



BSF marathon on Bengal border sends fitness, sports message to youth

Bengal • Pg 2



Former MLAs' Med Allowance Raised, CM Announces Rs 10 Cr Aid for Assam Floods

City • Pg 3

Rs. 3

KOLKATA

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Morning India

Bills to increase number of seats in Kolkata, Howrah municipalities passed in Bengal Assembly

MI News Service, Kolkata : In a significant step towards making a fresh legislative move for restructuring the civic administration of Kolkata and Howrah ahead of the proposed municipal polls, the West Bengal Assembly on Wednesday passed by voice vote two separate Bills seeking to increase the number of wards in the Kolkata and Howrah Municipal Corporations, with the state government maintaining that the move was aimed at ensuring better civic services to residents. Following the passage the number of wards in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) will rise from the existing 144 to 209, an increase of 65 wards. Similarly in Howrah, the number of wards will go up from 50 to 68, with 18 additional wards proposed.

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill and the Howrah Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill were introduced in the Assembly and subsequently passed by voice vote. Participating in the debate, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari rejected the Opposition's objections and said the



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari is addressing the special one day session of the state Assembly on Wednesday

government was not bypassing any rules or procedures to get the Bills passed. He said the proposed increase in wards was necessary to ensure more effective delivery of civic services. On the delimitation of wards in

Kolkata, Suwendu Adhikari said the process would be undertaken by the Election Commission in accordance with the existing municipal legislation. Once the draft notification is published, a period of 60 days would be

available for objections and suggestions.

The Chief Minister also said two all-party meetings would be convened as part of the delimitation exercise — the first before publication of the draft notification and the

second before the final list is issued. The government is planning to complete the delimitation exercise before the municipal elections, which are expected to be held in December. However, the number of wards will not in-

crease uniformly across all Assembly constituencies. In the preliminary proposal, the number of wards in the Chowringhee, Jorasanko and Shyampukur Assembly constituencies — which currently have 11 wards each — has been proposed to be reduced to eight each. Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Pal said the increase in wards in both corporations was necessary to provide residents with better and more efficient civic services. She also accused the previous administration of preventing elections to the Howrah Municipal Corporation and said the state government was seeking to restore the democratic system. She claimed that Howrah had failed to receive funds from the 15th Finance Commission because of the situation surrounding the civic body.

The Assembly also witnessed announcements on issues beyond municipal administration. Expressing concern over the devastating floods in Assam, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said more than 100 people had died in the floods and

► Continued on page 3

'Bengal may soon get anti-conversion law, curb land sale': Suwendu

MI News Service, Bankura / Kolkata : West Bengal Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari has asserted that his government would soon bring in a stringent law against forced religious conversion and introduce "legal restrictions" governing the sale and purchase of land. With the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) set to become the BJP government's first major ideological legislation in West Bengal, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari has signalled that his next political-legal battles could centre on religious conversion and restrictions on land transactions across communities. Addressing a review meeting of the Paschimanchal Unnayan Parishad in Bankura, on Tuesday, Suwendu Adhikari said his government would soon bring in a stringent law against forced religious conversion and introduce "legal restrictions" governing the sale and purchase of land. "We will bring the UCC very soon; one country, one law. After that, our next steps will be to bring a stringent law to prevent forced conversion and new legal restrictions on land purchase and sale," he said.

Two issues that have long occupied the BJP's political narrative are religious conversion and what it calls 'land jihad'. The Chief minister, however, did not spell out

what the proposed land law would entail or whether it would restrict sale of property between members of different faiths. But his remarks immediately invite comparison with other BJP-ruled states bordering Bangladesh, where the government has introduced restrictions on certain land transactions in protected communities and areas. The land question also connects the state government's agenda with a larger BJP narrative on demography, illegal migration and control over land in border districts. The BJP for the last several years have warned of demographic changes in border areas allegedly caused by infiltration and raised concerns over indigenous people losing land to "outsiders". Now, with the TMC having been voted out after 15 years in power, that narrative has moved from campaign rhetoric towards the policy domain.

At Tuesday's meeting, attended by MPs, MLAs, cabinet ministers, district magistrates and around 75 BDOs from districts such as Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram, and Birbhum, Suwendu Adhikari alleged that foreign-funded organisations were misleading poor people in Bankura and the Junglemahal region and engaging in illegal religious conversions and "fundamentalist" activities.

► Continued on page 3

BRICS working group meeting on Oceanic-Polar Science and Technology begins



MI News Service, Panaji : The eighth meeting of the BRICS Working Group on Oceanic and Polar Science and Technology (OPST) began in Goa on Wednesday, where scientists and officials from eight member countries will discuss scientific cooperation and future collaborative programmes in ocean and polar research. The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences in South Goa, is hosting the three-day meeting being held under India's BRICS Presidency 2026.

Delegations from Brazil, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Russia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates and India are participating in the meeting. The meeting was inaugurated on Wednesday in presence of Dr. M. Rajee-

van, Vice-Chancellor, Atria University and former Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, along with directors and scientists from MoES institutions, officials from MoES and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), and representatives from BRICS member countries. Dr. Thamban Meloth, Director, NCPOR and Chair of the Working Group for 2026, welcomed the participants. Dr. Rajeevan delivered a keynote address on "India's Blue Economy Initiatives."The meeting brings together scientists, experts and officials from all participating countries to discuss ongoing national programmes, areas of common scientific interest and opportunities for future cooperation in ocean and polar sciences. During the three-day meeting, participants are discussing proposals for bilateral, trilateral and multilateral cooperation, priority areas of common interest and future activities in ocean exploration and polar studies. Discussions are also

► Continued on page 3

Naga village attacked in Manipur, houses burnt down



MI News Service, Imphal: Unidentified miscreants burnt down at least nine houses in an attack on a Naga village in Manipur's Kangpokpi district, officials said on Wednesday. The incident happened at Tokpa Liangmai Naga village around 9.30 pm on Tuesday night, they said. Armed men allegedly opened fire and later set fire to nine houses, mostly kutchha structures, they added. During the attack the armed miscreants also fired several rounds before setting fire to at least nine houses. Residents of nearby villages rushed to the spot and helped contain the blaze, officials said. Additional security personnel have been deployed in the area to control the situation, they said. The Liangmai Naga Council, Manipur condemned the incident and alleged that armed men of another community were behind the attack. The council claimed that 10 houses and a church were burnt in the attack. "The deliberate targeting of innocent civilians, residential properties and a place of worship constitutes a grave and reprehensible act of violence," it said in a statement. The Naga organisation demanded immediate arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the arson. It also sought immediate strengthening of security in the area.

Amit Shah is ready for discussion on all issues related to NEET

MI News Service, New Delhi : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday dared the opposition to submit a formal letter to the Lok Sabha speaker for a debate on students' protests and all related issues, and said he will attend the entire proceedings to address all questions if the discussion begins today.

Speaking to reporters in the Parliament House complex, he said it was now up to the opposition whether they want to take part in the debate or to create turmoil in Parliament. "Even today, I say that they should submit a letter to the Speaker by 2 pm. We are ready for all kinds of discussions from 3 pm today until 3 pm tomorrow," Shah said, asserting that the government has nothing to hide. The Home minister's remarks came just a day before the Monsoon Session comes to an end after prolonged disruptions of the proceedings in both Houses of Parliament. The protests and sloganeering by the opposition initially started over the NEET paper



leak but later moved to the alleged embezzlement of donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya.

The opposition later pressed for a discussion on the police action against students protesting over the NEET paper leak and also demanded the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well as the Home minister, and their statements. Asked about the opposition charges that he was running away from the debate, the Amit Shah took strong exception to the claim and said words like "missing" and "fugitives" are terms that

have only recently begun to be heard in India's public and parliamentary discourse.

He said ever since the Parliament session began on July 20, he has been coming regularly and sitting in his chamber in the Parliament House, but the opposition is not allowing the either House to function. "So, what is the point of anyone going inside when the proceedings are not being allowed to run? As far as the issue of discussion is concerned, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has made it very clear that the government is ready for a discussion on all aspects of

the students' protests related to the NEET issue," he told reporters outside Parliament's main entrance 'Makar Dwar'.

On Monday, Rijiju announced that the government is ready for a full-fledged discussion in the Lok Sabha on students' protests and police action across the country, and that Shah will give a reply to the debate, provided the opposition promises not to disrupt and listens peacefully.

Pointing to the opposition's initial demand that time be allotted for a discussion, Shah said he had made it clear that he was ready to answer all questions in Parliament. "But they simply do not want the discussion to take place. Now, let the people decide who is actually running away," he said, adding that he is also ready to discuss why the opposition "does not" want a discussion. Shah said the NDA government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is ready for discussions on every issue.

► Continued on page 3

New York, New Jersey proclaim August 15 as 'India Independence Day'

MI NNews Service, Washington (DC) / New Delhi : Two US states, New York and New Jersey, have proclaimed August 15 as "India Independence Day", recognising India's journey as an independent nation and the contributions of the Indian-American community. New York Governor Kathy Hochul issued a proclamation declaring August 15, 2026, as "India Independence Day" across the entire state, while New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill made a similar declaration, the Indian Consulate in New York posted on X on Wednesday. The proclamations come ahead of India's 80th Independence Day celebrations and highlight "India's journey of independence and the democratic values shared by India and the United

States," the consulate said. As the Indian Independence Day celebrations kick off with fervor and enthusiasm across the world, while celebrating the enduring bonds of friendship, the two important American states of New York and New Jersey having huge Indian people residing have proclaimed next Saturday - August 15, 2026- as India Independence Day.

The Consulate expressed gratitude to both the Governors of New York and New Jersey for proclaiming August 15, 2026, as "Indian Independence Day". The Proclamation recognised the significant contributions of the vibrant Indian-American community to New York and New Jersey across education, healthcare, research, technology, business, public



service and community leadership. It also celebrated the enduring India-US friendship and the growing partnership across education, commerce, technology, healthcare and cultural exchange, the post mentioned. The proclamation highlighted how India's Independence Day honours the courage, vision, and sacrifice of the countless individuals whose peaceful

movement for freedom inspired generations around the world and affirmed the universal principles of justice, equality, and human dignity. In another post on X, the Indian Consulate said, "New York joins in celebrating India's 80th Independence Day with a special recognition of the enduring bonds between India and the United States." Expressing gratitude to Governor

Kathy Hochul for proclaiming August 15, 2026 as "India Independence Day" across New York State, the Consulate said on X that the proclamation celebrates India's journey of independence and the democratic values shared by India and the United States. "It recognizes the significant contributions of the Indian-American community to the cultural, economic and civic life of the Empire State," it added.

The proclamation highlighted how India's path to independence was forged by a collective commitment to virtues such as nonviolent resistance, championing truth, self-discipline, and moral courage and noted how the annual commemoration of India's Independence Day within the United States has evolved

into a magnificent testament to cross-cultural harmony, marked by vibrant festivals where multigenerational gatherings proudly honor the rich patriotic traditions of both nations, symbolizing the deep-seated bonds that unite the two great democracies. As India prepares to mark its milestone 80th Independence Day, this year's celebrations will have a special focus on the commemoration of 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'.

The milestone celebrations will place a heavy emphasis on 'Yuva Shakti' (youth power), honouring the success and contributions of students and young citizens. The 80th Independence Day celebrations promise to blend profound historical traditions with a forward-looking tribute to India's rising generation.

Basirhat Murder
Mystery: Cousin Held
for 22-Year-Old's Killing

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: A late-night conversation between two cousins ended in bloodshed in Godown Para under Basirhat police station, after a 22-year-old man was allegedly shot dead. The killing has left residents stunned, with police yet to establish a clear motive behind the sudden attack.

The deceased, Prashant Shil, was allegedly sitting and chatting with his cousin, Surya Shil, last night when an argument reportedly took a fatal turn. According to local accounts, Surya suddenly drew a pistol and opened fire at Prashant. Gravely injured, Prashant was rushed by local residents to Basirhat Hospital. As his condition deteriorated, doctors referred him to Kolkata. However, he died while being taken to the city. The circumstances surrounding the shooting have deepened the mystery. Residents said there had been no known dispute or longstanding hostility between the two cousins. Surya, they claimed, had generally maintained a good reputation in the locality, making the alleged shooting even more difficult for neighbours to comprehend. The family of the deceased has also reportedly ruled out political or group rivalry as a reason for the killing. Police are, however, examining every possible angle as they reconstruct the events leading to the shooting. A key question confronting investigators is how Surya obtained the firearm allegedly used in the crime. Following a complaint lodged by Prashant's family, Basirhat police arrested Surya Shil and began questioning him. Investigators are expected to examine the weapon, establish its source and determine whether anyone else was involved in supplying or concealing it. Meanwhile, Prashant's body was kept at the police morgue of Basirhat Subdivisional Hospital for post-mortem examination. The body is expected to be handed over to the family after the autopsy and completion of formalities. Reacting to the incident, Basirhat South Trinamool MLA Surjit Mitra said he learned of the shooting through the media and had not been informed by the administration. He said the administration would take the steps, while stressing that political affiliation should not be linked to the incident. He also called for collective efforts to prevent such violence. With the motive still unclear, the Basirhat shooting has raised questions over the circulation of illegal firearms and the circumstances that can turn a conversation into a fatal confrontation.

West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari interacted with local school children and students during his visit to the Adyapeeth temple in Dakshineswar. During the event, he also inaugurated a new ambulance service, the renovated Matri Ashram, visited cowshed and spoke about spiritual education on Wednesday.

BSF Marathon on Bengal Border Promotes
Fitness, Sports Among Youth

MI News Service, Kadipur: A six-km marathon organised by the Border Security Force (BSF) along the India-Bangladesh border in Nadia on Wednesday drew students and young participants from different parts of the district, with the event combining a fitness drive with a message against excessive dependence on mobile phones.

The run was organised at Kadipur in the early hours of Wednesday, August 12, to mark International Youth Day and ahead of Independence Day. International Youth Day is observed globally on August 12; this year's UN theme is "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations".

The marathon was inaugurated by Sujit Kumar, Commandant of the BSF's 32 Battalion. Participants from areas beyond the immediate border belt, including Shantipur and Ranaghat, joined the run. Children also took part, adding a family and community dimension to an event primarily aimed at the youth.

Addressing the gathering after the run, Kumar said the initiative was intended to encourage young people to take up sports and maintain an active lifestyle. The participation of children, he said, was particularly encouraging.

