

## No regulation should create unintended barriers for financial inclusion, says RBI Guv

MI News Service, Mumbai: No regulation should create "unintended barriers" for deepening financial inclusion and that legitimate activities should not be stifled, feels Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

Speaking at the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) event here, Malhotra said policymakers should also be mindful and not be "overzealous" with their measures. India has made substantial progress on financial inclusion with 94 per cent of adults now having a bank account, Malhotra said, adding a word of caution for regulators.

He said "It must be ensured that regulations do not create unintended bar-



riers to financial inclusion. We need to be mindful of customer rights and convenience while fulfilling the due diligence requirements," he said.

The laws and regulations have to target only the illegitimate and the illicit with "surgical precision" and not be blunt tools which unintentionally end up hurting the honest, Malhotra said.

"While we continue to make our financial systems safe and secure against money laundering and terrorist financing, we as policy makers need to be mindful that our measures are not overzealous and do not stifle legitimate activities and investments," the RBI Governor added.

Pitching for "balanced regulations", Malhotra said adopting a risk-based approach would be beneficial and added that assessing impact on people and businesses is essential.

Malhotra said stakeholders also need to coordinate better and look at avoiding the "unnecessary" process of making people repeatedly undergo the know your customer (KYC) requirements.

Speaking about technology, Malhotra said while it has enabled ease of doing business, it has also led to sophisticated means of money laundering and illicit financing.

"We are determined to further strengthen our financial system to deter and combat illicit financial activities," he said.

Deliberations at the three-day seminar will help India better implement the new privacy law in our country, he said.

Addressing the global forum, Malhotra said it would be "desirable" to make the travel rule - mandates that financial institutions and Virtual Asset Service Providers (VASPs) share specific information about the originator and beneficiary of financial transactions - technology neutral.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee interacts with British industry leaders and exchanges greetings at a meeting called 'Opportunities in West Bengal' during her visit in London.

## Mamata Banerjee invites British businesses to invest in Bengal in various sectors

MI News Service, London / Kolkata : Making a passionate appeal to the business community in the United Kingdom to consider West Bengal as an investment destination, Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has invited well known British business houses to set up new industries in the state in areas of green technologies, smart infrastructure and clean energy sectors, besides those in automation, engineering and artificial intelligence.

Speaking at an interactive session on 'Opportunities in West Bengal' in London on the second day of her visit there on Tuesday, the Chief minister referred to the centuries-old relationship between India and the United Kingdom, particularly with Bengal, and said Kolkata, also known as the City of Joy and was previously known as Calcutta, still bears testimony to the splendid British architecture in its numerous heritage buildings and structures across the city.

In order to carry forward that legacy, the British industries can come forward and set up industries in areas of green technologies, smart infrastructure and clean energy in the state, Mamata Banerjee said adding "We also welcome further partnership in areas such as automation, engineering and green manufacturing, besides artificial intelligence".

"Let us create a win-win situation for us together," the chief minister said, urging British business

houses to set up more shops in West Bengal like before.

Stating that several British companies have made huge investment in West Bengal in recent times, the Chief minister once again recalled that "We share a deep-rooted historical, cultural and economic background that date back centuries."

"We offer a business-friendly government", she said adding "some of our key policies include industrial and economic corridor, logistics, export promotion, new energy manufacturing, data centre and cable landing".

Pointing to unmatched women empowerment in the state, Mamata Banerjee informed that the number of successful women entrepreneurs in West Bengal is very high and as much as 39 per cent of her party Trinamool Congress's elected members in Parliament are women. This is also one of the reasons for "Bengal is fast moving ahead", she said.

Turning her attention towards the necessity of reintroducing direct flights between Kolkata and London, the Chief minister urged airlines in the UK to introduce a direct flight between the two great cities, mentioning that British Airways used to have a direct flight between the two cities still a few years ago.

Stating that it takes as long as 18 hours to reach London from Kolkata, Mamata Banerjee said in case of a direct flight it would take only eight hours to reach here (in London). Everybody, from students to busi-

nessmen, from tourists to professionals, is keen on direct connectivity she said adding "We shall give you a fabulous reception if you re-introduce direct flights between Kolkata and London".

About the financial health of the state, the CM said it is good. "West Bengal's GDP grew by 6.80 per cent in the 2024-25, whereas India's GDP grew by 6.37 per cent during the same period". Claiming that 57.60 per cent people in West Bengal were below the poverty line in 2011, when the TMC came to power, the Chief minister said, "Now, it has come down to a meagre 8.60 per cent."

She said in the annual Bengal Global Business Summits held over the years by her government, the state has received investment proposals of over Rs 19 lakh crore so far.

"Out of that, Rs 13 lakh crore investment proposals have already been implemented and the rest is in the pipeline," she said adding this year alone BGS attracted investment proposals worth over Rs 4.4 lakh crore. Maintaining that in West Bengal, people from all states live in harmony, she said, "Unity in diversity is our USP." She also made a passionate appeal to the local business community to consider Bengal as a preferred investment destination, because it will also expand employment opportunities in the state in near future. "If you invest your money in Bengal, you will be

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## The number of days of heatwaves will be more than double during this summer, warns IMD

MI News Service, New Delhi : As the nation is bracing for a very hot summer this year from early next month, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that the number of days of heatwaves would be more than double across Northwest India from last year, causing concern for all. Typically, during every summer season the region experiences five to six days of heatwaves. But this year, it is likely to be around 10 to 12 days, if not more, the IMD said here in a statement on Wednesday adding this year "We are expecting 100 per cent jump in the number of heatwave conditions, especially in West and Central India."

It said "generally the people in Northwest India experience around 5 to 6 days of heatwaves, but unfortunately because of the global warming and change in the weather pattern, this year we expect at least 12 days of such natural phenomenon, which is double than the normal average," IMD scientist Soma Sen Roy said while clarifying that this is a seasonal prediction and does not mean that overall temperature during all days of the summer season will be above normal.

She further stated that while the forecast suggests above-normal heat on a seasonal scale, the IMD will continue updating predictions with extended-range and daily forecasts to provide more accurate local variations.

The IMD official, however, did not comment on whether this year will be hotter than 2024, which was India's hottest year on record so far. Last year, the country experienced a total of 554 heatwave days. The MeT defines a heatwave when the maximum temperature in the plains reaches at least 40 degree Celsius or is five degrees above

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## Leader of Opposition should follow rules of procedure in Parliament, remarks LS Speaker

MI News Service, New Delhi : Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi should follow the rules of procedure of Parliament, so that other members are expected to observe and uphold the dignity of the August House, said Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday.

It was not immediately clear what was the reason for the Speaker to make the observation.

The Speaker said members are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that upholds the high standards and dignity of the House. "Several instances have come to my notice where the conduct of members does not conform to the high standards," the Speaker said.

"In this House, father and daughter, mother and daughter, husband and wife have been members. In this context, I expect the Leader of the Opposition to conduct himself in accordance with Rule 349 that deals with rules to be observed by members in the House," the Speaker pointed out.

"Especially, it is expected of the Leader of the Opposition to conduct himself as per the rules," the Speaker said. After a tumultuous Parliament session, the Lok Sabha Speaker had earlier said he expects all members to uphold the dignity of the House by following rules and procedures. He said that his efforts would be to "enhance the dignity and prestige of this temple of the democracy".

"I hope many good discussions and debates will be held inside Parliament," Birla said. Asked about Rahul Gandhi's role as the Leader of the Opposition, Birla said the Rae Bareilly MP holds a Constitutional post. The Lok Sabha Speaker also said that he expects all members to uphold parliamentary dignity while discharging their duties in the House.

Birla said he would endeavour to give an opportunity to all members to raise issues dear to them in the House as per the rules and procedures.

"It will be my endeavour to conduct the debate in the House in a manner that it doesn't affect the dignity of Parliament, be it

the members from treasury benches or the opposition," he said.

The three-term Lok Sabha member from Kota parliamentary seat received a rousing welcome in his constituency after being elected as Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament for a second consecutive term. People lined up along the streets of Bundi and several villages in the region as Birla carried out a victory rally here. The city of Bundi is part of Birla's Kota parliamentary seat. He has represented the region in the Rajasthan assembly as well.

Birla said he would make efforts to develop an agro-based industry in the region, which is known for its special variety of basmati rice.

"There is tremendous potential for development of tourism in this region which is dotted by palaces and havellis," he said, adding that the Kota-Bundi region is also emerging as an educational hub.

"I would like to thank Prime Minister Narendra Modi and all members of the Lok Sabha for giving me the responsibility of House Speaker for the second term," Birla said.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday claimed that he was not being given a chance to speak and the House was being run in an "undemocratic manner". His remarks came after Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla asked him to follow the rules of procedure that members are expected to observe to uphold the dignity of the House.

Gandhi said the Speaker made remarks about him and then adjourned the House without giving him an opportunity to speak. He said that in the last week also he had not been allowed to speak.

About 70 Congress Lok Sabha MPs, including Deputy leader of Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi, party general secretary KC Venugopal and party's whip in the Lok Sabha Manickam Tagore, met the Lok Sabha speaker and raised the "denial" of opportunity to Gandhi to speak in the House, party sources said.

## Delhi Police team visits HC judge's residence for cash discovery row investigation

MI News Service, New Delhi: A team led by Deputy Commissioner of Police, New Delhi inspected the residence of Delhi High Court Judge Yashwant Varma on Wednesday in connection with the investigation into the alleged discovery of cash after a fire in his house, official sources said.

The team was at Varma's house for about two hours this afternoon. The police team, however, did not address the media and reached Tughlaq Road Police Station after leaving Varma's house.

Earlier, police sources said the team would visit the house to inspect the place where the fire broke out and may question the staff working in the judge's residence.

For roughly eight hours after the fire was noticed at the residence of Delhi High Court Judge,

Justice Yashwant Varma, the Delhi Police headquarters was reportedly in the dark about the incident. Narrating what transpired after the fire — which was reported by Justice Varma's personal assistant at 11.30 pm on March 14 and put out by midnight — a highly placed source said, "Once the blaze was extinguished, the judge's PA asked the five police personnel who had arrived at the spot to leave and return in the morning."

Justice Varma was away with his wife at the time of the blaze, which broke out in a storeroom attached to his residence. Sources said the investigating officer of the case paid a visit to the residence the next morning but was asked to come later.

Sources said that at 8 am on March 15, the Additional DCP (New Delhi district) presented the

morning diary — a summary of key developments from the area over the last 24 hours — to his seniors. The morning diary included details of the fire.

This was then conveyed to the Commissioner of Police, who was also shown videos captured after the blaze. The police chief, sources said, reported the matter to his higher-ups at the Centre before alerting the Delhi High Court Chief Justice D K Upadhyaya about the development around 4.50 pm. Sources also said that in response to a request from the Delhi High Court Chief Justice's registrar cum secretary, the Delhi Police this week shared details of Justice Varma's security from September 1, 2024, until date. The police informed that 40 CRPF personnel and three Delhi Police officials were deployed there on rotation during this period.

The Delhi Police spokesperson and DCP (New Delhi district) did not respond to queries seeking a comment. According to informed sources, the five police personnel who were among the first responders during the fire have submitted their phones to the Delhi Police headquarters. The devices, sources said, will be used in the inquiry being conducted by a three-member committee of judges set up by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna.

The sources also said that one of the key questions being asked of the Delhi Police is why a spot panchanama was not drawn on the night of the incident. A panchanama requires five independent persons to witness the spot and recount it later during trial. It is learnt that this is also the first question that the in-house inquiry panel is looking into.

## Delhi HC allows jailed J-K MP to attend Parliament in custody

MI News Service, New Delhi : In a most uncommon move the Delhi High Court has allowed Jammu and Kashmir MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, alias Engineer Rashid, arrested in a terror funding case, to attend the ongoing Parliament session "in-custody" and rejected NIA's apprehension that he was a flight risk.

A bench of Justices Chandra Dhari Singh and Anup Jairam Bhambhani directed the Director General (prisons) that Rashid would be escorted by plain clothed policemen from prison to Parliament on days of the Lok Sabha session between March 26 and April 4.

The Baramulla MP, the bench said, would be handed over to the custody of Parliament security staff or marshals, who would allow him to attend the proceedings and he could avail other facilities and amenities there.

The Delhi High Court allowing Abdul Rashid Sheikh said he "owes to the people of his constituency the duty and responsibility to represent them in Parliament".

