

Devastating Fire Guts 40 Shops in Baghajatin's Ramgarh Market

Another major fire has struck Kolkata, this time reducing the bustling Ramgarh Market in Baghajatin to ashes. At least 40 shops were completely gutted in the devastating blaze. Although the fire has largely been brought under control, several pockets of flames are still being extinguished by firefighters. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be confirmed, but initial investigations suggest that a short circuit in one of the tailoring shops may have triggered the incident. Overnight, traders suffered losses amounting to several lakhs of rupees, leaving them deeply distressed. The fire broke out around 1:30 am on the early hours of Friday. Within minutes, flames engulfed large sections of the Ramgarh Market. Locals first spotted the blaze and immediately alerted the fire department. Multiple fire tenders rushed to the spot and began firefighting operations. PG 3



Rs. 3
KOLKATA

SATURDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 2023
PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-193
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVETV7.COM

Morning India

Mamata Banerjee
expressed sadness
at the demise of
Shivraj Patil



MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her sadness at the passing away of veteran public leader, former Speaker of the Lok Sabha and former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil in Maharashtra on Friday.

In a condolence message in her social media platform X, Mamata Banerjee recalling her association with Shivraj Patil, said I "remember my days of interactions with him on various issues during my tenures as Union Minister and also as a Parliamentarian in the Lok Sabha".

In her message she wrote, "Saddened by the demise of veteran public leader, former Speaker of Lok Sabha and former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil. I remember my days of interactions with him on various issues during my tenures as Union Minister and also as a Parliamentarian in Lok Sabha. My condolences to his bereaved family, friends and followers".

Rs 45 cr drugs, gold and diamonds seized at Mumbai airport; 12 held

MI News Service, Mumbai : In one of the largest hauls in recent times, the Customs officials here have seized diamonds, gold and hydroponic weed, collectively valued at Rs 45 crore, before they were being smuggled through the airport, official sources said adding that 12 passengers have also been arrested in this connection. The seizures were made during the week long operations conducted till December 11 at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, they said. Based on specific information, the Customs personnel apprehended nine passengers and recovered hydroponic weed better known as 'marijuana' and valued at Rs 37.26 crore in international market from them, an official said on Wednesday. In some cases, the contraband was



Children wearing Argentina's jersey and holding Messi's posters celebrate ahead of the India tour of Argentina's footballer Lionel Messi, in Kolkata on Friday.

"Don't Go Near BSF Posts" Mamata warns amid SIR Row

I don't believe in communalism. I believe in secularism. Whenever the election comes, the BJP tries to use money and bring people from other states to divide people

CM Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata : In fiery remarks targeting the Special Inten-

sive Revision (SIR) of voter lists in poll-bound West Bengal, Trinamool Congress leader and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asked women of the state to be prepared with kitchen tools if their names are deleted during the voter list review.

"You will snatch the rights of mothers and sisters in the name of SIR? They will bring police from Delhi during the election and intimidate mothers and sisters. Mothers and sisters, if your names are struck off, you have the tools, right? The



tools you use during cooking. You have strength, right? You won't let it pass if your names are cut, right? The women will fight in the front, and the men will be behind them," Mamata Banerjee said. She said she wants to see who was more powerful: women or the BJP. "I don't believe in communalism. I believe in secularism. Whenever the election comes, the BJP tries to use money and bring people from other states

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IndiGo board appoints external aviation expert for probing service disruption

MI News Service, Mumbai : IndiGo's board on Friday announced the appointment of an external aviation expert to carry out a root-cause analysis of its recent massive flight disruptions. "Chief Aviation Advisors LLC, led by Captain John Illson, veteran aviation expert, to conduct an independent expert review and assessment of the recent operational disruption and the contributing factors," the airline said in a statement. The board of Inter Globe Aviation, the parent of IndiGo, has already set up a crisis management group in the wake of the significant operational disruptions that started on December 2.

The announcement comes on the day IndiGo Chief Executive Officer Pieter Elbers and Chief Operating Officer, Isidre Porqueras are being grilled before a four-member panel, set up by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation with a mandate to identify the root



Chief Aviation Advisors LLC, led by Captain John Illson, veteran aviation expert, to conduct an independent expert review and assessment of the recent operational disruption and the contributing factors

— the airline causes of widespread operational disruptions at the leading domestic carrier. The mandate of the panel

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Messi's India Tour set to dazzle, but without his 2011 football magic

MI News Service, Kolkata / Mumbai / New Delhi : Argentine superstar Lionel Messi's long-awaited return to India, after a magical maiden visit back in 2011, will be high on glitz but low on actual football, promising a spectacle that may not recapture the raw sporting frenzy that once shook the Salt Lake Stadium here. His artistry in a competitive match will be missing this time. It would be quite unlike 2011 when more than 85,000 fans packed the stadium, some even perched on terrace edges, to watch Argentina edge Venezuela 1-0 in a FIFA friendly. The eight-time Ballon d'Or winner is not scheduled to play serious football on the 'G.O.A.T. India Tour 2025'. It is a fully promotional, and commercially-curated event which will begin on Saturday here and wind up on Monday in New Delhi. This time, Messi returns to India for a high-profile, non-competitive tour across Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai, and Delhi, featuring promo-



Artist Swapan Kumar Das draws a portrait of Argentine footballer and 2022 FIFA World Cup winning captain Lionel Messi ahead of his visit at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal.

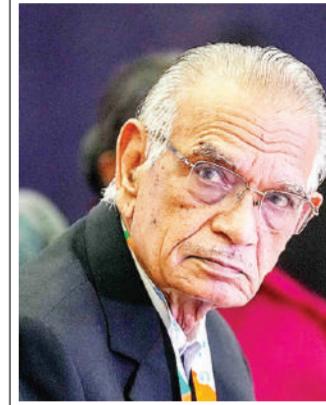
tional events, celebrity interactions, and philanthropy. Fans anticipate a critique the visit for lacking actual football action and engagement

Yet, for a city that once wor-

shipped Maradona, Pele, dazzled Dunga and embraced Ronaldinho, the arrival of Messi even without football is unmissable because Kolkata cannot ignore him. The organisers have opened 78,000 seats at the Salt Lake Stadium with ticket prices going up to Rs 7,000 for his barely 45-minute appearance on Saturday morning, raising questions on whether the city will respond with the same unrestrained passion. Messi will spend less than 72 hours in India but will traverse four metropolises — Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi — in what has increasingly begun to resemble a high-profile roadshow involving Chief ministers, corporate heavyweights, Bollywood celebrities and even a scheduled meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Delhi. India's Test and ODI captain Shubman Gill, a self-confessed Messi admirer, is also expected

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Former HM Shivraj Patil passed away, Rajya Sabha pays tributes



The country has lost an experienced statesman, an able administrator and a respected parliamentarian. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Shivraj Patilji
--C P Radhakrishnan

MI News Service, New Delhi : Rajya Sabha on Friday paid tributes to former Union Home Minister Shivraj Patil, who passed away this morning, with Chairman C P Radhakrishnan

saying that the country has lost a respected parliamentarian and an able administrator.

Patil served as a member of the Rajya Sabha, representing the state of Maharashtra, from 2004 to 2010. "I refer, with profound sorrow, to the passing away of Shivraj Patil Ji, a former member of this house who passed away today at the age of 90 years," Radhakrishnan said during the Zero Hour proceedings in the morning. The veteran Congressman and former Union Home Minister passed away at his home town Latur in Maharashtra on Friday morning. "The country has lost an experienced statesman, an able administrator and a respected parliamentarian. We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Shivraj Patilji," Radhakrishnan added. Members observed a two minutes silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

"Born on October 12, 1935, Shivraj Patil Ji was an eminent public figure who held several important constitutional and parliamentary positions during his long and distinguished career. He served as the 10th speaker of Lok Sabha and later as the Union Minister of Home Affairs," Radhakrishnan said. Patil also served as the Governor of Punjab and the administrator of the Union Territory of Chandigarh. "A dignified and soft-spoken statesman, Shivraj Patil was widely respected for his deep understanding of parliamentary procedure, his unwavering commitment to democratic values and his calm and measured approach to public life. His contributions to the proceedings of this house and to the nation's governance remain noteworthy," the Chairman said. Patil passed away at his residence 'Devgarh' after a brief illness, family sources said, adding that his funeral will be held on Saturday.

Haldiram's Prabhuji

Khushiyon Ki Asli Mithaas

Bhujia

Khatta Mitha

Chat Pata

Kaju Barfi

Gulab Jamun

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Police arrested BJP leader on court's instructions on sexual harassment charges



MESSI 'Moshai' all set to mesmerize KOLKATA

SIDDHARTHA ALBERT MAMJUMDER
Lionel Messi magic grips the football crazy Kolkatans as the city embraces its very own Messi. Kolkata is abuzz with excitement as football fan's wait finally ends with the arrival of the Argentine superstar, Lionel Messi. The seven-time Ballon d'Or winner is now in the Kolkata, the football capital of South Asia.

As part of his visit, Messi will inaugurate the world's largest statue of himself, a towering 70-foot behemoth located adjacent to the clock tower in Sribhumi. The statue, crafted using special fibre technology, has been built by artist Monty Pal and his team of 30 artists in just a few days.

The statue's inauguration is expected to be a major event, with State Minister Sujit Basu hoping to secure a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. Messi's visit is packed with a series of events, including a sponsor's event, a football match between Mohun Bagan 'Messi' All Star and Diamond Harbour 'Messi' All Star, and a royal reception at iconic Salt Lake stadium.

The Argentine superstar is also expected to meet players from both teams, as well as dignitaries including Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Trinamool All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, India's cricket icon Sourav Ganguly, and Tennis icon Leander Paes.

The city is all set to give Messi a hero's welcome, with fans from across the city and suburbs flocking to Salt Lake Stadium to catch a glimpse of the football legend. The event promises to be a memorable one, with Messi set to leave an indelible mark on the city and its people.

ARGENTINA Fanatics & MESSI Maniacs build 'Mini Miami' at Salt Lake

The Argentina Football Fans Club of Kolkata has transformed Aikatan, a cultural complex barely a 100 metres from Salt Lake Stadium, into a Messi



In the northern suburb of Lake Town, the Sree Bhumi Sporting Club has constructed what it claims is the world's largest statue of the Argentine icon 70-foot iron structure depicting Messi lifting the World Cup trophy. Built in just 40 days, the statue awaits a virtual inauguration by Messi himself, with organisers giving it final touches ahead of the footballer's visit.

fan zone, where blue and white prevail on everything from walls to ceiling.

At the heart of it are father and son duo Uttam and Pragnan Saha, lifelong devotees of Argentine football. Together, they have charted the country's story from Maradona to Messi, and now want Kolkata to walk through a space that mirrors the superstar's Florida home — complete with replica trophies and a giant screen looping his greatest moments.

The idea, 20-year-old Pragnan says, is simple. The exterior echos Messi's Miami house, while the interior functions like a museum. Fans strolled past replicas of La Liga titles, Champions League cups, Copa America and World

Cup trophies, Ballon d'Ors and Golden Boots, and look up to a ceiling covered with 896 footballs — each one marking a goal from Messi's career.

