CMYK



SINCE 1960
First & Largest Circulated English Newspaper in Tripura

TRIPURA TIMES

www.tripuratimes.in



Agartala, August 25, 2026 Postal Regn. No. AGT/NE-900/2025-2027 Vol. No.63 TUESDAY Issue No.314 Telefax : (0381) 2329560 No. of Pages-08 ₹5.00 E-mail:tripuratimes@gmail.com

100 BED MEDICAL COLLEGE IS BEING SET UP BY HP GHOSH MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

CM lays foundation of 100-bed HP Ghosh Memorial Medical College at Lalchhari in Ambassa

Times News
Agartala, Aug 24



Chief Minister Prof. Dr. Manik Saha today laid the foundation stone of the HP Ghosh Memorial Medical College in the Lalchhari area of Ambassa. The Medical College is being set up by The HP Ghosh Memorial Foundation which is headed by Bandhan Bank Chairman Chandrashekhar Ghosh. This will be 100-bed medical college on about 20 acres of land.

Apart from laying the foundation stone, the Chief Minister participated in the Bhoomi Puja ceremony of the medical college.

After laying foundation of the much ambitious Medical college the Chief Minister said, the state government has taken various steps for the development of Dhalai District Hospital and now a medical college will also be established here.

"We had promised to set up a medical college in the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council area. That promise is now being fulfilled," he said.

The Chief Minister thanked and congratulated Chandrashekhar Ghosh on behalf of the people of the state and Dhalai district for taking the initiative to set up a medical college. Chandrashekhar Ghosh is the head of HP Ghosh Foundation and hails from Tripura only. He heads several organisations at the national level. He has proved that one can be successful in life if one has the will for and works with transparency. The Chief Minister, on behalf of the people of Dhalai district and the state, thanked Chandra Shekhar Ghosh for taking the initiative to establish this medical college. The Chief Minister said that the current state government has taken various steps for the development of Dhalai District Hospital.

"A medical college will also be established here. If you try, you will succeed one day. The state government is also running the state in the same direction as Prime Minister Narendra Modi is running the country. The officials in the state are working on the path shown by the Prime Minister," he said.

The Chief Minister said that the state government is trying to ensure that everything is not centred on Agartala.

"In addition to setting up a medical college in Ambassa, an Ayurvedic college is being set up in Tepania, Udaipur. If this medical college is set up in Ambassa, the surrounding conditions and socio-economic conditions of the place will improve greatly. Employment opportunities will be created for about 5,000 people directly and indirectly. The head of the college said that initiatives will also be taken to set up a paramedical college here in the future," said Dr Saha.

The Chief Minister also presented information on the development of health infrastructure in the state.

He said that a decision has been taken to set up a health university with the health institutions of the state. The Chief Minister said that a

P-5



Violence in Bishramganj Contractors, TSR injured, vehicles vandalised

Times News
Charilam, Aug 24

Tension prevailed in Bishramganj RD office on Monday after a power tussle between two groups of contractors turned into a full-scale clash and violence. As many as two contractors and a TSR trooper suffered injuries while two vehicles were vandalised during the violent face-off at the premises of RD office.

The injured contractors were identified as Plaban Saha and Sagar Nag, both from Bishalgarh. A Tripura State Rifles (TSR) jawan, Purnajoy Reang, was also injured while allegedly trying to bring the situation under control, sources said.

According to local sources, the two contractors went to the Bishramganj RD office premises in the afternoon when they were allegedly attacked. Their vehicles were also vandalised during the incident. Purnajoy Reang was injured while attempting to control the situation and

P-5

City auto entry curbs trigger protests

Times News
Agartala, Aug 24

The state government's decision to restrict unabated entry of auto-rickshaws ferrying passengers from outside Agartala Municipal Corporation drew backlash prompting transport workers' bodies cutting across political lines to oppose the move. Organisations like CITU affiliated All India Transpower Workers Federation, E-rickshaw Sramik Sangha and Mazdoor monitoring cell affiliated E-rickshaw Sramik Samiti organised separate protests and demonstrations demanding withdrawal of

P-5

VC POLLS
Workshop for ROs held, all party meet soon

Times News
Agartala, Aug 24

The State Election Commission is contemplating to conduct an all party meeting in the run up to the VC elections scheduled to be conducted in the month of September. As per a Supreme Court ruling, the Village Committee elections are slated to be held on September 27 in a single phase. The State Election Commission undertook all the preparatory exercises ahead of the polls.

The Commission on Monday organised a workshop for the BDOs and additional BDOs

P-5

Bangladesh-India discuss reopening border haats



Manir Hossain

Dhaka, Aug 24 : Bangladesh and India have discussed measures to remove trade barriers and further expand bilateral commerce, with the two sides focusing on reopening closed border haats, fully operationalising land ports and easing restrictions on yarn imports through land routes. The Bangladesh Commerce Minister Khanadkar Abdul Muktadir said bilateral trade between Bangladesh and India currently stands at around $13 billion but trade activities have slowed somewhat over the past one and a half years due to several obstacles, he told reporters after a meeting with Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Dinesh Trivedi at Secretariat on Monday. "We discussed the problems and how trade relations between the two countries can be made easier and more effective in the future," the minister said. He said India is Bangladesh's second-largest trading partner after China and noted that the two countries have longstanding economic ties. The minister also said a proposal was made to form a joint task force involving businesses from the two countries to enhance cooperation.

Improving digital infrastructure was also discussed as a way to create new investment opportunities, expand business ties and accelerate bilateral trade,

P-5

New charges being added to power export to B'desh

INDO-BANGLA TRADES

From Our Correspondent
Dhaka, Aug 24

Bangladesh's cost of importing electricity from India is set to rise with the introduction of a new charge for cross-border power trading. India has initiated a cross-border electricity trading charge of 0.005 Indian rupees per unit, with the fee expected to be added to Bangladesh's import costs.

The NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam Ltd (NVVN), an Indian state-owned company, and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) are in the process of signing a Settlement Nodal Agency (SNA) agreement to facilitate the arrangement.

Under existing agreements, Bangladesh has the capacity to import up to 2,656MW of electricity from India. Of this, 160MW is supplied by the Tripura State Electricity Corporation Ltd, 250MW is supplied from NTPC plants through NVVN and 300MW from the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).

Bangladesh also has agreements to import 200MW from a plant operated by Sembcorp Energy India through PTC India, as well as another 250MW directly from Sembcorp. The proposed SNA agreement between

P-5

TRLM-backed Cafe opens new livelihood avenue for youth in Ambassa

Times News
Ambassa, Aug 24



A new livelihood initiative aimed at providing employment and entrepreneurial opportunities to trained rural youth has taken shape at Jaharnagar in Ambassa with the opening of the Dhalai Cafe, the first such venture supported by the Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) in the area.

Located near the office of the Dhalai District Magistrate amid a scenic natural setting, the cafe has been set up with financial assistance from TRLM and will be managed by the Swapner Siri Mahila Cluster Multipurpose Cooperative Society Limited.

Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha formally inaugurated the cafe on Monday.

Apart from offering a new food destination in the area, the project has been designed primarily as a livelihood and skill-development initiative. As many as 30 unemployed young men and women associated with the Swapner Siri cluster have received specialised training in fast-food preparation under an initiative of the Dhalai district administration.

The participants were trained in food preparation, cooking and different aspects of cafe management. An exercise has also been undertaken to select the best-performing cooks from among the trainees on the basis of their skills. Officials associated with the initiative expect the training to go beyond providing manpower for the cafe and encourage the participants to take up similar entrepreneurial ventures independently in the future. The cafe will serve a variety of popular fast-food items, including burgers, pizzas, French fries, sandwiches and momos.

The project also has a strong women-empowerment component as the cafe will be operated by a women's cluster. The initiative is expected to provide new income-generating opportunities for women and contribute to TRLM's broader objective of promoting self-reliance and sustainable rural livelihoods.

The location of the cafe, close to the District Magistrate's office and surrounded by greenery, is expected to attract government employees, local residents, commuters and visitors to the area.

The initiative has already generated interest among local residents, with those associated with the project hoping that it could emerge as a model for combining skill development, employment generation and grassroots entrepreneurship.

True to its name — 'Swapner Siri', or 'Stairway to Dreams' — the cafe is expected to offer trained young men and women an opportunity to turn newly acquired skills into employment and, eventually, enterprises of their own.



CMYK

TRIPURA TIMES
TUESDAY, 25th AUGUST VOL 63, ISSUE No-314

Tariffs that save jobs in the steel industry mean higher steel prices, which in turn means fewer sales of American steel products around the world and losses of far more jobs than are saved."

Thomas Sowell

EDITORIAL

The Die-in-Harness Case!

"Out standing liabilities of the deceased could not be a ground to withhold family pension," that is what the essence of the High Court of Tripura. And then the Court has directed the State Government to release the family pension to the widow of a deceased fire services employee and provide compassionate appointment to his daughter within four months, observing the facts and factual of the case. A single Bench headed by Justice Biswajit Palit allowed the writ petition filed by Mousumi Das and her daughter Eshika Das. Eshika's father and Mausumi's husband Prasenjit Das, died in harness on December 20, 2024, while on duty, serving a as a leading Fireman under the Fire and Emergency Services Department.

The Petitioners had sought compassionate appointment for Eshika under the state's Die-in-Harness scheme and release of family pension and other post-death benefits. They submitted that despite representations and submission of the required documents, no decision had been taken on the appointment and the family pension had not been released. The state, in its counter-affidavit, admitted that Eshika was eligible for employment under the Die-in-0Harness Scheme and had submitted her representation on March 17, 2024. It said the Director of Fire and Emergency services had forwarded a proposed for her appointment on July 7, 2025.

The Finance Department Subsequently said there was no vacancy in the department and advised that the proposal be forwarded when a vacancy arose within a year, for sponsorship in a suitable department. The court noted that the records showed the authorities had taken steps towards providing employment to Eshika, but she had not been appointed. It observed that the applicable scheme contemplated appointment within one year of the death of the employee and found that the respondents had failed to provide compassionate appointment within in the stipulated period despite the petitioners having submitted their representation.

Spiritual Umbrella

Taittiriya Upanishad's inquiry into creation

The dialogue between Varuna and Bhrigu, which lies at the heart of the Taittiriya Upanishad, is perhaps the earliest cosmological deconstruction of the concept of Brahmn. This succinct opening instruction of Varuna positing food, vital force, eyes, ears, mind and speech as doors to the knowledge of Brahmn, sets the tone for Bhrigu's initiation. This analysis of Brahmn is detailed through the story of the young Bhrigu who has set out to seek the bliss of Brahmn.

Varuna instructs him to do tapas, meditation, on doing which Bhrigu finds himself consumed by the idea of anna, food, which nourishes and sustains all beings. Bhrigu realises this physicality of food to be the first principle which pervades all matter and nourishes it, and understands this to be the physical manifestation, the gross Cosmic Virat svarup, of Brahmn itself. With this knowledge of the Annamaya kosha, the physical sheath, but with an incomplete feeling within himself, Bhrigu goes back to his father to teach him the knowledge of Brahmn. But the teacher directs him to delve deeper into the origin of food.

Bhrigu's introspection takes his mind deeper on the life-force, the vitality throbbing behind matter, the prana, which energises all matter, runs through all physical systems, as electricity runs through the wires to generate power. Bhrigu recognises this vitality to be behind the physical sheath, and this understanding of the Pranamaya kosha – the energy-astral body as the next manifestation of Brahmn – sends him back to his father.Finding his father noncommittal still, on the question of Brahmn, Bhrigu enters a third meditation to focus on the subtler aspects of this energy, to go into the idea behind, which has triggered this vitality. He realises that it is the mind itself, which is providing the stimuli for this vitality, the mental sheath, which is the trigger for all senses of knowledge – still instinctual only, but emanating from the mind itself. Bhrigu senses that the mind, too, is a manifestation of Brahmn, but is too scattered and incomplete.

His fourth meditation takes him into the more subtle form of the mind, the cognitive sheath which enables one to understand cause and effect, an awareness which causes the mind to distinguish and discriminate.

MESSAGE

"My friend Chip Ward speaks of "the tyranny of the quantifiable," of the way what can be measured almost always takes precedence over what cannot: private profit over public good; speed and efficiency over enjoyment and quality; the utilitarian over the mysteries and meanings that are of greater use to our survival and to more than our survival, to lives that have some purpose and value that survive beyond us to make a civilization worth having."

Rebecca Solnit

Millets and Human Health: A Focus on Diabetes Control, Weight Management, and Gut Microbial Modulation

Dr. Angam Raleng (*Assistant Professor*)

Introduction

In India, more than 60 million people have been diagnosed with diabetes, confirming fifth leading causes of death and it is predicted to exceed 100 million by the 2030, rising a heat up concern about the people heath. Diabetes, a chronic metabolic condition which can affects people of all ages, when our body cannot produce or utilized insulin effectively causing the blood sugar (glucose) level is too high. Gut health is gastrointestinal system which helped in digestion and absorption of nutrients from the foods. Maintaining gut microbiome can influence the beta cell dysfunction and beta cell destruction in the pancreas. Studies reported that foods with high fiber are essentially good in improving the gut health. Millets are small seeded, round shape annual cereals grain which belong to *Poaceae* family, widely grown in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia. The extreme resilience to harsh environment and their rich nutritional content stands out millet grains from others cereals grains. There are several varieties of millet. Millet is particularly valuable for managing diabetes because of its low glycaemic index and high fiber content. In this topic, we will explore the glycaemic index, how millet influence on the controlling the blood sugar level as well as the impact of high fiber content on gut healthof an individual and to assimilate into the diet of individual with diabetes mellitus.

