

## 'My model of governance doesn't allow discrimination', says Mamata Banerjee at Kellogg College in Oxford

**MI News Service, London / Kolkata :** Highlighting the importance of inclusive development in the society and stating that any division in society is bound to be counter-productive, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has reiterated that the model of her governance does not allow any discrimination as she prioritises the welfare of all sections of society.

Addressing a packed gathering at Kellogg College at the University of Oxford on Thursday evening, the day before the conclusion of her five day trip to England, the Chief minister emphasising the importance of inclusive development, said "If I die, before my death, I want to see unity. Unity is our strength, and division leads to our fall. This was Swami Vivekananda's belief. Keeping unity is a difficult task, but dividing people takes only a moment. Do you think the world could any longer sustain such divisive ideology?"

She said "When I am in the chair, I cannot divide the society. I have to look after the weaker sections and the poor. We have to work hard for them. At the same time, we must work for all religions, castes, and creeds together, move forward with them, and help them".

Speaking on the issue of 'Social Development - Girl, Child and Women Empowerment in West Bengal', Chief minister Mamata Banerjee turned her attention towards the unity in diversity in her state West Bengal and said "people in my state celebrate all festivals together without any discrimination. We have about 11 crore people in our state -- almost like a big country. Our beauty lies in the fact that more than 33 per cent of our people belong to minority communities, including Muslims, Christians, Buddhists and Gorkhas. Around 6 per cent are tribals, and 23 per cent belong to Scheduled Castes. People of every caste, creed, and religion stay together and love each other," she said and underlined the need



for a human-centric approach for a good governance.

"Our mission is to ensure that there is no discrimination among students, women, farmers, and workers. We must consider all people as human beings. Without humanity, this world cannot run, continue, or sustain -- I firmly believe so," she said.

But as she was addressing the learned gathering a group of people stood up and raised questions about the RG Kar Medical College case and post-poll violence in West Bengal.

A video of the authenticity of which was not verified by MI posted in the social media showed that a handful of people in the audience raised some questions during Mamata Banerjee's speech at the Kellogg College auditorium in Oxford in London. They also raised slogans against the rape and murder of the lady doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital last year, crimes against women in Sandeshkhali and instances of alleged corruption in the state.

The video also showed that facing several interruptions during which someone in the audience raised a question about the Hindus in Bengal, Mamata Banerjee said "I am for all. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians," keeping her cool.

Also addressing one of the protesters as "brother", the Chief minister said "Please remember this... and don't do politics. It's very easy to do politics here and create negative narratives."

In another video posted by the her party the ruling Trinamool Congress, the Chief Minister was seen smilingly responded to the protestors saying, "You encourage me, Please smile with a hope that Didi will come every time, Didi don't get bothered, Didi don't bother anybody, Didi walk just like a Royal Bengal Tiger and if you can catch me."

Posting the video, Trinamool Congress said, "She (Mamata Banerjee) doesn't flinch. She doesn't falter. The more you heckle, the fiercer she roars. Mamata Banerjee is a Royal Bengal Tigress!"

Later in a statement the Students Fed-

eration of India in the UK (SFI UK) owned the responsibility for the protests saying, "SFI-UK held a demonstration in Kellogg College, Oxford against Mamata Banerjee's speech. We opposed her blatant lies by asking her for evidence of the social development she claims to pioneer. Instead of allowing us to peacefully express our opinions, the police were called

Mamata Banerjee in her speech, had, however, disagreed with the claim of the Narendra Modi government that India will become the world's number one economy by 2060 after becoming the 5th largest economy by 2030.

"I will differ that, she said" Incidentally, before wrapping up her brief visit to London on Friday, this was Mamata Banerjee's most important engagement where she addressed mainly the students of the Kellogg College of the world famous and prestigious of Oxford University on Thursday evening. (local time).

According to informed sources, lot of interests and enthusiasm were generated in Oxford near the British capital prior to her much anticipated address. The interest among the Oxford University students was so great that the authorities were forced to close the registration for the entry into the seminar hall of the college, a day before the programme on Thursday evening due to 'heavy rush'.

Though there was no entry fee, as per rules the name would have to be registered beforehand for an entry into the Kellogg College auditorium

Before her address, the Chief minister went round the college premises and was showed several artifacts and important documents in the college museum by the authorities. Later she also held a private meeting with the Oxford University authorities. Since this will be her last official engagement in London, Mamata Banerjee will return to Kolkata on Friday night via Dubai.

## Mamata Banerjee visits historic places of Oxford before addressing students at Kellogg College

**MI News Service, London :** In her last official engagement before wrapping up her five day visit to London, West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee addressed a packed gathering of mostly students of Kellogg College of the world famous Oxford university on Thursday evening.

But on reaching Oxford from London in a tourist bus (instead of any official car), in the morning, Mamata Banerjee went round the university campus for a while and visited various milestones of the ancient city to know about their history.

Accompanied by senior officials of the university, the Chief minister was taken to a number of centuries old buildings like the Sheldonian Theatre and the Bodleian Library. She was told that the Oxford University convocation is held every year at the Sheldonian Theatre.

At the Bodleian library, Mamata Banerjee stood in front of huge book shelves which were used to remain tied with chains for security reasons until the 18th century, although that custom is no longer applicable now. This library was built in the early 16th century by the English diplomat Thomas Bradlee and now holds 13 million books. It is the second largest library in the United Kingdom after the British Library in London.

Then she was taken to the Divinity School in front of the library. The huge hall where three Harry Potter films were shot. While Mamata Banerjee was watching with rapt attention the artwork of the Gothic structures and listening to the guide's tale of the ancient history, an elderly professor was seen taking class in that hall with about 15 students.

Martin School also stands tall on Kate Street within the university campus and 'Indian Institute' is seen carved on that multi-storey building. The writing has, however, faded with the passage of time. The guide narrating stories about the building, said that the Indian Civil Service (ICS) courses were used to be taught

here. However, after independence, ICS was replaced by IAS in India. While listening, Mamata showed Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Industries Secretary Vandana Yadav, who were also accompanying her, that they are the successors of that history.

Every building, every courtyard, every wall of Oxford carries the history of British education. Oxford, the oldest university of the British era, was set up in the 11th or 12th century. Initially, only religious education was taught. But incidentally, the then well known Indian Universities like Taxila or Nalanda were established long before that (even before the birth of Christ). However, due to various reasons, they have also disappeared in the passage of time. At present, Oxford is the second oldest surviving university in the world.

After the hour long tour of the Oxford university campus, the Chief minister left for her major programme where she addressed the students of the Kellogg College. However just prior to her address she participated in a private meeting with students and researchers of the Department of Indian Affairs and discussed with the authorities on several issues.

Earlier former BCCI Chief and Indian cricket captain Sourav Ganguly joined the Chief minister at Oxford to remain present at her lecture.

On reaching Oxford - the 'University Town' of Great Britain, Mamata took a brief stroll along the Kellogg College too, where former Pakistani Prime Minister and former cricketer Imran Khan also studied. Mamata also walked past the traditional Oxford Cricket Ground. The field where Imran used to play. Even before that, Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi. Incidentally, both Imran and Tiger Pataudi are 'Oxford Blues'. Just as former US President Bill Clinton is on the list of notable students of Oxford, so is former Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Oscar Wilde is also on the list. The current Emperor of Japan, Naruhito, also has his name engraved on the list.

## Earthquake of 7.3 magnitude hit Bangladesh too, but no damage done



**MI News Service, Dhaka:** A strong earthquake of magnitude of 7.3 in the Richter scale was also felt in Bangladesh, including Dhaka and Chattogram, along with various parts of neighbouring Myanmar and Thailand on Friday.

However, no casualties were reported so far in the tremor which struck at 12-25 p.m. local time..

According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, the earthquake had its epicentre at Mandalay in Myanmar near the Bangladesh border.

The distance from Dhaka to the epicentre is 597 kilometres. Today's earthquake (of 7.3 magnitude) in the region has been classified as a major seismic event, according to Md Rubayat Kabir, the senior official at the Dhaka Earthquake Observation and Research Centre of the Meteorological Department, who also said the epicentre was 16 kilometres north-northwest of Sagaing, Myanmar, at a depth of 10 kilometres.

The earthquake which was also felt rather mildly in the Northeastern region of India besides as far as in Kolkata, has caused panic among the people, though there was no report of any damage.

Meanwhile, Prime minister Narendra Modi has assured both the governments of Thailand and Myanmar of all assistance to deal with this major natural disaster in which several people were reportedly killed and injured in both the countries besides causing some damage to property.

## Massive earthquake hits Bangkok and Myanmar, mild shock felt in Kolkata, Imphal

**MI News Service, Kolkata / Imphal/ Bangkok:** After a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, mild tremors were also felt in Kolkata and Imphal on Friday morning.

Informing this the India Meteorological Department (IMD), here said though there was no reports of any damage to property or loss of life in Kolkata and in the Northeast due to the mild nature of the tremor, its epicentre was located in central Myanmar, about 50 km east of the city of Monywa near the Thai border.

However, at least three people were killed and about 47 others remained missing till late in the evening, official sources said.

In Manipur, tremors caused panic among residents of Thangal Bazar area in Imphal, where many people rushed out of their houses as a large number of old multi-storey buildings are located there. However, no damage has been reported so far, police said.

But a high-rise building under construction in Bangkok collapsed after a 7.7 magnitude tremor struck the city of over 20 million. A video circulated on social media showed the multi-story building with a crane on top collapsing into a cloud of dust, while onlookers screamed and ran, official sources said adding at least three people were killed and about 47 others



remained missing till late in the evening.

Two strong earthquakes within a short span rocked Myanmar and Thailand on Friday morning with its impact being felt in several Northeastern states including Manipur and Meghalaya, in addition to as far as Kolkata, official sources said.

The first earthquake of 7.7 magnitude struck around 11:50 am while the second earthquake of 7.2 magnitude occurred around 12:02pm, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

However, there was no report of any damage in Manipur which shares over 390km long international border with Myanmar. "We felt the shock of the first earthquake as the water in our pond was shaking", a resident of Kang-

jabi Leirak Nagamapal in Imphal Town said.

Meanwhile, the Bangkok Police told The Associated Press that they were responding to the scene near Bangkok's popular Chatuchak Market, and had no immediate information on how many workers were on the site at the time of the collapse of the multi-storied building.

The US Geological Survey and Germany's GFZ center for geosciences said the earthquake was a shallow 10km (6.2 miles), with an epicenter in Myanmar.

The quake forced the suspension of some metro and light rail services in Bangkok, where Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra declared a state of emergency. Earthquakes are relatively common in Myanmar, where six

strong quakes of 7.0 magnitude or more struck between 1930 and 1956 near the Sagaing Fault, which runs north to south through the centre of the country, according to the USGS.

Meanwhile, in Myanmar the strong 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit the central regions of Myanmar. According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the midday tremor was at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres.

As the effect of two subsequent strong tremors were felt in the greater Bangkok area, which is home to more than 17 million people and many of whom live in high-rise apartments, residents were seen fleeing from these apartments. Panic struck residents poured out of high-rise condominiums and hotels in densely populated central Bangkok. They remained in the streets, seeking shade from the midday sun in the minutes after the quake.

"I heard it, and I was sleeping in the house. I ran as far as I could in my pyjamas out of the building," Duangjai, a resident of popular tourist city Chiang Mai, said after tremors were felt across northern and central Thailand. The quake was forceful enough to send water sloshing out of pools, as the tremor shook.

Many buildings were evacuated as they swayed in the rare quake.

## Bangladeshi held in Mumbai for Nagpur violence link



**MI News Service, Mumbai :** In a major breakthrough, the Mumbai Crime Branch police arrested a Bangladeshi national and a resident of Nagpur on Thursday from Dadar in Mumbai on dual charges of allegedly staying illegally in the country and his possible involvement in the March 17 violence in Nagpur.

Azizul Nizanul Rahman (29) was taken to the Dadar police station where investigations have begun to find out whether the identified Bangladeshi national had a role in the violence.

According to a crime branch official, "As he is an illegal resident of Hasanbaug in Nagpur, we suspect he was in the city at the

time of the violence and had come to Dadar just a few days ago. Rahman, a daily wage labourer, has admitted to obtaining an Aadhaar card using forged documents".

"We are analysing his mobile phone tower location as part of the probe. We have also shared information about his arrest with our Nagpur counterparts," he said.

Mobs went on a rampage in central Nagpur areas on March 17 amid rumours that a 'chadar' with holy inscriptions was burnt during protests led by VHP and Bajrang Dal for the removal of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's tomb located in Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar district.

