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West Bengal unveils strategic river dredging initiative

Riverbank erosion continues to pose a significant threat across various districts of West Bengal, particularly during the monsoon season. Annual flooding, triggered by the collapse of riverbanks, has led to the submergence of countless homes, displacing communities and damaging local infrastructure. In response to growing public demand for a permanent solution, the West Bengal government has now embarked on a novel strategy to tackle the crisis. PG 3

MI Morning India



Bengal Guv visits violence-hit areas of Murshidabad despite Mamata's request

NCW team meets riot-affected people in Murshidabad

MI News Service, Malda / Bahrampur: A day after visiting the relief camps and meeting the victims of the violence hit Murshidabad district there, West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose visited the riot-hit areas of Shamsherganj (in Murshidabad district) on Saturday to review the ground situation and interacted with the affected people, a senior official said. Bose will then headed to other strife-torn areas of Dhulian, Suti and Jangipur in the district, official source said here on Saturday.

Despite Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's request not to visit the riot affected areas of Murshifabad because of the present situation, the Governor arrived in Malda by train on Friday and met people who have taken shelter in a temporary refugee camp after fleeing the violence-hit areas of Murshidabad district. At least three people, including an 80 year old shopkeeper, were killed and over 274 arrested in connection with violence, loot and arson that took place following protests over Waqf (Amendment) Act that engulfed these Muslim-majority areas from April 8-12.

Before leaving for Shamsherganj this morning from Farakka Government Gest House, where the Governor spent his night after visiting the Malda relief camps, Bose once again interacted with some more members of the affected families the official sources said. "The



governor reached the riot-hit areas in Murshidabad today to assess the situation there by himself and talk to the locals," the sources informed .. While consoling them Bose assured them that "proactive action" would be taken to address their grievances .. "I met the family members who are at the camp here. They have briefed me in detail. There will certainly be proactive action taken," the governor had said. Along with Governor CV Ananda Bose a team from the National Commission for Women (NCW) also visited violence-affected areas of Murshidabad district on Saturday.

Meanwhile, BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul said that what happened in Murshidabad was an 'eye opener', referring to the violence following the protests over the Waqf Amendment Act earlier this month. On April 17, NCW Chairperson Vijaya Ra-

hatkar met the families affected by Murshidabad violence at a shelter home in Malda district. Later speaking to reporters, Vijaya Rahatkar said, "Everyone should be sensitive towards women, and this sensitivity can only ensure justice for women. This kind of situation occurs when there is a lack of sensitivity." Rahatkar, who is part of the probe committee constituted by the NCW, is visiting affected areas, including Malda and Murshidabad, and is on a three-day visit. She said her visit aims to boost the morale of women who have been left traumatised by the communal unrest. The visit comes in the wake of violence that erupted on April 11 during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, which resulted in the deaths of three people, injuries to several others, and widespread property damage. Several families have been

displaced, with many migrating to Jharkhand's Pakur district, while others have taken refuge in relief camps set up in Malda.

Defying Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's plea, Governor Ananda Bose visited a temporary relief camp where people from violence-hit Murshidabad have taken shelter since last week's clashes that left three persons dead and several policemen injured. Teams of NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) and National Commission for Women (NCW) also visited Malda's Parlapur High School, which has been converted into a relief camp. At the Malda shelter, the Governor spent nearly two hours interacting with men, women and children living there.

"I listened to their grievances and understood their feelings. They told me that goons entered their homes, assaulted them and their family members, looted, and then set fire to their houses. They all said they want to return to their homes. But they sought protection. They want a secure environment," the Governor told the media. "They need new houses as their homes have been reduced to ashes and ransacked. They want a proper livelihood... They all demanded that a permanent BSF camp be set up in the area for their security," Bose added.

"I assured them that they will get justice. I will take up the matter both with the state government and the Centre. Now, we all

must try to restore normalcy. Will try for a permanent solution and do whatever is required," the Governor said. Sumati Mondol, who took shelter at the school after fleeing from her home in the Bedbona area of Dhulian municipality, said she urged the Governor to set up a permanent BSF camp in the violence-hit areas.

