

DMK to move Supreme Court on Waqf Bill, says CM Stalin

MI News Service, Chennai : Taking strong exception to the passage of the Waqf Bill in the Lok Sabha, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin on Thursday said his party would file a case in the Supreme Court against the Bill.

The Chief minister , who came to the Assembly wearing a black badge as a mark of protest against the passing of the Bill, said adopting the amendment as late as at 2 am "at the behest of a few allies" despite the opposition of the majority parties in India, "is an attack on the structure of the Constitution."

"This is an act that disturbs religious harmony. To highlight this, we are participating in today's Assembly proceedings wearing black badges," the Chief minister told the House.

"I would like to inform you that a case will be filed in the Supreme Court on behalf of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) against this controversial amendment. Tamil Nadu will fight to the end against the Union government's law which destroys the autonomy of the Waqf Board and threatens the minority Muslim population," Stalin said amidst thumping of desk by the Treasury.

He pointed out that the state Assembly had already passed a resolution House on March 27, against the proposed amendment as it would seriously affect the religious harmony of India besides the minority Muslim community. Except for the BJP, all other members supported it. "

He said it was highly condemnable that the amendment of the Waqf Act has been passed in the Lok Sabha despite 232 MPs voting against it and this was not an ordinary number, and the number may increase. Only 288 members voted in its favour, he said.

Along with the Chief minister all members of the DMK and its coalition parties participated in the assembly proceedings on Thursday wearing black badges to protest the passing of the bill in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Underscoring that the bill may disturb religious harmony in the country and affect the Muslim community, Stalin said, "Although we passed the resolution and the majority of political parties opposed it, the bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha. This is highly condemnable."

"Our stand is that this bill should not merely be opposed but completely withdrawn," he said.

Charging that the bill would destroy the autonomy of the Waqf Board and threaten the Muslim community, he declared that Tamil Nadu would fight against it and that Tamil Nadu would win. "We will prevent the bill through legal measures," he said.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses a press conference over the Supreme Court verdict on the SSC issue, at Nabanna on Thursday.

The process of appointment was tainted, alleges Petitioners' lawyer on SC verdict

MI News Service, Kolkata : Senior advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya on Thursday said that when the whole process of recruitment of teaching and non-teaching staff in West Bengal government-sponsored and aided schools has been termed "tainted" by the Supreme Court, it cannot be determined who was eligible and who was not.

Bhattacharya represented several candidates, who claimed to have been deprived of a fair selection process, before the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court in their challenge against the appointments of nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff.

The CPI(M)'s Rajya



Teachers react after Supreme Court upholds High Court order to cancel twenty Six thousand teaching and non teaching staff appointed by West Bengal SSC in 2016, in Kolkata.

Sabha MP maintained

that when the whole process is declared "tainted", it cannot be determined who was eli-

gible and who was not..

"One must also think of the interest of those lakhs of candidates who had been deprived of a

fair selection process for the jobs," Bhattacharya said.

Expressing dismay at the loss of jobs of 25,753 teaching and non-teaching staff, Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury claimed that this happened because the state government did not assist the apex court by presenting the case properly.

"The state government did not assist the Supreme Court by presenting documents before it properly," he said, claiming that the government did not work in the interest of these people who lost their jobs.

He also alleged that the state was keen to "save those who were behind such recruitments."

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Mamata Banerjee criticizes SC ruling, raises several questions over SSC recruitment cancellation

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has voiced strong reservations about the Supreme Court's verdict upholding the Calcutta High Court's decision to cancel 25,753 School Service Commission (SSC) recruitments.

While reiterating her respect for the judiciary, she stated that she could not accept the ruling, expressing concerns over its impact on the education system. "I have the highest respect for the judiciary. I have no complaints against any judge. As a lawyer, I have fought cases—not professionally, but for human rights and students. However, as a citizen of this country, I have the right to express my opinion. I respect the judiciary, but I cannot accept this ruling. Even if I do not criticize it, I can share my views on humanitarian grounds. I hope my words won't be misinterpreted or distorted," Banerjee remarked.

Referring to the Supreme Court's ruling on Thursday morning, Banerjee pointed out that the court also clearly stated, "Those who are already employed do not need to return any money." She further emphasized that the verdict allows affected candidates to re-apply with age and other relaxations, dismissing allegations that all employees were engaged in fraudu-

lent recruitment. She also stressed that candidates with disabilities would still have an opportunity to re-apply, with possible relaxations in age and other criteria.

"People should not forget that these individuals have families and have been teaching in schools. What will happen to the schools? Is the BJP's ultimate goal to destroy Bengal's education system? How long will Bengal remain their target?" she questioned. Banerjee also stressed that while the Supreme Court upheld the job cancellations, it did not order salary recoveries.

Bringing up the Vyapam scam in Madhya Pradesh, the Chief minister pointed out the stark contrast in legal outcomes. "This is a political statement, not related to the judiciary. But what happened in Madhya Pradesh's Vyapam case? Over 50 people were murdered. What punishment did the culprits receive? Here, the former education minister has been jailed by the CBI, yet we remained silent. How many times will the same person be punished for the same crime? And how many innocent people will suffer because of a few wrongdoers?" she asked.

Banerjee clarified that while the SSC operates independently, the state government would ensure the recruitment process is

completed within three months to secure the futures of the 25,000 plus affected candidates. "I have asked Bratya (Basu), the Education minister, to take necessary steps in this regard without any delay", the Chief minister asserted. Taking a sharp jibe at advocate Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who played a key role in the case, Banerjee sarcastically remarked, "I am astonished. He is the greatest lawyer on Earth. I wonder why he hasn't won a Nobel Prize yet. Perhaps I should recommend him for one."

She accused him of ignoring the livelihood crisis faced by thousands of families, stating that the legal battle had jeopardized the future of millions of people dependent on these teachers. Banerjee also took a direct swipe at the BJP-led central government, accusing it of orchestrating legal battles to disrupt Bengal's education system.

"This is the BJP government's primary objective—to collapse the education system in Bengal," she alleged.

She also questioned why similar recruitment scams in BJP-ruled states did not receive the same judicial scrutiny.

Banerjee also slammed BJP leader Sukanta Majumdar, accusing him of misleading the public by labeling deserving candidates as unqualified. She questioned why the court

did not allow the government to verify the legitimacy of the candidates, remarking, "Did you ever think about who was eligible and who wasn't before filing this case? Did you even give the government a chance to assess this? And are you yourself is qualified?" she asked."

On April 3, 2025, the Supreme Court of India upheld the Calcutta High Court's April 2024 decision, declaring that the recruitment process for over 25,000 teachers and non-teaching staff in West Bengal was tainted by serious irregularities. The apex court ruled that the appointments were fundamentally flawed, and the entire selection process was vitiated and tainted, making them invalid.

A bench led by Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar observed that the manipulations in the recruitment process had severely compromised the integrity of the appointments. Given the extent of the irregularities, the court concluded that the appointments could not be sustained.

The ruling reinforces the Calcutta High Court's earlier verdict, which had nullified the appointments across various schools in West Bengal. The Supreme Court directed that all individuals recruited through the controversial process be terminated from their positions.

Trump announces 27% tariffs against India on America's "Liberation Day"

MI News Service, New Delhi / Washington (DC) : After months of speculation and public hullabaloo, US President Donald Trump announced a barrage of "reciprocal tariffs" on nearly all the countries in the world, including India on Wednesday afternoon (local time).

The 27 per cent reciprocal tariffs or import duties on Indian goods, as announced by the US President , will pose significant challenges for Indian industries to enter into the American markets. However, captains of several Industries are also of the view that despite such high tariff , India's position is comparatively 'more favourable' than that of its competitor nations.

US President Donald Trump celebrated America's "Liberation Day" on April 2 by announcing "reciprocal tariffs" against all major trading partners saying the US runs a trade deficit of around USD1.2 trillion.

Trade deficit is the difference between the value of goods the US exports and the value of goods the US imports. A trade deficit (shown with a minus sign) of more than a trillion dollars means the US imports a trillion dollars worth more of goods than it exports.

There were two sets of tariffs announced . One, a base tariff of 10 per cent against all countries. This

in itself is a sharp increase from the pre-Trump 2.0 tariff rate of around 2.5 per cent . This base rate of tariffs will go into effect on April 5.

Then there are country-specific tariffs that were arrived at by estimating how much each of these countries charges on US goods and then halving it to reach "USA discountered reciprocal tariffs". President Trump said that Americans are "kind" people and that is why he is only levying half of the tariffs that he believes other countries are imposing on the US. These country specific tariffs will be enforced from April 9 onwards.

In an overnight address to mark the US' "liberation day", Trump told reporters that large and persistent annual US goods trade deficits led to "the hollowing out of the US' manufacturing base; inhibited the US' ability to scale advanced domestic manufacturing capacity; undermined critical supply chains; and rendered the defence-industrial base dependent on foreign adversaries".

"It is the policy of the United States to rebalance global trade flows by imposing an additional ad valorem duty on all imports from all trading partners except as otherwise stated. The additional ad valorem duty on all imports from all trading partners shall start at 10 per cent and increase, there-

after, for trading partners. These additional ad valorem duties shall apply until such time as I determine," Donald Trump said at the 'Make America Wealthy Again' event at the White House Rose Garden.

US' reciprocal tariffs, Trump said, aims to promote manufacturing in the US and provide Americans a level playing field against other countries that have been indulging in "years of unfair trade practices" by imposing high tariffs and other non-trade barriers on US goods, blocking the US' access to various global markets.

"The decline of US manufacturing capacity threatens the US economy in other ways, including through the loss of manufacturing jobs. From 1997 to 2024, the United States lost around 5 million manufacturing jobs... The future of American competitiveness depends on reversing these trends," Trump said. Notably, the US President went ahead with stringent tariffs against more than 180 countries despite several economists' issuing warnings that higher tariffs could, yet again, flare up inflation in an economy that is making slow progress towards achieving its long-term inflation target of 2 per cent. While any retaliatory tariffs by affected countries

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PM Modi arrives in Thailand to attend BIMSTEC summit

MI News Service, Bangkok : Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in this capital city of Thailand on Thursday on a two-day visit to attend the sixth BIMSTEC summit.

During his visit , he will hold talks with his Thai counterpart Paetongtarn Shinawatra and other leaders of the member states..

Upon his arrival at the Don Mueang airport here in the morning Prime minister Modi was received with a warm welcome, among others, by a large Indian diaspora including the members of the Sikh community who performed a colourful Bhangra.

After concluding Thailand visit, he will travel to Sri Lanka for his first visit to the island nation since the election of its new President.

On Thursday evening, the Prime Minister will join the 'Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation' (BIMSTEC) leaders from Thailand, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Myanmar and Bhutan to oversee the signing of the Agreement on Maritime Cooperation.

The BIMSTEC summit will bring Modi face to face with Nepal Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, Bangladesh Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and

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Indian rescue team's valour shines in Myanmar for their tireless efforts

MI News Service, Yangon (Myanmar) Braving the unbearable stench of death to recover bodies from under the huge rubble, members of the Indian Disaster Management teams are tirelessly conducting relief and rescue operations in the 7.7 magnitude quake hit Mandalay, the second largest city of Myanmar for the past nearly a week .

Amid this unprecedented devastation, a story of faith and resilience emerged—one that will be etched in the memory of those who witnessed it.

It was the sacred hour of Alvida Namaz of Ramzan on Friday last when the catastrophic 7.7 magnitude



earthquake rocked Myanmar, particularly the Mandalay region last Friday killing over 3,000 people so far.

Near Street 86A in the former royal capital of Mandalay, a devout Muslim woman and young child, among others, were deep in prayer, unaware of the disaster unfolding

around them. "We men were performing Alvida Jumme ki Namaz at the mosque while women and children were praying in their respective homes in the society," Aadam Hussein,(65), recalling the incident said . "Within moments, the ground convulsed violently, reducing a residential complex with around 50 people, mostly women and children, to ruins and leaving destruction in its wake," he said. When the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and other Indian personnel reached the site within the next 24 hours, as promised by Prime minister Modi,

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A MoU was signed between Bankim Sardar College and Guskara Mahavidyalaya on AI based learning

MI News Service, Gushkara: A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on Thursday between Bankim Sardar College in Canning, South 24 Parganas, and Guskara College in Purba Burdwan on artificial intelligence (AI)-based learning. According to Guskara College sources, the agreement was signed by the principals of the two colleges, Dr. Tilak Chatterjee and Dr. Sudip Chatterjee, at Guskara College on this day. Along with this, a one-day workshop on the 'Indian Knowledge System' of the

there has been a major change in the syllabus in colleges. Students have to study several subjects outside the main course. There are now several such subjects including environmental science, constitution, Indian knowledge system." Since these 50-mark or two-credit courses are required for students from all subjects, the number of students in those classes is also high. Bankim Sardar College, Canning, has therefore introduced artificial merit-based teaching in these courses. "We are thinking



curriculum as per the UGC's National Education Policy was held at the college on this day. Representatives of 7 colleges under Burdwan University were present there. Tilak Chatterjee said about the agreement, "With the help of AI (Artificial Intelligence), chatbot-based teaching has been introduced in our college. "The teachers have created their own database, which is reaching the students through chatbots." He claims, "With this system, students from remote areas are able to study from home. This is benefiting them a lot. The college has incurred quite a bit of expenditure for this." The Principal of Guskara College said, "According to the National Education Policy,

about introducing this system of teaching in our college with their technical assistance." Besides this, Guskara College has accepted membership of the Bharat Chamber of Commerce in the current financial year 2025-26. The approval letter in this regard has reached the college today. According to college sources, in the current education system, it is mandatory for students to do an internship course in the fifth semester. The Principal said that the college students will get that opportunity in various industrial organizations under this organization. He claimed that "Guskara College is the first among the Burdwan University to accept membership of such a commercial organization."

Global harmony prog unites Asia, Europe, & American continent

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata recently hosted the global harmony programme that united multiple continents. The event, Myriad -'25 organised by St. Joan's School showcased a diverse range of performances that transcended boundaries and celebrated shared humanity. From traditional dances of Russia, China, Thailand, and Scotland to the pulsating beats of Brazilian Samba and Punjabi

Bhangra, the evening was a tribute to global harmony. The event was graced by Xu Wei, Consul General of the People's Republic of China in Kolkata; Maxim Kozlov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata. Also present were Tulsi Sinha Roy, MMIC, Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation, and other notable dignitaries from the fields of administration, education, and culture.

Shibu-Nandita's summer release 'Amar Boss' to enthrall Bengalis

MI News Service, Kolkata: Come summer and Shibu-prasad Mukerjee and Nandita Roy are ever ready to present film crazy-hungry

of veteran Bollywood superstar Rakhi Gulzar. Rakhi is making her effective screen presence in Tollywood film in a big way after



Bengalis with some unique itineraries. This summer would be no exception either. Shibu-Nandita, as the famous duo known by is coming up with their latest venture - 'Amar Boss'. This block-buster movie is a multi-cast film with known Tollywood performers. But the USP of this film would be the big screen presence

nearly more than two decades. Co-director Shibu-prasad Mukerjee has himself acted in the film where Rakhi portrayed the character of his mother. Unique story line clubbed with amazing treatment, USP of every Windows venture opens up a new 'window' to inculcate fresh air Bengali film industry.



On March 28, 2025, almost the entire country of Myanmar, including Mandalay, the second largest city of Myanmar, was shaken by a severe earthquake. Thousands of people died. Thousands of people were displaced. The number of injured is increasing day by day. In such adverse circumstances, the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission extended financial assistance to the helpless and suffering people of Myanmar. Today, the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission provided financial assistance of one lakh rupees to the Consul General of Myanmar in Kolkata. In the past, the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission has repeatedly extended its support to people in distress in any part of the world. Following that tradition and ideals, this time too, Swami Raghavatanand Maharaj and students from the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission delivered this financial assistance to the Consul General of Myanmar today. This initiative once again proved that "He who loves man, serves God." Swami Nityarupananda Maharaj, Secretary of the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, appealed to people from all walks of life to stand by Myanmar in this time of crisis and wished that the people of Myanmar would overcome this difficult time very soon.



Stay Compliant: Align GST with Books of Accounts

MI News Service, Kolkata: As we all know, the Financial year 2024-25 just ended. Therefore, it is necessary for every registered person to reconcile GST with the books of accounts. In this context, Morning India had a conversation with Chartered Accountant Mr. Anup Kumar Luharuka in which he stated that GST is an important pillar for the development of Indian economy. Further, he said that coordination between the books of accounts and GST is important. Hence, attention should be paid to the

certain areas of GST. Continuing the conversation, Mr. Luharuka said it is necessary to reconcile the Input Tax credit available in GSTR-2B before claiming it in GSTR 3B. If Input Tax credit is not appearing in GSTR-2B, then the supplier should be contacted and asked to report it correctly in GSTR-1. Apart from this, the electronic credit ledger and electronic cash ledger should also be reconciled with books of accounts. If any input tax credit relates to exempted supplies, it has to be reversed as per rule



42 and 43 of The CGST Rules, 2017. If any excess ITC has been claimed, it also has to be reversed. Whatever corrections are there in inward supplies and outward supplies relating to the financial year

2024-25, the registered person should disclose the same in the relevant tables while filing GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B so that the books of accounts and GST are properly reconciled, so that notice proceedings can be avoided. Any Eligible Input Tax Credit (ITC) for the financial year 2024-25, which has not been claimed by 31st March 2025, shall be claimed on or before 30th November 2025, in accordance with the provisions of Section 16(4) of The Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) Act, 2017. Also, The provi-

sions of Input Service Distributor has been made mandatory w.e.f 1st April, 2025, therefore compliance of the same should also be ensured. Further, the transaction on which RCM is applicable should be checked from the books of accounts and compliance of RCM provisions should be ensured. Also, In recent times GST has been implemented on corporate guarantees given by holding-subsidiary companies, hence its proper compliance is also advisable. It should also be kept in mind that the principal place

and additional place of business are properly mentioned in the GST registration certificate. The e-way bill should be matched with the tax invoice shown in GSTR-1 and GSTR-3B to ensure proper compliance of the e-way bill. At last, It is imperative to maintain proper coordination of Books of Accounts and GST for the financial year 2024-25. This will not only ease compliance but will also avoid potential tax disputes. These are my personal views and opinions regarding Books of Accounts and GST.