The message from the runners was equally direct. A participant from Shantipur said youngsters addicted to mobile phones should spend more time on sports and outdoor activities.

10 tonnes of
adulterated coriander
seized from godown

MI News Service, Chapra: The Nadia district Enforcement Branch (DEB) has seized around 10 tonnes of coriander from a godown at Hatishala village in Chapra, following allegations that chemicals were being used to alter the colour, aroma and pungency of inferior-quality coriander before it was allegedly sent to the market.

Acting on a tip-off, a DEB team conducted a search at the godown, which investigators said belongs to Firjul Sheikh. Around 200 sacks of coriander were recovered during the operation. Each sack contained approximately 50kg, taking the total seizure to nearly 10,000kg.

Investigators suspect that low-grade coriander was procured at cheaper rates and subjected to chemical treatment to make it appear more attractive and stronger in aroma and taste. A specially constructed room inside the godown was also found during the search. According to investigators, the room resembled a gas chamber and may have been used for the alleged chemical treatment process.

The DEB is now probing whether the seized coriander was being prepared for distribution as whole spices or after being ground into coriander powder. Investigators are also examining whether the operation was part of a wider adulterated-spice supply network.

The names of godown owner Firjul Sheikh and his son Aktarul Sheikh have surfaced during the preliminary investigation. Officials suspect that the two were involved in the alleged operation. Neither was present at the godown or their residence when the raid was conducted, sources said.

The investigation is now focused on identifying the chemicals allegedly used, tracing their source and determining whether any treated coriander had already entered the market. Officials are also trying to establish the intended distribution network and identify other people who may have been involved.

Samples of the seized coriander are expected to be examined to establish the nature of the alleged chemical treatment. The test results are likely to be crucial in determining whether the material posed any food-safety risk and in establishing the exact nature of the alleged adulteration.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari interacted with local school children and students during his visit to the Adyapeeth temple in Dakshineswar. During the event, he also inaugurated a new ambulance service, the renovated Matri Ashram, visited cowshed and spoke about spiritual education on Wednesday.

Jaldapara Alert: Orphaned
Calf Under Forest Watch

MI News Service, Jaldapara: A ten-hour rescue operation in the forests of Jaldapara ended with the safe recovery of a one-year-old rhinoceros calf after its mother was killed in a violent confrontation with a male rhino near Kunjanagar village.

The incident unfolded when a mother rhino and her calf were chased by a male rhino from the forest towards the human settlement adjoining Jaldapara National Park. In the ensuing confrontation, the adult female was attacked and died after entering the locality, leaving the young calf terrified, agitated and exposed amid a gathering of villagers. The frightened animal ran repeatedly through the crowd, creating a volatile situation and raising fears of further conflict between wildlife and residents. Forest officials moved swiftly to prevent panic and contain the calf without causing injury. Nearly 60 personnel from six ranges under the Jaldapara Wildlife Division, assisted by police, joined the operation. Initial efforts focused on capturing the calf with a rescue net. When that attempt failed, the teams changed tactics and surrounded the area, carefully restricting the animal's movement while maintaining a safe distance. As darkness approached, veterinary doctors intervened.

On Tuesday evening, the calf was tranquilised under controlled conditions. Forest personnel then undertook the delicate task of securing the sedated animal. Using bamboo scaffolding and tractors, they placed the calf inside a cage, bringing the prolonged rescue to an end. Later on Tuesday evening, the rescued calf was transported and released into the grassland adjoining the Harindanga Tower inside Jaldapara National Park. Officials said the operation was conducted with particular caution because of the animal's vulnerable age and the threat posed by adult male rhinos in the forest. Jaldapara DFO Parveen Kaswan confirmed the rescue on Wednesday. The forest department has now intensified surveillance around the calf and is monitoring its movements closely. Officials are particularly concerned that another male rhino could attack the orphaned animal, making continued protection essential. The incident once again highlights the precarious interface between wildlife habitats and expanding human settlements around Jaldapara. The death of the mother and the subsequent rescue of her calf underline the dangers faced by both wild animals and local communities when large mammals stray beyond forest boundaries. For now, forest teams remain on alert, watching over the orphaned calf as it begins life without its mother.

Samar Mukherjee
Confronted Over Land Row

MI News Service, Malda: Trinamool Congress MLA Samar Mukherjee, a veteran legislator from Ratua, faced a public demonstration outside Chanchal police station on Wednesday, where slogans of "Chor, Chor" were raised against him amid allegations concerning the sale of cooperative society land.

Mukherjee had been summoned to the police station following a written complaint alleging that land belonging to a cooperative society was sold without informing the concerned members. The allegations have triggered a fresh political controversy in Malda, with the MLA rejecting the charges and describing the episode as an attempt to tarnish his image. The incident took a sharper turn outside Chanchal police station when Mukherjee became involved in a heated exchange with BJP's Chanchal Gram Panchayat public representative Prasenjit Sharma. The confrontation briefly turned physical before the situation was brought under control. Speaking about the allegations, Mukherjee claimed that the campaign against him was politically motivated. "This is being done to malign me. Those who tried to prevent me from getting a ticket are behind it," he said. The Ratua MLA also acknowledged that some of those seeking to damage his reputation belonged to the Trinamool Congress. The controversy has gained added significance because of a remark made by Suwendu Adhikari in the state Assembly on June 23. Referring to senior politicians who, in his view, should not be collectively targeted, Adhikari had described Mukherjee as a "decent politician" and said he continued to stand up and pay his respects to him. Adhikari had said that political differences should not lead to every leader being viewed through the same lens. He specifically referred to Mukherjee while making the observation, underlining his personal regard for the Ratua MLA despite the wider political divide. The latest confrontation, however, has placed Mukherjee at the centre of a new controversy in Ratua.

National Seminar on Shrii Shrii Anandamurti's
Contributions to Humanity Proposed

MI News Service, Kolkata: Acharya Divyachetanandana, Avadhuta and Central Public Relations Secretary, met Prof. Uday Bandopadhyay, Vice-Chancellor of Kazi Nazrul University, Asansol, and former Director of Bose Institute, Kolkata, to discuss the contributions of Shrii Shrii Anandamurti, particularly in the field of science.

Dr Pradip Kumar Das accompanied Acharya Divyachetanandana during the meeting. Discussions also covered the current social situation and the relevance of Anandamurti's multifaceted contributions to humanity.

The meeting focused primarily on the proposal to organise a national seminar highlighting Shrii Shrii Anandamurti's contributions to humanity. Prof. Bandopadhyay agreed to organise the seminar in collaboration with the Departments of History and Sanskrit of Kazi Nazrul University.

Prof. Bandopadhyay assigned Prof. Pradip Kumar Das the responsibility of finalising the seminar programme and date. Further details regarding the proposed national seminar are expected to be announced after the programme is finalised.

West Bengal Observes International Youth Day 2026 and
Launches Intensified IEC Campaign on HIV & STI Awareness

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal State AIDS Prevention & Control Society (WBSAP&CS), under the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, observed International Youth Day with a state-level programme at Swasthya Bhavan, Kolkata, and inaugurated an Intensified IEC Campaign on HIV and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

The programme focused on engaging and empowering young people as active partners in combating the HIV epidemic, promoting HIV prevention, reducing stigma and discrimination, and strengthening community participation.

The Intensified IEC Campaign, which will continue from 12 August to 12 October 2026, aims to enhance awareness among the general population about HIV and STIs through a range of



information, education and communication activities across rural and urban areas in all districts of West Bengal. The campaign will focus on disseminating key messages related to HIV transmission and prevention, STI prevention and treatment, HIV testing, availability of treatment and care services, and reduction of stigma and discrimination.

The state-level programme was graced by Special Secretary, Unice Rishin Ismail, IAS; Dr Swapan Soren, Director of Health Services; Dr Indrajit Saha, Director of Medical Education; Prof. Asutosh Ghosh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta; and Dr Kautav Nayek, Director, State Institute of Health & Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal, who addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of youth participation and sustained public health action.

The programme concluded with a Voluntary Blood Donation Camp, reinforcing the message of youth engagement, community service and collective responsibility towards public health.

The intensified campaign is expected to strengthen HIV and STI awareness across West Bengal and mobilise young people and communities as partners in the state's continuing efforts to end HIV as a public health threat.

B E N G A L

Annual Bomb Threat Mock
Exercise Held at Kolkata Airport



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Annual Bomb Threat Mock Exercise-2026 was conducted at NSCB Airport, Kolkata today from 11:27 AM to 12:45 PM to test emergency preparedness and inter-agency coordination.

The drill simulated an anonymous bomb threat call received by the Terminal Manager regarding an unattended backpack near Departure Gate 05 A/B. Following the alert, the Airport Security Operation Control Centre activated the Bomb Threat Assessment Committee and deployed CISF's BDDS, K9 team, search teams

and QRT. The suspicious bag was located, the area was cordoned off and evacuated, and passengers were diverted to other gates. After assessment, the threat was classified as "Specific". The BDDS team declared the bag positive, and it was safely shifted in a Suspicious Luggage Containment Vehicle for disposal outside the terminal. An anti-sabotage check was later conducted and the area was cleared for normal operations.

A total of 158 personnel and 3 canines from CISF, AAI, BCAS,

DGCA, State Police, BDDS, NSG, IB, SIB, Fire Services, Health Services and Airlines participated in the exercise.

In the joint debrief chaired by the Airport Director and DIG/CASO, CISF appreciated the response of all concerned and reiterated adherence to SOP in view of heightened threat perception and security dynamics.

Officials said the exercise successfully validated response mechanisms, coordination between agencies, and overall contingency preparedness at the airport.

Dr Debanti Banerjee Urges Breastfeeding
Mothers Not to Ignore Breast Changes

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of World Breastfeeding Week, Dr Debanti Banerjee, Consultant - Medical Oncology at HCG Cancer Centre, Kolkata, emphasised the need for breastfeeding mothers to remain vigilant about persistent breast lumps and other unusual changes.

She said breast engorgement, tenderness and benign lumps are common during lactation, but warned that not every lump should be assumed to be a blocked milk duct. Breast cancer can also be diagnosed during pregnancy or breastfeeding.

Dr Banerjee urged women to seek medical evaluation if they notice a new or persistent lump, changes in breast shape



Dr Debanti Banerjee, Consultant - Medical Oncology, HCG Cancer Centre, Kolkata

or skin, a newly inverted nipple, or spontaneous, blood-stained or non-milky discharge. Persistent redness, pain or swelling should also not be ignored, she said.

While most such symptoms are not cancerous, delaying assessment could lead to a late diagnosis. She advised women with concerns to consult a gynaecologist or breast specialist. Breast ultrasonography can be safely performed during pregnancy and throughout lactation.

Dr Banerjee also stressed that such vigilance does not diminish the importance of breastfeeding. She noted that breastfeeding is associated with a lower risk of breast cancer later in life and protection against ovarian cancer.

She urged mothers to breastfeed where possible, understand what is normal for their breasts and promptly seek medical advice if any unusual change persists.

BJP Minority Morcha Veteran Leader Arshad
Alam Given Final Farewell Amid Large Gathering



MI News Service, Kolkata: Arshad Alam, a veteran leader of the BJP Minority Morcha and a longtime dedicated party worker, passed away after a prolonged illness. His death cast a pall of grief among BJP workers and supporters.

On Tuesday, Alam's mortal remains were brought to the BJP state headquarters at Muralidhar Sen Lane, where senior party leaders and workers paid their last respects. BJP leaders Amitava Roy, Prabhakar Chaturvedi, Tapan Das and Zulfiqar Ali, among others, were present.

Although he was not in Kolkata, BJP state president Shamik Bhattacharya expressed deep grief over Alam's death. He said Alam's demise was a major setback for the party and that filling the void left by him would not be easy.

After the tribute programme at the BJP office, Alam's body was taken to Solana Cemetery in Khidderpore, where he was given a final farewell according to Islamic rites. Several of his acquaintances, supporters and party workers were present.

Recalling his father, Alam's son Salman Arshad said his father had devoted his entire

life to the BJP. He claimed that the family had faced situations, including social boycott, for supporting the BJP. However, he said his father never compromised on his political ideology or loyalty to the party.

Salman said the family would continue to follow the path shown by his father. He added that he would try to carry out any responsibility entrusted to him by the party with honesty and dedication.

Alam had reportedly been associated with BJP politics for more than five decades. He was particularly active in national-level politics, and his longstanding loyalty to the party earned him considerable respect within the organisation.

With Alam's death, the BJP has lost a veteran leader and worker who remained dedicated to the party for decades. The large gathering at his final farewell reflected the respect he commanded and his long association with the organisation.

TMC Leader 'Toy' Arrested in Keshpur Within
24 Hours of Suwendu Adhikari's Warning

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Political activity intensified in Keshpur after a local Trinamool Congress leader was arrested within around 24 hours of BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly Suwendu Adhikari demanding an investigation into old cases and action against those allegedly involved. Police arrested Asif Iqbal alias 'Toy', former block president of Keshpur Youth Trinamool Congress. Following his arrest on Wednesday, he was produced before the Medinipur court. According to police sources, a complaint had recently been lodged against Asif Iqbal alleging that he had intimidated ordinary people and demanded money from them. Police took the action as part of their investigation into the complaint. Who is Asif Iqbal alias 'Toy'? Asif Iqbal is popularly known as 'Toy' in the Keshpur area. He previously served as the block president of Keshpur Youth Trinamool Congress. His active involvement in local politics is said to have given him considerable influence in the area. His arrest has triggered political discussions in



Keshpur. However, the allegations against him are yet to be established through the judicial process, and the police investigation is continuing. Suwendu Adhikari had demanded action from the stage. On Tuesday, a programme was organised at Mohbani in Keshpur, West Medinipur, to mark the death anniversary of revolutionary freedom fighter Khudiram Bose. During the programme, Suwendu Adhikari raised questions over old cases related to political violence and alleged cases registered against BJP workers. Adhikari alleged that several BJP workers were harassed merely for saying "Narendra Modi Zindabad" and that some people

were allegedly sent to jail in false cases. He also alleged that an attempt had been made to prevent him from holding a public meeting in Keshpur ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. According to him, the meeting was eventually held, but people were allegedly prevented from reaching the venue. Police directed to investigate old cases. During the programme, Adhikari called for investigations into old cases and action against those found responsible. He also called for a review of cases in which BJP workers were allegedly implicated and sought steps towards withdrawing such cases. Addressing West Medinipur Superintendent

of Police Papiya Sultana, who was present on the stage, Adhikari reportedly said that he wanted to see the accused "in jail".

