

## Mamata Banerjee takes new initiative for centralised and coordinated cleaning of garbage across Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In the wake of regular complaints about not cleaning of garbage in urban areas of West Bengal and the lack of proper management of their safe disposal in various municipal areas for a long time, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has taken a new initiative and asked the concerned authorities to ensure regular cleaning of garbage in a centralised and coordinated manner across the state to overcome the dual problems.

The Chief minister said she received regular complaints that garbage was not being cleaned regularly in many localities and dirt was accumulating on roads causing unhealthy situation in the neighbourhood and health hazard specially for senior citizens. In addition, most municipalities have failed to implement the modern system of recycling solid waste.

Keeping this situation in mind, Mamata Banerjee has ordered necessary steps for cleaning of garbage centrally and in a coordinated manner across the state, sources at Navanna, the state Secretariat, said on Tuesday. However, many are interpreting that this order of the Chief Minister is politically biased. They said since, a large section of the urban voters had reportedly extended their support to the BJP in the last Lok Sabha elections,



the CM had taken this step in order to win back their hearts before the next year's state Assembly polls.

Accordingly, she has directly given the responsibility of everyday garbage cleaning and their safe disposal in all municipal areas to the Municipal and Urban Development Department.

According to administrative sources, the Municipal and Urban Development Department has immediately swung into action and started taking necessary steps in accordance with the Chief minister's directives.

Accordingly, from now on the Municipal Department will directly take the responsibility of executing this work in a cen-

tralised manner. Till now, each municipality used to manage this work independently. But due to complaints of inconsistencies and laxity in that system, this time it has been decided to plan and clean the garbage on a centralised manner. As a result, the cities will not only remain beautiful and clean, but with the introduction of the process of recycling of solid waste, the work will also be done much faster.

According to informed sources, recently a former minister of the state complained to the Chief Minister about the accumulation of garbage in Barasat municipality area. There were complaints of non-regular cleaning not only in Barasat, but also

from several other municipal areas too including Kolkata. After these complaints came to her notice, the Chief Minister inquired about the garbage management in various municipal areas. After that, she ordered that no municipality should perform its duty separately, but rather the state government would supervise this work centrally.

Meanwhile, speculation is rife in political circles about this decision of the Chief Minister. Experts believe that this unique initiative of the Chief Minister is to give a positive message to the public about the steps to revamp the city's civic services. Cleanliness is an important issue, especially among the middle and upper class voters of the city. The ruling party is trying to win back the votes of this section. According to the administrative circles, if this work is carried out in a centralised manner, transparency and speed can be brought in garbage management. However, no clear instructions have been given yet about the role of local municipalities about this new initiatives. The government has assured that the new plan will be implemented quickly. Time will tell whether this order of the Chief Minister can change the face of the city towards better and how much political impact it will be able to garner in the 2026 elections.

## As World considers India as trusted partner, industry must take its advantage, says PM Modi

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** As the world is looking at India as a trusted partner who can produce quality goods, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked the Indian industry to take "big steps" as well as the global advantage of widespread opportunities.

Addressing a post-Budget webinar on Regulatory, Investment and Ease of Doing Business Reforms on Tuesday, Modi also said that amid supply-chain disruptions caused by economic uncertainties globally, the world today needs a trusted partner which can produce high-quality products and have a reliable supply chain.

"Our country is capable of doing this, all of you (industry) are capable, this is a great opportunity for us. I want that our industry should not look at these expectations of the world as a mere spectator. We cannot remain spectators, you will have to look for your role in this, you will have to seek opportunities for yourself," Modi told the industry players.

The Prime Minister said the government is working together with the industry for the last 10 years and has shown its commitment for undertaking reforms, financial discipline, transparency and inclusive growth.

"Today, India is a growth engine for the global economy. India has proved its resilience even in difficult times... Today every country wants to strengthen its economic partnership with India. Our manufacturing sector should take advantage of this partnership," Modi added.

The Prime Minister said industry has gained new self confidence due to the government's consistency and assurance for reforms, he said.

"I want to assure the stakeholders in manufacturing and exports sectors that this will continue in the coming years. I urge you to move ahead with confidence, take big steps. For the country's manufacturing and exports sectors new avenues have been opened," Modi said.

Stressing that India's manufacturing is the backbone for industrial growth, Modi asked the stakeholders to identify new products which have demand in the world, and whose manufacturing can happen in India. This can then be pitched for exports.

Highlighting the role of R&D, the Prime Minister said industry should focus on manufacturing innovative products and do value addition through research and development.

"The world knows our capability in toy, footwear and labour intensive sectors. Combining traditional craft with modern technology can help achieve success. We can become global champions in these sectors and increase exports manifold. This will also create jobs in labour intensive sectors and entrepreneurship," Modi said.

He said at a time when the world is passing through geopolitical uncertainties, India is being looked at as a "growth centre".

Nudging states to undertake ease of doing business reforms, Modi said states play an important role to increase investments. More investments will come in as states push ease of doing business reforms.

"States should compete amongst themselves... The states which come forward with progressive policies, companies will find them as attractive destination for investment," Modi said.

## India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats: Rajnath Singh

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India's security apparatus must remain adaptive to emerging threats such as cyber and hybrid warfare as well as "space-based espionage", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Tuesday.

He said internal security is not just about managing conventional threats like terrorism, separatist movements, and left-wing extremism but it is also about preparing for unconventional threats that can destabilise the nation's economic and strategic interests.

The defence minister was speaking at a conference on 'Advanced Technologies for Internal Security and Disaster Relief Operations' organised jointly by the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

"The adversaries of today do not always come with traditional weapons; cyber-attacks, misinformation campaigns, and space-based espionage are emerging as new-age threats that require advanced solutions," he said.

In his address, Singh highlighted the growing complexities in global security and the increasing overlap between internal and external threats.

"Security challenges in the modern world are evolving rapidly, and the overlap between internal and external security is increasing," he said adding "It is imperative that our institutions break silos and work collaboratively to ensure a strong, secure, and self-reliant India."

The Defence minister said India's national security must be viewed holistically, integrating efforts across different security agencies and leveraging the latest technological advancements.

"The DRDO has played a pivotal role in enhancing India's defence capabilities, and its contributions to internal security are equally commendable," he said.

"From small arms and bulletproof jackets to surveillance and communication systems, DRDO's innovations are empowering our security forces," he underlined.

Singh urged DRDO and MHA to work together to create a common list of

scalable products that can be jointly developed and deployed in a time-bound manner.

"Our security forces require the best tools and technologies to remain ahead of the curve," he said.

It is encouraging to see DRDO's focus on modernisation, with products like small arms, surveillance equipment and drone systems either inducted or undergoing evaluation for deployment in internal security agencies," he highlighted.

Singh recalled his previous tenure as the Home minister, highlighting how the collaboration between security agencies and scientific institutions led to significant technological advancements.

He cited examples of DRDO-developed technologies such as the corner shot weapon system, INSAS rifles, IED jammer vehicles and riot control vehicles, which were effectively integrated into the operations of Central Armed Police Forces.

Singh also spoke about the importance of leveraging technology not just for security but also for disaster management and humanitarian relief.

"The role of technology is not just in defence but also in ensuring peace and social welfare. Advanced systems like bulletproof jackets, drones, surveillance equipment and anti-drone technologies must be leveraged not only for security operations but also for disaster management and humanitarian relief," he said.

Singh said the increasing frequency of natural calamities like cyclones, avalanches, earthquakes and cloud bursts underscored the critical need for advanced rescue tools.

He mentioned that the use of technologies such as thermal imaging cameras, drone-based detection systems, and victim locating devices can significantly reduce casualties and damage.

Referring to the recent avalanche at Mana in Uttarakhand, the defence minister lauded the use of advanced rescue equipment in saving lives and reducing the impact of the disaster. He said the

## 'Administrative negligence' to blame for deaths in Uttarakhand avalanche, feel experts

**MI News Service, Shimla:** Social activists have blamed the alleged "administrative negligence" for the death of eight Border Road Organisation (BRO) workers in a massive avalanche at Mana village in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand last week, and said the victims could have been saved had the authorities paid heed to a snowslide warning.

They also blame "reckless construction" works in avalanche-prone areas for the rise in snowslide incidents.

The Chandigarh-based Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) issued an avalanche warning for a 24-hour period at 5 pm on February 27 for places located above the height of 2,400 metres such as Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh and Bageshwar districts of Uttarakhand.

The avalanche hit the BR 0 camp in Chamoli between 5.30 am and 6 am on February 28,

trapping 57 workers. While 49 of them were rescued alive, eight were found dead.

Atul Sati, a social worker and the convener of Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti said "administrative negligence" led to the death of eight hapless workers. "There was an avalanche warning and authorities should have acted on time," he said.

Following the incident, the Uttarakhand government issued an advisory for tourists staying in the popular skiing destination Auli which has, however, no history of avalanches, Sati said and alleged that it looks like an attempt to divert people's attention from the state's other failures.

"When there was a warning and the authorities were aware that such a large number of workers were in Mana, why weren't they advised to move to safety?" asked another social activist.

The weather office in

Dehradun had issued a yellow alert for February 27, two days in advance, predicting isolated heavy rain and snowfall in locations situated at 3,500 metres and above. However, the State Emergency Operations Centre here alerted the district magistrates concerned on February 28 when the avalanche had already hit the camp.

Over the last four years, two dwelling units of BRO workers have been destroyed by avalanches in the Chamoli district alone. An avalanche in April 2021 destroyed a settlement of workers in Niti Valley adjoining the Indo-Tibet border, killing as many as eight labourers.

Experts feel that the snowslides are a result of reckless construction being carried out in avalanche-prone areas.

Renowned geologist MPS Bisht, an expert on weather movements in the Kedhar Valley, said the entire area is vulnerable to avalanches that keep coming

from the Nar Parvat.

Construction activities are being carried out recklessly even in areas identified for vulnerability without thinking over the consequences, he said. "Disasters are the result of this."

The latest avalanche has once again brought into focus the "failure" of authorities to learn from past experiences, said social activist Mangala Kothiyal.

"On April 22-23, 2021, a BRO camp at Rimkhim in the Niti Valley area was hit by an avalanche, killing eight labourers. This time, it was the Mana Valley's turn. The victims once again were BRO workers. We are not learning lessons from our past experiences," Kothiyal said.

Avalanches occur more during winters in the valleys of the upper Himalayan region where Badrinath and Mana are situated, but they can occur in any season in the snow-clad mountains.

Surveyors or mountaineers

visiting these areas stay alert about such disasters. It is also true of the army and paramilitary forces. Winter defence posts are built at such places where the danger of avalanches is less, Kothiyal said.

An example of this is an army camp built at a distance of less than two hundred meters from the accident site in Badrinath, which is evacuated in winter due to the danger of avalanches.

Pitambar Molfa, the village head of Mana, said "Earlier, even the labourers used to leave their container houses during winters to live in relatively safe houses in Badrinathpuri. It did not happen this time as authorities felt there was not enough snow in the area yet." "The avalanche should serve as a wake-up call. Permission to go to these areas should be given only when it is absolutely necessary. When the weather department issues an alert, people living in these areas should be alerted," Molfa said.

## Fresh snowfall in Kashmir once again disrupts life

**MI News Service, Srinagar:** Heavy rains accompanied by fresh snowfalls lashed several parts of the Kashmir valley once again, severely disrupting life and movement of surface transport on the highways, official sources here said on Tuesday.

Few areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir however, received continuous heavy snowfall since Monday night as predicted by the MET office the previous day.

As a result popular tourist spots like Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Kohnag, besides parts of Kupwara and Baramulla, and other areas in the higher reaches of Kashmir were covered with thick blanket of snow once again after receiving fresh snowfall during the past several hours.

In addition, during the past 24 hours, widespread rain was recorded in the valley, including in Srinagar.

The wet and snowy weather lowered the day temperatures in the Kashmir valley by several degrees. "As a result of this inclement weather normal temperature in almost in the entire Union Territory was reduced by three to nine degree Celsius since last night", official sources said.

The meteorological department said the weather is likely to improve only later in the week, and would stay mainly dry after March 10.

Moreover, as rain lashed large parts of Kashmir on Monday and the higher reaches received fresh snowfall, the overall temperatures has severely come down across the region, officials here said. The precipitation brought down the rainfall deficit from over 80 per cent to 40 per cent, they said.

