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Directions have been issued by the ministry to CHGOs to do so urgently.  
India would naturally appreciate





Goal Post Puja was held at Mohun Bagan Club in Kolkata on Tuesday to mark the occasion of the Bengali New Year.



On the occasion of the Bengali New Year, East Bengal Club performed the Goal Post Puja, on Tuesday.



Mangal Shobhajatra rally organised by Bangiyo Sanatani Sanskriti Parishad at Rabindra Sadan in Kolkata on Tuesday.

## Murshidabad calm, but Dhulian still reeling

**MI News Service, Dhulian:** Dhulian traditionally bustling with News Year's sweet sales, saw empty shops this year following recent protests against the Waqf Act. Despite the situation gradually normalizing, lingering fear and canceled orders left sweet owner facing significant losses, with many other business remaining shuttered. While police report the situation is under control locals hope the Bengali New year brings a return to normalcy.

Traditionally a day of vibrant celebration and commerce, New Year's Day in Dhulian witnessed a stark departure from normalcy, as the city grappled with the aftermath of recent protests against the Waqf Act. While authorities have

asserted that the situation is stabilizing, the economic repercussions were palpable, particularly within the local sweet shop sector. Despite the gradual return to a semblance of order, sweet shop owners, anticipating a surge in New Year's Day sales, reported a significant dearth of customers. Neelam Saha, a local sweet shop proprietor, expressed profound disappointment, stating, "We reopened after several days of closure, expecting at least a modicum of sales. However, customer turnout has been minimal, and numerous orders have been canceled. The perishable nature of our goods poses a significant challenge in this heat." Saha attributed the subdued consumer activity to the prevailing atmosphere

of apprehension within the community.

The impact extended beyond sweet shops, with a substantial number of businesses remaining closed. Local traders indicated that only an estimated 10 to 20 percent of shops had resumed operations, citing concerns stemming from reported incidents of looting during the unrest. Law enforcement officials maintained that the situation is under control, with no new disturbances reported. However, the reluctance of many businesses to reopen underscored the lingering economic and psychological impact of the preceding events. Residents expressed a collective hope for a return to normalcy in the New Year, aiming to transcend the recent disruptions.

## Elderly man beaten by son in land row

**MI News Service, Deganga:** As violent property dispute in Deganga, North 24 Parganas, resulted in a 60-year-old man being severely injured after allegedly attacked by his son and mother. Ahmed Ali Mandal was reportedly beaten and struck with a stick leading to hospitalization and a police complaint, highlighting a bitter family feud over land ownership.

A severe altercation stemming from a property dispute in Muraridanga, Deganga, North 24 Parganas, has resulted in the hospitalization of a 60-year-old man. Ahmed Ali Mandal has filed a formal complaint with the Deganga Police Station, alleging that he was assaulted by his elder son and mother-in-law. The incident unfolded following a disagreement over land distribution. Ahmed Ali Mandal claims he

had previously allocated a portion of his property to his elder son, but the son's demands for further land ownership escalated the conflict. On Monday morning, the dispute turned violent, culminating in an attack where Ahmed Ali Mandal was reportedly beaten and struck on the forehead with a stick. Local sources indicate that Ahmed Ali Mandal sustained significant injuries and was found in a bloodied state before being transported to the local rural hospital for medical treatment. Additionally, Ahmed Ali Mandal's younger son has corroborated the allegations against his elder brother. The Deganga Police Station is currently investigating the incident based on the complaint filed by Ahmed Ali Mandal, focusing on the allegations of assault against his elder son and mother-in-law.

## Looting leaves families destitute

**MI News Service, Bethona:** New Year's Day in Bethona, Murshidabad, is marked by devastation. Following riots that began Friday evening, widespread looting and arson have left residents destitute. Homes were ransacked, valuables stolen, and food supplies destroyed, with some houses set ablaze. Eyewitnesses report brutal attacks and allege a coordinated effort to block police access, allowing the unrest to continue for over 72 hours.

A scene of widespread devastation unfolded in the villages of Bethona and Jafraabad, Dhulian, following a prolonged period of violent unrest that commenced on Friday evening and continued through Saturday. Residents are now grappling with the aftermath, marked by extensive looting and arson, leaving them in a state of profound destitution.

Eyewitness accounts and on-the-ground reports paint a harrowing picture of the attacks. Homes were systematically ransacked, with looters seizing cash, gold, livestock, and essential household items. In a particularly disturbing tactic, gas cylinders were deliberately opened and ignited, resulting in the near-total destruction of pucca houses. Despite the passage of 72 hours, remnants of the fires continue to smolder, underscoring the intensity of the attacks.

The victims, many of whom are elderly women, expressed profound grief and shock as they recounted their experiences. One resident, visibly distraught,

described the destruction of their food supplies, stating, "They have burnt all the rice and pulses to ashes. They have taken all the dishes and utensils. There is no way to even eat the two meals I cooked." Another woman detailed the violent nature of the attacks, alleging, "They beat us up and took all our gold and money. They beat us up with bombs and pistols. We have no place to stay in our house. They burned the entire village to ashes and made it dark." Further accounts indicate the theft of livestock, including three goats. The unrest is believed to have originated from a protest procession on the national highway at Sajur More, Dhulian, on Friday. Sources suggest that the subsequent riots and looting were facilitated by a deliberate strategy to block Sajur More and attack Dhulian, diverting police and administrative resources to adjacent areas such as Shamsarganj. This tactic effectively allowed the perpetrators to carry out their actions unchecked. The residents of Bethona, on what should have been a day of celebration for the New Year, are now left to grapple with the loss of their homes and livelihoods. The scale of the destruction has left the community in a state of shock and despair, with many questioning how they will rebuild their lives. Authorities are expected to conduct a thorough investigation into the events and provide relief to the affected residents.

## Border patrol nabs suspects in Sundarban



**MI News Service, Sundarban:** Twenty-four Bangladeshi nationals, including women and children, were apprehended in the Sundarbans after attempting to illegally enter India via waterways, bypassing Border Security Force patrols. Acting on a tip-off, the Sundarbans Coastal Police intercepted the group in the Chilmari Canal area, within the Sundarbans Tiger Project, revealing they had traveled from various regions of Bangladesh.

Authorities have apprehended 24 individuals, including women and children, attempting to illegally enter India through the Sundarbans waterways. The operation, conducted by the Sundarbans Coastal Police Station in Gosaba block, followed credible intelligence indicating an organized attempt to circumvent Border Security Force (BSF) patrols.

On Monday, acting on a tip-off, police initiated a patrol of the Chilmari Ca-

nal area, situated near the India-Bangladesh maritime border within the Sundarbans Tiger Project. During the patrol, officers observed an increasing number of individuals entering the protected tiger forest. Subsequent intervention led to the apprehension of the 24 Bangladeshi nationals. The detained individuals comprised 11 women, 9 men, and 4 children. Preliminary police interrogations have revealed that the group originated from various locations within Bangladesh, including Satkhira, Faridpur, Dhaka, and Sylhet. The individuals reportedly embarked on their journey three days prior to their apprehension, utilizing the Sundarbans waterways as their entry route into Indian territory. Authorities are currently investigating the circumstances surrounding this illegal border crossing attempt, including potential facilitation networks and the intended destination of the apprehended individuals. Further inquiries are underway to determine the full extent of the operation and to prevent future occurrences.

## Bus-motor van collision kills 3 , critical 1



**MI News Service, Bhimpur:** 3 persons were killed and one critical when a tragic road accident occurred at Kulgachhi Jhaudala area under Bhimpur police station in Nadia on Tuesday, police said.

A head-on collision between a passenger bus and an engine van claimed the lives of three individuals, while another remains criti-

cally injured and is currently undergoing treatment at the hospital.

According to police sources, a passenger-laden bus traveling from Krishnanagar to Majdia collided head-on with an engine van coming from the opposite direction. The van was carrying three passengers at the time. The impact was so severe that the passengers

were thrown off the vehicle onto the road.

Local residents, alerted by a loud crash, rushed to the scene and began rescue efforts. Before the police could arrive, two people had already succumbed to their injuries on the spot. The remaining two were taken to Shaktinagar District Hospital, where doctors declared one more dead. The fourth victim is in critical condition and is receiving medical attention.

The bus came to a halt by the roadside after the collision. The front portion of the vehicle was damaged, but fortunately, no serious injuries were reported among the bus passengers. Police have initiated an investigation to determine the cause of the accident.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the area, with local residents mourning the loss of lives.

## ISRO picks Tarakeswar boy for Space Training

**MI News Service, Tarakeswar:** A remarkable journey from rural Hooghly to the heart of India's space program has begun for 10th-grader Himgn Ghosh. Selected by ISRO for specialized training in Sriharikota, this young talent from Tarakeswar is set to delve into the intricacies of space technology and rocket science, overcoming a distance of over 1,600 kilometers to pursue his extraordinary passion.

Himgn Ghosh, a 10th-grade student residing in Haripal, Tarakeswar, Hooghly district, has been selected for specialized training at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, under the auspices of the Indian Space Research Organisation

(ISRO). This significant achievement marks a pivotal moment for the young scholar, who will travel over 1,600 kilometers to pursue his passion for space science. Himgn Ghosh, a student at a local English medium school, demonstrated exceptional aptitude in science and space technology, surpassing the rigorous selection criteria established by ISRO. The organization conducts an annual training program for 9th and 10th-grade students, involving multiple stages of competitive examinations. This year, out of a nationwide cohort of 350 participants, Himgn Ghosh is among the ten students selected from West Bengal. The training program, scheduled to commence on May 16th,

will provide Himgn Ghosh with hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge of rocket launch procedures, space travel dynamics, and subsequent scientific research conducted by ISRO. This 15-day intensive program aims to nurture and enhance the participants' skills in space technology and rocket science, fostering the next generation of space researchers. Family sources confirm Himgn Ghosh's departure from Tarakeswar to SDSC, where he will engage in specialized instruction aimed at elucidating the complex processes involved in space exploration. This opportunity underscores ISRO's commitment to cultivating young talent and promoting scientific education within the country.

## Violence at Hooghly ATM on Poila Boishak

**MI News Service, Hooghly:** A violent altercation erupted at a State Bank of India ATM kiosk in Khadinamore, Chunchura, Hooghly, on Tuesday morning, the Bengali New Year. What began as a dispute over passbook updates escalated into a physical confrontation, culminating in one man allegedly biting another's hand, drawing blood. The incident, triggered by impatience and escalating verbal abuse, shocked onlookers and prompted swift local intervention.

A disturbing incident of violence marred the morning of Poila Boishak at a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM kiosk in Khadinamore, Chunchura, Hooghly district, resulting in a physical assault and subsequent injuries. The incident, which occurred on Tuesday, involved two customers engaged in a heated dispute

over the use of the ATM's passbook update facility. According to eyewitness accounts, the altercation originated from a disagreement regarding the queuing process. One customer was reportedly updating multiple passbooks, causing a delay for the individual waiting behind him. The latter, expressing urgency, requested the first customer to allow him to update his single passbook. However, this request was met with resistance and alleged verbal abuse from the customer already utilizing the machine. The situation rapidly escalated as both individuals exchanged insults, culminating in a physical confrontation. Witnesses reported that the dispute transitioned from verbal aggression to physical altercations. During the struggle, the first customer allegedly bit the hand of the second in-

dividual, causing a visible injury and drawing blood. The incident prompted immediate intervention from bystanders and a security guard present at the ATM kiosk. The security guard corroborated the account, stating that the first customer abruptly resorted to biting the other individual. The accused, in his defense, claimed that he acted in response to being physically restrained, asserting that his mouth was forcibly pressed against the other person.

The incident has raised concerns regarding public safety and decorum within banking facilities. Authorities are expected to investigate the matter further, and the injured party may seek legal recourse. The incident highlights the potential for minor disagreements to escalate into violent confrontations, even in seemingly routine settings.

## Relationship tragedy, Suicide after alleged affair

**MI News Service, Budge Budge:** A suspected extramarital affair between a maternal aunt and her nephew ended in tragedy in Budge Budge, South 24 Parganas, with both found hanged in separate locations. Police believe the pair, who frequently communicated by phone, died by suicide. The incident has left their families in shock and mourning, with the young woman leaving behind a husband and toddler.

A tragic incident involving the suspected suicide of a 21-year-old woman and her 26-year-old maternal nephew has shaken the community of Paikpara, Uttar Raipur Gram Panchayat, under the Budge Budge Police Station. Authorities are investigating

the possibility of an extramarital affair as a potential motive.

Preliminary police investigations suggest that the deceased individuals, who were related as maternal aunt and nephew, died by hanging in separate locations after a prolonged phone conversation. The young woman, married with a two-and-a-half-year-old child, had reportedly developed a close relationship with her husband's cousin's son.

According to local residents, the young woman maintained a cheerful demeanor, while the young man, employed in a private company, frequently visited his maternal uncle's home. The frequency of these visits,

coupled with extended phone conversations between the two, raised no immediate suspicion among family members. However, the young man's family alleges he had been financially supporting his aunt. Furthermore, he had reportedly ceased attending work for the past two months, spending the majority of his time at his maternal uncle's residence.

On the night of the incident, the young man was at his own residence but in communication with his aunt via phone. Shortly thereafter, both individuals were found deceased by hanging. The young woman was transported to Budge Budge Municipal Hospital, where she was pronounced dead.

## Howrah Observes Bengali New Year with Cultural Splendor

**MI News Service, Howrah:** The Bengali New Year was celebrated with great enthusiasm and cultural fervor under the auspices of the Howrah District Information and Cultural Office. The event took place at the Pather Dabi Hall, located within the New Collectorate Building in Howrah.

