

The ED searches come against the backdrop of the controversy surrounding L2: Empuraan, which became a topic of hot debate over its oblique mention of the Gujarat riots.

Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot holds colorful procession in Dhaka on Ram Navami



MI News Service, Bangladesh: Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot has held a colorful procession in Dhaka on the occasion of Shuvo Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Ramchandra. The procession started from the Ram Sita Temple premises in Dhaka on Sunday and ended at the Dayaganj intersection and Jayakali Temple intersection. More than a thousand Ram devotees participated in the procession. Before the procession began, a discussion meeting was held at the temple premises. Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot President Advocate Dinabandhu Roy presided over the discussion meeting, which was addressed by Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot Secretary General Advocate Govinda Chandra Pramanik, Presidium Member Sujan Dey, Women's Affairs Secretary Advocate Pratibha Bakchi, Student Mahajot President Sajib

Kundu Tapu, among others. In the discussion, Govinda Chandra Pramanik said, we learn from the Ramayana the lesson of responsibility towards our neighbors and the justice of the king towards his subjects. At present, we, as neighbors, want good relations with India by maintaining fairness and equality. The meeting held in Bangkok on Friday between our Chief Advisor Dr. Muhammad Yunus and Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has dispelled the negative perception that had been created about the relations between the two countries over the past few months. We believe that with mutual respect and admiration, the two neighboring countries will complement each other and show the way forward. We hope that the visa complications with India will be resolved soon. Keeping this great message of the Ramayana in our hearts, we want to live in peace in



our beloved motherland. The discussion was also attended by Bangladesh National Hindu Mahajot Executive President Advocate Pradeep Kumar Pal, Joint Secretary General Bishwanath Mohant, Prem Kumar Das, Tapas Biswas, Students Mahajot President Sajib Kundu, Acting General Secretary Niloy Pal Adar, Joint General Secretary Shuvro Talukder, Media Affairs Secretary Shuvojit Chakraborty and central leader Partha Das. Vivekananda Research Council General Secretary Narendranath Majumder, etc.

Ram Navami procession in Panchla creates harmony

Nurul Islam Khan

A procession was taken out on the occasion of Ram Navami in Panchla, Howrah on Sunday. The procession came out from four places including Panchla, Jujarsaha, Sankrail and patrolled the area. It was reported that the procession entered Thakur Puja Mandap last night. According to police sources, all of them were immersed this morning. Dr. Abu Bakar Mallick, President of Panchla Trinamool Panchayat Samiti, said that no unrest or untoward incident took place in the area due to this procession. It was reported that the people of the Muslim community in the area main-



tained harmony by distributing drinking water to the participants of the procession. The Ram Navami procession was celebrated peacefully under tight security by the police administration in Panchla police station area. It is reported that this religious festival was held in various areas

in an orderly manner. The state government and the efficient police force have strictly suppressed the misleading news that was spread in various areas regarding this procession. Despite the enthusiasm of the common people in the region, there is an atmosphere of harmony there.



North Kolkata Trinamool Youth Congress procession was taken out on the occasion of Ram Navami in Kolkata on Sunday.

Army holds drill to integrate tech prowess on the outskirts of Siliguri

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Trishakti Corps of the Indian army, headquartered in Sukna, on the outskirts of Siliguri, recently conducted an exercise to integrate modern technology with tactical operations in the region. Named as "SarvShakti," the exercise was conducted to ensure collaboration between manned platforms and unmanned systems at the tactical level, army sources said here on Saturday. "The exercise was necessary in preparing multi-domain operations (MDO) through manned-unmanned teaming or MUM-T. It was a successful initiative carried out in the northeast theatre of the country and underscored the army's capability to future-ready force structuring, while reaffirming its ability to absorb and operationalise cutting-edge technologies," said a source.

The exercise witnessed the use of drones for battlefield awareness, the use of autonomous systems, and AI-enabled platforms. "The human-machine synergy was demonstrated in a live tactical environment through real-time reconnaissance, surveillance and target acquisition. It also demonstrated integration of unmanned systems with traditional combat platforms," the source said. In the past few months, the defence forces have carried out some exercises in and around the strategic Siliguri corridor, also known as the "Chicken's neck" for being the slimmest part of India that connects the entire Northeast, with China, Nepal and Bhutan in the north and Bangladesh in the south. In March, a week-long anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) field firing exercise was conducted by the

eastern command of the Indian army at the Teesta field firing range which is on the outskirts of Siliguri. Earlier, in January, the defence forces conducted the Devil's Strike, an exercise involving the army and the Indian Air Force. Also, in February, the army concluded a month-long field exercise involving the T-20 tanks. Lt. Gen. Zubin A. Minwalla, the GOC of Trishakti Corps, said: "The battlefield of tomorrow demands adaptability, speed, and seamless integration of man and machine. Exercise SarvShakti is a proud milestone in that journey. The successful validation of MUM-T is not just a technological achievement, but a testament to the Indian soldier's ability to evolve with the times." The defence forces, sources said, have been on high alert after the downfall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh.

GNLF leader Mann Ghisingh banks on Narendra Modi government for hill solution

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The leadership of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF), on its 46th foundation day in Darjeeling on Saturday, expressed high hopes in the Narendra Modi government for a permanent political solution in the hills.

On Saturday, as the party floated by Subash Ghisingh — still considered the tallest political figure in the hills — celebrated its foundation day, his son and current party chief Mann Ghisingh said Thursday's talks with Nityanand Rai, the Union minister of state for home, "were successful".

"The recent talks were successful and all major issues were raised in the meeting. It is now heading towards a solution which we believe will be delivered soon," Mann said while addressing party supporters in the hill town.

On Thursday, the Union home ministry held a "tripartite" meeting on the agenda in Delhi. Rai, along with Mann and some other hill leaders and legislators, attended the meeting. However, as none from the state's side was present at the meeting convened after a gap of nearly four years, it was essentially a bipartite discussion.

"The Government of India has also decided during the dialogue that justice for Gorkhas should be delivered. Everyone must remain united and steadfast, without being swayed by distractions," Mann said on Thursday.

The PPS was mentioned in the BJP's 2019 Lok Sabha poll manifesto without a definition, but many in the hills thought it meant the new state of Gorkhaland to be carved out of Bengal.

Mann was also critical of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA), the administrative body formed in the hills through a tripartite agreement in 2012.

"The current disorder in the hills is because of the GTA system. The foundation of the GTA was weak.... but now, we will get a strong foundation and constitutional protection. We should abstain from negative thoughts and mere political speeches will achieve nothing. If a solution is found, it will not be only for the GNLF but for all," Mann said.

Sebaashray: TMC's Healthcare Revolution Reshaping Diamond Harbour's Political Landscape

MI News Service: In politics, there is often a tested formula for the success of a party that tells a party how to align their policies and ideologies and words to the masses. Under the leadership of Shri Abhishek Banerjee, General Secretary of the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) and Member of Parliament from Diamond Harbour, several impactful developmental programs have been rolled out in recent years. One of the most unique ones is Sebaashray, which has taken both the digital space and the space on the ground by storm. "Sebaashray," has recently captured significant attention across all platforms, including mainstream media. But the critical question remains—can this initiative become a game-changer for the Trinamool Congress in the upcoming assembly elections in the region? Or will the opposition dismiss it as mere political propaganda? "Sebaashray" is a Bengali term that translates to "A Haven of Service," is a "massive healthcare movement" aimed at offering free medical services to the people of the Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha constituency. Beginning on January 2nd, this campaign set up 270 mega camps and 291 regular camps in all assembly constituencies of the parliamentary segment within just 75 days, enabling healthcare access to all. Its benefits have been astounding, as the camps have already reached over 1.2 million people. Through providing much-needed medical assistance to such a large population, it is not only urgent healthcare needs but also strengthened citizens' trust in welfare programs initiated by their MP. Various public representatives across India have launched their own initiatives for health care but, what makes Sebaashray different, is the



scale, execution and direct access to the marginalized people. It reached people at their doorstep. They were also allotted specific days for health camps in a particular assembly constituency. It wasn't just basic consultations, but also a comprehensive healthcare model that involved specialized treatments. More importantly, it focused a lot on the women, youth and the grassroots communities. Sebaashray's significance is not limited to healthcare alone; it also influences the political dynamics in the lead-up to the assembly elections. TMC by its large-scale public service has strengthened its image as a party that provides service rather than mere rhetoric. Direct interaction with citizens via healthcare services cultivates trust and loyalty, especially among voters in underserved and rural regions. Welfare-based initiatives Sebaashray will influence voting behavior even after they leave office since these programs offer tangible results that im-

pact the lives of the people. While the same opposition parties may brandish Sebaashray as political propaganda, such attempts could easily fall flat in light of the widespread reach and participation of the public. The reality is that "When people reap immediate rewards, counter-narratives from competing sides sully their credibility." Additionally, it empowered the local leadership as well, by allowing them an active role in serving the community. Such effective programs help build public trust and credibility at the grassroots level for their leaders. This model will inspire other political parties, changing the way public service programs impact elections. By catering to the most basic healthcare needs, TMC has not only fortified its electoral prospects in Diamond Harbour but also established an exemplar of direct public service politics. Its consequences are undeniable and being a political game-changer must not be disregarded.

Lifer to 3, SP demands such punishment is first in WB after introduction of BNS

MI News Service, Nadia: Nadia's Ranaghat Court pronounced the punishment of life imprisonment to three persons on April 3, this year, following the killing of a petrol pump worker by run over after robbery at the said pump. Sunny Kumar Raj, Superintendent of police, Ranaghat police district demanded that it was the first case of life imprisonment after launching the Bharatiya Naya Sanhita (BNS). The BNS was introduced in July, 2024. In a landmark judgment, three individuals have been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder and robbery at a petrol pump in Ranaghat. This marks the first-ever sentence in West Bengal under the newly implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The incident occurred on the night of September 8, 2024, around 2:19 am. at the Advaita petrol pump located on the Kandakhola Bypass under Santipur



Police Station in Ranaghat Police District. An SUV with three passengers stopped at the pump and instructed the attendant to fill the oil tank completely. However, after refueling, it became evident that the trio intended to flee without paying. When pump staffer Biswajit Das tried to stop them, the vehicle ran him over without hesitation. He suffered severe injuries and tragically succumbed within moments. A case of murder and robbery was im-

mediately registered under specific sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Sub-Inspector Karej Sheikh was entrusted with the investigation. Within just four days, the accused—Alamin Ostagar (21), Suman Molla (24), and Mohammad Alam Gazi (57)—were arrested from Hasnabad in North 24 Parganas. The concerned police officer promptly and meticulously investigated and submitted a strong chargesheet and Public Prosecutor Bhabish Chatterjee concluded the trial swiftly. Subsequently

the court sentenced all three accused to life imprisonment. The family and colleagues of the deceased Biswajit Das expressed hope that the verdict will bring some peace to his departed soul. In recognition of their roles, Superintendent of Police Sani Raj, IPS, felicitated SI Karej Sheikh and Special PP Bhabish Chatterjee for their exceptional contribution to the case. Legal experts believe that this verdict under the new criminal code sends a strong message about swift and effective justice in the state.

Siliguri schools bear brunt of job loss; academic and non-teaching activities go haywire

MI News Service, Siliguri: An air of uncertainty loomed at state-aided schools in the Siliguri subdivision on Friday as nearly 300 teachers and non-teaching employees were rendered jobless after the Supreme Court invalidated their appointments. "The ruling, which declared the selection process flawed, has rendered 25,753 educators and non-teaching staff jobless in the state. The order has sent shockwaves at state-aided schools, and the institutions in Siliguri are no exception," said a senior schoolteacher in the city. The schools, which were short-staffed on Friday, were struggling to maintain order as the void put academic activities in disarray. Seven teachers of Siliguri Girls' High School (SGHS) have lost their jobs, leaving the students puzzled and the teachers perplexed. A senior teacher said the campus has been thrown into chaos. "Many of the job losers had been class teachers, responsible for their

students' progress, and with unit tests underway, the disruption has been immense. Without them, results may hang in limbo, and crucial academic assessments remain incomplete," she said. The teacher said the topic of discussion in the staff room was the future of those teachers whose services were terminated, and the concern about how the institution would run without their presence. None of the seven teachers turned on Friday. In Siliguri Boys' High School, seven teachers have lost their jobs. However, they reached the school on Friday, saying no official communication had reached them yet, and they wanted to continue their work. "The verdict to strip the seven teachers of their roles has left them standing on the precipice of professional oblivion. Students are asking us whether their classes and exams will be conducted properly. We have no answers," said a teacher. The Siliguri Netaji Girls' High School has

also been hit just as hard, if not harder. Of the four affected individuals, one was a life science teacher. A Group-C employee and two Group-D staff members are among the people who were recruited through the exam conducted by the School Service Commission in 2016. None of them reported for duties on Friday. As Rumpa Saha, the headmistress, described the struggle to keep the school running, her voice was tinged with helplessness. "We had only two group D employees at the institution, and their absence brought essential tasks to a standstill. Even the simple act of ringing the school bell, an unnoticed yet essential rhythm of academic life, now becomes a question of responsibility," she said. "Teachers, already burdened with academic duties, have to step into unfamiliar roles now to ensure that the exams continue without disruption," she added. Nabanita Sarkar, the headmistress of Udayapur Balika Vidyalaya, a school

on the outskirts of Raiganj in North Dinajpur, is in a similar situation. In her school, there were two group D employees and since Thursday, none of them joined their duties. "They open the school's gates, classrooms and other rooms in the morning and close them after school. Also, ringing the bell, serving notices and reading files and other documents were part of their jobs. Now, we teachers and other non-teaching staff have to shoulder these responsibilities," said Sarkar. In Loknathpur High School of Alipurduar 2 block, there is no second teacher for mathematics and biology. "Both these teachers have stopped coming to school as their names are on the list that has been scrapped," said a teacher. The school has 2,800 students. "Although there are 67 sanctioned posts of teachers, we had only 32 teachers. Now, five of them have their names in the panel, which means, we will have 27 teachers to run the institution," the teacher added.