Several places in the mountainous re-

gion of south Kashmir, including Pahalgam, received snowfall. Parts of Baramulla district also received fresh snowfall.

It may be recalled that earlier this week the rail, air and road connectivity is most parts of Kashmir valley came to a halt for a couple of days as strong layer of fresh incessant snow covered the entire region as a white envelop.

The situation took a turn for the worse as reports of landslides, mudslides and shooting stones also came from various places along the Srinagar-Jammu national highway.

While the plains were lashed with rains accompanied by chilly winds, the higher reaches of the valley, including the tourist resorts of Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam apart from Srinagar received heavy snowfall causing severe disruption in life.

The inclement weather affected traffic on the Srinagar-Jammu national highway, and disrupted rail connectivity, as well as flight operations at the Srinagar airport here.

Parts of Srinagar-Jammu national highway were blocked due to snow accumulation between Ramsoo and Qazigund, while repeated landslides, and mudslides took place at multiple locations along the arterial road — which is the only all-weather road between the Srinagar and Leh. Several other roads, including the SSG Road, and Mughal Road — the alternate road link between Kashmir and Jammu — were also closed. All flights to and from Srinagar were either delayed or cancelled due to bad weather for a day on Friday, the officials said. Flight operations were however, resumed after

## President Trump suspends all military aid to Ukraine in a serious blow to its self defence

**MI News Service, Washington (DC):** Days after the unprecedented showdown with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office, US President Donald Trump has temporarily suspended the delivery of all American military aid to Ukraine with immediate effect, providing a serious blow to its self defence in the ongoing war with Russia.

A report in The New York Times quoting a senior administration official as saying that Trump temporarily suspended the delivery of all US military aid to Ukraine and that the order takes effect immediately, affecting the supply of "more than USD 1 billion worth of arms and ammunition in that country in the coming days".

The report said Trump's decision to halt military aid "resulted from a series of meetings" at the White House between the US leader and his senior national security advisors.

Meanwhile the decision of the US administration is being seen as President Donald Trump's pressure tactics on the Ukrainian President and his bid to bring him to the negotiations table to end the war with Russia without further delay.



set to be transferred to Kyiv.

Trump also slammed Zelenskyy over his (Ukrainian President's) statements in London on Monday that peace with Russia is "very, very far away."

"This is the worst statement that could have been made by Zelenskyy, and America will not put up with it for much longer! It is what I was saying, this guy doesn't want there to be Peace as long as he has America's backing and, Europe, in the meeting they had with Zelenskyy, stated flatly that they cannot do the job without the US," said Trump in a social media post on Tuesday.

The move to fully suspend the transfer of arms and ammunition widens the rift between the two leaders—Trump and Zelenskyy—at a critical moment in the war, which could allow Russia to push for more territorial gains on the battlefield. The American President has shifted the burden to end the war on Ukraine, despite the conflict being started by Moscow. In fact it was Russian President Vladimir Putin, who announced the "special military operation" in the

military aid to Kyiv comes days after the heated Oval Office meeting with Zelenskyy last Friday. The American President along with Vice President J.D. Vance tore into the Ukrainian President for, what they believe, has been insufficient gratitude for Washington's military aid to the Eastern European nation.

White House officials, according to media reports, have said that Trump believes the suspension in the military aid will continue until Zelenskyy shows that he is ready to negotiate with Russia for peace. The suspension would affect roughly a little more than USD 1 billion in arms and ammunition, which was

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**Woman killed, three injured in axe attack**

**MI News Service, Jhargram:** A gruesome incident occurred in Dhudhupal village, Ergoda area, under Binpur police station in Jhargram, resulting in the death of a woman and injuring three others. The deceased, Radharani Patar, was attacked with an axe by her brother-in-law, Ranjit Patar, following a heated family dispute on Monday night. According to police and local sources, the altercation escalated when Ranjit began assaulting his daughter-in-law with an axe, striking her on the head and hand. Radharani's daughter and granddaughter attempted to intervene, but Ranjit attacked them as well, striking them on the head with the axe. A neighboring woman who tried to stop him was also hit on the head with the sharp weapon. The victims were rushed to Shilda Primary Medical Center, where Radharani was pronounced dead. The three injured individuals, Anjali Das, Joyita Patar, and Champa Sabar, were transferred to Jhargram Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Police officials, including Additional Superintendent of Police Vishal and the IC of Binpur Police Station, arrived at the scene to investigate. Ranjit Patar was arrested and taken into custody, along with the axe used in the attack.

**Tragic accident claims life of student's mother en route to exam hall**



**MI News Service, Shyamnagar:** A devastating incident occurred in Shyamnagar, North 24 Parganas, on Tuesday morning, leaving a family in shock and grief. A student, who was on her way to take her ICSE 10th class exam, witnessed a horrific accident that resulted in the death of her mother, Shiuli Sengupta. The accident occurred when the autorickshaw carrying the student, her mother and two other passengers collided with a van, causing the vehicle to overturn. Shiuli Sengupta was pronounced dead at the hospital while the two other passengers sustained injuries and are currently undergoing treatment at Bhatpara State General Hospital. Despite the tragic circumstance, arrangements were made to transport the students to the examination hall, where she was able to take her exam. However, the incident has left the family reeling in shock and grief. The autorickshaw driver has been taken into custody, and investigation into the incident is underway. Eyewitness reported that the autorickshaw was overloaded with passengers, which may have contributed to the accident.



Congress activists took part in a protest against Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Kolkata on Tuesday

**Bangladeshi delegation arrives at Farakka Barrage amid tight security**

**MI News Service, Farakka:** A Bangladeshi delegation, led by Joint River Commission member Mohammad Abul Hossain, inspected the Farakka Barrage and surrounding areas on the Padma River on Tuesday. This visit comes ahead of a crucial meeting on the water agreement between India and Bangladesh, scheduled to take place in Kolkata from March 3 to 8. The delegation's inspection of the barrage and river areas is a significant step, as it aims to assess the current state of the waterway



before the meeting. The Farakka Barrage, located in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, plays a critical role in regulating the flow of the Ganges River into Bangladesh. The India-Bangladesh water agreement, signed on December 12, 1996, is set to expire in December 2026, making this meeting a crucial milestone in determining the future of water sharing between the two nations. The agreement has been a topic of discussion for decades, with Bangladesh seeking a more equitable share of the Ganges River's water. The meeting will bring together representatives from both countries to discuss the renewal of the water-sharing treaty. With the expiration of the current agreement looming, this meeting is seen as a vital opportunity for India and Bangladesh to work towards a mutually beneficial solution.

**Cow smuggling Ring Busted: Mastermind and Accomplice Arrested**

**MI News Service, Bankura:** A significant break through, the Jaipur police station in Bankura has arrested the ringleader of a notorious cow theft ring in South Bengal, Sourav Ghosh and his associate, Sheikh Amir Hossain. The arrests were made on Monday in the Chandipur police station area of East Medinipur district. The investigation revealed that Sourav Ghosh, a resident of Nodakhali in South 24 Parganas, was the mastermind behind the

cow smuggling operation. He would hire professional thieves from Maheshstala, Nadekhali, and steal cows, paying them Rs.500 per cow. The stolen cows were then transported to various districts in South Bengal and sold at slaughterhouses for Rs. 30,000 to Rs.35,000 each. The police also seized a truck used for transporting the stolen cows and recovered several stolen cows and recovered cows. Sourav Ghosh's luxurious lifestyle funded by the lucrative cow

smuggling business, was also uncovered. He would frequently visit famous hotels in tourist destinations across the state using multiple SIM cards to evade detection. The arrests mark a significant milestone in the investigation which began in January after several complaints of cow theft were filed in Kotulpur and Jaipur police stations in Bankura. The police had previously arrested nine members of the gang but Sourav Ghosh remained at large until now.

**Panagarh incident: Driver arrested for culpable homicide after giving conflicting statements**

**MI News Service, Panagarh:** In a significant development following the tragic accident in Panagarh that claimed the life of event manager Sutandra Chatterjee, police have arrested Rajdeo Sharma, her driver, on charges of culpable homicide. This follows the earlier arrest of Bablu Yadav, the owner and driver of the white car involved in the incident.

Rajdeo Sharma's arrest comes after he allegedly provided inconsistent statements regarding the circumstances leading up to the accident. Initially, Sharma claimed that the white car, driven by Bablu Yadav, had harassed and made lewd gestures toward Sutandra and her colleagues. However, in a later statement, he alleged that Sutandra instructed him to chase the white car after it allegedly struck their vehicle. He admitted to driving at speeds exceeding 100 kmph in an attempt to catch up with the other vehicle when the accident occurred.

Confidential statements from Sutandra's colleagues, along with CCTV footage analysis, indicate a rivalry between the two vehicles, suggesting a possible race. The footage shows the white car moving ahead, followed closely by Sutandra's vehicle.

Bablu Yadav, the driver of the white car, was arrested on Thursday from Andal. Police investigations revealed that Yadav was driving a white Creta with at least three other passengers on board along NH-19 at the time of the accident. He has been charged with rash driving, endangering lives, culpable homicide not amounting to murder, and causing damage or wrongful loss.

**Chaos erupts over molestation allegation at Dum Dum School**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A massive uproar broke out at a school in Dum Dum after an eighth-grade student accused the headmaster of molestation. The incident led to protests by parents, who also allegedly vandalized school property, demanding immediate action against the accused.

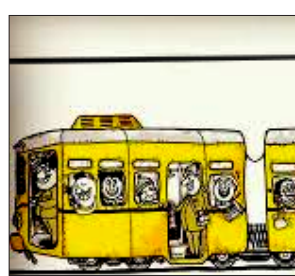
informed her family about the ordeal. Enraged by the revelation, parents and guardians gathered outside the school on Tuesday morning, raising slogans and demanding justice. Eyewitnesses reported that the protests turned chaotic, with some individuals damaging school property. The agitated parents insisted that this was not the first instance of misconduct by the headmaster. They claimed that similar complaints

had been made in the past but were ignored. The victim's family has filed a formal complaint at the Dum Dum police station, urging strict action against the accused.

A fellow student, expressing her anger, called the headmaster a "shameless man." A parent alleged, "Girls have been facing harassment here for a long time, but no action was taken despite repeated complaints." The victim, demanding

**Kolkata tram's future uncertain as case reaches SC**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The future of trams in Kolkata remains uncertain as the Calcutta High Court hearing has been deferred following the West Bengal government's appeal to the Supreme Court challenging the High Court's previous order.



pause in the High Court proceedings. During discussions in court, the state advocated for a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model for trams, citing financial constraints as a major obstacle to independent tram restoration. The

Chief Justice's bench acknowledged that tram revival was impossible without state support, emphasizing that PPP models require prior government funding approval. The bench further suggested that a public notice could be issued to explore PPP

implementation in the tram sector. The state also highlighted its past attempt to introduce a PPP model for buses, stating that without fare hikes, the experience was disastrous. While the Chief Justice agreed on fare issues, he suggested introducing higher fares in tourist-heavy areas as an initial experiment for trams. As the matter is now pending in the Supreme Court, the High Court clarified that further hearings will only proceed once the apex court reaches a decision.

**Mysterious red packet brings tears to Woman's eyes**



**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** A shocking discovery was made in Phulbari, Jalpaiguri, when a woman stumbled upon a mysterious red packet while walking along the canal bank. Her curiosity got the better of her, and upon opening the packet, she was startled to find a country-made knife and four rounds of bullets inside. The incident occurred on the canal bank of Amai Dighi village in Gram Panchayat No. 2 of Fulbari, Jalpaiguri. The woman's discovery sparked widespread excitement and fear in the area, with local residents and panchayat members expressing concerns about the presence of outsiders and daily thefts. The police were promptly informed, and a team from the New Jalpaiguri Police Station, under the Siliguri Police Commissioner, arrived at the scene to recover the firearms and bullets. Local panchayat member Shamsul Haque described the recovered gun as a pipe gun, accompanied by four bullets. The authorities are urged to conduct a thorough investigation into the incident and take necessary actions to address the concerns of the local community. Opposition parties are complaining about easy availability of fire arms all over the state.

