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Another round of talks begin with Meitei-Kuki groups on Manipur conflict resolution

MI News Service, New Delhi : In a sincere but desperate effort to bring a lasting peace in the strife-torn North eastern state of Manipur, the Centre held a high level meeting here on Saturday with the representatives of the tiny state's two warring communities of Meitei and Kuki. Informing this official sources said the meeting was a part of the central government's multi-faceted initiatives to find an amicable solution to the ongoing conflict between the two major communities since May 2023, leaving more than 250 deaths of both the communities besides rendering thousands more homeless due to arson and constant violence..

In this background, the meeting was aimed at enhancing trust and cooperation between the Meiteis and Kukis and finding a roadmap to restore permanent peace and normalcy in Manipur, sources said. The two hour long discussions centred around how to maintain law and order in the both the valley and mountainous regions of the state besides facilitating reconciliation between the two communities. While a six-member Meitei delegation comprising representatives from the All Manipur United Clubs' Organisation and the Federation of Civil Society Organisations attended the meeting, the Kuki delegation comprised about nine representatives. The central government interlocutors included A K Mishra, a retired Special Director of the Intelligence Bureau. During a debate on the passage of Manipur budget in the Lok Sabha on Thursday night, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Ministry of Home Affairs had held discussions with the representatives of the Meitei and the Kuki communities in the past. He said separate meetings were also conducted on regular basis with different organisations from both the communities. "The Ministry of Home Affairs will soon convene a joint meeting," Shah said, replying to a short debate in the lower House, which adopted a Statutory Resolution confirming the imposition of President's rule in Manipur. The home minister also said that while the government is working to find a path to end the violence, the top priority is to establish

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China hits back with 34% tariff on US goods after Trump's trade salvo

MI News Service, New Delhi / Beijing : In a direct retaliation to US President Donald Trump's latest wave of trade tariffs across the globe sending shock waves to many countries, an undeterred China has announced a fresh 34 per cent reciprocal duty on all US goods from April 10. The announcement in this regard, made by China's Finance Ministry on Friday night, marks a sharp escalation in the ongoing trade stand-off between the world's two largest economies.

The move comes just a day after Beijing urged Washington to withdraw its latest tariffs and warned of "countermeasures to safeguard its own rights and interests." In a parallel move, China will also impose export controls on several key medium and heavy rare-earth elements, such as samarium, gadolinium, ter-



bium, dysprosium, lutetium, scandium, and yttrium, starting from April 5. These rare-earths are crucial to high-tech manufactur-

ing and defence applications. "The purpose of the Chinese government's implementation of export controls on relevant items in

accordance with the law is to better safeguard national security and interests, and to fulfil international obligations such as non-proliferation," China's Commerce Ministry said in a statement. Beijing also added 11 foreign entities to its "unreliable entity" list, allowing for punitive action against them. The move shows China is ready to use rules and economic measures to push back against the t US pressure. China's State Council Tariff Commission also clarified that shipments already in transit will not be subject to the new tariffs. "If the goods have been shipped from the place of departure before 12:01 on April 10, 2025, and are imported between 12:01 on April 10, 2025, and 24:00 on May 13, 2025, the additional tariffs prescribed in this announcement will not be levied," it added. Earlier this

week, Trump announced that Chinese imports would face a 34 per cent tariff, on top of a 20 per cent levy imposed earlier this year, bringing the total hike to 54 per cent. This aligns closely with the 60 per cent tariff he floated during his presidential campaign. In addition to targeting China, a baseline 10 per cent tariff on nearly all imports, from China and other countries, is set to take effect this Saturday. The higher "reciprocal tariffs" specifically aimed at China will begin April 9. President Trump also signed an executive order closing the "de minimis" loophole, a rule that allowed low-value packages from China and Hong Kong to enter the US duty-free. This closure is expected to significantly impact e-commerce shipments and small

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KMC records tampered : Mayor

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) assessment records were "tampered with" to get permission to construct a five-storey building off Creek Row, Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim said. The tampering came to light after a Creek Row resident filed an RTI appeal about the 1-cottah 15-chhatak plot with the civic body. He wanted to know whether the KMC had approved any new building on the plot. **PG 3**



Morning India

India, Sri Lanka ink major defence pact as PM Modi accorded grand welcome in island nation



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake before delegation level talks at the Presidential Secretariat, in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Saturday.

an ambitious defence cooperation pact following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Anura Kumara Disanayake. The two sides also signed a pact to develop Trincomalee as an energy hub. Another agreement was inked to facilitate New Delhi's multi-sectoral grant assistance to Sri Lanka's eastern region. The two sides are ex-

pected to ink around 10 ambitious bilateral agreements, including one about defence cooperation and another about launching frameworks for deeper engagement in the energy sector. The MoU on defence cooperation is set to signal a major upward trajectory in India-Sri Lanka defence cooperation leaving behind the bitter

chapter relating to India pulling out the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) from the island nation around 35 years ago. The prime minister's visit to Sri Lanka comes at a time when the island nation is showing signs of recovery from its deep economic stress. As the country was reeling under a massive economic crisis three years ago during the change in regime, India extended a massive financial assistance worth USD 4.5 billion to help the nation overcome the economic crisis. After the talks between Modi and Disanayake, two documents facilitating India's assistance to Sri Lanka on debt restructuring and another one on currency swap are likely to be made public. The two sides are also expected to seal a separate pact on cooperation in the digital domain. Modi is also scheduled to lay a wreath at the Indian Peace Keeping Force memorial in th city later in the day. Meanwhile, Indian High Commissioner to Colombo Santosh Jha said on Friday that New Delhi's assistance to the island nation was "unprecedented" in terms of India's assistance to any country in the world. "It was a huge bit of assistance and we are continuing to work with Sri Lanka in providing it assistance in various areas and that is much appreciated here," Jha said. In Colombo, Modi and Disanayake will also dedicate several projects that are being built in that country with India's assistance. The two leaders will also witness the virtual ground breaking of the Sampur solar energy project.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by members of the Indian community upon his arrival in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Saturday.

Sri Lanka confers country's highest civilian award to PM

MI News Service, New Delhi / Colombo : In recognition of his unmatched role in boosting bilateral ties in the past decade, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the 'Mithra Vibhushana' award by Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake on Saturday. The award, the highest civilian honour of the island nation, was instituted in February 2008 by then President Mahinda Rajapaksa. Its previous recipients include former Maldivian president Maumoon Abdul

Gayoom and late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Receiving the prestigious award PM Modi said this honour reflects the historic ties and deep friendship between the two countries.. The award was presented to PM Modi by President Anura Kumara Disanayake during a glittering ceremony at the Presidential Secretariat in Colombo on the first day of the Prime minister's two day visit to Sri Lanka. "It is an honour for me to be

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W. Bengal govt made elaborate security arrangements to prevent untoward incidents during Ram Navami celebrations

MI News Service, Kolkata : The West Bengal government has made elaborate arrangements to ensure peace and maintenance of law and order during celebrations on the Ram Navami day on Sunday. Accordingly, as preventive measures 3,500 to 4,000 police personnel have been posted for maintenance of peace and law and order in and around Kolkata. In addition as many as 29 IPS officers will be on special duty across the state during the next 48 hours as part of the preventive measure. According to the police, senior officers of the rank of Deputy Commissioners and Joint Commissioners of Police will be present during the conduct of religious processions in the city. These apart, the responsibilities of the police officers of the ranks of OC, DC, AC, Joint CP are also finalised. There will be sufficient police presence in every street from where the processions will pass. In addition, for further surveillance drones will be deployed along with more CCTV cameras. Videography of every procession will also be made.

In fact, just as there is a BJP procession on the occasion of Ram Navami, various Hindutva organi-



zations have also decided to organise processions during the day tomorrow, the sources said adding Trinamool Congress is also taking to the streets on Ram Navami day in the city and elsewhere in districts. . They have also decided to take out a number of processions in areas where Hindi-speaking people live in large numbers like in Asansol and Siliguri. Interestingly in Jalpaiguri, TMC councillors are also distributing leaflets in every house inviting people to participate in Ram Navami processions in this north Bengal town.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Police

Commissioner Manoj Verma has warned that if people were found walking on the city streets carrying harmful weapons during Ram Navami processions, the police will take legal action.

However, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee said that processions could be taken out as per law. According to Kolkata Police Commissioner, their Quick Response Team will remain alert round the clock on that day. Senior officers will be present at five or six places where big processions are to be taken out, including at Hastings, Entally, and Kashipur. There will

be patrolling on police bikes in these areas also. At the same time, many police personnel in plain clothes will accompany the procession. In fact, Kolkata Police is determined to prevent even an isolated incident and unrest from happening on Ram Navami day. Police Commissioner Verma held a meeting with senior officers at Lalbazar on Saturday. Last year, around 60 Ram Navami processions were taken out in Kolkata. This time too, the number is expected to remain the same. A large number of IPS officers will remain present from Saturday in various vulnerable areas including in Howrah, Hooghly, Barrackpore, Malda, Murshidabad, and Siliguri and they will remain posted there till next Monday as a precautionary step. It is worth noting that, regarding the Ram Navami procession, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had said, " We all know that Punjabis can carry kirpan during their processions. Which is however allowed in the country's law, as they always strictly follow rules. Many of us also take out processions on Ram Navami day. I have no objection to that. But we want it to be absolutely peaceful."

PM Modi to open India's first vertical lift sea bridge in Rameswaram



MI News Service, Chennai : Even as the ruling dispensation of Tamil Nadu – the DMK-has decided to follow a confrontational path with the Union government on various issues including on the amendment of the Waqf bill, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has decided to inaugurate India's first vertical lift sea bridge in Rameswaram and dedicate several other projects to the state on Sunday. On the eve of this highly important official event, the Indian Railways brought out a promotional video of the picturesque new Pamban Bridge. The Railway Ministry said, "Bridging the past, lifting the new, Pamban stands tall with a breathtaking view. This Ram Navami, witness India's First Vertical Lift Railway Sea Bridge — unveiling in one day!" The coastal town has come under security cover ahead of the inauguration of the Rs 550 crore bridge. The prime minister would not only inaugurate the new Pamban Rail Bridge and flag off Rameswaram-Tambaram (Chennai) new train service, he will flag off a Coast Guard Ship as the Vertical Lift Span rises up to make way, and witness the operation of the bridge. Prime minister Modi is also expected to visit the renowned Ramanathaswamy temple at Rameswaram on Sunday afternoon for darshan and pooja and later lay the foun-

dation stone and dedicate to the nation various rail and road projects worth over Rs 8,300 crore in Tamil Nadu, official sources said. These projects include laying the foundation of four-laning of 28 Km long Walajapet – Ranipet section of NH-40 and dedication to the nation of 4-laned 29 Km long Vilupuram – Puducherry section of NH-332; 57 Km long Poondiyanakuppam – Sattanathapuram section of NH-32 and 48 Km long Cholapuram – Thanjavur section of NH-36. They will connect many pilgrim centres and tourist places, reduce distance between cities and enable faster access to medical colleges and hospitals, and ports besides empower local farmers to transport agricultural products to the nearby markets and boost economic activity of local leather and small scale industries.

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,

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Teenager girl's dead body on track in Kalyani

MI News Service, Kalyani: A family in Kalyani is grappling with the sudden loss of their daughter, whose body was found on the railway tracks. The family is adamant that she wouldn't have taken her own life, suspecting foul play in this death. Her mother hints at her daughter's involvement with a boy, sparking concerns about potential motives behind her tragic death.

A tragic incident has unfolded in the Joydevnati area Sukna Gram Panchayat, Kalyani police station, body was discovered from the side of the railway tracks. The circumstances surrounding her death have raised questions, with the family claiming it was not a case of suicide, but rather possible conspiracy. According to the family the students left home on Thursday afternoon to study but did not return. A missing person's diary was filed at Kalyani police station on Friday morning and later that day, the GRP police station called the family to inform them that a body had been recovered. The family identified the body, and the GRP has initiated an investigation. The deceased student's mother expressed her concerns, stating that her daughter was quite person who wouldn't commit suicide. She mentioned that her daughter had been talking to a boy, and when questioned about it, the friend revealed that the daughter had been in contact with this individual. The mother suspects that someone around her daughter might have been in her death. The family is adamant that their daughter would not have taken her own life, and they are seeking answers. The GRP is investigating the incident and the police are working to determine the circumstances surrounding the students' death. At the investigation unfolds, the community is left with many unanswered questions. The students' family is demanding justice, and the authorities are working to provide clarity on the matter. The incident has sparked a mix of emotions, with many calling for a thorough investigation to uncover the truth.

Calcutta High Court stays demolition of Dheu sagar park



MI News Service, East Medinipur: Calcutta High Court Stays Demolition of Dheu Sagar Park. The Calcutta High Court has issued a stay order on the demolition of Dheu Sagar Park in New Digha, East Midnapore, until June 30. This decision comes after the National Environment Tribunal directed the park's demolition within three months, citing violations of coastal regulations. The Dheu Sagar Park, a popular tourist destination developed by the Digha Shankarpur Development Board, was constructed in 2020. However, the National Environment Tribunal observed that the park's construction breached the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) norms. Justice Amrita Sinha stayed the implementation of the National Environment Court's order, considering the state's appeal. The state government had filed an application, highlighting an error in the delimitation of the CRZ boundaries. This development has significant implications for the park's future and local businesses. The stay order provides temporary relief, but underlying issues regarding coastal regulation compliance remain unresolved. The case will continue to be monitored by the Calcutta High Court.

Mamata Banerjee to attend historic spiritual gathering on Navkar Mahamantra Diwas

MI News Service, Kolkata: In an extraordinary confluence of spirituality, unity, and devotion, Kolkata is set to host the grand celebration of Navkar Mahamantra Diwas on April 9, 2025, at Netaji Indoor Stadium from 8:01 AM onwards. Organized by JITO Kolkata Chapter and supported by esteemed Jain institutions and organizations across the city, this monumental event will bring together all sects of Jainism and all religions on a common platform, exemplifying the power of unity in faith. This global initiative, spanning across 108+ countries, will witness thousands of devotees chanting the sacred Navkar Mahamantra, sending out waves of positivity, spiritual awakening, and global harmony as stated by Jito Kolkata Chapter Chairman Dharmendra Ji Jain.

