

PM Modi meets Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Yunus after BIMSTEC summit



MI News Service, New Delhi / Bangkok: Ending all speculations about the possibility of this vital meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi separately held talks with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus in Bangkok on Friday, beginning a new chapter in the present strained Indo-Bangladesh bilateral relations.

Incidentally, today's meeting was the first such direct face to face conversation between the two leaders since the ouster of Prime minister Sheikh Hasina from Dhaka in August last year.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the Summit meeting of the leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical

Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping in the Thai capital. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval were also present during the meeting. Prime Minister Modi in his meeting with Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus this afternoon underlined India's concerns over the safety of minorities, including Hindus, and conveyed the expectation that the Bangladeshi government would ensure their security, including by thoroughly investigating cases of atrocities against them.

Briefing reporters on Modi's meeting with Yunus, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said Modi underlined India's concerns related to the

safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh including Hindus. PM Modi expressed his expectation that the government of Bangladesh would ensure their security, including by thoroughly investigating all cases of atrocities against the minorities, Misri said at the media briefing. During the meeting, PM Modi also urged that any rhetoric that vitiates the environment is best avoided, the foreign secretary said. Prime Minister Modi reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh. "He underlined that India believed in a people-centric approach to the relationship and highlighted the cooperation between the two countries over a long period of time that

has delivered tangible benefits to the people of both countries. In this spirit, he underlined to Professor Yunus India's desire to forge a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based on a spirit of pragmatism," Misri said on the meeting. During the meeting, the PM also talked about the border issues and the strict enforcement of the law and curbing illegal border crossings, especially at night for maintaining border security and stability. Asked if Yunus raised the issue of the extradition of Hasina, Misri did not give a direct reply. He said it is not proper to talk about this issue at the moment and the ministry in the past has already said that it has received a request from Bangladesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Bangladesh's Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus during his visit to Thailand for the BIMSTEC Summit Friday, the first meeting between the two since the latter assumed power after the ouster of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The two were also seated next to each other at the BIMSTEC leaders' dinner Thursday night.

The meeting has also assumed special significance as it comes at a time after Yunus's

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Taj Mahal remains top in earning through ticket sales in ASI monuments, says Union minister



MI News Service, New Delhi: The world famous one of the wonders of the universe and Mughal-era mausoleum Taj Mahal in Agra has been the top earning ASI-protected monument through ticket sales during the past five years. Revealing the data Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat in a written response to a query in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, said apart from other things it also proved how popular this wonderful monument and its serene surroundings to the visitors around the globe. The minister was asked the amount that the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has received from selling entry tickets to various monuments in the last five years, year-wise and monument-wise; and the monuments that have received the high-

est income through sale of entry tickets in the last five years. In his response, the minister shared the data in a tabular form for cycles of financial years ranging from FY19-20 to FY23-24.

According to the data, Taj Mahal earned the top slot for all five years.

The Mughal-era architectural wonder was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century and it is considered one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. In FY19-20, the Agra Fort in Agra and Qutub Minar in Delhi were in the second and third positions.

In FY20-21, the Group of Monuments Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu and Sun Temple, Konark were in the second and third positions. In FY23-24, Qutub Minar and Red Fort of Delhi were in the second and third positions.

Lok Sabha adjourned sine die; Budget session concludes

MI News Service, New Delhi: Bringing down the curtains on the Budget session which began on January 31, Lok Sabha was adjourned sine die on Friday As soon as the House met at 12 noon after an adjournment over remarks by Congress leader Sonia Gandhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla read out his valedictory remarks and adjourned the House sine die indefinitely till the new session is convened.

The session concluded on a stormy note with treasury benches seeking an apology from Sonia Gandhi for her remarks that the Waqf bill was bulldozed without a discussion. This forced an adjournment of the Lower House for nearly an hour. The Speaker said as many as 16 bills were passed during the session and the House productivity was pegged at

over 118 per cent. As he spoke, opposition members were raising slogans against the Speaker's observation against Sonia Gandhi that her claim that the Waqf amendment Bill was bulldozed without discussion was unfortunate and against dignity of the House. During the session, the government completed its budgetary exercise after the Lok Sabha gave its nod to the demands for grants for the various ministries as well as the Finance Bill. The budget for Manipur, under central rule, was also cleared. The Waqf amendment bill, which witnessed a showdown between the government and the Opposition, was passed by Parliament as the two Houses sat for long hours even after midnight for two days to clear the bill and make it a law.

Supreme Court upheld the verdict of the Calcutta High Court Single Bench in primary D. El. Ed. case

MI News Service, Kolkata : Within 24 hours of cancelling employment of nearly 26,000 school teachers in West Bengal, the Supreme Court upheld the verdict of former Calcutta High Court Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay in the primary Diploma in Elementary Education (D. El. Ed.) case on Friday.

At the same time the Apex court has also dismissed the verdict of the division bench of the Calcutta High Court. On Friday, the bench of Justice PS Narasimha and Justice Jaymalaya Bagchi said that the order of the division bench of Justice Subrata Talukder is being dismissed. Appointments can be made according to the verdict of the single bench of the then Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay.

Incidentally, on September 29, 2022, the board issued a notification for the recruitment of primary teachers for 11,758 posts in the primary school recruitment process. At that time, in the first notification, they said that those who were undergoing D. El. Ed. training in the current academic year could also participate in the recruitment. A case was filed in the High Court against the board's decision.

In September 2022, the then High Court Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay accepted the board's decision. The judge observed that the course of the candidates for the 2020-22 academic year started in June 2020. Their two-year course was to be completed in June 2022. That is, by then all of them could complete their final

semester exams before the recruitment notification is issued on September 29, 2022. Therefore, the candidates undergoing training for that academic year had the right to participate in the recruitment process. However, the single bench did not give any specific instruction regarding the issuance of appointment letters to those candidates.

Former Justice Gangopadhyay's order and the Board's notification were rejected by the then High Court Division Bench of Justice Subrata Talukder and Justice Supratim Bhat-tacharya. In April last year, the Division Bench, while pronouncing the verdict, said that according to the rules of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), to become a teacher, one must have minimum education and training. In this case, the rules of NCTE were not followed. Because, even if the course was completed in June 2022, the candidates would not get the certificate within that period. The certificates were to be issued in November that year. As a result, they could not be considered eligible without the certificate. On the other hand, during the case in the division bench, the board issued a new notification. It said that all trainees would be given the opportunity. A section of the DLA trainees of that academic year went to the Supreme Court challenging the division bench's verdict. Following today's hearing of that case, the order of the division bench of the Calcutta High Court was rejected by the Supreme Court.

Congress to join DMK in challenging Waqf bill in Supreme Court

MI News Service, New Delhi : The grand old Congress party will "very soon" contest the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Supreme Court. AICC General Secretary Jairam Ramesh said on Friday.

The Waqf (Amendment) bill was passed by both Houses of Parliament early Friday in the Lok Sabha and the next day in the Rajya Sabha after marathon debates on various aspects of the bill. In a post on X, Ramesh said the Congress is determined to resist what it sees as assaults on constitutional princi-

ples by the Modi government. "We are confident and will continue to resist all assaults of the Modi Govt on the principles, provisions, and practices that are contained in the Constitution of India," he commented. Ramesh further mentioned that the Supreme Court is currently hearing the INC's challenges regarding the CAA (2019), RTI Act (2005) amendments, Conduct of Election Rules (2024), and the Places of Worship Act (1991). The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has been

PM Modi assures Myanmar's Senior General of more assistance for earthquake victims

MI News Service, New Delhi / Bangkok: India is ready to do extend all possible help and assistance to Myanmar in recovering from the aftermath of a massive earthquake that killed over 3,000 people in and around Mandalay, the second largest city in the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told Myanmar's Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during a meeting with him here on Friday.

Prime minister Modi held a one on one meeting with Senior General Min, the head of Myanmar's military government on the sidelines of the Summit meeting of the leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral and Technical Cooperation (BIMSTEC) grouping in the Thai capital.

"Met Senior General Min Aung Hlaing of Myanmar on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok. Once again expressed condolences on the loss of lives and damage to property in the wake of the recent earthquake. India is doing whatever is possible to assist our sisters and brothers of Myanmar in this critical time," Modi wrote on X.

This was the Prime Minister's first interaction after the March 28 earthquake. "We are ready to help," the Prime Minister is learnt to have conveyed to Senior General Min. India has deployed military field hospitals in Mandalay, which was near the epicentre of the earthquake. A senior official of the Myanmar administration also visited the hospital set up by India in Mandalay.

India has also deployed its National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) personnel who are assisting in the relief work in Myanmar. Myanmar is considered a cog in the wheel for the success of BIMSTEC, whose key aim is to promote connectivity between the member nations.

All the key projects to connect the member nations pass through Myanmar where the local administration has little control in the different regions of the country.

The massive earthquake opened an opportunity for Myanmar to engage with the global comity of nations as it seeks humanitarian assistance to recover from the

earthquake. Over 3,000 people have so far lost their lives in the 7.7 magnitude Myanmar earthquake, in which about 5,000 people have also been injured, and around 370 remained missing nationwide. Thousands of others were also rendered homeless in the tremor.

Senior General Min also attended an official dinner for leaders of the BIMSTEC nations that also includes Thailand, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

The Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs said BIMSTEC members discussed disaster management during ministerial meetings on Thursday.

While China has quantified the aid it has despatched to Myanmar, India has maintained that it does not believe in putting a monetary value to the humanitarian aid it extends to countries in times of crisis. However, according to informed sources more than 240 tonnes of relief materials of different kinds were sent to Myanmar by the government of India for the earthquake victims in Myanmar alone.



Minority community people took part in a protest for Waqf protection, and demanded the withdrawal of recent amendments to the Waqf Bill, in Kolkata on Friday.

President, PM and Mamata Banerjee condoled death of veteran actor and director Manoj Kumar



MI News Service, Mumbai : Veteran film actor and director Manoj Kumar died in a private hospital in Mumbai on Friday after a protracted illness. He was 87 and is survived by his son Kunal. Known for his patriotic films Manoj Kumar was suffering from several old age related health problems for long and was admitted to the Kokilaben Dhirubhai Ambani Hospital a few days ago where he breathed his last this morning. As soon as the

news of death was known, tributes started flowing in from all corners on social media. Expressing deep condolences at the passing away of the veteran actor Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is now in Bangkok on a two day visit, shared an old photo with Manoj Kumar and wrote in his X handle "Deeply saddened by the passing of legendary actor and filmmaker Shri Manoj Kumar Ji. He was an icon of Indian cinema, who was

particularly remembered for his patriotic zeal, which was also reflected in his films. Manoj Ji's works ignited a spirit of national pride and will continue to inspire generations. My thoughts are with his family and admirers in this hour of grief. Om Shanti." President Droupadi Murmu also condoled the death and wrote in her official X handle, "Saddened

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India ranks 10th with USD1.4 billion private investment in AI, reveals UN report

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : With India taking the 10th spot from the top, the country along with China are the only two developing countries in the world having significant private investments in Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 2023.

Disclosing this in a recent UN report entitled 'the 2025 Technology and Innovation Report, issued by UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)', has also announced India's 10th rank, adding that the country ranked 36th in 2024 on the 'Readiness for

Frontier Technologies' index, improving its position from 48th in 2022. India ranks 36th out of 170 nations on a global index measuring a country's readiness for frontier technologies, improving its ranking from last year, according to the report. The index combines indicators for ICT deployment, skills, research and development (R&D) activity, industrial capacity, and access to finance. India

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Supreme Court verdict leaves Asansol Schools scrambling

MI News Service, Asansol: Recruitment Scam Verdict: The principal of Dhakeshwari High School in Asansol is also worried about the teacher termination incident. He says that the 'predicament' of job termination at that school has fallen on 3 teachers and 2 education workers.

The Supreme Court's decision to quash the entire panel of 2016 in the recruitment corruption case has sent shockwaves through government schools in Asansol, West Bengal. Approximately 26,000 teachers and education workers have lost their jobs, leaving school authorities wondering how to continue teaching.

Shruti Gangopadhyay, headmistress of Raniganj Basantidibi Goenka Girls' School, expressed her deep concern over the situation.

uation. "12 of our teachers have lost their jobs. None of them are incompetent. I don't know how the school will continue to teach. I am deeply saddened by this incident." The school, with a total of 21 teachers, has been severely impacted, with subjects like Hindi, English, history, and science no longer having instructors.

The headmistress plans to convene a meeting with the school management committee to discuss the matter further. Meanwhile, the principal of Dhakeshwari High School, Robin Gangopadhyay, is also grappling with the consequences of the verdict. "The school has exams next week. At this moment, so many teachers and non-teaching staff have been ordered to leave. This is as inhuman as it is worrying. There are no people to open the school. I don't know how it will work."

The situation is dire, with many schools facing significant challenges in maintaining their academic programs. The teachers' union has also expressed concerns about the potential consequences of the verdict, fearing it may create a worrying situation in government schools across the state.

As the education sector struggles to come to terms with the Supreme Court's decision, one thing is clear: the road ahead will be fraught with challenges. The state government and education authorities must act swiftly to address the crisis and ensure that the academic programs of affected schools are not severely disrupted.

Murshidabad school faces an uncertain future after the big verdict of the Supreme Court

MI News Service, Murshidabad: The total number of teachers in the school was 62 of them, 21 have been terminated on the order of the Supreme Court. As a result, administrative and educational activities have almost come to standstill.