Rashid, an Independent Lok Sabha MP from Baramulla, has been in ju-

dicial custody since 2019 in connection with a terror funding case being investigated by the National Investigation Agency (NIA).

In an order dated March 25 and made public on Wednesday, a division bench of Justices Chandra Dhari Singh and Anup Bhambhani reasoned that notwithstanding the serious charges Rashid is facing, "As a Member of Parliament, the appellant (Rashid) owes to the people of his constituency the duty and responsibility to represent them in Parliament."

"This court is confident, that subject to the conditions that the court proposes to impose by this order, the State machinery would be able to ensure the integrity of the appellant's custody, so that he remains available to face trial," the bench recorded in its order. As per the court conditions, the Director General (prisons) has been directed to send Rashid "in-custody" under police escort from prison to Parliament on each of the dates on which the Lok Sabha is in session between March 26 and April 4, during the hours

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## Asia's largest tulip garden in Srinagar opens for public



MI News Service, Srinagar : Asia's largest tulip garden nestled between the Dal Lake and the Zabarwan Hills, opened for the public on Wednesday, marking the beginning of a new tourism season in the Kashmir valley.

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden was thrown open to the public by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

The garden was set up by Ghulam Nabi Azad, the then chief minister of the erstwhile state in 2007 to

advance J-K's tourist season which was earlier limited to the summers and the winters.

Nestled at the foothills of the Zabarwan range and overlooking the famous Dal Lake, the iconic Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has bloomed into a vibrant spectacle, drawing nature lovers and tourists from across the country.

The garden, spread over 30 hectares, boasts over 1.7 million tulips in more than 60 varieties, creating a mesmerizing display of col-

ors. Besides tulips, the garden also features daffodils, hyacinths, and other spring flowers, adding to its charm.

Tourism officials anticipate a surge in footfall as the tulip bloom coincides with an increase in tourist arrivals. The garden will remain open to the public for nearly a month, depending on weather conditions and the lifespan of the flowers. Authorities have also introduced online ticket booking to manage the rush and avoid long queues.



Fire fighter fighting against fire at Belegkata godown in Kolkata on Wednesday.

## Include Bengal govt in water talks with Bangladesh, says TMC MP to Centre

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Narendra Modi government should include the Bengal government while holding talks with Bangladesh on water sharing between the Ganga and the Teesta to ensure that the interests of Bengal and its residents are not hurt, Trinamul Congress MP Ritabrata Banerjee said in the Rajya Sabha on Tuesday.

"These are the two major rivers which flow through Bengal and enter Bangladesh. The central government must ensure that the Bengal government is included in the bilateral talks with Bangladesh, whether on the renewal of the Ganga Water Sharing Treaty (GWST) or on the signing of a treaty to share waters of the Teesta," he said in the Upper House.

The GWST, which was signed back in 1996, will expire next year. Both the Indian and the Bangladesh governments are working for its renewal as large stretches of Bangladesh are dependent on the Ganga.

The Bangladesh government has been insisting on signing a water treaty to share the waters of the Teesta, a move which Ben-

gal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has opposed time and again.

"The Bengal government's presence in such talks is important to ensure that the interests of Bengal and its residents are not affected. Due to a change in river morphology, the courses of these rivers have changed, and the Calcutta Port is also facing problems.... Also, sharing of the Teesta water would pose problems in the northern parts of the state as people there are largely dependent on the river for drinking, irrigation and other purposes," Banerjee added.

In his speech, the MP also highlighted the letters Mamata sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, expressing her concern on the sharing of the Teesta waters and on the renewal of the GWST without considering Bengal's ground realities.

His assertion follows the visit of a delegation of the joint river commission from Bangladesh to Farakka to measure the discharge of water from the barrage to Bangladesh during winter.

Earlier in March, the team went to Farakka and in-

spected the discharge. They also held a meeting with Indian representatives of the joint river commission.

Political observers pointed out that since August last year, that is, after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh, hydro diplomacy between the countries has taken a different turn.

"The Muhammad Yunus-led interim government is insistent on renewing the GWST and wants India to sign the treaty on the Teesta. It is also conducting public hearings in Bangladesh while elaborating on the proposal for a mega project on the Teesta and its banks proposed by China," said a political analyst privy to developments in Bangladesh.

As Assembly elections will be held in Bengal in 2026, the Trinamool leadership is also trying to drive home the point that it is sincere about Bengal's interest as far as sharing the waters of the Ganga and the Teesta goes, the analyst said.

"It will be interesting to see how the BJP handles the pressure that the TMC is trying to exert on it on this issue," he added.

## Flood compensation delay, Sparks protest

**MI News Service, Bakura:** Thousand of bighas of agricultural land in Bakura's Sonamukh block were ravaged by floods during the monsoon season, leaving farmers devastated. Despite assurances from the administration and agriculture department, affected farmers claim they have yet to receive compensation, seven months after the disaster. Locals assert that all damaged crops were insured and the administration had promised compensation after investigation the flood damage. However, repeated agitation and protests by farmers have yielded no results, exacerbating their frustration. The situation has become dire with many farmers trapped in debt due to their inability to repay loans. The main issues farmer's did protest those are compensation delay, insurance coverage, administration inaction and last but not the least farmer's plight. The Agriculture Department's reluctance to comment on the issue has only added to the uncertainty, leaving farmers wondering if they will ever receive the compensation they were promised.

**Despite the challenges theatre is maintaining its democracy and social concern: Theatre artist Shiv Jaiswal**



Theatre artist Shiv Jaiswal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** World Theatre Day is celebrated every year on March 27. It was started in 1961 by the International Theatre Institute (ITI). Theatre is a place where mesmerizing performances are performed. The way actors present on stage any topic, be it social, political, love affair or religious issue, and thus attract the attention of the people, is called theatre. Dramas are performed on the stage. Drama is a mirror of society, where there is a direct relationship between the actor and the audience. Nowadays, the condition of Hindi theatre is challenging but it has not ended completely. Despite challenges like commercialism and regionalism, theatre has maintained its democracy and social concern. There was a time when Anamika Hindi Theatre Group, the mother of Hindi theatre in Kolkata, used to give theatrical performances in the Kala Mandir hall every Saturday and Sunday. At present, there are many challenges in doing Hindi theatre. However, due to the tireless efforts of theatre groups like Rang-karmi, Padatik, Uma Jhun-jhunwala, South Kolkata Catheris, Proscenium, Mudra Art, etc., Hindi theatre can still be seen in Kolkata. Due to the increasing influence of OTT and TV, the number of people watching dramas has reduced a lot these days. In the current race, there is a need to show different subjects in dramas. For example, shouldn't the role of theatre be to show, through plays, about extreme events like climate change, loss of biodiversity, forests, mountains, pollution, water crisis, environment, floods and forest fires? Holy man Ramkrishna had said, theatre improves the society. He was also fond of theatre of Girish Ghosh and Nati Binodini. But as time passed ideology of theatre changed its colour. Nowadays theatre groups become the gateway of different serials soap operas circulated through television.

"Unlike Maharashtra or Rajasthan, building large-scale onion storage units is not feasible in Bengal because of its humid climate. Therefore, we are focusing on setting up small and medium-sized storage units to preserve more onions," said a source in the agriculture marketing department.

In addition to expanding storage facilities, the government has decided to procure onions in bulk directly from farmers to maintain a parallel stock at government-run Sufal Bangla outlets. This is the first time the agriculture marketing department has begun procuring onions, offering 2,200 per quintal compared to the open market price that varies between 1,600 and 1,800 per quintal.

"This initiative will encourage farmers to sell directly to the government, preventing distress sales," a source said. Rabi Shankar Mukherjee, an onion farmer from Hooghly's Balagarh, welcomed the government's move to support farmers in building storage units for their produce.

"Earlier, the government experimented with a cooling system-equipped storage house in Balagarh, but it was unsuccessful. Now, the government has chosen the right method for preserving onions, which we have been following for years," Mukherjee said.

The government believes that if sufficient storage units are established, onion production will increase, making the state self-reliant in onion supply.



The work of replacing the astroturf with grass field at Vidyasagar Sports Ground in Barasat along with the construction of swimming pool, table tennis, badminton and cricket infrastructure is almost complete. Sports Minister Aroop Biswas went to the Vidyasagar Sports Ground in Barasat on Wednesday to supervise the work. MP Partha Bhowmik, Minister Rathin Ghosh, MLA Jyotipriya Mallick, MLA Rabiul Islam, District Magistrate, District Superintendent of Police, IFA President Ajit Bandopadhyay and officials of the Sports Department were present.

## Teacher assault slur on sub-inspector and three other cops of police station

**MI News Service, Domkal:** A sub-inspector and three other policemen of Domkal police station were accused of beating up a teacher of a private engineering college on Monday after he protested against their alleged refusal to register a missing diary for his lost bank passbook.

Imon Kalyan, 37, a resident of Domkal in Murshidabad district, was taken to the Domkal Subdivisional Hospital to treat his injuries. He has an MTech from IIT Bhubaneswar and completed his PhD in nanoscience and technology from IIT Kharagpur in 2023.

Kalyan has lodged a written complaint with Domkal subdivisional police officer Subham Bajaj, Murshidabad district police chief Surya Pratap Yadav and director general of Bengal police Rajeev Kumar.

"During my stay in Kharagpur, I had opened an account at the SBI branch there. But recently, I lost the passbook. When I tried to get a new one, the bank instructed me to lodge a missing diary with the police first," said Kalyan.

The teacher said he had gone to the Domkal police station on Monday afternoon to lodge the missing diary. "SI Ujjwal Biswas made me wait for an hour and then told me that they would not register the diary, insisting that I lodge it at Kharagpur instead. When I asked for the reason, policemen forcibly took me to a room," said Kalyan.

According to the complaint, the police shut the isolated room's door and then beat Kalyan up severely with a cane. "They also slapped and kicked me around. I somehow called up my parents, who rushed in to rescue me. But the police did not spare my parents either and abused them verbally," Kalyan said while showing the injury marks on his body.

Inspector-in-charge of Domkal police station Parthasarathi Majumdar eventually registered the missing diary and made arrangements for Kalyan to go home. "But instead, I had to be rushed to the hospital for treatment," said Kalyan. Domkal subdivisional police officer Bajaj confirmed receiving Kalyan's written complaint and said he had reported the matter to his higher authorities.

However, Murshidabad district police chief Yadav said he was yet to receive the complaint. "However, my senior police officer has informed me about it," said Yadav.

"Since the incident has been reported, I have ordered a departmental inquiry. An officer of the rank of additional superintendent of police will conduct the investigation. If the complaint is true, legal action will be taken against the accused officers," he added.

## Kolkata hosts 'Brain of Bengal' award

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The city of Kolkata hosted the Brain of Bengal Award, conferred upon eleven distinguished personalities for their significant contribution to literature, culture, arts, science, and social service, including Puranjan Prasad Chakraborty (Literature & Social Science), Prof. Asit Kumar Mondal (History & Social Studies), Dr. Subhas Chandra Ray (Education & Applied Psychology), Prof. Imankalyan Lahiri (Political & Social Science), Dr. Sandip Roy (Biological Science & Environmental Studies), Tapas Kumar Purkait (Mathematics & Statistics), Prof. Chittaranjan Sinha (Chemistry & Environmental Studies), Prof. Madan Mohan Bhattacharya (Biological Science & Environmental Studies), Prof. Baridbaran Ghosh (Literature & Social Science), Prof. Santosh Kumar



Twelve students from the 1st and 3rd years of Loreto College, Kolkata, under the Art and Crafts Society and NSS, painted the Bhoat Galli connecting Collin Street with Syed Ismail Lane this morning. The initiative was conducted under the guidance of Debjani Mahanti, Coordinator of Social Work, and Subhasree Basu, Program Officer of NSS, along with Susmita Bhattacharya Chatterjee, Chairperson of Borough 7 and Councillor of Ward 63. The event took place in the presence of local residents, including Sabiha Islam and Pinki Begum, with the support of Abdul Quayum, Sk Alijaan, Aizal Lazarus, Gompot, and others. This initiative was made possible through the efforts of Dr. Sr. A. Nirmala, Teacher-in-Charge of Loreto College, who organized the entire event.

