier this month, while applications continue to pour in through the ongoing Jan Kalyan camps being held across the state.

Addressing concerns about the verification process, Adhikari said the government

was adopting a cautious approach to ensure that benefits reach genuine recipients. He alleged that irregularities had occurred under similar welfare programmes run by the previous administration. Citing an example, he claimed that more than 4,500 men in Murshidabad had received benefits under a scheme that was not intended for them.

The Chief Minister said that over one crore applications have already been submitted for Annapurna Bhandar, making scrutiny necessary. He also stated that parents whose children attend institutions that, according to the government, do not follow the mainstream educational framework would not be eligible for the scheme.

In addition, Adhikari made it clear that individuals who did not receive government-approved COVID-19 vaccinations during the pandemic period would also be excluded from receiving benefits under the Annapurna Bhandar programme.

Shri 1008 Munisuvratnath Digambar Jain Trust Leads Cleanliness Drive Under 'Swachhata Se Swagat'

MI News Service, Kolkata: In alignment with the "Swachhata Se Swagat" initiative supported by the West Bengal government, Shri 1008 Munisuvratnath Digambar Jain Trust organised a special cleanliness drive on Tuesday morning, focusing on public hygiene, civic responsibility and community participation.

The campaign aimed to spread awareness about cleanliness and encourage citizens to actively contribute towards maintaining a cleaner and healthier environment. A large number of trustees, local residents, women, youth and senior citizens participated enthusiastically in the drive, reflecting strong community engagement.

The cleanliness activity covered roads, lanes, footpaths

and surrounding public areas, with volunteers working collectively to remove waste and promote a message of shared responsibility. The initiative highlighted the importance of collective effort in achieving sustainable cleanliness in urban spaces.

Key members leading the programme included Trust President Vinod Kumar Jain (Kala), Vice President Mahendra Kumar Jain Pandya, Secretary CA Kamal Nayan Jain, and Convener Suresh Patni, along with other trustees and volunteers.

Speaking on the occasion, Trust President Vinod Kumar Jain (Kala) said that the "Swachhata Se Swagat" campaign is a meaningful initiative that inspires citizens to take responsibility for their sur-

roundings. He stressed that cleanliness is essential for a progressive and aware society and requires active public involvement.

Vice President Mahendra Kumar Jain Pandya added that cleanliness reflects discipline and values, urging citizens to treat public spaces with the same respect as their homes. Secretary CA Kamal Nayan Jain stated that the campaign aims not only at cleaning surroundings but also at building long-term civic awareness.

At the conclusion, participants took a collective pledge to avoid littering and promote cleanliness in daily life. The Trust expressed gratitude to all volunteers and reaffirmed its commitment to continuing such public welfare initiatives in the future.

CBI Visits Panihati Crematorium in RG Kar Case Probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: The investigation into the RG Kar incident has gathered fresh momentum following political changes in the state, as the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) intensified its probe. On Wednesday, a team of CBI investigating officers visited the Panihati crematorium in North 24 Parganas to examine detailed records and understand the sequence of events related to the last rites conducted on the day of the incident.

According to sources, the officials sought minute details of how the cremation was carried

out and what arrangements were made at the site. The visit is part of efforts to verify allegations made by the victim's family, who had earlier claimed that the body of the young woman doctor was hurriedly taken to Panihati for last rites.

Crematorium manager Bholanath Patra reportedly told investigators that he was informed a local woman's body would arrive, while he later became aware of the case through television reports. He stated that the cremation was completed amid an unusually large crowd that had gathered

at the site, including local residents, police personnel, and political representatives.

Officials noted that due to the heavy presence of people, police had to manage the situation swiftly. The manager also said the process was expedited considering the circumstances and the presence of mourners.

The CBI team, comprising three officers, also interacted with the crematorium staff and collected the register book and other relevant documents for further investigation into the case.

MI News Service, Bhuj: Indian Railways has sanctioned the doubling of the 49 km Adipur-Bhuj section of Western Railway at an estimated cost of 493 crore, officials said on Wednesday. The project forms part of the railways' ongoing capacity augmentation programme that includes doubling, tripling and other network enhancement works intended to meet rising passenger and freight demand. The single line Adipur-Bhuj stretch on the Gandhidham-Naliya corridor is strategically important for connectivity in the Kutch region. Railway authorities said recent and ongoing projects — including the Bhuj-Naliya gauge conversion, the Naliya-Vayor extension and new links such as Naliya-Jakhau, Vayor-Lakhpatt and Deshpalar-Luna — are expected to drive a significant rise in traffic through the corridor, prompting the need for additional line capacity. Doubling the section will improve operational flexibility and reduce bottlenecks caused by single line working. Officials estimate the upgraded route will permit two additional passenger services in each direction daily, enhancing frequency and convenience for commuters. On the freight side, the doubled track is projected to handle an incremental 12 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), strengthening logistics links for industry and ports in western Gujarat. Capacity utilisation on the route is forecast to climb to 123% by 2029-30 if no augmentation is carried out, underscoring the urgency of the project, railway sources said. The doubling scheme is expected to decongest the corridor, cut delays from crossing and overtaking constraints, and improve punctuality and reliability of train operations.

EASTERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING E-AUCTION

E-Auction Notice No.: COM/ PUB/HWH/26/18 dt.: 15.06.2026

E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, New DRM Building, 4th floor, near Rail Museum Howrah-711101 for awarding contract of **AC Waiting Rooms at Dankuni & Khagraghat Road Station and Sleeping Pods at Howrah Station. New Complex** over Howrah Division, Eastern Railway. The Auction Catalogue has been uploaded in www.ireps.gov.in. **Catalogue No. PUB-HWH-26-18. Auction Start Date & Time: 30.06.2026 at 14.00 hrs**

Sl.No.; Seq.No.; Lot No. & Description are as follows: 1; AA/1; **PnU-HWH-DKAE-WRL-84-261** (Pay and Use– Lounges/Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms) & Awarding contract for up-gradation, maintenance and manning of AC Waiting Rooms at Dankuni railway station under Howrah Division for a period of five (05) years. 2; AA/2; **PnU-HWH-KGLE-WRL-85-261** (Pay and Use– Lounges/Waiting/Retiring/Cloak Rooms) & Awarding contract for up-gradation, maintenance and manning of AC Waiting Rooms at Khagraghat Road railway station under Howrah Division for a period of five (05) years. 3; BA/1; **MSS-HWH-HWH-SIPod-87-261** (Misc-Static Services– Sleeping pods at station) & Awarding contract for setting up operation and maintenance of sleeping pods with modern facilities/amenities on ROMT (Renovate Operate Maintain and Transfer) basis at Howrah station, New Complex for a period of ten (10) years.