Prime Minister Narendra...

From PG 1
He noted that these affordable medicines have resulted in savings of 700 crore for the people. Shri Modi reaffirmed that the Government is committed to ensuring that young Indians no longer feel compelled to go abroad to become doctors, highlighting that Tamil Nadu has received 11 new medical colleges in recent years. He urged the Government of Tamil Nadu to start courses in medical education in Tamil language which would help many children from poor families. "Good governance en-

sures that every rupee contributed by taxpayers benefits even the poorest citizens", said the Prime Minister, underlining that under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, small farmers in Tamil Nadu have received nearly 12,000 crore. He added that Tamil Nadu's farmers have also benefited from the PM Fasal Bima Yojana, with claims amounting to 14,800 crore. "India's blue economy will play a significant role in the country's growth, and Tamil Nadu's strength in this sector will be recognized globally", exclaimed Shri Modi

President Murmu gives...

From PG 1
the protection given to Waqfs while retaining them for religious and charitable endowments of other religions constitutes hostile discrimination against Muslims and is violative of articles 14 and 15 of the Constitution, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of religion."

Centre's intention is not...

From PG 1
an art and a science," he said, adding, "Though our opponents take jibes at us in Parliament, they also say we are the world's biggest party. Even our opponents recognise our strength." Nadra said the BJP has always kept the nation first and made efforts to promote India's traditions, culture and his-

tory, and pointed out that a "magnificent" Ram temple was constructed in Ayodhya during the party's rule. He said in the Shah Bano case, the Congress under the then prime minister Rajiv Gandhi had succumbed to appeasement politics by "bowing" to pressure from certain sections of the Muslim community.

Beed mosque blast: Police...

From PG 1
for terrorist act and conspiracy", an official said. Securing bail is difficult under the UAPA. The arrested persons are in police custody, the official added.

Ram Navami: Rallies rock Kolkata, Bengal as Raj Bhawan reopens 'peace room'

MI News Service, Kolkata: With thousands of Ram Navami rallies hitting Kolkata and all over Bengal, the West Bengal secretariat at Nabanna remained open to monitor the situation. Raj Bhawan too has reactivated the 24x7 'peace room' with ample manpower to take prompt action whenever necessary. With over 70 Ram Navami processions, including five major rallies, in Kolkata alone, and above 2000 all over state heavy security arrangements have been made with around 14,000 police personnel deployed to keep an eye on rallies across the capital city and Howrah.

According to sources, the Additional Director General (ADG) and IGP (law and order) Jawed Shamim monitored the police control room to ensure that there is no untoward incident and that all the celebrations are carried out peacefully. Taking to X in the morning, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee wished everyone on the occasion while also appealing for peace: "Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. I appeal to all to maintain and uphold the values of peace, prosperity and development of all. I wish the celebration of the Ram Navami all success, in a peaceful manner."

Red bastion painted Saffron, Anti-India graffiti covered up

ABVP defies all odds to celebrate RAM NAVAMI at JU

MI News Service, Kolkata: Students in Jadavpur University (JU) defied the discriminatory order of the university administration, which denied them permission to celebrate Ram Navami on the university campus. Students belonging to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyalyaya Parishad (ABVP) organised Ram Navami celebrations in the university on Sunday. The students decorated a part of the campus and placed an idol of Lord Ram and chanted the slogans of Jai Shri Ram. The Ram Navami Puja was organised at the Technology Building of Jadavpur University. A large group of students took part in the puja. Notably, a controversy had erupted recently over anti-national graffiti in the university campus. Slogans like 'Azad Kashmir', 'Free Palestine' had come up on the

walls. On Sunday, those slogans were seen covered with pictures of Lord Ram and Sri Aurobindo, and the national flag. The puja organisers said that Jadavpur University is Rishi Aurobindo's university, and the administration did nothing to remove the anti-national graffiti from the campus. Sri Aurobindo was the first principal of National College in Calcutta, which later became the Jadavpur University. The university had refused to grant permission to the students to celebrate Ram Navami citing the absence of the Vice-Chancellor. "In the absence of a Vice Chancellor, it is impossible to grant permission," the university stated. Besides, the university stated "several factors" for making the decision and pointed out that Ram Navami had never been celebrated on the campus.



Girls participate in the 'Kumari Puja' ritual, which is part of the annual Hindu festival of 'Ram Navami' at the Adyapeath ashram on the outskirts of Kolkata on April 6, 2025.

Mamata & Guv, greet people on Ram Navami

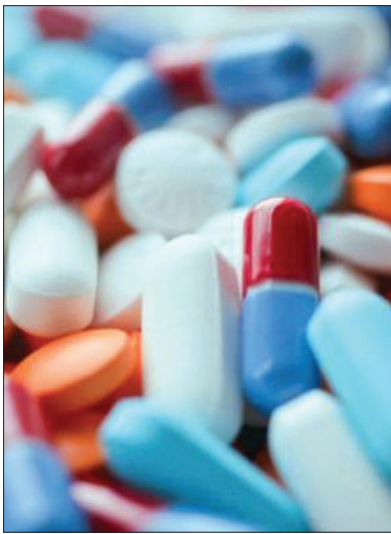
MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday greeted people on Ram Navami, and appealed to them to celebrate the festival in a peaceful manner. "On the occasion of Shri Ram Navami HG conveys his greetings to all. May Shri Ram bless us all. May Shri Ram guide us and show the right path," Bose said in a post on X.



post on X, wished the celebration of Ram Navami success, in a peaceful manner. "Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Ram Navami. I appeal to all to maintain and uphold the values of peace, prosperity and development of all," the chief minister added. The West Bengal Police has taken all precautionary measures across the state to maintain law and order during the Ram Navami festivities, officials said.

Crackdown on spurious medicines: State govt mulls issuing advisory

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a bid to check the circulation of fake or spurious medicines in the market, the state government is all set to issue an advisory to all the medicine shops, pharmacists and wholesalers next week giving a detailed outline as to what ought to be done. A high-level meeting was recently convened at the state secretariat Nabanna in this regard. It has become a concern for the Health department officials to stop the circulation of fake medicines. The officials have come to know that many unholly businessmen were luring customers with an offer of high discount on the drugs. It was learnt that an advisory may be issued in the beginning of next week spelling out specific instructions for the medicines salers. State government has already warned many medicine shops in Kolkata against selling essential drugs at higher prices or else the license of these shops may be cancelled. Substantial chunks of the fake and substandard medicines have



been recovered during raids by state and central drug control officers at multiple places in the state. In the wake of a series of fake medicines being recovered from various parts of the state, the state health department

will also ask the medicine shops to put on display the QR codes of the medicines so that the customers can have an idea if the drugs they were buying for were proper. If the customers scan the codes, they will also get to know information about 300 types of suspected medicines. If they compare the list, they will easily understand whether the medicines they were buying were genuine or not. Over 300 medicines have been identified as fake which include pressure-related drugs, diabetes drugs, inhalers etc. The Drug Control General of India has already sent QR codes to the state Health department and it was also instructed that medicine sellers will have to check the medicines before selling them in the market. The Directorate of Drug Control in Bengal has already published phone numbers so that people can directly call these numbers to draw the attention of the authority if they suspect any strips of medicines or bottles to be fake.

Ram Navami: Tension flares as arms brandished in rallies

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amidst heightened security, Ram Navami celebrations were marked by political tension and instances of open display of arms in parts of West Bengal, sparking a fresh war of words between the BJP and the ruling Trinamool Congress. In Kolkata alone, more than 70 rallies were done, prompting the deployment of nearly 4,000 to 5,000 police personnel. Drones and CCTV surveillance were used extensively to monitor the situation.



allegedly did not have official permission to carry weapons. Police sources confirmed that legal action is likely to be taken for violating the event's terms. Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh stirred controversy during the celebrations by defending the presence of arms at religious processions. "What's wrong if someone carries a weapon?" he said. Targeting Jadavpur University, Ghosh added, "If slogans like 'Bharat tere tukde honge' can be tolerated, what's the problem with chanting 'Jai Shri Ram' in Jadavpur?" Meanwhile, BJP state president Sukanta Majumdar said, "Lakhs of Hindus are expected to hit the roads on Ram Navami. I would urge the state government to take steps so that it can be celebrated peacefully. Any attempts to forcefully halt the celebra-

tions won't be tolerated. Ram Navami celebrations will be held, no matter what you do." In New Town, BJP leader Locket Chatterjee claimed her Ram Navami rally was stopped by police, prompting a change in route. She was seen engaging in a heated argument with police personnel after the procession was halted near Keshotpur on the city's northern fringes. Police said barricades had been placed at the Keshotpur crossing near VIP Road after the rally attempted to enter Salt Lake. Chatterjee later walked past the barricades and instructed participants to take an alternative route to avoid further confrontation. She was seen riding a two-wheeler at the beginning of the rally from a Ram temple in New Town, joined briefly by party leader Arjun Singh.

Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari, after laying the foundation stone of a Ram Mandir in his Nandigram assembly constituency in East Midnapore, said, "The TMC is afraid of Hindus and that is why in various parts of the state they are trying to create unrest." The Trinamool Congress has accused the BJP of trying to communalise the religious occasion. "The BJP is trying to turn Ram Navami into a political event. They are not into the politics of development. They want politics over religion and create some sort of disturbance. Bengal will not tolerate this," said TMC spokesperson Kunal Ghosh. In the districts, senior IPS officers were deployed to oversee the celebrations in Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman, Malda, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, and Siliguri to ensure that the celebrations remain peaceful. The development came after the Calcutta High Court on Friday allowed a Hindu organisation, Anjani Putra Sena, to go ahead with its procession on Ram Navami (Sunday). However, the court said that no brandishing of arms should happen at the rally, citing security concerns. Governor Bose also activated the 'peace room' at Raj Bhavan for any situation.

Ram Navami: BJP leader clashes with police

MI News Service, Kolkata: BJP leader Locket Chatterjee on Sunday claimed that a Ram Navami rally led by her from New Town on the outskirts of Kolkata was stopped by police, prompting a change of route of the procession. Chatterjee was also seen engaging in a verbal spat with police personnel after the rally was "halted" near Keshotpur on the city's northern fringes. Police sources said barricades were set up at the Keshotpur crossing adjacent to the airport-connecting VIP Road, after the procession tried to enter Salt Lake. "This is not a political

rally. It's a spiritual congregation where people participate spontaneously. How can the police stop this rally, which has the necessary permissions?" Chatterjee said. The former MP later walked past the barricades and urged the rally participants to take an alternative route to avoid further confrontation. She was seen riding a two-wheeler at the start of the rally from a Ram Temple in New Town, and was joined by party leader Arjun Singh at its initial stage. The procession is scheduled to culminate at the Hanuman Mandir in Dum Dum.



A peaceful Ram Navami procession was taken out by the MIA of Jora Sanko constituency in Kolkata's Badabazar constituency, in which water bottles were distributed by all the Muslim members of Kolkata Ehsaas Foundation. Seeing this sight, the people who took out the procession on Ram Navami were very happy to see Hindus, Muslims and Punjabis together and said that this is the beauty of their country, India . Photo: Parwez Alam

Bengal celebrates Ram Navami in a big way

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ram Navami celebrations were celebrated across West Bengal with full zeal amid tensions and speculations. It began across West Bengal on Sunday morning with vibrant processions and chants of 'Jai Shri Ram', as devotees thronged the streets to soak in the religious fervour, amid heightened security in the state to maintain law and order during the celebrations. The festive spirit was palpable on the streets, with saffron flags, devotional music and tableaux depicting scenes from the Ramayana adding to the grandeur of the celebrations. In Kolkata alone, more than 60 rallies were done, prompting the deployment of around 4,000 to 5,000 police personnel. Senior officials, including those of the rank of deputy commissioner and joint commissioner, have been tasked with overseeing security across the rally routes. "Lakhs of Hindus hit the roads on Ram Navami," state BJP president Sukanta Majumdar asserted.

keep a close tab on all processions. Quick response teams have also been stationed at sensitive locations such as Entally, Cossipore, Khidderpore and Chitpore in Kolkata. Live footage of the rallies is being streamed to the Kolkata Police headquarters at Lalbazar, where more than 20 IPS officers have been assigned to supervise different city divisions. In the districts, senior IPS officers have monitored the situation in Howrah, Hooghly, North 24 Parganas, Asansol in Paschim Bardhaman, Purba Bardhaman, Malda, Murshidabad, Jalpaiguri, and Siliguri to ensure that the celebrations remain peaceful. The development came after the Calcutta High Court on Friday allowed a Hindu organisation, Anjani Putra Sena, to go ahead with its procession on Ram Navami (Sunday). However, the court said that no brandishing of arms should happen at the rally, citing security concerns. Governor Bose also activated the 'peace room' at Raj Bhavan for any situation.

