

Guv praises CM Mamata's upcoming Oxford lecture

West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Saturday lauded Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ahead of her upcoming visit to Oxford University, where she is slated to deliver a lecture on March 27. Speaking at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event, Bose expressed pride in the Chief Minister's global recognition, emphasizing that her achievements reflect positively on Bengal. "It is a matter of great honor that the Chief Minister, who hails from the land of Rabindranath Tagore, has been invited to such a prestigious institution," Bose remarked. **PG 3**



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Morning India



Glorious fireworks display before the inaugural IPL match between KKR and RCB at the Eden Gardens on Saturday.

GI-tagged jaggery from UP exported to Bangladesh despite strained relations

MI News Service, New Delhi: In the midst of a continuous diplomatic row between India and Bangladesh since last year over a number of issues, including attacks on the minorities, a consignment of 300 tonnes of GI-tagged jaggery from Uttar Pradesh has been shipped to Bangladesh as a goodwill gesture from India. Informing this an official statement said on Saturday that a Geographical Indication (GI) is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product like handicrafts and industrial goods originating from a definite geographical territory. Typically, such a name conveys an assurance of quality and distinctiveness, which is essentially attributable to the place of its origin. "This initiative also marks the beginning of direct exports of jaggery from western Uttar Pradesh to Bangladesh through Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs)," the statement said adding Muzaffarnagar region of Western UP is renowned for its high-quality sugarcane. According to India's Foreign Ministry sources, though

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After long delay Mamata Banerjee leaves for London on Saturday night for a week-long working visit

MI News Service, Kolkata: After a long unusual delay because of the closure of London's Heathrow airport, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will finally leave for the British capital via Dubai on a Saturday late night flight for a week-long visit. The Chief minister and her entourage including state Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and others, were to leave for London at the wee hours of Saturday. But her flight was delayed for about 20 hours because of a power outage at London's Heathrow Airport early on Friday. As a result of the accidental fire at the nearby power grid, the entire operation of Europe's largest and the busiest (Heathrow)airport was immedi-



ately shut down cancelling nearly 2,000 incoming and outgoing flights from across the globe and causing immense trouble to lakhs of travellers from everywhere including from India and Kolkata.

However, the situation was

gradually became normal at the airport after about 18 hours last night (local time) as the authorities worked round the clock to restore power at the airport on a war footing. As a result after almost a day's wait finally, the Chief Minister will leave for London via Dubai on a Saturday night flight. After a brief stop over at Dubai, Mamata's flight will land at Heathrow airport on Sunday morning (according to London time). Though initially it was thought that her plane will land at Gatwick Airport, also in London, as an emergency arrangement, but later it was decided that her flight will indeed land at Heathrow airport.

Since Heathrow is the busiest

airport in Europe the pressure of both incoming and outgoing flights in the airport is much higher at the week ends, compared to other days of the week. Incidentally, Mamata Banerjee has a very busy schedule during her nearly a week long stay in London including a function at the Indian High Commission on 24 March. On Tuesday she will attend a trade conference, while another business related meeting at the government level is scheduled on Wednesday. But most importantly, the Chief Minister is scheduled to give a lecture at the prestigious Oxford University next Thursday. She is scheduled to leave London for Kolkata on next Friday.

Delhi Police busts illegal Bangladeshi immigration racket; 8 held, six deported

MI News Service, New Delhi: Delhi Police claimed to have busted an illegal immigration network, arresting eight Bangladeshi nationals and as many Indian accomplices, who were facilitating their unlawful stay in south Delhi, an official said on Saturday. Six other immigrants were deported via the Foreigner Regional Registration Office (FRRO), while four more are under scrutiny, he said.

During the crackdown, police uncovered a fake identity document syndicate and a cross-border money laundering racket that routed funds to Bangladesh

through digital payment apps. Some of the immigrants had even enrolled their children in local schools, he added.

"The network allegedly helped Bangladeshi migrants enter India illegally and provided them with shelter, employment, and forged Aadhaar, PAN, voter ID cards, and even Indian passports," Deputy Commissioner of Police (DSP) (South) Ankita Chauhan said. Among those arrested was Md Alamgir (34), who came to India in 2007 and worked as a scrap dealer. He had married an Indian woman and had two children,

aged 13 and 9. His younger brother, Md Jewel Islam (27), arrived in 2021 and was also engaged in the scrap trade, the officer said. Another accused, Md Rejaul, had been living in India since 2000 and had obtained an Indian passport, allowing him to travel between India and Bangladesh frequently. He allegedly used his travels to transport money and other goods, Chauhan said. Police also identified one Kamruzzaman, who entered India in 2014 and was working as a delivery agent for an online food delivery platform

using forged identity documents, he said. Meanwhile, Mohammad Nadeem Sheikh was employed as a cleaner and sweeper in Delhi and Md Latif Khan (37), a resident since 2015, worked as a ragpicker and frequently remitted money to Bangladesh through informal channels, he added. The DSP further said that Md Mizanur Rehman (43), who came to India in 2022, was working as a scrap dealer in Kotla Mubarakpur, while Rabiul (25), who arrived the same year, was employed as a hospital

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Bengali films rooted in social consciousness, literature, remarks Guv Ananda Bose



MI News Service, Kolkata:

Paying rich tributes to the director trio of Satyajit Ray, Mrinal Sen and Ritwik Ghatak, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose on Saturday said Bengali films have been rooted in social consciousness and literature. Addressing the 'Purbo Bharat Big Picture Summit' of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Bose said he hails from Kerala and heard a lot about Ray and other renowned filmmakers from Bengal at a very young age.

"I watched Ray, Ghatak and Sen's films; these were great names that had inspired film lovers in Kerala besides Bengal," he said. The Governor said he watched Ray's Apu trilogy - 'Pather Panchali', 'Aparajito' and 'Apur Sansar', Sen's 'Ekdin Pratinidin' and films made by Ghatak. "Their works show how Bengali cinema is rooted in social consciousness and literature," he said.

Referring to 'Ekdin Pratinidin', Bose said, "I was struck by the storyline where the complexity of human mind comes to the fore in the wake of the return of a missing woman home in the morning as anxiety gives way to suspicion." Noting that Bengali movies "seek truth" more in their narratives rather than going for spectacular effects, Bose said that in works of masters like Sen and Ghatak, "Cinema lies in the arena of radical ideas and social introspection." He also dwelt on the rich literary tradition of Bengali cinema and the role of musical scores.

Bose referred to the rich tribute paid to Ray by filmmakers like Akira Kurosawa of Japan and Richard Attenborough of the UK. "Remember what Kurosawa had said about Ray - not watching Ray's cinema means living in a world where the sun or moon does not exist," he said.

Bose said India boasts of one of the greatest soft powers - in culture and heritage - and the world of cinema, particularly of Bengal, has an important role in this regard. Ace film director Goutam Ghosh, Bengali film superstars Prosenjit Chatterjee and Rituparna Sengupta attended the session organised by CII's Forum for Films and Entertainment Industry.

M K Stalin favours legal fight on the issue of Delimitation of Parliamentary seats

MI News Service, Chennai:

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin made it clear on Saturday that fight for the proposed delimitation of Parliamentary seats by the Centre, is likely to be taken forward through the legal route. Participating in the first Joint Action Committee meeting of states, hosted by the ruling DMK here, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan also said that delimitation of LS seats was hanging like the "sword of Damocles," and alleged that the BJP government was going ahead with the issue without any consultation. He said "This sudden move is not driven by Constitutional principles or democratic imperatives," but by narrow political interests. Delimitation, if done after Census will lead to an increase in seats for Northern states and a reduction for Southern states. Such a cut in seats for the South and, an increase for the North will suit the BJP as it holds greater influence



in the North. In his address at the meeting, CM Stalin, favoured setting up of an expert panel to draw up the political and legal action plan. He proposed christening the panel as 'Joint Action Committee for fair delimitation' and sought ideas to initiate legal action, by taking forward political fight. He said: "We are not against delimitation, we are for fair delimitation," adding "Continuous action is very essential to establish rights." On the JAC he said it was very essential to create awareness among people, and to urge Centre.

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JFK assassination related records reveal past CIA secrets and several sensitive personal data

MI News Service, Washington (DC): After President Donald Trump's announcement last week, history buffs dove into thousands of pages of government records released online on Thursday, hoping for new nuggets about former US President John F Kennedy's assassination. Instead they found revelations about the wide global network of US espionage in the massive document dump that also exposed some previously redacted personal information. After Trump's announcement and the signing of his Executive Order in this regard, the US National Archives and Records Administration have posted more than 63,000 pages of records on its website. However, many of these

documents were already released previously, but they had hid the names of CIA sources or details about its spying and covert operations in the 1960s. Kennedy was killed on Nov 23, 1963, during a visit to Dallas. As his motorcade finished its parade route downtown, shots rang out from the Texas School Book Depository building. Police arrested Lee Harvey Oswald, who had positioned himself from a sniper's perch on the sixth floor. Two days later, night club owner Jack Ruby fatally shot Oswald during a jail transfer broadcast live on television. The latest release of documents pumped new energy into conspiracy theories about the assassination. Kennedy scholars said



they haven't seen anything out of line with the conclusion that Oswald, a 24-year-old ex-Marine, was the lone gunman.

The chase for the truth will go on forever, I suspect," said Philip Shenon, who wrote a 2013 book about the killing of JFK. "It's a big document dump, but it doesn't include everything", he stated further. The vast majority of the National Archives' collection of more than 6 million related pages of records, photographs, motion pictures, sound recordings and artifacts had already been released before the archives posted about 2,200 files online this week. Writers, historians and conspiracy promoters have spent decades pushing for the release of all the records. In the early 1990s, the federal government mandated that all assassination-related documents be housed in

a single collection in the National Archives and Records Administration. The collection was required to be opened by 2017, barring any exemptions designated by the President. According to researchers and the FBI, roughly 3,700 files held by federal authorities still haven't been released. Trump's order also called for declassifying the remaining federal records related to the 1968 assassinations of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars and history buffs described the latest release as rushed and expressed frustration that going through the files one by one represented a random search for unreleased information. We've all heard the re-

ports about the lawyers staying up all night, which I believe, because there's a lot of sloppiness in this, said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics and author of The Kennedy Half-Century. Scholars and history buffs grumbled that, unlike past releases, the National Archives didn't provide an index or workable search tool. Also, the files included material generated after the 1960s, and some people listed in the records were angry to find out that sensitive information about them was revealed, including Social Security numbers. They include Joseph diGenova,

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Three youth arrested for raping Hoogly women in moving car

MI News Service, Debra: A chilling incident of rape has been reported in Debra, West Medinipore, where a young woman from Hoogly was allegedly lured to the area with the promise of job and then brutally raped by three youth inside the moving car. According to police sources, the victim was contacted by the three accused on Friday morning, who promised to provide her with employment opportunities. However, upon reaching the designated location into a car, where she was taken into a car, where she was allegedly raped by the three youth one by one. The victim managed to escape from the car and filed a rape complaint against the three accused at Debra police station. The police swiftly launched an investigation leading to the immediate arrest of the three youth from Debra. The accused were produced before the Medinipore court on Saturday, and further legal proceedings are underway. The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting concerns about women's safety and the need for increased vigilance. The police have assured that they will take all necessary measures to ensure justice for the victim and prevent such incidents from occurring in the future.

Viswa-Bharati University shuts doors to tourists, citing unspecified reason.

MI News Service, Bolpur: In a surprising turn of events, Visva-Bharati University has reversed its decision to reopen the ashram premises to tourists, just 24 hours after the announcement was made. The university's Vice-Chancellor, Prabir Kumar Ghosh, had declared on March 21 that the heritage premises would be opened to tourists after a five-year hiatus. However, in a press release issued today, the university's public relations officer stated that the ashram premises will not be opened to tourists present. The university cited the need for adequate planning, infrastructure, and rules before reopening the present to tourists. The decision has come as a disappointment to tourists who were eagerly looking forward to visiting the iconic ashram premises. The university had earlier closed to premises to tourists during the COVID-19 pandemic and had not reopened them since. The reversal of the decision has raised questions about the university's management and communication. The university's administration has assured that the ashram premises will be opened to tourists in the future, but only after planning and infrastructure are in place.

Patients Flee in Panic Amid Unbearable Conditions

MI News Service, Malda: A chaotic scene unfolded at the RN Roy Rural Hospital in Malda, West Bengal, on Saturday after a massive snake was spotted inside the hospital premises. The reptile's presence sent patients, families, and healthcare workers fleeing in panic. According to eyewitnesses, the snake was seen slithering into the balcony of the X-ray department, emerging from the emergency department, and roaming freely within the hospital. The sudden appearance of the snake triggered widespread fear, with patients and staff rushing to escape the premises. This incident comes on the heels of a similar snake sighting at a local primary school in Malda's English Bazar Municipality, where students and parents were left shaken.



SUCI (Communist) organized a protest and effigy-burning program in front of the Lenin statue at Esplanade on Saturday, against the horrific attack by US-backed Israeli forces on Gaza.

Cyclone and hailstorm wreak havoc, destroy crops and homes

MI News Service, Pachim Medinipur: A sudden and intense cyclone hailstorm struck Dantan, Paschim Medinipur district on Friday evening, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. The disaster damaged hundreds of bighas of land under Boro cultivation in Dantan 1 and 2 blocks, uprooted several trees, and blew off the roots of over 20 houses. The storm also caused extensive damage to farmland, betel nut trees, and homes in several villages, including Palashiya, Bamanda, Kariya, Kulida, and Mulida. The hailstorm, which lasted only a few minutes, left a thick layer of hailstones on the ground, causing significant damage to crops and property. The disaster has left local farmers reeling, with many facing significant financial losses. Hrishikesh Sau, a local farmer, expressed his

desperation, stating, "I have borrowed money to cultivate, and now I don't know how I will manage my family. The storm has destroyed everything." Local panchayat member Shivani Pradhan Bera estimated that over 500 hectares of rice crops have been damaged, leaving farmers worried about their livelihoods. The matter has been reported to the administration, and efforts are underway to assess the extent of the damage and provide relief to affected farmers. The cyclone and hailstorm have also caused power outages in several villages, with multiple electricity poles falling due to the strong winds. The disaster has highlighted the vulnerability of rural communities to extreme weather events and the need for effective disaster management and relief measures.