At the centre stand a huge LED wall playing Messi's finest moments alongside the club's own two-decade journey. And on the main stage, they've even built a 'Messi throne'.

The Hola Messi Fanzone will be open from 10am to 10pm. The mornings (10am – 4pm) are for fan activities — debates, quizzes, and memory sessions — while the evenings (4pm – 10pm) are reserved for the main events.

Each morning brings a new theme: a fiery debate between Argentina, Brazil and Portugal supporters; a repeat showdown featuring local uncles from nearby tea shops; and then nostalgic screenings of classic matches from 2002 onwards.

KING KHAN to meet EMPEROR MESSI in Kolkata

The sources say that Shah Rukh Khan is also expected to meet Messi here in Kolkata.

Shah Rukh Khan has announced that he will meet Argentine football legend Lionel Messi in Kolkata on December 13. The visit is set to draw significant attention, as Messi prepares to participate in a series of high-profile events in the city, including the unveiling of a statue in his honour and celebrations attended by celebrities and local dignitaries.

Kolkata is all set for what is going to be one of the city's largest receptions, with Messi's arrival drawing widespread excitement. Fans from across the region are flocking to the city, eager to catch a glimpse of the football icon and witness the festivities. Shah Rukh Khan confirmed the meeting on X, saying, "This time round not planning my Knight in Kolkata, and hoping the day Ride is completely 'Messi'."



Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan) in Kolkata will host the opening of Lionel Messi's GOAT India Tour on Saturday. The event will feature a meet-and-greet, the inauguration of a virtual statue, a celebrity football match (GOAT Cup) with stars such as Shah Rukh Khan and Sourav Ganguly, a football clinic, and a cultural programme, celebrating the global football icon's first visit in years. Preparations for the event were underway at the stadium on Friday.

Conviction Secured in POCSO Case; Accused Sentenced for 20 Years



MI News Service, Ranaghat: A special POCSO court in Ranaghat has convicted Gautam Rajoar (55) for raping a 12-year-old girl during Durga Puja in 2021. The court on Thursday sentenced him to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment, terming the crime "heinous and deeply disturbing."

The incident occurred on October 13, 2021, when the minor, visiting a relative's home in Arambandi for the festivities, was lured away by the accused. Following the complaint lodged at Santipur Police Station, police arrested Rajoar and submitted the chargesheet after investigation.

The court also imposed a monetary fine on the convict and directed compensation for the survivor under the Victim Compensation Scheme. Officials of Ranaghat Police District welcomed the verdict, saying it reflects the administration's "zero tolerance" towards crimes against children.

Police SI Abhik Mukherjee, IO-2, Kaushik Kar and PP Rajashree Behura played a vital role in the case under section 6 of the POCSO Act 2012.

CII Calls for Urgent, Scalable ESG Implementation Across Industries to Meet Global Climate Goals



MI News Service, Kolkata: CII has called on industries to urgently implement large-scale Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) practices to keep pace with global climate commitments and strengthen long-term resilience and competitive ness.

Speaking at the Green Industry Conclave organised by CII Eastern Region in Kolkata today, Ms Apurba Mitra, Co-Chairman, CII Eastern Region ESG Subcommittee and Partner – KPMG, Lead – Climate Change, noted that majority of the emissions across the world today are covered by updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

A significant demonstration of global climate engagement, though overall ambition remains below what is needed to keep warming to 1.5°C. She said this reflects a decisive shift toward strengthening climate action but stressed that current collective commitments would deliver far less than the emissions reductions required by 2035.

Mitra underscored that achieving meaningful emissions reduction by 2035 will require rapid innovation, widespread ESG integration, and transforming compliance obligations into opportunities that deliver real impact. She emphasised that building strong ecosystems anchored in enabling policies, innovation, and close collab

oration between government and industry will be crucial for ensuring inclusive and timely progress aligned to science.

During the conclave two whitepapers have been released: "Comparative Analysis of Indian and Global ESG Rating Mechanisms-Regulatory Evolution, Methodological Divergence and Future Pathways for Alignment" and "ESG Compliance Framework: Regulatory, Stakeholder & Market Evolution in India". These publications reflect CII's continued effort to support organisations of all sizes in navigating the evolving ESG landscape and strengthening their preparedness.

Addressing the gathering, Arijit Basu, Managing Director, Veedol Corporation, provided insights on translating sustainability into everyday practice. He demonstrated how widely used products can be redesigned to reduce environmental impact and highlighted that although the consumption of daily-use plastic products may not decline significantly in the short term, industries must prioritise making these products more sustainable and promoting responsible consumption as an essential foundation for decarbonisation.

CII reiterated that immediate, comprehensive and industry-wide ESG implementation is vital for India to align with global climate trajectories, strengthen supply-chain resilience, and maintain competitiveness in an increasingly sustainability-driven global economy.

Outstanding electricity bill is about two and a half lakh rupees, the day laborers of Chandrakona are in trouble

MI News Service, Kharagpur: According to sources, in the flood of 2000, Nabir's house was submerged in the river. Since then, the old man lived in a tin house next to the electricity bill of 2 lakh 83 thousand rupees! And Gholam Nabi Khan, a resident of Dhaikhand village of Chandrakona-2 block of Ghatal sub-division, is sleepless with the thought of how to pay this amount of electricity bill. Neighbors are shocked to see this amount of electricity bill of a small day la



lived in a tin shed next door. Due to the flood situation in the area again, the electricity department opened the BPL registered meter and took it away. Since then he lived with his daughter Jamila Bibi. Recently, he has become worried after seeing this amount of outstanding electricity bill. Nabi said that although he informed the electricity department about the unusual electricity bill, there was no solution. The old man also said that even though he reported this amount of

electricity bills to the office many times before, it was of no avail. Regarding the electricity bill, the department said that the person has not paid any electricity bill since 2010. This amount with interest currently stands due. Even if all the complaints are not true, the department has assured to take necessary measures after looking into the whole matter. They said that they will apply to the electricity department so that the old man's dues are waived off.

IMSWC Organizes 45th Anniversary National and International Convention on Integrated Management to Combat Cross-Border Drug Trafficking, Protect Vulnerable Children and Youth, Mitigate Violence, Strengthen Public Health, Promote Rehabilitation, Vocational Training, Education, and Social Reintegration Across South Asia

MI News Service, Kolkata: "The International Mission for Social Welfare and Charity (I.M.S.W.C) is organized its 45th Anniversary of National and International Convention for integrated management legal framework for the Prevention and to fight against Cross Border illicit trafficking of drugs. IMSWC gives Protecting vulnerable individuals, families and communities from drug addiction and HIV. Reducing the demand for drugs, mitigating the public health and social consequences of drug abuse. Enhancing comprehensive and evidence-based drug use prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social re-integration, with special emphasis on the high risk groups On. 07th September, 2025 at Nityanandapur, Kholishakali and Chowlia village of Magura district, Khulna division within the country of Bangladesh. The 582 men, Women and Girls' drug addicts Participated of this Programme.

08th September, 2025 IMSWC organized integrated development Programme for Strengthened access to justice for all, particularly the most vulnerable, effective, community and knowledge based crime prevention, better prevention of violence and increased access to gender responsive justice. Strengthened prevention

and responses to violence against children, reforms to ensure safe and humane custody of prisoners. programmes that are accessible to the relevant vulnerable groups, including people who use and/or inject drugs and inmates. IMSWC provides value-added support to the quantitative and qualitative expansion of existing drug demand reduction workshop with special emphasis on high-risk groups and evaluation of the programme" at Mongalbari, tilakpur and jamaalganj village of Joypurhat district, rajshahi division within the country of Bangladesh. The 484 men, Women, Girls' and youth drug addicts Participated of this Programme.

09th September, 2025 IMSWC also organized Preventive intervention for the general community and evaluation of the workshop on universal elementary primary school education and bridge education for the people living with illicit drugs and to provide them Social Security, food, Clothing, wasteland, unoccupied dwellings, legal aid and Social services and also provide regular individual contact, offering much-needed love and care and to enable reintegration Victims of trafficking, Strengthen and gender discrimination at Juphal, sarmi and likhu village of Dolpa district within the country of Nepal. The 762 men,

women and youth drug addicts Participated of this Programme. 10th September, 2025 IMSWC organized access to integrated management workshop on Early intervention, education, and the building of protective elements including strong social support, coping mechanisms, and good peer influence usually take front stage in prevention workshop. IMSWC Promote preventive measures and strengthen cooperation among nations to curb drug abuse and trafficking. Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. To remain drug-free and encourage family and friends to do the same, promoting a healthy lifestyle. To support evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery services for those with drug use disorders and cultural expression at Jabisia, Kempa and delikha village of Paro district within the country of Bhutan. The 688 men, Girls', Women, youth drug addicts Participated of this Programme.

11th September, 2025 IMSWC organized innovative integrated programme for the protection of girls and women from drug addicts and to promote Vocational-oriented education and entrepreneurship development training Workshop for drug de-addiction on readymade garments, Textile and Jute Bag, Decorative Flower, Agarbatti, Cotton tape, shopping bags,



drug abuse and trafficking and to change mindsets and promote community action against Drug addicts and to ensure that People living and working on the drug addicts are provided with identity documents and access to integrated comprehensive primary healthcare for drug addicts, counseling, free treatment for drug detoxification, rescue IMSWC Support Vitamin 'A' and Iron Supplementation to address damage caused by vitamin and mineral deficiencies and prevention for the affected by discrimination minorities children infected and or affected by HIV and AIDS transmission from parents to child beggars, child drug abusers, children of substance abusers and sexual exploited children and implementation of programme at Salapad,

barohi and jorla village of Mandi district within the state of Himachal Pradesh. The 482 girl's, Women drug addicts Participated of this Programme.

13th September, 2025 IMSWC organized integrated management of Protecting public health and strengthening prevention, treatment and reintegration measures, including under the healthier together initiative and build a safer society. To support efforts that address the root causes of the drug problem and help break the cycle of organized crime associated with illicit trafficking. Prevent and combat abuse and illicit traffic of drugs. Prevention of amphetamine, methamphetamine, Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD), Mephedrone drug for user addicts at Parakkal, Valaval and kannachankandy village of Mahe district within the state of Puducherry. The 594 empower youth and communities to actively participate in anti-drug Programme.

14th September, 2025 IMSWC organized integrated management framework on Stopping drug trafficking requires long-term coordinated action and rehabilitation workshop at Belmuri, itachuna and Dedhara Annada Prasad High School of Hooghly district within the state of West Bengal. The 761 girl's, Women, Youth drug addicts and students Participated at this workshop.

Codeine, Cocaine. To combat the stigma and discrimination faced by people who use drugs, advocating for respect, empathy, and non-judgmental attitudes to help them seek treatment at Chinnavadi, kadambankulam and misur village of virudhunagar district within the state of Tamil nadu. The 675 girl's, Women and Youth drug addicts Participated of this Programme.