(HWH-160/2026-27)

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

Follow us at:  @EasternRailway  EasternRailway  EasternRailwayheadquarter

E-Auction Notice No. : Com/G-302/Parking/CPRO/26/10 Date: 16.06.2026
For and on behalf of The President, Union of India, the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Kharagpur Division, South Eastern Railway, invites e-Auction for Parking Lot for Mixed Parking at Kalikaunda, Shalimar & Bauria (South) and Two Wheeler Parking at Chengel, Panskura (South/1), Deulti, Pantihal, Narayangang, Benapur, Maugrimang, Barda, Bagnan (South), Bargachia, Amarda Road & Nalpur and Four wheeler parking at Midnapur (East). **Auction Catalogue No.:** Parking/GP26-10. **Auction date:** 30.06.2026. **Auction Start time:** 11:00 hrs. & **Closed Time:** 14:00 hrs., which is notified in the <https://www.ireps.gov.in/websitel>
Interested parties and contractors to take note of this and go through the website as mentioned above for details and related information about the e-Auction notice. For enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact office of the undersigned.

Tender Notice No.: SG Tender/DYCPM/SNT/ASN/01, Dated: 17.06.2026
E-Tender is invited by the Dy. Chief Project Manager, Gati Shakti UIN Signal & Telecom, Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Kaiser Street, Kolkata 700014 for the following work: **e-Tender No.: DCPM-GS-SNT-ASN-01-26-27**
Name of work with its location: S&T work in connection with "S&T work in connection with provision of new Electronic Interlocking (EI) system conforming to RDSO EI specification RDSO/SPN/192/2019 with latest amendments at New Madanpur (MPUR) station in the Dumka-Basunkinathi and Dumka-Barapalashi sections, at Tapasi (TOP) station in the Anadol Jn (UDL)-Sitarampur (STN) section, and at Chhota Ambana (CAM) station in the Sitarampur (STN)-Pradhankhunta (PKA) section, alteration/modification in the existing Alsando (Hitachi) make MICROLOK-II EI system at Sonachara (SSCR) station in the Anadol Jn. (UDL)-Sitarampur (STN) section in connection with yard remodelling works as per approved SIF at New Madanpur, Chhota Ambana, Tapasi & Sonachara stations; and associated S&T works of various S&T items as per site requirements at New Madan ROH Shed at Marshalling Yard of Asansol Division, Eastern Railway". **Tender Value:** ₹ 33,10,99,035.76. **Cost of Tender document:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 66,22,000.
Completion period of work: 12 months. **Tender submission start date:** 15.06.2026. **Tender submission end date:** 08.07.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. **Tender Bid opening date:** 08.07.2026 at 15.30 hrs. **Details may be available:** www.irops.gov.in. **Technical Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or V, whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted:** As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar nature of Work:** Electronic interlocking work (Indoor OR (Indoor + Outdoor)). And/OR Panel Interlocking work (Indoor OR (Indoor + Outdoor)). And/OR Route Relay Interlocking work (Indoor OR (Indoor + Outdoor)). **Note:** The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfil the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). (SDAH/SS/2026-27)

additional line capacity. Doubling the section will improve operational flexibility and reduce bottlenecks caused by single line working. Officials estimate the upgraded route will permit two additional passenger services in each direction daily, enhancing frequency and convenience for commuters. On the freight side, the double track is projected to handle an incremental 12 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), strengthening logistics links for industry and ports in western Gujarat. Capacity utilisation on the route is forecast to climb to 123% by 2029-30 if no augmentation is carried out, underscoring the urgency of the project, railway sources said. The doubling scheme is expected to decongest the corridor, cut delays from crossing and overtaking constraints, and improve punctuality and reliability of train operations.



MI News Service, Ranchi: In an attempt to damage the RSS office in Ranchi, petrol bombs were hurled on its premises by two unidentified persons early in the morning on Wednesday. According to the police, two miscreants tried to throw petrol-filled sauce bottles into the RSS office premises late Tuesday night. However, both bottles fell just before reaching the boundary wall. The RSS office sustained no damage in the incident. Meanwhile, Ranchi police have launched a search for the attackers involved in the incident. Ranchi City SP Paras Rana said that an investigation has been initiated in this regard and process of identifying the miscreants has been started.

Rails Go Digital: 405 Cr

Upgrade Approved for East

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indian Railways has approved a 405 crore project to upgrade signalling infrastructure on the Eastern Railway, the ministry said on Wednesday. The scheme will replace ageing relay-based interlocking systems with Electronic Interlocking (EI) at 32 locations — 25 Panel Interlocking/Route Relay Interlocking (PI/RI) stations and seven Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) sites — on High Density Network (HDN) and Highly Utilised Network (HUN) routes. The move forms part of a nationwide push to modernise signalling on critical corridors to boost reliability, safety and operational performance across the rail network. Existing relay installations on the targeted routes suffer from operational constraints linked to ageing hardware, including non-segregated wiring, obsolete power-supply arrangements and inadequate earthing. These deficiencies have increased maintenance burdens and heightened the risk of signalling failures, officials said. Replacing legacy relay technology with Electronic Interlocking will, authorities expect, markedly reduce the incidence of faults, improve system availability and speed up fault restoration. EI uses digital control logic to manage train movements with greater precision, offering faster fault

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Indian News Service, Kolkata: Indian Railways on Wednesday sanctioned the doubling of the 49 km Adipur-Bhuj section of the Western Railway at an estimated cost of 493 crore, officials said. The move forms part of the railways' wider programme of capacity augmentation through doubling, tripling and network enhancement works aimed at meeting rising passenger and freight demand. The single line Adipur-Bhuj stretch, located on the Gandhidham-Naliya corridor, is strategically important for connectivity in the Kutch region. Railway authorities said the decision follows a cluster of ongoing projects in the area — including Bhuj-Naliya gauge conversion and new lines linking Naliya-Jakhau, Jaxay-Lakhpatt and Deshlappar-Luna — that are expected to drive a sharp increase in traffic through the corridor. Doubling the section will substantially enhance line

capacity and operational flexibility. Officials projected the upgrade would allow the operation of two additional passenger services in each direction daily, improving travel convenience and frequency for commuters. On the freight front, the doubled line is forecast to handle an incremental 12 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA), strengthening logistics links for industry and ports in western Gujarat.