2022 Primary Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) passed candidates took part in a protest rally in front of Bikash Bhavan at Salt Lake in Kolkata.



Raja Warsi, Chairman of Ward 63 Trinamool Congress Minority Cell and Vice President of Trinamool Congress Hawker Union Unit South Kolkata, greets Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. He is seen shaking hands with Abhishek Banerjee while addressing Mamata Banerjee.

Summer vacation in state-run schools from April 30: Mamata

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to rising temperatures and humid conditions, the West Bengal Education Department will declare summer vacation in state-run schools from April 30, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said on Thursday.

Briefing journalists at state secretariat Nabanna, Banerjee said instead of the usual practice of declaring summer vacation from the second week of May, the department will issue a notice about

advancing it to April 30 for primary, secondary and higher secondary schools. "The Education Department will issue the notice to this effect later," she said. The city recorded a maximum of 34.4 degree Celsius on Thursday, as mercury levels had been steadily rising over the past week. "It is expected to rise further in the coming days, with no rain or Nor'wester forecast in the immediate future", according to the weather office.

Three day International Film Festival held in Kolkata screening 15 award winning movies

MI News Service, Kolkata : A total of 15 well known and award winning foreign and Indian films were screened, at a unique three day International Film Festival at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium of Rabindranath Tagore Centre, in the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) here last week.

Organised jointly by the Forum For Film Studies And Allied Arts, in collaboration with NEZ Foundation, Kolkata, the three day festival showed a bouquet of award winning movies from as many as seven countries comprising Italy, the USA, Spain, Venezuela, Tunisia and South Korea besides hosts India. Among the 15 films shown during the Festival, ten were full-length feature films, four short films and one animation movie. Among the movies shown were Black Medusa (Tunisia), Adventures Italian Style Reloaded (Italy), Pluck (Italy/ USA), Lost (USA), Dosor (India), The Phoenix (India) and Upon Entry (Spain / Belgium).

Inaugurated by eminent actress and model Richa Sharma, the Chief Guest at the opening ceremony was Sudeep Shirmal, Vice President of Forum for Film Studies and Allied Arts. Though internationally acclaimed Italian and Hollywood film promoters Maurizio Paganelli could not be present, a number of other film personalities like film producer Natalia Tchoulkova, actress Paula Bonachina and Italian actress Vini Giogi were present as guests of honour.



Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw awarded CBI Inspector Rahul Kumar with a police medal on the occasion of the 21st D.P. Kohli Memorial Lecture.

Fire in Alipurduar guts shops, houses

MI News Service, Alipurduar: A fire completely gutted two shops and partially damaged an equal number of stalls at College Halt.

The affected shopowners have pegged the losses at 50 lakh. Sources said initially, thick smoke had billowed out of a shop around 1.15pm. Soon, flames engulfed four shops. Within 15 minutes, two fire tenders reached the spot to douse the blaze.

When a large crowd gathered, police kept the onlookers at a safe distance so that the firemen could do their work.

The fire was brought under control within an hour. Representatives of the College Halt Byasayee Samiti, a local trade body, said a jewelry shop and a shop selling hardware items were completely damaged in the fire.

A photocopier stall and another shop selling cosmetics and stationery items were partially damaged, along with a house. During the preliminary investigation, it was found that some people had gathered dry leaves in a house beside the hardware shop and had set those on fire.

Summer tourism: Bengal-Sikkim 'MOU' to boost road connectivity

MI News Service, Kolkata: The governments of West Bengal and Sikkim have agreed on a reciprocal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate improved inter-state transport movement to cater to the summer tourists for the eastern Himalayan destination.

Representatives from both the governments, including Bengal's transport minister Snehashish Chakraborty and Sikkim's transport department adviser Madan Cinturi along with other key officials met at Siliguri. Both the sides are keen on increasing the number of buses plying between Siliguri and Gangtok to 4,000 from the existing fleet of 3,000. There are plans to include electric buses in the route.

Apart from the most used Siliguri-Gangtok route, the Bengal government is also keen on popu-

larising travel to Gangtok from other north Bengal districts like Alipurduar and Malda.

This was the first such meeting between officials from the two states in three years.

Car service owners in Siliguri had complained about the Bengal government's insistence on issuing temporary permits to vehicles plying from Bengal to Sikkim, which are issued for 14 to 28 days, for which they are paying more than the operators in Sikkim.

A commercial cab registered in Bengal while entering or leaving Sikkim also has to pay an additional Rs. 200, while there is no such stipulation on vehicles registered in the Himalayan state. State transport minister Snehashish Chakraborty said the existing agreement between the two states was being reviewed.

SC verdict on SSC: Bengal BJP demands Mamata's resignation

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal BJP on demanded the resignation of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for the "plight" of around 26,000 teachers whose jobs were invalidated by the Supreme Court.

The apex court on Thursday invalidated the appointment of 25,753 teachers and other staff in state-run and state-aided schools in West Bengal, terming their selection process "vitiated and tainted".

"The sole responsibility for this massive corruption in

teacher recruitment lies with the failed Chief Minister of the state, @MamataOfficial. The Supreme Court's verdict has made it clear how, under Mamata Banerjee's rule, the merit of educated unemployed youth in West Bengal was sold in exchange for money!" state BJP president and Union Minister of State for Education Sukanta Majumdar said in a post on X.

He demanded that Banerjee should take full responsibility of this "huge corruption" and resign from the post of the chief

minister.

In a video posted on X, Majumdar expressed empathy with the deserving candidates who got their jobs "using their skills and merit but became sufferers due to corrupt mishandling of the entire recruitment process by the Mamata Banerjee government which is solely responsible for facilitating jobs to a large number of tainted teachers in an irregular manner".

"They could not be distinguished from the deserving candidates. The corrupt Mamata

Banerjee government owes an explanation to the people of the state, particularly the families of the deserving teachers," Majumdar added.

TMC's Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen said that the party respects the judgement and asserted that it has always been against corruption.

"We hope that the state government will examine the order, the legal issues threadbare and take appropriate steps after speaking to legal experts. The party will always stand with the

deserving candidates," she added.

Hundreds of teachers, who had qualified the 2016 recruitment examinations conducted by the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC), had been staging a sit-in in the heart of Kolkata for months, requesting that the merits of their cases be considered and validated by the judiciary while giving the judgement.

Many of them broke down in tears after hearing about the SC judgement.

Trump announces 27%...

From PG 1
could start a trade war and jeopardise the global growth scenario, Donald Trump has threatened countries against using any retaliatory or remedy measures.

Should any trading partner retaliate against the United States in response to this action through import duties on US exports or other measures; should they take significant steps to remedy non-reciprocal trade arrangement; and should US manufacturing capacity and output continue to worsen, I may further modify the Harmonised Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTSUS) to increase duties, Trump warned.

Among the hardest hit countries, Cambodia faces tariffs at 49 per cent, Laos 48 per cent, Madagascar 47 per cent, Vietnam 46 per cent, Sri Lanka and Myanmar 44 per cent each, Botswana 37 per cent, Thailand 36 per cent, China 34 per cent, Taiwan and Indonesia 32 per cent each, and Switzerland 31 per cent.

Among the bigger world economies, Trump announced a 20 per cent tariff on European Union, 10 per cent on the UK, and 24 per cent on Japan.

The baseline 10-per cent tariffs would be effective at 9:30 AM IST on April 5, while higher, country-specific tariffs would be effective from 9:30 AM IST on April 9.

As the US President Donald Trump bombarded various countries that run a high trade imbalance with the US, with hard-hitting tariffs, India was no exception.

India, Trump said, will now face a 27-per cent blanket tariff on all goods and services imported to the States.

Training guns against India, and citing examples of tariff difference, Trump said the US imposes a 2.5 per cent tariff on passenger vehicle imports (with internal combustion engines), while India imposes 70 per cent.

"For network switches and routers, the United States imposes a 0 per cent tariff, but for similar products, India levies a higher rate of 10 per cent. Similarly,

for rice in the husk, the US MFN tariff is 2.7 per cent, but India's rate is 50 per cent," he added.

Trump said: India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi just left the US. He is a great friend of mine, but I told him that 'you've not been treating us right'. India charges us 52 per cent, so we will charge them half of that - 27 per cent.

Notably, Donald Trump's reciprocal tariffs against India come in the backdrop of the US' rising trade deficit with the country.

According to the United States Trade Representative, the US goods trade deficit with India was USD 45.7 billion in calendar year 2024, higher by 5.4 per cent over the trade deficit of USD 2.4 billion reported in CY-2023.

US imported goods from India worth USD 87.4 billion in 2024, up 4.5 per cent (USD 3.7 billion) from 2023. Including exports, the US total trade with India was worth USD 129.2 billion in 2024.

India exports tonnes of goods to the United States. Most of these sectors will be hit with a blanket reciprocal tariff of 27 per cent.

India exports Meat, fish, and seafood; Processed food, sugar, and cocoa; Cereals, vegetables, fruits, and spices; Dairy products; Edible oils; Generic medicines, specialty drugs and other pharmaceutical products; Diamonds, gold, and silver; Electrical, telecom, and electronics; Chemicals (excluding pharma); Textiles, fabrics, yarn, and carpets; Rubber products, including tyres and belts; Ceramic, glass, and stone products; Footwear; and automobile and auto components to the US.

Among these, the US has announced "exemptions to certain sectors from reciprocal tariffs". These include steel/aluminum articles and autos/auto parts, copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and lumber articles; all articles that may become subject to future Section 232 tariffs; bullion; and energy and other certain minerals that are not available in the United States.

27% US tariff is a major...

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the broader sense, it will be 27 per cent, the Gems and jewellery sector will be the most affected as import tariffs may be up to 20 per cent from the current '0' per cent on loose diamonds and 5.5-7 per cent on gold jewellery," Shah said.

Shah further noted that the US is one of India's largest jewellery export markets, accounting for almost 30 per cent of the share.

Experts said the retaliatory tariffs will significantly

cantly impact India's diamond and jewellery sector -- a cornerstone of its exports to the US, said the Council.

"India currently imposes a 20 per cent import duty on gold, silver, and platinum jewellery from the US. Efforts should be made to rationalise import duty as well as balance trade with all major nations. Import duties help protect local industries, but the retaliatory tariffs will end up negating this step by most governments," he added.

PM Modi arrives in Thailand..

From PG 1
state who arrived here after last week's devastating earthquake of 7.7 magnitude in the city which has flattened a 30 stories under construction building killing many people.

It was not immediately clear whether Myanmar military junta leader Min Aung Hlaing is attending the Summit in person. Myanmar is grappling with the aftermath of the massive earthquake that devastated its second-largest city, Mandalay, and other parts of the country on last Friday killing over 3,000 people so far and rendering many more people homeless..

This would be the first physical meeting of the BIMSTEC leaders since the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal in 2018. The last summit was held in Colombo in March 2022 in virtual format.

PM Modi will also call on Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn, also known as



Rama X, and Queen Suthida on Friday.

Prime Minister Modi and his Thai counterpart Shinawatra are scheduled to visit Wat Pho, one of the top six temples in Thailand that is famous for its massive reclining Buddha statue.

Besides the gigantic reclining Buddha, the temple is well known for numerous Buddha images all around it. It was the first centre in Thailand for public education, offering science, religion and literature courses.

The Prime Minister will attend the BIMSTEC Summit on Friday morning, where the regional grouping is expected to adopt the Bangkok Vision 2030.

Mamata Banerjee convenes emergency meeting over job cancellations

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the Supreme Court's cancellation of 25,772 teaching and non-teaching jobs in West Bengal, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called an emergency meeting with Education Minister Bratya Basu and senior education department officials. The meeting, scheduled for 3 PM at Nabanna, aims to devise strategies to mitigate the impact of the ruling.

Education Secretary Vinod Kumar stated, "We are carefully reviewing the Supreme Court's order and will decide on the next steps accordingly." The court's ruling, which annulled the 2016 School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment panel, has raised concerns about the fate of those affected. Reports suggest that discussions will focus on identifying 'eligible' candidates among the dismissed employees and exploring

legal avenues to safeguard their employment.

The Supreme Court's verdict has created political ripples across the state. In response, Mamata Banerjee has announced a mass meeting at Netaji Indoor Stadium on April 7 with affected employees, legal experts, and senior government officials. Urging the dismissed teachers to "stay strong", she assured them, "Do not lose hope. You can reapply, and we stand by you." She said, "The deprived teachers have formed an association. They approached the Education Minister, expressing their desire to unite. They also requested the presence of the Education Minister, myself, the Chief Secretary, and legal experts. Responding to their appeal, I will meet them at Netaji Indoor Stadium on April 7. There is no harm in having a discussion."

Banerjee also urged the dismissed employees not to worry, assuring them that all necessary steps would be taken within the next three months, in accordance with the court's directive. Additionally, she confirmed that state legal experts would file a review petition against the verdict.

At a press conference, Banerjee also launched a scathing attack on the opposition and the judiciary, accusing former Calcutta High Court Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay—now a BJP MP—of orchestrating a conspiracy. "A judge ruled for job cancellations, and now he is a BJP MP. Can't you see the connection?" she remarked.

She further claimed that "qualified candidates have been deprived while undeserving individuals secured jobs through SSC corruption", an issue that sparked

widespread protests years ago. Gangopadhyay's 2021 order for a CBI probe into Group D recruitments was a turning point, eventually leading to this week's Supreme Court ruling.

Drawing parallels, Banerjee cited former Delhi High Court judge Yashwant Verma, whose residence allegedly contained large amounts of unaccounted cash. "After cash was found, the judge was transferred to Allahabad High Court. Why weren't these 26,000 teachers relocated instead of dismissed?" she questioned.

Banerjee reiterated that the fight is not over and pledged to continue supporting those affected. With schools facing severe staff shortages and political tensions escalating, the ruling's long-term impact on West Bengal's education system remains uncertain.

World Autism Awareness Day observed in Hooghly

MI News Service, Kolkata: World Autism Awareness Day, observed annually on April 2nd, aims to raise public awareness and eliminate misconceptions surrounding autism. This year, a special awareness camp was organized in Uttarpara, Hooghly district, focusing on educating parents and caregivers. The event featured renowned speakers, professionals, and parents, all united in their mission to foster understanding about autism.

Renowned Speech-Language Pathologist Dr. Md. Sahidul Arefin addressed common misconceptions, stating, "Autism is not a disease but a different way of perceiving the world. However, without timely intervention, this difference can lead to challenges." He stressed the importance of early diagnosis and therapy, particularly between the ages of 3 to 5 years, when a child's brain is most adaptable.

Dr. Arefin shared, "Parents often come to us feeling devastated by societal judgment. But modern therapy can help. Many non-verbal children start speaking meaningfully within months of consistent therapy."

Event organizer Tarun Dasgupta emphasized the need for inclusive school environments, reduced screen time for children, better training for Anganwadi workers, and accessible therapy services, especially for rural and low-income families.



SUCI activists take out a rally to press for their multiple demands in Kolkata.

Mayor Firhad Hakim cracks down on illegal construction at Iconic Coffee House

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim has taken decisive action against unauthorized construction beneath the historic College Street Coffee House, asserting that no one will be allowed to tamper with the city's heritage. The Coffee House, a cultural landmark that will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2026, recently came under threat when reports surfaced about illegal modifications being carried out, allegedly by Vijay Prakash Agarwal & Sons. Upon learning of the incident, Hakim swiftly intervened, issuing a stern warning: "No one has the right to interfere with Kolkata's heritage. I have directed the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) to take immediate action, and the police have been informed. Strict measures will be taken, and legal proceedings will follow if necessary."

The controversy erupted after it was discovered that part of the century-old Coffee House had been partially demolished to make way for commercial establishments. This act, which involved breaking three key structural pillars, sparked outrage among heritage conservationists and regular visitors. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Hakim ordered KMC's heritage department to halt all ongoing work immediately.

In response to his directives, KMC issued a stop-work notice under Section 401, effectively freezing all construction activities. Engineers from the KMC's building department were dispatched to inspect the damage, and they have since submitted their findings to the mayor. Firhad Hakim has also pledged a thorough investigation, ensuring that those responsible for this unauthorized act are held accountable. He emphasized the importance of protecting the city's historic landmarks, stating, "Kolkata's heritage is

its pride. We will not allow anyone to destroy our cultural identity for commercial gains."