"Raj Bhavan has reactivated the 24x7 peace room with augmented manpower to take prompt action as necessary. S Bandyopadhyay, former IG, SSB, is designated the Chief of Task Force for the purpose. A rapid action team has also been formed for speedy response. The backdrop of this year's Ram Navami includes recent incidents of violence against Hindus in neighbouring Bangladesh and the run-up to the 2026 West Bengal assembly elections, making the celebrations politically charged. What has traditionally been a religious occasion has now emerged as a significant flashpoint in the ongoing tussle between the BJP and the TMC, with both parties accusing each other of trying to use religion for political gains.

RBI issues revised guidelines on priority sector lending

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Reserve Bank issued revised guidelines on priority sector lending to help the sectors access bank credit easily. The new guidelines will come into effect from April 1, the RBI said. “The enhanced coverage of the revised guidelines is expected to facilitate better targeting of bank credit to the priority sectors of the economy,” the RBI said in a statement.

The major changes in the new norms include the enhancement of several loan limits, including housing loans for enhanced coverage and the broadening of the purposes based on which loans may be classified under ‘renewable energy’.

There is also a revision of the overall priority sector lending target for urban cooperative banks to 60 per cent of adjusted net bank credit or credit equivalent of off-balance sheet exposures, which ever is higher.

The revised norms also expanded the list of eligible borrowers under the category of ‘weaker sec-

tions’, along with the removal of the existing cap on loans by UCBS to individual women beneficiaries.

Bank loans to the housing sector for priority sector classification have been prescribed in three categories — ₹50 lakh (centres with a population of 50 lakh and above), ₹45 lakh (centres with a population of 10 lakh and above but below 50 lakh) and ₹35 lakh (centres with a population below 10 lakh). The maximum cost of dwelling units too has been specified in each case.

On renewable energy, the guidelines said bank loans up to a limit of ₹35 crore to borrowers for renewable energy-based power generators and for renewable energy-based public utilities will be eligible for priority sector classification.

For individual households, the loan limit will be ₹10 lakh per borrower. The categories under the priority sector include agriculture, MSME, export credit, education, housing, social infrastructure, and renewable energy.

Data centres draw \$6.5 billion in India

MI News Service, New Delhi: Investment commitment to Indian data centres stood at \$6.5 billion between 2014 and 2024, a report published by consultancy firm Anarock said, adding that the majority of the growth was witnessed in the last five years. The investment in this segment, which mirrors growth in internet penetration aided by expansion of telecom bandwidth at an affordable rate, included private equity participation, joint ventures and acquisitions. The capacity of the Indian data centres stood at 1.4 gigawatt, up from 590 mega watt in 2019, representing a 139 per cent increase.

The industry is now estimated to be \$10 billion and generating revenue of \$1.2 billion in 2024. Mumbai and Chennai account for 70 per cent of India's total IT power capacity with Mumbai alone contributing 49 per cent.

Commenting on the growth of the sector, Devi Shankar, executive director - industrial, logistics & data centres, Anarock Capital, said, “This surge is underpinned by rising internet penetration, which has risen from 33.4 per cent in 2019 to 55.2 per cent in 2024, a near-doubling in data consumption per user from 11.5 GB to 21.1 GB/month, and an ex-



plosion in average traffic per smartphone, which grew from 13 GB to 32 GB. Anarock estimated that India now leads globally in average mobile data traffic per smartphone.

The report also pointed out that edge data centres — small-scale, decentralised data storage and processing facilities located nearer to end-users and devices in tier 2 and tier 3 markets — are emerging.

“These include, among others, cities such as Jaipur, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Vizag, Lucknow, Patna and Bhubaneswar. Edge data centres will play a vital role in supporting latency-sensitive applications and Gen AI-based services,” the report noted.

Even though the report does not mention Calcutta, the city is also seeing development of multiple data centres, notably from Reliance, Bharti and NTT.

Pamban Bridge: An overview



Ramanathaswamy temple:

- The longest pillared corridor temple in the world (1,220 meters) is at the centre of the town. This temple is closely associated with Lord Rama and Lord Shiva. It is one of the twelve Jyotirlinga (believed to be consecrated by Bhagwan Ram), and Rameshwaram is one of the Char Dham.
- As per mythology, to absolve himself from the sin of killing a Brahman (Ravana), Bhagwan Ram wanted to worship Bhagwan Shiva.
- Rama sent Hanumana to bring the worship god Shiva from Kailash. But it was getting late. Mata Sita made a linga of sand known as Ramlingam. Bhagwan Ram worshipped at the temple.
- It has 64 holy water bodies (theertham) around the temple. Pilgrims believe that bathing in these teerthams absolves them of all sins.

- **Island:** Pamban Island, also called Rameswaram Island separated from mainland India by the Pamban channel and is about 40 kilometres from Mannar Island, Sri Lanka.
- The nearest point from Dhanushkodi to the Tallaimannar is only 19 KM.
- Before the cyclone of 1480, it was part of Mainland. During the period of ThirumalaiNaicker, the ruler of Madurai, Nayak Dynasty, a causeway was constructed across the Pamban channel connecting the island to the mainland.
- Geological evidence suggests that the Rama Sethu was a former land connection between India and Sri Lanka.

- **The initial plan and the old rail Bridge:** The plan was to make direct railway connectivity with the mainland, Pamban, and Ceylon. Later, it was decided to have a rail line up to Dhanushkodi and from Dhanushkodi to Tallaimannar, Sri Lanka, bridged by ship.
- The work started in June 1911, and the line was opened on 24-02-1914. The train and Ferry service began on the same day. The train was called Indo-Ceylon Exp 'The Boat Mail'.
- **The 1964 Cyclone:** The area witnessed a massive cyclonic storm on December 22, 1964.
- The six coach Pamban - Dhanushkodi Passenger train left Pamban at 11.55 p.m. on that day with 110 passengers on board including a party of students and five members of the railway staff.
- Shri. Arunachalam Kumarasamy, the Bridge Inspector, Pamban, piloted the train. The signal at Dhanushkodi outer went dead and the train stopped for a while. The driver decided to take a risk and gave a long whistle. That is when a giant 20 ft wave rose from the turbulent sea and smashed the train.
- Though the initial reports put the causality figure at 115 (based on the number of tickets issued at Pamban), it was suspected that the toll would have been around 200 as more passengers, were said to have travelled ticketless on that night.
- The tragedy came to light only on the 25th of December when the Southern Railway issued a bulletin based on the information received from the Marine Superintendent, Mandapam.
- There were reports that huge pieces of train's wooden carriages were washed ashore on the Sri Lankan coast.
- Apart from the train accident, the death

Salient features of the new bridge

Aspect	Details
Location of Bridge	Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu.
Year of Sanction	Feb - 2019
Year of Completion	Nov - 2024
Total Span 100	99 X 18.30m + 1x 72.50m
Length	2.08 km
Cost	704 Cr
Lifting Time	5 Min 30 Sec
Authorized Speed	75 Km/h

Difference in old and new bridge :

Items	Old Bridge	New Bridge
Movement	Angular up to 81 degrees	17M vertical lift Girder base at the same level of a road bridge
Span	147 145 X 12 M 1 X 61 M	100 99 X 18.3 M 1 X 72 M
Design	Scherzer	TYPSPA & MC 2 (Spain)
Gauge	Meter (later GC)	Broad Gauge
Vertical clearance above sea level	3 mtr	5 mtr
Clearway for Ships	60 mtr	72 mtr
Operation Time	30 Minutes	5 Minutes 30 Seconds
Man required for lifting	8	1
Total Length of the Bridge	2.08 KM	2.1 KM
India's first	First Sea Bridge	First Vertical-lift Sea Bridge
Speed	10 Km/h	50 Km/h
Anti-Corrosion painting	Yearly	10 Year

toll on the island exceeded 500.

- All communication was disrupted. The Pamban viaduct was washed away leaving only the piers, few PSC Girders and the lifting span.
- Shri Arunachalam Kumarasamy, who lost his life while piloting the passenger train, was born at Kilakulam village in Tinnevely District, in 1923.

- He studied at the St. Xavier's High School, Palamkottah and in M.D.T. Hindu College, Tinnevely. He later studied at College of Engineering, Guindy, where he passed the Upper Subordinate Examination in 1943. After working in the Public Works Department of the Government of Madras for about five years, he joined the former South Indian Railway as a Permanent way Sub-Inspector in 1948.
- Shri Kumarasamy was a good and sincere worker. All the staff members were fond of him. He was of religious and charitable disposition and constructed a hospital in

the memory of his late father, Sri K. Arunachalam Pillai at Kilakulam

- Restoration: Due to the cyclone, 105 spans of 12.20 m steel girders and 21 spans of PSC girders were completely washed away. Only 19 pre-stressed concrete girder spans on the Mandapam end were unaffected. Fortunately, the Scherzer Span also remained undisturbed. Two piers were partially damaged.

- The restoration work was carried out simultaneously from both ends.
- At Pamban end, fortunately, a BFR was available and two girders were coupled and mounted over the BFR and this was used from the Pamban end. A progress of launching three to four spans a day was achieved.
- All the girders could be salvaged (except the PSC girders) by means of steel pontoons, that were floated in the sea and towed by motor boat.
- The restoration works were supervised and monitored by Dr. E. Sreedharan, who was the Executive Engineer then.
- The restoration was completed by 1st March 1963 (

within 67 days of the incident) In 2002, a decision was taken to convert the bridge from meter gauge to broad gauge (BG). The first BG train started in August 2007. The new bridge

Corrosion proof :

- The bridge is constructed with Stainless steel Reinforcement.
- Base level height of the girder is 3 meters above the old bridge. This safeguards the girders from the splash of seawater.
- After metalizing, painting was done with 3 layers of epoxy and 2 coats of polysiloxane.
- No Joints in the girder: 19.65 m-long plates were specially made at the steel plant and transported in special longer trucks to eliminate the splice joint. Joints were corrosion-prone, and with the new bridge, more than 100 joints were eliminated. Design protection against corrosion is 35 years.
- The sub-structure of the bridge is built with special additives that act as Corrosion inhibitors to improve the durability.
- Scanning of all Butt welds by PAUT (Phased array ultrasonic test).
- 20m long Rails 60kg have been specially used to reduce the number of rail joints

- **Trains** : One new train will start connecting all the newly converted GC sections
- Rameshwaram will be connected by 14 pairs of train extensions and one new train from Tambram to Rameshwaram.
- 6 Daily trains: 2 M/Express from Chennai Egmore and 3 passenger trains from Madurai, and 1 M/Express from Tiruchirappalli
- 2 Tri-weekly: 1 from Tirupati and 1 from Kanyakumari
- 6 Weekly train: Each from Ayodhya, Coimbatore, Okha, Varanasi, Firozpur, and Bhubaneswar

- The Railway Ministry sanctioned the reconstruction of the Pamban Railway Bridge in February 2019. PM Modi laid the foundation at Kanyakumari on 1st March 2019.
- The bridge substructure is designed & constructed to cater for future double lines with electrification.

Train movement obstructed at Magrahat on non Railway cause

MI News Service, Kolkata: Train services in Baruipur - Diamond Harbour section were affected today for short duration as a group of people obstructed train movement at Magrahat station from 11:48 hrs. to 12:35 hrs. on non railway cause. Normal train services resumed in the section after withdrawal of the obstruction at 12:35 hrs. As sequel to this 3 EMU locals were delayed enroute. Eastern Railway expresses its concern about such obstruction to train movement on non railway cause or on a cause which has no relation to Railways. This type of obstruction not only affects normal train operations but also lots of passengers get harassed due to delay in train movement. All the people are requested to refrain themselves from obstructing train movement.

Kolkata hosts eco-friendly sustainable fashion effort

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a city where the pulse of tradition harmonizes with the rhythm of modernity, a verdant revolution has begun. An eco-friendly fashion endeavour has consciously begun in the city of joy and innovation. Kolkata recently hosted a conclave regarding 'Nature in Every Thread: Designing a Sustainable Future,' casting a luminous spotlight on the urgent need for eco-conscious fashion. This event was graced by many dignitaries like Gautam Mukhopadhyay (Wander Waves) his wife Prof. Ananya Mukhopadhyay, Swami Vedateetananda (Ravi Maharaj), Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira, Belur, Ms. Sushmita Bhattacharya, Scientist C, ICMR, Prof. Kanika Das Bhattacharya, Professor-in-Charge, IEST Shibpur, Ms. Kakoli Dey, eminent film director Debashish Sen Sharma and others. The afternoon unfolded as a vibrant dialogue, where whispers of change echoed through the hall, urging brands and consumers alike to embrace the gentle caress of sustainable practices. The spotlight shone brightly on jute, a humble yet magnificent fiber, poised to be the protagonist in our planet's redemption story. The exhibition itself was a poetic display of nature's bounty – jute, Juco, and cotton, each thread a testament to the earth's generosity. From the rustic charm of unlaminated jute to the vibrant hues of printed fabrics, the collection showcased the boundless potential of sustainable materials. Jute.