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Last date for submission of E-Auction
form is 24/06/26 before 12:30 PM

My client, Mr. Dipanjan Roy (son of Mr. Kumar Roy), a resident of 4A Naskar Para Lane, P.O. Bagbari, Howrah 711013, has lost the Original Deed of Sale dated 12.06.1978, executed by Ranjit Kumar Singha (Vendor) Ratna Manna & Dipul Kumar Ma (Purchasers), registered at the Sub-Registry Office, Howrah, under Deed No. 1205 of 1978, along with two (2) copies of the same. The documents were lost on 10.06.2026 while traveling by bus. The documents remain untraced. A report has been lodged at A.J.C. Bose, B. Garden Police Station on 13.06.2026, vide G.D.E. No. 100 of 2026 wherein these documents were reported lost. The documents are requested to contact.

Sasab Bandopadhyay
Advocate, Howrah Civil Court
Mobile: 9830489605

Within 15 days of this publication. For recovery, a certified copy will be obtained and treated as the original.

PINGLA PANCHAYAT SAMITI
Vill+ P.O - Pingla, Dist - Paschim Medinipur
e-Tender
Office of the Pingla Panchayat Samiti invites Tender
NOTICE INVITING E- TENDER NO.

NIT NO.	Last Date of Application
Pingla/e-NIT/15th FC/02/2026-27	26.06.2026 Upto 16:00 Hrs

Details of the Tender notice is available in website wbenders.gov.
Sd/-
Executive Officer
Pingla Panchayat Sam

ICICI Bank | Branch Office: ICICI Bank Limited Plot No-23, Shal Tower, 3rd Floor,
New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi- 110005

The Authorised ICI/CI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 2 the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. The borrower(s) mentioned in the said Notice(s) issued to the borrower(s) and the public in general that have not signed or undersigned have taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned date. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property, its dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICI/CI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Ghanshyam/ Lila/ LBPL000005298839	Patta No. 38, Book No. 84, Misal No. 43/2019-20, Gram Panchayat Guda Kalla, Chuttra Panchayat Samiti, Sojat, Pali, Rajasthan, Pali- 306103/ 15-06-2026	August 31, 2022 Rs. 9,13,227/-	Pali Calcutta

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

Date: June 18, 2026
Place: Calcutta

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

ICICI Bank Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower/s/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Jayesh Kothari/ Dipti Kothari/ Harsh Kothari Guarantor/ 1st Floor, Flat 1b, Puspaparadha Building, Bhavanipore, 2/1b Dr Rajendra Road District-South 24 Parganas West Bengal Kolkata 700020/ TBCAL00006364737	Entire Flat No. 1B, Back Portion, First Floor, Premises No. 2/1B, Dr. Rajendra Road, Police Station Bhowanipur, Ward No. 70, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, District Registry office Alipore, District 24 Parganas (South), Kolkata 700020, West Bengal, owned By Jayesh Kothari And Dipti Kothari Admeasuring An Area of 900 Sq Ft Super Built Up Area Be The Same A Little More or Less Together Undivided Proportionate Share of Land, North: By Dr. Rajendra Road, Kolkata – 700020 South: By Premises No. 19, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, And Kolkata East: By Premises No. 2/1C, Dr. Rajendra Road, Kolkata- 700020 West: By Premises No. 2/1c, Dr. Rajendra Road And Partly By Premises No. 17, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Kolkata/dag of Symbolic 12/06/2026	February 26,2026/ Rs. 33,70,207.00/-	Kolkata
2.	Asadulla Islam/ Nurima Khatun/ Hospital Para Kamal Sinha Lane, Rampurhat-I District Birbhum, P.O, P.S Rampurhat West Bengal Rampurhat- 731224/ TBDGR00007114553/ TBDGR00007114557/ TBDGR00007116912	L.R. & R.S. Dag No. 657, J.L. No 104, Khatian No 3527, Mouza Bataili - 2 No B.L. & L.R.O Rampurhat, Birbhum, P.S Rampurhat, District Birbhum, Mohakunda and Sub Registry office Rampurhat, West Bengal (admeasuring An Area of Measuring Area 2.1 Satak North: Bhanu Biswas South: Vacant Land East: Suresh Kumar Dey West: Fulchand Mondal/ Date of symbolic 12/06/2026	February 26,2026/ Rs. 30,15,580.00/-	Rampurhat

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

ICICI Bank Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091
CIN No: L65190GH1994PLC021012 www.icicibank.com

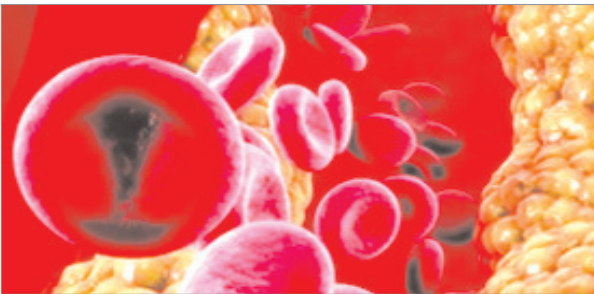
The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction and Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(1) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.				
Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Amount of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Borrower
1.	Prasan Mandal 45, Durgam Chalk Lake City, Sector I, CC Block, P.S. Bidhannagar, District North Parganas West Bengal Kolkata - 700064/ LBCAL00005521543	Laxmi Apartment, Flat No. B - 13, Fourth Floor, Hatiana New Market, R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 4204, R.S. Khatian No. 472, R.S. No. 188, Touzi No. 3, 160-162, J.L. No. 14, P.O. Ghuni, P.S. New Town, Formerly Ward No. 20, Rajarhat Gopalpur Municipality Presently Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, District. North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700059, West Bengal, Admeasuring an area of 394 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area Be The Same A Little More or Less Together With Proportionate Impartibly and/or Undivided Share or Interest in Land. North: House of K.K. Bhattacharjee & 10 Ft. Wide Common Passage South: 25 Ft. District Board Road East: Land of Kartick Patra & Others West: House of Arunesh Das/ Date of Physical 12/06/2026	June 27, 2025 Rs. 12,50,610.92/-	Kolkata
2.	Julekha Bibi/ Rafikul Hasan/ Village Santoshpur, P.O. Ningha P.S. Margram, Santoshpur Ningha, District Birbhum West Bengal Rampurhat- 731224/ TBDGR00006754628, TBDGR00006754629, TBDGR00006791963, TBDGR00006828614	R.S. Dag No. 340, L.R. Khatian No. 2449, J.L. No. 177, New Market, Mouza Santoshpur, Jhalukuma and A.D.S.R. Office Rampurhat, B.L. and L.O. Rampurhat, District Birbhum, West Bengal, Admeasuring an area of 30 Satak./ Date of Physical 12/06/2026	February 17, 2025 Rs. 33,80,506.86/-	Rampurhat
3.	Soumen Guha/ Sailesh Guha/ Ukil Para Pura Upp Teesta Gas Services West Bengal Jalpaiguri - 735101/ LBSGI00005836286, LBSGI00005873430	Hal Khatian No. 4965, Hal Dag No. 301 and 302, Sheet No. 22, Mouza Kharia, Pargana Baikunthapur, B.L. and L.R.O. and Sadar Jalpaiguri, District, Thana and Sub Begsrity Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Admeasuring an Area of 1 Khatia 15 Chak 5 Sq Ft/1355 Sq Ft. North: 10' Wide Road South: 16' 6" Wide Road East: Owners Land West: Ram Kridhna Meheta/ Date of Physical 12/06/2026	August 28, 2023 Rs. 30,78,816.25/-	Jalpaiguri