15th September, 2025 IMSWC organized access to integrated programme for the Prevention of Ketamine, Psilocybin and Psilocin (Magic Mushrooms), Benzodiazepines and Barbiturates and tramadol user addicts. IMSWC Provide in-patient treatment to drug users along with counseling, detoxification, de-addiction, after care and re-integration into the social mainstream. IMSWC provide safe and secure space with provision of screening, assessment and counselling and thereafter provide referral and linkage to treatment and rehabilitation services. Psychosocial support, with care, resilience and support to combat the drug menace through coordinated action and rehabilitation workshop at Belmuri, itachuna and Dedhara Annada Prasad High School of Hooghly district within the state of West Bengal. Dr. Debjani Basu Mallick, Srimoti Swami, Vishnudevananda Moharaj, Srimoti Swami, Bhadratmananda Moharaj was present at this workshop.

"Don't Go Near BSF Posts" Mamata warns amid SIR Row

From PG 1
to divide people," she alleged. Banerjee referred to the mass Bhagavat Gita recital organised in Kolkata on Sunday. "We all recite the Gita at home whenever we need to. Why organise a public meeting? Gods stay in the heart. Those who pray to Allah do so in their hearts. During Ramzan and during Durga Puja, we pray together. Those who are shouting about the Gita, I want to ask them what Lord Krishna said. Dharma means purity, humanity, peace, and not violence, discrimination, and division," she said. She said great personalities such as Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose have not divided people. "Then who are you?" she asked. She said an injured tiger is more ferocious than a healthy one. "If you attack us, we know how to retaliate. We know how to stop injustice." She said her government won't let anyone oust people from Bengal. "I have only one request. Do not go anywhere near BSF posts in border areas."

Messi's India Tour set to dazzle, but without his 2011 football magic

From PG 1
to meet him after the Dharamshala T-20 match on December 14.

Messi's last appearance in India remains etched in memory when on September 3, 2011, he danced past defenders, mesmerised with his left-footed grace and triggered waves of ecstasy in a packed stadium. Though he didn't score, fans left believing they had witnessed greatness. The highlight of the tour will be a 45-minute philanthropic fashion event in Mumbai on Sunday, featuring Messi, his long-time strike partner Luis Suarez and Argentina midfielder Rodrigo De Paul. "There will be celebrity models, cricketers, Bollywood celebrities, millionaires, founders. Tiger and Jackie Shroff, John Abraham among others," said Satadru Dutta, sole promoter of the tour. Suarez will also feature in a Spanish music show. The organisers have requested Messi to bring "some memorabilia" of his trophy-winning 2022 World Cup campaign which will be auctioned during the Mumbai leg. The Mumbai event at Wankhede Stadium will be preceded by a Padel Cup at the CCI. But on his arrival in Kolkata on the first leg of his four-city trip, the city is simply agog with excitement to welcome Messi on Friday night before his formal appearance on Saturday. He will stay at a five-star hotel on EM Bypass and attend a sponsor-exclusive meet-and-greet in the morning. Kolkata will also have a new 'Messi landmark' near the Sreebhumi Clock Tower (the Big Ben replica) on the VIP Road with a giant 70-feet statue of the Argentine World Cup winner holding aloft the Trophy. The unveiling of it will be a virtual ceremony from his hotel room after police denied permission for a public event. A 25ft x 20ft Messi mural, planned for next year's Durga Puja season, will also be unveiled and later presented to Messi at the Salt Lake Stadium.

After the event, Messi will fly to Hyderabad in the afternoon. The Hyderabad leg was added to his itinerary after Messi's proposed friendly in Kochi was cancelled. Once there, he will attend the GOAT Cup — a festival backed by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy — featuring a 7v7 celebrity match, penalty shootouts, a masterclass for young talents and a musical tribute. Messi will conclude his tour in Delhi, where he will meet Prime Minister



A major fire broke out in the wee hours, reducing the entire Ramgarh Market in South Kolkata to ashes. Seven fire engines worked for almost two hours to bring the blaze under control, on Friday.

Devastating Fire Guts 40 Shops in Baghajatin's Ramgarh Market

MI News Service, Kolkata: Another major fire has struck Kolkata, this time reducing the bustling Ramgarh Market in Baghajatin to ashes. At least 40 shops were completely gutted in the devastating blaze. Although the fire has largely been brought under control, several pockets of flames are still being extinguished by firefighters. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be confirmed, but initial investigations suggest that a short circuit in one of the tailoring shops may have triggered the incident. Overnight, traders suffered losses amounting to several lakhs of rupees, leaving them deeply distressed. The fire broke out around 1:30 am on the early hours of Friday. Within minutes,

flames engulfed large sections of the Ramgarh Market. Locals first spotted the blaze and immediately alerted the fire department. Multiple fire tenders rushed to the spot and began fire-fighting operations. However, due to the tightly packed structure of the market, firefighters struggled to bring the flames under control. It was only in the early hours of Friday that the main fire was contained, though residual pockets of flames remained. Fire officials reiterated their preliminary assessment that a short circuit was the most likely cause.

Upon receiving news of the incident, local councillor Bappaditya Dasgupta and MLA Debabrata Majumdar

reached the site late at night. They also communicated with Mayor Firhad Hakim regarding the scale of the damage. The councillor said the 40-year-old market comprises 40-50 shops, none of which were insured. As a result, he stated that he would appeal to the government for assistance in both rebuilding the market and supporting the affected traders. The MLA also assured that all possible steps would be taken to help the victims recover from the losses. The market, built on 57 kathas of government land, has been home to numerous traders for decades. Now, with their shops reduced to rubble overnight, many are facing severe financial hardship.



A press conference for the 74th Dover Lane Music Conference takes place at the Bengal Club, in Kolkata on Friday.

Dover Lane Music Conference is set to mesmerize classical music lovers

MI News Service, Kolkata :

Ending the year-long wait for this grand annual event for the city's thousands of classical music lovers, the 74th year of the famous 'Dover Lane Music Conference' will be held here for four days from January 22 to 25, 2026 to mesmerize the prime audience. Announcing the schedule of this grand event at a news conference here on Friday, noted industrialist and a great classical music lover Sanjay Budhia, in presence of General Secretary of the music conference Manotosh Mukherjee and several leading performers and artists said, like every year, this time too the Pre-Platinum Jubilee session of the Dover Lane Music Conference will be organised at its fixed dates from January 22 to 25, 2026. Like every year this year's music conference has also generated huge enthusiasm among the city's large classical music and dance

lovers to witness and listen to India's best of talents of different Indian classical music in this festive season, said Budhia welcoming the guests. Reiterating that like on every previous occasion, this time too there will be a very attractive mix of well established and reputed artistes, who will perform alongside several budding but very talented vocalists, sitarists, violinists and classical dancers during all four days of the nightlong programmes from 8 P.M. to 6 A.M. amid a festive atmosphere. Also speaking on the occasion Manotosh Mukherjee said this year the 'Dover Lane SangeetSanman' would be given to renowned vocalist Ajay Pohankar. Claiming that they had received overwhelming response from participants across the country including from Jammu and Kashmir, for their annual talent hunt programme with over 650 contestants already

enlisting their names this year. To a query he said altogether 52 classical music performers will participate in this year's music conference in different areas of Indian classical music including former Bollywood star and well known Bharat Natyam dancer MenakshiSheshadri.

Among other artists who

would perform for four days next month are - RuchiRakdar (Vocal), Saugata Roy

Chowdhury (Sarod), Ajay Po-

hankar (Vocal), Meera San-

tosh Iyer (Bharat Natyam),

Smiti Misra (Vocal), Rupsh-

eeBhattacharjee (Harmo-

nium), Purbayan Chatterjee

(Sitar), NirmalyaDey (Dhrup-

ad), A Lalitha and A Nandini

(Duet Violin), SulagnaBhat-

tacherjee (Odishi), Sarwar

Hossain (Sarangi), Siraj Ali

Khan (Sarod), Ghulam Abbas

Khan (Vocal), Subhendu Cha-

tterjee (Tabla) and Budha-

diya Mukherjee (Sitar) among

others.



muters to ensure smooth traffic flow during the closure.

According to the notification titled "Traffic Notification in connection with the full closure of VidyasagarSetu, Kolkata from 06:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m. on 14/12/2025 (Sunday)", the shutdown is essential to allow uninterrupted maintenance activity under the supervision of the Hooghly River Bridge Commission-

ers (HRBC). Although routine maintenance began on the bridge as far back as 1992, the major components—particularly the suspension cables and beams—had not been replaced in decades. To ensure structural health and long-term safety, HRBC has now undertaken the task of replacing 19 of the 152 suspension cables. Sources indicate that each cable requires nearly a month to be replaced. The target for completion of this extensive work has been set for 31 May 2026. VidyasagarSetu is one of the most crucial links between Kolkata and Howrah, carrying a massive volume of daily commuter traffic. On weekdays, the bridge is one of the fastest routes between the two cities, especially during peak hours from Mon-

Kolkata Hosts Screening and Live Concert of Bengali Kirtan Documentary

MI News Service, Kolkata:

A special screening and live concert of the documentary "Kirtan: The Heritage of Bengal" was held at the Birla Academy of Art and Culture Auditorium in Kolkata. Directed by Debolina Ghosh, the film recently premiered at the Festival Terres du Bengale in Paris, where both the documentary and Ghosh's kirtan performance received international appreciation. The first private screening in Kolkata took place on Wednesday evening. After the screening, Debolina Ghosh performed a live kirtan recital, followed by an interactive discussion in which the audience engaged with her on the research, filmmaking process, and contemporary relevance of the kirtan tradition. The documentary is the result of eight years of research and traces the journey of Bengali kirtan from the 15th-century Bhakti movement to modern-day practice. Featuring insights from scholars, archival material and cultural-historical analysis, the film presents a renewed understanding of the evolution and significance of kirtan. The narration by veteran actor BarunChanda adds depth to the storytelling. The event was attended by prominent artists, researchers, cultural figures and institutional representatives. Jointly produced by Debu'sDarbar and the Bhaktivedanta Research Centre, the project aims to introduce Bengal's kirtan heritage to younger generations.

Cal HC Orders Interviews for 2016 SSC Waiting List Candidates

MI News Service, Kolkata:

The Calcutta High Court has directed the School Service Commission (SSC) to conduct interviews for candidates on the waiting list of the 2016 SSC recruitment, who were previously denied the opportunity due to exceeding the age limit. Justice Amrita Sinha issued the order specifically for the litigant candidates, instructing the SSC to hold their interviews and submit the interview scores in sealed envelopes to the court.

The SSC has been asked to inform the High Court whether the interview process will be video-graphed. During Friday's hearing, the lawyers representing the petitioners stated that the candidates had submitted their applications and were considered highly significant. The SSC has not commented on the High Court's order, stating only that it will review the court's directives. Meanwhile, ChimoyMondal, representing the unemployed eligible teachers, welcomed the ruling, saying, "We appreciate the court's decision to allow interviews for candidates on the waiting list. However, it should also ensure that no qualified candidate suffers any disadvantage."

Earlier, the court had directed the SSC to provide a complete list of candidates, including personal details, to avoid any discrepancies. Following the Supreme Court's instructions, the SSC published the list the very next day, including the subjects applied for, parent's names, and dates of birth, thereby ensuring transparency in the recruitment process.