The arrest of former Keshpur Youth Trinamool Congress block president Asif Iqbal alias 'Toy' the following day has further intensified political discussions in the area. Coincidence or political message? The arrest, coming within approximately 24 hours of Adhikari's demand for action, has acquired political significance. However, police maintain that the arrest was based on a registered complaint and the investigation arising from it. The subsequent court proceedings and police investigation will determine what further action is taken in connection with the allegations against Asif Iqbal. Political reactions from both the Trinamool Congress and BJP regarding the arrest are also being closely watched. For now, the arrest of a Trinamool leader, coupled with directions to investigate old political cases, has once again heated up the political atmosphere in Keshpur.

Bank of Baroda Opens New Branch at EM Bypass

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bank of Baroda inaugurated a new branch at EM Bypass, Metropolitan, expanding its presence in Kolkata. With the addition, the bank's branch network in the Kolkata Zone has reached 265.

The new branch will serve individuals and businesses in EM Bypass, Metropolitan and adjoining areas, offering banking products, digital services, personalised financial solutions and advisory support. The branch was inaugurated by Lal Singh, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda, in the presence of senior bank officials, in-

cluding K R Kagadal, General Manager and Zonal Head, Kolkata Zone.

As part of its CSR initiative, the bank also donated 50 bicycles and school bags to underprivileged girl students of Krishnapur Adarsha Vidyamandir for Girls at Dum Dum Park. The initiative aims to support students' daily commute and encourage regular school attendance.

Singh said the new branch reflects the bank's commitment to accessible, customer-focused banking while the CSR initiative seeks to promote education and empowerment.

Bills to increase number of seats in Kolkata, Howrah

► Continued from page 1

pointed out that a large Bengali-speaking population lived in the neighbouring state. The West Bengal government announced financial assistance of Rs 10 crore for flood victims in Assam. The Chief Minister also announced an increase in the monthly medical allowance for former legislators. The allowance will be raised from Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000. He said the government had a responsibility towards elderly former legislators who had served the state with integrity. Recalling former Mahishadal MLA Dinabandhu Ray and former minister Subhash Naskar of Basanti, he said the contribution of senior former legislators should be recognised and their financial security strengthened. At the beginning of today's special session, the government also decided to withdraw an earlier Bill relating to the Howrah Municipal Corporation before moving ahead with the amended legislation. Many Kolkatans have been wondering about the new ward number for their neighbourhoods and how their old wards have been split. Civic officials said the draft cannot be published until the increased ward strength is incorporated into the KMC Act. "The draft contains information on how an old ward was split. It may include the new and old ward numbers. If an old ward was split into several new wards, the new ward may mention which old ward it was part of," said a civic official. The civic body has forwarded to the state government a list linking the old and new wards and detailing how each new ward was carved out of an existing one. "We only have hand-drawn maps marking ward boundaries. No digital, zoomable maps have been prepared," the official said. One of the objectives of the delimitation was to split larger wards with high voter populations into smaller ones. Each ward was supposed to have a broadly similar voter count, ranging between 14,000 and 18,000. A civic official said the voter count was kept within this range in 80% of the wards. "There are some wards with more than 20,000 voters, while others have fewer than 10,000," the official said. Many Calcuttans were surprised when the ward list was published on August 5, as key details such as the voter strength of each ward were missing. Incidentally, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), currently run by an administrator, is expected to have an elected board by December 7, as chief minister Suwendu Adhikari announced in June. KMC administrator Smita Pandey assumed charge on June 8, and her six-month tenure ends on December 7.

'Bengal may soon get anti-conversion law, curb land sale'

► Continued from page 1

He also listed a series of measures undertaken by his government, saying it had handed over land along the border to the BSF, scrapped an "illegal" OBC list, stopped imam-muezzin allowances and prevented the carrying of swords during Muharram. "Two tasks remain -- bringing a law on religious conversion and another on land purchase and sale. I am doing both," the Chief minister asserted. The remarks come barely six weeks after the state Cabinet approved the formation of a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to examine the draft UCC Bill. The four-member panel was given four weeks time to scrutinise the draft and submit its recommendations, after which the legislation is expected to be placed before the Assembly. Earlier Suwendu Adhikari had announced the move in the Assembly on June 29. The proposed UCC seeks a common civil framework for marriage, divorce, inheritance, succession and adoption, replacing religion-based personal laws in these areas while retaining constitutional safeguards for exempted categories. If the bill concerned is passed during the extended Budget Session in August, West Bengal would become the fourth state to move towards implementing a UCC. For the BJP, the timing is politically useful. The party had promised in its assembly election manifesto to implement the UCC within six months of forming the government. Tuesday's meeting, however, was not confined to the BJP's ideological agenda.

The government simultaneously sought to recast Junglemahal and the state's western districts as a major development priority, allocating Rs 1,610 crore for the region during the current financial year, of which Rs 1,600 crore would go towards development schemes. Turning his gun against the previous TMC government, Suwendu Adhikari accused the government of neglecting the Paschimanchal Unnayan Parshad after the BJP's strong performance in the region in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, alleging that political considerations had subsequently slowed development spending. According to him, only Rs 20 crore had been allocated to the department in the previous financial year, with just Rs 6 crore actually spent. The BJP government, he said, had earmarked Rs 1,610 crore for the region, including Rs 10 crore for salaries and the rest for development. The administration has drawn up a three-month implementation calendar: projects and DPRs in September, tenders in October and execution after the Puja holidays, when the dry season begins. Backward gram panchayats will receive priority, with at least Rs 50 lakh worth of work planned in each area.

He also put the bureaucracy on notice, praising district magistrates but expressing dissatisfaction with some BDOs and asking them to become more proactive. Six flagship schemes -- including Annapurna Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, PM Awas Yojana, PM Surya Ghar and Jal Jeevan Mission -- were placed at the centre of the government's delivery agenda. On recruitment, Suwendu Adhikari sought to draw a sharp line between his government and the previous regimes, promising merit-based and transparent appointments through autonomous recruitment bodies. He cited the appointment of Anil Verma as PSC chairman and Dushyant Narial as SSC chairman as evidence that the government had "sent a clear message" that corrupt officials would have no place. The Chief minister also linked the government's welfare and electoral concerns to the contentious issue of Bangladeshi Hindu refugees. He said Hindu refugees from Bangladesh who apply under the Citizenship Amendment Act should not be deprived of ration, Annapurna or old-age benefits until their applications are disposed of.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari inaugurates an ambulance service at Adyapeeth temple in Dakshineswar, on Wednesday.

Farmers Must Receive Fair Prices for Produce, Says Agriculture Minister

MI News Service, Kolkata: Farmers in West Bengal must receive fair prices for their produce, failing which they may lose interest in agriculture, Agriculture Minister Dudh Kumar Mondal said at an MCCI conclave on rural development held in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Mondal said ensuring remunerative prices for farm produce should be a government responsibility. He stressed that the state's economy cannot progress without the farming community and called for timely availability of quality seeds, fertilisers and agricultural machinery at affordable prices.

He also emphasised the need to modernise farming practices through greater mechanisation, noting that West Bengal has fertile soil, adequate water resources and sufficient land for cultivation.

Panchayats and Rural

Development and Agricultural Marketing Minister Dilip Ghosh said the state had fallen behind in several sectors and needed a fresh approach to development. He said potato farmers were struggling to access markets outside West Bengal for surplus produce and indicated that the government was considering transport and logistics incentives.

Ghosh also highlighted the need to strengthen food processing, cold-chain infrastructure and Kisan Mandies. Munish Jhajharia, Senior Vice President, MCCI, said West Bengal's Panchayati Raj system comprises 3,317 gram panchayats, 341 panchayat samitis and 20 zilla parishads. He highlighted the Rs 16,000-crore rural development allocation for 2026-27. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Anirudh Jhunjhunwala.



Munish Jhajharia, Senior Vice President and Anirudh Jhunjhunwala, Vice President MCCI presenting a portrait of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee to Dilip Ghosh, Minister of Panchayats & Rural Development and Agricultural Marketing, Govt. of West Bengal in presence of Dudh Kumar Mondal, Minister of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal at MCCI Rural Development Conclave, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Cal HC Cancels OBC-A, OBC-B Certificates Issued Under Previous Rules

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Wednesday directed the cancellation of all OBC-A and OBC-B certificates issued under the rules followed during the previous Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal. A bench headed by Justice Rajasekhara Mantha observed that the OBC-A and OBC-B categories no longer exist, resulting in the cancellation of certificates issued under the now-discontinued classification. The development follows changes introduced after the BJP government came to power in the state and removed the OBC-A and OBC-B classification, retaining a single OBC category.

West Bengal had divided OBC communities into two categories, OBC-A and OBC-B, in 2010. During the Trinamool Congress government, 66 additional communities were included in the OBC list. In 2024, the Calcutta High Court cancelled the inclusion of these 66 communities. Subsequently, the state government revised the classification and issued certificates under the OBC-A and OBC-B categories. The Supreme Court did not stay the process. Following the latest changes, the state withdrew the case from the Supreme Court. The High Court has now cancelled certificates issued under the previous classification. However, OBC certificates issued before 2010 will continue to remain valid.

14 Arrested in International Call Centre Fraud Case in Salt Lake Sector V

MI News Service, Kolkata: An alleged international call centre fraud operation that had been running for a long time in Salt Lake's Sector V has been busted following an investigation by the Bidhannagar Police. As many as 14 people have been arrested in connection with the case. Sector V, known as one of Kolkata's major office hubs, had allegedly become the centre of a fraudulent call centre operation. The racket reportedly operated for an extended period without attracting immediate attention. Following an investigation, police uncovered the alleged international fraud network and arrested 14 people. According to police, the accused allegedly targeted both Indian citizens and foreigners as part of their fraudulent activities. They reportedly collected

money from victims through gift cards issued by various companies. Investigators are now examining the exact modus operandi used by the alleged fraudsters and the extent of the network. The Bidhannagar Police came to know about the alleged fraud and subsequently registered a suo motu case. A series of searches and raids were conducted as part of the investigation, leading to the arrest of 14 people. Preliminary investigation has reportedly revealed that several young men and women from Gujarat and the northeastern states were employed at the alleged call centre. Police are now questioning the arrested individuals to determine their specific roles in the operation and identify others who may be linked to the alleged international network.

Woman Dies After Car Plunges into Pond While Learning to Drive

MI News Service, Kolkata: A woman died after the car she was reportedly learning to drive plunged into a pond in Kestopur on Wednesday morning. The deceased has been identified as Sumitra Das, a resident of Prafulla Kanan West in Kestopur.

According to police, the incident occurred around 8.45 am after Das returned home from dropping her daughter at school on a scooter. She reportedly parked the scooter and then took out a newly purchased car from a garage, intending to drive it onto the road. While manoeuvring the vehicle out of the garage, the car suddenly moved forward and plunged into the

pond located in front of the premises. The vehicle reportedly travelled into the middle of the pond before sinking. Das allegedly tried to escape, but became trapped inside the vehicle and drowned.

Several local residents reportedly jumped into the pond after witnessing the incident and attempted to rescue her. However, they could not locate or pull her out from the submerged vehicle. Police and fire brigade personnel subsequently launched a rescue operation. After around one-and-a-half hours of efforts, the vehicle was recovered from the middle of the pond. Once the car was

Former MLAs' Med Allowance Raised, CM Announces Rs 10 Cr Aid for Assam Floods

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Wednesday announced an increase in the monthly medical allowance provided to former legislators in West Bengal, raising it by Rs 4,000. The allowance, which was earlier fixed at Rs 6,000 per month, will now be increased to Rs 10,000 per month. The Chief Minister made the announcement while addressing the West Bengal Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. According to the decision, the enhanced medical allowance will be applicable from August. Former MLAs will subsequently receive the revised amount along with arrears once the necessary legislative process is completed.

Adhikari said the previous government had failed to provide adequate financial security to former legislators after they completed their terms in office. He said several former MLAs had served the people with dedication and honesty during their tenure and continued to lead modest lives after leaving public office. Citing examples, Adhikari mentioned Mahishadal MLA Dinabandhu Babu, saying that the former legislator still goes to the local market and travels around on a bicycle. He also referred to Subhash Naskar, who, according to the Chief Minister, still spends time at



railway stations interacting with members of the public and visits the nearby market. Adhikari said the living conditions of several former legislators had prompted the government to reconsider the existing medical allowance. He maintained that increasing the allowance would provide them with greater support, particularly in meeting healthcare-related expenses.

The Chief Minister, however, said that the decision would require a legislative amendment before it could be formally implemented. He said the necessary Bill would have to be introduced in the next Assembly session. Once the legislative process is completed, the enhanced allowance will be made effective retrospectively from August, with former legislators receiving the arrears due to them. During his address, Adhikari also expressed concern over the flood situation in neighbouring Assam. Referring to the reported loss of life in the floods, he said the situation required immediate

attention and support. The Chief Minister proposed that Rs 10 crore be provided to Assam from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund as assistance for relief and rehabilitation operations in the flood-affected areas. Adhikari said arrangements would be made to hand over the proposed assistance to the Assam Chief Minister. The funds are expected to support ongoing relief efforts for people affected by the floods. The two announcements were made during the Assembly proceedings on Wednesday, with the government highlighting both the welfare of former legislators and humanitarian assistance to a neighbouring state facing a severe flood situation. The decision to increase the medical allowance is expected to benefit former MLAs who depend on the monthly assistance to meet healthcare expenses. The proposed Rs 10 crore assistance to Assam, meanwhile, is aimed at extending support to flood-affected people and strengthening relief efforts in the state.

BRICS working group meeting on Oceanic-Polar Science

► Continued from page 1

focusing on joint research, capacity building, scientific exchanges and the shared use of research infrastructure. The BRICS OPST Working Group was established in 2018 to promote scientific cooperation, knowledge exchange, capacity building and collaborative research among member countries. Seven meetings of the Working Group have been held so far, with India having hosted the third meeting during its previous BRICS Presidency in 2020. The meeting, being held during India's BRICS Presidency, is expected to further strengthen scientific cooperation among BRICS countries and promote practical collaboration in ocean and polar sciences, with a focus on resilience, innovation, sustainability and scientific partnership.