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

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Study reveals how specific lipids indicate tissue ageing, decreases through exercise



LOS ANGELES [US] : Researchers discovered that a form of fat builds as tissue ages and can be reversed with exercise. Researchers from Amsterdam UMC and colleagues from Maastricht UMC+ examined rats and human tissue before and after exercise to reach this conclusion. The findings are published in the journal Nature Ageing.

"The idea that we could reverse aging is something that was long considered science fiction, but these findings do allow us to understand a lot more about the aging process," says RieckelHoutkooper, Professor at the laboratory Genetic Metabolic Diseases of Amsterdam UMC. "Everyone says that 'it's just part of getting older,' but this doesn't actually have to be true. By understanding more about the aging process, we can also look into new ways of intervening," says Georges Janssens, first author of the paper and assistant professor at Amsterdam UMC. In recent years, laboratory research has shown that we may be able to counteract age-related diseases by intervening in the fundamental processes that lead to ageing. Although science has increasingly mapped out how metabolism changes during aging, large parts remained uncharted. "We wanted to add a new chapter to the atlas. Lipids are an important part of our diet, and crucial for the functioning of our body cells. Specific

lipids make up the membrane of cells, which ensures that the inside and outside remain separate," says Houtkooper.

In order to add this new chapter, the research team investigated how the composition of fats changes in mice. They looked at ten different tissues, including muscles, kidneys, liver and heart. It was noticed that one type of lipid, the bis(monoacylglycerol)phosphates (or BMPs), were elevated in all tissues from the older animals. Suggesting an accumulation of these lipids during aging. They then investigated whether this also happens in humans. Although it was not possible to obtain as many different tissues, the accumulation of BMP was also visible in muscle biopsies of older people. Finally, they then completed more muscle biopsies from people before and after a healthy intervention that included one hour of exercise a day and saw the level of BMPs decreased in the active participants. "These results are an important new step for our understanding of the aging process, but they are certainly not the final answer. We plan to conduct follow-up studies to better understand how BMPs contribute to aging, what are the consequences of BMP accumulation on the aging process, and whether this can only be influenced by exercise or are the other ways to affect BMPs levels," concludes Houtkooper.

Researchers find how fatty acids plays key role in creating memories

WASHINGTON DC [US] : Researchers at the University of Queensland have demonstrated the vital role that saturated fatty acids play in the brain's storage of memories.

A new cure for neurodegenerative illnesses may now be possible, thanks to research conducted by Dr Isaac Akefe of the Queensland Brain Institute at the University of Queensland. He has also discovered the genes that underlie the process of memory creation. The findings were published in the EMBO Journal. "We've shown previously that levels of saturated fatty acids increase in the brain during neuronal communication, but we didn't know what was causing these changes," DrAkefe said. "Now for the first time, we've identified alterations in the brain's fatty acid landscape when the neurons encode a memory. "An enzyme called Phospholipase A1 (PLA1) interacts with another protein at the synapse called STXBP1 to form saturated fatty acids." The brain is the body's fattiest organ, with fatty compounds called lipids making up 60 per cent of its weight. Fatty acids are the building blocks of a class of lipids called phospholipids. The work done in Professor Frederic Meunier's laboratory has shown that STXBP1 controls the targeting of the PLA1 enzyme, coordinating the release of fatty acids and directing communication at the synapses in the brain. "Human mutations in the PLA1 and STXBP1 genes reduce free fatty acid levels and promote neurological disorders," Professor Meunier said.

Study suggests weight loss surgery can be more successful in controlling hypertension rates

LOS ANGELES [US] : Bariatric surgery is more beneficial than blood pressure medication in lowering hypertension rates, or high blood pressure, in persons who are obese and have uncontrolled high blood pressure, according to a study published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

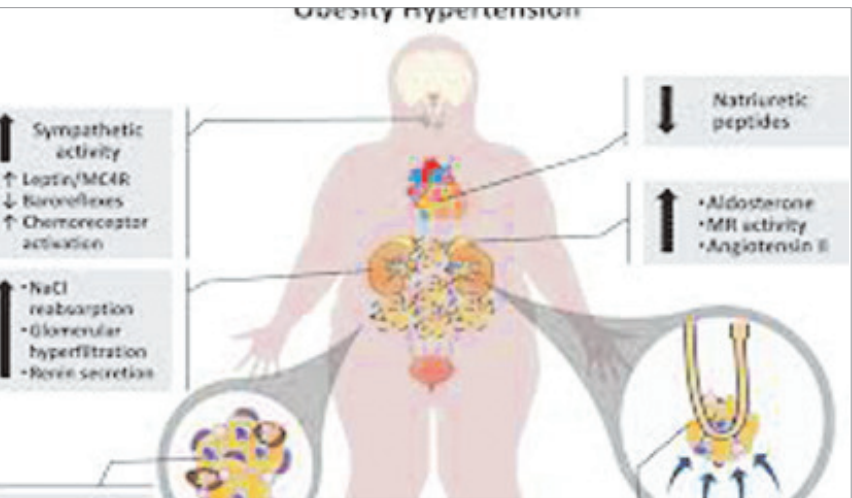
People who had bariatric surgery had a lower BMI and were on fewer drugs after five years while maintaining normal blood pressure levels than those who solely used antihypertensive medications.

According to the CDC, the U.S. obesity and hypertension rates in adults are 41.9 per cent and 45.4 per cent, respectively.