Creative Wall Painting Drive Inspires Environmental Awareness Across Malda Division



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a remarkable initiative to promote environmental consciousness and beautify public spaces, the Malda Division of Eastern Railway organized a Creative Wall Painting Drive today at Eco Park, Malda. The one day campaign aimed to encourage conservation of nature, improve greeneries of environment and foster eco-friendly values among the citizen. The event was held under the leadership of Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda, and Smt. Manisha Gupta, President of Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO), Malda. Shri Sheo Kumar Gupta, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, along with other senior branch officers, their families, and children also took enthusiastic part in this vibrant and meaningful initiative.

Participants painted the walls near Eco Park with vibrant and meaningful artwork. The paintings included themes such as Gautam Buddha meditating under a tree, a sunrise, a butterfly, dustbins en-

couraging proper waste disposal, and a dolphin leaping into a river—all symbolizing harmony with nature and the importance of environmental conservation. On the occasion, Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, DRM/Malda, stated, “Malda Division has always remained committed to promoting cleanliness and sustainability. These creative artworks carry strong messages about waste segregation, the harmful effects of littering, and the importance of environmental protection, especially among children and youth. We hope this initiative inspires everyone to connect with nature and take small but meaningful steps towards a greener future.” This creative initiative, aligned with the vision of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, not only enhances the visual appeal of the area but also serves as a powerful educational tool, inspiring the next generation to respect and protect the environment. Malda Division remains dedicated to continuing such efforts to spread awareness and promote eco-conscious living.

Indian commercial vehicle industry set for 3-5% growth in FY26: ICRA

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian commercial vehicle (CV) industry is poised for modest growth, with ICRA forecasting a 3-5% year-on-year (YoY) increase in wholesale volumes for Financial Year (FY) 2026.

ICRA stated that the anticipated growth will be driven by multiple factors, including the resumption of construction and infrastructure activities, steady rural demand, and increased replacement sales due to ageing fleets and government regulations. Among CV segments, the Medium & Heavy Commercial Vehicles (M&HCV) truck category is expected to witness a marginal YoY volume growth of 0-3% in FY26, following a flattish or slightly negative trend in FY25. The segment recorded a 7% YoY contraction in the first nine months of FY25, with tipplers, haulage trucks, and tractor-trailers experiencing declines of 11% and 5%, respectively.

Meanwhile, Light Commercial Vehicles (LCVs) are projected to grow by 3-5% in FY26, after experiencing a marginal contraction in FY25 due to a high base effect, a slowdown in e-commerce, and rising competition from electric three-wheelers.

Nischinda Gram Panchayat
Bally, Howrah

E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE
Electronic Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafied and resourceful bidders for different development works vide e-NIT No. **01/NGP/2025-26 & 02/NGP/2025-26**. Published date: **03/04/2025**. Last date of Bid submission: **14/04/2025** up to **11:00 AM**. Date of opening: **16/04/2025** at **11:30 AM**. Details are available in <https://wb.tenders.gov.in> & <https://etender.wb.nic.in> and Office Notice Board.

Sd/-
Proddhan
Nischinda Gram Panchayat

ICICI Bank

Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091.

PUBLIC NOTICE-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF SECURED ASSET
(See provision to rule 8(a))
Notice for sale of immovable assets

E-Auction Sale Notice for the sale of immovable asset(s) under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

This notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/ charged to the Secured Creditor, the physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of ICICI Bank Limited will be sold on 'As is where is', 'As is what is' and 'Whatever there is' as per the brief particulars given hereunder;

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower(s)/ Co-Borrowers/ Guarantors/ Loan Account No.	Details of the Secured asset(s) with known encumbrances, if any	Amount Outstanding	Reserve Price/ Earnest Money Deposit	Date and Time of Property Inspection	Date & Time of E-Auction
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)
1.	M/s. Tozammel Enterprise (Applicant) Tozammel Hossain (Guarantor & Mortgagor) 161405001047	Mouza- Kayemba, J.L. No. 171, L.R. Dag No. 610, 613, L.R. Khotion No. 1847, Resa No. 317, Touzi No. 146, Pargana- Anowarpur, Hal Thana- Madhyamgram, P.S.-Barasat, With Local Limit of Kemia Khamarpara Gram Panchayat, West Bengal, Land Admeasuring 1 Decimal Comprised in LR Dag No. 610 and 1 Decimal Comprised in Dag No. 613, in Total Admeasuring Area 2 Decimals Together With 2 Storied House Admeasuring 1000 Sq.ft.	Rs. 24,08,480/- as on 3rd March 2025	Rs. 9,20,000/- Rs. 92,000/-	April 22, 2025 From 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM	April 29, 2025 From 11:00 AM onwards

The online auction will be conducted on the website (URL Link-<https://disposalhub.com>) of our auction agency M/s NexXen Solutions Private Limited. The Mortgagors/ Noticees are given a last chance to pay the total dues with further interest by April 28, 2025 Before 05:00 PM else the secured asset(s) will be sold as per schedule.

The prospective bidder(s) must submit the Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Demand Draft (DD) (Refer Column E) at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091 on or before April 28, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Thereafter, they have to submit their offer through the website mentioned above on or before April 28, 2025 before 05:00 PM along with the scanned image of the Bank acknowledged DD towards proof of payment of EMD. In case the prospective bidder(s) is/ are unable to submit his/ her/ their offer through the website, then the signed copy of tender documents may be submitted at ICICI BANK LTD, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 13th Floor, Sector V Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091 on or before April 28, 2025 before 05:00 PM. Earnest Money Deposit DD/PO should be from a Nationalised/ Scheduled Bank in favour of 'ICICI Bank Limited' payable at Kolkata.

For any further clarifications in terms of inspection, Terms and Conditions of the E-Auction or submission of tenders, contact ICICI Bank Employee Phone No. 9163343439.

Please note that Marketing Agency 1. ValueTrust Capital Services Private Limited, 2. Ginarsoft Pvt Ltd. have also been engaged for facilitating the sale of this property.

The Authorised Officer reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without furnishing any further reasons. For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale, please visit www.icicibank.com/n4p4s.

Date : April 07, 2025
Place: Kolkata (West Bengal)

Authorized Officer
ICICI Bank Limited

BSF shoots Pak intruder to death

MI News Service, Srinagar: A Pakistani intruder was shot dead along the International Border here, a BSF spokesperson said on Saturday, claiming that the force foiled an infiltration attempt from across the border. The Border Security Force (BSF) lodged a strong protest with the Pakistan Rangers following the incident in the border outpost Abdullian area in the R S Pura sector, official sources said. "On the intervening night of April 4 and 5, the alert BSF troops saw suspicious movement in the Jammu border area and an intruder was seen crossing the IB," the spokesperson said.

He said the intruder was challenged by the troops but he paid no heed and kept moving. "The BSF troops, sensing a threat, neutralised the intruder. The identity and motive of the intruder are being ascertained," he added. The spokesperson said a strong protest is being lodged with the BSF's Pakistani counterpart. According to the sources, the BSF informed police, which sent the body for post-mortem and other legal formalities. Later, around 1.10 pm, the BSF conducted a short-duration flag meeting with the Pakistan Rangers near the incident spot, the sources said. A strong protest was lodged with the Pakistani side over the infiltration attempt. The Pakistani side refused to accept the body of the intruder during the meeting, they said. The deceased is aged around 35 and was not found in possession of any incriminating material, the sources said.

Contemplates to make UP India's top economy: Yogi

MI News Service, Ayodhya: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said Uttar Pradesh will emerge as a prosperous state in the next three years by eradicating poverty and his government will make the state's economy number one in the country.

Addressing an event here, the chief minister also attacked previous governments, saying they encouraged "one district, one mafia" while the BJP government has replaced it with "one district, one medical college". Adityanath is in Maharajganj for the inauguration of the Rohin Barrage. He will also lay the foundation stones of and inaugurate 629 developmental projects worth Rs 654, according to the state government. "In the next three years, Uttar Pradesh will be established as a prosperous state by eradicating poverty. We will make Uttar Pradesh the number one economy in the country by achieving the target of zero poverty," he said. "Uttar Pradesh is no longer a BIMARU state. Maharajganj is no longer a backward district," he said. The acronym 'BIMARU' (sick) was coined by demographer Ashish Bose in the mid-1980s, formed from the first letters of names of some of the country's then poorest states -- Bihar,

Lord Lingaraj's Rukuna Rath Yatra begins

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: Rukuna Rath Yatra, the annual car festival of Lord Lingaraj, began on Saturday with thousands of devotees pulling the chariot in Bhubaneswar's Old Town amid tight security arrangements, officials said. The chariot could not reach the Mausima Temple as the sun set before the journey could be completed. It was pulled for only 200 metres along the Ratha Road. Pulling of the chariot will commence on Sunday morning, a priest said.



In this screengrab from a video posted by PM India website on April 6, 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi offers prayers at Sri Arulmigu Ramanaathaswamy Temple, in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

India expected to enter global fisheries certification by 2025

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a major boost for India's seafood export, the country is expected to enter the global fisheries certification by the end of 2025.

A stakeholder workshop held in Kochi on Monday highlighted that the country is making remarkable progress towards sustainable fisheries with most of the prioritised species nearing the completion of Fishery Improvement Projects (FIPs). This is critical for assessing the fishery against the standard of Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) certification which includes sustainable stock levels, minimal environmental impact and effective fishery management systems. The capacity building workshop was hosted by the Sustainable Seafood Network India (SSNI) in association with various stakeholders to equip the stakeholders with the principles of MSC certification and to discuss progress towards sustainable fisheries management in India. Marine scientists, government officials, environmentalists, certification experts and exporters attended. In India, a dozen prioritised fisheries have already conducted pre-assessments against the MSC Standards, enabling stakeholders to develop clear action plans for improvement. The demand for certified seafood

has witnessed a significant surge in the global markets, the workshop observed. Amanda Lejbowicz, Head of Fisheries Standard Accessibility of MSC, London said that over 15 per cent of the total marine catch across the globe is certified fishery.

"Certified seafood products in different forms such as canned, chilled, frozen and baby foods are on the rise with canned products registering a 9 per cent increase in demand last year," said Lejbowicz. On the growing status of fisheries certification, she said more countries are joining the initiative with currently 63 countries being actively engaged in MSC certification. "With the growing global emphasis on sustainability, eco-labelling has become a critical factor in market access, competitiveness, and export growth. International buyers, especially in Europe, the US and Japan, are increasingly demanding certified sustainable seafood," said Lejbowicz.

Dr Sunil Mohamed, eminent marine scientist and Chairman of the SSNI emphasised the critical need for integrating sustainability certification and auditing into university fisheries curricula, saying that this would ensure a sufficient supply of auditing professionals in the field.

Mumbai police aware of massive betting in IPL: LoP MLC

MI News Service, Mumbai: Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Maharashtra Legislative Council(MLC), Ambadas Danve alleged that certain individuals are involved in betting on IPL cricket matches and Mumbai police were shielding them. The Shiv Sena (UBT) leader said he would submit a pen drive containing details of several conversations and betting operations to the council chairman.

He claimed, "I have a pen drive that contains phone call details of an application called 'Lotus 24' used for betting on cricket matches. Mehul Jain, Kamlesh Jain, and Hiren Jain have connections with Pakistani cricket players. It also involves senior police officers of the Mumbai police. The betting activities are taking place under the protection of Mumbai police." Raising concerns about crime statistics, he claimed 7,82,960 incidents

were reported in 2024, according to the state police department. He alleged that the Maharashtra government had deliberately withheld crime reports for 2022-23 and 2023-24.

He said, "Last year, the state reported 7,982 rapes and 16,200 cases of molestation. This year, we are seeing 22 rapes and 45 molestation cases daily. Why has this behaviour become so rampant?" The Sena (UBT) leader claimed that crime had increased because the state was not keen on prosecuting offenders.

He also highlighted overcrowding in prisons, claiming that the state's prisons were holding 43,000 prisoners when they could only hold 27,000. Danve also pointed out that the state had recorded financial frauds worth Rs 51,000 crore in 2024 and sought to know what measures the government was taking.

New SEBI committee to address conflicts of interest

MI News Service, New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi decided to set up a high-level committee to undertake a comprehensive review of conflict of interest, disclosures pertaining to property, investments and liabilities of members and officials on the board.

The committee will work independently and submit its recommendations within three months from the date of constitution, which will then be placed for the board's consideration. The name of the committee members will be announced in due course but will consist of eminent persons and experts with relevant background and experience in constitutional/statutory/regulatory bodies, government/public sector, private sector and academia, the regulator said. The review comes in the wake of allegations of conflict of interest against former Sebi chief Madhabi Puri-Buch by Hindenburg Research in the Adani issue. "The day I joined, I had mentioned that we will come up with our plan on how we will handle conflict of interest and other issues. "Today the board has decided to constitute a high-level committee to undertake a comprehensive review of the provisions relating to conflict of interest, disclosures pertaining to property, investments, liabilities etc. and related matters in respect of members and that includes the chairman and officials of the board," Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said

after his first board meeting. Pandey said the objective of the high-level committee is to comprehensively review and make recommendations to enhance the existing framework for managing conflicts of interest, disclosures and related matters to ensure the high standards of transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct of members and officials of the board. The Sebi board has taken a slew of measures aimed towards ease of business and compliance. Chief among them is the approval of a proposal to double the investment threshold for disclosures by foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to ₹50,000 crore. At present, certain FPIs with equity assets under management (AUM) exceeding ₹25,000 crore are required to provide granular details of all their investors or stakeholders on a look-through basis.