More than 110 persons have been arrested in connection with the violence, including the key accused Fahim Khan. "We will investigate whether there is a connection between Bangladeshi nationals and Nagpur violence. The Bangladeshi national who was arrested near Dadar Station

yesterday, there were inputs that he was coming to Mumbai via Pune, and lived in Nagpur. Investigation has begun to find out whether he had a role in the violence," the Mumbai Crime Branch stated further. Meanwhile, on March 25, more than 114 individuals were detained, and thirteen cases were registered in connection with the violence in Nagpur, which involved stone-pelting and vehicles being set on fire following rumours about a holy 'chadar' being burnt. Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Singal told media, "Action is continuously being taken against those involved in the incident. Thirteen cases have been filed in connection with the incident, and more than 114 people have been accused and detained. In a few instances, they (accused) were from outside, and some were from Nagpur." On Monday, the Nagpur Municipal

## PM Modi says India stands ready to offer all possible assistance on earthquake

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** Expressing deep concern over the devastating earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand on Friday morning, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said India stands ready to offer all possible assistance to both the countries to help them withstand the effects of this natural disaster.

The earthquake has rocked many parts of Thailand, including its capital Bangkok, the venue for next week's summit of BIMSTEC regional grouping, where Prime minister Modi is scheduled to attend along with other world leaders.

At least three people were killed and 47 remained missing in the collapsed building in Bangkok, official sources said.

"Concerned by the situation in the wake of the Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. Praying for the safety and wellbeing of everyone," Modi said on 'X'.

"India stands ready to offer all possible assistance. In this regard, asked our authorities to be on standby. Also asked the MEA to remain in touch with the Governments of Myanmar and Thailand,"



he said. Thai Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra has called an emergency meeting to assess the impact of the quake.

Besides India and Thailand, the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. At the Bangkok summit, the BIMSTEC leaders are expected to deliberate on ways and means to infuse greater momentum in co-operation among the member nations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reacting to the strong earthquake that

## Tragedy strikes: 10-year-old boy drowns after holy bath

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: A devastating incident occurred at the Barauni bath and fair in Jalpaiguri, where a 10-year-old school student, Vivek Roy, drowned in the River Karla on Friday. The tragic event has sent shockwaves through the community, with many questioning the safety measures in place at the ghat. According to eyewitnesses, Vivek had accompanied his parents to the fair and had gone to bathe in the river with his friends. His mother, who was waiting on the riverbank, witnessed her son drowning and raised an alarm. Local residents and fairgoers rushed to his rescue, pulling him out of the water and rushing him to Jalpaiguri Super Speciality Hospital. Despite medical efforts, Vivek was declared dead. The incident has sparked concerns about the lack of safety measures at the ghat, with Vivek's family members alleging that there was no specific plan in place for bathing at the ghat and no civil defense personnel were present to prevent accidents. The fair committee has expressed grief over the incident, but claimed that they had been using public address systems to warn people about the dangers of entering the river. Additional Superintendent of Police Shaubhanik Mukherjee has assured that an investigation will be conducted to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident. The police have also stated that adequate security arrangements were in place at the fair. The Barauni bath and fair, which is held annually, attracts thousands of devotees from across the district and beyond. The event, which features Ganga Aarti, will continue until April 3. The incident serves as a stark reminder of the importance of prioritizing safety and taking adequate precautions to prevent such tragedies.

## Young man's desperate act leaves family, community in shock

MI News Service, Nadia: A heart-breaking tale of love, betrayal, and tragedy has unfolded in Haskhali, Nadia, where a 24-year-old man, Prabir Biswas, alias papia, succumbed to death after consuming poison. The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, leaving Prabir's family and loved ones reeling in grief. According to family member, Prabir's life took a dramatic turn when he met a young woman over the phone while working outside Nadia. As their relationship blossomed, Prabir confided in family about his love affairs, and they accepted the relationship without hesitation. In fact, marriage plans were already underway. However, fate had other plans. Family members revealed that Prabir's worlds came crashing down when he discovered that his involved with another man. The revelation proved too much for Prabir to bear, and in a desperate act, he consumed poison in an attempt to end his life. Despite frantic efforts by family members to save him, Prabir was rushed to Bogula Rural Hospital and later transferred to Shaktinagar District Hospital. Unfortunately, his condition continued to deteriorate, and he eventually succumbed to his injuries, leaving behind a trail of tears and unanswered questions. Prabir's tragic demise has highlighted the devastating consequences of love, betrayal, and desperation. His family, who had already been struggling to make ends meet, is now grappling with the loss of their beloved son. The incident serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of seeking help and support during times of emotional turmoil. As the community comes to terms with Prabir's tragic end, his family and loved ones are left to pick up the pieces and navigate the dark waters of grief. The incident has also sparked concerns about the need for greater support systems and counseling service to help individuals cope with emotional distress.

## Successful Completion of the first batch of Women's Empowerment Training by Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha



MI News Service, Purulia: On March 20, 2025, the final examination of the first batch at the Anandanagar Apparel Training Centre, accredited by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), was successfully conducted. A total of 36 women trainees participated in the final assessment, which comprised practical, theoretical, and oral (viva) examinations—each designed to evaluate their comprehensive skill development. Held under the direct supervision of NSDC, this examination paves the way for successful candidates to receive an official certification from the National Skill Development Corporation, a credential that will enhance their expertise and open new avenues for self-reliance. This initiative marks a significant step forward in fostering women's empowerment, equipping them with the skills and confidence needed to build a self-sufficient future.



SIO members take part in a demonstration to protest against Israel aggression on Gaza, in Kolkata on Friday.

## Land dispute turns violent, pregnant woman allegedly kicked in stomach

MI News Service, Canning: A disturbing incident of violence has shaken the peaceful village of Herobhanga in Gopalpur panchayat, under Canning police station, leaving a pregnant woman seriously injured. The alleged attack, which occurred on Thursday night, is believed to be linked to a long-standing land dispute between two families in the area. According to local sources, the dispute between Panchu Sardar and Madhu Sardar's families has been ongoing for some time, with tensions periodically escalating to the point where local public representatives have had to intervene to broker a settlement. Despite these efforts, the dispute has continued to simmer, with Santu Sardar, allegedly

pressuring Madhu Sardar's family for money in recent days. Family members claim that the situation took a dark turn when bricks were thrown at their house, and they were constantly pressured for 10,000 taka. When Madhu Sardar was unable to pay the money, Santu allegedly launched a violent attack on Madhu's house on Thursday night. Eyewitnesses describe the scene as chaotic, with Madhu Sardar and his wife Savitri Sardar being brutally beaten. Their pregnant daughter, Neelima, who rushed to the scene after hearing their screams, was allegedly kicked in the stomach, leaving her seriously injured. Neelima was rushed to Canning Hospital, where she is currently receiving

ing treatment. The incident has created widespread tension in the area, with local residents expressing outrage and shock at the brutal attack. A complaint has been filed at Canning Police Station, and an investigation into the incident is underway. Police officials have assured that they will take swift action to bring the perpetrators to justice and ensure the safety and well-being of the victims. The incident highlights the dangers of land disputes turning violent and the need for effective dispute resolution mechanisms to prevent such incidents. It also underscores the importance of protecting vulnerable individuals, particularly pregnant women, from violence and harm.

## Left leaders clash with police in Siliguri on Anti-Unemployment Day

MI News Service, Siliguri: A tense standoff between police and left-wing activists, led by Meenakshi Mukherjee and Kaltan Dasgupta, unfolded in Siliguri today as the Democratic Youth Federation of India (DYFI) attempted to march to Uttarkanya, the state government's administrative headquarters, to press their demands for employment opportunities. The police, equipped with water cannons and iron barricades, blocked the protesters' path near the Tin Batir intersection, prompting the DYFI leadership

to sit down on the road in defiance. The police repeatedly announced over loudspeakers that the protesters were not permitted to proceed to Uttarkanya, leading to a heated exchange between the two sides. Meenakshi Mukherjee, visibly angered, questioned the police's decision to deploy water cannons and barricades, asking, "Who gives the order? We have come to protect democracy." Kaltan Dasgupta, another prominent leader, emphasized that the protesters' intention was to meet with ministers

and officers in Uttarkanya to discuss the plight of the unemployed. The DYFI, which has been vocal about the need for employment opportunities and education for all, organized the protest as part of Anti-Unemployment Day. The event highlights the growing concern over unemployment in the country, with the DYFI demanding that the government take concrete steps to address the issue. The situation remains tense, with the protesters refusing to back down and the police maintaining their blockade.

## TMC leader sentenced to 3 years in prison for attempted murder

MI News Service, Burdwan: Trinamool factional rivalry led to the attempted murder of the father of a ruling party panchayat member. In this 2017 case, the court sentenced Burdwan Development Board Chairman Kakli Ta to 3 years in prison and a fine of Rs 5,000. The rest were sentenced to 10 years in prison. In this case, the Burdwan court convicted 13 people, including the chairperson of the Burdwan Development Organization, the executive director of the Panchayat Samiti, the head

of the panchayat and the regional president of Trinamool. On September 5, 2017, a clash broke out between Trinamool Congress groups in Narigram Daspara, East Burdwan. The then Trinamool Congress panchayat member Jiban Pal and his father were injured in the incident. His wife Sandhyarani Pal filed a complaint with Burdwan police station on September 6. It was alleged that the incident severely damaged the eyes of Jiban Pal's father. The case was pending

in the court. On Monday, Fast Track Second Court Judge Arvind Mishra ordered the custody of 13 people in this case. The remaining two were acquitted. The convicted include Trinamool Congress's Burdwan 1 Block President and Burdwan Development Board Chairperson Kakli Ta Gupta, Burdwan 1 Block Youth President Manas Bhattacharya, Regional President Sheikh Jamal, Rayan Gram Panchayat President Kartik Bagh and other Trinamool Congress leaders and workers.

## Calcutta High Court orders immediate action over Mothabari unrest

MI News Service, Malda: The Calcutta High Court has intervened in the Mothabari unrest, directing the Superintendent of Police (SP) and District Magistrate (DM) to submit an 'action taken' report by Wednesday. This move comes amidst escalating tensions in the area, which have been ongoing since Thursday. Justice Soumen Sen's division bench emphasized the state's responsibility to ensure security, given the sensitivity of the incident. The court also noted that the central government does not appear to have a role in the mat-

ter at present. During the hearing, the state's lawyer presented statistics to demonstrate the efforts of the police and administration in calming the situation. According to the state, two shops were broken into during the incident, but the situation is now normal. The state has deployed 300 police personnel, including 7 inspectors and 5 DSPs, and has arrested 25 individuals in connection with the unrest. The court has also ordered the state to examine all video footage, including Facebook Live recordings. In response, the state in-

formed the court that they have received videos, some of which are authentic and others that are false. The situation in Mothabari, a border area in North Bengal, remains tense. The BJP has accused the ruling party of being silent on the issue. Meanwhile, the BSF has been working to contain the unrest, and the Home Ministry has responded to demands for additional troop deployment. BJP MLA Srirupa Mitra Chowdhury has thanked the Home Ministry, stating that Union Minister Amit Shah has ordered the deployment of BSF personnel in the area.