**Sebaashray opens its account in Maheshstala**



**MI News Service, South 24 Pgs:** With #Sebaashray opening its account in Maheshstala, we enter the final leg of an extraordinary journey that has redefined last-mile healthcare delivery. But the mission remains unchanged. The same resolve, rigour and relentless commitment that marked Day 1 continues to drive us on Day 61. Since inception, we have taken professional healthcare to the doorsteps of 8,86,704 patients, completely free of cost. Today, in Maheshstala, our health camps catered to 5,371 patients, ensuring timely medical intervention. 4,226 patients underwent diagnostic tests, 5,254 received essential medicines and 22 critical cases were referred for advanced care.

**Seminar on Shrii Anandamurtiji thoughts**

**MI News Service, Purulia:** According to Shrii Anandamurtiji, there are three evolution processes- Physical force emanated from the physical clash, Psychic force emanated from the psychic clash and spiritual force emanated from attraction of the great. Professor Gopalchandra Misra, former VC of University of Gour Banga was the Chairperson. Professor Gopalchandra Misra, former VC, University of Gour Banga and Professor Rajkumar Modak, Dept. of Philosophy, Sidho-Kanho-Birsha University, delivered their talk on the above mentioned topic. Prof. Bhupendra Chandra Das, retired professor of Department of Philosophy and the Life-world, Vidyasagar University chaired the 1st session. Professor B.N. Bhattacharya, Director, School of Vedic Studies, Rabindra Bharati University spoke on Yoga and Shrii Anandamurti. Dr. Buddhadev Bhattacharya, Associate Prof, Dept. of Philosophy, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda. Spoke on Shrii Anandamurtiji's Indian knowledge system. Prof. Jhadeswar Ghosh, Department of Philosophy, Vidyasagar University chaired the session.



Additional Director General & HoD, GSI, Eastern Region, Varsha Ashok Aglawe, Joint Commissioner of Police (HQ) Bidhannagar Badana Varun C. Shekhar and other officers of GSI during the celebration of 175th GSI Foundation Day at Salt Lake in Kolkata

**Yatri Sathi brings back yellow taxis, But does Bengal govt's app-cab service work?**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Finding a cab Kolkata on weekday mornings can be a bit like the Indian share markets in the time of Donald Trump. On some days, there's a cab two minutes from your location, and on others it is like finding an oasis in the Sahara. While the city has a fleet of application-based cab services — like Uber, Ola and Drive, the travel predicament is real. Not to forget the flat refusals from the good old 'No Refusal' taxis, or quoting exorbitant fares. The emerging app-based cab service Yatri Sathi, managed by the Bengal government, has a USP to offer — availability of yellow and white taxis (AC and non AC). Yes, the Bengal government is reportedly set to introduce 3,000 yellow taxis — to replace the iconic yellow Ambassadors of yore — and last week a fleet of 20 such vehicles was inaugurated by the transport minister. These are not Ambassadors, but Maruti vehicles.

This caught our attention, and I decided to give it a try. While I did not get any yellow taxi — there is no option to choose — I did get three white and blue ones. What I experienced was a mix bag of commendable safety measures and erratic pricing. But let's start with the primary factor — are Yatri Sathi cabs easily available, and how are the navigation skills of the drivers? Are Yatri Sathi cabs easily available? I first tried to book a cab on March 3 around 10 am, followed by two more trials on the evening of the same day, and on March 4, I was pleasantly surprised. The map shows the number of cars available in my location. There have been no refusals so far either, and the drivers have been able to reach the location on time. One good practice that the Yatri Sathi drivers follow is, they call as soon as the trip is booked to understand the location and know the landmarks. The three experiences that I had involved minimum phone calls. And I reached on time. Plus for navigation, minus for cleanliness. Like some other cab services such as Uber and Ola, each booked ride on Yatri Sathi gets a unique One Time Password (OTP). The navigation works smoothly too, which is another plus for Yatri Sathi. Among the minuses, the first and foremost is the condition of the cabs. While they look spick and span from out-

side, the ones I travelled in had the seats torn, the springs didn't work. For someone like me, who suffers from bouts of nausea, uncomfortable seats add to the woes. The second minus is cleanliness. The cabs are dusty enough to make you sneeze. Do Yatri Sathi cabs have safety measures? The cabs have SOS buttons on both sides. Pressing on the SOS button alerts the primary contacts set by the rider and the police. An SOS button (blue with a white plus sign) is also available on the app that at the count of five seconds blows a siren and informs the trusted contacts and the police, as well as the security team of Yatri Sathi. A rider can also record audio and call the safety team from the app. Between pressing the siren button, there is a buffer time of a minute before the Yatri Sathi safety team reacts. They keep calling until the rider receives and informs the reason behind pressing the siren. A rider is also given the option to click on 'Mark Ride As Safe'.

As a woman who travels around the city for work, this was a huge plus for me, especially because of a harrowing incident from another app-based cab a few years ago.

**2,500 ISKCON Devotees denied Visa by Bangladesh, Sparking religious discrimination allegations**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Nearly 2,500 ISKCON devotees from Bangladesh have been denied visas to attend the 539th appearance anniversary of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu at ISKCON's Mayapur headquarters. The festival, running from February 10 to March 16, attracts thousands globally, but Bangladeshi devotees, a key pilgrimage group, have allegedly been blocked.



Despite applying months in advance for Group Tourist Visas, their applications were rejected, raising allegations that Bangladesh's caretaker government, led by Mohammad Yunus, is deliberately suppressing Hindu religious participation. The ISKCON community condemned the move as an attack on religious freedom. Prominent ISKCON monk Chinmoy Krishna Das remains imprisoned in Bangladesh for alleged sedition, sparking international protests. Religious leaders in India have criticized the visa denial, with Swami Paramatmananda Ji Maharaj calling Mayapur a sacred site and denouncing the restrictions. While over 10,000 inter-

national devotees joined the festival, Bangladesh's absence is notable. MP Jyotirmoy Singh Mahato vowed to raise the issue with India's External Affairs Ministry. The situation underscores growing concerns over religious freedom in Bangladesh, where Hindus face increasing restrictions.

**Heat wave intensifies as rain remains elusive**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The scorching heat of spring has already begun making its presence felt across West Bengal, with temperatures steadily rising. The sun's intensity is increasing, and the lack of rain has left both southern and northern Bengal dry. According to the Alipore Meteorological Department, there is no immediate possibility of rain in the coming days. While temperatures are expected to remain stable for the next two to three days, a slight drop of 2-3°C may be observed afterward. The city of Kolkata recorded a minimum temperature of 22.7°C on Tuesday, which is 1.7°C above normal. While some districts of southern Bengal are still experiencing a mild spring, the heat has become more pronounced in Kolkata. Other districts in the region are also experiencing an increase in daytime temperatures, and with no rain in sight, the warmth is expected to persist.

Since the beginning of March, mercury levels have been rising consistently in southern Bengal. Meteorologists predict that temperatures will remain steady for the next two days, but thereafter, the heat is likely to intensify further. With March approaching mid-month, the impact of the heat is expected to become more prominent. According to the Meteorological Department, there is no forecast of rain across any districts of southern Bengal for the next few days. The maximum temperature is expected to remain stable, but after a couple of days, it will start rising again. Weather experts believe that from mid-March onward, Bengal will begin to experience more intense summer-like conditions. Currently, Kolkata enjoys pleasant weather, but meteorologists caution that temperatures will begin to rise soon. Though no rain is ex-

pected in the city in the near future, by mid-March, the mercury is likely to climb significantly, leading to increased discomfort. The weather in North Bengal remains relatively pleasant, with only light rain expected in Darjeeling. However, the rest of North Bengal will remain dry, with no significant precipitation expected. Meteorologists confirm that the region will experience stable temperatures, but by mid-March, northern districts may also start feeling the heat more prominently. As spring transitions into summer, West Bengal is bracing for hotter days ahead. While March usually brings occasional showers, this year, the absence of rain has heightened the impact of the rising temperatures. The dry spell is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, with heat levels increasing as the month progresses.



Members of West Bengal College & University Professors' Association (WBCUPA) and other organizations took part in a protest rally against leftist students organization over Jadavpur University incident issue in Kolkata.

Judicial inquiry ordered into JU incident

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Jadavpur University administration has finally stepped in following Saturday's turmoil, with acting Vice-Chancellor Bhaskar Gupta ordering a judicial inquiry into the matter. On Tuesday, he held a meeting with faculty associations, urging everyone to restore peace on campus. He also emphasized the need for collective efforts to maintain order.

The meeting was attended by representatives from JUTA (Jadavpur University Teachers' Association), WBCUPA, and two other faculty organizations. Senior university officials were also present. Discussions primarily revolved around the incidents of Saturday and their aftermath. Due to health concerns, the acting Vice-Chancellor could not attend in person but participated virtually.

Several critical issues were addressed during the meeting, including the demand for student union elections. However, the administration stressed that any electoral process must comply with existing regulations. During Tuesday's discussions, some faculty members demanded an FIR be lodged against the minister's vehicle for allegedly injuring students. However, WBCUPA opposed this move, instead calling for an investigation into the fire at the 'Shikshabandhu' office. Amid these conflicting demands, the administration decided to launch a judicial inquiry into Saturday's events. Additionally, the university has requested additional security personnel from the state government to restore order on campus.

Dr. N. G. Khaitan highlights India's economic growth at Bharat Chamber of Commerce's AGM

MI News Service, Kolkata: The 124th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Bharat Chamber of Commerce was held on Tuesday in Kolkata, inaugurated by G. Kishan Reddy, Minister for Coal and Mines, Government of India. Themed "Driving India's Economic Growth," the event focused on India's economic trajectory amid global uncertainties. Delivering the Welcome Address, Dr. N. G. Khaitan, President of Bharat Chamber of Commerce,



Bharat Chamber of Commerce 124th Annual General Meeting was attended by G. Kishan Reddy, Minister for Coal and Mines Government of India, Dr. N. G. Khaitan President Bharat Chamber of Commerce, P.M Prasad Chairman and Managing Director Coal India Limited and other respectable person on Tuesday, 4th March 2025 Kolkata.

ever, the mining industry saw a decline from 8.2% to 5.8%. Despite a global push for renewables, he emphasized coal's continued dominance in India's energy sector, supported by modern technology and emission control measures. Dr. Khaitan underscored the importance of underground mining, expressing optimism for the upcoming auction of 27-30 coal blocks, which will prioritize eco-friendly extraction methods. He also welcomed the Coal-to-Synthetic Natural Gas project in West Bengal, a CIL-GAIL joint venture, advocating greater investment under the Purvodaya Scheme. Dr. Khaitan addressed India's electoral reforms, particularly the "One Nation, One Election" initiative. While acknowledging its historical precedent before 1967, he emphasized the need for a clear roadmap to synchronize Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections, ensuring effective implementation.

CISF launches first-ever coastal Cyclothon to strengthen security

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a historic first, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is set to launch the CISF Coastal Cyclothon on March 7, commemorating its 56th



bai, Goa, Mangalore, Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, and Pondichery before concluding at the Swami Vivekananda Memorial in Kanyakumari on

Raising Day with an ambitious 6,553-kilometer cycling expedition along India's coastline. Under the theme (Secure Shores, Prosperous India), the initiative aims to raise awareness about coastal security and the threats posed by smuggling, including narcotics, weapons, and explosives. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will virtually flag off the event on March 7, emphasizing the significance of coastal security and national vigilance. "A total of 125 CISF personnel, including 14 women, will embark on this 25-day journey, starting simultaneously from Lakhpat, Gujarat on the West Coast and Bakkhali, West Bengal on the East Coast," said IG CISF Eastern Region SikharSahai at a press conference. The cyclists will cover 3,775 km on the western route and 2,778 km on the eastern route, passing through key coastal cities such as Mum-

March 31. The press conference was also attended by DIG CISF K. Pratap Singh and Ajay Kumar, Deputy Inspector General (Chief Airport Security Officer - CASO). Recognizing the physical and mental demands of cycling between 95 to 180 km per day, CISF implemented a rigorous selection process to ensure participants possess the necessary stamina, agility, and discipline. The officers underwent month-long training, focusing on endurance-building, nutrition, road safety, and high-performance cycling techniques to prepare them for the challenging expedition. The event will also feature: Swachh Bharat drives and tree plantation campaigns, Cultural performances by local artists and schoolchildren, Patriotic dramas, traditional dance performances, and band displays, Live demonstrations by CISF's fire and dog squads.