The event will be graced by Honorable Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee, who has kindly consented to attend, further magnifying the significance of this historic gathering. Adding to the sanctity of the occasion, renowned religious gurus, monks, sadhus, sadhvis, and dharma-dhikaris from all religions will come together, fostering communal unity and interfaith harmony. Their presence will reinforce the event's message of peace, inclusivity, and universal brotherhood, as informed by Jito Kolkata Chief Secretary, Sumit ji Kothari. A Spiritual Gathering of Eminence and Influence The celebration will feature profound religious sermons by intellectuals, revered spiritual leaders, and distinguished sadhus and sadhvis, offering invaluable in-

sights into the power of devotion, self-discipline, and inner peace. Additionally, the event will receive blessings and encouragement from esteemed bureaucrats, politicians, and respected ministers, further endorsing the importance of this initiative in promoting spiritual and social harmony- as informed by Jito Kolkata Secretaries Rishab ji Nahata and Shashi ji Jain Dugar. Leading this grand occasion, the Press Conference was witnessed by eminent dignitaries- Dharmendra ji Jain, Chairman JITO Kolkata chapter, Vinod ji Dugar (RDB group) and Kamal ji Dugar (BMD group), Chief Secretary Sumit Kothari. Dignitaries present were Treasurer Vivek Jain, esteemed members of the JITO Kolkata Core Committee, including Nirmal Bindayaka ji Jain, Ratan Lal ji Dugar, Rajendra Krji

Jain (Vice Chairmen), Vivek ji Jain (Treasurer), Rishabh Nahata (Secretary), Shashi Jain Dugar (Secretary), and Sandeep ji Bucha (Joint Treasurer). This spiritual event is the result of hard work & dedication of Project Conveners Dinesh ji Jain Gangwal, Narendra ji Bardia, Pradeep ji Patwa, and Chandresh ji Meghani. alongside the dynamic leadership of the JITO Ladies Wing, represented by Dr. Sunita Sethia (Chairperson) and CA Komal Mehta (Chief Secretary), and the vibrant JITO Youth Wing, with Chairman Rishabh Sethia and Chief Secretary Anubhav Jain. The event was supported by Binod Ji Sancheti, Premal Ji Mehta, Aditya Shyamsukha and other committee members. Their dedication and efforts have been instrumental in bringing this momentous occasion to life.



Ashtami Puja is underway at Dakshineswar Ramakrishna Sangha Adapith Temple on Saturday.

New directives issued to W. Bengal schools amid job cancellation

MI News Service, Malda: Malda town school principle Subhash Chandra Sarkar has been asked by the CID to provide information about students who received SC-ST scholarships. The inquiry includes details on the amount of money received by each student, the number of the students still enrolled, and those who have dropped out. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has issued a directive to schools in Malda, West Bengal, seeking detailed information about students receiving scholarships under the Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) categories. This move comes amid a recent scam involving fake SC, ST, and OBC certificates uncovered in Malda and Dakshin Dinajpur. The CID has asked schools to provide information on students' current class, academic

status, and scholarship disbursement history since 2017. Specifically, the agency wants to know the amount of money received by each student, the number of students still enrolled, and those who have dropped out. The inquiry aims to verify whether the recipients are genuine beneficiaries or not. Headmasters and headmistresses have expressed surprise and concern over the sudden directive. Subhash Chandra Sarkar, headmaster of Malda Town School, stated that the CID is seeking information on the amount of money received by each student, the number of students still in school, and those who have dropped out. The headmistress of Barlow Girls High School echoed similar sentiments, saying they have been asked to provide details on students who have withdrawn the

money and their current activities. The Oasis Scholarship Portal, managed by the Backward Classes Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal, provides pre-matric and post-matric scholarships to students from SC, ST, and OBC categories. The scholarships aim to support students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with family income limits ranging from ₹1,00,000 to ₹2,50,000 per annum. The CID's inquiry is likely aimed at identifying irregularities and potential misappropriation of scholarship funds. The recent scam involving fake certificates has raised concerns about the authenticity of scholarship recipients. The investigation seeks to verify the legitimacy of students receiving scholarships and uncover any possible wrongdoing.

Fires rage foresters on edge; frequent blazes stoke fears of damage to biodiversity in north

MI News Service, Siliguri: Wildfires continue unabated in north Bengal during the ongoing dry spell, much to the concern of foresters and nature conservationists. On Thursday, a fire broke out in the Gorumara National Park — the second largest habitat of one-horned rhinos in Bengal — in Jalpaiguri district and destroyed the foliage and undergrowth on around 50 hectares. Forest department personnel and fire tenders took hours to bring the fire under control. Similar fires broke out in a stretch of the Baikunthapur forest, on the outskirts of Siliguri, and in Jaowari, a village in the Bijanbari block of Darjeeling district, on Friday. While foresters and firemen doused the flames in Baikunthapur, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which is posted along the India-Nepal border, controlled the blaze in Jaowari. Smoke and the flames were seen under the Dabgram range of the Baikunthapur forest division. “The fire broke out near the Teesta canal on the way to Gajoldoba of Jalpaiguri. It started spreading steadily with thick smoke billowing across the area,” said a Gajoldoba resident. The forest staff and fire tenders reached the spot and could

eventually control the flames. Earlier, a similar fire had broken out in the Sarugara range of the division and in some forests of the Kurseong forest division. Jaowari is under the jurisdiction of Lodhama police station of Darjeeling district and near Manebhanjyang — known for the famous Sandakphu trek. When the flames were spotted at Jaowari, along with foresters, police and villagers, the SSB personnel doused the fire. A team of 20 personnel under the leadership of an inspector was sent to the spot to control the situation. “A timely intervention of the SSB and others helped in controlling the fire before it could reach the residential areas of the village. The SSB worked for hours to ensure that the fire didn't spread further,” said a villager. Frequent wildfires have led to an increase in air pollution in Siliguri and its surroundings. Bhaskar J.V, the chief conservator of forests (wildlife, north), said in most cases, it was found that fire occurred in such places of forests where people move in frequently. “These wildfires occurred in areas where stretches of the forest land are covered with foliage,” he said.



ICCER hosts 'Pen Mahotsab' in Kolkata on Saturday.

“Jobless couple in Murhidabad commits suicide”

MI News Service, Murshidabad: The Supreme Court on Thursday ordered the cancellation of the jobs of 26,000 teachers. About 2,500 teachers from Murshidabad are on that list. Thousands of families are spending their days in intense anxiety about who will get a new job, how will the family run, who will take care of the family, how will they get a new job, and whether they will get one at all. A recent Supreme Court decision has led to the cancellation of 26,000 teaching jobs, with approximately 2,500 teachers from Murshidabad affected. This ruling has sparked widespread anxiety among families, who are now worried about their livelihoods and the possibility of re-employment. In Berhampur, Arnab Yash and his wife Chandrani Dutta, both geography teachers, have lost their jobs. The news of their job loss spread quickly, and the community is abuzz with concern. Tragically, Arnab's mother, Manjula Yash, passed away due to a heart attack, which the family believes was triggered by the anxiety of her son and daughter-in-law losing their jobs simultaneously. The job cancellations have taken a significant emotional toll on the affected teachers. Many are struggling to cope with the loss of their livelihoods and the uncertainty of their future. The situation is further complicated by the social stigma associated with job loss, which can lead to feelings of shame, guilt, and anxiety. A psychologist, Ranjan Bhattacharya, shared a post on Facebook about a

couple who came to him for counseling. The couple, who have a 5-year-old daughter, expressed their desire to commit suicide due to the loss of their jobs and the subsequent loss of social respect. Ranjan Babu's post highlights the emotional turmoil faced by many affected teachers. The couple, who have been married for seven years, are struggling to cope with the loss of their jobs. Ranjan Babu's conversation with them revealed that their desire to commit suicide stems more from feelings of humiliation and self-loathing than financial uncertainty. Ranjan Babu's Facebook post has sparked a wave of discussion, with many calling for humanity to triumph over ideologies and interests. He emphasizes the need to stand by those affected by the job cancellations and provide support during this deep crisis. The Supreme Court's decision to cancel 26,000 teaching jobs has significant implications for the education sector. While the court's verdict aims to address allegations of fraud in the recruitment process, it has left many innocent teachers facing an uncertain future. As the affected teachers navigate this challenging time, it is essential to provide them with support and understanding. The state government has announced plans to begin a fresh recruitment process within three months, which may offer some hope for those affected. However, the road ahead will be difficult, and it is crucial to prioritize the well-being of those impacted by this decision.

Last teacher leaves, Group D staff step in, crisis deepens at govt school

MI News Service, Hoogly: A concerning situation has arisen in Hooghly, where a government school has been left with no teachers. The sole teacher in the school has departed, leaving the entire responsibility in the hands of a Group D employee. This unexpected turn of events has raised concerns about the future of education in the affected school. Khanak Gujarat Junior High School is facing an uncertain future after Abhijit Palui, the only teacher and TIC, lost his job due to a Supreme Court verdict affecting 26,000 teachers in West Bengal. The school, with 40 students, is now relying on a Group D employee to manage its operations. Palui, who has been dedicated to his role, expressed his concerns about the impact on his family and the students. Despite his own struggles, he continues to visit the school to ensure the students' education isn't disrupted. His situation highlights the challenges faced by many teachers in similar circumstances. The Supreme Court's decision has sparked debate, with some educators arguing that accepting the High Court verdict would have prevented this crisis. Education activist Mrinal Santra questioned the future of these schools, citing concerns about who will teach the students and manage daily operations. As Palui prepares to meet with the Chief Minister, he remains uncertain about his future and the fate of his students. With his family's well-being hanging in the balance, he hopes for a resolution that will allow him to continue providing quality education.



CP of Kolkata Manoj Kumar Verma visits Barabazar area to check security measures regarding Ram Navami on Saturday.

W.Bengal embraces RAM NAVAMI with caution & devotion Kolkata & Bengal police go whole hog to maintain peace

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata and West Bengal police have left no stone unturned to maintain calm and peace amid Ram Navami celebration. The police forces have taken all the possible measures so that the eternal communal tension does not let to any situation leading to absolute mops and brooms. Several restrictions have been imposed as the city and district levels. Sensitive and ultra sensitive areas have been marked and special arrangements have been made accordingly. Police have also urged all political parties and social organizations not to indulge in any provocative activities leading to absolute mayhem.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma has detailed an extensive security blueprint for the upcoming Ram Navami festivities, emphasizing zero tolerance for any

disruption of communal harmony. The police force will implement special deployments across more than 200 identified sensitive locations city-wide, with Commissioner Verma saying, "We are fully prepared to take stringent action against any attempts to disturb peace." The security apparatus includes heightened cyber surveillance to monitor inflammatory content, pre-emptive meetings with community leaders, and strategically positioned quick response teams. This comes in the wake of recent tensions, including a communal violence case registered at Shyampur police station in Howrah and the filing of 19 related cases resulting in 61 arrests in Malda's Mothabari unrest.

In the mean time, Additional Director General (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar confirmed the initiation of legal proceedings under stringent IPC

sections (153A, 295A, 353) against those circulating provocative materials. ADG (Law and Order) Jawed Shamim reinforced public safety advisories, urging citizens to verify information before sharing on social media and to immediately report suspicious activities through the police emergency number 100. Police highlighted West Bengal's historical precedent of peaceful concurrent celebrations of Ram Navami and Eid, with this year's security preparations being the most comprehensive to date. The situation in previously volatile Mothabari remains stable with continued police vigilance following recent unrest in the Malda region. Police officials expressed confidence in maintaining law and order through coordinated efforts with community stakeholders and robust ground-level presence.

KMC mulls setting up booster pumping stn at Rifle Range Rd

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a bid to solve the drinking water crisis, as well as replace ground water with treated surface water, Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to construct a semi-underground reservoir cum booster pumping station in ward 65 at Rifle Range Road. According to KMC, ground water served through a big diameter tubewell is required to be substituted by means of treated surface water. There are some pockets in different wards where the area is being served through ground water with the help of power-driven tube wells. Also, there are some crisis pockets which are required to be augmented providing treated surface water at these areas. Water Supply department officials said that about ten wards have been identified; such substitution is to be implemented and water pressure profile is to be improved. These wards are 13, 97, 110, 67, 100, 103, 89, 65, 99 and 130. Surveys were conducted and spaces have been earmarked for construction of the booster pumping stations and semi underground reservoirs. As per information made available, KMC has already taken up construction of one additional 20 MGD capacity water treatment plant inside the Jai Hind WTP campus. Also, another new treatment plant of 10 MGD capacity will be constructed at the available land near Dhalai Bridge at the junction of Garia Station Road and EM Bypass. This project is sanctioned under AMRUT scheme. Additionally, KMC has already increased the capacity of Indira Gandhi WTP by constructing one 20 MGD capacity WTP.

KMC records tampered: Mayor

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) assessment records were "tampered with" to get permission to construct a five-storey building off Creek Row, Kolkata mayor Firhad Hakim said. The tampering came to light after a Creek Row resident filed an RTI appeal about the 1-cottah 15-chhatak plot with the civic body. He wanted to know whether the KMC had approved any new building on the plot.

According to Sayantak Das, who had filed the RTI, the reply revealed that a five-storey building was approved under a special provision meant for tenanted buildings. Das said he and several other neighbours then wrote to the KMC that a two-storey building on the plot never had any tenants. "I applied to see the inspection book (IB). I was shown both the physical copy and the copy on the online server. The discrepancy came to light at this point. The name of the tenant was there in the physical IB record, but not uploaded on-



line," said Das. The IB record is the primary report prepared by KMC officials after field visits and mentions the necessary details about a property. The plot on Mahendra Sarkar Street, off Creek Row, in Ward 50, had a two-storey building standing till last year. The demolition started a little after Durga Puja. "The inspection book records of the KMC were tampered with. This is a criminal offence. The complainant has also filed a criminal case. We have forwarded the matter for further probe. Whoever is involved will be punished," Hakim said. The mayor admitted that people within the KMC could be involved in it.

"The property owners had manipulated the records, seemingly with help from someone within KMC, to show tenants were living in the building. This allowed them to take advantage of a provision in KMC's building rules that lets additional built space in tenanted buildings compared to what is allowed in a plot of similar size and with roads having similar width, but with no tenant," said Das. Section 142 of the KMC's Building Rules allowed additional built-up area in a building if it has tenants, said officials. The special provision was included to ensure that all tenants in such buildings got space in a new building once the old one was demolished and a new building was built. The assurance of space in the new building would convince the tenants to leave their space in a crumbling building and ensure that dilapidated buildings were pulled and new structures replaced them. "We have revoked the permission for the new construction," Hakim added.