Millet: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Diets

The Millet grain is reported to be widely cultivated and consumed in arid and semi-arid regions of Africa and Asia. In some part of the globe, it is consumed as staple food and also called as drought or famine food because of its drought resilience crops, which can be grown in tough environment with extreme temperature and are also resistant to pest and diseases. Millet has been used as major food component and also in various traditional food and beverages production in India for centuries. In Manipur, millet is locally called as '*Chanan*'. It is mainly grown as Jhum cultivation in hilly part of Kangpokpi and Senapati district with low productivity. According to local context, they have different name liked Finger millet are called as Kodo/Henghou, Kanghou (Foxtail millet), Leibaklei (Little millet), Kongjeng (Barnyard millet), Tulik (Proso millet) and Channaan (Sorghum). *Chanan*or millet has been cultivated and consumed by indigenous communities as puff snacks for generation.



Millet has mild, earthy and nutty flavor with a firm and hearty texture, but when popped it has a very similar taste with popcorn. There is slightly different in flavor and texture with varieties but their nutritional benefit remains almost constant. However, it is not consumed as staple food, but hold cultural and traditional significance in the people of Manipur. In most of the cultural and traditional event of Manipur like *Luhongba* (marriages), *Sorat* (death event), *Epanthaba* (post-natal ritual), *Sumang Laa Taba* (offering to God for wellbeing) or any others ritual events etc atmost used puff millet (*kabokaphaba*) and sweeten puffed millet ball (*kabokmatum*) as a snack, offering or ingredient as a part of offers (in making *Phola*).

Millet has high nutritional composition with low carbohydrates content and glycaemic index as compared to normal white rice. The high dietary fiber content of 15-20% and low glycaemic index create a gold standard to work synergistically to slow down the digestion lowering the glucose diffusion in blood stream. Millet being rich in calcium also help in regulation of insulin as well as gut mobility.

Now a days, it's becoming a new trend in food industry to adopt millet in diets because of its multi nutrients and present of bioactive element which possess potential health benefit. To acknowledge the important of millet and its role in reducing the malnutrition, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2023 as International Year of Millet.

Fig: Some of the famous varieties of Millets in India

Glycaemic Index and Gut Heath

We know glycaemic index (GI) is a scale which marked from 0 to 100, used to ranks the carbohydrates content foods or drinks based on its significant impact to rise the blood sugar (glucose) level compared to standard reference food such as pure glucose having GI of 100. Based on GI value, foods are classified into three categories i.e., Low GI food (d"55), Medium GI food (56-69), High GI food (e"70).When carbohydrates are breaking down inside our digestive system, it releases simple sugar (glucose) which is then carried into our bloodstream. The excess glucose from food is converted into glycogen which role is to supply blood glucose when it drops down. It has to be cleared that low GI food can also affect the blood sugar but only by slowly increasing the glucose, giving us a tighter control over our blood sugar level instead of high GI food with direct increasing the glucose quickly.

Gut health refers to our gastrointestinal system. Food with sufficient amount of fiberprovide natural probiotics which help in balancing the digestion and gut health. Probiotics, due to their ability to lower oxidative stress, identified as promising therapies for managing diabetes. Because of their role in increasing insulin sensitivity, lowering total cholesterol, and reducing body weight*Bacteroides* and *Lactobacillus*, are being considered potential probiotic agents for the treatment of diabetes.The gut bacteria such as *Firmicutes*also helped in lowering types 2 diabetes, obesity and inflammation. Poor gut health affects the digestion metabolism. When digested slow and food remained in stomach for longer time, it causes glucose to rise instantly. Prolong high blood sugar can cause gastroparesis which make the blood sugar level dicey and unable to control. The impaired digestion can cause complicate metabolic control also imbalance gut microbiome which will increase inflammation and exacerbate insulin resistance and also chronic heart diseases.

Functional Relationship between Millets and Metabolic Health Indicators

The GI of millet is in the range of 41 – 55 which is much lower than rice and wheat that have GI value of around 70 or more higher. Depending upon the varieties, processing, consuming method as well individual metabolism, the GI value can be fluctuated. Even though food like oils, fats and meats does not have GI value but still can affect the blood sugar level if consumed by individual with diabetes.The complex carbohydrates, high dietary fiber, protein and minerals content are the key essential element of millet to have low GI value as well as improved digestion and gut health. Since it has low GI value, the breakdown of complex carbohydrates is much slower as compared to food with high GI value, resulting in slow and steadily release of glucose into our bloodstream. This helped individual with diabetes to control over the blood sugar more effectively and sudden spikes or crashes. As compared to rice and wheat, millet has 5-50 times more dietary fiber content and had extremely significant amount of calcium of around 300 – 364mg/100g which is 10 – 35times more. Thus, it acts as multi-functional tools that control diabetes while nourishing gut microbiome. Both fiber and calcium delayed carbohydrates digestion, improved insulin sensitivity and drive insulin secretion also. The soluble fiber from millet acts as natural probiotic activate the gut bacteria to produce Short-Chain Fatty Acids (SCFA). The SCFA help in regulating insulin secretion more efficiently, protecting gut barrier to suppress the insulin resistance and also promote muscle metabolism to reduce excessive glucose production.Improving gut microbiome can also helped in digestion system as well as prevent metabolic illness such as weight and inflammation management. The high level of polyphenol and tannins content in millet can also inhibit the alpha-amylase enzymes, lowering the breakdown of starch into glucose.

Millets for Healthy Digestion, Gut Integrity, and Diabetes Prevention.

The lower GI value, high dietary fiber and mineral content of millet bring the attention to diabetes management and improving gut health. In Manipur, white rice (GI 70-89) being consumed as staple food, a concernedhas been rising about spiking the blood sugar level in individuals. Also due to convenience of modern lifestyle, consumption of more high sugar and drinks as reached peaked record leading us in developing chronic diseases. According to different structure, there are different types of carbohydrates and doesn't work in same mechanism. Individual metabolism is also important in controlling the chronic illness. However, adopting millet diet plan also have some significant impact in controlling and managing some of the chronic diseases or illness. Some ways in which millet can be beneficial to individual with diabetes are:

Consistent blood glucose management: The glycaemic index of millet is lower which results in slower glucose infusion into bloodstream as compared to foods with higher GI value. A diet plan with millet will enable an individual with diabetes to maintain consistent blood sugar level avoiding sudden spikes or surge.

High Fiber Content: Millet has high dietary fiber content which is 5 – 50 times more than rice or wheat. Both the soluble and insoluble fiber has its own role in controlling diabetes. Soluble fiber acts as natural probiotic improving the gut health suppressing the insulin resistance and also promote in insulin secretion. Overall, fibers in millet slow down the enzymatic digestion leading to gradual and sustain release of glucose into blood.

***Complex carbohydrates*:** The complex carbohydrates of millet allow slow break down proving steady energy without causing sudden spikes.

High Calcium Content: Adequate calcium amount in our diet reduces risk of Type 2 diabetes and also increases the insulin sensitivity and secretion.

***Rich in Antioxidant properties*:**Millets are rich in antioxidant liked polyphenol, flavonoid and tannins which helped to reduces chronic inflammation and oxidative stress.

***Vitamins and minerals*:** The vitamins and minerals in millet slow down absorption of glucose and also improved insulin sensitivity.

Cardiac vitality: Prolong consumption of foods and drinks with high sugar often led to abnormal accumulation of glycogen which may affect liver and muscle as well as metabolism of our body. Many diseases related to cardiac health might be surged which may cause sudden death or coma.

Everyday Millet Integration for a Healthier Lifestyle

· Replace white rice with cooked millets such as Foxtail Millet, Barnyard Millet, or Little Millet in lunch and dinner meals.

· Use millet flour like Finger Millet or Pearl Millet for preparing rotis, chapatis, pancakes, and baked products.

· Prepare millet-based breakfast foods such as porridge, dosa, idli, upma, flakes, or ready-to-cook mixes for a healthy start to the day.

· Incorporate millets into snacks by making roasted millet mixtures, energy bars, cookies, puffs, and extruded snack products.

· Blend millets with pulses, vegetables, and dairy products to develop balanced meals like khichdi, soups, salads, and fermented foods.

· Use millet malt or flour in beverages, smoothies, and health drinks to improve nutritional quality and increase daily millet intake.

Conclusion

Millets are highly nutritious functional cereals with significant potential in managing diabetes, obesity, and other metabolic disorders due to their low glycaemic index, high dietary fiber, complex carbohydrates, minerals, and bioactive compounds. They help maintain stable blood sugar levels, improve insulin sensitivity, support beneficial gut microbiota, and reduce oxidative stress and inflammation. In addition to promoting gut health and weight management, millets may also help lower the risk of cardiovascular diseases. Although traditionally consumed in regions such as Manipur, millet consumption has declined due to changing food habits and increased dependence on refined cereals. Therefore, reintroducing millets through traditional and value-added food products can improve public health and nutritional security. However, individual metabolic responses may vary, and proper dietary guidance and regular health monitoring are essential for maximum benefits.

The Author is NingombamNungshithoi (*M Tech Scholar*)
College of Agricultural Engineering and Post Harvest Technology

ASTRO TODAY

Aries: You will feel self-confident today with the Moon making its way into Sagittarius. Astroyogi astrologers predict that everything you do or choose to undertake today will bear satisfactory results and be praiseworthy. Therefore, go with your gut feeling when making important decisions, as this planetary transition will prove favorable for you today.

Taurus: It's not the time to mope about and wallow in self-pity, and it's certainly not the time to lose your cool and reject the positive cosmic forces. So, Taurus, even if you believe you have good reason to be upset, think about the implications. You must exercise emotional restraint so as not to jeopardize the peace you have enjoyed thus far.

Gemini: Today, there are certain hazards associated with loss of some type, so take the time to be cautious. The Moon in Sagittarius may inspire you to be more daring and seek out new experiences. Traditional methods will not work for you, and you will be able to break free from everything that is preventing you from accomplishing your goal.

Cancer: With the transit of the Moon in Sagittarius, it is possible for some of you to feel distracted. It is possible that certain things in your life need your time and energy the most, so do not be impatient. They will eventually work out. Astroyogi astrologers predict that even if it takes time to get noticed, good will come of it. It is advised to keep yourself motivated and determined.

Leo: Today you may find yourself in the limelight, predicts Leo daily horoscope . You will be the recipient of attention and adulation on this day. You can revel in the attention you receive today as you earned it through your talents and charm! The Moon moving into Sagittarius gets you the attention that you have been craving for a long time. Don't let your ego overpower you, for it will surely turn your newfound fans against you.

Virgo: The Moon is in Sagittarius today. Today you would be having a very different and unique perspective towards life. You will be attracted towards and influenced by the things which are good in terms of practicality and rationality. As per Astroyogi astrologers, today, there might be some situation or experience for you that might change the way you think and act. This change in outlook would provide you with a lot of benefits.

Libra: The presence of the Moon in Sagittarius may bring some problems. It will make you feel frustrated and disappointed about how things shape up. You lose control over your emotions to such an extent that you may end up disappointing your loved ones and the people around you. Improve your ability by making quick and prompt decisions. Do not waste your energy on unwanted issues.

Scorpio: The Moon is in Sagittarius today. You need to be very focused today and look forward to steer clear of all your legal issues. You should be very careful since there are chances that you might get involved in a quarrel or litigation this day. You have to be very patient today and try to resolve every difficult matter in a peaceful manner. Solving the difficult issues today in an amicable manner would help you a lot in sorting out the problems and even staying away from them. However, you need to understand that problems are a part of life, and you should not get fed up with the same.

Sagittarius: With the Moon in Sagittarius, great things seem to be in store for you. Some of you are likely to have a lot of acknowledgment and appreciation coming your way on the professional front. The hard work you have been putting in is finally getting noticed by your colleagues and those in authority. Astroyogi astrologers suggest soaking in this time to the fullest and enjoying it rather than distracting yourself with your problems.

Capricorn: Today Astroyogi astrologers predict clarity on serious matters. If you have been facing any problems in the past, today, the solutions will appear to be crystal clear. Some of you may experience that your ideas may begin to fall into place at last. This clarity of thought directs you towards your success. As the Moon remains in Sagittarius, it may bring positivity and tranquillity in your life and at the home front, as per the daily horoscope .

Aquarius: It is highly likely for you to set high standards for your life goals as the Moon makes its presence felt in Sagittarius. Astroyogi astrologers suggest that you are ambitious about everything and want it all in life - family, friends, money, fame, etc. However, it is essential to remember that no matter how big you dream, you should also have a pragmatic plan to achieve your goals.

Pisces: The Moon in Sagittarius makes you feel comfortable and fulfilled. You won't be hindered by the normal hustle and strain at work. This will put you in a comfortable frame of mind, and you will make an effort to spend quality time with your friends and family. These are joyful times, and you should make the most of them. Maintain contact with the friends you reconnected with today.

24 Hrs. Ambulance Service
1. Colonel Chowmuhani Yuba Sangstha
2. Sanghati Club
3. Ramkrishna Club
Ph.9862570116

Veteran poet, author felicitated

Times News

Agartala: Veteran poet Piyush Raut and noted writer-researcher Rabindra Kishore Debbarma were jointly conferred the prestigious **'Bhasha Sahitya Samman'** this year in recognition of their outstanding contributions to literature.

Raut was honoured for his uninterrupted and distinctive contribution to Bengali poetry spanning more than six decades, while Debbarma received the award for his original and extensive research-based work in the fields of Kokborok and Bengali literature.

The awards were presented at a literary gathering held at the Agartala Press Club on Sunday evening. The ceremony, organised by the Bhasha Trust, marked the eighth edition of the biennial literary award.

The Bhasha Sahitya Samman is regarded as one of Tripura's prominent privately instituted literary honours, recognising excellence and sustained contribution to literature. Previous recipients include Anil Sarkar, Manas Debbarma, Shankhapallab Aditya, Samar Chakraborty, Dulal Ghosh, Anup Bhattacharjee, Kishore Ranjan De and Nakul Roy.



Bhasha Trust chairman and poet Kalyanbrata Chakraborty, who presided over the function, along with the guests, presented the two awardees with mementoes, citations, shawls, bouquets and uttariyas. Each recipient was also presented with a cheque for **Rs 10,000**.