Kolkata introduces late-night bus service to ease commuting woes

MI News Service, Kolkata: To address the long-standing complaints of night commuters, the West Bengal Transport Corporation (WBTC) has introduced a late-night bus service across 20 key routes in Kolkata. The last buses will depart at 10:45 PM, ensuring that passengers can find buses on the road until midnight or later. This initiative aims to benefit office-goers, shopkeepers, and others who travel late at night. Previously, both government and private buses became scarce after 9 PM,

leaving many commuters struggling to find affordable transport options. The new night bus service will cover important areas such as Esplanade, Exide, Rashbehari, Tollygunge Metro, Kamalgazi, Ruby, Belegata, Utdanga, Dunlop, Shyambazar, Girish Park, Taratala, Science City, Khidderpore, Park Circus, and PTS. The routes covered under this initiative include: AC 24A, AC 5, AC 50A, AC 12D, AC 39, EB 14, E1, S24, S7, S3A, S30, S12D, AC 37, AC 47, AC 54, S12, S10A, S31, E32,

S22. The service will be available Monday to Friday, providing much-needed relief to daily commuters. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had earlier instructed Transport Minister Snehasis Chakraborty to increase the frequency of government buses. Following this directive, the number of public buses on the streets has risen significantly. Officials from the transport corporation assure that with this initiative, complaints about limited bus availability at

night will no longer persist. Additionally, the state government is purchasing six new Volvo buses for long-distance routes. These 43-seater luxury buses, each costing around 1.25 crore, will add to WBTC's fleet of 70 Volvo buses, many of which are currently undergoing maintenance. This initiative marks a significant step towards improving Kolkata's late-night public transport and ensuring a safer, more convenient commute for city residents.

India's security apparatus...

From PG 1 impact of disasters can be minimised with the use of advanced technology. "Today, India is a prospering nation, and disaster management must become an integral part of our preparedness." "It is not enough for security agencies and technology developers to take the lead; we must also educate the general public. Every citizen should know how to respond in times of crisis," he said. Singh also talked about varied security threats facing different regions of the country. "Security threats in India are not uniform. The issues faced in the Northeast due to insurgencies are different from those in Naxal-affected areas or border regions." "Similarly, urban security concerns are different from those in rural areas. We need to organise dedicated conferences that focus on region-specific challenges and solutions," he said.

Tragic triple suicide in Kasba: Financial struggles suspected

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata has been shaken once again by the tragic deaths of an entire family. Days after the shocking triple murder in Tangra, another distressing incident has come to light in Kasba, where a family of three was found hanging inside their home. The deceased have been identified as Somnath Roy (40), his wife Sumitra Roy (35), and their two-and-a-half-year-old son Rudranil Roy. The Kolkata Police, led by Kasba Police Station, has launched an investigation into the case. A suicide note was reportedly recovered from the scene, adding to suspicions that financial distress may have been a key factor behind the tragic decision. Somnath, an auto-rickshaw driver by profession, was allegedly under severe financial strain, with mounting debts that had escalated in recent weeks. According to sources, Somnath had accumulated significant debt, struggling to repay loans taken for personal and medical expenses. Reports indicate that just days before the incident, on February 28, creditors had visited his house, demanding repayment. Some even allegedly issued threats. Neighbors grew suspicious when no movement was detected from the household on Tuesday morning. They alerted the police, who forcibly entered the house, only to discover the lifeless bodies of the couple and their child. The tragic discovery has left the local community in shock. The incident bears similarities to a recent case in Tangra, where three members of a family were murdered, allegedly by a relative who later attempted suicide. Investigations revealed that the Tangra family was struggling under heavy financial burdens. The Haltu case now raises similar concerns. Local residents shared their observations, stating that Somnath owned his own auto-rickshaw but had been under immense pressure. "His child was unwell and had undergone surgery recently. The financial strain from medical expenses and daily survival might have pushed him into severe distress," said a neighbor. Sumitra's father, devastated by the loss, added, "My daughter and son-in-law were good people. Somnath drove an auto for a living. However, there were ongoing disputes over property within the family, which led to frequent arguments." Police are investigating multiple angles, including financial troubles and possible family disputes. Initial reports suggest that the family had ongoing conflicts over property matters, adding another layer of stress to their already strained situation.

Fresh snowfall in...

From PG 1 weather improved, they said. Train services on the Budgam-Baramulla section were also affected due to accumulation of heavy snow along the tracks in many areas of the valley. Moreover, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44) was blocked due to snow accumulation between Ramsoo and Qazigund, while shooting stones and landslides between Nashri and the NAVYUG Tunnel have further exacerbated the situation. The Batote-Doda road is also closed following a landslide at Ragi Nalla. Several other arterial roads including the SSG Road, Bhaderwah-Chamba Road, Mughal Road, and Sinthan Road also remained shut.

President Trump suspends...

From PG 1 early hours of 24 February, 2022, which started the open conflict between the Eastern European nations. However, since 2014, Ukraine and Russia have been in conflict with one another, after Moscow's annexation of Crimea. The dramatic escalation by Trump, further puts the US on opposite sides with his European allies. A number of American allies including the UK, France and Germany Sunday pledged to further support Kyiv, even as ties between the US and Ukraine remain strained. However, it is yet to be seen if the European nations have enough arms stockpiles to make a considerable difference for Ukraine to defend itself.

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Devidatta Satapathy, an IRSME officer (2009 batch), has assumed charge as Chief Vigilance Officer (CVO) of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (SMP), Kolkata, effective March 3, 2025. SMP Kolkata Chairman Rathendra Raman formally welcomed him in an introductory session with department heads. Satapathy, a recipient of the GM's Medal (2015), holds degrees from UCE Burla, Sambalpur University, and Nagaoka University, Japan. With 20+ years of experience, including roles at ONGC and the Ministry of Steel, he specializes in policy, railway operations, and energy management. The Chairman extended his best wishes for his tenure.

93 meds fail quality tests: Alarming findings in CDSCO report

MI News Service, Kolkata: A recent report by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) has sent shockwaves through the pharmaceutical industry and the healthcare sector. According to the report, 93 medicines, including widely used antibiotics, pediatric syrups, and essential drugs for high blood pressure, nausea, and pain relief, have failed quality tests conducted across India.

The CDSCO, responsible for ensuring the safety and efficacy of medicines, conducted extensive testing across various states. The results from December and January revealed that a total of 144 medicines failed to meet quality standards, with 93 of them being flagged in January alone. These findings have raised serious concerns about the safety of medicines consumed by patients daily.

Eastern Railway's Bonanza Holi Special Trains

Between Howrah & Raxaul, Sealdah & Gorakhpur, Kolkata & Patna Jn., Kolkata & Jaynagar, Howrah & Khatipura and Howrah & New Jalpaiguri

Table with train schedules for Eastern Railway's Bonanza Holi Special Trains. It includes route names like Howrah-Raxaul, Kolkata-Jaynagar, and Howrah-Khatipura, along with departure/arrival times and train numbers. A caption below the table states: "To clear extra rush of passengers, Holi Special Trains will run between Howrah & Raxaul, Sealdah & Gorakhpur, Kolkata & Patna Jn., Kolkata & Jaynagar, Howrah & Khatipura and Howrah & New Jalpaiguri as per following abstract timings, days of run, stoppages and composition: -"

ER facilitates joyous Holi Celebrations With Special Train Services

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Holi, the festival of colors, embodies the vibrant spirit of unity and joy, celebrated with fervor across India. In keeping with the tradition of bringing communities together, Eastern Railway has decided to run Seven (07) Holi special trains in different directions, catering to the increasing demand of passengers traveling to popular destinations during this festive season as well as catering to the need of the people returning home to unite with family members on this joyous occasion. To alleviate this issue and ensure hassle-free travel for passengers, the special trains will run between Howrah & Raxaul, Sealdah & Gorakhpur, Kolkata & Patna, Kolkata & Jaynagar, Howrah & Khatipura & Howrah & New Jalpaiguri. These special trains will offer additional capacity and flexibility to accommodate the extra rush of passengers during the Holi festival period. More than 22,300 berths and 500 Seats will be generated by running these Holi festival specials.

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Sadar stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.03135 Kolkata -Patna Holi special will leave Kolkata at 23:50 hrs. on 11.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Patna at 10:45 hrs. on the next day and 03136 Patna -Kolkata Holi special will leave Patna at 12:00 hrs. on 12.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Kolkata at 23:45 hrs. on the same day. The train will stop at Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Mokama, Bakhtiyarpur and Patna Saheb stations in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations. 03187 Kolkata - Jaynagar Holi special will leave Kolkata at 23:55 hrs. on 07.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Jaynagar at 13:50 hrs. on next day and 03188 Jaynagar -Kolkata Holi special will leave Jaynagar at 15:00 hrs. on 08.03.2025 (01 trip) to reach Kolkata at 05:15 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga, and Madhubani stations in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Second Class Seating, AC- Chair Car, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

CHANGE IN TIMINGS OF TRAINS

MI News Service, Kolkata: It has been decided to change the timings of following trains as per details given below :- (G) 68442 Puri-Jaleswar MEMU Passenger (Revised Timings w.e.f. JCO 25.04.2025)

Table with 4 columns: STATION, d, EXISTING TIME, REVISED TIME. Lists various train routes and their updated departure and arrival times.

Howrah division launches "Plant 4mother" campaign to enhance Environmental Sustainability



MI News Service, Kolkata:

Eastern Railway's Howrah Division has launched a significant environmental initiative, "PLANT 4 MOTHER (क पेट माँ के नाम)", aimed at improving the working environment, enhancing passenger amenities, and ensuring safety. With an ambitious target of planting 330,000 trees across the division, meticulous planning was undertaken to utilize vulnerable and abandoned railway land effectively. The plantation efforts were strategically categorized into four key areas like Station Approach Development, Vacant Land in Railway Colonies, Land Recovered from Unauthorized Encroachments and Cess Area for Seeding. To ensure smooth execution without disrupting railway operations, innovative plantation structures were designed, and tree species were carefully selected. The campaign has already achieved remarkable progress, with 292,805 saplings planted at various locations like Station premises, Circulating area, Railway Colonies within the division. One of the most notable achievements of this initiative was the successful replantation of seven old-aged trees from the proposed Platform 24 site at Howrah Station to

the opposite side of the Rail Museum. This was a crucial step in facilitating platform construction while preserving greenery. The replantation process was executed with expert guidance and biochemic fertilizers to ensure tree survival. Ensuring long-term sustainability, the Howrah Division has taken proactive measures to nurture the saplings and protect them from environmental threats. Mass plantation programs have also been organized at multiple stations, encouraging participation from daily passengers, local residents, and railway staff from different departments. This collaborative approach has strengthened the credibility of the campaign and garnered widespread community support. Through "PLANT4MOTHER", the Howrah Division Engineering Department is not only working towards environmental conservation but also focusing on beautifying railway premises, improving the passenger experience, and fostering community engagement. By continuing this initiative, the Division remains committed to enhancing railway infrastructure while promoting sustainability and ecological balance.

Tata Motors begins landmark trials of hydrogen-powered heavy duty trucks for long haul transportation

MI News Service, New Delhi Tata Motors on Tuesday launched the first-ever trials of hydrogen-powered heavy duty trucks in order to assess their viability for long haul transportation solutions. The trial phase will span up to 24 months and involves deployment of 16 advanced hydrogen-powered vehicles with varying configurations and payload capacities. The trucks, equipped with Hydrogen Internal Combustion Engines (H2-ICE) and Fuel Cell (H2-FCEV) technologies, will be tested on India's most prominent freight routes, including those around Mumbai, Pune, Delhi-NCR, Surat, Vadodara, Jamshedpur and Kalinganagar." For heavy duty, long haul transportation battery electric doesn't appear to be a viable technology.