HC rejects plea opposing NCLT Kolkata Bench shift to New Town

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court has dismissed a plea challenging the shifting of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT), Kolkata Bench, to New Town while highlighting that the plans to shift the High Court to the same place is in the pipeline. The bench of Justice Amrita Sinha was hearing the writ petition challenging the act of the Centre to shift the NCLT, Kolkata bench from its present location at 5, Esplanade Row West, B.B.D. Bag to Corporate Bhawan at New Town. Petitioners submitted that the building where NCLT is currently located is in the vicinity of the High Court and has enough space to house the benches presently functioning. The present location is easily accessible by all stakeholders,

including the advocates, their staff and the litigants. It was contended that the place where NCLT is sought to be shifted is in an extremely remote area, approximately twenty-eight kilometres away from the High Court. The place is not properly accessible. There is a lack of supportive infrastructure in and around the new site. None of the stakeholders will be able to avail the facility for which the tribunal has been set up. Further, it was contended that there is high chance of the judiciary being influenced if the corporate affairs department is permitted to set up the infrastructural facility of NCLT. The Deputy Solicitor General, appearing for the Centre, submitted that the pleading relating to interfer-

ence was an oral submission and not part of the writ petition. The decision to shift the venue is a policy decision and the court ought not to interfere with the same. It was not a PIL. Hence, petitioners can't claim themselves as aggrieved parties. On the location issue, the court observed: "These are the initial birth pangs which occur whenever a new site or a place is tried to be developed. One has to overcome these factors to achieve anything new. Over a period of time the subject place will definitely be bustling with life." "The shift of the location of the High Court to New Town is also in the pipeline, and may be, over a period of time, both the institutions will again be in the vicinity of the other," court observed.

Another round of talks begin with Meitei-Kuki groups on Nipmur conflict resolution

From PG 1
peace. Shah said the situation in Manipur is largely under control as there has been no death in the last four months but it can't be considered satisfactory as the displaced people are still living in relief camps. President's rule in Manipur was imposed on February 13 after the then Chief minister N Biren Singh resigned on February 9. The state assembly, which has a tenure till 2027, has been put under suspended animation. About 260 people have lost their lives ever since the ethnic violence broke out between the Imphal valley-based Meitei and neighbouring hills-based Kuki communities in May 2023. Several thousand arms were looted from different police stations across Manipur during the initial phase of the conflict. However, following a recent appeal from the state administration more than 1200 sophisticated weapons and huge number of ammunition were surrendered to the police by the members of both the communities. Ajay Kumar Bhalla, who took charge as governor on January 3, has ever since been meeting a cross section of people and taking feedback from them on how to bring back normalcy in the state. Bhalla, a former Union home secretary, who had closely worked with Shah for five years till August 2024, was hand-picked by the Union home minister and is said to have been tasked with restoring peace in the restive state. After the imposition of President's rule, the governor had taken a number of steps to restore peace and bring back normalcy, including asking those who looted arms from security forces to surrender them. The central government also endeavoured to open the state's road for normal traffic, though the effort was not successful due to opposition from the Kukis. Travel through areas inhabited by Meiteis or Kukis is completely prohibited for the other community. While Kukis travel mostly through Mizoram to travel outside the state, the Meiteis do not go to the hills dominated by the Kukis. The violence in Manipur began after a Tribal Solidarity March organised in the hill districts to protest against an order of the Manipur High Court on the Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe status.

Mothabari Clash: HC asks state govt to file reports

MI News Service, Kolkata: Calcutta High Court directed the central and state governments to file reports on the recent clash at Mothabari in Malda last week. "The issue is no doubt serious. The state administration should take every possible step to protect common people and maintain harmony in the area," said Justice Soumen Sen, who headed a division bench. The state and central governments will have to file separate reports after four weeks of filing a supplementary affidavit by the petitioner within one week. The matter will be heard after five weeks.

The bench, however, refused to accede to the request of the additional solicitor general of eastern India that the Centre could deploy paramilitary forces if the court felt it necessary. The order followed a public interest litigation filed by residents of Mothabari demanding the central government's intervention in the issue. On Friday last week, the same bench had sought separate reports from the SP and DM of Malda, along with video footage of the incident. In their reports, the SP and the DM said a clash between two communities had occurred while a procession was passing by a place of worship. The reports admitted that injuries, arson and damage to vehicles took place during the clash.



TMC activists took part in a protest march against price hike of life-saving medicines in Kolkata on Saturday.

Police should act against errant hawkers: Firhad

MI News Service, Kolkata: Police should "suo motu" evict any new encroachment by hawkers because it was their responsibility to ensure that government land was not taken over, mayor Firhad Hakim said.

The mayor also spoke about how hawkers had taken over the roads in New Market despite the roads being cleared of encroachments earlier. "The police should act suo motu in such cases. It is the police's responsibility to evict illegal encroachment on government land," said Hakim. "I will write to the police once more. But they should evict encroachments on their own," Hakim told the caller from Kasba. The man had told Hakim that when he went to Kasba police station with the plea to remove the hawkers, the police officers there told him that the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) had written to the police only once about the encroachment. "The police told me that the KMC has not been in touch with them for long," said the Kasba resident. A senior officer of Kasba police station said he was not aware of the complaint. "I will have to enquire about this," he said.

JU Alumnus provides Rs 1 Cr for chemical engg lab

MI News Service, Kolkata: An alumnus of Jadavpur University, who is based in the US now, inaugurated a laboratory of the chemical engineering department on Friday. The lab was renovated with his contribution of ₹1 crore. Part of the amount went into setting up a centre for sustainable development.

Sanat Chattopadhyay, who graduated from the chemical engineering department in 1981, said that the laboratory "had fallen into a state of disrepair" and needed urgent restoration. Chattopadhyay now heads a division of a global pharmaceutical chain headquartered in the US. "The building and equipment, crucial for hands-on education for any chemical engineer, were in urgent need of restoration."

It was clear that without intervention, the heart of practical chemical engineering education here would suffer," he said in the presence of the JU pro-vice-chancellor, registrar and officials. Chattopadhyay later told that he was "shocked" to see the condition of the laboratory.

"I would say the condition was much better in 1981 when we graduated. With the corpus of ₹70 lakh, we had to do a lot of civil engineering and buy the latest equipment."

He contributed ₹30 lakh to develop the Sanat Chattopadhyay Research Centre for Sustainable Development (SCRES), which is an integral academic establishment set up with a mission to drive high-impact research in sustainability, ensuring economic growth while maintaining ecological balance.

Sri Lanka confers country's highest civilian award to PM

From PG 1
awarded the Sri Lanka Mithra Vibhushana by President Dissanayake," Modi said, adding that this was also an honour for 1.4 billion Indians. The recipient is awarded a citation and a silver medal to be worn around the neck, studded and adorned with nine types of Sri Lankan gems and the symbols of a lotus, globe, sun, moon and sheaves of rice. The Dharma Chakra on the medal reflects the shared Buddhist heritage that has shaped the cultural traditions of both nations. The Pun Kalasa or ceremonial pot adorned with sheaves of rice symbolises prosperity and renewal. The Navarathna or nine precious gems are depicted

within a globe encircled by lotus petals. Modi has received state honours from more than 15 countries, including Saudi Arabia's Order of King Abdul Aziz, the Order of the State of Palestine, the United Arab Emirates' Order of Zayed, the Order of Fiji, and Egypt's Order of the Nile. Last month, Mauritius conferred its highest civilian honour, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, on Modi when he visited the country to participate in national day celebrations. In this image released by PMO, Prime Minister Narendra Modi being greeted by members of the Indian community upon his arrival in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

PM Modi to open India's first vertical lift sea bridge in Rameswaram

From PG 1
facilitating smooth movement of larger ships while ensuring seamless train operations, it said. 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. In 1914, British engineers constructed the original Pamban Bridge, a cantilever (a long piece of metal or wood that extends from a wall to support the end of a bridge) structure with a Scherzer Rolling Lift span to connect Rameswaram Island with mainland India. For over a century, it served as a critical lifeline for pilgrims, tourists, and trade. However, the harsh marine environment and growing transportation demands necessitated a modern solution. In 2019, the Government of India sanctioned the construction of a technologically advanced, future-ready replacement.

The new Pamban Bridge was constructed by Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Railways overcoming several challenges, including environmental obstacles to logistical complexities, the Palk Strait's turbulent waters, strong winds, and unpredictable weather patterns created difficulties in the construction process. Additionally, the region's susceptibility to cyclones and seismic activity necessitated careful planning and robust design. It shares similarities with other globally recognised bridges known for their technological advancements and unique designs. These include the Golden Gate Bridge in the United States, Tower Bridge in London and the Oresund Bridge in Denmark-Sweden. Each of these iconic structures, though different in design and functionality, represents a pinnacle of engineering excellence.

"Now, the new Pamban Bridge stands proudly in their company, combining cutting-edge technology with the challenges posed by India's coastal and seismic conditions," the sources said.

China hits back with 34% tariff on US goods after Trump's trade salvo

From PG 1
businesses relying on cross-border logistics. This latest escalation comes as US trade officials re-examine China's compliance with the 2020 "Phase 1" trade deal. Under the agreement, Beijing had committed to increasing US imports by USD 200 billion over two years. However, China has consistently fallen short of those targets, blaming the Covid-19 pandemic and global supply chain issues. Despite heightened tensions, economic ties between the two countries remain deeply entrenched. Chinese customs data reveals that China imported USD 154 billion worth of US goods in 2017, before the trade war began. That number rose to USD 164 billion in 2024, showing continued trade even amid policy clashes. After months of speculation and public hullabaloo, US President Donald Trump announced a barrage of "reciprocal tariffs" on nearly all the countries in the world, including India on Wednesday afternoon (local time). The 27 per cent reciprocal tariffs or import duties on Indian goods will pose significant challenges for Indian industries to enter into the American markets. However, captains of several industries are also of the view that despite such high tariff, India's position is comparatively 'more favourable' than that of its competitor nations. US President Donald Trump celebrated America's "Liberation Day" on April 2 by announcing "reciprocal tariffs" against all major trading partners saying the US runs a trade deficit of around USD1.2 trillion. Trade deficit is the difference between the value of goods the US exports and the value of goods the US imports. A trade deficit (shown with a minus sign) of more than a trillion dollars means the US imports a trillion dollars worth more of goods than it exports. There were two sets of tariffs announced.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shruti Shaw D/o Ashoke Shaw residing at 57, Patterson Road, Hatinagar, PO.-Hazinagar, PS.- Naihati, District-North 24 Parganas, declare that in my Admit Card & Certificate of M.P.Exam, and Admit Card & Certificate of H.S. Exam my father's name has been recorded as Ashok Shaw instead of his actual name Ashoke Shaw as mentioned in my Aadhaar Card. Ashok Shaw and Ashoke Shaw both are same and one identical person vide affidavit date 20.11.24 & 12.11.24 sworn before Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pinki Das W/o Late Ruhi Das residing at North Bakarsa Govt Colony, P.O – Bakarsa, Dist – Howrah – 711110, W.B., have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Pinki Ruhidas Das as declare before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 1074 dated 04.04.25 and Pinki Das and Pinki Ruhidas Das both are same and one identical person i.e., myself

NAME CHANGE
I, Debabrata Chakraborty son of Late Ashipada Chakraborty of Kamarkundu Hooghly 712407, presently residing at 90, Ibrahimpur Road Jadavpur Kolkata-700 032, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debabrata Chakraborty, as declared before the First class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore Court 24 Parganas (south), vide Affidavit No--61984, dated: 23rd September 2024. Debabrata Chakraborty and Debabrata Chakraborty both are the same and identical persons.

NAME CHANGE
I, Anindita Debnath D/o Gopal Chandra Debnath, W/o Arindam Naskar, R/A 28 Naskar Para Road, Santoshpur, Kolkata - 700075, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anindita Debnath Naskar as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Court (W.B.) vide Affidavit No.- A/50 dated 04.04.2025. Anindita Debnath and Anindita Debnath Naskar both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sangeeta Jaiswal, W/O- Arun Kumar Jaiswal, Residing at AQUA 1002, Siddha Happy Ville, Rajarhat Chowmatha, P.O. & P.S.- Rajarhat, Dist.- 24 PGS (N), West Bengal- 700135 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Sangita Jaiswal as declared before the Notary Public Calcutta Court West Bengal vide affidavit no. 9417 Dated 18/03/2025 Sangeeta Jaiswal and Sangita Jaiswal both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Arun Jaiswal, S/O- Late Ramnarayan Jaiswal, Residing at AQUA 1002, Siddha Happy Ville, Rajarhat Chowmatha, P.O. & P.S.- Rajarhat, Dist.- 24 PGS (N), West Bengal- 700135 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Arun Kumar Jaiswal as declared before the Notary Public Calcutta Court West Bengal vide affidavit no. 9416 Dated 18/03/2025 Arun Jaiswal and Arun Kumar Jaiswal both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Manish Raj Khatnani S/o Shaman Das Khatnani residing at 146C, Kailash Pandit Lane, New Alipore, Kolkata – 700053 declare that I am a Indian citizen. In some important document my name has been recorded as Manish Raj and I sign everywhere in the name of Manish Raj. I shall be henceforth known as Manish Raj Katnani vide affidavit dated 02.04.2025 sworn in 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore. Manish Raj Khatnani and Manish Raj both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I,Sanchita Saha (Old Name) W/O Majid Khan And D/O Basab Kumar Saha, Residing At Teghoria, Patharghata, Po-Kashinathpur, Ps-Technocity, Dist-24 Parganas North, Pin-700135, India, I Have Changed My Religion Hindu To Muslim And Also Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shaheen Khan(New Name) As Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Sealdah Court Vide Affidavit No.1164 Dated 05/02/2019. Sanchita Saha (Old Name) And Shaheen Khan (New Name) Both Are Same And Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I,Aftar Ali(Old Name) S/O Md Abdul Ali,Residing At Deganga Bajar Para,Po-Deganga,Dist -24 Parganas North,Pin-743423,West Bengal,India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Aftar Ali(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Alipore Court On 26/03/2025.Aftar Ali(Old Name) And Md Aftar Ali (New Name) Both Are Same And Identical Person.