## Half-burnt body of unidentified woman found

**MI News Service, Amdanga:** A gruesome discovery has sent shockwaves through Amdanga, North 24 Parganas, where the half-burnt body of an unidentified woman was found of a farmer's land in Harishpur Khaspara village. The village located near Shibdas police station, was abuzz with excitement and concerns as news of the discovery spread. According to eyewitnesses, the woman's body was found lying on empty land, without clothes, and bearing signs of burns. The police were promptly informed, and officers from Shibdaspur and Amdanga police station arrived at the scene to recover the body. The body has been sent for autopsy, and a thorough investigation is under underway. As the police delve deeper into the case, questions arise about the circumstances surrounding the woman's death surrounding the woman's death. Was it a straightforward murder, or was the body burned to destroy evidence of physical torture? The police are exploring all possible angles, and inquires are ongoing in the area. Local residents Akaram Hossain expressed his concerns, stating, "I've never seen or heard of such an incident here before." The identity of the woman remains unknown, with estimates suggesting was between 35 and 40 years old. The incident has sparked widespread to concerns, and the police are working to unravel the mystery. As the investigation unfolds, more details are likely to emerge, shedding light on the circumstances surrounding this disturbing discovery.

## 72 cartons of Indian-made foreign liquor seized by state excise dept

**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** The Jalpaiguri division of the state excise department, acting on a tip-off, seized an illegal consignment of Indian-made foreign liquor (IMFL) in Siliguri on Tuesday.

Ankit Kumar Mahato, Anil Paswan, Ram Babu, and Arvind Paswan, all residents of Samastipur district in Bihar, have been arrested in this connection.

Sujit Das, the special commissioner (north) of the state excise department, said their team intercepted a car and a pick-up van near the Mahanda bridge in the Champasari area.

"As they searched the car and the pick-up van, 648 litres of IMFL, packed in 72 cartons, were recovered. The cartons were concealed under sacks of vegetables. We have also seized the vehicles," said Das.

Officials of the department said they suspect that the liquor — whisky made in Sikkim — was supposed to be smuggled to Bihar. A source said the cost of the seized IMFL and the vehicles is around ₹32 lakhs.

**Cannabis haul**

The Government Railway Police (GRP) seized 27.243kg of cannabis, worth around ₹11 lakh, from the Malda Town station on Monday evening. A source in the GRP said Jhantu Sarkar, from Sagarpara in Murshidabad and Govind Upadhyay, from the Badarpur area of Delhi, have been arrested in this connection. "They were carrying two trolleys. We acted on the source information and intercepted them," said Prashant Rai, the inspector-in-charge of the Malda Town GRP.

## Trinamool Cong uncovers suspicious voter IDs

**MI News Service, Bakura:** A shocking discovery has been made in Bankura's Taldangra block, where a Trinamool Congress investigation has unearthed six suspicious voter IDs, including two women sharing the same husband's name, Shaswat Bhattacharya. However, locals claim that no one with the Bhattacharya surname resides in the area. The Trinamool Congress launched a door-to-door verification of voter lists, as part of a statewide crackdown on fake voters. At the Shyamsundarpur booth, they found six questionable entries, including those of Dipanvita Bhattacharya, Juhi Bhattacharya, Pooja Bhu, and Ashtami Majhu. None of these individuals are recognized by locals, sparking allegations of ghost voters. Trinamool leaders accuse the BJP of relying on fake voters to form the central government and manipulating voter lists for political gain in upcoming assembly elections. In contrast, the BJP attributes the blame to the Trinamool government, emphasizing its responsibility for correcting voter lists. As the controversy unfolds, the mystery behind these suspicious voter IDs remains unsolved. The incident has ignited a heated political debate, with both parties trading accusations.

## Govt sets up eight large onion storage units, drive to meet demands during crisis

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Bengal government has set up eight new onion storage units with larger capacity as part of its drive to increase reserves of this kitchen staple to meet demand during crises, as managing the skyrocketing retail price of the produce often left the administration in distress.

"We had already set up 1,400 small onion storage units with a reserve capacity of around 25 tons each. For the first time, we've established eight new storage units with a larger capacity of 40 tons each as a pilot project. If the initiative proves successful, we will set up more such units shortly," said a senior agricultural marketing department official.

In 2023-24, Bengal produced around 8.85 lakh tons of onions, while the state's annual consumption of the crop is roughly 10-12 lakh tons. The gap between the state's production and demand compels Bengal to rely heavily on supplies from Nashik in Maharashtra, as well as Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

A source said increasing the number of onion storage facilities had become a necessity for the government, as the sudden surge in the price often created political discomfort for the ruling dispensation almost every year. The new facilities have come up in Hooghly's Balagarh and Polba, East Burdwan's Kalna 2 and Purbasthali, Murshidabad's Nowda and Sagarighi, Nadia's Hanskhali and Malda's Gajol.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee often expressed dissatisfaction over the failure to curb the onion's retail price, particularly during the festive seasons. Despite the government trying to manage the situation by offering onions from state-run Sufal Bangla outlets at a price lower than the open retail rate, the effort remains inadequate to meet the demand.

A senior government official has explained that onion harvesting in Bengal occurs during March and April, forcing farmers to sell the perishable produce quickly because of limited storage facilities. As a result, the retail market sees an abundant supply till June, but a shortage typically follows from July to October.

"Because of the lack of storage facilities, Bengal's onion farmers are often forced to sell their produce to other states to avoid losses caused by spoilage. Storing onions in these newly built units will help preserve them for around eight months and reduce supply shortages during the typical crisis period," said the official.

"The main challenge in storing onions for months is high humidity. The new units are different from traditional cold storage facilities used for potatoes. Instead, these warehouses are designed with improved air circulation and exhaust systems to reduce humidity," he added.

The Bengal government has already sanctioned 1,300 additional small onion storage units at farmers' homes. The horticulture department is assisting farmers in setting up these facilities at their

## CBI investigation hits roadblock as evidence deteriorates

**MI News Service, Dinahata:** A serious allegation has been made by the Central Investigation Agency's (CBI) lawyer in the Dinahata post-poll violence case, claiming that crucial evidence, including weapons and documents, has been destroyed. The evidence, which was submitted to the Dinahata court in a sealed tin box, was found to be waterlogged, rendering the contents unusable. The case pertains to the murder of Biswajit Roy, a BJP worker, on May 3, 2021, during the post-poll violence in West Bengal. The CBI was tasked with investigating the case, and they recovered several items, including machetes, axes, and mobile phones, from the accused's house. The seized items were signed by witnesses, investigating officers, and other CBI officials before being submitted to the court in September 2022. The CBI



lawyer has alleged that the evidence was destroyed due to water entering the tin box, which was kept in the Malkhana of the GRO office of the court under the security of the state police.

The court has been informed of the matter, and the CBI is investigating the circumstances surrounding the destruction of evidence. This development has raised concerns about the integrity of the investigation and the ability of the CBI to bring the perpetrators to justice. The case is being closely watched, and the outcome will have significant implications for the rule of law in West Bengal.

### Mamata Banerjee invites...

**From PG 1**  
a gainer. We believe in inclusivity and we strive to ensure welfare of all sections of the society, which is one of the biggest strengths of Bengal," the Chief minister said.  
Tuesday's interactive session on business opportunities in Bengal was organised by the state government in association with the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) and FICCI in London.  
Before Mamata rose to speak, prominent industrialists such as C.K. Dhanuka, Harsh Vardhan Neotia, Umesh Chowdhary and Saswat Goenka shared their experience of running their businesses in the state and invited investors from the UK to explore opportunities in Bengal.  
"We strive to ensure welfare of all sections of the society, which is one of the biggest strengths of Bengal," the chief minister said adding "We have enough land and we can provide it if you come up with proper investment plans". Vikram Doraiswami, the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, who had organised a for-

mal reception for Mamata Banerjee at India House in London on Monday, also attended Tuesday's event. The state government initiative abroad, with the support of the Indian High Commission, marked a new chapter in cooperative federalism, which had been missing amid a conflict between New Delhi and Kolkata on a range of issues, including the Centre's denial to release funds under various social welfare schemes.  
The role of the Indian High Commission in organising the event was a talking point at the venue as Mamata Banerjee had earlier claimed that the Centre did not allow her to visit Chicago in the US and China though she had formal invitations to visit.  
"There is every reason to look at Bengal as a key player in the India-UK partnership. From the High Commission, we will do everything possible to facilitate your (UK industry's) plans to explore opportunities in Bengal," Doraiswami said at Tuesday's event, hailing the state's achievements under the firebrand leader.

# West Bengal Drug Control issues alert on substandard meds

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant development concerning public health safety, the West Bengal Directorate of Drug Control has released emergency contact numbers for reporting suspicious medicines. This action follows the recent failure of numerous life-saving drugs, including Ranozex, prescribed for chest pain, and Telma H, a blood pressure medication, in quality control tests over the past few months.  
Concerned citizens are urged to report any doubts regarding

medicine quality by calling 2225-2213 or 2225-2214. Additionally, complaints can be lodged via email at [telddcw@rediffmail.com](mailto:telddcw@rediffmail.com) if a purchased medicine appears questionable or remains ineffective despite prolonged use.  
According to sources from the Central Drug Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), over 300 drugs have failed laboratory quality tests in the last three months, including several produced by pharmaceutical companies in West Bengal. This

alarming revelation has prompted the state's Health Department to take stringent measures. Health Secretary Narayan Swaroop Nigam has issued directives to ensure that the details of failed drug batches are disseminated to government hospitals, central medical stores, wholesalers, and distributors, preventing their circulation.  
Furthermore, the State Drug Control Authority has been instructed to prevent the sale of non-standard quality (NSQ) medicines at both wholesale and re-

tail outlets. All pharmacies across West Bengal must now display a list of NSQ drugs to keep consumers informed. To enforce compliance, the West Bengal Drug Control Board will conduct surprise inspections at medical stores to ensure the list is publicly displayed.  
However, drug traders have expressed concerns over the increasing sophistication of counterfeit medicines. The Bengal Chemist and Druggist Association (BCDA) have reported that counterfeiters are producing

fake medicines so convincingly that even experienced pharmacists struggle to distinguish them from genuine ones. BCDA Secretary Prithvi Bose acknowledged that fraudulent drug manufacturers are employing highly advanced techniques, making detection extremely difficult.  
As the state government intensifies its crackdown on substandard and counterfeit medicines, consumers are advised to remain vigilant and report any irregularities immediately.



Crowd throng New Market for Eid shopping.

### The number of days of...

**From PG 1**  
normal minimum temperatures are likely to prevail," the forecast mentioned. In the coming weeks, North India is expected to heat up further, with Delhi and its neighbouring areas likely to see a rise of temperature of 1-2 degree Celsius. However, the arrival of north-westerly winds will bring a sharp dip in maximum temperatures by 3-4 degrees due to dust-raising winds from Rajasthan. Blowing at 20-30 km an hour, these gale will sweep across Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan for the next three days, making the weather dusty and dry.

During the summer, above-normal minimum temperatures are likely in most parts of the country except in some isolated southernmost regions of Peninsular India where

## Massive cyber fraud busted in Kolkata: Rs 67 lakh seized, 3 arrested

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** International cyber fraud with fraudsters deceiving foreign nationals under the pretense of offering high-end technical support and software solutions has emerged lately. In a significant breakthrough, Bidhannagar Police conducted a late-night operation, dismantling an illegal call center in Salt Lake's Sector V. The raid led to the arrest of three key individuals and the seizure of 67

lakh in cash, along with electronic devices linked to the scam.  
Addressing the media, Deputy Commissioner Kuldeep disclosed the alarming details of the operation. The fraudulent call center was functioning on the 22nd floor of a high-rise building, where officials uncovered an elaborate setup designed to facilitate international scam calls. Key suspects, identified as De-

vendra Singh from Behala and Sajju Sheikh from Entally, were apprehended at the scene. Police seized multiple laptops, desktop computers, and a sophisticated auto-dialing system used to contact victims.  
Further investigations led the police to the mastermind, Avinash Jaiswal (alias Piyush), who resided in Chinar Park. A search of his home resulted in the recovery of 9.4 lakh in cash, along with mobile

devices and crucial documents indicating his involvement in large-scale financial fraud.  
During a secondary search of the call center, police discovered a hidden compartment containing 58.38 lakh in cash, bringing the total seized amount to 67 lakh. Authorities also confiscated 14 mobile phones, multiple laptops, and desktop computers used in executing the fraud.

ditional service: "As a pan-India universal bank, Bandhan Bank takes immense pride in supporting the nation through impactful partnerships with key government institutions." Echoing this sentiment, DebrajSaha, Head - Government Business Group, highlighted the significance of the collaboration: "This partnership with the Indian Air Force is a major milestone for us. We are honored to serve the brave personnel of the IAF through our specialized Shaurya Salary Account, offering them seamless and personalized banking solutions."