Obesity is a proven risk factor for cardiovascular disease and a key contributor to high blood pressure, both of which can increase the chance of a heart attack, stroke, and heart failure.

"In clinical practice, obesity is an overlooked condition. As a consequence, there is a frequent failure in approaching obesity as a crucial step for mitigating the risk of important cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension," said Carlos Aurelio Schiavon, MD, FACS, lead author of the study and a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery at Heart Hospital and BP Hospital in Sao Paulo.

Researchers in this study looked at the impact of treating obesity to lower high



blood pressure. While there are new medications to treat obesity, long-term adherence to medication can be challenging.

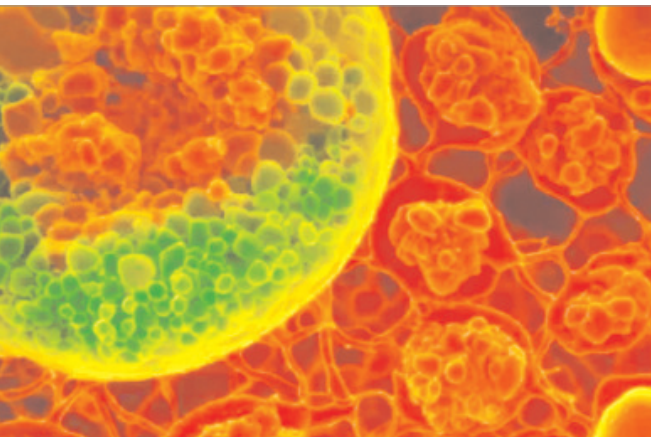
This study looks at bariatric surgery as a better long-term solution to control obesity and, as a result, high blood pressure.

The GATEWAY trial included 100 people (76 per cent of which were female) who had a body mass index (BMI) of around 36.9 kg/m2. All participants had hypertension and were using at least two medications. People with previous cardiovascular events

Researchers find ways to prevent idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis

MICHIGAN [US] : The most frequent type of pulmonary fibrosis scarring of the lungs is idiopathic, which means that the cause is unclear. Researchers are working quickly to develop treatments to prevent or reduce idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF) and associated lung disorders, which can cause severe shortness of breath, dry cough, and intense exhaustion. The average survival time after being diagnosed with IPF is about three to five years, and there is no cure. A recent U-M study conducted by Sean Fortier, M.D. and Marc Peters-Golden, M.D. from the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at U-M Medical School, discovered a pathway used during normal wound healing that has the potential to reverse IPF.

Using a mouse model, they simulated IPF by administering bleomycin, a chemotherapy agent that causes cell injury and confirmed that the resulting lung scarring resolved itself over the span of about six weeks. Because of this, "studying fibrosis is kind of tough," said Fortier. "If we're going to give experimental drugs to try and resolve fibrosis, we have to do it before it resolves on its own. Otherwise, we will not be able to tell if the resolution was the



action of the drug or natural repair mechanisms of the body." However, he said, "there's actually a lot to learn about how the mouse gets better on its own. If we can learn the molecular mechanisms by which this occurs, we may uncover new targets for IPF." The process by which lung injury either leads to healing or fibrosis relies in part on what happens to a cell called a fibroblast, which forms connective tissue. During injury or illness, fibroblasts are activated, becoming myofibroblasts that form scar tissue by secreting collagen. When the job is done, these fibroblasts must be deactivated, or de-differentiated, to go

back to their quiet state or undergo programmed cell death and be cleared. "This is the major distinction between normal wound healing and fibrosis - the persistence of activated myofibroblasts," explained Fortier. That deactivation is controlled by molecular brakes. The study examined one of these brakes, called MKP1 - which the team found was expressed at lower levels in fibroblasts from patients with IPF. By genetically eliminating MKP1 in fibroblasts of mice after establishing lung injury, the team saw that fibrosis continued uncontrolled. "Instead of at day 63, seeing that nice resolution, you still see

fibrosis," said Fortier.

"We argued by contradiction: when you knock out this brake, fibrosis that would otherwise naturally disappear, persists and therefore MKP1 is necessary for spontaneous resolution of fibrosis." They performed several additional studies using CRISPR techniques to demonstrate how MKP1 applies the brakes, mainly by deactivating the enzyme p38a, which is implicated in a cell's reaction to stress. Furthermore, they demonstrated that neither of the two current FDA approved drugs for lung fibrosis, pirfenidone and nintedanib, are able to turn off myofibroblasts. "That's totally in keeping with the fact that they do slow the progression, but they don't halt or reverse disease," said Fortier. Fortier hopes the discovery that this pathway reverses fibrosis leads to exploration of additional brakes on fibrosis. "So much work on fibrosis has focused on how we can prevent it, but when a patient presents to my clinic with a dry cough, shortness of breath, and low oxygen as a result of underlying IPF, the scarring is already present. Of course, we'd love a way to prevent the scarring from getting worse, but the Holy Grail is to reverse it."

Study shows stress affects brain, psyche via immune system

ZURICH [SWITZERLAND] : Chronic stress has a wide-ranging impact on our bodies. Many stress-related mental disorders, including depression, are associated with immune system abnormalities. However, the basic mechanisms dictating how these changes affect the brain are largely unknown.



Enzyme from immune cells in the blood affects nerves in the brain

An international research team led by the University of Zurich (UZH), and the University Hospital of Psychiatry Zurich (PUK) and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, has now uncovered a novel mechanism. "We were able to show that stress increases the amount of the matrix metalloproteinase-8 (MMP-8), an enzyme in the blood of mice. The same changes were found in patients with depression," says first author FlurinCathomas. MMP-8 travels from the blood to the brain, where it alters the functioning of certain neurons. In the affected mice, this leads to behavioral changes: they withdraw and avoid social contact.

Potential for new treatments for depression

According to Cathomas, the findings are novel in

two respects: "Firstly, they indicate a new 'body-mind mechanism', which might be relevant not only for stress-related mental illness, but also for other diseases that affect both the immune and nervous systems." And secondly, says the psychiatrist, identification of the specific MMP-8 protein could be a potential starting point to develop new treatments for depression.