Felicitation programme for the brave mothers of Soldiers serving in Indian Defence Forces at Bagnan

MI News Service, Howrah: Desire of Bagnan, Howrah organised a blood donation camp for Indian Army and gave respect to the mothers of soldiers in the name of “Birgarva” on 23rd March in the premises of Bagnan Adarsha Balika Vidyalaya.
The blood donation camp was headed by Cpt. Shaloo Naryal with her team from Command Hospital Alipore. The gracious presence of Ritish Ranjan Chakraborty, the All India Secretary of Surnandan Bharati, Dr. Umashankar Chakraborty, Scientist NASA, Mr. Sadananda Naskar, I.A.A.S. and other dignified guests glorified the programme.
More than 125 donors voluntarily donated blood to show their respect for Indian Defence Forces. Thirty above mothers of the sons who are serving in different wings of Indian Defence Forces had been felicitated in this auspicious programme.



Name Change
I, Pradip Kumar Ray, residing at 23/1, Telipara Lane, Bhadreswar, Hooghly (W.B.) declare that my father Gopi Mohon Roy and Gopi Mohon Ray and Gopi Mohan Ray is one and identical person vide an affidavit dt. 10.12.2024, Sl. No. 6141 at Chandernagore Court.

Name Change
I, Chhanda Ray and Chhanda Biswas (Ray), residing at 23/1, Telipara Lane, Bhadreswar, Hooghly (W.B.) Shall henceforth be known as CHHANDA RAY BISWAS vide an affidavit dt. 06.03.2025, Sl. No. 1300 at Chandernagore Court.

Name Change
I, Pradip Kr. Ray, residing at 23/1, Telipara Lane, Bhadreswar, Hooghly (W.B.) Shall henceforth be known as PRADIP KUMAR RAY vide an affidavit dt. 06.03.2025, Sl. No. 1299 at Chandernagore Court.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sarmistha Das Basak (Old Name) W/O Abhishek Basak And D/O Sambhu Das Residing At Korar Bagan, Bongoaon,Dist-24 Parganas North, Pin-743235, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sarmistha Das(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 04/04/2025. Sarmistha Das Basak (Old Name) And Sarmistha Das (New Name) Both Are Same And Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Asit Bose (old name) S/O Late Sitanshu Shekhar Bose @ Late Sitanshu Sekhar Bose, residing at 107, Rammoan Roy Sarani, P.O.- Baidyabati, P.S.- Serampore, Chandannagar, District- Hooghly, Pin- 712222, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashit Kumar Bose (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Ashit Kumar Bose (new name) and Asit Bose (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Jahanara Khatun Mondal (old name) W/O Ashabul Seikh, residing at Vill.- Barachupria, P.O.- Chupria, P.S.- Hanskhali, Dist.- Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jahanara Sekh (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Jahanara Sekh (new name) and Jahanara Khatun Mondal (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ruma Chakravarti (old name) W/O Sujit Kumar Chakraborty, residing at 2E/85 Bibek Nagar, P.O.- Jadavpur, P.S.- Garfa, Kolkata- 700075, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ruma Chakraborty (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Ruma Chakraborty (new name) and Ruma Chakravarti (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Debapriya Mukherjee (old name) W/O Subham Mukherjee, residing at 64/4, Abinash Banerjee Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Santragachi, Dist.- Howrah, Pin-711104, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debapriya Mukherjee Bhattacharya (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Debapriya Mukherjee Bhattacharya (new name) and Debapriya Mukherjee (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ashwin Goenka (old name) S/O Sharad Kumar Goenka, residing at Meena Residency, Dhalipara Teghoria, Block F/A2, Bidhannagar, Pin- 700157, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashwin Kumar Goenka (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Ashwin Kumar Goenka (new name) and Ashwin Goenka (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Saiful Kazi (old name) S/O Jubbar Kazi, residing at Vill.- Bardhanberia, P.O.- Bairampur, P.S.- Gopal Nagar, North 24 PGS, Pin- 743262, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saiful Kazi (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Saiful Kazi (new name) and Saiful Kazi (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sital Chandra Dhara (old name) S/O Late Methar Chandra Dhara, residing at Anandanagar, P.S.- Singur, Hooghly, Pin- 712409, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sital Dhara (new name) and Sital Chandra Dhara (old name) both are same and identical person

NAME CHANGE
I, Chaudhary Jayanto Durgadas (old name) S/O Late Durga Das Choudhury, residing at Monorama Apratment Municipality Road, P.O.- Neamatpur, P.S.- Kult, Paschim Bardhaman, Pin- 713359, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jayanto Choudhury (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Jayanto Choudhury (new name) and Chaudhary Jayanto Durgadas (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Bidyasagar Paul And Vidya Sagar Paul, Son Of Kishar Pal, Residing At Vill - Uludanga,Po - Maslandapur, Ps - Habra, North 24 Parganas - 743289, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bidhyasagar Pal Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 04/04/2025.That Bidyasagar Paul And Vidya Sagar Paul Also Bidhyasagar Pal All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sayrabanu Khatun Shekh (old name) W/O Rahel Ali Shekh, residing at Vill- Gotra, P.O.- Gotra, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743422, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sayrabanu Khatun Sekh (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Sayrabanu Khatun Sekh (new name) and Sayrabanu Khatun Shekh (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Uttma Karmakar (old name) S/O Atul Chandra Karmakar, residing at Vill.- Parulia, P.O.- Parulia, P.S.- Purbasthali, Dist.- Purbia Bardhaman, Pin-713513, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Uttam Karmakar (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Uttam Karmakar (new name) and Uttma Karmakar (old name) both are same and identical person.

Regulation of trains over Howrah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Track, Signal & Over Head Equipment maintenance work in Howrah -Barddhaman Chord section, Howrah Division, Traffic & Power Block has been planned on 06.04.2025. Consequently following arrangements in train running have been made as under:
Cancellation of Trains on 06.04.2025 (Sunday):
• From Howrah: 36033, 36825
• From Chandanpur: 36034
• From Barddhaman: 36834
• From Dankuni: 32228, 32232
• From Sealdah: 32227, 32231
Moreover, 12504 Agartala - SMVT Bengaluru Humsar Express will be controlled for 50 minutes enroute on 06.04.2025.

A passenger evacuation mock drill conducted with NDRF & WBF&S teams inside Metro tunnels



MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway always gives top priority to the safety and security of the commuters. In order to check the preparedness of Metro staff to tackle any emergency like earthquake and its impact on rakes inside the tunnels and subsequent injury to the passengers, a passenger evacuation mock drill was conducted jointly with National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and West Bengal Fire & Emergency Services (WBF&S) personnel inside the Metro tunnels in between Howrah and Mahakaran Metro stations on 04.04.2025 night after the commercial hours.
Motormen and station officials were trained and counseled by NDRF and WBF&S team on how to take immediate necessary action to rescue passengers from a trapped rake in case of such an emergency.
The objective of this mock drill was to sharpen the evacuation skills as well as check alertness and preparedness of them to tackle such emergencies.

Senior Metro officers and staff of different departments were present during this drill.
It is to be noted that Metro Railway authorities regularly conduct such mock drills inside the tunnels, on viaducts to ensure passengers' safety.

Winner announcement of 10th Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize

MI News Service, Kolkata: The winner of the Tenth Oxford Bookstore Book Cover Prize will be announced at the India Habitat Centre on Friday, 4th April 2025. This highly anticipated event will be an exciting celebration of both art and literature, and we are thrilled to honor the outstanding work of talented artists and designers.

We are excited to share that Devangana Dash will be announced as the winner for this year's prize for her exceptional cover design of Conversations with Aurangzeb: A Novel, authored by Charu Nivedita, translated from Tamil by Nandini Krishnan, and published by Perennial, an imprint of HarperCollins.
If you would be interested in conducting an interview with the designer of the winning book, please let us know, and we will be happy to coordinate with her promptly. Kindly indicate whether you would prefer to conduct the interview via phone call or Zoom, and we will make the necessary arrangements.

NAME CHANGE
I, Shyamol Mondal (old name) S/O Late Upendranath Mondal, residing at Rashmoni villa nangi gomo shaw para batanagar, Kolkata- 700140, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shyamal Mondal (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolkata, dated 04/04/2025. Shyamol Mondal (new name) and Shyamol Mondal (old name) both are same and identical person.

Cleanliness awarenessn program conducted at Belghoria station



MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway' Sealdah Division organized a Cleanliness Awareness Program at Belgharia Station to educate passengers,

vendors, and other railway users on the importance of maintaining a hygienic and eco-friendly railway environment. The initiative was actively supported by the

Health, Commercial and Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel.

The program focused on promoting awareness about proper waste dispos-

Multipurpose health drive organised at Jasidih station

MI News Service, Kolkata: Under the guidance of the Chief Medical Superintendent, Divisional Railway Hospital, Asansol and in the presence of Dr. Aniruddha Kirtania, Hon'ble Principal Chief Medical Director, Eastern Railway and Dr. P.S. Mitra, Additional Chief Medical Director (Health & Family Welfare), Eastern Railway, a Multipurpose Health Drive was organised at Jasidih Station on April 4, 2025. A dedicated team of medical professionals, including renowned doctors, nurses, dieticians, pharmacists, and other paramedical staff, participated in the initiative.

Dr. Aniruddha Kirtania personally attended to several patients at the camp, prescribing medicines and offering valuable health guidance. During his address, he strongly emphasized the urgent need for establishing a Health Unit at Jasidih to cater to the



medical needs of railway employees and their dependents residing not only at Jasidih but also at Baidyanathdham and Deoghar stations. He acknowledged that this long-standing demand, once fulfilled, would significantly improve access to medical care in the region.

During the health camp, a range of diagnostic tests including height, weight, BMI, ECG, and necessary blood tests were conducted. Specialist doctors provided consultations and pre-

scribed medicines, which were distributed on-site. Participants were also educated on healthy lifestyles, balanced nutrition, and good health practices.

Approximately 184 railway employees and their dependents availed the benefits of this health camp.

It is worth mentioning that Eastern Railway's hospital management regularly organises such health camps as part of its ongoing efforts to promote preventive healthcare and employee wellness.

A historic tale of vision, dedication, and cultural confluence in the Sundarbans: Sir Daniel Hamilton and Rabindranath Tagore

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amidst the emerald waters and mangrove forests of the Sundarbans lies a tale of vision, dedication, and cultural confluence. The story of Sir Daniel Hamilton, a Scottish magnate who embraced India as his own, intertwines with the footprints of the Nobel Laureate, Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore.
Arriving in India in 1880, Sir Daniel Hamilton chose to make Bengal his home, dedicating himself to the upliftment of the poverty-stricken populace under British rule. In 1903, on the remote yet serene deltaic island of Gosaba, he built his abode the historic Beacon's Bungalow. Standing on sturdy wooden stilts, this architectural marvel bore witness to an era of transformative socio-economic initiatives.

In recognition of Hamilton's relentless efforts, Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore himself journeyed to Gosaba at the Scottish visionary's invitation. On 29th December 1932, a special railway coach was arranged for the poet, carrying him to Canning Railway Station, the gateway to the Sundarbans. At 10:30 a.m., Tagore arrived, embarking on an expedition that would etch Gosaba into the annals of history.



Tagore spent two days at the Beacon's Bungalow, observing the cooperative initiatives that Hamilton had pioneered, reminiscent of his own ideals in Sriniketan and Santiniketan. Their shared dreams of rural empowerment resonated in letters exchanged between them, forging an intellectual and philanthropic bond.

A relic of this historic visit remains preserved at Running Room of Canning station - a chair on which Tagore sat while waiting for his return train. Beyond its tangible presence, the true legacy is the spirit of development and self-sufficiency that continues to inspire generations.

It is believed that the name 'Gosaba' was bestowed upon

this island by Tagore himself, derived from the three symbolic elements of the Sundarbans 'Go' from 'Goru' (cow), 'Sa' from 'Saap' (snake), and 'Ba' from 'Bagh' (tiger).

The tale of Sir Daniel Hamilton and Rabindranath Tagore is not just a fragment of history but a guiding light for future endeavors in sustainable development and human welfare. Gosaba remains a testament to their vision, resonating through the dense mangroves and the aspirations of its people.

To reach Bacon's Bungalow (actually, the Rabindranath Tagore Bungalow, which is also known as Hamilton Bungalow) in Gosaba, West Bengal, you'll need to travel to Canning by train from Sealdah, then take a bus or auto to Gadkhali, and finally take a boat to reach the bungalow at Gosaba.

The chair on which the poet sat when he arrived at Canning Station is still being carefully preserved by the Eastern Railway. Eastern Railway is considering showcasing the chair to the public. It is hoped that when the new building is constructed at Canning Station, the poet's memorial chair can be placed in a suitable location for public viewing.

Suspicious death of a youth sparks tension

MI News Service, Kalyani: A youth named Mozful Mandal, a resident of Madandanga in Saguna Gram Panchayat under Kalyani Police Station in Nadia, was found dead under mysterious circumstances, triggering widespread concern and a police investigation.

Mozful had reportedly been missing since last Thursday. His family stated he left home saying he was going to work but never returned.

Repeated attempts to contact him failed as his phone remained switched off.

A 27-year-old woman brought Mozful to Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Hospital in Kalyani in a critical condition. Doctors declared him dead upon arrival. After the declaration of dead, the woman allegedly attempted to flee the hospital, leading to a scuffle. Security guards intervened and detained her, handing her over to the police.

Police sources confirmed

visible strangulation marks on Mozful's neck, raising suspicions of foul play. The deceased's family has alleged that he was murdered but were unsure about any relationship between Mozful and the woman.

Police have initiated an investigation on the nature of the relationship between the woman and the deceased, as well as tracking his movements on the night before his death. The woman is now in police custody and is being interrogated.

Top police officials will be in Nabanna on Ram Navami

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ram Navami is on

Sunday. On one hand, the BJP

Name Change
I, Sri Romit Chattopadhyay, Son of Sukanya Chattopadhyay, residing at 153/1 (BL-1B) Abhiasha Apartment, Bireswar Chatterjee Street, P.O. + P.S. Bally, District Howrah-711201, West Bengal. I am known as Romit Mondal, Son of Sukanya Mondal. My mother married to Sri Gautam Chattopadhyay on 28.04.2024 and since I am known as Romit Chattopadhyay. I do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that there is no legal impediment to treat Romit Mondal and Romit Chattopadhyay is the same and one identical person vide an Affidavit before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Howrah on 03.07.2024.

has prepared for a procession across the state. On the other hand, the police are working hard to ensure that the law and order situation does not deteriorate due to Ram Navami. Therefore, even though Sunday is a holiday, top police officials will be in Nabanna.