## 4th convocation of IIIT Kalyani

MI News Service, Kalyani: "Use the social media to build knowledge, not just connections," Dr. Satya Gupta, Chief Guest and President, VLSI Society of India, said following the degree recipients. He was delivering his lecture at the fourth Convocation of Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), Kalyani on Friday. He more said, "On average, young professionals spend 150 to 200 minutes daily on social media. If you invest just 10 percent of that time --15 to 20 minutes a day -- reading about your field on platforms, your knowledge will compound exponentially, giving you a matchless edge." However, 88 students graduated in Computer Science and Engineering (2020 - 2024), 6 students have completed on line M.Tech in AI and Data Science (2021- 2025) and 9 students achieved the Doctoral Degree in the convocation, Registrar, Dr. Kaushik Mukherjee said. Among other renowned personalities, there were Prof. Santanu Chattopadhyay, Director, IIIT, Kalyani, Prof. Satyabrat

De, Eminent Industrialist and Chairman of IIIT Kalyani, Ramji Singh, Executive Director, AIIMS Kalyani, and many others. Describing the students as sharper, smarter and better equipped, the Chief Guest Dr. Satya Gupta said them to be the job creator, not just the job seeker. "I urge at least 20 percent of you -- one in every five to transition from being an employee to an employer, creating at least 10 jobs," he iterated. Prof. Santanu Chattopadhyay, Director, IIIT, Kalyani said during his lecture that the placement record continues to be impressive. "For the batch graduated in 2024, placement percentage has been 89.33. The alumni of the institute are at Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Adobe, Nvidia, Jio, Goldman Sachs, TCS, Infosys, Capgemini, Qualcomm etc. to name a few." Chief Guest, Dr. Satya Gupta, Prof.(Dr.)Ramji Singh, Executive Director of AIIMS, Kalyani, Director of the institute, Prof. Santanu Chattopadhyay, esteemed members of the Board of Gov-



ernors and Senate, Registrar, beloved faculty members, proud parents, and, most importantly, our remarkable graduating class—what an honour it is to be here today at the 4th Convocation of this esteemed institute, IIIT Chairman, Satyabrata De said. "As Chairman of the Board of Governors, I am amazed at how quickly this institute has built a strong reputation. This success is a testament to the leadership of the Director, the dedication of our faculty, and the unwavering commitment of our staff, who deeply understand what students need to thrive academically and professionally. To



AIDWA, WB holds a protest rally against the imperialist war and genocidal massacre in Palestine by Israel's occupation forces. The rally started from the Lenin Statue and proceeded to the US Consulate in Kolkata. PIC:Prabir Bhattacharya

## Arjun Singh summoned to police station amid trust concerns

MI News Service, Barrackpore: In a dramatic turn of events, former MP Arjun Singh has refused to comply with a police summons for the second time, citing concerns over his safety. The BJP leader was ordered to appear at the Jagaddal police station by 2 pm on Friday, but he claimed to be out of the state on personal matters. This development comes after Singh was interrogated by a team of police officers at his residence on Thursday, following a summons notice that was served at 4 am. The notice had directed him to appear at the police station at 10 am, but Singh had countered that it was not possible for him to comply. The former MP is currently embroiled in a controversy surrounding the Jagaddal shooting and bombing incident, with Trinamool MLA Somnath Shyam leveling allegations against him. Singh has been critical of the police's handling of the case, and has expressed doubts about their intentions. In a statement, Singh said, "I have informed them that I have a Z category security guard with me. I do not go anywhere without a CISF clearance. How can they still summon me repeatedly?" He added, "I have no trust in the



police, the police will get me killed. Manish Shukla was also killed in this way here. I have to be given full security before going to the police station." The police have maintained that they have followed standard procedures in issuing the summons, and that Singh's refusal to comply is unwarranted. The standoff between Singh and the police continues, with the former MP insisting that he will not appear before the police until his safety concerns are addressed. Arjun claims that the police searched his house at night. He was questioned. Even then, why was he summoned again to the police station for questioning? Justice Tirthankar Ghosh allowed the case. He, however, said that he is out of the state on personal matters. That is why he is not going. In his words, "It is not that I have to go whenever the police call. They have no work, I have work. I will go at my own time. For now, I am out on party work."

## Out-of-control road roller wrecks havoc in Gangarampur, crushing shops and sparking chaos

MI News Service, South Dinajpur: A devastating incident occurred in the Kalitala area of Gangarampur town in Dakshin Dinajpur district on Friday afternoon, when a road roller lost control while descending from a bridge and crushed three temporary shops on the side of the road. Fortunately, local residents and pedestrians narrowly escaped harm, but the incident sparked a widespread panic and outrage. An agitated crowd subsequently attacked the road roller driver, who was severely beaten and left half-naked. Police personnel from Gangarampur Police Station, led by Town Babu Bishwajit Barman and Traffic OC Rajat Pradhan, rushed to the scene and rescued the driver

from the irate crowd. The police also confiscated the road roller and have launched an investigation into the incident. According to eyewitnesses, the road roller was traveling from Gangarampur Chowpatty to Maharajpur area when it lost control while crossing the Punarbhaba Bridge. The vehicle then careened out of control, demolishing a pan masala shop, a lottery shop, a sugarcane juice shop, and a bhut bhuti stall located along National Highway No. 512. The incident has raised concerns about road safety and the need for stricter regulations to prevent such accidents in the future. The police administration is currently investigating the matter and taking statements from witnesses.

## Tensions run high in as border unrest spreads

MI News Service, Malda: The situation in the Mothabari area of Malda, a border region in North Bengal, has taken a turn for the worse, with tensions and clashes erupting since Thursday. The unrest, which originated in a small area, has quickly escalated into a full-blown political crisis, with the BJP accusing the ruling party of "silence" and taking to the streets in protest. In response to the growing unrest, the Border Security Force (BSF) has been forced to step up its border management efforts, deploying additional personnel to the affected areas. According to sources, the Union Home Ministry has ordered the deployment of 87 BSF jawans to Mothabari and other areas where the unrest has spread. The police force has also been directed to provide support to the BSF, with the Home Ministry issuing instructions for the security forces to patrol the entire area and take strict action to deal with the situation. BJP state president Sukant Majumdar has reportedly requested the deployment of more forces in the area, citing concerns over the safety and security of local residents. The tensions in Malda's Mothabari area are part of a larger pattern of unrest along the India-Bangladesh border, which has been plagued by disputes over fencing and border management. The situation has been further complicated by the presence of villages and homes along the border, which has made it difficult to construct fencing in some areas. As the situation continues to unfold, local residents and authorities are bracing themselves for further clashes and tensions.

## Massive fire breaks out in Bardhaman shops, smokes engulfs nearby health center

MI News Service, West Bardhaman: A massive fire broke out in the William Carey area of Durgapur on Friday morning, causing widespread destruction and panic. The blaze, which was triggered by a cylinder blast at a bicycle shop, spread rapidly to adjacent buildings, including a goldsmith shop, which was reduced to ashes. Eyewitnesses claim that the bicycle shop was engaged in illegal gas refilling, with the owner allegedly filling small cylinders from larger ones. This illicit activity is believed to have caused the cylinder pipe to burst, resulting in the blast and subsequent fire. The nearby health center was also severely affected, with toxic smoke engulfing the facility and forcing its closure for several hours. Patients, including pregnant women and children, were turned away, and medical staff were left shaken. "We came to the health center at 9:30, and when we arrived, we saw that the health center was covered in toxic smoke due to the fire," said Dr. Nirmalyadeb Banerjee, the officer-in-charge of the health center. "We have informed the higher authorities about the matter." Two police and fire engines were deployed to the scene, and efforts were made to bring the fire under control. However, the blaze caused significant damage, with two CCTV cameras of the Asanol Durgapur Police Commissionerate also being destroyed. The incident has raised concerns about the dangers of illegal gas refilling and the need for stricter regulations and enforcement. An investigation into the matter is currently underway.

er. But more importantly, failure is a teacher. Learn from it, iterate, and grow.  
2. Invite Criticism – Don't shy away from feedback. Use it as a mirror to identify your weaknesses and an opportunity to sharpen your skills. Every critic can teach you something valuable.  
3. Forget – Forget point 1 and point 2. Don't let failure or criticism weigh you down. Take the lessons, but move forward without the baggage. Embrace the future with clarity and determination.  
You have the opportunity to make an impact that extends beyond your district, your state, and even your nation. This is your time to think globally, and act boldly.  
I have said this before, and I will say it again—you could be IIT's first unicorn founder or its first Bharat Ratna. Hold yourselves to the highest standards as you carve out your legacy. You are citizens of the world's greatest country and now alumni of one of its most promising institutions. Take pride in this identity and let it fuel your journey." Satyabrata Dey, Eminent Industrialist iterated.

Bangladeshi held in Mumbai...

►► From PG 1 Corporation's anti-encroachment squad demolished illegal constructions at the residence of the accused Yusuf Sheikh and Faheem Khan in connection with the Nagpur violence. This follows clashes in the city on March 17 over the demand for the removal of Aurangzeb's grave, with stones hurled at police amid rumours that a holy book of a community was burnt during an agitation. On March 22, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that 92 people had

been arrested in connection with the violence. Fadnavis, who also serves as the state's Home Minister, said earlier that the violence was triggered by rumours spread on social media. He also said that damages caused during the violence would be recovered from the rioters. "Whatever damage has happened will be recovered from the rioters. If they do not pay the money, their property will be sold for recovery. Bulldozers will also be used wherever required," Fadnavis had said earlier.

# Bratya Basu slams Guv over JU crisis, calls for SC intervention

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a dramatic turn of events, the acting Vice-Chancellor of Jadavpur University, Bhaskar Gupta, was abruptly removed from his position, just three days before his retirement. The official letter confirming his dismissal arrived on Friday, leaving the university administration in uncertainty about who will take over next. The decision has sparked widespread criticism, with no explanation provided for why Gupta was removed so close to his retirement. State Education Minister Bratya Basu strongly condemned the move, alleging that Jadavpur University is being deliberately pushed into a shutdown. Addressing the media, he stated, "First, Rabindra Bharati and Calcutta University were put on the path to a deadlock. Now, Jadavpur University is also being shut down."

Basu further announced his intention to seek Supreme Court intervention in the matter. He remarked, "The way the Vice-Chancellor was removed just three days before retirement, the manner in which he was insulted—I will appeal to the Supreme Court to examine this." Taking a direct swipe at Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, who also serves as the Chancellor of the university, Basu accused him of disrupting the state's higher education system. "The education system is being handled immaturely," he said. Basu also revealed that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had sent a panel of three names for the Vice-Chancellor's post over six weeks ago, but the Governor has not yet acted on it, thereby creating a state of paralysis within the university. The university has been embroiled in

turmoil since March 1, when violent protests broke out over the demand for student union elections. The protests intensified in the presence of Bratya Basu himself, signaling deep-seated tensions on campus. On Friday, Basu called out student groups that had opposed the installation of CCTV cameras on campus, challenging them to take a stance on the current crisis. "Those who have opinions on whether CCTV should be installed, I want to know their views on this deadlock," he said. In a sudden and unexpected decision, West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose, who also serves as the Chancellor of Jadavpur University, has removed Bhaskar Gupta from his position as the acting Vice-Chancellor of the prestigious institution. The announcement came on Friday, leaving the university without a Vice-Chancellor for the time being.

Gupta, who was recently hospitalized due to health issues following unrest at the university, stated that he had not personally received any official communication regarding his removal. However, the university registrar has already received a formal letter from the Raj Bhavan, confirming that the decision is effective from March 27. This means that as of Friday, Gupta no longer holds the post of Vice-Chancellor. With uncertainty looming over the university's leadership and governance, the controversy surrounding Jadavpur University's administration continues to escalate, raising serious questions about academic autonomy and political interference.

PM Modi says India stands...

►► From PG 1 jolted Myanmar Friday, said that he was concerned by the situation and was ready to offer all possible assistance. The mild effects of the a powerful 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Thailand and Myanmar was also felt in Kolkata and Imphal on Friday morning. Inform-

ing this the India Meteorological Department (IMD), here said though there was no reports of any damage to property or loss of life in Kolkata or in the Northeast due to the mild nature of the tremor, its epicentre was located in central Myanmar, about 50 km east of the city of Monywa near the Thai border.

Mithun Chakraborty's explosive remarks on internal struggles

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** With the West Bengal Assembly elections scheduled for next year, veteran actor and BJP leader Mithun Chakraborty has made a striking statement regarding his party's internal conflicts. Reflecting on the outcome of the 2021 elections, Chakraborty admitted that the BJP's failure was due to internal discord rather than competition with the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). Ahead of the 2021 elections, Chakraborty had actively campaigned for the BJP, drawing massive crowds across the state. At a recent event, he declared, "This time, we must win." Later, speaking to the media, he reiterated, "This time, we will definitely win." Chakraborty also emphasized that key BJP leaders, including state president Sukanta Majumdar and opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari, have been assigned specific responsibilities, as has he. When questioned about the BJP's failure in the previous election despite an extensive campaign, Chakraborty gave a candid response. "The bogus thing is that we weren't actually fighting against Trinamool. We were fighting among our-

selves," he said with a laugh, effectively blaming internal rivalries for the party's poor performance. Beyond addressing internal conflicts, Chakraborty made a strong appeal to Hindu voters. He urged the 9% of Hindu voters who did not support the BJP in the last election to reconsider their stance. He went on to claim that if the BJP fails to secure victory in the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections, Bengali Hindus could face a dire situation. His remarks signal an attempt to consolidate Hindu votes in the party's favor, aligning with the BJP's broader electoral strategy in the state. However, the ruling Trinamool Congress has dismissed Chakraborty's statements as inconsequential. TMC legislator Humayun Kabir scoffed at the BJP leader's remarks, stating, "Earlier, Mithun Chakraborty sat beside Amit Shah and claimed that if the BJP gained one crore members, the party would take control of Bengal. Even that target was not achieved. This time too, his words will not influence voters." Kabir further predicted that the BJP's vote share in West Bengal would decline even further in the 2026 elections.