Changes to brain extracellular matrix

The researchers were able to use animal models to show that stress increases the migration of a specific type of white blood cells called monocytes into the vascular system of the

brain, particularly into the reward center regions. These monocytes produce MMP-8. MMP-8 is involved in the restructuring and regulation of the net-like frame that surrounds neurons in the brain - called the extracellular matrix. "If MMP-8 penetrates the brain tissue from the blood, it changes the matrix structure and thus disrupts the functioning of the neurons. Mice who are affected by this process display changes in behavior that are similar to those seen in humans with depression," says FlurinCathomas. In order to prove that MMP-8 was really responsible for the

behavioural changes, the researchers removed the MMP-8 gene from some of the mice. Compared to the control mice, these animals did not display stress-related negative behavioral changes. "Blood analyses of patients with depression indicate that the findings from the mouse models are also relevant for humans: both the monocytes and MMP-8 were increased in the blood of people with depression in comparison to healthy participants." Clinical studies with patients planned

Many more studies are needed before the results can be implemented in clinical practice. Nevertheless, says Cathomas, "our work once again demonstrates the importance of the interaction between the immune system and the brain in the development of psychiatric disorders. These insights are already being incorporated into psychiatric treatment today." On the PUK's special ward for integrative care led by Cathomas, the clinicians take a holistic mind-body approach based on the latest scientific findings when treating their patients.

This Father's Day, SBI Life's #PapaHainNa acknowledges fathers

Mumbai : Fathers are often seen as protectors, but their role goes far beyond shielding their children from challenges. In their intent to protect, fathers today often create carefully curated environments for their children-structured routines and filtered experiences. While this stems from deep love and care, it can sometimes limit the very experiences that help children build resilience, and confidence. Building on this evolving expression of fatherhood, SBI Life Insurance released a new DVC under its long-standing #PapaHainNa digital property, capturing how a father's love is not just about keeping his child safe, but also about giving them the freedom to experience, learn, stumble, and grow. The new digital film explores this reality through the story of a father who discovers that preparing a child for the future is not only about shielding them from every challenge, but about empowering them to navigate life on their own - letting them fall so they can learn to rise, confidently. Set against the scenic backdrop, the film follows a family vacation where an unexpected bus breakdown creates an opportunity for a young boy to step away from his screen and engage with the world around him. As he interacts with local children, embraces new experiences and learns from a small setback, the father witnesses an important truth unfold before him: growth comes not from avoiding every fall, but from having the confidence to rise after one. Watching his child explore, take risks and learn through experience, the father comes to realise that true protection is not about controlling every outcome. Instead, it lies in creating a sense of security that allows a child to step forward with confidence, curiosity and courage. The film reflects the evolving role of today's fathers, who balance protection with independence, care with courage, and guidance with trust, knowing that when papa ki planning hopakki, toh life mein guaranteed benefits pakke.

Pregnant women should try to avoid ultraprocessed, fast foods: Study



WASHINGTON DC [US] : According to a study published in the journal Environmental International, pregnant women should think twice before eating a cheeseburger or a boxed pastry. Surprisingly, the report focuses not on the food itself, such as fries, burgers, shakes, and cakes, but on what comes into contact with the meal before it is consumed.

Research shows that phthalates, a class of chemicals associated with plastics, can shed from the wrapping, packaging and even from plastic gloves worn by food handlers into food. Once consumed during pregnancy, the chemicals can get into the bloodstream, through the placenta and then into the fetal bloodstream.

The chemical can cause oxidative stress and an inflammatory cascade within the fetus, researchers noted. Previous literature has indicated that exposure to phthalates during pregnancy can increase the risk of low birth weight, preterm birth and child mental health disorders such as autism and ADHD.

amounts were derived through urine samples taken from the women in the study.

Ultraprocessed foods, according to the researchers, are made mostly from substances extracted from foods such as oils, sugar and starch, but have been so changed from processing and the addition of chemicals and preservatives to enhance their appearance or shelf life that they are hard to recognize from their original form, researchers noted. These include packaged cake mixes, for example, or packaged french fries, hamburger buns and soft drinks.

When it comes to fast food, gloves worn by the employees and the storage, preparation, serving equipment or tools may be the main sources of exposure. Both frozen and fresh ingredients would be subject to these sources, said lead author Brennan Baker, a postdoctoral researcher in Sathyanarayana's lab.

This is the first study, researchers say, to identify ultraprocessed foods as a link between exposure to phthalates and the socio-economics issues facing the mothers. The mothers' vulnerability might stem from experiencing financial hardships and from living in "food deserts" where healthier, fresh foods are harder to obtain and transportation to distant markets is unrealistic.

"We don't blame the pregnant person here," said Baker. "We need to call out manufacturers and legislators to offer replacements, and ones that may not be even more harmful."

More legislation is needed, the authors said, to prevent phthalate contamination in foods by regulating the composition of food wrapping or even the gloves that food handlers may use. What should pregnant women do now? Sathyanarayana said that pregnant women should try to avoid ultraprocessed food as much as they can, and seek out fruits, vegetables and lean meats. Reading labels can come into play here, she added.

"Look for the lower number of ingredients and make sure you can understand the ingredients," she said. This applies even to "healthy foods" such as breakfast bars. See if it's sweetened with dates or has a litany of fats and sugars in it, she said.

cent reduction in the number of medications they were taking compared to a 13.7 per cent reduction in those only using medical therapy.

Hypertension remission, defined as controlled blood pressure without medications, was 46.9 per cent in those who underwent bariatric surgery compared to 2.4 per cent in those on medical therapy alone.

"Our results underscore the importance of approaching obesity in reducing hypertension rates," Schiavon said.

Limitations of the study included that it was a single-centre, open-label study with a small sample size and there was loss of follow-up in some patients.

In an accompanying editorial comment, Michael Hall, MD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the study provides important long-term data on the benefits of gastric bypass on weight loss and blood pressure control, but questions remain.

"Further studies assessing the threshold for bariatric surgery in people with obesity, optimal timing of bariatric surgery in obese people with cardiometabolic diseases, type of bariatric surgery and comparative studies of obesity pharmacotherapies and bariatric surgery are needed to clarify the optimal treatment pathways for this common and growing disease," he said.



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

US, MEXICO, CANADA

Morning India

THURSDAY, KOLKATA, JUNE 18, 2026

Record-equalling Messi fires hat-trick as Argentina brush past Algeria 3-0

KANSAS CITY : Lionel Messi celebrated his record-breaking sixth World Cup appearance with a hat-trick, powering defending champions Argentina to a comfortable 3-0 win over Algeria in a FIFA World Cup 2026 Group J opener at the Kansas City Stadium on Wednesday.

In the process, Messi equalled the all-time FIFA World Cup goalscoring record with his 16 World Cup goals, tying Miroslav Klose of Germany. He also notably holds the records for most caps (199) and most goals (117) for Argentina, while also holding the international record for most World Cup match appearances (26) and being the only player to score in the World Cup group stage, round of 16, quarterfinals, semifinals and final.