### Delhi HC allows jailed...

**From PG 1**  
that the Lok Sabha is in session. On each day, Rashid will be brought back to jail even if it is beyond the official hours of jail entry. At Parliament House, Rashid will avail all facilities and amenities within the Parliament House during the hours that the Lok Sabha is in session; and shall thereafter hand-back custody of the appellant to the prison escort, who will bring him back to prison straight from the Parliament House, on the same day, without any delay. Rashid shall not be entitled to use any communication device or have access to internet by any mode, and is neither permitted to interact with any person at any time while he is outside the jail, except for within the Lok Sabha premises and only in relation to performance of his role as a Member of Parliament as per the requisite discipline permitted by the Lok Sabha Rules. He is also not allowed to interact with media inside or outside Parliament premises.

The court, in its order, further requested the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha to ensure compliance with the court-imposed conditions by taking requisite steps as may be required, as per Parliament rules, to ensure that Rashid's judicial custody is not compromised. Rashid was represented by senior advocate N Hariharan and advocate Vikhyat Oberoi.  
On Tuesday, the Delhi High Court had reserved its order in Rashid's plea seeking that he be allowed to attend Parliament while in the court's custody. His request comes after a trial court rejected his bail plea last week. The NIA had arrested Rashid under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. According to the agency, he used various public platforms to "propagate the ideology of separatism and secessionism", was closely associated with various terrorist organisations, and wanted to "legitimise" the United Jihad Council, a platform of anti-India militant groups in Jammu and Kashmir.

### State Govt initiates probe against officials over fake caste certificates

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal government has launched a departmental inquiry against two senior officials accused of issuing fraudulent caste certificates. The Backward Classes Welfare Department has informed Nabanna (State Secretariat) about the investigation and has issued show-cause notices to the implicated officers.  
Over the past few years, numerous cases have surfaced where fraudulent caste certificates were allegedly used to illegally obtain reservations in

government jobs and educational institutions. Several state institutions had lodged complaints with the police, leading to an investigation that exposed the scam.  
Following these revelations, the government has taken decisive action. Reports indicate that the two officials under scrutiny, both serving as inspectors in Kharagpur and Barrackpore, have been formally questioned. They have been asked to explain how ineligible individuals managed to secure caste certificates under their watch.

### Post CM's return, TMC to take action against absentee MLAs

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Trinamool Congress (TMC) has compiled a list of MLAs who were absent during the concluding days of the Assembly budget session, despite a party whip mandating attendance. The party plans to take disciplinary action against the defaulters once Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee returns from her London visit later this week, sources revealed on Wednesday.  
According to TMC insiders, the Disciplinary Committee will assess the absenteeism list in coordination with Speaker Biman Banerjee's office, which is expected to provide records of legislators

who formally requested leave.  
During the second phase of the budget session, the TMC issued a whip mandating MLAs to be present in the Assembly on March 19 and 20. However, internal scrutiny has revealed that over 30 MLAs failed to comply.  
The party leadership views repeated absenteeism as a grave issue, with senior leaders calling it "an act of irresponsibility."  
"Despite clear instructions, several legislators have been skipping the Assembly. The party will take firm action against them," a senior TMC leader stated.

### Kolkata IVF center faces legal action over alleged fraud

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A couple has approached the Calcutta High Court, accusing a prominent IVF center in Kolkata of fraud and malpractice. The petitioners claim that the child born through the IVF procedure was not biologically theirs, alleging severe misconduct by the clinic.  
According to the case details, the couple, after several years of unsuccessful attempts to conceive, opted for IVF treatment at the said center. Despite two failed attempts, their third procedure in 2019 resulted in the birth of a daughter. However, their joy was short-lived.  
In 2021, the child was

diagnosed with cancer, and doctors recommended a bone marrow transplant. During compatibility testing, it was shockingly revealed that neither parent was a genetic match for their daughter. Subsequent DNA tests confirmed that the child was not biologically related to them.  
Disturbed by this revelation, the couple demanded answers from the IVF center. While the clinic eventually disclosed the biological mother's identity, it refused to reveal the father's details. Meanwhile, despite medical intervention, the bone marrow transplant failed, and the child tragically passed away in 2023.

## REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL WORK OVER MALDA DIVISION

In connection with Yard remodelling of Malda Town station, 03 days Pre Non-Interlocking work from 26.06.2025 to 28.06.2025 and 04 days Non-Interlocking work from 29.06.2025 to 02.07.2025 will be undertaken. Consequently, following trains will be regulated as under:

● **CANCELLATION OF TRAINS:** (1) 13145 Kolkata-Radhikapur Express (JCO 28.06.2025, 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025), (2) 13163 Sealdah-Saharsa Hate Bazare Express (JCO 28.06.2025, 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025), (3) 13164 Saharsa-Sealdah Hate Bazare Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (4) 13189 Sealdah-Balughat Express (JCO 28.06.2025, 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025), (5) 13190 Balughat-Sealdah Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (6) 13465 Howrah-Malda Town Intercity Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (7) 13466 Malda Town-Howrah Intercity Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (8) 15709 Malda Town-New Jalpaiguri Intercity Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (9) 15710 New Jalpaiguri-Malda Town Intercity Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (10) 13063 Howrah-Balughat Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (11) 13064 Balughat-Howrah Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (12) 13141 Sealdah-New Alipurduar Teesta Torsa Express (JCO 28.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (13) 13142 New Alipurduar-Sealdah Teesta Torsa Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 02.07.2025, 03.07.2025), (14) 13146 Radhikapur-Kolkata Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (15) 13149 Sealdah-Alipurduar Kanchankanya Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025), (16) 13150 Alipurduar-Sealdah Kanchankanya Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (17) 13033 Howrah-Katihar Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 01.07.2025), (18) 13034 Katihar-Howrah Express (JCO 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (19) 13053 Howrah-Radhikapur Kulik Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 02.07.2025), (20) 13054 Radhikapur-Howrah Kulik Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 03.07.2025), (21) 13181 Kolkata-Silghat Town Kaziranga Express (JCO 30.06.2025), (22) 15712 Katihar-Howrah Express (JCO 01.07.2025), (23) 13159 Kolkata-Jogbani Express (JCO 01.07.2025), (24) 13160 Jogbani-Kolkata Express (JCO 01.07.2025), (25) 12363 Kolkata-Haldibari Intercity Express (JCO 01.07.2025), (26) 12364 Haldibari-Kolkata Intercity Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (27) 13175 Sealdah-Silchar Kanchanjungha Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (28) 13182 Silghat Town-Kolkata Kaziranga Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (29) 15639 Puri-Kamakhya Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (30) 13431 Nabadwip Dham-Balughat Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (31) 13432 Balughat-Nabadwip Dham Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (32) 13409 Malda Town-Kiul Intercity Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (33) 13410 Kiul-Malda Town Intercity Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (34) 12041 Howrah-New Jalpaiguri Shatabdi Express (JCO 02.07.2025), (35) 12042 New Jalpaiguri-Howrah Shatabdi Express (JCO 03.07.2025), (36) 13176 Silchar-Sealdah Kanchanjungha Express (JCO 04.07.2025), (37) 53027 Azimganj-Malda Town Passenger (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (38) 53028 Malda Town-Azimganj Passenger (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (39) 55701 Malda Town-Katihar Passenger (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (40) 55702 Katihar-Malda Town Passenger (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (41) 55421 Malda Town-Balughat Passenger (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (42) 55422 Balughat-Malda Town Passenger (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (43) 63401 Sahibganj-Malda Town MEMU (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025), (44) 63402 Malda Town-Sahibganj MEMU (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025). ● **DIVERSION OF TRAINS:** (1) 15657 Delhi-Kamakhya Brahmaputra Mail (JCO 28.06.2025, 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025) will be diverted via Mokama-Barauni Jn.-Katihar. (2) 15658 Kamakhya-Delhi Brahmaputra Mail (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025) will be diverted via Katihar-Barauni Jn.-Mokama. (3) 15620 Kamakhya-Gaya Express (JCO 30.06.2025) will be diverted via Katihar-Khagaria-Munger-Jamalpur. (4) 15629 Tambaram-Silghat Town Nagaon Express (JCO 30.06.2025) will be diverted via Asansol-Barauni Jn.-Katihar. (5) 15619 Gaya-Kamakhya Express (JCO 01.07.2025) will be diverted via Munger-Khagaria-Katihar. (6) 22503 Kanniyakumari-Dibrugarh Vivek Express (JCO 30.06.2025) will be diverted via Rampurhat-Bhagalpur-Jamalpur-Khagaria-Katihar-Barsoi. (7) 22501 SMVT Bengaluru-New Tinsukia Express (JCO 01.07.2025) will be diverted via Rampurhat-Bhagalpur-Jamalpur-Khagaria-Katihar-Barsoi. ● **RESCHEDULING OF TRAINS:** (1) 15643 Puri-Kamakhya Express (JCO 28.06.2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hours 30 minutes from Puri. (2) 13173 Sealdah-Sabroom Kanchanjungha Express (JCO 29.06.2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours 30 minutes from Sealdah. (3) 13148 Bamanhat-Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours 30 minutes from Bamanhat. (4) 13175 Sealdah-Silchar Kanchanjungha Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025) will be rescheduled by 02 hours 30 minutes from Sealdah. (5) 13053 Howrah-Radhikapur Kulik Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025) will be rescheduled by 01 hour from Howrah. (6) 12345 Howrah-Guwahati Saraighat Express (JCO 02.07.2025) will be rescheduled by 03 hours late. ● **SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION OF TRAINS:** (1) 13011 Howrah-Malda Town Intercity Express (JCO 29.06.2025, 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025) will be short terminated at Rampurhat. (2) 13012 Malda Town-Howrah Intercity Express (JCO 30.06.2025, 01.07.2025, 02.07.2025) will be short originated from Rampurhat. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Malda

**Eastern Railway**



Mystery at Kalana Hospital: Patient vanishes overnight

MI News Service, Kalna: A disturbing incident has unfolded at Kalna Super Speciality Hospital in Hooghly, where a patient, Laxman Singh, disappeared from the hospital ward while undergoing treatment.

Zoom scooter of Hero motocorp launched at Sinha Automobile, Avirampur

MI News Service, Ausgram: A new horizon in scooter was launched at Sinha Automobile Hero showroom in Abhirampur, Ausgram, East Burdwan on Wednesday.



diamond-cut alloy wheels fitted with chunky tyres, including a 120-section one at the rear. Xoom 125 is available in 4 colour options: Metallic Turbo Blue, Matt Storm Grey, Inferno Red, Matt Neon Lime.

Demand Restrictions on Outsiders in Deucha-Panchami Coal Mine Area

MI News Service, Siuri: A group of tribals staged a protest at Siuri railway station on Wednesday, demanding that outsiders be barred from entering the Deucha-Panchami coal mine area.

Trinamool leader arrested in Narendrapur for anti-social activities

MI News Service, Narendrapur: A Trinamool leader, Anup Pailan, was arrested by the Narendrapur police station on Tuesday night for his alleged involvement in anti-social activities.

Aurangzeb Fan Club is new name of INDI Alliance: Shiv Sena MP

MI News Service, New Delhi: Shiv Sena leader Nareish Mhaske said that the INDIA bloc must be called the "Aurangzeb Fan Club", triggering protests from the opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Centre directs states to set up feeding, changing rooms for women, children

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre has directed states, Union Territories and some central ministries to establish feeding and changing rooms for women and children in public places to improve accessibility and convenience for mothers.

Teenager's nude photos circulates on social media, accused arrested

MI News Service, Baruiip: A shocking incident has come to light in Baruiip, South 24 Parganas, where a teenager girl's nude photos were taken and circulated on the social media by a youth who lived in her neighborhood.

was taking a bath. The photos were then circulated on social media, causing a commotion in the area. The girl who was traumatized by the incident alleged that the accused youth threatened her and made indecent proposals.

"Today's democratic system cannot be run based on historical events": SP Chief Akhilesh Yadav slams BJP's "divisive tendencies"

MI News Service, New Delhi: Samajwadi Party (SP) Chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday accused BJP of using history to gain political mileage and divide the country on religious and caste lines.



issues concerning people's livelihood, health, and security.

allegedly bringing Babur, the founder of the Mughal dynasty, to defeat Ibrahim Lodi. Rana Sangra, also known as Sangram Singh I, was the ruler of Mewar from 1508 to 1528 and is revered for his bravery and sacrifices.