Running of Holi Special Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata:

It has been decided to run Holi Special Trains between Charlapalli-Shalimar-Charlapalli and Charlapalli-Santragachi-Charlapalli as per following schedule: 07703/07704 Charlapalli-Shalimar-Charlapalli Special: 07703 Charlapalli-Shalimar Holi Special will leave Charlapalli on 09.03.2025 & 16.03.2025 at 19.45 hrs and will reach Shalimar at 02.00 hrs, the third day. 07704 Shalimar-Charlapalli Holi Special will leave Shalimar on 11.03.2025 & 18.03.2025 at 05.00 hrs and will reach Charlapalli at 08.10 hrs, the next day The Special train will have stoppages at Jaleswar, Kharagpur & Santragachi in SER jurisdiction.

07705/07706 Charlapalli-Santragachi-Charlapalli Special: 07705 Charlapalli-Santragachi Holi Special will leave Charlapalli on 07.03.2025 & 21.03.2025 at 07.15 hrs and will reach Santragachi at 10.30 hrs, the next day. In the return direction, 07706 Santragachi-Charlapalli Holi Special will leave Santragachi on 08.03.2025 & 22.03.2025 at 12.35 hrs and will reach Charlapalli at 16.40 hrs, the next day The Special train will have stoppages at Jaleswar & Kharagpur in SER jurisdiction.

Govt sends \$2.81-billion demand notice to Reliance, BP, partners for gas from ONGC block

MI News Service, New Delhi : The government has slapped a USD 2.81 billion (about Rs 24,500 crore) demand notice on Reliance Industries Ltd and its partners, including BP Plc for gains made from producing and selling natural gas that may have migrated from neighbouring block of state-owned ONGC. This follows the Delhi High Court's decision on February 14, overturning an international arbitration tribunal ruling that held the duo not responsible for paying any compensation for the gas they produced and sold which had allegedly migrated from adjoining fields.

"Consequent upon the Division Bench judgment, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has raised a demand of USD 2.81 billion on the PSC contractors namely Reliance Industries Ltd, BP Exploration (Alpha) Ltd and NIKO (NECO) Ltd," Reliance said in a stock exchange filing. Originally, Reliance held 60 per cent interest in Krishna Godavari basin deep-sea block KG-DWN-98/3 or KG-D6 while BP had 30 per cent and Canadian firm Niko held the remaining 10 per cent. Subsequently, Reliance and BP took over Niko's interest in the production sharing contract (PSC) and now hold 66.66 per cent and 33.33 per cent, respectively. The government had in 2016 sought USD 1.55 billion from Reliance and its partners for the quantum of gas that had migrated to its block KG-D6 from adjoining fields of ONGC. Reliance contested the claims before an arbitral tribunal which in July 2018 upheld that it was not obliged to pay any compensation. The government filed an appeal and in May 2023, a single judge of Delhi High Court last month set aside the single judge order, ruling against Reliance and its partners. Reliance said the letter of demand was received by the company on March 3, 2025. "The company is legally advised that the Division Bench judgment and this provisional demand are unsustainable. The company is taking steps to challenge the judgment of the Division Bench of Hon'ble Delhi High Court," it said.

Complete Block on Green Line on 08.03.2025 (Saturday) and 09.03.2025 (Sunday)

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway, Kolkata is going to grant another complete Traffic Block on 08.03.2025 (Saturday) and 09.03.2025 (Sunday) (2 days, Saturday and Sunday) for testing of Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) System on the entire East-West Metro Corridor (Green Line) from Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V. No services will be available during that period on East-West Corridor only. Services will be partially affected on 07.03.2025 evening and 10.03.2025 morning also as under. Last Metro Service on 07.03.25 (Friday)

Green Line - 1: At 19:03 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V (instead of 21:35 hrs.) at 19:05 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah (instead of 21:40 hrs.) Green Line-2: At 19:00 hrs. from Esplanade and Howrah Maidan (instead of 21:45 hrs.) First Metro Service on 10.03.25 (Monday) Green Line - 1: At 08:05 hrs. from Salt Lake Sector V to Sealdah (instead of 07:05 hrs.) At 08:15 hrs. from Sealdah to Salt Lake Sector V (instead of 06:55 hrs.) Green Line-2: At 08:00 hrs. from Esplanade and Howrah Maidan (instead of 07:00 hrs.) Services on Blue Line will be operated as usual. Inconvenience caused to the Green Line Metro passengers is deeply regretted.

Multiple 'Name Change' notices. Each notice includes the name of the person, their address, and the details of the name change, often mentioning a Notary Public or a court order.

Indian Railways and Wildlife: A complex relationship

MI News Service, Kolkata: Wildlife is the heartbeat of our planet, ensuring ecological balance and enriching our world in countless ways. To honor its significance, the UN designated March 3rd as World Wildlife Day in 2013, marking the anniversary of CITES, signed in 1973. This annual event serves as a global call to protect endangered species and recognize wildlife's profound impact on nature and humanity.

tion routes. Habitat Fragmentation and Displacement Railway lines often cut through forests, wetlands, and grasslands, dividing animal habitat and restricting their movement. This increases the risk of starvation, predation and human-wildlife conflict. Species like tigers, elephants, and leopards are particularly affected as their large home ranges become fragmented, leading to population isolation and genetic decline.

ods to transport wildlife and wildlife products via Indian Railways. These methods include: Concealment in Luggage: Smugglers often hide animal or animal parts in luggage, using false compartments or specially designed containers to avoid detection.

have reduced train-animal collisions. Speed restrictions in North Bengal and Odisha further help mitigate accidents. Early warning systems, such as thermal cameras in Bandipur National Park, alert loco pilots & station masters about animal movement. Habitat restoration initiatives, including afforestation along railway tracks and wetland conservation near railway bridges, are being implemented to mitigate environmental impacts.

Surveillance and Technology Deployment - RPF is also using CTV surveillance, X ray baggage scanners to detect suspicious activities. Sniffer dogs have also been trained & deployed at stations & in trains to detect smuggling of wildlife products.

Wildlife smuggling, it is useful to examine specific case studies. These case studies highlight the various methods used by smugglers and the challenges faced in combating this illicit trade.

by RPF Inspector-in-charge of RPF Chhapra Post along with staff found 70 live turtles kept in coach S-5 in 3 unclaimed bags. After successful recovery it was handed over to the Forest department after completing legal formalities.

harder to track and dismantle operations. WAY FORWARD To strengthen the Railway Protection Force's (RPF) efforts against wildlife smuggling, increased use of X ray scanners, specialized training, and advanced surveillance technologies like AI-driven monitoring needs to be adopted.

IGNOU received A++ award rating by NAAC

MI News Service, Kolkata: Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), a Central University and the largest University in the world in terms of enrolment and proud recipient

of A++ award rating by NAAC, will organise its 38th Convocation on 5th March 2025. The main function of the Convocation will be held at IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. At Regional Centre, Kolkata, the Convocation ceremony will be held at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Auditorium (Main Auditorium), National Institute of Technical Teacher's Training & Research (NITTTR), Block FC, Sector-III, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700106 from 12.00 pm. Professor Ranjan Chakrabarti, Former Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata will be the Guest of Honour and will deliver the Convocation address.

Office of the GARAMARI GRAM PANCHAYAT VIII+PO, Garamari, P.S. Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad, (W.B.) UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK

Office of the MADHURKUL GRAM PANCHAYAT VIII+PO, Madhurkul, P.S. Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad, (W.B.) UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK

Annual Conference 2025 of All India Human Rights Council organized in Sarat Sadan Hall, Howrah

MI News Service, Kolkata: We fight for human rights. Our mission and our vision is the fight for rights. Justice, freedom and equality are our pillars and we are working on this all over the country. All these words were said by Syed Atif Shah, National President of All India Human Rights Council.

The Annual Conference 2025 of the All India Human Rights Council was organized in Sarat Sadan Hall, Howrah. Where hundreds of members from every corner of Bengal participated. During this, the All India Human Rights Council also launched its website.

harassment, right to education, illegal act, failure in police work, non registration of FIR, child labour, sexual harassment, communal violence, violation of fundamental rights.

1) Syed Atif Shah National President 2) Jitendra Pal Singh National Vice President 3) Dr. Sayed Mashood Treasurer 4) Ranjit Kumar Gupta National General Secretary 5) Prashanta Sardar National Secretary 6) Mita Chakraborty National Chairperson Women Cell

EASTERN RAILWAY Following E-tender is invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building, near Railway Station, Howrah-711011 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work: [Sr.DEN/Howrah]-E-Tender No.: 356/2024-25, Date: 28.02.2025.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-TENDER NOTICE Tender Notice No.: PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/25/111 Dated: 27.02.2025. PCMM/CLW/Howrah on behalf of the President of India invites electronic bids from established reliable manufacturer for supply of the following.

Office of the GARAMARI GRAM PANCHAYAT VIII+PO, Garamari, P.S. Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad, (W.B.) UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK

Office of the MADHURKUL GRAM PANCHAYAT VIII+PO, Madhurkul, P.S. Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad, (W.B.) UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK

Office of the JAGATBALLAVPUR-I GRAM PANCHAYAT Naikuli, Munshihra, Jagatballapur, Howrah

Office of the Nabastha-I Gram Panchayat Ausha, Nabastha, Purba Bardhaman

Office of the Nabastha-I Gram Panchayat Ausha, Nabastha, Purba Bardhaman

Office of the Nabastha-I Gram Panchayat Ausha, Nabastha, Purba Bardhaman

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PUBLIC NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091. The following borrower(s) has/have defaulted in the repayment of principal and interest towards the Loan facility(ies) availed from ICICI Bank. The Loan(s) has/have been classified as Non-Performing Assets(s) (NPA).

# Researchers discover protein that help prevent cancer treatment-related heart damage

WASHINGTON : Blocking the protein CDK7 could prevent heart damage caused by a routinely used cancer chemotherapy treatment, according to a study conducted by scientists at Washington State University. Importantly, the researchers discovered that blocking CDK7 could improve the medication's cancer-killing efficacy.

Based on an animal model, the study's findings potentially lay the groundwork for future treatment options to decrease chemotherapy-related heart damage and improve treatment efficacy. This has the potential to help people with cancer live

longer lives. Heart damage caused by chemotherapy can manifest decades later and lead to heart attacks, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and other types of heart disease.

The findings of the study were published in the journal Cardiovascular Research, the WSU study focused on doxorubicin, a chemotherapy drug used to treat breast cancer, lymphoma, leukemia and other cancers.

Capable of killing a wide range of cancer cells, doxorubicin and other similar chemotherapy medications are known to be toxic to the heart.

Despite this toxicity, the drug still sees a lot of use.

"Doxorubicin remains the mainstay treatment for certain cancer types for which targeted therapies or other better treatments are not available," said senior study author Zhaokang Cheng, an associate professor in the WSU College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Cheng has been working to unravel the underlying mechanisms of doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity to make the use of doxorubicin safer for patients who rely on the drug. This new study builds on findings from earlier research that showed

that doxorubicin activates a protein known as CDK2. That protein then activates another known as FOXO1, which causes heart cells to die. Cheng's team collaborated with WSU cancer biology researcher Boyang (Jason) Wu to take a closer look at CDK7, a protein that helps fuel cell growth and has been shown to play a role in the development of cancer.

The researchers found that CDK7 activated CDK2, which set off the chain of molecular signals that eventually led to heart cell death. They also showed that mice that lacked the CDK7 gene were protected from doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity.

Next, they used a CDK7 inhibitor drug known as THZ1 to block the protein's activity and examine the impact on heart health and cancer growth. A similar inhibitor is currently being tested as an anticancer drug in clinical trials, but its effect on the heart is still not clear. "We are the first to study the effect of THZ1 on the heart and tumour growth in the same model," said study first author Jingrui Chen, a WSU research associate. "And what we found is that this CDK7 inhibitor drug can increase heart function and at the same time inhibit tumour growth."

Based on an animal model, the study's findings potentially lay the groundwork for future treatment options to decrease chemotherapy-related heart damage and improve treatment efficacy. This has the potential to help people with cancer live longer lives. Heart damage caused by chemotherapy can manifest decades later and lead to heart attacks, heart failure, cardiomyopathy, and other types of heart disease.

Though more research is needed, the researchers said their findings suggest that com-

bining doxorubicin and THZ1 could help prevent heart damage and increase the effectiveness of chemotherapy treatment.

The researchers' next step is to test the effect of THZ1 on heart damage and cancer growth in younger mice and follow them longer. This would more closely mimic long-term doxorubicin-induced heart toxicity seen in childhood cancer survivors. They also plan to look at other proteins that may somehow be involved in the signaling pathway that underlies doxorubicin-related heart damage.