Messi started the day three adrift of Miroslav Klose's mark of 16 goals on the global stage, but

within 76 minutes of this match he was on level terms with the former Germany international.

Messi and Algeria's Fares Chaibi both had efforts ruled out for offside in a breathless opening, but Argentina's captain fantastic soon made his mark. Picking up possession 30 yards from goal, he expertly rolled his marker, surged forward and curled a superb finish beyond the grasp of Luca Zidane.

Algeria largely kept the reigning champions at arm's length for the rest of the half, with an Alexis Mac Allister header over the crossbar Argentina's only real chance.

Anis Hadj Moussa carved out one of the Fennec Foxes' better opening moments earlier, but a deflection took the sting out of his low effort and Emiliano Martinez gathered comfortably.

Messi was once again at the heart of Argentina's brightest



attacking moments after the break. He first flashed a 20-yard effort over the bar before slipping in Lautaro Martinez, whose dangerous cross was cut out by Zidane.

The Argentina talisman's second goal soon followed, with Zidane unable to hold Mac Allister's powerful strike,

allowing Messi to pounce on the rebound and finish coolly with his right foot.

The 38-year-old completed his hat-trick with a trademark curling finish from the edge of the area, capping his 200th senior international appearance in style.

In his historic international

career, Messi has guided Argentina to the 2021 and 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America titles and 2022 CONMEBOL-UEFA Cup of Champions crown and further cemented his legacy by leading his country to a historic FIFA World Cup title in 2022.

Partey to miss Ghana's opening game due to visa trouble



ACCRA : Ghana midfielder Thomas Partey is set to miss the FIFA World Cup Group L opener against Panama after a Canadian court dismissed his visa appeal.

According to the ruling delivered by Roger R. Laffreniere, the court declined to expedite the matter or compel immigration authorities to reconsider their decision before Ghana's World Cup fixtures.

The judge held that Partey had failed to establish a "serious issue" with the original refusal and did not meet the legal threshold required for extraordinary relief, reports Xinhua.

Laffreniere further stated that the Ghanaian international had been put on notice about concerns arising from the multiple rape and sexual assault charges he faces in Britain but had failed to sufficiently address those concerns during the visa process.

The decision means Partey remains unable to enter Canada at this stage, placing his participation in Ghana's

remaining matches in further doubt unless relief is subsequently granted through the reconsideration or temporary resident permit process.

The Canadian government refused a visa for Partey last week, after which his lawyers launched a last-minute appeal to the Federal Court in Ottawa, seeking to overturn the decision.

FIFA earlier confirmed that Partey would be unable to travel from Ghana's team base in Boston to Canada for the opening match against Panama following the visa refusal.

Despite the setback, Partey remains with the Ghana squad in the United States and is available for the team's remaining group-stage fixtures. Ghana are scheduled to face England in the Boston area before taking on Croatia in Philadelphia.

Ghana will play Panama on June 17 before taking on England and Croatia.

The visa setback adds to a growing list of entry-related issues affecting participants at the ongoing FIFA WC. Earlier, Somali referee Omar Artan, Iraq internationals Aymen Hussein and Talal Salah, Haiti's Woodensky Pierre, and Switzerland forward Breel Embolo have encountered visa complications linked to World Cup travel arrangements.

When and where to watch England vs Croatia; know all details

ARLINGTON : England will kick off their World Cup journey with a blockbuster Group L encounter against Croatia at Dallas' AT&T Stadium, where two of Europe's heavyweights meet in one of the standout opening-round fixtures.

The Three Lions arrive in the United States after a dominant qualifying campaign under Thomas Tuchel, winning every match and remarkably keeping eight consecutive clean sheets. Despite that near-

perfect run, back-to-back friendly defeats to Uruguay and Japan have slightly tempered the optimism surrounding England ahead of the tournament.

Croatia, meanwhile, once again head into a major competition with a reputation for thriving under pressure. Guided by Zlatko Dalic, the experienced side secured qualification by winning seven of their eight group matches and will be eager to make another deep World Cup run after

reaching the semi-finals in each of the previous two editions.

Their dramatic extra-time triumph over England in the 2018 World Cup semi-final remains a defining moment between the two nations and adds extra intrigue to this latest meeting.

How to watch England vs Croatia live in India:

Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app

in India. A subscription will be needed.

Live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 will be available on the Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD TV channels in India.

Key details:

Date and kick-off time: Thursday, June 18, 01:30 AM IST

Venue: Dallas Stadium, Arlington

Referee: Clement Turpin

Squads:

England -

Goalkeepers: Jordan Pickford, Dean Henderson, James Trafford

Defenders: Ezri Konsa, Nico O'Reilly, John Stones, Marc Guéhi, Tino Livramento, Dan Burn, Reece James, Djed Spence, Jarell Quansah

Midfielders: Declan Rice, Elliot Anderson, Jude Bellingham, Jordan Henderson, Kobbie Mainoo, Morgan Rogers, Eberechi Eze.

Austria edge debutants Jordan 3-1 in first world cup match in 28 years

SANTA CLARA : In their first match at the FIFA World Cup in 28 years Austria registered a hard-fought 3-1 victory over debutants Jordan, powered by first-half strike from Romano Schmid, an own goal by Jordan defender Yazan Al Arab and a Marko Arnautovic penalty deep into injury time at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium.

Interestingly, Austria have now played 30 FIFA World Cup matches to date, and not a single one of them has finished goalless.

Jordan started brightly and carved out the first half-chance

of the game in just the second minute at San Francisco Bay Area Stadium, but captain Ehsan Haddad fired his effort into the side-netting.

Odeh Fakhouri then sent another warning shot a quarter of an hour later, but his strike from distance was tipped over the bar by Austria goalkeeper Alexander Schlager.

It was instead Austria that took the lead in the 20th minute, when Schmid whipped an unstoppable drive into the back of the net from the edge of the area.

Parity was restored five

minutes into the second period, after a terrific solo effort from Ali Olwan, reports Xinhua.

The Nashama No 9 carried the ball forward after being played into the Austria half by Noor Al Rawabdeh and, after breaking into the penalty area, he jinked inside and bent an inch-perfect shot home to create history and become the first Jordanian to score at the World Cup.

Arnautovic thought he had re-established Austria's lead in the 67th minute, stabbing in after the ball broke to him in the six-yard box when Jordan



goalkeeper Yazeed Abulaila failed to get enough purchase on a punch clear at a corner, but after a VAR on-field review the effort was ruled out for a handball in the build-up by Stefan Posch.