Trinamool Mahila Congress, under the leadership of State Ministers Chandrima Bhattacharya and Shashi Panja, held a protest rally against the unethical display of posters targeting the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at an event in London. The rally commenced from Wellington in Kolkata on Friday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

## CBI submits report in RG Kar incident, denies gang rape allegation

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a crucial development in the RG Kar medical student death case, the CBI has informed the Calcutta High Court that there is no evidence of gang rape, as per their investigation and the medical board's report. The submission was made by CBI counsel Rajdeep Majumdar on Friday, when the agency presented the case diary and forensic findings before Justice Tirthankar Ghosh. Following the CBI's statement, Justice Ghosh questioned, "If it was not gang rape, what exactly are you investigating?" In response, the CBI clarified

that they are focusing on tampering with evidence and other related offenses. The court has now sought a list of individuals questioned so far and directed the CBI to submit the case diary received from Kolkata Police. The next hearing is scheduled for two weeks later. The case resurfaced after the victim's parents filed a petition in the High Court, following Supreme Court's approval. The CBI was tasked with investigating whether the medical student was subjected to murder or sexual assault. On Friday, the agency revealed that forensic DNA

tests had been conducted, and a 14-member medical board had examined the case, concluding that it was not a gang rape. Justice Ghosh then pressed further, asking if the CBI had identified only one accused. To this, the CBI confirmed that so far, their findings indicate the involvement of only one suspect. The victim's counsel, Sudipta Moitra, challenged this conclusion, criticizing police and CBI's handling of the case. He pointed out that key witnesses, including hospital authorities, were not questioned in the initial investigation. The court further inquired

about the progress of the CBI's current probe and why it has been delayed. The agency stated that they are examining all relevant individuals, including doctors and nurses, but could not provide a timeline for completing the investigation. State counsel Kalyan Banerjee criticized the delay, citing past cases like Rizwanur Rahman, where justice remains pending even after 18 years. While the CBI confirmed that their probe remains under judicial scrutiny, the court has instructed them to submit additional reports and provide clarity on their findings in the next hearing.

## Garden Cafe: A legacy of culinary excellence and hospitality

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Since 1968, Garden Café has been an integral part of Kolkata's vibrant culinary scene, earning a stellar reputation for quality, innovation, and customer satisfaction. With a rich legacy spanning over five decades, the brand has strategically expanded through franchising, strengthening its presence across the city. Celebrating yet another milestone, Garden Café has opened its newest outlet at Somponno Parkomat, Alipore, in collabora-

tion with 15 children from the Hope Foundation. The event was graced by the founder and owner, Sandip Nowlakhia, reflecting the brand's deep-rooted commitment to community and service. The latest addition to the Garden Café family offers a refined, air-conditioned space designed to accommodate 75 guests comfortably. The walls are adorned with exquisite murals by the renowned artist Babita Das, enhancing the sophisticated ambience.

## State Madrasas to implement holistic report card system; stipend doubled for residential students

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant reform for madrasa education in West Bengal, the Madrasa Education Board has announced the introduction of a Holistic Report Card system, following the model of the State Board of Secondary Education. This initiative aims to provide a comprehensive evaluation of students beyond traditional academics, focusing on their overall development. Additionally, the monthly stipend for residential madrasa students will be almost doubled—from 1,000 to 1,800.

Since this is a completely new evaluation method for madrasas, authorities have planned special training for teachers and staff. Training sessions will be conducted in hybrid mode immediately after the Eid holidays to ensure smooth implementation. However, some teachers have expressed concerns about the rushed rollout, warning that an improperly executed transition might lead to assessment errors.

According to reports, the Holistic Report Card system will be implemented within this academic year, covering students from Grades 1 to 8. This new approach aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) and guidelines from the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). The system will assess students not only on their academic performance but also on their social behavior, personality traits, and areas for improvement. Speaking to the media, Abu Taher Kamruddin, Chairman of the Madrasa Education Board, stated, "The Secondary Education Board has already initiated this system. We aim to enhance student-teacher engagement by introducing this holistic assessment model, ensuring well-rounded development for

The Holistic Report Card system will contain detailed student profiles, including their strengths, academic progress, personality traits, and areas requiring improvement. This model is already in practice under the State Secondary Education Board, and now it will be extended to madrasas. Apart from the new evaluation system, the state government has also increased financial support for madrasa students. Until now, residential students received 1,000 per month, but under the new policy, they will receive 1,800 per month to support their educational and living expenses. This initiative marks a progressive step toward modernizing madrasa education in West Bengal, ensuring students receive well-rounded development opportunities while benefiting from increased financial assistance.



Sundarban Tramjatra a festival of learning with climate change hotspot. This Tramjatra mainly focused on celebration and soul-searching with the largest mangrove system on earth and its neighbouring megacity, as they face extreme vulnerability to climate change, in Kolkata on Friday.

## One killed, another injured in dumper-scooter collision

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A tragic accident in the heart of Kolkata early Friday morning claimed the life of a woman when a municipal dumper collided with a scooter. The incident, which occurred on DC Dey Road, also left her husband critically injured. He is currently undergoing treatment at NRS Medical College and Hospital.



Muslim devotees offer prayers (namaz) on the last Friday of the 'Ramadan' month, known as 'Juma-Tul-Wida,' in front of Tipu Sultan Shahi Mosque in Kolkata on Friday.

The accident took place near 36, DC Dey Road in Tangra when a couple riding a scooter was hit by a speeding Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) dumper. The impact caused them to lose control and fall onto the road. While both were immediately rushed to NRS Hospital, doctors declared the woman dead upon arrival. The husband remains in critical condition. As of now, their identities have not been confirmed. The woman's body has been sent for post-mortem at the same hospital. Following the incident, Kolkata Police's Traffic Fatal Squad reached the site and launched an investigation. Authorities are focusing on multiple aspects, including whether the dumper was speeding and if the driver failed to take necessary precautions upon noticing the scooter. If any mechanical fault is found in the dumper, legal action might be initiated against the responsible parties.

## Shocking facts unfold in Patuli elderly woman's death

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A major breakthrough has emerged in the mysterious death of an elderly woman in Patuli. Preliminary findings from the post-mortem examination suggest that the woman was first strangled to death before her body was set on fire inside her residence. Meanwhile, her son, a bank employee, remains absconding. The city was left in shock on Wednesday after the charred body of 72-year-old Malavika Maitra was recovered from her apartment in Patuli. Since the incident, her son has been missing. Authorities have discovered that Malavika had approximately 9 lakh in her bank account, which has now been frozen to prevent any unauthorized withdrawals by her son. The circumstances surrounding her death have deepened the mystery. Eyewitness ac-

counts indicate that Malavika was found lying on the bed inside her room. Strangely, only her body and the bed were burnt, while the rest of the room remained largely unaffected. Investigators also discovered a pillow placed over her face. These clues led forensic experts to suspect that she was first strangled and then set ablaze to possibly destroy evidence. According to local sources, Malavika lived in a rented apartment in Patuli's Vidyasagar Colony with her son. On Wednesday around 12:30 PM, neighbors noticed smoke billowing from the flat and immediately alerted the fire department. However, when fire officials and police arrived, they found the apartment's main door locked from the outside. Upon breaking in, they discovered her burnt body inside the room. The circumstances of her

death have raised several questions, particularly regarding the role of her son, who remains untraceable. Police have intensified their investigation, focusing on financial transactions and any possible disputes that may have led to the crime. The forensic team is also analyzing burn patterns and other evidence to confirm the exact sequence of events. Authorities are now working on multiple angles, including potential financial motives, family disputes, or any external involvement. With Malavika's son still missing, investigators believe his testimony could be crucial in solving this chilling case. As forensic and police teams continue their probe, the tragic death of this elderly woman remains one of the most puzzling cases in the city in recent times.

# Sealdah Division's Exemplary Service At Matua Mela

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Thakurnagar Matua Religion Mela is an extraordinary event showcasing the vibrant culture of the Matua community. This significant Mela is organized by the All India Matua Mahasangha, a religious reform movement originated in the 1860s in modern day Bangladesh. The event attracts thousands of devotees who gather for a holy bath, having significant religious and social implications. The Thakurnagar Matua Mela is a testament to the community's rich cultural heritage and its importance in the region's socio-political landscape. Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway recently played a dynamic role in the successful execution of the Matua Mela. Sealdah Division's meticulous planning and perfect execution ensured that pilgrims had a smooth and fulfilling experience. The Matua Mela, a grand celebration of the Matua community, witnessed an overwhelming turnout of devotees this year from across the country. Anticipating the surge in passenger traffic, Sealdah Division proactively implemented a comprehensive strategy to manage the mob and ensure the comfort and safety of all devotees. For this mela, Operating Department of Sealdah Division demonstrated exceptional efficiency by introducing special trains and augmenting the frequency of existing EMU local services. This strategic move effectively mitigated congestion and facilitated the timely movement of pilgrims to and fro. Dedicated Commercial Counters, recognizing the importance of seamless ticketing and passenger assistance, the Commercial Department established dedicated counters at Thakurnagar station. These counters were manned by courteous and efficient staff who provided prompt assistance to pilgrims, provide Hand Held Terminal also ensure a hassle-free travel experience and avoid queue also. For uninterrupted power supply Electrical General Department played a crucial role in maintaining a consistent and reliable power supply throughout the festival period. Their meticulous planning and execution ensured that the station premises and surrounding areas remained brightly illuminated, enhancing the safety and ambiance of the event. The Railway Protection Force maintained vigilant security measures and strong presence throughout the festival, ensuring the safety and security of all attendees. Their proactive approach and unwavering vigilance deterred any untoward incidents, allowing pilgrims to participate in the festivities without fear. The success of the Matua Mela was a testament



to the seamless coordination and collaboration among various departments of Sealdah Division with Collaborative Effort. Each department worked in tandem, demonstrating highest commitment in providing exceptional service to the pilgrims. The exemplary service provided by Sealdah Division was widely appreciated by the devotees, community leaders, and local authorities. The Division's proactive approach, meticulous planning, and unwavering commitment to passenger welfare were instrumental in the successful execution of the Matua Mela. Shri Deepak Nigam, DRM/Sealdah has stated that, we are immensely proud of the collective efforts of our staff in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the Matua Mela, the dedication and commitment of our team members were instrumental in providing a safe and comfortable experience for the thousands of pilgrims who attended the festival. Sealdah Division's stand out performance at the Matua Mela underscores its unwavering commitment to providing world-class service to its passengers.

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## Running of Special Trains between Visakhapatnam and Santragachi

MI News Service, Kolkata: It has been decided to run Visakhapatnam-Santragachi-Visakhapatnam Special trains as per following schedule:  
**08577/08578 Visakhapatnam-Santragachi-Visakhapatnam Special:** 08577 Visakhapatnam-Santragachi Special will leave Visakhapatnam on 29.03.2025 & 02.04.2025 at 23.45 hrs and will arrive Santragachi at 14:00 hrs, the next day. In the opposite direction, 08578 Santragachi-Visakhapatnam Special will leave Santragachi on 30.03.2025 & 03.04.2025 at 18.45 hrs and will reach Visakhapatnam at 09.45 hrs, the next day. The Special train will have stoppages Kharagpur and Baleswar in SER jurisdiction.

## Unreserved Special Train between Bhagalpur & Anand Vihar

MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear the extra rush of passengers, Railway has decided to run one unreserved special train between Bhagalpur & Anand Vihar. The special train cater to increased travel demand, offering more convenient and efficient transportation options for people wanting to move from one place to another.

04429 Bhagalpur - Anand Vihar Terminal unreserved Special will leave Bhagalpur at 14:30 hrs, on 29.03.2025, 30.03.2025 & 31.03.2025 to reach Anand Vihar Terminal at 14:30 hrs, on the next day and 04430 Anand Vihar Terminal - Bhagalpur unreserved Special will leave Anand Vihar at 12:40 hrs, on 28.03.2025, 29.03.2025 & 30.03.2025 to reach Bhagalpur at 12:10 hrs, on the next day. The train will stop at 15 stations including Sultanganj, Jamalpur, Abhaipur stations in Eastern Railway jurisdiction enroute.

## Cancellation of Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: The following trains will remain cancelled as per following schedule: 1) 06077 MGR Chennai Central-Santragachi Special will remain cancelled on 29.03.2025 and 02.04.2025 2) 06078 Santragachi-MGR Chennai Central Special will remain cancelled on 31.03.2025 and 04.04.2025 3) 06081 Thiruvananthapuram North-Shalimar Special will remain cancelled on 28.03.2025 and 04.04.2025 4) 06082 Shalimar-Thiruvananthapuram North Special will remain cancelled on 31.03.2025 and 07.04.2025

## ER to run unreserved special between Howrah & Azimganj for Eid -Ul-Fitr Festival



MI News Service, Kolkata: To clear extra rush of passengers for ensuing Eid-Ul-Fitr festival, Eastern Railway's Howrah Division has decided to run one unreserved special train between Howrah & Azimganj. 03017 Howrah - Azimganj unreserved special will leave Howrah at 12:25 hrs, on 29.03.2025 & 30.03.2025 to reach Azimganj at 17:00 hrs, and 03018 Azimganj - Howrah unreserved Special will leave Azimganj at 18:00 hrs, on 29.03.2025 & 30.03.2025 to reach Howrah at 23:00 hrs. The train will stop at Bandel, Ambika Kalna, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Salar, Bazarsau, Kharghat Road & Lalbagh Court Road stations enroute in both directions.