5-Years-old boy crushed by ten-wheeler lorry

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: He was happy to eat chips. He ran away with money to buy chips. And then disaster struck. A ten-wheeler lorry came and crushed him. His life was over in an instant. And this incident caused a huge stir in the Nawapara area of Mohitnagar, Jalpaiguri, where a road blockade was held. The family sat on the road with the child's body. CPM District Secretary Piyush Mishra and local CPM workers and residents of the area were with him. It is learned that there are several cold storages in the area adjacent to Mohit Nagar Jhan Bari intersection. Potatoes are being stored in a local cold storage on Saturday morning. As a result, there is traffic congestion in the area. Vehicles are plying on one side of the road. Around Saturday morning, a five-year-old boy named Abhi Rahut was going to a shop on that road. At that moment, a 10-wheeler crushed the child. He died on the spot. The

family sat on the road with the child's body in protest. Then, when local potato brokers came to pick them up from their road, a brawl started. Later, the police of Kotwali police station went and brought the situation under control. The blockade was lifted after receiving assurances of proper arrangements for traffic control and compensation. Locals alleged that every time the potato season begins, there are deaths in road accidents in this area. It is learnt that the child lives in the Harijan Basti area of Jalpaiguri. He had gone with his mother to his maternal uncle's house in Mohit Nagar area. This accident happened after that. Local resident Moti Dutta said, "A ten-wheeler lorry came and killed him. He was crossing the road. He was going to buy chips. The lorry crushed him." CPM district secretary Piyush Mishra said, "I had already sent a message to the administration expressing my concern."

Major fire breaks out at paper factory in Narkeldanga

MI News Service, Kolkata: A massive fire engulfed a paper box manufacturing factory in Narkeldanga on Saturday morning, triggering panic among local residents. The blaze, which erupted around 8 AM, quickly spread, blanketing the entire area in thick black smoke. Upon receiving the alert, the fire department dispatched seven fire engines to the scene, where emergency efforts to douse the flames commenced immediately. The inferno was first spotted by locals, who noticed dense smoke billowing from the factory. Within moments, flames became visible, intensifying fears among nearby residents. The factory is located in a congested area, with residential flats situated directly above it. As the fire escalated, residents evacuated their homes in haste, assisting in initial firefighting efforts before professional responders arrived. The fire department was promptly notified, and seven fire tenders were deployed to combat

the blaze. However, the narrow lanes and dense urban landscape posed significant challenges for firefighters. Despite these obstacles, the fire brigade managed to bring the situation under control after a prolonged battle. However, by late morning, the fire was yet to be completely extinguished, with intermittent flames still being doused. During the intense operation, two firefighters sustained injuries while working to contain the inferno. Their condition remains stable, and they are receiving medical attention. The cause of the fire is yet to be determined, but preliminary reports suggest that the factory lacked adequate fire safety measures. Residents allege that the absence of a proper fire suppression system contributed to the rapid spread of the flames. Authorities have launched an inquiry into the incident, with efforts underway to contact the factory's owner, who is reportedly not a local resident.

Patients allegedly "stolen" from government hospital

MI News Service, Malda: A shocking scandal has surfaced in Malda, where patients are being allegedly "stolen" from government hospital and taken to private nursing homes, where they are charged exorbitant bills. Family members of the patients claim that referred to government hospitals to private nursing homes without their knowledge or consent. The allegation suggests that patients are being admitted to these nursing homes under false pretenses, with the ambulance driver receiving a hefty commission from nursing homes. The victims of this scam are reportedly tribal families from remote villages, who are being taken advantage of due to their vulnerability. In one such case, Kumar Koara, a resident of Alal Paharivita area of Gazol police station, was admitted to Gazol

Hospital due to respiratory Medical College Hospital, but the ambulance driver allegedly convinced his family members that the hospital does not provide treatment and took him to a private nursing home instead allegedly started business in the name of health, keeping the patients there and charging a bill of over one lakh rupees. The health department and districts administration have swung into action. Conducting a raid on the nursing home and rescuing the patient. The patient was then admitted to Malda Medical College Hospital, and legal processing have been home initiated against the nursing home. However, Malda Additional District Magistrate Sheikh Ansar Ahmed has stated that the administration is proactive and has taken prompt action in the matter.

Farmers Encouraged to Cultivate Raja Jute Due to Higher Yield and Profit

MI News Service, Kolkata: Farmers cultivating Raja Jute are witnessing an additional profit of ₹10,000 per acre. This variety, which is at least two feet taller than regular jute and has superior fiber quality, has even inspired folk artists to compose songs about it. With remarkable success across various districts, the seed developer, Nuziveedu Seeds, is delighted with the results. To showcase this success, 'Celebrity Mega Field Day' events have been launched in districts like Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, and North 24 Parganas. At an event in Baliura village of Patharghata 2 No. Gram Panchayat, noted Sa Re Ga Ma Pa artist Dipayan Banerjee performed songs highlighting the benefits of Raja Jute seeds (NJ 7005). Through music and discussion, he shared the success stories of farmers using this variety. According to Nuziveedu Seeds, Raja Jute offers farmers an additional yield of at least 2 quintals per acre, leading to increased earnings. This became possible due to its longer fibers and overall higher production compared to other varieties. The NJ-7005 Raja Jute was developed in 2020 by Dr. Mohammad Mosiur Rahman, the head scientist at Nuziveedu Seeds' research division, revolutionizing jute farming.

Civic Volunteer Arrested in Panihati for Extortion, Misconduct

MI News Service, Panihati: A civic volunteer, Santu Debnath, has been arrested by the Khardah police for allegedly extorting money from several women and assaulting them when they demanded repayment. The incident has sparked widespread outrage in Panihati, with many alleging that Debnath's actions were enabled by his position of power. According to the victims, Debnath had borrowed a total of ₹30 lakh from them, but failed to repay the loans.

Sonarpur man accused of attempting to push another off roof in drunken rage

MI News Service, Sonarpur: A disturbing incident of domestic violence has come to light in Sonarpur's Noapara Anandapally area, where a man allegedly bit his brother-in-law's ear and attempted to push him off the roof in a drunken frenzy. According to reports, Sourav Sen, a resident of Malipara, Sonarpur, has a history of alcohol-fueled violence, often targeting his wife, Sushmita Sen. However, the situation escalated on Friday night when Sourav's brother-in-law, Raja Srivastava, intervened to stop him from beating his wife. Eyewitnesses claim that Sourav, in a state of intoxication, became increasingly aggressive and bit Raja's ear. He also allegedly attempted to push Raja off the roof, leaving him seriously injured. Raja was rushed to the hospital for treatment. The incident has sparked widespread outrage, with the victim's family demanding severe punishment for Sourav. The police have launched an investigation and are searching for the accused, who remains at large.

Collection of tourist tax falters in Sikkim, move going Darjeeling municipality way



MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Sikkim government has decided to collect tourist tax, but the move is going the Darjeeling way. The Darjeeling municipality has attempted to collect tourist tax at least four times since 2008 but has not succeeded. Sources said the Sikkim government planned to collect ₹50 per visitor as the tourism sustainable development (TSD) funds under the Sikkim Registration of Tourist Trade Rules, 2005. The funds are meant to enhance tourism infrastructure and services, promote sustainable tourism and preserve the cultural heritage of Sikkim. Among the most visited northeastern states, Sikkim records more than 10 lakh tourists a year. Sources said the government planned to levy the one-time tax on guests staying overnight and it was valid for a maximum of 30 days or until the tourists exited the state, whichever was earlier. Children under five years, government employees and local people are exempted from the tax. The state wants hotels to collect the tax and transfer the amounts to a designated government account with relevant data every week. The tax was to be collected from March 14. "The process is yet to be fully implemented as hoteliers in Sikkim have a similar reservation as expressed by their counterparts in

Darjeeling when the hill town wanted to charge a similar tax," said a source. Representatives of hotel owners in the Himalayan state and tourism department officials met in Gangtok on Tuesday to discuss the issue. "The tourism stakeholders felt that the collection should be done at a central point and the burden should not be imposed on the hotels," said a source. Darjeeling hoteliers, too, had a similar objection. "The tax could be clubbed either with permits or entry fees in some major tourist points," said a hotelier from Gangtok. Some tourism stakeholders also suggested that the government introduce a QR code so that the tax could be directly credited to the government. "Collecting the tourist tax at the hotel levels comes with complications and is a burden on the hotel management," said the hotelier. The sources said at the meeting on Tuesday, the tourism department officials asked the tourism representatives to submit their suggestions in writing so that the matter could be taken up with the "policy-makers". In August 2024, the Darjeeling municipality decided to collect ₹20 each from a visitor. According to the Bengal Municipality Act, civic bodies cannot charge more than ₹3 per tourist a day. The Darjeeling municipality had made similar moves before also.

Dilip Ghosh Sparks Controversy Again with Derogatory Remarks, Triggers Protests in Kharagpur

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Former Bengal BJP chief Dilip Ghosh has ignited a fresh controversy with his derogatory comments in Kharagpur, prompting protests from Trinamool workers and supporters. Ghosh's remarks, which targeted those who criticize him, have been condemned as misogynistic and inflammatory. Ghosh's outburst came after he faced opposition while inaugurating a road in Kharagpur on Friday. Local women questioned his authority to inaugurate the road, given that he is not an MP or MLA. Ghosh responded by asserting his influence and knowledge of the area, sparking further outrage. The former BJP state president has a history of making controversial statements, which have often landed him in trouble. He has been reprimanded by his own party for his intemperate comments and behavior. Ghosh's remarks have also been criticized by other politicians, with many calling for him to apologize and retract his statements. The incident has triggered a political firestorm in West Bengal, with the BJP and Trinamool Congress engaging in a war of words. The protests in Kharagpur are a testament to the growing outrage against Ghosh's comments, which many see as a reflection of his misogynistic and authoritarian attitude. Ghosh's defiance in the face of criticism has only added fuel to the fire, with many calling for him to be held accountable for his actions. As the controversy continues to unfold, it remains to be seen how Ghosh will respond to the growing backlash against him.

West Bengal Farmers Allege Widespread Fraud in Agricultural Inputs

MI News Service, Bakura: A growing crisis is unfolding in West Bengal's agricultural sector, as farmers in Bankura district claim that substandard chemical fertilizers, pesticides, and seeds are being sold to them, resulting in reduced yields and increased costs. Farmers report that to achieve the same yields as before, they now require 20 kg of chemical fertilizer, up from 3 kg previously. This has led to suspicions about the quality of fertilizers being sold in the market. Furthermore, pesticides are reportedly losing their effectiveness, with some farmers claiming that pests return within 3-4 days of application, compared to the previous 10-day effectiveness. The quality of seeds is also under scrutiny, particularly for rice cultivation. Farmers allege that certified seeds are being mixed with local seeds, resulting in poor yields and high costs. This has led to concerns about the authenticity of certified seeds being sold in the market. Farmers in Bankura district, which is a major producer of rice, potatoes, and vegetables, are bearing the brunt of this crisis.

Adventure sports training for hill youths by GTA, aim to create job opportunities

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) has sent 10 youths from the region to Uttarakhand for specialised training in adventure sports. The aim is to boost adventure tourism and create jobs for hill youths. GTA officials said the batch of 10 has gone for an advanced course. Six of them will be trained to work as team leaders on trekking expeditions and the other four will be trained in kayaking, a common water sport. Dawa Sherpa, the field director of GTA's tourism department, said adventure tourism has witnessed a

steady rise in hills in recent years, drawing both domestic and international tourists. The training, he said, started on March 13 and will continue until March 29. "We want to create a pool of trained professionals in the hills for adventure tourism. Once these 10 youths return from Uttarakhand, they will conduct training sessions to teach the skills to others. We believe this will be a self-sustaining cycle of learning and employment that will benefit youths of this region," said Dawa. A source in the GTA said the training, spanning 16 days, will cover practical and theoretical aspects of trekking leader-

ship and water sports management. "The participants will learn navigation, first aid, crisis management, and sustainability practices. The skills they acquire will help them secure employment in the tourism sector and position them to mentor others," said a source. The candidates for training were chosen from among 50 local youths who had undergone basic training under a joint initiative of the GTA, the Union tourism ministry and the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI). "We wanted to ensure that those who showed dedication and potential got the opportunity to further refine their

skills," said an official. In the hills, tourism has been one of the most viable sources of income for many families for years. "The GTA is now focusing on skill development to boost tourism and also ensuring that the local population is directly benefited. There are plans to establish a paragliding institute in the GTA area," said Dawa. Basic and advanced courses on paragliding would be available at the proposed institute. "Any boy or girl who has completed his/her twelfth standard can join the paragliding training course which would span eight to 10 days," he added.

State govt introduces new digital transfer and posting system for police

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major administrative reform, the West Bengal government has introduced a new digital system for police personnel seeking transfers and postings. From now on, written applications will no longer be accepted, and all requests must be made exclusively through the PPMS mobile app and the e-HRMS portal. This decision, announced by the Nabanna Secretariat, marks a significant shift in how police personnel manage their career movements.

Police officers seeking a transfer closer to home or a new posting must submit their applications online between March 18 and April 11, 2025. However, applications related to medical emergencies will be accepted year-round. This move aims to eliminate bureaucratic delays and provide a more transparent and efficient process for police personnel. Under the new rules, Sub-Inspectors (SIs), Assistant Sub-Inspectors (ASIs), Motor Transport ASIs, Constables, Lady Constables, and Police Drivers can apply for transfers or postings online. The introduction of this system has been widely welcomed by police personnel, as it removes the need for personal lobbying or dependency on superiors for approvals. One of the most striking aspects of this reform is that all previous written applications will be considered void. Officers who previously submitted requests in written form will now have to reapply through the online system. This sudden change has left some police personnel concerned, as they now need to resubmit their requests digitally. To ensure a seamless transition, the government has decided to set up "Help Centers" in each district and police unit headquarters. These centers will be staffed with trained personnel to assist officers in submitting their applications online. Additionally, the government has instructed district and unit-level authorities to implement the new system swiftly and ensure all police personnel are informed about the changes. The authorities have emphasized that officers must use only the digital platform for transfer requests, reinforcing the move towards a paperless system.