Additionally, reports emerged that a section of a pillar adjacent to a well-known bookstore was also damaged in the construction. Concerned citizens escalated the issue by reaching out to Hakim, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Police Commissioner Manoj Verma, and the West Bengal Heritage Commission. Letters of complaint detailed the extent of the damage, particularly at the Coffee House's historic 15 Bankim Chatterjee Street address.

To further reinforce his commitment, Mayor Hakim is expected to personally inspect the site. His firm stance has reassured residents and heritage activists that Kolkata's historic structures will remain protected, with legal action pending against those who attempted to alter this architectural gem.

WB Power Dept gears up for heatwave & storms, opens 24x7 control room

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the weather department forecasting severe heatwaves and the possibility of Kalbaisakhi storms across West Bengal, the state's power department has ramped up preparations to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply. In a high-level meeting held via video conferencing at the Vidyut Unnayan Bhavan, senior officials from the power department across the state convened to discuss contingency plans.

The meeting was chaired by the State Minister of Power, Aroop Biswas in the presence of the department's Principal Secretary, Shantanu Basu, along with other top officials. The minister issued several key directives aimed at strengthening the state's power infrastructure and ensuring swift responses to weather-related disruptions. Given the anticipated surge in electricity demand, all power infrastructure must be properly maintained to prevent breakdowns.

The minister emphasized the importance of ensuring a 24x7 continuous

power supply across the state, particularly in the face of extreme weather conditions. In the event of any power disruptions due to storms, immediate restoration measures must be undertaken to minimize inconvenience to residents.

In a major initiative, the minister also announced the launch of a 24x7 control room at Vidyut Bhavan to handle any electricity supply issues efficiently. The control room, operated by the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), will serve as the central hub for addressing power-related emergencies. WBSEDCL 24x7 Control Room Contact Numbers: 8900793503 and 8900793504

The state government's proactive approach aims to mitigate the impact of extreme weather conditions and ensure a stable power supply for all residents. Authorities have been instructed to remain on high alert, with dedicated teams ready to respond to any power outages caused by adverse weather conditions.

State Govt announces early summer vacation amid rising heat concerns

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that schools across the state will begin their summer vacation from April 30, 2025, citing concerns over rising temperatures. Speaking at a press briefing, Banerjee stated that the early break was aimed at ensuring the well-being of students and teachers. Traditionally, summer vacations in West Bengal commence in the second week of May. However, due to early onset of high temperatures, the state government has decided to bring forward the vacation period. Banerjee

emphasized that schools already have multiple holidays this week, and the extended summer break will provide additional relief.

The decision has sparked confusion and concern among teachers, parents, and school administrators. Many have questioned whether the sudden closure is necessary, especially in North Bengal, where the temperature has yet to reach extreme levels. The move has also raised concerns over academic disruptions, especially as schools had only recently reopened after examination results were declared.

TMC Disciplinary Panel to convene on April 8 over absentee MLAs

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Trinamool Congress (TMC) Disciplinary Committee is set to convene on April 8 at 2 PM in the West Bengal Assembly to address concerns over absentee MLAs who defied the party whip during the budget session. The meeting, chaired by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Sobhan Deb Chattopadhyay, will include senior leaders Firhad Hakim, Aroop Biswas, Chandrima Bhattacharya, and Chief Whip Nirmal Ghosh. This urgent review comes after at least 30 legislators were reportedly absent on the final day of the budget session, despite a clear directive from the party. With Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee now back from her foreign tour, the leadership is moving swiftly to assess the situation. The Speaker's office has already provided a list of MLAs who had formally applied for leave, which will help determine who will be summoned for an explanation.

Indian rescue team's valour..

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they faced initial resistance from locals in this Muslim and Nepali Hindu-dominated area of Mandalay, home to around 1.5 million people and the city closest to the epicentre.

"It took us more than three to four hours before we could start the rescue operation. They thought it was being delayed intentionally, but they didn't understand our process. It was all part of the rescue efforts we had been conducting since morning at the site," a rescue team member, who wished to remain anonymous, recalled. On Tuesday, rescuers found several bodies at the site. "Among many bodies, it seemed a woman was still in the posture of prayer with her child beside her, entombed in the debris," he said.

Indian relief personnel began preparing to extract the remains carefully. But just as they prepared to lift the body, a tense moment unfolded. The woman's grieving family resisted their efforts. "Don't touch the body, we will handle it," family members told a rescue official.

Respecting their wishes, the Indian team stepped back. The locals, determined to retrieve their loved one themselves, attempted to lift the decomposed body from the rubble. "But the cruel passage of time had made the body fragile; at the slightest touch, it began to disintegrate. Realising they lacked the expertise to recover it intact, they hesitated. Their earlier reluctance turned into an urgent appeal," the rescuer explained. With a nod of understanding, the NDRF personnel resumed their task at once. With finesse and precision honed by experience, they carefully extricated the woman's body, preserving the dignity of her final posture in prayer. "The same voices that had hesitated to accept help now whispered words of gratitude," a senior NDRF official who was present at the site said. Deputy Team Leader of the NDRF Search and Rescue operation team in Myanmar, NDRF Deputy Commander Kunal Tiwari, said the team is trained in dead body management.

Mandalay city has been divided into four sectors—Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, and Delta—for relief and rescue operations. Local authorities have allocated Delta to India for rescue work, while the other three sectors are being handled by China, Russia, and the Myanmar Fire Service Department. The NDRF team has attended 11 of the 15 worksites allocated in Mandalay and has rescued around 300 bodies so far. "We are very satisfied with the efforts made by India. My daughter, who sustained severe injuries, was successfully operated on at the field hospital set up by the Indian Army," Addam Hussein said.

An elderly man, his voice thick with emotion, praised the Indian rescuers as the NDRF team continued searching for 24-25 missing people. "May Allah bless them."

India launched 'Operation Brahma' soon after the quake, under which medicines, ration, food and tents were airlifted and shipped to the country through its military aircraft and ships. Under the operation, the Indian Army established a field hospital in the city. In the first two days of its operation, around 200 patients have been treated, with 34 admitted for further care.

"Locals have been arriving since they learned about the hospital. Besides earthquake victims, other people have also sought treatment, and we are happily treating them," Lt. Col. Jagmeet Gill, Commanding Officer of the 60 Para Field Hospital, said adding the Indian Army is also providing food to earthquake victims who have taken shelter on the streets.

Name Change
I, Shauryan Kapoor S/O Amit Kapoor Residing at Raintree Apartments, 298A, Bagmari Road, Flat-7F, Kolkata-700054 herby Declare that I will be Known AS SHAURAYN KAPOOR with vide affidavit No.27393 from 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, New Alipore Court, Kolkata Dated.01/4/2025 henceforth Shauryan Kapoor and SHAURAYN KAPOOR both are the same and one identical person

Name Change
I, Himesh Tewari S/o Niraj Tewari Address-Vill+Po-Jujarsaha, Ps-Panchla, District-Howrah-711302. WB. I Declare that my Actual name is Himesh Tewari instead of Himesh Tiwari my father actual name is Niraj Tewari instead of Niraj Tiwari and my mother actual name is Arun Bala Tewari instead of Arun Bala Tiwari before the Executive magistrate 1st class at Howrah. dated 02/04/2025.

Name Change
I, Rukmini Baxi D/o Kiran Prasannavadan Baxi Residing at C-38, Trilmurti, 4, Lower Radwon Street, Ballygunge, Kolkata-700020. West Bengal have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Rukmini Baxi @ Rukmini K Baxi as declare before Notary Public, Kolkata vide Affidavit dated 03.04.2025 and Rukmini Baxi and Rukmini Kiran Baxi @ Rukmini K Baxi both are same and one identical person i.e., myself

Name Change
I, Rachna Pandya, daughter of Yogesh Kumar Pandya, residing at 3, Mitra Lane, 1st floor, Kolkata-700007, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Rachna Pandya daughter of Yogesh Kumar Pandya and Rachna Yogesh Kumar Pandya daughter of Yogesh Kumar Pandya is the same and one identical person via affidavit before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 2nd April 2025.

Change of Name
I, Jolly Chakraborty W/o Debashish Chakravarty Residing at 230, B B Chatterjee Road, Po-Kasba, P.S-Kasba, District-Kolkata, Pin-700042 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Jolly Chakravarty. I declare that Jolly Chakraborty and Jolly Chakravarty is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 03-04-2025.

Change of Name
I, Antu Ghosh S/o Late Shambhunath Ghosh Residing at Vill-Kulanandapur, Po-Boyra, P.S-Bagdah, District-24 Pgs(N), Pin-743232 West Bengal India that my deceased father who previously known as Sambhunath Ghosh shall henceforth be known as Shambhunath Ghosh. I declare that my deceased father Sambhunath Ghosh and Shambhunath Ghosh is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 03-04-2025.

Change of Name
I, Ananta Kumar Ghosh S/o Late Shambhunath Ghosh Residing at Vill -Kulanandapur, Po-Boyra, P.S-Bagdah, District-North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743232 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Antu Ghosh. I declare that Ananta Kumar Ghosh and Antu Ghosh is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 03-04-2025.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shaoni Ghosh, Residing at Anurag Apartment, Ground floor of 116 (old 12) Kabi Nabin Sen Road, Dum Dum, Kol- 700028 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shaoni Majumdar Ghosh as declared before the Notary Public Sealdah Court vide affidavit no. 54197 dated 26/03/2025 Shaoni Ghosh and Shaoni Majumdar Ghosh both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Uma Sil, W/O- Sunil Shil, Residing of Ramkrishna Sangha Club, P.O.- Kora Chandigharh, P.S.- Madhyamgram, Kol- 700030, Dist.- 24 PGS (N). As per my all documents my actual name is Uma Sil but in my husband's passport my name has been wrongly recorded as Uma Rani Shil & have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Uma Sil as declared before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate Barasat Court, West Bengal vide affidavit no. 5015 dated 26/03/2025 Uma Rani Shil and Uma Sil both are same and identical person.

Change of Name
I, Neha Mehta W/o Rohitt Anand & D/o Ramesh Pal Mehta, residing at Dhekiya Malancha, P.O. : Nimpura, P.S.- Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur -721304 shall henceforth be known as Garrima Anand W/o Rohitt Anand as declared Before the Notary at Paschim Medinipur vide Affidavit No. 1543 Dated 11/03/ 2025. Neha Mehta D/o Ramesh Pal Mehta and Garrima Anand W/o Rohitt Anand both are same and identical person.

Change of Name
I, Rohit Anand S/o Bharat Bhushan Anand, residing at Ward No. - 19, Malancha Road, P.S.-Kharagpur (T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, W.B, PIN- 721304 shall henceforth be known as Rohitt Anand as declared Before the Notary at Paschim Medinipur vide Affidavit No. 1581 Dated 08/03/ 2010. Rohit Anand S/o Bharat Bhushan Anand and Rohitt Anand S/o Bharat Bhushan Anand both are same and identical person.

Change of Name
I, Farida Shabbir Vhora W/o Burhanuddin M Hakimi Residing at 8, Roshan Gulzar Lane, Po-Howrah, Ps-Howrah, District-Howrah, Pin-711101 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Farida Burhanuddin Hakimi. I declare that Farida Shabbir Vhora and Farida Burhanuddin Hakimi is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 03-04-2025

Change of Name
I, Sayantan Chakrabarty S/o Subrata Chakrabarty Residing at 233/A/3, N.S.C Bose Road, Po-Regent Estate, Ps-Netaji Nagar, District-Kolkata, Pin- 700092 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Sayantan Chakraborty. I declare that Sayantan Chakrabarty and Sayantan Chakraborty is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 03-04-2025.

Change of Name
I, Nandini Chakrabarty W/o Subrata Chakrabarty Residing at 233/A/3, N.S.C Bose Road, Po - Regent Estate, Ps - Netaji Nagar, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700092 West Bengal India shall henceforth be known as Nandini Chakraborty. I declare that Nandini Chakrabarty and Nandini Chakraborty is same and one identical person by virtue of an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata on 03-04-2025.

Change of Name
I, Nikhita Khurana & Nikhita Akshay Bagadthey (old names) W/O Akshay Vikram Bagadthey, residing at Flat-4B, Capricorn Woods, 18/1A, Hindustan Road, Kolkata-700029, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nikhita Khurana Bagadthey (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Rounak Dutta (old name) both are same and identical person

Change of Name
I, Sk Khursida Khatoun (old name) W/O Sk Sadique Rahman, residing at 2 Abdul Ali Row, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Khursida Khatun (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Khursida Khatun (new name) and Sk Khursida Khatoun (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Khursida Khatoun (old name) W/O Sk Sadique Rahman, residing at 2 Abdul Ali Row, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Khursida Khatun (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Khursida Khatun (new name) and Sk Khursida Khatoun (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sanjay Kumar Dhar, Son Of Sukumar Dhar, Residing At 136 Shibgopal Banerjee Lane, Po-Salkia, Howrah-711106, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sanjay Dhar Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/04/2025. That Sanjay Kumar Dhar And Sanjay Dhar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Navneet Garg, Son Of Kishan Gopal Agarwal, Residing At Fd - 333, Sector - 3, Salt Lake City, North 24 Parganas -700106, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Navneet Kumar Garg Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/04/2025. That Navneet Garg And Navneet Kumar Garg Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Karim Mondal (old name) S/O Abdul Rasid, residing at Vill-Naksa, P.O.-Talandu, P.S.-Mogra, Hooghly, Pin-712148, W.B, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Karim (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/04/2025. Abdul Karim (new name) and Abdul Karim Mondal (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mansura Khatoun Bibi (old name) W/O Abdul Karim, D/O Sk Ansar Ali, residing at Vill-Naksa, P.O.- Talandu, P.S.- Mogra, Hooghly, Pin- 712148, W.B, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mansura Bibi (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/04/2025. Mansura Bibi (new name) and Mansura Khatoun Bibi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Vipul Kumar Shah (old name) S/O Late Vasantlal Raichand Shah, residing at 25B, Camac Street, Flat-6E, Camac Court, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Vipul Shah (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Vipul Shah (old name) and Vipul Kumar Shah (old name) both are same and identical person

Name Change
I, Monirul Sekh (old name) S/O Jandar Sekh, residing at Vill-Durgapur, Po-BANGALJHI, PS-Chapra, Dist-Nadia, Pin-741123, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manirul Sekh (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Manirul Sekh (new name) and Monirul Sekh (old name) both are same and identical person.

Indian Railways achieves a significant milestone in Coach Production in FY 2024-25

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by manufacturing 7,134 coaches, marking a 9% increase from the previous year's production of 6,541 coaches, with special emphasis on non A/C coaches with production of 4,601 coaches, catering the needs of common man. This rise reflects India's growing emphasis on modernizing Railway infrastructure to meet increasing passenger demand.

The Indian Railways has three coach manufacturing units in the country – Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala, Punjab and Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the premier passenger coach producing unit of Indian Railways in Chennai, surpassed its previous production records for the year 2024-25, as it rolled out 3,007 coaches.

Growth in Domestic Manufacturing

Youth succumbs to fatal consequences

MI News Service, Sonarpur: The family members come to know about the incident around 1 am on Wednesday. He was rescued and taken to Sonarpur Rural Hospital. From there, he was taken to Chittaranjan Hospital, where he died in the early house of the morning. A devastating incident has shaken the Subhaspalli ground area of Ward No. 9 in Rajpur Sonarpur Municipality, under the Sonarpur police station. Vishal Sau, a 25-year-old chhatu seller, was allegedly murdered by his friends after being coaxed into attending a drinking party.

Name Change
I, Shyam Paul & Shyam Chandra Pal (old names) S/O Late Kalipada Paul, residing at Mahiary Rathhala, P.O.-Andul Mouri, P.S.- Domjur, Howrah- 711302, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shyam Chandra Paul (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah, SL No-25, dated 02/04/2025. Shyam Chandra Paul (new name) and Shyam Paul & Shyam Chandra Pal (old names) all are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Subrata Pal (old name) S/O Shyam Chandra Paul, residing at Mahiary Rathhala, P.O.- Andul Mouri, P.S.- Domjur, Howrah- 711302, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subrata Paul (new name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Howrah, SL No - 25, dated 02/04/2025. Subrata Paul (new name) and Subrata Pal (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Chandra Kanta Daftari, S/o Phani Bhusan Daptari, R/o Kahankia, Po-Kahankia, North 24 Parganas -743245, West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Chandra Kanta Daptari vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 03/04/2025. That Chandra Kanta Daftari and Chandra Kanta Daptari both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tapas Daftari, S/o Chandra kanta Daptari, R/o Kahankia, Po-Kahankia, North 24 parganas -743245, West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Tapas Daptari vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 03/04/2025. That Tapas Daftari and Tapas Daptari both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Madhavi Mandal, W/o Debashish Mondal, R/o Tridibnagar Parbatipur, Po - Jharkhali Bazar, South 24 parganas - 743312, West Bengal, shall henceforth be known as Madhavi Mondal vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 03/04/2025. That Madhavi Mandal and Madhavi Mondal both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Derosario Manuella Gloria Xavier, De Rosario Manuella Gloria Vereen (old names) D/O Xavier De Rosario, residing at C1 T4 F12 Eastern High Apartments, P.O.- New Town, North 24 Pgs, Pin-700156, W.B, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manuella De Rosario (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 02/04/2025. Manuella De Rosario (new name) and Derosario Manuella Gloria Xavier, De Rosario Manuella Gloria Vereen (old names) all are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Debjit Bhattacharyya (old name) S/O Late Subikash Bhattacharyya, residing at 21, Hara Kumar Tagore Strand, P.O. & P.S.- Baranagore, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700036, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debjit Bhattacharya (new name) as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, dated 03/04/2025. Debjit Bhattacharya (new name) and Debjit Bhattacharyya (old name) both are same and identical person.