The celebration was graced by the presence of several eminent dignitaries, including Sabha Dhipati Ajay Bhattacharya, Karma-dhyaksha (Women and Child Welfare) Razia Khatoun, Additional District Magistrate (Land Revenue) Azhar Zia (IAS), Additional District Magistrate (General) Divya Marugesan (IAS), Sudip Ghosh (WBCS-Exe), Sub-Divisional Officer Amrita Roy Burman, DICO Somashree Pal, SDICO (President) Nir-



mal Kumar Bagani, and SDICO (Uluberia) Narayan Chandra Roy.

The program commenced with the rendition of the state anthem, followed by a series of speeches and cultural performances featuring traditional Bengali folk songs.

In their addresses, the dignitaries reflected on the historical significance of the Bengali calendar and

the cultural essence of Poila Boishakh. Each speaker highlighted the importance of unity, tradition, and renewal that this auspicious day symbolizes for Bengalis around the world.

The event concluded with an enthusiastic round of applause from the audience, who appreciated the cultural vibrancy and informative discourse presented throughout the program.



On behalf of All India Bank of Baroda SC/ST Employees Welfare Association, on Tuesday celebration of the 134th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar held. The function was attended by Bank of Baroda Kolkata Zone General Manager Mr. SK Tiwari, DGM Mr. Sandeep Kumar and other dignitaries. The event was hosted by Mr. Gautam Biswas, General Secretary, All India Bank of Baroda SC/ST Employees Welfare Association and Mr. Ashok Kumar Mandal, President. The function was held at Moulali Rajiya Yuba Kendra. At this event we, on behalf of the association, encouraged 200 children with school bags and kits, and honored 100 women with sarees.



### Robert Vadra appears...

**From PG 1**  
appeared in a multi crore rupee money laundering case in Sikharpur land deal case in Haryana. Vadra, said he is hopeful for a resolution. "Nobody is evading anything. I am here today... I am expecting a conclusion. I am waiting for a conclusion". Calling it a "political vendetta", Vadra claimed that whenever he or his brother-in-law, Rahul Gandhi, speak in the interest of the country, attempts are made to silence them. When I speak in favour of the country, I am stopped, Rahul is stopped from speaking in Parliament. BJP is doing it. This is a political vendetta," he said, adding, "People love me and want me to join politics... When I express my willingness to join politics, they bring up old issues to bring me down and divert from the real issues..." Vadra further claimed that there is no merit to

the case. "There is nothing in the case. I have been summoned 15 times and interrogated for more than 10 hours every time for the last 20 years. Organising 23000 documents is not easy," he said. Vadra was first summoned by the ED on April 8 but did not appear. Once he appears, the agency is expected to record his statement under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), the sources said. He has previously been questioned by the federal agency in another money laundering case. The case pertains to the three-acre land Vadra's company Skylight Hospitality had purchased in Shikohpur village of Gurgaon for Rs 7.5 crore in 2008. After which, Haryana's town planning department issued a letter of intent to set up a commercial colony on the land, which increased the value of the plot.

### Life is almost normal in...

**From PG 1**  
The violence left three Suti abnd Samserganj in bordering Murshidabad crossed the Bhagirathi River to Malda districtto save their lives. "Around 200 of them were given shelter in a relief camp at the Parlapur High School in Baishnabnagar. "We are proving them with food, including baby food, medicines and clothes. Two more schools were kept ready to accommodate more people. But since Sunday around 50 people have returned to Murshidabad. More are likely to return this week," an official in Malda said. Clashes initially erupted in Murshidabad's Jangipur last Tuesday following protests over the Waqf (Amendment) Act. The situation was brought under control before fresh violence broke out on Friday, forcing police to fire four rounds. "It started with peaceful demonstration against the Act. But it soon turned violence and the protestors resorted to destruction of public propertyandset on fire many vehicles, including three police vehicles, and several houses. Initially police resorteded to lathi charge and tried todisperse the mob with minimal force. "This does not mean that we are action-shy," said West Bengal Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar.

Meanwhile, Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has made repeated appeal for restoration of peace and harmony among all communities in the district and all across the state. She also reiterated her assurance to the minority community that the new Waqf (Amendment) Act would not be implemented in West Bengal. I shall protest your Waqf property with all my power, she assured them along with city Mayor Firhad Hakim. Even on Monday evening after inaugurating the Kalighat Skywalk here she said "Everybody has the democratic right to stage a peaceful protest with permission. I will request people not to take the law into their own hands. To protect the law, we have custodians and do not need any demon, Please do not indulge in non-religious activities in the name of religion and do not to fall prey to provocation".

### Tejashwi Yadav meets...

**From PG 1**  
by meeting top leaders like BJP president J.P. Nadda. Paras said Bihar has been ruined under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's regime. "In Nitish Kumar's 20-year-long rule, the education system has been ruined in the state, no new industries have been set up, and rampant corruption affects the implementation of all welfare schemes," he charged. Lately, Paras has been meeting with RJD supremo Lalu Prasad Yadav. Paras, who is currently on a statewide tour, aims to strengthen the party in all 243 assembly seats in Bihar. Meanwhile, on Monday, RJD MP Manoj Jha said that this meeting will discuss seat-sharing and the alliance between the two parties for the upcoming Bihar elections. With the Bihar Assembly elections expected to take place in roughly six months, all political parties have ramped up preparations. RJD, known as Congress's "oldest ally" in Bihar, is also part of the INDIA bloc. On April 20, the Congress president is also expected to address a public rally in Bihar's Buxar district. Notably, Congress leader Kanhaiya Kumar has raised the issue of migration in Bihar, tak-

ing out the 'Naukri do' rally to urge the state government to stop migration and facilitate job creation for the youth. On April 7, Kumar was joined by Rahul Gandhi in Begusarai for the yatra. On March 30, while sounding the poll bugle for the party in Bihar, Union Home Minister Shah slammed former Bihar Chief minister Lalu Prasad Yadav for establishing a "jungle raj" and corruption between 1990-2005. Since his meeting on March 30, Shah is also going to spend two days a month in Bihar to prepare for the polls. On April 13, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan attended the NDA meeting to discuss the Assembly elections. Bihar Deputy CM Samrat Choudhary was also present. A high-stakes battle is expected to take place in Bihar, with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA); consisting of Janata Dal (United) led by Chief minister Nitish Kumar, and the Bharatiya Janata Party fighting against the alliance consisting of Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and left parties. The elections in the state are expected to take place between October and November, however, the dates for the polls have not been announced yet.

## KMDA to adopt KMC's safety protocols for cleaning underground drains to prevent fatal gas accidents

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a strategic move to prevent future tragedies like the fatal Tangra incident, the Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) has decided to adopt the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) long-standing safety protocols for cleaning underground drainage systems. These protocols, though traditional, have now been formally recognised by KMDA as part of an official manual and will be imple-

mented across all municipalities under its jurisdiction. Before any subterranean drain is cleaned, a crucial six-step inspection will now be mandatory. As per KMC's procedure, six manholes along the concerned road stretch are first opened. The presence of cockroaches inside these manholes is considered a key indicator—if cockroaches are seen, it suggests oxygen is present and the risk of lethal gases

like methane is minimal. Simultaneously, a matchstick test is performed to see if it extinguishes. If the match continues to burn, it implies no toxic gases are present. A senior drainage engineer from KMDA confirmed that the handbook detailing these guidelines has already been circulated to all municipal bodies. "This method may appear unorthodox, but it has successfully prevented fatalities in KMC areas,"

he remarked. "Adopting these steps will help avert incidents similar to the Tangra sewer tragedy, where three workers died from toxic gas inhalation." In KMC's operation model, no manual scavenging is involved. Instead, suction-cum-jetting machines are used to clean the drains, eliminating the need for workers to enter potentially hazardous manholes. Additionally, powerful blowers are used to ventilate the under-

ground chambers, flushing out any trapped gases before cleaning begins. KMC sources revealed that the manual has now been sent to KMDA and all its associated civic bodies. Joint consultations between engineers from both organizations have resulted in consensus on safety implementation. In cases where drainage systems have remained unused for extended periods, the presence—or absence—of cockroaches

continues to serve as a surprisingly effective safety indicator. If needed, KMDA will also conduct training workshops to ensure uniform application of these safety measures. A senior municipal official stated, "It may sound improbable, but this time-tested method of detecting toxic gas through simple indicators has saved lives—and that's what we aim to replicate across all municipalities."



City's longest skywalk, connecting S.P. Mukherjee Road to the iconic Kalighat Temple, open to the public on the eve of Poila Baisakh, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

## Poila Boishakh: A reflection of Bengal's soul and a nostalgic call: Kunal Ghosh

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** For Bengalis, PoilaBoishakh is far more than a date on the calendar—it is a deeply emotional journey into nostalgia. From traditional attire and sumptuous Bengali cuisine to the time-honoured haalkhata rituals and vibrant addas, the day epitomises the essence of Bengal's cultural identity. But as time evolves and lifestyles modernise, one must ask—does today's Bengali remain equally eager for the New Year celebrations?

emotional significance, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has declared it the official State Day of West Bengal. With changing times, rising professional demands, and increasing western cultural influence, it becomes even more vital to hold onto the roots that define us. Among these, PoilaBoishakh holds a unique and irreplaceable place."

traditions. Yet, what he misses most from childhood PoilaBoishakhs is the rustic charm of Charak fairs. "Those grassroots-level village fairs—lined along dusty paths, brimming with handmade clay dolls and organic spontaneity—have largely faded. Today's fairs, often state-sponsored, are meticulously organised but lack the raw authenticity of yesteryears."

Kunal Ghosh, one of the All India Trinamool Congress's state general secretaries, pens a reflective piece for Sangbad Pratidin Digital, reminiscing about past celebrations while contemplating the changing cultural landscape and the future of PoilaBoishakh. He writes, "Poila"Boishakh is a celebration of Bangaliyana—the soul of being Bengali. Honouring this day's cultural and

their joyful embrace of all festivals. "We relish biryani during Eid, indulge in Chinese delicacies at Park Street or Chinatown during Christmas, but on PoilaBoishakh, our hearts return home—to the flavours of ilish, shorshe, pulao, and cultural performances steeped in Bengali tradition," writes Ghosh. This spirit of celebration is a conscious effort to stay connected to heritage, particularly in a time when globalisation often overshadows local

Handicraft exhibitions and cultural events continue year-round under government patronage, but the texture has changed. "Earlier, a man with a harmonium might spontaneously sing on the roadside. That unfiltered folk spirit is rare now," he laments. "In moments like these," Ghosh concludes, "I wish I could turn back time and see my reflection in the mirror of the past. PoilaBoishakh still pulls us towards our roots, reminding us who we are."

## Cal HC orders CID probe into Durgapur Expressway accident

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a significant development, the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court, headed by Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam, has ordered a CID investigation into the mysterious death of a young dentist, Dr.AmartyaGhoshal, along the Durgapur Expressway. While the police had initially recorded the death as a road accident, the family of the deceased strongly suspected foul play and alleged deliberate murder. Despite a formal FIR under IPC Section 302 being filed, they claimed that no substantial investigation was undertaken. According to court sources, the incident occurred in June 2024. Dr.Ghoshal, a graduate of Burdwan Dental College (Class of 2022), operated a dental clinic in collaboration with a female colleague in Baruipur, South 24 Parganas. He was a resident of the East Kolkata Township area.

On the day of the incident, Dr.Ghoshal was reportedly riding a motorcycle along the Durgapur Expressway with his female colleague when both were found lying on the roadside. Strikingly, the woman, who was not wearing a helmet, sustained only minor injuries, while Dr.Ghoshal, despite being helmeted, suffered grievous trauma—his skull was fractured in two places, along with serious internal injuries. The family alleges that Dr.Ghoshal's body lay unattended for nearly two hours before he was taken to a rural hospital, where he was declared dead. In contrast, the woman was swiftly transferred to another hospital despite minimal injuries—raising further suspicion. The local Chanditala Police Station initially registered an unnatural death case, but under family pressure, upgraded it to a

murder investigation. The police submitted a report to a lower court, reiterate the case as a traffic accident. Dissatisfied, the family approached the Calcutta High Court, where Justice Amrita Sinha's single bench dismissed their plea. However, upon appeal, the Division Bench accepted the family's contention and directed the Additional Director General (CID) to conduct an independent and thorough investigation. The court's directive reflects growing judicial concern over lapses in criminal investigations, particularly when discrepancies between police reports and victim testimonies emerge. The CID is expected to revisit all evidence, eyewitness accounts, and forensic findings to determine whether the tragic death was truly accidental—or the result of premeditated foul play.

## State Health Comm summons Insurance COs amid mounting grievances over health policies

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The days of gentle persuasion are over. The West Bengal Health Commission has now taken a firm stance, directly summoning insurance companies to address a growing list of public grievances regarding health insurance. According to official sources, a crucial meeting has been scheduled on April 21 at the DhonoDhanyo auditorium in Alipore, where representatives from 11 insurance companies—including four state-owned firms—have been called to attend.

portedly been compelled to make out-of-pocket payments—sometimes under financial duress—to access urgent medical care, despite holding valid insurance coverage. The Health Commission, under the leadership of former Justice Asim Kumar Banerjee, will preside over the meeting, which is expected to include a detailed discussion of all complaints received over recent months. Officials will also hear the concerns of the insurance providers, who have reportedly lodged their own grievances. Some companies have accused certain private hospitals of generating inflated or fraudulent bills to siphon off insurance payouts. These complaints, too, have been formally submitted to the commission.

The decision stems from widespread complaints raised by patients and their families concerning the functioning of health insurance policies in the state. Common allegations include discrepancies in hospital billing, the denial of promised cashless facilities, and prolonged delays in claim settlements. In many cases, patients have re-

address key concerns such as policyholders being denied benefits de-

spite regular premium payments over several years, hospitals refusing to honour cashless policies at the time of admission, and undue delays in patient discharge until insurance clearance is received. Allegations have also surfaced about hospitals overcharging patients with cashless policies, leading to premature exhaustion of insurance limits. Additionally, many families have reported that even after eventually paying out-of-pocket and submitting reimbursement claims, the settlement process remains sluggish and cumbersome.