## STUDY FINDS TEMPERATURE CAN INFLUENCE MICROBIAL COMPETITION IN

LOS ANGELES : Wastewater-derived antimicrobial resistance genes (ARGs) can penetrate and initially join natural biofilms after being injected into a river, a study said. Although, they may not last long, researchers reported this week in mSphere. However, as the river's temperature rises, the frequency of invasive ARGs reduces considerably, indicating that the preexisting microbial community is removing the resistant intruders. In barely two weeks, the concentration of ARGs in river water at 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) returned to its initial level. The finding suggests that rivers may offer a kind of defence against the spread of ARGs in wastewater. It was also contrary to what the researchers expected.

Most ARGs in wastewater originate in human faeces and thrive at the temperature of the human body, which is higher than most waterways. The microbiologists anticipated that warm rivers would be a welcome environment.

"We thought they should be rather well-adapted to higher temperatures," said microbiologist Uli Klumper, PhD, at Technische Universität Dresden's Institute of Hydrobiology.

"So if river temperatures are rising with climate change, we wanted to know if these bacteria from wastewater would have an easier time integrating with the natural biofilms."

Klumper co-led the study with his PhD student Kenyum Bagra, who joined TU Dresden on a DAAD exchange fellowship from the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, who led the study. The work was funded through the ANTIVERSA project by Biodiversa, a European biodiversity organi-

zation. Klumper, Bagra and their colleagues first immersed 27 glass slides in the Lockwitzbach River, in eastern Germany, for a month. "It's relatively pristine," Klumper said. They collected the slides, which had amassed a natural biofilm from the river, and immersed them in artificial river systems at 1 of 3 temperatures. After a week, they observed that the abundance of naturally occurring ARGs increased in the warmest water, at 30 degrees Celsius.

Then, they exposed all the test slides to wastewater for 1 day and monitored the abundance of ARGs, both those that occurred naturally and those from wastewater, over the next 2 weeks. The ARGs from the wastewater readily invaded the biofilm in all 3 cases, with no difference in abundance by temperature.

"The introduction seems to be temperature independent," Klumper said. But that's where the similarities ended. In the warmest water, the abundance of the invasive ARGs dropped significantly over 2 weeks. By the end of the experiment, the overall level of ARGs had returned to its initial, natural abundance, and the invasive ARGs had all but vanished.

In the other 2 groups, the invasive ARGs fared better. In some cooler samples, they were able to establish in the biofilm community, even at abundances far higher than the naturally occurring ARGs.

Those results suggested that the competition between invasive and indigenous microbes was mediated by temperature, Klumper said. "We were really surprised. Researchers often assume that a warming world will promote pathogenic ARGs, he said, but it's likely not so straightforward.



Graduates pose for a picture during the 56th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Mass Communication, in New Delhi on Tuesday. (ANI Photo/Sanjay Sharma)

## Study reveals type of childhood leukaemia originates during foetal development

BARCELONA : Acute myeloid leukaemia is the second most prevalent type of acute leukaemia in childhood, and it can be detected within a few months of life. The disease's early beginning raised the possibility that the cancer originated before birth. However, validating this notion has been difficult due to the scarcity of prenatal or newborn samples.

The opportunity to study the origin of this leukaemia arose from the case of a five-month-old baby diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia at the Hospital Nino Jesus in Madrid," explained Pablo Menendez, ICREA professor at the University of Barcelona and the Josep Carreras Institute.

"The parents, who had preserved the umbilical cord blood, opened a line of research that until now had not been possible to address," added the researcher.

Using precision medicine techniques, researchers analysed the complete genome of the tumour. Unlike tumours in adults, where thousands of mutations are detected, only two chromosomal alterations were identified in this



leukaemia. "Genome analysis allowed us to design a personalised diagnostic method to monitor the disease," says Xose S. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Barcelona. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oviedo. "But these data raise new questions, such as

when the tumour arose and in what order these mutations have appeared," he highlights. These questions are difficult to answer, since such research requires blood samples from the baby before the diagnosis, something that is impossible in the vast majority of cases. However, in this particular case, the existence of a

frozen umbilical cord sample allowed researchers to separate different populations of blood cells at birth and to study whether any of the chromosomal alterations detected in the tumour were already present during foetal development.

The study revealed that a translocation between chromosome 7 and 12 was already present in some haematopoietic stem cells in the umbilical cord. In contrast, the other chromosomal alteration, a trisomy of chromosome 19, was not present in the foetus, but was found in all tumour cells, suggesting that it contributes to increasing the malignancy of the leukemic cells. "These data are highly relevant for understanding the development of a devastating disease, and the existence of this umbilical cord sample was crucial to be able for conducting a study that had been impossible until now in acute myeloid leukaemia," adds Talia Velasco, researcher at the Josep Carreras Institute and the University of Barcelona and co-leader of the study.

## ICAI INAUGURATES RESEARCH HUB AT COE HYDERABAD

NEW DELHI: Chartered accountants' apex body ICAI on Tuesday said it has set up a state-of-the-art research hub at its Centre of Excellence (CoE) Hyderabad. The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has appointed Nupur Pavan Bang as the Director and Dean of CoE. The Centre will conduct in-depth studies on Union and state Budgets, financial literacy, the role of chartered accountants in policymaking and good governance with ease of doing business, among other subjects, the ICAI said in a statement. Further, insights from these research initiatives will be shared with the government, reinforcing ICAI's commitment to become a trusted partner in national progress and development, it added. "Through state-of-the-art research, development, and innovation facilities, ICAI aims to produce impactful research that will help in policymaking, strategic decision making, cultivating professional excellence, creating rewarding opportunities for students and professionals globally and supporting the upskilling and reskilling of ICAI members, students, employees, government officials and other stakeholders," ICAI President Ranjeet Kumar Agarwal said. At present, ICAI has two centres of excellence in Hyderabad and Jaipur and is planning to inaugurate the third in Kolkata in January 2025. Also, ICAI is planning to open eight more CoEs across the country in the next three years fostering research, innovation, and skill-building. ICAI is a statutory body set up by an Act of Parliament. The institute functions under the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

# Study finds how new type of cell therapy help ARDS patients

LOS ANGELES : A novel form of cell therapy may help patients who are critically ill with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) brought on by severe COVID-19, according to a study.

Professor Justin Stebbing of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a co-senior author of a recent study that examines the application of agentT-797, an allogeneic, unmodified invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell treatment developed by MiNK Therapeutics.

The work was published in the journal Nature Communications.

The iNKT cell therapy has the effect of rescuing depleted T cells and inducing an anti-inflammatory cytokine

response, perhaps activating antiviral immunity to assist these patients fight infection while also reducing severe, pathogenic inflammation of the lung.

The new research was carried out at three medical centres and found that agentT-797, which is also under investigation in cancer trials, could be manufactured rapidly, had a tolerable safety profile and appeared to have a positive effect on mortality among critically unwell COVID-19 ARDS patients receiving intensive care.

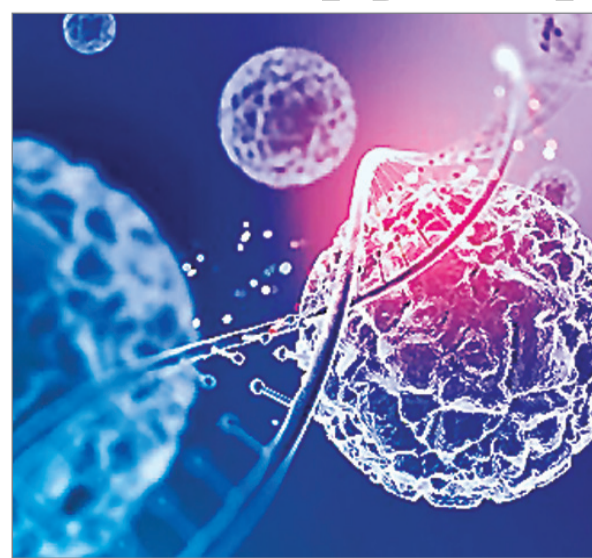
The exploratory trial included 20 mechanically ventilated patients with severe ARDS secondary to

Covid-19. Of the 20 patients in the trial, 14 survived (70 per cent) at 30 days (compared to a control group of 10 per cent), and there was an 80 per cent lower occurrence of bacterial pneumonia amongst those who received the highest dosage of agentT-797, compared to those who received fewer cells.

Twenty-one patients were treated overall (the main trial, plus one under compassionate use), which included five who were also receiving veno-venous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO), known as 'the most aggressive salvage therapy' for critically ill patients with ARDS. In VV-ECMO, deoxygenated blood is pumped

through a membrane lung and returned to the body via a cannula.

This trial is believed to be the first immune cell therapy of any type to be used in critically unwell patients undergoing VV-ECMO. Survival of the VV-ECMO cohort was 80 per cent after 30 and 90 days, and 60 per cent after 120 days. This compares favourably to the overall survival of 51 per cent for patients with Covid-19 who were treated with just VV-ECMO at the same institution, during the same timeframe. Joint senior author Justin Stebbing, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge,



England, said, "During this small, exploratory study we observed that MiNK's iNKT cell treatment, which is also being advanced for people with cancer, triggered an anti-inflammatory response in ARDS patients.

"Despite a poor prognosis, critically ill patients treated with this therapy showed favourable mortality rates and those treated at the highest dose also had reduced rates of pneumonia, underscoring the potential application of iNKT cells, and agentT-797 in particular, in treating viral diseases and infections more broadly.

"AgentT-797 was manufactured rapidly and as opposed to using patients'

cells, it is 'off-the-shelf' and made from healthy donors' cells. The potential of this therapy to be used across a number of severe infections warrants randomised controlled trials."

Dr Marc van Dijk, Chief Scientific Officer at MiNK and co-author of the study said, "These published findings reinforce the unique power and potential of iNKT cells to mitigate severe acute respiratory distress.

"The data demonstrate agentT-797's encouraging survival benefit, ability to help clear secondary infections, and tolerable administration in ventilated patients and those on VV-ECMO support."

**Palestine urges Israel to withdraw from Gaza, calls for 'real int'l measures'**

**MI News Service, Gaza:** The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates called for the Israeli army to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and allow the State of Palestine to assume its duties.

In a press statement, the ministry called for real international measures "to curb the occupation's aggression against our people and their rights in a way that ensures the establishment of a ceasefire and the rapid empowerment of the State of Palestine and its internationally recognized legitimate institutions to carry out their responsibilities and immediately extend their sovereignty over the Gaza Strip and the entire Palestinian territory occupied since 1967." Earlier on Saturday, the 42-day initial phase of the three-stage agreement between Hamas and Israel expired, with no breakthrough announced for its next phase. Xinhua news agency reported. Israel is seeking to extend the first phase of the Gaza ceasefire agreement for an additional 42 days, while Hamas rejects this and wants to move forward with negotiations for the second phase.

The second phase of the agreement is supposed to focus on the release of the remaining Israeli hostages, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, and the implementation of a permanent ceasefire. Earlier on Thursday, Israeli officials said that the military would not withdraw from the strategic strip along the Gaza-Egypt border despite a ceasefire agreement that calls for a pullout by Saturday. Israel received the bodies of four hostages in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, marking the final swap under the first phase of a three-stage ceasefire deal. Three of the hostages were killed while in captivity, while the fourth died during the Hamas-led attack on October 7, 2023, according to the Prime Minister's office. Forensic experts in Tel Aviv confirmed the identification of the four bodies after Hamas handed them over.

**Israel's Defense Minister Katz thanks US counterpart for 'Accelerating shipments of weapons'**

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** Israel Defence Minister Israel Katz spoke with US Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth, whom he thanked, for President Trump's support for accelerating shipments of weapons and security equipment to Israel, and for his commitment to the "strong alliance between the countries." Katz said that Israel had agreed to the outline proposed by the President's Special Envoy for the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, and stressed the need to return all the Israeli hostages still held in Gaza and to destroy the Hamas regime there.

The Minister reviewed with the Secretary Hegseth the IDF's (Israel Defense Forces) activities in Judea and Samaria against terrorism, emphasized the importance of the security areas Israel's military established in Lebanon and Syria, and thanked America for its support. In addition, Katz and Hegseth agreed that Iran is the main threat to the region, and that close cooperation between Israel and the US must continue with the aim of preventing it from obtaining nuclear weapons.