In a shocking turn of events, the Supreme Court has cancelled the services of 21 teachers at Bhagwan-gola High School for Girls in Murshidabad, leaving the school's administration and students reeling. The school, which has a student body of several thousand, is struggling to come to terms with the sudden loss of nearly a third of its teaching staff.

The headmistress of the school expressed her concerns about the impact of the verdict on the school's ability to function. "The exams are supposed to start tomorrow, but in this situation, it will be difficult to conduct the exams. Running this school has now become a very difficult matter," she said.

The teachers who lost their jobs are devastated, claiming that they were innocent and did not obtain their positions through corruption or injustice. "It

would have been better if action had been taken against those who got the job through corruption," one of the affected teachers said.

The sudden loss of teaching staff has brought administrative and educational activities to a near standstill. The school's future is uncertain, and the students are likely to bear the brunt of the verdict. The incident highlights the need for a more nuanced approach to addressing corruption and irregularities in the education sector, one that does not penalize innocent teachers and students.

Mother dies of heart attack after son and daughter-in-law lose jobs

MI News Service, Burdwan: An ailing mother was admitted to a private hospital in Bamchandiapur, along National Highway 19 Burdwan. She died on Friday morning.

A devastating incident has unfolded in Burdwan, West Bengal, where a mother, Manjula Yash, died of a heart attack after her son, Arnab Yash, and daughter-in-law, Chandrani Dutta, lost their jobs as geography teachers due to a Supreme Court verdict.

ni, a geography teacher at Nawapara High School in Birbhum, were among the 1,025 people whose jobs were cancelled in East Burdwan district, as per the Supreme Court's orders. The cancellations included 750 teachers and 275 non-teaching workers. The family claims that Manjula, who was admitted to a private hospital in Bamchandiapur, was in mental distress since the High Court verdict was announced and couldn't bear the news of her son and daughter-in-law losing their jobs. Her death has left the family in a state of shock and grief.

Chandrani's sister, Indrani Dutta, who also lost her job, expressed her outrage and disappointment, stating, "My sister worked hard to get her job, and it's unthinkable that a government job can be taken away like this. How will our family continue?" The incident has sparked widespread anger against the government, with the family and others affected by the verdict demanding justice and support. The mental state of Arnab and Chandrani is reported to be fragile, and they are struggling to come to terms with their mother's sudden demise.

Sony Music Bangla and Mere Sai Productions Pvt.Ltd launching new music video: Tumi Sondhayaro Meghomala

MI News Service, Kolkata: We are thrilled to announce that Sony Music Bangla is going to launch a new music video featuring Rabindranath Tagore's classic song, Tumi Sondhayaro Meghomala sung by singer, Sohini Mukherjee.

The video, directed by young and talented director, Trisha Saha(Nini), makes her debut at the age of 18. Through this she tells the story of a newlywed couple's blossoming love. Produced by Apurva Joseph, the video showcases the beauty of love and relationships.

The music video features Nadeem Akthar and Rani Chakraborty's awesome chemistry.

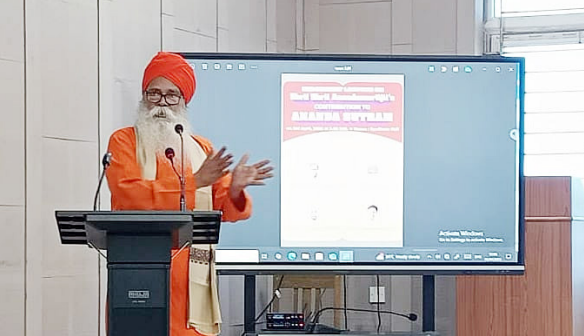


The team consisting, Subham Talukdar, Tusar Karmakar, Jake Dey, Suvankar Roy Chowdhury and Sayan Khan, Ranita Ghorai. Their tireless efforts made this

work more pleasant and beautiful.

The music video is soon going to be available on Sony Music Bangla's YouTube channel and other leading music streaming platforms.

Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha, chief speaks on Shrii Shrii Ananadamurtijii's multifarious contribution



MI News Service, Kolkata: Endowment lecture on Shrii Shrii Ananadamurtijii, Founder of Ananda Marga Pracharaka Samgha's Contribution to Ananda Sutram was organized by Internal Quality Assurance Cell, Shri Jagannath Sanskrit University, Shri vihar, Puri on 3rd April 2025.

Acharya Divyachetananda Avadhuta, Central Public Relations Secretary, Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha, Kolkata as a chief speaker spoke on Shrii Shrii Ananadamurtijii's multifarious contribution. He explained the background of Ananda Sutram book. He said that Shrii Shrii

Ananadamurtijii wrote for the first time a book in the name of Ananda, which is known as Ananda Sutram. He further explained the concept of Supreme Consciousness and Operative Principle according to Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji. Acharya Divyachetananda Avadhuta explained the Neo-humanism and said that Neo-humanism elevates Humanism to Universalism. The cult of love is created among all living beings. According to Shrii Shrii Anandamurtiji, Devotion is the highest treasure. In other side, Humanism is not motivated by perennial source of inspiration. Where as Neo-humanism is motivated by perennial source of inspiration means cult of spirituality.

Gold Medalist Somnath loses job amidst recruitment scam

MI News Service, Nadia: He was working in group C at Birnagar High School in Nadia. He has a daughter and wife in his family, he became disabled due to wrong treatment at the age of just three. The fight for life did not stop. Somnath was running his family and getting treatment with the salary he received.

Somnath Malo, a resident of Nadia, West Bengal, was faced his fair share of challenges. Despite being diagnosed with the blood cancer and becoming disabled at the age of three, Somanath persevered. His determination led him to win a gold medal in high jump in 2002 and even hoist the Indian flag in South Korea. However, Somnath's life took a turn for the worse when he lost his job as a clerk in a government school due to the Supreme Court's order cancelling the appointment of 25,752 people. The news has left Somnath who was working in Group C at Birnagar High School in Nadia, feeling

disappointed and helpless.

Somnath's family, comprising his wife and daughter, is struggling to come to terms with the loss for their sole breadwinner's income. His wife's tears are uncontrollable as she worries about their future. Somnath who had been managing his family's expenses and medical treatment with his salary, is now appealing to the state chief minister Mamta Banerjee to save his family. Holding his gold medal, Somnath expressed his anguish, "I brought the medal for the country. Today I don't have a job. This is the shame of the country". His story serves as a protagonist reminder of the struggle faced by individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving the nation. As Somnath's family struggles to make ends meet, his health continues to deteriorate. His cancer treatment has been jeopardized due to loss of his job, leaving his family in a state of distress.

Teacher attempts suicide after job loss due to Supreme Court Verdict

MI News Service, Canning: A devastating incident has unfolded in Canning, West Bengal where a teacher, Rumpa Singh, attempted suicide after losing her job due to Supreme Court's verdict on the SSC recruitment case. The incident has sent shockwaves through the community, highlighting the dire consequences of the verdict on the lives of affected teachers.

Rumpa Singh, a history teacher at Roy Baghini High School, was among the thousands of teachers who lost their jobs after the Supreme Court quashed the entire panel of 2016 in the recruitment corruption case. The news of her job cancellation spread quickly, and creditors, to whom Rumpa had borrowed a considerable amount of money for her husband's treatment, began demanding repayment.

According to Rumpa's family, the creditors' relentless pressure and mental torture drove her to attempt suicide. A recovered suicide note revealed the distressing circumstances leading up to the incident. Rumpa's husband, Animesh Jana, recounted the events, stating, "She lost her job due to the Supreme Court verdict. Some people used to get money, but as soon as the news came, they raided her house. They called her a hypocrite. Then she tried to commit suicide by writing a suicide note."

Rumpa is currently undergoing treatment at the Canning Subdistrict Hospital. The incident has raised concerns about the welfare of teachers affected by the Supreme Court's verdict and the need for support systems to help them cope with the financial and emotional consequences of job loss.

Tragic accident in Indas highlights urgent for road repairs

MI News Service, Bakura: On Thursday night, 12 to 14 local resident were riding a tractor for patal dighi Bihar village in Indas block to Gaylapukur village to watch the jalsa. The accident occurred while they were returning from the jalsa at around 1:30 am.

A devastating accident occurred in the Bhubhandi area of Indas police station in Bankura, resulting in the death of a young man, Sheikh Hossain, and injuring six others. The incident took place when a tractor carrying 12-14 local residents overturned on the poorly maintained road while returning from a cultural event in Gaylapukur village. The nearly three-kilometer road from Dongalon to Mangalpur in Indus Block of Bankura has been in a deplorable condition for a long time, forcing locals to risk their lives while traveling. Despite an allocation of 1.32 crore taka for the Pathashree project to pave the road, the condition remains unchanged.

Local residents are outraged and frustrated, demanding immediate repair of the road. They protested by blocking the road for some time in the local Sahaspur market of Indas, but the blockade was eventually lifted after police intervention. The incident highlights the urgent need for road repairs and the importance of ensuring public safety. The authorities must take immediate action to address the issue and prevent such tragedies from occurring in the future.

Kurmi protest intensifies, new strategy unveiled

MI News Service, Khatra: The state government had recommended to the center to recognize the Kurmis as tribals. But the state government did not send "comments" and demanded by the center, so the issue of recognizing them as tribals is still pending.



The Kurmi community in West Bengal is reigniting their movement for tribal recognition, with a massive rally scheduled to take place in Khatra, Bakura on Saturday. This renewed push comes as the community seeks to pressure the state government demand for tribal status. The kurmi community has been fighting for tribal recognition for decades. Despite the state government's recommendation to the central government to grant them tribal status, the issue remains stalled due to the state's failure to submit the required "comments and justifications". In the lead-up to the last gram panchayat elections, the Kurmi community's movement gained significant momentum. Protests were held across various locations, and the community even participated in the polls, fielding independent candidates in

several areas. The upcoming rally in Khatra, Bankura is expected to draw Kurmi community members from various districts, including Purulia, Jhargram, and Paschim Medinipur. The event will feature representatives from the central leadership to local leaders. Political analysts believe that the rally will outline the community's next course of action and serve as a warning to the state government to address their demands. Tribal recognition would provide the Kurmi community with greater access to resources, benefits, and opportunities. The community's struggle for recognition is part of a broader movement to assert their rights and identity. As the 2026 assembly elections approach, the Kurmi community's renewed push for tribal recognition is likely to gain significant attention. The outcome of their movement will have important implications for the community's future and the state's politics.



As per the program announced by the party on Friday, Minister Aroop Biswas and Municipal representative Sandip Das took out a long protest march from Brahmapur Place to Ataganab in 111 ward of Tollygunge Assembly against the Central Government of Narendra Modi against the abnormal price hike of 748 life-saving drugs.

Jobless Sushant's desperate plea amid recruitment scam fallout

MI News Service, North Dinajpur: Everything changed in 2022. He found out that he was suffering from Leukemia. A constant battle began- a battle to save his life. Treatment began at Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital in Mumbai. He had to go there every four months. Each time it cost 70 thousand.

A heart-wrenching tale has emerged from North Dinajpur, where Sushant Dutta, a teacher from Islampur, is struggling to come to terms with the loss of his job. The Supreme Court's verdict has left him devastated, and his future uncertain. Sushant, a resident of Durganagar in Islampur, was diagnosed with blood cancer in 2022.

Despite his illness, he continued to work as a teacher at Majhiali High School in Chopra, a position he secured in 2016 after passing his SSC. However, his job was cancelled due to the Supreme Court's orders, leaving him without a steady income. The financial burden of his treatment, which includes regular visits to Tata Memorial Cancer Hospital in Mumbai, has become a significant concern. Each visit costs approximately 70,000 rupees, and Sushant is scheduled to return to Mumbai on May 19. The question of how he will afford this expense, coupled with the worry of providing for his family, is taking a toll on his mental health.

Sushant's wife, an ordinary housewife, is worried about the future of their three-year-old son. The family's only source of income has been cut off, leaving them vulnerable. Sushant's colleagues have rallied around him, seeking assurances for his job retention, similar to that of Soma Das. They are also requesting the government to draw attention to his case at all levels of the judiciary. As Sushant struggles to find answers, his situation serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of bureaucratic decisions. The question on everyone's mind is: who will support Sushant's family during this challenging time?

BSF shoots 20-year-old 'smuggler' near India-Bangladesh border, family denies charge

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: A 20-year-old in Cooch Behar was gunned down by the Border Security Force (BSF) near the India-Bangladesh border on Thursday early morning.

BSF authorities claimed that Jahannur Haque, the deceased, was associated with cross-border smuggling. His family members, however, strongly denied it and said he was a migrant worker.

Due to the firing, a smuggler suffered fatal injuries while others fled the spot," said the source.

Haque was a resident of Bhoram Payasthi village in Dinhat-I block.

His family, however, categorically denied his role in smuggling.

grieving mother added.

Trinamool leader and North Bengal development minister Udayan Guha accused the BSF of killing Haque without provocation.

"People residing near the India-Bangla border are bearing the brunt of BSF atrocities for years. The youth was a migrant worker and had come home for Eid celebrations. The BSF alleged he was a smuggler, but nothing was recovered from him," he said.