The High Court order is seen as a critical step toward rectifying the long-standing issues in the 2016 recruitment, potentially offering relief to thousands of qualified candidates who have been awaiting justice for years.

Vidyasagar Setu to Remain Shut for 8 Hrs on Sunday for Repairs

MI News Service, Kolkata: Maintenance and several technical repair works are currently underway on VidyasagarSetu, also known as the Second Hooghly Bridge. As the tasks are time-consuming and require uninterrupted operational space, authorities have scheduled periodic closures of the bridge, primarily on weekends, to minimise public inconvenience. This weekend too, the bridge will remain closed for eight hours on Sunday to facilitate ongoing repair work.

In a notification issued on Thursday, Kolkata Traffic Police announced that on Sunday, 14 December, from 6:00 am to 2:00 pm, vehicular movement on VidyasagarSetu will be completely suspended. The advisory also laid out alternative routes for com-

muters to ensure smooth traffic flow during the closure. According to the notification titled "Traffic Notification in connection with the full closure of VidyasagarSetu, Kolkata from 06:00 a.m. to 02:00 p.m. on 14/12/2025 (Sunday)", the shutdown is essential to allow uninterrupted maintenance activity under the supervision of the Hooghly River Bridge Commission-

Governor Flags BLO Safety, Proposes Three-Point Plan to State

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Governor stated that during the distribution and verification of enumeration forms, the state police should have deployed adequate police personnel at every booth to safeguard the interests of Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The move comes shortly after the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to take concrete steps regarding BLO safety, observing that the Centre also bears responsibility in this matter. Now, raising the same concern, the Governor has voiced his worry over the conditions under which BLOs are working. On Friday, a statement issued by the Raj Bhavan outlined the Governor's proposals aimed at strengthening the security framework for BLOs across West Bengal. According to the statement, the Governor suggested three primary measures: The Governor noted that since BLOs work across all tiers—from rural to urban areas—performing booth-based duties, district administrations must create robust security arrangements at each booth to ensure their protection. The

During the last hearing on the SIRprocess, Justice Surya Kantremarked that if BLOs feel unsafe or face any form of insecurity, they are entitled to lodge complaints with the Chief Electoral Officer and the District Electoral Officer. The Bench stressed that the Election Commission must act decisively to ensure their security; otherwise, lawlessness may follow. Moreover, on December 4, the Supreme Court issued several directives to states regarding BLO protection.

Circus at Park Circus Maidan Faces PIL Over Pollution Concerns

MI News Service, Kolkata:

this venue was held in December 2014. Thereafter, permission was withheld due to the construction and extension work of the Maa and AJC Bose flyover network. With the completion of the project, the circus finally returns after ten long years—but not without controversy, as the issue has now reached the High Court. The petitioner argued that years ago, plans to shift the Kolkata Book Fair from its previous venue to Park Circus Maidan were abandoned after a case was filed in the High Court citing pollution. In the 2008 ruling, the court accepted the pollution-related arguments and directed that the fair be moved.

Rs 45 cr drugs, gold and diamonds seized at Mumbai airport; 12 held

From PG 1
hidden inside trolley bags bearing baggage tags of another flight, while in others, the narcotics were concealed inside lumps of tamarind, he said. All these passengers, who had arrived from Bangkok on various flights, were arrested under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, the official said. In another operation, Cus-

toms sleuths recovered 6 kg of suspected hydronic weed valued at Rs 6 crore from three passengers, who had also arrived from Bangkok, and arrested them, he said. The Customs also seized gold valued at Rs 1.51 crore from four passengers and diamonds of Rs 87.75 lakh from another person and registered cases on charges of smuggling, the official added.

IndiGo board appoints external aviation expert for probing service disruption

From PG 1

assessing manpower planning, fluctuating rostering systems, and the airline's preparedness to implement the latest duty period and rest norms for pilots, which came into effect from November 1 this year. In a related development, the DGCA on Friday sacked four Flight Operations Inspectors (FOIs) over operational disruptions at the Gurugram-headquartered airlines. "Chief Aviation Advisors LLC, led by Captain John Illson, veteran aviation expert, to conduct an independent expert review and assessment of the recent operational disruption and the contributing factors," the airline said. IndiGo Chairman Vikram Singh Mehta had in a video message earlier this week said that the board had decided to involve external technical experts to work with the management and help determine the root causes that led to the disruptions. "The objective is to conduct an independent root cause analysis of the recent operational disruption, besides opportunities for improvement," it said. This decision follows the recommendation of the Crisis Management Group, IndiGo said. As part of its assessment, the CMG advised commissioning an independent expert review in the matter, the airline said, adding with the board's approval now in place, the review will begin at the earliest. The independent expert reviewer will submit a comprehensive report to the board upon completion, it stated. The Rahul Bhatia-controlled airline cancelled thousands of flights between December 1 and December 9 on account of lack of proper planning, and crew shortage in implementing the new set of regulations for pilots' duty period and rest, which were put in place from November 1.

"The four FOIs, under various categories, on a contract basis, are hereby relieved from the DGCA with immediate effect to join their respective parent organisation," a DGCA order said on Friday. FOIs are senior officials within the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, working as part of its regulatory and safety oversight functions, often deployed to monitor airline operations. These officials, who come on deputation from various air operators, ensure aviation safety by inspecting, auditing, and certifying airlines and personnel, such as pilots, dispatchers, and cabin crew, to meet strict regulatory standards, verifying various regulations and overseeing training, flight standards, and accident prevention measures in India.

Name Change

I, Ishika Shaw (Old Name) D/o Rajesh Shaw Residing at Nakari Mondal Road, Kanchrapara, VTC - Anakha, P.O - Kanchrapara, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743145, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ishika Kumari Shaw (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 36/2025 Dated 12-12-2025, Ishika Shaw (Old Name) and Ishika Kumari Shaw (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sofique Ali Laskar (Old Name) S/o Sherali Laskar Residing at Mallickpur, Ganepur Mallickpur, Baruipur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700145, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shafique Laskar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 44/2025 Dated 11-12-2025, Sofique Ali Laskar (Old Name) and Shafique Laskar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Hazi Kamrul Huda (Old Name) S/o Nurul Mohammad Huda Residing at Pandua Mahadevpur, Pandua, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712149, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Kamrul Huda (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-12-2025, Hazi Kamrul Huda (Old Name) and Md Kamrul Huda (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Ali Mondal (Old Name) S/o Peam Ali Mondal Residing at Ward 3, Par Dankuni, Dankuni Coal Complex, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712310, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahammed Ali Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-12-2025, Mohammad Ali Mondal (Old Name) and Mahammed Ali Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mafuja Bibi (Old Name) W/o Abdul Momin Mondal Residing at Vill - Kankrasut, Po - Nayabasta, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743401, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mafuja Khatun Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-12-2025, Mafuja Bibi (Old Name) and Mafuja Khatun Bibi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Firoja Bibi Mondal (Old Name) W/o Abdul Khabar Mondal Residing at Vill - Kankrasut, Po - Nayabasta, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743401, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Firoja Bibi Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-12-2025, Firoja Bibi Mondal (Old Name) and Firoja Bibi Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Abdul Momin Mondal (Old Name) S/o Mohammad Golam Mortaja Residing at Vill - Kankrasut, Po - Nayabasta, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743401, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Iman Ali Sardar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 37/2025 Dated 12-12-2025, Mohammad Abdul Momin Mondal (Old Name) and Iman Ali Sardar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Raj Kishor, S/O- Sharwan Kumar Jha, R/O- 35/1/A, Adibartma Road, Nabagram, Uttarpara, Hooghly, Pin-712246 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Raj Kishor Jha as declared before the Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 7922 Dated 01/12/2025 Raj Kishor and Raj Kishor Jha both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sharwan Kumar Jha & Sharwan Jha, S/O- Gapanati Jha, R/O- 35/1/A, Adibartma Road, Nabagram, Uttarpara, Hooghly, Pin-712246 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Sharwan Kumar Jha as declared before the Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 7921 Dated 10/12/2025 Sharwan Kumar Jha, Sharwan Jha and Sharwan Kumar Jha all are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ALEYA KHATUN (Old Name) W/o - KAUSER ALI MULLICK, D/o - SYED ANWAR ALI, R/o- Block-N, 23/2491/19, Hatia Road, Pir Sahab more, P.O- Hatia, P.S- New Town now ECO Park Kol- 700157, 24 Pgs(N) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Alipore Court Affidavit No- 200787 dt- 07-11-2025, ALEYA KHATUN (Old Name) and ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ujjwal Mukherjee (Old Name) S/o Late Debidas Mukherjee Residing at Plot No - B-3/128(A) Kalyani, P.O+P.S - Kalyani, District - Nadia, Pin - 741235, West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ujjwal Mukherjee (New Name) as declared before the Ld. A.C.J.M.I (1st Class) at Kalyani, Nadia vide affidavit no 85 Dated 11-12-2025. Sharmista Mukherjee (Old Name) and Sharmista Mukhopadhyay (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Razia Khatoon (old name) D/o Md Islam, resident of 28/1, Giribabu Lane, P.O - Bowbazar, Kolkata 700012, WEST BENGAL, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Raji Khatoon (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025, Raji Khatoon (new name) and Razia Khatoon (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Juthika Rani Manda Maitra (old name) wife of Sujit Kumar Manda and daughter of Bijay Krishna Maitra, resident of 159, Boys School Road, Paschim Ichhapur I/C Paro High Land, Barasat (M), Dist - North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700126, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Juthika Rani Manda (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025, Juthika Rani Manda (new name) and Juthika Rani Manda Maitra (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Alaknanda Devi & Alaknanda Devi Patwa (old names) wife of Santosh Kumar Patwa, resident of Vivekananda Nagar, West Chowbha, P.S - Anandapur, Kolkata- 700105, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Alaknanda Devi Patwa (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No. 27 dated 12/12/2025, Alaknanda Devi Patwa (new name) and Alaknanda Devi & Alaknanda Devi Patwa (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Rahis (old name), S/o, Rasid Mia, R/o, Meerbar Masjid Gali, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712101, WB, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammad Rahis to Md Rahis (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Rahis in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 12257 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 08/12/2025, I, Mohammad Rahis & Md Rahis S/o, Rasid Mia both are the same & one identical person. D.O.B. 19/07/1996.

Name Change

I, Sk Ajjul Haque (old name), S/o, Nazrul Haque, R/o, Sudarsan, Ramnathpur, Polba, Hooghly-712148, WB, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Ajjul Haque to Ajjul Haque (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ajjul Haque in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 12257 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 06/12/2025, I, Sk Ajjul Haque & Ajjul Haque & Ajjul Haque S/o, Nazrul Haque both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sadna Jain and/or Sadna Jain (old name), W/o, Sanjay Jain, R/o, Bandal Kali, Bandel, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712123, WB, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sadna Jain and/or Sadna Jain (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sadna Jain in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 12268 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 08/12/2025, I, Sadna Jain and/or Sadna Jain & Sadna Jain W/o, Sanjay Jain both are the same & one identical person. Ariful Haque is my son.