TMC cracks down on absentee MLAs

MI News Service, Kolkata: Despite issuing a party whip, as many as 50 Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLAs remained absent from the West Bengal Assembly session. This has triggered serious disciplinary action, with the party's Parliamentary Discipline Committee set to review the matter and decide on potential consequences. The TMC disciplinary committee has taken serious note of the absenteeism, and discussions have already begun with Chief Whip and Parliamentary Affairs Minister regarding the next course of action. The attendance records of all legislators are being reviewed, and necessary steps will be taken against the defaulters. This is not the first instance of poor attendance among TMC legislators. On Thursday, when the BJP staged an aggressive protest inside the Assembly, the ruling party's presence in the house was noticeably thin. Even Speaker Biman Banerjee raised concerns about the low attendance of MLAs. The absence of so many legislators during crucial legislative discussions has sparked internal debates within the party. The TMC leadership is now closely monitoring the situation, as frequent absenteeism raises questions about discipline within the party. The Parliamentary Discipline Committee is expected to review the attendance logs and take corrective measures, ensuring that such lapses do not recur.



Bollywood superstar and KKR Team owner Shah Rukh Khan, actress Disha Patani, singer Shreya Ghoshal, Punjabi singer Karan Aujla and other dignitaries were present as star cricketer and RCB player Virat Kohli was felicitated with a memento for his contribution to the league during the IPL Opening Ceremony 2025 at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.

Firhad Hakim addresses key civic and political issues in Kolkata and Howrah

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Urban Development Minister and Mayor Firhad Hakim has assured that the long-overdue wages of 100-day workers will be disbursed by Monday or Tuesday next week. The delay, attributed to technical issues, has been resolved following the intervention of the Municipal Commissioner. This resolution brings relief to thousands of workers who have been awaiting their payments.

Responding to the recent landslide at Howrah's waste disposal site, Hakim acknowledged the severity of the situation, describing it as similar to Kolkata's Dhapa landfill crisis. He confirmed that the landslide had caused a pipeline rupture, disrupting essential services. Immediate measures have been taken to restore the infrastructure, and an alternative waste management plan is under review. He emphasized that financial assistance from the central government is crucial to implementing a long-term solution and preventing further disasters.

When confronted with allegations that leaders are only visible during elections, Hakim dismissed the claims as unfounded. He stated that key leaders, including Arup Roy and Gautam Chowdhury, had visited the affected areas and provided necessary support.



He reaffirmed that the Trinamool Congress remains committed to standing with the people during crises. Firhad Hakim also addresses concerns over the prolonged delay in Howrah Municipality elections. Firhad admitted that the situation has hampered administrative efficiency. He stated that the government is exploring possible measures to resolve the issue and restore municipal functions. Hakim further expressed concern over the severe financial strain faced by Kolkata Municipality, citing that the central government has withheld ₹1,70,00,00,000. This withholding, he claimed, has led to a major funding shortfall, affecting key develop-

mental projects. He stressed that the municipality typically receives over ₹1.7 crore from the Centre, and the current financial crunch is disrupting essential services. Firhad rejected the speculation of internal rifts within Trinamool Congress (TMC). Firhad asserted that party unity remains strong. He reaffirmed his loyalty to Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, stating that their leadership is driven by deep emotional connection, not political debate. When asked about reports of police assaults, Hakim emphasized the need for stricter law enforcement to maintain order.

Regarding the Assembly Disciplinary Committee's action against 50 MLAs, he declined to comment, stating that he would address the matter in the legislative session. Commenting on Bogtui's Mihail Sheikh's meeting with the Assembly Speaker, Hakim claimed that the opposition is confined to television debates, whereas the ruling party engages directly with the public. He argued that true leadership is found on the streets, not just on television screens. When questioned about the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Hakim declined to comment, choosing to avoid engaging in the discussion.

State initiates disciplinary action against teachers over missing student funds

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has launched a disciplinary probe against three teachers following allegations of misappropriation of funds meant for students under the "Taruner Swapno" (Dream of the Youth) scheme. The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBSE) has issued show-cause notices to the accused teachers, initiating a departmental investigation into the matter.

According to official sources, the School Education Department has directed the Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad (Board of Secondary Education) to begin an internal probe against the teachers. The investigation was prompted by police reports that linked the disappearance of funds to certain teachers.

The missing funds scandal surfaced when students reported that ₹10,000, which was meant to be credited into their bank accounts for purchasing educational tablets, had mysteriously disappeared. The state government, under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's initiative, had sanctioned this amount for Class XI and XII students

to support their education. However, complaints from multiple schools revealed that the money had vanished from student accounts, leading to massive public outcry and official scrutiny.

Following the revelations, the Chief Minister herself expressed deep dissatisfaction over the mismanagement of funds. In response, the School Education Department issued strict directives to identify the culprits and ensure accountability. The probe, backed by police findings, led to the suspension of three teachers, who have now been ordered to explain their roles in the scandal. The Taruner Swapno scheme was designed to empower students with digital access by providing them financial assistance to purchase tablets. However, the recent fund misappropriation case has raised serious concerns about transparency in the system. The government has assured that strict action will be taken against anyone found guilty of tampering with student funds. Additionally, authorities are closely monitoring financial disbursements in schools to prevent any future irregularities.

IPL ticket black market scandal: 3 arrested in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata is set to host the grand opening of the Indian Premier League (IPL) today, Saturday, with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan and other celebrities gracing the inaugural ceremony. Following the event, the much-anticipated first match between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) will take place at Eden Gardens. The excitement surrounding the game has led to an overwhelming demand for tickets, resulting in widespread black-market sales.

Authorities have taken swift action, arresting three individuals in connection with ticket scalping. On Friday, two young men, Piyush Mahendra and Kamal Hossain, were apprehended in central Kolkata for their involvement in illegal ticket sales. According to police sources, Dheeraj Mali, a potential buyer, came across an advertisement on social media claiming IPL tickets were available. Upon contacting the seller, he was directed to meet at Girish Park. Mali handed over ₹20,000 in cash in exchange for an envelope supposedly containing tickets. However, upon opening it, he discovered only two tickets worth ₹2,000 each, realizing he had been duped. Following his for-

mal complaint at the Girish Park police station, law enforcement officials launched an investigation. On Friday, they arrested Piyush Mahendra and Kamal Hossain from Mitra Lane, seizing 17 tickets, four premium-category tickets of high value, ₹20,600 in cash, and two mobile phones used in the operation. The crackdown continued on Saturday when another suspect, Shabbaz Khan, was caught in the New Market area. Acting on a tip-off, police raided Marquis Street and arrested him. Six tickets for the day's match were recovered from his possession.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Shabbaz Khan was also actively involved in the illegal ticket trade. The menace of black-market ticket sales has become a recurring issue during IPL seasons, with previous incidents of betting rackets also coming under scrutiny. Given the surge in unlawful activities, Kolkata Police have heightened surveillance and initiated a rigorous crackdown on such operations to prevent further exploitation of cricket enthusiasts.

As the IPL fever grips the city, law enforcement authorities remain vigilant to curb illegal ticket sales and ensure a fair and transparent experience for genuine fans.

Guv praises CM Mamata's upcoming Oxford lecture

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose on Saturday lauded Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee ahead of her upcoming visit to Oxford University, where she is slated to deliver a lecture on March 27. Speaking at a Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) event, Bose expressed pride in the Chief Minister's global recognition, emphasizing that her achievements reflect positively on Bengal.

"It is a matter of great honor that the Chief Minister, who hails from the land of Rabindranath Tagore, has been invited to such a prestigious institution," Bose remarked. He underscored the significance of Banerjee's growing international stature, stating, "Whenever something positive happens for



Bengal, it brings us joy." Banerjee's lecture at Oxford University is the focal point of her UK visit, which also includes strategic meetings aimed at strengthening Bengal's economic prospects. On March 25, she is set to engage with prominent industrialists to attract investments to the state. Her return is scheduled

between March 28 and 29. Her itinerary further includes a significant program at the Indian High Commission in London on March 24, where she is expected to discuss Bengal's developmental trajectory. Following this, she will participate in a government-to-government (G2G) event on March 26, before addressing another high-profile G2G session at Oxford University on March 27. Banerjee's visit is poised to enhance Bengal's presence on the global stage, fostering international collaboration and investment opportunities. Her engagements in the UK underscore the state's evolving role in global economic discussions, reinforcing its image as a key player in trade and development.

MAKO Robotic-Arm Assisted Joint Replacement

MI News Service, Kolkata: ILS Hospitals has introduced MAKO Robotic-Arm Assisted Joint Replacement Surgeries, enhancing precision in orthopedic procedures. This advancement promises better surgical outcomes and faster recovery for knee and hip replacements. The announcement was made at a press conference attended by leading medical experts, including Dr. Siddharth Gupta, Dr. Vishal Goyal, Mr. Debashis Dhar, and Dr. Mohua Golder.

GI-tagged jaggery from UP exported to Bangladesh despite strained relations

From PG 1
Prime minister Narendra Modi was among the first foreign leaders to greet Muhammad Yunus after he assumed office as the Head of an Interim government in August last year after the dismissal of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, in early December 2024 relations between the two neighbours deteriorated after reports of unprecedented atrocities on minority Hindus surfaced. Though a diplomatic visit by India's Foreign Secretary in January 2025 had helped improve the situation marginally and resulted in the resumption of bilateral trade between the two countries, the diplomatic relations never touched the previous height. But despite that Muhammad Yunus described relations with India as "very solid." [Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain also mentioned that Bangladesh's ties with India would "extend beyond a single issue" and assured that maintaining good relations with India was among the priorities of the Interim government in 2025. In the midst of all there, India's decision to export 300 tonnes of jaggery from Uttar Pradesh to Bangladesh is being seen among the political and diplomatic circles as a good sign towards further improving the strained relations between the two neighbours.

However, this apart the Commerce ministry has also informed about exporting the first-ever consignment of Anthurium flowers from Mizoram to Singapore. Anthurium is one of the most important flowers cultivated only in Mizoram, playing a vital role in driving local economic activity, particularly benefiting farmers, including women, it said. The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Commerce Ministry, is taking steps to promote exports of fruits and vegetables and other agri goods to all corners of the globe.

Delhi Police busts illegal Bangladeshi immigration racket; 8 held, six deported

From PG 1
attendand in Defence Colony. part from the illegal immigrants, several Indian nationals who played a crucial role in assisting them, were arrested, police said.

The key figure behind the identity forgery syndicate was Md Moinuddin, who operated a computer shop in Delhi and was responsible for manufacturing fake birth certificates and other documents, they said. The forged papers were then used to create Aadhaar, PAN, and voter ID cards, which in turn allowed the immigrants to access jobs and government services, they added. Police said that Moinuddin worked closely with three Aadhaar enrollment agents -- "Zulfiqar Ansari, Javed, and Farman Khan - who used their official authorization to register the illegal immigrants into the government database. Investigations also revealed the financial aspect of the racket, with two li-

ensed forex agents, Manwar Hussain and Nimai Karmakar, who allegedly managed the transfer of illicit funds to Bangladesh, DCP Chauhan said. Hussain, who worked at Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin, collected money from illegal Bangladeshi migrants and facilitated its transfer through a hawala-like system, he said. Karmakar and another agent, Gouranga Dutta, allegedly handled currency exchanges, further enabling the network to operate undetected, the officer added. Police also recovered 23 voter ID cards, 19 PAN cards, 17 Aadhaar cards, 11 birth certificates, six blank voter ID cards, and a computer CPU used for document forgery, he said. A case has been registered under the Bhatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for forgery and conspiracy, along with sections of the Foreigners Act, 1946, and the Aadhaar Act, 2016, police said. Further investigation is underway, they said.

M K Stalin favours legal fight on the issue of Delimitation of Parliamentary seats

From PG 1
Stalin was for a united fight to win; and said "Our representation must not decline." Meanwhile, former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to carry out the delimitation exercise in such a manner that no state would suffer any reduction in representation in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, in terms of its share in total no. (number) of seats in the house," said Reddy. The opposition leader also emphasised that the Constitution should be amended in such a fashion that no state would have to encounter any reduction in its representation in the House of the People.

the potential to disrupt the social and political harmony in the country. "Request for the delimitation exercise to be conducted in such a manner that no state would have to endure any reduction in its representation in the Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha, in terms of its share in total no. (number) of seats in the house," said Reddy. The opposition leader also emphasised that the Constitution should be amended in such a fashion that no state would have to encounter any reduction in its representation in the House of the People.

JFK assassination related records reveal past CIA secrets and several sensitive personal data

From PG 1
a former campaign lawyer for Trump. His personal information was on documents relating to his work for a U.S. Senate select committee that investigated abuses of power by government officials in the 1970s, including the surveillance of US citizens. He is planning to sue the US National Archives and Records Administration for violating privacy laws. "I think it's the result of incompetent people doing the reviewing," he said. "The people who reviewed these documents did not do their job. White House officials said a plan was in place to help those whose personal information was disclosed, including credit monitoring, until new Social Security numbers are issued. Officials are still screening the records to identify all the Social Security numbers that were released. The latest release represented a boon to mainstream historians, particularly those researching international relations, the Cold War and the activities of the CIA. One revelation was that a key adviser warned President Kennedy after the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 that the CIA had grown too powerful. The aide proposed giving the State Department control of all clandestine activities and breaking up the CIA. The page of Special Assistant Arthur Schlesinger Jr.'s memo outlining the proposal had not been released before. A previous release of part of his memo redacted Schlesinger's statement that 47 per cent of the political officers in U.S. embassies were controlled by the CIA. Schlesinger's plan never came to fruition. Timothy Naftali, an adjunct professor at Columbia University who is writing a book about JFK's presidency, said scholars likely now have more details about US intelligence activities under Kennedy than under any other President. It's quite remarkable to be able to walk through that secret world, he said.

Eastern Railway's General Manager took accounts of devp initiative over Sealdah South section



MI News Service, Kolkata: Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, conducted an extensive inspection of various stations over the Sealdah South section today (22.3.2025). The inspection commenced in the morning with a window trailing inspection from Majerhat to Komagatamaru Budge Budge, followed by detailed station visits at Budge Budge, Canning, Sonarpur, and Diamond Harbour.

Miraculous recovery at B.R.Singh Hospital: 62-year-old patient overcomes critical illness after 68 days in ITU



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a remarkable success story showcasing the dedication and expertise of the medical team at B. R. Singh Hospital (BRSH), Eastern Railway, a 62-year-old female patient has been successfully transferred to the general ward with stable hemodynamics and minimal oxygen support, following a challenging 68-day stay in the Intensive Therapy Unit (ITU), including 53 days on mechanical ventilation.