According to BSF sources, Haque was a member of a large smuggling syndicate operating on both sides of the border.

Around 5am, while the on-duty BSF personnel were conducting routine night-domination operations, they spotted a group of alleged smugglers attempting to breach a portion of the border fence. As the BSF's sentry challenged them, they surrounded him and attacked him with sharp weapons, the source said.

"The BSF jawan, who got outnumbered, warned attackers before opening fire.

Bibi said that they own three bigheas of farmland beyond the border fence. "For cultivation, we have my husband, son and my name enrolled with the BSF so that we can move beyond the fences. As I could not find my son today, I initially thought he had gone to the field. Later, I came to know that he had been killed," the

"BSF is often shooting at bordering villagers. This is unacceptable," Guha, who is also the Dinhat M.L.A., added.

Sources in the central security force said they act according to operational guidelines. "The BSF operates under a strict mandate to safeguard India's borders while adhering to the principle of proportionality in the use of force. The BSF personnel responded to a clear and present threat, and the actions taken were in line with operational guidelines," said a source.

Centre promises to solve Gorkha issues; Bengal skips 'tripartite' talks, Bista leads hill team

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Centre on Thursday assured a delegation of political leaders from the Darjeeling hills that it would resolve the issues concerning the region in coordination with the Bengal government.

coordination with the Government of West Bengal," the statement reads.

Bista said Bengal chief secretary Manoj Pant was expected to attend the meeting. "Once again, disrespecting the federal structure, the Bengal government failed to attend the meeting," the MP said in a written statement.

cha source said Union home minister Amit Shah had taken up with the party last year the topic of an administrative setup similar to the Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) for the hills. The BTC has legislative powers, unlike the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration of Darjeeling.

The assurance was given at a meeting chaired by junior home minister Nitayanand Rai in Delhi. Although the Centre had convened a tripartite meeting, the talks became bipartite without the Bengal government's representatives.

Darjeeling BJP MP Raju Bista led the hill delegation.

Following the meeting, the ministry of home affairs issued a media release on "tripartite meeting to resolve issues related to Gorkhas".

The release said the minister listened to the representatives "attentively and assured" them that the "all round development and security of the region are among the priorities" of the Centre.

The Darjeeling region borders Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

"He (Rai) further assured that the Central Government would resolve issues of Gorkhas, within the constitutional framework, in

They told the media that demand for a "permanent political solution" or (PPS) for the hills and tribal status to 11 hill communities, and the Bengal government's recent decision to allow non-tea activities in 30 per cent of land in tea gardens featured in the talks.

Bista said the "discussions were centered on various forms of solution under the Constitution of India". However, details of the discussions on the "various forms of solution" were not immediately disclosed.

A Gorkha Janmukti Mor-

"This matter, however, was not taken up at today's meeting," the source added.

The Centre had last convened a meeting to discuss Darjeeling-related issues in October 2021.

The BJP had promised the "permanent political solution" — without defining the term — and tribal status to the 11 communities in the manifesto for the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

"The Centre said it was aware of the issues of Darjeeling", said a Darjeeling delegate on Thursday.

Union home secretary Govind Mohan, registrar general of India Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, joint secretary, ministry of tribal affairs, Rouman Paite and other senior officers of the home ministry were present at the meeting on Thursday.

Additional reporting by Imran Ahmed Siddiqui in New Delhi

CEA announced annual ranking of all 201 thermal power plants in the country

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Central Electricity Authority (CEA), under MoP, Govt. of India just announced the annual ranking of all 201 thermal power plants in the country, based on operational efficiency (calculated on PLF - Plant Load Factor).

For the 2024-25 CEA has ranked - Santadhi TPS of WBPD-

CL as the best (rank 1st) performing thermal power plant in the country (PLF 94.38%), .

Also, Bakreswar (PLF- 93.3%), has ranked 2ND, Sagardighi 4th (PLF - 90.9) and Bandel at 9th position (PLF - 89.2) nationally.

Along with that WBPCL as a company (PLF of 88.9 %) has been ranked the best performing company

in the country surpassing giants like NTPC (PLF - 76.1%), DVC (PLF -75.7%) and Adani power (PLF- 73.02%), Reliance power (PLF- 77.8 %) , TATA (PLF- 72%) etc.

This has been possible because of the constant guidance and support of our beloved HCM Mamata Banerjee .

PM Modi meets Bangladesh's.

From PG 1
recent statement in China that Northeast India is "landlocked" and Dhaka is the "only guardian of the ocean for all this region", had created a row.

Earlier, addressing the 20th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting in Bangkok, Jaisankar had said, "Our Northeast region in particular is emerging as a connectivity hub for the BIMSTEC, with a myriad network of roads, railways, waterways, grids and pipelines. The completion of the Trilateral Highway will connect India's Northeast all the way to the Pacific Ocean, a veritable game-changer." "We are conscious that our co-operation and facilitation are an essential prerequisite for the smooth flow of goods, services and people in this larger geography," he said, adding, "keeping this geo-strategic factor in mind, we have devoted increasing energies and attention to the strengthening of BIMSTEC in the last decade. We also believe that cooperation is an integrated outlook, not one subject to cherry picking."

Since Hasina's ouster, barring a congratulatory note to Yunus from PM Modi, bilateral engagement between India and Bangladesh had been muted. The bilateral meeting comes after Dhaka had repeatedly requested a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit to sort out differences, but Modi's schedule in Thailand did not mention the requested meeting till Thursday.

The two nations saw tensions in ties due to differences over the alleged instances of violence tar-

geting Hindu minorities in Bangladesh and India's decision to grant asylum to Sheikh Hasina.

Tensions in bilateral ties also escalated after Yunus's comment on India's northeastern states during his visit to the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) annual conference in China.

The talks between the two leaders also mark the first highest level of engagement with the interim government after Sheikh Hasina fled to India in August last year. She fled Bangladesh following a massive student-led protest that toppled her Awami League's 16-year regime.

Yunus has claimed that Dhaka sent "formal letters" to India seeking Hasina's extradition to face a legal trial but received no official response from New Delhi.

In a letter to Yunus last month, PM Modi said, "India remains committed to advancing its partnership with Bangladesh, driven by the common aspirations for peace, stability, and prosperity, and based on mutual sensitivity to each other's interests and concerns."

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is a regional organization of seven South Asian and Southeast Asian nations with a total population of 1.73 billion and a combined GDP of USD 5.2 trillion. Thailand is the current Chairman of the grouping. The current summit was the first physical meeting of the leaders since the 4th BIMSTEC Summit in Kathmandu, Nepal, in 2018.

Congress to join DMK in...

From PG 1
passed by both Houses of Parliament, marking what Prime Minister Narendra Modi calls a "watershed moment" for socio-economic justice and transparency. The bill mandates the inclusion of up to four non-Muslim members, including two women, in the Waqf Council, aiming to enhance representation and inclusivity.

Importantly, the bill stipulates that senior officers above the rank of district collectors will have the final authority to determine whether a property is classified as waqf or government-owned. This is part of the government's broader effort to infuse more accountability and transparency into the management of waqf properties, a system previously criticised for its opacity.

Earlier in the day, PM Modi highlighted the need for modernising the Waqf system to better address social justice, especially for marginalised groups such as Pasmanda Muslims.

He stated, "For decades, the Waqf system was synonymous with a lack of transparency and accountability. This especially harmed the interests of Muslim women, poor Muslims, Pasmanda Muslims."

As the bill now awaits the President's assent to become law, it is positioned as part of the BJP's outreach to

historically marginalised Muslims.

We remain committed to prioritising the dignity of every citizen. This is also how we build a stronger, more inclusive and more compassionate India," Modi asserted.

Meanwhile, also taking strong exception to the passage of the Waqf Bill in Parliament, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president M K Stalin has also reiterated that his party would soon file a case in the Supreme Court against the Bill.

Wearing a black badge as a mark of protest against the passage of the Bill, the Chief minister said it was done "at the behest of a few allies" despite the opposition of the majority parties in India. "This is an attack on the structure of the Constitution," he lamented.

"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 in the state Assembly on Thursday while pointing out that they had already passed a resolution in the Assembly on March 27.



People from muslim community took part in a protest rally against recently passed Waqf(Amendmend) Bill in Kolkata on Friday.

Kolkata to host noted Hindi poet Dr. Kumar Vishwas

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata is all set to embrace celebrity Hindi poet Kumar Vishwas. This exclusive event will blend poetry and philanthropy, uniting professionals and change makers to support transformative community initiatives. The Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan (RCSLM) is organizing the affair.

Vishwas would be in Kolkata to showcase some of his iconic poems along with acting as a positive catalyst in RCSLM's robust and innumerable philanthropic activities across West Bengal which include providing of 550 wheel-

chairs to needy people, Matri Raksha, a flagship project addressing anaemia in women benefiting 5,000 women, Andhere Se Ujala mission which has restored vision for 5,000 cataract patients. 550 unemployed youths were given cycle van and rickshaws, initiation of cow

milk project, preparation of low cost toilets, rainwater harvesting, installing water filters in Sunderbans and many more. RCSLM has referred to the fact that in their social mission across the state, government of West Bengal has given commensurate cooperation at every level.

Mamata initiates mega movement against medicine price hike

MI News Service, Kolkata: TMC has started its protest against hike in medicines. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that the Trinamul Congress has launched rallies in each block and ward of Bengal to protest against the BJP-led Centre's decision to increase the prices of 248 medicines.

The chief minister said the TMC would also demand the withdrawal of the GST levied on medical insurance, which, according to her, was essential nowadays.

"Our party is holding rallies in all blocks and wardsto protest against the Centre's decision to increase the prices of 248 essential medicines, as it would hurt the interests of the poor and middle classes. We also demand that the GST imposed on medical insurance be withdrawn immediately," Mamata told.

The chief minister said the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority's decision to mark up 148 scheduled and 80 non-scheduled drugs from April 1 frightened and angered her, as health was one of society's basic needs, besides food, shelter, and clothes.

"Prices of basic medicines like those which are used to control cholesterol have been increased up to 115.8 per cent.... Similarly, medicines to control blood pressure have become 19.2 per cent costlier. Not only this, the prices of common medicines used by 80 per cent of the population, like antibiotics, drugs for cancer and even Paracetamol, were increased. This is unacceptable," said the chief minister, who also

holds the health portfolio.

She criticised the Narendra Modi government at the Centre for imposing GST on medical insurance, saying that would also leave a majority of the people in trouble since medical insurance was essential these days.

"I had written a letter to the Prime Minister urging him to withdraw the GST imposed on medical insurance. But nothing was done. Now, we demand that the GST on medical insurance be withdrawn. If the demand falls on the deaf ears of the Centre, the streets will show us the path," said the chief minister.

Sources in the state secretariat said the Union government treated the health insurance as a financial service rather than a healthcare service and that was why 18 per cent GST was imposed on the health insurance.

"The chief minister had requested the Centre to consider the health insurance as a healthcare service which would have attracted a lower or nil taxation. But no response was received from the Centre," said an official.

Trinamool insiders said the announcement of the agitation against the Union government assumed significance as it became clear that Mamata wanted her party to be ready to take the BJP head-on during next year's Assembly polls.

"The timing of the announcement is important. At a time when the BJP is trying to bring out its supporters on the streets by holding rallies during the Ram Navami , the chief minister wanted TMC activists to be

active. Moreover, she is raising issues, such as price rise of medicines, that matter, instead of how Hindu one is or not," said a TMC leader.

"I will ask the common people to protest against the decision in their own way.... If you don't protest against the decision, the Centre would take the healthcare services out of the reach of common people," said the Trinamool chairperson.

She asked why such decisions were being taken to leave the common people in trouble.

"I ask why such decisions were being taken... I would like to know why the decisions were being taken to ensure that healthcare services were made available for those who have crores of rupees.... I will ask my MPs to raise the issue in the ongoing session of the Parliament," she added.

In the mean time, along with other areas in Bengal, ward 63 councillor and borough seven chairperson Sushmita Bhattacharya also held a rally and strongly protested against the central government and the BJP for increasing the price of 748 life-saving medicines for the common man and the poor man, which will make it difficult to save life. The rally started at Sadar Street, passing through Kalinga Mor, Mirza Ghalib Street, Chowrang Lane, on the occasion Ward 63 President Bablu Pine, former Youth President Sheikh Ali Jan, Youth President Vishal Khattak, and Mahila Trinamool President Gudia were also involved in the protest along with all the Trinamool workers.

WBSSC mulls fresh job drive in vacant school posts

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) on Friday said it would abide by the Supreme Court directive and soon initiate the process of conducting fresh exams of all teaching and non teaching candidates, who took part in the now-invalidated 2016 job recruitment exercise.

Speaking to reporters a day after the apex court annulled the appointments of 25,752 teachers and staffers in state-run and state-aided schools, WBSSC Chairman Sid-dhartha Majumdar said the commission, in view of the top court order, would seek legal advice on the eligibility of candidates who can take the fresh tests.

"About 26 lakh candidates had applied for the exams in 2016 and around 22 lakh appeared for the tests. Of them, some 1.41 lakh candidates were aspirants for Classes 9-10 and another about 1.5 lakh candidates sat for teachers' recruitment in Classes 11-12. "The rest were candidates for non-teaching posts. Although the Supreme Court has directed us to initiate the selection process for filling up the vacancies, we will need legal clarification on whether new candidates are also eligible to take part in the fresh exams," Majumdar said.