# East Coast Railway Surpasses Scrap Sale Target Ahead of Schedule

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: In a remarkable achievement, the East Coast Railway (ECoR) has successfully met and exceeded its Scrap Sale target of Rs. 250 crore well before the financial year's conclusion. The Railway Board had set a target of Rs. 250 crore for the 2024-25 financial year, which was impressively achieved on March 21, 2025—ten days ahead of schedule. As of this date, ECoR has recorded a total scrap sale of Rs. 265.62 crore, surpassing the original target. East Coast Railway General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal congratulated the entire team involved in the scrap disposal process for their outstanding efforts. This

demned machinery, vehicles, and office equipment, were auctioned on an "as is where is" basis. By efficiently disposing of scrap, ECoR successfully converted "waste to wealth" to the tune of Rs. 265.62 crore as of March 27, 2025. Furthermore, the removal of scrap from railway premises contributes significantly to environmental sustainability by reducing its adverse impact on the surroundings. In the 2024-25 fiscal year, ECoR earned Rs. 265.62 crore from scrap disposal before the end of the financial year, compared to Rs. 258.16 crore in 2023-24. The Railway Board had initially set a target of Rs. 250 crore. ECoR has consistently surpassed the scrap sale



milestone has been made possible due to the consistent guidance and meticulous review of the scrap disposal system by Principal Chief Material Manager Shri Prem Narayan. This accomplishment was made possible through 204 auction dates conducted across various divisions of ECoR, including Khurda Road, Sambalpur, Waltair and the Scrap Yard at Carriage Repair Workshop (CRW), Mancheswar. These divisions facilitated the sale of various scrap materials such as condemned rolling stock, including locomotives, coaches, and wagons, along with scrap rails, permanent way fittings, and miscellaneous workshop scrap. Additionally, ferrous, non-ferrous and non-metallic scrap as well as con-

targets set by the Railway Board for the past five years. In its ongoing efforts to maintain a scrap-free and environment-friendly railway zone, ECoR has ensured the maximum disposal of scrap from its jurisdiction. Scrap generation is an inevitable outcome of industrial activities involving machinery, tools, and assets. After completing their service life, these assets need replacement for better performance and safety. To facilitate timely disposal, ECoR has been conducting e-auctions through its dedicated Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) portal since 2013. More than 4,000 vendors have registered on this portal, ensuring a transparent and efficient auction process.

# Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah conducted Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah, in collaboration with the Orthopaedic Hospital, Eastern Railway, successfully organized a Diabetic Retinopathy Screening Camp on 28th March 2025. The initiative aimed at early detection and prevention of diabetic retinopathy among railway employees and retirees suffering from diabetes, reinforcing the commitment to proactive healthcare. A total of 128 individuals participated in the screening camp. The event was graced by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Howrah; Senior Divisional Engineer (Coordination), Howrah; and Senior Divisional Personnel Officer (DPO), Howrah, who also underwent eye screening. The camp was conducted under the leadership of Dr. Debjani Mukherjee, ACMS/Eye/Howrah, with the guidance of Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS), Howrah.

Slit lamp examination ✓ Fundus examination ✓ Fundus photography for detailed retinal imaging  
**Key Findings from the Screening:** 9 patients (9.07%) were diagnosed with diabetic retinopathy. 4 patients were found to have diabetic maculopathy along with retinopathy, posing a risk to central vision. 36 patients were diagnosed with cataracts requiring surgery. 1 patient was identified with a macular hole, a serious condition affecting vision clarity.  
**Awareness and Preventive Measures Emphasized:** Participants were sensitized about the importance of early detection, lifestyle management, and blood sugar control in preventing the progression of diabetic retinopathy. The significance of regular eye check-ups and timely medical intervention was strongly emphasized to reduce vision-related complications. The Divisional Railway Hospital, Howrah, remains committed to organizing such preventive health camps regularly, ensuring the well-being of railway employees and retirees through early diagnosis and effective management of chronic diseases.

**Comprehensive Eye Examinations Conducted:** Participants underwent a series of advanced eye tests, including: ✓ Visual acuity testing ✓ Intraocular pressure measurement ✓

# Two More Dalian Rakes (Mr-504 & Mr-512) introduced on Blue Line



MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway has introduced two more Dalian rakes MR-504 & MR-512 to the service of the passengers today, i.e. on 28.03.2025. With this, five Dalian rakes are now plying on the Metro network. Before induction to commercial services both the rakes were subjected to inspection by EIG (Electrical Inspector to Government) on 27.03.2025 for verification for Electrical safety as per provision of CEA Regulation 2010 (Measures Related to Electrical Safety & Power Supply). The new rakes MR-504 & MR-512 started their maiden runs from Noapara station at 11.58 hrs. & 12.35 hrs. respectively and they reached Kavi Subhash Metro station at 12.56 hrs & 13.39 hrs. respectively. Again they started their return journeys from Kavi Subhash at 13.01 hrs. & 13.41 hrs. respectively and they reached Dakshineswar station at 14.05 hrs. and 14.45 hrs. respectively. These rakes are packed with special features to increase comfort and joy of ride for the passengers in Metro Railway network. These types of rakes have 100 mm wider door in comparison to the existing AC rakes. Moreover, greater seating capacity, better air conditioning, noise reduction feature and eye-soothing illumination are addition to the comfort of the Metro Rail passengers.

hours. Enhanced features of these rakes will also provide jerk-free ride. CCTV coverage inside the coach, modular and wider vestibules, enhanced seating capacity including provision of more seats for senior citizens and specially-abled are some of the unique features of these rakes. Apart from these, features like aesthetically designed interior, improved air diffuser, high capacity ACS, small and sleek alarm device with outside indication lamp, brighter multicolour multi-lingual display board, uniform illumination, wheel chair parking facility and door side hand rails have made these rakes unique in Kolkata Metro.

**Some of the other features of these new rakes are:**  
**Technical features:** Technical features of these rakes include through rainwater channels, paint-free stainless steel car body, improved door channel with side stopper and improved energy consumption which will be more environment-friendly.  
**Safety features:** These rakes also have some enhanced safety features like disc brake system, controlled discharge fire extinguishers with strap, wider evacuation door and evacuation ramp with anti-skid rubber flooring. Such features will definitely increase and ensure commuters safety which Metro authorities always look for.  
It is to be noted that in Metro Railway's fully air-conditioned fleet there are 31 rakes for Blue Line, 3 rakes for Orange Line, 2 rakes for Purple Line and 14 rakes for Green Line at present.

**The salient features of the Dalian rakes are as follows:**  
**Passenger amenities features:** Wider doors in these rakes will facilitate easy Entry and Exit of passengers specially during the peak

# Cleanliness Awareness Programme conducted over Sealdah Division



Passengers, vendors and railway users were counselled on the benefits of maintaining cleanliness. MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway remains committed to ensuring a clean and hygienic environment at railway stations. In line with this commitment, Cleanliness Awareness Programme was conducted today across various stations over Sealdah Division, aimed at sensitizing passengers and railway users about the importance of cleanliness and responsible waste disposal. The programme was carried out at Sealdah and Ballygunge stations. Passengers, vendors and railway users were counselled on the benefits of maintaining cleanliness, proper waste disposal, and the prohibition of spitting in railway premises. During a cleanliness awareness drive at Sealdah station, passengers, vendors, and hawkers were sensitized about their role in maintaining

cleanliness at the station. They were advised to use the dustbins provided within railway premises and to refrain from throwing garbage on the tracks or station premises. As a special initiative, a rose was gifted to vendors and hawkers found littering at the station premises. This symbolic gesture aimed to make them aware that they were being recognized as the biggest contributors to garbage at the station. The initiative effectively highlighted the importance of responsible waste disposal and encouraged them to adopt cleaner practices. Eastern Railway urges all passengers to refrain from spitting or littering on station premises, as such practices not only deteriorate the station's ambience but also pose serious health hazards. The collective efforts of passengers and railway authorities are essential to ensuring a cleaner and healthier railway environment.

**Name Change**  
I, Piyali Burman D/o. Goutam Kumar Barman R/o. 48, P.C. Nandan Road, Bansberia, Mogra, Hooghly-712502, W.B., after marriage have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Piyali Chakraborty W/o. Soumya Chakraborty vide an affidavit no. 2475 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 28/03/2025. Piyali Chakraborty W/o. Soumya Chakraborty & Piyali Burman D/o. Goutam Kumar Barman both are the same & one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Arup Kumar Seth (old name) S/o. Nimai Sett R/o. 59/6 Kantapukur 3rd Bye Lane, Kadamtala, Banra, Howrah-711101, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arup Seth (new name) vide an affidavit no. 27 sworn before Notary Public, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court on 31/12/24. Arup Kumar Seth & Arup Seth S/o. Nimai Sett both are the same & one identical person. Mithu Seth @ Mithu De Seth is my wife.

**Name Change**  
I, Anita Datta, Wife Of No 7766502w Rank Ex Hav Name Late Brindaban Datta Resident Of Vill. Durgagram, P.O. Bandhmura, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, (W.B.), Pin-713150 Have Change My Name & Dob From Anita Datta & 05.09.1954 To Anita Dutta & 05.09.1950 Vide Affidavit Dated 26.03.2025 Before The Court Of Ld. Sub-Jdy. Executive Magistrate, Katwa, Purba Bardhaman, W.B.

**Name Change**  
I, Pushp Lata w/o Amit Kumar D/o Gupateswar Ram, residing at Apartment " Club Town Housing Complex", 199/07 Holding No. Teghoria, VIP Road, P.O. Airport, P.S. Rajarhat north Baguati, Dist-North 24 Parganas Kolkata - 700052 have changed my daughter's Name from ARSHEYA RAJ to IRA ALISHA and henceforth my daughter will be known as IRA ALISHA for all purpose. ARSHEYA RAJ and IRA ALISHA both are same and one identical person, i.e., my daughter vide affidavit no. 1118 dated 25.03.25 sworn before Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Barasat.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Anis Chattopadhyay, S/O- G/Lt Anil Chattopadhyay, R/O- G/41, Karunamoyee Housing Estate, ED Block, Sector- 2, Salt Lake, 24 PGS (N), Pin- 700091, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anis Chattopadhyay as declared before the Notary Public Sealdah Court, West Bengal vide Affidavit No. 24222 dated 20/03/2025. Anis Chattopadhyay and Anis Chattopadhyay both are same and identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Debargha Barman, Residing at 115, Selimpur Road, Dhakuria, Kolkata- 700031, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Raj Barman declared before the Notary public Sealdah Court West Bengal vide Affidavit No. 24454 dated 24/03/2025. Debargha Barman and Raj Barman both are same and identical person.

## SEBI issues framework for fast-track follow-on offer by REITs, InvITs

MI News Service, New Delhi: Markets regulator Sebi came out with a framework for undertaking fast-track follow-on offers by REITs and InvITs to make fundraising more efficient. Additionally, the regulator has prescribed a lock-in provision of three years for the preferential issue of units of REITs (real estate investment trusts) and InvITs (infrastructure investment trusts) allotted to sponsors. In its circulars, Sebi said 15 per cent of the units allotted to sponsors and sponsor groups will be locked in for a period of three years from the date of trading approval granted for the units.

**Name Change**  
I, Tapati Mitra Datta W/O- Chanchal Mitra resident of Baran ilpur,Phulpukur Uttar Para, P.O.-Sripalli, P.S.-Burdwan, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, West Bengal, PIN-713103, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as "TAPATI DATTA" vide an affidavit before the Notary Public at Purba Bardhaman on 28/03/2025. That Tapati Mitra Datta and Tapati Datta both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Ajay Prasad, son of Tarkeshwar Prasad, residing at 13, Dr. P. K. Banerjee Road, P.O. & P.S. Howrah, District- Howrah, Pin-711101, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as AJAY KUMAR PRASAD as declare before the Notary Public at Howrah Court, West Bengal vide affidavit no. 49 dated 28/03/2025. That both AJAY PRASAD and AJAY KUMAR PRASAD both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Badrunessa Bbi, spouse of No. 1386129H Rank Ex Nk Name Sk Md Monirul Islam resident of Vill-Polempur, P.O.- Machkhanda, Dist-Purba Bardhaman (WB) Pin-713103 have change my Name & Date of Birth from Badrunessa Bbi & 33 yrs to Badrunessa Begum & 06.08.1962 vide Affidavit dated 28 Mar 2025 before Executive Magistrate Purba Bardhaman.