## Cultural icons honoured with prestigious State Awards at Rabindra Sadan



State Education Minister Bratya Basu, accompanied by State Minister Indranil Sen, honoured poet and writer Subodh Sarkar during an award ceremony organised on Bangla Divas on the occasion of Poila Baisakh celebration at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata on Tuesday.

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a grand celebration of Bengal's cultural richness, the state government hosted a prestigious award ceremony on the occasion of PoilaBoisakh and Bangla Divas, at RabindraSadan on Tuesday, honouring some of the most distinguished figures in the fields of literature, music, art, science, and folk culture. The event was graced by eminent personalities including State Ministers BratyaBasu,Indranil Sen along with Shantanu Basu, Principal Secretary, Department of Information and Cultural Affairs and Poet Joy Goswami and others.

in children's literature, Shivshankar Bhattacharya, was honoured with the Upendrakishore Roychowdhury Award. Poet Subodh Sarkar was recognised with the RabindraSmriti Award (Literature) for his impactful literary works, while astrophysicist SujanSengupta was awarded the RabindraSmriti Award (Science) for his writings on astronomy and the possibilities of life beyond Earth. Sociologist Ranabir Samaddar received the RabindraSmriti Award (Non-Bengali Language) for his scholarly work in English focusing on contemporary socio-political issues.

Sammatrananda was honoured with the BankimSmriti Award (Fiction) for his historical novels. Educationist Anandagopal Ghosh was awarded the VidyasagarSmriti Award (Prose) for his extensive academic and research-based writings. In the field of poetry, Rahul Purkayastha was given the Michael Madhusudan Dutta Smriti Award, while SukantaGangopadhyay received the BibhutibhusanBandopad-

hyaySmriti Award for his contributions to fiction. In the realm of performing arts, PolleeGuha was honoured with the Uday Shankar Award for her excellence in dance. PanditTarun Bhattacharya received the Alauddin Award for instrumental music, and Vidushi Dalia Rahut was awarded the Girija Shankar Award for classical music. Pandit Kumar Bose was recognised with the Gyanprakash Ghosh Award for his unique contributions to vocal and instrumental creativity, and Saraswati Devi received the Pannalal Bhattacharya Award for devotional music.

In visual arts, Swapnesh Chowdhury received the Abanindra Award for painting. Dr.Debashish Bhattacharya was honoured with the BinodbehariMukhopadhyay Award for visual arts, and sculptor Dilip Kumar Saha was presented with the RamkinkarBaij Award. Theatre personality Sharmila Pal received the BeenaDasguptaSmriti Award for her work in Jatra theatre.

Folk culture was celebrated with several awards: Sachindranath Sarkar received the Lalon Award for folk arts and crafts; GourchandraMurmu was awarded the PanditRaghunathMurmu Award for contributions to Santali literature; Akulbala Sarkar was honoured with the Thakur PanchananBarma Award for preserving North Bengal's folk culture; and AnujaAdhikariMondal received the Sudhi Pradhan Award for excellence in folk theatre. The ceremony not only recognised individual achievements but also reaffirmed the state's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage across various domains.

## Kolkata trams to grace FIFA world cup 2026, but technical hurdles raise concerns

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As the footballing world gears up for the grand spectacle of the FIFA World Cup 2026—set to be jointly hosted by the United States, Mexico, and Canada—India's city of joy, Kolkata, is poised

to leave a cultural imprint on the global event. In a landmark initiative, two of Kolkata's iconic trams are scheduled to be transported to Vancouver, Canada, as part of a heritage showcase. The trams are intended

to offer football fans a nostalgic journey to the stadium during the month-long tournament, which runs from June 11 to July 19 next year. This proposal, initiated by a private organization on November 19, 2024, re-

ceived an encouraging response from the West Bengal government. The plan aims to operate the trams over a 1.7-kilometre dedicated route in Vancouver, ferrying spectators from a designated point to the BC Place

Stadium—one of seven Canadian venues hosting World Cup matches. With a seating capacity of over 54,000, the stadium promises to be a major centre of action during the tournament.



**Name Change**  
I, Sharmila Mallik ( old name) W/O Santi Priya Mallik, residing at 12A, Goraksha Basi Road Town Hall, Dumdum Nager Bazar, Kolkata- 700028, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sharmila Das (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolkata, dated 11/04/2025. Sharmila Das (new name) and Sharmila Mallik (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Bijan Ghosh & Bijon Ghosh ( old names) S/O Late Binay Kumar Ghosh, residing at Jagtala Paschim Maheshstala (M), Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700141, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bijon Kumar Ghosh (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolk, dated 11/04/2025. Bijon Kumar Ghosh (new name) and Bijon Ghosh & Bijon Ghosh (old names ) all are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Prasanta Chakraborty (Old Name) S/o Ajit Chakraborty Residing at 24, Krishna Mohan Mitra Lane, Vic - Haora Corporation, Po - Salkia, District- Haora, Pin - 711106 West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prasanta Kumar Chakraborty (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-04-2025. Prasanta Chakraborty (Old Name) and Prasanta Kumar Chakraborty (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) AJIMADDIN AHAMED and AJUMADDIN AHAMED S/o-MAJIRADDIN AHAMMED, Residing at, Vill- Faraspur, Post- Kalkimora, Ps- Kushmandi, Dist-South dinajpur, Pin- 733121, West Bengal, Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from AJIMADDIN AHAMED to AJUMADDIN AHAMED (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AJIMADDIN AHAMMED in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, AJIMADDIN AHAMMED and AJIMADDIN AHAMED and AJUMADDIN AHAMED both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) MASUD HOSSAIN S/o- FULCHAND SHEIKH, Residing at, Vill- Makrampur, Post- Bishannagar, Ps- Beldanga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742133, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MASUD HOSSAIN To MASUD HOSSSEIN (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) MASUD HOSSSEIN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, MASUD HOSSSEIN and MASUD HOSSAIN both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) TAPASI SAHA BISWAS W/o- SURAJIT BISWAS, Residing at, Vill- Khanpur (Danga), Post- Aihoo, Ps- Malda, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732121, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from TAPASI SAHA BISWAS To TAPASI SAHA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) TAPASI SAHA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, TAPASI SAHA and TAPASI SAHA BISWAS both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) NILANJAN RAY S/o- SWAPAN KUMAR ROY, Residing at, Vill- Maheshmat Ray para (Bibigram), Post- Malda, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732101, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from NILANJAN RAY To NILANJAN RAY ROY (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) NILANJAN RAY ROY in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, NILANJAN ROY and NILANJAN RAY both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) SWAPAN S/o- LATE NIRMALENDU ROY, Residing at, Vill- Maheshmat Ray para, Post- Malda, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732101, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SWAPAN S/o- LATE NIRMALENDU ROY (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SWAPAN KUMAR ROY in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, SWAPAN KUMAR ROY and SWAPAN both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) BIKASH CHANDRA CHOWDHURY S/o- LATE SUDHANGSHU MOHAN CHOWDHURY, Residing at, Esan apartment naryl Sarani(Singatala), Post- Malda, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732101, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from BIKASH CHANDRA CHOWDHURY To BIKASH CHANDRA CHOUHDURY (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) BIKASH CHANDRA CHOUHDURY in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 April 2025, BIKASH CHANDRA CHOUHDURY and BIKASH CHANDRA CHOWDHURY both are Same and one identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Deepa Roy on behalf my minor son Shivanish Paul Residing at 248 Jugipara Road under South Dum Dum Municipality, P.S- Dum Dum, Dist.- 24 PGS (N), Kol- 700028 have changed his name and he shall henceforth be known as Shivanish Roy as declared before the first class Judicial Magistrate Barasat Court, West Bengal vide affidavit no. 4771 dated 06/11/2023 Shivanish Paul and Shivanish Roy both are same and identical person.



Students and teachers of Visva-Bharati University along with visitors take part in 'Poila Boisakh' or Bengali New Year celebrations at Upasana Griha, Santiniketan in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

## India's exports inch up 0.7% to \$41.97 bill in Mar

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India's exports grew marginally by 0.7 per cent to USD 41.97 billion in March, while the trade deficit stood at USD 21.54 billion in the month, the latest government data showed. Imports increased by 11.3 per cent year-on-year to USD 63.51 billion in March, according to the data released by the com-

merce ministry data. Cumulatively, during the 2024-25 fiscal year (April-March), the country's exports moved up a tad by 0.08 per cent to USD 437.42 billion, while imports climbed by 6.62 per cent to USD 720.24 billion.

The country's overall exports of goods and services increased by 5.5 pc to USD 820.93 billion.

## ER to run MEMU Special Train Between Katwa & Ahmadpur

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** For the convenience of the passengers, Eastern Railway's Howrah Division has decided to run one pair of Memu Special Train between Katwa & Ahmadpur with effect from 18.04. 2025 in addition to usual train services.

03037 Katwa – Ahmadpur Memu special will leave Katwa at 06:35 hrs. to reach Ahmadpur at 08:00 hrs & 03038 Ahmedpur- Katwa Memu special will leave Ahmadpur at 08:45 hrs. to reach Katwa at 10:10 hrs. These special Trains will stop at all stations enroute.

## RBI gov calls for a balanced approach in policy making

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Reserve Bank of India governor Sanjay Malhotra called for a balanced approach in policy making such that it does not stifle legitimate activities and investments while strengthening the financial system against money laundering.

The RBI governor was speaking at the FATF Private Sector Collaborative Forum 2025 in Mumbai. The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) is an intergovernmental organisation that sets global standards to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

“While we all continue to make our financial systems safe and secure against money laundering and terror financing, we as policymakers need to be mindful that our measures are not overzealous and do not stifle legitimate activities and investments.”

“You would appreciate that multiple laws and rules, each with their own level of granularity, cast a high level of burden of compliance on the regulated financial service providers. This is relevant in the context of AML-CFT (Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism) too. Therefore, we need to have laws and regulations which, with surgical precision, target only the illegitimate and illicit, rather than use them as blunt tools which unintentionally hurt even the honest,” said Malhotra. The RBI governor said that while implementing the legal framework and regulations, the impact on persons and businesses has to be kept in mind. “Risk-based approach is recommended in this regard. But let us keep in mind that this is only a step forward in reducing the compliance burden. Let us appreciate that it is not the ultimate solution, as any risk-based approach is not perfect; it would have false positives and false negatives. We need to continuously refine and improve our risk assessment models to make them robust,” Malhotra said. He added that the focus of policymakers and regulators has to be towards understanding the latest trends and developments in the financial world that can be exploited by criminals and accordingly develop tools and enabling frameworks to detect suspicious transactions and activities and take pre-emptive action.

## Govt sets up Import Surge Monitoring Group

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The government has set up an inter-ministerial import surge monitoring group as high tariffs on certain countries like China and Vietnam may lead to diversion of goods to India, the commerce ministry said.

It also said that Chinese retaliatory tariffs on US goods could further increase the inflow of US agricultural products into India. “With the global uncertainties related to tariffs, obviously there are elevated apprehensions related to likely flooding or surge in imports or surge...to look at that...import surge monitoring group has been set up,” Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce L Satya Srinivas told reporters here.

China orders carriers to suspend Boeing jet deliveries in retaliation against US tariffs. If any unusual surge is reported, the commerce ministry can take action such as imposing anti-dumping or safeguard duties. The group, he said, is monitoring weekly as well as monthly trends by commodities and by countries.

“If there is any unusual surge, we would like to understand the reasons,” he added. Representatives from the department, DGFT (Directorate General of Foreign Trade), CBIC (Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs), and Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) are in the group. Officials from other ministries are also being consulted when required.

According to the ministry, a recent assessment highlighted the risk of merchandise dumping into India due to reciprocal tariffs amid global trade tensions. “Rising US costs may prompt exporters from countries like China, Vietnam and Indonesia, all facing US trade deficits to divert goods to India, potentially triggering import surges,” it said.

## Anti-Littering Campaign conducted at Ranaghat Railway Station



**39 Individuals apprehended, Rs. 3,900/- Realised as Fine**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway remains committed to promoting cleanliness and hygiene across its network. As part of this ongoing effort, a comprehensive Cleanliness Awareness Campaign was organized at Ranaghat Railway Station on 14th and 15th April 2025, aimed at sensitizing passengers, vendors, and other railway users about the importance of maintaining a clean and hygienic environment within the station premises. The drive focused on sponable waste disposal, discouraging littering, and strictly prohibiting spitting in and around the station area. The campaign witnessed

active participation and coordination from the Chief Health Inspector, Railway Protection Force (RPF), and cleaning staff, all of whom played key roles in the success of the initiative. To reinforce the message of cleanliness, penalties were imposed on individuals found violating cleanliness norms. A total of 19 offenders were fined, and a sum of Rs. 3,900/- was realized during the two-day drive. Additionally, 39 individuals were counseled and sensitized about the importance of keeping the station premises clean. Eastern Railway urges all stakeholders to contribute to maintaining clean and safe railway premises for an improved and pleasant travel experience.

## India, China mull revival of direct flights



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The civil aviation ministries of India and China have held an initial round of discussions regarding the resumption of direct air services between the two nations, news agency Reuters reported.

Though no specific dates have been set for the restart, sources aware of the developments on resumption of direct flights said they were hopeful in view of the thawing of relationship between the countries.

The two neighbours agreed in January — during the visit of Indian foreign secretary Vikram Misri — to work on resolving trade and economic differences, in a move expected to boost their aviation sectors, particularly China's, which has lagged other countries' in rebounding from the Covid pandemic.

“The civil aviation ministry and our counterpart in China have had one round of meetings,” civil aviation secretary Vumlunmang Vualnam said at a conference organised by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi. There were still some issues to resolve, he added, without going into the details. The fact that things are moving in a positive direction became clear last month when Chinese Consul-General in Kolkata, Xu Wei, said that the two countries are in constant talks to resume direct flights. He also recalled the pre-Covid days when airlines from both sides operated flights — about 50 a week — between many destinations such as Beijing, Kunming, Shanghai and Guangzhou from Delhi, Mumbai and Cal-

cutta. There has been no direct air connectivity between India and China since early 2020 following the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic. The situation deteriorated after military clashes erupted between the two neighbours in the Galwan Valley of the Ladakh region. India imposed restrictions on Chinese companies investing in the country, banned hundreds of popular apps and cut passenger routes, although direct cargo flights continued.