TMC opposes Aadhaar-Voter ID linking

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Trinamool Congress has objected to the Election Commission's decision to link the voters' identity card with Aadhaar of voters.

The freshest salvo came Friday amidst repeated denials by the union government to address the issue of duplication in the photo identity cards issued by the central poll panel on the floor of the parliament.

"... the proposed linking of EPICs with Aadhaar is premature and will only create more problems rather than solve them," read a memorandum served to the chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The party has demanded the central poll panel suspend the process of linking Aadhaar with EPICs till it clarifies the questions the party has been raising since Bengal chief minister and Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee flagged the issue at a party meeting in February.

The Trinamool has claimed a CAG report had expressed concern over UIDAI allegedly generating and issuing Aadhaar numbers with incomplete information, lack of proper documentation and poor quality biometrics which resulted in duplicate Aadhaars being generated.

"The EC should clarify how it will ensure that duplicate and fake Aadhaars will not be linked to EPICs and how fake and ghost voters will not be added to electoral rolls through this mechanism," said a Trinamool MP.

Among the chief demands that the Trinamool had made before the EC was a figure on the existing number of duplicate voters' identity cards where the same alphanumeric code has been issued to different voters in multiple constituencies transcending state borders.

"Despite repeated requests the ECI has failed to furnish details of the total number of duplicate EPICs that exist across India in the system currently," the memorandum read.

The Trinamool Congress has asked the EC why it has not clarified on the voluntary nature of linking Aadhaar with the voter I-cards.

India ranks 10th with...

From PG 1
ranks 99th for ICT, 113th for skills, 3rd for R&D, 10th for industrial capacity, and 70th for finance, the report has stated. .

Bhutan, India, Morocco, the Republic of Moldova, and Timor-Leste have improved their positions in human capital due to more years of schooling and a greater share of high-skill employment in their working populations, the report said.

The report also notes that China, Germany, India, the United Kingdom, and the United States show scientific strength in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The US leads the world in terms of private investment in AI, at USD 67 billion in 2023, or 70 per cent of global AI private investment.

The only developing countries with significant investments were China in second position, with USD 7.8 billion, and India in tenth position, with USD 1.4 billion, according to the report.

The report noted that AI is expected to reach USD 4.8 trillion in market value by 2033, becoming a prominent force in digital transformation.

However, access to AI infrastructure and expertise remains concentrated in a few economies. Only 100 firms, mainly in the US and China, account for 40 per cent of global corporate R&D spending. AI could impact 40 per cent of jobs worldwide, offering productivity gains but also raising concerns about automation and job displacement.

The benefits of AI-driven automation often favour capital over labour, which could widen inequality and reduce the competitive advantage of low-cost labour in developing economies.

However, AI is not just about replacing jobs - it can also create new industries and empower workers. Investing in reskilling, upskilling, and workforce adaptation is essential to ensure AI enhances employment opportunities rather than eliminating them, the report said.

The report further noted that Brazil, China, India, and the Philippines are among the developing countries who are outperforming in technology readiness.

"It might be expected that countries with higher per capita GDP are better prepared for frontier technologies. Overall, this is true but... some countries perform far better than their levels of income may suggest, as indicated by their distance from the regression line of the index score on GDP per capita," it said. Developing countries need to prepare themselves for a world that is rapidly being reshaped by AI and other frontier technologies. A useful measure in assessing national preparedness to use, adopt, and adapt frontier technologies is the UNCTAD Frontier Technologies Readiness Index.

"Developed countries led the ranking, but some developing countries, notably Singapore, China, and India, hold prominent positions."

The report stated that with regard to the top 10 economies in terms of cloud infrastructure services from major providers, China and the United States have more services than the rest of the world combined; India and Brazil are two developing countries on the list, along with Singapore.

The United States has the most GitHub developers, followed by India and China.

"China and India have the world's largest populations and, despite relatively low shares, can leverage a significant mass of AI developers, which puts them in favourable positions with respect to AI development and the production of AI-related scientific knowledge," it said.

The report also noted that there are large talent pools in India, with around 13 million developers, and in Brazil, with 4 million. "These two countries are also among the leading countries in creating GenAI projects on GitHub and are significant contributors to advances in AI.

"The lead of India partly reflects government policy. The Government has closely collaborated over the years with the private sector and academia to build centres of excellence of AI," such as the Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad and the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur in West Bengal, the Kotak Indian Institute of Science Artificial Intelligence-Machine Learning Centre, and the National Association of Software and Service Companies Centre of Excellence in Data Science and AI, the report said.

In 2024, the Cabinet approved the India AI Mission to strengthen the AI innovation ecosystem, aimed at, for example, reducing barriers to entry into AI programmes and increasing the number of AI courses in tertiary education, focusing on small and medium-sized cities, the report said, citing the Competition Commission.

"China, Brazil, and India have produced a large pool of AI developers. These illustrate different catch-up trajectories and highlight the importance of policy efforts in order to enhance preparedness in light of the rapid evolution of AI," the report said.

The report notes that different countries often specialise in particular fields. This is evident in the revealed technology advantage of a country, which is defined as its share of patents in a particular technology field divided by its share in all fields. Germany is highly specialised in wind energy, India in nano technology, Japan in electric vehicles, and the Republic of Korea in 5G technology.

It further stated that manufacturing plays a key role in economic development, stimulating growth in different upstream and downstream sectors and generating significant employment opportunities.

"Examples from developing countries such as Brazil, China, and India show how industrialisation can reduce poverty and accelerate economic growth," the UN report concluded.

From PG 1
by the demise of legendary actor and film-maker Manoj Kumar Ji. He has left an indelible mark on Indian cinema. During his long and distinguished career he came to be known for his patriotic films which promoted a sense of pride in India's contribution and values. The iconic characters of national heroes, farmers and soldiers he brought to life will remain etched in our collective memory. His cinema will instil national pride and inspire generations to come. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and admirers." West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee also deeply con-doled the death of Manoj Kumar in Mumbai and described his death as an irreparable loss not only to the Indian cinema but to the country as well. In a message in her X handle she wrote "Saddened by the demise of veteran actor and filmmaker Manoj Kumar today. Known for his patriotic films, 'Bharat Kumar', as he was often called, represented the idea of devotion to the motherland. His death is a great loss for our cineworld. My condolences to his family, friends, and countless admirers." Defence Minister Raj-nath Singh and an evid Hindi film lover

President, PM..

posted on X, "Shri Manoj Kumar ji was a versatile actor, who would always be remembered for making films full of patriotism. Popularly known as 'Bharat Kumar' his unforgettable performances in films like 'Upkaar', 'Purab and Paschim' have enriched our culture and have endeared him to people across generations. His cinematic legacy will live on through his works. Condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti." Leading actor Akshay Kumar shared in X, "I grew up learning from him that there's no emotion like love and pride for our country. And if we actors won't take the lead in showing this emotion, who will? Such a fine person, and one of the biggest assets of our fraternity. RIP Manoj Sir. Om Shanti" In an old interview, Manoj Kumar had described Akshay Kumar as his "true successor", especially when it came to portraying characters that embody a deep love for the country. "There is no one like him when it comes to playing the role of a country-loving Indian," he once said. Among others filmmaker Karqan Johar,filmmaker Ashoke Pandit and filmmaker Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri also condoled the passing away of Manoj Kumar.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) AJFAR ALI S/o- MUKTAR SEIKH, Residing at, Vill- Bage gopalmagar, Post - Nutan- gram, Ps- Kandii, Dist- Murshid- abad, Pin- 742140, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AJFAR ALI To AJFAR SEIKH. (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AJFAR SEIKH, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshid- abad On 02 April 2025, AJFAR SEIKH, and AJFAR ALI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) RAHEMUDDIN SK S/o- AJFAR SEIKH, Residing at, Vill- Bage gopalmagar, Post - Nutan- gram, Ps- Kandii, Dist- Murshid- abad, Pin- 742140, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from RAHEMUDDIN SK To RAHEMADDIN SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) RAHEMADDIN SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, RAHEMADDIN SK and RAHEMUDDIN SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) SUNITA DHARIAL W/o- GANESH DHARIWAL, Resid- ing at, Vill- Beldanga Netajipark road, Ward No 07 Post & Ps- Bel- danga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742133, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SUNITA DHARIAL To SUNITA DHARIWAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SUNITA DHARIWAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, SUNITA DHARIWAL and SUNITA DHARIAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) NEMCHAND DHARIAL S/o- MANGAL CHAND DHARIAL, Residing at, Vill- Beldanga Netajipark road, Ward No 07 Post & Ps- Beldanga, Dist- Murshid- abad, Pin- 742133, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NEMCHAND DHARIAL To NEMCHAND DHARIWAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) NEMC- HAND DHARIWAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, NEMC- HAND DHARIWAL and NEMCH AND DHARIAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) GANESH DHARIAL S/o- NEMCHAND DHARIWAL, Residing at, Vill- Beldanga Netajipark road, Ward No 07, Post & Ps- Bel- danga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742133, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from GANESH DHARIAL To GANESH DHARIWAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) GANESH DHARIWAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, GANESH DHARIWAL and GANESH DHARIAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Swapan Kumar Bairagi S/o. Dulal Bairagi R/o. Majdia, Ekte- r- ing, Balagarhi, Hooghly- 712123, W.B. declared that my son Swapan Bairagi & Sohan Bairagi both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 380 sworn before S.D.E.M., Sadar, Hooghly Court on 04/04/2025. The original D.O.B. of my son is 19.04.2011, which is genuine and authentic.

Name Change
I, Deboshmita Sarkar W/o Kali- pada Barui on behalf of my minor daughter Dipta Barui residing at B/302, Ramkrishna Upanibesh, P.O - Jadavpur, P.S. - Jadavpur W.B. have changed her name and she shall henceforth be known as Dishita Barui as declared before the No- tary Public at Alipore Court (W.B) vide Affidavit No. V3/9/25 dated - 13.03.2025. That "Dishita Barui" is the correct name of my daughter and in future her name shall be used as "Dishita Barui" in place of "Dipta Barui" in every document/documents.

Name Change
I, NABALADI GHOSH (existing name as per recorded), is the mother of NO 1476497A, Rank, NK, Name, Sagar Ghosh, R/O Vill Palashii, PO Kalikapur, PS Katwa, Dist Purba Bardhaman, WB PIN 713502, in due to mismatch of my name & DOB, with Civil documents (reason for change) actual name & DOB, is NABALLADI Ghosh, DOB is 20/02/1945, Do hereby declare that NABALADI GHOSH and NABALLADI Ghosh, DOB 10/12/1935 and 20/2/1945, Both name is one and same single person vide affidavit in the court of SDEM Katwa on 21/3/25.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, AMULYA SAHU, son of Trailakya Sahu @ Trailakya Sahoo, residing at 28B, Lake Avenue, Kalighat, Kolkata 700026, West Bengal, do hereby declare that **AMULYA SAHU** and **AMULYA SAHOO** is the same and one identical person. That I am swearing this affidavit with a view to affirm and declare my actual name as **AMULYA SAHU** by virtue of this affidavit/vide Affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate, Calcutta, Solemnly affirmed and declared before me at Calcutta No. 864 on 4th April 2025.

NAME CHANGE
I, Vinay Bang, S/o: Sanjay Bang, R/o: 21/C, Agrasain Street, Green Town, Block-3, Flat No. 5C, P.S.: Belur, District: Howrah: 711204, W.B. My Date of Birth (D.O.B) is wrongly mentioned as 22-10-2006 to be read as 10-10-2006 vide Execut. Magistrate Howrah, affidavit no. 4727 Dated: 25.03.2025. Vinay Bang (DOB: 22-10-2006) & Vinay Bang (DOB:10.10.2006) is same & identical person.

Bengalis ready to embrace Baishaki blast

MI News Service, Kolkata: Come Bengali's New Year – 'Poila Boishak' i.e 'Shubho Noboborsho, and Bengalis are ready to go gaga for foods and shopping and enjoy the festivity in best possible manner. Whether it is Garia or Garihat, Sov- abazaar to Shyam bazaar, Behala to New town, across the horizon of the city , Bengalis have started flocking at destination markets and food courts to feel the festivity. Like every year Mani Square would be organizing the 'baisakhi blast' from 8th to 15th April. The 'MAGIC OF 99' is a must-visit at the Food Court From 8th-12th & 14th April.