Given her history of double vision and neck muscle weakness, neurological causes were investigated. Anti-MuSK antibodies tested positive, while anticholinesterase antibodies were negative, confirming myasthenia gravis. She was subsequently started on steroids and pyridostigmine, with azathioprine added later.

Divisional Railway Hospital, Malda, Observes World Oral Health Day



MI News Service, Kolkata: To promote the importance of good oral hygiene and its impact on overall well-being, the Divisional Railway Hospital (DRH), Malda, commemorated World Oral Health Day with the theme "A Happy Mouth Is A Happy Mind." The event, held at the OPD complex of the hospital, aimed to spread awareness about oral hygiene practices, particularly among children and the elderly, the most vulnerable groups.

The awareness initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Sutirtha Boral, PTDS of DRH Malda, and began earlier this week with special attention to children aged 5 to 17 years at Kendriya Vidyalaya, Malda. The activities involved detailed oral and dental examinations along with interactive awareness sessions to educate children, their parents, and elderly individuals about maintaining proper oral hygiene.

WBCHSE announces revision in HS syllabus

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant move, the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) has announced another revision in the Higher Secondary syllabus, particularly affecting the third semester. Schools will soon receive the official guidelines regarding the updated syllabus.

Meanwhile, the new addition to the syllabus are: "Riders to the Sea" by J.M. Synge, an Irish one-act play renowned for its portrayal of human struggle against destiny. This play will be studied across both the third and fourth semesters, ensuring a more in-depth analysis for students.

NAME CHANGE I, Mishu Dey, on behalf of my Father Swapan Kant Dey, R/o-Badu Road, Vivekananda Nagar, P.O.-Udayrajpur, P.S.-Madhyamgram, Dist:- North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700129, was previously known as Swapan Dey, as declared before the Executive Magistrate, Barasat, vide affidavit No.:3031 Dated 19.03.2025. Swapan Kant Dey & Swapan Dey both is the same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE I, Swati Rani Kangsa Banik (Old Name) W/O Paresh Kangsa Banik, Residing At Purba Nutan Palli Bardhaman, Ps-Burdwan, Dist-Purba Burdwan, Pin-713101, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sathi Kangsa Banik(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Jhuma Biswas W/O Sudip Biswas, declare that my father said name Subash Roy (old name), residing at N52 Milanpally, Barasat (M), P.O. - Hridaypur, P.S. - Barasat, Kolkata- 700127, West Bengal, India, have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Subhash Roy (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Gopal Agarwal (Old Name) S/O Late Biswanath Agarwal, Residing At Flat No. 1B, 8A, Ashoka Road, Alipore, Near Allahabad Bank, Kolkata-700027, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name As Gopal Kumar Agarwal(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Jhuma Biswas Roy (Old Name) wife of Sudip Biswas, residing at N52 Milanpally, Barasat (M), P.O. - Hridaypur, P.S. - Barasat, Kolkata- 700127, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jhuma Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Urmila Agarwal(Old Name) W/O Gopal Kumar Agarwal, Residing At Flat No. 1B, 8A, Ashoka Road, Alipore, Near Allahabad Bank, Kolkata-700027, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Urmila Devi Agarwal (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Binod Singh (Old Name) son of Sakal Narayan Singh, residing at 20C No GB Road, P.O. & P.S.-Dumdum, Dist- North 24 Pgs, Pin-700028, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Binod Kumar Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Sikha Adikari (Old Name) W/O Debashis Adikari, Residing At Vill-Dahi, Po-Nayagram, Dist-Jhargram, Pin-721159, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sikha Adikari (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Rajkumar Charchari (Old Name) son of Mahadeb Ghosh, residing at 9/10 Roynagar Naskarpara, P.O. & P.S.- Bansdroni, Kolkata-700070, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajkumar Ghosh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Mamani Singh (Old Name) daughter of Pramod Sthia, residing at G-3011/A/8, Ramnagar Lane, Garden Reach, Kolkata-700024, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mamuni Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Jaydeb Mondal (Old Name) son of Sricharan Mondal, residing at Mohanpur, P.O.- Chakradhaban, Dist.- East Medinipur, Pin-721152, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Joydeb Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Ratna Dey Das (Old Name) wife of Ranjan Kumar Dey, residing at Srijani Pally, P.S.- Duttapukur, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743248, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ratna Dey (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Subodh Prasad Singh (Old Name) son of Late Garib Prasad Singh, residing at Vill.-Hirdanbigha, P.O.- Barhiya, P.S.- Barhiya, Dist.- Lakhisarai, Bihar, Pin- 811302, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subodh Kumar Singh (New Name) as declared before the Notary, Executive, Court at Lakhisarai, Bihar, dated 12/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Sandha Mondal (Old Name) wife of Sunil Chandra Mondal, residing at Purba Para Road, Vidyasagar Pally, P.S.- Haridevpur, Paschim Barisha, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin-700063, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sandhya Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Pradip Biswas (Old Name) son of Sudhir Kumar Biswas, residing at 3A , 3rd Floor, Shanti Sudhir Enclave, 8/2/7 Aurobinda Sarani, East Kamalapur, P.O.- Dum Dum, Kolkata-700028, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Biswas (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Anwar Sha (Old Name) son of Late Sabjan Sha, residing at Purba Bahala, Kolaghat Panskur-II, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721134, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anoyar Sah (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Ranjeeta Rajya Laxmi Rana & Ranjeeta Raja Laxmi Rana(Old Names) wife of Late Krit SJB Rana, residing at 31 Ballygunge Place, Kolkata- 700019, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ranjeeta Rana (New Name) as declared before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore, Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Manasa Parida (Old Name) son of Ganashyam Parida, residing at 63/7, Bamacharan Roy Road, Behala, Kolkata- 700034, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manash Parida (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Paresh Kumar Kangsa Banik(Old Name) S/O Late Subal Kangsa Banik, Residing At Purba Nutan Palli Bardhaman, Ps-Burdwan, Dist-Purba Burdwan, Pin-713101, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Paresh Kangsa Banik(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Dipak Kharwar (Old Name) son of Mohan Prasad Kharwar, residing at G2-66/2, Gopalpur Sarkar Pool Mondalpara Road, Adarshapally, Maheshtala (M), Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin-700143, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dipak Kumar Kharwar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, conducted an extensive inspection of various stations over the Sealdah South section today (22.3.2025). The inspection commenced in the morning with a window trailing inspection from Majerhat to Komagatamaru Budge Budge, followed by detailed station visits at Budge Budge, Canning, Sonarpur, and Diamond Harbour.

NAME CHANGE I, Bholanath Ghosh (Old Name) son of Kuron Ghosh, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Banpur, P.S.- Krishnaganj, Dist.- Nadia, Pin-741503, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bhol Ghosh (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Executive Magistrate, 1st Class Krishnagar at Nadia, dated 06/01/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Mohan Kharwar (Old Name) son of Late Ram Person Kharwar, residing at G2-66/2, New Gopalpur Sarkar Pool Mondalpara Road, Ps - Maheshtala, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700143, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohan Prasad Kharwar (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Raji Uddin Shaikh (Old Name) son of Late Shaikh Rahis Uddin, residing at S N Ghosh Road, North Baksara, P.S.- Santragachi, Howrah- 711110, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Riya Uddin (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Abhishek Jain S/O Mahendra Jain, declare that my minor son Ishaan Jain (old name), residing at Flat No-10306, Ujjwala Luxury Apartment Newtown, P.S.- Eco Park, Bidhannagar, Pin- 700161, West Bengal, India, have changed my son name and he shall henceforth be known as Ishaan Jain (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Sudeshna Chakraborty (Old Name), daughter of Sujoy Banerjee, wife of Sudipto Chakraborty, residing at Address-20 Sarat Ghosh Garden Road, Dhakuria, Kolkata-700031, West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Sudeshna Banerjee (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Sharmistha Saha (Old Name) W/O Swapan Saha, Residing At Pabna Colony, Ward No.14, Ps-Chakdai, Dist Nadia, Pin-741222, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sarmistha Saha Bose (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Seamber Begum (Old Name) wife of Sk Qaiyum, residing at Z-3/433/1/C, Bagdi Para Road, Kolkata-700044, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Soyembar Parveen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 21/03/2025.

NAME CHANGE I, Nadira Khatun D/O Nuralam Haldar, declare that my father said name Noor Alam Halder (old name), residing at Kabinazrul Sarani, P.O. & P.S.- Baruiapur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin-700144, West Bengal, India, have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Nuralam Haldar (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Baruiapur on 05/02/2025.

Commissioner of Railway safety inspects CBTC based signalling system from Joka to Majerhat stretch of purple line



MI News Service, Kolkata: Sumit Singhal, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) / Metro & NF Circle inspected the automatic Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling system from Joka to Majerhat stretch of Purple Line today i.e. on 22.03.25. CRS inspection and approval are mandatory for commissioning of Communication Based Train Control (CBTC) signalling system from Joka to Majerhat stretch of Purple Line.

KIIT-DU Inks MoU with Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand



MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: KIIT-DU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology, New Zealand, to provide students with new academic pathways and foster joint research initiatives.

The MoU was formalised in the presence of New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon. The agreement was led by Dr. Debraj Pradhan, Director General of International Relations at KIIT, with the participation of Gus Gilmore, Chief Executive of Te Pkenga—New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology, and Graham Rouse, Consul General & Trade Commissioner at New Zealand Trade & Enterprise.



This collaboration marks a significant milestone in India-New Zealand educational relations, facilitating student and faculty exchanges while fostering joint research efforts. With India's growing emphasis on skill development, artificial intelligence integration, and vocational education, this alliance is expected to play a crucial role in shaping a future-ready workforce.

LIC remains dedicated to providing financial security to policy holders

MI News Service, Kolkata: Some LIC agents met Leader of Opposition and raised certain issues on Saturday. They want to clarify that LIC has introduced products that align with the New Product Regulations set by IRDA, effective from October 1, 2024, keeping policyholders interests at the forefront.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Residents of Howrah's Belgachia area are grappling with a twin crisis—acute water scarcity caused by a ruptured pipeline and structural damages to multiple homes and roads. The crisis has further escalated with power outages in several locations.

Dual crisis in Howrah: Water scarcity and infra damage

MI News Service, Kolkata: Residents of Howrah's Belgachia area are grappling with a twin crisis—acute water scarcity caused by a ruptured pipeline and structural damages to multiple homes and roads. The crisis has further escalated with power outages in several locations.

The crisis began on Thursday when a landslide occurred at the Belgachia dumping ground, causing extensive damage. The impact led to fractures across a 1.5-square-kilometer stretch of roads and ruptured a crucial water pipeline supplying North Howrah and Shibpur constituencies.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Some LIC agents met Leader of Opposition and raised certain issues on Saturday. They want to clarify that LIC has introduced products that align with the New Product Regulations set by IRDA, effective from October 1, 2024, keeping policyholders interests at the forefront.

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The IPL opening ceremony before the first match between KKR and RCB took place at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.



Bollywood actress Disha Patani performs during the IPL opening ceremony at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.



Singer Shreya Ghosal mesmerised the crowd with her singing performance during the IPL opening ceremony at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.

Landslide Wrecks Havoc in Howrah's Belgachhia Dumping Ground

MI News Service, Howrah: A devastating landslide has struck the Belgachhia dumping ground in Howrah, sparking widespread panic among residents and prompting locals to block garbage trucks from entering the area. This latest disaster comes on the heels of a water crisis that had already left the community reeling.

The situation has become increasingly dire, with residents taking to the streets to protest and demand action from the authorities. State Minister Arup Roy visited the affected area, acknowledging the severity of the situation and assuring residents that

the municipality is working to address the issue. However, the problem persists, with landslides occurring repeatedly in the area. The municipality's efforts to repair the damage have been hindered by persistent rainfall, which has further exacerbated the situation. As the situation continues to unfold, residents remain on edge, fearful of further landslides and demanding immediate action from the authorities to address the crisis.

Indian Army facilitates return of mortal remains of two missing youth from PoJK

MI News Service, Baramulla: The Indian Army facilitated the return of the mortal remains of two youths who had gone missing from Uri Tehsil in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir (J-K). The bodies of both missing youths were formally handed over by Pakistani officials to the Indian Army at the Kaman Aman Setu in the Uri sector on Saturday, the Army said.

On March 5, the Indian Army said, a young man and woman from the villages of Basgran and Kamalkote tragically "drowned" in the Jhelum River. In response, the Indian Army immediately launched an extensive search operation to recover their bodies. "Despite sustained efforts, their remains could not be located. On March 20, the Indian Army spotted the body of the deceased male in the

Jhelum River. A rescue team, including deep-sea divers, was promptly deployed to retrieve the remains. However, due to strong water currents, the body drifted beyond the Line of Control (LoC) into the Chakothi sector of Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (POJK), making recovery from the Indian side impossible. In a demonstration of humanitarian cooperation, the Indian and Pakistani armies coordinated

efforts to recover the body," the Army said. Mohammed Rafi, a relative of the drowned woman, expressed gratitude to the Army, saying, "...Fifteen days ago, the children jumped into the river. Search operations were conducted by NDRF and Navy teams, but the bodies had drifted beyond the LoC. Today, the bodies were retrieved and handed over to us...We are thankful to our Police and

Army officers..." The cousin of the drowned man also appreciated the Army's efforts. "We were informed that on March 5, both jumped into the river... During the rescue operation, the bodies were spotted on 20th March but had drifted beyond the LoC into POJK. The Indian Army and Police held talks and retrieved the bodies back today. I thank the Indian Army and Police..." he said.

Estates shut down

MI News Service, Darjeeling: Sungma and Turzum, two tea estates in the Darjeeling hills, owned by the Jay Shree Tea & Industries Limited, declared a lockout on Friday as workers refused to pluck first flush tea leaves. Both the gardens are located in the Sukhiapokhri block of Darjeeling district. "Since there have been repeated incidences of defiance of the management's reasonable orders starting from February 25, the company has declared a lockout in both the gardens," said A.K. Jha, group president of Jay Shree Tea.

The workers are demanding a four per cent bonus for the 2023-2024 financial year and an undertaking from the management to provide a 20 per cent bonus for the current fiscal. Every year, the bonus is paid in the tea industry ahead of Durga Puja. In 2024, estates in Darjeeling had disbursed the bonus at 16 per cent as was advised by the state government. The workers, however, wanted the bonus to be 20 per cent and are still insisting on the payment of the "remaining four" per cent. A section of the hill leadership had given a call to work-

ers not to pluck the first flush unless these issues were resolved. This had prompted a section of workers not to join their duties. The first flush tea commands the highest price and any disruption in its production is likely to hit the garden's finances high. "Earlier, these two gardens were producing around 12 lakh kilos of tea. But this has come down to seven lakh kilos per annum," said Jha. Sources in the management said although the combined workforce of the two gardens was 1,032, only 400 to 450 turn up for work these days.