**Name Change**  
I, Rajesh Mondal S/O -Debnath Mondal Residing at Vill -Panditjee Colony, P.O -Dhanyakuria, P.S -Matia, Dist. -24 pgs.(N). My father's actual name is Debnath Mondal but my father's name is wrongly written in my Birth Certificate (No -4721) as Devnath Mondal Dated on 27/03/2025. Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat Court Affidavit is known as Debnath Mondal and Devnath Mondal one and the same identical person.

## Bandhan Bank signs MoU with IAF

MI News Service, Kolkata: Private lender Bandhan Bank said it has inked an MoU with the Indian Air Force to provide corporate salary accounts to the defence personnel. The 'Bandhan Bank Shaurya Salary Account' will have features like zero balance savings account, protection for self and family, and attractive interest rates, the lender said in a statement. "Bandhan Bank, with its pan Indian presence, is deeply committed to support the nation through every initiative. We are excited to strengthen our partnership with the IAF to deliver superior banking experience," Executive Director and Chief Business Officer Rajinder Babbar said.

## Centre mulls additional incentives for exporters

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government is considering additional incentives for exporters to arrest the decline in India's exports and mitigate the potential impact of reciprocal tariff threats by the Donald Trump administration, sources said. Though the government is yet to formulate the exact form of incentives to be given, the Rs 2,250 crore Export Promotion Mission announced in the Budget has room for flexibility in providing more incentives as the schemes are yet to be notified, they added. India's merchandise shipments witnessed a decline in value terms in the three months between November and January. Merchandise exports were USD 36.43 billion in January compared to USD 37.32 billion a year ago. In December, it stood at USD 38.01 billion against USD 38.39 billion in December 2023, while its outward shipments declined to USD 32.11 billion in November 2024 from USD 33.75 billion in the year-ago month. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to hold discussions with export promotion councils on Thursday on trade issues.



# Nayara Energy appoints Deepesh Baxi as CFO

**New Delhi** : Nayara Energy, India's biggest private fuel retailer, on Friday announced the appointment of Deepesh Baxi as its new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).

"With an impressive career spanning over three decades, Deepesh brings extensive experience in finance, strategy and M&A, having worked on complex mandates across key sectors such as oil and gas, infrastructure and construction, retail and manufacturing," it said in a statement.

Prior to joining Nayara Energy, he was Chief Financial Officer & Wholtime Director at Castrol India Limited. He has also worked with global leaders such as British Petroleum (bp) and Andersen, holding leadership roles in large, culturally diverse teams in both Asia Pacific and global offices.

A Chartered Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor (USA) and IIM Ahmedabad alumnus, Baxi will lead Nayara's financial strategy and operations, supporting its continued growth and contri-



but to the energy sector. His proficiency spans across long-term strategy and transformation, investor relations, treasury, corporate governance, internal audits/compliance, and risk management, the statement said.

"Deepesh brings with him deep sectoral expertise and a strong blend of financial planning and strategic acumen. His wealth of experience and proven track record will be instrumental in driving financial excellence and supporting our strategic vision of delivering industry-leading performance. With Deepesh on board, we are confident of building stronger and scaling bigger," said Alessandro des Dorides, Chief Executive Officer at Nayara Energy.

Nayara operates Vadinar oil refinery, India's second-largest single-site refinery with a capacity of 20 million tonnes per annum, and has over 6,500 petrol pumps across the country. It recently forayed into the petrochemicals sector with a 450,000-tonne polypropylene plant.

# 636 Indian nationals deported from US since January, Govt tells Parliament



**New Delhi** : Since January 2025 till date, 636 Indian nationals have been deported to India from the US, the government informed Parliament on Friday.

"Of these, 341 arrived on chartered flights, 55 arrived via Panama on commercial flights, and 240 arrived on separate commercial flights," Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said in a written response to a query in the Lok Sabha.

TMC MP Yusuf Pathan asked whether it is a fact that "the government has offered to repatriate 18,000 illegal Indian immigrants from the United States", and the measures being implemented to ensure the welfare and reintegration of these returnees.

"It is the obligation of all countries to take back their nationals, if they are found to be living illegally abroad. This is however subject to an unambiguous verification of their nationality. This is not a policy that is practised only by India; it is a generally accepted principle in international relations," Singh said.

In his response, he further said, "Since January 2025 till date, a total of 636 Indian nationals have been deported to India from the US. Of these, 341 arrived on chartered flights, 55 arrived via Panama on commercial flights, and 240 arrived on separate commercial flights."

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) authorities have shared with India information pertaining to an addi-

tional 295 individuals who are "detained in their custody with final orders of removal from the US. The ministry, along with other agencies concerned, is currently verifying the details for these 295 individuals," he said.

"It's the policy of the Government of India to negotiate mutually advantageous and secure mobility frameworks with other countries that allows for streamlining avenues for legal mobility of students and professionals, and facilitating short-term tourist and business travel, while also addressing illegal immigration and human trafficking by taking strong action against the bad actors, criminal facilitators, and illegal immigration networks," Singh said.

"All necessary assistance to Indian nationals, including to the returnees, is being provided by the government as per extant rules," he said.

The Ministry of External Affairs on March 21 had informed Parliament that 388 Indian nationals had been deported from the US since January 2025 till then.

"Of the 388 Indian nationals deported since January, 333 individuals, after verification, were deported directly from the US to India on three separate chartered flights, which landed on 5th, 15th and 16th February 2025, respectively. Separately, the US, through Panama, deported 55 Indian nationals who arrived in India on commercial flights," Singh had said in a written response to a query in the Lok Sabha.

# Closely evaluating impact of US duties on steel aluminium: Govt

**New Delhi** : The US has imposed additional import duties on steel and aluminium and the government is evaluating its impact, Parliament was informed on Friday.

In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Jitin Prasada said there has been the imposition of these duties on steel and aluminium imports by the US from all countries without any exemption.

"The impact of these duties which are an enhancement over existing such additional duties is being closely evaluated due to the fact that there are no exemptions as compared to exemptions earlier to certain major exporting countries in this sector," he said. As of date, there has been no imposition of country-specific reciprocal tariffs by the US on India, he added.

The minister informed that India continues to engage with the US to achieve enhancement and broadening of bilateral trade ties in a mutually beneficial and fair manner.

The two countries aim to more than double trade to USD 500 billion by 2030 to be achieved by deepening the trade.

"Both countries have committed to negotiate a mutually beneficial, multi-sector Bilateral Trade Agreement under which the countries would focus on increasing market access, reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers, enhancing supply chain integration and resolving key trade issues bilaterally," Prasada said.



Replying to a separate question whether the government will protect Indian farmers' interests in future trade agreements, he said to protect the interests of the Indian farmers and the agriculture sector, trade agreements provide for maintaining sensitive, negative or exclusion lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted.

In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take recourse to trade remedial measures such as anti-dumping and safeguards on imports within the period as mutually agreed to by the parties under the trade agreements, the minister said. In another reply, Prasada said

that FTAs leverage trade complementarities to boost exports and drive sustainable economic growth through trade facilitation, technical and digital collaborations and global competitiveness. "While negotiating FTAs, the endeavour is to deliver a comprehensive, balanced, broad-based and equitable agreement based on the principle of fairness and reciprocity that offers protection to domestic industry and benefit to the stakeholders," he said.

"For addressing concerns related to trade deficits and ensuring that India's trade agreements benefit domestic industries and workers, sector-specific consultations are carried out." For this, he said, FTAs cover

trade in goods, services, movement of natural persons, customs procedures, trade facilitation, and technical barriers to trade.

Replying to another question on the US, he said India and the US resolved six trade disputes filed between 2012 and 2019 in the WTO (World Trade Organisation) and reached a Mutually Agreed Solution (MAS) in 2023. As part of the agreement, India rescinded additional duties on eight products, which were imposed by India, and in return, the US agreed that it would strive to ensure effective market access opportunities for Indian exporters of steel and aluminium while reviewing Section 232 exclusion requests as consistent with USA law.

# Federal Bank signs pact to acquire additional 4 pc stake in Aegae Federal Life Insurance

**New Delhi** : Federal Bank on Friday said it has signed an agreement to acquire an additional 4 per cent stake in Aegae Federal Life Insurance Co Ltd (AFLIC) from Aegae Insurance International.

In a BSE filing, Federal Bank said it has executed a "binding Memorandum of Understanding" today with Aegae Insurance International NV (Aegae) and Aegae Federal Life Insurance Co Ltd (AFLIC) for the acquisition. The acquisition is contingent upon execution of Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) between the parties, satisfaction of customary conditions precedent to be set forth in the SPA, and regulatory approvals, it added. With this, the stake of Federal Bank in Aegae Federal will rise to 30 per cent, from 26 per cent. The board of Federal Bank had on March 25 approved signing of the MoU with Aegae. It further said Reserve Bank has accorded its approval to Federal Bank for acquisition of additional 4 per cent



stake in AFLIC for up to Rs 105 crore. Aegae Federal Life Insurance is a joint-venture between Aegae, a multinational insurance giant headquartered in Europe, and Federal Bank. Shares of Federal Bank closed at Rs 192.75, down 2.53 per cent over previous close on BSE.

# Parl panel flags gaps in implementation of Mission Vatsalya

**New Delhi** : A parliamentary panel has raised concerns over implementation of Mission Vatsalya, highlighting gaps in fund utilization, lack of trained personnel and vacancies that are hampering its effectiveness.

The number of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) supported under the scheme has increased from 2,305 in 2022-23 to 3,005 in 2024-25, but the absence of trained social workers and poor monitoring continue to hinder child protection services, the panel said.

The report by the Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports tabled in Parliament on Friday recommended revamp Child Care Institutions (CCIs) by establishing national accreditation standards and an annual audit mechanism for all CCIs.

The committee also suggested the launch of a National Foster Care Promotion Campaign with financial incentives for families willing to provide foster care.

Another challenge flagged in the report was the slow progress in the construction of Vatsalya Sadans, integrated child care centers designed to provide comprehensive services.

The report further noted that only 37 districts have received funding in the last two years, delaying access to crucial support for vulnerable children.

The committee also stressed the need for strengthening accountability mechanisms by appointing officers for on-the-spot inspections and implementing AI-powered child welfare tracking systems to identify at-risk children and intervene before crises escalate.

The report also recommended financial assistance for caregivers, increased availability of trained social workers and the establishment of respite care centers to provide temporary relief to families.

The panel urged the Ministry of Women and Child Development to collaborate with the education and health departments to develop early screening protocols for disabilities to ensure timely intervention. The committee flagged

issues in Mission Shakti, the government's flagship women's empowerment program.

It pointed out that only 33.02 per cent of the funds allocated for 2024-25 had been utilized as of February 17, 2025.

The One Stop Centre (OSC) scheme, designed to support women facing violence, also saw significant budget cuts, with revised allocations slashed to Rs 173.81 crore and only Rs 116.71 crore utilised by December 2024.

The panel urged the government to address these financial and administrative bottlenecks to ensure that welfare schemes designed for women and children deliver tangible results.

It stressed the importance of better coordination with state governments, timely fund disbursement and technology-driven interventions to improve efficiency and impact.

Household air pollution takes centre-stage at WHO conference in Colombia (Cartagena, Colombia), Mar 28 (PTI) Household air pollution from biomass fuels is the lowest-hanging fruit for India's National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), and it is already included as a sectoral priority, said Kalpana Balakrishnan, Director of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health.

At the World Health Organisation's second conference on air pollution and health in Cartagena, Colombia, household air pollution has taken centre stage. Balakrishnan, one of the keynote speakers at the event, said that India is admirably placed in terms of infrastructure to address this issue.

"For a modest additional investment, we can achieve significant reductions in ambient PM2.5 levels, in addition to reducing residential PM2.5 exposures that the rural population experiences," she said.

Speaking to PTI, Balakrishnan further emphasised that India possesses all the necessary elements to tackle household air pollution and could do so in ways that are cost-effective and inclusive

of all possible stakeholders.

"We can demonstrate to the world that we can achieve what any other country can -- and do it even better," she said.

In January 2024, an independent think tank in India reported that 41 per cent of the Indian population still relies on wood, cow dung, or other biomass as cooking fuel. This practice cumulatively emits around 340 million tonnes of carbon dioxide into the environment annually,



accounting for approximately 13 per cent of India's greenhouse gas emissions. Balakrishnan also highlighted that the burden of household pollution is twofold: exposure occurs indoors when cooking with solid fuels, and emissions are also released into the outdoor environment.

She stressed that the transition to clean cooking energy is crucial to protect poor and marginalised communities who cannot afford the shift.

"Solid cooking fuels are the primary contributors to ambient PM2.5. While we have technological solutions like LPG and electricity, we still need to find creative economic solutions to sup-

port the poor and marginalised sections of society," she told PTI.

People must recognise that air pollution causes nearly seven million deaths annually and is a major risk factor for both mortality and morbidity worldwide, said Maria Neira, Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO). She attributed these deaths to both outdoor and household air pollution. Speaking at a session at the Cartagena conference, Neira reiterated that over two billion

household air pollution, Balakrishnan pointed out that both India and China faced similar challenges around 20 years ago due to solid cooking fuels contributing to ambient PM2.5 levels.