183 GW non-fossil fuel-based power capacity under implementation: Power Min

MI News Service, Mumbai: About 183.19 gigawatt (GW) of non-fossil fuel-based projects are under implementation across the country, Parliament was informed. A total of 222.86 GW non-fossil power capacity has been installed in the country as of February 28, 2025, Minister of State for Power, New and Renewable Energy Shripad Yesso Naik said in a reply to Lok Sabha. He further said that projects of about 183.19 GW are under implementa- tion and projects of 77.21 GW have been tendered. On PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, Naik said 10.32 lakh residential households have been benefited under the scheme through the installation of rooftop solar plants as on March 17, 2025.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD SARKAT SK S/o- SABU SEKH, Residing at, Vill- Dhubulia Purbapara, Po & Ps- Dhubulia, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741139, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD SARKAT SK To SARKAT SEKH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SARKAT SEKH, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, SARKAT SEKH, and MD SARKAT SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) NASHIMA BIBI W/o- AZAD ALI SK, Residing at, Vill- Sonadanga, Po- Sonadanga, Ps- Dhubulia, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741125, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NASHIMA BIBI To NASIMA BIBI SEKH, (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) NASIMA BIBI SEKH, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, NASIMA BIBI SEKH, and NASHIMA BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) AJAT ALI SK and AZAD SHEIKH S/o- REHAN SK, Residing at, Vill- Sonadanga, Po- Sonadanga, Ps- Dhubulia, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741125, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AJAT ALI SK and AZAD SHEIKH To AZAD ALI SK, (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AZAD ALI SK, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, AZAD ALI SK, and AJAT ALI SK and AZAD SHEIKH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MAJEDUR RAHAMAN S/o- MOTIAR RAHAMAN, Residing at, Kasba, Kushmandi, Dist- Dakshindinajpur, Pin- 733132, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MAJEDUR RAHAMAN To MAJEDAR RAHAMAN, (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) MAJEDAR RAHAMAN, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, MAJEDAR RAHAMAN, and MAJEDUR RAHAMAN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) AKSAD ALI S/o- SAMSER SK, Residing at, Vill- Mulodanga, Post - Khoshbagh, Ps- Murshidabad, Dist- Murshid- abad, Pin- 742149, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AKSAD ALI To AKSAD SK, (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AKSAD SK, in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, AKSAD SK, and AKSAD ALI both are Same and one identical person.

38,700 Berths and 52,900 Seats to be generated by Running Two Summer Special

MI News Service, Kolkata: 38,700 berths and 52,900 seats will be generated by running two Summer special trains between Howrah & Patna and Kolkata & Kanpur Central. Railways remains committed to prioritizing passenger comfort and convenience, especially during periods of increased demand such as the summer season. By proactively addressing passenger needs and introducing these special trains, Eastern Railway reaffirms its dedication to providing quality transportation services and ensuring a positive travel experience for all passengers. The decision to introduce these summer special trains aims to alleviate the extra rush of passengers and ensure smooth and convenient travel. By offering additional train services, Eastern Railway aims to ensure that passengers have access to adequate transportation facilities, thereby enhancing their travel experience and meeting their evolving needs.

02023 Howrah - Patna Summer Special will leave Howrah at 14:15 hrs. on every Sunday between 06.04.2025 & 29.06.2025 (13 trips) to reach Patna at 22:30 hrs. on the same day and 02024 Patna- Howrah Summer Special will leave Patna at 05:30 hrs. on every Sunday between 06.04.2025 & 29.06.2025 (13 trips) to reach Howrah at 13:25 hrs. on the same day. The train will stop at 15 stations including Jasidih, Madhupur, Jamtara, Chittaranjan, Asansol and Durgapur stations in both directions enroute over Eastern Railway. The train will have Second Class Seating and AC Chair Car accommodations.

04153 Kanpur Central – Kolkata Summer Special will leave Kanpur Central at 14:00 hrs. on every Monday & Thursday between 10.04.2025 & 30.06.2025 (24 trips) to reach Kolkata at 07:50 hrs. on the next day and 04154 Kolkata – Kanpur Central Summer Special will leave Kolkata at 10:45 hrs. on every Tuesday & Friday between 11.04.2025 & 01.07.2025 (24 trips) to reach Kanpur Central at 04:30 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at 13 stations including Barddhaman, Durgapur and Asansol stations over Eastern Railway jurisdictions in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned Accommoda- tions. The date of booking of above summer special trains will be notified shortly.

Services Available on Green Line-2 On Sunday



MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway,Kolkata is going to operate services on 06.04.2025 (Sunday) cancelling the Traffic Block notified earlier for Green Line-2 (Howrah Maidan to Esplanade). Normal Sunday services will be available on **Green Line-2**.

First Service: At 14:15 hrs from Howrah Maidan for Esplanade. At 14:15 hrs from Esplanade for Howrah Maidan.

Last Service: At 21.45 hrs from Howrah Maidan for Esplanade. At 21.45 hrs from Esplanade for Howrah Maidan. No service will be available on Green Line-1 Corridor on that day as usual. Normal Blue Line services will be available on that day as usual.

On the occasion of Ram Navami, PM to visit Tamil Nadu and inaugurate New Pamban Rail Bridge connecting Rameswaram to the mainland PM to flag off Rameswaram-Tambaram (Chennai) new train service

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Shri NarendraModi will visit Tamil Nadu on 6th April. On the occasion of Ram Navami, at around 12 noon, he will inaugurate the new Pamban Rail Bridge - India's first vertical lift sea bridge and flag off a train and a ship from the road bridge and witness the operation of the bridge. Thereafter at around 12:45 PM, he will perform darshan and pooja at Ramanatha swamy temple at Rameswaram. At around 1:30 PM in Rameswaram, he will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various rail and road projects worth over Rs 8,300 crore in Tamil Nadu. He will also address the gathering on the occasion Prime Minister will inaugurate the New Pamban Rail Bridge and flag off Rameswaram-Tambaram (Chennai) new train service. The bridge carries a deep cultural significance. According to the Ramayana, the construction of Ram Setu was initiated from Dhanushkodi near Rameswaram.

The Bridge, linking Rameswaram to the mainland, stands as a remarkable feat of Indian engineering on the global stage. It is built at a cost of over Rs 550 crore. It is 2.08 km in length, features 99 spans and a 72.5-metre vertical lift span that rises up to a height of 17 metres, facilitating smooth movement of ships while ensuring seamless train operations. Constructed with stainless steel reinforcement, high-grade protective paint, and fully welded joints, the bridge boasts increased durability and reduced maintenance needs. It is designed for dual rail tracks to accommodate future demands. A special polysiloxane coating protects it from corrosion, ensuring longevity in the harsh marine environment. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various rail and road projects worth over Rs 8,300 crore in Tamil Nadu. These projects include foundation stone for four-laning of 28 Km long Walajapet – Ranipet section of NH-40 and dedication to the Nation of 4-laned 29 Km long Viluppuram – Puducherry section of NH-332; 57 Km long Poondiyankuppam – Sattanathapuram section of NH-32 and 48 Km long Chalapuram – Thanjavur section of NH-36. These highways will connect many pilgrim centres and tourist places, reduce distance between cities and enable faster access to Medical College and Hospital, Ports besides empowering local farmers to transport agricultural products to the nearby markets and boost economic activity of local leather and small scale industries.

RPF, ER rescues 957 Minors under “Operation Nanhe Faristey”



MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway continues to play a pivotal role in safeguarding vulnerable children at railway premises through its ongoing initiative, “Operation Nanhe Faristey.” The operation reflects RPF's unwavering commitment to the protection and rehabilitation of minors who are found in distress across railway stations. During the period from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, RPF personnel under Eastern Railway successfully rescued a total of 957 minors, which includes 584 boys and 373 girls, from various railway stations falling under its jurisdiction. These minors were found either separated from their families, lost, abandoned, or in situations that posed a risk to their safety and well-being. Upon rescue, all children were promptly handed over to Childline India Foundation and other child welfare NGOs in coordination with Government authorities, ensuring their safe custody and necessary rehabilitation measures.

“Operation Nanhe Faristey” is not just a campaign; it is a life-saving mission that continues to reunite children with their families and restore their right to a safe and secure childhood. This rescue operation not only highlights the alertness and humanitarian approach of RPF personnel but also underlines their proactive coordination with civil society organizations and concerned authorities.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects across Indian Railways

MI News Service, New Delhi: To enhance line capacity, Indian Railways plans to undertake four multitracking projects aimed to ensure seamless and faster transportation of both passengers and goods; These initiatives will improve travel convenience, reduce logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions, supporting sustainable and efficient rail operationsThe projects aim to enhance logistical

efficiency by increasing the line capacity along the key routes for coal, iron ore, and other minerals; These improvements will streamline the supply chains, thereby contributing to accelerated economic growthThe total estimated cost of the projects is Rs.18,658 crore and will be completed upto 2030-31The projects will also generate direct employment for about 379 lakh human-days during construction

RPF Joins Hands with Department of Telecom to ensure tracing and recovery of lost Mobile Phones belonging to Railway Passengers

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 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 IPS, Director General, Railway Protection Force addressed the gathering of RPF field units whileDr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom) delivered the keynote address. Speaking on this landmark development, the DG RPFShri. 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, Government of India, 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 render 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 Amanatof 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 than1.15 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 mobile 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, RPFbegan 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.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects across Indian Railways

MI News Service, Kolkata: To enhance line capacity, Indian Railways plans to undertake four multitracking projects aimed to ensure seamless and faster transportation of both passengers and goods; These initiatives will improve travel convenience, reduce logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions, supporting sustainable and efficient rail operation. The projects aim to enhance logistical efficiency by increasing the line capacity along the key routes for coal, iron ore, and other minerals; These improvements will streamline the supply chains, thereby contributing to accelerated economic growthThe total estimated cost of the projects is Rs.18,658 crore and will be completed upto 2030-31 The projects will also generate direct employment for about 379 lakh human-days during construction The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Four projects of Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 18,658 crore (approx.). The Four projects covering 15 Districts in 3 States i.e., Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 1247 Kms.

These projects include: Sambalpur – Jarapda 3rd and 4th Line Jharsuguda – Sason 3rd and 4th Line Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa 5th and 6th Line Gondia – Balharshah doubling

The enhanced line capacity will improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region “Atmanirbhar”

by way of comprehensive development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities. The projects are result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services. With these projects 19 New Stations will be constructed, enhancing connectivity to Two Aspirational Districts (Gadchiroli and Rajnandgaon). Multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approx. 3350 villages and about 47.25 lakh population. Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa will provide direct connectivity to new areas such as Baloda Bazar, this will create possibilities for setting up of new industrial units including cement plants in the region.

These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as agriculture products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc. The capacity augmentation works will result in additional freight traffic of magnitude 88.77 MTPA (Million Tonnes Per Annum). The Railways being environment friendly and energy efficient mode of transportation, will help both in achieving climate goals and minimizing logistics cost of the country, reduce oil import (95 Crore Litres) and lower CO2 emissions (477 Crore Kg) which is equivalent to plantation of 19 Crore trees.

Sambalpur – Jarapda 3rd and 4th Line (277 Track Kilometer)

The Cabinet approves the third and fourth lines between Jarapada (Talcher–Angul area) and Sambalpur at a cost of ₹3,917 crore. This 277 Km project increase economic activities in Talcher Sambalpur area. It will further enable running of more passenger and express trains in the region and increase the GDP of Odisha.

Taking and giving dowry is a legal offense : Rajesh Kumar Sinha



Ranchi : A door-to-door legal awareness program was organized by DLSA in Jonha village of Jonha Panchayat of Angdra Block. On this occasion, LADC Deputy Chief Mr. Rajesh Kumar Sinha, PLV Baby Sinha, Malti Kumari, Sheela Devi, Meena Kumari Srivastava and Raja Verma were present. LADC Deputy Chief Rajesh Kumar Sinha informed about laws related to children like J.J. Act, POCSO Act etc. Focused

on drug eradication and said that do not do drugs, drugs have a bad effect on both money and health. He talked about the prevention of child marriage and informed people about the Child Marriage Act-2006. Mr. Sinha informed about the compensation received in Motor Vehicle aAccidents. He said that the victim can apply for compensation in the DLSA office. If the victim is a woman, then a free lawyer is also provided by DLSA to

fight the case. He explained in detail about the Dowry System Act-1961 and said that giving and taking dowry is a crime by law, it also attracts punishment. Information was given about the MACT Act-1988. PLVs Baby Sinha of District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi gave information about Project Tripti. Apart from this, she focused on Child Marriage. PLV Meena Srivastava informed about the Project

Atmanirbharta of JHALSA. Focusing on child labour, she said that making children work is a crime by law. PLV Shila Devi focused on witchcraft and said that calling people witches is also a crime. The main objective of District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi is to eradicate the incidents of witch-hunting. It should also be noted that all the PLVs of DLSA informed about the National Lok Adalat to be held on 10th May. PLV Malti Kumari gave information about old age pension and widow pension. PLV Baby Sinha gave information about Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Shram Card and talked about getting pension related benefits. She said that applications related to this can be given in District Legal Services Authority, Ranchi. On the occasion, PLVs of DALSA also distributed pamphlets and leaflets among the people present.

Week after catastrophic earthquake focus turns to growing humanitarian crisis in Myanmar

Bangkok : Search teams in Myanmar recovered more bodies from the ruins of buildings on Friday, a week after a massive earthquake killed more than 3,100 people, as the focus turns toward the urgent humanitarian needs in a country already devastated by a continuing civil war.

United Nations humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher, who is also the emergency relief coordinator, will visit the area on Friday in an effort to spur action following the March 28 quake. Ahead of the visit, UN Secretary-General Antonio Gutierrez appealed to the international community to immediately step up funding for quake victims "to match the scale of this crisis," and he urged unimpeded access to reach those in need.

"The earthquake has supercharged the suffering with the monsoon season just around the corner," he said.

Myanmar's military and several key armed resistance groups have all declared ceasefires in the wake of the earthquake to facilitate the flow of humanitarian aid.

But the UN's Human Rights Office on Friday accused the military of continuing attacks, claiming there were more than 60 attacks after the earthquake, including 16 since the military announced a temporary ceasefire on Wednesday.