92 arrested in Nagpur violence; Maharashtra CM warns of property seizure for damage recovery

MI News Service, Nagpur: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said on Saturday that 92 people have been arrested in connection with the March 17 Nagpur violence, which involved incidents of stone pelting and vehicles being torched. Earlier in the day, CM Fadnavis held a review meeting at Nagpur Police Headquarters regarding the recent violence in Nagpur. Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, CM Fadnavis, who also serves as the state's Home Minister, said that the violence was triggered by rumours spread on social

media alleging that a holy 'chadar' had been burnt on that day. "I chaired a high-level meeting regarding the violence, which was also attended by state minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule. I reviewed every detail and shared my thoughts... The tomb of Aurangzeb was burnt that day when this incident occurred. Following the incident, a case was registered with the police. However, some people spread a rumour via podcasts and social media posts that a holy 'chadar' was burnt. This led to rioters pelting stones, torching vehicles and attacking shops in Nagpur,"

CM Fadnavis said. He commended the police for bringing the situation under control swiftly. "Despite the intensity, the police brought the situation under control within 4-4.5 hours. They did everything to control the situation. However, many police personnel, including three DCP-level officers, were injured in the incident. A total of 104 people have been identified, of whom 92 have been arrested...The police will continue to make further arrests," the CM said. He also said that damages caused during the violence would be recovered from the rioters. "Whatever dam-

age has happened will be recovered from the rioters. If they do not pay the money, their property will be sold for the recovery. Bulldozers will also be used wherever required," CM Fadnavis added. The clashes in Nagpur on March 17 erupted over demands for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave. Tensions escalated further when rumours circulated that a holy book of a particular community had been burnt during the agitation. However, the situation has now returned to normal, and the curfew imposed in several areas has been lifted.

Maharashtra Govt to implement spl plan to curb tiger attacks in Gadchiroli

MI News Service, Mumbai: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has directed officials to study the situation under the guidance of experts and immediately implement a special remedial plan to prevent human casualties due to tiger attacks in Gadchiroli district. The plan includes providing special compensation to the families of those who died in tiger attacks over the last five years and relocating additional tigers, among other measures. Fadnavis, who is also the guardian minister of Gadchiroli district, has directed officials to submit a report on the matter within three months. The Chief Minister has taken serious note of the loss of human lives due to tiger attacks. As the Guardian Minister of Gadchiroli, he has instructed authorities to take immediate cognizance of citizens' demands and suggest a remedial plan. He also directed that a plan be prepared under the guidance of Pravin Pardeshi, CEO of Mitra Sanstha. Consequently, Pardeshi held a meeting of senior forest officials in Nagpur, where they discussed the remedial measures and issued directives for their implementation. Notably, more than 50 people have lost their lives in tiger attacks in Gadchiroli district over the past five years, particularly in areas of Gadchiroli, Charmoshi, Armori, Vadsa and Dhanora. After assessing the situation in Gadchiroli, authorities have been instructed to relocate additional tigers from the district within three months.

Government withdraws 20 per cent duty on onion export, decision to come into effect from April 1

MI News Service, New Delhi: The central government on Saturday withdrew 20 per cent duty on the export of onions imposed in September 2024. The decision will come into effect on April 1, 2025. The Department of Revenue issued a notification to this effect today on the Department of Consumer Affairs' communication. To ensure domestic availability, the government had taken measures to check export by means of duty, minimum export price (MEP) and even to the extent of export prohibition for almost five months, from December 8, 2023 till May 3, 2024. The export duty of 20 per cent, which now stands removed, has been in place since September 13, 2024. Despite export restrictions, the government said that the total onion export during 2023-24 was 17.17

lakh tonne and in 2024-25 (till March 18), it was 11.65 lakh tonne. Monthly onion export quantity had picked up from 0.72 lakh tonne in September, 2024 to 1.85 lakh tonne in January, 2025. "The decision stands as another testament to the government's commitment to ensuring remunerative prices to farmers while maintaining affordability of onion to the consumers at this crucial juncture when both mandi and retail prices have softened following expected arrival of rabi crops in good quantities," Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, said in a release. Even though, the current mandi prices are above the level during corresponding period of previous years, a decline of 39 per cent is observed in the all-India weighted average modal

prices, the release said. Similarly, all-India average retail onion prices recorded declined of 10 per cent over the past one month. Onion arrival in benchmark markets Lasalgaon and Pimpalgaon have increased from this month. As per the estimates of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, rabi production this year at 227 lakh metric tonnes is over 18 per cent higher than 192 lakh tonne last year. The rabi onion, which accounted for 70-75 per cent of India's total onion production, is crucial for overall availability and stability in prices till the arrival of kharif crop from October/November onward. "The estimated higher production this season is expected to further ease the market prices in coming months," the food ministry said.

"Received nearly 10,000 suggestions reflecting expectations, concerns of people": CM Rekha Gupta on Delhi budget

MI News Service, New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that they received nearly 10,000 suggestions from the people via email and WhatsApp that will be reflected in the 'Viksit Delhi' Budget. Addressing a press conference here today, CM Rekha emphasized that since the formation of their government, their sole objective has been to work towards the agenda of a 'Viksit Delhi.' "The initiatives we have undertaken aim to improve the living standards of women, youth, workers, and students in Delhi, fulfilling our promise to uplift them

and make Delhi a world-class capital. To gather public suggestions for this budget, we announced an email ID and a WhatsApp number on March 3. I would like to share that we received 3,303 suggestions via email and 6,982 suggestions through WhatsApp. In total, we received nearly 10,000 suggestions, reflecting the expectations and concerns of the people of Delhi. These inputs played a crucial role in shaping the budget for Viksit Delhi," she said. She also highlighted that during this period, they engaged in public consultations with women, educators, influencers, traders,

farmers, youth, doctors, and college students to understand their expectations and incorporate their suggestions. "This is not just the government's budget—it is the budget of the people of Delhi. We have ensured that no section of society remains untouched by our schemes in this budget. Key focus areas in the budget include women's empowerment, uninterrupted power and water supply, solutions for waterlogging during monsoons, air pollution control, cleaning of the Yamuna River, improving the quality of education, and enhancing healthcare facilities," the Delhi CM asserted.

She further mentioned that on March 24, there will be a "Kheer ceremony" before the presentation of the budget in the Delhi Assembly area. "After 27 years, a BJP government has been formed in Delhi, and this will be its first budget. It will align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for development. We will commence this budget with a 'Kheer Ceremony'. The ceremony will be held at the Delhi Vidhan Sabha premises on Monday (March 24) 9 AM, and all stakeholders associated with this budget will be invited to participate," CM Rekha Gupta said.

Virat Kohli shakes leg to 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan' in IPL 2025 opening ceremony, SRK calls him 'GOAT'

MI News Service, Kolkata: It's always a treat to watch a collaboration between members of Indian cinema and sports players. Today, the audience in Kolkata got lucky as they witnessed a star-studded crossover of Bollywood and cricket at the opening ceremony of the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL), courtesy of Shah Rukh Khan. With his amazing hosting skills, SRK added "chaar chand" to the ceremony. The highlight of the event was undoubtedly the moment when SRK called former RCB captain 'GOAT' and shook a leg with him on his blockbuster song 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan'. The entire Eden Gardens erupted into loud 'Kohli Kohli' chants. Like the audience, SRK could not resist himself and chanted 'Kohli Kohli'. "Virat bhai is the only player who has been associated with just one team in the entirety of the IPL. He is the OG. The GOAT of IPL," said Shah Rukh before asking Kohli to come on the stage. "The king of 22 yards and a billion hearts. Let's hear

the loudest for the one and only the GOAT, Mr. Virat Kohli," he added. The audience left excited on seeing 'King Kohli' as he unleashed his dancing avatar with 'King Khan' at the jam-packed Eden Gardens. In no time, fans flooded social media by uploading videos of SRK and Kohli's 'Jhoomo Jo Pathaan' dance. Before Kohli, SRK danced with Rinku Singh, who is a part of the KKR squad. Rinku shook a leg with SRK on his famous 'Lutt Putt Gaya' track from the latter's film 'Dunki'. Rinku's dance left Kohli in splits. Have a look at this funny yet memorable moment. SRK's charisma was on full display during the opening ceremony. He sent the crowd into a frenzy by saying, "Party Pathan ke ghar pe rakho toh mehman nawazi ke liye Pathan khud aayega aur patake bhi layega."

Shreya Ghoshal, Karan Aujla and Disha Patani, too, added Bollywood touch to the IPL performance with their performances. After the star-studded opening ceremony, players of KKR and RCB entered the stadium started the opening match of the IPL tournament. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (Playing XI): Virat Kohli, Philip Salt(w), Rajat Patidar(c), Liam Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma, Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Rasikh Dar Salam, Suyash Sharma, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal. Royal Challengers Bengaluru Impact Subs: Devdutt Padikkal, Abhinandan Singh, Manoj Bhandage, Romario Shepherd, Swapnil Singh. Kolkata Knight Riders (Playing XI): Quinton de Kock(w), Venkatesh Iyer, Ajinkya Rahane(c), Rinku Singh, Angkrish Raghuvanshi, Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Ramandeep Singh, Spencer Johnson, Harshit Rana, Varun Chakaravathy. Kolkata Knight Riders Impact Subs: Anrich Nortje, Manish Pandey, Vaibhav Arora, Anukul Roy, Luvnith Sisodia.

Four Patiala police officers suspended, SIT formed over assault on Colonel Pushpinder Bath

MI News Service, Patiala : As many as four Patiala police officers have been suspended and transferred for allegedly assaulting Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath in Punjab's Patiala, a senior police officer said. A First Information Report (FIR) has also been filed against the four accused officers. The official said that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) will investigate the case. Patiala Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Nanak Singh told ANI, "... A fresh FIR has been filed in this matter. A case has been registered against Inspector Ronni Singh, Inspector Harjinder Dhillon, Inspector Harry Boparai and Inspector Shaminder. In addition, they have been suspended and transferred out of the state. The SIT will be headed by ADGP SPS Parmar... Punjab police have provided them (Colonel Bath and his family) with security, including two armed police personnel... The SIT will investigate, and they will make the arrests... The protest is peaceful so far..."

Meanwhile, Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema addressed the incident involving Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath, who was allegedly assaulted by Punjab Police personnel in Patiala. Cheema assured that swift action would be taken against those responsible for the assault. "We have formed an SIT. Action

will be taken against those who are guilty. We have transferred all the accused whose names came to light. So, nobody will be able to influence the investigation. Action will be taken against the guilty, we won't spare anyone," Cheema said, emphasizing that the state government was committed to ensuring justice. She said, "On Friday, an FIR was registered in Police Station Civil Lines, Patiala on the statement of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath as recorded on March 14 regarding an unfortunate incident of assault by police officials which occurred on the intervening night of March 13/14. The statement of Colonel Bath named the police officials who assaulted him and also gave the roles attributed to each person in the assault. A High-Level Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by SPS Parmar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, Punjab, and, including Sandeep Malik, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur and Manpreet Singh, PPS, Superintendent of Police, Rural, SAS Nagar was later constituted by the Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab for conducting investigations in a fair and expeditious manner. The SIT has been directed to investigate day-to-day basis for the collection of evidence and further legal proceedings, to ensure that the culprits are proceeded against as per law. According to the release, the Additional Director General of Police, Security, Punjab was directed to provide adequate protection to the family of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath.

and get justice for everyone...FIR has been lodged but I do not know anything about the suspension order." She said. On Friday, an FIR was registered in Police Station Civil Lines, Patiala on the statement of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath as recorded on March 14 regarding an unfortunate incident of assault by police officials which occurred on the intervening night of March 13/14. The statement of Colonel Bath named the police officials who assaulted him and also gave the roles attributed to each person in the assault. A High-Level Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by SPS Parmar, IPS, Additional Director General of Police, Law & Order, Punjab, and, including Sandeep Malik, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police, Hoshiarpur and Manpreet Singh, PPS, Superintendent of Police, Rural, SAS Nagar was later constituted by the Director, Bureau of Investigation, Punjab for conducting investigations in a fair and expeditious manner. The SIT has been directed to investigate day-to-day basis for the collection of evidence and further legal proceedings, to ensure that the culprits are proceeded against as per law. According to the release, the Additional Director General of Police, Security, Punjab was directed to provide adequate protection to the family of Colonel Pushpinder Singh Bath.

Public Notice

ITC Limited

Foods Division, Barasat, Kolkata
ITC LTD. Foods Division, Barasat Kolkata,
Invites Quotations for buying process waste & scrap materials from Noodles plant. Interested parties can submit the rate quotation for below mentioned items. MAJOR ITEMS 1.Waste dried noodles, 2. Sheet noodles 3.Burnt Noodles 4.Mada bag5. Scrap of Paper bag6. Waste poly bag 7. Waste Paper core 8.Laminated shredded 9.Foil bag10. Plastic waste garbage.11.Carton waste use, miscellaneous etc. Note- Detailed list of scrap items will be shared during the plant visit.*Crushing, Shredding,Packing & Loading/Unloading & transportation shall be managed and borne by the buyer.*The Buyer shall place and install necessary machinery/equipment in this regard at the unit.*All applicable taxes shall be charged extra on the quoted rates and are to be borne by the buyer. All relevant statutory compliances shall be fulfilled and ensured by the buyer. If any clarification needed related to e-auction, EMD, Process and statutory requirements please contact Finance team at ITC Ltd, Foods Division, ITC Green Centre, No 18 Banaswadi main road Maruthiseva Nagar Bangalore -560005.Mail id- Santhana.VenugopalM@itc.in, Tekumani.Sudarshana@itc.in, Nagendra.kumaryadav@itc.in, & Factory Address ITC Ltd. C/o Keventer Agro Ltd, Subhas Nagar , Bara sat, Nilgunj Bazar, Kolkata-700121 West Bengal. Quotation are to be submitted latest by 27th March, 2025. Terms for participation in e-auction EMD amount.Final bidder would be selected through online e-auction. Scrap can be inspected with prior intimation between 10AM to 5 PM at factory location.