The 29th issue of the literary periodical *Bhasha Sahitya* was also formally released on the occasion. Both Raut and Debbarma were visibly moved while receiving the honour. Raut, editor of Tripura's first poetry magazine *Jonaki* and the state's first short-story magazine *Swapna O Duhswapna*, is the author of 23 collections of poetry, including *Bishanna Udyane Baishakh* and *Janma Juari*. He has previously received 22 awards and honours for his literary work.

Debbarma, an established writer, researcher and scholar, has authored as many as 62 serious works, including several research-oriented volumes dealing with language, literature, history and culture.

In their brief responses, both writers described the Bhasha Sahitya Samman as a significant and memorable addition to their long literary journeys.

The programme began with a classical vocal performance by Padmamoulishwar Aditya. Poet Kakali Gangopadhyay, editor of the latest issue of *Bhasha Sahitya*, delivered the welcome address, while poet and academic Rameshwar Bhattacharjee introduced the two awardees and highlighted their literary achievements. The citations were read out by poet Krittibas Chakraborty and short-story writer Shyamapada Chakraborty. Gangopadhyay also recited selected poems by Piyush Raut and Rabindra Kishore Debbarma.

Speaking as the chief guest, poet and short-story writer Birmangal Singha highlighted the contribution of both awardees to Tripura's literary and intellectual landscape. He said Raut, a widely read poet, and Debbarma, a dedicated researcher, had enriched the understanding of Tripura's soil, roots and history through their creative and scholarly pursuits and their persistent search for truth.

Poet and short-story writer Ajit Debbarma delivered the **Bhasha Memorial Lecture** on the theme, *"Chhoto Bhashar Boro Lorai"* — **"The Great Struggle of a Small Language."**

The programme was conducted by noted cultural personality Alakananda Chowdhury.

CPI(M) office allegedly vandalised in Jogendranagar

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: A CPI(M) party office at Vidyasagar Market in Jogendranagar was allegedly attacked and vandalised on Monday evening, a party leader said.

CPI(M) leader Nilanjana Roy alleged that a BJP rally was held in the area between 7 pm and 7.30 pm and that participants returned from a nearby bridge before allegedly attacking the party office.

According to Roy, around four to five CPI(M) activists were present inside the office when the alleged attack took place.

She alleged that the office furniture and CCTV cameras were vandalised and the electricity connection was snapped during the incident.

Roy described the incident as an unprovoked attack and alleged that the rally participants were responsible for the vandalism.

Students, parents block NH over teacher shortage

Times News

Kumarghat, Aug 24: Students and parents of Nabinchhara Class XII School blocked the Assam-Agartala National Highway at Nabinchhara in Pecharthal on Monday, demanding the resolution of teacher shortage and infrastructure-related problems at the institution. The protesters raised an eight-point charter of demands, including appointment of adequate teachers and a headmaster, additional classrooms, sufficient teachers for Bengali and science subjects, and immediate repair of the road leading to the school. According to the protesters, the school has been facing a shortage of teachers and classrooms for several years, affecting regular academic activities. They also alleged that the road connecting the school was in poor condition. The road blockade led to a traffic jam, with a large number of vehicles stranded on both sides. Police from Pecharthal police station reached the spot along with District Education Officer Rajesh Debbarma and other officials. The officials held discussions with the protesters and sought 10 days to address their demands. Following the assurance, the protesters withdrew the blockade and traffic movement returned to normal.

Bangladesh-India mulls PM India visit: Humayun Kabir

Manir Hossain

Dhaka,August 24 : The two countries are working on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's proposed visit to India, date and schedule of the visit would be finalized through discussions between the two countries said Foreign Affairs State Minister Humayun Kabir.

On Monday (August 24), newly appointed State Minister Humayun Kabir took charge of his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding the prime minister's visit to India, Humayun Kabir said both countries are working on the matter. The schedule will be finalized at a mutually convenient time for Dhaka and New Delhi.

Humayun Kabir also described Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar's recent remarks on Bangladesh-India bilateral relations as positive. He further said, ''one of his key responsibilities would be to maintain a balance in foreign policy while protecting Bangladesh's national interests. He emphasized that bilateral relations should be based on equality and fairness.

West Agartala police recover 26 lost mobile phones, return them to owners

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: West Agartala Police Station recovered 26 mobile phones reported lost or missing at different times and handed them over to their rightful owners on Monday after completing the necessary verification process.

The recovery was made following complaints lodged by mobile phone owners. Police launched investigations and used technical assistance to trace the missing devices. After locating the phones, the police contacted the respective owners and verified the ownership details before arranging their handover.

The handover programme was held at West Agartala Police Station in the presence of Sadar SDPO Pannalal Sen. Addressing a press conference, Sen outlined the details of the recovery and highlighted the police's efforts in tracing the lost mobile phones through various technical means. He urged people to report lost phones to the police at the earliest and provide all relevant details to facilitate their recovery.

Several owners expressed their happiness after receiving their phones back. They thanked the East Police Station personnel for their efforts.

Students block NH-8 in Pecharthal over teacher shortage

Times News

Pecharthal, August 24: Students of Nabinchhara Class XII School staged a road blockade on Monday morning, protesting against the acute shortage of teachers at the institution. Carrying placards and raising slogans, the students blocked the Assam-Agartala National Highway (NH-8), bringing traffic movement in the Nabinchhara area to a standstill.

The agitation resulted in a long queue of vehicles on both sides of the highway, causing considerable inconvenience to commuters.

On receiving information, personnel from Pecharthal Police Station, along with the Unakoti District Education Officer and other administrative officials, reached the spot and held discussions with the protesting students.

Following assurances from the officials regarding the issue of teacher shortage, the students withdrew the blockade at around 12:30 pm and normal traffic movement resumed. However, the protesting students warned that they would launch a larger agitation if adequate teachers are not appointed at the school at the earliest.\

Vidyasagar College to host Live telecast of PM Modi's National Sports Day address

Times News

Belonia, August 24: As the Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar College in Belonia gears up for National Sports Day, the college is set to host live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation on the occassion of sports day.

Addressing a press conference on Monday Principal Dr. Manoranjan Das briefed about the college's preparations for National Sports Day 2026 and the live telecast of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's virtual address scheduled for August 27.

Dr. Das said that the nationwide "Viksit Bharat Youth Connect Programme – National Sports Day 2026" will be organised on August 27 under the initiative of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), Department of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

As part of the programme, the Prime Minister's virtual address will be streamed live at Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar College along with other higher educational institutions across the country. Students, teachers and non-teaching staff of the college are expected to participate actively in the programme.

The Principal highlighted several key aspects of the initiative, including the significance of National Sports Day and the birth anniversary of legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. He also outlined the objectives of the Viksit Bharat Youth Connect Programme and its emphasis on encouraging young people to participate in sports, maintain discipline and healthy lifestyles, and contribute to nation-building.

The programme will also provide an opportunity for students and young people to share their views on sports culture, sports infrastructure and the future of sports in India. Through the **"Yuva Samvad"** initiative, students will be encouraged to express their ideas, opinions and aspirations.

Dr. Manoranjan Das said National Sports Day should not be viewed merely as a celebration of sports, but as an important occasion to connect the younger generation with good health, discipline, self-confidence, leadership and national consciousness.

He said the live broadcast of the Prime Minister's address would provide students of the college with an opportunity to become part of an important national-level programme. He appealed to students, teachers, staff members and media representatives to extend active cooperation for the successful conduct of the event.

The Principal further emphasised the need to build a healthy, disciplined, responsible and self-reliant youth population through sports and to engage young people in achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047.

He hoped that the active participation of students from Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar College would help generate greater interest and awareness among the youth of South Tripura about sports, healthy living and the role of young people in national development.

Family suspects local resident as theft strike house

Times News

Agartala, August 24**:** A daring theft at a house in the Lefunga area under Lefunga police station has created tension among local residents. The incident reportedly took place when the house owner and his family were away. According to the house owner, the thieves allegedly entered the house in their absence and fled with two LPG cylinders, an inverter and around 50 brass utensils along with other household belongings.

The family has reportedly expressed suspicion against a person identified as Samir Debbarma in connection with the theft.

EDUCATIONAL NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Higher Education under Govt of Tripura has decided to conduct the ***spot round of CSAB NEUT 2026 counseling on 27th August, 2026 at the Conference Hall of the Bir Chandra State Central Library,*** adjacent to the Office of the DM & Collector of West Tripura, Akhaura Road, Agartala, Tripura (W) 799001, following the Information Brochure CSAB NEUT 2026, available at CSAB Portal [www.csab.nic.in] under CSAB NEUT Tab. In this connection, following guideline is being issued for allotment of the left-over/ vacant supernumerary seats in Engineering/Architecture

Procedure for appearing in the Spot Round Counselling of CSAB NEUT 2026

1) The aspiring candidates will have to follow the instructions as provided at the www.csab.nic.in website; and, allotment will be done as per the Business Rules for Tripura uploaded by the CSAB NEUT 2026.

2) Candidates with confirmed seat allotment under CSAB NEUT 2026, and with admission letter issued during online rounds of counseling, cannot participate in Spot Round unless they have 'Withdrawn' their allotted seat. Withdrawal must have done in the dedicated time frame as stated in the CSAB NEUT Portal. Once the currently allotted seat is withdrawn / surrendered, the claim of the candidate on the withdrawn seat will be lost, irrespective of whether the seat is subsequently allotted in the Spot round or not.

3) All eligible candidates having valid JEE (Main) 2026 rank, except the candidates mentioned above in Point-2, can participate in the spot round.

4) (i) Registration Form for NEUT Spot Round counselling' will be available in the website of Directorate of Higher Education (www.highereducation tripura gov.in) **from 24/08/2026 onwards.**

(ii) Eligible candidates with JEE (Main) score card, have to register themselves for the CSAB NEUT spot round counselling process by sending email with the scanned copy of the filled up 'Registration Form' (as mentioned at Point 4(i) above) to the Email Id: neutspotround.tr@gmail.com within **26th August 2026 (upto 06:00 PM)**.

(iii) Candidates may also register at the time of the CSAB NEUT 2026 spot counselling also by submitting the filled up 'Registration Form' as mentioned at Point 4(i) above.

5) (1) ***On 27th August, 2026, candidate has to reach*** the Conference Hall of the Bir Chandra State Central Library, Adjacent to the Office of the DM & Collector of West Tripura, Akhaura Road, Agartala, Tripura(W)-799001, within 10:30AM for attending spot counseling along with documents mentioned at the CSAB NEUT 2026 Brochure. Counselling will start from 11:00 AM.

(ii) ***In case a candidate stayed absent/ temporarily absent during the Spot round counselling and a seat has been allotted, the claim of any candidate on that seat will be lost.***

(iii) All candidates who register for the spot round counselling and get a seat (fresh allotment) has to pay an allotment fee of Rs.2000/- (Rupees Two Thousand) only by cash.

All candidates are requested to visit the website of the Directorate of Higher Education, Tripura for any further information.

ICA/D/867/26

Director, Higher Education
Government of Tripura

एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय विद्यालय,
बिरचंद्र नगर, संतिरबाज़ार, दक्षिण त्रिपुरा राष्ट्रीय आदिवासी छात्र शिक्षा समिति
(जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय के अंतर्गत एक स्वायत्त संस्थान, भारत सरकार)

Eklavya Model Residential School,
Birchandra Nagar, South Tripura
under National Education Society for Tribal Students (An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India)

No.F.86-01/EMRS/BCN/DLSMC/SG/2026-27/1428 Dated: B.C.Nagar, the 24th August, 2026

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender in sealed cover is hereby invited by the undersigned from the resourceful registered and licensed Security Service Agencies / Firms / Contractors within Tripura State quoting therein the rate in c/w procurement of service for providing Unarmed Security Personnel (Gatekeeper) for surveillance at the Main Entry Gate of the attached Girls' Hostel Premises to ensure safety and security of the campus. The tender may be submitted w.e.f. 25.08.2026 to 05.09.2026 from 08:00 AM to 02:00 PM. and will be opened on 07-09-2026 at 12:30 P.M. in presence of the tenderers/bidders.

Tender Form (Rs.500/- (Rupees Five Hundred) Only Non-Refundable) shall be collected from the concerned School Office. The tenderer/bidder should submit Technical & Financial Bid separately along with Earnest money (Rs.5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand Only) Refundable). If tied, final allottee will be selected by way of coin toss system.

24/8/26
Principal | अध्यक्ष
Eklavya Model Residential School
एकलव्य मॉडल आवासीय विद्यालय
B.C. Nagar, Santirbazar, South Tripura
बी.सी. नगर, शांतिरबाज़ार, दक्षिण त्रिपुरा

MANAPPURAM FINANCE LTD.
CIN: L65910KL1992PLC006623,
Registered Office: W - 4/ 638A, Manappuram House, P.o. Valapad, Thrissur - 680 567, Kerala, India

GOLD AUCTION NOTICE

The pledges, in specific and the public, in general, are hereby notified that public auction of the gold ornaments pledged in the below accounts is proposed to be conducted at the following branches on 16.09.2026 from 10.00 am onwards. We are auctioning gold ornaments defaulted customers who have failed to make payment of his/her loan amount despite being notified by registered letters. Unauctioned items shall be auctioned on any other days without further notice. Changes in venue or date (if any) will be displayed at auction centre and on website without any further notice.

List of pledges:-

WEST TRIPURA, CENTRAL ROAD AGARTALA, 0136130710015943, GANDHIGHAT AGARTALA, 0135060700039257, 9276, 9394, 9410, 9442, 9463, 9499, 9526,

Persons wishing to participate in the above auction shall comply with the following:- Interested Bidders should submit Rs. 10,000/- as EMD (refundable to unsuccessful bidders) by way of NEFT/RTGS on the same day of auction. Bidders should carry valid ID card/PAN card. For more details please contact 9072607147.