Coach Manufacturing Unit	Location	Coaches Produced (2023-24)	Coaches Produced (2024-25)	Increase in Production
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	2,829	3,007	+178
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	Saferhala, Punjab	1,901	2,102	+201
Modern Coach Factory (MCF)	Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	1,884	2,025	+141

Coach production in India has expanded substantially over the years. Between 2004 and 2014, Indian Railways manufactured less than 3,300 coaches on an average per year. However, from 2014 to 2024, production saw a major boost with production of 54,809 coaches with an average of 5,481 coaches per year, aligning with the push for improved connectivity and self-reliance in Railway manufacturing. The expansion is part of a broader effort to enhance domestic production capabilities, reduce dependence on imports and integrate advanced technology into Railway design.

Improving Passenger Experience and Connectivity
The record-breaking coach production aligns with the government's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' vision, ensuring improved public transport services while also enabling domestic manufacturing

turing. With more coaches being introduced, passengers can expect better facilities, enhanced safety features and increased capacity to accommodate growing demand.

Additionally, this achievement strengthens the 'Make in India initiative', reinforcing India's position as a key player in Railway manufacturing. By focusing on modern, energy-efficient and passenger-friendly coaches, Indian Railways is making significant strides toward building a more robust and future-ready transport network.

With ongoing efforts in Railway electrification, high-speed corridors and upgraded passenger services, the increased coach production will play a vital role in shaping the future of India's Rail transport system, ensuring greater efficiency, comfort and accessibility for millions of passengers.

Cancellation of trains due to devp work

MI News Service, Kolkata: The following trains will remain cancelled due to developmental work in East Coast Railway as per following scheduled:

Cancellation of Trains:

Sl.	Train No. & Name	Date of cancellation
1	02832 Bhubaneswar-Howrah Special	13.04.2025 to 15.04.2025
2	02831 Howrah-Bhubaneswar Special	14.04.2025 to 24.04.2025
3	18125 Roorkee-Puri Express	13.04.2025 to 23.04.2025
4	18126 Puri-Roorkee Express	14.04.2025 to 24.04.2025
5	22805 Bhubaneswar-Anand Vihar Express	13.04.2025 & 19.04.2025
6	22806 Anand Vihar-Bhubaneswar Express	14.04.2025 & 21.04.2025
7	18117 Roorkee-Ganapur Express	14.04.2025 to 22.04.2025
8	18118 Ganapur-Roorkee Express	15.04.2025 to 23.04.2025
9	20831 Shalimar-Sambalpur Express	16.04.2025, 18.04.2025, 21.04.2025, 23.04.2025
10	20832 Sambalpur-Shalimar Express	15.04.2025, 17.04.2025, 20.04.2025, 22.04.2025
11	22843 Sambalpur-Shalimar Express	19.04.2025
12	22844 Sambalpur-Shalimar Express	18.04.2025

Addl stop of Himgiri exp at Roorkee stn

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to provide additional stoppages of 12331/12332 Howrah – Jammu Tawi – Howrah Himgiri Express at Roorkee station over Northern Railway leaving Howrah journey commencing on and from 05.04.2025 and leaving Jammu Tawi journey commencing on and from 06.04.2025 on experimental basis.

12331 Howrah – Jammu Tawi Himgiri Express and 12332 Jammu Tawi – Howrah Himgiri Express will arrive Roorkee station at 03:10 hrs. & 07:38 hrs. respectively. The train will stop at Roorkee station for 2 minutes in both directions.



Significant milestone has been achieved in enhancing the reliability and efficiency of the traction power distribution system in the densely populated Sealdah South suburban section of Sealdah Division. The newly constructed HOTOR/Traction Substation (TSS) was successfully charged on 02.4.2025, completion of joint meter testing and joint reading by Railway officials in collaboration with representatives from West Bengal State Electricity Transmission Company Limited (WBSETCL) and West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL). This crucial infrastructure development is poised to significantly augment the redundancy of the traction power distribution network, effectively addressing and mitigating the recurring issue of low Overhead Equipment (OHE) voltage, particularly in the BRP-DH section. As per the planned operational strategy, the HOTOR/TSS will primarily supply traction power to the BRP-DH section. However, in the event of any unforeseen contingencies, the power feed from the HOTOR/TSS can be seamlessly extended to the Laxmikantapur/TSS and Sonarpur/RP zones. This strategic flexibility will substantially enhance the overall reliability of the 25 kV OHE power distribution system, ensuring a stable and consistent power supply for train operations. The commissioning of the HOTOR/TSS is expected to play a pivotal role in normalizing the low OHE voltage profile in the DH section, leading to improved train punctuality and reduced operational disruptions. This development underscores the commitment of Sealdah Division, in collaboration with WBSETCL and WBSEDCL, to providing a robust and dependable power infrastructure for the benefit of millions of commuters. This initiative reflects the ongoing efforts to modernize and strengthen the divisional infrastructure, ensuring a safe, efficient, and reliable transportation network for the commuters.

Regulation of trains for traffic block over Sealdah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Periodic track maintenance is crucial to ensure the safe & efficient operation of railway system. Regular and systematic maintenance of this component helps prevent disruption and delays, ensuring trains run on schedule and extend the lifespan of railway infrastructure, contributing to the overall safety & reliability of train operation. Accordingly, 07 hours (from 23:40 hrs. of 05.04.2025 to 06:40 hrs. of 06.04.2025) Traffic Block over UP CCR line at Dum Dum Junction station limit in Sealdah Division has been planned on the intervening night of 05/06.04.2025 (Saturday/Sunday). Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:
Cancellation of Trains on Saturday (05.04.2025):
Sealdah - Dankuni: UP 32249/ DN 32252
Cancellation of Trains on Sunday (06.04.2025):
• Sealdah - Bangaon: UP 33813/ DN 33822
• Sealdah - Habra: UP 33651/ DN 33652
• Sealdah - Dankuni: UP 32211, 32213, 32215, 32217/ DN 32212, 32214, 32216, 32218
Reschedule of EMU/Mail/Express on Sunday (11.08.2024):
• 22202 Puri - Sealdah Duranto Express (journey commencing on 05.04.2025) will be rescheduled for 180 minutes, i.e. will leave Puri at 22:25 hrs. instead of 19:25 hrs.

Diversion EMU/Mail/Express:

- 13148 Bamanhat - Sealdah Uttarbanga Express (journey commencing on 05.04.2025) will be diverted via Bandel - Naihati- Dum Dum Jn. Instead of Dankuni – Dum Dum and will stop at Belgharia.
- 12344 Haldibari - Sealdah Darjeeling Mail (journey commencing on 05.04.2025) will be diverted via Bandel – Naihati- Dum Dum Jn. instead of Dankuni – Dum Dum Jn.
- 12378 New Alipurdur - Sealdah Padatik Express (journey commencing on 05.04.2025) will be diverted via Bandel – Naihati- Dum Dum Jn. instead of Dankuni – Dum Dum Jn.

Advanced pain management brings relief to cancer patient at BR Singh Hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's BR Singh Hospital has achieved a significant milestone in pain management by successfully administering a coeliac plexus block to a critically ill cancer patient, ensuring a pain-free recovery period.

A patient admitted to Female Surgical Ward-26, suffering from carcinoma of the gallbladder with local recurrence and coeliac plexus involvement, had been experiencing intractable abdominal pain that was unresponsive to conventional parenteral analgesics. In a commendable medical intervention, Dr. A.K. Roy, Additional Chief Health Director (Anaesthesia), performed a coeliac plexus block, providing the patient with complete pain relief for the past three days.



This procedure exemplifies advanced pain management techniques and highlights the expertise of the anaesthesia team at BR Singh Hospital. The efforts of Dr. Roy, along with the dedicated support of the anaesthesia team and

ward staff, have brought comfort and relief to the patient, restoring hope and dignity in their care.

Eastern Railway remains committed to delivering excellence in healthcare for its patients.

Release of the 37th Issue of 'Srijan' Magazine and Conclusion of the Divisional Official Language Implementation Committee Meeting

MI News Service, Kolkata: The quarterly meeting of the Divisional Official Language Implementation Committee was organized on April 2, 2025, in the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway. The meeting was chaired by Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Shri Sanjeev Kumar. Shri Saurish Mukherjee, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), along with all branch officers of the Divisional Office, were present at the meeting.

At the beginning of the meeting, DRM Shri Sanjeev Kumar released the 37th issue of the Hindi e-magazine 'Srijan' of Howrah Division in both online and offline formats. Following this, employees and officers from various stations of the division who excelled in different competitions were honored and awarded for their achievements.

The meeting was conducted and opened with a welcome speech by Shri Abhishek Kumar, In-charge Rajbhasha Adhikari and As-



sistant Divisional Material Manager, Howrah. During the session, a review of the work done in Hindi across all departments was conducted, and various suggestions were discussed to enhance the usage of the official language in administrative work.

On this occasion, the Rajbhasha Section's senior and junior translators, including Shri Saluka Laguri, Smt. Aarti Kumari Mishra, Shri Bikash Kumar Shaw, Shri

Sumit Singh, and Shri Subhash Prasad, actively contributed to the proceedings of the meeting.

In his concluding remarks, DRM Shri Sanjeev Kumar appreciated the contributions of all officers and employees towards promoting the use of Hindi in official work. He encouraged further efforts to strengthen the implementation of the official language policy. The meeting formally concluded with a closing message.

RPF, Eastern Railway plays a pivotal role in combating littering and smoking

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a concerted effort to uphold cleanliness and ensure a healthier environment for passengers, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway has implemented stringent enforcement measures under the Littering Act and Tobacco Act. As part of its commitment to Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat, railway authorities have conducted extensive drives across stations and railway premises, leading to significant action against violators.

During the financial year 2024-25 (from April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025), Railway Protection Force, Eastern Railway prosecuted 44,780 persons under the Littering Act, collecting fines amounting to ₹55.59 lakh for improper disposal of waste in railway premises.

Moreover, during the period, RPF also prosecuted 27,265 persons under the Tobacco Act, imposing fines worth ₹54.52 lakh on individuals caught smoking in prohibited areas within rail-

way premises.

Through these enforcement drives, Eastern Railway aims to maintain hygiene, curb public nuisance, and create a safer and cleaner railway environment for passengers. Railway officials urge all travelers to adhere to regulations and contribute to a more pleasant and health-conscious railway journey.

Eastern Railway remains committed to ensuring a clean, safe, and passenger-friendly travel experience.

581 individuals fined for spitting and littering at Bhubaneswar Railway Station

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Railway Protection Force (RPF) at Bhubaneswar Railway Station under Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway fined 581 individuals for spitting and littering at Bhubaneswar Railway Station during March 2025. This action is part of a sustained initiative aimed at improving cleanliness and maintaining hygiene across railway premises. The total fine collected in March amounts to ₹1,17,100/-.



ensuring cleanliness and implementing penalties for violations.

includes announcements through the station's public announcement system, the distribution of posters and banners, and outreach via various media channels.

In line with the new directives, railway staff are empowered to issue fines to individuals found engaging in spitting, littering, or other activities that violate cleanliness norms. These include actions such as throwing waste, spitting, cooking, bathing, urinating or defecating in railway premises or compartments. The aim is to create a cleaner and more pleasant environment for all passengers.

East Coast Railway's focus on strict vigilance has extended across all stations within its jurisdiction with station management holding the responsibility for

Maintaining cleanliness on railway premises is not just a matter of compliance but also a public health necessity. Our ongoing campaign seeks to instill a sense of responsibility among all rail users. ECoR committed to ensuring that passengers enjoy a clean and safe environment and will continue to enforce these measures strictly.

Passengers and rail users are kindly reminded to dispose of their garbage in the designated dustbins located throughout the station and platform premises. They are also encouraged to use the toilets and washrooms provided at specified locations. Additionally, passengers are advised against spitting on the platforms and within station premises to help maintain a clean and hygienic environment for all.

The railway administration encourages all passengers to cooperate by following cleanliness norms and help keep the railway stations and trains free of litter and waste.

36 teachers lose jobs due to Supreme Court ruling

MI News Service, Murshidabad: The total number of teachers in Farakka Arjunpur High School is 60. There are 7 part-time teachers. The total number of the students is more than 10,000. If we exclude the number of teacher who have been cancelled, the total number of teacher is now 24. In that case, Farakka Arjunpur High School is facing a problem.

In a significant decision, the Supreme Court has upheld the order of the Calcutta High Court, resulting in the cancellation of approximately 26,000 jobs. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Sanjay Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar, cancelled the entire panel of 2016 due to the inability to distinguish between eligible and ineligible candidates.

The cancellation affects not only teachers but also education workers who were appointed through the 2016 panel. This move has created a significant chal-

lenge for schools across the state, which were already facing a shortage of teachers. The situation is particularly dire in schools like Arjunpur High School in Murshidabad's Farakka block.

At Arjunpur High School, 36 teachers lost their jobs due to the cancellation of the 2016 panel. With a total of 60 teachers and 7 part-time teachers, the school is now left with only 24 teachers to cater to over 10,000 students. The school authorities are struggling to cope with the sudden loss of staff, and the cancellation has thrown the school's operations into chaos.

The school's records reveal that the secondary and higher secondary sections are severely impacted, with many classes left without teachers. The school administration is scrambling to find alternative arrangements to ensure that the academic session is not disrupted.

New Pamban Bridge: Nation's pride - testament to Engineering Excellence

Pradeep Gaur, CMD, RVNL
Introduction: A Bridge of Historic Significance

In the southern coastal expanse of India, connecting the mainland to the revered Rameshwaram Island, stands the newly constructed Pamban Bridge - an engineering marvel poised to redefine connectivity, safety and functionality. The New Pamban Bridge is replacing the historic structure (Old Pamban Bridge) that stood for more than 100 years. The new bridge manifests India's commitment to modernizing its infrastructure while respecting its rich heritage.

This new Railway Sea bridge between Mandapam Railway Station and the Rameshwaram island is not just a replacement for the old Pamban Bridge; it represents a colossal leap in India's engineering capabilities. As India's first-ever vertical lift sea bridge, it addresses challenges ranging from technological advancements to environmental resilience and global connectivity and stands as a symbol of aspirational and resurgent India.

This majestic new structure, an awe-inspiring testament to human ingenuity heralds a new era in connectivity, safety and sustainable infrastructure.

The Historical Legacy of the Pamban Bridge

Before we explore the remarkable features of the New Pamban Bridge, it is crucial to recognize the historical significance of its predecessor. The original Pamban Bridge, completed in 1914, was India's first sea bridge. Spanning 2.078 kilometers, it connected the mainland (Mandapam Town) of Tamil Nadu to Rameswaram Island, crossing the Palk Strait. Its Scherzer rolling lift span, which allowed maritime traffic to pass beneath it, made it an innovative marvel way ahead of its time. The bridge was a lifeline for pilgrims travelling to the sacred Ramanathaswamy Temple in Rameswaram and played a critical role in transport.

The Need for the New Pamban Bridge

However, as the old bridge began to show signs of wear and tear after more than 100 years of service, becoming increasingly difficult to maintain due to heavy corrosion, the need for a replacement with modern structure was felt.

Given the unique challenges posed by the region's geography—seismic activity, cyclonic storms and corrosive marine conditions—it became imperative to design a bridge that could withstand these harsh elements while also serving the evolving needs of India's rail network.

Furthermore, the increasing volume of rail traffic, both passenger and freight, necessitated a modern bridge capable of handling higher speeds, heavier loads and efficient maritime passage.

Thus, the decision to build the New Pamban Bridge was made and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL, a Navratna PSU), under the Ministry of Railways, was entrusted with the responsibility of transforming this vision into reality.

RVNL's Role: Designing, Planning

As the nodal agency for this ambitious infrastructure project, RVNL's role extended from concept to commissioning and not a mere construction of new bridge. Our commitment was to deliver a structure that would not only meet the needs of the present but also preserve region's connectivity and economic vitality for time to come. Thus the project was not merely a replacement to an old bridge; it was about setting a new benchmark in modern bridge engineering.

Under RVNL, a dedicated and multi-disciplinary team of Engineers, Planners and Technicians worked extremely hard to design and implement state of art solutions.

The design and construction of the new Pamban Bridge was a highly complex, technically demanding task. The bridge had to be built in the adjacent location as the existing bridge, while ensuring that maritime and railway traffic continued seamlessly. The challenges posed by the unpredictable sea, coastal weather conditions, and the requirement for an opening span for ships to pass made it a challenge of the highest order.

The new Pamban Bridge is designed as a vertical lift structure with state of art electro-mechanical system. With advanced geotechnical studies, hydrodynamic analysis and the use of durable corrosion-resistant materials, we ensured the longevity and strength of the structure. We also used modern construction techniques to speed up the process while ensuring the highest levels of quality control.