IDFC FIRST Bank Launches ACE feature on the mobile banking app to Empower Investors with Smart Investments in Mutual Funds

Mumbai : IDFC FIRST Bank has unveiled Ace Feature on its premium Mobile Banking App, that provides relevant insights and tools to allow investors make an informed Mutual Fund investment decision. This feature aims to empower an individual with 'do-it-yourself' investing, digitally.

The ACE Feature on the IDFC FIRST Bank app provides rich and useful details on more than 2500 Mutual Funds in India. Investors can browse through various fund categories (like Equity, Debt, Tax-Saving, Hybrid, and Index funds) and choose the right need-based fund to build a diversified portfolio.

IDFC FIRST Bank Customers can also access detailed information - like historical fund performance (1Y, 3Y & 5Y), holding patterns (by sectors, companies, and market cap), and expert ratings on each fund (Morningstar Rating).

This feature provides premium experience to the investor by combining information about the fund available publicly, insights and easy investing customer journey.

At a glance:
 "There are over 2,500 mutual funds in India; how does a customer choose? Ace feature simplifies investment by providing relevant details to help select top performing funds."

"What are the companies invested in each MF? What are the sectors your MF has invested in? Simply click to know."



"Senior Citizen Assistance Special" feature that automatically selects 'Conservative' funds with lower risks based on the typical risk appetite for Senior Citizens, ensuring enhanced safety while investing. Senior Citizens can select other funds by choice.

"Goal-based MF investing for key life stages and events like retirement planning, wedding, etc. by access to investing tools."

"Customers can now link their external mutual funds through eCAS (electronic Consolidated Account Statement) service for mutual funds to get a consolidated view of their MF holdings without switching multiple APPS"

Mr. Ashish Anchaliya, Chief Product Officer, Digital Banking, IDFC FIRST Bank said "We know that investing can feel overwhelming, and making the right investment can be a challenge, especially with over 2,500 mutual funds to choose from. That's why we created the Ace feature with tools and insights that provides relevant information at a single place. With just a few taps, you can select funds that you want to invest in with confidence and ease." IDFC FIRST Bank's mobile banking app is the highest-rated Indian banking app on Play Store with a rating of 4.9 and is ranked #1 by Forrester (The Forrester Digital Experience Review™: Indian Mobile Banking Apps, Q3 2024).

Google introduces AI-powered search upgrade for Gmail



Washington [US] : Google has announced the introduction of an AI-powered upgrade for Gmail's search function.

The new feature, which is being rolled out for users worldwide, promises to provide more accurate and relevant results by

taking into account a range of factors beyond just keywords.

The upgraded search function will consider "relevance, most-clicked emails, and frequent contacts" when returning search results, The Verge reported.

This means that users will be

more likely to find the emails they are looking for at the top of their search results, saving them time and effort.

"With this update, the emails you're looking for are far more likely to be at the top of your search results -- saving you valuable time and helping you find important information more easily," Google said in its blog post.

The new "most relevant" search results feature is available to users with personal Google accounts and can be accessed through the Gmail website or via Google's Android and iOS Gmail apps.

The feature won't replace Gmail's traditional chronological keyword search results. Instead, users will have the option to toggle between the two approaches, allowing for greater flexibility and control. As Google continues to harness the power of artificial intelligence to enhance its suite of productivity tools, the upgraded Gmail search function is expected to make a significant impact on user experience. With its ability to provide more accurate and relevant results, the feature aims to save users time and effort, making it a valuable addition to the Gmail platform.

Current antivirals may be less effective against severe infection caused by bird flu virus in cows' milk: Study



Washington DC [US] : Scientists found that frequently used flu antivirals do not work well against the H5N1 avian influenza virus in cows' milk.

Existing antivirals may be less effective against this H5N1 bird flu strain, and prevention measures, such as avoiding raw milk consumption and reducing exposure in dairy workers, maybe the most effective way to protect against the virus.

As the H5N1 avian influenza outbreak continues in the United States, scientists are working to better understand the virus's threat to human health.

The virus has been found in dairy cows' milk and has infected farm workers, prompting scientists at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to study potential treatments.

Results showed that in a pre-

clinical model, two FDA-approved flu antivirals generally did not successfully treat severe H5N1 infections. Additionally, the researchers found that the route of infection, whether through the eye, the nose or the mouth, significantly impacts a treatment's effectiveness.

The findings were published today in *Nature Microbiology*.

"Our evidence suggests that it is likely going to be hard to treat people severely infected with this bovine H5N1 bird flu strain," said corresponding author Richard Webby, PhD, St. Jude Department of Host-Microbe Interactions.

"Instead, reducing infection risk by not drinking raw milk and reducing dairy farm workers' exposures, for example, may be the most effective interventions."

Though H5N1 infections in people are rare, there are more

than 60 people who have become infected from dairy exposures to date in the current outbreak.

Some were infected through exposure to contaminated raw cows' milk, such as dairy workers who were infected through splashes or aerosolized particles reaching their noses or eyes.

Given the risks to human health, the scientists used a mouse model to test how each antiviral drug worked against the virus when it was obtained through three different exposure routes. "In general, baloxavir [Xofluza] caused a greater reduction in viral levels than oseltamivir [Tamiflu], but neither was always effective," said first author Jeremy Jones, PhD, St. Jude Department of Host-Microbe Interactions.

The researchers studied exposure routes that included the eye, mouth and nose, which are the most common ways to become infected with the virus. The oral route, which mimics drinking raw infected cow's milk, caused the worst infections that were hardest to treat. In contrast, findings showed that baloxavir controlled infections through the eye fairly well. These results are particularly relevant as the ocular route appears to be the common infection pathway for people who work directly with dairy cows.

Union Government approves infusion of Rs 11,440 crore for revival of RINL plant

New Delhi : The Government of India has approved infusion of Rs 11,440 crore as Equity/Preferential capital in RINL, to sustain the operations of RINL and to keep it as a going concern, a press release from Ministry of Steel said. The Company has focused on improvement in techno-economic performance, better capacity utilization and rationalization of fixed costs etc. to enhance operational efficiency.

This aligns with the objectives of National Steel Policy, 2017, the release added. This information was given by the Minister of State for Steel and Heavy Industries, Shri Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

In January this year, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav announced Rs 11,440 crore revival package for Visakhapatnam Steel Plant. The decision was made in the cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In this overall package of Rs 11,440, fresh equity infusion would be worth Rs 10,300 crore and the conversion of working capital loan into preferred share capital of Rs 1140 crore.

"With this, all the employees of RINL as well as all the people connected with the economic activities of RINL will be immensely benefited and Andhra Pradesh will have a major steel plant revived in the coming days. Very soon RINL will start functioning with two glass furnaces and by August it is planned to start all the three glass furnaces", Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav said after the cabinet meeting.

Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), is a Navratna company under the Ministry of Steel.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is the first shore-based Integrated Steel Plant in India. It is a producer of long steel products and caters to the requirements of the construction, infrastructure, manufacturing and automobile sectors. A revival package has been a long-pending demand from the people of Andhra Pradesh and especially the people working within the steel plant, said Union Minister K Ram Mohan Naidu, who himself comes from the state.

PLI scheme leads to the creation of 26,351 jobs in India's telecom manufacturing industry

New Delhi : The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) notified the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme on February 24, 2021, to boost domestic manufacturing of telecom and networking products in India with an outlay of Rs 12,195 crore, according to release.

The release further stated that "As of January 31, beneficiaries have invested Rs 4,081 crore, generating total sales of Rs 78,672 crore, which includes export sales worth Rs 14,963 crore. Additionally, it has generated employment for 26,351 individuals."

The scheme guidelines have been revised to boost domestic manufacturing and flexibility. To encourage design-led production, a 1% additional incentive has been introduced for products designed, developed, and manufactured in India. The amendments also expand the approved product list by including 11 new items based on industry needs. Companies now have the flexibility to add one or more products from this list at any point during the scheme's tenure and can opt to file incentive claims quarterly.



The PLI scheme covers 33 telecom and networking products, against which companies can claim incentives, as mentioned in the release. This information was given by Dr

Pemasani Chandra Sekhar, Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha on March 20.

"We will only accept English": MDMK's Vaiko accuses Centre of imposing Hindi



"I would like to say something so that those who divide the country in the name of language do not get their agenda. Under the Department of Official Languages, Narendra Modi government has set up an Indian Languages Section which will work to enhance the use of all Indian languages - Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Assamese, Bengali, and all languages. After December, I will have written correspondence with citizens, CMs, Ministers and MPs in their own language," Amit Shah said.

New Delhi : MDMK MP Vaiko on Friday accused the Central government of imposing Hindi across all fields and departments, asserting that his party would only accept English as the official language.

"They [Centre] are imposing Hindi in every field and department. We oppose this; we will only accept English. English should be the official language," the MDMK chief told ANI.

Vaiko was responding to Union Home Minister

Amit Shah's remarks in the Rajya Sabha, where he criticized the DMK's opposition to the three-language formula.

Earlier in the day, hitting out at DMK over its opposition to the three-language formula Shah said that the Tamil Nadu government "does not have the courage" to translate medical and engineering study material into Tamil.

Amit Shah, who was replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the working of his ministry, said that from December, he will have written correspondence with citizens, Chief Ministers, and Members of Parliament in their respective languages.

"I would like to say something so that those who divide the country in the name of language do not get their agenda. Under the Department of Official Languages, Narendra Modi government has set up an Indian Languages Section which will work to enhance the use of all Indian languages - Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Assamese, Bengali, and all languages. After December, I will have written correspondence with citizens, CMs, Ministers and MPs in their own language," Amit Shah said.

Without naming DMK, he accused it of using language issues to hide scams.

"This is a strong reply to those who run their shops in the name of language to hide their corruption...What are they saying? That we oppose languages of the south? How can this be possible? I come from Guajrat, Nirmala Sitharanan from Tamil Nadu. How can we oppose this? What are you saying?" he said.

Amit Shah said when an NDA government comes to power in Tamil Nadu, it will provide medical and engineering courses in Tamil.

"We have worked for languages...I would like to tell the Tamil Nadu Government - we have been saying for two years that you do not have the courage to translate medical and engineering study material into Tamil...You cannot do this. When an NDA government comes to power (in Tamil Nadu), we will provide medical and engineering courses in Tamil, in Tamil Nadu," he said.

Punjab: Farmers to protest on March 28, refuse to attend meeting called by state govt

Chandigarh (Punjab) : Bhartiya Kisan Union (Lakhowal) leader Harinder Singh Lakhowal and Sanyukt Kisan Morcha leader Raminder Singh refused to attend a meeting called by the Punjab government and announced a protest at district headquarters across the state on March 28, alleging repression by the state government.

The decision comes after key farmer leaders accused the Punjab administration of using excessive force against protesting farmers and unlawfully detaining several leaders. They also cited unfavourable conditions for not participating in the meeting.

Notably, two days after Punjab police cleared the Sambhu and Khanauri border and removed the temporary structures erected by the protesting farmers, the state's Agriculture minister, Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, called for a meeting of farmer leaders on Friday in Chandigarh.

Harinder Singh Lakhowal said, "Today, the Punjab government called a meeting with us. The kind of atrocities that happened to us, we were removed (from protest sites) illegally...so many people are still jailed. We have decided not to attend this meeting. We will hold a protest on 28th (March) against this at district headquarters..."

Raminder Singh echoed similar concerns, stating that the situation in Punjab was being turned into a "police state" where farmers were being targeted unfairly. "...During the meeting we held here, we have reached this conclusion that efforts are being made to make Punjab a Police state...farmers were



"Central govt had invited those farmer leaders for a meeting, and the Punjab govt was also a part of that meeting...still, these leaders were jailed...this is not the way that they first invited someone and then held them as they were returning. Democratic space is being curbed," he added. "We have decided to hold a demonstration outside district headquarters and have appealed to all farmers to participate in it," he added further.

repressed...7-8 farmer leaders were jailed, and they weren't allowed to come back to Chandigarh."

"Central govt had invited those farmer leaders for a meeting, and the Punjab govt was also a part of that meeting...still, these leaders were jailed...this is not the way that they first invited someone and then held them as they were returning. Democratic space is being curbed," he added.

"We have decided to hold a demonstration outside district headquarters and have appealed

to all farmers to participate in it," he added further.

Meanwhile, farmers in Tamil Nadu's Tiruchirappalli staged a 'rail roko' protest on the Cauvery Railway Bridge. The protest was led by celebrated farmer leader and lawyer P Ayyakannu.

The demonstration was held in response to the action taken against farm leaders in Punjab, who were protesting against the government while pressing various demands, including a legal guarantee for a Minimum Support Price (MSP) on all crops.

Hamas military intelligence chief Osama Tabash killed in Israeli strike



comes as Israel resumed its military offensive in Gaza on Tuesday, 18 March, following a nearly two-month ceasefire. The renewed bombardments came after Israel imposed a fresh blockade on the Palestinian territory.

Since then, Israeli airstrikes have killed more than 600 people, most of whom were women and children.

During the ceasefire, Hamas released 25 Israeli hostages and the bodies of eight others in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners as part of the first phase of the agreement.

However, since the ceasefire ended on Saturday, March 1, the sides have been unable to agree on a way forward for a second phase aimed at securing the release of the remaining 59 hostages—35 of whom are believed to be dead—and ending the war.

Hamas has demanded an end to the war and a full withdrawal of Israeli troops in exchange for the hostages' release. Israel, however, insists it will not halt its offensive until it has dismantled Hamas' governing and military capabilities and freed all hostages—two objectives that may be incompatible.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said Hamas had "repeatedly refused to release our hostages and rejected all offers it received from the US presidential envoy, Steve Witkoff, and from the mediators."

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) has announced the killing of Osama Tabash, head of Hamas' military intelligence in southern Gaza, during an airstrike on Thursday, March 20.

In a statement on X on Friday, March 21, the IDF said, "Head of Hamas' Military Intelligence in Southern Gaza and Head of Hamas' Surveillance and Targeting Unit, Osama Tabash. Tabash held various senior positions in Hamas, including battalion commander in the Khan Yunis Brigade."

"Tabash held various senior positions in Hamas, including a battalion commander in the Khan Yunis Brigade."

Israel has accused Tabash of "planning and coordinating targets and infiltration objectives during the October 7 massacre" and being responsible for "combat strategy on the ground."

There was no immediate comment from Hamas.