Arandi-I Gram Panchayat
Dhamsa, Arandi, Arambagh
Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-Tender is invited from the resourceful and experienced bidders for execution of different work(s) vide Memo No.: 07/RETENDER/CFPG/TIED/ARA-I/2025-26, Date : 04/04/2025, Fund: 15th CFC (Tied). Documents Download/Sale & Bid Submission Closing Date (Online): 11.04.2025 up to 06.00 PM. Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposals (Online): 11.04.2025 at 10.00 AM. For details information visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & undersigned GP Office.
Sd/-
Pradhan,
Arandi-I Gram Panchayat

al, the prohibition of spitting, and discouraging the use of plastic within railway premises. A dedicated team conducted a comprehensive inspection of the station and interacted directly with passengers, vendors, and stakeholders to counsel them on adopting clean and sustainable practices.

Officials emphasized the environmental and health hazards caused by plastic waste and littering, and encouraged the use of eco-friendly alternatives. Passengers were guided to use designated waste bins and were urged to contribute towards building a cleaner railway ecosystem.

EAST COAST RAILWAY

(1) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-01-25
Description of work : UP-GRADATION OF POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WITH ILLUMINATION OF CIRCULATING AREAS AT SOMPETTA, BARUIA, MANDASA ROAD AND PALASA STATION OF KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work : ₹ 1,42,95,406.94, EMD: ₹ 2,21,500/-
(2) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-02-25
Description of work : IMPROVEMENT OF FACILITIES WITH REPLACEMENT OF OVERAGE ELECTRICAL ASSETS IN RUNNING ROOMS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS OVER KHURDA ROAD DIVISION.
Approx cost of the work : ₹ 2,59,26,844.19, EMD: ₹ 2,79,600/-
(3) e-Tender Notice No. e-Tender-Elect-G-03-25
Description of work : RENOVATION OF POWER SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WITH REPLACEMENT OF ELECTRICAL ASSETS IN EAST COAST RAILWAY MIX HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL AT KHURDA ROAD.
Approx cost of the work : ₹ 19,86,372.49, EMD: ₹ 39,700/-
Completion period: 06 months (for Sl. No. 1 & 2) & 03 months (for Sl. No. 3).
Tender closing date & time: at 1500 hrs. of 23.04.2025 (for all tenders).
No manual offers sent by Post/Courier/Fax or in person shall be accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website www.irps.gov.in
Note: The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 10 (Ten) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes/ corrigendum issued for this tender.
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G), PR-7/025-26 Khurda Road

OFFICE OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Salboni, Paschim Medinipur E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No-914/BDO/SALBONI/e/NIT 2025-26 Dated-03.04.2025
e-tender is invited by the B.D.O, Salboni Development Block for a civil work under Salboni Development Block For details pl visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.salboni.in
Bid Publishing date: 04.04.25
Bid Closing date: 11.04.2025
Bid Opening date: 14.04.2025
Sd/-
Block Development Officer Salboni Development Block

OFFICE OF BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER Salboni, Paschim Medinipur E-TENDER NOTICE

NIT No-471/EO/SALBONI PS/e NIT 2025-26 Dated-03.04.2025
e-tender is invited by the E.O, Salboni Panchayat Samity for a civil work under Salboni Panchayat Samity For details pl visit: www.wbtenders.gov.in & www.salboni.in
Bid Publishing date: 04.04.25
Bid Closing date: 11.04.2025
Bid Opening date: 14.04.2025
Sd/-
Executive Officer Salboni Panchayat Samity

PUBLIC NOTICE

Closure of Diagnostics Center
This is to inform our valued patients and patrons that Woda Diagnostics LLP, located at 76/3, Bidhan Sarani, Gr. Fl, Kol-6, will be permanently closed from 01/01/2025 due to some unavoidable reason. We thank you for your trust and support. For any reports, pending inquiries, or assistance, please contact us at wodadiagnostics2020@gmail.com. We regret any inconvenience caused and appreciate your understanding.
Subrata Bose
Woda Diagnostics LLP

Office of the MADHURKUL GRAM PANCHAYAT
VII+P.O.- Madhurkul, P.S.- Domkal, Dist.-Murshidabad. (W.B.)
UNDER DOMKAL BLOCK
NIT No: 14 (2nd Call)/2025-26
Publishing & Submission Start Date: 3.3.2025 from 5.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date: 15.3.2025 up to 12.00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 17.3.2025 after 12.00 PM. Details See in: www.wbtenders.gov.in
Sd/-
Pradhan
Madhurkul Gram Panchayat

New Pamban Bridge: Uniting Bharat Through Progress, Devotion, and Development

MI News Service,

Kolkata: Bharat, a sacred land of the divine, is enriched with 52 Shaktipeeths, 12 Jyotirlings, and the revered Chaar Dhams, deeply reflecting the roots of Hindu culture. Among these, one significant Dham, which is both one of the four Dhams and one of the 12 Jyotirlings, is located on the holy island of Rameswaram. It is believed that before embarking on his battle against Ravana of Lanka, Lord Shri Ram worshipped and consecrated Bhagwan Shri Ramanathaswamy Ji there. From Kashmir to Kaniyakumari, India stands as a vast nation deeply rooted in traditions and culture. Connecting such a country to its spiritual and cultural heritage is a monumental task—one that Indian Railways has been fulfilling for years, bridging people with their sacred destinations.

One such remarkable step is the construction of the 'New Pamban Bridge', undertaken under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This Ram Navami, on the sacred land of Rameswaram, where Bhagwan Ramanathaswamy showers his blessings upon all devotees, a new chapter in Tamil Nadu's progress unfolds with its grand inauguration. The Pamban Bridge, originally built by the British, had become outdated, but the new state-of-the-art bridge represents a fusion of modern engineering and India's rich heritage. Constructed with a vision of New India, this bridge stands as a symbol of progress, innovation, and unwavering commitment to development.

This bridge is not just an infrastructural marvel—it is a symbol of national unity and progress, connecting



people beyond language and politics. Under Modi's leadership, Bharat is moving towards inclusive growth, where development triumphs over division. This bridge will be a game-changer for travel and tourism, making it easier for more devotees to visit Rameswaram and seek the divine darshan of Bhagwan Ramanathaswamy. With improved connectivity, pilgrims from across Bharat will be able to experience the spiritual grandeur of this Beyond religious tourism, the bridge will also boost trade and commerce, allowing more vessels to navigate the waters with ease. It will serve as the lifeline track of Rameswaram, strengthening the region's economy and enhancing its role as a key hub of growth and development.

Running over a stretch of approximately 2 kilometers, with a vertical lift span of 72.5 meters, this engineering marvel is India's first vertical lift rail bridge, built over the vast Indian Ocean. Amidst the fierce waters and the relentless waves crashing against the shore, this bridge stands as a testament to India's technological prowess and unwavering determination. Beyond just connectivity, it will serve as a lifeline for economic growth, boosting trade, tourism, and regional

development. As this bridge opens new pathways, it will not only strengthen Tamil Nadu's progress but also honor the spiritual and cultural legacy of Rameswaram.

Just as the Ram-Ravan Sangram began with the shapna of Bhagwan Ramanathaswamy at Rameswaram, the Vikas Yatra of Bharat will also flourish and advance with the inauguration of this monumental bridge on the same sacred land. This bridge is more than just an infrastructure project—it is a symbol of progress, a testament to India's engineering excellence, and a tribute to the divine legacy of Shri Ram. As it stands tall over the mighty Indian Ocean, it marks the beginning of a new era of growth, connectivity, and prosperity for Tamil Nadu and Bharat.

At a time when debates over the Tamil-Hindi language divide are ongoing in the state, this historic bridge will serve as a unifying force, bringing Indians closer regardless of linguistic differences. While the Tamil Nadu state government has always indulged in divisive politics over development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'One India' is driving forward ambitious projects that strengthen the nation.

President Droupadi Murmu extends greetings on eve of Ram Navami

MI News Service, New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday extended greetings to all fellow citizens on the eve of Ram Navami.

In a message, the President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami, I extend my heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all fellow citizens."

"This holy festival is celebrated as the birth anniversary of Maryada Purushottam Bhagwan Shri Ram. The epic life journey of Bhagwan Shri Ram inspires us to follow the path of truth, dharma and ethics. This festival gives the message to serve humanity with dedication and commitment. This sacred festival motivates people to adopt life values of sacrifice, selfless love and remain committed to one's word," President Murmu said.

"On this holy occasion, let us learn from the ideals of Bhagwan Shri Ram and work together for the well-being of the entire humanity," the President said.

Navratri, which means 'nine nights' in Sanskrit, is a Hindu festival celebrating Goddess Durga and her nine avatars, known collectively as Navdurga.

Hindus observe four Navratris throughout the year, but only two-Chaitra Navratri and Shardiya Navratri—are widely cele-

brated, as they coincide with the changing of the seasons. In India, Navratri is celebrated in various forms and traditions.

The nine-day festival, also known as Ram Navratri, concludes on Ram Navami, which marks the birthday of Lord Ram. Throughout the festival, all nine days are devoted to honoring the nine incarnations of goddess 'Shakti.'

The festival is celebrated with great devotion across India, with rituals and prayers honouring the goddess in her various forms.

Earlier, General Secretary of the Ram Janmabhoomi Tirtha Kshetra, Champat Rai said that there would be an 'Abhishek' of Ram Lalla on April 6 following which 'Shringar' would be done. Further, he stated that Aarti and 'Chappan Bhog' would be offered at the birth time of Ram Lalla. Rai said "On 6th April, in the morning, there will be 'Abhishek' of Ram Lalla. Following this, 'Shringar' will be done. Ram Lalla's time of birth is noon on Navami; At that time, 'aarti' will be performed and 'chappan bhog' will be offered..."

Further, he said that at the same time 'Surya Tilak' of Ram Lalla would be performed for four minutes which would be telecasted worldwide by Doordarshan.

Govt of India standing shoulder to shoulder with state governments during natural calamities: MHA

MI News Service, New Delhi:

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India is standing shoulder-to-shoulder with the state governments during natural calamities and disasters, said a statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs on Saturday.

Under this, the High-Level Committee (HLC), under the Chairmanship of Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah, has approved Rs.1280.35 crore of additional Central assistance to Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and UT of Puducherry, affected by flood, flash flood, cloudburst, landslides, cyclonic storm, during year 2024.

The HLC approved central assistance of Rs.1247.29 crore to three States from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF), subject to an adjustment of 50% of the opening balance for the year available in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and Rs 33.06 crore to one UT. Out of the total amount of Rs 1,280.35 crore, Rs 588.73

crore has been approved for Bihar, Rs 136.22 crore for Himachal Pradesh, Rs 522.34 crore for Tamil Nadu and Rs 33.06 crore for the Union Territory of Puducherry.

This additional assistance is over and above the funds released by the Centre to the States in the SDRF and Union Territorial Disaster Response Fund (UTDRF), already placed at the disposal of the States/UT.

During the financial year 2024-25, the Central Government has released Rs. 20,264.40 crore to 28 States under SDRF and Rs. 5,160.76 crore under NDRF to 19 States. Additionally, Rs. 4984.25 crore from the State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 19 States and Rs. 719.72 crore from the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) to 08 States have also been released.

The Central Government had deputed Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) to these States immediately after the calamities, without waiting for the receipt of a formal Memorandum.

Absconding contractor, accused of killing employee in 2018, arrested: Police

MI News Service, New Delhi:

Delhi Police Crime Branch Cyber Cell has arrested a fugitive contractor who had been absconding since 2018 after murdering his employee from Gaya, Bihar. The accused has been identified as Lakshman Prasad.

"Cyber Cell of the Crime Branch, Daryaganj has traced and arrested a fugitive Contractor Lakshman Prasad (40 years) resident of District Nawada, Bihar from Gaya, Bihar, who had been absconding since 2018 after committing a brutal murder of his employee, a daily wage earner, in PS Mandawali, Delhi area," as per an official release.

In 2018, Lakshman Prasad, along with his nephew, murdered their employee Ram Praveesh for demanding his rightful wages. A case of murder was registered at Police Station Mandawali, and the accused was absconding since registration of FIR, hence was declared a Proclaimed Offender by the Hon'ble Court in 2019.

"With surveillance and advanced tracking efforts, he successfully pinpointed the movements of Lakshman Prasad in Bihar. It was further revealed that he is changing his hideouts frequently. Acting swiftly, a team of Crime Branch strategically laid traps at multiple locations in Bihar, leading to the successful apprehension of the accused from Gaya, Bihar," the release read.

The accused Lakshman Prasad, a graduate from Bihar was working as a contractor of Plaster of Paris (POP) work in Delhi. In 2018, he was working in the Mandawali area of East Delhi and several daily wages

earners were also working under his supervision including the deceased, Ram Praveesh.

"Ram Praveesh had been persistently demanding his pending wages, which were not paid to him in a timely manner. This led to frequent confrontations and heated arguments between the deceased and the accused. The situation escalated over time, and Ram Praveesh allegedly began publicly confronting and pressuring Lakshman Prasad for payment," the release read.

Feeling humiliated and angered by the repeated altercations, Lakshman Prasad hatched a plan with his nephew, Murari, to eliminate the victim. On the pretext of settling the matter, Lakshman Prasad fraudulently called Ram Praveesh to a specific location. When the victim arrived, he was attacked with a knife by both Lakshman and Murari, resulting in serious injuries. Before succumbing to his injuries, Ram Praveesh gave a dying declaration in the hospital, naming both the accused - Lakshman Prasad and Murari - as the perpetrators of the attack.

"Following the incident, both accused persons absconded from the scene and managed to evade arrest. Despite multiple efforts by local police, Lakshman Prasad remained untraceable and was therefore declared a Proclaimed Offender by the Hon'ble Court in 2019. After fleeing from Delhi, he continued working as a POP contractor in various towns and cities, frequently changing his location to avoid detection and arrest," as per the release.



Confectioners prepare Naivedyam laddus on the eve of Ram Navami, in Patna on Saturday.

Account of Press Secretary to Bangladesh Chief Advisor on PM Modi-Yunus meeting is mischievous, politically motivated: Sources

MI News Service,

New Delhi: In regard to remarks by the Press Secretary to Bangladesh Chief Advisor about the meeting of the Bangladesh leader Muhammad Yunus with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, sources have dismissed the account as mischievous and politically motivated.