Challenges in Construction: Overcoming the Odds

The construction of the new Pamban Bridge presented numerous challenges, ranging from environmental obstacles to logistical complexities. The Palk Strait's turbulent waters, strong winds, and unpredictable weather patterns created difficulties in the construction process. Additionally, the region's susceptibility to cyclones and seismic activity necessitated careful planning and robust design.



Logistically, transporting heavy materials to the remote construction site posed another challenge. The narrow windows of opportunity provided by the tides had to be maximized to facilitate the timely delivery of materials. Despite these hurdles, the team of engineers and workers displayed exceptional ingenuity innovative solutions, cutting-edge technology and sheer determination in overcoming the challenges and thereby ensuring the successful completion of the bridge.

It is matter of great pride that doing the course of work involving more than 1400 tons of fabrication, launching of lift spans and 99 girders, track and electrification work in the sea, the whole work was absolutely injury free. This is testimony to RVNL's working methods, safety, health and sustainable construction.

Collaboration and Team Efforts

Such a monumental project would not have been possible without the collaborative effort of various stakeholders. RVNL worked closely with the Ministry of Railways, Southern Railway, Government of Tamil Nadu, and a number of Contractors, Suppliers, and Consultants. The project involved cross-functional teams from civil engineering, electrical engineering, signal engineers, marine engineering and environmental science, who contributed to make the new Pamban Bridge a reality. It is a matter of absolute pride the new Pamban Bridge has been constructed exclusively by the Indian Contractors.

Special mention must be made of the dedicated workforce who braved the harsh conditions on-site, often working in challenging weather and maritime environments. Their unwavering commitment in ensuring the timely completion of the project is really commendable.

Salient Features of the New Pamban Bridge



Spanning 2.078 kilometers, the New Pamban Bridge is one of India's most iconic infrastructure projects. Its advanced design features not only meet modern standards but also tackle the unique challenges posed by the environment. Here's a comprehensive look at the bridge's remarkable features:

i. The Vertical Lift Mechanism

The most notable feature of the New Pamban Bridge is its state-of-the-art vertical lift mechanism, making it the first vertical lift railway sea bridge in India. The new bridge employs a vertical lift 72 meter central span that rises 22 meter above the water, allowing larger vessels to pass beneath with ease. Under rail traffic, the bridge remains simply supported at two ends thus ensuring absolute stability.

The innovative design ensures greater operational efficiency, reduced manual intervention and the ability to accommodate modern maritime traffic, marking a significant leap forward in bridge technology in India.

ii. High-Speed Rail Connectivity

Unlike its predecessor, which could only handle trains travelling at slow speeds (10 km/h), the new Pamban Bridge is designed to accommodate trains travelling at speeds of up to 160 km/h. However due to signalling constraints and existing sharp curvature on the routes will allow trains to run at speeds upto 98 km/h. This advancement dramatically improves the efficiency of rail transport, ensuring quicker travel times and better connectivity between Rameswaram Island and the mainland.

iii. Enhanced Load Capacity

The New Pamban Bridge is engineered to handle significantly heavier loads. It is designed for 25 tons axle load. With the capacity to support both passenger and freight trains, it will play a

pivotal role in boosting economic activities by facilitating the smooth transport of goods and services. This feature will enhance trade, reduced logistics costs, and will promote regional development.

iv. Corrosion-Resistant Measures for Longevity

There is increase in thickness of the members to cater for sacrificial thickness. Use of high-grade stainless steel reinforcement in concrete for new Pamban Bridge will help in withstanding the corrosive saline environment of the Palk Strait. These materials ensure durability, longer lifespan, reduces need for frequent maintenance thus contributing to long-term operational efficiency and better value for public investments. Besides the polycloxane painting makes it a minimum initial service life of 35 years. Further, underside of girder of the new bridge has been raised by 3 meter to avoid splash zone thus considerably mitigating corrosion problem.

v. Resilience Against Seismic and Cyclonic Activities

The region's susceptibility to cyclonic storms and seismic activity was a major consideration during the bridge's design. With reinforced structural elements and advanced technology, the new Pamban Bridge is built to withstand these extreme conditions. Its robust design ensures that it remains operational even during adverse weather events, making it a vital lifeline for the region.

vi. Smart Automation and Real-Time Monitoring

The new Pamban Bridge incorporates advanced automated control systems, which include real-time monitoring of wind speed, structural health, and train movements. Sensors embedded in the bridge allow for predictive maintenance, ensuring that any issues are detected early and addressed before they become critical.

vii. Double Electrified Railway Track

The new Pamban Bridge has scope for double lines. The new Pamban Bridge

has an electrified line/traction.

Economic and Social Impact

The new Pamban Bridge is set to have far reaching economic and social impacts on the region. From improving daily commuting and facilitating trade to boosting tourism, the bridge is expected to catalyze significant growth.

a. Employment Generation

The construction phase of the new Pamban Bridge generated employment opportunities across various sectors, including construction, engineering and logistics. Furthermore, as the bridge becomes operational, the region will see increased tourism and trade, leading to job creation in hospitality, transportation and service industries.

b. Enhanced Connectivity for Pilgrims and Locals

Rameswaram, known for its spiritual significance, particularly the Ramanathaswamy Temple, attracts millions of pilgrims each year. The new Pamban Bridge ensures that these pilgrims, and also local commuters and freight transporters have a safer, faster and more reliable route to their destination. Additionally, it offers improved connectivity for locals, reducing travel times and enhancing access to the mainland.

c. Boost to Tourism

The new Pamban Bridge is not only an engineering marvel but also a tourist attraction in its own right. The scenic views it offers, combined with the cultural and spiritual significance of Rameswaram and the nearby Ram Setu (Adam's Bridge) Dhanushkodi, are sure to draw tourists from across India and the world. Moreover, the bridge's unique design, with its vertical lift mechanism, is likely to become a popular subject for photographers and tourists seeking to capture the essence of modern engineering offering unparalleled views of the Palk Strait and the surrounding landscape.

d. Economic Revitalization

The bridge is expected to stimulate the local economy by fostering greater trade between Rameswaram and the mainland and boost local businesses by facilitating smoother transportation of goods and services. By enhancing the movement of goods and services, the new Pamban Bridge is expected to reduce logistical costs, promote trade and encourage economic development in the region. Businesses will benefit from faster and more efficient transportation, while the region's economy will thrive through increased commerce and tourism.

A Green and Sustainable Project

One of the primary objectives of the new Pamban Bridge project was to ensure that the construction and design adhered to the principles of sustainability. The impact on the surrounding ecosystem was a key consideration throughout the process. We employed state-of-the-art construction methodologies that minimized disruption to the local flora and fauna, while ensuring that the materials used were sustainable and eco-friendly.

Additionally, advanced technologies like energy-efficient lighting and real-time monitoring systems have been integrated into the bridge's infrastructure. By focusing on sustainability, we have created a bridge that not only serves the transportation needs of today but also contributes to a greener future.

Global Comparisons: A Bridge Among Giants

While the new Pamban Bridge is India's first vertical lift sea bridge, it shares similarities with other globally recognized bridges known for their technological advancements and unique designs. These include the Golden Gate Bridge in the United States, Tower Bridge in London and the Oresund Bridge in Denmark-Sweden. Each of these iconic structures, though different in design and functionality, represents a pinnacle of engineering excellence. The new Pamban Bridge stands proudly in their company, combining cutting-edge technology with the challenges posed by India's coastal and seismic conditions.

Monumental Achievement and Looking Ahead

The new Pamban Bridge stands as a proud symbol of what India can achieve when innovation, tradition and engineering excellence converge. RVNL remains committed to implement similar ambitious projects across the country, ensuring that India's infrastructure keeps pace with its aspirations and global standing.

We are confident that the new Pamban Bridge will not only be a lifeline for the people of Rameswaram and Tamil Nadu but will also set a benchmark for future railway and marine infrastructure projects. It is a shining example of how infrastructure can transcend challenges and create a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Railway and Telecom department Join Hands to make sure your lost mobile device is recovered through advance tracking capabilities

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a significant move towards enhancing passenger experience by returning the lost/missing mobile phones, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) has successfully onboarded with the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal of the Department of Telecommunication. This initiative follows the success of a pilot program in the Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR). The all India roll out of this program across Indian Railways would benefit millions of Railway Passengers.

In the inauguration launch and training program for CEIR portal, held today,

Shri. Manoj Yadava, Director General, Railway Protection Force addressed the gathering of RPF field units while Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom) delivered the keynote address. Speaking on this landmark development, the DG RPF Shri. Manoj Yadava stated that "The collaboration of RPF with the Department of Telecommunication for operating CEIR portal marks a significant milestone in railway security. By harnessing digital technology, we aim to provide passengers with a transparent and effective mechanism to recover their lost or missing mobile phones. This initiative strengthens law enforcement capabilities and fosters greater trust among railway commuters. We remain committed to safeguarding passenger property and ensuring a secure travel experience across the railway network."

The CEIR portal, launched by the Department of Telecommunications, is a crucial digital tool designed to recover mobile phones by blocking, tracking and managing lost or stolen devices. By leveraging this platform, RPF will now be able to return lost/missing mobile phones unusable by blocking their IMEI numbers, thereby deterring illegal possession and resale of these devices. This initiative will also facilitate the swift recovery of lost phones through advanced tracking capabilities.

RPF has been at the forefront of efforts to recover passenger property which are lost or missing in trains as well as station premises. Operation Amanat of RPF, aimed at the sole objective of returning the valuables to its rightful owners, have yielded impressive results, with RPF successfully recovering misplaced or left behind items worth 84.03 crores between January 2024 and February 2025 returning them to more than 1.15 lakh grateful passengers. The incorporation of CEIR into railway security operations is expected to further bolster the efforts of RPF to restore misplaced or left behind mo-

bile phones to their rightful owners.

Seamless Complaint Registration & Recovery Process
The integration of RPF with CEIR ensures a streamlined process for passengers reporting lost or stolen phones:

1. Complaint Registration via Rail Madad: Passengers can report lost or stolen mobile phones through the Rail Madad platform, either online or by dialling 139. If they choose not to file an FIR, they will be guided to register their complaint on the CEIR portal.
2. CEIR Registration by RPF: Zonal Cyber Cells of RPF will then register the complaint on the CEIR portal, entering the required details and blocking the device.
3. Tracking and Recovery: Once the lost phone is detected with a new SIM card, the user of the device will be advised to return it to the nearest RPF post.
4. Return to the Owner: The rightful owner must present supporting documents to reclaim the device.
5. Legal Action: In case of non-compliance, an FIR can be lodged, and the matter escalated to the District Police.
6. Device Unblocking: Upon recovery, the complainant can request to unblock the phone via the CEIR portal, with assistance from RPF if needed.

In May 2024, RPF began a pilot project in Northeast Frontier Railway to actively utilize the CEIR portal and to study its utility for RPF. This experiment resulted in successful recovery of numerous lost mobile phones and apprehension of individuals involved in mobile theft. With this initiative being expanded all across the country, RPF is confident that it would be able to provide faster and more efficient recovery solutions for railway passengers. With technology-driven advancements and inter-agency collaboration, Indian Railways continues to reinforce its commitment to passenger safety, ensuring that every journey is secure and hassle-free.

Indian Railways Achieves a Significant milestone in Coach Production in FY 2024-25

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railways has achieved a significant milestone in the financial year 2024-25 by manufacturing 7,134 coaches, marking a 9% increase from the previous year's production of 6,541 coaches, with special emphasis onnon A/C coaches with pro-

improved connectivity and self-reliance in Railway manufacturing. The expansion is part of a broader effort to enhance domestic production capabilities, reduce dependence on imports and integrate advanced technology into Railway design.

Improving Passenger Experience

Coach Manufacturing Unit	Location	Coaches Produced (2023-24)	Coaches Produced (2024-25)	Increase in Production
Integral Coach Factory (ICF)	Chennai, Tamil Nadu	2,829	3,007	+178
Rail Coach Factory (RCF)	Kapurthala, Punjab	1,901	2,102	+201
Modern Coach Factory (MCF)	Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	1,684	2,025	+341

duction of 4,601 coaches,catering the needs of commonman. This rise reflects India's growing emphasis on modernizing Railway infrastructure to meet increasing passenger demand.

The Indian Railways has three coach manufacturing units in the country - Integral Coach Factory (ICF) at Chennai, Tamil Nadu, Rail Coach Factory (RCF) at Kapurthala, Punjaband Modern Coach Factory (MCF) at Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh. The Integral Coach Factory (ICF), the premier passenger coach producing unit of Indian Railways in Chennai, surpassed its previous production records for the year 2024-25, as it rolled out 3,007 coaches.

Growth in Domestic Manufacturing

Coach production in India has expanded substantially over the years. Between 2004 and 2014, Indian Railways manufactured less than 3,300 coaches on an average per year. However, from 2014 to 2024, production saw a major boost with production of 54,809 coaches with an average of 5,481 coaches per year, aligning with the push for

and Connectivity

The record-breaking coach production aligns with the government's 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' vision, ensuring improved public transport services while also enabling domestic manufacturing. With more coaches being introduced, passengers can expect better facilities, enhanced safety features and increased capacity to accommodate growing demand.

Additionally, this achievement strengthens the 'Make in India' initiative, reinforcing India's position as a key player in Railway manufacturing. By focusing on modern, energy-efficient and passenger-friendly coaches, Indian Railways is making significant strides toward building a more robust and future-ready transport network.

With ongoing efforts in Railway electrification, high-speed corridors and upgraded passenger services, the increased coach production will play a vital role in shaping the future of India's Rail transport system, ensuring greater efficiency, comfort and accessibility for millions of passengers.

Regulation of trains for Track Maintenance work over Sealdah Division

For Conversion of Point No. 235B/236A, Traffic Block for 07 hours will be required on UP/CCR/Line at Dum Dum Jn. Station Limit from 23.40 hrs. of 05.04.2025 (Saturday) to 06.40 hrs. of 06.04.2025 (Sunday). Consequently, the following trains will be regulated as under:-
● Cancellation of trains on 05.04.2025 (Saturday) : Sealdah - Dankuni Jn. : UP 32249/ Down 32252.
● Cancellation of trains on 06.04.2025 (Sunday): Sealdah - Habra : UP 33651/ Down 33652, Sealdah - Bangaon: UP 33813/ Down 33822, Sealdah - Dankuni : UP 32211, 32213, 32215, 32217/ Down 32212, 32214, 32216, 32218.
● Reschedule of Mail / Express trains : 22202 DN Puri - Sealdah Duranto Express [JCO : 05.04.2025 (Saturday)] will be re-schedule for 3 hours i.e. will leave Puri at 22:25 hrs. instead of 19:25 hrs.
● Diversion of Mail / Express trains : i) 13148 DN New Coochbehar - Sealdah Uttarbanga Express [JCO : 05.04.2025 (Saturday)] will be diverted via Bandel Jn. - Naihati Jn. - Dum Dum Jn. instead of Dankuni - Dum Dum Jn. and will stop at Belgharia ii) 12344 DN Haldibari - Sealdah Darjeeling Mail [JCO : 05.04.2025 (Saturday)] will be diverted via Bandel Jn. - Naihati Jn. - Dum Dum Jn. instead of Dankuni - Dum Dum Jn., iii) 12378 DN New Alipurduar - Sealdah Padatik Express [JCO : 05.04.2025 (Saturday)] will be diverted via Bandel Jn. - Naihati Jn. - Dum Dum Jn. instead of Dankuni - Dum Dum Jn. Train services may be delayed during the block period. Inconvenience is deeply regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager/Sealdah

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SC judges to publicly declare assets

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a bid to ensure transparency, Supreme Court judges have agreed to make declaration of their assets public on assuming office.

In a full court meeting, the top court judges decided to disclose their assets and the data will be uploaded on the SC website.

Placing the declaration of assets on the Supreme Court website will be on a voluntary basis, the apex court website said.

Thirty judges, including Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, have submitted their declarations of assets.

"The full court of the Supreme Court had resolved that

judges should make a declaration of their assets on assuming office, and whenever any acquisition of a substantial nature is made, to the Chief Justice. "This also includes declaration(s) by the Chief Justice of India. Placing the declaration of assets on the Supreme Court website will be on a voluntary basis," the SC website said.

Govt defends proposal to allow Non-academics as VCs

MI News Service, New Delhi: Education minister Dharmendra Pradhan defended a proposal to allow non-academic persons to be appointed as vice-chancellors of universities amid Opposition apprehension over the dilution of higher education standards.

In January, the University Grants Commission (UGC) had unveiled draft rules on the appointment of teachers. The proposed rules seek to change the existing policy for the appointment of VCs and faculty members. Currently, only professors with 10 years of experience are eligible to be appointed as VCs. The proposed rules allow persons working at senior levels in industry, public administration, public policy and/or public sector

undertakings to be appointed as VCs. The regulations also give full power to chancellors, who are governors of states, to set up search panels and appoint VCs in public universities, denying states any role. Six Opposition-ruled states have protested the draft policy. During Question Hour in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday, DMK member Tiruchi Siva wanted to know whether any consultation with the states and academic institutions was conducted on the draft policy.