"Cash equity markets' trading volumes have more than doubled between 2022-23 (when the limits were set) and 2024-25. In the light of this, the board approved a proposal to increase the applicable threshold from the present ₹25,000 crore to ₹50,000 crore," Pandey said. In August 2023, Sebi had directed FPIs, which were holding over 50 per cent of their equity AUM in a single corporate group or with an overall holding in Indian equity markets of more than ₹25,000 crore, to disclose granular details of all entities holding any ownership, economic interest.

Over 7,400 projects completed under Smart Cities Mission: Khattar

MI News Service, New Delhi: Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal Khattar said more than 7,400 projects have been completed so far under the Smart Cities Mission valid till March 31 this year. The mission was launched in June 2015 wherein 100 cities were selected to be developed as smart cities

across the country, making them citizen-friendly and sustainable. Replying to Congress member Rajiv Shukla's question in Rajya Sabha whether the government has ended this Mission since no budget provision has been made for 2025-26, Khattar said many programmes are inspirational and can be replicated.

'IOS SAGAR' to be on month-long deployment in IOR

MI News Service, Karwar: Indian Ocean Ship SAGAR that set sail from the shores of the key naval base in Karnataka's Karwar on Saturday carrying crew members from India and nine other countries will be on a nearly month-long deployment in the south-west Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

The ship was flagged off by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in presence of Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and a large number of naval officers and other personnel.

INS Sunayna, the Indian Navy Offshore Patrol Vessel, has assumed the mantle of IOS SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) under this mission that seeks to reaffirm Indian's commitment to "building stronger ties with its maritime neighbours and working towards a safer, more inclusive and secure maritime environment in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR)".

Black badge: Protesters face Rs 2 lakh bond notices

MI News Services, Ayodhya: Authorities in Uttar Pradesh's Muzaffarnagar district have issued notices against 24 people for protesting against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 by wearing black badges and asked them to furnish bonds of Rs 2 lakh each. Superintendent of Police (City) Satyanarayan Prajapat on Saturday told reporters that notices were served to 24 persons in this connection, and added that police have identified more people on the basis of CCTV footage. The notices were issued by City Magistrate Vikas Kashyap on the police report, asking them to furnish bonds of Rs two lakh each after appearing before the court on April 16. These people were found protesting against the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 and wearing black badges on their arms during last Friday prayers of Ramzan in different mosques here on March 28.

The people who got notices issued against them said they wore black badges only to show protest in a democratic way. Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju tabled the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025 in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday, asserting that the legislation is not against Muslims or intended to hurt their religious feelings, but seeks to improve the functioning of Waqf properties, address complexities, ensure transparency and introduce technology-driven management. The Lok Sabha passed the Bill by a 288-232 vote in the early hours of Thursday, after nearly 12 hours of debate, and the Rajya Sabha gave its nod to the legislation following an over 13-hour debate. The Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha with 128 members voting in favour and 95 opposing it.

DMs asked to look into illegal Madrasa funding

MI News Service, Dehradun (Uttarakhand): The Uttarakhand government has asked all district magistrates to look into the source of funding of illegal madrasas, a move that comes after more than 100 illegal seminaries were sealed in the state. It will be found out during the probe from what sources the madrasas were receiving the funds and for what purposes they were using them, a source said. The objective is to verify whether or not these madrasas were being funded clandestinely through hawala, the source said.

STEM project, 'Zul' ignites spark in J&K students

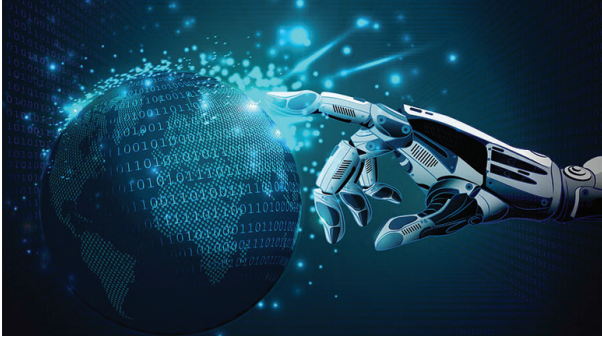
MI News Service, Srinagar/Pune: A Mumbai-based teenager is inspiring students in Jammu and Kashmir with his project Zul - a pioneering science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) initiative aimed at igniting their passion for robotics and coding.

Spearheaded by 17-year-old Arav Kaul from Mumbai's Dhirubhai Ambani International School, the program was launched to equip students in grades 9 and 10 with hands-on skills in microcontroller programming. "The initiative seeks to foster innovation and technological growth in the region, empowering young minds with practical knowledge for the future", Arav said. A STEM initiative refers to a program or effort aimed at promoting education, skills and careers in these fields. Arav met Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha here, who commended the

1000 students across the region.

The program, now in full swing, hosts weekly sessions throughout March and April, guiding teachers and students from fundamental circuitry and sensors to advanced coding and project design, he said. "A final showcase scheduled for later this month will allow participants to exhibit their innovations, ranging from functional gadgets to groundbreaking solutions," he added.

Anupama Sharma from Jammu Sanskriti School said "We require more such initiatives to enhance our technical and practical capabilities, enabling us to better engage our students." Minakshi Gupta from DPS added "I found creating circuits incredibly rewarding. This project offers students a unique approach to learning." The groundwork for Project Zul began in Feb-



initiative, recognising its alignment with the region's aspirations for technological transformation and youth empowerment.

"Robotics is more than technology — it's about problem-solving and creative thinking," Arav said, emphasising his mission to make STEM education accessible and enjoyable. Teachers have enthusiastically embraced the training, describing it as engaging and practical, and are integrating these skills into their classrooms, he said. Arav, an accomplished international robotics champion representing India in global competitions such as FIRST, Robotex and MakeX, initiated Project Zul to share his enthusiasm with students in the Union Territory, a place close to his heart due to his father's roots there.

"Since its inception, I have conducted comprehensive training sessions for teachers from 15 government and private schools, both in-person and online, empowering them to teach robotics effectively", he said. He has distributed free Arduino kits to ensure students have the necessary tools to construct real-world machines, impacting over

ruary when Arav reached out to multiple schools across Jammu and Kashmir, garnering enthusiastic participation from educators. "Schools eagerly accepted the opportunity, receiving kits, curriculum plans, and ongoing guidance. For students, this initiative provides a rare chance to bridge theoretical knowledge with hands-on experimentation" Beyond the classroom, Project Zul is cultivating a culture of innovation among participating schools, with Arav envisioning this as just the beginning. He is calling for additional partnerships with schools, tech-savvy educators, and community supporters to expand the program's reach, seeking donations of laptops, dedicated learning spaces, and assistance in promoting the upcoming showcase. For Arav, this endeavour holds personal significance. "My father inspired me to begin here," he shared. "I want these students to see the endless possibilities." With sessions underway, increasing school involvement, and growing enthusiasm, the project stands poised to ignite a passion for STEM among the next generation in Jammu and Kashmir.

PSLV orbital platform module re-enters earth's atmosphere: ISRO

MI News Service, Bengaluru: ISRO said the fourth edition of the PSLV Orbital platform Experiment Module (POEM-4), the repurposed spent upper stage of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle used for the space docking experiment mission, has re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. "Finally, the POEM-4 module re-entered the atmosphere and impacted at 02:33 UTC (08:03 IST), April 04, 2025, in the Indian Ocean," ISRO said in a post on 'X'. The safe re-entry of POEM-4 is yet another accomplishment of ISRO's commitment to contain the growth of space debris, reaffirming the prominent role of the space agency in the long-term sustainability of outer space environment and Debris Free Space Mission (DFSM), it said. On December 30, 2024, ISRO's PSLV-C60 launched twin SPADEX (Space Docking Experiment) satellites and after injecting satellites at 475 km altitude, the specially configured upper stage (PS4) of PSLV-C60 (called PSLV Orbital Experimental Module in short POEM-4) was also almost in the same orbit. Noting that subsequently, POEM-4 was

de-orbited by engine restarts to a nearly circular orbit at 350 km altitude with 55.2 inclination, ISRO said, the PS4 was then passivated by venting the leftover fuel to minimise any potential risk for accidental break-up.

"During its mission life, POEM-4 hosted altogether 24 payloads (14 payloads from ISRO and 10 from various NGEs) and all payloads worked as expected yielding valuable science data," it said. While the POEM-4 was in orbit, it was continuously tracked by ISRO's Radar Facilities and United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) facilities as well. The tracking data was in turn utilised in the re-entry prediction process, ISRO said, adding that it was observed that POEM-4's orbit had decayed to 174 kmx165 km and the platform was predicted to re-enter the Earth's atmosphere on April 04, 2025. The atmospheric re-entry event of POEM-4 was then closely monitored by ISRO System for Safe and Sustainable Space Operations Management (IS4OM) and regular updates in predictions were made, it added.



Study finds how bacterial vaccine demonstrates potential as treatment for cancer immunotherapy

NEW YORK [US] : Columbia researchers developed probiotic bacteria that train the immune system to eliminate cancer cells, paving the way for a new class of cancer vaccinations that take advantage of bacteria's innate tumour-targeting abilities. These microbial cancer vaccines can be tailored to each person's specific original tumour and metastases, perhaps preventing future recurrences.

In mice models of advanced colorectal cancer and melanoma, the bacterial vaccine stimulated the immune system, causing primary and metastatic malignancies to shrink - or in many cases disappear entirely. All while leaving healthy body parts alone.

The findings were published in Nature.

The bacterial vaccine proved to be particularly more efficacious than peptide-based therapeutic cancer vaccines that have been used in numerous previous cancer clinical trials.

"The important advantage of our system is its unique ability to coordinately restructure and activate all arms of the immune system to induce a productive antitumor immune response. We believe this is why the system works so well in advanced solid tumor models which have been particularly difficult to treat with other immunotherapies," says Andrew Redenti, an MD/PhD student at Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons who helped lead the study.

"The net effect is that the bac-

terial vaccine is able to control or eliminate the growth of advanced primary or metastatic tumors and extend survival in mouse models," says Jongwon Im, a PhD student at Columbia University who helped lead bacterial engineering aspects of the study.

The bacterial vaccine is personalized for each tumor. "Every cancer is unique - tumor cells harbor distinct genetic mutations that distinguish them from normal healthy cells. By programming bacteria that direct the immune system to target these cancer-specific mutations, we can engineer more effective therapies that stimulate a patient's own immune system to detect and kill their cancer cells," says Nicholas Arpaia, PhD, Associate Professor of Microbiology & Immunology at the Columbia University's Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons who directed the research with Tal Danino, PhD, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Columbia's School of Engineering.

"As we continue to integrate additional safety optimizations through further genetic programming, we are getting closer to the point of testing this therapy in patients," he added. Bacteria have been utilized in the treatment of cancer since the late 19th century, when Dr. William Coley, who was a surgeon at New York Hospital, observed tumor regression in a subset of patients with inoperable tumors injected with bacteria. Bacteria are still employed as a therapeutic today in patients with early-stage bladder cancer.



Researchers now know that some bacteria can naturally migrate to and colonize tumors, where they can thrive in the often oxygen-deprived environment and locally provoke an immune response.

But used this way, bacteria do not usually precisely control or direct the immune response to attack the cancer. "These qualities alone don't typically give bacteria enough power to stimulate immune responses capable of destroying a tumor, but they're a

good starting point for building a new domain of cancer therapeutics," said Nicholas Arpaia, PhD.

The new system starts with a probiotic strain of E. coli bacteria. The researchers then made multiple genetic modifications to precisely control the way in which the bacteria interact with and educate the immune system to induce tumor killing. The engineered bacteria encode protein targets - called neoantigens - that are specific to the cancer being treated.

These bacterially-delivered neoantigens train the immune system to target and attack cancer cells that express the same proteins. Neoantigens are used as tumor targets so that normal cells, which lack these cancer-marking proteins, are left alone. Due to the nature of the bacterial system and additional genetic modifications engineered by the scientists, these bacterial cancer therapies also simultaneously overcome immunosuppressive mechanisms

tumors use to block the immune system.

These genetic modifications are also designed to block the bacteria's innate ability to evade immune attacks against themselves. As a safety measure, this means the engineered bacteria can be easily recognized and eliminated by the immune system and are quickly cleared from the body if they do not find the tumor.

When tested in mice, the researchers found that these intricately programmed bacterial cancer vaccines recruit a wide array of immune cells that attack tumor cells, all the while preventing responses that would normally suppress tumor-directed immune attacks. The bacterial vaccine also reduced the growth of cancer when administered to mice before they developed tumors, and prevented regrowth of the same tumors in mice that had been cured, suggesting the vaccine may have the ability to prevent cancer from returning in patients who've experienced remission.