This development

Protest against Israeli airstrike in Gaza, Palestine

Nurul Islam Khan

Inhuman and barbaric Israel suddenly bombed indiscriminately during the holy month of Ramadan in Gaza, Palestine. After the signing of the ceasefire agreement, innocent children and other innocent people have been martyred in this atrocity. In a word, this small country has violated international law but peoples of the world are silent. On behalf of Furfura Darbar Sharif, Pirzada Tahir Siddiqui, Pirzada Saferi Siddiqui, Pirzada Minhaj Siddiqui, Pirzada Sawban Siddiqui, Pirzada Mostekin Siddiqui, Pirzada Mujahid Siddiqui, Pirzada Syed Aftab Uddin Hossain, Pirzada, Sanallah Siddiqui and Pirzada Syed Nazim Uddin Hossain and Pirzada Saud Siddiqui, along with many other Pirsahabs, have expressed their hatred against Israel. All of them are talking about Muslim unity. He called for a boycott of Jew-



ish products. He prayed for the oppressed Palestinians during Iftar and Sahari and asked everyone to pray.

He appealed to build public opinion against Israel, the enemy of humanity. Pir Saheb said that if the powerful Muslim countries of the world raise their voices, Israel will be silenced. There is a need for unity among the Muslim world. Israeli action has incited the spirit of the Battle of Badr among the Muslims.

Iftar distribution by Ibra Shams



Nurul Islam Khan

Ibra Shams is a non-political social welfare organization founded by Furfura Sharif. Ibra means the late Pir Hazrat Abu Ibrahim Siddiqui and Shams means Shamsun Nahar, the wife of Pir Saheb, who was a philanthropist. In their memory, this organization is doing many social welfare activities in the area. It stands by the poor and helpless people and is doing constructive work for their education or studies along with financial assistance. It has been managing marriages for orphans and destitutes. A modern and high-quality educational institution is being run by the organization, which is called Pir Nuruddin Siddiqui Arabic and Islamic Science Institute. Pirzada Maulana Min-

haj Siddiqui and Fateh Ali Oweisi and his mother are in charge of the said institution. In addition, Mohabbatun Nesa is also running a separate school for women. It has received a good response in the area. The main responsibility is held by Pirzada Sawban Siddiqui and Pirsahabs. Many Pirsahabs are involved. Like every year, in this month of Ramadan, Ibra Shams has distributed saris to about 100 helpless women. Iftar items including chickpeas, lentils and dates have been given. All kinds of food items have been given to fasting persons. In addition, various social service works have been carried out throughout the year. Director Rubaba Qureshi has said that she intends to do more work.

Activists urge Telangana CM Revanth Reddy to cancel lavish Iftar Party, reallocate Rs. 70 Cr for minority welfare

MI News Service, Hyderabad:

Prominent activists, citizens, and representatives of NGOs have urged Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to cancel the Rs. 70 crore allocation for the state-sponsored Iftar and Christmas feast and instead divert the funds toward welfare schemes for minorities.

The activists passed a resolution condemning the use of "Minority Welfare" funds for government-organized Iftar gatherings, calling it a misuse of resources meant for education, employment, and nourishment of economically disadvantaged Muslims. They described the event as a "lavish, shameless political show-off" rather than a solemn religious occasion.

Supporting the resolution, former chairman of the State Minority Commission, Abid Rasool Khan, appealed to the Chief Minister to redirect the funds toward meaningful development programs for minorities.

In a letter addressed to CM Revanth Reddy, activists Lubna Sarwath, Anwarullah Khan, Syed Ismail, and others emphasized that spending public welfare funds on extravagant Iftar events contradicts Islamic teachings. "Hosting grand state-sponsored Iftar parties is neither a part of Islam



Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi at the state Iftar

nor advocated by Prophet Muhammad. The Quran explicitly discourages extravagance," the letter stated.

The activists urged the government to abandon practices followed by the previous BRS regime and instead reallocate the funds as follows:

Increase the budget of the Telangana Minorities Study Circle (S.H. 23), currently set at Rs. 4 crores.

Strengthen the Center for Education Development of Minorities (S.H. 23), which has an allocation of just Rs. 3 crores.

Enhance funding for Training and Employment for Minorities (S.H. 06), which is currently capped at Rs. 30 crores.

Religious and Social Concerns

The activists emphasized that Iftar is a sacred mo-

Department. The activists deemed this an unjustified expenditure, especially at a time when students struggle to receive scholarships and the state government is facing financial constraints.

"This public extravagance, initiated by the previous TRS regime, is an insult to the poor and unemployed youth of Telangana. While underprivileged children, girls, mothers, and sick individuals lack basic necessities, crores of rupees are being squandered on a single meal," the activists stated in their appeal.

Call for Action

The activists have urged CM Reddy to take immediate action by canceling the proposed state-funded Iftar gatherings and reallocating the budget for education and employment initiatives.

The resolution was signed by multiple activists and social leaders, including Lubna Sarwath, Qudsiya Tabassum, Anwarullah Khan, Syed Ismail, Abdul Sattar, Mirza Ilyas Baig, Nadeem Adil, Ayesha Fatima, Antirvedi, Indra Prakash, Azmathunisa, Vijay Bhaskar Reddy, Abdul Jabbar, Mohammed Anwar, Venkatesh, Sardar Ramesh, Mirza Mohammed Hussain, Mohammed Rahim Baig, Shamsuddin, Syed Iftekhar Hussain, Shabana, MFU Shareef, and numerous students and citizens.

Misuse of Public Funds
The letter pointed out that the 2024-25 budget includes Rs. 66 crores for 'Dawat-e-Iftar & Christmas Feast' and Rs. 3.24 crores for the 'Iftar/Dinner State Function' under the Minority Welfare

NIA team visits Aurangzeb's grave, monitors suspicious activity

MI News Service, Khulatabad:

Amid growing calls for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) team has arrived in Maharashtra's Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar to inspect the tomb located in Khulatabad. The team is closely monitoring any suspicious activity in the area.

This investigation follows the violent unrest in Nagpur on the night of March 17, sparked by the controversy surrounding the grave. The NIA team also expanded its reach, visiting nearby districts, including Parbhani, Jalna, Nanded, and Buldhana, to track any suspicious movements. Reports indicate that the NIA has sought assistance from the state's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in these efforts.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has taken steps to safeguard the 18th-century tomb, which is designated as a 'Monu-



Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb's tomb.

ment of National Importance.' To secure the site, ASI recently erected tin sheets on two sides of the structure. These precautions followed a visit from the district administration, led by District Collector Dilip Swami and Superintendent of Police Vinaykumar Rathod, who inspected the grave three days ago.

In Nagpur, the violence led to the registration of a seditious case against Fahim Khan, the alleged mastermind behind the unrest, and five others. The case was filed due to support expressed for the violent actions and inflammatory comments made on social media.

Nagpur Cyber Crime Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP), Lohit Matani, confirmed that the investigation involved over 300 social media accounts, with 140 found to contain objectionable content and videos. Efforts to register cases against these accounts are ongoing.

Maharashtra Cyber, the state's nodal agency for cybersecurity and cybercrime enforcement, is also cracking down on social media accounts responsible for spreading inflammatory material. In cooperation with the Nagpur City Cyber Police Station, more than 140 instances of objectionable content on platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube have been identified.

Notices have been issued under Section 79(3)(b) of the Information Technology (IT) Act, 2000, to remove such content. Additionally, notices under Section 94 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, have been served to uncover the identities of those behind the posts. The authorities have vowed to take strict legal action against anyone found responsible for promoting provocative content that fuels unrest.

Kashmiri Journalist Irfan Mehraj completes two years in jail, JFK demands immediate release

MI News Service, Srinagar:

As journalist Irfan Mehraj marked two years in jail, the Journalist Federation Kashmir (JFK) issued a call for his immediate release, condemning his prolonged detention. Mehraj, an award-winning journalist and researcher, was arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on March 20, 2023. He was charged under the Indian Penal Code and the controversial Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

In a press release on Thursday, JFK emphasized that Mehraj's detention remains a critical issue for media freedom in Kashmir. The statement highlighted Mehraj's diligent commitment to his journalistic duties, stating that his continued imprisonment is a direct attack on press freedom in the region. JFK also noted that for a democracy to flourish, a free press must be allowed to operate without fear or threat.

The Federation demanded that authorities create a more conducive environment for journalists in Kashmir, enabling them to report facts and express opinions without the constant fear of arrest.



Kashmiri Journalist Irfan Mehraj

in the region, which they view as part of a broader strategy to undermine truth and accountability. The crackdown on journalists in Kashmir has intensified, particularly after the revocation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status in 2019. JFK has pointed out that this wave of arrests and harassment threatens the ability of journalists to independently report on the situation in the region.

Irfan Mehraj, a Srinagar-based journalist, is known for his investigative work and his role as the founding editor of Wande Magazine and as editor of TwoCircles.net. He has contributed to both national and international media outlets, including Deutsche

Welle (DW), The Caravan, and Himal Magazine.

Mehraj has also written for local newspapers such as Brighter Kashmir and Rising Kashmir. His previous work as a researcher at the Jammu Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society (JKCCS), a respected human rights organization, further exemplifies his dedication to documenting the human rights situation in Kashmir.

Despite being imprisoned, Mehraj received the prestigious Human Rights and Religious Freedom Journalism Award for 2024. He was awarded the Best Video Story category for his impactful work on the heroin epidemic in Kashmir. Mehraj remains incarcerated in Rohini Prison, New

FMs of Iran, UAE exchange views on Gaza, Yemen

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran and the United Arab Emirates on Friday exchanged views on the latest round of Israeli strikes on Gaza and fresh U.S. airstrikes on Yemen, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi, speaking by phone with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, condemned what he called Israeli "crimes in Gaza" for violating the ceasefire agreement with Hamas.

He also criticized the U.S. for its military operations in Yemen, which

he said had resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians and extensive damage to vital infrastructure.

Araghchi warned that "inaction" of the international community could escalate regional insecurity and called on regional and Islamic states to take immediate collective action.

The UAE foreign minister, according to the Iranian statement, described the situation in West Asia as "very worrying" and stressed the need for ongoing consultations among regional countries to prevent further escalation.

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah sworn in as Namibia's first female president

MI News Service, Windhoek:

Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah was sworn in on Friday as the first female president of Namibia after winning elections last year.

At a ceremony that coincided with Namibia's 35th anniversary of independence, Nandi-Ndaitwah assumed office, succeeding outgoing President Nangolo Mbumba, who had taken over power following the death of former President Hage Geingob in 2024.

As Namibia's fifth president since its independence in 1990, Nandi-Ndaitwah won the 2024 presidential election with 57 percent of the vote.

"The task facing me, as the fifth president of the Republic of Namibia, is to preserve the gains of our independence on all fronts and to ensure that the unfinished agenda of economic and social advancement of our people is carried forward with vigor and determination to bring about shared balanced prosperity for all," Nandi-Ndaitwah said in her inaugural speech as president.

"I am optimistic that,

as a nation, we can make a success of our country. We must work together as a united people with one heart and one mind," she added.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by heads of state from several African countries, as well as leaders of international and regional organizations.

Nandi-Ndaitwah, 72, is a member of Namibia's ruling South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO) party, which has been in power since the country gained independence in 1990. She joined the party when it was leading the struggle for independence and has since held several senior positions.

Nandi-Ndaitwah entered the National Assembly in 1990 and became a cabinet minister in 2000, leading the Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare. She later served as minister of information and broadcasting, minister of environment and tourism, and minister of foreign affairs. In February 2024, she became Namibia's first female vice president.

Trump revokes legal status for 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans

MI News Service, Washington DC:

US President Donald Trump's administration will revoke the temporary legal status of 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans in the United States, according to a Federal Register notice on Friday, the latest expansion of his crackdown on immigration.

The move, effective April 24, cuts short a two-year "parole" granted to the migrants under former President Joe Biden that allowed them to enter the country by air if they had US sponsors.

Trump, a Republican, took steps to ramp up immigration enforcement after taking office, including a push to deport record numbers of migrants in the US illegally. He has argued that the legal entry parole programs launched under his Democratic predecessor overstepped the boundaries of federal law and called for their termination

in a January 20 executive order.

Trump said on March 6 that he would decide "very soon" whether to strip the parole status from some 240,000 Ukrainians who fled to the US during the conflict with Russia. Trump's remarks came in response to a Reuters report that said his administration planned to revoke the status for Ukrainians as soon as April.

Biden launched a parole entry program for Venezuelans in 2022 and expanded it to Cubans, Haitians and Nicaraguans in 2023 as his administration grappled with high levels of illegal immigration from those nationalities. Diplomatic and political relations between the four countries and the United States have been strained.

The new legal pathways came as Biden tried to clamp down on illegal crossings at the US-Mexico border.

Former PM Imran Khan's party PTI denied permission to hold rally at Minar-i-Pakistan

MI News Service, Lahore:

The Deputy Commissioner of Lahore has rejected an application by former Prime Minister Imran Khan's political party, Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) for holding a public gathering at Minar-i-Pakistan due to security concerns and law and order situation in the country, Dawn reported.

According to Dawn, the request had been rejected "in view of serious security issues, threats, and the general law and order situation in the country."

This decision comes after PTI, through its Punjab Vice President Akmal Khan Bari, asked for permission on March 22.

Dawn reported that in an order issued on Friday, DC Syed Muzza Raza stated that the decision to reject the application had been taken on the recommendation of the District Intelligence Committee (DIC).

The DIC said granting permission to PTI to hold the public gathering on March 22 would not be feasible because of the prevalent security threats, and it observed that March 22 falls on the death anniversary of Hazrat Ali, who is an important religious figure for Shia Muslims thus the security forces would be deployed for peaceful conduct of the event. Furthermore, it said law enforcement agencies were already facing life threats.

According to Dawn, Bari in a video message stated that the incumbent government should resign if it could not give security to its people. It also mentioned that the Lahore High Court on Friday disposed of PTI's petition seeking permission for a public gathering at Minar-i-Pakistan in the light of the deputy commissioner's decision.

Star-studded commentary panel for IPL 2025 season unveiled

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA): Ahead of the 18th edition starting from Saturday, the Indian Premier League (IPL) have announced a star-studded commentary panel which includes big names like AB De Villiers, Kane Williamson, Shane Watson, and Virender Sehwag.