In his reply, Pradhan said the UGC had shared the draft with the principal secretaries in the department of higher education of all states and chairpersons of state higher education councils and industry bodies. Vice-chancellors of

central and state universities were consulted as well, Pradhan added. "The UGC has received feedback on the draft regulations and many among them were appreciative in nature. However, some of the feedback received have suggested improvements on the provisions relating to the role of the chancellor and the constitution of the selection committee for appointment of the VC. These feedback are at different stages of analysis and deliberations," Pradhan said.

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. : O/AC/T/02 to 03/25-26 (Open), dated 02.04.2025. E-Tenders (Open) are invited by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Asansol Division, Station Road, Pin- 713301 for the following works: SI. No. : 1; Case No. : O-AC-T-02-25-26. Name of the work : Open tender for thorough renovation work of officer's chamber & sub ordinate office of Dy. CSTE/CON/Asansol at Divisional Railway Manager compound Asansol in the jurisdiction of AEN/HQ/Asansol under Senior DEN/1/Asansol. Tender value: ₹ 52,89,439.02. Earnest Money : ₹ 1,05,800.00. Completion period for the work : 03 months. SI. No. : 2; Case No. : O-AC-T-03-25-26. Name of the work : Open tender for thorough renovation work of Bl. No. 258/A (one unit type -V, Existing using as Transit), Bl. No. 8/A & B (two unit type-IV), Bl.No. 869 (one unit type-IV), Bl. No. 1168 (four unit double storied type-IV), Bl. No. 1169 (four unit double storied Type-IV) quarters at Officers Colony at Asansol in the jurisdiction of AEN/HQ/Asansol under Senior DEN/1/Asansol. Tender value: ₹ 64,91,392.50. Earnest Money : ₹ 1,29,800.00. Completion period for the work : 06 months. Date and time of closing and opening : 28.04.2025 at 12.00 hrs. for SI. No. 1 & 2. Complete details can be seen in the Railway's website www.ireps.gov.in

ASN-11/2025-26

Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.einindianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

E-Tender Notice No. : CW-RepLHBS-24-25-01. For and on behalf of the President of India, Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (Carriage Works), Kharagpur Workshop, Kharagpur invites e-tender for the following work : Name of the work : Stripping, Unloading and Transportation, Trimming attention with allied Carpentry works and Transportation, Loading & Fitting of Seats & Berth in LHB coaches. Place of work : Kharagpur Workshop, South Eastern Railway, Post-Kharagpur, Dist-Paschim Midnapore, Pin-721301. Quantity : As per schedule. Tender Value: ₹ 1,02,97,501.24. Earnest Money : ₹ 2,01,500/- Contract Period : 12 Months from date of issue of LOA. Closing Date and Time of Tender: 07.05.2025, 15.00 hrs. Cost of Tender Document : NIL. Bidding System : Single packet system. Contract Type : Works-General. Detail Tender Notice and Tender Document is available in the e-Portal website https://www.ireps.gov.in (PR-16)

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/M/Blue Line, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India for the following work: Name of Work : Design, Supply, Installation, Testing, Commissioning and all-inclusive maintenance for 10 years of 1 Elevator(s) after 2 years warranty for Metro Bhuvan - Lift no. 3 (both side opening). Advertised Value : ₹ 95,31,139.69. Date and Time of closing : 15.00 hrs. (IST) of 15.04.2025. Notice Board Address: Office of the Principal Chief Electrical Engineer, Metro Railway, 33/1, J. L. Nehru Road, Kolkata-700071. Website particulars: https://www.ireps.gov.in

Tender No. : ELM140_LIFT03MB_D11-3-25

Follow us at : @metrorailwaykol @metrorailkolkata

NOTICE

I, Salauddin Malik S/o Marhum Abu Bakkor Mallick of Vill - Melkhi, PO- Balarambati, PS- Singur, Dist-Hooghly the buyer of the now deceased that seller namely 1)Adid Rahaman @Ajjur Rahaman, S/o Marhum Garbullah Rahaman, 2)Abdur Rahim Mallick, 3)Haque Mallick both S/o Marhum Osman Goni Mallick, 4)Alfazuddin Mallick S/o Marhum Abdul Hanif Mallick, 5)Brahim Mallick S/o Marhum Khoda Niyaz Mallick, 6) Sabir Ali Mallick S/o Marhum Nur Mohammad Mallick, 7)Saaidul Haque Mallick S/o Marhum Garbullah mallick, 8)Abdul Gaifur Mallick, 9) Abdul Rezzak Mallick both S/o Marhum Nasirul Haque Mallick, 10)Firoz Mallick S/o Marhum Abu Bakkor Mallick, 11)Saidul Ali Mallick S/o Marhum Nur Mohammad, 12)Hasibul Mallick S/o Marhum Din Mohammad Mallick, 13)Lutur Rahaman Mallick, 14)Saaidul Mallick both of Garbullah Mallick, 15)Sarwar Mallick S/o Marhum Amin Mallick, 16)Yasin Mallick S/o Marhum Abdul Sayid Mallick all are executed a power of attorney deed being no 55 registered at the office of the ADSR, Singur recorded in book no IV date of 15/03/2010 and authorized persons are 1) Delwar Hossain Mallick S/o Marhum Nur Mohammad Mallick, 2)Abdur Rahaman Mallick S/o Marhum Nasirul Haque Mallick both of Vill - Melkhi, PO- Balarambati, PS-Singur, Dist- Hooghly and attorney holders are executed a deed of sale being no 0241 year of 18, 191, 2131, 214, 237, 315, 327, 332, 485, 496 & 279, L.R. plot no-809 an area 4 decimal, Nature of land - Suna.

That for such circumstances declared that the property belongs to the buyer namely Salauddin Mallick trying to mutate his name in the LR, ROR, if anyone have any objection kindly contract with proper documents to BL & LRO, Singur otherwise he will mutated his name. This is for your information and taking necessary action.

With thanks from RITTWICK KOLU, Advocate Regd No - F1182/2021 District Judges' Court, Hooghly at Chinsurah & Chandernagore Court, Hooghly.

The South India Co-operative Credit Society Ltd. (Reg. No. 04, Dated 28/04/1927)

Dharsa, Manshatala, P.O.- G.I.P. Colony, Howrah – 711112

NOTICE

All the members of The South India Co-operative Credit Society Ltd., are hereby informed that in terms of order (vide Memo no.107/ II-6/12, dated 21/01/2025) of the Returning Officer & Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Howrah Range, the Zone Wise Draft Voters' List is published today i.e. on 04/04/2025. Claims & Objections, if any, from the members of the concerned society are invited on or before 22/04/2025.

For further details, please visit the registered office of the society.

Sd/- MRINAL KANTI KUNDU Assistant Returning Officer Sd/- SURAJIT SAHA Assistant Returning Officer

Nasscom Foundation in collaboration with HSBC, India to empower 4000 women entrepreneurs



Kolkata: Laying a strong foundation to empower rural women entrepreneurs in the digital economy, Nasscom Foundation has collaborated with HSBC, India to train 4000 women entrepreneurs in the states of Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal. The program "Upskilling Women Entrepreneurs and Enhancing their Participation in The Digital Economy", will see participants receiving end to end interventions focused on intensive digital and financial literacy, entrepreneurship development, business and e-governance application through handholding support and on-boarding on several social media platforms.

Limited digital and financial literacy hinder rural women entrepreneurs' ability to utilize digital tools and access e-commerce platforms to grow their business. Women owned rural enterprises give employment to 22-27 million people. However, women

entrepreneurs face barriers in accessing formal credit, lack tailored policy support for mid-scale growth, and miss critical business development services like marketing, technology, and advisory. This initiative aims at empowering women economically, improving their livelihoods and enhance resilience by identifying, skilling and promoting technological solutions that drives women's economic empowerment.

Jyoti Sharma, CEO, Nasscom Foundation said that "Gender disparity in economic participation remains deeply rooted and significantly high, posing a major challenge to achieving equity. This initiative reflects our commitment to bridging that divide. Technology has proven to be a powerful catalyst for fostering inclusion and creating equitable opportunities, and we are dedicated to advancing digital inclusion to enhance women's livelihoods, economic security, and resilience. Through our

collaboration with HSBC India, we aim to drive innovative, tech-enabled solutions that empower women across India, aligning with our shared vision of building a more equitable and inclusive future for all."

Mamatha Madireddy, Head of HSBC Global Service Centres, India, "Inclusion at HSBC defines who we are and how we embrace it holistically. We strive to build an inclusive environment with our customers, people and the communities we operate in. I believe, growth comes with empowerment. And to scale operations, the use of technology will help the women step-up, enhance their entrepreneurship skills and go beyond boundaries. In partnership with Nasscom Foundation, Tech for Good amplifies the magnitude of the programme providing a platform in building an inclusive environment for the unreached women in communities".

The project being implemented by Amar

Kutir Society for Rural Development in West Bengal, Sewa Bharat in Delhi NCR, Head Held High Foundation in Karnataka and DHAN Foundation in Telengana and Tamil Nadu. The project is strategically structured in several phases to follow a comprehensive and impactful approach:

Phase 1: Mobilization
Three districts in each target state- Delhi, Karnataka, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal-will be identified. Dedicated mobilizers will engage 350 women entrepreneurs per district, reaching a total of 5,000 participants.

Phase 2: Capacity Building
4000 participants will undergo training in digital, financial, entrepreneurial skills and government scheme, covering both basic and advanced levels. Modules on social commerce, entrepreneurship, financial management, business management and government schemes will prepare them for business growth. This will be followed by in-person handholding support to address queries and ensure digital readiness.

Phase 3: Business Enablement
The final phase will support 2,000 women entrepreneurs with business registration, digitized accounting, and access to finance (on demand basis), enabling them to scale their businesses and thrive in the digital economy.

This structured approach ensures holistic support for empowering women entrepreneurs and fostering sustainable growth. Digital transformation is a continuous journey. Initiatives like this empower women entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to succeed in the digital economy. By overcoming technological barriers, these entrepreneurs can access new markets, expand their businesses, and generate employment opportunities within their communities.

IDFC FIRST Bank authorized by the Central Pension Accounting Office, Government of India, for Pension Disbursement

Mumbai: IDFC FIRST Bank today announced that it has been authorised by Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), Government of India, to disburse pensions on its behalf.

This allows the Bank to disburse pensions to Central Government pensioners including - All India Service Officers, former Members of Parliament, retired Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court, former Presidents and Vice Presidents of India, and officials of Civil Ministries and Departments (other than Railways, Posts, Telecom and Defence). Pensioners can now receive their pension directly in their IDFC FIRST Bank Savings Account.

From a technical point of view, the integration between the CPAO, GOI and IDFC FIRST Bank is complete and is ready for such pension disbursements.

Pensioners can also open an IDFC FIRST Bank Savings Account jointly with their spouse to receive pension. In the event of the primary pensioner's demise, the spouse can continue receiving the family pension in the same account.

The IDFC FIRST Bank Savings Account where the pension will be credited comes with the following privileges:

- Zero Fee Banking on all Savings Account Services, such as Debit Card Issuance, IMPS, NEFT and RTGS, Cheque Book Issuance,

ATM Cash withdrawal, Branch cash withdrawals and deposits, Demand Drafts, Pay order, SMS Alerts, international ATM charges - 36 such services

- Higher interest rates with Monthly Interest Credits
- Exclusive Senior Citizen Savings Account benefits for pensioners above 60 years, offering:
 - Rs 2 lakh Cyber Insurance coverage for protection against cyber fraud
 - One-year MediBuddy health membership with unlimited consultations
 - Free doorstep banking and priority service at branches
- ZERO penalty for premature withdrawal of Fixed Deposits for Senior Citizens
- Additional 0.5% interest on Fixed Deposits for Senior Citizens

Speaking on the development, Mr. Chinmay Dhole, Country Head - Retail Liabilities at IDFC FIRST Bank, said,We are delighted that the esteemed Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), Government of India has authorized our bank to disburse pensions to Central Government pensioners. As a universal bank, it is our constant endeavour to offer a complete range of services to our customers. We encourage Central Government pensioners to use the facilities of IDFC FIRST Bank to receive pension in their Savings Account and enjoy industry-first benefits."

India in safe hands people's mandate is with govt: MoS IT Jitin Prasada



New Delhi : Union Minister Jitin Prasada on Thursday affirmed India's readiness to "reform, perform, and transform" via its start-up ecosystem and said that the country is in the safe hands of a strong and stable government.

Prasada, Minister of State for the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, during the inauguration of the second edition of Startup Mahakumbh, said the people's mandate is with the government.

"I'm very hopeful that you, the startup community of innovators, and the new ideas that you bring to the table will fulfil the prime minister's ambition of making India reform, perform, and transform."

"You have to tell the world that India is ready for the challenge. We have the talent, we have the skills. We have the agile

government...India is in safe hands. The people's mandate is with the government. Policies are strong, stable..." he said, adding that startups are great value creators.

It is not only the stakeholders and the government but also the common man who will play a crucial role in ensuring India achieves its dream of becoming a developed nation, or Viksit Bharat, by 2047, the minister said.

Discourses should now be taken from AC room conventions to on-ground use cases which really impact people's lives, Prasada said and assured that the "agile" government listens.

"I can tell you from the part of the government, it's an agile government. It listens, it registers, and it takes and changes policies according to the needs of the situations. The geopolitical scenes are evolving and every day new

issues, new challenges arise and it is you--the startups with the creative minds-- you will align yourself to the changing world and changing India to contribute, and to ensure that we do create that economy & investment, the job creation the talent pool, that changes lives for the people," he noted.

The change, he further said, should be bottom-up because India resides in villages, and only by transforming their lives, increasing their income levels, and enhancing their standard of living would a real achievement be realised.

There's no room for trial and error anymore. The tech experts, the innovators, and their expertise must all come together to drill and hit the jackpot, Prasada asserted.

"We're going to showcase to the world what India is about. Together with the government, the stakeholders, and you above all in front of me, together we will collaborate, work for a better, stronger, creative, and a more vibrant India, so that we could fulfill our commitment to the people of India by making their lives better and changing it for the good," he said.

Scheduled from April 3-5, Startup Mahakumbh will see a multitude of startups, investors, and industry leaders from over 50 countries.

US retaliatory tariffs a major setback for Indian gems jewellery exports: GJEPC

Mumbai : The US retaliatory tariffs are a major setback for the Indian gems and jewellery exports, apex industry body GJEPC said on Thursday as it urged the government to take steps to secure the long-term interest of the sector.

The US has announced 27 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India saying New Delhi imposes high import duties on American goods, as the Donald Trump administration aims to reduce US' trade deficit and boost manufacturing.

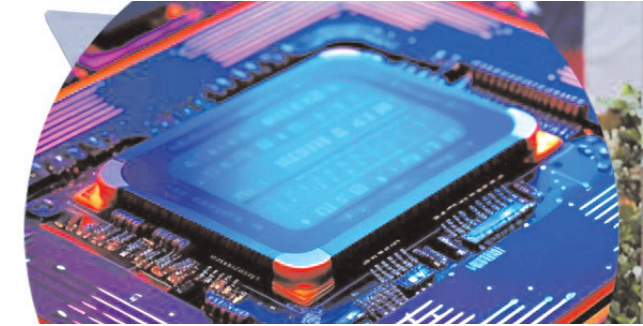
The Trump administration's announcement of a 27 per cent reciprocal tariff on India would be a significant burden on Indian exporters and American consumers alike, the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) said in a statement. "In the long-term, we foresee a reshaping of global supply chains. In the short-run, we anticipate challenges in sustaining India's current export volume of USD 10 billion to the US market."

"We urge the government of India to progress the Bilateral Trade Agreement between India and the US, as it would be crucial in navigating the tariff issues and securing long term interest of the sector," GJEPC added.

The US imports USD 11.58 billion gems and jewellery from India and exports USD 5.31 billion to the latter. The total bilateral trade between the US and India in the gems and jewellery sector is USD 16.89 billion.