Amit Shah is ready for discussion on all issues related

► Continued from page 1

Soon after the Home minister's statement, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said the opposition is not interested in listening to Shah's "lecture" in Parliament and asserted that the younger generation of the country wants to know who ordered that protesting students be shot at with pellet guns. The leader of the opposition in Lok Sabha said if Shah ordered that students be shot at, he is culpable, and if he did not, then he is incompetent, and in both cases, he should resign.

Assam, Odisha flood situation remains grim, more rain in

► Continued from page 1

At least 441 villages remain inundated, while 10,879.03 hectares of cropland have been damaged across the state. Floodwaters have also damaged embankments, roads, bridges and other infrastructure in several districts. The floods have additionally affected 31,650 domestic animals and poultry across the state, according to the ASDMA. Meanwhile reports from Bhubaneswar quoting the India Meteorological Department on Wednesday said a fresh low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal could trigger heavy rainfall across Odisha and neighbouring West Bengal till August 17. The weather system is likely to be more marked and move northwestwards during the next 48 hours, the IMD said in a morning bulletin. "Under the influence of yesterday's upper air cyclonic circulation over northwest Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood, a low-pressure area has formed over the North Bay of Bengal off West Bengal-Bangladesh coasts at 5.30 am," it said. Even as Odisha is yet to recover from the recent floods that affected 8 lakh people in 23 districts, the IMD said a fresh low-pressure area was likely to be formed in the Bay of Bengal creating possibilities of further deluge.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sri Dipak Kumar Majumder (Father: Late Shaileshdranath Majumder; Address: 49/1, Madhusudan Pal Chowdhury, 1st Bye Lane, Thana: Bantra, District: Howrah, my real name has been mistakenly recorded as 'Sri Dipak Majumder' instead of 'Sri Dipak Kumar Majumder' in the Birth and School Certificate (WBSE) of my daughter Dipanrita Majumder (Husband: Sayantan Mandal), which has been corrected as per Affidavit Serial No. 18, dated: 07.08.2026, filed with the Learned Notary Public, Howrah, henceforth, 'Sri Dipak Kumar Majumder' and 'Dipak Majumder' are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pramod Kumar Choubey, father of Babli Kumar Choubey, do hereby solemnly declare and state that my daughter, Babli Kumar Choubey, was born on 30 June, 2001 rather than 30 June 2000 which is stated incorrect vide Notary, Ranchi Court (Affidavit No.: 15482) Dated : 10.07.2026

Name Change
I, Sri Santanu Mondal, S/O Late Monohar Mondal, residing at 341, Jatin Das Path, P.O. & P.S. Newbarackpur, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700131, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my correct and actual name & spelling is Santanu Mondal, but my name inadvertently recorded as Shantanu Mondal in place of my original name Santanu Mondal in my Passport (being No. P0581413), That I, Santanu Mondal and Shantanu Mondal both are the same and one identical person, Vide an affidavit (SLN0 144) sworn before in the 3rd court of Learned Judicial Magistrate 1st class, Barrackpore, District North 24 Parganas, dated on 01/08/2026

NAME CHANGE
I, Gosta Bihari Das/Gostha Behari Das, c/o-sudhir Das, Vill+P.O.-Ragpur, PS-Pingla, District Medinipur, Pin-721131,W.B. shall henceforth be known as Gostha Das as declared before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate Paschim Medinipur court,W.B,vide affidavit no18776,dated 20.07.2026. Gosta bihari Das, Goshta Behari Das and Gostha Das both are same and identical person.

NAME/SURNAME DECLARATION
I, Alpina Paira, W/o Himanshu Paira, residing at VIII.+P.O. Borai, P.S. Medinipur, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, PIN-721457, West Bengal, do hereby declare that my correct name and surname is ALPINA PAIRA. My surname has been wrongly recorded as "PARIA" in the spouse column of my husband Himanshu Paira's Passport No. 82201423. My correct surname "PAIRA" is recorded in my Aadhaar Card No. 9445 8303 5430 and Voter ID Card No. WC1224997. Alpina Paira W/o Himanshu Paira and Alpina Paira W/o Himanshu Paira are one and the same person, i.e. myself.

NAME/SURNAME DECLARATION
I, Sandhyarani Payra W/o Late Shyamal Kanti Paira, Resident of Vill. & P.O. Borai, P.S. Mohanpur, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, hereby declare that "Sandhyarani Payra W/o Late Shyamal Kanti Paira", "Sandhyarani Payra W/o Late Shyamal Kanti Payra" and "Sandhyarani Paira W/o Late Shyamal Kanti Paira" refer to one and the same person, i.e. my mother. I further declare that 'Payra' and 'Paira' are variant spellings of the same family surname. This declaration is made pursuant to an Affidavit sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Dantan, Paschim Medinipur, dated 14.07.2026.

NAME/SURNAME DECLARATION
I, Himanshu Paira, S/o Late Shyamal Kanti Paira, R/o Vill. & P.O. Borai, P.S. Medinipur, Dist. Paschim Medinipur, PIN-721457, West Bengal, declare that my name and surname have been wrongly recorded in my Mediamark Admit Card and Pass Certificate as "Himangshu Paira, S/o Sri Shyamal Kanti Paria" instead of my correct name "Himanshu Paira, S/o Sri Shyamal Kanti Paria".As per Affidavit No. 4530 dated 25.07.2024, sworn before the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Dantan, Paschim Medinipur, Himanshu Paira and Himangshu Paria are one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ajay Singh S/o. Lal Bachan Singh R/o. Gram-Jewainiya, Post-Pradhanpur, Rasra, Dist.- Ballia, Uttar Pradesh-221712 have changed my name and shall hereafter be Known as Ajay Kumar Singh, vide an Affidavit of 06.08.2026, before the Ld. 1st Class, J.M. at Varanasi. That, Ajay Singh & Ajay Kumar Singh both are same & one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, KHIRUN BIBI W/o- Sk Md. Raish, resident of Golghat, Gobinda Nagar, Purba Medinipur, WB, Pin- 721319 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from KHIRUN BIBI to KHAIRAHUN BIBI and henceforth I shall be known as KHAIRAHUN BIBI in all purpose vide affidavit no. S-41 sworn before the Notary Public at Sealdah on 10/08/2026. Khirun Bibi and KHAIRAHUN BIBI both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Giasuddin S/o Sk Mohammad Raish resident of Golghat, Gobinda Nagar, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal, Pin- 721319 that I have changed my name from Giasuddin to Sk. Giasuddin and henceforth I shall be known as Sk. Giasuddin in all purpose, vide affidavit no. S-41 sworn before the Notary Public at Sealdah on 10/08/2026. Sk. Giasuddin and Giasuddin both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abha Mondal (Old Name) W/o- Krishnapada Mondal, resident of Vill-Badarapur, PO-Boaliadanga, PS-Berhampore, Dist-Murshidabad. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Abha Mondal to Avarani Mondal (Correct Name) vide affidavit no-5946 sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore, Murshidabad, on 04/08/2026, Avarani Mondal & Abha Mondal both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sahana Begum wife of Asgar Ali, resident of 7/10B, Miajan Ostagar Lane, Circus Avenue, Kolkata - 700017, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sahana Begum (old name) to Shahnaz Begum (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shahnaz Begum in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 20, sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 10/08/2026. Shahnaz Begum and Sahana Begum both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anwar Ahemed (Old Name) S/o Abdul Rajjaque Residing at 6/H/14, Moulana Md. Ali Road, Khiddirpore, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700023, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Anwar Ahemed (Old Name) to Anwar Ahmed (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Anwar Ahmed (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 29/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 12-08-2026. Anwar Ahmed (New Name) and Anwar Ahemed (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dilip Chaurasia (Old Name) S/o Ghanashyam Prasad Chourasia Residing at 33, Shreemani Bagan Lane, Po - Salkia, PS - Golabari, District - Howrah, Pin - 711106, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Dilip Chaurasia (Old Name) to Dilip Kumar Chourasia (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Dilip Kumar Chourasia (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 22339/26 Sworn before the Ld. Executive Magistrate at Howrah on Dated 17-07-2026. Dilip Kumar Chourasia (New Name) and Dilip Chaurasia (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) SHILPA DAS W/o- NILOD DAS Residing at, - Bhakuri Thakurpara, Chilita, Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742107, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SHILPA DAS To SHILPI DAS (New name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SHILPI DAS in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2147 On Date 07 August 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, SHILPI DAS and SHILPA DAS both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) TASLIMA KHANTUN BIBI W/o- AZFAR ALI Residing at, - Raninagar, Radharghat, Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742187, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from TASLIMA KHANTUN BIBI To TASLIMA KHATUN (New name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) TASLIMA KHATUN in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2146 On Date 07 August 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, TASLIMA KHATUN and TASLIMA KHANTUN BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nidhi Tulsyan, W/o.- Sri Prateek Tulsyan, D/o.- Sri Ashok Kumar Damani, R/o.- Esmeralda Bunglow, 12/3, Ballygunge Park Road, Kolkata-700019, I have changed my name from Nidhi Damani to Nidhi Tulsyan & be known as Nidhi Tulsyan for all purposes, vide an Affidavit No. 109062, dtd. 10.08.2026, before the J.M. 1st Class at Alipore, 24 Pgs. (S). That, Nidhi Damani & Nidhi Tulsyan both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sk Abdul Rahim, S/O- Sk Ainal Haque, residing at VIII + P/O- Patul, P/S- Khanakul, Dist- Hooghly do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Abdul Rahim to Sk Abdur Rahim and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Abdur Rahim in all Purpose, vide Affidavit no- 4417 sworn before the Ld. 1st class J.M. at Arambagh on 11/08/2026 & Sk Abdur Rahim, S/O- Sk Ainal Haque and Sk Abdul Rahim, S/O- Sk Ainal Haque both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Anita Pal, Wife of No. 15397889H Rank Ex Hav Name Partha Pal resident of Vill.-Sukanta Pally, Amtala P.O.- Rajbati, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin- 713104 have change my Name & date of birth from Anita Pal & 06 January 1978 to Anita Pal Tantubay & 06 January 1975 vide Affidavit dated 30 Jul 2026 before the 1st Class, Judicial Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman.

NAME CHANGE
I, Reeta Dan, Wife of No. 14351814W Rank Ex NK (TS) Name Parimal Kanti Dan resident of Vill.- Sherpur, P.O.- Sherpur, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman(WB), Pin- 713427 have change my Name from Reeta Dan to Rita Dan, vide Affidavit dated 10 Aug 2026 before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, at Purba Bardhaman

Change of Name
I, RACHIT P SHAH, RESIDENT OF 45/B, MOTILAL NEHRU ROAD, P.O. - SARAT BOSE ROAD, KOLKATA - 700029, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY SON NAME FROM AARUSH RACHIT SHAH (OLD NAME) TO AARUSH SHAH (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH HE SHALL BE KNOWN AS AARUSH SHAH (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. 38, SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 11/08/2026. AARUSH SHAH (NEW NAME) AND AARUSH RACHIT SHAH (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Md Mokshed Ali (Old Name), Son Of Mahiuddin, Resident Of Golabari, Vtc:Dadpur, Po-Golabari Bazar, Barasat-II, North 24 Parganas-743423, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Mokshed Ali (Old Name) To Moksed Ali (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Moksed Ali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 20 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 07/08/2026. Moksed Ali (New Name) And Md Mokshed Ali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Selima Khatun Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Jamal Sekh, Resident Of Vill. Mathrun, Po - Mathrun, Dist.- Bardhaman, 713143, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Selima Khatun Bibi (Old Name) To Salima Khatun (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Salima Khatun (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 28931 Sworn Before The 1st Class Magistrate At Alipore On 03/08/2026. Salima Khatun (New Name) And Selima Khatun Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Susmita Bag (Old Name), Wife Of Jayashree Chakraborty, Resident Of 3b, Sapphire, Imperial Riddhi Siddhi, Next To Iim Joka, Kolkata, Joka, Po- Joka, Dist.- South 24 Parganas 700104, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Susmita Bag (Old Name) To Susmita Chakraborty (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Susmita Chakraborty (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 65 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/08/2026. Susmita Chakraborty (New Name) And Susmita Bag (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Paresh Guchhait & Paresh Ch Guchhait (Old Name), Son Of Late Jaineshwar Guchhait, Resident Of Paschim Damodarpur, Po-Damodarpur, PS-Ramnagar, Purba Medinipur-721446, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Paresh Guchhait & Paresh Ch Guchhait (Old Name) To Pareshchandra Guchhait (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Pareshchandra Guchhait (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 5 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/08/2026. Pareshchandra Guchhait (New Name) And Paresh Guchhait & Paresh Ch Guchhait (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Kamal (Old Name), Son Of Late Mohammad Kamruddin, Resident Of 12/H/2, Alimuddin Street, Ps-Park Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mohammad Kamal (Old Name) To Md Kamal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Kamal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No4 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/08/2026. Md Kamal (New Name) And Mohammad Kamal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Rashid Hossain (Old Name), Son Of Md Kamal, Resident Of 12/H/2, Alimuddin Street, Ps-Park Street, Kolkata-700016, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mohammad Rashid Hossain (Old Name) To Md Rashid Hossain (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Rashid Hossain (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 3 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/08/2026. Md Rashid Hossain (New Name) And Mohammad Rashid Hossain (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Ainal Haque Molla (Old Name), Son Of Vill & Po-Chandirala, Ps-Jibantala, South 24 Parganas-743502, West Bengal Do Heresy Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Ainal Haque Molla (Old Name) To Aynal Molla (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Aynal Molla (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 2 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/08/2026. Aynal Molla (New Name) And Md Ainal Haque Molla (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Ashim Kr Nag (old name), S/O Amulya Chandra Nag, residing at 54/1/71, Khagendra Nath Ganguly Lane, Salkia, Howrah- 711106, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ashim Kr Nag (Old Name) to Ashim Kumar Nag (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Ashim Kumar Nag (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/08/2026. Ashim Kumar Nag (new name) and Ashim Kr Nag (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Sahid Alam (old name) S/O Shaikh Abdul Hamid Mistry, residing at 17, Ekbalpore Lane, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammed Sahid Alam (Old Name) to Md Sayeed Alam (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Md Sayeed Alam (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/08/2026. Md Sayeed Alam (new name) and Mohammed Sahid Alam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mehson Nesa (old name), W/O Md Sayeed Alam, residing at 17, Ekbalpore Lane, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mehson Nesa (Old Name) to Mehrun Nesa (New Name) and henceforth shall I be known as Mehrun Nesa (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/08/2026. Mehrun Nesa (new name) and Mehson Nesa (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Border villages are India's 'first villages': MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government now regards border villages as the country's "first villages", highlighting their strategic and cultural importance and stressing that developed villages are the foundation of a developed India.