"For China, it was coal, and for India, it is biomass fuel. China aggressively phased out solid cooking fuels. It was a significant challenge for China, as coal was used not only for cooking but also for heating, leading to enormous PM2.5 contributions, particularly in winter," Balakrishnan told PTI.

She added that China identified the "lowest-hanging fruit and tackled it."

"The phasing out of residential coal was a key component of China's Blue Sky Programme -- alongside interventions in power and transport," she said. Meanwhile, a report presented to the Rajya Sabha by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment, Forests, and Climate Change revealed that a substantial Rs 858 crore allocated for pollution control in 2024-25 remains unutilised.

This budget represents 27.44 per cent of the ministry's revised annual allocation. Reacting to the report, Balakrishnan told PTI that continued investment in additional monitoring is essential for assessing the effectiveness of the NCAP's actions.

"Once the administrative roadblocks are resolved, this should be prioritised in budgetary spending," she said. In India, household air pollution (HAP) is one of the leading risk factors contributing to the national burden of disease. Estimates indicate that 7.6 per cent of all deaths in children under 5 years old in the country can be attributed to HAP.

Therefore, the transition to clean household cooking is not merely a technological upgrade but a vital public health intervention. Traditional cooking methods, which rely on solid fuels like wood and coal, are deeply ingrained in many households. However, these practices contribute significantly to indoor air pollution, posing severe health risks, particularly to women and children.

Balakrishnan, a prominent figure

## Session on 'Mental Health at Workplace' Organized at Sealdah Division



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A session on 'Mental Health at Workplace' was conducted yesterday at Rabindra Sabha Kaksha (DRM Meeting Room), Sealdah, in the esteemed presence of Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Sealdah, Shri Deepak Nigam, along with Additional Divisional Railway Managers (ADRM), Chief Medical Superintendent (CMS) Dr. Kalpana Mandal, and other senior branch officers. The program was organized under the initiative of the Divisional Railway Rajbhasha implementation committee of

Sealdah. The session focused on occupational stress—its causes, symptoms, management strategies, and proactive measures to be taken at both the individual and organizational levels to mitigate stress. The event witnessed engaging discussions and insightful deliberations, reflecting Eastern Railway's commitment to employee well-being. Such proactive initiatives by senior officials emphasize the importance of mental health awareness and a stress-free work environment in the railway sector.



In the image posted by @byadavbjp via X on March 27, 2025, four one-year-old cubs of Gaminii learn survival skills in a closed natural area at Kuno National Park, Shivpuri.

## Bangladesh's Chief Advisor Yunus, Chinese President discuss bilateral issues

**MI News Service, Beijing:** Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and Chinese President Xi Jinping held a meeting in Beijing on Friday and discussed bilateral issues, including trade and investment. Shariqul Alam, Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser, termed the meeting between the two leaders as "most important and successful." He said that Yunus highlighted Bangladesh's historical ties with China. "Professor Yunus' meeting with Xi Jinping was the most important and successful. The meeting was very cordial. Professor Yunus highlighted Bangladesh's historical connection with China and mentioned the 50-year anniversary of the diplomatic relations between our two countries," Alam said. "He (Yunus) discussed about our issues with China and the important thing is that the Chinese President responded positively about

each issue and said China is fully supportive about Professor Yunus's government", the Press Secretary to the Chief Adviser said. According to Alam, Xi Jinping said he will encourage Chinese investors to invest in Bangladesh. "An important aspect of this visit was to invite Chinese investors to Bangladesh. Professor Yunus mentioned it at the meeting. Xi Jinping responded saying that he will encourage Chinese investors to invest in Bangladesh," the Press Secretary to Yunus said. He said that discussions have been held on undertaking a project on the Teesta River in Bangladesh with Chinese assistance. Alam expressed hope that Bangladesh's relations with China will move to a new scale and a new chapter will be opened. "There was a discussion on water resource management and the issue of Teesta also came up", he said without elaborating.

Both India and China have shown interest in implementing the water management project on the Teesta river. In a statement, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated, "Xi Jinping pointed out that the friendly exchanges between the Chinese and Bangladeshi peoples have a long history, and the ancient Silk Road has closely linked the two countries. Since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two sides have always supported each other, treated each other as equals, and cooperated for mutual benefit. China's good-neighboring and friendly policy towards Bangladesh remains highly stable and continuous." According to the statement, Xi Jinping emphasised that China and Bangladesh should continue to deepen political mutual trust and firmly support each other on issues involving each other's core interests and major concerns.

## Mob storms dargah in Maharashtra's Rahuri, replaces green flag with saffron

**MI News Service, Rahuri:** Communal tensions flared in Maharashtra's Rahuri after a mob stormed the Hazrat Ahmed Chishti Dargah, removed its green flag, and hoisted a saffron flag. A video circulating on social media shows the mob forcibly entering the dargah, removing the green flag, and hoisting a saffron flag in its place. Some individuals were heard chanting "Jai Shree Ram," while others applauded as the flag was raised. "They shouted offensive slogans against us and threw stones at our homes," a resident was quoted by Maktoob Media. "When they were attacking the dargah and placing the saffron flag on it, the police were right there, silently watching. They did nothing to stop them." The unrest began earlier that day when images circulated on social media showing black paint smeared on a statue of Shivaji Maharaj near the Buwasind Baba Talim. As news spread, protests erupted, drawing large crowds. According to Maktoob Media, the violence extended beyond the dargah, with reports of stone pelting near the mosque and attacks on Muslim homes, which residents described as deliberate and targeted. The police have reportedly deployed additional security forces, but no arrests have been made in connection with the mob attack or stone pelting.

## Eid commodities and clothes distribution



Nurul Islam Khan

Today, under the joint management of Chandpur Nuria Siddiquia Welfare Foundation and Haji Shafiqur Rahman Family Trust, an Eid items and clothes gift program was held at Chandpur Alia Academy for Boys Mission Campus among 600 poor, needy, helpless and widowed people. In this regard, the head of the organization and the editor of Chandpur Nuria Siddiquia Darul Quran Madrasah social worker and educationist Alhaj Dr. Firoz Uddin said that this year, Iftar items, Eid commodities and clothes have been distributed among about seven thousand people through 10 programs in different parts of North and South 24 Parganas districts, along with providing business assistance to about two hundred people through a small business project with the aim of making poor families self-reliant. Since 2005, under the supervision of this organization, which has been continuously engaged in the welfare of society and country, several educational and social welfare institutions have been established and run in various districts including North 24 Parganas district. He further said that there are plans to implement various other developmental programs in the future and efforts will be made to implement them quickly. Along with this, on the occasion of the upcoming holy Eid-al-Fitr, he called for harmony, peace and coexistence among all communities including the Muslim community of the state.

## Israel likely to accept Egyptian proposal on hostage release: sources

**MI News Service, Cairo:** Egypt received on Thursday positive signals from the Israeli side on Cairo's recent proposal to release five Israeli hostages from Hamas captivity every week and implement a 40-day ceasefire in the Gaza Strip, two informed security sources told Xinhua. Egypt submitted the new proposal earlier this week to Hamas and Israel aimed at restoring the Gaza ceasefire. Hamas immediately agreed, while Israel initially delayed its response. "When Egypt received the go-ahead signal from Israel, it sent one delegation to Qatar and another one to Israel to set a roadmap for the implementation of its proposal, which aims to release five

Israeli hostages each week along with a 40-day ceasefire," the sources added on condition of anonymity. The Egyptian delegations would discuss, in the presence of Qatari mediators, the mechanism for implementing the Egyptian proposal with the Israeli and Palestinian sides, said the sources. Under the proposal, following the release of the first group of Israeli hostages, Israel will open the Rafah crossing to facilitate the entry of humanitarian aid and mobile housing units, as well as to evacuate the wounded. One source indicated that a ceasefire could be announced as early as Sunday but did not confirm whether it would be implemented that day.

## Protest against Waqf Bill by tying black cloths



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The All India Muslim Personal Law Board held a silent protest movement by tying black cloths on their hands during Friday prayers across the country demanding the withdrawal of the Waqf Amendment Bill. Responding to this movement, Maulana Kamruzzaman, a member of the Frontpage Academy Jama Masjid Law Board and State Secretary of the Minority Youth Federation, tied cloths on the hands of ordinary worshippers. In his speech, Kamruzzaman said that the freedom of religion of all and the dignity of religious places should be protected by withdrawing this bill.

## UAE pardons over 500 Indian nationals in Ramadan clemency

**MI News Service, Abu Dhabi:** In a significant gesture of mercy during the holy month of Ramadan, the UAE has announced a large-scale pardon for prisoners, with over 500 Indian nationals among those released. The decision, which was implemented in late February, saw President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan order the release of 1,295 inmates, while Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum granted clemency to 1,518 prisoners. This annual tradition of pardoning

prisoners during Ramadan reflects the UAE's commitment to justice, compassion, and maintaining strong diplomatic relations with India. It is a significant symbol of mercy and reconciliation in line with the spirit of the Holy Month. The clemency granted by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid applies to individuals of various nationalities who were held in Dubai's correctional and punitive facilities. The pardon is aimed at allowing them to reunite with their families and reintegrate into society. Attorney General of

Dubai, Chancellor Essam Issa Al-Humaidan, stated that the decision reflects Sheikh Mohammed's dedication to offering a fresh start to those who have served their sentences. He confirmed that Dubai Public Prosecution, in coordination with Dubai Police, has already begun implementing the legal procedures for their release. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed's initiative extends beyond granting clemency, as he has also pledged to settle the financial obligations of the released prisoners.

## 6 killed as tourist submarine sinks in Egypt's Red Sea: statement

**MI News Service, Cairo:** Six Russians were killed and 39 foreigners were rescued on Thursday when a tourist submarine sank in Egypt's Red Sea during a trip to the resort city of Hurghada, according to a statement by the Red Sea Governorate on its official Facebook page. The submarine carried 45 foreigners from India, Russia, Norway, and Sweden and five Egyptian crew, the statement said. Emergency responders dispatched 21 ambulances to the scene, transporting 23 injured passengers to five hospitals. The wounded sustained fractures and bruises, with four placed in intensive care due to critical conditions. Meanwhile, those in stable condition have been discharged and returned to their hotels. Authorities confirmed that no passengers were missing, the statement said. Red Sea Governorate officials said the license of the submarine, Sinbad, "was valid and the crew leader obtained the required scientific certificate." The vessel sank at its marina, located in front of a well-known hotel, according to the statement. Investigations are currently underway to determine the exact cause of the accident. Earlier on Thursday, RIA Novosti quoted a statement from the Russian Consulate General in Hurghada revealing that all the tourists on board were Russians.

## Ankhona Darbur Shareef, East Burdwan Hosts 68th Annual Holy URS Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Khawaja Joyal Abedin Chisty Israrey Elahi



**MI News Service, East Burdwan:** The 68th annual holy URS Mubarak of Hazrat Shah Khawaja Joyal Abedin Chisty Israrey Elahi was celebrated with great reverence today at Ankhona Darbur Shareef in East Burdwan. The event drew thousands of devotees from across the nation, coming together to honor the revered saint in a day filled with spiritual activities and communal harmony. The celebration featured a series of traditional rituals, including an Iftar to break the fast, soulful recitations of the Holy Quran, and a langar (community meal) that fostered a sense of unity among attendees. The offering of the Chaddar, a ceremonial cloth, was a poignant moment, symbolizing devotion

and respect. The evening concluded with a vibrant Shama Mehfil, featuring soul-stirring Qawwali performances that captivated the gathered disciples. Just Shahzada Amir Ali Khan Chisty, a prominent figure at the event, addressed the gathering, stating, "Every year, thousands of disciples from across the nation come to celebrate the URS Mubarak, making it a truly blessed occasion. This gathering is a testament to the enduring legacy of Hazrat Shah Khawaja Joyal Abedin Chisty Israrey Elahi and the devotion of his followers." The annual URS Mubarak continues to be a significant spiritual event, uniting people in prayer, reflection, and celebration at the historic Ankhona Darbur.

## Iftar party in Ward No. 56



Nurul Islam Khan

On Friday, in Ward No. 56, on the instructions of Honorable Shri Swapan Samaddar, Member of the Mayoral Council of Kolkata Municipality, Municipal Representative of Ward No. 56 and President of North Kolkata INTUC, an Iftar party was organized in the BB Bagan area under the direction of Social Welfare Society and managed by SK Iqbal and Prince Iqbal. Honorable Shri Swapan Samaddar, Member of the Mayoral Council of Kolkata Municipality, Municipal Representative of Ward No. 56 and President of North Kolkata INTUC, was present as the chief guest at this Iftar party. Also present at the event were SK Eklaakh Khan, Md. Sabiruddin, Momtaz Alam, Youth President of Ward No. 56 Shri Mukesh Sao, Kishore Das, Debashish Biswas, Sameer Saha, Paresh Roy, Debashish Das, Vinod Gupta and other prominent personalities were present.