Semiconductor dodges US tariff bullet underlines its foundational role Industry

New Delhi : Semiconductors have been "spared" from US tariffs, a recognition of the foundational role they play in global supply chains, industry body IESA said on Thursday, but added that headline reciprocal tariffs do present a significant challenge to India's overall exports, given that the US is the largest trading partner for New Delhi. US President Donald Trump announced sweeping reciprocal tariffs, redrawing the terms of America's engagement on global trade and economics on April 2, a date he dubbed - with much fanfare - as America's 'Liberation Day'. The US has slapped a 27 per cent tariff on imports from India. Ashok Chandak, President of India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA) said the speed and scale of tariff hikes could further slow global growth, create market uncertainty, and pressure businesses worldwide. "While India is better positioned than many other economies, these tariffs can potentially impact domestic industries, disrupt trade flows, and squeeze profit margins," Chandak said. As the geopolitical and economic landscape evolves, India must strategise swiftly, leveraging trade diplomacy, domestic policy shifts, and industrial resilience to mitigate risks and maintain its competitive edge in global trade. Semiconductors



Pharmaceuticals have been spared from tariffs, recognising their foundational role in global supply chains and public health, Chandak noted. On the Electronics and Electricals sector, IESA said tariffs may impact India's booming exports, but that the country could remain competitive as China, Vietnam, Taiwan and Thailand face even higher tariffs. "Trump's tariffs are expected to generate billions in US customs revenue and support his vision of a 'golden age' for American jobs and manufacturing. However, (there are) warning signs of inflationary pressures, global trade disruptions, increased good prices for US consumers and recession risks," he said. Over the past many weeks, Trump's 'America first' policy and his unabashed stance of economic nationalism have unnerved financial markets, allies, and major trade partners in equal measure, raising the

prospects of retaliatory tariffs and an inevitable global trade war. Hours before the tariff announcement were made, the US Trade Representative's (USTR) 2025 Report placed India on its 'Priority Watch List' calling it out on intellectual property concerns and drawing attention on digital touchpoints like data localisation rules, IT norms, and instances of internet shutdowns, as well as "high applied tariffs" on a wide range of goods, both agricultural and non agricultural goods. While the US has imposed a 27 per cent tariff on imports from India, steep tariff rates have been spelt out for many countries, including China (34 per cent), European Union (20 per cent), Vietnam (46 per cent) and Taiwan (32 per cent). White House has also issued a list of exemptions. "Some goods will not be subject to the Reciprocal Tariff. These include... copper, pharmaceuticals, semiconductors, and lumber

Astronomers listened to 'music' of flickering stars discovered unexpected feature

Canberra : (The Conversation) The "music" of starquakes - enormous vibrations caused by bursting bubbles of gas that ripple throughout the bodies of many stars - can reveal far more information about the stars' histories and inner workings than scientists thought. In new research published in Nature, we analysed the frequency signatures of starquakes across a broad range of giant stars in the M67 star cluster, almost 3,000 light years from Earth. Using observations from the Kepler space telescope's K2 mission, we had a rare opportunity to track the evolution of stars during most of their journey through the giant phase of the stellar life cycle.

In doing so, we discovered that these stars get stuck "playing the same part of their tune" once their turbulent outer layer reaches a sensitive region deep inside. This discovery reveals a new way to understand the history of stars - and of the entire galaxy.

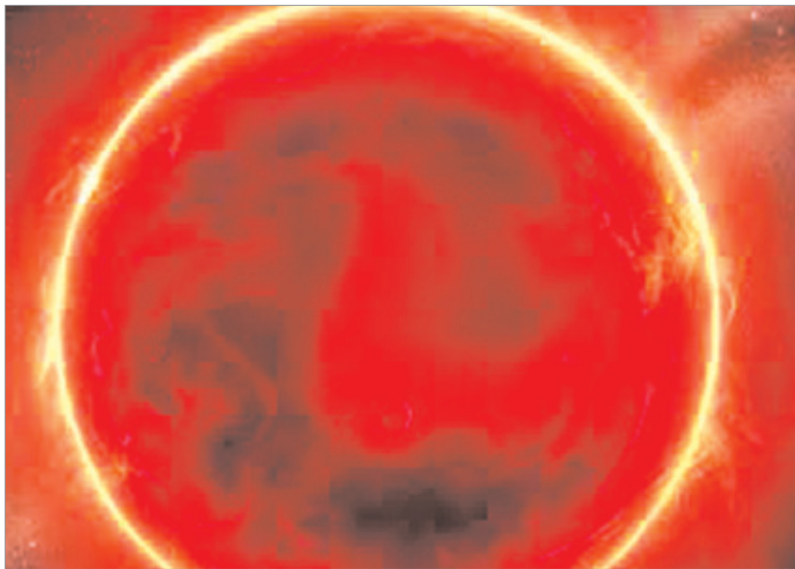
The sound of starquakes
Starquakes happen in most stars (like our Sun) that have a bubbling outer layer, like a pot of boiling water. Bubbles of hot gas rise and burst at the surface, sending ripples through the entire star that cause it to vibrate in

particular ways. We can detect these vibrations, which occur at specific "resonant frequencies", by looking for subtle variations in the brightness of the star. By studying the frequencies of each star in a group called a cluster, we can tune into the cluster's unique "song".

Our study challenges previous assumptions about resonant frequencies in giant stars, revealing they offer deeper insights into stellar interiors than previously thought. Moreover, our study has opened new ways to decipher the history of our Galaxy.

The melody of a stellar cluster
Astronomers have long sought to understand how stars like our Sun evolve over time.

One of the best ways to do this is by studying clusters - groups of stars that formed together and share the same age and composition. A cluster called M67 has attracted a lot of attention because it contains many stars with a similar chemical makeup to the Sun. Just as earthquakes help us study Earth's interior, starquakes reveal what lies beneath a star's surface. Each star "sings" a melody, with frequencies determined by its internal structure and physical properties. Larger stars



produce deeper, slower vibrations, while smaller stars vibrate at higher pitches. And no star plays just one note - each one resonates with a full spectrum of sound from its interior.

A surprising signature
Among the key frequency signatures is the so-called small spacing - a

group of resonant frequencies quite close together. In younger stars, such as the Sun, this signature can provide clues about how much hydrogen the star still has left to burn in its core.

In red giants the situation is different. These older stars have used up all the hydrogen in their cores, which

are now inert. However, hydrogen fusion continues in a shell surrounding the core. It was long assumed that the small spacings in such stars offered little new information.

A stalled note
When we measured the small spacings of stars in M67, we were surprised to see they revealed changes in the star's internal fusion regions.

As the hydrogen-burning shell thickened, the spacings increased. When the shell moved inward, they shrank.

Then we found something else unexpected: at a certain stage, the small spacings stalled. It was like a record skipping on a note.

We discovered that this stalling appears during a specific stage in the life of a giant star - when its outer envelope, the "boiling" layer that transports heat, grows so deep that it makes up about 80% of the star's mass. At this point the inner boundary of the envelope reaches into a highly sensitive region of the star.

This boundary is extremely turbulent, and the speed of sound shifts steeply across it - and that steep change affects how sound waves travel through the star. We

also found that the stalling frequency is distinctively determined by the star's mass and chemical composition. This gives us a new way to identify stars in this phase and estimate their ages with improved precision.

The history of the galaxy
Stars are like fossil records. They carry the imprint of the environments in which they formed, and studying them lets us piece together the story of our galaxy.

The Milky Way has grown by merging with smaller galaxies, forming stars at different times in different regions. Better age estimates across the galaxy help us reconstruct this history in greater detail.

Clusters like M67 also provide a glimpse into the future of our own Sun, offering insight into the changes it will experience over billions of years.

This discovery gives us a new tool - and a new reason to revisit data we already have. With years of seismic observations from across the Milky Way, we can now return to those stars and "listen" again, this time knowing what to listen for.

Waqf Bill passed in Parliament: Kolkata roars in opposition

Nurul Islam Khan

The Waqf Bill passed in Parliament late on Wednesday night which has taken away the constitutional rights of Indian Muslim minority. Maulana Kamruzzaman, general secretary of the Minority Youth Federation and member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, strongly reacted on the passed bills at a protest rally in Kolkata on Thursday. Thousands of people roared in protest against the Waqf Amendment Bill from Tipu Sultan Mosque to Park Street intersection in Kolkata on Thursday. Maulana Kamruzzaman, after the rally, said that



when an emergency situation arises in the country, voting is held in Parliament late at night, and voting on the Waqf Bill in Parliament late at night reminded us of

that emergency. The Modi government, unable to carry out real development of the country, is only doing politics of division and is trying to end the country

by snatching the constitutional rights of Muslims. No matter how the Waqf Bill is passed in the parliament, if the Waqf Bill is not withdrawn like the withdrawal of the Agriculture Bill, a continuous movement will continue across the country.

Slogans were raised against Israel and America in protest against the killing of children and women in Palestine from the procession on this day. Hafiz Siddiqullah, Maulana Hasibur Rahman, Maulana Aminul Anbia, Maulana Mizanur Rahman and other prominent figures daid after the end of the protest rally.

Waqf amendment bill 'assault' on Constitution: Sonia Gandhi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress Parliamentary party chairperson Sonia Gandhi on Thursday termed the Waqf (Amendment) Bill as a "brazen assault" on the Constitution, saying it was part of the BJP's strategy to keep society in a state of "permanent polarisation".

Hours after the Lok Sabha passed the Waqf amendment bill, Gandhi said the bill was "bulldozed" through in the lower house.

Addressing Congress MPs at a meeting of the Congress Parliamentary Party in Samvidhan Sadan here, she also said that the One Nation, One Election Bill is another subversion of the Constitution and the party would strongly oppose it.

"Whether it is education, civil rights and liberties, our federal structure or conduct of elections, the Modi government is dragging the



country into an abyss where our Constitution will remain on paper and we know their intention is to demolish even that," she charged.

"It is vital for all of us to continue to fight for what is right and just, to expose Modi government's failing and intention to turn India into a surveillance state," Gandhi told MPs at the

meeting.

All party MPs, including Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, were present at the meeting.

Sonia Gandhi also alleged that the prime minister has rebranded, repackaged and marketed numerous initiatives taken during 2004-

2014 as his own personal accomplishments. That too needs to be exposed through our own public outreach activities, she asserted.

Speaking on the functioning of both houses of Parliament, she charged that the Leaders of Opposition are not allowed to speak and the treasury benches are often found to be creating disturbance in a bid to not allow the Congress to raise their issues.

Noting that the BJP members aggressively target Congress-ruled state governments, with "total falsehoods", she urged party MPs to be equally aggressive and raise the failures and mis-governance in BJP-ruled states.

This will mean much more pointed homework and research on our part, she noted.

DMK will protect the Muslims of Tamil Nadu: CM Stalin

MI News Service, Chennai: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has said that the DMK will always support Muslims' political rights and protect the Tamil Nadu community. He was speaking at an Iftar function organized by his party last week.

"Whenever there has been a political threat to the Muslim community, the DMK has acted to safeguard the interest of the Muslims," he said, and added that "the DMK will never allow the BJP government's disruptive plans to be implemented in Tamil Nadu."

"Among the 28 states of India, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister is the only CM who has

the gum and gustation to publicly proclaim with conviction that he will protect the Muslims," MLA Jawaharullah and the head of the Manithaneya Makkal Katchi party, said, who is an ally of the DMK.

"According to 2011 census the percentage of Muslims in seven state of India is much higher than Tamil Nadu: Bihar 17 % -UP -19% West Bengal 27% -Kerala 27%-Assam 34% -J&K 68%, but no Chief Minister of these states has given any public assurances to protect the Muslims," the MLA who was also present at the function said.

"Muslims in Tamil Nadu are only 6% of the population

and do not electorally matter in the arithmetic of the electoral politics of the state, but still the DMK leader has shown conviction to protect the Muslims is something laudable," the MLA said.

The DMK largesse for Muslims in Tamil Nadu includes the 3.5% reservation for backward caste Muslims introduced by former Chief Minister M Karunanidhi. In a recent event, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced the construction of a guest house in Chennai for Hajj pilgrims. The DMK government has taken some other Muslim specific welfare policies in the state.

"On Tamil Nadu State

assembly elections due for next year, whether this is not a political campaign by the Chief Minister," the MLA from Papanasam Constituency said, "there are no takers of the BJP's allegation of Muslim appeasement policy in the Dravidian majority Hindu state."

"The majority of voters support the DMK and have rejected the Hindu appeasement of the politics of the BJP. This can be certified by the election results of the state and also through the DMK's vote percentage. The MLA concluded that DMK's vote share is 37% in the state assembly and 47% in the Lok Sabha."

Five members of Zafar Ali's family booked by Sambhal police calling it "a move taken to prevent unrest in the future"

MI News Service, Sambhal: On Tuesday, the Sambhal administration booked Shahi Jama Masjid managing committee president Zafar Ali's five family members after he was arrested by the SIT of Uttar Pradesh in connection with the Sambhal violence.

Zafar Ali's son Haider Ali, his brothers Tahir Ali and Qamar Hassan and his nephews Mohammed Danish and Mohammed Mujeeb are now required to provide a surety of ₹1 lakh each under the sections of BNSs and 135 pertaining to security for keeping

peace in other cases and enquiry as the truth of information.

According to the police, the move is taken as a precaution to avoid unrest in the future. Sub-divisional magistrate of the Sambhal district, Vandana Mishra stated, "This decision was taken to ensure peace in the town during Eid and Navratri festivals."

Ali is a prominent lawyer who was arrested after he spoke against the police violence in Sambhal according to the police he was



Sambhal Shahi Masjid president Zafar Ali

arrested for his alleged involvement in the violence. The police have accused Ali of mobilising the protest that quickly escalated into violent clashes as he was the first to receive the information about the

survey of the Jama Masjid. However, locals and the Masjid committee deny the police's claims stating that he was targeted along with several others for his religious identity.

On April 1, demanding Ali's release, several lawyers in Sambhal staged a vigorous protest condemning the actions of police and stated that the protests will escalate if the police don't stop "intimidating the household." The lawyers announced that they will not enter the court until Zafar is released.

Several regions in Balochistan face internet shutdowns amid protests

MI News Service, Balochistan: Internet services have once again been suspended in Quetta and several other areas of Balochistan, as reported by the Balochistan Post.

This follows a recent pattern of disruptions, including the suspension of mobile internet services across the province. Balochistan Post reported that after internet services were restored in Khuzdar, Kalat, and Mangocher last night after a six-day outage, they were shut down again just three hours later.

The continuous shutdowns have left residents frustrated, with many highlighting the severe impact on businesses, students' online education, and other critical activities. People have called on the authorities to permanently restore internet services, stressing that such disruptions are causing undue hardship for the public, the Balochistan Post reported.

According to Balochistan Post, there has been no official statement from government authorities regarding the cause of the suspensions. However, Baloch activists and local reports suggest the shutdowns are linked to ongoing mass protests in Balochistan, which are demanding an end to enforced disappearances and the arrest of leaders from the Baloch Youth Congress (BYC).

In today's world, internet access is crucial for economic and educational activities, and the ongoing lack of connectivity is severely affecting the daily lives of residents in Balochistan. Many citizens are urging the relevant authorities to prioritize restoring internet access to avoid further disruptions to their lives.

The recent protests in Balochistan has led to the shutdown of internet services by Pakistani authorities

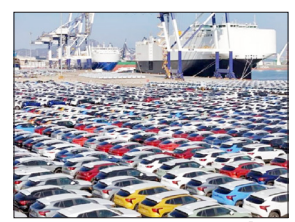
China critiques US reciprocal tariffs, vows to take "resolute counter-measures"

MI News Service, Beijing: China's commerce ministry on Thursday said that it will take "resolute counter-measures" against the "reciprocal tariffs" announced by United States President Donald Trump on all US trade partners, Global Times reported.

The ministry further urged Washington to cancel the unilateral tariff measures.

"There is no winner in a trade war, and protectionism leads nowhere. China urges the US to immediately remove unilateral tariffs and resolve differences with trade partners through dialogue," a ministry spokesperson said as cited in the Chinese State-owned Global Times.

Amid worldwide criticism, Trump declared a national



economic emergency and announced tariffs of at least 10 per cent across all countries, with rates even higher for 60 countries.

"China urges the United States to immediately cancel its unilateral tariff measures and properly resolve differences with its trading partners through equal dialogue," CNN quoted the spokesperson as saying.

The tariff plan imposed high levies on many countries, including 26 per cent

on India, 49 per cent on Cambodia, 46 per cent on Vietnam, 34 per cent on China, 24 per cent tariff on Japan, 20 per cent on the EU, US media reported, noting that more than 180 countries and regions will face tariffs.

The US claims that it has suffered losses in international trade and is using so-called "reciprocity" as a justification to raise tariffs on all its trading partners. This approach disregards the balance of interests achieved through years of multilateral trade negotiations and ignores the fact that the US has long reaped substantial benefits from international trade, the Chinese commerce ministry (MOFCOM) spokesperson said, Global Times reported.

Jordan, Egypt discuss efforts for permanent Gaza ceasefire

MI News Service, Amman: Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi and Egypt's Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty discussed efforts to secure a permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

During a phone call on Wednesday, the two ministers stressed the urgency of halting Israeli military operations in Gaza and military actions in the West Bank, according to a ministry statement.

The two ministers called for immediate international action to pressure Israel to open all crossings to facilitate humanitarian aid into Gaza, address the ongoing humanitarian crisis, and ensure that UN and humanitarian organisations can operate without

obstruction while safeguarding their staff, reports Xinhua news agency.

They condemned Israel's targeting of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) medical clinic in the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza, describing it as a violation of international law, international humanitarian law, and the 1949 Geneva Convention on the Protection of Civilians in Time of War.

Safadi and Abdelatty also warned of the grave consequences of Israel's escalating actions, including repeated raids on Palestinian cities, land confiscations, and the expansion of settlements. They denounced ongoing Israeli provocations, such as

the "storming" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound by Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir.

The ministers also discussed the role of the Arab-Islamic Ministerial Committee and ways to strengthen its efforts in supporting the Palestinian people and implementing the outcomes of the emergency Arab summit held in Cairo on March 4.

Both ministers reaffirmed that the full realisation of Palestinian rights — specifically the right to freedom and the establishment of an independent, sovereign state based on the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital — remains the only path to a just peace, ensuring regional security and stability.

Rajasthani Diaspora in US calls for language recognition

MI News Service, New York: A prominent Indian community organisation in New York has used its 75th anniversary celebration to highlight the ongoing lack of constitutional recognition for the Rajasthani language.

The Rajasthan Association of North America (RANA) marked the milestone with a cruise event over the Hudson River attended by more than 400 guests, while using the platform to voice concerns about what they describe as a "continued injustice".