In a never-seen-before avatar, one of the world's most accomplished batters and most loved global figures, Kane Williamson, will make his debut as a commentator and expert in the IPL. The first New Zealand player to win the orange cap and two-time IPL champion played with Gujarat Titans until last season. The addition of IPL champion Shane Watson, former Mumbai Indians head coach Mark Boucher and his compatriot and Royal Challengers Bengaluru icon AB DeVilliers, former Punjab Kings mentor Virender Sehwag, former Punjab Kings skipper Shikhar Dhawan, former Chennai Super Kings star Suresh Raina, will further deepen JioStar's key proposition of providing fans inside access from key members who until recently

shared the dressing room with top franchisees.

After winning titles with Rajasthan Royals and Chennai Super Kings, Shane Watson continues his journey in the IPL with JioStar. The line-up also includes former IPL captains and heroes, including Anil Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Ambati Rayudu, Robin Uthappa, Murali Vijay, and Kedar Jadhav across multiple language feeds. Father-son duo of Anirudh Srikanth and K Srikanth will feature together in the Tamil expert's panel. Manvinder Bisla, man of the match of the 2012 IPL Final, will be the face of the Haryanvi feed. Making the viewing experience inclusive and ensuring fans and viewers can enjoy the cricket carnival in their own way, MaxView, Live Audio Descriptive and Indian Sign Language will make their IPL debut on JioHotstar. Multi-cam feed will continue to give viewers on JioHotstar options to watch IPL from different angles, with fan-favourite Hero Cam coming back along with Stump Cam, Batter Cam, and Bird's Eye Cam, among others.



The Hangout feed will give fans a light-hearted and quirky take on the perennially competitive league through new-age content creators and popular stand-up comics like Angad Singh, Kunal Saluja, Sahiba Bali, Inder Sahni, Shubham Shandilya, and Aditya Kulshreshta among others. This feed

will present quintessential IPL action that is expected to draw first-time and non-sports viewers and augment the league's viewership. The highly anticipated season opener of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) which will be played at Kolkata's Eden Gardens.

Full list of Commentators:

World Feed - Ravi Shastri, Sunil Gavaskar, Harsha Bhogle, Murali Kartik, Deep Das Gupta, Anjum Chopra, Varun Aaron, WV Raman, Matthew Hayden, Shane Watson, Michael Clarke, Aaron Finch, Eoin Morgan, Graeme Swann, Nick Knight, Alan Wilkins, Simon Doull, Danny Morrison, K Martin, Mpumelo Mbangwa, Natalie Germanos, Ian Bishop, Darren Ganga
Hindi Virender Sehwag, Navjot Singh Sidhu, Shikhar Dhawan, Harbhajan Singh, Suresh Raina, Robin Uthappa, Ambati Rayudu, Mohd Kaif, Piyush Chawla, RP Singh, Pragyan Ojha, Sanjay Manjrekar, Sanjay Bangar, Varun Aaron, Sunil Gavaskar, Ajay

Jadeja, Jatin Sapru, Anant Tyagi, Saba Karim, Deep Dasgupta, Aakash Chopra
Marathi - Kedar Jadhav, Aditya Tare, Dhawal Kulkarni, Kiran More, Pravin Tambe,
Salil Ankola, Siddesh Lad, Chaitanya Sant, Prasanna Sant, Nilesh Natu,
Gujarati - Manpreet Juneja, Rakesh Patel, Bhargav Bhatt, Sheldon Jackson, Atul Bedade, Aseem Parikh, Akash Trivedi, Shaileendra Jadeja
Bhojpuri - Ravi Kishan, Manoj Tiwary, Sumit Kumar Mishra, Saurabh Kumar, Gulam Hussain, Shivam, Ashutosh Aman, Satya Prakash
Bengali - Sreevats Goswami, Jhulan Goswami, Subhomoy D, Saradindu M, Raja Venkat, Sameeb M, Shiladitya Roy, Gautam B
Haryanvi - Manvinder Bisla, Sumit Narwal, Sonu Sharma, A Chaudhary, RJ Kisna, Ravin Kundu, Vishwaas, Ashish Hooda Malayalam - S Sreesanth, CM Deepak, Raiphi Gomez, Sony C, Vishnu Hariharan, Shiyas Mohammed, Aju John Thomas, Manu Krishnan, RJ Renu

Kannada - Anil Kumble, Robin Uthappa, Vinay Kumar, Venkatesh Prasad, Vijay Bharadwaj, Bharat Chipli, K Gowtham, B Akhil, S Aravind, J Suchith Srinivasa Murthy, Sumesh Goni, Kiran Srinivasa, S Suresh, Pavan D, Roopesh Shetty, Madhu M
Tamil - Murali Vijay, L Balaji, S Badrinath, K Srikanth, S Ramesh, R Sridhar, Anirudh Srikanth, Yo Mahesh, Baba Aparijith, Baba Indrajith, Thirush Kamini, Arun Kartik, C Gobinath, Muthu, Ashwath Bobo, Naneer, Gowtham D, Bhavna, Sameena, Abhinav Mukund
Telugu - Ambati Rayudu, Hanuma Vihari, MSK Prasad, Mithali Raj, R Sridhar
T Suman, Kalyan Krishna, Ashish Reddy, Akshat Reddy, NC Kaushik, K Kollaram, VJ Sush, Vindhya, Nandu, Pratyusha Punjabi - Sarandeep Singh, Mandeep Singh, RS Sodhi, VRV Singh, Chetan Sharma, Rahul Sharma, Sunil Taneja, Gurjit Singh
Hangout - Kunal Saluja, Angad Ranyal, Inder Sahni, Shubham Shandilya, Aditya Kulshreshta.

BASIT ALI GIVES TECHNICAL ADVICE TO BABAR AZAM; PREDICTS "BEST BATTER" IN PSL

ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN): Former cricketer Basit Ali has provided technical input to Pakistan's premier player, Babar Azam. The former cricketer predicted that he would be the "best batter" in the upcoming Pakistan Super League (PSL).

After a sub-par outing in the recently concluded Champions Trophy, Babar has found himself down the pecking order in the format. He was dropped from Pakistan's T20I fold against New Zealand but was retained for the ODI leg.

With Babar looking to find his lost rhythm in the three ODIs against the Kiwis, Basit offered technical advice to the experienced batter and urged him to use his "bottom hand" and open the face of the bat.



"Babar should reduce his stance. He should also slightly open his bat. His bat is closed, and he should try to use his bottom hand more in the powerplay. Now pressure will be on Babar and Rizwan," Basit said on his YouTube channel.

Apart from Babar, Mohammad Rizwan was dropped from the T20I phase in New Zealand. The axing of seasoned stars allowed the team to infuse it with new blood and youth.

After tasting back-to-back defeats in the first two T20Is, Pakistan's youngsters, with nerves of steel, completed a 205-run chase courtesy of a blistering unbeaten ton from Hasan Nawaz. Pakistan's three-match ODI series against New Zealand will begin on

March 29 after the conclusion of the five T20Is.

Pakistan will conclude its white-ball tour of New Zealand on April 5 and then shift its focus to the nation's highly regarded T20 tournament, the PSL.

The action-packed tournament will begin on April 11, with Islamabad United taking on Lahore Qalandars. Basit prophesied that Babar, who represents Peshawar Zalmi, will be the best batter in the tournament.

"Babar Azam will be the best batter in PSL," Basit added.

Peshawar will begin its PSL campaign against Quetta Gladiators on April 12 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

NATIONAL WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUE ODISHA, HARYANA & MIZORAM EARNS FULL POINTS

PC JHA

RANCHI: On Day-4 of the Final Phase of the National Women's Hockey League 2024-2025, Hockey Odisha, Haryana and Mizoram had a fruitful outing as they won their respective matches at Morhabadi Astroturf stadium here on Saturday. In the first match, Hockey Association of Odisha defeated Manipur Hockey 5-1 in Pool A. Surekha Bahala (38', 40', 42') scored a hat-trick for Hockey Association of Odisha whereas Shibani Lugun (6') and Dipika Barwa (9') also scored one goal each. In reply, Kamala Devi Ningombam (7') scored the consolation goal for Manipur Hockey.

In the next match, Hockey Haryana defeated Hockey Maharashtra 6-0. Supriya (16', 39') and Captain Pooja Malik (21', 28') scored a brace for the table toppers. Shashi Khasa (10') and Nandni (60') also scored one goal each to take the game away from their opponent. Hockey Maharashtra defeated Hockey Bengal 1-0. Manglamsang (42') scored for Hockey Mizoram to secure third win in the tournament.

Real Kabaddi League announces Season 4 trials across ten states with player development focus

NEW DELHI (INDIA): The Real Kabaddi League (RKL) announced its Season 4 Selection Trials, set to commence in April 2025 across more than ten states in India. The league continues its mission of identifying and nurturing grassroots talent, offering aspiring kabaddi players a platform to showcase their skills and potentially secure professional contracts for the Dubai International edition, according to a release from RKL.

The comprehensive selection process will span major kabaddi talent pools and hold trials in Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi NCR, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh, ensuring nationwide representation in India's rapidly growing professional kabaddi ecosystem. With the Season 4 announcement of the Real Kabaddi League Tournament, all selections would follow an organized and methodical approach for implementing systematic aid to promote unity and competition through the sport of Kabaddi.

The following key player development initiatives would follow selection of top 15 players from trials with a retainer amount of 60,000 INR. The shortlisted players will also have the opportunity to enter the Real Kabaddi League Player & Auction draft with the opportune advantage of securing contracts worth up to 1,00,000 INR. The RKL Season 4 platform



also will assist in the direct qualification of top players with the chance to prove their kabaddi skills in the Dubai International edition.

Shubham Choudhary, Founder & CEO of Real Kabaddi League, shares, "Our vision with RKL has always been to empower raw talent from the heartlands of India and provide them with the same recognition and opportunities as mainstream sports. With Season 4, we are raising the bar through robust player development programmes and international exposure. We are committed to making kabaddi a sustainable and rewarding career for athletes," as quoted from a release by RKL. Adding his support, Rannvijay

Singha, League Ambassador, states, "Real Kabaddi League is not just a tournament; it's a movement to celebrate and uplift homegrown sports. The energy, passion, and dedication of these players are unmatched, and I'm proud to be part of a league that's opening doors for them at national and international levels. Season 4 is going to be bigger, better, and full of surprises!"

The league's continued expansion reflects the growing popularity of kabaddi as a professional sport in India and beyond. Since its inception, RKL has been instrumental in discovering hidden talent from remote regions and transforming promising athletes into professional kabaddi players.

SAMEER & RIZWANUL WIN SILVER & BRONZE MEDALS

MI CORRESPONDENT

RANCHI: Sameer Oraon of Ranchi SAI won Silver medal in Triple Jump in Boys Under 20 age group in the 4th Indian Open Jump Competition held on March 22nd at Anju Bobby George High Performance Center, Bangalore (Karnataka).

Rizwanul Hoda of Bokaro Chandankary Center of Excellence Athletics Training Center won Bronze medal in the Boys Under 18 age group and brought laurels to the state.

On this achievement, Jharkhand Athletics Association Planning Committee Chairman Dr Madhukant Pathak, Jharkhand Athletics Association President C.D. Singh, Secretary Shiv Kumar Pandey, SAI Athletics Coach Vinod Singh, Chandan Kyari Center of Excellence Athletics Center Coach Ashu Bhatia and other sports lovers of the state congratulated him.



KANE WILLIAMSON PREDICTS BIG THINGS FOR RACHIN RAVINDRA, ABHISHEK SHARMA AHEAD OF IPL 2025

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA): Ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 campaign opener, New Zealand batter Kane Williamson predicted big things for two young talented batters: Kiwi star Rachin Ravindra and Indian T20I opener Abhishek Sharma.

The IPL 2025 season will finally kickstart with the 'OG Derby' between defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at Eden Gardens in Kolkata on Saturday.

Ahead of the high-octane clash, Kane, a JioStar expert for IPL 2025, addressed the media.

Speaking to ANI about the star Kiwi batter Rachin, who will be representing Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Kane said, "He is a fast learner and his high side is extremely high. He is such a gifted player and I am sure he will get plenty of opportunities this

season. And I would never bet against him."

Having made his international debut in 2021, things started looking up for Rachin with a breakout 2023 50-over World Cup in India, where he emerged as NZ's top run-getter and overall fourth, with 578 runs in 10 matches and three centuries, two fifties. Following some fine Test outings which included a double ton against South Africa, Rachin got to play for CSK in 2024 season after being bought for Rs 1.8 crore. In a decent season, he made 222 runs in 10 matches with a half-century to his name.

He was released from the team ahead of the 2024 Mega Auction and bought back for Rs 4 crores. Rachin, who had played a crucial role in India's first Test home series loss in over 12 years, continued his fine spree of form, scoring 263 runs in the Champions Trophy with two cen-



tures, winning the prestigious Golden Bat and 'Player of the Tournament' following loss to India in final. This IPL would be a

chance for him to finally ace the T20 format, where he has so far shown mixed but promising results.

Kane is also optimistic that Indian opener Abhishek will be confident heading into this season following a bumper IPL 2024 at

the top with Travis Head, forming the duo 'Travishek'. He had scored 484 runs in 16 matches at an average of 32.26, with a strike rate of above 204, three fifties and a whopping 42 sixes.

Following some initial poor scores in international cricket despite a century in his second T20I against Zimbabwe, Abhishek started delivering more consistently during the back end of the South Africa tour last year and the home series against England. In his last seven T20Is, Abhishek has scored 365 runs at an average of 73.00 and a strike rate of over 214, with a century (against England, a knock of 135 in 54 balls with seven fours and 13 sixes) and two fifties.

In his last 22 innings, including his domestic series in Syed Mushtaq Ali and Vijay Hazare Trophy fixtures, Abhishek has made 1,087 runs at an average of 51.76, with three centuries and

six fifties to his name. This also includes a brutal 170 against Saurashtra for Punjab in the Vijay Hazare Trophy (VHT), which came in just 96 balls.

Speaking on the exciting youngster, Kane said, "I have got no doubt that his recent international performances will help, those sorts of games grow anybody's confidence. And as a young, dynamic player, last year was an incredible year for Abhishek. But to then do pretty much the same thing at the international level and recently against England, one of the top teams was amazing to see. So, he will be very confident coming into this season." "They (SRH) have got a huge amount of power in their batting line-up. So, you have your good days and bad days. But when the Sunrisers have a good one, they are going to be scoring huge scores as we saw last year," he concluded.