Name Change

I, Sk Ajjul Haque (old name), S/o, Nazrul Haque, R/o, Sudarsan, Ramnathpur, Polba, Hooghly-712148, WB, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Ajjul Haque to Ajjul Haque (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ajjul Haque in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 12257 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 06/12/2025, I, Sk Ajjul Haque & Ajjul Haque & Ajjul Haque S/o, Nazrul Haque both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Iman Ali Sardar (Old Name) S/o, Alabox Sardar Residing at Nischinta, Pur, Khodar Bazar, Baruipur (P), Baruipur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700144, West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Iman Ali Sardar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 37/2025 Dated 12-12-2025, Md Iman Ali Sardar (Old Name) and Iman Ali Sardar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sanjita Halder (Biswas), Sanjita Halder Biswas (Old Name) D/o Dulal Chandra Biswas Residing at 39A, Paikpara Row, Friend Circle Club, Paikpara, VTC - Belgachia, Po - Belgachia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700037, West Bengal India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjita Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 05/2025 Dated 12-12-2025, Sanjita Halder (Biswas), Sanjita Halder Biswas (Old Name) and Sanjita Biswas (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sharwan Kumar Jha & Sharwan Jha, S/O- Gapanati Jha, R/O- 35/1/A, Adibartma Road, Nabagram, Uttarpara, Hooghly, Pin-712246 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Sharwan Kumar Jha as declared before the Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 7921 Dated 10/12/2025 Sharwan Kumar Jha, Sharwan Jha and Sharwan Kumar Jha all are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Ujjwal Mukherjee (Old Name) W/o - KAUSER ALI MULLICK, D/o - SYED ANWAR ALI, R/o- Block-N, 23/2491/19, Hatia Road, Pir Sahab more, P.O- Hatia, P.S- New Town now ECO Park Kol- 700157, 24 Pgs(N) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Alipore Court Affidavit No- 200787 dt- 07-11-2025, ALEYA KHATUN (Old Name) and ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Ujjwal Mukherjee (Old Name) W/o - KAUSER ALI MULLICK, D/o - SYED ANWAR ALI, R/o- Block-N, 23/2491/19, Hatia Road, Pir Sahab more, P.O- Hatia, P.S- New Town now ECO Park Kol- 700157, 24 Pgs(N) have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Alipore Court Affidavit No- 200787 dt- 07-11-2025, ALEYA KHATUN (Old Name) and ALAYA KHATUN (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

SEBI launches single window access for low risk foreign investors



MI News Service, New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi has introduced a new framework to make it easier for low risk foreign investors to participate in the Indian securities market. The move, aimed at simplifying compliance and enhancing the country's attractiveness as an investment destination, comes through the Single Window Automatic and Generalised Access for Trusted Foreign Investors (SWAGAT-FI).

through two separate notifications dated 1 December. The regulator has amended FPIs and FVCIs regulations, which will come into force on 1 June, 2026. The amendments follow the Sebi board's approval of the proposal in September. Under the new framework, SWAGAT-FIs applying for registration or already registered as FPIs have the option to also register as FVCIs without the need for additional documentation.

Registration under both FPI and FVCIs regulations will enable SWAGAT-FIs to invest in listed equity instruments and debt securities of Indian companies as FPIs, and in unlisted Indian companies engaged in specified sectors and start-ups as FVCIs under respective regulations. To enhance ease of compliance, Sebi has increased the periodicity for continuation of registration, including payment of fees

As of June 30, 2025, India had 11,913 registered FPIs holding assets worth Rs 80.83 lakh crore. Sebi estimates that SWAGAT-FIs will contribute more than 70 per cent of the total assets under custody of all FPIs.

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Dec. 25 : The Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today stated in the Rajya Sabha that the Ministry of Railways has launched Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for redevelopment of stations with a long-term approach.

In a written reply to the question raised by MP Shri Samik Bhattacharya in the Rajya Sabha today on the current status of progress of each of the 101 railway stations in West Bengal selected under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, including percentage of work completed, names of the seven stations in West Bengal where development work under the scheme has not yet commenced, along with the reasons for the same, the expected timeline for completion of works at the remaining stations, along with the targets set by the Ministry for the Financial Year 2025-26 and the key infrastructure upgrades and passenger amenities being provided under the scheme at these stations, particularly concerning safety, accessibility and inter-modal integration, the Minister said, the scheme involves preparation of master plans and their implementation in phases to improve the sta-

The scheme also envisages sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast-less tracks etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of acity centre at the station in the long term, added the Union Minister.

The session featured His Majesty's Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Harjinder Kang, formerly the UK's Chief Negotiator for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement. Speaking at the event, Kang said, "The trade relations between India and the UK are extremely positive right now. India is doing very well with all its relations and that is showing. On the business side, our trade has already gone up because of the confidence in the trade deal. And I think it'll only get stronger."

He was joined by Dr. Andrew Fleming, Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, along with senior members of the UK Trade Policy Team. Reflecting on the progress of bilateral negotiations, Dr. Fleming noted, "After months of negotiation, the trade agreement has been signed. It's a turning point for businesses on both sides. The UK already imports so much, but we estimate an increase of £9.9 billion. What truly distinguishes the UK is that customers are conscious about where their products come from.

The scheme also envisages sustainable and environment friendly solutions, provision of ballast-less tracks etc. as per necessity, phasing and feasibility and creation of acity centre at the station in the long term, added the Union Minister.

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Dec. 25 : In line with Indian Railways' mission to promote clean and renewable energy, Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway (ECR) is making significant strides in rooftop solar power generation across its service buildings and Railway infrastructure.

Major Progress in Solar Capacity Installation : Khurda Road Division has been consistently expanding its solar power capacity with a long-term target of 14,408 kWp. The progress so far is as follows: Up to 2023-24: 1,826.06 kWp, Up to 2024-25: 2,186.21 kWp, Up to 2025-26: 7,247.79 kWp (planned). In pipeline as on date: 3,148 kWp. This expansion is aimed at equipping various service buildings with rooftop solar panels to generate clean electricity and reduce dependency on conventional sources. Application Submitted for Net Zero Certification. ECR has applied to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) under the "BEE Shunya Labelling Programme" for Net Zero Certification. Key installations proposed under this initiative include: Officers' Club at Rail Kunj, including Banquet Hall, Yoga Hall and Badminton Hall - 160 kWp, TRIP Shed, Bhubaneswar - 100 kWp, MEMU Shed, Khurda Road - 1000 kWp. Commitment to Renewable Energy and Carbon Reduction: Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway is committed to promoting solar energy to ensure long-term energy and ecological security while significantly reducing carbon emissions. Rooftop solar plants are being installed across office buildings, workshops, hospitals and railway stations. In addition, ECR is planning Solar PV installations to further augment renewable energy generation for meeting traction load requirements to the maximum possible extent. Once the upcoming solar plants are commissioned, East Coast Railway will have a total installed solar capacity of 14.4 MWp, which is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 13410 tonnes per annum. This initiative forms an integral part of East Coast Railway's ongoing efforts to adopt renewable energy and promote environmentally responsible operations across Khurda Road Division.

Outstanding Performance By BRL Unit, Sealdah Division

Critical Bridge Components Replaced Within Sanctioned Block — A Benchmark in Precision & Efficiency

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Dec. 25 : Ensuring uninterrupted and smooth train operations, the Bridge Line (BRL) Unit of Sealdah Division delivered a remarkable display of technical excellence, meticulous planning, and flawless execution by completing a major infrastructure replacement task during the night (00.00 hrs to 03.30 hrs) of 11/12 December 2025. The team carried out extensive bridge component renewal work on Bridge No. 1 (Line No. 5) and the Common Passenger Line (Sealdah-Bidhannagar Road)—all without exceeding even a single minute of the sanctioned traffic block.

The key achievements included the replacement of 3 cross girders and 6 stringers within the sanctioned block, with zero block overrun, reflecting exceptional coordination and discipline. The activities involved complete dismantling of the track, removal of nearly 200 bolts and nuts from existing cross-girders and stringers, extraction of 3 damaged cross girders and 6 damaged stringers, and installation of 3 new cross girders and 6 new stringers, followed by full reassembly of sleepers, pads, rails, and fittings. The bridge spans measured 1x10.3 m + 1x26.4 m + 1x13.4 m (Open Line), with a total of 26 cross girders and 46 severely damaged stringers replaced. The per-



formance highlights included achieving the target ahead of schedule, executing the work with precision engineering and seamless teamwork, and ensuring significant enhancements in the safety, durability, and structural reliability of the bridge.

This exceptional effort by the BRL Unit stands as a testament to Sealdah Division's unwavering commitment to maintaining safe, modern, and robust railway infrastructure, even under demanding overnight working conditions.

Bhanupalli-Bilaspur-Beri (63 km) New Rail Line Sanctioned at 6,753 Crore

Bilaspur-Manali-Leh Strategic Rail Line: 489 km Route with 270 km of Tunnels Planned at an Estimated 4.31 Lakh Crore

• Rail Budget for Himachal Pradesh Jumps Over 25 Times, From ₹408 Crore Per Annum in 2009-14 Period to ₹2,7

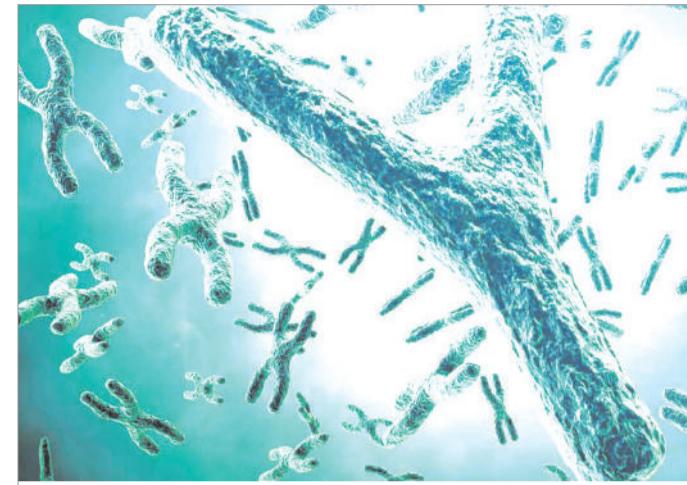
Y-chromosome impacts hereditary of digestive issues

CALIFORNIA : A study suggests that the Y chromosome may impact the genetic basis of digestive diseases. The Y chromosome is responsible for important biological roles such as sex determination and male fertility.

The complete sequencing of the human Y chromosome is a tremendous step forward in human genetics, opening up new avenues for research into digestive disorders.

This milestone, when combined with developments in third-generation sequencing technologies, has the potential to change our understanding of the genetic underpinnings of digestive issues and pave the way for more personalised and effective treatment regimens.

The Y chromosome, the smallest of the human chromosomes, has long been shrouded in mystery due to its intricate repeating



impact on a wide range of illnesses, notably those affecting the digestive system. The findings were published in the journal *eGastroenterology*. The completion of the Y chromosome sequence provides a comprehensive resource for detecting genetic variants that may contribute to digestive problems. This information is crucial for understanding the "missing heritability" problem, where the proportion of dis-

ease risk attributable to known genetic factors falls short of what is expected based on heritability estimates. With their ability to generate long, continuous DNA reads, third-generation sequencing technologies play a pivotal role in deciphering the complex genomic landscapes of digestive diseases. These technologies enable the detection of structural variations, such as copy number variations and inversions, which

The combined power of complete Y chromosome sequencing and third-generation sequencing technologies holds immense promise for advancing digestive disease research.