Authorised Officer
For Manappuram Finance Ltd

AGARTALA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/O THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (ELECTRICAL)
DURGACHOUMUHANI, TRIPURA (WEST)
NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO - 28 (2026-27)

Sealed Tender is invited by the Executive Engineer (Electrical), Agartala Municipal Corporation on behalf of The Administrator, Agartala Municipal Corporation from the resourceful Firms / Agencies/ suppliers and appropriate class of Electrical Enlistment registered with PWD/ TTAADC / MES /CPWD/Railway / Other State PWD experienced in similar nature of job, for the following work :-

Sl. No	Name of Work.	Estimated cost Earnest Money	Time for comple-tion	Last Date of selling Last Date of receiving (up to 3.00 PM)
1	Providing supply & installation of LED rope light inclu. All accessories & circuit wiring along with panel for beautification of road in various location of Ward No- 33 under Agartala Municipal Corporation.	Rs 2,53,944.00 Rs 5,079.00	07(Seven) Days	27-08-2026 30-08-2026

Details of work in the form of "Schedule of Work" and general / special terms & conditions can be seen in the office of the undersigned on any working day in between 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 ?.?. up to 27-08-2026.

Sd/- (Er. Joydeb Chakraborty)
Executive Engineer (Electrical Division)
Agartala Municipal Corporation

AGARTALA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
AGARTALA

PNIe-T-No: 07/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 **Dated: 20-08-2026**

Sl No.	D.N.I.e-T No.	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
1	DNIeT No. 12/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs.12,55,441.00	Rs.25,109.00	90 days
2	DNIeT No. 13/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs.12,15,822.00	Rs.24,316.000	90 days
3	DNIeT No. 17/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs.40,34,437.00	Rs.80,689.00	120 days
4	DNIeT No. 18/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs. 3,30,214.00	Rs.6,604.00	60 days
5	DNIeT No. 19/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs.8,40,517.00	Rs.16,810.00	90 days
6	DNIeT No. 20/Div-II/AMC/2026-27 (2nd call)	Rs.42,86,985.00	Rs.85,740.00	180 days

Last date and time for document downloading / bidding: **27-08-2026 at 14.00 Hrs /15.00 Hrs.**
Other necessary details information can be seen in the office hours of the undersigned.
Bid forms and other details can be obtained from website **https://tripuratenders.gov.in**

Sd/- (Er. Sujay Chaudhury)
Executive Engineer,
Division No-II,
Agartala Municipal Corporation

AGARTALA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
AGARTALA : TRIPURA
Notice inviting e- tender.

PNIe-T- No: 13/EE/DIV-I/AMC/2026-27 **Dated:- 21/08/2026**

The Executive Engineer, Division No-I, AMC on behalf of Hon'ble Mayor, AMC invites online percentage rate bids, on open bidding format for the following works:-

Sl No.	DNIET No	Estimate Cost	Earnest Money	Time of Completion
1	Construction of Marriage Hall near Hoara River under AMC, Phase-I. **D.N.I.E.T No. 41/EE/DIV-I/AMC/ 2026-27**	Rs. 1,45,32,622/-	Rs. 2,90,652/-	120 (One hundred twenty) days

1. Last date and time for document downloading / bidding: **31-08-2026 at 14.00 Hrs / 15.00 Hrs**
2. Time and date of opening of bid: **31-08-2026 at 16.00 Hrs (if possible)**
3. Bid forms and other details can be obtained from website **https://tripuratenders.gov.in**

Sd/- Illegible
Executive Engineer,
PW Division- I,
Agartala Municipal Corporation.

WORLD

Bangladesh: Two arrested over brutal killing of four members of Hindu family in Rangpur

Dhaka, Aug 24 (IANS) Bangladesh police have arrested two young men in connection with the killing of a retired Hindu schoolteacher and three members of his family in Rangpur city. Police said the duo planned and carried out the murders after the former Rangpur Zilla school teacher tried to prevent them from using yaba, a potent illicit methamphetamine-based drug, on the rooftop, according to local media reports.

The accused were identified as 23-year-old Siddhartha Das and 19-year-old Mugdha Das, both detained from the Dakhiganj cremation ground in the city. They allegedly ransacked the house to make the killings appear to be linked to a robbery.

The incident occurred on August 20, with police recovering the bodies of all four family members two days later, on Saturday night.

After the incident, the accused allegedly used the bathroom, ate dates from the table, and consumed yaba. They further allegedly soaked the mobile phones of Ganapati and Pritilata in washing-powder solution to wipe away fingerprints, according to police, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported.

The deceased were identified as retired Rangpur Zilla School teacher Ganapati Chakraborty, 65; his wife, Pritilata Chakraborty, 50; their daughter, Agami Chakraborty Prarthi, 23; and their son, Priyam Chakraborty, 12.

Speaking at a press conference on Sunday afternoon, Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Mohammad Abdul Mabud said that the suspects were allegedly consuming yaba on the rooftop of Ganapati's house late Thursday night when the retired teacher went upstairs after hearing a noise.

Ganapati reportedly spotted the suspects consuming drugs and asked them to stop, following which they allegedly strangled him with a towel.

Hearing his screams, his wife, Pritilata, and daughter, Prarthi, rushed to the rooftop and were also allegedly strangled. The suspects then went inside the house and killed Priyam, the couple's only son, in the same manner, the commissioner said. They allegedly stayed inside the house until Friday morning.Following the brutal incident, hundreds of Rangpur Zilla School students on Sunday abstained from classes and staged a protest seeking the immediate arrest and capital punishment of those responsible for the killings.

The students marched to the offices of the Rangpur Metropolitan Police Commissioner and the district administration and submitted separate memorandums demanding justice. They later staged a human chain and demonstration on the main road in front of the school, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Meanwhile, the leading minority human rights organisation Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Unity Council strongly condemned the brutal killing, calling for proper investigation and exemplary punishment for those responsible.

The incident comes amid escalating attacks on minorities across Bangladesh that have persisted since the tenure of the former Muhammad Yunus-led interim government and continue under the current Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) administration.

Poor storage, supply chain failures cost Pakistan $2 billion a year: Report

New Delhi, Aug 24 (IANS) Pakistan is losing an estimated $2 billion annually due to high post-harvest losses, with inadequate storage facilities, weak supply chains and poor enforcement of quality standards undermining the country's agribusiness sector, a report has said.

A report published in Dawn said Pakistan's food losses are among the highest in South Asia, particularly for perishable produce such as fruits and vegetables.

It further showed that inadequate post-harvest infrastructure often leaves farmers struggling to market their produce profitably.

"Owing to an inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, Paki-stan's food losses are among the highest in South Asia, particularly for perishable crops such as fruits and vegetables," according to the report.

In some cases, transportation costs and volatile prices make it economically unviable for farmers to send crops to markets, resulting in produce being discarded.

The report cited industry concerns over extreme price fluctuations faced by growers. "Syed Mehmood Nawaz Shah, President of the Sindh Abadgar Board, once likened growing vegetables to gambling. There is a lot of focus when tomatoes are Rs 500 a kg, but nobody talks when they are being sold for Rs 5 per kg, he said," the report said.

It also said that the absence of adequate cold storage infrastructure alone accounts for about $1.2 billion in annual post-harvest losses, highlighting a critical weakness in Pakistan's agricultural value chain.

The multilateral lender also said the country is missing significant export opportunities due to inadequate compliance with international quality and safety standards.

Stronger enforcement and wider adoption of global certifications could help Pakistan generate an additional $2 billion to $3 billion in export earnings, it added.

The report further pointed to poor waste management practices and said that Pakistan's recycling rate remains below 5 per cent, compared with 25 per cent in neighbouring India.

As a result, the country forfeits around $1 billion in potential economic gains from waste-management technologies.

Standard practice, India adopted 'cautious approach' due to Trump's 'unpredictable behaviour'

New Delhi, Aug 24 (IANS) Top government officials on Monday said India adopted a "cautious approach" during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with US President Donald Trump on the margins of the G7 Summit in France's Evian this June, considering his "unpredictable behaviour".

Reacting on the comments made by US Ambassador Sergio Gor during an event over the weekend where he stated that India had "specifically requested" the US side to avoid any joint interaction with the media following the meeting between the two leaders, government officials aware of the matter highlighted that discussions regarding arrangements for public appearances of leaders are normal practice ahead of any VVIP visit."In this regard, the Indian side communicated its standard practice for such visits... Delegations when meeting the US President are wary about his unpredictable behaviour, as may be seen from his interactions with the President of South Africa, Ukraine etc. Thus, the cautious approach by India," said one official.

During the June 18 meeting in Evian, Prime Minister Modi had commended President Trump for his efforts that had resulted in an understanding to end the ongoing conflict in West Asia and restore peace and stability across the broader region. He had also underlined the importance of maintaining freedom of navigation and unimpeded commerce in



the Strait of Hormuz and the need to ensure the safety of seafarers.

"The two leaders reviewed the substantial progress achieved under the India–US COMPACT (Catalyzing Opportunities for Military Partnership, Accelerated Commerce and Technology) since their meeting in Washington DC in February 2025. They welcomed key developments across the defence, strategic technologies, energy, and bilateral trade sectors," read a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) after the meeting."The leaders noted with particular satisfaction the significant progress made in negotiations towards an interim Bilateral Trade Agreement and instructed their officials to work towards a balanced, mutually beneficial, and commercially meaningful agreement at the earliest," it added.Both leaders had also reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthening the India-US Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership and advancing cooperation across all domains for the mutual benefit of the two countries and their peoples.

Indian envoy, New South Wales Premier discuss strengthening partnership

Canberra, Aug 24 (IANS) India's High Commissioner to Australia Nagesh Singh held a meeting with New South Wales Premier Chris Minns on Monday, with discussions focussed on strengthening the partnership, including cooperation in trade, investment, education, innovation and people-to-people ties.

The meeting was held ahead of Minns' travel to India from August 31 to September 3 - his first overseas visit after assuming office as New South Wales Premier.

In a post on X, the High Commission of India in Australia stated, "Discussions focused on further strengthening the India–NSW partnership, including cooperation in trade, investment, education, innovation and people-to-people ties."

The NSW Premier and Treasurer Daniel Mookhey will lead an official delegation to India from August 31 to September 3 to strengthen the state's cultural, education and economic ties with India. Minns announced the visit at an event in Sydney marking India's 80th Independence Day.

According to the statement released by the New South Wales government, the four-day visit to New Delhi and Mumbai will focus on high-level business and government engagements aimed at strengthening economic ties, attracting investment and creating new opportunities for NSW, along with community and cultural events that will deepen ties with India.

In 2024–25, NSW and India traded $6.87 billion worth of goods, making India one of NSW's most important trading partners and a priority market for future growth. The India-NSW relationship is not limited to trade. In the year to March 2026, 174,000 Indian visitors travelled to NSW, spent around $600 million and stayed 8.5 million nights. Over 28,000 Indian students study in NSW, making India one of the state's largest and most important international education markets.

During the visit, the mission will focus on sectors where NSW has a competitive advantage, including education, research and innovation, agri-food, clean energy, critical minerals, technology, tourism and advanced industries. It will create new opportunities for NSW exporters, attract investment and support jobs and economic growth. The visit will also build on NSW's sister-state relationship with Maharashtra, according to the official statement.

Minns described NSW as one of the most successful multicultural societies in the world and said that the Indian community is a big part of that success. Minns said that his first overseas visit as NSW Premier to India demonstrates the importance of the relationship.

"People have come to NSW from India, worked hard, built businesses, raised families and contributed to communities right across our state. India is one of the world's fastest-growing major economies and an increasingly important partner for NSW. We want more trade, more investment, more tourists and more opportunities for NSW businesses. I'm proud that my first overseas visit as Premier will be to India. It reflects the importance of the relationship and the enormous contribution the Indian community makes to NSW," he said.

Daniel Mookhey, who will accompany Minns during his visit, said, "India is one of the world's fastest-growing global economies and one of the most important to the people of New South Wales. Beyond a trade relationship valued in the billions of dollars, education provides a lasting and rewarding bond. By building our economic, education and innovation ties, we can support more NSW exporters, attract investment and create long-term opportunities for Australian businesses and families."

Looking forward to meet PM Modi very soon: Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moscow, Aug 24 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar called on Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Monday and conveyed greetings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

According to a statement released by the Kremlin, during the meeting, Putin stated that EAM Jaishankar's visit underscores the level of relations that has been established between Russia and India over decades. He said that both nations continue to work together in virtually all areas, including governmental ties, interparliamentary ties, and economic cooperation.

Noting the increase in India-Russia trade turnover, he said, "I'm pleased to note that our trade turnover has increased this year. While it declined slightly last year, it's growing this year, and this is partly, and perhaps primarily, thanks to Prime Minister [Narendra Modi], who is devoting his personal attention to developing Russian-Indian relations."

"And at the beginning of our conversation, I would like to ask you to convey my best wishes to Mr. Modi. I hope to see him soon, as we planned, within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, very soon. Our schedule is such that we will probably be able to meet again this year," he added.Putin said that EAM Jaishankar and



Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov, who heads the Russian part of the intergovernmental commission, have already worked hard and discussed the most important issues."There are many of them. One of these issues is not only energy – it is, of course, fertilizer supplies. We are doing everything to address this issue for Indian farmers, for agriculture; we are increasing these supplies and are ready to do so further and all other issues related to nuclear energy, cooperation in high-tech sectors, and other areas – they are all on the agenda, and progress is progressing quite steadily."

During the meeting, EAM Jaishankar said that PM Modi is looking forward to meeting President Putin at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit and hopes that Putin will come to India to attend the BRICS Summit. EAM Jaishankar stated that India and Russia share a "strong, robust bilateral partnership."

"We had a meeting of the intergovernmental commission this morning. I have a very good report to share with you, concerning our economic cooperation, nuclear energy, fertilisers, and so on. I'll discuss this in detail. I'd like to note that our economic cooperation has grown significantly," said EAM Jaishankar.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Denis Manturov, Russian Presidential Aide Yuri Ushakov, India's Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar and other officials were also present during the meeting.

EAM Jaishankar is in Moscow to co-chair the 27th Session of the India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation (IRIGC-TEC). The August 23-24 official visit is taking place at the invitation of First Deputy Prime Minister of the Russian Federation, Denis Manturov.