In people, the first step in creating these microbial vaccines would be to sequence a patient's cancer and identify its unique neoantigens using bioinformatics. Next, the bacteria would be engineered to produce large quantities of the identified neoantigens, as well as other immunomodulatory factors. When infused into the patient whose tumors are to be treated, the bacteria would head to the tumors, make themselves at home, and steadily produce and deliver their payload of engineered "medicines." Once activated

by the bacterial vaccine, the immune system would be prompted to eliminate cancer cells that have spread throughout the body and prevent further metastatic development.

Since each tumor has its own set of neoantigens, the immunotherapy will be customized for each patient. "The time to treatment will first depend on how long it takes to sequence the tumor. Then we just need to make the bacterial strains, which can be quite fast. Bacteria can be simpler to manufacture than some other vaccine platforms," Danino says.

The bacteria are also designed to counteract cancer's ability to rapidly mutate and evade treatment. "Because our platform allows us to deliver so many different neoantigens, it theoretically becomes difficult for tumor cells to lose all those targets at once and avoid the immune response," says Arpaia.

The researchers think their approach may succeed where earlier cancer vaccines have not. In the latter, while immune responses against tumor neoantigens may be induced, direct modulation of the immunosuppressive tumor environment is not accomplished to such a degree.

Arpaia adds, "Bacteria allow delivery of a higher concentration of drugs than can be tolerated when these compounds are delivered systemically throughout the entire body. Here, we can confine delivery directly to the tumor and locally modulate how we're stimulating the immune system."

Study gives insights into quality of life for adults with congenital heart disease



WASHINGTON : Adults with congenital heart disease (CHD) can now gain vital insights into their long-term quality of life according to data from the Congenital Heart Initiative (CHI). CHI is the nation's first and largest patient-focused registry for people with CHD, and it recently launched its inaugural research, which included over 4,500 participants from all 50 states.

This study, published in JAMA Network Open, represents a big step forward in providing better information to the 1.5 million adults in the United States who were born with CHD.

"Studies like this that leverage actual patient voices and experiences help us get a better sense of how to advise, support and treat people with CHD as they age," says Anitha John, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Washington Adult

Congenital Heart program at Children's National Hospital and senior author of the study. "Also, researchers get a clearer picture of the questions that need to be answered to make sure they have the best quality of life possible."

Treatments for children born with congenital heart disease have improved so significantly in the last two decades that life expectancy continues to increase as well.

"There are now more adults living with congenital heart disease than there are children with CHD," says Scott Leezer, patient co-principal investigator for the Congenital Heart Initiative registry and co-author of the study. "However, a significant gap remains in what we know about the adult CHD population. As an adult CHD patient, I was excited to contribute to creating this reg-

istry, bringing more answers to people like me who want to know how our unique hearts impact our bodies and quality of life over time."

The authors note that the study's findings and the registry data currently have a few limitations. First, the registry only contains patient-reported outcomes and no clinical data. The first sub-study of the CHI, the CHI-RON study, addresses this challenge by incorporating additional data sources for a subset of consenting CHI participants.

Additionally, recall bias, underlying neurocognitive challenges and survey fatigue, may have limited participation in the CHI to a smaller subset of adults with CHD. Efforts are underway to develop methods for people with congenital heart disease who have neurodevelopmental deficits or other disabilities to engage in the registry. The CHI is temporarily closed to new registrants as the study team redesigns the study to better align with the needs of the community.

"We are grateful for everyone who joined this registry, answered survey questions and shared their experiences," says Thomas Carton, Ph.D., chief data officer at Louisiana Public Health Institute and study co-author. "The CHI registry is a big step forward for adults with CHD, but also can serve as a model for how to bring together physicians, researchers and patients as active participants in care, research and advocacy."

As the registry grows in the

SAN FRANCISCO : The matter of what causes complicated neurological disorders like Alzheimer's or multiple sclerosis continues to perplex scientists and doctors, with unknowns impeding early diagnosis and successful treatment.

Even when identical twins have the same genetic risk factors, one may acquire a specific neurological condition while the other does not.

That's because, unlike diseases like cystic fibrosis or sickle-cell anaemia, which are caused by a single gene, most neurological problems are linked to a large number--sometimes hundreds--of rare genetic variants. Furthermore, these polymorphisms cannot identify who will develop disease on their own, because neurological diseases are heavily influenced by environmental factors and vascular hazards such as high blood pressure, ageing, heart disease, or obesity.

But there's one often-overlooked thread that connects most neurological diseases, says Katerina Akassoglou, PhD, a senior investigator at Gladstone Institutes: They're marked by a toxic immune reaction caused by blood that leaks into the brain through damaged blood vessels.

"Interactions between the brain, blood vessels, and the immune system are a common thread in the development and progression of many neurological diseases that have been traditionally viewed as very different conditions," says Akassoglou, a senior investigator with the Gladstone



Institute of Neurological Diseases and director of the Center for Neurovascular Brain Immunology at Gladstone and UC San Francisco. "Knowing that leaked blood is a key driver of brain inflammation, we can now approach these diseases from a different angle."

She and her collaborators share their insights on this topic in a commentary article published in Cell's 50th anniversary "Focus on Neuroscience" issue. Akassoglou and her lab have long investigated how blood that leaks into the brain trigger neurological diseases, essentially by hijacking the brain's immune system and setting off a cascade of harmful often-irreversible effects that result in damaged neurons. One blood protein in particular--fibrin, normally involved in blood coagulation--is responsible for setting off this

detrimental cascade. The process has been observed in conditions as diverse as Alzheimer's, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, premature birth, and even COVID-19. However, Akassoglou and her team found that the process could be prevented or interrupted by "neutralizing" fibrin to deactivate its toxic properties--an approach that appears to protect against many neurological diseases when tested in animal models.

"As a first step, we know that neutralizing fibrin reduces the burden posed by vascular dysfunction," Akassoglou says. Regardless of what initially caused the blood leaks, be it a head injury, autoimmunity, genetic mutations, brain amyloid or infection, neutralizing fibrin appears to be protective in multiple animal models of disease.

The scientists previously developed a drug, a therapeutic mono-

clonal antibody, that specifically targets fibrin's inflammatory properties without affecting its essential role in blood coagulation. This fibrin-targeting immunotherapy has shown, in mice, to protect from multiple sclerosis and Alzheimer's, and to treat neurological effects of COVID-19. A humanized version of this first-in-class fibrin immunotherapy is already in Phase 1 safety clinical trials by Therini Bio, a biotech company launched to advance discoveries from Akassoglou's lab.

In the Cell commentary, Akassoglou and her colleagues make the case that seemingly disparate neurological diseases must be viewed differently in light of new research on the blood-brain-immune interface. They say that in the coming decade, scientific breakthroughs will emerge from collaborative networks of immunologists, neuroscientists, hematologists, geneticists, computer scientists, physicists, bioengineers, drug developers, and clinical researchers. These partnerships--forged across academia, industry, and foundations--will catalyze innovation in drug discovery and transform medical practice for neurological diseases.

"This is a new opportunity for drug discovery that goes beyond addressing genes alone or environmental factors alone," Akassoglou says. "To usher in this new era, we must leverage new technologies and embrace an interdisciplinary approach that accounts for the important roles of immune and vascular systems in neurodegeneration."

Study: Biomarker may predict response to immunotherapy in liver cancer

NEW YORK [US] : According to a preclinical study conducted by Weill Cornell Medicine researchers, it may soon be feasible to detect whether individuals with hepatocellular carcinoma, a kind of liver cancer, may benefit from immunotherapy.

The work, published on October 17 in Molecular Cell, sheds fresh light on a pair of proteins known as p62 and NBR1, and their conflicting roles in regulating the interferon response in hepatic stellate cells, an important immunological component in the liver's fight against tumours. The study shows that high amounts of the immune-suppressing NBR1 in these specialised cells can help identify patients who are unlikely to respond to immunotherapies. It also reveals that NBR1-lowering techniques can decrease tumours in animal models, indicating a potential new therapy option for the subgroup of patients who do not

"P62 and NBR1 are yin and yang," said the study's co-principal investigator Dr. Jorge Moscat,

the Homer T. Hirst III Professor of Oncology in Pathology and a member of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. "In contrast to NBR1, if p62 is high in hepatic stellate cells, a patient is protected from cancer, but if it is low, the immune system is knocked down. If NBR1 is high, the immune system is impaired, but if NBR1 is low, the immune response increases."

Until recently, patients with hepatocellular carcinoma had few treatment options, and those that were available extended life by only a few months. Immunotherapy has offered a new alternative for these patients and may extend their lives for up to two years.

"The liver is an organ that is tremendously immune suppressed," said co-principal investigator Dr. Maria Diaz-Meco, the Homer T. Hirst Professor of Oncology in Pathology and a member of the Meyer Cancer Center at Weill Cornell Medicine. "Reactivating the immune system



is a very attractive approach that is now bearing fruit."

However, not all patients respond to immunotherapy, and only a small percentage achieve

long-term remission. Clinicians cannot currently predict which patients would benefit. "We need biomarkers to identify which patients will respond and who will

achieve long-term survival," she said. Drs. Moscat and Diaz-Meco worked with co-first authors Dr. Sadaaki Nishimura and Dr. Juan F. Linares, a postdoctoral associ-

ate and an instructor, respectively, in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine, and Dr. Antoine L'Hermite, formerly of Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, on the study.

The investigators aimed to identify biomarkers and potential therapeutic targets by studying what goes wrong in the liver's healing mechanisms that leads to cancer. Prior research has found that levels of the tumor-suppressing protein p62 are irreversibly depressed in patients who develop hepatocellular carcinoma. The new study shows that, usually, p62 helps promote an immune response by activating a protein called STING, which pushes NBR1 out of the way, triggering an immune response that destroys tumor cells. NBR1, by contrast, promotes the breakdown of STING and blocks the immune response. Deleting NBR1 from hepatic stellate cells in mice with hepatocellular carcinoma rescues the immune response and shrinks tumors even when p62 levels

remain low. The team is now investigating how they can develop a therapy that would degrade NBR1 in patients and block it from interacting with STING. The goal is to reactivate the immune system and help increase the effectiveness of immunotherapy. Drugs that activate STING are also in development and might provide another approach to help boost the immune response in patients with hepatocellular carcinoma. The team will also study whether knocking down NBR1 might help prevent the metastasis of many types of cancer or prevent tumors from becoming resistant to therapy. Dr. Moscat and Dr. Diaz-Meco plan to continue their studies of the pathways that regulate the immune response in the liver.

"If we don't fully comprehend the molecular mechanisms regulating these processes, immunotherapy will not progress, and we won't be able to understand why it works in some patients and not others," Dr. Diaz-Meco said.



Hundreds of Muslims booked for wearing black armbands in protest against Waqf Bill in Muzaffarnagar

MI News Service, Muzaffarnagar: Hundreds of Muslims in Muzaffarnagar have been booked by the Uttar Pradesh Police for wearing black armbands during Friday and Eid prayers in silent protest against the Waqf Amendment Bill. While the protesters said that the peaceful protest was held within Mosque premises and did not provoke anyone. However According to the police, wearing such bands is a “disruption of peace.” The notices were issued by City Magistrate Vikas Kashyap and were sent to the demonstrators who are now accused of inciting the public and endangering law and order in the state. The notices mentions that the demonstrators wore black armbands during Friday and Eid prayers in protest against the Waqf Board Bill. It cites a challan from Civil Lines Police Station under section 130 of the Indian Civil Defence Code claiming that the protest might spread misinformation and disrupt public order in the future.

All demonstrators are summoned to appear in court on April 16 and are ordered to submit surety bonds of Rs 2 lakh each. Surprisingly, notices were also served to a principal of Madrasa Mahmudiya, Naeem Tyagi who did not even wear a black armband. The move by the UP Police has drawn criticism from Muslims who argue how a peaceful protest against the controversial Waqf Bill is considered as a breach of law. While the demonstrators reject the claims by police, the move comes amidst growing opposition against the passage of the Bill from Muslims and several opposition parties who have demanded it's withdrawal by calling it “anti-Muslim and “unconstitutional.”

Bangladesh Army steps up security for Hindu festivals: ISPR

MI News Service, Dhaka: Religious ceremonies held in various regions of Bangladesh on the occasion of Maha Ashtami, Basanti Puja, and Punyasnan are being celebrated peacefully, with the spontaneous participation of thousands of devotees.

Bangladesh Army personnel are actively performing their duties to ensure security at puja mandaps, bathing ghats, and important religious places in different parts of the country. Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) said in a statement late Saturday. As the festival season begins on the banks of the Brahmaputra River in Langalband in Narayanganj, millions of pilgrims from across the country and abroad join in the festivities. This Maha Ashtami Punyasnan festival of the Hindu community began at midnight last night and will continue for two days. On Sunday, thousands of pilgrims will participate in this punyasnan at 19 ghats of Langalband. It is known that thousands of pilgrims from various countries, including India, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, will participate in this holy bath. In addition, hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from different parts of the country participated in the holy Ash-tami bath held in the Brahmaputra River in Chilmari Upazila of the northern Kurigram district. “The army is conducting round-the-clock armed patrols and monitoring activities at various important locations during these religious festivals. In addition, the army is providing round-the-clock assistance in traffic management through traffic control posts and check posts”, the statement said.