Relations have improved to some extent since an agreement in October to ease a military standoff on the mountainous border, the same month that President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks in Russia.

“It's high time for the flight connections to resume... A resumption of direct air connectivity between the two economic powerhouses will be a win-win for both the countries,” Ishani Naskar, professor of international relations and a China expert, told The Telegraph.

Amid the growing tension between the US and China over tariffs, Beijing — which is keen on Indian markets — has been trying to send positive signals to New Delhi for some time. The Chinese Ambassador to India, Xu Feihong, recently said that over 85,000 visas have been issued to Indian citizens till April 9, 2025, following latest visa relaxations.

“We welcome more Indian friends to visit China, experience an open, safe, vibrant, sincere and friendly China,” said Feihong in a post on X.

## ER observed 135th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway commemorated the 135th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at its Headquarters at Fairlie Place, Kolkata. Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp and paid homage by offering floral tributes to the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar. Shri Sumit Sarkar, Additional General Manager; Smt. Jarina Firdausi, Principal Chief Personnel Officer; and Principal Heads of Departments of Eastern Railway collectively honoured the memory and legacy of Dr. Ambedkar. Secretary, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Association, along with other dignitaries, also paid tribute to Babasaheb. Reflecting on the occasion, Shri Deouskar highlighted the monumental role played by Babasaheb in drafting the Constitution of India. He also emphasized Dr. Ambedkar's unwavering commitment to education and economic empowerment, particularly for the marginalized sections of society. He described Dr. Ambedkar as one of the most iconic figures in Indian history and acknowledged his immense contributions toward promoting social equality and eradicating untouchability. A cultural programme was performed, showcasing the contributions of Babasaheb Ambedkar to society. An essay competition was also conducted on the topic “The Architect of Social Justice in India” to honour his legacy and spread awareness of his contributions. The top three winners were awarded cash prizes and certificates as a token of appreciation. All Divisions—Howrah, Sealdah, Asansol, and Malda—along with workshops such as Kanchrapara, Liluah, and Jamalpur, also celebrated the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar with due reverence. The Headquarters Branch of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Association organized the programme at Fairlie Place. Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, also paid homage by garlanding the portrait of Dr. Ambedkar.

## Metro Railway observes 134th Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The 134th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was observed in a solemn manner at Metro Rail Bhavan today i.e. on 15th April, 2025. Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway, Kolkata lighted a lamp to inaugurate the programme and paid homage to Dr. Ambedkar, the great scholar and Principal Architect of the Constitution of India, by garlanding his photograph. Other senior officers and staff also paid floral tributes to this great son of the country and vowed to protect equal rights for all.

Representatives of All India Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Association, recognised Union and Metro staff also paid floral tributes to this great son of the country. The birth anniversary of Babasaheb was not observed on 14th April, 2025, being a holiday.

## US tariff policy paves way to increase exports to other nations: Gadkari

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the US administration's reciprocal tariff policy has created an opportunity before India to increase its exports across the world. He also said the government was trying to reduce the logistics costs by strengthening the country's infrastructure so that it can compete with countries like China in the export market. Gadkari inspected the ongoing construction work of the Rs 1,200 crore Multimodal Logistics Park project in Pithampur industrial area, about 30 km from Indore. Later addressing a programme, the Road Transport and Highways Minister said, “You know what kind of things are being said in the world today. Due to the kind of tariffs imposed by the US, we now have many opportunities and we can increase our exports to countries around the world in the coming time.” He underlined that logistics cost in India was in the range of 14 to 16 per cent, while in China it was eight per cent and in the US and European countries it was 12 per cent. “Logistics cost in India is about eight per cent more than in China, due to which we are not able to become competitive on the export front,” Gadkari said. Logistics parks, multimodal logistics parks and other facilities were being developed across the country to bring down the logistics costs, he added.

According to the minister, the construction work of the first phase of the multimodal logistics park spread over 255 acres in Pithampur is expected to be completed in one-and-a-half to two years. This park will boost import-export in the Malwa-Nimar region of western Madhya Pradesh, reduce logistics costs and lead to economic progress.





Hindu merchants pray to the idols of Lord Ganesha and Goddess Laxmi along with iconic 'Hal Khata' during the special 'Bangla Nobo Borsho' (Bengali New Year) prayer in Kolkata on Tuesday.

## CISF, RAF Conduct Route Marches in Howrah Amid Heightened Security



**MI News Service, Howrah:** In the wake of recent unrest in parts of Bengal, the Howrah City Police have intensified security across sensitive zones. To reinforce law and order, personnel from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), and Combat Force have begun patrolling key areas in Howrah.

Howrah City Police Commissioner Praveen Kumar Tripathi stated that residents of Howrah wish to live in peace. "As witnessed during Ram Navami and Hanuman Jayanti, festivals were observed here in complete harmony," he said.

However, to maintain public awareness and en-

sure that no miscreants exploit the situation by spreading rumors or misinformation, the forces are conducting route marches through sensitive localities. Alongside patrolling, they are engaging with residents to raise awareness and promote communal harmony.

"We remain on constant alert," the Commissioner added. "Whenever an incident arises elsewhere in the state, we immediately heighten our vigilance and instruct officers to stay on high alert."

The presence of central forces on the ground underscores the administration's commitment to preemptive security and public reassurance in potentially volatile areas.

## Kerala forms 40-member think tank to combat drug menace

**MI News Service, Thiruvananthapuram:**

### E-AUCTION NOTICE FOR CONTRACT

e-Auction Notice no.: Comm1-1/Pub./ADVT/PARK, CAT&PNU/04/25, Date : 15.04.2025  
For & on behalf of President of India e-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, South Eastern Railway, Adra for the Advertisement, Pay&Use, Catering and Parking contract for several stations of Adra Division. The Catalogue has already been published on IREPS website ([www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in)). Details are as follows: ● **Category :** Catering. **Auction Catalogue No. : CATG29. Lot No./Category:** (i) Catg-ADRA-KHRI-GMU-65-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (ii) Catg-ADRA-BCB-GMU-53-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iii) Catg-ADRA-TAO-GMU-31-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iv) Catg-ADRA-SBW-SMU-54-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), (v) Catg-ADRA-KARO-SMU-62-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), (vi) Catg-ADRA-BKNO-SMU-67-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 25.04.25 at 11:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 25.04.25 at 12:20 hrs. Auction Catalogue No. : CATG30. Lot No./Category:** (i) Catg-ADRA-NOB-GMU-68-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (ii) Catg-ADRA-LYD-GMU-60-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iii) Catg-ADRA-JBO-SMU-59-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), (iv) Catg-ADRA-BZC-SMU-70-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), (v) Catg-ADRA-TSAH-SMU-63-23-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 24.04.25 at 10:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 24.04.25 at 11:10 hrs. Auction Catalogue No. : CATG31. Lot No./Category:** (i) Catg-ADRA-MLQ-GMU-39-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (ii) Catg-ADRA-BDPR-GMU-71-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iii) Catg-ADRA-SDMD-GMU-40-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iv) Catg-ADRA-ODM-GMU-34-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (v) Catg-ADRA-KRKN-GMU-64-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 23.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 23.04.25 at 13:10 hrs. Auction Catalogue No. : CATG32. Lot No./Category:** (i) Catg-ADRA-BRMD-GMU-30-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (ii) Catg-ADRA-GTD-GMU-43-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iii) Catg-ADRA-PNW-GMU-45-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iv) Catg-ADRA-RUI-GMU-37-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (v) Catg-ADRA-RDF-GMU-44-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 22.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 22.04.25 at 13:10 hrs. Auction Catalogue No. : CATG37. Lot No./Category:** (i) Catg-ADRA-BURN-GMU-47-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (ii) Catg-ADRA-CDGR-GMU-22-23-1 (Catering - General Minor Unit (GMU)), (iii) Catg-ADRA-BURN-SMU-86-25-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), (iv) Catg-ADRA-PRR-SMU-82-24-1 (Catering - Special Minor Unit (SMU)), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 28.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 28.04.25 at 13:00 hrs. ● Category : Parking. Auction Catalogue No. : PARK75. Lot No./Category:** PARKING-ADRA-PBA-TW-53-24-1 (Parking - Two Wheeler), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 28.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 28.04.25 at 12:30 hrs. ● Category : P&U. Auction Catalogue No. : NFRWRL. Lot No./Category:** PnU-ADRA-PRR-WRL-57-25-1 (Pay and Use - Lounges /Waiting/Retiring/ Cloak Rooms), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 25.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 25.04.25 at 12:30 hrs. Auction Catalogue No. : PAYnU19. Lot No./Category:** (i) PnU-ADRA-BQA-Toi-55-25-1 (Pay and Use - Toilets), (ii) PnU-ADRA-BKSC-Toi-48-25-1 (Pay and Use - Toilets), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 21.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 21.04.25 at 12:40 hrs. ● Category : Advertisement. Auction Catalogue No. : ADVT64. Lot No./Category:** (i) ADVT-ADRA-PRR-OH-16-25-2 (Advertising - Out of Home), (ii) ADVT-ADRA-VSU-OH-17-25-2 (Advertising - Out of Home), (iii) ADVT-ADRA-KSX-OSN-128-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital), (iv) ADVT-ADRA-ODM-OSN-127-25-1 (Advertising - On Station Premise (Non-Digital), **Auction Start (All Lots) : 21.04.25 at 12:00 hrs. Auction Close Date/Time : 21.04.25 at 13:00 hrs. Note :** Prospective bidders are requested to visit e-Auction module on IREPS website : [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for enquiries/clarifications if any, please contact the office of the undersigned.

(PR-48) Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/Adra  
**South Eastern Railway**  
We serve with a smile

## Police arrest kidnapper for abducting a tea seller & demanding Rs 30 L as ransom

**MI News Service, Baidyabati:** A shocking kidnapping case in Baidyabati saw a tea shop owner abducted and held for a 30 lakh rupee ransom. The perpetrator, arrested by Serampore police after tracing his mobile location, was revealed to be a serving Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Chandannagar court. The victim was rescued, and the accused, Ashok Das, is now facing charges.

Chandannagar ASI Arrested for Kidnapping, Extortion of Baidyabati Businessman

Baidyabati, Hooghly – A serving Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) of the Chandannagar court has been arrested in connection with the kidnapping and extortion of a 64-year-old businessman from Baidyabati. Tarak Bhowmik, the victim, was abducted from his tea shop on Piarapur Delhi Road on Monday morning, triggering a police investigation after a ransom demand of 30 lakh rupees was made to his family.

The Serampore Police Station, acting on the family's complaint, initiated an immediate investigation. Utilizing mobile tower location tracking, they apprehended the accused, Ashok Das, at Sheoraphuli station.

### Mamata inciting waqf violence in Bengal: Kiren Rijiju

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Union Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday accused West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee of "inciting violence" by her remarks asking people to protest against the Waqf Act and declaring that she will not implement it in her state.

The Union Minister for Minority Affairs, speaking at a press conference here, asked how the West Bengal CM can declare she will not implement the amended Waqf Act passed by the Parliament.

"How? How can she say she will not implement it? She is sitting in a constitutional position and the law is passed by a constitutional body, then how can she say that she will not follow something that is constitutional," he said in response to reporters' queries regarding Banerjee's statement that the Act will not be implemented in West Bengal.

In response to queries about the Waqf Act related violence in that state, Rijiju blamed Banerjee for it. "The CM is visibly inciting violence by asking people to protest and saying that she will not follow the law passed by the Parliament," he said.

Fresh episodes of Waqf (Amendment) Act-related violence rocked Bhangar area in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district on Monday. Earlier, violence related to the Act had occurred in Murshidabad district of the state.

### CBI cracks down on digital arrest syndicates

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Central Bureau of Investigation has arrested four members of a cybercrime gang who had extorted more than Rs. 7 crore through "digital arrest" from a Rajasthan resident, following raids in 12 locations across the country including Mumbai and Krishnagar in West Bengal.

The complainant, a Jhunjhunu resident was kept on "digital arrest" for over three months and total Rs. 7.67 crores extorted from him 42 times by the gang posing as officers employed with different probe agencies.

On the request of the Rajasthan government, the CBI took up the case, which was registered under Jhunjhunu's cybercrime division and arrested two of the gang members from Mumbai and two others from Uttar Pradesh's Moradabad.

"Through the leads generated during the probe extensive searches were conducted in 12 locations across the country. Apart from Moradabad, raids were also held in UP's Sambhal, Mumbai, Jaipur and Krishnagar after which some of the perpetrators were tracked and arrested," said a CBI officer.

## Protest Against Central Govt Over Medicine Shortage, Price Hike of Essentials

**MI News Service, Hooghly:** A protest rally was organized today from Ivarpara in Goswami Mali Para Panchayat to Goswami Mali Para Hat Tala, within the Saptagram Assembly constituency, condemning the central government's alleged deprivation of West Bengal in various developmental projects, the rising cost of essential medicines, and the overall surge in prices of daily necessities.

The demonstration saw participation from Saptagram MLA Tapan Dasgupta, Hooghly Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ranjan Dhar, Polba-Dadpur Block President Subhash Chan-



gram MLA Tapan Dasgupta, Hooghly Zilla Parishad Chairperson Ranjan Dhar, Polba-Dadpur Block President Subhash Chan-

## Yogi prescribes 'Danda formula' for rioters

**MI News Service, Ayodhya:** Launching a scathing attack on Mamata Banerjee over the violence in West Bengal over the Waqf law, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said "Bengal is burning", but its chief minister is "silent" and even calling the rioters "messengers of peace".