"I urge a halt to all military operations, and for the focus to be on assisting those impacted by the quake, as well as ensuring unhindered access to humanitarian organizations that are ready to support," said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk said. "I hope this terrible tragedy can be a turning point for the country towards an



inclusive political solution." Announcing its ceasefire, the military also said it would still take "necessary" measures against resistance groups, if they use the ceasefire to regroup, train or launch attacks, and the groups have said they reserved the right to defend themselves. Myanmar's military seized power in 2021 from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi, sparking what has turned into a civil war. The quake worsened an already dire humanitarian crisis, with more than 3 million people displaced from their homes and nearly 20 million in need even before it hit, according to the United Nations.

Myanmar authorities said Thursday that 3,145 people had been killed in the earthquake, with another 4,589 people injured and 221 missing, and did not immediately update the figures on Friday. Britain, which had already given USD 13 million to purchase emergency items like food, water and shelter, pledged an additional USD 6.5 million in funds to match an appeal from Myanmar's Disasters Emergency Committee, according to the UK Embassy in Yangon. The World Food Programme said so far it has

reached 24,000 survivors, but was scaling up its efforts to assist 8,50,000 with food and cash assistance for one month. Many international search and rescue teams are now on the scene, and eight medical crews from China, Thailand, Japan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, the Philippines, Indonesia and Russia were operating in Naypyitaw, according to Myanmar's military-run government. Another five teams from India, Russia, Laos and Nepal and Singapore were helping in the Mandalay region, while teams from Russia, Malaysia and the ASEAN bloc of nations were assisting in the Sagaing region. The Trump administration has pledged USD 2 million in emergency aid and sent a three-person team to assess how best to respond given drastic cuts to US foreign assistance.

On Friday, five bodies were recovered from the rubble in the capital Naypyitaw and the second-largest city of Mandalay, near the epicentre of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake March 28, authorities said. The last reported rescue came Wednesday, some 125 hours after the quake struck, when a man was saved from the wreckage of a hotel in Mandalay.

Uganda president holds talks with South Sudanese leaders to try to avoid civil war

Nairobi : Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni was expected to meet South Sudanese officials on the second day of his trip to the capital, Juba, as the UN has expressed concern of a renewed civil war after the main opposition leader was put under house arrest.

Museveni, who is among the guarantors of a 2018 peace agreement that ended a five-year civil war, held closed-door discussions with President Salva Kiir on Thursday. South Sudan's Foreign Minister Mohammed Abdallah Goc said that the country's leadership had assured Museveni of its commitment to implement the peace agreement.

South Sudan's political landscape remains fragile and recent violence between government troops and armed groups allied to the opposition have escalated tension. Uganda last month deployed troops to South Sudan to support the government, but it was criticised by South Sudan's main opposition party SPLM-IO, whose leader Riek Machar is under house arrest on charges of incitement. In early March, the armed group loyal to Machar attacked a UN helicopter that was on a mission to evacuate government troops from the restive northern Upper Nile State.

Western countries including Germany and Norway have temporarily closed their embassies in Juba while the US and the UK have reduced embassy staff.

Union Cabinet approves phase 2 of Vibrant Villages Programme

New Delhi : The second phase of Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP), which envisages comprehensive development of select villages located along international borders, has been approved by the Union Cabinet, the government announced on Friday.

The Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II) as a central sector scheme with 100 per cent funding by the Centre, furthering its commitment for the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 for 'Safe, Secured & Vibrant land borders', an official statement said.

The programme would help in the comprehensive development of the villages located in the blocks abutting international land borders (ILBs), other than the northern border already covered under VVP-I.

The objective of the programme is to create better living conditions and adequate livelihood opportunities to ensure prosperous and safe borders, control trans-border crime and assimilate the border population with the nation and inculcate them 'as eyes and ears of the border guarding forces', crucial for internal security.

With a total outlay of Rs 6,839 crore, the programme shall be implemented in select strategic villages in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal till 2028-29, the statement said.



The programme shall provide funds for infrastructure development within the village or a cluster of villages, value chain development through cooperatives, SHGs, etc, border specific outreach activity, education infrastructure like SMART classes, development of tourism circuits and projects to create diverse and sustainable livelihood opportunities in the border areas.

The interventions would be border-specific, state and village specific, based on village action plans prepared in a collaborative approach.

All-weather road connectivity for these villages shall be undertaken under the already approved Rural connectivity under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-IV) under the Ministry of Rural Development.

A high-powered committee chaired by the Cabinet Secretary

shall consider suitable relaxations in schematic guidelines for effective implementation of schemes in the border areas.

The programme aims to achieve saturation in existing individual and household level welfare schemes in the identified villages under convergence as per scheme norms. The programme also aims to saturate all villages in such blocks in 4 thematic areas, namely all-weather road connectivity, telecom connectivity, television connectivity and electrification through convergence under existing scheme norms.

The programme emphasises enhancing vibrancy in these villages by organising activities including fairs & festivals, awareness camps, celebration of national days, regular visits by ministers, senior government officers from central and state/Union territory government and night stays in such villages.

Sangam water's first global consignment dispatched to Germany

Prayagraj : Noting the growing demand overseas for the sacred water of Triveni Sangam, the Uttar Pradesh government on Friday said 1,000 bottles have been dispatched to devotees in Germany in the first international consignment to extend the spiritual essence of Maha Kumbh beyond India. The grand Prayagraj Maha Kumbh from January 13 to February 26 witnessed an overwhelming turnout, with over 66 crore devotees taking a sacred dip at the Triveni Sangam, the UP government said in a statement. "To extend the spiritual essence of this divine event beyond the festival grounds, the Uttar Pradesh government, through the Fire Department, ensured the distribution of Triveni's holy water to all 75 districts of Uttar Pradesh," the government said. "Now, this sacred water is gaining international recognition, with the first consignment already dispatched from Prayagraj to Germany," the government said. After the conclusion of the Maha Kumbh, the UP government resolved to deliver Sangam water as 'Maha Prasad' to devotees across the state who could not attend the event, it noted. "However, with growing overseas interest, requests have started coming in from abroad. The initial international consignment -- comprising 1,000 glass bottles of Ganga water -- has been sent to Germany," it said. This shipment was facilitated by Acharya Mahamandaleshwar Swami Advheshanand Giri of Shri Panch Dashnam Juna Akhara and is intended for devotees in Germany who could not make it to the pilgrimage, it added. Rajiv Kumar Singh, Deputy Commissioner of the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in Prayagraj, informed that the holy



Ganga water is being packaged and supplied by the Nari Shakti Mahila Prerna Sankul-level committee from Jasra. Committee in-charge Namita Singh revealed that the self-help group has already distributed more than 50,000 bottles of Triveni water, including a recent shipment to the Shiv Shambhu Group Society in Nagpur. The domestic consignments were sent in 500 ml bottles, while the consignments to Germany were dispatched in 250 ml bottles. The Fire Department supported the distribution across all 75 districts of UP. During this ongoing process, Sant Raja Ramdas of Param Shivam Shiv Mandir Yogashram in Guwahati arrived at the Triveni Sangam with a private tanker from Assam. With the assistance from Prayagraj Chief Fire Officer (CFO) Pramod Sharma and his team, the tanker was filled and sent back to Assam, further extending the spiritual reach of the holy Triveni water, according to the statement.

What to expect in South Korea now that Yoon has been removed from office

Seoul : The South Korean Constitutional Court's decision to formally unseat President Yoon Suk Yeol is another test for the country's democracy after the conservative-liberal divide deepened over his imposition of martial law and subsequent impeachment.

The court's ruling Friday triggers a by-election for a new president.

Yoon still faces criminal charges of rebellion, but he's unlikely to fade into the background. He is likely to thrust himself onto the political agenda, rallying his hard-core supporters and influencing the choice of the next leader of his party, which has made intensive efforts to regroup around calls for his reinstatement.

Here's what you need to know about the court decision.

Why did the court remove Yoon from office?

All eight of the Constitutional Court's current justices upheld the impeachment motion and dismissed Yoon as president.

The constitutional crisis began on December 3 when Yoon declared martial law and dispatched troops to the National Assembly. Lawmakers defied hundreds of soldiers and police officers to enter the legislative chamber and unanimously voted to lift martial law within hours.

On December 14, the liberal opposition-controlled assembly impeached Yoon and suspended his presidential powers, accusing him of violating the constitution by declaring martial law,

deploying troops to the legislature and election offices, and attempting to arrest opponents. The constitution limits the exercise of martial law to times of war or comparable national emergencies. Yoon argued his decree was necessary to bring attention to what he called an "anti-state" main opposition party that abused its legislative majority to obstruct his agenda. Even under martial law, the president doesn't have the authority to shut down the legislature. Shortly after Yoon's martial law declaration, the military's martial law command issued a proclamation prohibiting "all political activities," including those of the National Assembly.

Yoon has insisted that he never intended to disable the legislature, saying he sent troops there to maintain order, not to disrupt the vote. He also denied accusations that he sought arrests of rival politicians.

Yoon's claims were contradicted by testimony from several senior military and police officers, who described a deliberate but poorly executed attempt to seize the legislature. In removing Yoon from office, the Constitutional Court rejected his argument that martial law was merely a temporary warning or an appeal to the public, stating he clearly violated the constitution and laws by "mobilising military and police forces to obstruct the exercise of legislative authority."

South Korea has 60 days to choose a new president

South Korea must now hold a



presidential election within 60 days - potentially one of the most tense votes since the country's transition from dictatorship in the late 1980s. The country's electorate is deeply divided along ideological lines and Yoon's legal saga has exacerbated polarisation.

Yoon's conservative supporters rioted at the Seoul Western District Court that authorised his arrest in January.

Yoon's lawyers and the ruling party have openly questioned the credibility of that court and law enforcement institutions, and he has continued to express contempt for his liberal rivals, endorsing baseless conspiracy theories about election fraud to justify his ill-

fated authoritarian push. Experts say Yoon's actions are fuelling severe political division, making compromise unlikely, and threaten to undermine the election by inspiring voter distrust in the results. There's a high risk of disruption during the voting process, making it crucial to elevate security at polling and counting stations, said Kim Su-min, a politics analyst and former Gumi city council member.

"If people start refusing to accept any election outcome that is unfavourable to them, the other side will start doing the same," said Kim Tae-hyung, a professor at Seoul's Soongsil University. "If that cycle contin-

ues, trust in democracy will completely collapse."

Yoon may not go quietly

Yoon, never one to back down from a fight, may refuse to be ignored. In the coming weeks, he may rally supporters in the streets while trying to tighten his grip on the People Power Party, whose leadership is stacked with his loyalists and which has seen its popularity rebound with calls for his reinstatement.

In a statement issued through his lawyers, Yoon said he deeply regrets failing to live up to the public's expectations, but didn't specifically say whether he accepts the court's ruling. Later, in a meeting with the conservative People Power Party leaders at the presidential residence he must vacate, Yoon urged them to prepare well and win the upcoming election, a party spokesperson told local media.

Facing a separate criminal trial on rebellion charges - punishable by death or life in prison - Yoon would strongly prefer a conservative president who could pardon him if convicted and will likely push to ensure his party's primaries are won by a candidate he supports, Kim Su-min said. This would turn the upcoming election into a near-rematch between Yoon and liberal Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung, who narrowly lost to Yoon in 2022 and has his own legal troubles.

Whoever it is, South Korea's next leader will face critical challenges. The turmoil caused by Yoon's power grab

and impeachment has disrupted high-level diplomacy and hurt the economy, as well as weakening Seoul's ability to respond to tariffs and other shifts in US policy under President Donald Trump.

Trump's diplomatic lineups for South Korea and neighbouring countries are expected to be completed before a new government is inaugurated in Seoul. This could pose a significant foreign policy challenge to South Korea, which won't have a chance to explain its positions to the Trump administration ahead of formal negotiations, said Paik Wooyeal, a professor at Seoul's Yonsei University.

Yoon still faces criminal charges

Yoon was released from prison in March after the Seoul Central District Court cancelled his arrest and allowed him to stand trial without being detained. But as a former president, Yoon has lost the presidential privilege that protected him from most criminal prosecution except on grave charges like rebellion. Prosecutors can now pursue other criminal charges related to Yoon's martial law declaration and seek to detain him. Legal experts said the Constitutional Court's dismissal of Yoon could increase the chance he will be convicted of rebellion charges at the Seoul Central District Court. Yoon's defence minister, police chief and other senior military commanders have also been arrested and indicted over their roles in the martial law imposition.

Israel launches ground operation in northern Gaza to expand security zone

MI News Service, Jerusalem: The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) launched a ground operation early Friday morning in northern Gaza to expand the security zone, said the military. During the operation in Shejaiya, Israeli troops killed Hamas fighters and dismantled what the IDF said was military infrastructure, according to the IDF statement. The Israeli army has struck over 600 targets in Gaza and killed 250 Hamas militants since it renewed hostilities in Gaza on March 18, IDF spokes person Effie Defrin said Thursday. In a separate incident on Thursday, the IDF said that its combat intelligence fighters killed one Palestinian and injured another after they threw rocks at a road near Bethlehem in the West Bank.