Modi said the initiative aims to strengthen nation-building by connecting young people with border communities.

The Prime Minister highlighted the government's My Youth India (MY Bharat) platform and said it has attracted millions of young people. He said, "Today, millions of young people from all over the country have joined it, and they are doing commendable work nationwide".

Praising the volunteers, Modi said, "From the Viksit Bharat Dialogue to the Viksit Vibrant Villages programme, all of you have showcased your strengths".

Recalling the earlier perception of frontier settlements, he said, "Until a few years ago, border vil-

lages were often viewed as isolated and neglected, left to fend for themselves without access to basic facilities. Today, we can take pride in the fact that, despite these challenges, the patriotism of the people in border villages has remained strong".

Describing young people as a key force in the country's progress, Modi said, "Today's youth are both the driving force and the greatest beneficiaries of a developed India. Therefore, when the youth power directly engages with the nation's challenges and solutions, the future will undoubtedly be bright".

He further said that when young people connect with communities at the grassroots, they gain a better understanding of the vision of a developed India.

"This strengthens the resolve within the youth to live for the country and do something for the nation", he asserted.

The Prime Minister said the government had changed its approach towards border areas by



recognising settlements once described as the country's "last villages" as India's "first villages", where the first rays of the morning sun and the Tricolour greet the nation.

He said the change in approach has been accompanied by improvements in infrastructure, including electricity, roads, tap water, gas connections and high-speed internet.

He said "These facilities are transforming both the agricultural economy and the daily lives of people living in border regions".

"It is strictly the result of changing this historical mindset that our frontier region is rapidly transform-

ing today," asserted Modi.

The Prime Minister said improved infrastructure has also boosted tourism in border areas, creating new economic opportunities for local communities. He added that villages once considered isolated are now witnessing better educational opportunities for girls and increased incomes.

"The Vibrant Village Program is actively giving incredible new momentum to this holistic development of the border villages," noted Modi. Encouraging greater engagement with border regions, Modi said volunteers should motivate more young people to visit

these villages. "The more the youth of India deeply understand the border villages, the stronger our nation will ultimately become," affirmed Modi.

He also urged participants to share their experiences with at least 100 other young people and work with local content creators to promote regional culture and products.

"I strongly urge that every young friend among you must definitely share your authentic experiences with at least a hundred other youths," asserted the PM Modi.

Modi said India's youth would play a decisive role in shaping the 21st century and expressed confidence that their direct participation in addressing national challenges would strengthen the country's future. "When our youth power directly connects with the challenges and solutions of the country, the future will absolutely and definitely be bright," affirmed the PM.

ECL holds 51st AGM

MI News Service, Sanctoria: Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited convened its 51st Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 12th August, 2026 at its Headquarters in Sanctoria. The AGM was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries, including:

B. Sairam, Chairman, Coal India Limited

Mukesh Agrawal, Director (Finance), Coal India Limited

Satish Jha, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Eastern Coalfields Limited

Anil Narayan Kinjavadekar, Independent Director, ECL

Dr. Chetna Shukla, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Coal

Md. Anzar Alam, Director (Finance), ECL

Gunjan Kumar Sinha, Director (Human Resources), ECL

Grish Gopinathan Nair, Director (Technical) Project & Planning, ECL

Chitrnanjan Kumar, Director (Technical) Operations, ECL

B. P. Dubey, Company Secretary, Coal India Limited

Rambabu Pathak, Company Secretary, Eastern Coalfields Limited

The meeting was also attended by all Heads of Departments at ECL Headquarters and Area General Managers, reflecting a unified and committed leadership presence.

In his address to the shareholders and stakeholders, Satish Jha, CMD, ECL, reflected on the performance of the Company for the financial year 2025-26.

Madhya Pradesh to ban analogue paneer, CM Mohan Yadav says

MI News Service, Bhopal: Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday said the state government has decided to discourage and ban analogue paneer, asserting that the state will build its identity on the purity of naturally produced milk products.

"We have decided to discourage analogue paneer and impose a ban on it in Madhya Pradesh. Observing the situation in other states, we intend to build the identity of our state on the purity of naturally produced milk products. While we are moving forward in the direction of increasing milk production, we will not encourage any such activities," CM Yadav said.

Our neighbouring states Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh have banned analogue paneer. Now, there is a possibility that its dumping in Madhya Pradesh may increase. There are FSSAI directions regarding the manufacture and sale of analogue paneer, but they are not properly followed, resulting in inappropriate and inedible food substances being used to make analog paneer, which adversely affects the health of our citizens. Therefore, we are also going to impose a ban on it in Madhya Pradesh, and its order will be issued soon," Patel said.

He further urged those involved in manufacturing or selling analogue paneer to stop the practice; otherwise, legal action would be taken against them.

"I appeal to everyone involved in such activities to stop manufacturing and selling analogue paneer. Legal action will be initiated immediately after the order is issued," the minister said.

He added that the state Food Department was conducting continuous enforcement under the 'Shuddh Ke Liye Yuddh' (War for Purity) campaign launched under the leadership of CM Mohan Yadav.

With major festivals such as Raksha Bandhan approaching, the minister said the department was keeping a close watch on adulterated mawa and other food products to ensure that people have access to pure and safe food.

When asked about action against those who continue to sell analogue paneer after the ban comes into effect, Patel said the products would be seized and destroyed and strict legal action would be taken against those involved.

Meanwhile, State Minister Narendra Shivaji Patel said the decision was also prompted by the possibility of analogue paneer being dumped in Madhya Pradesh after neighbouring states, including Gujarat, Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, imposed bans on it.

PC for women in ICG gets govt approval

MI News Service, New Delhi: The defence ministry granted Permanent Commission (PC) for women in the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), paving the way for promoting gender parity in the induction and service conditions of officers.

The move comes two years after the Supreme Court criticised the government for not granting women permanent commissions in the ICG while they were in the army, navy and air force.

"This progressive step reflects the government's commitment to Nari Shakti and equal opportunity in the nation's maritime se-



curity apparatus," a statement from the defence ministry said. Defence minister Rajnath Singh announced the long-standing policy reform, alongside a second reform granting ex

gratia to families of personnel who are reported missing at sea on duty.

"The first policy directive establishes a comprehensive, women-centric approach by ushering in a

gender-neutral framework for the induction of officers into the ICG. The highlights of the policy include induction of women candidates into both short service appointments and permanent appointments at par with their male counterparts," the statement said.

The policy ensures equal opportunities for career progression, beginning right from the training phase. The existing permanent appointment women officers shall also be considered for promotion to higher positions subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.

Air India Flight to Chennai Grounded After Technical Glitch at Kolkata Airport



MI News Service, Kolkata: An Air India flight bound for Chennai was grounded at Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport on Wednesday after a technical problem was detected just before departure, leaving around 170 passengers stranded for several hours.

The flight was scheduled to depart from Kolkata at around 6.30 am. Passengers had already boarded and the aircraft had reached the runway when the technical issue was reportedly detected. The passengers were subsequently asked to disembark and were given their boarding passes before being told to wait at the airport.

Passengers alleged that the airline did not initially inform them about the nature of the technical problem or provide clear information about when

the flight would depart. Several passengers reportedly had important engagements in Chennai and were left waiting at the airport for hours.

According to passengers, the airline later announced that the flight would depart at around 11.30 am. However, the aircraft did not take off even after the announced time. Passengers continued to wait, with some expressing anger over the lack of communication from the airline.

The passengers also questioned how the technical problem was detected at the last moment after the aircraft had undergone pre-flight checks and received clearance for departure. They sought clarity on the nature of the fault and raised concerns over passenger safety and the procedures followed before the aircraft was cleared to fly.

Neck muscle inflammation primary cause of headache: Study

CHICAGO [US] : Researchers disclosed genuine proof of how the neck muscles are implicated in primary headaches in a study presented at the annual meeting of the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA). The findings could lead to improved treatments.

The distinct underlying causes of primary headaches are still not fully understood. The most common primary headaches are tension-type headaches and migraines.

"Our imaging approach provides first objective evidence for the very frequent involvement of the neck muscles in primary headaches, such as neck pain in migraine or tension-type headache, using the ability to quantify subtle inflammation within muscles," said Nico Sollmann, M.D., Ph.D., resident in the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology at University Hospital Ulm, and the Department of Diagnostic and Interventional Neuroradiology at University Hospital Rechts der Isar in Munich, Germany.

Tension-type headaches affect two out of every three adults in the U.S. People with tension-type headaches often feel a tightening in the head and mild to moderate dull pain on both sides of the head. While these headaches are typically associated with stress and muscle tension, their exact origin is not fully understood.

Migraines are characterized by a severe throbbing pain. Migraines generally occur on one side of the head, or the pain is worse on one side. Migraines may also cause nausea, weakness and light sensitivity. According to the American Migraine Foundation, over 37 million



people in the U.S. are affected by migraine, and up to 148 million people worldwide suffer from chronic migraine. Neck pain is commonly associated with primary headaches. However, no objective biomarkers exist for myofascial involvement. Myofascial pain is associated with inflammation or irritation of muscle or of the connective tissue, known as fascia, that surrounds the muscle. For the study, Dr. Sollmann and colleagues aimed to investigate the involvement of the trapezius muscles in primary headache disorders by quantitative magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and to explore associations between muscle T2 values and headache

and neck pain frequency. The prospective study included 50 participants, mostly women, ranging in age from 20 to 31 years old. Of the study group, 16 had tension-type headache, and 12 had tension-type headache plus migraine episodes. The groups were matched with 22 healthy controls.

All participants underwent 3D turbo spin-echo MRI. The bilateral trapezius muscles were manually segmented, followed by muscle T2 extraction. Associations between muscle T2 values and the presence of neck pain, number of days with headache, and number of myofascial trigger points as determined by manual palpa-

tion of the trapezius muscles were analyzed (adjusting for age, sex and body mass index).

The tension-type headache plus migraine group demonstrated the highest muscle T2 values. Muscle T2 was significantly associated with the number of headache days and the presence of neck pain. The increased muscle T2 values could be interpreted as a surrogate of inflammation arising from the nervous system and increased sensitivity of nerve fibers within myofascial tissues.

"The quantified inflammatory changes of neck muscles significantly correlate with the number of days lived with headache and the presence of subjectively perceived neck pain," Dr. Sollmann said. "Those changes allow us to differentiate between healthy individuals and patients suffering from primary headaches."

Muscle T2 mapping could be used to stratify patients with primary headaches and to track potential treatment effects for monitoring.

"Our findings support the role of neck muscles in the pathophysiology of primary headaches," Dr. Sollmann said. "Therefore, treatments that target the neck muscles could lead to a simultaneous relief of neck pain, as well as headache."

Dr. Sollmann pointed out that non-invasive treatment options that directly target the site of pain in the neck muscles could be highly effective and safer than systemic drugs.

"Our imaging approach with delivery of an objective biomarker could facilitate therapy monitoring and patient selection for certain treatments in the near future," he added.

Eating within 10-hour window is good for health, finds study



LONDON [UK] : According to new findings from the largest UK community research project, eating within a 10-hour window improves mood, energy, and hunger.

The outcomes of the trial were reported at the European Nutrition Conference by researchers from King's College London.

Intermittent fasting (IF), or restricting your food consumption to a set time frame, is a popular approach for losing weight. You limit your daily eating schedule to 10 hours and fast for the remaining 14 hours with a ten-hour window. For example, if you start eating at 9 a.m., you must finish by 7 p.m.

Those who maintained a regular eating window outperformed those who altered their eating habits.

Despite the fact, a certain intermittent fasting advocates frequently promote restrictive eating windows as short as six hours, data presented in the abstract suggest that eating within a less restrictive window of ten hours has beneficial health effects such as changes in mood, energy, and appetite.

Dr Sarah Berry from King's College London and chief scientist at ZOE said, "This is the largest study outside of a tightly controlled clinic to show that intermittent fasting can improve your health in a real-world setting. What's really exciting is that the findings show that you don't have to be very restrictive to see positive results. A ten-hour eating window, which was manageable for most people, improved mood, energy levels and hunger. We found for the first time that those who practised time-restricted eating, but were not consistent day to day, did not have the same positive health effects as those who were dedicated every day."

37,545 people on the ZOE Health app completed the core intervention period of three weeks. Participants were asked to eat as normal for the first week and then a ten-hour eating window for two weeks.

More than 36,231 participants opted for additional weeks and 27,371 users were classified as highly engaged. Highly engaged participants were 78 per cent female, with a mean age of 60 and a BMI of 25.6.

Participants with a longer eating window before the intervention saw an even greater benefit to their health.

Kate Bermingham PhD, from King's College London and ZOE, said, "This study adds to the growing body of evidence showing the importance of how you eat. The health impact of food is not just what you eat but the time at which you choose to consume your meals, and eating window is an important dietary behaviour that can be beneficial for health. Findings show that we don't need to be eating all the time. Many people will feel satiated and even lose weight if they restrict their food to a ten-hour window."

Protein present in brain associated with frontotemporal dementia: Study



INDIANAPOLIS [US] : A protein present in the brains of patients suffering from frontotemporal dementia (FTD) has been identified by an international team of researchers, which includes specialists from Indiana University School of Medicine. This finding opens up a new target for possible treatments for FTD.

The National Institutes of Health state that injury to neurons in the brain's frontal and temporal lobes causes frontal lobe dementia (FTD). Symptoms of this kind of dementia usually appear in people between the ages of 25 and 65. These symptoms can include odd behaviours, emotional issues,

Neurodegenerative disorders, including dementias and Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), occur when specific proteins form amyloid filaments in the nerve cells of the brain and spinal cord. The multidisciplinary team of researchers—including members from the Medical Research Council (MRC) Laboratory of Molecular Biology, the IU School of Medicine and the University College London Queen Square Institute of Neurology—found that in cases of FTD, a protein called TAF15 forms these amyloid filaments in the cells of the brain and the spinal cord. On December 6, they published their findings in Nature.