EASTERN RAILWAY The following E-tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (General), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Remote Control Building, Eastern Railway, Kolkata-700014 in connection with the following works:-

EAST COAST RAILWAY Tender No. MGSV-ISO-IMS-24-25-30 Name of the work: RE-CERTIFICATION OF INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (IMS) COMPRISING OF ISO 9001:2015 (QMS), ISO 14001:2015 (EMS), ISO 45001:2018 (OHSMS) AND 50001:2018 (ENMS) FOR CARRIAGE REPAIR WORKSHOP, MANCHESWAR.

Jamgram Mondlai Gram Panchayat Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tender are invited from bonafied resourceful contractor for execution of 01 no. development works under 5th SFC Fund vide Memo No. 142(NIT-15), Date: 26.03.2025.

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Auction Notice Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700 014 (Auction Conducting Officer) invites e-Auction for Operation of Parking lots at various stations over Sealdah Division.

BAGAN-I PANCHAYAT SAMITY NIET No. WB/HZP/BAG-INIET-18/2024-25 Dated : 25.03.2025 A e-Tenders is floated for various construction & development works within Bagan-I Panchayat Samity jurisdiction.

Metro Railway, Kolkata Tender Notice for e-tendering is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: Zonal Contract for upkeep of Track and Track bed at Purple line of Metro Railway, Kolkata from Malherhat (KM 3/8) to Joka (LC) (KM-2/0) including all lines, Points & Crossings of Joka Depot and Car shed.

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"What happened to the haste BJP was in?": Atishi questions why all 14 CAG reports not tabled, urges Speaker to present remaining reports

MI News Service, New Delhi: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Delhi Legislative Assembly Atishi questioned why all 14 Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) reports were not being tabled and urged the Speaker to present the remaining 11 reports.

provement. It examines fleet management, revenue generation, operational sustainability, and adherence to public transport policies. Following the tabling of the CAG report, BJP MLA Harish Khurana slammed the previous AAP government, accusing it of mismanaging the public transport system, which resulted in financial losses and a decline in DTC's bus fleet.

to evict the hawkers, putting the livelihoods of over 1,000 people at risk. The Haripal station premises have been bustling with activity since morning, with slogans being raised and banners and posters being displayed. Local leaders, including Haripal MLA Karbi Manna, have come out in support of the protesters.

11 বিজ্ঞপ্তি ১১ আমোজকর নামা এতদ্বারা সকলকে জ্ঞাত করা যাইতেছে যে, ১) শ্রী সন্তোষ কুমার ঘোষাল ২) শ্রী হেমন্ত কুমার ঘোষাল উভয়ের পিতা অক্ষয় কুমার 'সং' চৈতন্যপুর, পোঃ ও থানা হরিপাল, জেলা হাঙ্গলী-৭১৪০০৩ ও হাল সাং ১২৩ নং নেতাজী হাটের চন্দ্র রোড, উত্তরপাড়া, থানা ও পোঃ উত্তরপাড়া, জেলা হাঙ্গলী, বিস্তারিত- ২৫.01.2010 তারিখে হরিপাল এ. ডি. এ. আর অফিসে IV-3/2010 নং আমোজকর দলিল মূলে আমোজ (শ্রী রামপ্রসাদ চক্রবর্তী পিতা শ্রী নরেশ্বর চক্রবর্তী সাক্ষি হরিপাল কামরপাড়া, পোঃ ও থানা হরিপাল, জেলা হাঙ্গলী-৭১৪০০৩) ফরাসিভাষায় আমোজকর নিয়ুক্ত করেন ও নিরপেক্ষ তপশীল সম্পত্তি উক্ত আমোজকরানা দলিল হলে আদি 13/06/2011 তারিখে হরিপাল এ. ডি. এ. আর অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত I-2678/2011 নং দলিল মূলে সোম আমিনুর আলি পিতা সোম আমিনুর আলি মহাপুরে 09 শতক বাস্তু সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করি। অতঃপর সোম আমিনুর আলি পিতা সোম আমিনুর আলি মহাপুরে 09 শতক বাস্তু সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করি। অতঃপর সোম আমিনুর আলি পিতা সোম আমিনুর আলি মহাপুরে 09 শতক বাস্তু সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করি। অতঃপর সোম আমিনুর আলি পিতা সোম আমিনুর আলি মহাপুরে 09 শতক বাস্তু সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করি।

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Katwa-II Development Block Dainhat, Purba Bardhaman Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tenders are invited vide eNIT No.-WB/PURBA-BWN/KAT-II/24-25/049, Date: 26th March, 2025 by the BDO, Katwa II Dev. Block, Dainhat, Purba Bardhaman.

District-Hooghly IN THE COURT OF THE DISTRICT DELEGATE AT CHANDERNAGORE Case No. 39 Case No. 70/2019 (Succession) Petitioner- Dilip Kumar Sharma This is to inform that one Dilip Kumar Sharma, son of late Shaligram Sharma of 130, B. M. Road, Champdani, PO-Baidyabati, PS-Bhadreshwar, Dist.-Hooghly, Pin-712222, (W.B.) filed the above noted Act 39 case before the L.D. District Delegate at Chandernagore for succession certificate left by Shaligram Sharma @ Saligram Sharma, son of Late Hari Prasad Sharma and Nirmala Devi @ Nirmala Devi, wife of Late. Shaligram Sharma since deceased. That due to no service returns from Death Place of Nirmala Devi @ Nirmala Devi wife of Late. Shaligram Sharma who expired on 02.11.2017 at Paruri Bus Stand Raiguru, PO & PS- Tarapur, Dist.-Munger, State - Bihar, Pin-813221. (Bihar). The petitioner had filed petition U/O 5 Rule 20 of C.P.C. and L.D. Court had allowed the prayer. If any objection raise by any beneficiary (ies) he/she is directed to file written objection within 30 (Thirty) days from the date of publication otherwise case will be heard ex-parte.

Maslandapur 1 No. Gram Panchayat Maslandapur, North 24 Parganas, Pin Code :- 743289 Email Id :- gpmaslandapur1@gmail.com Inviting Tender for the F.Y.- 2024-2025 under 15th FC

NIT No. WBNPGN10/MAS-IGP/15th FC/24-25, DATED- 13.03.2025 Bid Submission start date- 17.03.2025 from 9.00 am. Bid Submission end date- 03.04.2025 upto 5.30 pm Check all dates and specification at website https://wbtdenders.gov.in/ Details information given in the Office Notice Board at Maslandapur-I G.P.

Maslandapur 1 No. Gram Panchayat Maslandapur, North 24 Parganas, Pin Code :- 743289 Email Id :- gpmaslandapur1@gmail.com Inviting Tender for the F.Y.- 2024-2025 under 5th SFC

NIT No. WBNPGN11/MAS-IGP/5th SFC/24-25, DATED- 13.03.2025 Bid Submission start date- 17.03.2025 from 9.00 am. Bid Submission end date- 03.04.2025 upto 5.30 pm Check all dates and specification at website https://wbtdenders.gov.in/ Details information given in the Office Notice Board at Maslandapur-I G.P.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office : ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091 CIN No. L65190GJ1994PLC021010 www.icicibank.com The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number, Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch. It lists three borrowers and their respective properties and demand amounts.

# What are AI hallucinations Why AIs sometimes make things up

**Washington :** (The Conversation) When someone sees something that isn't there, people often refer to the experience as a hallucination. Hallucinations occur when your sensory perception does not correspond to external stimuli.

Technologies that rely on artificial intelligence can have hallucinations, too.

When an algorithmic system generates information that seems plausible but is actually inaccurate or misleading, computer scientists call it an AI hallucination. Researchers have found these behaviours in different types of AI systems, from chatbots such as ChatGPT to image generators such as Dall-E to autonomous vehicles. We are information science researchers who have studied hallucinations in AI speech recognition systems.

Wherever AI systems are used in daily life, their hallucinations can pose risks. Some may be minor - when a chatbot gives the wrong answer to a simple question, the user may end up ill-informed. But in other cases, the stakes are much higher.

From courtrooms where AI software is used to make sentencing decisions to health insurance companies that use algorithms to determine a patient's eligibility for coverage, AI hallucinations can have life-altering consequences.

They can even be life-threatening: Autonomous vehicles use AI to detect obstacles, other vehicles and pedestrians.

**Making it up**  
Hallucinations and their effects depend on the type of AI system. With large language models - the underlying technology of AI chatbots - hallucinations are pieces of information that sound convincing but are incorrect, made up or irrelevant. An AI chatbot might create a reference to a scientific article that doesn't exist or provide a historical fact that is simply wrong, yet make it sound believable.

In a 2023 court case, for example, a New York attorney submitted a legal brief that he had written with the help of ChatGPT. A discerning judge later noticed that the brief cited a case that ChatGPT had made up. This could lead to different outcomes in courtrooms if humans were not able to detect the hallucinated piece of information.

With AI tools that can recognise objects in images, hallucinations occur when the AI generates captions that are not faithful to the provided image. Imagine asking a system to list objects in an image that only includes a woman from the chest up talking on a phone and receiving a response that says a woman talking on a



phone while sitting on a bench. This inaccurate information could lead to different consequences in contexts where accuracy is critical.

**What causes hallucinations**  
Engineers build AI systems by gathering massive amounts of data and feeding it into a computational system that detects pat-

terns in the data. The system develops methods for responding to questions or performing tasks based on those patterns.

Supply an AI system with 1,000 photos of different breeds of dogs, labeled accordingly, and the system will soon learn to detect the difference between a poodle and a golden retriever. But feed it a photo of a blueberry muffin and,

as machine learning researchers have shown, it may tell you that the muffin is a chihuahua.

When a system doesn't understand the question or the information that it is presented with, it may hallucinate. Hallucinations often occur when the model fills in gaps based on similar contexts from its training data, or when it is built using

biased or incomplete training data. This leads to incorrect guesses, as in the case of the mislabeled blueberry muffin.

It's important to distinguish between AI hallucinations and intentionally creative AI outputs. When an AI system is asked to be creative - like when writing a story or generating artistic images - its novel outputs are expected and desired. Hallucinations, on the other hand, occur when an AI system is asked to provide factual information or perform specific tasks but instead generates incorrect or misleading content while presenting it as accurate.

The key difference lies in the context and purpose: Creativity is appropriate for artistic tasks, while hallucinations are problematic when accuracy and reliability are required.

To address these issues, companies have suggested using high-quality training data and limiting AI responses to follow certain guidelines. Nevertheless, these issues may persist in popular AI tools.

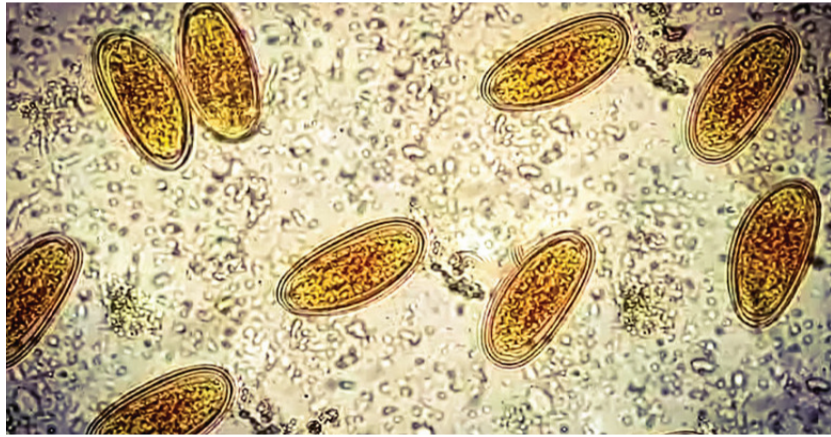
**What's at risk**  
The impact of an output such as calling a blueberry muffin a chihuahua may seem trivial, but consider the different kinds of technologies that use image recognition systems: An autonomous vehicle that fails to

identify objects could lead to a fatal traffic accident. An autonomous military drone that misidentifies a target could put civilians' lives in danger.

For AI tools that provide automatic speech recognition, hallucinations are AI transcriptions that include words or phrases that were never actually spoken. This is more likely to occur in noisy environments, where an AI system may end up adding new or irrelevant words in an attempt to decipher background noise such as a passing truck or a crying infant. As these systems become more regularly integrated into health care, social service and legal settings, hallucinations in automatic speech recognition could lead to inaccurate clinical or legal outcomes that harm patients, criminal defendants or families in need of social support.