Rajasthan Police's AGTF arrest Lawrence Bishnoi gang member from Dubai

MI News Service, Jaipur: Rajasthan Police's Anti-Gangster Task Force has arrested a key member of the Lawrence Bishnoi wanted in several cases of extortion from Dubai, officials said Friday. According to the police, Aditya Jain alias Tony is believed to be a go-between for the Lawrence Bishnoi-Rohit Godara gang and one of the key members facilitating "dabba" calls.

Here's how the dabba call works. First, a henchman would allegedly use the internet to place an extortion call to his intended victim. Next, he allegedly would place a second call using another phone to his boss sitting in a different country, keep the two phones side-by-side, turn on their speakers, and let his boss do the talking. According to the police, Jain is wanted in several cases of extortion and firing. A team headed by AGTF Interpol team headed by DIG-CID (CB) Yogesh Yadav and ASP Narottam Verma had an Interpol red notice – a request to global law enforcement agencies to locate and provisionally arrest a person wanted in criminal cases – issued against Jain, police said. It was based on this that a team of policemen headed by AGTF ASP Siddhant Sharma was sent to Dubai, the police said.

China increases military incursions around Taiwan

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan detected 16 sorties of Chinese aircraft, nine Chinese naval vessels and two official ships around itself as of 6am on Friday (local time).

Of the 16 sorties, 15 crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ (Air Defence Identification Zone). In a post on X, the MND said, "16 sorties of PLA aircraft, 9 PLAN vessels and 2 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 15 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded accordingly." Earlier on Thursday, Taiwan detected 59 Chinese aircraft, 23 Chinese naval vessels and eight official ships operating around itself as of 6am (local time), a statement by the Taiwanese Ministry of Defence said. Of the 59 aircraft, 31 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern, central, southwestern, and eastern ADIZ (Air Defence Identification Zone).



The newly built Pamban Bridge, connecting Rameswaram to mainland India, has given Indian infrastructure a new identity.

Executive Committee Meeting of ER Promotee Officers Association held in Kolkata



MI News Service, Kolkata: The Executive Committee Meeting of the Eastern Railway Promotee Officers Association (ERPOA) was held at Fairlie Place in Kolkata on 04.04.2025. The meeting witnessed the gracious presence of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway; Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager; Shri Sharat Bhatia, Principal Financial Adviser; Ms. Zarina Firdausi, Principal Chief Personnel Officer; along with other Principal Heads of Departments, Heads of Departments, and officers from across Eastern Railway. During the meeting, Shri Abhijit Ray, President, Eastern Railway Promotee Officers Association (ERPOA), highlighted the excellent performance of Eastern Railway across all parameters — physical, financial, and human resource. He also drew attention to the issue of career stagnation being faced by promotee officers, describing it as a significant source of demotivation. Nevertheless, he assured that the officers of the Association would continue to deliver their best, with dedication and positivity, to help the Railway achieve even higher targets in the current fiscal

year. Shri Amit Jain, Secretary General of the Indian Railway Promotee Officers Federation (IRPOF), elaborated on the developments concerning promotional avenues and the ongoing discussions related to the Pay Commission at the Ministry level. In his address, Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, emphasized the importance of timely promotions for deserving officers as per the provisions of the rules. He stated that such steps are essential for motivation and to meet the operational requirements of the Railway. He assured the gathering that the concerns raised would be reviewed and forwarded to the Ministry for due consideration. He also acknowledged the outstanding contributions made by promotee officers in achieving Eastern Railway's goals. During the session, retired officers were also present to whom mementos were handed over by the General Manager as a token of appreciation. The meeting commenced with a warm welcome to all delegates by Shri Debabrata Bose, General Secretary, ERPOA. A vote of thanks was offered by Shri Kartik Singh, Vice President, ERPOA.

Congress, DMK set to move Supreme Court against Waqf Amendment Bill

MI News Service, New Delhi: The recently passed Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has sparked significant political controversy in India, leading the Indian National Congress (INC) and Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) to announce their intention to challenge the Bill in the Supreme Court. The Bill, which passed through both Houses of Parliament following a lengthy 13-hour debate, was approved with 288 votes in favor and 232 against in the Lok Sabha, and 128 supporting votes to 95 opposing votes in the Rajya Sabha. Jairam Ramesh, the AICC General Secretary, took to social media to announce the Congress party's legal chal-

lenge, stating, "The INC will very soon be challenging in the Supreme Court the constitutionality of the Wakf (Amendment) Bill, 2024." Ramesh emphasized that the party was committed to defending democratic values and would resist what they saw as assaults on the Constitution by the Modi government. The Congress party, along with other opposition groups, has criticized the Bill as "anti-Muslim" and "unconstitutional." Congress MP Imran Masood echoed this stance, asserting that the party would take legal action after consulting legal experts. He accused the ruling party of spreading hate against Muslims.

Cabinet approves four multitracking projects across Indian Railways

MI News Service, New Delhi: To enhance line capacity, Indian Railways plans to undertake four multitracking projects aimed to ensure seamless and faster transportation of both passengers and goods; These initiatives will improve travel convenience, reduce logistic cost, decrease oil imports and contribute to lower CO2 emissions, supporting sustainable and efficient rail operations. The projects aim to enhance logistical efficiency by increasing the line capacity along the key routes for coal, iron ore, and other minerals; These improvements will streamline the supply chains, thereby contributing to accelerated economic growth. The total estimated cost of the projects is Rs.18,658 crore and will. The projects will also generate direct employment for about 379 lakh human-days during construction. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved Four projects of

Ministry of Railways with total cost of Rs. 18,658 crore (approx.). The Four projects covering 15 Districts in 3 States i.e., Maharashtra, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh will increase the existing network of Indian Railways by about 1247 Kms. These projects include: i. Sambalpur – Jarapda 3rd and 4th Line ii. Jharsuguda – Sason 3rd and 4th Line iii. Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa 5th and 6th Line iv. Gondia – Balharshah doubling. The enhanced line capacity will improve mobility, providing enhanced efficiency and service reliability for Indian Railways. These multi-tracking proposals will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much-required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways. The projects are in line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Vision of a New India which will make people of the region "Atmanirbhar" by way of comprehensive

development in the area which will enhance their employment/ self-employment opportunities. The projects are result of PM-Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity which have been possible through integrated planning and will provide seamless connectivity for movement of people, goods and services. With these projects 19 New Stations will be constructed, enhancing connectivity to Two Aspirational Districts (Gadchiroli and Rajnandgaon). Multi-tracking project will enhance connectivity to approx. 3350 villages and about 47.25 lakh population. Kharsia – Naya Raipur – Parmalkasa will provide direct connectivity to new areas such as Baloda Bazar, this will create possibilities for setting up of new industrial units including cement plants in the region. These are essential routes for transportation of commodities such as agriculture products, fertilizer, coal, iron ore, steel, cement, limestone etc.

BNM announces global protests to highlight human rights violations in Balochistan

MI News Service, Quetta: The Baloch National Movement (BNM) has declared a series of demonstrations in various countries to bring attention to the escalating human rights situation in Balochistan, as mentioned in a post shared by BNM on X. These protests will highlight the concerning increase in enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions of Baloch political activists, and false allegations used to suppress dissent, the post noted.

BNM seeks to attract international focus to the systemic oppression endured by the Baloch nation, which includes extrajudicial killings, torture, and a harsh crackdown on political opposition, as highlighted in the post. According to BNM's announcement, these global protests will stress their unwavering position: that the liberation of Balochistan is the sole way to put an end to these persistent atrocities and attain justice and freedom for the Baloch people.

Previously, the Baloch National Movement (BNM) organized the 6th Balochistan International Conference in Geneva, bringing together political leaders, journalists, and intellectuals to discuss the ongoing human rights violations and the exploitation of Balochistan by Pakistan and China. In a post on X, BNM reported that "Dr. Naseem Baloch, Chairman of BNM, highlighted the severe human rights violations in Balochistan, which include enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and the exploitation of the region's natural resources by both Pakistan and China." Baloch emphasized the historical significance of the occasion, recalling that 77 years ago, Pakistan forcibly annexed Balochistan. He argued that this was not a peaceful incorporation.

The Country's Glory Shines Through the Pamban Bridge

MI News Service, New Delhi: When a Nation is led by strong leadership with a visionary approach, new milestones are achieved. Such monumental achievements fill the country with pride, instill a deep sense of honour in every citizen and motivate them to give their best for the Nation's progress. India, too, is blessed with a strong and far-sighted leader in Shri Narendra Modi. Under his visionary leadership, the Nation has soared to new heights over the past 10 years, with Indian Railways, the lifeline of the country, setting new benchmarks for excellence. The trio of Vande Bharat, Amrit Bharat and Namo Bharat has transformed the Nation's railways, ushering in a new era of efficiency and connectivity. The construction of the Chenab and Anji bridges to enable direct train connectivity to Kashmir has strengthened India's stature. In the same vein, the newly built Pamban Bridge, connecting Rameswaram to mainland India, has given Indian infrastructure a new identity.

The successful completion of major projects aimed at strengthening infrastructure has proven that the Nation's development trajectory is moving in the right direction. Constructing a bridge over the sea, overcoming the challenges posed by ocean waves, is considered an extremely difficult task. Such projects typically take decades to complete, significantly increasing costs. However, Prime Minister Modi's clear vision, that 'he inaugurates the projects he lays the foundation for', has motivated the country's bureaucracy and technocracy to complete projects within set timelines. Prime Minister Modi laid the foundation stone for the Pamban Bridge in 2019 and in just five years, the new bridge over the sea, connecting Rameswaram and the Indian mainland, is ready. Now, Modi

himself is set to inaugurate this bridge, creating a wave of excitement across the country. Spanning 2.08 kilometres, the bridge boasts several unique features. It consists of 99 spans of 18.3 metres each and a 72.5-meter vertical lift span. It stands three metres higher than the old bridge, facilitating the passage of larger ships with ease. The substructure comprises 333 piles, ensuring stability and longevity. Designed for long-term durability, the bridge incorporates anti-corrosion technology, polysiloxane paint, high-quality stainless steel and fiber-reinforced plastic, making it highly resilient. The construction of the Pamban Bridge has established India's superiority in design and certification technology. The world now acknowledges that institutions like IIT Chennai and IIT Bombay are fully capable of handling the challenging task of designing sea bridges with precision and efficiency.

Rameswaram Island is an integral part of India's cultural, religious and spiritual heritage. The establishment of the sacred Rameswaram Lingam dates back to the Ramayana era when Lord Ram installed it before embarking on his journey to Lanka in search of Mata Sita. The Shivaling and Rameswaram Temple hold deep faith for millions of Indians. Every year, lakhs of devotees visit Rameswaram for pilgrimage. With the construction of the new Pamban Bridge, direct rail connectivity to Rameswaram from across the country has been re-established, greatly benefiting pilgrims. This will also boost economic activities in Rameswaram, creating new employment opportunities for locals. In essence, the new Pamban Bridge, which simultaneously represents India's progress, innovation and heritage, has become a symbol of the Nation's engineering excellence and strong leadership.

“North East Discovery” to be operated by IRCTC on its Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train in April 2025

IRCTC's special tour offering to India's North East, covering Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Tripura, and Meghalaya

Discover NE in 14 nights 15 days through IRCTC package inclusive of AC travel, food & night stay in just above One lakh rupees. Package beginning from 22 April

The much sought-after train tour “North East Discovery” is ready to depart on April 22, 2025 from Delhi Sadarjung Railway Station on a 14-nights/15-days itinerary

The state-of-the-art Deluxe AC Tourist Train with AC I, AC II & AC III classes will accommodate a total of 156 tourists

The places covered are Guwahati, Sivasagar, Jorhat, and Kaziranga in Assam; Unakoti and Udaipur in Tripura; Dimapur and Kohima in Nagaland; and Shillong and Cherapunji in Meghalaya

Tourists can also board/deboard at Delhi, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Itawah, Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi Railway Stations on this tourist train

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railway Catering & Tourism Corporation Ltd (IRCTC), a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Railways, has announced the launch of its Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train on “North East Discovery” on 22.04.2025. The program will commence Ex Delhi Sadarjung Railway. Interested tourists may opt this tour program from Delhi and other boarding points including Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah & Kanpur. The carefully curated itinerary shall be covering five of the “seven sisters”, of the lesser-travelled North Eastern region of India by Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train. The train tour will start from Delhi Sadarjung Railway Station on April 22, 2025 and will cover Guwahati, Sivasagar, Jorhat, and Kaziranga in Assam; Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh; Unakoti and Udaipur in Tripura; Dimapur and Kohima in Nagaland; and Shillong and Cherapunji in Meghalaya on this 15-day tour. The first stop of this train is Guwahati, where tourists will visit Kamakhya Temple, followed by Umananda Temple and a sunset cruise on the Brahmaputra. The train will then depart on an overnight journey to Naharlagun Railway Station, which is 30 kms from the next destination, Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh. The next city to follow is Sivasagar, the old capital of the Ahom Kingdom situated in the eastern part of Assam. The famous Shiva temple at Sivasagar, Sivadol, is a part of the itinerary, along with other heritage sites like Talatal and Rang Ghar. Further, the tourists would be visiting the tea gardens at Jorhat and an overnight stay at Kaziranga, followed by an early morning jungle safari at Kaziranga National Park, will be experienced by the tourists. The train next departs from Furkating Railway Station for the state of Tripura. Post disembarking at Kumarghat Railway Station the tourists will be visiting the heritage site of Unakoti, the ‘Angkor Wat of North East’ and later shall be visiting Agartala. The sites covered are the famous Ujjayanta Palace, Neermahal Palace and Tripura Sundari Mandir at Udaipur. After Tripura, the train departs for Dimapur to visit the state of Nagaland. The scenic train journey between Badarpur Station and Lumding Junction can be witnessed by the guests in the early hours of the morning from their seats. From Dimapur Station, tourists will be taken to Kohima by buses to visit local sites, including a tour of the Khonoma village to experience the Naga way of life. The next halt for the tourist train will be Guwahati, and tourists will be taken to Shillong, the capital city of Meghalaya, by road with a pit stop at the majestic Uminium Lake en-route. The next day starts with an excursion to Cherrapunji, nestled in the East Khasi Hills. Shillong Peak, Elephant Falls, Nawkhalikai Falls, and Mawmai Caves are a part of the day's sightseeing. From Cherrapunji, the tourists travel back to Guwahati Station to board the train for the return journey to Delhi. Guests will be traveling roughly 5800 km on this entire tour by train. The modern Deluxe AC Tourist Train has a host of amazing features, including two fine dining restaurants, a contemporary flameless kitchen, and shower cubicles in coaches, sensor-based washroom functions, foot massagers, and a mini library.