Revolutionizing Northern Odisha’s Rail Stations
Amrit Scheme Brings Modern Infrastructure

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar: The Indian Railways, as parts of its Amrit Station Scheme has undertaken redevelopment of various railway stations in the northern parts of Odisha. This redevelopment aims to transform key railway stations with modern facilities, enhancing the overall travel experience for passengers and promoting regional economic growth. The redevelopment will focus on improving infrastructure, modernizing amenities, and ensuring seamless connectivity to support both passenger comfort and commercial growth. The selected stations in the northern region of Odisha are expected to undergo significant enhancements in design, technology, and passenger services. The initiative is in line with the ongoing efforts to modernize the Indian Railway network and provide an efficient and user-friendly travel experience for all.

Key Features of Redevelopment: Modern Infrastructure: Stations will feature modern platforms, upgraded ticketing facilities, waiting areas and improved cleanliness standards, ensuring convenience and comfort for all passengers. Increased Accessibility: The redevelopment will include FOBs with lifts and escalators to improve accessibility for senior citizens, differently-abled passengers, and families with children.Sustainable and Eco-Friendly Design: The stations will adopt green building principles, integrating renewable energy solutions, water conservation practices, and waste management systems, in line with Indian Railways commitment to sustainable development. Improved Circulating areas in the premises: Through these Redevelopments, a perceptible improving in the Station Circulating areas have been planned with Drop-on and Drop-out lanes along with adequate parking places. State-of-the-Art Passenger Amenities: Amenities like Wi-Fi, digital displays, advanced security systems, improved catering services and modern waiting lounges will enhance the overall travel experience. Economic Growth: The redevelopment project aims to stimulate local economies by boosting tourism, improving connectivity and creating employment opportunities in the region. The Northern Odisha region, with its rich cultural heritage and diverse landscapes, will benefit significantly from these upgrades. The railway stations at major hubs like, Rairangpur, Baripada, and Keonjhar will soon offer enhanced travel experiences, making it eas-



ier for passengers and tourists to explore the region's vast heritage and eco-tourism potential. The Indian Railways is committed to ensuring the timely completion of these projects, and work is set to commence in phases. The redevelopment project is expected to be completed in the coming few years. The stations undertaken in this redevelopment initiative include Kendujhargarh, Barbil, Jaroli, Baripada, Rairangpur, Betnoti, and Badampahar. Here's an update on the progress of these stations:

Kendujhargarh Station – Kendujhargarh Railway Station is undergoing significant upgrades with a sanctioned cost of ₹10.16 crore. Currently, the project is going on with key improvements in progress. The scope of work includes the construction of a new station building equipped with modern amenities for passengers, alongside enhancements to the existing building's front façade. Additionally, a 12-meter-wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) is being constructed, along with platform surface improvements and the installation of LED signages, Coach Indication Boards and Train Indication Boards. The station will also feature an additional 20 bays of platform shelter. Ongoing work includes the construction of the new station building, the FOB, platform surfaces, platform sheds, toilets, waiting halls and circulating areas, all aimed at improving the overall passenger experience.

Barbil Station – Barbil Railway Station is currently undergoing major upgrades with an approved budget of ₹17.7 crore. The project

includes the construction of a new, state-of-the-art station building designed with modern amenities to enhance passenger comfort. In addition, the existing building's front façade will be renovated, and other modern features will be integrated. The project also encompasses soft upgrades, such as improvements to the Goods Shed, which are valued at ₹10 crore. As of now, approximately 31% of the work has been completed.

Jaroli Station – Jaroli Railway Station is currently undergoing major upgrades with an approved budget of ₹8.6 crore. The project includes the construction of a new, state-of-the-art station building designed with modern amenities to enhance passenger comfort. In addition, the existing building's front façade will be renovated, and other modern features will be integrated. As of now, approximately 24% of the work has been completed.

Baripada Station – Baripada Railway Station is undergoing extensive upgrades with an approved budget of ₹15.354 crore. The project includes the construction of a new, state-of-the-art station building, designed to provide modern amenities for enhanced passenger comfort. In addition, the front façade of the existing building is being renovated, and several other contemporary features are being incorporated. As of now, approximately 80% of the work has been completed, with the new station building already finished. Ongoing work includes the development of the circulating area, platform shelter (PF shed), and platform surfacing.

Rairangpur Station – Rairang-

pur Railway Station is undergoing significant upgrades with an approved budget of ₹7.4 crore. The project includes the construction of a new, state-of-the-art station building, designed to offer modern amenities that will enhance passenger comfort. Additionally, the front façade of the existing building will be renovated, and other contemporary features will be added. As of now, approximately 32% of the work has been completed. Soft upgrades are also underway, with a target completion date set for July 2025.

Betnoti Station – Betnoti Railway Station is undergoing substantial upgrades with an approved budget of ₹14.146 crore. The project involves the construction of a new, state-of-the-art station building, designed to provide modern amenities for enhanced passenger comfort. As of now, approximately 50% of the work has been completed. Soft upgrades are also in progress, with a target completion date set for July 2025. The platform shed has already been completed, and work on platform surfacing and the new station building is ongoing, with the project slated for completion by June 2025.

Badampahar Station – Badampahar Railway Station is undergoing significant upgrades with an approved budget of ₹12.22 crore. The project includes the construction of a new state-of-the-art station building, designed to offer modern amenities that will enhance passenger comfort. As of now, approximately 34% of the work has been completed. Soft upgrade works are currently underway, with a target completion date set for April 2025. Additionally, the project will feature the installation of a 3-meter-wide Foot Over Bridge (FOB) for improved accessibility.

The ongoing redevelopment of the Amrit Stations in Northern Odisha is a vital part of Indian Railways' commitment to modernizing its infrastructure and improving passenger services across the country. With the progress seen in these stations, the project is on track to offer enhanced travel facilities and bolster local economies. Indian Railways is confident that the completion of these station redevelopment projects will significantly enhance the travel experience for the people of Odisha and contribute to the state's growth. We look forward to the timely completion of these projects and are committed to delivering world-class infrastructure.

Timely and Expert Medical Intervention at B.R. Singh Hospital Saves Patient with Complex Cardiac Condition



MI News Service, Kolkata: B.R. Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, successfully managed a complex cardiac case under the expert supervision of Dr. Ajay Goutam, Senior Divisional Medical Officer/ In-Charge, Cardiology. The case involved a 52-year-old female patient, a known case of valvular heart disease and post-Aortic Valve Replacement (AVR), who was admitted to the hospital with a persistent febrile illness. The patient had previously consulted private medical practitioners but showed no significant improvement in her symptoms. Upon admission to the Cardiology Department of B.R. Singh Hospital, a comprehensive evaluation was initiated. An echocardiographic assessment revealed the presence of vegetation on the mitral

valve, indicating a case of Infective Endocarditis. She was immediately started on intravenous antibiotics, which were continued for over three weeks as part of the treatment protocol. Following sustained medical care and close monitoring, the patient became afebrile over the last week. A review echocardiography conducted on 1st April confirmed the disappearance of the mitral valve vegetation, indicating a successful recovery. The patient is being discharged today after nearly a month-long stay in the hospital. This case highlights the high level of clinical expertise and dedicated patient care available at B.R. Singh Hospital, which continues to deliver exceptional healthcare services to both railway beneficiaries and the wider community.

Sealdah DRM building is illuminated in a Gorgeous Look



MI News Service, Kolkata: Sealdah station is undoubtedly the most important transportation hub of the City of Joy connecting Kolkata with the suburban of North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad and parts of Howrah & Hooghly. Sealdah station is strategically located at the nerve centre of Kolkata, serving as a crucial gateway to the city and its surrounding regions. Apart from hosting scores of Mail/Express trains, Sealdah Division ply a whopping 950 EMU/MEMU services. Sealdah station caters to 15-18 lakh commuters a day, which is highest in any single Railway station throughout India. Moreover, Sealdah station is connected to the Kolkata Metro Green Line stretch, providing seamless integration with the city's rapid transit system. Under the able and dynamic leadership of Shri Deepak Nigam, DRM/Sealdah, So many infrastructure development works are being executed in record speed under the aegis of "Amrit Bharat Station Project". Newly renovated Sealdah Station complex boasts state of the

art modern infrastructure including multiple platforms all capable of holding 12 coach EMU rakes, waiting rooms and amenities like food courts, shops and Executive Restrooms. In recent past, a new entry/exit gate has been opened in Sealdah South station and also a subway has been opened for facilitating pedestrians to reach Metro station in a hassle free manner. In a nutshell, Sealdah station is the most critical transportation hub in Kolkata, offering extensive connectivity, modern infrastructure and a wide range of services to cater to the needs of innumerable passengers, contributing significantly to the city's economic and social fabric. The Head Quarter of Sealdah Division is DRM building, located besides Platform no. 1 of Sealdah station. The beautiful Sealdah DRM building was constructed in 1869 and till then it's the administration centre of the 715 km long Sealdah Division, which is 100% electrified. On the eve of Bengali New Year festival, Sealdah DRM Building is permanently illuminated with spectacular lighting.

Tibetan religious leader dies in Chinese custody under suspicion

MI News Service, Beijing: Tibetan religious leader Tulku Hungkar Dorje has died under suspicious circumstances after being detained for an extended period by Chinese authorities, as reported by the Central Tibetan Administration. His passing was confirmed by the Central Tibetan Administration, which reported that Chinese officials informed senior figures at Lungnon Monastery in Tibet's Gade County, Golog, of his death on April 2. However, the Chinese authorities have not disclosed the details surrounding his death nor returned his body. Tibet.net reported. Tulku Hungkar Dorje, the esteemed throne holder of Lungnon Monastery, had been targeted by the Chinese government following his refusal to host a lavish reception for the Chinese-appointed Panchen Lama during the latter's visit to the region. This act of defiance against Chinese authorities led to fabricated charges against him.

Waqf Amendment Bill: Modernization or an attack on the religious property rights of the Muslim community?

MI News Service, New Delhi: After the Waqf Amendment Bill was passed in Lok Sabha on April 3 with a 12-hour-long argument between the coalition government and the opposition, the question of property rights and religious freedom of Indian Muslims is again in the ogles of mainstream. The bill amends (devastates) the historical Waqf Act of 1995 and presents numerous controversial clauses that invoke gruesome anti-Muslim shifts.

The presented amendments strengthen the conspiracies of the anti-Muslim political raft and the Hindutva row, who have been plotting to dominate the Muslim-owned religious properties for a long time. Right-wing organizations and the affiliated forces have been defaming the Waqf through several propaganda theories, claims, and IT cell generated contents. For instance, around 40 Waqf properties- including graveyards, lakes, and farmlands, were recently notified in Karnataka. In September 2024, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs claimed that hundreds of Waqf properties belong to the DDA, the public domain, and the Land and Development Office. This way the Amendment Bill “approves” the intrusions/claims of the right

wing and the BJP-led government over Muslim religious properties and further equips them with powerful polarized legal tools of discrimination or injustice. The word “Waqf” translates into “religious donation” in the way of Almighty Allah for a noble cause. The Waqf Boards currently have 8.7 lakh movable and immovable properties, and around 73,000 among them are said to be an apple of discord to Hindu-nationalist politics. Waqf properties are endowments made by Muslims for charitable purposes that are used for establishing madrasas, mosques, schools, hospitals, or graveyards. A Waqf property cannot be sold, gifted, encumbered, or inherited and is not meant to be overruled by external elements. While, as per the passed bill, the union government would appoint survey officers who would be allowed to conduct inspections. Muslims fear that such provisions would permit a few entities to organize and execute surveys to gratify the hateful right-wing demands and affect the arena of religious freedom. The lack of documentation of old/historic Waqf properties could also be misused in favor of majoritarian policies. The new amendments would enable the central government to register/remove new properties and

to decide the publication of accounts of Waqf and its proceedings. The bill proposes to include two non-Muslim members and women on Waqf Boards. However, according to the activists, all the pleas of social welfare, empowerment of Muslim women, and legal aid are mere con policies to deprive and weaken the community through bogus promises of transparency, integrity, inclusion, and modernization. By superseding the constitution of the boards and powers of “Mutawallis,” BJP intends to curb the authority of Waqf to recognize and protect the Muslim properties.

quite sensible and obligatory because these amendments clearly target the community and directly go against the hollow promises of betterment. The bill might become a medium for the hate-mongers to stir up ferocity and attack the Muslims. Whether the widespread violence after the Babri Masjid demolition or the recent communal outbreak in Sambhal, most of the communal riots are strategized and inflamed on the grounds of Muslim religious properties, and the BJP government is determined to invent new instruments to devastate an already marginalized community through systemic tools of oppression.

Students of Jamia Millia Islamia hold protest against Waqf Bill; burn copies in strong defiance



MI News Service, New Delhi: Students of Jamia Millia Islamia burned copies of work for bill on Friday to express their rejection. Slogans echoed in the university campus as hundreds of students gathered calling for the Bill's withdrawal.