Cryo-EM structure of TAF15 amyloid filaments as discovered in patients with frontotemporal dementia

Bernardino Ghetti, MD is a Distinguished Professor at the IU School of Medicine and has been studying neurodegenerative dementias for 50 years. As a lead neuropathologist on the project, Ghetti and his team studied the protein aggregates from brains donated by four people who had frontotemporal dementia and motor weakness. Together with their colleagues in the UK, IU researchers used neuropathologic and molecular techniques and cutting-edge cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM) at atomic resolution to discover the presence of the amyloid filaments made of TAF15 protein in multiple brain areas. However it is important to note that TAF15 amyloid affects also nerve cells of the motor system.

"This discovery represents an important breakthrough that recognizes TAF15 as a potential target for the development of diagnostic and therapeutic strategies toward a lesser-known form of frontotemporal lobar degeneration associated with frontotemporal dementia," Ghetti said.

Study finds how surgery beneficial is for some children with mild sleep-disordered breathing

NEW YORK [US] : Researchers discovered that surgical removal of the tonsils and adenoids in children with snoring and minor breathing issues during sleep seemed to enhance their sleep, quality of life, and blood pressure a year after surgery.

The study was done to examine the effects of adenotonsillectomy on children with moderate sleep-disordered breathing (SDB). Adenotonsillectomy is one of the most common surgical operations performed on children, and moderate SDB affects a high number of these individuals.

The findings were reported in the American Medical Association Journal.

"Our data suggest that for children with no symptoms other than snoring, it's reasonable to monitor them over time without proceeding to surgery," said study leader Susan Redline, M.D., M.P.H., of Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, both in Boston. "However, for children who are having issues with disturbed sleep, daytime sleepiness, and behavioral problems, our data suggest that surgery may be a very reasonable option."

SDB refers to breathing disturbances during sleep that can range from loud snoring to sleep apnea. SDB affects 6-17% of typically developing children in the United States. Some research indicates that if left untreated, the condition may increase the risk



for behavioral problems, reduced quality of life, and cardiovascular diseases, including heart disease and high blood pressure. Researchers and parents are showing increasing interest in how sleep problems such as sleep apnea might also affect brain development, cognition, and academic performance.

Adenotonsillectomy, or removal of enlarged tonsils and adenoids, is a standard treatment for children with moderate to severe SDB and is aimed at reducing snoring and improving breathing in those with the condition. However, data are unclear whether the surgery is beneficial for children with mild forms of SDB.

The Pediatric Adenotonsillectomy Trial for Snoring (PATs) was a randomized clinical trial that involved 459 children and adolescents with mild SDB who were enrolled at seven aca-

demie sleep centers in the United States between 2016 to 2021. The participants were ages 3 to 12, racially diverse, and followed for a year. The study did not include children with moderate to severe SDB.

During the trial, half the participants received an adenotonsillectomy and the other half received supportive care without surgery, which included standardized education on healthy sleep and lifestyle and referral for untreated allergies or asthma. Researchers then evaluated neurodevelopmental, behavioral, health, and sleep-related outcomes in these groups, using measurements of attention and executive function, which includes a set of cognitive skills that help children manage everyday activities. Sleep outcomes were measured by polysomnography, a standard sleep test that measures breathing, heart

rate, eye movement, and other factors.

At the end of the study period, cognition and attention improved in both groups, but improvement was not significantly greater in the children who were treated with surgery compared to the group who did not receive surgery. However, the secondary results of the study did show several beneficial changes in the surgery group. These included less daytime sleepiness, reduced SDB, less snoring, fewer behavioral problems, better quality of life, and lower blood pressure. The children treated with surgery were also less likely to show disease progression into full-blown sleep apnea, the researchers said.

Researchers plan to explore the long-term impacts of surgery in this population and note the need to develop improved screening tools that better identify which children are most likely to benefit from adenotonsillectomy.

"It is clear that adenotonsillectomy can help some children with mild sleep-disordered breathing. However, it may not be appropriate for everyone," said Marishka Brown, Ph.D., director of the National Center on Sleep Disorder's Research within the NHLBI. "Parents with concern over their children's nighttime breathing should discuss options with their pediatrician to develop a plan of action."

Research shows specific genetic variant can help prevent obesity

WASHINGTON DC [US] : A preclinical study conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine researchers reveals that a certain human genetic variant of a receptor that increases insulin release may help individuals be more resistant to obesity. The researchers revealed that this version operates differently in the cell, which may lead to more effective metabolism.

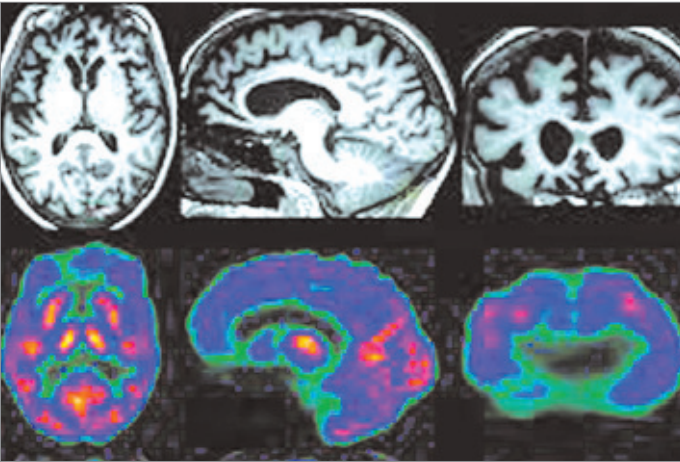
The study, posted online in Molecular Metabolism on Nov. 2, provides new insight into how human genetic variations affect an individual's susceptibility to weight gain. The researchers developed mice with a human genetic variant in the glucose-dependent insulinotropic polypeptide (GIP) receptor associated with leaner body mass index (BMI). They found that the mice were better at processing sugar and staying leaner than mice with a different, more common variant of the receptor. The discovery may point to new potential strategies to treat obesity, which affects more than a 100 million adults in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Our work demonstrates how basic science research can yield important insights about complex biology," said the study's senior author Dr. Timothy McGraw, a professor of biochemistry in cardiothoracic surgery and in biochemistry

at Weill Cornell Medicine. "These GIP receptors and their behavior at the cellular level profoundly impact metabolism and weight regulation."

Genetic Variants of the GIP Receptor

Genetic variants are differences in DNA sequence that occur naturally between individuals in a given population. Genome-wide association studies, which use statistics to carefully link genetic variants to particular traits, show about 20 percent of people of European descent have one copy of the GIP receptor with the Q354 gene variant and about 5 percent have two copies of the variant. The GIP receptor interacts with a hormone released in response to glucose levels after a meal. "Studies suggest that people with at least one copy this GIP receptor variant have altered metabolism that reduces their risk of developing obesity," said the study's lead author Dr. Lucie Yammine, a post-doctoral associate in biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine. To understand how this gene variant may be decreasing the risk of obesity, the team used CRISPR-Cas9 technology to genetically engineer mice with the variant in the gene encoding the GIP receptor, similar to the human version. They found that female mice with the variant were leaner on a typical mouse diet than



"Our work demonstrates how basic science research can yield important insights about complex biology," said the study's senior author Dr. Timothy McGraw, a professor of biochemistry in cardiothoracic surgery and in biochemistry at Weill Cornell Medicine. "These GIP receptors and their behavior at the cellular level profoundly impact me

"We found that a change in one amino acid in the GIP receptor gene affected the whole body in terms of weight," Dr. Yammine said. Mice with the variant were more sensitive to the GIP hormone that triggers the release of insulin which controls blood sugar levels and helps the body convert food into energy.

female litter mates without it. Male mice with the gene variant were about the same weight as litter mates without it while consuming a regular diet, but the gene variant protected them from weight gain

when fed a high-fat diet, which caused obesity in litter mates.

"We found that a change in one amino acid in the GIP receptor gene affected the whole body in terms of weight," Dr. Yammine

said. Mice with the variant were more sensitive to the GIP hormone that triggers the release of insulin which controls blood sugar levels and helps the body convert food into energy. How the Variant May Provide an Advantage Against Obesity

The researchers compared what happened to mouse cells with and without the variant when exposed to glucose or the GIP hormone. Pancreatic cells from mice with the genetic variant produced more insulin in response to both glucose and the GIP hormone, which may explain why they are better at processing glucose.

"What's interesting about these receptors is their location in the cell has a big impact on how they signal and their activity," Dr. McGraw said. He explained that when the GIP hormone binds to the receptor, the receptor moves from the cell surface to inside the cell. When the GIP hormone eventually falls off the receptor, the receptor returns to the cell surface. The team found that the GIP receptor variant stays inside the cell compartment four times longer than the typical receptor. Dr. McGraw suggested that this may allow the receptor to send more messages to the machinery inside cells, which helps in processing sugar more efficiently.

Still, more research is needed

to confirm the effects of this variant on the receptor's behavior. The researchers also want to learn if there are differences in the receptor's behavior in other cell types, like brain cells, which play a crucial role in regulating hunger. Recently, the Food and Drug Administration has approved several weight loss drugs that mimic natural hormones in the body and interact with receptors like GIP, including semaglutide (Wegovy) and tirzepatide (Zepbound). This has increased the interest in studying new ways to target the GIP receptor for obesity.

"Our work suggests that the movement of the receptor from the cell surface to the interior is an important factor in controlling metabolism. Therefore, drugs that could regulate the GIP receptor behavior and location could provide an important new avenue to combat obesity," said Dr. Yammine. In the meantime, Dr. McGraw noted that it is essential to understand how people with different genetic variants in the GIP receptor respond to currently available weight loss medications. "A better appreciation of how different variants of receptors impact metabolism might allow for a precision medicine approach—matching a specific drug to a genetic variant—for weight loss," he said.

NORTH KOREA launches missile ahead of US-SOUTH KOREA drills

MI News Service, Seoul: North Korea performed its second ballistic missile test in less than a week, its neighbors said, a likely protest of the upcoming South Korea-US military drills that North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said a ballistic missile fired from the North's eastern coastal Wonsan area around 6 am flew more than 700 kilometers (435 miles). The Japanese Defense Ministry also detected the launch, saying the weapon landed in waters outside its exclusive economic zone, between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

The launches, within days of each other, were seen as part of North Korea's extended run of weapons tests as the country has refused to return to talks with the US and South Korea for years.

Experts say North Korea often uses its rivals' military training as a pretext to boost its own testing activities.

South Korea's military said it remains ready to repel any provocation by Pyongyang in cooperation with the United States. South Korea's national security council called North Korean ballistic missile launches "acts of provocation" and urged the North to halt them immediately.

Japanese Defense Minister Shinjiro Koizumi told reporters that Japan strongly protested the North Korean launch through their embassies in Beijing. "It's a serious problem that affects the safety of the Japanese people," he said.

The latest launch came two days after South Korea and the United States announced they will kick off their annual large-scale military drills on Aug. 17 to beef up readiness against North Korean threats.

North Korea has previously responded to the Ulchi Freedom Shield training and other major South Korea-U.S. military exercises with provocative weapons tests and harsh rhetoric. The US and South Korea have repeatedly said their training is defensive in nature.

After last year's Ulchi Freedom Shield training exercises began, North Korean



leader Kim Jong Un said the drills showed the U.S. and South Korea's "will to ignite a war" and claimed they have grown more provocative than before, which has prompted North Korea to respond with "proactive and overwhelming" countermeasures.

On Aug. 6, South Korea, the U.S. and Japan detected the launch of a short-range ballistic missile from North Korea in what was the North's first ballistic weapons testing activity since late June. North Korea didn't confirm the reported launch, though it usually releases details of weapons tests a day later.

Multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions ban North Korea from launching ballistic missiles. But North Korea has ramped up ballistic and other weapons testing activities to expand its nuclear and missile arsenals since Kim's high-stakes diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump fell apart in 2019. Experts say Kim likely hopes to use his enlarged arsenals to wrest concessions from the U.S., such as relaxing international economic sanctions on the North.

In recent years, Kim has boosted his diplomatic footprint by strengthening cooperation with Russia by supplying troops and ammunition to support its war against Ukraine. He's also recently taken steps to bolster ties with China, the country's traditional ally and economic pipeline. Chinese President Xi Jinping visited the North Korean capital Pyongyang in June for the first time in seven years.

RailOne Integrates Services; NTES Slashes Enquiry Queues

MI News Service, Kolkata/ New Delhi: In a bid to broaden digital ticketing, Indian Railways launched the RailOne mobile application on July 1, 2025, consolidating reserved, unreserved and platform ticketing alongside enquiry and passenger support services on a single platform.

RailOne enables users to book both reserved and unreserved tickets via mobile phones and provides train enquiry, PNR status, Railmadad and related services through a Single Sign-On (SSO) facility, removing the need to download multiple railway apps or remember separate passwords. The RailOne rollout is intended to bring the passenger reservation system directly into commuters' hands and streamline access to core services.

Railways data as of August 2, 2026, show strong adoption: the app has recorded 47.6 million downloads and handles an average of 1 million ticket transactions per day, split between about 279,000 reserved and 724,000 unreserved tickets daily. Officials say these volumes mark a significant shift toward digital procurement of travel tickets.

The National Train Enquiry System (NTES), which predates RailOne, continues to provide near real-time train running information since its launch in 2000. Accessible via counters, its website, Android and iOS apps and the nationwide enquiry number 139, NTES features Spot Your Train, Live Station, Train Schedule and Trains between Stations. The NTES mobile app, introduced on Android in October 2014 and iOS in October 2015, has amassed over 45 million Android downloads and 1.6 million iOS downloads as of August 1, 2026. NTES presently supports roughly 80,000 concurrent users and processes in excess of 6 crore enquiries daily.

Railways highlighted that the digital services have reduced footfall at enquiry counters, cutting queues and waiting times. The Next Generation E-ticketing (NGeT) system also offers automatic refunds for online e-ticket cancellations, credited to passengers' bank accounts after the train's scheduled departure; however, counter-ticket refunds still require a visit to the nearest PRS counter.

Digital adoption has risen markedly: about 89% of reserved tickets are now booked online, up from roughly 49% in 2013-14, while non-counter modes account for nearly 39% of unreserved ticketing, the government told the Lok Sabha. The figures underscore the Railways' push to digitise passenger services and expand cashless, contactless ticketing options nationwide.