In this image posted by @BR0India via X, rescue team members pose for group photos after the conclusion of Mana Rescue operations following an avalanche, in Chamoli district.

**Uyghur activists to gather in Munich for summits on human rights and China's repression**

**MI News Service, Munich:** The World Uyghur Congress (WUC) has announced that the Third East Turkistan/Uyghur Summit and the Uyghur Youth Summit will take place in Germany's Munich from May 23-25.

According to the WUC's press release, the events will bring together Uyghur leaders, human rights advocates, community representatives, and activists from around the world alongside allies from the Tibetan, Southern Mongolian, Taiwanese, and Hong Kong communities.



The WUC noted that these summits occur at a pivotal moment, with China's growing authoritarianism and expansionist foreign policy dominating global discussions. It emphasised that the Chinese government's systematic abuses in East Turkistan, including genocide and crimes against humanity,

influenced by China's economic influence and remaining complicit in its actions. WUC also highlighted China's ongoing efforts to reshape the global order in ways that undermine international law, especially in light of its human rights abuses. The organisation also pointed out that China's transnational repression, particularly through AI surveillance technologies, continues to target Uyghur refugees globally. These individuals face mounting fear of forced repatriation, imprisonment, torture, or worse. Recent incidents, such as the deportation of at least 40 Uyghur refugees from Thailand, have underscored the urgency of addressing this issue. As mentioned in the press release, the shifting global dynamics create both challenges and opportunities for the Uyghur movement. WUC said that while China grapples with

internal economic struggles and growing opposition to Xi Jinping's regime, the international community must do more to address China's human rights violations.

**Trump hints Zelenskyy 'won't be around very long'**



**MI News Service, Washington, DC :** The Trump administration has paused military aid to Ukraine following a verbal clash between US President Donald Trump and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy in the Oval Office. Trump warned that the Ukrainian leader "won't be around very long" if progress was not made on a peace deal. Without taking names, Trump hinted that the Ukrainian leader "won't be around very long" without a ceasefire deal with Russia.

"It should not be that hard a deal to make. It could be made very fast," Trump told reporters, referring to a ceasefire. "Now, maybe somebody doesn't want to make a deal, and if somebody doesn't want to make a deal, I think that person won't be around very long." During an event with Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co (TSMC) chief executive CC Wei at the White House on Monday, Trump criticized Zelenskyy for saying the war could go on for

**Indian woman on death row for murder of 4-month old in Abu Dhabi executed**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** An Indian woman on death row in Abu Dhabi for the alleged murder of a four-month-old child has already been executed on February 15, the Delhi High Court hearing her father's plea about her well-being was informed on Monday. On being informed about the development, Justice Sachin Datta termed it "very unfortunate". "It is over. She was executed on February 15. Her last rites will be held on March 5," Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma told the court. The submission was made in a hearing on a petition by the 33-year-old woman's father seeking to know her well-being. Shahzadi Khan was handed over to the Abu Dhabi police on February 10, 2023 and she was sentenced to death on July 31, 2023. She was lodged in the Al Wathba jail. Shabbir Khan, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Banda, said there was "profound uncertainty" regarding his daughter Shahzadi's situation and his repeated applications to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for clarification were fruitless. The plea further alleged that Shahzadi was inadequately represented before the local courts in the case over the alleged murder of her employer's four-month-old child and she was pressured into confessing, leading to the imposition of the death penalty on her.



**Nurul Islam Khan**

During the hearing, the petitioner's counsel said his limited prayer was to know whether his daughter was alive or she had been hanged. He said on February 14, Shahzadi had called the family from the prison saying that she would be executed in a day or two and this would be her last call. Since then, they were unaware of her well-being, he said. The Centre's counsel told the court that the Embassy officials and the petitioner were in touch and arrangements were being made so that the family could attend their daughter's last rites in Abu Dhabi. "We did our best. We hired a law firm there to represent her in court. But the laws there deal with the murder of an infant very severely," he submitted.

**Balochistan: Sit-in against enforced disappearances continues for fourth Day, CPEC Road remains blocked**

**MI News Service, Surab:** Demonstrators have continued their sit-in in the Surab district of Pakistan's Balochistan for the fourth consecutive day, blocking the key China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) road in protest against enforced disappearances and alleged human rights violations in Balochistan. The Balochistan Post reported.

The protest, organised by the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) Jhalawan region and the families of the missing persons, demanded justice and an end to systematic repression by the state. During a press conference held at the protest site, demonstrators accused security forces of forcibly disappearing Baloch youth, describing enforced disappearances as a state policy. "Every day, another Baloch youth is taken away without any accountability. The state institutions are not only responsible for these abductions but are also using violence and intimidation to suppress voices that speak against this oppression," The Balochistan Post quoted a protest as saying. The protesters emphasised the presence of families of 12 indi-



viduals who have been forcibly disappeared, drawing attention to their plight. They also condemned the excessive use of force by authorities to break up the demonstration, claiming that security forces, including police, Levies, and Frontier Corps (FC) personnel, were deployed from across the Kalat Division to dismantle the sit-in. Enforced disappearances of Baloch people in Pakistan have been a longstanding and alarming issue, particularly in Balochistan. The Baloch population, seeking

greater autonomy and rights, has been targeted by state security forces, including the military and intelligence agencies.

Since the early 2000s, thousands of Baloch activists, political leaders, journalists, and students have been forcibly disappeared, often accused of separatism or militancy. These disappearances are linked to Pakistan's efforts to suppress Baloch nationalist movements and maintain control over the resource-rich region.

**China hits back on Trump's new tariffs; levies duty on food, other US imports**

**MI News Service, Beijing:** China on Tuesday said it is imposing tariffs as much as 15 per cent on a range of food imports from the United States as Donald Trump-imposed latest tariffs came into force today.

China's finance ministry announced 15 per cent tariffs on imports of chicken, wheat, corn and cotton from the United States, as well as 10 per cent tariffs on imports of "sorghum, soybeans, pork, beef, aquatic products, fruits, vegetables, and dairy products," Chinese state media said. Further, China has also added several US firms to its "unreliable entity or export control lists."

On Monday, the United States announced that it would impose an additional 10 per cent tariff on all products imported to the US from China, effective from March 4. This follows an additional 10 per cent tariffs imposed by the United States on products imported from China in February this year. China's Customs Tariff Commission of the State Council said that an additional 15 per cent tariff

will be imposed on US chicken, wheat, corn, and cotton, plus 10 per cent tariff on soybeans, pork, beef, and dairy from March 10. A spokesperson from the Chinese Commerce Ministry said that Beijing "will take countermeasures to firmly safeguard its own rights and interests." Chinese state news agency Xinhua reported. The spokesperson said US "typical act of unilateralism and bullying in disregard of facts, international trade rules and the voices of all parties." As per a report in the New York Times, China's Ministry of Commerce has also singled out 15 companies from the United States, including the drone maker Skydio, for punitive trade measures to "safeguard national security and interests." The NYT reported that Beijing has added 10 other American companies to what it calls an "unreliable entities list," preventing them from doing business in China. The steps include levies on US food imports and halting the sale of Chinese goods to 15 American companies.

**Historical Islamic Jalsha in Dhola**



**Nurul Islam Khan**

At the auspicious arrival of the Pir Sahibs of Furfura Sharif, the historical Mahafil of Pir-e-Kamel Shah-e-Sufi Ashiq-e-Rasool Al-Hajj Late Fakir Sahib (Rah) was held on Monday. This meeting of the Darbar Sharif of Late Fakir Sahib (Rah) of Madarpara Dholahat, South 24 Parganas is one of the most important meetings in the state. The crowd of people in this meeting, scheduled on 18 Falgun every year, was eye-catching. The meeting started after Zuhr and continued throughout the night. Pirzada Maulana Sawban Siddiqi, grandson of Pir Baro Huzur (Rah), the great-grandfather of Furfura Sharif, was

present at the traditional holy Isale Sawab in memory of the late Fakir Sahib (Rah). Among the invited speakers, Pirzada Syed Maulana Hammad Hossain Bukhari (Furfura Sharif), Maulana Sahanur Alam Sahib, Marhum Fakir Sahib Huzur Pir Qibla (Rah) and his son-in-law Alhaj Maulana Md Abul Qasim Sahib and Maulana Abdul Qadir Fatehi Sahib and many others gave sermons. Maulana Abu Hosain Sahib and Maulana Qari Amin Uddin Sahib were present. The convener Fakir Sahib (Rah) and his children, the Mahfil Isale Sawab Committee and the villagers conducted the event. Maulana Mufti Nurullah Sahib was the main supporter.

**Baloch Liberation Army claims responsibility for attack on FC Wing Commander's vehicle**

**MI News Service, Quetta:** The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) on Monday announced that it successfully carried out a special operation targeting the vehicle of the Wing Commander of the 61st Frontier Corps (FC) in Kalat city. The attack, executed by a dedicated fighter, Watan Nadrig of the BLA's Majeed Brigade unit, was aimed at the Wing Commander and nine personnel traveling from the FC headquarters to the FC Officer's Mess in Kalat. The BLA took responsibility for the assault through its official media channel, Baloch Liberation Voice. In its statement, the BLA emphasised that this was neither the first nor the last such attack by the organisation. It said that the first attack of its kind was carried out in December 2011, when Majeed Brigade Darvesh Baloch targeted a Death Squad base on Arbab Karam Khan Road in Quetta.

The BLA affirmed that this long-standing philosophy of resistance would continue until the independence of Balochistan is achieved. According to the BLA, its fighters, including Watan Nadrigs, possess the capability to strike at will, selecting the time and place of their choosing. The BLA statement also criticised the Pakistani state, accusing it of disregarding international law and legal frameworks in its ongoing war against the Baloch people.

The group claimed that Pakistan only responds to force, thus justifying the BLA's continued use of military tactics to expel the occupying forces from Balochistan. Highlighting the exploitation of Balochistan's vast natural resources, the BLA reiterated that these resources rightfully belong to the Baloch nation. The statement accused Pakistani military generals and the Punjabi elite of looting Balochistan's wealth for their own benefit at the expense of the Baloch people.

## MAJOR SHUFFLE BEGINS IN PAKISTAN; RIZWAN, BABAR DROPPED FROM T20IS IN NZ, SALMAN AGHA NAMED CAPTAIN

LAHORE (PAKISTAN) : Premier batter Babar Azam and captain Mohammad Rizwan have been dropped from Pakistan's squad for the T20I series in New Zealand. With the skipper out of the fray, Salman Ali Agha has been named Pakistan's T20I captain, with Shadab Khan acting as his deputy.

Rizwan will continue to lead Pakistan in the ODIs; however, pace spearhead Shaheen Shah Afridi and tearaway Haris Rauf have been dropped from the format.

The major shuffle comes in the aftermath of Pakistan's diabolical title defence in the ongoing Champions Trophy campaign. The defending champions suffered humiliation on their home turf and crashed out of the title race in the group stage.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) confirmed the changes in the T20I format have been made with two major upcoming tournaments in mind: the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup 2025 (September 2025) and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (February/March 2026).

Salman led the Men in Green in a T20I series against Zimbabwe last year, which Pakistan clinched with a 2-1 series win.

Abdul Samad, Hasan Nawaz, and Mohammad Ali are among the new faces in Pakistan's T20I squad. Akif Javed and Mohammad Ali have also been added to the ODI squad.

The explosive opening duo, Fakhar Zaman and Saim Ayub, were not considered for either format on medical advice. Fakhar suffered a left lower intercostal muscle sprain during Pakistan's Champions Trophy 2025 opener against New Zealand.

Meanwhile, Ayub is recovering from a right ankle fracture sustained on the first day of the Cape Town Test against South Africa in January. Both are expected to be fully fit for the Pakistan Super League 10, starting in Rawalpindi on April 11 2025.

Aqib Javed will continue as interim head coach for the New Zealand tour. His original term was to expire after the ICC Champions Trophy 2025. However, he has been asked to extend his tenure while the search for a permanent head coach begins.

Notably, Mohammad Yousuf has been added to the management as batting coach.

Pakistan's five-match T20I series against New Zealand will be held from March 16 to 26. The T20I series will be followed by three ODIs, beginning from March 29.