Adityanath also said that "danda" (stick) is the only treatment for rioters, as "Laton ke bhoot baaton se kahan manne wale hain (Those who respond only to thrashing don't understand words)".

Speaking in Hardoi after inaugurating and laying the foundation for 729 developmental schemes worth Rs 650 crore, Adityanath said, "You all can see how Bengal is burning, but the chief minister of the state is silent. She even calls the rioters 'Shaantidoot' (messengers of peace). They have given a complete free hand to the rioters in the name of secularism."

"This type of anarchy must be controlled. The entire Murshidabad has been burning for the past week. I would like to thank the court there for ordering the deployment of central forces and taking steps for the safety of

the minority Hindus in the district." Adityanath's remarks came after violent protests erupted on Friday and Saturday in pockets of Murshidabad district, including Suti, Dhulian and Jangipur, triggered by anger over the recently-enacted Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The demonstrations soon escalated into clashes, leaving at least three people dead and several injured.

"The Congress, Samajwadi Party and Trinamool Congress are silent on the Murshidabad riots. The rioters are making threats and supporting what happened in Bangladesh. If they like Bangladesh so much, they should go there. Why are they becoming a burden on our land," Adityanath asked.

Security forces are keeping a strict vigil to prevent any fresh episode of violence in Murshidabad district, officials said on Tuesday.

Personnel of the BSF, CRPF, state police and RAF have been deployed in large numbers in Jangipur, Dhuliyani, Suti and Shamsheganj, where no new incident of violence was reported in the past 48 hours, the officials said.

"When the security situation improves, in-

vestments come in, employment generation takes place, and exodus of youths comes down. Before 2017, riots used to take place every second-third day (in Uttar Pradesh). The only treatment for these rioters is 'danda', without which they can't be reined in," Adityanath said.

Talking about the development schemes, the chief minister said, "The PM Mitra Textile Park is going to come up on the borders of Hardoi district, which will benefit lakhs of youth. I was looking at the textile work of Mallawan town. Its craftsmanship and weaving work are beautiful."

"Once the textile park comes up, the talented weavers will find more work. Also, the youth will no longer have to go to Punjab and Surat for work. Rather, people from other states will come to Hardoi for work." In March 2023, the government of India announced sites for setting up seven PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks for the textile industry.

The parks will come up in Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

## India to see above-normal cumulative rainfall this monsoon: Met Dept

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India will experience above-normal cumulative rainfall this monsoon, the India Meteorological Department said on Tuesday, ruling out the possibility of El Nino conditions during the entire season.

"India is likely to see above-normal rainfall in the four-month monsoon season (June to September) with cumulative rainfall estimated at 105 per cent of the long-period average of 87 cm," India Meteorological Department (IMD) chief Mrutyunjay Mohapatra told a press conference here.

El Nino conditions, associated with below-normal monsoon rainfall in the Indian subcontinent, are unlikely to develop this time, he said.

Parts of the country are already battling extreme heat and a significantly high number of heat wave days are expected in the April to June period. This could strain power grids and result in water short-

ages. The monsoon is crucial for India's agriculture sector, which supports the livelihood of about 42.3 per cent of the population and contributes 18.2 per cent to the country's GDP.

Fifty-two per cent of the net cultivated area relies on the primary rain-bearing system. It is also crucial for the replenishing of reservoirs critical for drinking water, apart from power generation across the country.

A prediction of normal rainfall during the monsoon season, therefore, comes as a huge relief to the nation.

However, normal cumulative rainfall does not guarantee uniform temporal and spatial distribution of rain across the country, with climate change further increasing the variability of the rain-bearing system.

Climate scientists say the number of rainy days is declining while heavy rain events (more rain over a short period) are increas-

ing, leading to frequent droughts and floods.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
My clients, Mujafar Ali Middey son of Mansur Middey purchased 3 Kotha or 4.96 Satak land vide Deed No. 147/2024 from A.D.S.R Office Janai from 1 Smt. Chanchala Ghori, W/O Late Haradhan Ghori 2 Smt. Kabita Maity, 3 Smt. Sabita Pal, both D/O of Late Haradhan Ghori, represented by its attorney Atanu Chandra Shah (L.R.O. of Mouza Joykrishnapur, L.No. 69, P.S Chanditala, under Panchghara Gram Panchayet, Dist Hooghly. After that he applied Mutation at office Chanditala II B.L. & L.R.O. if any objection by Principal or any other person against the Power of Attorney they should be written objection within 30 days before the said land office otherwise legal action will be taken as per law.  
**Subhas Chandra Shah**  
Advocate  
Serampore Court.

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
My clients, Sk. Meheraj Ali son of Sk. Mosaraf Ali purchased 1.25 Satak land vide Deed No. 1125/2022 from A.D.S.R Office Janai from 1. Ali Hossain Jamadar, 2. Monoar Hossain, 3. Faruk Hossain Jamadar, all sons of Asraf Hossain Jamadar, 4. Nur Jahjan Begam, W/O Lt. Mosaraf Hossain Jamadar, 5. Farhana Hossain, W/O Faruk Mondal, 6. Oasim Hossain alias Oashim Hossain, S/O Lt. Mosaraf Hossain Jamadar, represented by its attorney Atanu Chandra Shah (L.R.O. of Mouza Joykrishnapur, L.No. 69, P.S Chanditala, under Panchghara Gram Panchayet, Dist Hooghly. After that he applied Mutation at office Chanditala II B.L. & L.R.O. if any objection by Principal or any other person against the Power of Attorney they should be written objection within 30 days before the said land office otherwise legal action will be taken as per law.  
**Subhas Chandra Shah**  
Advocate  
Serampore Court.

## India contemplates exporting 40K tones of shrimp to USA



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India's seafood exporters are preparing to ship 35,000-40,000 tonnes of shrimp to the United States with orders remaining stable after US President Donald Trump paused a planned 26 per cent reciprocal tariff, reducing the duty to 10 per cent, industry officials said.

"There is a lot of relief now as we are at par with other exporters to the US. Now the shipments that were held back will be processed," Seafood Exporters Association of India Secretary General K N Raghavan told.

About 2,000 containers of shrimp that had been delayed are now being readied for export following Trump's

April 9 decision to pause the higher tariffs just one week after announcing them on April 2, he said.

The temporary reprieve maintains a 10 per cent blanket tariff on all countries except China, which faces a 145 per cent duty.

Currently, Indian shrimp exports to the US face an effective customs duty of 17.7 per cent, including 5.7 per cent in countervailing duties and 1.8 per cent in anti-dumping duty.

the higher tariff.

"The 90-day pause provides exporters the opportunity to fulfil these orders without the extra cost," an industry representative said.

The association reported no drop in orders from the United States, which remains India's largest shrimp market both in volume and value. India exported shrimp worth USD 2.7 billion to the US in the 2023-24 fiscal year.

**REGULATION OF TRAINS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL WORK OVER MALDA DIVISION**  
**CORRIGENDUM AND ADDENDUM**  
In reference of the above captioned advertisement published earlier regarding regulation of trains for Pre Non-Interlocking (07.08.25 to 09.08.25) & Non-Interlocking (10.08.25 to 13.08.25) work in connection with yard remodelling of Malda Town Station, the following modification have been made : ● **13146** Radhikapur-Kolkata Express (JCO 10.08.25), **15711** Howrah-Katihar Express (JCO 12.08.25) and **53028** Malda Town-Azimgarj Passenger (JCO 14.08.25) **will also remain cancelled.** ● **15712** Katihar-Howrah Express (JCO 11.08.25) will remain cancelled instead of earlier notification JCO 12.08.25. ● On 12.08.25, **13173** Sealdah-Sabroom Kanchanjunga Express will be rescheduled instead of **13175** Sealdah-Silchar Kanchanjunga Express. ● **13012** Malda Town-Howrah Intercity Express (JCO 14.08.25) **will also be short originated from Rampurhat.** Inconvenience is regretted.  
Divisional Railway Manager, Malda  
**Eastern Railway**  
Follow us at : **@EasternRailway** **@easternrailwayheadquarter**



# ASUS strengthens pan India retail strategy with the launch of Exclusive Store in Bolpur

**Bolpur:** As a step towards strengthening the brand's retail footprint across the country, ASUS India, Taiwanese tech giant today announced the launch of an exclusive store in Bolpur. The new exclusive store is spread across 275 sq. ft. and is set to host an extensive range of electronics and computer hardware, including the ASUS flagship products such as Vivobook, Zenbook, Republic of Gamers (ROG) laptops, Gaming Desktops, All-in-One Desktops, and accessories. This is the brand's 1st store located in Bolpur taking the total count to 13 AES stores in West Bengal.

Talking about the expansion, Jignesh Bhavsar, National Sales Manager - PC & Gaming Business, ASUS India, said, "We are delighted to announce the expansion of our retail footprint in India. West Bengal being a vital market for us, the inauguration of the new brand



store in the promising city, Bolpur will play a pivotal step towards empowering consumers across different regions of the country

with a unique experience of our latest innovation. With a strategic retail expansion approach, we will continue to create more interaction and new touchpoints for our users." Address of the retail store: ASUS Exclusive Store- Door Computech Pvt Ltd, Santiniketan Road, PO-Bolpur, Dist.-Birbhum, Beside Himalaya Optical, Near Bazar Kolkata PIN 731204. ASUS is a global technology leader that provides the world's most innovative and intuitive devices, components and solutions to deliver incredible experiences that enhance the lives of people everywhere. With its team of 5,000 in-house R&D experts, ASUS is world-renowned for continuously reimagining today's technologies for tomorrow, garners more than 11 awards every day for quality, innovation and design, and is ranked among Fortune's World's Most Admired Companies.

# YES Germany Opens 2025 Admissions to Top Public Universities in Germany

**New Delhi:** Yes Germany, a leading education consultancy specializing in German higher education, has announced an Admission Alert for Indian students aspiring to pursue Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Germany. Indian students particularly benefit from Germany's no-tuition fee policy at public universities, high employability rates, and numerous scholarship opportunities. With a robust focus on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) courses, Germany has become a preferred choice for students seeking quality education with global exposure.

Yes Germany is inviting applications across various disciplines, including Engineering, IT, Business Administration, Artificial Intelligence, Automotive Engineering, and more. The consultancy provides comprehensive student assistance, including university selection, application pro-

cessing, visa guidance, language training, pre-departure support, and post-departure assistance.

Germany continues to be a leading destination for Indian students seeking higher education. Recent data indicates a significant increase in the number of Indian students enrolling in German universities. In the winter semester of 2023/24, there were 49,483 Indian students enrolled in German institutions, marking a 15.1% increase from the previous year. This upward trend is expected to continue, with projections suggesting a 298% increase in Indian student numbers in Germany by 2030.

Top Universities & Scholarship Opportunities

- \* Heidelberg University: Hans-Peter Wild Talent Scholarship - Offers up to EUR12,000 per year for undergraduate and postgraduate students in STEM fields.
- \* RWTH Aachen University: RWTH Aachen University

Scholarships - Provides tuition fee waivers and stipends, awarded based on academic excellence.

- \* Technical University of Munich (TUM): TUM Scholarship for International Students - Awards up to EUR10,000 to outstanding non-EU students.
- \* Humboldt University of Berlin: Humboldt Research Track Scholarship - Grants EUR800 per month for six months to support early-stage researchers.
- \* Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich): LMU Munich Scholarships - Offers EUR500 to EUR1,500 per semester for students with strong academic records and social commitment.
- \* Hamburg University of Applied Sciences: Merit Scholarships - Provides EUR850 per month for up to two years for academically excellent non-EU students.

How to apply

Applicants seeking admission can visit for the assistance with University admissions in Germany. Application deadlines vary by university, and Yes Germany offers free consultations to guide students through the process. YES Germany provides end-to-end support in applications, scholarships, and visa procedures. As admissions can be competitive, students are encouraged to apply early to secure their place.

About Yes Germany

Yes Germany is a premier education consultancy assisting students in securing admissions to top universities in Germany. With a decade of experience, the organization has successfully guided thousands of students in achieving their academic dreams. Offering a range of services from admissions to post-arrival assistance, Yes Germany remains a trusted partner for students aspiring to study in Germany.

# CAPSI Seek MHA Funding To Secure Residents Of Housing Colonies

**New Delhi :** Addressing the urgent need for improved security measures within residential housing societies, Chairman of Central Association of Private Security Industry has made a formal appeal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister, urging the government to introduce a dedicated fund to support the security needs of Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) across the nation.

He stated, "Security remains a fundamental right and necessity for every citizen. However, many RWAs struggle to collect security charges from their members due to financial constraints and a lack of awareness regarding the importance of professional security services. This often compels them to hire unlicensed and non-compliant private security agencies, inadvertently violating critical labour laws, including the Security Agencies Regulation Act, Employees State Insurance (ESI)

Act, Minimum Wage Act, and Provident Fund Regulations."

To address these pressing concerns, the proposal outlines key measures that could significantly enhance security standards in residential communities:

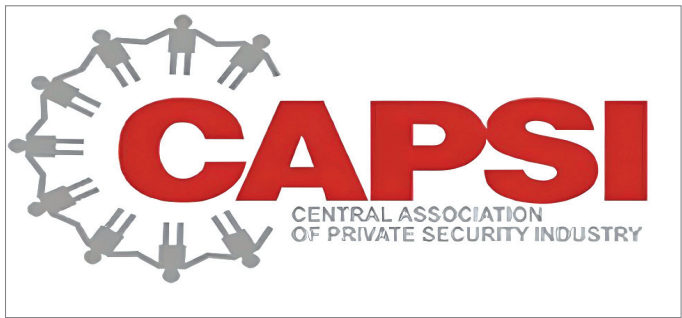
1. Provision of Targeted Funding - The government should allocate financial resources to assist RWAs in hiring licensed and compliant private security agencies, ensuring the safety of residents.