**Check AI's work**  
Regardless of AI companies' efforts to mitigate hallucinations, users should stay vigilant and question AI outputs, especially when they are used in contexts that require precision and accuracy. Double-checking AI-generated information with trusted sources, consulting experts when necessary, and recognising the limitations of these tools are essential steps for minimizing their risks.

## New parasitic species discovered by ZSI in Bay of Bengal



**Kolkata :** A novel species of parasitic isopod, active in the buccal cavity (mouth space) of marine fishes, has been identified in the Bay of Bengal by researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

It has been designated 'Lobothorax Bharat', a ZSI statement said Tuesday.

This discovery, a result of collaborative research between the Estuarine Biology Regional Centre, ZSI, Gopalpur-on-Sea, and Berhampur University, contributes significantly to the existing knowledge of marine biodiversity and fish parasitology, the statement said. The research team from ZSI comprised Sandeep Kumar Mohapatra, Sanmitra Roy, Jaya Kishore Seth, Basudev Tripathy and Anil Mohapatra while the research was conducted under the joint leadership of Jaya Kishore Seth, Anil Mohapatra and Basudev Tripathy. The newly identified species 'Lobothorax Bharat' belongs to the genus Lobothorax, a group of isopods known to parasitise (infested by an organism or part as a parasite) in the buccal cavity (the space within the mouth) of marine fish. These parasites survive by

feeding on the blood and mucus of their hosts, often leading to anaemia in affected fish populations. "This discovery is significant because it not only adds to the known diversity of Lobothorax isopods but also highlights the complex ecological relationships within the Bay of Bengal," ZSI Director Dhriti Banerjee said.

Lobothorax Bharat, found on the Odisha coast of India, is distinguished from its closest relative, Lobothorax typus Bleeker, 1857, another fish parasite attached with buccal cavity of the host fish, by several key morphological features. Furthermore, genetic analysis revealed a divergence. Prior to this discovery, the genus Lobothorax comprised only three known species. The addition of L Bharat brings the total number to four, underscoring the ongoing need for comprehensive marine biodiversity research, the statement said. The research which began in 2023 emphasises the importance of continued exploration and study of marine ecosystems to uncover and understand the intricate lives of marine organisms.

## Indian-American scientist Jay Bhattacharya confirmed as National Institutes of Health Director



**New York :** Indian-American scientist Jay Bhattacharya has been confirmed by the US Senate as the Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the country's top health research and funding institutions. Bhattacharya, a professor of Health Policy at Stanford University, was confirmed by a 53-47 vote on Tuesday, according to the official website of the US Senate. US President Donald Trump, then the President-elect, nominated Bhattacharya as the 18th NIH Director in November last year.

"Dr. Bhattacharya will work in cooperation with Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to direct the Nation's Medical Research and to make important discoveries that will improve Health, and save lives," Trump had said. During his hearing, Bhattacharya said he understands science and public health have become politicised, and many no longer trust health officials

or experts, according to The Hill. The NIH should support science which is "replicable, reproducible, and generalisable," Bhattacharya said. "Unfortunately, much of modern biomedical science fails this basic test," the news portal quoted him as saying. "If confirmed, I will carry out President Trump and (Health and Human Service) Secretary Kennedy's agenda of Making America Healthy Again and committing the NIH to address the dire chronic health needs of the country with gold-standard science and innovation," he said.

In a statement on Tuesday, Stanford Medicine "proudly" congratulated Bhattacharya on his appointment and called his commitment to public service "commendable". "As an institution, we are staunch supporters of the NIH's mission, which continues to advance the frontiers of medical knowledge and unlock new possibilities for health improvement," it said. US Senator from Kentucky Mitch McConnell took to X and said, "Voted today to confirm Dr. Jay Bhattacharya to lead the National Institutes of Health. With an extensive background in medical research, I expect @DrJBhattacharya to provide sound leadership at the @NIH."

Bhattacharya is a co-author of the Great Barrington Declaration, an alternative to lockdowns proposed in October 2020. His peer-reviewed research has been published in Economics, Statistics, Legal, Medical, Public Health, and Health Policy Journals. He holds an MD and PhD in Economics from Stanford University.

## Did China's PLA hack into Indian Army drone? Here's what the Army has to say

**Rejecting** the claims made by a social media post and a media house that one of the Indian Army's Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) was "hacked" by the Chinese side, the Army said the claims were "unverified" and "misleading."

A news report had claimed that the drone veered into the Chinese-controlled territory and the PLA (People's Liberation Army) took control of it and operated the drone for some time before sending it back to the Indian side. The news report suggested that the drone could be of Israeli origin and that although it had an encrypted data link, the Chinese side managed to take control of it.

The report had even raised concerns about the "effectiveness of existing encryption measures and risks of relying on foreign technology in critical defence systems."

Reacting to these claims, the Army asked the media to refrain from publishing such "unverified" and "misleading" content. The Army remains fully committed to the security and operational integrity of all its assets, news agency PTI quoted Army sources as saying. It is clarified that the article is "completely baseless and factually incorrect" and "no such incident" has taken place, an Army source said. The Army urged media houses and social media users to "refrain from carrying unverified and misleading content", which could create "unnecessary alarm and misinformation" in the public domain, the news agency quoted the source as saying.

## Around 200 companies to take part in two-day spiritual perfume products expo

**New Delhi :** Around 200 companies are expected to showcase products at the two-day expo of incense, spiritual and perfume products to be held at Yashoobhoomi here in May, organisers said on Wednesday. An estimated 10,000 trade visitors and delegates from over 10 countries are expected to attend the 10th International Agarbatti & Perfume Expo 2025 to be held on May 17-18, Incense Media said in a state-

ment. The expo which has been moved to the National Capital will act as a global gateway for SMEs, MSMEs, and B2B stakeholders to showcase their products, innovations, and business potential, Incense Media founder Deepak Goyal said.

The Delhi Expo will serve as the ultimate platform for retailers, wholesalers, distributors, manufacturers, and allied industries to connect, collaborate,

and explore new business opportunities, the statement added.

The Indian incense industry is experiencing a phenomenal surge, boasting an annual market size of Rs 10,000 crore to Rs 12,000 crore, Incense Media said. As the world's leading producer of incense sticks, India is on a trajectory of 8.6 per cent compounded annual growth rate between 2023 and 2029, the statement said.

## India's exports are bound to grow despite global uncertainties DGFT

**New Delhi :** India's exports are bound to grow in the coming years despite uncertainties over global trade and tariff, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

Director General of Foreign Trade Santosh Kumar Sarangi said that exporters should tread the path pragmatically and wisely to navigate the current global trade contours.

He also said that the current scenario presents a "golden" opportunity for India to do a variety of things which will propel exports and increase manufacturing competitiveness.

Despite the "uncertainties relating to trade and tariff, our exports are bound to grow in future years," he said at the Sourcex India 2025 show. It was organised by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO).

US President Donald Trump has imposed reciprocal tariffs or import duties on countries like China and has pledged to impose these levies on India also on April 2.

Certain exporters have raised concerns that imposition of duties by the US on sectors like engineering and pharma will hurt shipments to America, which is the largest trading partner of India. Sarangi said that in the current year, India's exports in goods and services will cross USD 800 billion. Last year it was USD 778 billion.

"While we see a temporary blip in exports (in the recent) months, in the longer run, our exporting communities have been giving us an impression that the number of order enquiries which they are receiving is fairly positive and that gives me the confidence that our exports will increase vis-a-



vis our current levels," Sarangi said. He added that steps like production linked incentive schemes to promote ease of doing business and boost domestic manufacturing are helping the domestic industry. India's goods exports dipped for the fourth consecutive month by 10.85 per cent to USD 36.91 billion in February. It was USD 395.63 billion during April-February this fiscal. Services exports during the period are estimated at USD 354.90 billion.

Speaking at the event, FIEO Director General Ajay Sahai said that despite tariff-related concerns, India's exports will register a healthy growth rate.

"The order books are pretty good and the removal of tariff uncertainties will further push the shipments," Sahai said.

## Renewable energy jumps to new high powered by China solar boom

**Washington :** Installation of renewable energy worldwide hit a record high last year, with 92.5 per cent of all new electricity brought online coming from the sun, wind or other clean sources, an international agency reports.

Nearly 64 per cent of the new renewable electricity generated in 2024 was in China, according to Wednesday's report by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

Overall, the world added 585 billion watts of new renewable electrical energy, a 15.1 per cent jump from 2023, with 46 per cent of the world's electricity coming from solar, wind and other green non-nuclear energy sources.

But even that big jump does not put the globe on track to reach the international goal of tripling renewable energy from 2023 to 2030, with the world on pace to be 28 per cent short, IRENA calculated.

The goal was adopted in 2023 as part of the world's efforts to curb the increasing impacts of climate change and transition away from fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

"Renewable energy is powering down the fossil fuel age. Record-breaking growth is creating jobs, lowering energy bills and cleaning our



air," United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a statement.

"But the shift to clean energy must be faster and fairer."

China added almost 374 billion watts of renewable power -- three quarters of it from solar panels -- in 2024. That's more than eight times as

much as the United States did and five times what Europe added last year.

China now has nearly 887 billion watts of solar panel power, compared to 176 billion in the United States, nearly 90 billion watts in Germany, 21 billion watts in France and more than 17 billion watts in the United

Kingdom. United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell used the figures Wednesday to challenge Europe and other industrialised nations to catch up with China.

"As one government steps back from climate leadership, it opens up space for others to step forward and seize the vast benefits," Stiell told European leaders in Berlin, making reference to US President Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement.

"The clean energy transition can be Europe's economic engine-room now - when new sources of growth are vital to buttress living standards and for decades to come."

Stiell said the IRENA numbers show that the "global renewables boom is unstoppable" and said the market for green energy reached USD 2 trillion last year.

The move to renewables can grow even faster, said Neil Grant, senior policy analyst at Climate Analytics, which tracks and projects countries' climate change fighting efforts.

"If in 2024 renewables grew 15 per cent, think how much faster they could grow with the full backing of comprehensive, credible and ambitious climate policies around the world," said Grant, who wasn't part of the IRENA report.



A Border Security Force (BSF) jawan uses a drone during the fourth day of the search operation following suspicious movements in the Hiranagar sector area, in Kathua district.

## 139th Drucc Meeting Held At Sealdah Division



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway successfully convened its 139th Divisional Railway Users Consultative Committee (DRUCC) meeting today (26.03.2025). The meeting, held at Rabindra Sabha Kakshya, Sealdah, was presided over by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Sealdah, Sri Deepak Nigam, and witnessed active participation from Railway officials and DRUCC members.

The 139th DRUCC Meeting facilitated valuable discussions on various achievements, ongoing developmental projects, and passenger-related concerns within Sealdah Division. Key topics included the enhancement of passenger amenities, infrastructure upgrades, introduction of new services, and improvements in safety and security measures.

While speaking on the occasion, Divisional Railway Manager/ Sealdah Sri Deepak Nigam reiterated the division's commitment to providing a comfortable and convenient travel experience for all passengers.

In this meeting discussions revolved around the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Sri Nigam also elaborated on the comprehensive upgrades planned and underway at various stations under this ambitious scheme. These upgrades are designed to modernize station infrastructure, provide better passenger facilities, and create a more aesthetically pleasing environment. The meeting also addressed the crucial initiative of increasing train capacity by converting 9-coaches to 12-coaches. This expansion will directly address the issue of

overcrowding and provide more comfortable travel for a larger number of passengers.

Another significant achievement discussed was the extension of all platforms to accommodate 12-coach trains. A significant development aimed at easing passenger movement at the busy Sealdah South station was also brought to the forefront – the creation of a new entry and exit point. This additional access point is expected to significantly reduce congestion, particularly during peak hours, and provide a more convenient experience for commuters. Also announced the imminent re-launch of the renovated subway. This revamped underpass will offer a safer and more comfortable pedestrian crossing, further improving connectivity and reducing surface-level congestion within the station premises. Previously, 9-coach EMU rakes were equipped with 2 ladies coaches. Recognizing the growing need and to provide more comfortable and convenient travel for all women commuters, the upgraded 12-coach EMU trains will now feature three dedicated ladies coaches. Beyond these major projects, the meeting also included detailed discussions on various other ongoing and planned works related to passenger amenities. These included improvements to waiting rooms, sanitation facilities, drinking water provisions, better signage, and enhanced security measures across various stations within the Division.

## US general stresses need for professional military forces for regional security in Bangladesh

**MI News Service, Dhaka:** A US general has stressed the need for professional military forces for regional security amid tension in the Myanmar border with Bangladesh.