Hormuz to stay closed until US meets Iran's demands: REZAEI

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's newly appointed Supreme National Security Council chief Mohsen Rezaei has warned that Tehran will not allow the strategic Strait of Hormuz to return to full normal operations unless the United States agrees to meet all of Iran's stated conditions. In a post on X, Rezaei said Iran wants the United States to halt the ongoing war and blockade, unfreeze Iranian assets and support a broader ceasefire covering the region, including Lebanon and Gaza.

MI News Service, New Delhi/Baleshwar: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has recommended projects worth Rs 3.10 crore under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for upgradation of healthcare facilities in Baleshwar district, Odisha.

The proposals, now submitted for scrutiny and sanction under MPLADS, allocate Rs 1.40 crore for the Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH), Nilagiri, and Rs 1.70 crore for the District

TALIBAN rule ruined education of 2.4 million Afghan girls: UNESCO

MI News Service, New York: The Islamic Taliban has barred an estimated 2.4 million Afghan girls from secondary education since they regained power in Afghanistan in 2021, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization said on Tuesday.

The Taliban are preparing to mark the fifth anniversary of their return to power this week, as some nations expand ties with the government despite deepening human rights concerns among watchdogs.

Afghanistan is the only country where girls and women are formally banned from secondary and higher education, UNESCO said in its statement. It "risks condemning Afghanistan to decades of lost potential, deepening poverty, and irreversible harm," the agency said.

UNESCO estimates the ban on female secondary and higher education could

cause 600,000 Afghan women to leave the workforce by 2066, lead to \$9.6 billion in cumulative income losses and increase the risk of early marriage.

The Taliban-run Ministry of Education did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

When the Taliban returned to power in 2021 amid the withdrawal of the United States and its allies, they repeatedly assured the international community that women would remain free to go to school and to study.

Despite those promises, secondary schools were closed for girls in March 2022, followed by a ban on women studying in universities in December 2022. The Taliban described both bans as temporary, but they have remained in place.

Taliban restrictions also limit women's employment and their movement.

The Taliban argue they respect women's rights in



accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law and Afghan culture.

Restrictions on women pursuing higher education in Afghanistan are also expected to exacerbate a shortage of female teachers, with more than 2 million primary school children already out of school for reasons other than the bans on girls and women, UNESCO said.

UNESCO estimates Afghanistan will have a deficit of more than 11,000 qualified female teachers by 2030.

"Many teachers have left the country ... and those who were in the system are banned from continuing teaching," Hoda Jaberian, the UNESCO programme coordinator for education in emergencies, said in a briefing.

"This decision to ban women from teaching boys has not only, of course, removed a substantial number of qualified teachers and educators from the education system, but it also resulted in boys being taught by unqualified male teachers," Jaberian added. "We are left with unqualified male teachers or no teachers at all."

UNESCO said over 90% of 10-year-olds cannot read a simple text, with national literacy rates at 37%.

Many schools are overcrowded and poorly equipped. Nearly half of schools lack water, sanitation or heating, UNESCO said.

In 2025 alone, 3 million people returned to Afghanistan, either forcibly or voluntarily, placing further pressure on the schools. Since 2021, natural disasters including earthquakes and floods have forced the closure of 1,000 schools, UNESCO said.

Kavach v4 to Strengthen Safety on 660km of Izzatnagar Tracks

MI News Service, Kolkata/Lucknow: Indian Railways has approved installation of Kavach Version 4.0 on 660 route kilometres of the Izzatnagar Division of North Eastern Railway at an estimated cost of Rs 295 crore, officials said on Wednesday.

The project, sanctioned under the broader programme "Provision of Kavach with communication backbone of Long-Term Evolution (LTE) on balance sections of Indian Railways", will equip remaining sections of the division with the country's indigenous Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system.

Kavach — developed in India — continuously monitors train movements to prevent Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD) incidents and collisions by automatically initiating braking when required. The system enables trains to operate safely at maximum permissible speeds, enhances operational reliability and supports safe running in adverse conditions such as dense fog, when visibility and manual signalling are compromised.

Railway sources said the approved scope covers balance sections across the Izzatnagar Division and represents a targeted effort to bolster safety infrastructure on routes that are yet to receive the technology. Implementation will ensure integration of onboard equipment, trackside devices and an

LTE-based communication backbone to ensure continuous, low-latency data exchange necessary for real-time train protection functions.

The investment follows Indian Railways' wider push to scale up Kavach deployment nationwide as part of a layered safety strategy that complements other signalling and train-control systems. Officials noted that Kavach's automated intervention capability reduces human error, a major factor in several past accidents, and contributes to improved timetable adherence by preventing risky overspeeding and SPAD events.

Project timelines and commissioning schedules will be decided by North Eastern Railway in coordination with the Railway Board and project contractors, subject to procurement and installation milestones. Training for operating and maintenance staff, testing phases and staged rollouts are expected as part of the implementation plan.

Railway spokespersons said the sanction underscores the ministry's sustained emphasis on enhancing passenger safety through indigenous technologies. Once completed, the Kavach rollout in the Izzatnagar Division is expected to strengthen operational safety on busy routes and support Indian Railways' objective of reducing accidents and improving overall system resilience.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Recommends Rs 3.10 Crore for Hospital Upgradation in Odisha under MPLADS

MI News Service, New Delhi/Baleshwar: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & IT and Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has recommended projects worth Rs 3.10 crore under the Mem-

ber of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) for upgradation of healthcare facilities in Baleshwar district, Odisha.

The proposals, now submitted for scrutiny and sanction under MPLADS, allocate Rs 1.40 crore for the Sub-Divisional Hospital (SDH), Nilagiri, and Rs 1.70 crore for the District



15 lakh), SDMO office (Rs 10 lakh) and OPD block (Rs 20 lakh).

At DHH Baleshwar, the Rs 1.70 crore package prioritises essential clinical and support facilities: medicine block upgrade

(Rs 10 lakh), drug warehouse (Rs 10 lakh), mother-child complex (Rs 10 lakh), casualty improvement (Rs 10 lakh), Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) centre (Rs 15 lakh), surgery ward and OT (Rs 15 lakh), construction of a patient rest room (Rs 50 lakh) and refreshment hall upgrade at the OPD block (Rs 50 lakh).

Baleshwar, a coastal district in northern Odisha with a 2011 census population of about 23.2 lakh and Baleswar town housing roughly 1.74 lakh residents, and Nilagiri subdivision (popula-

tion c.1.32 lakh) stand to benefit from the planned enhancements. The measures aim to strengthen everyday hospital essentials — emergency care, drug availability, maternal and child services and patient amenities — that directly affect service delivery and patient experience.

Officials said the recommendations reflect the minister's ongoing focus on bolstering district-level healthcare infrastructure. Final implementation will proceed only after requisite sanctions and release of MPLADS funds.

Railways To Run Additional Two Trips Of Madhupur – Itwari – Madhupur Shrivani Mela Special

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear the extra rush of passengers, Railway has decided to run additional two trips of 08895/08896 Itwari – Madhupur – Itwari Shrivani Mela special as per its existing path, stoppages & timings.

08895 Itwari – Madhupur Shrivani Mela special will leave Itwari on 18.08.2026 & 25.08.2026 and 08896 Madhupur – Itwari Shrivani Mela special will leave Madhupur on 19.08.2026 & 26.08.2026.

Panchaa Unveiled in Odisha – Craft Revival, Livelihoods Restored

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Ramraj Cotton on Wednesday unveiled "Panchaa", a new handloom dhoti collection that adapts the traditional Santhali weave of Mayurbhanj for contemporary wardrobes, in a launch ceremony attended by state and community leaders.

The unveiling at a Bhubaneswar event was presided over by Mr. Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha, as chief guest. Bindu Vinodhan, founder of the Mauna Dhwan Foundation, was guest of honour, and B.R. Arun Eashwar, Managing Director of Ramraj Cotton, represented the company. Members of the tribal women weaver community from Mayurbhanj, whose generations-old craftsmanship underpins the collection, were also present.

Panchaa reimagines



the distinctive Santhali handloom — traditionally woven as sarees by Santhali women in Mayurbhanj — into a contemporary dhoti. Each piece is handwoven in 100% cotton on an off-white base, uses azo-free dyes, and combines a plain weave with an extra-weft technique that preserves the craft's characteristic motifs and texture.

Commenting on the launch, K.R. Nagarajan,

Founder and Chairman of Ramraj Cotton, said the initiative honours the craft's origins and seeks to amplify recognition for the weaving community: "It is a privilege to unveil Panchaa here in Odisha, the birthplace of the beautiful Santhali weave of Mayurbhanj. Today is not just the launch of a new dhoti, but a celebration of the craftsmanship, dedication and cultural heritage of the women weavers." He

added that the project aims to create meaningful livelihood opportunities and encourage younger generations to continue the tradition. B.R. Arun Eashwar described Panchaa as a "livelihood revival model", explaining that converting the weave into a dhoti — a consistently demanded garment across India — provides a commercially viable pathway to sustain and expand weavers' incomes beyond South India, where Ramraj has longstanding engagement.

Panchaa will be sold through select Ramraj Cotton exclusive stores and online at www.ramrajcotton.in/collections/panchaa handwoven-dhotis. The company said the collection was developed in close collaboration with Mayurbhanj weaving communities to ensure authenticity while broadening market access.

Eastern Railway's Rajbhasha Department Successfully Organizes Regional Railway Hindi Quiz Competition

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the objective of promoting Official Language Hindi and increasing interest and awareness among employees, the Rajbhasha Department of Eastern Railway organized a Regional Railway Hindi Quiz Competition today, 12.08.2026, at the General Manager's Old Conference Hall. A total of 7 teams enthusiastically participated in this competition—including Headquarters (Ra-



bindranath Tagore), four divisions namely Sealdah (Jaishankar Prasad), Howrah (Suryakant Tripathi 'Nirala'), Asansol (Sumitranandan Pant), and Malda (Mahadevi Verma), as well as two workshops namely Liluah (Munshi Premchand) and Jamalpur (Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'). Questions related to the Hindi language, Hindi liter-

ature, official language policies, railways, and general knowledge were asked during the competition.

On this occasion, Deputy General Manager (Rajbhasha) of Eastern Railway, Vikram Singh, and Senior Rajbhasha Officer, Dr. Madhusudan Dutt, were present as judges, along with senior and junior staff of the Rajbhasha Department ensuring the smooth conduct of the event. Encouraging the participants, the Deputy General Manager (Rajbhasha) stated that such competitions not

only develop an interest in Hindi among employees but also inspire them to maximize its use as an official language. He called upon all employees to continuously increase the use of Hindi in official work. In this competition, first place was secured by the Malda Division team (Mahadevi Verma), second place by the Sealdah Division team (Jaishankar Prasad), and third place by the Jamalpur Workshop team (Ramdhari Singh 'Dinkar'). The teams securing the first, second, and third positions will be

honored based on prescribed parameters. Through this competition, the winning team, Malda (Mahadevi Verma), will represent Eastern Railway in the upcoming All-Railway Hindi Quiz Competition. The Rajbhasha Department of Eastern Railway played a vital role in the successful execution of the event. Participants described the competition as informative and engaging, expressing the need to continue such events in the future. The Deputy General Manager (Rajbhasha) assured that the Rajbhasha Department will continue to organize similar programs to encourage employee talent and promote innovation and technical awareness. The Senior Rajbhasha Officer concluded the competition following a vote of thanks.

Tests against SL crucial for WTC final aspirations, identifying future spin bowling leaders, says Kartik



NEW DELHI : Former India left-arm spinner Murali Kartik believes the upcoming Test series in Sri Lanka starting on Saturday will be crucial in establishing India's next generation of spin bowlers, as veteran left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja approaches the twilight of his international career.

With the likes of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Ajinkya Rahane, Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravichandran Ashwin retired, India's red-ball squad is navigating a major transition. Though Jadeja is still around, India's quest to reach the WTC final will also hinge on how the likes of Kuldeep

Yadav, Manav Suthar and newbie Saransh Jain fare in Galle and Colombo.

"Firstly, it is a crucial tour, very important from the point of view of not just the spinners alone - also the WTC because if we are serious about Test cricket. At number five, our fortunes haven't been great in red ball cricket of late, which is well-documented and everyone knows it.

"From a spin point of view, yes, absolutely important because Ravindra Jadeja, as good as he has been for Indian cricket, he is in his, -in a sense, I would say, the twilight years -of his career. From that point of view,

Manav Suthar, the way he came in and bowled against Afghanistan was very heart-warming for any old-school spinner who has or knows Indian cricket, it was very important," Kartik told IANS in an interaction facilitated by Sony Sports Network on Wednesday.

He further highlighted the pressing question surrounding Kuldeep's role as India seek a spin-bowling leader once Jadeja steps away. Kuldeep finds himself in a precarious situation - having spent years as an understudy to Ashwin and Jadeja, the left-arm wrist-spinner has been kept out by team combinations and injuries.

It's evident from Test appearances standing at just 18 since his debut in 2017. Even after Ashwin's retirement, Kuldeep has played only five Tests and claimed one five-wicket haul, with Washington Sundar frequently preferred ahead of him. Now, Kuldeep faces fresh competition from young Suthar, who took a seven-wicket haul in the one-off game against Afghanistan in June.

"Look, Kuldeep Yadav has been a match-winner for India. But, unfortunately for him, it played out differently when he had Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid at the helm. Now, he has not got that kind

of a run-in. When you think of what happened in England, everybody kept saying during the course of those five Test matches, 'Where is Kuldeep? Where is Kuldeep?' And Kuldeep didn't play - he was sitting out.

"So, it's very important from that point of view as now that Ravindra Jadeja is in the twilight of his career, is he the leader? Or is it going to be someone else? Because it is, as you rightly said, very, very difficult. So, to get that in and also, as you pointed out, the spinners - look at the number of wickets those two guys have taken.

"After the likes of Anil and Harbhajan, Ashwin and

Jadeja, depending on what the team management wanted, one of them was always playing. Those are very, very big shoes to fill. So, can Kuldeep Yadav be the leader? I think we will find out during the course of this series because it's very important," he explained.

Kuldeep looked a little far from his best self against Afghanistan and lack of game time meant he turned out for Yorkshire in the one-day cup. Although Kuldeep showed encouraging signs in India's warm-up game win in Colombo, questions remain over whether the starting eleven opportunity will open up for him in Galle.