RANA President Prem Bhandari expressed "strong displeasure" that Rajasthani has not been included in the 8th Schedule of the Indian Constitution, which lists officially recognised languages.

Senior JDU leader Md Qasim resigns over Party's Waqf support

MI News Service, Patna: Senior Janata Dal (United) leader, Mohammed Qasim Ansari, resigned from the party led by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, citing the party's support for the Waqf Amendment Bill as the primary reason for his departure.

In his resignation letter addressed to Nitish Kumar, Ansari expressed deep disappointment and frustration over the JDU's stance on the Waqf issue, stating that the bill contradicted the party's principles. He emphasized that he felt disheartened by the decision, especially after dedicating many years

"Despite a unanimous resolution passed by the Rajasthan State Assembly in 2003 urging its inclusion, the central government has yet to act on it," Bhandari told attendees.

He noted the resolution came about following RANA's first International Convention and subsequent advocacy with then-Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, but claimed "lack of political will" had prevented progress.

Bhandari, who also chairs Jaipur Foot USA, announced plans for a major artificial limb fitment camp to be held at the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

The initiative, developed in collaboration with the American Punjab Society, was fi-

nished after discussions with Padma Bhushan DR Mehta, founder of the Jaipur Foot organisation. A major new camp is also planned for Trinidad and Tobago, with India's High Commission securing approvals and managing logistics. The organization's 90-year-old founder, Padmabhushan DR Mehta, will travel from India to attend the event.

"India's Prime Minister Modi has emerged as the foremost advocate of the ancient Sanskrit principle 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - meaning 'the world is one family,'" Bhandari told ANI. Under Modi's leadership, the External Affairs Ministry has funded 32 international Jaipur Foot camps through its 'India for Humanity' programme.

Senior JDU leader Md Qasim resigns over Party's Waqf support

JDU leadership. The resignation letter highlighted his regret for having spent years supporting the party, which he now felt had betrayed the values it once represented.

In contrast, JDU leader and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan) Singh defended the Waqf Amendment Bill, explaining that it was aimed at ensuring greater transparency and benefiting all sections of the Muslim community. He rejected claims that the bill was anti-Muslim, asserting that Waqf properties were not religious organizations but trusts established to serve the welfare of Muslims.

IDF further investigating claims that troops in Gaza killed 15 medics, buried them in mass grave

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: The military says it is further investigating claims made by the UN that 15 medics allegedly killed by Israeli troops in southern Gaza's Rafah last week were buried in a mass grave.

In a post on X, the IDF's international media spokesman Lt. Col. Nadav Shoshani says the incident "in which IDF forces opened fire targeting terrorists advancing in ambulances" on March 23 has been handed over to the military's high-level General Staff Fact-Finding Assessment Mechanism for investigation.

The mechanism is an independent military body responsible for investigating unusual incidents amid the war.

"The IDF places the utmost importance on maintaining communication with international organizations operating in Gaza and engages with them regularly," Shoshani adds

Europe is prepared to respond, EU ramps up counters against US tariffs

MI News Service, Brussels: President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen on Thursday announced that the EU was preparing to ramp up its countermeasures to protect itself from US' reciprocal tariffs, Euro News reported.

The EU is "preparing for further countermeasures" to protect its interest, Von der Leyen said after US President Donald Trump announced a 20 per cent levies on European goods, urging the US to "move from confrontation to negotiation", as per Euro News.

In a post on X, Von der Leyen said, "The universal tariffs announced by the US are a major blow to businesses and consumers worldwide. Europe is prepared to respond. We'll always protect our interests and values. We're also ready to engage."

"We are already finalising a first package of countermeasures in response to tariffs on steel. And we are now preparing for further countermeasures, to protect our interests and our businesses if negotiations fail," she said on Thursday from Samarkand, Uzbekistan, where she will attend the first-ever EU-Central Asia summit.

"We will also be watching closely what indirect effects these tariffs could have, because we cannot absorb global overcapacity nor will we accept dumping on our market," she added, as per Euro News.

The US President on Wednesday imposed a minimum 10 per cent tariff on all countries, with the EU put on a list of 60 "worst offenders" and slapped with a higher tailored rate of 20 per cent. The levies are scheduled to come into force next Wednesday.

Tariffs on automobiles made outside the US of 25 per cent were also announced with immediate effect.

Sweden and Ireland have already said in statements that they "regret" the additional tariffs.



Thursday under the 'Operation Prayas' Shri Subimal Paul IPS SP Howrah Rural Police District has distributed 25 recovered mobile phones among their owners at Baganan PS compound, and under his initiative this day a total of 180 recovered mobile phones have been handed over to their owners at various Police Stations compound under Baganan town. Mr Abhijit Das was present.

TWO-DAY SAIL HR CONCLAVE TO KICK OF TODAY

MI CORRESPONDENT

RANCHI : A 2-day Human Resource (HR) Conclave is all set to begin from tomorrow at the auditorium of SAIL-MTI, Ranchi.

Top Corporate leaders would be deliberating on the central theme "Role of HR in shaping Company Culture". Apart from Amarendu Prakash, Chairman, SAIL and KK Singh, Director (Personnel), SAIL; ShivKumar Dega, Chairman, MTPL; Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC, VK Singh, Ex-Director (Personnel), Power Grid and CEO, PSSC, Vijay Sinha, Head of HR (Jindal Steel), Varun Kejriwal, MD (Boston Consulting Group; leaders from Deloitte, KPMG, SHRM and BIT Mesra are set to participate and brainstorm in this 2 day meet. The inauguration session starts at 9:30 am tomorrow.



Gujarat Titans' Jos Buttler exchanges a handshake with teammate Rahul Tewatia and others after the team win in the Indian Premier League 2025 match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
(ANI Photo)

GT pacer Kagiso Rabada returns home due to personal reasons

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT) : Gujarat Titans (GT) pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned home to South Africa from the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) due to personal reasons.

GT issued a statement about Rabada's return back home on Thursday. The Proteas pace veteran was a part of GT's first two IPL 2025 matches against Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Mumbai Indians (MI), taking one wicket each in expensive four-over spells of 1/41 and 1/42 respectively.

"Gujarat Titans pacer Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa from the ongoing season of the TATA IPL due to some personal reasons. The South Africa international was a part of Gujarat Titans' first two matches of the TATA IPL 2025. Kagiso Rabada has returned to South Africa to deal with an important personal matter," the statement said.

Kagiso formed a fiery pace attack for GT alongside compatriot Gerald Coetzee, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna and veteran Ishant Sharma. In 222 T20s, Rabada has taken 278 wickets at an average of 23.33 with best figures of 4/21 and an economy rate of 8.02. With 566 wickets in 241 international matches, he is an all-format veteran for South Africa.

In their previous IPL clash, GT defeated Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru (RCB) on Wednesday. Siraj (3/19) and Sai Kishore (2/22) were top bowlers as fine contributions from Liam Livingstone (54), Jitesh Sharma (33) and Tim David (32) powered RCB to 169/8 after being reduced to 42/4. GT chased down the total comfortably as Sai Sudharshan (49), Jos Buttler (73*) and Sherfane Rutherford (30*) played explosive knocks, winning the match with eight wickets in hand.

With two wins in three matches, GT is now at the fourth spot in the points table. Their next clash will be against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on April 6 at Hyderabad.



17-YEAR OLD KRIISH TYAGI GEARS UP FOR JUNIOR GRAND SLAMS

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : Krish Tyagi is on the brink of a defining year in his young career. India's number one ranked junior tennis star has been steadily making strides across both junior and senior circuits.

Tyagi, 17, is now preparing for a crucial stretch of tournaments, including the Junior Grand Slams, that could shape his future in the sport.

Most recently, he was in action at the ongoing SM Krishna Memorial Open in his hometown of Bengaluru, where he lost to SD Prajwal Dev in the opening round. However, the teenager is far from disheartened.

Reflecting on the match, he highlighted the adjustment to conditions as a challenge. "It's always nice to play at home but I'm coming from Ahmedabad, where the conditions were different. When I played today, I felt like the balls were flying out even when I was timing them. In Ahmedabad, it wasn't the same, and I think the altitude change had an effect."

He also admitted that he struggled to find his rhythm early on. "I felt like he started very well, and I wasn't into the game as much as he was. I didn't start that well, I was very rough in the beginning."

Before the SM Krishna Memorial Open, Tyagi made an impressive run at the ITF M25 Ahmedabad Open, where he progressed to the semifinals but lost to eventual champion Aryan Shah. His deep run at the tournament reaffirmed his ability to compete at a higher level.



Discussing the transition between junior and senior circuits, he noted the key difference, "In the important moments, senior players perform much better. They serve better, return better, and know what to play when. I feel that in a match, the crucial points make the difference. If you can convert them to your side, the match is yours."

Looking ahead, Tyagi has a packed schedule featuring some of the biggest junior tournaments. "I go to Malaysia for a few junior

tournaments, spending two weeks there. Then, I have one week in Thailand for JB1, and after that, I head to the French Open Junior Grand Slam. Then I'll play Wimbledon and the US Open."

Having already played at the Australian Open this year, he feels prepared for the challenge of competing in the Junior Grand Slams. "It was very hard, but I feel that playing a Junior Grand Slam and competing in other top-grade junior tournaments is the same. Let's say you play a guy in a tournament in Malaysia, and then you face him again in a Grand Slam. You already know his game and what he does."

There is a horde of upcoming Indian talent in the SM Krishna Memorial Open, including the likes of Aryan Shah, and Karan Singh, who are making massive strides on the circuit.

Discussing the future of tennis in India, Tyagi acknowledged the improvements in the sport and the support available for young players. "We all push each other. Tennis in India is improving, and for me, being a top junior player, I get more wildcards. The Tennis Association has been supportive, giving me opportunities like a wildcard entry into the Bengaluru Open and here as well. It's great to see that they are backing young players."

Notably, Aryan, who ended Tyagi's run in Ahmedabad, will take on Prajwal Dev in the next round of the SM Krishna Memorial Open, while Karan Singh will face Nikita Iani.

Mumbai Cricket Association opens player registration for T20 Mumbai League Season 3

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) has officially opened player registrations for the much-anticipated third season of T20 Mumbai League, according to a release from MCA.

Known for showcasing Mumbai's finest cricketing talent, the league has been a launchpad for many rising stars. It offers players a chance to showcase their skills and make a mark on the grand stage. With the participation of eight teams, representing different corners of the city, the upcoming third edition will begin on May 27.

"This is a great opportunity for players to showcase their talent. Many top cricketers have made their mark through this league and we encourage players to make the most of this platform. T20 Mumbai League has been a stepping stone for city's cricketers, and Season 3 promises to be even more competitive. We look forward to seeing the emergence of new talent," said Abhay Hadap, Secretary of Mumbai Cricket Association, as quoted from a release by MCA.

Registrations are open to all MCA-registered players above the age of 16 years as they can register on MCA's official website before April 10.

MCA has also issued a tender document inviting bids from interested and eligible parties for the right to operate two teams in the

upcoming season.

Established in 2018, T20 Mumbai League has emerged as one of India's premier franchise-based domestic T20 leagues, providing a dynamic platform for talented cricketers. The league has witnessed the emergence of players like Yashvi Jaiswal, Shivam Dube, Tushar Deshpande, and Shams Mulani, who delivered outstanding performances and went on to compete at higher levels of the game.

Returning after six years, the third season of T20 Mumbai League is set to reignite the passion of city's cricket enthusiasts. Tournament is scheduled to start from May 27.

Season 3 will feature eight franchises. North Mumbai Panthers, ARCS Andheri, Triumph Knights Mumbai North East, Namo Bandra Blasters, Eagle Thane Strikers, Aakash Tigers Mumbai Western Suburbs and two new teams.

This presents an excellent opportunity for new stakeholders to become an integral part of this prestigious league.

Interested and eligible parties can obtain the bid document from the MCA office at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai upon a non-refundable payment of Rs 1 lakh via demand draft in favour of Mumbai Cricket Association. The documents will be available for collection from April 1 to 7, between 11 AM and 6 PM.

DIKSHA RETURNS TO SA WHICH EARNED HER FIRST LET WIN; PRANAVI, AVANI, TVESA JOIN HER IN JOBURG OPEN

JOHANNESBURG [SOUTH AFRICA] : Diksha Dagar returns to the country that fetched her the first Ladies European Tour title as she tees off in the first of the two South African events of the Tour. Diksha, one of the four Indians in the field this week, won the South African Open in 2019; for her first LET win. The South African Women's Open will be held after the Joburg Open.

Diksha, who has had a decent season so far, was runner-up at the Lalla Meryem Cup and was then T-11 at the New South Wales Open. A past multiple winner on her home Tour, the Women's Pro Golf Tour, she is currently fifth on the Order of Merit.

The other Indians are Pranavi Urs, who was T-14 in New South Wales, rookie Avani Prashanth, who has made the cut in all three starts with T-16 at Lalla Meryem Cup in Morocco, T-13 in Women's Classic in Australia and T-36 at the NSW event and Tvesa Malik, who has to her name a win on the Sunshine Ladies Tour in the past. Defending champion Chiara Tamburlini, will be back in Johannesburg hoping to replicate what was a breakthrough moment of her 2024 season.

The Modderfontein Golf Course, which is hosting the tournament for the fourth year in a row, is home to what is considered a challenging course known for its numerous water hazards, which feature on more than half the holes on the card. This week has a field of 132 players that is comprised of 38 LET Winners with a combined total of 66 LET wins. It also includes England's Cara Gainer, who leads the Order of Merit following four tournaments of the LET 2025 season.

PCB chairman Mohsin Naqvi appointed as ACC president

DUBAI [UAE] : Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) chairman Mohsin Naqvi has been appointed as the president of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC), announced the governing body of cricket in the continent on Thursday.

ACC on Thursday issued a statement announcing the same that he will be assuming the role with an immediate effect.

"Mr. Mohsin Naqvi has assumed charge as the new President of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC). Naqvi, who has served as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) Chairman since February 2024 will assume this prestigious role on 3rd April, 2025. His appointment ushers in a new chapter of leadership for Asian cricket," said the ACC's statement.

Speaking on being appointed as ACC president, Naqvi referred



to Asia as the "heartbeat of world cricket."

"I am deeply honoured to assume the presidency of the Asian Cricket Council. Asia remains the heartbeat of world cricket, and I am committed to working with all member boards to accelerate the game's growth and global influence. Together, we will unlock new opportunities, foster

greater collaboration, and take Asian cricket to unprecedented heights. I also extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing ACC President for his leadership and contributions to the ACC during his tenure."

Naqvi succeeds Shammi Silva, President of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC). Reflecting on the transition, Silva shared his



Indian Arrows Women Juniors begin IWL 2 campaign with win



BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : Indian Arrows Women Juniors began their Indian Women's League 2 campaign with a 2-1 victory against Puduhuvai Unicorns at the Padukone-Draavid Centre for Sports Excellence Phase 2, on Wednesday.

Abhista Basnett (11') opened the scoring for Indian Arrows, before Keerthana M (40') equalised minutes before the half-

bottom corner.

The Arrows pushed forward aggressively in the first half, but in their eagerness to extend the lead, they were caught offside on multiple occasions. Meanwhile, Puduhuvai Unicorns steadily built momentum, coming close to scoring twice before finally finding the equaliser in the 40th minute. Keerthana, unmarked at the near post during a corner, did well to head it in, as the teams went into the dressing rooms on level terms.

Indian Arrows came out with more vigour in the second half, and retook the lead soon enough. Midfielder Julian Nongmaithem showcased brilliant footwork, dribbling past two defenders before setting up substitute Valaina Fernandes. With space just outside the box, Valaina struck a curling shot into the bottom-right corner.

'We need to build a new team': 5 things new Kerala Blasters head coach David Catala said during press meet

Kerala Blasters' new head coach David Catala said he will not take the AIFF Super Cup lightly and will try to live up to the expectations of the fans. He is going to be a tough coach but will try to live up to the challenges before the club, Catala said during a press meet on Thursday. "I want to be very aggressive in attack and be very protagonist with the ball. But the most important things is the commitment and sacrifice of the players," he said.

The Spaniard, who joined KBFC on a one-year deal, took over from interim head coach TG Purushothamman. From bracing for a new challenge in the ISL with the trophyless Kerala Blasters to transfer strategy, here are five things the 44-year-old revealed:

1. I have big ideas and I have



a big impression about the team, about the club. I can say from my side I'm gonna give my best to bring this club to where it deserves to be. For me, it's gonna be a big opportunity and a big challenge. But I will take it as a big responsibility and will show the best professionalism.

2. For me, the challenge is the same with every team I have been a part of. I will do my best to try to develop the team and get

the best performance out of all the players. I'm going to be very hard because I'm going to be very ambitious. And the challenge for me is the same.

3. Yes, it's true that I came in at a period when the season is almost finished. But we have in front one Super Cup that we are going to face it with the utmost professionalism. Of course, for me, it's different to come in the beginning of the season and com-

ing now. But as I said, I'm looking forward to training with the players, I'm looking forward to competing with these players and to try to make a good Super Cup campaign.

4. Of course, we need to build a new team and new players. Now is a good time also for coming to have an idea of what we need for the future... How can we organise everything to have a good team for the next season..