Israel warns Hamas of increased strikes if launch of balloons and kites continues

Jerusalem, Aug 23 (IANS) Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Israel Katz held a situational assessment on Sunday and warned Hamas of increased targeted strikes if the launch of balloons and kites from the Gaza Strip does not stop.

The situational assessment was regarding the threat of drones, balloons and kites launched from the Gaza Strip toward Israel. The discussion was attended by Chief of the General Staff, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, the Head of the National Security Council, and senior Israeli Defence Force (IDF) officials."Israel warns Hamas that if the launches toward Israel do not cease immediately, the IDF will act to increase targeted strikes against those responsible for the launches and will evacuate the population from areas used as launch sites for kites, drones, and balloons," the joint statement said."The Prime Minister clarified that there will be no return to the state of affairs prior to October 7. Israel will not allow the Hamas terrorist organisation or any other element in the Gaza Strip to threaten our communities again and compromise our citizens' sense of security," it added.

Last week, the Israeli Prime Minister's Office announced that Netanyahu and the Board of Peace have agreed to establish working groups on disarmament and demilitarisation of Gaza.

"The Prime Minister and Board of Peace had deep and constructive discussions. It was agreed to establish two working groups, one on disarmament and demilitarisation of Gaza, which both Israel and the Board of Peace are determined should be prompt and completed before any reconstruction happens in Gaza. A second working group will focus on sanitation, clean water and other public health issues for the people of Gaza, which also impact the people of Israel," the Israeli Prime Minister's office said on social media platform X.

On August 5, Netanyahu said that the country will not withdraw its forces from their current positions in Gaza until Hamas is fully disarmed.

Chinese nationals arrested in B'desh for running organised crime network

Dhaka, Aug 24 (IANS) Chinese nationals entering Bangladesh as tourists have been linked to a range of organised crimes, including international drug trafficking, online fraud and the trafficking of Bangladeshi women, local media reported on Monday. Recent operations by Bangladeshi agencies have uncovered networks allegedly operating with local accomplices in the South Asian nation.According to investigators, the suspects have mainly set up bases in Dhaka's Uttara, Bashundhara and Nikunja areas, while evidence from separate cases points to transnational networks that periodically move members in and out of Bangladesh using short-term visas.

The major discovery came earlier this year in March, when the Department of Narcotics Control seized 50 grams of ketamine hidden inside a Bluetooth speaker at a courier office in Dhaka, a leading Bangladeshi daily, The Dhaka Tribune, reported.Following the investigation, officers raided a flat in Uttara and arrested three Chinese nationals — Li Bin, Yang Chunhing and Yo Zhi.

The authorities said during the raid they recovered 6.3 kg of ketamine, chemicals, laboratory and packaging equipment, digital scales, phones and foreign currencies from a makeshift laboratory."During initial interrogation, the accused confessed that they used to collect liquid ketamine, set up a lab inside the flat and process it into powder form. Later, they tried to smuggle it abroad through courier services," The Dhaka Tribune quoted DNC Deputy Director Mehedi Hasan as saying.Investigators said that the suspects allegedly took orders through the dark web, hid drugs inside electronic equipment for international shipment and settled payments using cryptocurrency, particularly the TRON network.Earlier this month, Detective Branch police arrested three Chinese nationals and a Bangladeshi woman in the Bashundhara area of Dhaka, exposing another alleged network involved in online fraud, illegal VoIP and gambling activities in the country.Reports suggest that the operation led to the seizure of over 6,000 active SIM cards, along with 20 GSM gateways, 14 laptops and 16 smartphones.

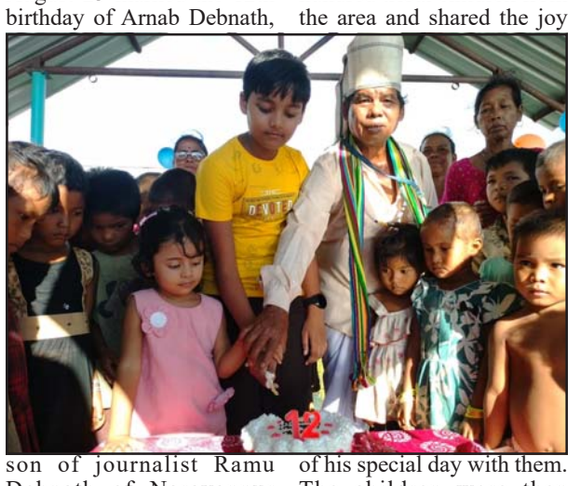
COP17 meet: India highlights its innovative, diversified financing architecture for land restoration

Ulaanbaatar, Aug 24 (IANS) Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav, on Monday stressed the need for diversified, adequate, predictable and sustained international finance for land restoration and drought resilience at the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Mongolia. According to the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the minister highlighted India's innovative and diversified financing architecture for land restoration and drought resilience at the Ministerial Dialogue on 'Innovative Financial Mechanisms for Healthy Land and Drought Resilience', during the CoP 17 at Ulaanbaatar."Land restoration is not a cost, but an investment in food, water, biodiversity, livelihoods and long-term resilience," Yadav said, emphasising the need for sustained investment in land restoration.He stressed that addressing desertification, land degradation and drought at scale requires diversified, predictable and sustained sources of finance beyond public budgets, along with stronger public-private partnerships."The Minister highlighted India's blended green-finance framework, which enables financing for climate-change adaptation, sustainable land use, forestry and agriculture, afforestation and biodiversity conservation. He also highlighted Sovereign Green Bonds as an avenue to mobilise capital for land restoration, drought resilience, sustainable forestry and other environmental and climate priorities," stated the Ministry.Yadav highlighted India's Green Credit Programme, which enables public and private entities to finance restoration of degraded forest land. Credits are issued after five years of restoration and upon achieving at least 40 per cent canopy density, and may be used once for compensatory afforestation, statutory plantation or CSR obligations.He also highlighted India's compensatory conservation regime, which channels payments received for forest diversion towards compensatory afforestation and ecosystem restoration, while corporate funding is integrated by the environmental regulatory processes.

A Touch of Humanity on Arnab's Birthday

Times News

Gandachara, Aug 24: August 23 marked the 12th birthday of Arnab Debnath,



son of journalist Ramu Debnath of Narayanpur Debnath Para in Gandachara. Arnab is a Class VI student of Sri Krishna Mission School in Agartala.This year, Arnab's family decided to celebrate his birthday in a different and meaningful way. Along with the usual festivities, a special programme was organized with a focus on social responsibility. On Sunday afternoon, Arnab, accompanied by his parents, family members and friends, reached Sadananda Para, located near Dumbur Reservoir. On an island there, he cut his birthday cake in the presence of around a hundred tribal children from the area and shared the joy of his special day with them. The children were then served sweets, making the occasion even more memorable. The birthday celebration, however, was not limited to festivities. On behalf of Arnab's family, clothes were distributed among more than a hundred children belonging to the Reang tribal community. Various sports equipment were also handed over to local sportspersons. To spread the message of environmental protection, tree plantation was carried out under the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative. In addition, financial assistance was provided for the treatment of Manushree Chowdhury, who is suffering from a serious illness. For Arnab, this year's birthday was a truly unique experience. By sharing his personal happiness with children from the community, he realized that a birthday is not merely a day for celebration but also a wonderful opportunity to do something meaningful for society. The Debnath family is proud of this initiative. They believe that true happiness can be found by fulfilling one's responsibilities towards society. It may be mentioned that several social programmes were also organized in Arnab's native village, Narayanpur Debnath Para, Gandachara, ahead of his birthday. A tree plantation programme was held on August 21, followed by a cleanliness drive under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on August 22. The three-day programme concluded on August 23 with the birthday celebration among tribal children. By combining joy with humanity, social responsibility and environmental awareness, this initiative has undoubtedly made Arnab's 12th birthday a truly meaningful and memorable occasion. The day will remain an unforgettable chapter in his life.

Large Burmese python rescued in Kathalia

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: A nine-foot-long Burmese python, weighing nearly 15 kg, was rescued from the residence of Abul Khayer in Baghaiyachar area of Kathalia in Sepahijala district on Sunday night.

The python was rescued around 2:58 am by snake rescuers Asim Majumder and Lokai Dey of Animal Aid Alliance Welfare Society. With assistance from Jatrapur police, the rescuers later took the snake to Trishna Wildlife Sanctuary and released it into the forest.

Officer-in-Charge Prarthanath Bhowmik and Sub-Inspector Prasenjit Debnath assisted in the operation.

The rescuers, who have reportedly rescued around 305 snakes from residential areas so far, said their efforts aim to protect both people and wildlife. Meanwhile, the rescue attracted a large crowd in the area, who gathered to see the unusually large python. Its presence in a densely populated locality also sparked curiosity among residents.

Body found from pond in Chechuria

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: Tension prevailed in Chechuria Bazar area under Sidhai police station after the body of an unidentified person was recovered from a pond inside a rubber plantation behind the market on Monday.

According to locals, the body was spotted floating in the pond in the morning, when a farmer was heading to his fields for work. He immediately informed other locals and the police.

Locals said the deceased was found without clothes and his identity could not be established immediately.

Jiban Das, a local farmer, claimed that no person had been reported missing from the area.

Police from Sidhai police station had not yet reached the spot at the time of filing this report. The identity of the deceased and the cause of death are expected to be established after police reach the spot and begin an investigation.

H.P. Ghosh Memorial Foundation lays the cornerstone for a medical college

Agartala: The H.P. Ghosh Memorial Foundation has marked the foundation stone laying of H.P. Ghosh Medical College, Lalchari, Ambassa, Dhalai, Tripura, as a step towards strengthening the nation-building process, where the healthcare and education sector played a vital role. The foundation stone was laid by Prof (Dr) Manik Saha, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tripura who was the Chief Guest of the occasion, along with the project proponent Shri Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Founder & Chairman of Bandhan Group, senior government officers, medical professionals, academicians and the community.""The establishment of the H.P. Ghosh Medical College in Dhalai, an aspirational district, marks a transformative chapter in decentralized healthcare delivery, bringing world-class medical education, specialized healthcare services and employment opportunities to the remote and underserved regions of the state. The college will begin with an intake of 100 MBBS students from the next academic year and will eventually be expanded to include post graduate medical programmes, College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences. The institution, once established, will be a major boost to the healthcare system in Tripura and offer an opportunity to young healthcare aspirants from all over the Northeast. Speaking at the occasion, Shri Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Founder & Chairman of Bandhan Group said, "The H.P. Ghosh Medical College is envisioned not merely as an academic structure, but it will be a temple of healing and knowledge."

Bandhan Bank completes 11 years

Agartala: On its 11th Anniversary Day, Bandhan Bank marked a major milestone in its growth journey with the launch of its 2,000th branch in Egmore (Chennai, Tamil Nadu), further strengthening its presence across the country. With this addition, the Bank's total banking outlets across India touches 6,400, reinforcing its commitment to serving customers across urban, semi-urban and rural India and deepening financial access at the grassroots level."The Bank also unveiled mBandhan Lite, a simplified mobile banking application designed dedicatedly for microfinance customers, to make digital banking accessible, intuitive and inclusive. The app offers Aadhaar-based onboarding, account tracking, loan repayment facilities, access to statements and certificates, chatbot assistance, and multilingual support in English, Hindi and Bengali, enabling a seamless banking experience for customers. Commenting on the occasion, Mr. Partha Pratim Sengupta, MD & CEO, Bandhan Bank, said, "Today is a proud moment for all of us at Bandhan Bank. As we celebrate these milestones, we remain committed to delivering seamless and inclusive banking experiences that empower individuals, businesses and communities across India."

CBC launches 2-Day outreach prog on Drug-Free India, Census 2027 at TU

Times news

Agartala, Aug 24: The Agartala Field Office of the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, on Monday launched a two-day **Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP)** at Tripura University, focusing on the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan*, *Census 2027* and public welfare initiatives.

Tripura University Registrar Prof. Samir Kumar Sil inaugurated the programme in the presence of Subhas Dutta, ADM and Collector, PP, Sepahijala; Prof. Indranil Bhowmik, Proctor of Tripura University; and Dr Vanlalmuana Darlong, Deputy Registrar of the university.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Sil appreciated the CBC initiative and said Tripura University welcomed awareness programmes aimed at the welfare of students. Stressing the importance of maintaining a drug-free campus, he urged students to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards substance abuse and remain focused on their studies and future goals.

Motivating the students, he said determination and willpower could help them overcome challenges and find a way towards achieving their goals.

Speaking as a guest of honour, Subhas Dutta highlighted the significance of the *Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan*, *Census 2027* and the theme **"12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare."** He urged students to remain aware of the harmful consequences of drug abuse and contribute towards building a healthy and responsible society.

Prof. Indranil Bhowmik also appealed to students to stay away from drugs and concentrate on education and their future aspirations.

As part of the second session, an exhibition highlighting the three themes — Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, Census 2027 and 12 Years of Trust, Development and Public Welfare — was organised on the university campus.

Dr Sindhu Poudyal, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy, and Dr Souvik Bhattacharjee, Assistant Professor in the Department of Mathematics, explained various aspects of the themes and interacted with the participating students. An open quiz competition was also organised, with prizes presented to the winners.

The third session featured a cultural programme presented by **Saptarshi Kala Kendra**, a private registered cultural troupe from Karimganj, Assam. Students of Tripura University also performed songs during the programme.

Research scholars and students from several departments, including Journalism and Mass Communication, Philosophy, Political Science, History, Sanskrit, Linguistics and Tribal Languages, Physical Education and Liberal Arts, actively participated in the outreach programme.

The two-day initiative is aimed at combining awareness, interaction and cultural activities to sensitise young people on drug abuse prevention, the upcoming Census 2027 and various public welfare initiatives.

'Left bodies protest ADC appointments

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: Two Left-affiliated organisations, Ganamukti Parishad (GMP) and Tribal Students' Union (TSU), staged a sit-in near Swami Vivekananda Maidan here on Monday, protesting alleged irregularities in appointments to the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (ADC).