T20I squad: Salman Ali Agha (captain), Shadab Khan (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Akif Javed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Haris, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Omair Bin Yousaf, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Suyfan Moqim and Usman Khan.

ODI squad: Mohammad Rizwan (captain), Salman Ali Agha (vice-captain), Abdullah Shafique, Abrar Ahmed, Akif Javed, Babar Azam, Faheem Ashraf, Imam-ul-Haq, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Ali, Mohammad Wasim Jnr, Muhammad Irfan Khan, Naseem Shah, Suyfan Moqim and Tayyab Tahir.



# Shami extends his dominance in ICC ODI tournaments, breaks Harbhajan's record with scorching spell against Australia



DUBAI [UAE] : India's seasoned seamer Mohammed Shami lived up to his title of 'Mr ICC' and took another step towards extending his era of dominance in the ODI marquee events with a scorching spell on Wednesday.

Shami flexed his clinical record in ICC ODI knockout matches in the pulsating Champions Trophy semi-final clash between India and Australia, two cricketing behemoths.

He became the third-highest wicket-taker for India after his searing spell rocked Australia and forced the Baggy Greens to bundle out on 264. With another clinical outing, Shami returned with figures of 3/48, taking his tally to 13 scalps in five ICC ODI knockout matches at a staggering average of 19.76.

Former left-arm speed gun Zaheer Khan holds the record for scything most scalps for India in ICC ODI knockout games. In 11 matches, Zaheer bagged 17 wickets at an average of 28.64.

'Master Blaster' Sachin Tendulkar firmly holds the second spot with 15 wickets in as many matches at an average of 26.66. Former ball twaker Harbhajan Singh slipped to the fourth spot, boasting 11 scalps while averaging 29.27.

In the high-stakes semi-final encounter, Shami drew the first blood by dismissing youngster Cooper Connolly for a nine-ball duck after fumbling the chance to dismiss Travis Head.

He maintained his sublime form against Australia captain Steve Smith and cleaned up his stumps on 73(96). Shami capped off his impressive spell with Nathan Ellis's scalp. In ODIs, Shami has dismissed Smith five times and split 123 runs at an average of 24.60. Besides Smith's valiancy, Alex Carey provided an indispensable 61 to propel Australia to a fighting total of 264. His impressive knock was laced with eight fours and a towering maximum. Apart from Shami, mystery spinner Varun Chakravarthy (2/49) and left-armer Ravindra Jadeja (2/40) also trapped Australian batters in their spin web. Axar Patel and Hardik Pandya chipped in with a wicket each.

## Men's world number two, current national champion to feature in India Paddle Festival

MANGALORE (KARNATAKA) : The India Paddle Festival, the country's only international stand-up paddling event, returns for its second edition with a powerhouse line-up, featuring world number two Christian Andersen, former World Champion Daniel Hasulyo, and four-time World Champion and the Defending Women's Champion Esperanza Barreras.

Leading India's charge will be the formidable Sekar Patchai, the current national champion and 25-time title-holder. The second edition of the India Paddle Festival is set to take place from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the scenic Sasithlu Beach, Mangalore, and Karnataka, as per a press release.



The three-day international event is organized by the Surfing Swami Foundation and Mantra Surf Club, in collaboration with WrkWrk, and is proudly presented by Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism, Government of India) and Karnataka Tourism. Sanctioned by the Association of PaddleSurf Professionals (APP) World Tour, the official World Championship Tour for stand-up paddling, the festival will feature elite-level SUP racing, live music performances, and vibrant cultural festivities, making it a milestone event for non-motorized water sports in India.

The Women's category will see the return of defending champion Esperanza Barreras from Spain, a four-time International Surfing Association (ISA) SUP World Champion. She will be joined by South Africa's rising star Chiara Vorster and Korea's SUP champion Lim Sujeong, among others in a bid for supremacy on Indian waters.

The Men's category at the India Paddle Festival promises an intense contest, featuring top global athletes like Spain's Antonio Morillo, who narrowly missed the title last year, and Denmark's Christian Andersen, the current World No. 2, better known as the "Polar Bear." Adding to the competition's depth, Hungary's former World Champion Daniel Hasulyo brings his wealth of experience, while the UK's Will Keetley prepares to make his mark on the waters of Sasithlu Beach.

Local favorite and India's top-ranked stand-up paddler, Sekar Patchai, will spearhead the Indian contingent. A 25-time National SUP Champion, Patchai is determined to make a mark on his home waters. He will be joined by Manikandan, one of India's fastest-rising stand-up paddler, as they take on the international competition. The event will also feature strong contingents from Thailand and Indonesia.

The India Paddle Festival 2025 will feature multiple SUP race formats, including sprint, technical, and distance races, pushing the endurance and agility of the athletes. Over 40 stand-up paddlers will be competing across four different categories - Men's Open, Women's Open, Junior U-16 Boys, and Girls. With India's recent breakthrough in securing its first-ever surfing quota for the Asian Games, the festival marks another milestone in the country's evolving water sports landscape.

Set against the stunning backdrop of Sasithlu Beach, the India Paddle Festival 2025 promises an unforgettable experience for athletes and spectators alike.

## "They have got all aspects covered...": NZ skipper Santner on SA ahead of CT 2025 semifinal

LAHORE (PAKISTAN) : Ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy semi-final against South Africa at Lahore, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner feels that the pitch at Lahore would not spin as much as the Dubai International Stadium.

Santner's men will take on South Africa at the Gadaffi Stadium in Lahore in the second semi-final of the ICC Champions Trophy. After succumbing to Indian spin during their last league stage match in Dubai, Proteas will be challenged by a solid Proteas spin attack, featuring Keshav Maharaj, Tabraiz Shamsi and Aiden Markram.



Speaking at the pre-match press conference about plans against Proteas' spinners, Santner said, "I think like our squad, they have got all aspects covered. They have obviously been going in with four seamers recently and I think Lahore will probably be more accustomed to that kind of setup, probably not spinning as much as definitely Dubai."

"We have seen how good Keshav Maharaj has been for a long time and Shamsi's there and also Markram can be tidy with the ball. So, I think they are obviously pretty well-balanced. I do not think we will potentially get as much spin as there was in Dubai. So, I think that is better for our batters if it does not spin that much," he added.

Speaking on how well-planned strategy is as New Zealand have not won an ICC title for a long while in ODIs ever since their triumph in the ICC Champions Trophy 2000, Santner said that the first goal was to reach the semifinals.

"We have had some good prep and we have been playing some good cricket. So, I do not think anything has to change. We know South Africa is a great side. They have been playing well, as they always do in these tournaments. So yeah, we know it is going to be a challenge come tomorrow, but I think what we have been doing is being good," he said.

"We have been doing a lot of good stuff. Obviously, the last game against India was on a very different surface. So, we know we have got experience here on the surface. We know South Africa shapes up well, but I think it is obviously a knockout. It is just whoever can turn up on the day and hopefully that is us tomorrow," he added.

Squads:  
 New Zealand Squad: Will Young, Rachin Ravindra, Kane Williamson, Daryl Mitchell, Tom Latham(w), Glenn Phillips, Michael Bracewell, Mitchell Santner(c), Matt Henry, Kyle Jamieson, William O'Rourke, Jacob Duffy, Devon Conway, Mark Chapman, Nathan Smith.  
 South Africa Squad: Ryan Rickelton, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Heinrich Klaasen(w), David Miller, Aiden Markram(c), Wiaan Mulder, Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Kagiso Rabada, Lungi Ngidi, Temba Bavuma, Corbin Bosch, Tabraiz Shamsi, George Linde, Tony de Zorzi.

# TEAM INDIA WEARING BLACK ARMBANDS IN HONOUR OF PADMAKAR SHIVALKAR

DUBAI [UAE] : The Indian Cricket Team was seen sporting black armbands on Tuesday during the first semi-final of the ongoing ICC Champions Trophy 2025 at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium in honour of the late Padmakar Shivalkar. Padmakar Shivalkar, one of the greatest Indian cricketers who was unlucky not to have played for the national team, passed away in Mumbai on Monday at the age of 84.

A legendary left-arm spinner, Shivalkar was a dominant force in domestic cricket and a key figure in Bombay's Ranji Trophy dominance. He played a crucial role in 10 of Bombay's victorious Ranji Trophy campaigns from 1965-66 to 1976-77, during which the team won the title in every season except one. He was also part of the squad that reclaimed the championship in 1980-81.



Remarkably, he made a comeback at the age of 47 and played two matches in the 1987-88 season. Since India won its quarter-final game at the 2011 World Cup, the two sides have faced each other four times in the ICC ODI tournaments. India and Australia have won two games each. India's victories came in the round-robin matches at the 2019 and 2023 World Cups. On the other hand, their heart-breaking defeats unfolded in the 2015 semi-finals and the 2023 final. Since their last encounter on November 19, 2023, there has been a complete difference between the two sides that will line up on Tuesday in front of a vibrant crowd in Dubai. Speaking of the clash, Australia skipper Steve Smith won the toss and elected to bat first against the Rohit Sharma-led team.

Teams:  
 Australia (Playing XI): Cooper Connolly, Travis Head, Steven Smith (c), Marnus Labuschagne, Josh Inglis (wk), Alex Carey, Glenn Maxwell, Ben Dwarshuis, Nathan Ellis, Adam Zampa, Tanveer Sangha.  
 India (Playing XI): Rohit Sharma (c), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, Axar Patel, KL Rahul (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Mohammed Shami, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy.

# India to host 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship in March 2025

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, in collaboration with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Yogasana Bharat announced the 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship, scheduled to be held from March 29 to 31, 2025, at the Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi.

The championship aims to promote Yogasana as a sport on an international platform while embracing its rich heritage and deep-rooted cultural significance. This event will bring together top athletes from across Asia to showcase their skill, agility, and discipline in various competitive Yogasana categories. The aim is to promote Yogasana as a sport globally and create a roadmap towards inclusion into the Olympics as a competitive sport, a press release by SAI stated.

Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya highlighted India's pivotal role in Yoga's global journey, and said the event is a way to showcase not just the athleticism of Yogasanas but also its power to transform lives, both physically and mentally.

"India, the birthplace of Yoga, is honoured to host the 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship. This event is more than just a competition; it is a celebration of our ancient wisdom evolving into a modern competitive sport. We are committed to making Yogasana a global sporting discipline, and this championship is a significant step toward that goal.

Through this event, we showcase not just the athleticism of Yogasanas but also its power to transform lives, both physically and mentally. I look forward to this championship being a grand success and bringing together the principle of holistic well-being across the world spearheaded by India," Mansukh Mandaviya said, as quoted by the SAI press release.

Sanjay Malpani, President of Asian Yogasana, emphasized the championship's impact, saying, "The 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship is a defining moment in our mission to establish Yogasana as a globally recognized sport. We are witnessing the fusion of tradition with modern athletic excellence. This championship is proof that Yogasana is not just a practice but a competitive sport that demands precision, endurance, and artistry. With every athlete who competes, we take one step closer to Yogasana's rightful place on the world stage."

Jaideep Arya, Secretary General, World Yogasana, said "emphasized that "the 2nd Asian Yogasana Championship in New Delhi marks a significant milestone in our mission to promote Yogasana as a global competitive sport. This championship brings together exceptional athletes from across Asia, showcasing the strength, flexibility, and discipline that define this ancient practice. We are proud to witness the growing enthusiasm for Yogasana and remain committed to its development as a mainstream sporting discipline. May this event inspire future generations to embrace Yogasana for both excellence in competition and holistic well-being."

Udit Sheth, President of Yogasana Bharat, expressed his vision for the event, stating, "This championship is a beacon of India's leadership in the glob-



al Yogasana movement. As the world increasingly recognizes the immense benefits of Yogasanas, we stand at the forefront, shaping its future as a sport. Our mission is to provide young athletes with a platform to shine, to elevate Yogasanas to premier sporting events, and to reinforce India's commitment to sharing this invaluable heritage with the world."

With the increasing recognition of Yogasana as a sport, the championship is expected to draw significant attention from the global sporting community. It serves as a stepping stone toward Yogasana's inclusion in international multi-sport events, fostering awareness and enthusiasm for this ancient practice in a modern sporting framework, the release further added.