Sources said on Saturday that the characterisation of PM Modi's remarks regarding the relationship between Yunus and the previous government was also inaccurate.

The sources underlined that PM Modi spoke of the progress in our bilateral relationship since 2014 and characterized it as a deep friendship between our societies and peoples.

They said PM Modi also mentioned the importance of elections as the basis of legitimacy in any democracy.

"A continued procrastination in this regard would damage the Chief Advisor's reputation. The Bangladesh contention that attacks on minorities were a social media concoction was dismissed as being in contradiction of facts on the ground," a source said.

Regarding various specific issues raised by the Chief Advisor, PM Modi told him that this was best discussed by the Foreign Ministers.

Sources said there is no basis for the observation made by the Press Secretary on the extradition request pertaining to former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Sources, in fact, emphasized that such attempts

call into question both the seriousness and the good faith of the interim government. Shafiqul Alam, Press Secretary to Bangladesh Chief Advisor, had posted his remarks on social media.

PM Modi met Professor Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh, on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok on Friday.

PM Modi reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh.

Enunciating India's people-centric approach to the relationship, Prime Minister highlighted that cooperation between the two countries has brought tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

He underlined India's desire to forge a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh based on pragmatism.

Prime Minister urged that rhetoric that vitiates the environment is best avoided. On the border, strict enforcement of the law and prevention of illegal border crossings, especially at night, are necessary for maintaining border security and stability. Bilateral mechanism could meet as appropriate to review and take forward bilateral ties, he said.

PM Modi underlined India's concerns related to the safety and security of minorities in Bangladesh, including Hindus, and expressed his expectation that the Government of Bangladesh would ensure their security, including by

thoroughly investigating the cases of atrocities committed against them.

Prime Minister congratulated Bangladesh on assuming the Chair of BIMSTEC and looked forward to the forum further advancing regional cooperation under its leadership. The leaders agreed to enhance consultations and cooperation to advance regional integration, including under the BIMSTEC framework.

Prime Minister expressed his conviction that all issues of mutual interest between the two countries would continue to be addressed and resolved bilaterally through constructive discussions, in the interest of their long standing and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship.

PM Modi also said in a post on X that he expressed serious concern for the safety of Hindus and other minorities in Bangladesh.

"Met Mr. Muhammad Yunus, Chief Adviser of the interim government of Bangladesh. India remains committed to a constructive and people-centric relationship with Bangladesh. I reiterated India's support for peace, stability, inclusivity and democracy in Bangladesh. Discussed measures to prevent illegal border crossings and expressed our serious concern for the safety and well-being of Hindus and other minorities," PM Modi said.

PM Modi met several other leaders on the sidelines of BIMSTEC Summit.

Heatwave to persist in Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Delhi; Heavy rainfall likely in South India over next two days: IMD

MI News Service,

New Delhi: As large parts of India brace for an unforgiving summer, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued heatwave alerts for several northern and western states, warning residents to prepare for scorching days ahead.

From the dry plains of Rajasthan to the bustling streets of Delhi and the sunbaked Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat, citizens are already feeling the heat -- and it's only going to intensify over the next week, according to the weather department officials.

Speaking to ANI, IMD Scientist Akhil Srivastava said that Rajasthan will also experience a severe heatwave over the next 4-5 days.

"Heatwaves are being reported in Gujarat and Saurashtra-Kutch region, which are expected to continue for the next 5-7 days. Rajasthan will also face severe heatwave conditions over the next 4-5 days, for which an alert has been issued," he said.

Srivastava also mentioned that states in North India, such as Punjab and Haryana, may experience heatwave conditions.

"Delhi is currently witnessing temperatures 3 degrees above normal, hovering around 38 to 40 degrees Celsius. There is a possibility of heatwave-like conditions by April 7. A western disturbance is expected to affect the Western Himalayan

region between April 8 and 10, possibly leading to thunderstorms, strong winds and rainfall," he added.

Speaking on South India, the IMD scientist said that Tamil Nadu and Kerala are expected to receive heavy rainfall over the next two days.

"Heavy isolated rainfall is expected in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and south interior Karnataka over the next two days. From April 7 or 8, eastern parts of India may experience thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds," he said.

Earlier in the day, several parts of Chennai received rainfall. The IMD's regional centre in Chennai issued warnings for rain, light thunderstorms, and lightning in a few districts of Tamil Nadu.

Heavy rainfall in Tiruppur district on Friday night caused waterlogging in homes. Municipal corporation workers were deployed to drain the excess water.

According to IMD data, Tiruppur North witnessed 11 centimetres of rainfall, while the Kozhiporvilai station in Kanyakumari recorded 19 cm. Nambiyur in Erode district, Coimbatore AP, and Sullur stations in Coimbatore district recorded 8 cm each.

Kavundapadi in Erode, Kil Kotagiri Estate in Nilgiris, and Suthuparai in Theni received 9 cm of rainfall each.

Similarly, the Ramana-thapuram district received 7 cm of rainfall, followed

by Kadaladi, which recorded 5 cm; Mudukulatur and Mandapam received 2 cm each; and Tondi and Pamban with 1 cm of rainfall each.

Meanwhile, the IMD has ruled out the presence of El Nino conditions for the upcoming monsoon but has warned of an exceptionally hot summer ahead. The latest forecast indicates above-normal temperatures and an increased number of heatwave days across several parts of the country from April to June 2025.

"We are not expecting El Nino conditions during the monsoon season. April-June to be hotter than usual, with more heatwave days likely in many states," said IMD Director General Dr Mrutyunjay Mohapatra.

The forecast predicts above-normal maximum temperatures in most parts of India, except in some areas of west peninsular India, east-central India, and eastern India, where temperatures are likely to remain normal. Minimum temperatures are also expected to remain above normal across most regions.

States likely to experience more heatwave days from April to June include Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and northern Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

AIIMS Kalyani successfully performs a critical cardiac surgery

MI News Service,

Kalyani: The Department of Cardiology of AIIMS Kalyani has performed the first case of electrophysiology study with radiofrequency ablation (EPS RFA) for a 20-year old girl with AVNRT. It incurred a cost of about Rs. 20 thousand, AIIMS authority said on Friday.

The patient had had recurrent hospital admissions for the past few years with episodes of tachycardia.

On electrophysiological mapping, AVNRT was diagnosed. The slow pathway was successfully ablated, following which there was



no recurrence of tachycardia.

This procedure was conducted by Dr Sanjeev S Mukherjee and Dr Deepan-

jan Bhattacharya.

Very few centres in Eastern India provide this treatment modality for management for arrhythmias.

Rajnath Singh flags off INS Sunayna as Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR from Karwar

MI News Service,

Karwar: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday flagged off the Indian Navy's Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sunayna from the Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka as the Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) marking a key milestone in India's maritime outreach initiative, and reinforcing India's role as a regional maritime partner committed to peace, prosperity, and collective security.

The event was attended by 44 naval personnel representing nine friendly nations from the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), underlining the spirit of regional cooperation that IOS SAGAR embodies.

In a post on X, Singh said, "Visited Karwar Naval Base in Karnataka and flagged-off INS Sunayna as Indian Ocean Ship 'SAGAR' from Karwar with 44 personnel of nine friendly nations of Indian Ocean Region. IOS SAGAR is a reflection of India's commitment to peace, prosperity & collective security in the maritime domain. Also inaugurated modern operational, repair & logistic facilities constructed under Project Seabird."

During his visit, the Defence Minister also inaugurated several critical components of Project Seabird, India's largest naval infrastructure project, worth over Rs.2,000 crore.

Project Director of Project Seabird, Commander Daniel Tauro, said that the Defence Minister inaugurated three major parts, including ma-



rine infrastructure and residential accommodations. He said that the base will be the largest base post-completion.

"...Today, the Defence Minister inaugurated three major parts of our project. The first was the marine infrastructure, which has around six piers. Second are the residential accommodations, and third are some trunk facilities like the roads and bridges, which will connect this entire place. When this base is completed, it will be the largest base in Asia," he said.

Project Director of Project Seabird, Commander Amit Turan, said, "Project Seabird is the largest naval base in Asia. It's spread over almost 11,000 acres of land. The Defence Minister inaugurated seven piers, 400 accommodations, and certain trunk facilities here today... Ships are not only about steel and machinery. It is also about men supporting them. So facilities like accommodations and a hospital are being constructed here by Project Seabird."

Singh said that India is committed to protecting the

interests of all nations in the Indian Ocean while maintaining their sovereignty.

"India is committed to safeguarding the interests of all in the Indian Ocean while upholding the sovereignty of every nation," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Karwar on Saturday.

Singh also attended the Naval Commanders' Conference and inaugurated the newly developed infrastructure at the naval base under Project Seabird.

"Our Navy ensures that in the Indian Ocean Region, no nation can suppress another on the basis of its overwhelming economy or military power. India ensures that everyone's interests are protected without compromising anyone's sovereignty," he said.

Singh highlighted that India's growing presence in the Indian Ocean Region serves not only its national interests but also enhances the security of friendly nations, ensuring safety for all.

"On this historic occasion, I feel both proud and happy to be present on the 10th anniversary of the SAGAR initiative. IOS SAGAR is now embarking on its journey to the Indian Ocean. This naval deployment is the result of collaborative efforts not only by India but also by all our friendly nations in the region," he said.

He said the Indian Ocean Region is important for India not only from a security perspective but also in terms of trade, economy, tourism, culture, and overall national interest.

Black Americans are known to have a greater risk of stroke than white Americans, and a past study found that Black women less frequently receive advanced therapies for stroke, partially due to delays in getting to the emergency department after symptom onset.

Muslims hit roads against
Waqf Amendment Bill; call for
its withdrawal

MI News Service, Ahmedabad: Several Muslims on Friday staged a massive protest against the Waqf Amendment Bill 2025 after its passage in Kolkata, Chennai and Ahmedabad.

Earlier on Friday after a 12 hour long debate the bill was passed from the Rajya Sabha. Thousands of Muslims along with Muslim organisations took to the streets after Friday prayers to express their opposition against the controversial Bill.

The protesters in Bengal carried posters proclaiming “We reject Waqf Amendment” and “Reject Waqf Bill” while several waved the national flag. The visuals show demonstrators expressing their outrage over the passage of the Bill.

In Ahmedabad, the visuals show the protesters being forcibly removed by the police. AIMIM’s chief of the state unit along with 40 others from his party were detained.

In Chennai Vijaya Tamilaga Vettei Kazhagam had announced a statewide protest. Its workers gathered in Chennai, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli and raised slogans against the bill. Slogans like “reject the Waqf Bill and “do not take away Muslims’ rights” echoed on the streets.

The protestors voice their concerns that the new bill will affect the existing properties. Calling it unconstitutional, the demonstrators accused the BJP of divisive politics and asserted that such laws won’t be tolerated.

Security beefed up in Jammu’s
RS Pura sector after BSF foils
infiltration attempt

MI News Sevice, Jammu: The security has been heightened in Jammu’s Ranbir Singh Pura sector following a recent intervention by the Border Security Force (BSF) to foil an infiltration attempt by an intruder crossing the International Border (IB) in the region.

According to PRO BSF Jammu, the security forces neutralised the intruder, who kept moving to cross the border.

“On the intervening night of April 4 and 5, 2025, BSF troops observed a suspicious movement across the IB (International Border) in the Jammu border area and an intruder was observed crossing the IB. He was challenged by the BSF troops but paid no heed and kept on moving. BSF troops, sensing the threat, neutralised the intruder. The identity and motive of the intruder are being ascertained,” PRO BSF Jammu said.

A flag meeting has been called for, where the BSF will state its protest against the infiltration bid.

According to PRO BSF, the BSF troops stationed along the IB in the region observed suspicious movement in the border area where an individual was seen crossing the IB, prompting the BSF personnel to issue a challenge.

The intruder, however, did not respond and continued moving towards the Indian side and in response to the perceived threat, BSF troops neutralised the intruder.

BYC condemns killing of Abdul

Malik Baloch in Zehri encounter

MI News Service, Balochistan: Abdul Malik Baloch, a victim of enforced disappearance, was found dead in a "staged encounter" in the Zehri area of the Khuzdar district, the Baloch Yakjehti Committee (BYC) said.

In a post on X, the BYC stated, “The authorities claimed that four people have been killed in an encounter with forces in Zehri area of district Khuzdar. However, one of them was identified as Abdul Malik Baloch son of Muhammad Yousaf, a resident of Kohing, Kalat. Malik was forcibly disappeared by Pakistani forces on 11 October, 2024, from Turbat.”

BYC further highlighted that the Malik Baloch family has been relentlessly seeking justice, participating in every sit-in and rally advocating for the forcibly disappeared Baloch individuals.

They were also present at the March sit-ins in Kalat, where the district administration promised, among other things, to reveal the whereabouts of the missing within 15 days. However, instead of being reunited with him, they received his bullet-riddled body, marked with the label of a “terrorist,” claiming he was killed in an encounter with security forces.

RSS focus shifts to Catholic Church land
after passage of Waqf Amendment Bill

MI News Service, New Delhi: Following the successful passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill in Parliament, attention within Sangh Parivar circles appears to be shifting towards the land holdings of the Catholic Church in India. An article published on the web portal of Organiser, a magazine affiliated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), has indirectly urged the Narendra Modi-led government to examine the vast tracts of land held by Catholic institutions across the country.

The article, titled “Who has more land in India? The Catholic Church vs Waqf Board debate,” suggests that Catholic institutions possess nearly 7

crore hectares of land, describing the Church as the “largest non-governmental landowner” in the country. The piece raises concerns about transparency and regulation, echoing arguments that were used to justify the amendments to the Waqf Act.

While the article does not make a direct demand for legislation or official inquiry, its timing and tone signal a strategic shift in the Sangh Parivar’s focus. The passage of the Waqf (Amendment) Bill—which many critics argue is aimed at increasing government control over Muslim religious endowments—has already sparked debates around religious property rights and community autonomy.

The article could be laying the groundwork for future demands to scrutinize land held by Christian institutions, particularly the Catholic Church, which runs thousands of schools, hospitals, and charitable organizations across the country.

The development comes amid growing concerns among minority communities regarding perceived targeting through legislative and administrative means. Critics argue that such narratives could further deepen communal divides and undermine India’s pluralistic fabric.