The protesters demanded cancellation of what they termed illegal appointments, transparent recruitment to vacant posts and early filling of long-pending vacancies in the ADC.

They also sought early passage of the 125th Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament, saying it was necessary to strengthen constitutional safeguards and self-governance in tribal-inhabited areas.

Leader of Opposition Jitendra Chaudhury, who addressed the protest, called for transparent recruitment to ADC posts and stronger constitutional safeguards.

He alleged that repeated demands on the issues had not yielded the desired results, prompting the organisations to stage the demonstration.

The protesters urged the authorities to review the appointments and expedite recruitment to vacant posts.

CM lays foundation

From Page 01

business conclave was organized in Agartala a few days ago. Around 1,200 industrialists from the state and outside the state participated.

"Many of them have expressed interest in investing in the industrial sector in the state. Tripura is now ranked second among the states in the North-East in terms of GSDP and also in terms of per capita income. NITI Aayog has declared Tripura as a front-runner state. This has been possible due to the successful implementation of the development-oriented agenda of the state government," he said.

The Chief Minister urged the local people to provide all necessary assistance to build this medical college.

The foundation stone-laying and Bhoomi Puja ceremony was attended by Dhalai Zila Parishad Sabhadhipati Sushmita Das, MLA Manoj Kanti Deb, MLA Shambhu Lal Chakma, MLA Swapna Das Pal, MLA Chittaranjan Debbarma, Health Department Secretary Kiran Gitte, Dhalai District Magistrate Vivek HB, Bandhan Group Chairman Chandrashekhar Ghosh and HP Memorial Foundation Director Neelima Ghosh.

Violence in Bishramganj

From Page 01

was later taken to hospital for treatment, sources said.

Following the incident, the Additional Superintendent of Police and other police officials reached the spot. A large number of TSR personnel were deployed at the Bishramganj RD office premises to maintain order.

Sources in the political circles have divided views on the issue. While some leaders alleged that the whole incident was orchestrated by Tipra Motha in order to assert their dominance ahead of the VC polls. However, some sources claimed that it was an internal rift within the ruling party that is spilling over onto the streets.

Areas like Bishalgarh and Charilam had been witnessing simmering tension over political power tussles both internal and between the ruling allies for the last couple of years and tension within the ruling class had become a common feature of the local politics over there.

City auto entry

From Page 01

the decision. According to sources in the traffic department, a blanket ban on entry of auto-rickshaws which did not have explicit transport permits to offer rides within the Agartala Municipal Corporation areas had been enforced recently. "It is a collective decision of the AMC, Transport Department and the Traffic Unit of Tripura police to curb traffic snarls in the city. The number of three-wheelers which is the most popular means of public transport in the city areas are rising substantially. Due to this, enforcement agencies involved in tackling traffic were facing a tough time to manage the situation. Considering all the aspects, the agencies arrived at a consensus that entry of e-rickshaws from outside the city should be prohibited," an official of the traffic department said.

He also informed Tripura Times that the prohibition applies to all three-wheelers–both battery operated auto-rickshaws and CNG based autos. "Three points had been designated for these vehicles where they had been instructed to drop the passengers. The vehicles coming from the Southern side of the city must drop their passengers at Nagerjala. The autos coming from airport road must return from Radhanagar and the autos from Jirania side are not allowed to come beyond Chandrapur," the official explained.

Meanwhile, transport bodies argued that the decision to ban entry of auto-rickshaws would adversely affect the livelihood of the drivers. "This government has been making whimsical decisions one after another. Initially, all auto owners had been instructed to install meters in their autos at their own expense and the reality is that not a single meter is operational as yet. This shall also be proven a similar decision. We don't oppose remedial measures to mitigate traffic issues but that should not be at the cost of livelihood of poor auto drivers," CITU leader Amal Chakraborty said.

Chakraborty led a delegation of All India Transport Workers' Federation to the office of Joint Transport Commissioner, Agartala. "Before enforcing any such orders, the government should consult with people who are the primary stakeholders, daily commuters and most importantly leaders of all major transport unions," he suggested.

E-rickshaw Sramik Sangha, another trade union body affiliated to BMS, on the other hand, met in a deputation at the office of District Magistrate and Collector West Tripura. "We have noticed that the Chief Minister has resolved the electricity bill related issue. We hope that he will resolve our issues with the same compassion and generosity," he said. The Sangha submitted an 11-point charter of demands.

Mazdoor monitoring cell affiliated e-rickshaw Sramik Samiti which is also believed to be a trade union body inclined towards the ruling BJP organised a sit-in demonstration at city centre on the same issues. However, the number of e-rickshaw drivers was higher among the participants of the protest. Sources said this direction is affecting e-auto drivers the most. Lion's share of the e-autos are affiliated with online ride aggregator applications and this new direction prevents them from freely moving in the city. It has to be noted here that for certain emergencies, exemptions had been granted.

8-year-old boy's body recovered from Bijoy River

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: The body of eight-year-old Ajmir Islam, who drowned in the Bijoy River near Bishalgarh on Sunday, was recovered on Monday after several hours of search and rescue operations.

Ajmir, son of late Atiqul Islam and a resident of Nabinnagar, Muktul Hossain Para (Bajapara), Ward No. 1, had gone to the river with his elder brother, Abir Hossain (10), where he drowned while bathing. Personnel from Bishalgarh Fire Service, civil defense volunteers, and police had launched a search operation following the incident. The boy's body was recovered on Monday after several hours of efforts. Local MLA Sushanta Deb visited the spot after receiving the news and met the bereaved family members.

Workshop for ROs'

From Page 01

who would be designated as the Returning Officers for the crucial elections. Speaking on the issue, State Election Commissioner Pradeep Kumar Chakravarty said, "The village committee elections are in the offing. All preparatory exercises are underway to ensure that the polls are conducted effectively. A total 52 BDOs and Additional BDOs had been invited to attend today's workshop through which the commission shall sensitize them on a range of issues pertaining to the polls. Through this workshop, they will be made aware about rules and regulations, enforcement of model code of conduct, counting procedures and other related matters."

On being asked about the all party meeting, Chakravarty said, "An all party meeting shall be convened soon. In all likelihood, a meeting shall be convened within the next few days."

On being asked about the law and order situation, the officials of the SEC said separate meetings will be convened in collaboration with Tripura Police for risk assessment and identification of sensitive and hyper-sensitive areas and as per the suggestions received from all stakeholders, a multi-layered security arrangement shall be designed for the elections.

Bangladesh-India discuss

From Page 01

he said. Muktadir expressed hope that the Indian High Commissioner's initiative would help strengthen Bangladesh-India relations and give a new dimension to economic cooperation.

High Commissioner Dinesh Trivedi said despite some differences between the two countries on political and economic issues people in both countries want development and progress. "Both countries need to work together, particularly for the future of the younger generation," he said.

Bangladesh and India are two independent and sovereign countries and neither is bigger or smaller than the other, Trivedi said, stressing that cooperation should be based on equality. He said economic cooperation is the most important area for improving bilateral relations and that stronger economic ties would help expand cooperation in other sectors as well. Trivedi stressed the need for joint investment and production, saying Bangladesh's readymade garment sector has achieved remarkable success globally.

India can support the sector by supplying zippers, machinery, buttons and other accessories, he said, adding that such cooperation would increase mutual interdependence between the two countries. Trivedi said he feels proud when he sees garments marked "Made in Bangladesh" in international markets. Bangladesh's garment sector could expand further through joint initiatives between the two countries, he said.

New charges being added

From Page 01

NVVN and BPDB is intended to cover the combined 1,160MW imported through these sources.

Sources said, the Power Division wrote to the Finance Division on August 18, seeking its opinion on the proposed agreement. Officials concerned have warned that any delay in signing the deal could create complications in importing 1,160 megawatts of electricity into Bangladesh through NVVN.

According to the Power Division, India's Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) initially proposed a cross-border electricity trading charge of 0.01 rupees per unit. Following an application by the BPDB, the proposed rate was cut by half to 0.005 rupees per unit. Bangladesh can import up to 2,656MW from India.

TRIPURA URBAN TRANSPORT COMPANY LIMITED [TUTCL]
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tripura Urban Transport Company Ltd. (TUTCL) Agartala invites tender vide No. F.No.10(1) / EOI / TUTCL / 2018 / Vol-X/ 222; Dated: 21/08/2026 for Operation and Maintenance Of City Bus Service Of TUTCL within Urban areas through private bus operators.

Bids will be received from 04/09/2026 to 11/09/2026 at the registered office of Tripura Urban Transport Company Limited, 1st Floor, International Bus Terminus Building, Krishanagar T.R.T.C Complex, Agartala, Tripura and will be opened on 14/09/2026.

Tender documents can be collected from the office of the MD, TUTCL during office hours from 25/08/2026 to 10/09/2026 excluding official holidays.

Sd/-Illegible
Managing
Director, T.U.T.C.L

ICA/C/-1713/26

PNIT NO: e-PT-22/W/EE/RDAD/2026-27 Dt. 20/08/2026

The Executive Engineer, R D'Agartala Division, RD Department, Agartala, West Tripura invites percentage rate e-tender (two bid) in Tripura PWD Form No.7 from eligible bidders up to 3.00 P.M. of 27/08/2026 for 4 (four) no works. For details, visit website https://tripuratenders.gov.in and contact at 0381 2325988. Any subsequent corrigendum will be available in the website only.

Sd- Illegible
Executive Engineer
RD Agartala Division
Gurkhabasti, Agartala

ICA/C/-1716/26

Short Notice Inviting Quotations

Quotations in sealed envelopes are hereby invited from the interested buyers of old newspapers lying in the Directorate of Information & cultural Affairs, Gandhighat, Agartala. Referred quotations may be dropped in Tender Box to be kept in Distribution Section of this Directorate during working hours within the period of 31st August 2026 to 10th September, 2026.

Detail terms and condition available in ICA Departmental website www.ica.tripura.gov.in Interested persons may also collect the same at free of cost from this Directorate during the stated period of time.

Sd/- Illegible
Director
Information & Cultural Affairs

ICA/C/-1723/26

US drug prices see fastest fall in 63 years: Medicare chief



US prescription drug prices are falling at their fastest rate in 63 years and are likely to decline further, the Trump administration's Medicare Chief said on Sunday.

Mehmet Oz, Administrator of the Centres for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said the fall was accelerating as the administration linked American prices to those charged in Europe and Asia.

"Well, I think drug prices are going to continue to drop. This is just what the doctor ordered," Oz told CBS News.

The US Consumer Price Index recorded a 3.1 per cent year-on-year fall in drug prices in July. The figure included generic medicines, which also contributed to the decline.

Oz said that one in three Americans who went to a pharmacy for a prescribed branded medicine left without it because they could not afford the cost.

US patients often paid three times as much as consumers in other countries for identical medicines, including drugs produced at American facilities, he added.

The administration introduced its Most-Favoured-Nation Drug Pricing policy to link domestic prices to those offered overseas.

Oz said 17 companies representing 85 per cent of the pharmaceutical sector had accepted the approach.

"We're not telling companies what they can charge. We're saying, whatever you charge overseas, you got to charge here. No more of this global freeloading," he added.

Oz said the agreements had not harmed pharmaceutical companies.

Their combined market value had risen because investors wanted pricing stability, he added.

He cited medicines known as GLP-1 drugs, which are used for weight loss and diabetes treatment.

Eligible Medicare beneficiaries can now obtain them for $50 a month, compared with more than $1,000 previously, he said.

"$50 a month means you can do something to help yourself lose weight, reduce blood pressure, reduce diabetes, and all the downstream costs that would have been incurred no longer happen," Oz said.

Fertility medicine prices had fallen by 90 per cent, he added.

All new medicines released in the US by the participating large companies would be offered at Most-Favoured-Nation prices.

Oz also credited negotiations authorised under a 2022 law passed during the Biden administration.

He said the government had become more aggressive while continuing to negotiate fairly with drugmakers.

"Drug prices and affordability are bipartisan beneficial issues," he added.

"But every tool I have, including these negotiations, we will use."

Govt proposes amendments to speed market access for eligible medical devices



The government proposed amendments to the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, to simplify regulatory requirements, standardise testing fees and facilitate faster market access for eligible medical devices, an official statement said on Monday.

"The government has undertaken key regulatory reforms in the medical device sector to promote Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) by simplifying regulatory requirements, enhancing transparency and facilitating timely access to advanced and innovative medical technologies in the country," the statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) said.

The amendments focus on three areas—simplification of provisions relating to outsourced sterilisation of medical devices, introduction of uniform testing fees and inclusion of the European Union among recognised jurisdictions for waiver of clinical investigation requirements.

Under the amended provisions of Rule 44 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017, manufacturers availing outsourced sterilisation facilities will no longer be required to obtain a separate loan licence under Rule 25, provided that the sterilisation facility holds a valid licence under the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

Earlier, manufacturers without an in-house sterilisation facility were required to obtain a separate loan licence for sterilisation activities, the MoHFW said.

The amended provision is expected to reduce regulatory compliance requirements, documentation, approval timelines and associated costs, while enabling manufacturers to efficiently avail specialised sterilisation facilities.

Further, a Ninth Schedule has been inserted in the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 prescribing uniform fees for the testing of medical devices by Medical Device Testing Laboratories, the statement noted. The measure will establish a standardised and transparent fee structure across laboratories, reducing ambiguity and variations in testing charges.

The standardised fee structure is expected to provide greater predictability to manufacturers and importers, minimise disputes, ensure equitable treatment of stakeholders and further strengthen transparency and efficiency in the medical device regulatory framework.

Rule 63 of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 has also been amended to include the European Union (EU) among the recognised stringent regulatory jurisdictions for waiver of clinical investigation requirements for medical devices without predicate devices.

The provision presently recognises the United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and Japan. The inclusion of the European Union will facilitate faster access in India to eligible medical devices that have already been approved in the EU, while reducing regulatory burden and timelines for importers and manufacturers.