"Lt Gen. Joel P. Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army Pacific, visited Bangladesh on March 24-25," the U.S. Embassy said in a statement on Wednesday. "The general shared with Bangladeshi counterparts about the potential acquisition of US-origin equipment to enhance interoperability and capabilities, appreciation for the professionalism of the Bangladesh military, and the importance of professional military forces in ensuring regional stability," the statement said. "During his visit, Lt Gen Vowell met with counterparts in the armed forces of Bangladesh, reinforcing the U.S. Army's commitment to a strong relationship with the Bangladesh Army while highlighting shared security interests and ongoing collaboration," it added. "This includes recognition of the

Bangladesh Army's ongoing support to domestic security, particularly in light of other demands such as disaster response, dialogue on Bangladesh's primary military challenges and potential areas where the U.S. can provide support, and discussions of Exercise TIGER LIGHTNING in Summer '25," the statement said. Earlier, the United States extended its congratulations to the people of Bangladesh on the occasion of Independence Day, reaffirming its support for the country's democratic journey, according to a report in Daily Star Dhaka. In a statement issued by the US Department of State, Secretary of State Marco Rubio highlighted the significance of this year's celebration as Bangladesh prepares for upcoming elections. "This celebration comes at a pivotal point in Bangladesh's history, as the Interim Government prepares the nation for elections that will allow the people of Bangladesh to choose the path forward for their nation," Rubio said.

## Cow vigilantes, Bajrang Dal members attack two Muslim drivers in Ayodhya

**MI News Service, Lucknow:** On March 18, members of the far-right Bajrang Dal and cow vigilantes assaulted two Muslim men in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh, accusing them of smuggling cows. A video surfaced showing the men being beaten while their faces were covered, with the attackers forcing them to chant, "Gau hamari matha hai, gau rakshaks hamara baap" (Cows are our mothers, cow protectors are our fathers). The person filming the assault questioned the possibility of communal harmony, asking, "How do you expect us (Hindus) to foster communal brotherhood with people like them?" The incident has sparked widespread outrage. Cow vigilantism in India has been increasing over the past decade, particularly in states governed by the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). These attacks often target minorities, especially Muslims.

However, in February this year, a disturbing incident occurred in Palwal district, Haryana, where cow vigilantes assaulted two individuals from the Hindu community. The victims, a truck driver and a conductor, were accused of smuggling cows. Driver Balkishan and conductor Sandeep were transporting cattle in a pickup truck from Rajasthan to Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. However, they lost direction and sought help from the emergency police station. According to driver Balkishan, who survived, one of the police personnel, identified as driver Ranveer Singh, made them open the truck. "The police driver made us open our truck and inspected the cows and checked the documents. After that, the police handed us over to three unknown people and left the place," Balkishan alleged. The driver and his conductor were brutally assaulted by the men with lathis, swords, and hammers, causing multiple fractures and stab injuries. Later, the attackers threw the two in a deep canal, leaving them to die.

## Religious minority victimization soars in Pakistan in 2025: HRFP Report

**MI News Service, Faisalabad:** The Human Rights Focus Pakistan (HRFP) on Wednesday released a damning report on the first quarter of 2025, spotlighting a sharp rise in victimisation rates and challenges faced by religious minorities in Pakistan.

The organisation condemned the escalating abuses, noting that relief and justice remain elusive due to resource constraints and the emboldened mindset of perpe-

trators, often backed by influential religious and political figures. HRFP President Naveed Walter, addressing the findings, stated, "Religious minorities in Pakistan are easier targets for attacks, murders, blasphemy charges, abductions, forced conversions, and forced marriages. The lack of attention to their suffering and neglect is even more painful." He pointed to a surge in incidents since January 2025, cit-

ing cases like Wasif Masih, a Christian youth from Chak Jhumra, Faisalabad, falsely accused of theft, assaulted, and publicly humiliated with black paint on his face. The report detailed harrowing cases, including the abduction of 12-year-old Ariha Gulzar from Okara on January 20, who was forcibly converted and married to her abductor, Sajjad Baloch, with her family still fighting for her release amid

threats. Similarly, Javed Masih, a 30-year-old shopkeeper from Sahiwal, was brutally attacked on February 11 over a fabricated blasphemy claim after a pricing dispute, forcing him into hiding. Shahnaz Bibi, 24, from Pattoki, was faced with abduction and forced conversion on February 20, amplifying concerns within the Christian diaspora. Other incidents include Mehwish Nazir from Faisalabad, accused of theft

by her employers on February 6 due to her faith, with her brother Rehman still imprisoned, and Farhan Masih from Sahiwal, falsely charged with blasphemy on January 26, pushing his family into financial ruin. Walter also flagged ongoing cases like Akash Karamat's 17-month imprisonment on blasphemy charges and the mysterious death of 16-year-old Samia Boota in Lahore on March 1, treated as murder.

# Honouring Commitment, Dedication & Excellence ! Rail Seva Puraskar



• 13 Railway Employees from ECoR HQ & Mancheswar Workshop Honoured with Rail Seva Puraskar 2024.

**MI News Service, Kolkata Bhubaneswar:** In recognition of their exemplary service, dedication, and outstanding performance, 13 railway employees from East Coast Railway (ECoR) Headquarters and Mancheswar Workshop were felicitated with the prestigious Rail Seva Puraskar 2024-25. The General Manager of East Coast Railway, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, graced the occasion and presented the awards to the selected employees for their significant contributions in their respective fields. Addressing the function, Shri Funkwal said that, dedicated employees are the backbone of the Railway System. Their hard work, commitment and excellence inspire all of us to achieve

greater heights. He also advised awardees to keep up the spirit of service and innovation. Senior Deputy General Manager Shri Bijay Kumar Mishra delivered the welcome address. The awardees include Shri Sanjaya Kumar Lenka, Senior Section Officer (Accounts), Shri Bikash Chandra Biswal, Office Superintendent, Commercial Department, Shri Kailash Chandra Sahoo, Senior Section Engineer (Electrical), Shri Shree Kant Mahato, Junior Engineer (Estimator), Civil Engineering, Shri Shubham Nanda, Senior Section Engineer (Track Machine), Shri Shashanka Sekhar Sahu, Senior Technician (Signal Interlocking Maintainer), Construction, Bhubaneswar, Shri Aditya Prasad Swain, Senior Section Engineer (Signal), Construction, Bhubaneswar, Shri Hruda Nanda Biswal, Sub-Inspector (Executive), RPF from ECoR Headquarters

and Shri Dil Bahadur Roka, Technician Grade-III (SMW), Shri Priyabrata Das, Senior Section Engineer (C&W), Shri Manasa Kumar Mohanty, Senior Section Engineer (C&W), Shri Chandra Kanta Sahani, Technician Grade-I (AC), Shri Dhananidhar Majhi, Staff & Welfare Inspector from Carriage Repair Workshop, Mancheswar. The event was attended by Additional General Manager Shri Mohes Kumar Behera, Principal Heads of Departments of ECoR, and Chief Workshop Manager of Carriage Repair Workshop, Mancheswar. This recognition underscores East Coast Railway's commitment to appreciating and encouraging its workforce for their invaluable contributions to the railway network. The Rail Seva Puraskar serves as a motivation for all railway employees to continue striving for excellence and efficiency in service.

## Growing China-Russia-Iran-North Korea cooperation poses multi-front threat to US: Report

**MI News Service Washington:** The rapidly intensifying cooperation among four major adversaries of the United States - China, Russia, Iran and North Korea --spotlighting that Russia's war in Ukraine is a catalyst that could drag the United States into a multi-front conflict according to a report. The annual report of worldwide threats to the national security of the United States by the US Intelligence Community released by the office of Director of National Intelligence has warned about the deepening ties between these nations--primarily in security and defence--amplifying individual threats and creating a formidable bloc challenging US global dominance.

It further mentioned China's pivotal role in amplifying the risks due to its ambitious goals and vast influence. "Cooperation among China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea has been growing more rapidly in recent years, reinforcing threats from each of them individually while also posing new challenges to US strength and power globally," the report said.

This alignment increases the chances of US tensions or conflict with any one of these adversaries drawing in another. China is critical to this alignment and its global significance, given the PRC's particularly ambitious goals and powerful capabilities and influence in the world," the report read. The assessment revealed that Russia's reliance on its partners has surged amid the Ukraine conflict, with North Korea supplying munitions, missiles, and troops under a June 2024 strategic pact; Iran providing UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles) in exchange for advanced military support; and China bolstering Moscow's war machine with dual-use materials and components. "Trade between China and Russia has soared since the war began, helping Moscow withstand US sanctions," the report noted, while Russia's oil and LNG exports to China further cushion its economy.

This alignment, accelerated by the Ukraine war, heightens the danger of a US confrontation with one nation pulling in others, a scenario the report deems increasingly likely regardless of the conflict's outcome.



Nurul Islam Khan

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## Distribution of Eid clothes at Panchla in Howrah



Nurul Islam Khan

Iftar Majlis and Eid clothes distribution were held at Rajkholā Siddiqiyya Darbar, Howrah Panchla on Wednesday. Pirzada Syed Alamgir Hossain delivered a short speech. He gave a brief statement on the occasion of the month of Ramadan. The powerful speaker of Furfura Sharif, Pirzada Sawban Siddiqi, offered prayers. The chief guest was Maulana Mohammed Mahiuddin Siddiqi (present Gaddishin Pir Sahab) was the director of Allama Jamaluddin Siddiqiyya Educational and Welfare Trust. On this day, Eid clothes were handed over to many poor people, both men and women, at Rajkholā Siddiqiyya Darbar Sharif. Countless people were served iftar at the meeting. Prayers were offered for the well-being of all humanity, especially for the innocent people of Gaza.

## Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus departs for four-day visit to China



**MI News Service, Dhaka:** Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus departed for China on Wednesday for a four-day visit. During the visit, Muhammad Yunus will hold bilateral talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on March 28, Bangladesh Foreign Ministry officials said. The officials said the two nations will sign a few number of deals during Yunus' visit to China. Earlier this month, the Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka, Yao Wen, met with Muhammad Yunus. Yao Wen said the upcoming official visit of the Chief Adviser to China would be the most important one in the 50-year-long relationship between the two "trustworthy" and close friends. Professor Yunus would deliver a speech on Asia in a Changing World: Towards a Shared Future. The Chinese executive vice premier will also join him during the session. During the visit, Yunus would join and speak at the Boao Forum, considered the Davos of the East, where top leaders and CEOs gather every year to discuss top global issues, the statement said. The ambassador said Peking University, one of the world's top educational institutions, would confer an honorary doctorate to Professor Yunus during the visit. The Chief Adviser would also speak at the university, it added. Longi, the largest solar panel manufacturer in the world, has decided to set up an office and invest in solar panel manufacturing in Bangladesh, as Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said.

### JHARKHAND U-20 JUNIOR WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP CUM SELECTION TRIAL ON MARCH 29

MI CORRESPONDENT

**RANCHI** : To participate in the U-20 Junior National Wrestling Competition, Jharkhand State U-20 Junior Men Greco Roman Style Men and Women Freestyle one day wrestling competition cum selection trial will be organized on March 29 at 10 am at Ganpat Rai Indoor Stadium Khelgaon Ranchi. Wrestlers up to 20 years of age from 2005, 2006, 2007 can participate in this competition and participants of 17 years (2008 date of birth) can participate with a medical certificate / parental certificate. Players will be required to bring along with them the birth certificate issued by Panchayat or Nagar Parishad, Aadhar card, original and photocopy of residential certificate and their passport size photo to participate in the selection trial.



Rajasthan Royals' Yashasvi Jaiswal plays a shot during the match against Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League 2025, at Barsapara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)



### "I look up to Anirban Lahiri": Veer Ahlawat aims for Indian Open glory

**GURUGRAM (HARYANA)** : Indian professional golfer Veer Ahlawat is all set to tee off at the Indian Open, an event he knows well. The 29-year-old, who secured a DP World Tour card this season by winning the PGTI Order of Merit, will look to improve on his runner-up finish last year when play begins at the DLF Golf and Country Club on Thursday.

Ahlawat will be one of the 30 Indian golfers, including four amateurs, competing in the prestigious tournament, which boasts a prize purse of US\$2.25 million. This marks his fifth appearance at the event, and after finishing tied second in 2024, he is determined to take it one step further.