By identifying novel genetic variants and elucidating their functional roles, researchers can better understand the mechanisms underlying digestive disorders and develop more targeted and effective therapies.

In addition to unravelling the genetic basis of digestive diseases, completing the Y chromosome sequence also opens up new opportunities for investigating sex-specific genetic effects.

Sex differences in disease susceptibility and progression are well-documented in many digestive disorders, yet the underlying genetic mechanisms remain largely unknown. With its unique genetic content and expression patterns, the Y chromosome may play a crucial role in these sex disparities.

Study sheds light on antibiotic resistance, fitness landscapes



NEW MEXICO [US] : According to a recent study published in *Science*, *E. coli* bacteria may be significantly more capable of acquiring antibiotic resistance than scientists previously assumed.

Led by SFI External Professor Andreas Wagner, the researchers experimentally mapped more than 260,000 possible mutations of an *E. coli* protein that is essential for the bacteria's survival when exposed to the antibiotic trimethoprim.

Over the course of thousands of highly realistic digital simulations, the researchers then found that 75% of all possible evolutionary paths of the *E. coli* protein ultimately endowed the bacteria with such a high level of antibiotic resistance that a clinician would no longer give the antibiotic trimethoprim to a patient.

"In essence, this study suggests that bacteria like *E. coli* may be more adept at evolving resistance to antibiotics than we initially thought, and this has broader implications for understanding how various

systems in evolutionary biology, chemistry, and other fields adapt and evolve," says Wagner, an evolutionary biologist at the University of Zurich in Switzerland.

Besides uncovering new and potentially worrisome findings about antibiotic resistance, the researchers' work also casts doubt on a longstanding theory about fitness landscapes. These genetic maps represent how well each genotype is adapted to its environment. In evolutionary biology terms, the goal is to find the highest peak, which indicates the fittest genotype.

On fitness landscapes, different points on the landscape represent different genotypes of an organism, and the height of these points represents how well each genotype is adapted to its environment. In evolutionary biology terms, the goal is to find the highest peak, which indicates the fittest genotype.

"This has profound implications not only in biology but beyond, prompting us to reevaluate our understanding of landscape evolution across various fields," Wagner says. "We need to shift from abstract theoretical models to data-informed, realistic landscape models."

Prevailing theory regarding fitness landscapes predicts that in highly rugged landscapes, or those with multiple peaks of fitness, most evolving populations will become trapped at lower peaks and

never reach the pinnacle of evolutionary adaptation.

However, testing this theory has been exceedingly difficult until now due to the lack of experimental data on sufficiently large fitness landscapes.

To address this challenge, Wagner and colleagues used CRISPR gene editing technology to create one of the most combinatorially complete fitness landscapes to date for the *E. coli* dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR) protein.

What they found was surprising. The landscape had many peaks, but most were of low fitness, making them less interesting for adaptation. However, even in this rugged landscape, about 75% of the populations they simulated reached high fitness peaks, which would grant *E. coli* high antibiotic resistance.

The real-world implications are significant. If rugged landscapes like this are common in biological systems, it could mean that many adaptive processes, such as antibiotic resistance, may be more accessible than previously thought.

The result could ultimately lead to a re-evaluation of theoretical models in various fields and prompt further research into how real-world landscapes impact evolutionary processes.

"This has profound implications not only in biology but beyond, prompting us to reevaluate our understanding of landscape evolution across various fields," Wagner says. "We need to shift from abstract theoretical models to data-informed, realistic landscape models."

The study was published in *Nature*. It could help reveal exactly how weight-loss drugs like Ozempic work, and how to make them more effective.

Pavlov proposed over a century ago that the sight, smell and taste of food are important for regulating digestion. More recent studies in the 1970s and 1980s have also suggested that the taste of food may restrain how fast we eat, but it's been impossible to study the relevant brain activity during eating because the brain cells that control this process are located deep in the brainstem, making them hard to access or record in an animal that's awake.

New techniques developed by lead author Truong Ly, PhD, a graduate student in Knight's lab, allowed for the first-ever imaging and recording of a brainstem structure critical for feeling full, called the nucleus of the solitary tract, or NTS, in an awake, active mouse. He used these techniques to look at two types of neurons that have been known for decades to have a role in food intake. The team found that when they

understand how we control our eating."

Poor eating choices are linked to poor mental health, risk of diabetes: Study

WASHINGTON DC [US] : People with diabetes (Diabetes Mellitus) are two to three times more likely to suffer from depression than those who do not, according to the Centres for Disease Control.

Therapy, medicine, or both are currently available as treatment options. The scientific understanding of the multidimensional interplay between food, mental health, and diabetes, on the other hand, is still in its early phases.

The Mason researchers wanted to discover more about the relationship between nutrition, diabetes, and mental health.

According to two literature studies conducted by assistant professor Raedeh Basiri, poor nutrition plays a dual role in both the likelihood of acquiring Type 2 diabetes and the impact on mental health, including anxiety and sadness.

According to the findings, mental problems like depression and anxiety raise the likelihood of having Type 2 diabetes, and diabetes raises the risk of developing depression and anxiety. Nutritional therapies can help with both of these health problems.

"Our findings underscore the pivotal role of dietary choices in reducing the risks associated with both diabetes and mental health. The implications of these findings extend beyond the scientific community, as they hold promise for informing public health policies, health care practices, and dietary recommendations that can positively impact the general population," said Basiri, the lead author of the papers.

"Ultimately, the research seeks to empower individuals to make informed and health-promoting dietary choices that can serve as a proactive strategy for the prevention and management of diabetes, as well as anxiety and depression," Basiri said.

More specifically, the team's findings provide a comprehensive view of the relationship between dietary patterns, health outcomes, and the critical role of eating behaviour in the context of Type 2 diabetes and mental health.

The team found that eating foods rich in fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lean protein, and low-fat dairy is associated with a reduced risk of Type 2 diabetes and mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety.

Conversely, a diet with a large number of processed foods was found to have a negative effect, increasing the susceptibility to type 2 diabetes, depression, and anxiety. Additionally, the research team found that a diet with energy-dense foods but lacking in essential nutrients, such as omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin D, vitamin E, vitamin B6, vitamin B12, folate, selenium, chromium, and magnesium, is associated.

The results of prior studies. However, when they allowed the mice to eat the food as they normally would, those signals from the gut didn't show up. Instead, the PRLH brain cells

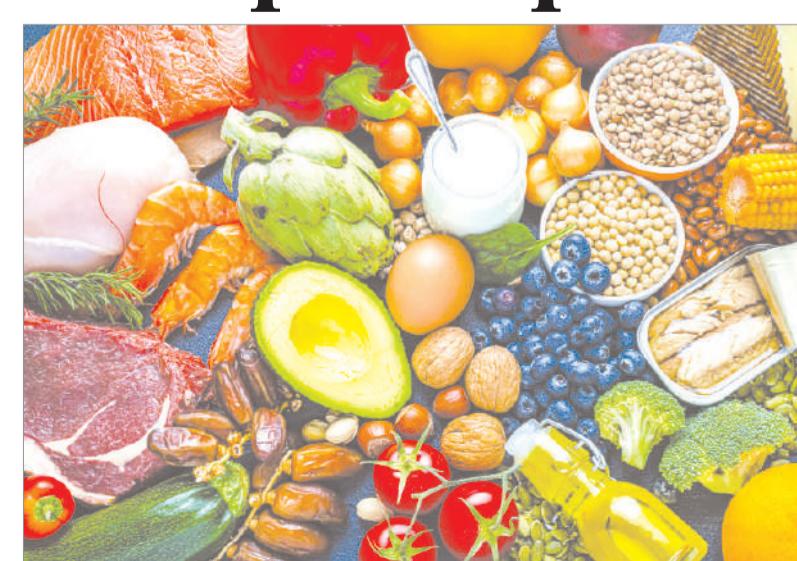
switched to a new activity pattern that was entirely controlled by signals from the mouth.

"It was a total surprise that these cells were activated by the perception of taste," said Ly. "It shows that there are other components of the appetite-control system that we should be thinking about."

While it may seem counterintuitive for our brains to slow eating when we're hungry, the brain is actually using the taste of food in two different ways at the same time. One part is saying, "This tastes good, eat more," and another part is watching how fast you're eating and saying, "Slow down or you're going to be sick." "The balance between those is how fast you eat," said Knight.

The activity of the PRLH neurons seems to affect how palatable the mice found the food, Ly said. That meshes with our human experience that food is less appetizing once you've had your fill of it.

The PRLH-neuron-induced slowdown also makes sense in terms of timing. The taste of food triggers these neurons to



put food directly into the mouse's stomach, brain cells called PRLH (for prolactin-releasing hormone) were activated by nutrient signals sent from the GI tract, in line with traditional thinking

Anti-rheumatic drugs may be able to prevent thyroid disease

MONTREAL, CANADA : Anti-rheumatic medications used to treat rheumatoid arthritis may help decrease the development of autoimmune thyroid illness, according to a new observational study.

The findings were reported in the *Journal of Internal Medicine*.

Rheumatoid arthritis patients are more likely to develop autoimmune thyroid diseases such as Hashimoto's disease and Graves' disease. Immunomodulatory drugs, which alter the immune system, are routinely used to treat RA patients, but they are rarely utilised to address autoimmune thyroid disorders.

Thyroid hormone is instead utilised to compensate for the defects in normal thyroid function caused by autoimmune thyroid illness.

The current study sought to determine whether immunomodulatory medicines that lower inflammation in the joints of RA patients could also lessen the chance of these patients acquiring autoimmune thyroid illness.

Previous research in mice suggests that DMARDs, a type of immune-modulatory medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, can lower thyroid gland inflammation. According to the research team, knowledge of whether this impact also extends to humans is limited.

The researchers analysed data from over 13,000 patients with rheumatoid arthritis and their treatments between 2006 and 2018, as well as data from over 63,000 people in a matched control group who did not have rheumatoid arthritis.

The researchers discovered that the chance of acquiring an autoimmune thyroid illness in RA patients was lower after the disease's commencement than before diagnosis.

Patients with rheumatoid arthritis who were treated with immunomodulatory medications, or



"biological DMARDs," had the greatest reduction in the incidence of autoimmune thyroid illness. The probability of autoimmune thyroid illness in these patients was 46% lower than in the control group without rheumatoid arthritis.

"These results support the hypothesis that certain types of immunomodulatory drugs could have a preventive effect on autoimmune thyroid disease," said Kristin Waldenlid, researcher at the Department of Medicine, Solna, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Karolinska Institutet, specialist in rheumatology at Karolinska University Hospital and first author of the study.

"Our results do not prove that it is the treatment with immunomodulatory drugs that led to the reduced risk of autoimmune thyroid disease, but provide support for this hypothesis. The results, if they can be replicated in further studies, open up the possibility of studying more directly in clinical trials whether the immunomodulatory drugs currently used for rheumatoid arthritis could also be used for the early treatment of autoimmune thyroid disease, i.e. for new areas of use of these drugs, known as drug repurposing."