Govt restricts fixed dose combinations containing 2 ingredients for kids below age 4



The government on Saturday imposed restrictions on the manufacturing, sale and distribution of all fixed dose combinations (FDCs) containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride for children below four years of age.

Health Ministry, in a notification, mandated a clear warning that these medicines shall not be used in children below four years of age, in a significant step to safeguard the health and safety of young children.

The government directed manufacturers to clearly display the warning, "Fixed Dose Combination shall not be used in children below four years of age," on the label, package insert and promotional literature associated with these formulations.

The notification has been issued under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, in the interest of public health and is effective from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette, said the ministry.

Earlier, the government had restricted certain FDCs containing Chlorpheniramine Maleate and Phenylephrine Hydrochloride, subject to the same age-specific warning.

The latest notification extends this requirement to all formulations containing these two ingredients.

The decision has been taken following the recommendations of an expert committee and the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).

The government said that the use of such combinations may pose risks to children below four years of age and that safer alternatives are available.

In June this year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare prohibited the manufacturing, sale and distribution of 16 fixed dose combination (FDC) drugs for human use across the country.

The banned medicines belonged to different therapeutic categories, including certain dermatological products, pain-relief and antispasmodic drugs, as well as some antibiotic-based formulations. The Ministry said that these combinations were found to be irrational and not supported by sufficient scientific evidence.

The ban was imposed under Section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The decision follows directions issued by the Supreme Court, which had called for a comprehensive review of FDCs available in the Indian market.

Acting on these directions, the DTAB constituted an expert committee to examine various FDCs and assess their safety, efficacy and therapeutic value.

Symbiotec Pharmalab IPO: DRHP shows Rs 1,507.92 million legal claims against company

The Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) of Symbiotec Pharmalab showed that the company is facing multiple legal proceedings, including six tax proceedings and one material civil litigation, with the aggregate amount involved against the company standing at Rs 1,507.92 million.

Symbiotec Pharmalab's Rs 1,757 crore initial public offering opened for subscription on Monday and will remain open until August 27. The pharmaceutical and biotechnology company has fixed the price band at Rs 938-988 per share.

According to the DRHP, there is one criminal proceeding by the company and six tax proceedings against the company. It also faces one material civil litigation, with the aggregate amount involved in proceedings against the company disclosed at Rs 1,507.92 million.

The company said its outstanding legal proceedings are pending before various courts and authorities. It cautioned that an unfavourable decision in such proceedings, individually or in aggregate, could adversely affect its reputation, continuity of management, business, results of operations, financial condition and cash flows.

The DRHP also highlights legal proceedings involving the company's directors, subsidiaries and promoters.

Children account for one-third of reported Ebola deaths in DR Congo: UNICEF

Children account for about one-third of reported deaths in the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), despite representing only around one-fifth of confirmed cases, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Wednesday in its latest situation report.

According to UNICEF, children aged 17 and below account for approximately 21 per cent of confirmed cases but 33 per cent of reported deaths, pointing to a "concerning upward trend" in the mortality burden among children, calling for continued attention to appropriate pediatric care.

UNICEF warned that treatment services remain under pressure. Service delivery has been affected by delayed referrals, overcrowding, limited critical care and pediatric capacity, resource constraints and gaps in data reporting, according to the agency.

UNICEF said community surveillance and contact tracing still need to be accelerated, calling for stronger early detection, timely referral and pediatric care as transmission continues, Xinhua news agency reported.

As of Sunday, the DRC had reported 5,021 confirmed cases across 55 health zones in six provinces, with a case fatality rate of 47.4 percent, according to the latest report released by the WHO Regional Office for Africa on Tuesday.The World Health Organisation (WHO) has said that the Ebola outbreak in the DRC remains a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), as the epidemic surpasses 5,000 cases, spreads into new areas and prompts authorities to pursue experimental vaccines and treatments.The outbreak is now the second-largest Ebola outbreak ever recorded and is spreading faster than all previous ones, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said at an emergency committee meeting.The epidemic, caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, has surpassed the 2018-2020 Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, previously the country's deadliest. The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said Monday that the current outbreak is killing roughly.

DR Congo Ebola cases top 5,500 as WHO warns of 'defining moment'



Confirmed Ebola cases in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have surpassed 5,500, with more than 2,600 deaths, government figures showed Monday, as the World Health Organisation (WHO) said the outbreak reached a "defining moment" more than 100 days after it was declared.

The latest official tally, with data through Saturday, recorded 5,514 confirmed cases and 2,642 deaths, putting the case fatality rate at 47.9 per cent. A total of 1,200 patients have recovered.

The outbreak has spread to 57 health zones in Ituri, North Kivu, South Kivu, Haut-Uele, Bas-Uele and Tshopo provinces, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The WHO said Monday that the epidemic has become the fastest-growing Ebola outbreak ever recorded in the DRC, warning that transmission continues to outpace control efforts.

"This outbreak has reached a defining moment," WHO Regional Director for Africa Mohamed Janabi said in a statement. "The choices we make now will determine how quickly we can bring this outbreak under control, protect and save lives."

Ituri remains the epicentre, accounting for about 85 per cent of all cases and 79 per cent of deaths, according to the WHO.

Deaths occurring outside Ebola treatment centres remain a major concern. The WHO said community deaths accounted for around 60 per cent of fatalities recorded in recent weeks, pointing to persistent problems with early detection, referral and access to treatment.The organisation said insecurity, recurrent conflict, population displacement, attacks on health facilities, community reluctance and difficult access were continuing to hamper operations, particularly in eastern DRC.

"We can bring the Ebola outbreak under control but only through scaled-up action in affected communities," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said, calling for sustained resources and stronger cooperation among national and local authorities, affected communities and international partners.

Response capacity has expanded significantly since the outbreak began. The number of laboratories capable of testing for Ebola has risen from one to 19, with capacity to process more than 3,000 samples a day, while treatment capacity has grown from fewer than 10 beds to more than 1,300, according to the WHO.

Clinical trials of potential treatments and evaluations of candidate vaccines are also underway. The WHO said the first emergency-listed molecular diagnostic test for Bundibugyo virus disease has been deployed.

The agency warned that the coming months would be critical to closing remaining gaps and slowing transmission, saying an end to fighting in affected areas was also essential for health teams to reach communities.

The outbreak, caused by the Bundibugyo ebolavirus, was declared by the DRC authorities in May.

2nd Test: Dhruv Jurel's ton puts India in command against SL

Dhruv Jurel struck an unbeaten century and Rishabh Pant added a brisk 63 as India declared at 503/9 on Day Two of the second Test against Sri Lanka in Colombo. India then reduced the hosts to 8/2 before fading light ended play, leaving Sri Lanka 495 runs behind.



Colombo, Aug 24 (IANS): India tightened their grip on the second Test against Sri Lanka after Dhruv Jurel scored an unbeaten 115 and Rishabh Pant smashed 63 at the Sinhalese Sports Club Ground on Monday.

India resumed Day Two with a strong platform but lost debutant Saransh Jain early. Asitha Fernando produced a sharp bouncer that took a leading edge. The ball flew to gully, where the catch was safely completed.

Pant then joined Jurel after recovering from the wrist injury that had forced him to retire hurt on three on the opening day. Sri Lankan pacers immediately tested him with short deliveries.

Pant responded in typical aggressive fashion. He pulled Lahiru Kumara over the boundary for six. The shot was so powerful that it damaged a solar panel, forcing the umpires to seek a replacement ball.

The wicketkeeper-batter also absorbed several blows, including two hits on his right shoulder. However, he continued attacking with paddle sweeps, strong footwork and powerful strokes.

At the other end, Jurel batted with greater control. He used crisp drives, flicks and pulls to keep the scoreboard moving. Both batters reached their half-centuries before lunch and took India into a position of considerable strength.Pant fell immediately after the interval. He attempted to attack Keshara Nuwantha but picked out the fielder at long-off. His 63 came from 89 balls and included another entertaining contribution to the Indian total.

Jurel continued his innings alongside Manav Suthar. The pair added 39 runs before Prabath Jayasuriya dismissed Suthar for 18. The left-arm spinner induced an outside edge, which wicketkeeper Niroshan Dickwella completed safely.

Jurel then took greater responsibility as India moved closer to the 500-run mark. He rotated the strike intelligently and found boundaries whenever Sri Lanka offered scoring opportunities.

However, worsening weather interrupted the innings. Strong winds, dark clouds and heavy rain forced an early tea. The interruption lasted two hours and 10 minutes.When play resumed, Jurel remained composed. He reached his second Test century and first in Sri Lankan conditions by driving Fernando and completing a risky single. He celebrated by displaying his tattoo carrying the words "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan".Jurel accelerated after reaching three figures. He hit Fernando for a six over long-on before Mohammed Siraj was trapped lbw by Jayasuriya.

Prasidh Krishna joined Jurel and helped India cross the 500-run mark. Krishna struck a boundary through cover, taking India to 503/9. Captain Shubman Gill immediately declared.

India then made the most of the difficult batting conditions. Mohammed Siraj bowled a tight opening over before Krishna struck with his second delivery.

Lahiru Udara edged Krishna behind the bat, with Yashasvi Jaiswal taking a sharp catch at gully. Udara departed for one.

India struck again before the light deteriorated further. Manav Suthar trapped nightwatcher Prabath Jayasuriya lbw with a flat delivery. The decision survived a review on umpire call.

The umpires subsequently stopped play because of poor light. Sri Lanka finished the day on 8/2, still 495 runs behind India with eight wickets remaining in their first innings.

India therefore ended Day Two in complete control, with Jurel emerging as the central figure in a commanding batting performance and the Indian bowlers immediately putting pressure on the Sri Lankan top order.

Brief scores:

India 503/9 decl in 138 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 117, Dhruv Jurel 115 not out; Asitha Fernando 4-106, Prabath Jayasuriya 2-132) lead Sri Lanka 8/2 in three overs (Kamil Mishara five not out; Prasidh Krishna 1-1, Manav Suthar 1-6) by 495 runs

Hockey World Cup: India men crash out

Amstelveen, Aug 24 (IANS) The Indian men's team crashed out of the FIH Hockey World Cup 2026, losing 3-5 to former Olympic Games gold medallist Argentina in their Pool E match in Stage 2 of the premier competition at the Wagener Hockey Stadium in Amstelveen, Netherlands, on Monday.

India's hopes of qualifying for the semifinals depended on beating Argentina by four goals but also getting favourable results elsewhere to keep their campaign alive after losing to hosts the Netherlands 3-1 in their earlier match.

But they lost by two goals instead in their second match, thus remaining without any points in the second stage of the competition.

The 2016 Olympic gold medallist Argentina, who defeated England 3-1 in their first match in the second stage, moved up to six points and now share the top spot with the Netherlands, who also have six points. Their clash with England later on Monday will decide the first two spots in the Pool and thus the two semifinalists.

India have lost both their matches and are yet to open their account in the second stage.

Against Argentina, India needed sharper movement in the final third, greater efficiency in front of goal and a more ruthless approach to chances. The challenge was immense, but with their World Cup campaign on the line, India had no alternative but to go for it with everything they have.

However, on Monday, they failed to capitalise on their chances against an Argentina side that played to its potential and did not allow the Indians many chances.

Dhumachhara beat Manughat in Women's Cricket

Times Sports

LT Valley, Aug 24: Dhumachhara Cricket Zone returned to winning ways after defeating Manughat Cricket Zone in a women's cricket match organised by the subdivision cricket association at Khagrachhara School Ground on Monday.

After winning the toss, Manughat elected to bat and scored 72 runs. Extras contributed 22 runs to the total.

Indra Barua top-scored with 33 off 25 balls, including six boundaries. Nedrina Barua added 10 off seven balls with two boundaries.

Neha Tripura was the pick of the Dhumachhara bowlers, taking two wickets for four runs.

In reply, Dhumachhara chased down the target after losing three wickets. Risa Debbarma scored 20 off 35 balls with two boundaries, while Rajita Tripura contributed 16 off 22 balls, also hitting two boundaries.

Dhumachhara received 25 runs through extras. Indra Barua claimed two wickets for 11 runs for Manughat, but her effort was not enough to prevent Dhumachhara from securing victory.

Duleep Trophy: Tripura's Abhijit Sarkar claims fifer against NEZ

East Zone enforce follow-on after bundling out North East Zone for 111



Times Sports

Agartala, Aug 24: Tripura pacer Abhijit Sarkar produced a fiery five-wicket haul as East Zone bowled out North East Zone for just 111 on Day Two of their Duleep Trophy match in Bengaluru. East Zone enforced the follow-on and ended the day at 7/0, holding a 348-run lead.

East Zone strengthened its position in the Duleep Trophy with a dominant bowling performance against North East Zone on Monday.

After resuming at 355/6, East Zone added another 112 runs to reach 467 in their first innings. Shahbaz Ahmed was the star with the bat, scoring 167. Tripura pacer Abhijit Sarkar remained unbeaten on nine.

North East Zone struggled badly against the East Zone attack. Abhijit led the destruction with a superb spell, claiming 5/20. Shahbaz Ahmed provided excellent support with three wickets for 20 runs.

North East Zone managed only 111 runs in their first innings. A.S. Bhatebara top-scored with 32, but the rest of the batting lineup failed to withstand the pressure.

Trailing by 355 runs, North East Zone were forced to follow on. They reached 7/0 by the close of play and still need 348 runs to make East Zone bat again.

With East Zone firmly in control, Abhijit's five-wicket haul has put the side within touching distance of a semifinal spot.

No. F.29/TCA/AGT/PR/26-27/8612
Dated: Agartala, 24/08/2026

As per the record available with the office of the TCA, a list of the existing Life Members of TCA as on 24-08-2026 has been uploaded in TCA website (tcalive.com/About TCA/Constituent Members).

Any correction/modification may be submitted to TCA head office on or before 04th September, 2026 (Friday) within office hours addressing to "The Secretary, Tripura Cricket Association".

This is for the purpose of updating record of TCA Life Members.