ILT20 Season 5: Klaassen, Miller join Gulf Giants in pre-auction signings; Omarzai, Muzarabani return too

DUBAI : Gulf Giants on Wednesday signed South African stars David Miller and Heinrich Klaassen as the franchise picked players in pre-auction signings ahead of the ILT20 Season 5 in Dubai. Afghanistan all-rounder Azmatullah Omarzai and Zimbabwe fast bowler Blessing Muzarabani will also return for the new season. The ILT20 Season 5 will be played from November 22 to December 20, 2026. The quartet brings proven international quality across batting, pace bowling and the all-round department as Gulf Giants, the Adani Sportsline-owned franchise, pursue a second DP World ILT20 title, having won the tournament's inaugural edition in 2023. Speaking on the signings, Gulf Giants Head Coach Simon Helmot said, "We are delighted to welcome David and Heinrich to the Gulf Giants family while bringing back Azmatullah and Blessing. They are world-class players and proven match-winners who add tremendous quality and depth to our squad. We've built a strong foundation, and the Player Auction gives us another opportunity to complete our squad as we prepare for Season 5." One of world cricket's most accomplished finishers, Miller brings a wealth of experience, having played 571 T20 matches and scored more than 12,000 runs across international and franchise cricket. He also played a pivotal role in the Gujarat Titans' Indian Premier League (IPL) title-winning campaign in 2022. Compatriot Klaassen arrives with an equally formidable reputation. The explosive wicketkeeper-batter has amassed more than 6,900 runs in 294 T20 matches and will make his DP World ILT20 debut in Season 5.

Jr Women's Nationals: Hockey Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttarakhand shine in Pune

PUNE : Teams from Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand were off to effortless starts in their group in Divisions B' and C, respectively, in the 16th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship 2026 at the Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium in Pune on Wednesday.

The tournament, being hosted by Hockey Maharashtra, got off to a rollicking start with matches played out in both Divisions B' and C. The initial action saw some top teams make a winning start.

In Division 'B', Hockey Rajasthan made a strong start with a 7-3 win over Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu Hockey in a Pool 'A' encounter. Similarly, in the same (Division 'B') division, Hockey Uttarakhand delivered a commanding 5-0 victory over Goans Hockey in a Pool 'B' match.

Later, in Division 'C',



Hockey Jammu & Kashmir secured a 4-1 victory over Hockey Gujarat in a Pool 'B' match.

In Division 'C' Pool A, Hockey Rajasthan got off to a strong start with a convincing 7-3 victory over Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu Hockey. Rajasthan led 3-1 at half-time and maintained their attacking momentum throughout the second half. Mahavar Gayatri scored twice in the 18th and 58th minutes, while Ruchi Gupta also found the net twice in the 22nd and

47th minutes.

Kanwar Pushpa scored in the 22nd and 42nd minutes, while Lamoria Salini added another in the 37th minute. For Dadra & Nagar Haveli Daman & Diu Hockey, Nandniben Nandubhai Dulsada, Rashmi Raikwar and Anjali scored one goal each.

In Division 'C' Pool B, Hockey Jammu & Kashmir secured a 4-1 win over Hockey Gujarat. Sonali Devi opened the scoring as early as the second minute

before Samina Akhter doubled the advantage in the 27th minute.

Kiran Bihari then converted two penalty corners in the 38th and 54th minutes to complete the win. Janvi Barai scored Gujarat's only goal in the 51st minute. Jammu & Kashmir went into the half-time break with a 2-0 lead. The Division 'B' Pool A encounter between Hockey Andhra Pradesh and Kerala Hockey ended in an entertaining 3-2 win for Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh took an early lead through Sreevidya Thirumalasetty in the seventh minute, but Jyoti Xaxa equalised for Kerala in the 26th minute.

Sreevidya restored Andhra Pradesh's lead in the 40th minute before Pujari Madhurima Bai doubled the lead in the 50th minute. Abhay Jyothi A S pulled one back for Kerala Hockey in the same minute.

Hockey Mizoram produced a dominant display in another Division 'B' Pool A

match, defeating Assam Hockey 6-2. Mizoram led 2-1 at half-time and continued their attacking approach after the break. Zothanmawii was the standout performer, completing a hat-trick with goals in the 33rd, 52nd and 55th minutes.

Lalanchhungi, Loicy Lalthanpui and Anjana Xaxa were also on the scoresheet. Assam's goals came from Sunita Romoni in the 21st and 40th minutes.

In Division 'B' Pool B, Hockey Uttarakhand delivered a commanding 5-0 victory over Goans Hockey. Raean Kehkasha Ali and Aarti scored in the first half as Uttarakhand established a 2-0 lead at the interval.

The second half saw Uttarakhand continue their dominance, with Raean Kehkasha Ali adding her second goal in the 46th minute, followed by Aarti's second in the 50th minute. Diksha completed the scoring in the 42nd minute through a penalty corner.

FIH World Cup: Indian team has quality and depth to achieve top four finish, says PR Sreejesh

MUMBAI : Just a few days before the start of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup, former India captain and two-time Olympic medallist PR Sreejesh has listed the Indian team as a favourite to make it to the last-four stage and termed anything better than that as "a bonus". India, winner of the 1975 World Cup, have not reached the semifinals for five decades. However, after failing to win an Olympic medal for four decades, the Indian men's team won a bronze medal in the 2020 edition in Tokyo and followed it up with a second bronze medal in Paris 2024. Sreejesh said the Indian team has the quality and depth to achieve a top-four finish in the 16th edition, which will be held in Wavre (Belgium) and Amstelveen (the Netherlands) from August 14 to 30. "The FIH Hockey World Cup is the second biggest tournament in hockey after the Olympics, and naturally, the whole world

is watching, and all eyes are on you. That brings a lot of pressure. But you cannot let that pressure affect your game. When you start thinking too much about it, your performance drops. And when your performance drops, the pressure increases even more," Sreejesh said, speaking to JioStar.

"So the key is to stay calm, focus on your role, and trust your training. Most importantly, you are playing in the World Cup. This is what you have worked for. Just enjoy the moment and give your best on the pitch," said Sreejesh. On the performance expectations from the Indian Men's Hockey Team in the FIH Hockey Men's World Cup, Sreejesh said, "In my opinion, the way this team is set up and the progress we have made, a top four finish is the minimum we should aim for. Looking at the pool we have been drawn in, we have the quality and the depth to achieve that.

WPGT 2026: Ridhima roars back to form to take 3-shot lead in 12th Leg



BENGALURU : Ridhima Dilawari, who seemed to be searching for her 'A' game after the three wins in the first six legs of the Women's Pro Golf Tour 2026, came out with flying colours in the opening round of Leg 12 at the Prestige Golfshire in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Ridhima shot a 5-under 67 to open up a handy three-shot lead over the field. The Gurugram golfer, who turned 28 last month, had six birdies against one solitary bogey in her round.

Three players, including amateur Keerthana Rajeev, Mannat Brar and Vidhatri Urs, winner of the 10th Leg, were three behind in second place following cards of 2-under 70 each.

Keerthana had four birdies against two bogeys, while Mannat had three birdies against one bogey on the 18th, and Vidhatri

had one bogey on the opening hole and three birdies, all on the front nine of the course.

Four players, including the experienced trio of Amandeep Drall, Neha Tripathi and Shweta Mansingh, were in tied fifth place alongside Anagha Venkatesh, with all of them shooting even par 72 each as only eight players shot even par or better during the day.

There was another big bunch of five players, Heena Kang, Durga Nittur, Oviya Reddi, amateur Anushka Gupta and Jasmine Shekar, in tied ninth place with scores of 1-over 73 each.

Among the surprises were Vani Kapoor, who trailed in T-26 with a 76, while last week's winner, Sneha Singh (78), was T-35. Saanvi Somu, who has played a lot in Europe this season on the LET Access Series, shot 75 and was T-21.

Sneha Singh, who had to fight hard to end a long winless period last week, will be hoping to take that confidence into the 12th Leg of the Tour as she faces a strong field once again this week at the Prestige Golfshire, situated at the foothills of the scenic Nandi hills.

Sneha's major rivals this week will include Vani Kapoor, who lost the play-off a week ago, Vidhatri Urs, Order of Merit leader Ridhima Dilawari, Amandeep Drall, a former runner-up at the Hero Women's Indian Open, Durga Nittur, Heena Kang, Mannat Brar, Anvitha Narender and Jasmine Shekar, among others.

135th Durand Cup: NEROCA down nine-man FC Raengdai to end group stage with win

IMPHAL : NEROCA FC came from behind to beat nine-man FC Raengdai 3-1 and end their group-stage campaign on a winning note in the 135th Durand Cup at the Khuman Lampak Main Stadium in Imphal on Wednesday.

FC Raengdai took the lead in the 19th minute through Jonah Kamei, but NEROCA restored parity eight minutes later after Thoudam Nani Singh turned the ball into his own net. Raengdai were reduced to nine men in the second half after P.M. Rakeveiche and Soraisham Surjakanta Singh were shown red cards within four minutes of each other, forcing the side from Noney to play the final 30 minutes with nine players. NEROCA took the lead in



the 89th minute when substitute Chabungbam Linky Meitei headed home to put his

side ahead. Yumnam Renedy Meitei then added a third in stoppage time to complete the

comeback. The victory saw NEROCA finish their Group D campaign with four points from three matches, while FC Raengdai, who had already secured their place in the quarter-finals, finished with six points from their three matches.

NEROCA FC head coach Yumnam Raju Mangang made five changes to his starting XI for their final match of the tournament. Naorem Kiranjit Singh replaced Abujam Penand Singh in goal, while Soibam Abhinash Singh and Lambalmayum Hemba Meitei came into the defence in place of Ben Nash Quansh and Saphaba Singh Telem. Sinam Maichael Singh replaced Charles Teiko Folley in midfield, while Sridarth

Nongmeikapam came into the attack in place of Ngathem Imarson Meitei.

Meanwhile, FC Raengdai head coach Kshetrimayum Birbal Singh made three changes to his side, which had already secured their place in the quarter-finals. Yaithengbam Suraj Singh came in between the posts in place of captain Kamei Pantiga, with Jonah Kamei replacing Wahengbam Rojen Meitei in defence and taking over the captain's armband. Thoudam Nani Singh was also handed a start in midfield in place of Gaisuangmei Kamei.

NEROCA FC registered the first attempt on goal inside the opening three minutes after Sibajit Singh found space inside the box to con-

trol a pass from Michael Singh. However, the forward failed to make clean contact with his effort, which drifted wide of the post without troubling the goalkeeper. Moments later, FC Raengdai thought they had taken the lead when Amarjit Singh produced an acrobatic finish after connecting with a pass from Anitkumar Singh, but the effort was ruled out for offside.

FC Raengdai took the lead after gradually establishing control of the contest. Jonah Kamei peeled away from his marker to meet a corner and powered a header towards the bottom corner. The effort beat both the goalkeeper and the defender stationed on the goal line to give Raengdai the advantage.



Addressing his relationship with the coaching setup, Root admitted he was disappointed by the departure of former Test coach Brendon McCullum, while expressing enthusiasm for working alongside incoming head coach Stephen Fleming.

"I'll be honest with you. I

Root scraps curfew for Test series against Pakistan, urges England players to 'be adults'

LONDON : In his second spell as England's Test captain, Joe Root has done away with the midnight curfew imposed on his side and has urged players to behave like 'grown adults' as they prepare for the upcoming series against Pakistan, starting at Headingley on August 19.

The decision marks a clear departure from the ECB's player behaviour guidelines introduced in July following a string of off-field alcohol-related incidents -- like former captain Ben Stokes and Gus Atkinson were out past a midnight curfew after England won the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's.

"There's not going to be a curfew. I don't think this needs to be a big deal, to be honest. My view on the curfew is that the players are doing their work, and if you want guys to take responsibility on the field, they've got to feel like they can be grown adults and make good, strong decisions off it.

"That's for us as a team to manage well, and police well for me and (new head coach) Stephen Fleming. We should be known for how we play cricket and what we do on the field. We should be on the back page of papers," Root said in the latest episode of the Sky Sports Cricket Podcast.

Underlining the need for a healthy team culture, Root added, "Be adults, look after yourselves, look after each other. (We need to) create a good, strong culture where you know when the right time is to celebrate and enjoy a win or to have a sensible beer, but remember -- you've got to play for England.

"I don't want people to feel like they can't enjoy winning a Test match because they want to have a beer or, at the right time, let their hair down, and then that's absolutely fine. We're human beings at the end of the day. You know what your responsibilities are, you know how you need to prepare for a Test match and what it takes, and the effects that these things can have on you. So be smart, be sensible, and just be an adult."

Addressing his relationship with the coaching setup, Root admitted he was disappointed by the departure of former Test coach Brendon McCullum, while expressing enthusiasm for working alongside incoming head coach Stephen Fleming.

"I'll be honest with you. I

was gutted when I found out Brendon was no longer going to be the Test coach. He's someone that I feel has really got the best out of me personally. I love the way he sees the game, and the way that he's opened my eyes up to looking at it slightly differently. I feel like he's a brilliant coach.

"I'm very glad that we still get to work together in the white-ball stuff. He's someone that I owe a huge amount to, and that I've become pretty close with. I think they're doing brilliant stuff in white-ball teams. And I wish him all the very best in that."

Welcoming Fleming to the Test fold, Root said, "(Fleming and I) have crossed paths a bit over the last few years when he's coached different teams around the world. I have someone that I've always admired. "He's someone that I really did admire as a player. The way that he's always held himself as a captain first and foremost. His record as a coach has been exceptional, albeit in T20 cricket. There's so much that I'm looking forward to in that respect."

Reflecting on his first term in charge, Root acknowledged past tactical errors, especially regarding the insane workload of speedster Jofra Archer, and vowed to handle the fast bowler with greater care this time.

"I think at times maybe I did over-bowl him and over-use him. The attack that he works with now complements him really well. (Now) there are other people that can potentially play a role that I might have used Jofra for in the past. I believe he's a generational talent and someone who is going to produce wonderful things for England across the formats.

"In Test cricket, he's capable of doing some wonderful things. Clearly, as I said, I didn't get everything right the first time around. I made mistakes, but he's going to be a really important factor in what we do moving forward. I'm very excited to work with him again."

Root also addressed the public perception surrounding his return to the leadership role. "I think the hardest thing for me will be people's opinion of how I captained four years ago. I think it's very important to remember, and for me to remember more than anything, I'm a completely different player from what I was four years ago.