The protest was organized by All India Students Association (AISA) along with several independent student voices who openly declared that the bill was a direct attack on the religious and cultural rights of Indian Muslims. The AISA criticized the government's move and said, “This is not just a bill, it is a targeted assault on the Muslim identity and the history of the country. The statement issued by AISA reads, “The Waqf properties built and maintained for centuries as places of worship, for education and social support are now being taken away under the guise of management reform. This bill is both unconstitutional and communal. The students also alleged that the university administration shut all the university

gates when they started to protest. Criticizing the administration, the students noted that the protests were peaceful and expressed that they felt caged in their own campuses. The official statement released by AISA accuses the administration of instructing security guards to continuously blow whistles to disrupt the protest. It said, “It was a desperate and undignified attempt to drown out student voices but we stood firm. Our struggle is not just for ourselves but for generations to come.

“This administration should remember its roots. Jamia was born from resistance not silence,” reads a placard held by one of the student protesters.

A student member of the group that organised the protest, Bushra, said, “we burnt the bill to show that this law does not carry any legitimacy for our community and we completely reject it.” Students held placards that read “Revoke Waqf Amendment Bill,” Waqf Bill is discriminate and unjust”.



Billie Jean King Cup in India will give youngsters exposure to high quality Tennis, says Ankita Raina

PUNE : The Indian women's tennis team is gearing up for the upcoming Billie Jean King Cup 2025 Asia-Oceania Group I games and will be led by the very experienced Ankita Raina. Along with India, teams from Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, and Thailand will feature in the Billie Jean King Cup 2025 Asia-Oceania Group I here in Pune.

Ankita, who is ranked 300th in the world in singles as of the end of March, spoke about playing the Billie Jean King Cup 2025 Asia-Oceania Group I games at home.

"I'm excited that the Billie Jean

King Cup 2025 Asia-Oceania Group I games are happening in Pune and it's an honour to be leading the Indian team. I've been a part of the Indian for more than 10 years. It was always a dream to represent my country, and I feel blessed to have achieved that," Ankita said as quoted by the Billie Jean King Cup press release.

"This event is conducted at the highest level, and having it in India is a huge benefit as young players can come in to watch the top 300 ranked players in action. From the Indian team, we would like to congratulate the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis

Association for bringing this prestigious event to India. The more high-quality international tennis that comes here, it is better for the sport," she added.

Ankita is part of a five-member team that includes Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Vaidehi Chaudhari, and Prarthana Thombare. The teenage sensation Maaya Rajeshwaran is named a reserve player. "When representing their country, everyone always gives it their best on the field of play. And we will all try to do that for sure. When you travel with the Indian team for tournaments, it's a com-

pletely different experience, and I am confident that it will help us work better as a team," Ankita said.

When asked about what she does to keep calm in high-pressure games, Ankita spoke about the importance of meditation in her life. She said, "I got introduced to meditation when I was 18 or 20, and it helped in the transition from the junior level to the senior level because that's when you face tougher challenges. You're playing against more experienced players and facing tougher situations, and also learning what can be done in the crucial moments of

a match. So, I think that's where meditation has helped me stay calm."

Speaking about the opposition that India will face in the coming week in Pune, Ankita, who took inspiration from the legendary Sania Mirza, explained that no one can be taken lightly. She said, "All the players who have come here are very good, and no one will give us an easy game. Last year, I played against Lulu Sun of New Zealand, who played the qualifier at Wimbledon and then went on to make it to the semi-finals. So, that is the quality of players who are here."

Diksha, Pranavi make cut in rain-hit Joburg Ladies Open

JOHANNESBURG : Golfer Pranavi Urs faltered in the second round at the weather-hot Joburg Ladies Open but made the 36-hole cut alongside Diksha Dagar, who turned in an even par round in the second round.

Diksha (71-73) and Pranavi (70-77) were positioned at T-22 and T-56th, respectively, at the Par-73 Modderfontein Golf Club on Saturday.

Things did not turn out too well for the other two Indians, Avani Prashanth (77-74) and Tvesa Malik (77-79) and they missed the cut.

After the suspension of round two, like it happened on a day ago, the Joburg Ladies Open resumed at a later start time of 10 am (local time). It was a wet week after heavy rainfall and a flooded course caused the tournament to be reduced to 54 holes.

England's Mimi Rhodes leads the way, having completed the second round over two days. The rookie started the day five holes in, with Saturday seeing a bogey-free day, with a further four birdies rolling in, taking her round two score to 12-under par.

For Pranavi, it has been a strange week. When play was first suspended on the first day she was 5-under through 13 holes, but when play resumed the following day she added a birdie to go 6-under. Then there was a reversal of fortunes as she had three bogeys in a row and ended with a round of 70. In the second round, she had four birdies, five bogeys and a triple bogey in an action-packed up-and-down round. She carded 77 but made the cut on the line.

Diksha had a bogey-free first round with 2 birdies and no bogeys. In the second round she had one birdie and two bogeys on the front nine and then eight straight pars before closing the round with a birdie on the 18th for an even par round. She was T-22.

If Mimi Rhodes wins, this will make back-to-back wins for the 23-year-old, having won her maiden LET win at the Ford Women's NSW Open in Australia two weeks ago. This would make it a dream season start for the rookie. Only one shot back is South Africa's Casandra Alexander at nine under par, and she sits on T2 alongside Ireland's Lauren Walsh.

"I have that hunger every game": Sai Sudharsan highlights dedication to team success

NEW DELHI : Gujarat Titans batter Sai Sudharsan has underlined the importance of hunger and dedication in contributing to team success. He stressed that his focus remains on helping the team win, regardless of past performance.

Sai, one of GT's most consistent performers since joining the team in 2022, had an impressive 2023 Indian Premier League (IPL) season, scoring 527 runs in 12 matches. In the ongoing 2025 edition, he has already amassed 186 runs in three matches.

"I think from a mental point of view, I think it's about the hunger, and it's about the dedication we have to make the team win. I think that's the most important thing for me, and that's what I'm trying to do. I have that hunger every game; whatever happens in the previous game, that doesn't matter. But the next game, coming forward the game, I think only focusing on what you have to do, in what ways we can make the team win and try and contribute in any way," Sai Sudharsan said while speaking to Boria Majumdar on Revsport. He also praised GT captain Shubman Gill for his leadership qualities, calling him an



effective man-manager with a deep understanding of players' mindsets. "I mean, Shubman as a leader, he's a very good leader, I feel. Because the way he manages the players, the way he understands the mindset of the players, he gives them that time, he gives them that space. And again, if you have to say something straightforward, he does that as well. So, I feel he's a very good man-manag-

er from my eyes. So, he can be a lovely leader in the future, and also, he's a very good leader right now." Gill led Gujarat Titans to their first IPL title in 2022 and followed it up by taking the team to the finals in 2023, scoring 890 runs in 17 matches, including three centuries. GT eventually lost the final to Chennai Super Kings.

Sai highlighted his strong partnership with Shubman Gill, both

on and off the field. He described how they frequently discuss batting strategies, game plans, and potential scenarios, learning from each other's insights and experience. Their collaboration extends to the game itself, where Gill offers helpful pointers that have contributed to his growth as a batsman. "But I feel, the contribution or the partnership which we have been having for the past few years, in terms of on the field and off the field as well, the way we have conversations about batting, conversations about the game, even in practise sessions, we have a lot of conversations in terms of how we can go about things, how we can go about the situation, what if this bowler comes and does this, what if we can do that. And even inside the ground during the game, I feel he gives me few pointers here and there, which is very useful, and I feel I've learnt a lot from his batting as well," he added. Sai Sudharsan is currently the second-highest run scorer in the ongoing IPL 2025, with 186 runs in three innings, including two fifties. He is just behind Lucknow Super Giants batter Nicholas Pooran.



"Happy that I still was able to get wicket with first ball": Archer reflects on game against PBKS

NEW DELHI : Rajasthan Royals fast bowler Jofra Archer explained his approach to bowling in Saturday's match against Punjab Kings in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025. He reflected on his aim to give his team a good start and create pressure on the opposing batsmen.

In a video posted by IPL, he acknowledged that the ball didn't swing as much as he expected, but he's happy to have taken a wicket with the first ball, which energized his team. He ultimately expressed satisfaction with the team's victory.

"Well, I thought that, you know, if I can give the guys a good start, the bowler from the other end would take that up, do the same thing, and hopefully keep passing the bats on them. Honestly, I think the ball was supposed to swing a bit more. I didn't expect it not to do as much, but I'm happy that I still was able to get a wicket with the first ball, you know, set the tone. It got everybody some energy, and, you know, I'm just glad that we got the win in the end," Jofra Archer said as per

a video posted by IPL.

Rajasthan Royals batter Yashasvi Jaiswal expressed his ambition to improve and reach higher goals compared to climbing mountains continuously. He acknowledged the pressure inherent in the game and emphasized the importance of embracing and enjoying it.

"I always think to climb another mountain. I need to absorb the pressure and enjoy the pressure because, of course, there is pressure in this game," Yashasvi Jaiswal said as per a video posted by IPL.

Jaiswal has finally found his touch in the match against the Punjab Kings, scoring 67 runs. In earlier matches, he was struggling to get a big score under his belt. Jofra Archer also found his rhythm with the ball, delivering a fiery spell that helped the Rajasthan Royals (RR) register a commanding 50-run win over the Punjab Kings (PBKS) in their Indian Premier League (IPL) clash at Mullanpur on Saturday. Archer was the pick of the bowlers for RR, finishing with 3/35 in his four overs.



India ends Brazil 2025 World Boxing campaign with six medals

NEW DELHI : The Indian boxing contingent came up with an impressive performance in their first-ever outing in the Elite level international meet organised by World Boxing as they bagged six medals, including a gold and silver in the World Boxing Cup Brazil 2025 at Foz Do Iguaçu on Saturday.

Hitesh became the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup. His opponent, Odel Kamara of England was injured and couldn't take to the ring in the 70kg final, as per a press release from the Boxing Federation of India (BFI).

Abhinash Jamwal, the other Indian boxer to reach the final in the 65kg category, gave his best against local favourite Yuri Reis but could not do enough to get a favourable verdict and bagged a silver medal.

Four Indian players bagged bronze medals, including Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin (60kg) and Vishal (90kg).

Hitesh after becoming the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup credited the 10-day preparation camp in Brazil ahead of the tournament as something that helped him and the team a lot.

"The camp helped me learn a few tactical nuances that helped me a lot in the competition. This tournament has provided us fantastic exposure at the highest level and I am happy that I could grab the gold medal," said Hitesh.

India had fielded a 10-member contingent for the World Boxing Cup, their first major international outing since the Paris Olympics, and bagging six medals, this will not only boost the confidence of the squad as they start preparing for the 2028 Olympic cycle ahead of Los Angeles Games.

Aryan Shah shifts focus to global goals after SM Krishna Memorial Open loss

BENGALURU : Aryan Shah was one of the leading young Indian prospects competing at the SM Krishna Memorial Open in Bengaluru, where he made a strong run to the quarterfinals before falling to second seed Oliver Crawford.

He also teamed up with Karan Singh to pave their way to the semifinals of the doubles category, where they were halted by the USA's Nick Chappell and Kazakhstan's Grigoriy Lomakin.

The 19-year-old from Ahmedabad is steadily establishing himself as one of the most exciting names in the Indian junior circuit.

Sixth-seeded Shah's singles campaign ended with a 6-3, 6-0 loss to Crawford on Friday - his fourth consecutive loss to the Englishman.

Reflecting on the result, he opined, "I'm not able to get through him. I don't know for what reason. It's not that if I've lost to a particular player, I cannot beat him again; that's not the

case. Because in the past, I have done that."

He dismissed fatigue as a factor, saying, "I wouldn't say I was fatigued. If I am an athlete, I should be able to handle all this stuff." Analysing Crawford's game, he added, "I feel like I'm not able to judge his game style, and he likes to play against mine. He's very confident while playing against me. I think whatever I hit comes into his zone, his hitting arc. So, he's just stable and comfortable when he plays against me."

Despite the early exit in Bengaluru, Shah entered the tournament riding high on confidence, having recently stopped Jay Clarke's 14-match winning streak to win the ITF M25 Ahmedabad Open, his second pro singles title and first at the M25 level.

The result also earned him entry into the ATP Next Gen Accelerator programme, which guarantees him main draw spots in eight ATP Challenger events in the 50 and 75 categories.



He also teamed up with Karan Singh to pave their way to the semifinals of the doubles category, where they were halted by the USA's Nick Chappell and Kazakhstan's Grigoriy Lomakin.

Looking ahead, Shah remains focused but realistic. "I haven't been into the calendar that much. It's just my coach and me with my dad sitting because I have to keep the financials in mind. I'm not sponsored, so I can't just book my flight tickets and enter tournaments freely. I must consider everything: the finances, physicality and how well prepared I am."

For now, he's planning to compete in a Challenger event in the Ivory Coast later this month.

"If I am brutally honest, I am highly ambitious," he admitted. "I just have one single goal by the end of the year, that is like

250-300 (rank) would be great." On what it will take to get there, he said, "Physically-wise, I need to get stronger, faster, more agile. Tennis-wise, I need my game to be bigger and more consistent. My graph has been up and down."

He's also aware of the odds he's playing against. "Many players are playing around 30 tournaments a year and they're able to crack their ranking goals. I'm playing maybe 18 or 19. I wouldn't say it's tough, but it's definitely tougher than the remaining guys. So, it depends on how well I perform in that smaller number of tournaments."