Research reveals how plants determine where light is coming from

WASHINGTON DC [US] : Plants lack visual organs, so how do they know where light comes from?

In an original study combining expertise in biology and engineering, the team led by Prof Christian Fankhauser at UNIL, in collaboration with colleagues at EPFL, discovered that a light-sensitive plant tissue uses the optical properties of the interface between air and water to generate a light gradient that is 'visible' to the plant.

These results have been published in the *Journal of Science*.

The majority of living organisms (micro-organisms, plants and animals) have the ability to determine the origin of a light source, even in the absence of a light organ comparable to the eye. This information is invaluable for orienting oneself or optimal positioning in the environment. Perceiving where light is coming from is particularly important for plants, which use this information to position their organs, a phenomenon known as phototropism. This enables them to capture more of the sun's rays, which they then convert into chemical energy through the process of photosynthesis, a vital process which is necessary for the production of nearly all of the food we eat.

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According to the findings, mental problems like depression and anxiety raise the likelihood of having Type 2 diabetes, and diabetes raises the risk of developing depression and anxiety. Nutritional therapies can help with both of these health problems.

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Our sense of taste helps us pace our eating: Study

CALIFORNIA [US] : It has been generally held that when you eagerly dig into a long-awaited dinner, signals from your stomach to your brain keep you from eating so much you'll regret it. A team of scientists at UC San Francisco recently decided to test the theory and the picture, it turns out, is a little different.

The team, led by Zachary Knight, PhD, a UCSF professor of physiology in the Kavli Institute for Fundamental Neuroscience, discovered that it's our sense of taste that pulls us back from the brink of food inhalation on a hungry day.

Stimulated by the perception of flavour, a set of neurons - a type of brain cell - moves into action to curtail our food intake.

"We've uncovered a logic the brain uses to control how fast and how much we eat, using two different kinds of signals, one coming from the mouth, and one coming much later from the gut," said Knight, who is also an investigator with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and a member of the UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences. "This discovery gives us a new framework to

understand how we control our eating."

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62 killed, 319 injured in Myanmar's Yangon-Mandalay highway accidents in 11 months

MI News Service, Yangon: A total of 62 people were killed and 319 were injured in 170 traffic accidents on Myanmar's Yangon-Mandalay highway between January and November this year, according to the highway traffic police force on Friday.

This marks a decrease in accidents, fatalities and injuries compared with the same period last year, which recorded 189 accidents, resulting in 87 deaths and 338 injuries, an official from the highway traffic police force told Xinhua. During this period, the traffic accidents also caused damage estimated at over 852 million kyats (about 405,714 U.S. dollars), he said.

The 587 km Yangon-Mandalay expressway connects the country's commercial city of Yangon and the second-largest city of Mandalay.

Israel strikes targets in southern, eastern Lebanon

MI News Service, Beirut: Israeli warplanes on Friday launched a series of airstrikes on several areas in eastern and southern Lebanon, according to the Lebanese National News Agency.

The agency reported that "enemy warplanes" conducted four airstrikes on the Al-Mahmoudieh and Al-Jarmaq areas, along with strikes on other areas in southern Lebanon. Additionally, four more airstrikes struck Wadi Zlayya in western Bekaa, located in eastern Lebanon.

The Israeli army announced that it struck a Hezbollah "training and qualification compound" in southern Lebanon for the second time in a week.

SC stays "not Waqf" declaration in Munambam case; rebukes High Court for overreach

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a significant interim order on Friday, the Supreme Court stayed the Kerala High Court's declaration that the 404.76-acre Munambam land in Ernakulam district is not Waqf property.

A Bench of Justices Manoj Misra and Ujjal Bhuyan directed that status quo be maintained until the next hearing in the week commencing 27 January 2026, while issuing notice in the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed by Kerala Waqf Samrakshana Vedi.

The dispute originated from a 1950 deed by Mohammed Sidhique Sait transferring the land to the Farook College Managing Committee. For decades, portions were sold to individuals, many from the Christian community, who built homes there.

In 2019, the Kerala State Waqf Board suddenly declared the entire tract Waqf property, claiming the 1950 deed created a Waqf rather than an ordinary gift. This triggered widespread protests and became a rallying point during the passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The Kerala Government appointed a one-member Commission of Inquiry under retired Justice C.N. Ramachandran Nair to examine the land's status.

When the Commission was challenged, a Single Judge of the High Court quashed it, holding that only the Waqf Tribunal has jurisdiction. However, a Division Bench overturned this, restored the Commission, and went further by declaring the land was not Waqf property at all.

The Supreme Court strongly disapproved of the Division Bench "travelling far beyond" the scope of the writ petition, which only challenged the Commission's formation.

Senior Advocate Huzeifa Ahmadi, appearing for the petitioner, argued that interpreting the 1950 deed and determining



whether it created a valid Waqf falls exclusively within the Waqf Tribunal's jurisdiction, especially since related suits are pending there.

He highlighted that a 1967 civil court decree (upheld by the High Court in 1973) had already held the deed to be a Waqf, and Farook College never challenged it. The Bench agreed that the High Court should have simply dismissed the writ as non-maintainable instead of making sweeping factual declarations no party had sought.

Importantly, the Court did not stay the High Court's finding upholding the State's right to constitute the Commission; only the declaration that the land is "not Waqf" has been stayed.

Residents, represented by Senior Advocates V. Chitambaresh and Maninder Singh, opposed the SLP, claiming decades of possession and prior civil decrees in their favour. The State argued the petitioner was a third party and the actual muftawali had not objected.

With the High Court's "not Waqf" declaration now suspended, the land remains notified as Waqf property for the time being.

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has already clarified that even the new Waqf Amendment Act will not retrospectively resolve the Munambam dispute, leaving the residents to fight their battle in the Supreme Court.

The case will now be heard after 27 January 2026, when the Court is expected to decide the larger questions of jurisdiction between High Courts, Waqf Tribunals, and Commissions of Inquiry in such disputes. —With Agencies Inputs

With Agencies Inputs

3.55 lakh Waqf properties missing from UMEED portal: Mehbooba Mufti



UMEED database, which shows the difference between figures posted on December 9, 2024 and December 6, 2025.

The UMEED database shows the difference between the Waqf properties as they existed last year and this year.

According to the screenshot posted by Mufti, except for Maha-

stills pending in six other cases, he said. Violence in Bareilly had allegedly erupted on September 26 over a dispute linked to "I Love Muhammad" posters.

According to police, mobs gathered at several locations in the city, hurled petrol bombs at police personnel, resorted to stone-pelting and firing, and looted weapons including a riot-control gun. More than two dozen police personnel were injured in the unrest.

That night, 10 cases were registered across Kotwali, Baradari, Premnagar, Cantt and Qila police stations. Investigations in two key cases registered at Kotwali and Baradari were later transferred to the crime branch.

Police said 19 accused were initially named in the case, while 55 more names surfaced during the probe. Of these, a chargesheet has been filed against 38 accused along with evidence.

Raza is currently lodged in Fatehgarh jail, while Nafees and several other accused are lodged in Bareilly jail, police added.

Maulana Tauqeer Raza has been granted bail in four cases so far, but he will remain in jail, as his bail is

shown in Maharashtra, where the Waqf properties have increased over the last year by a difference of 26,238. In Bihar, both Sunni and Shia Muslim properties have registered an increase over the last year.

Sunni Waqf properties in Bihar have increased by 3,117, while Shia Muslim Waqf properties have increased by 3,470 over the last year. The maximum 'disappearance' is shown in the Waqf properties of Uttar Pradesh, and the minimum by Chandigarh.

In Uttar Pradesh, Shia Muslim Waqf properties have come down by 8,901, and Sunni Muslim Waqf properties having been reduced by 1,30,816. In the case of Jammu and Kashmir, the Waqf properties have come down by 7,240.

"Neither victims nor accused complaining": Delhi HC slams outsiders' pleas in 2020 riots cases

MI News Service, Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Thursday strongly observed that neither the accused nor the victims of the February 2020 North-East Delhi riots have approached the court seeking reinvestigation or challenging the chargesheets filed by Delhi Police.

The court has vindicated our stand that there was no credible evidence against Azam Khan. This acquittal exposes how false cases were foisted on him.

The verdict comes as a major relief for the veteran leader, who has faced over a hundred cases in recent years, many of them filed after the Yogi Adityanath government came to power in 2017. While Khan has secured acquittals in several matters, dozens of cases are still pending. Politically, the timing is crucial with Uttar Pradesh panchayat polls round the corner and assembly elections due in 2027.

The decision is expected to boost Samajwadi Party morale in Rampur and western UP, where Azam Khan, despite prolonged legal battles and imprisonment in some cases, continues to command significant influence among Muslim and backward community voters. —With Agencies Inputs



The court also noted that a similar petition, based on identical material, is already pending before the Supreme Court and questioned the need for parallel proceedings in two courts.

The matter has been posted for further arguments on 15 December 2025. The 2020 riots, triggered amid protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, claimed 53 lives and injured around 700 people.

Delhi Police have registered 757 FIRs, formed three SITs under the Crime Branch, and maintained that the violence was the result of a "well-planned conspiracy" rather than spontaneous clashes. They have denied any complicity by their personnel or evidence of instigation by political leaders. Pending petitions include demands for an NIA probe under UAPA, registration of FIRs against BJP leaders Anurag Thakur, Kapil Mishra, Parvesh Verma and Abhay Verma for alleged hate speeches, and counter-pleas seeking action against Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, AAP leaders, Umar Khalid, Harsh Mander, Swara Bhasker and others.

When Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind's counsel cited news reports and a Minority Commission report as evidence of alleged police bias, the Bench asked, "Show us that the police is partial. No victim has come forward and said so. Under which law can we take these news reports as evidence?"

Railway Safety at Record High: Annual Accidents Reduce from 171 (2004-14 Avg.) to 11 in 2025-26 So Far

• Safety Budget Grows Almost Three Times From ₹39,463 Crore in 2013-14 to ₹4,16,470 Crore in Current Fiscal

• Fog Safety Devices Rise 288 Times - From 90 in 2014 to 25,939 in 2025: Ashwini Vaishnaw

• Centralised Electronic Interlocking and Track-Circuiting Completed in 21 Stations Each Over the Last Four Months

MI News Service, New Delhi, 12 Dec. 25: Safety and Security of passengers is accorded high priority on Indian Railways. Any unusual incident is thoroughly investigated by the Railway Administration. Wherever any reason other than technical reason is suspected, the help of State Police is taken.

In some cases, the guidance of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and National Investigation Agency (NIA) is also sought. However, the primary means of investigation is through the State Police. This is in line with the constitutional arrangements under which the investigation of criminal activity, maintenance of Law and Order and security of railway infrastructure i.e. tracks, bridges, tunnels etc. is responsibility of the State Government.

In all incidents of sabotage/tampering with railway track reported in 2023 and 2024, cases have been registered by Police/GRP of states and other law enforcement agencies followed by investigation, arrest of offenders and their prosecution.