2. Integration into Community Policing Initiatives - Strengthening collaboration between RWAs and state police departments through community policing programs will improve local security measures.
3. Enhancing Compliance and Standards - By supporting RWAs financially, security personnel can be hired legally, improving compliance with regulatory laws and enhancing overall security service quality.

4. Creating Safe Living Environments - A dedicated security fund will contribute to making residential areas safer, fostering trust among residents, and promoting a secure and harmonious living atmosphere.

CAPSI Chairman Kunwar Vikram Singh said, "Ensuring residential security directly contributes to the broader goal of a prosperous and safe India, in line with the Prime Minister's vision. This initiative represents a significant step towards national security and community well-being. By prioritizing the safety of residential areas, the government can uphold its commitment to law and order while fostering a sense of security among citizens.

The proposal urges immediate consideration and action to ensure that residential communities receive the necessary support to maintain a secure living environment for all.



# Traveling from India? Why Travel Insurance is Your Best Travel Partner

**New Delhi :** With more Indians traveling overseas for family visits, jobs, education, or holidays, international travel has grown in popularity. Although organizing travel, lodging, and sightseeing takes precedence, one crucial component that should never be overlooked is travel insurance. Having travel insurance India guarantees that you are covered against unforeseen circumstances, regardless of whether you are traveling to crowded cities in the USA, picturesque Europe, or dynamic Southeast Asia. Your plans might be completely derailed by an unexpected sickness, a delayed flight, or misplaced luggage. You can handle such situations stress-free with the aid of travel insurance, which serves as a safety net. In order to prevent you from having to spend your funds during a crisis in a foreign nation, it provides financial coverage for medical crises, trip cancellations, and other unanticipated circumstances. Additionally, it satisfies certain visa criteria for specific places, making the visa procedure easier for Indian tourists.

Being ready is crucial in the

fast-paced world of today, when anything may happen at any time. When compared to selecting locations or activities, MakeMyTrip's travel insurance may not appear thrilling, yet it quietly supports each stage of your trip. Consider it a trustworthy travel companion that is always available, silent, and dependable.

Why Indian Travelers Should Never Skip Travel Insurance

Here's a closer look at how travel insurance, which provides much-needed support at all phases of a foreign trip, becomes a must-have tool for every Indian visitor.

Smoothens the Visa Process for Many Countries

Many foreign locations--especially in Europe and Asia--have made travel insurance required for visa applications. Those Indian passport holders seeking Schengen, UK, or Canada visas, for example, have to provide current insurance records. Having the correct policy from the start saves time and raises the possibility of a successful visa application. This one-time action keeps you ahead of the process and



helps you prevent last-minute anxiety.

Protects Against Medical Emergencies Abroad

An unexpected medical problem while on holiday may be financially taxing as well as unpleasant. Particularly in Japan or the USA, medical procedures can be rather costly. Travel insurance covers cashless hospitalization, medical visits, and emergency treatment. Knowing you have a solid safety plan can let you concentrate on recuperation instead of costs.

Covers Flight Cancellations, Delays, Missed

Connections Many times, international travel consists of large distances and several layovers. Missed connections and extra expenses might result from delays and cancellations. Travel insurance covers lodging charges resulting from unanticipated events or helps you recoup such costs, including rebooking flights. This encouragement helps you maintain going ahead with your vacation plans and lessens the annoyance of the situation.

Secures Your Baggage and Valuables

Particularly when your basics are inside, lost bags or stolen goods may ruin your entire trip. Travel insurance covers lost, stolen, or delayed baggage so you may replace what is required free from financial burden. It guarantees that a luggage accident won't sour the essence of your trip and lets you keep on with assurance.

Offers Support in Case of Legal or Personal Emergencies

Unfamiliar rules and linguistic restrictions might be frightening when overseas. Many travel insurance packages provide emergency support services such

as linking you to legal aid, assisting with misplaced passports, or planning emergency transit back home. When you live distant from known support networks, these services really change things.

Customizes Protection Based on Your Travel Purpose

One-size-fits-not travel insurance is not. Plans may be tailored to fit your particular needs whether your journey is for a quick holiday, a lengthy business trip, or study abroad. This lets Indian visitors pay only for what they need, so the insurance is more reasonable and pertinent for the kind of journey they are planning.

Conclusion

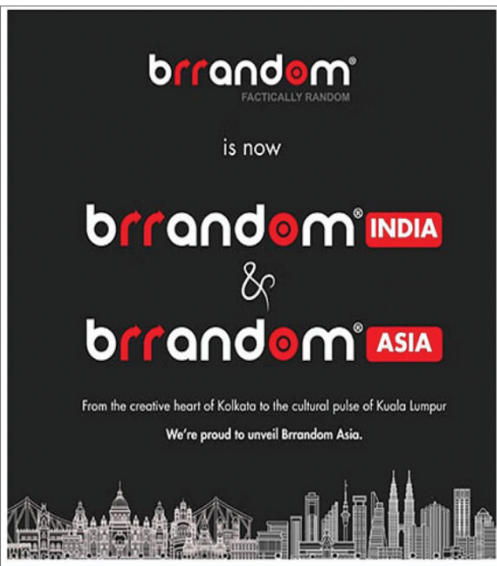
Having travel insurance at hand can help you make all the difference between a tense trip from India and a seamless one. From paying medical bills and getting visas to protecting your stuff and providing backup help, overseas travel insurance is really your best vacation friend. So, be sure you're covered before you head off on your next trip. This is the one choice that ensures mental clarity anywhere you go.

# Brrandom Expands to Southeast Asia with Launch of 'Brrandom Asia'

**Kolkata (West Bengal) :** Kuala Lumpur [Malaysia], April 15: In just two years since its inception, Brrandom has emerged as the fastest-growing branding and digital marketing agency in Eastern India. Now, the trailblazing agency has taken a bold leap forward with the official launch of Brrandom Asia, a full-fledged operational hub based out of Malaysia -- making it the first homegrown agency from Eastern India to expand internationally with a physical presence and not just a virtual address.

Founded by a team of experienced brand architects with over a decade of industry expertise and a proven track record of working with some of India's biggest brands, Brrandom has consistently challenged traditional norms in branding. Its vision: to deliver holistic, stereotype-breaking, tech-integrated branding solutions that bridge creativity, data, and cultural relevance.

"Brrandom was built to challenge the conventional -- not just in design or content, but in how brands are imagined, built, and scaled," said Avik Guha, Co-Founder of Brrandom. "We're not here to follow trends. We're here to redefine what branding means in a borderless, digital-first world."



Brrandom Asia aims to blend Indian strategic strength with Malaysian insights and talent to offer truly multicultural, scalable solutions. With a keen understanding of fragmented customer journeys and the need for real-time agility, the agency is poised to address regional challenges with AI-powered martech tools, performance-driven creative strategies, and fully trackable campaign ecosystems.

"Malaysian businesses are innovating faster than ever, but face challenges we've already mastered -- from wasted ad spend to scattered data," said Safdar Hussain, Malaysia-based Co-Founder. "Our mission is to turn those challenges into growth opportunities, deeply rooted in the local culture."

Looking ahead, Brrandom Asia is setting its sights on strategic expansion across Southeast Asia -- including Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines -- through AI-driven platforms, affordable tech-first creative solutions, and on-ground partnerships. "Our success in India wasn't by

chance -- we helped brands grow using breakthrough strategies, predictive analytics, data-driven insights and forward-thinking approaches," said Sadhak Mandal, Founding Partner. "Now, we're bringing that same firepower to Southeast Asia."

The launch of Brrandom Asia also marks a celebration of Brrandom's two-year journey, fueled by disruptive thinking, cross-border collaboration, and a relentless focus on business outcomes. "We've built something truly unique -- where every campaign is measurable, every pixel accountable, and every idea global," added Amol Kale, Founding Member.

About Brrandom

Founded in 2023, Brrandom is a new-age branding and digital solutions agency that blends strategy, technology, and creativity to deliver transformative brand outcomes. Headquartered in Kolkata with a new operational base in Malaysia, Brrandom works across industries -- from startups to legacy brands -- helping them scale meaningfully in the digital age.

# Kalp Studio and MGrow Launch IBM-Certified Blockchain Program with 100% Job Guarantee

**New Delhi :** Kalp Studio and MGrow have launched an industry-aligned Blockchain Certification Program that offers technical training, internship opportunities, and guaranteed job placement. Backed by IBM, the program is designed to support India's growing demand for blockchain talent through accessible, structured education.

The program runs for eight months and includes six months of technical instruction followed by a two-month paid internship. Participants receive stipends of up to Rs10,000 per month and gain hands-on experience with Kalp Studio's industry partners. Applicants from across India can apply through a scholarship evaluation process hosted on IBM's assessment platform. Those scoring in the top 250 will receive a 100% scholarship, covering the full program fee of Rs4.5 lakhs. The scholarship application opens on April 1, 2025, with the qualifying test scheduled for June 10, 2025.

Kalp Studio, the lead program developer, brings its blockchain infrastructure expertise to the course design, ensuring that participants learn industry-relevant skills such as smart contracts, decentralized applications, and scalable deployments. IBM's certification adds international credibility and recognition to graduates' profiles. "Our goal is to create clear pathways from learning to earning," said Mrityunjaya Prajapati, CEO of Kalp Studio. "This isn't just about education--it's about job out-



comes, community-building, and ensuring that blockchain innovation is supported by a capable, job-ready workforce." Supporting the delivery and mentorship side of the initiative, MGrow plays a key role in guiding participants through the scholarship application, onboarding, and one-on-one mentorship phases. MGrow will also oversee quarterly industry meet-ups and over 20 guest lectures covering blockchain, AI, and data analytics.

Mreenal Chauhan, Founder and CEO of MGrow, said: "Access to industry-grade education shouldn't depend on where you're from or what you can afford. This program brings high-impact training, expert mentorship, and real career opportunities to learners from Tier 1 to Tier 3 cities."

The launch aligns with Kalp Studio's ongoing BUILD Bharat Tour, a national blockchain awareness campaign aimed at students, startups, and professionals. Phase 1 of the tour, which began in January 2025, has already held events in Vadodara, Jaipur, Chandigarh, and Dehradun, offering live demonstrations and training sessions to thousands of attendees. The BUILD Bharat Tour acts

as a feeder for the certification program, introducing participants to blockchain fundamentals and directing high-potential learners toward deeper training through the scholarship pathway.

About Kalp Studio

Kalp Studio, a flagship product of KALP Digital, is a leading blockchain infrastructure provider empowering developers and enterprises to build decentralized applications (dApps) with speed and efficiency. Offering pre-built modules, seamless third-party integrations, and advanced customization features, Kalp Studio delivers scalable blockchain solutions across industries.

About MGrow

MGrow's mission is to empower 1,000,000 fresh graduates and diploma holders with high-quality, white-collar jobs by 2030. MGrow is a career acceleration platform offering certified programs in blockchain, data analytics, and AI. Backed by DPIIT and NASSCOM, it delivers performance-based scholarships, hands-on mentorship, and guaranteed job placement to learners seeking industry-ready skills and outcomes.



# Indian Railway Day Chronicles of the Lifeline of India

Ajit Kumar Barnwal

DIG-CUM-CSC/Railway Protection Force/North Eastern Railway.

Indian Railway Day: Celebrating the Lifeline of the Nation

Every year on April 16, India commemorates Indian Railway Day—a celebration of one of the world's largest and most historic railway networks. This day marks the anniversary of the first passenger train journey in India, which took place on April 16, 1853, between Mumbai (then Bombay) and Thane. The train operated by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, traversed 34 kilometers between Bombay (Mumbai) and Thane, marking the dawn of a transportation revolution. Over the decades, Indian Railways grew into a massive enterprise that became the lifeline of the nation, carrying not just passengers, but hopes, dreams, and economic progress.

Celebrating a Legacy: Honoring the Wheels of Progress

## 1.1 - Historical Origins

On April 16, 1853, the first passenger train was hauled by three steam locomotives—Sultan, Sindh, and Sahib—and carried about 400 passengers. This seemingly modest journey sparked a transformation that would go on to connect millions across a vast and diverse subcontinent. This historic event, organized by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway (GIPR), was more than just a transportation breakthrough—it was the starting point of India's journey towards modernization and industrial development under colonial rule. This event catalyzed India's economic integration and laid the foundation for a network that would become central to national development. Over time, the railways expanded rapidly, helping connect the vast stretches of the subcontinent and fueling social,

economic, and political change.

## 1.2 - Evolution of Indian Railways

From its colonial inception to post-independence expansion, Indian Railways has undergone transformative growth: Early Expansion (1850s–1900s)

Railways were developed by private British companies with government guarantees. Purpose was transport raw materials (cotton, coal, jute) to ports for export. By 1880, about 14,500 km of railway lines had been laid. The Key companies were East Indian Railway, Madras Railway, Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (BB&CI) and others.

## Middle Era (1853–1947)

Different private companies were used different rail gauges operated by (broad, metre, and narrow), causing compatibility issues. By early 20th century, British administration started unifying and nationalizing various private rail lines to overcome the issues of different Railway. In response to recommendations by the Sir Thomas Robertson Committee, the Railway Board, the apex body of the Indian Railways was established in 1905. The first electric train in India ran on February 3, 1925, between Bombay Victoria Terminus (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) and Kurla Harbour. By independence, the network spanned 55,000 km but faced fragmentation due to private ownership.

## Indian Railways in the Freedom Struggle

Trains were used by freedom fighters to travel across the country, mobilize masses, and spread awareness. Railways became a tool for both the British Raj and the freedom movement. The Kakori Train Robbery of 1925, where revolutionaries like Ram Prasad Bismil looted government funds



11 minor children were rescued by the RPF team at Hathras Station

being transported by train, highlighted the strategic importance of railways. Railway workers often joined the broader freedom movement, organizing strikes to protest British policies and demanding better working conditions. During the Quit India Movement of 1942, railway tracks were targeted, services were disrupted, and trains were sabotaged to cripple the British administration. Mahatma Gandhi used the railways extensively to travel across the country, organizing mass rallies and communicating with the people.