No official statement has yet been made by the government or Church authorities in response to the article.

“Those who oppose Waqf Amendment
Bill will be treated as traitors, jailed”:
Bihar Deputy CM Vijay Sinha



MI News Service, Patna: Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Vijay Kumar Sinha made controversial remarks on Friday, warning that anyone protesting against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill would be treated as “traitors” and face arrest. Sinha, speaking on the matter, stated, “This is not Pakistan, this is Hindustan. Those who break the law will be arrested. This is the Narendra Modi government,” asserting the government’s stance on the issue.

He went on to say that the Waqf Amendment Bill, which has already been passed in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, should be respected. The Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha with 288

votes in favor and 232 against, and in the Rajya Sabha with 128 in favor and 95 opposing. Despite its passage, the Bill has faced significant opposition from various quarters.

Sinha was particularly critical of those who oppose the legislation, labeling them as traitors. “Those who oppose the Bill are traitors. Such people should be immediately arrested,” he declared, underlining his support for the Bill’s enactment.

The Waqf Amendment

Bill, 2024, which is aimed at making changes in the administration of Waqf properties, has sparked considerable controversy. While the ruling BJP-led NDA, including Bihar’s ruling Janata Dal (United) [JD(U)], supports the Bill, there has been internal dissent within JD(U).

Several party members, dissatisfied with the leadership’s stance, have resigned in protest against the Bill’s passage. At least five JD(U) leaders have left the party due to its support for the controversial amendment.

Despite the internal turmoil, the Bill’s passage in Parliament marks a significant legislative win for the government, even as the political debate surrounding it intensifies.

Viral videos show Palestinian bodies
flung into air by Israeli strike in Gaza

MI News Service, Gaza: A video reportedly circulating on social media shows the harrowing moment an Israeli missile strike in Gaza hurled Palestinian bodies into the air.

In the clip, a woman’s anguished cries can be heard as the explosion’s force launches what appears to be several bodies skyward before they fall lifelessly to the ground, while thick smoke rises from the explosion site. The video has sparked global outrage, highlighting the brutality of the ongoing conflict.

Sharing the video on X, Gaza-based social activist Mohammed Khaled wrote, “The closer you look, the more you see people flying through the air. Criminology has reached a level never before known to humanity.”

In a follow-up post, he

added, “I swear I can’t get over it. The bodies of Muslims flying like this before the eyes of the entire world. Even our worst nightmares couldn’t have imagined this.”

Another viral post accompanying the video reads, “Those are not birds flying in the sky of Gaza—They are the bodies of children and women, launched hundreds of metres into the air!”

Earlier in March, speaking to ABC News, Mohammed Jihad al-Rawda, a survivor of the Israeli strike on Nasser Hospital, described the traumatic experience. The current escalation in Gaza traces back to October 7, 2023, when Hamas launched a large-scale surprise attack on Israel, marking the deadliest day in Israel’s history. The attack involved thousands

of rockets fired into Israel, alongside a coordinated ground assault where Hamas fighters infiltrated Israeli towns, military bases, and kibbutzim near the Gaza border.

During the assault, Hamas killed around 1,200 people in Israel, mostly civilians, and took more than 250 hostages back to Gaza. The attack, which targeted communities in southern Israel, included massacres at music festivals and homes, leading to widespread shock and condemnation.

Following this, Israel declared war on Hamas and launched an intensive military campaign in Gaza. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) conducted thousands of airstrikes and a ground invasion, aimed at dismantling Hamas’s military infrastructure.

India, US, Australia, Japan join hands
to contribute over USD 20 million in
humanitarian aid to Myanmar

MI News Service, Naypyidaw: India and other Quad nations stand with the people of Myanmar and Thailand in the wake of the earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28. The Quad nations - India, the US, Australia, and Japan - have joined hands to contribute more than 20 million in humanitarian aid and are coordinating with other partners, including ASEAN, to provide life-saving assistance.

These efforts of India come in addition to the bilateral aid sent by New Delhi to Naypyidaw.

In a post on X, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, “India, along with Quad partners, stands with the people of Myanmar & Thailand in the wake of the March 28 earthquake. For Myanmar, alongside our bilateral aid, we’ve joined hands with our Quad partners to contribute over USD 20M in humanitarian aid & are coordinating with other partners, including ASEAN, to deliver life-saving assistance.”

India launched Operation Brahma to provide



necessary support, including Search and Rescue (SAR), humanitarian aid, disaster relief and medical assistance, following the devastating earthquake that struck Myanmar on March 28.

Addressing a special briefing on PM Modi’s visit to Thailand, Misra stated, “The PM conveyed to the Senior General that as the first responder, India stands with Myanmar in the hour of need and is ready to deploy more material assistance as needed.”

“The PM also underlined the importance of early restoration of the democratic process in Myanmar through credible elections,” he said.

Myanmar is currently recovering from the devastating 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck the nation on March 28, following which India, being the first responder in times of crisis in the neighbourhood, has been providing vital assistance to the country.

India’s National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is actively leading the efforts as part of Operation Bhurma, with rescue and relief operations underway in Myanmar. NDRF

Deputy Commander Kunal Tiwari, who is overseeing the search and rescue operations, shared insights into the ongoing efforts on Wednesday.

Mentally challenged
Muslim woman detained
for offering prayer in UP

MI News Sevice, Hamirpur: An elderly Muslim woman was booked and briefly detained for offering Namaz near the District Magistrate office in Uttar Pradesh’s Hamirpur district on Monday.

71-year old Munni was seen offering prayer in a video that went viral. Soon after, the police acted swiftly and arrested her. However, she was later released after the police found that she was mentally unstable.

Munni’s relatives confirmed that she has been undergoing treatment for the past four years. She comes from Sufiganj area in the city.

An official stated in a press statement, “On March 31, news of a woman offering Namaz near the District Magistrate’s office was published on social media. We took the news seriously and on the instruction of the District Magistrate the sub magistrate registered a case against the woman and further legal action is being taken.”

The official also confirmed that the home guards that were on duty at the DM’s office were suspended for daily election. Questioning the woman revealed to us that she was mentally unstable, we have been ordered to suspend on-duty home guards for negligence of duty.”

The video shows Munni offering prayer quietly.

Hamirpur Superintendent of police Diksha Sharma stated that the woman was charged with trespassing and it was later found that she was mentally unstable and health was released.

Police’s action came under fire for registering an FIR against the woman. Several users took to their X to express their disappointment and criticism. Journalist Vijetha Singh posted you got to have a petty mind set to file an FIR for this UP Police. Do you have anything better to do? All pending cases have been solved?”

Asif Khan who is an activist said, “The same UP Police that showers rose petals on kawareyas is registering an FIR against a Muslim women for praying Namaz. While others noted that prayer that lasts less than 10-minute doesn’t do any damage nor does it create any disturbance to the passersby.

UN calls for urgent
action to protect Iraqi
children from landmine

MI News Service, Baghdad: The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) on Friday jointly called for immediate action to protect Iraqi children from the ongoing landmine threat.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to endanger lives in Iraq, with children among the most vulnerable, according to a joint statement released by the two organizations.

The statement revealed that at least 314 children have been killed or injured by explosive ordnance over the past five years, citing UN official reports.

Iraq still faces significant dangers from explosive ordnance, with more than 2,700 square km of land remaining contaminated, it said.

“These hidden dangers not only endanger lives but also deprive children of their rights to play, learn, and thrive,” UNICEF Representative in Iraq Sandra Lattouf said.

Pehr Lodhammar, Chief of Mine Action Program of UNMAS in Iraq, said UNMAS is committed to supporting the Iraqi government in addressing the explosive ordnance contamination, according to the statement.

UNMAS “will spare no effort to pave the way for a safe and dignified return of Iraqi displaced people and productive use of the land,” Lodhammar was quoted as saying by the statement.

Friday marks the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, a day observed every year on April 4 and established in 2005 by the UN General Assembly to raise awareness and seek assistance for mine action.

We can shed the last drop of our blood but we
will never accept this Waqf Act: Ulema ikram

MI News Service, Hooghly: Ulama-e-Sunnat / Tahafuz Namooos Risaalat Wa Islah-e- Ma’ashrah Hooghly on behalf of the Ulama-e-Sunnat, organized a “press meet” at the Hooghly Press Club on Saturday evening and in front of the journalists, they listed the evil intentions of the Central Government one by one and challenged the Central Government in a strong tone and said that the Central Government wants to take away everything from us Muslims gradually. The Ulama-e-Sahaba said that why is this Central Government so worried about us? There are hundreds of Waqf “Daan” organizations like the Muslims in the country, in which no Muslim is included or made a shareholder. So why are non-Muslims being included in our “Waqf Organization”? The Central Government and that is giving a lame excuse that they have been included for our protection. The scholars said that we are against the



law being imposed by this Central government and we will shed our blood till the last breath, but we will never obey this law, and in the future we will go to the Supreme Court. During this, the journalists asked how many waqf properties are there in our state or district, or in this country? And has their administration ever extended a hand to help your children in the educational development through the Waqf Board? To this, their answer was No. Then the journalists asked with whom is your first fight? To this, their answer was absolutely those who only took advantage of the Waqf Board prop-

erty, considered this property as their own property. Of course, our fight is against them, too. We also raise our voice against them and will also take the next step, but at present our fight is with the policies of the Central government, which wants to take away our property from us by force of law. Not only we, but all the Muslims of our country will never accept this forcefully implemented bill under any circumstances. The scholars told reporters that very soon we will protest not only at the district level but also at the state level and take to the streets against this forcefully imposed bill.

Waqf Amendment Bill Puts 98% of Waqf
properties in U.P. at risk

MI News Service: The passage of the Waqf Amendment Bill has put nearly 98% of Waqf properties in Uttar Pradesh in a state of uncertainty. A significant number of these properties remain unrecorded in revenue records. Under the new law, decision-making authority over Waqf assets will shift from the Waqf Board to district magistrates, fundamentally altering the governance structure of these properties. Additionally, the 57,792 government properties spread across multiple districts, covering a total of 11,712 acres. According to legal provisions, these properties should never have been designated as Waqf assets. With the new law in effect, these properties will be immediately excluded from Waqf jurisdiction, and local administrations will take physical possession to ensure their proper use as per state regulations.

Critics argue that the unchecked authority of the Waqf Board enabled large-scale misappropriation of government land under the guise of religious endowments. The amended law is expected to restore governmental control over these lands and prevent future disputes.

vate landowners discovered that their properties had been falsely recorded as Waqf assets. These misregistrations have led to prolonged legal battles and ownership disputes.

Moving forward, disputes concerning Waqf properties will be adjudicated by district magistrates, who will base their decisions on revenue records from the agricultural year 1359 (1952). The amendment directly affects 57,792 government properties spread across multiple districts, covering a total of 11,712 acres. According to legal provisions, these properties should never have been designated as Waqf assets. With the new law in effect, these properties will be immediately excluded from Waqf jurisdiction, and local administrations will take physical possession to ensure their proper use as per state regulations.

Critics argue that the unchecked authority of the Waqf Board enabled large-scale misappropriation of government land under the guise of religious endowments. The amended law is expected to restore governmental control over these lands and prevent future disputes.

AIMPLB to Challenge Bill in Court

Maulana Khalid Rasheed Firangi Mahali, a member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), has strongly opposed the bill and warned of legal action. “If the bill is passed in the Rajya Sabha, we will challenge it in court. We are hopeful of getting justice, as our position aligns with constitutional facts,” he stated.

He also expressed disappointment over the lack of opposition from key political parties, including Nitish Kumar’s Janata Dal (United) and Chandrababu Naidu’s Telugu Desam Party, which he had expected to resist the bill. “It would have been better if all parties had taken a strong and well-researched stance against the bill,” he added.

The bill’s passage in the Rajya Sabha is expected to set the stage for a legal battle, with the AIMPLB prepared to challenge the legislation in court. As the issue unfolds, it is likely to generate significant political and legal discourse, with both sides debating the constitutional validity and socio-religious implications of the amendments.

Islamic scholars issue fatwa
calling for war against Israel

MI News Service, Doha/Dublin: The International Union of Muslim Scholars (IUMS), via its Ijtihad and Fatwa Committee, has issued a fatwa calling for jihad (war) against Israel, urging Muslim nations and communities worldwide to mobilise in support of the Palestinian cause—including through military intervention.

The fatwa, shared by IUMS Secretary-General Ali AlQaradaghi on X on Friday evening, April 4, declares armed jihad against the Israeli force a religious obligation for every able Muslim. It stresses that this duty applies across the entire Islamic world.

The fatwa further stressed the religious obligation to support Palestinian resistance militarily, financially, politically, and legally. It called for the urgent formation of an Islamic military alliance to defend the ummah and deter future aggression, describing such an alliance as essential.

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In addition, the fatwa: Prohibits normalization of relations with Israel. Bans the supply of oil and gas to the occupying state. Calls for a review of all existing peace treaties with Israel. Urges a global boycott of Israeli goods and business. Encourages

diplomatic pressure, including the withdrawal of ambassadors and the imposition of political sanctions on Israel and its allies.

It also underscored the importance of financial jihad to support civilians in Gaza and demanded the urgent opening of border crossings to facilitate humanitarian aid.

Human rights activist raises voice against
women atrocities, discrimination in Pakistan

MI News Service, Glasgow: Anila Gulzar, a prominent human rights activist from Pakistan, has condemned gender discrimination and atrocities against women in Pakistan.

Anila, who belongs to the Christian minority group in Pakistan, stated, “Pakistan has long struggled with gender inequality and systemic violence against women. Despite legal frameworks designed to protect women’s rights, the reality remains grim, with women facing widespread discrimination, harassment, honour killings, forced marriages, and restricted access to education and employment. The plight of Pakistani women has drawn international attention, yet meaningful change remains elusive due to entrenched societal norms, weak law enforcement, and a lack of political will.”

She highlighted that in

Pakistan, discrimination against women starts at birth and persists throughout their lives. A strong preference for male children results in unequal access to healthcare, nutrition, and education for girls. In numerous households, girls are viewed as an economic burden, which perpetuates cycles of early marriage and restricts their career prospects.

She stated that Pakistan lags behind many developing countries in terms of education. “According to the World Economic Forum’s Global Gender Gap Report, Pakistan ranks among the lowest in gender equality, particularly in access to education and economic participation. Rural areas, where patriarchal customs dominate, see a much higher rate of female school dropouts due to family restrictions, early marriages, or financial constraints,” expressed Anila.