The following steps are being taken by Railways for better coordination with State Police/GRP, for coordinated action to prevent such incidents and its monitoring: -

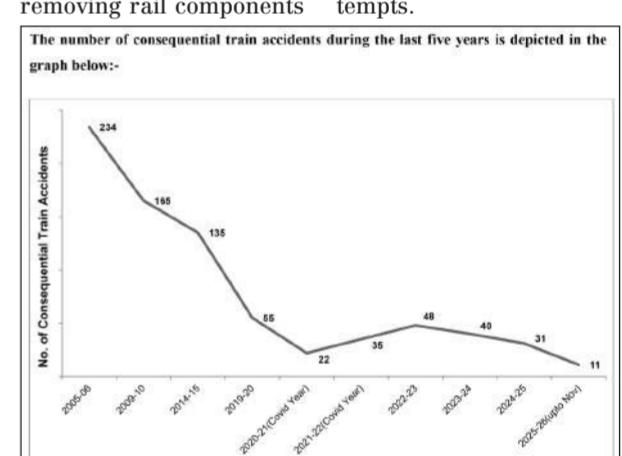
• Frequent patrolling of identified black spots and vulnerable sections are being jointly done by Rail-

ways, RPF, GRP & Civil Police.

• Special teams are formed to patrol high-risk areas, vulnerable sections and sharing of intelligence to mitigate threats effectively.

• Regular drives are conducted to remove material lying near to the railway tracks which can potentially be used by miscreants for obstruction by putting those materials on railway track.

• The people living near railway track are being sensitized about the consequences of putting foreign material on track, removing rail components



etc. and are requested to keep watch and report any suspected activity immediately.

• State Level Security Committee of Railways (SLSCR) meetings are being conducted, which have been constituted in each State under the chairmanship of DGs/Commissioner of Police of respective States/Union territories with representatives of RPF, GRP and Intelligence units. Close liaison is actively made by RPF with the State Police/GRP authorities at all levels to control Crime, registration of cases, their investigation and maintenance of Law & Order in Railway premises

To improve Safety in train operations, several measures have been taken by Indian Railways. As a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents. Consequential Train Accidents have reduced from 135 in 2014-15 to 31 in 2024-25 as shown in the graph below.

It may be noted that the Consequential Train Accidents during the period 2004-14 was 1711 (average 171 per annum), which has declined to 31 in 2024-25 and further to 11 in 2025-26 (upto November, 2025).

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank

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

CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC02102, www.icicibank.com

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

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/Amount Demanded (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Human Processing & (Guarantor) Mohammmed Khan & (Mortgagor) Abul Aslam Ali Khan/ Represented By Proprietor Abul Aslam Ali Khan/ Hinchagerya Para Hinchagerya, Serbora Dulaluddin Market West Bengal East Midnapore-721655/ 464805500110	Pro. 1) R.S. Dag No. 130, R.S. Khatian No. 180, L.R. Khatian No. 2255, Mouza Hinchagerya, J.L. No. 147, B.L. & P.R.O. Bhagabnupur, Mo. & P.R.O. Bhagabnupur, Midnapore, West Bengal (3.33 Decimil) Bounded By: Government Road, South By: Part Of This Dag, East By: 139 Dag, West By: 129 Dag & Pro. 2) R.S. Dag No. 139, R.S. Khatian No. 180, L.R. Khatian No. 2255, Mouza Hinchagerya, J.L. No. 147, B.L. & L.R.O. Bhagabnupur, Mo. & P.O. Bhagabnupur, P.S. & A.D.S.R.O. Bhagabnupur, District East Midnapore, West Bengal (0.5 Decimil) Bounded By: North By: Government Road, South By: 138 Dag, East By: 140 Dag, West By: 130 Dag & Pro. 3) R.S. Dag No. 140, R.S. Khatian No. 180, L.R. Khatian No. 2255, Mouza Hinchagerya, J.L. No. 147, B.L. & L.R.O. Bhagabnupur, District East Midnapore, West Bengal (0.5 Decimil) Bounded By: North By: Government Road, South By: 138 Dag, East By: 141 Dag, West By: 139 Dag/ Date of Symbolic: 09/12/2025	24/04/2025 Rs. 16,76,897.12/-	East Midnapore

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

Date: December 12, 2025
Place: East Midnapore
Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

U19 Asia Cup: Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's 171 sets up India's huge win over UAE

DUBAI : Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's blistering 171 off 95 balls powered India U19 to a commanding 234 run victory over UAE U19 in their Asia Cup opener at the ICC Academy on Friday.

Apart from Suryavanshi's spectacular knock, Aaron George (69) and Vihaa Malhotra (69) contributed with crucial half-centuries. Vedant Trivedi (38), Abhigyan Kundu (32) and Kanishk Chouhan (28) provided the finishing touches to India U19 posting a massive 433/6, the highest score in tournament's history.

It's also India's highest total in U19 ODIs and the third highest ever score in men's U19 one day cricket. Suryavanshi's knock was laced with nine fours and 14 sixes coming at a strike rate of 180. He brought up his half-century in 30 balls, before getting his century in just 56 deliveries and reaching his 150 in 84 balls.

His 14 sixes are the most by



Vinesh Phogat reverses retirement, says 'stepping back toward LA28'

NEW DELHI : India's ace wrestler Vinesh Phogat, who announced her retirement hours after her disqualification from the Paris Olympics 2024, has reversed her decision to retire and announced that she would return to the mat as she set her sights on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

Vinesh took to social media on Friday to announce her decision that "I still want to compete" with a heart "that's unafraid and a spirit that refuses to bow."

"People kept asking if Paris was the end. For a long time, I didn't have the answer. I needed to step away from the mat, from the pressure, from the expectations, even from my own ambitions," Vinesh said in a statement.

"For the first time in years, I allowed myself to breathe. I took time to understand the weight of my journey: the highs, the heartbreaks, the sacrifices, the versions of me the world never saw. And somewhere in that reflection, I found the truth, I still love this sport. I still want to compete."

"In that silence, I found something I'd forgotten: 'the fire never left'. It was only buried under exhaustion and noise. The discipline, the routine, the fight... it's in my system. No matter how far I walked away, a part of me stayed on the mat."

"So here I am, stepping back toward LA28 with a heart that's unafraid and a spirit that refuses to bow. And this time, I'm not walking alone; my son is joining my team, my biggest motivation, my little cheerleader on this road to the LA Olympics."

Vinesh made history in Paris by becoming the first Indian woman wrestler to reach the final at the Olympics. Her landmark run included a stunning win over Japan's four-time world champion Yui Susaki.

But her redemption story, following a disappointing performance in the Tokyo Olympics, ended in heartbreak as she was disqualified from the competition after she was found overweight in the second weigh-in on the morning of the final.

However, she appealed against her Olympic disqualification with the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) and demanded a joint silver medal in the 50kg weight category.

But the Ad-Hoc Division of the CAS dismissed Vinesh's petition against her disqualification, shattering her dream of clinching her maiden Olympic medal.

Later, Vinesh along with Bajrang Punia, joined the Congress in the run-up to the 2024 Haryana Assembly elections, where she won from the Julana constituency in Jind, defeating the BJP's Yogesh Bajrangi.



Neser and Lehmann to join Hampshire for next year's county championship

SOUTHAMPTON : Australia duo Michael Neser and Jake Lehmann will join Hampshire for the 2026 County Championship season. Neser, fresh from taking a five-wicket haul in the recent Ashes win in Brisbane, is set to feature in the first six Championship matches before the T20 Blast.

Neser, 35, took 13 wickets for Hampshire in 2024 across eight matches in the county championship and T20 blast. "In Michael Neser and Jake Lehmann, we have two players who have the ability to make a significant impact. Michael brings valuable runs alongside his quality with the ball - he will partner Kyle Abbott as one of our overseas players," said Giles White, Director of Cricket at Hampshire, in a statement.

Meanwhile, Lehmann, the son of former Australia player and current Northamptonshire head coach Darren Lehmann, has signed a two year all format deal with the club. He has scored 5,684 runs in 97 first-class cricket games for South Australia with 16 centuries against his name.

In the ongoing Sheffield Shield, Lehmann is South Australia's leading



run scorer and has the third-most runs of anyone in the competition with 426 runs. He has also scored two centuries and one fifty (96 v Western Australia) in his ten innings so far.

"Jake is in outstanding form and is the leading run scorer in Shield cricket over the past 18 months. With a British passport, he is eligible to play as a locally qualified player, allowing flex in strengthening the squad. Both players possess a great attitude and bring quality and experience; it's a great boost as we look to finalise our plans ahead of 2026," added White.

Last season, Lehmann scored 750 runs, including a century in the final, to take South Australia to their first Sheffield Shield title since 1995/96. He has previously featured in eight county matches across short stints with Yorkshire in 2016, where he averaged 54.85, and Lancashire in 2019; he scored 419 runs with two fifties and one hundred.

"I'm excited to join Hampshire on a two-year deal, it's great to return to county cricket. Hampshire has a fantastic history of Australian players and to follow in the footsteps of Shane Warne, Matthew Hayden and the like is really special. I look forward to joining up with the team at Utilita Bowl and hopefully contributing to the trophy cabinet," added Lehmann.

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"When we think about a Women's

ODISHA MASTERS: UNNATI, TASNIM AND ROUNAK ENTER SEMIS

CUTTACK : Unnati Hooda, Tasnim Mir Isharani Baruah, Kiran George and Rounak Chouhan all continued their strong run at the Odisha Masters to secure semi-finals spots on Friday.

In men's singles second seed Kiran George stayed solid with a commanding 21-11, 21-17 win over Rithvik Sanjeevi in 33 minutes. He will next face Rounak Chouhan, who continued his strong surge by upsetting seventh seed and compatriot Sankar Muthusamy.

Pakistan 345/3 in 50 overs (Sameer Minhas 177 not out, Ahmed Hussain 132; Nagineswaran Sathnakumaran 2-91) beat Malaysia 48 all out in 19.4 overs (Deeaz Patro 9; Ali Raza 3-11, Mohammad Sayyam 3-27) by 297 runs

Meanwhile, Pakistan U19 launched their campaign with a crushing 297 run win over Malaysia at The Sevens Stadium. Centuries from Ahmed Hussain and debutant Sameer Minhas powered the side to 345/3 before the bowlers bundled Malaysia out for just 48 in 19.4 overs.

Minhas was the star of the show with an unbeaten 177 off 148 balls, striking 11 fours and eight sixes to claim the Player of the Match honour. He shared a mammoth 293 run stand with Hussain, who made 132 off 114

deliveries, and ensured Pakistan's dominance from the outset.

Malaysia never recovered from early blows in the chase, as Ali Raza struck with the new ball to finish with 3-11, while Mohammad Sayyam also took three wickets and Daniyal Ali Khan and Niqab Shafiq chipped in to complete a resounding win for Pakistan U19.

Brief Scores: India U19 433/6 in 50 overs (Vaibhav Suryavanshi 171, Vihaa Malhotra 69; Yug Sharma 2-75, Uddish Suri 2-77) beat UAE U19 1997/7 in 50 overs (Uddish Suri 78 not out, Prithvi Madhu 50; Deepesh Devendran 2/21, Henil Patel 1/31) by 234 runs

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