## Post-Independence Era (1947–2000)

Post-1947, India inherited a fragmented, colonial-era railway system. Massive integration of rail networks from princely states and former British lines. In 1951, Indian Railways was nationalized completely. The government consolidated 42 railways into six zones, fostering unified management. Railways became central to national development in five-year plans. New lines laid in remote and rural areas to connect the country. Introduction of diesel and electric locomotives began replacing steam engines. In 1980 Railway introduced computerized reservations. First metro in India was also launched in Kolkata in 1986. During last decade of 20th century (1990s–2000s) moderniza-

tion of coaches started and superfast/Rajdhani trains were introduced

## Modern Indian Railways (2000s–Present)

In recent decades, Indian Railways has witnessed a wave of modernization. Online booking through IRCTC, real-time train tracking, and digital payments have made travel more user-friendly. Initiatives under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan have led to the adoption of bio-toilets and improved sanitation. New solar-powered coaches are being equipped with sensors for predictive maintenance, passenger feedback systems, and better security under green initiatives. Indian Railway launches Vande Bharat Express, India's first semi-high-speed, self-propelled train in 2019, designed and manufactured domestically under Make in India. Indian Railways electrified 3,210 Rkm in 2024, extending the electrified BG network to 97% with renewable energy capacity reaching 2,014 MW. Focus on net-zero carbon emissions by 2030. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train project is underway, with Japanese collaboration.

## 2. The Railway Protection Force: Sentinels of the Rails

### 2.1 - Historical Background

The RPF's origins trace to the Railway Police Force (1872), established by the British to protect assets. Post-independence,



Operation MERI SAHELI conducted by RPF at Various Railway Station.

The Railway Protection Force Act, 1957 formalized its role as a centralized security agency under the Ministry of Railways. The RPF was established with the primary mandate to ensure the security of railway passengers, passenger area, and railway property. In 2003, the Government amended the RPF Act and Railways Act, and entrusted the responsibility of the security of passengers and passenger areas along with power to inquire and prosecute under the Railways Act. From time to time government entrusted RPF with the power to act as major security agencies in Railways to curb Drugs, Illegal Smuggling, Contraband goods etc.

### 2.2 - Achievements of RPF

With the esteemed 65,000 members only, to protect over 68,000 Km of Railway Route and 7,000 stations, the Railway Protection Force is executing his role with utmost professionalism. The protection of railway property is a core mandate of RPF. In 2024, RPF arrested 5,787 individuals involved in thefts and recovered stolen goods worth over ₹8 crores under Operation Rail Suraksha. Apart from securing Railways and Passengers, RPF plays a pivotal role in combatting crime.

During the year 2024 RPF rescued 2,614 individuals from traffickers and apprehended 753 offenders under operation Action against Human Trafficking (AAHT). For the wellbeing of Nation a nationwide intense drive has been launched by RPF against Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS). In 2024, contraband valued more than ₹227 crores were confiscated with the arrest of 1714 offenders delivering a severe blow to organized drug trafficking networks. Figure- On 28.07.2024, 11 minor children were rescued by the RPF team at Hathras Station

### 2.3 Service Beyond Self: Stories of Impact

Crores of peoples and families are traveling through the Indian Railways. RPF took an initiative under Operation Nanhe Faristey to help lost Children or separated from their families. In 2024, 14,756 children were rescued, highlighting the Force's determination to safeguard the most vulnerable members of society. Under operation Mahila Suraksha over 1 lakh individuals were penalized for unauthorized travel in women's coaches in 2024, and RPF's 'Meri Saheli' women teams ensured safety in more

than 489 trains daily. During the time of Mishap or accident, the Force saved an incredible 8,455 lives between 2022 and 2024, embodying the spirit of courage and humanity. Not only the persons but their belongings are also safeguarded by RPF during the travel through train. Items valued at ₹71 crores returned to their rightful owners in 2024 alone under operation Amanat. Figure - Operation MERI SAHELI conducted by RPF at Various Railway Station.

Conclusion: The history of Indian Railways is a journey through India's colonial past, freedom struggle, and development era into a future of innovation and high-speed connectivity. It is a story of engineering, endurance, and unity—connecting people, economies, and cultures across the nation. As a member of Railway Protection Force I can say that Indian Railways is more than steel and steam—it is the heartbeat of a nation and the RPF is the silent guardians who ensure that this heartbeat never falters. As Indian Railways marches toward its vision of becoming the world's largest green railway, growth engine of nation, nurture unity and diversity of India, the RPF ensures safe movement of trains/passengers. Together, they (Railway and RPF) embody the resilience and ambition of a nation striving to balance progress with protection, innovation with inclusivity, and speed with safety.

On this Indian Railway Day, as we celebrate the past and look to the future, let us remember: "Every train that runs, every passenger that reaches home, does so because somewhere, someone stood guard in the shadows." In their synergy lies the promise of a future where the railways continue to be not just India's lifeline, but its pride.

## Mistakenly deported El Salvador citizen will not be sent back to US, says President Bukele



MI News Service, San Salvador: El Salvador President Nayib Bukele said on Tuesday that he won't return Kilmar Abrego Garcia to the US, after Attorney General Pam Bondi told reporters it's "up to El Salvador" whether the man mistakenly deported to an El Salvador prison returns to the US, CBS News reported.

Bukele and Bondi made the comments in the Oval Office alongside US President Donald Trump, as the two world leaders met. Over the weekend, the US Justice Department said in court filings that they're willing to take "all available steps to remove any domestic obstacles to" facilitate his return, as per CBS News. "How can I return him to the United States?" Bukele asked the press. "I smuggle him into the United States or what do I do? Of course, I'm not going to do it. The question is preposterous."

Bukele referred to Abrego Garcia as a "terrorist," and said "I don't have the power to return him to the United States." Bondi, speaking before Bukele, said it's "up to El Salvador if they want to return him." Bondi said that "first and foremost, he was illegally in our country."

"That's not up to us," Bondi said. "The Supreme Court ruled, President, that if El Salvador wants to return him... we would facilitate it, meaning provide

a plane." But the Supreme Court offered no qualifier of whether El Salvador wants to return Abrego Garcia. The court ruled that a lower court order properly required the government to "facilitate" his release from El Salvador's custody. The US Supreme Court on Thursday (local time) said the Trump administration must facilitate the release of the man, who lives in Maryland, from custody, but ordered additional proceedings before a federal district court, as per CBS News.

Abrego Garcia's lawyers insist he has no affiliation with MS-13, and has never been charged or convicted of any criminal offenses in the US or El Salvador. The Trump administration acknowledged that his deportation to the high-security prison in El Salvador known as CECOT was an "administrative error", as per CBS. Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran national, entered the US illegally sometime around 2011, but an immigration judge in 2019, after reviewing evidence, withheld his removal. That meant he could not be deported to El Salvador but could be deported to another country. A gang in his native country, the immigration judge found, had been "targeting him and threatening him with death because of his family's pupusa business," CNN reported.

## Earthquake of magnitude 3.5 strikes Tibet

MI News Service, Tibet: An earthquake of magnitude 3.5 struck Tibet on Tuesday, a statement by the National Center for Seismology (NCS) said. As per the NCS, the earthquake struck at a depth of 10km, making it susceptible to aftershocks. In a post on X, the NCS said, "EQ of M: 3.5, On: 15/04/2025 11:01:56 IST, Lat: 28.90 N, Long: 87.67 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet."

Earlier on late Monday night, another earthquake of magnitude 4.1 struck the region at a shallow depth of 10km. NCS said in a post on X, "EQ of M: 4.1, On: 14/04/2025 21:48:42 IST, Lat: 31.56 N, Long: 93.40 E, Depth: 10 Km, Location: Tibet." Shallow earthquakes like these are more dangerous than deeper ones due to their greater energy release closer to the Earth's surface. This causes stronger ground shaking and increased damage to structures and casualties, compared to deeper earthquakes, which lose energy as they travel to the surface. The Tibetan Plateau is known for its seismic activity due to tectonic plate collisions.

Tibet and Nepal lie on a major geological fault line where the Indian tectonic plate pushes up into the Eurasian plate, and earthquakes are a regular occurrence as a result. The region is seismically active, causing tectonic uplifts that can grow strong enough to change the heights of the Himalayas' peaks, Al Jazeera reported. "Education about earthquakes and earthquake-resistant buildings combined with funding for retrofits and resilient structures can help protect people and buildings when strong earthquakes occur," Marianne Karplus, a seismologist and geophysicist, told Al Jazeera. "The earth system is very complex, and we cannot predict earthquakes. However, we can conduct scientific studies to better understand what causes earthquakes in Tibet and to better understand the shaking and impacts resulting from earthquakes," Karplus, who is a professor of geological sciences at the University of Texas at El Paso, told Al Jazeera.

## Taiwan to launch cybersecurity center in August amid rising threats from China, AI, and Quantum tech

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan is set to unveil a collaborative cybersecurity center in August to launch significant initiatives as part of a shift from its current incremental approach, as reported by the National Institute of Cyber Security Research in the Taipei Times. In its weekly publication released last Wednesday, the institute noted that Taiwan is encountering significant cyber security threats posed by hackers supported by the Chinese state, along with challenges from artificial intelligence (AI), quantum computing, ransomware, and intellectual property theft, according to the Taipei Times. Taiwan must substantially enhance its cyber se-

curity capabilities, strengthen collaboration with international partners, and adopt a proactive defense approach, the report stated. The center will be responsible for overseeing the country's "four pillars of cyber security": societal resilience, protection of the homeland and critical infrastructure, safeguarding vital industries and supply chains, and ensuring safe use of AI. An overarching security framework that includes multiple government departments and strategic global partnerships will be established, the institute explained. The proposed center will identify national-level threats by mapping the country's cyberse-

curity vulnerabilities and tracking global trends. It will be responsible for working alongside government agencies and private organizations while keeping an eye on industry developments and global activities, the institute added. Regular national cybersecurity conferences and cybersecurity funding will be established to support the government's efforts in disseminating cybersecurity policies and allocating resources to protect critical infrastructure and government facilities, as highlighted in the Taipei Times report. The conference will also facilitate cooperation between the government, private organizations, and key in-

dustries to safeguard information, the report indicated. The specific policies to be enacted will cover the implementation of the zero trust models, advancements in quantum encoding technologies, expansion of international cybersecurity alliances, and increased public awareness, as per Taipei Times report. Beijing has persistently articulated its objective of reunifying with Taiwan, employing diplomatic, economic, and military pressure to isolate the island on the international stage. Meanwhile, Taiwan continues to uphold its independence with the backing of a significant portion of its population.

## Pakistan: Imran Khan claims his nomination in May 9 riots case part of political vendetta

MI News Service, Lahore: Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan told the Lahore High Court (LHC) that his nomination in the rioting cases is part of a political vendetta as he was in the custody of the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) on May 9, 2023, when violent protests erupted in Pakistan, The Express Tribune reported.

On Monday, a division bench of the LHC, which includes Justice Syed Shahbaz Ali Rizvi and Justice Tariq Saleem Sheikh, resumed hearing Imran Khan's bail applications in eight May 9 cases, including the Corps Commander House attack case.

During the hearing, PTI founder Imran Khan's lawyer, Salman Safdar, told the bench that he had presented his argument at the last hearing of the case. In his petition, Imran Khan has said that he was falsely accused and that he and other PTI leaders planned a conspiracy before May 9, 2023, to attack state institutions in case he was arrested. The Express Tribune reported.

He requested the court to approve his bail in all May 9 cases and ordered his release. The bench will resume hearing the case on April 17. Ear-

lier in November last year, an anti-terrorism court dismissed all bail applications of Imran Khan.

Meanwhile, an Anti-terrorism Court in Islamabad on Monday reserved its judgment on bail applications of 86 PTI members who were booked in vandalism cases following the protest held by PTI on November 26. Judge Abul Hasanat Muhammad Zulqarnain presided over the hearing on the bail petitions filed by PTI workers, who were represented in court by Advocate Sardar Muhammad Masroof, Advocate Amna Ali, Zahid Bashir Dar, Ansar Kayani, Murtaza Turi, and Fatehullah Burki.

Advocate Kayani said that none of the accused were originally nominated in the case. However, they were later identified through an identification parade, which was carried out five months following the incident.

He mentioned that the identification procedure was carried out entirely in English, the report said. He asked, "Could the police officials speak English? Could the accused understand English?"

He said that PTI workers, following their release in Rawalpindi after five- to six-month deten-

tion, are implicated in cases in Islamabad. The Express Tribune reported. Kayani said that the statements given by the accused in police custody have no legal weight, and there is no specific role attributed to any accused, no recoveries and no evidence. Kayani requested the court to approve bail, noting that the court had already granted bail to some accused in related cases. Advocate Sardar Muhammad Masroof Khan stated that none of the accused was arrested on the spot by police; all were taken from their residences. The defence lawyer said that the bails issued previously by the court were upheld by the Islamabad High Court.

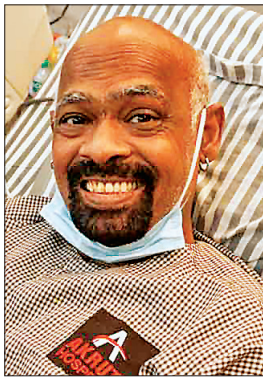
Violent clashes erupted in Pakistan after Imran Khan was arrested on May 9, 2023. The protests were held in remote and major cities as PTI workers were angry over the arrest of the party founder, with Balochistan, Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Islamabad summoning the armed forces to ensure law and order. Army installations, including the Corps Commander's house in Lahore, were attacked during the protests held by PTI workers.