Trump says Zelenskyy and Putin "ready to make a deal"



MI News Service, Washington DC : US President Donald Trump said he talked to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and said that the latter was ready to make a deal.

During his gaggle on Air Force 1 on Thursday (local time), Trump said that the head of Russia's sovereign wealth fund Kirill Dmitriev was in the US, but did not specify what talks he held. "I think he's [Zelenskyy] ready to make a deal. And I think that President Putin is ready to make a deal, and you'll stop the killing of 1000s of young people a week. I just will tell you that there's a lot of good conversation about Ukraine, Russia," he said. Trump added that the US wants the Russia-Ukraine conflict to stop as soon as possible, and to stop the killing of thousands of soldiers from both sides. "We have an envoy from Russia. We're talking about it [the conflict]. We like to see that [war] stop as soon as possible, because thousands of people are being killed, awake soldiers, mostly soldiers and Ukrainian soldiers and Russian soldiers, and you're losing 2,000-3,000 sometimes a week. So we're spearheading the drive to get it done. Europe has not been successful in dealing with President Putin, but I think I will be successful," Trump said. Meanwhile, one of the largest rounds of conscription to Russia's military for several years is underway, as President Vladimir Putin pushes ahead with an expansion of the country's military at a crucial moment in the war in Ukraine, CNN reported on Wednesday. Putin signed a decree authorizing the latest phase of the country's twice-yearly conscription effort, with the new window beginning Tuesday and running until July 15.

HIL 2024-25 returns with resounding success, captivating over 41 million viewers in India



NEW DELHI [INDIA] : The much-anticipated return of the Hockey India League (HIL) has marked a transformative moment for Indian hockey, reigniting the nation's passion for the sport while breaking new ground in inclusivity and viewership. This edition was particularly special as it not only revived the men's league after a seven-year hiatus but also marked the launch of the inaugural women's league—an unprecedented milestone for Indian sports in general and hockey in particular. Adding to the historic significance, the league coincides with the centenary celebrations of Indian hockey and follows back-to-back Olympic medal triumphs, reinforcing the country's growing dominance on the global stage.

HIL 2024-25 has exceeded expectations, drawing an extraordinary cumulative reach of over 40.8 million viewers, which is over a 48% increase over HIL 2017's viewership of 27.5 million viewers. The men's final alone garnered 3.07 million viewers, while the most-watched women's match attracted 2.92 million viewers. The global reach of the league has also experienced exponential growth in its audience, with over 5 million in 18 hockey playing countries apart from India through both television and OTT viewership.

He has progressed well; final clearance on him will be provided on April 14: NCA sources on Mayank Yadav's fitness

BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : The right-arm speedster Mayank Yadav is recovering from his injury but the official statement about his fitness will be provided on April 14, as per the National Cricket Academy (NCA) sources in Bengaluru.

"Mayank Yadav has progressed well in NCA. He is currently bowling with 85% effort. The final clearance on him will be provided on April 14," NCA Sources told ANI.

The young tearaway is recovering from a lumbar stress injury. He resumed bowling at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru before the start of the 2025 edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Mayank's time in the last edition was cut down to four games due to a side strain. During his recovery, he picked up another injury, which further delayed his comeback. He eventually returned to on-field action against Bangladesh in T20Is, but another injury setback impeded his run.

If he is able to meet up all the fitness parameters while increasing his bowling workload, he could play for the Lucknow Super Giants in the latter half of the 18th edition of the cash-rich league.

Mayank's unavailability in the first half of the season is proving to be a massive setback for LSG in the ongoing season. So far in the tournament, the Rishabh Pant-led side has managed to win only one match out of three, and at the moment, they are in seventh position with just two points on the IPL 2025 points table.

Earlier, ahead of the start of the tournament, the right-arm pacer was retained for a whopping Rs 11 crore. In monetary terms, it was an astronomical rise in value, considering LSG purchased him for Rs 20 lakh before the 2024 season as an uncapped player.

The 22-year-old generated a hefty amount for himself, considering his ability to test the speed gun with his breakneck pace effortlessly. Throughout the last IPL season, Mayank consistently hit the 150 kph mark, helping him win back-to-back Player of the Match awards in his first two games.



Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025: Saptak Talwar outshines rivals on home turf to bag maiden title

GREATER NOIDA (UTTAR PRADESH) : Saptak Talwar of Greater Noida ended a long wait for his maiden title after he outshined his nearest rivals at his home course with a flawless final round of five-under 67 at the Rs 1.5 crore Adani Invitational Golf Championship 2025 played at the Jaypee Greens Golf and Spa Resort in Greater Noida.

The 26-year-old Saptak's (67-72-69-67) superb last round effort lifted him two spots from his overnight third position. Talwar, who had previously posted two runner-up finishes on the PGTI since turning pro in 2021, ended the week with a winning total of 13-under 275 and a one-stroke victory margin.

Talwar, who studied at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut, USA, prior to turning professional, picked up the winning cheque worth Rs 22,50,000 that propelled him from seventh to fourth position in the PGTI Order of Merit.

Overnight joint leaders Arjun Prasad (68-69-69-70) of Delhi and Chandigarh's Yuvraj Sandhu (70-67-69-71) finished second and third at 12-under 276 and 11-under 277, respectively.

Saptak Talwar, who was two off the lead at the start of round four, enjoyed a hot start on Friday as he capitalized with birdies on the first two par-5s, the second and fourth holes.



Saptak then added two more birdies on the fifth and 10th using his wedges to great effect. He narrowly missed a five-foot eagle putt on the par-5 12th where he picked up his fifth birdie of the day.

Talwar, who had made three three-putts for bogeys earlier in the week, then saw it home with pars on the last six holes. He made a crucial par save from eight feet on the 16th that helped keep his card bogey-free and gave him the momentum towards the end.

Saptak said, "It's great to win at my home course in the presence of my family and friends. This is my fifth straight week of competition and my endurance was my biggest asset this week.

The fact that it was a relatively stress-free week because I was playing in home conditions and there was not much preparation needed also helped.

"At the start of the day, my approach was to just be patient and keep myself in the mix as long as possible as I knew the course well and was aware that I will have my opportunities at some stage.

After the good start, the eight-foot par putt on the 16th I feel was a pivotal moment for me today. It helped me keep my card clean and gave me the confidence to finish well."

Arjun Prasad, also searching for his first title, produced five birdies and three bogeys during his fourth round of 70. Arjun

THERE IS NO ROCKET SCIENCE: NEHRA OFFERS INSIGHT INTO COACHING MENTALITY; BACKS GILL TO TAKE GT FORWARD

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Gujarat Titans head coach Ashish Nehra gave a sneak peek into his coaching philosophy and mindset while advocating for captain Shubman Gill to take the franchise forward ahead of their upcoming fixture against Sunrisers Hyderabad in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. With his calm demeanour, Nehra pulled the strings behind the scenes and lifted the Titans to the trophy in their maiden season in the cash-rich league in 2022. He continued with his role at the helm in the next season and laid the blueprint for GT to go all the way to the final to defend its title, but eventually falling short against Chennai Super Kings. If it weren't for Ravindra Jadeja flaunting his boundary-hitting muscle and smoking the ball away for 10 runs in the last two balls, Nehra and GT would have had two IPL titles in their first two seasons. With Nehra into his fourth year as GT head coach, Nehra allows his players to be themselves. In a fast-paced and long-format tournament, Nehra believes the key to success lies in offering players the much-needed stability. "For me, I don't see things only from a coach's perspective. Even if I put myself in the shoes of a player in such an environment—the hectic IPL, a long yet fast-paced tournament—the first thing players need is stability. That's how I feel.



Lucknow Super Giants' Mitchell Marsh celebrates his half-century during the Indian Premier League 2025 match against Mumbai Indians, at Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, in Lucknow on Friday. (ANI Photo)

Olympian, National Games 2025 gold medalist Rahi Sarnobat opens up on comeback after health issues

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Pistol shooter Rahi Sarnobat made a tremendous comeback after a serious health battle at the National Games this year in Dehradun as the 34-year-old won the gold medal in the Women's 25m air pistol competition.

The two-time Olympian, who has made a comeback to the sport, opened up on her recent battle with neuropathic pain syndrome in a recent episode of the House of Glory podcast, an initiative by the Gagan Narang Sports Foundation. She explained that now she is focusing on her own sport to work towards her Olympic medal dream.

Rahi's health issues began in 2022 when the Maharashtra shooter was packing for the national camp for the World Championships. She found herself facing hot flashes and nerve pain. After weeks of feeling sensations all over her body, causing her tremendous pain, Rahi found herself on bed rest, unable to find a diagnosis.

"We did not know which doctors to go - we did ECG, cardio testing, routine tests - but everything was fine. Still, I was feeling terrible. I started feeling my neck pain, that I could not lie on bed and I had to sit and sleep for months. My medical team suggested to consult neurologist," Rahi revealed.

After weeks of neurological testing, Rahi was diagnosed with neuropathic pain. Giving more details about her symptoms, the pistol shooter said, "Neuropathic pain syndrome has no fixed pattern and no fixed line of treatment. It depends on case-to-case, and the medical history of every person. It makes it even more scary."

"I was sleeping for 17-20 hours for months. I was just staring at the ceiling for months. I could not live my normal life. I felt the fear of being uncertain. You don't know when the incident just hap-



pened for certain months," she further added.

This was not the first time Rahi had to make a comeback to the sport in her career. Earlier, in 2014, she suffered a freak hairline fracture in the elbow of her shooting arm that took seven months to recover from and many more to begin shooting. She made her comeback from there, going on to win gold in the 2018 Asian Games and compete in her second Olympics in Tokyo in 2021. Now, this time, after making a comeback, she went on to win a close battle against her fellow shooter, Simranpreet Kaur, to claim the top prize at the National Games.

But emerging out of both the setbacks was different, Rahi explained, "I feel comebacks are quite a personal journey. During the Rio Olympics cycle, it was a different journey. It was a common injury and had to undergo a certain routine line of treatment. You have a structure. There is a fixed procedure, proven and tested on athletes for years."

"This time, it was a different condition. I was not even looking for a comeback. I was just looking to come back to life. I was just looking forward to leading a normal, healthy life," she said.

The return to fitness was also not an easy journey. "After a few months, neurologist told me that I

Jasprit Bumrah doubtful for MI's next IPL 2025 fixture

MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : Mumbai Indians' (MI) pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah is set to miss Friday's Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 clash against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) and remains doubtful for the high-voltage encounter against Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on April 7 at the Wankhede Stadium.

While this is a setback for MI, there is a silver lining—Bumrah is edging closer to a return as he continues his rehabilitation at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru, according to ESPNcricinfo.

Bumrah has been out of action since January after experiencing stress-related discomfort in his lower back. He subsequently missed the Champions Trophy, which India clinched last month, despite initially being named in the provisional squad. The BCCI medical team had advised him to offload for five weeks starting from early January.

In recent weeks, the 31-year-old has been gradually building up his bowling workload and is nearing the final round of fitness tests. Only after receiving clearance from the BCCI's medical staff will he be allowed to join the MI squad. Bumrah himself has been cautious in his comeback, prioritising full fitness before stepping back on the field, with an eye on India's upcoming five-Test series in England starting June 28.

Mahela Jayawardene, MI's head coach, had last spoken about Bumrah's situation on March 19, admitting the challenge of starting the season without their premier fast bowler. At the time, MI had expected Bumrah to return in April, but the timeline has since been pushed back.

Mumbai Indians have played three matches so far in IPL 2025, with a 1-2 win-loss record. In Bumrah's absence, the team has introduced fresh faces like Satyanarayana Raju, Vignesh Puthur, and Ashwani Kumar, while Trent Boult and Deepak Chahar have taken charge of the pace attack. Hardik Pandya, who also contributes with the ball, has provided additional support in the seam department.

Since making his debut in 2013, Bumrah has been a vital cog in MI's bowling machinery, amassing 165 wickets in 133 matches. The only season he previously missed was in 2023, due to a back surgery.