Arnautovic and his teammates were celebrating again soon afterwards though, when the unfortunate Al Arab headed into his own net to put Austria back in front.

The veteran then added the gloss as he rifled in from the penalty spot in the 12th minute of time added on.

When and where to watch Czechia vs South Africa; know all details



THE : pressure is already mounting on both Czechia and South Africa ahead of their second Group A fixture, with neither side able to afford another setback after disappointing starts to their World Cup campaigns. As things stand, Thursday's showdown at Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium could prove decisive in determining which nation remains in the hunt for a place in the knockout rounds.

South Africa endured a nightmare opening against tournament hosts Mexico, falling 2-0 in a match that unravelled dramatically. Bafana Bafana finished with only nine players after Sphephelo Sithole and captain Themba Zwane were both dismissed, leaving Hugo Broos' men overwhelmed and facing widespread criticism. The suspensions of both players further complicate matters heading into a must-win encounter.

Czechia also walked away empty-handed despite showing encouraging signs in their tournament opener. They held

a one-goal advantage against South Korea shortly after the hour mark but failed to protect it, conceding twice late on to suffer a painful 2-1 defeat in their first World Cup appearance in two decades. The collapse has left Ivan Hašek's side with little margin for error.

With Mexico already in control of the group and South Korea holding second place, the equation is simple. Victory keeps hopes of reaching the last 32 alive, while defeat would almost certainly bring an early end to the World Cup journey. Even a draw would leave both teams relying on favourable results elsewhere, making this one of the most consequential fixtures of the second round.

How to watch Czechia vs South Africa live in India:

Live streaming and live telecast of the FIFA World Cup 2026 matches will be available on the Zee5 platform and app in India. A subscription will be needed.

Kane believes 2026 World Cup is England's 'best opportunity' to lift the trophy

ARLINGTON : Captain Harry Kane believes the 2026 FIFA World Cup presents England with the "best opportunity" to lift the elusive trophy. Coming off a spectacular season where he scored 61 goals in 51 games for Bayern Munich, the striker is confident he is more ready than ever to extend his career-best form and lead the Three Lions deep into the tournament.

England kick off their campaign with a Group L opener against Croatia here on Thursday (IST). Kane scored an incredible 61 goals in all competitions for Bayern and added six more for his country, including the winner in the World Cup warm-up win over New Zealand in Florida.

Speaking at a pre-game press conference, the 32-



year-old said, "I'd say, from a personal point of view, coming off the best season I've ever had, physically and mentally. The way the season ended for me was in a great way - winning the league and the cup final and scoring three goals there. From a physical point of

view I feel in great shape."

"For your career you need a lot of things to go your way and fall into place at the right time and I feel like it has for this tournament. For sure it's one of the best opportunities we will have as a team to win it. I think everyone is eager to

just start well and prove that we have the capabilities of going far in this tournament."

Kane, who is England's all-time record goalscorer and joint fourth in the list of record appearance makers, was part of the squads who reached the 2018 World Cup semi-finals and the finals of EURO 2020 and 2024.

When Kane leads the team out in Dallas, it will be his 115th cap for England, a record to match David Beckham. "To reach the same level of caps as Beckham is a great thing for me. Beckham was a big idol of mine growing up, watching him as England captain and hoping and dreaming one day I would be in the same England shirt as him, so that will be a great emotion."

"Throughout my whole

career it's been about just being the best I can be, improving every moment, improving every season, and I think that's the only mindset to have. At the highest level you want to be as consistent as what I've been, and like some of the other players I've touched on earlier - Ronaldo, Messi, Modric, all these players."

"Being able to do it for 20-plus years is what truly separates the good players from the great players, so I'm extremely proud of being here again, being in my sixth tournament, and being in the shape that I'm in as well," he said.

Speaking on England's chances in the FIFA World Cup 2026, Kane insists nobody is taking anything for granted this time.

"Throughout a career, you

need a lot of things to go your way and fall into place at the right time, and I feel like it has at this tournament. We just need to start well tomorrow and prove we could go far in this tournament."

"We've been able to be in the semi-finals and finals, and that only boosts the confidence within the squad. Ultimately, from our point of view, we can only do what we do on the pitch. Part of every tournament is for fans to get excited and enjoy the summer."

"I remember being young, singing the songs and believing it was our time. From a player's point of view, we never get too carried away. There is a lot that goes into a tournament like this behind the scenes," he said.

'We learned an important lesson today,' says Al Rawabdeh despite Jordan's defeat to Austria

SANTA CLARA : Jordan midfielder Noor Al Rawabdeh believes his side can take valuable lessons from their historic FIFA World Cup debut despite suffering a 3-1 defeat to Austria in their Group J opener at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium on Wednesday.

Making their first-ever appearance at the FIFA World Cup, Jordan matched Austria for long spells and were level at 1-1 until an unfortunate own goal in the 76th minute swung the contest in favour of the Europeans. Austria later added a penalty to secure

victory, although the final scoreline did not fully reflect Jordan's competitive display.

Jordan created several chances throughout the match and celebrated a historic moment when Ali Olwan scored the nation's first-ever World Cup goal. The strike came after Al Rawabdeh threaded a perfectly weighted pass through the Austrian defence to set up the equaliser.

"We didn't make the most of our chances. In the first half, we missed three clear opportunities to score, but we learned an important lesson from this match," Al

Rawabdeh said after the game.

"In big games, you might only get three or four chances, and you have to take them. In the end, we gave everything we had. This was our first match at the World Cup, and we are proud of our fans who came to the stadium today. I hope we can make them happy in the next match," he added.

Despite the disappointment of defeat, Al Rawabdeh said Jordan had shed the nerves associated with playing their first match on football's biggest stage.

"Austria have more



experience than us in major tournaments, and that experience showed in front of goal. But we learned from this experience, we overcame our fear and we got rid of the pressure that comes with a first match. That means the next game will be more enjoyable for us," he said.

Defender Mohammad Abualnadi echoed those sentiments, describing the occasion as a major achievement for the country while insisting the team must now focus on the challenges ahead.

"It is a huge achievement for us. Now we are looking ahead to what

comes next in the tournament," Abualnadi said.

"The small details were the reason we lost today. We had some easy chances in the first half that we failed to convert. What we need to do now is stay focused, correct our mistakes and improve on this. We hope to achieve what we want in the next match," he added.

Jordan will next face Algeria on June 22 at the San Francisco Bay Area Stadium before taking on reigning world champions Argentina in their final Group J fixture on June 27 at Dallas Stadium.