## US: Immigration officials detain Columbia University's pro-Palestinian protest leader

MI News Service, Vermont: Immigration officials on Monday detained Mohsen Mahdawi, an organizer of pro-Palestinian protests last year at Columbia University, after he arrived at the Vermont immigration office, hoping to begin the final step to becoming a US citizen, CNN reported. Instead of having an interview, Mohsen Mahdawi, who has been in the United States for 10 years, was taken away in handcuffs. Speaking to CNN, Mahdawi's lawyer said that immigration officials detained Mahdawi at a US Citizenship and Immigration Services facility in Colchester, Vermont, where he lives. His detention seems to be part of an effort by the Trump administration to crack down on pro-Palestinian protesters. Since then, a temporary restraining order issued by a Vermont District judge has prevented his removal from either Vermont or the US. In a written statement given to CNN, Mahdawi's attorney, Luna Droubi, said, "The Trump administration detained Mohsen Mahdawi in direct retaliation for his advocacy on behalf of Palestinians and because of his identity as a Palestinian." She called his detention an attempt to silence those who speak against atrocities in Gaza. She said, "His detention is an attempt to silence those who speak out against the atrocities in Gaza. It is also unconstitutional." Mahdawi stepped back from his pro-Palestinian activities in March 2024 before students began establishing an encampment and occupied university buildings, attracting national scrutiny and a large police presence on campus.

According to his attorneys, Mahdawi plans to take admission in the master's program at the school this fall. According to his lawyer, he started his citizenship process in 2024. According to a habeas corpus petition filed on his behalf, Mahdawi grew up in a refugee camp in the West Bank and has been a lawful permanent resident for the past 10 years. His family continues to reside in the West Bank, CNN reported. Mahdawi's attorneys filed the motion in Vermont's federal district court, demanding his release on bail pending adjudication. Vermont District Court Judge William Sessions has issued a temporary restraining order prohibiting his removal from Vermont and the US. Mohsen Mahdawi is the second Palestinian student at Columbia who holds a green card and has been detained by immigration authorities for removal from the US.





**AILING VINOD KAMBLI GETS HELP FROM THIS EX-INDIA LEG-ENDARY CRICKETER**

Former Indian cricketer Vinod Kambli, who is battling multiple health issues, has been lent a helping hand by none other than legendary ex-India opener Sunil Gavaskar. The south-paw was hospitalised in Thane in December last year because of severe urinary infection, and was discharged after almost two weeks, on January 1. He had been suffering from other health issues for the past few years, and had underwent two heart surgeries in 2013, with financial help from childhood friend and former teammate Sachin Tendulkar. He was hospitalised days after attending the inauguration of late coach Ramakant Achrekar's memorial at the Shivaji Park in Mumbai, which was attended by Tendulkar, too. 1983 World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev and Gavaskar had offered support.



**RANDOM BAT CHECKS IN IPL MAY NOT BE SO RANDOM**

Did you know that in cricket, the width of the face of the bat should not exceed 4.25 inches and the thickness at the bulge (around the middle) should not cross 2.64 inches? These are the regulatory guidelines BCCI is ensuring with its latest bat checks on the ground. Last week, match officials at the Indian Premier League (IPL) checked the bats of Mumbai Indians skipper Hardik Pandya, Rajasthan Royals's Shimron Hetmyer, and Phil Salt of Royal Challengers Bangalore, with a bat gauge, that too, on the field of play (FOP). Apart from the above dimensions, regulations also state that the edge of the bat cannot be over 4 cm (1.56 inches) and the height from the top of the handle to the base of the bat should not exceed 38 inches. "The umpires keep a house-shaped bat gauge. If the bat passes through that gauge, it is deemed acceptable. We have all performed bat checks before the start of the innings inside the dressing room. The players hand over their willows and the check is done," according to PTI that quoted a former umpire. While the BCCI checked and cleared all the bats before this season's IPL kicked off, the sudden 'random' checks are intriguing.

# INDIA TO TOUR BANGLADESH IN AUGUST, PLAY ODIs, T20Is

**DHAKA:** India will be playing Bangladesh for a white-ball series, featuring three ODIs and T20Is each from August 25, according to the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The Indian team is set to arrive in Dhaka on August 13 ahead of the ODI series, which begins on August 17 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur. The third and final ODI will be played in Chattogram, which will also host the first game of the three-match T20I series on August 26, as per the ICC.

The action will head back to Mirpur for the second and third T20Is. It will be the first time Bangladesh will host India for a T20I series.

The most recent T20I series between the two teams took place in 2024, when Bangladesh toured India and the hosts secured a comfortable 3-0 victory. In their last ODI series clash in 2022, India visited Bangladesh and suffered a 2-1 defeat.

BCB Chief Executive Officer Nizam Uddin Chowdhury expressed his excitement about the upcoming series.

"This series promises to be one of the most exciting and most anticipated events in our home calendar," he said, according to ICC.

"India have set the benchmark in international cricket across all

formats and the cricket-loving millions in both countries are sure to enjoy this contest. Bangladesh and India have played some very competitive matches in recent years, and I am confident that this will be another hard-fought and entertaining series," he concluded.

Schedule for India's tour of Bangladesh is in box

Former Indian cricketer and India's legendary batter Sachin Tendulkar shares his Mawlynnong experience on Tuesday.

He posted a video on his official Facebook account of his visit to Mawlynnong with the caption, "No filters needed when a village looks as beautiful as Mawlynnong. When there's pristine cleanliness outside, one feels a sense of calm and serenity inside."

Mawlynnong is a village in the East Khasi Hills district of the Meghalaya state in North East India. It has earned a reputation for being one of the cleanest villages in Asia. One of the most famous icons of Meghalaya is found here - the Nohwet Living Root Bridge. The bridge was created by weaving the roots of the Ficus Elastica tree around a framework and continuing this process for generations. These living root bridges are a staple of Khasi traditional architecture and were important for the villages in the steep valleys

**ODI SERIES:**

- 1st ODI - August 17, Mirpur
- 2nd ODI - August 20, Mirpur
- 3rd ODI - August 23, Chattogram

**T20I Series:**

- 1st T20I - August 26, Chattogram
- 2nd T20I - August 29, Mirpur
- 3rd T20I - August 31, Mirpur.



and mountains, helping the people connect with each other and travel to the plains to trade.

Tendulkar, famously known as the 'God of Cricket,' still holds the records for the most runs in Test and One-Day Internationals (ODIs), along with the unique achievement of scoring 100 international centuries.

Renowned for his exceptional skills and mastery of cricket, he entertained fans across the globe from 1989 to 2013. The Mumbai-born cricketer made his Test debut on November 15, 1989, at

just 16 years old, and played his first ODI on December 18 of the same year.

Across 664 international appearances, he scored 34,357 runs at an average of 48.52, remaining the highest run-scorer in international cricket. His 100 centuries and 164 half-centuries remain unmatched in the sport's history.

Tendulkar was the first cricketer to score a double century in ODIs and played a record 200 Test matches. In ODIs, he accumulated 18,426 runs at an average of

44.83, including 49 centuries and 96 half-centuries.

In Tests, he amassed 15,921 runs at an average of 53.78, with 51 centuries and 68 fifties. A key member of India's ICC Cricket World Cup-winning squad in 2011, Tendulkar fulfilled his life-long dream of lifting the prestigious trophy after making his World Cup debut in 1992.

From 2008 to 2013, he represented the Mumbai Indians in the Indian Premier League (IPL), helping them clinch the title in the 2013 edition.

**IPL 2025: HARBHAIJAN HAILS "BAAHUBALI" DHONI; IDENTIFIES LSG'S TACTICAL ERROR IN 5-WICKET DEFEAT**

**NEW DELHI:** Former India spinner Harbhajan Singh described his former compatriot MS Dhoni as

"Baahubali" after he pulled off a successful heist to end Chennai Super Kings' five-match losing streak by orchestrating a five-wicket triumph against Lucknow Super Giants in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025.

Dhoni was the mastermind behind Chennai regaining its lost mojo and returning to winning ways in Lucknow. He pulled the strings behind the stumps and effectively regulated his bowlers, restricting the Super Giants to 166/7.

During Chennai's pursuit of the 167-run target, the Super Kings were tottering at 111/5 with 56 runs still required from the last five overs. Dhoni, who has been heavily criticised for coming out too low to bat, stepped up to lead his side from the front. He mapped a blueprint for Chennai's success and executed it perfectly with Shivam Dube to strike down CSK's losing streak. The 43-year-old returned unbeaten on 26 from 11 deliveries, laced with four boundaries and a sole one-handed maximum. "MS Dhoni is Baahubali. We say this because he knows what to do. He came to bat at the right place and at the right time, putting the pressure back on Lucknow."

## BAI announces 14-member squad for BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025

**NEW DELHI:** The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday announced a 14-member-strong India squad, which includes former world champion PV Sindhu, World Championships' medalists Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, and the doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, for the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals 2025, to be played in Xiamen, China from April 27-May 4.

India qualified for the prestigious mixed team championships based on their world ranking. It will be eyeing to first seal their knock-out berth from a tough Group D line-up that also includes former champions Indonesia, two-time runners-up Denmark, and the formidable England, as per a press release from BAI.

"The selectors have picked the best possible combination in all the five categories despite some injury worries. We are no longer dependent on one or two disciplines to win the tie, and that makes us a formidable force in any team event. We are confident that the team will not only make its mark in the group stages but can go on to create history by winning a medal," said General Secretary Sanjay Mishra.

Team morale is high following a strong showing at the recently concluded Badminton Asia Championships, where PV Sindhu gained valuable match practice, while the mixed doubles pair of Dhruv Kapila and

**INDIA SQUAD FOR SUDIRMAN CUP**

**Men:** Lakshya Sen, HS Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan, Ruban Kumar R, Dhruv Kapila, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran

**Women:** PV Sindhu, Anupama Upadhyaya, Tanisha Crasto, Priya Konjengbam, Shruti Mishra, Aadiya Variyath.

Tanisha Crasto impressed by reaching the quarterfinals.

Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy, both known for delivering strong performances in team events, will bring invaluable experience to the team. Meanwhile, the World No. 10 men's doubles duo, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, will return to action after an injury, supported by the backup pair of Hariharan Amsakarunan and Ruban Kumar Rethinasabapathi.

Former national champion Anupama Upadhyaya, ranked 45th in the world, will be the second women's singles player in the squad. Additionally, the young pairing of Priya Konjengbam and Shruti Mishra is also in the mix after injuries ruled out India's top-ranked women's doubles combination of Gayatri Gopichand and Treesa Jolly.



Kolkata Knight Riders' captain Ajinkya Rahane and Varun Chakaravarthy celebrate the wicket of Punjab Kings' Josh Inglis during their IPL 2025 match, at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium, in Chandigarh, Tuesday.

## I want to dedicate this knock to the net bowlers: Shaik Rasheed on his innings against LSG

**LUCKNOW** (Uttar Pradesh) [India] April 15 (ANI): Chennai Super Kings (CSK) batter Shaik Rasheed described his nervousness before the match against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) on Monday and how he was advised by Shivam Dube and Mahendra Singh Dhoni to stay calm, focus on the ball, and show intent.

In a video posted by IPL, Rasheed said that he wanted to dedicate his knock to the net bowlers and acknowledged their hard work and support. "I was very nervous. How



should I play? The approach is the same. I have to show my intent. Shivam Bhai and Mahi Bhai said the way things keep your body as calm as possible. Don't look at the audience. Just react to the ball; that's it. I want to dedicate this knock to the net bowlers. They bowled so well. They put in a lot of effort for me. That's why I gave it to them," Shaik Rasheed said in a video posted by IPL.

Shaik Rasheed made a memorable entry into the Indian Premier League on Monday, displaying nerves of steel.

# Shreyas secures ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March 2025

**NEW DELHI:** Indian batter Shreyas Iyer achieved the accolade of the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March 2025, surpassing competitors Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra from New Zealand, as per a report from ICC.

Iyer emerged as the top run-scorer for India with 243 runs, contributing significantly to India's success in the ICC Champions Trophy 2025 in Dubai and Pakistan. Iyer's receipt of this award signified that India has claimed it consecutively, with Shubman Gill winning the accolade for February.

Iyer played an integral

part in India's 2025 Champions Trophy journey, serving an important function in the middle-order. His exceptional stroke-play helped India navigate the middle overs, and his ability to stabilize the innings while establishing important partnerships was crucial in leading his team to a triumphant campaign.

Iyer expressed his gratitude and honour for being named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March. He highlighted the significance of the award, especially in a month when India won the ICC Champions Trophy. He credited his teammates,

coaches, and support staff for their contributions to his success.

"I'm truly honoured to be named the ICC Men's Player of the Month for March. This recognition is incredibly special, especially in a month where we lifted the ICC Champions Trophy -- a moment I will cherish forever. Being able to contribute to India's success on such a big stage is something every cricketer dreams of. I'm grateful to my teammates, coaches, and support staff for their unwavering support and belief," Shreyas Iyer said as per ICC.

The 30-year-old amassed

172 runs in three matches during March, maintaining an average of 57.33, with a moderate strike rate of 77.47, which featured some impressive innings. Iyer was the second-highest run-scorer of the Champions Trophy 2025, only 20 runs behind Rachin Ravindra.

Meanwhile, Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer won the toss and opted to bat against his former side and the defending champions Kolkata Knight Riders at Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) on Tuesday.

Shreyas Iyer, who cap-



tained Kolkata Knight Riders to its third title in the last edition, is now leading Punjab Kings against his former side. He has exhibited a prolific form in the ongoing tournament and led Punjab to three victories in their five fixtures in the ongoing season. Punjab comes into the fixture after receiving a bashing from Abhishek Sharma during their 8-wicket defeat against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Knight Riders are level with Punjab on points, with both teams having six each, but the defending champions have played a game more than their opposition. Their

performances have come in patches, but they are coming into the fixture on the back of a commanding 8-wicket triumph against Chennai Super Kings. KKR will be keen to build on its winning momentum. After winning the toss, Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer said, "We are going to bat first. I feel the wicket has been really well for the last couple of matches. The dew comes in, but the outfield doesn't skid through. I don't remember the team changes; I will tell you later. We need to take as many catches in the fielding as possible and create some sort of brilliance."