(Subrata Dey)
Hon. Secretary
Tripura Cricket Association

'Khelo India Dialogue': PM Modi to address young athletes



New Delhi, Aug 24 (IANS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address young athletes and youth leaders on sports, leadership and nation-building as part of a nationwide initiative, 'Khelo India Dialogue – Khel Ki Baat, Pradhan Mantri Modi Ke Saath', to be held across more than 1,500 educational institutions on August 27 to mark National Sports Day 2026.

The large-scale youth engagement programme will bring together budding athletes, students, policymakers and leading sportspersons, creating a platform for young participants to share ideas to strengthen India's sporting ecosystem and expand opportunities for the country's youth.

The virtual address by the Prime Minister will be followed by physical programmes held simultaneously at participating institutions across the country. IITs, IIMs, NITs, AIIMS, leading medical colleges and universities are among the institutions expected to take part.

The initiative will focus on four broad areas — strengthening grassroots sports infrastructure, coaching and competitive opportunities; identifying and developing talent with an eye on the 2036 Olympics; increasing youth participation in governance and leadership; and equipping young people with future-ready skills, volunteering opportunities and avenues for nation-building.

Rishabh Pant scripts history

Colombo, Aug 24 (IANS) India star batter Rishabh Pant shattered MS Dhoni's record for most Test runs scored by an Indian wicketkeeper away from home. The swashbuckling batter Pant went past Dhoni's feat during Day 2 of the second Test match against Sri Lanka at the Sinhalese Sports Club here on Monday.

Pant scored a stroke-filled 63 in the first innings of the Test to go past the former skipper. Coming into the Test, the 28-year-old Roorkee man had scored 2471 runs in Tests away from home and at neutral venues. He needed to score 26 runs to get past the 2011 World Cup-winning captain, and he did so in style when he hit off-spinner Keshara Nuwantha for back-to-back fours in the 97th over of the first innings in the opening session on Day 2.

Pant went on to complete his 21st Test half-century and a successive one after he had hit one in the second innings of the first Test in Galle. The Southpaw's impressive stay came to an end on the first ball of the second session when he drilled one straight to deep mid-off off Nuwantha.

However, he has now scored 2534 runs as wicketkeeper away from home in Test cricket, with Dhoni now pushed back to second. Former cricketer Farokh Engineer had 1209 runs in away Tests as wicketkeeper, while Syed Kirmani made 1109 runs as wicketkeeper.

Jampuijala PC enter Super 4 as unbeaten Gr Champions

Times Sports



Agartala, Aug 24: Jampuijala Play Centre completed an unbeaten run to qualify for the Super Four stage of the Baikuntha Nath Memorial Women's Football League. They defeated Fullo Jhanu AC 2-1 at the Umakanta Mini Stadium on Monday.

The tournament is being organised by the Tripura Football Association.

Jampuijala, coached by Subodh Debbarma, have won all six of their matches in the competition.

Neke K, who had come from Nagaland, gave Jampuijala the lead in the third minute. Fullo Jhanu responded quickly, with Jhuma Uryang equalising in the 10th minute.

Both teams continued to attack, but neither could find another goal before half-time.

Jampuijala eventually regained the lead in the 67th minute. Neke K scored from a counter-attack to seal a 2-1 victory for her team.

Sushanta Das officiated the match. Neke K was named Player of the Match.

Tripura to begin Dr BC Roy Trophy campaign today

Times Sports

Agartala, Aug 24: Tripura will begin their campaign in the National Junior Dr BC Roy Trophy football tournament against DNHD&DD on Tuesday. The match will kick off at 3 pm at the Ramakrishna Ashram ground in Narayanpur, Chhattisgarh.

The Tripura team completed its final preparation on Monday after arriving in Narayanpur early on Sunday following a long road journey.

Tripura are expected to start with a 4-4-2 formation. However, goalkeeper Rimpon Tripura's illness remains a concern for the coaching staff.

Zara Jamatia, Ayush Jamatia, Celeb Debbarma and Doiman Halam are expected to form the defence.Naithak Jamatia, Jifania Lalnunliana, Khomendra Reang and Narekha Jamatia are likely to operate in midfield.

Genesis Darsong and Sachlang Jamatia are expected to lead the attack.

Team manager Sunil Chandra Bhowmik said the goalkeeper's illness was a concern but expressed hope that he would recover before the match.

Tripura will face Andaman and Nicobar Islands on August 27 before taking on Chhattisgarh on August 29.

Chess: India's GM Pranesh M wins Kanizsa Open title in Hungary



Mumbai, Aug 24 (IANS) India's 19-year-old Grandmaster Pranesh M emerged as the champion in the prestigious Kanizsa Open 2026 in Nagykanizsa, Hungary, securing the Group A title with a superb performance. In the ninth and final round of the tournament on Sunday, Pranesh defeated Vadim Petrovskiy of Germany with white pieces. Pranesh has a rating of 2673 and is ranked 44th in the latest FIDE Rankings of August 2026.

Pranesh, who hails from Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, finished with seven points from nine rounds, sharing the top spot with three other players. He claimed the title on a better tiebreak with Or Bronstein of Israel, Andrei Volokitin of Ukraine, and India's Karthik Venkataraman, finishing second to fourth in that order. Karthik Venkataraman could have won the title outright but was held to a draw in the final round by Volokitin as they both finished with seven points. Bronstein jumped into a share of the top spot by beating compatriot IM Benny Aizenberg in the ninth round.

UPT20 2026: Mohammad Saif's 89 secure 14-run DLS win for Lucknow Falcons over Kashi Rudras

Lucknow, Aug 24 (IANS) The Lucknow Falcons secured their second consecutive victory of the UP T20 League Season 4, defeating defending champions Kashi Rudras by 14 runs via the DLS method in Match 17 at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Monday.

Kashi Rudras skipper Karan Sharma won the toss and elected to bowl first. However, the decision was immediately challenged by the Lucknow openers, Mohammad Saif and Himanshu Singh. The pair dominated the powerplay, stitching together an aggressive 67-run opening stand.

The breakthrough finally came courtesy of the Kashi captain himself. Karan Sharma introduced himself into the attack and promptly dismissed Himanshu Singh for a well-made 36 off 22 balls, following it up shortly after with the wicket of Ajeet Verma (13).

Despite wickets falling at regular intervals at the other end, opener Mohammad Saif remained an immovable force. Anchoring the innings beautifully, Saif accelerated perfectly, showcasing tremendous power-hitting to smash a brilliant 89 off 57 deliveries, decorated with three boundaries and seven towering sixes. His magnificent knock ensured the Lucknow Falcons posted a highly competitive 174/7 in their 20 overs.

For the Kashi Rudras, Atal Bihari Vipin Rai was the pick of the seamers, returning figures of 3/38, while skipper Karan Sharma delivered a highly economical spell of 2/17.

Chasing 175 for victory, the defending champions suffered a disastrous start. Lucknow pacer Akshu Bajwa bowled a devastating spell with the new ball, tearing through the Kashi top order to leave them reeling at 17/3. Bajwa's hostile burst included the massive wicket of Kashi skipper Karan Sharma, who fell for a golden duck.

Attempting to rescue the innings, Impact Player Uvaish Ahmed provided some brief fireworks, scoring a quickfire 29 off 17 balls. However, his counter-attack was cut short by Vipraj Nigam, halting Kashi's momentum. Renowned Indian international and Lucknow Falcons captain Bhuvneshwar Kumar then joined the party, removing Upendra Yadav to plunge the Rudras deeper into trouble.

Complex gynaecological surgery successfull at Khowai Dist Hospital

Times News



Agartala, Aug 24: Doctors at Khowai District Hospital have successfully performed a complex gynaecological surgery on a 40-year-old woman who had been suffering from severe health complications for nearly six months.

The patient, Manda Debnath, wife of Ram Debnath and a resident of Sonatala in Khowai district, had been experiencing abnormal and excessive bleeding during menstruation. She subsequently sought treatment at the hospital's MCH Clinic, where she was examined by obstetrician and gynaecologist Dr Arghyamalya Debbarma.

Following blood tests, ultrasonography and other necessary medical examinations, doctors decided to perform surgery after obtaining the consent of her family. She was admitted to the hospital on August 19.

The surgery was performed on August 21 under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and lasted around one hour and 10 minutes. According to hospital authorities, the procedure involved a total abdominal hysterectomy with bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy.

The hospital said the complex procedure was completed successfully through the coordinated efforts of the surgeon and the operation theatre team. The patient recovered well under medical supervision and was discharged on Monday.

The surgical team comprised Dr Arghyamalya Debbarma, obstetrician and gynaecologist; Dr Biswajit Debbarma, anaesthesiologist; nursing officers Trinmoy Debbarma and Sujata Das; OT assistant Santa Kumar Tripura; and GDA staff member Aravinda Nam.

The entire treatment and surgical procedure were provided free of cost under Ayushman Bharat. The patient's family expressed gratitude to the doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers for the treatment and care provided at the district hospital.

The successful surgery was reported by the Khowai District Chief Medical Officer.

ত্রিপুরা গ্রামীণ ব্যাঙ্ক
TRIPURA GRAMIN BANK
(Scheduled Bank Owned by Government)
Head Office - Abhoynagar, Agartala, Dist- West Tripura
Phone-0381-232-4774/3931/3935/9743, 231-6987 Pax-0381-2320104/3935

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Tripura Gramin Bank under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with Rule 9 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued a Demand Notices in the accounts on specific dates mentioned below calling upon the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) as noted hereunder to repay the amount mentioned in the notice (detailed below) within 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice besides further interest. As the Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s) having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) and public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of power conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Aot read with Rule 8 of the said Rules.

Sl. No.	Branch Name	a) Name and Address of the borrower(s) b) Name of the Guarantor(s)	Description of movable / Immovable properties	1. Date of Notice 2. Date of Possession taken 3. Balance outstanding as per possession Notice
1.	Champaknagar	Sri Dharmendra Debbarma, S/o Sri Badhur Debbarma, P.O Champaknagar, P.S.- Jirania Dist.- West Tripura -799045 and 1 Namita Debbarma (Guarantor cum Mortgagor), W/o Sri Dharmendra Debbarm P.O.- Champaknagar P.S.- Jirania Dist.-West Tripura -799045	An Equitable Mortgage of Residential land Property, Area of Vill- Chandra Safhu Para, PO- Champaknagar P.S:- Jirania Sub-Division & Sub Registry office - Jirania, Dist:- West Tripura, under Mouja -Purba Debendranagar, Touji No. Nil, Tahasil - Mandainagar, Revenue circle -Jirania, vide Khatian No-1554, Sabek Dag No.8167 (P) Corresponding to, Hal Dag No. 12030/12749 Registered Sale Deed No, 1-884 Dated 12.10.2020 Book No. 1, Volume No. 8 Page No. 221-222. Area measuring 0.080 Acres i.e local measurement 4 Ganda classified as Viti (Nal) types of land. The Properly in the name of Mrs Namita Debbarma W/O -Dharmendra Debbarma distress value of the property Rs.7,35,000.00 as on 12.03.2023 approved by Sri Subrata Dutta (Panel Valuer) (That is elaborately described below). BOUNDARY OF THE PROPERTY AS PER DEED On the North by: Radhika Jamatia On the South by: Howrah River On the East by: Chandrabali Rupini On the West by: Prakash Rupini	1. 15.05.2026 2. 20.08.2026 3. Rs.4,97,998.00

The Borrower(s)/Guarantor(s)/Mortgagor in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the properties mentioned herein above and any dealings with the properties will be subject to the charge of the Tripura Gramin Bank for the above noted amount with interest thereon and also cost and charges.

Date: 24.08.2026
Place: Agartala

Authorised Officer
Tripura Gramin Bank

TET teachers press for regular pay scale from appointment date

Times News

Agartala, Aug 24: The Tripura TET Teachers' Welfare Association has renewed its demand for regular pay scales for teachers from the first day of their appointment and urged the state government to withdraw its Special Leave Petition (SLP) challenging the Tripura High Court's ruling on the issue.

The association submitted a memorandum addressed to Chief Minister Dr Manik Saha to the Director of Education on Monday, highlighting a number of issues concerning the service conditions and financial benefits of TET-qualified teachers.

Speaking to reporters after submitting the memorandum, association state secretary Ajay Pal said the teachers' body had been maintaining a sustained movement demanding regular pay scales from the date of appointment.

Pal referred to the Tripura High Court's January 8 verdict, which upheld the teachers' claim to regular pay scales from the beginning of their service. He expressed disappointment over the state government's decision to approach the Supreme Court instead of implementing the High Court order.

The association appealed to the Chief Minister to withdraw the SLP and ensure that TET-recruited teachers receive the regular pay scale from their first day of service.

The teachers also raised concerns over the existing Dearness Allowance (DA) structure. According to Pal, state government employees are currently receiving 41 per cent DA, while another 19 per cent remains pending.

The association demanded immediate clearance of the outstanding DA and called for Tripura to improve its DA position in comparison with other northeastern states.

The association further urged the government to extend the benefits of the proposed 8th Pay Commission to Tripura employees once implemented by the Centre.

Another issue highlighted was the alleged disparity in the pay structures of Graduate Teachers (GT), Post Graduate Teachers (PGT) and Under Graduate Teachers (UGT). The teachers demanded that existing pay anomalies be examined and resolved through the current Pay Commission.

The association also sought changes in the Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP) system. Pal claimed that the earlier system provided teachers without regular promotional opportunities with progression to higher pay scales, while the existing arrangement provides only a 3 per cent increment after 10, 17 and 25 years of service.

The teachers demanded restoration of the earlier pay-scale upgradation system under MACP instead of the present increment-based arrangement.

The memorandum was submitted in the presence of the association's state president, organising secretary, district secretary and other office-bearers.







Printed and published by Smt. Sima Lodh on behalf of owner Avishikta Lodh (Ex-owner Alaka Lodh), printed and published at Times Press Unit-II, Ramnagar Road no-5, Agartala, West Tripura, Pin-799002. Editor - Smt. Sima Lodh (Founder Editor - Lt. A.M.Lodh), Executive Editor-Manas Pal. RNI – 12063/63