She further condemned the situation of Pakistani women in the workplace. She lamented, “Women make up only 22 per cent of the workforce in Pakistan, with many facing harassment, wage gaps, and fewer opportunities for leadership positions. The corporate sector remains largely male-dominated, and women in industries such as media, politics, and law enforcement often experience systemic bias, sexual and threats to their safety.”

One of the most severe forms of violence against women in Pakistan is honour killing, where women are killed by their own family members for supposedly bringing “shame” to the family, as cited by the human rights activist. These killings are frequently connected to actions such as marrying for love, rejecting arranged marriages, or even small accusations of misconduct.



Rajasthan Royals' Yashasvi Jaiswal and captain Sanju Samson run between wickets during their Indian Premier League 2025 match against Punjab Kings, at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, Mullanpur, in Chandigarh on Saturday.

New Zealand sweep series against Pakistan as Sears, Bracewell set up 43-run triumph in 3rd ODI

MOUNT MAUNGANUI : Ben Sears's second five-wicket haul on the trot inspired New Zealand to whitewash Pakistan with a 3-0 ODI series triumph, following their 43-run success in the third and final clash of the series at Bay Oval on Saturday.

In a 42-over-reduced game due to a wet outfield, Pakistan's pursuit of a 265-run target began with Imam-ul-Haq retiring hurt after taking a bouncer from William O'Rourke on his helmet. He instantly removed his helmet, holding his jaw. After a brief halt, he was eventually taken off the field, and Pakistan's premier batter, Babar Azam, arrived at the crease to carry the fight for his side.

A 69-run partnership brewed between Babar and Abdullah Shafique as the duo flaunted their textbook strokeplay. Babar danced around the track to dispatch Michael Bracewell's flighted delivery past the boundary rope for a maximum.

Sears, who effectively used the short ball ploy, broke the threat-



ening partnership. Shafique (33) swivelled his hook without any timing straight down to Jacob Duffy. The floodgates opened, and Pakistan started losing scalps at regular intervals.

Babar's 50 kept Pakistan's hopes high, but Daryl Mitchell set him up perfectly to scythe his scalp. Skipper Mohammad Rizwan (37) and Tayyab Tahir (33) resisted but gave away their wickets to Duffy. Sears cleaned up the middle and tail-end to force

Pakistan to pack on 221, surrendering to a 43-run defeat.

In a truncated ODI encounter, New Zealand tested their depth to blaze their way to a competitive 264/8 on the board. After being put to bat by Pakistan, Nick Kelly was the first to fall. Naseem Shah's delivery stopped and took a bit more flight than Kelly (3) would have anticipated. He went through his shot and sent the ball straight to Abdullah Shafique.

Rhys Mariu, who made his debut in the second ODI, upped the ante and provided a sound start to the Kiwis despite the early setback. He forged a 78-run partnership with Henry Nicholls to drag the game away from Pakistan.

With Pakistan on the cusp of conceding a 300-plus total, despite being a 42-over contest, Akif Javed forced the breakthrough against the run of play. Nicholls (32) holed out after giving away a top edge to Mohammad Wasim. Rhys (58), who had notched up his maiden fifty moments before Nicholls' dismissal for the Blackcaps in the ODIs, jumped on the bandwagon and returned to the dressing room after being pinned in front of the stumps by Sufiyan Mugeem.

Daryl Mitchell (43) and Tim Seifert (26) kept the scoreboard ticking with their swift attacking displays. New Zealand's captain, Michael Bracewell, took the brunt on his shoulders and counterattacked with a fiery 59 from 40 deliveries to power the hosts to a 264/8.

MS Dhoni walked to the crease and received a huge ovation from the crowd.

DC bowlers were all over CSK, as even though Vijay managed some boundaries, the asking rate was climbing up rapidly. CSK reached the 100-run mark in 14.3 overs. Dhoni had to wait till the 19th ball to hit a six.

CSK finished at 158/5, with Vijay (69* in 54 balls, with five fours and a six) and Dhoni (30* in 26 balls, with a four and six).

Vipraj (2/27) was the standout bowler for DC. Starc delivered a classy spell of 1/27 and Kuldeep

IPL 2025: Rahul, Vipraj-Kuldeep spin duo shine as DC defeat CSK by 24 runs

CHENNAI (TAMIL NADU) : Standout spells from spinners Vipraj Nigam and Kuldeep Yadav strangled Chennai Super Kings (CSK) scoring rate as Delhi Capitals (DC) continued their winning run in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 with a 24 run win at Chepauk Stadium on Saturday.

With this win, DC is at the top of the points table with three wins in three games. On the other hand, with just one win and three losses, CSK has slid down to the eighth spot.

During the run chase, the all-New Zealand opening combination of Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway could not stay together for long as Rachin was caught and bowled by Mukesh Kumar for just three. CSK was 14/1 in 1.5 overs. In the very next over, Mitchell Starc got the prized scalp of skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad for five, thanks to a fine catch by Jake Fraser McGurk at deep backward square leg. CSK was 20/2 in 2.3 overs.

Devon Conway and Vijay Shankar tried to stitch a partnership, but a googly by Vipraj Nigam landed into skipper Axar Patel's hands, removing Conway for 13 in 14 balls. CSK was 41/3 in 5.3 overs.

At the end of six overs, CSK was 46/3, with Shankar (11*) and Dube (5*) unbeaten. CSK reached the 50-run mark in 7.2 overs.

Dube once again failed to convert his state into a big score as Vipraj got his second wicket, with Tristan Stubbs making no mistake at long-on. Dube was gone for 18 in 15 balls, with a four and six. CSK was 65/4 in 9.2 overs.

CSK was 69/4 in 10 overs, with Vijay Shankar (19*) joined by Ravindra Jadeja (2*). Wickets continued to tumble for CSK as Ravindra Jadeja was trapped leg before wicket by Kuldeep Yadav for just two. CSK was 74/5 in 10.4 overs.

MS Dhoni walked to the crease and received a huge ovation from the crowd.

DC bowlers were all over CSK, as even though Vijay managed some boundaries, the asking rate was climbing up rapidly. CSK reached the 100-run mark in 14.3 overs. Dhoni had to wait till the 19th ball to hit a six.

CSK finished at 158/5, with Vijay (69* in 54 balls, with five fours and a six) and Dhoni (30* in 26 balls, with a four and six).

Vipraj (2/27) was the standout bowler for DC. Starc delivered a classy spell of 1/27 and Kuldeep



also took 1/30 in four overs.

After KL Rahul's blissful 77 runs in the first innings, Delhi Capitals (DC) posted a commanding total of 183/6 against Chennai Super Kings (CSK) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 clash at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Saturday.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, Delhi faced an early jolt when opener Jake Fraser McGurk was dismissed for a duck by Khaleel Ahmed in the very first over. However, KL Rahul and Abhishek Porel steadied the innings, taking DC past the 50-run mark during the powerplay.

Ravindra Jadeja removed Porel right after the powerplay in the seventh over for 33(20, with four boundaries and a six). Axar Patel joined KL Rahul in the middle when DC was 54/2. He smashed his first bowl for a six straight over the bowler's head towards the side screen.

Axar was later removed by the current purple cap holder Noor Ahmad in the 11th over for 21(14), consisting of two fours and six. DC was 90/3 in 10.4 overs. From there, KL Rahul took the responsibility and increased the scoring rate with Sameer Rizvi. Both the batters took over Noor in the 15th over, smashing 17 runs with one six and two fours.

Rahul and Rizvi brought up their 50-run partnership in just 27 bowls in the 16th over, KL Rahul being the aggressor. Rahul reached his first IPL fifty for DC in 33 balls, with two fours and three

sixes. Rizvi was removed by CSK's most economical bowler, Khaleel Ahmed, in the 16th over for 20 (15). Tristan Stubbs joined KL Rahul in the 17th over when DC were 146/4.

Stubbs boosted DC after he took over Mukesh Chaudhary in the 19th over, smashing 15 runs in his last over. Both the batters took over CSK's bowling in the final four overs. Matheesha Pathirana finally took Rahul's wicket in the previous over for 77 (51), consisting of six fours and six, followed by Ashutosh Sharma, who was run out courtesy of a brilliant throw from Jadeja.

DC finished at 183 for 6, with KL Rahul having the highest run score for DC. Stubbs remained not out on 24* (12), striking at 200.

Khaleel was the pick of the bowlers for CSK, picking up two wickets in his four overs and giving away only 25 runs/25. His new-ball partner, Mukesh Choudhary, had a tough outing, going wicketless and giving away 50 runs in his four overs 0 50. Jadeja 1/19 and Noor 1/36 each picked a wicket, and R Ashwin 0/21 also went wicketless. Pathirana took the vital wicket of KL Rahul in his last over, finishing his spell with figures of 1/31 in his four overs.

Brief score: Delhi Capitals 183/6 in 20 overs (KL Rahul 77, Abhishek Porel 33, Khaleel Ahmed 2/25) beat Chennai Super Kings: 158/6 (Vijay Shankar 69*, MS Dhoni 30*, Vipraj Nigam 2/27).

IPL 2025: MI skipper Hardik Pandya levels Anil Kumble's elusive record

LUCKNOW (UTTAR PRADESH) : Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya equalled legendary spinner Anil Kumble's record for most wickets as a captain in the Indian Premier League (IPL) following his breathtaking spell against Lucknow Super Giants in the ongoing edition.

When Mumbai were seeking breakthroughs, looking for someone to take the mantle and rattle Lucknow, Pandya stepped up to lead his side from the front. Pandya decoded the formula of success in Lucknow by mixing up his lengths and pace to keep the batters guessing.

He flawlessly executed his plan to perfection and notched up his best performance in the T20 format. He clinched his maiden five-wicket haul in T20s after returning with rollicking figures of 5/36 after bowling a full quota of his four overs.

Following his searing display with the ball, Pandya became the joint second-highest with Kumble for the record of most wickets as a captain in the cash-rich league. The iconic spinner Shane Warne sits at the top with a staggering 57 scalps to his name as a captain in the IPL. Pandya and Kumble hold the second spot with 30 scalps each.

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin is next with 25 wickets, followed by Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins, who boasts 21 scalps for the record.

Pandya's record-shattering spell with the ball reverberated throughout the entire stadium in Lucknow. He got his hands on his first five-wicket haul in T20s and became the first captain to claim a five-for in the IPL.

His game-changing spell included the priceless scalps of Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran, Rishabh Pant and David Miller. Pandya re-introduced himself to the action in the final over and removed the tail-ender Akash Deep to cap off his spell.

Even after his sizzling spell, pulling off a rescue act twice became too much for Hardik, considering his flop show with the bat. During MI's pursuit of a daunting 204-run target, the equation came down to 29 needed in 12 deliveries.

MI could only scratch out seven from the penultimate over, making the equation 22 in the final over. With Avesh Khan charging from the bowling end, Pandya, with his wrists of iron, smacked the ball past the boundary rope to give a glimmer of hope to his side. However, it was the only piece of fireworks that fans witnessed from his bat as MI fell to a 12-run defeat.



"PLEASING TO WIN 3-0": BRACEWELL EXPRESSES HIS JOY AFTER BEATING PAKISTAN 3-0

MOUNT MAUNGANUI (NEW ZEALAND) : Ben Sears's second five-wicket haul on the trot inspired New Zealand (NZ) to whitewash Pakistan (PAK) with a 3-0 ODI series triumph, following their 43-run success in the third and final clash of the series at Bay Oval on Saturday.

New Zealand skipper Michael Bracewell felt pleased with the Black Caps' 3-0 win and the new players' performance. He emphasized the importance of maintaining their playing style and attention to detail, which he believed contributed to their success.

He highlighted the significance of winning the series while focusing on the team's commitment to executing their game plan.

"When you add a few new guys into the mix, you always want to do well. Pleasing to win 3-0 as it is



to see guys coming in and performing and doing all they are asked off and playing the way that we want to play. As a Black Caps unit, we have a clear style about how we want to play and the little things that could probably go unnoticed to a lot of people. We

want to make sure that we nail those things, and I feel like we have done that in this series. We are obviously playing to win, and to win the series is massively important, but those little things are also very important to this group. It's great to see everyone

"MY MAIN GOAL FOR THIS YEAR IS TO PLAY THE JUNIOR GRAND SLAMS," TEENAGE TENNIS STAR MAAYA RAJESHWARAN

PUNE (MAHARASHTRA) : After her sensational semifinal run at the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) Mumbai Open, 15-year-old Maaya Rajeshwaran joins the Indian team for the Billie Jean King Cup 2025 Asia-Oceania Group 1 as a reserve player.

The Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA), in association with the All India Tennis Association (AITA) and the Pune Metropolitan District Tennis Association (PMDTA), will organize the Billie Jean King Cup, which will take place at the Mhalunge Balewadi tennis complex from April 8 to April 12, according to a press release.

Speaking ahead of the tournament, Maaya highlighted her goals for the year, stating, "My main goal for this year is to play the junior grand slams while also playing in the women's category.

Hopefully, I can win a junior slam in the coming years, that is my mid-term goal."

The 15-year-old also spoke about her recent achievements at the Mumbai Open (a tournament also organized by the MSLTA) that catapulted her into the national spotlight. "The wildcard opportunity for the Mumbai Open was something special. The funny thing is that was not even part of the plan for me. It was MSLTA and Sunder Iyer, sir, who gave me a wildcard opportunity, and I'm grateful for that", she said.

"As soon as I got the wildcard, I knew how good the opportunity was. Even after I won the first match, I was happy with the way I played, but I was not satisfied with winning a match because the ultimate goal was qualification", Maaya added.

Entering the tournament as a

wildcard, Maaya Rajeshwaran went toe-to-toe with some of the best players in the world. Reflecting on her performance, she mentioned, "I am happy that it was a very good run. At this point in my career, I am at a transition phase from juniors to women's and that tournament really helped me with a breakthrough. So, I'm very happy with that."

Sharing her excitement ahead of the Billie Jean King Cup taking place in Pune, Maaya stated, "I am really happy that this is happening in our country. It's my first time on the Indian team. For every athlete that plays a sport, their first goal is to play for the country. I have been part of a lot of junior teams before, but playing in the women's team is the actual goal. So, I am delighted that I am part of the team and I



am thankful that the association selected me. Hopefully, we will do well. I would also request every-

one to come watch and support us because that makes a huge difference", she concluded.