## Amnesty International calls Pak police crackdown on Baloch activists a systematic attack on rights

**MI News Service, Balochistan:** As Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) continues to report the arrest of Baloch activists, Deputy Regional Director for South Asia at Amnesty International, Babu Ram Pant, has said that Pakistani authorities' crackdown on Baloch activists and continued detention of protesters and Baloch activists, including Sammi Deen Baloch and Mahrang Baloch, demonstrates a "systematic attack" on the rights of the Baloch community. Pant called on Pakistani authorities to release all

Baloch activists detained for exercising their right to freedom of expression and reiterated its call for a "prompt, thorough and impartial investigation" into the use of unlawful force during the peaceful protests held on March 21. He called the crackdown a "weaponization of the legal system" through various "bogus" FIRs and preventative detentions despite activists being granted bail a "gross violation of their right to due process and fair trial." Babu Ram Pant said, "The

Pakistani authorities' relentless crackdown on Baloch activists over the last week and continued detention of several protesters and Baloch activists, including Mahrang Baloch, Sammi Deen Baloch, and Bebarg Zehri, speaks of a systematic attack on the rights of Baloch community." "Amnesty International is concerned by reports from family members that Mahrang and Bebarg - who is a person with disabilities, are not being given access to medical assistance despite their health severely deteriorating during custody," he added. Amnesty said that that Pakistan's law enforcement agencies were showing disregard for the rights of the Baloch people.

"The weaponization of the legal system, through multiple bogus First Information Reports (FIRs) and preventative detentions under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, despite activists being granted bail, is a gross violation of their right to due process and fair trial. It shows wanton disregard by the law

enforcement agencies for the rights of Baloch people under Pakistan's Constitution and the country's obligations under international human rights law," the statement said. "The weaponization of the legal system, through multiple bogus First Information Reports (FIRs) and preventative detentions under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance, despite activists being granted bail, is a gross violation of their right to due process and fair trial. It shows wanton disregard by the law

enforcement agencies for the rights of Baloch people under Pakistan's Constitution and the country's obligations under international human rights law," he added. Calling for the release of Baloch activists and probe in use of force during the March 21 protests, Babu Ram Pant said, "Pakistani authorities must immediately release all Baloch activists being detained simply for exercising their right to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. Amnesty reiterates its call for a prompt,

thorough and impartial investigation into the use of unlawful force during the 21 March peaceful protests and ensure those responsible are held to account and the violations are effectively remedied." On March 27, BYC announced that security forces arrested two Baloch activists - Mahzaib Baloch and Fozia Baloch at Gaddani Cross while returning from the Uthal protest and said that Pakistan's "relentless targeting of women activists proves its desperation to crush the resistance."



Chennai Super Kings' Noor Ahmad and MS Dhoni celebrate the wicket of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Liam Livingstone during their Indian Premier League 2025 match, at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday. (ANI Photo)

## IPL 2025: DEFENDING TOTALS - A VICTORY MANTRA FOR RCB?

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) [INDIA] : When Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) take on Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at Chepauk Stadium, fans will be rooting for the Red and Gold franchise to improve their overall record against the Men in Yellow.

The stage is set for a battle royale between the two teams in one of the biggest matches of the IPL season. Five-time champions CSK and RCB will meet in a Southern Derby at Chepauk Stadium on Friday.

In their 33 meetings so far, CSK have dominated RCB with 21 wins, while RCB have managed just 11 victories. One match ended with no result. RCB's only win at Chepauk Stadium came way back in the inaugural IPL season in 2008.

In their last match, RCB sent CSK packing out of the competition based on net-run rate and



secured the playoffs spot after winning six matches on the bounce after winning just one of the first eight matches.

Interestingly, RCB's success against CSK has largely come

while defending totals. Out of their 11 wins, six have been secured while defending and five while chasing. In contrast, nine of their losses have come while chasing totals. Notably, RCB's last

four wins against CSK (from 2019 onwards) have all come while defending totals.

As the two teams take the field today, CSK skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad has won the toss and opted to field first.

Chennai Super Kings (Playing XI): Rachin Ravindra, Ruturaj Gaikwad(c), Rahul Tripathi, Deepak Hooda, Sam Curran, Ravindra Jadeja, MS Dhoni(w), Ravichandran Ashwin, Noor Ahmad, Matheesha Pathirana, Khaleel Ahmed

Royal Challengers Bengaluru (Playing XI): Virat Kohli, Philip Salt, Devdutt Padikkal, Rajat Patidar(c), Liam Livingstone, Jitesh Sharma(w), Tim David, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Josh Hazlewood, Yash Dayal.

Will RCB be able to defend their way to victory against CSK? The answer will be revealed tonight at the Chepauk Stadium.

## In a historic first, Indian Open live on Doordarshan

GURUGRAM (HARYANA) : In a historic first, DD Sports is showing live action from the Indian Open, which is currently underway. The tournament, which is one of the iconic events in Asia and has been played since 1964, boasts of the highest prize money in India at 2.25 million US Dollars and will be played till Sunday, March 30.

The Indian Open will be shown on DD Sports from 2 PM to 5 PM daily, as per a press release from the Indian Open.

The Indian Open is being shown live for the first time on DD Sports and is part of the Indian Golf Union's plan to take the game to the masses and youngsters, with the reach of India's National Broadcaster being one of the biggest. The field at the Indian Open this week includes some of the most exciting talent and is one of the strongest ever. It includes defending champion Japan's Keita Nakajima, who is a former world number one amateur and Spain's Eugenio Chacarra, who was the World No. 2 amateur before turning professional. A total of 138 players are playing this week. The Indian Open, which is part of the Asian Swing also counts towards the European Tour Race to Dubai rankings from where the Top-10 not otherwise exempt will get onto the PGA Tour, the biggest golf tour in the world.

## Robin Uthappa lauds Shardul Thakur's bowling performance in IPL 2025 clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : After the completion of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 clash between Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG), former Indian cricketer Robin Uthappa hailed right-arm seamer Shardul Thakur following his exceptional bowling performance in the clash on Thursday.

Shardul was awarded the Player of the Match for his marvellous performance in the match against last year's finalists SRH at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, where he snapped four wickets in his spell of four overs, where he conceded 34 runs at an economy of 8.5.

The fast bowler made early inroads by removing the hard-hitting young southpaws Abhishek Sharma (6) and Ishan Kishan (0) in his second over. He went on to remove Abhinav Manohar and Mohammed Shami in the death overs of the first innings.

Speaking after the match, Uthappa stated that the all-rounder performed exceptionally well in domestic cricket, which is why the Lucknow-based franchise picked him up as a replacement.

"They say all's well that ends well, and right now, Shardul epitomizes that. He was unlucky in the auctions - he should have been picked and at a good price. But the dynamics of the auctions are unpredictable, and for some reason, he went unsold. I still find it baffling. However, he took it on the chin, went back to first-class



cricket, and performed exceptionally well. To now come into the IPL and start off in this fashion is just incredible," JioStar expert Robin Uthappa said while speaking on JioHotstar.

Further, the 39-year-old believed that Shardul must have bowled more

overs in their first match of the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League. The experienced campaigner bowled only two overs in the match, taking two wickets and giving away 19 runs.

"He has so much more to offer. Even in the previous game, he showed that while he might concede a few runs, he always finds a way to produce breakthroughs. When he doesn't get wickets, he might seem expensive, but when he does, he's top-notch. I felt he should have bowled more in the first game, where he only got two overs. This time, I'm glad he completed his full quota of four," the former opener added.

With a base price of Rs 2 crore, Shardul didn't see any paddle go up when his name popped up and eventually went unsold for the IPL 2025.

The Lucknow Super Giants approached him first as an injury replacement. Shardul joined the LSG camp as a replacement for the injured Mohsin Khan. On December 31, Mohsin tore the anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) in his right knee during the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

The seasoned all-rounder is now the leading wicket-taker in the ongoing edition of the cash-rich league, with six scalps in two games, an average of 8.83, and a similar economy rate.

He collected the purple cap after returning with figures of 4/34 in LSG's five-wicket triumph over Sunrisers Hyderabad.

## Hockey India name Chennai & Madurai as host cities for FIH Jr Men's Hockey World Cup

PC JHA

RANCHI : Hockey India today announced Chennai and Madurai, in Tamil Nadu as the host cities for the forthcoming FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup, which will be held from 28th November to 10th December 2025.

The two-week hockey extravaganza will see 24 teams participating for the first time for the coveted title.

This will be the third successive FIH Junior Men's World Cup being held in India with the previous editions of the prestigious event being held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha in 2021 and Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh in 2016 which was won by India.

Speaking to Morning India about the event, on Hockey India's hosting capabilities, Bhola Nath Singh, Secretary General of Hockey India, said, "Our Federation has been in the forefront of hosting global events and once again, we look forward to leaving no stone unturned in ensuring the FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup is a mega success.

It is our endeavour to take hockey to different venues across India and promote the game. It is with this vision that we chose Chennai and Madurai as the venues and this was possible only because of the support we have of the Tamil Nadu State Government and the leadership of our (Hockey



India) Treasurer Shri Sekar Manoharan."

President, Hockey India, Dr Dilip Tirkey said, "It is a matter of great pride for Hockey India to host the forthcoming FIH Junior Men's Hockey World Cup and I express our gratitude to the Chief Minister, Government of Tamil Nadu, MK Stalin and Sports Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin who have extended unparalleled support to successfully host the event.

With 24 teams playing the Junior World Cup this time, we will have the event in two cities - Chennai and Madurai. While Chennai has hosted the Asian Champions Trophy in 2023, Madurai will be hosting an international event of

this magnitude for the first time and we are happy to take hockey to different parts of the country."

Expressing his excitement to bring back hockey's glory days to Tamil Nadu, Sekar Manoharan, Hockey India Treasurer and President of Hockey Tamil Nadu said, "I am grateful to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu MK Stalin and Sports Minister Thiru Udhayanidhi Stalin for their passion and support for hockey.

We in Tamil Nadu want to bring back the glory days of hockey in the state and Chennai for long was one of the most popular venues for international hockey events. We look forward to welcoming global hockey fans to our

### EID MUBARAK

## Susmita Bhattacharya Chatterjee

Councillor Ward-63 & Chairperson, Borough VII

**Courtesy by:**

Abdul Qayyum, Bablu pyne, Sk Ali Jan, Vishal Khatak, Raja Warsi, All T.M.C Workers

## BCCI invites applications for spin bowling coach at Centre of Excellence

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has invited applications for the position of spin bowling coach at its state-of-the-art BCCI Centre of Excellence (COE) in Bengaluru on Friday, as per the BCCI Media Advisory.

This role is integral to the development and performance enhancement of India's spin bowling talent across all formats and age groups, including India Senior Teams (Men & Women), India A, U-23, U-19, U-16, and U-15 squads, and State association players training at the BCCI COE.

The spin bowling coach will work closely with the head cricket, BCCI COE, to design and deliver specialized coaching programs and assist in performance monitoring. The role also involves working



closely with Selectors, National and State Coaches, Performance Analysts, and Strength and Conditioning experts to develop high-performance training plans.

The key responsibilities of the spin bowling coach will be to plan and execute training sessions for cricket squads at the COE, provide one-on-one technical coaching to players as required, develop and

monitor individual player performance plans with measurable objectives, collaborate with other specialist coaches, selectors, and support staff to scout and develop talented spin bowlers, utilize advanced technologies like GPS-enabled devices and biomechanical analysis to enhance player performance and support injury rehabilitation protocols and certify players fit for competition.

BCCI also mentioned the qualification criteria which said that the Former India Cricketer OR Former Indian First-Class Cricketer with minimum 75 FC matches and an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 Years) with a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL team. It

includes BCCI COE Level 3 Performance Coach (or equivalent) with an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 years) with a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL/ State team.

The qualification criteria includes BCCI COE Level 2 Coach (or equivalent) with an outstanding track record of cricket coaching for a minimum of 3 years (in the last 7 Years) of a High-Performance Centre/International/India A/India U-19/India Women/IPL team. Also to qualify, the candidate should have successful record in high-performance planning and monitoring, as well as designing and implementing player development plans and programmes in elite environments.

### EID MUBARAK

## RAJA WARSI SPORT SECRETARY

(Chairman) Ward No (63) Trinamool Congress Mainority Cell & (INTTUC VICE PRESIDENT) South Kolkata Howkers Union.

**Courtesy:** COLLIN STREET WELFARE COMMITTEE & ALL MEMBERS