Ahlawat credits some of India's finest golfers for shaping his journey in the sport. "I try to follow a lot of Indian golfers like Shubhankar Sharma and Jeev Milkha Singh. First of all, I'd like to do as well as they are doing on the European Tour and when it comes to the bigger stage, I look up to Anirban Lahiri," Veer told ANI.

Every professional golfer faces hurdles on their journey, and for Ahlawat, financial constraints were one of the biggest challenges

in his early days. "Funding was an issue in the beginning. As a professional golfer, you have to start travelling abroad, and that costs a lot. Finding sponsors early on is difficult, but I was fortunate enough to get a few, and that helped me," he explained.

As he prepares to compete in one of India's biggest golf tournaments, mental strength is key for Ahlawat. He has developed a simple yet effective routine to stay calm before stepping onto the course.

"I do a little meditation before my round to calm myself. Talking to my parents or my wife also helps me relax before a big tournament," he shared.

With Indian golf steadily growing, Ahlawat believes the sport is on the right track but can still reach greater heights. "Golf in India is getting way better now. You see a lot of young kids doing really well, and the scores of junior golfers, what kind of rounds they are shooting now. So that's really getting better. The golf courses we have today match international standards, which is helping young golfers develop their game," he said.

## JSCA Life member UK Singh passes away



MI CORRESPONDENT

**RANCHI** : A condolence meeting was organised at JSCA Stadium on March 26th at 3 PM on the sudden demise of JSCA Life Member UK Singh. Singh passed away in a road accident near Durgapur on 22nd March 2025.

Singh joined TISCO, Jamshepur as GT after completing his Civil Engineering degree

from BIT Mesra in 1986-87. Presently he was running his own business in Kolkata. Singh's demise is an irreparable loss to the JSCA family. JSCA President Sanjay Sahay, Secretary Debashish Chakraborty, Joint Secretary P N Singh, Executive Member Mihir Toppo, former Vice President Ajaynath Shahdev, life member Sanjay Pandey, Raj Kumar Sharma, Vibhuti Bhushan,

Shambhu Sinha, Ramesh Kumar, Nitin Saraf, Pankaj Singh, S B Singh, Surendra Kumar, Chanchal Dutt Gupta, Pankaj Sahay, Ranjeet Singh and other officers and employees of JSCA were present in today's condolence meeting. All the officers and members present paid homage by laying flowers on the photo of Singh and observed two minutes of silence and prayed to God for the peace of his soul.

### Jacob Duffy continues to soar to new heights in latest ICC T20I Bowling rankings

**DUBAI [UAE]** : New Zealand's quick Jacob Duffy's phenomenal rise in the ICC Men's T20I Bowling Rankings continued following his stellar display in the home series against Pakistan.

New Zealand's dominant performances against the Men in Green have led to their young and rising stars making moves in the ICC rankings. Before the fifth T20I on Wednesday, New Zealand marched to Wellington with an unassailable 3-1 lead in the series.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) issued the latest men's rankings on Wednesday, and Duffy continued to rise to new heights, leaping seven places and into fifth spot in the T20I Bowling Rankings with 694 rating points.

His tremendous surge comes in the aftermath of a 23-spot jump the previous week. Duffy had attained a new career-high rating after taking six wickets from the opening two matches of the series. He went on to claim five scalps in the subsequent two games.

For the touring party, it was tearaway Haris Rauf who enjoyed an 11-spot jump to 15th (632 rating points) after returning with figures of 3/27 (4) and 3/29 (4) in the previous two games. His compatriot Abbas Afridi jumped eight spots to 36th, making him another notable mover in the rankings.

Australia's explosive batter, Travis Head, remains at the top of the T20I rankings for batters. He is currently leading ahead of India's Abhishek Sharma and England's Phil Salt.

New Zealand's Mark Chapman was the biggest mover with the bat, moving 10 spots to 41st following his thunderous 44-ball 94 on top of a quick-fire 24.

In the All-Rounder rankings of the format, New Zealand's captain for the series, Michael Bracewell, made a notable move. He climbed 12 spots to 14th (141), scoring 46\* from 26 balls and 31 from 18 against Pakistan.

There were also a couple of changes in the latest T20I rankings following a recent series between Namibia and Canada after their League 2 leg at the new FNB Cricket Ground in Windhoek.

Namibia's Gerhard Erasmus kept his spot in the top ten from the All-Rounder rankings (164), while teammate Niko Davin climbed 27 spots (68th) in the batting rankings (450 rating points), courtesy of an unbeaten fifty in the final match to secure a 3-0 series win.

### KIPG 2025 spotlight: Ex-Army sniper Amir Ahmad Bhat aims Paralympics medal to set new benchmark in life

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : On the rugged landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, Amir Ahmad Bhat's story is a testament to his determination. Starting off as a Junior Commissioned Officer from the Indian Army, Bhat's life took an unexpected turn during a mission on the Line of Control in 2018 when he sustained a severe injury from a mine blast that could have ended his life, said an official statement from Khelo India Para Games (KIPG).

The 30-year-old sharp-shooter from Anantnag, who won silver in the Mixed 25m Pistol SH1 event at the ongoing Khelo India Para Games, did not let this deter him from returning to the line of fire. It was this desire that took Amir Ahmad Bhat to the Paris 2024 Paralympics as well, becoming the first para shooter from the Army and from Jammu and Kashmir to qualify for the quadrennial sports extravaganza.

"I was a sniper in the Army, trained in firing techniques," Bhat told SAI Media, as quoted from KIPG 2025 Media Release.

"When my injury happened, I did not know anything about shooting as a sport," he added.

The moment that could have defined him by limitation instead became a turning point. Encouraged by a supportive colonel who saw potential beyond his injury, Bhat was invited to try para shooting.

In a remarkably short span, he has gone from a military sniper to a Paralympic athlete. By 2022, just two years after starting para shooting, Bhat had already made significant marks on the international stage. He has participated in seven international competitions, winning multiple medals including gold and silver at the Para World Championships.

His recent achievement at the Khelo India Para Games 2025 is another milestone in his extraordinary journey. In addition to his silver, Bhat also qualified for the finals of the Men's 50m Pistol SH1, where he finished 8th.

The Indian Army's Marksmanship Unit played a



crucial role in his development, providing specialized training and support that is emblematic of the institution's commitment to its soldiers.

"In the Army, it doesn't matter if you're able or disabled," Bhat emphasized.

"You are given the same respect and opportunities," he noted.

This philosophy has been the cornerstone of his transformation, proving that his challenges are not barriers but opportunities for reinvention.

For aspiring athletes facing similar challenges, Amir Ahmad Bhat has a powerful message, "Don't be afraid. Come and shoot. Shooting can become a way of life, a path to reinvention."

As he continues to prepare for future competitions, Bhat's words resonate with the power of resilience, hope, and the extraordinary potential of the human spirit.

## Siefert, Neesham shine as New Zealand beat Pakistan in 5th T-20I to win series 4-1

**WELLINGTON [NEW ZEALAND]** : With Tim Siefert's unbeaten 50 and James Neesham's five-wicket haul hosts New Zealand stormed to victory over Pakistan in the fifth and final T20I of the series at the Sky Stadium held in Wellington on Wednesday.

With this victory, the Blackcaps sealed the five-match series against the Men in Green with a scoreline of 4-1. Neesham was awarded the Player of the Match for his flier, and Siefert was given the Player of the Series award for his exceptional batting performance throughout the five matches.

Chasing a mere total of 129 runs, the Kiwis started very well, making 92/0 in the power-play with Tim Siefert being the aggressor of the two, where he slammed 63 runs off just 26 balls and Finn Allen scored 27 runs from 11 balls.

Sufiyan Muqem gave Pakistan some relief after taking the wicket of Finn Allen in the seventh over. Allen made a contribution of 27 runs in 12 balls with the help of six and five fours.



Mark Chapman walked in next to bat after Allen, but he was also dismissed by Muqem in the ninth over when the team score was 103.

After Chapman, Daryl Mitchell walked in and scored 2\* (4). In the tenth over, Tim Siefert took charge again over Pakistan's vice-captain Shadab Khan, hitting him for four sixes in an over and taking New Zealand over the

winning line.

Tim Siefert played a blissful inning of 97 runs in just 37 bowls, with ten sixes and six fours, striking at 255. After Siefert, Chapman was the top scorer for NZ with 27 runs.

Muqem was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan as he took two wickets and gave away just six runs in two overs of his spell. Besides him, all the other

Pakistan bowlers got hampered by the Kiwi batters. Jahandad Khan bowled two overs and gave 43 runs whereas Mohammad Ali bowled two overs and gave 27 runs. Experienced fast bowler Haris Rauf also went wicketless, giving 22 runs in his two overs. Pakistan's vice-captain also had a tough outing, going wicketless and giving away 33 runs in his two overs.

Batting first, Pakistan managed to score 128 in their 20 overs. Captain Salman Agha was the only batter to score runs. He smashed a fifty (51 off 39), which led Pakistan to a manageable total. Hasan Nawaz got out in the second over, falling on zero to Jacob Duffy.

In the fifth over, Mohammad Harris also got out after scoring 11 runs. The right-hand batter fell to Ben Sears without troubling the score much. Omair Yusuf also got out in the sixth over, falling to Jacob Duffy for seven runs.

Pakistan lost wickets at regular intervals. Usman Khan and Abdul Samad, both batters, went to the pavilion before the 11th

over. Pakistan were 52-5 in the 11th over when Salman Agha and Shadab Khan built a fifty-run partnership before Shadab got out on 28 runs. He gave away his wicket to Neesham.

After Shadab, Pakistan went from 106-6 to 123-9 in the next three overs, with Neesham taking all the wickets. Salman Agha was the top scorer for Pakistan, followed by Shadab Khan with 28 (20).

Neesham was the pick of the bowler in the Kiwi innings in his four overs he gave away 22 runs and took five wickets, Jacob Duffy also bowled well he took two wickets in four overs and gave away only 18 runs. Ben Sears and Ish Sodhi took a wicket each in their quota of four overs, William O'Rourke went wicketless but bowled all his four overs with a decent economy of 7.20 giving away 29 runs.

Brief scores- Pakistan 128/9 in 20 overs (Salman Agha 51, Shadab Khan 28, James Neesham 5/22) vs New Zealand 131/2 in 10 overs ( Tim Siefert 97\*, Finn Allen 27, Sufiyan Muqem 2/6).

### "Priyansh was outstanding": Aakash Chopra glorifies Priyansh Arya's debut innings against Gujarat Titans

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : Former Indian cricketer Aakash Chopra has expressed his thoughts on debutant Priyansh Arya's innings in Indian Premier League 2025 against Gujarat Titans (GT). Speaking on Jio Hotstar, Aakash Chopra said he was initially hesitant about Priyansh Arya's ability to succeed in the IPL due to his uncapped status. However, he was impressed by Arya's performance, particularly his ability to stay inside the line and hit straight drives effectively.

"To be honest, I was a little circumspect at first. After all, he is an uncapped Indian player. Yes, he performed well in the Delhi Premier League, but the IPL is a completely different challenge. Playing in the world's biggest stadium and facing a baptism by fire against bowlers like Mohammed Siraj and Kagiso Rabada is no easy task—it's a batter's nightmare, in a sense. But Priyansh was outstanding. He stays inside the line quite a bit, allowing him access to the offside. The one stroke that truly stood out for me was his straight drive." Aakash Chopra said while speaking on Match center live on Jio Hotstar.

Punjab Kings (PBKS) granted young batting talent Priyansh Arya his debut in their IPL 2025 opener against the GT. The 24-year-old opener responded with a vibrant 47 off 23 to set PBKS off to an excellent beginning.

The left-handed batsman was purchased by PBKS for INR 3.8 crores at the auction following several impressive outings in domestic cricket. This performance included a six and a four off back-to-back deliveries in the second over bowled by senior Indian pacer Mohammed Siraj.

PBKS achieved a close win against GT in a high-scoring match in the current Indian Premier League (IPL) on Tuesday. While defending an impressive total of 243/5, Punjab succeeded in limiting Gujarat to 232/5, clinching an exciting 11-run victory.

Shreyas Iyer guided his team to an exciting 11-run triumph against GT in the current IPL on Tuesday. Iyer delivered a match-winning performance, staying not out on 97 from only 42 balls.

Shashank Singh also contributed significantly with a powerful innings of 44 runs from just 16 balls, attacking the bowling from the outset of his innings. The energetic PBKS pair of Shreyas and Shashank accumulated 77 runs in the final four overs, leaving GT shaken in their own territory.