"We told him (the Governor) in detail what happened on April 11 and April 12. We are not allowed to meet our relatives from outside. This is like a prison. But we still refused to go. Where will we go? Our houses are damaged. Today, there is Central force, but when they will not be there, who will save us? We appealed to him to set up a permanent camp of the BSF in the area," Mondol said. The Governor also said that he would "verify reports from the field, visit hospitals, residences, and relief camps. The central forces and state police are working together, and the situation will soon normalise. I will send my recommendations after the visit."

On Thursday, after he publicly announced his plan to visit violence-hit areas in Murshidabad, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a public appeal to him to defer his visit. "I would appeal to the Governor to wait for a few more days. The situation in Murshidabad is fast becoming normal with confidence-

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MI News Service, Bahrampur : A delegation of the National Commission for Women (NCW), led by its chairman Vijaya Rahatkar, met the riot-affected people in different areas of Murshidabad district on Saturday and assured them that all steps would be taken by the Centre to ensure their safety in future. The affected women narrated their plight during the violent days and demanded that permanent BSF camps be set up in select areas of the district and an NIA probe into the recent communal clashes, which claimed three lives. Rahatkar said, "I am dumbfounded by the agony these women are having to suffer. What they went through during the violence is beyond imagination." The NCW chief told the victims that there was "no cause for worry" as the Centre was beside them. "We have come here to see your plight. Please don't worry. The country and the commission are beside you all. Don't feel that you are alone," Rahatkar told the victims at Bethona village. During the visit to the village by the NCW members, the riot-affected women broke down before them. The villagers were seen holding placards that displayed messages - "We don't want Lakshmir Bhandari, we want BSF camp. We want security". We are under attack," read another placard. NCW member Archana Majumdar told reporters that the commission would report to Union

Home Minister Amit Shah and convey the demand of the riot-affected women for setting up BSF camps there.

BJP MLA Sreerupa Mitra Chaudhury, who was accompanying the NCW team, said "This is my constituency, Dakshin Malda. I have been contesting from here for the last 12 years, and what I have seen this time is unprecedented. I had never seen violence on such a scale here in the last 12 years." The NCW team also visited the Dhulian area of the Murshidabad district, which witnessed violence on a massive scale during protests against amendments to the Waqf Act on April 11 and 12. The NCW team had also visited a relief camp in Malda district on Friday and met those displaced by the Murshidabad riots.

The commission had assessed the condition of women affected by the recent communal violence in parts of the state. "From what we've seen so far, the situation is extremely distressing. We can feel their pain and suffering," the NCW chief said. The NCW had earlier taken suo motu cognisance of the violence that broke out in Shamsherganj, Suti, Dhulian, and Jangipur areas of Murshidabad on April 11 and 12. Three people were killed and hundreds rendered homeless during the clashes, which occurred in Muslim-majority areas, amid protests against amendments to the central Waqf Act.

Seven hardcore criminals arrested in J-K's Samba, weapons seized

MI News Service, Jammu : Seven alleged hardcore criminals were arrested and sharp-edged weapons were seized from some of them in Samba district of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, police said. The criminals were roaming in a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) when they were intercepted and arrested by police near AIIMS Vijaypur, a police spokesman said. He identified the arrested accused as Yaqoob Ali alias "Yuka", Ismail alias "Bachu" and Mohd Iqbal of Samba; Mohd Sain, Murad Ali and Mohd Irfan of Jammu; and Gazanfer of Doda, and said they were members of an organised syndicate and were planning to commit some "heinous offence".

Meanwhile in Jammu, a criminal, wanted for his alleged involvement in heroin smuggling and an attack on a police party, was also arrested in Samba district on Saturday, officials said. Identified as Mansha, the criminal who is a resident of Vijaypur, has been arrested

from Supwal area, a police spokesperson said. Two separate cases — an attack on a police party and heroin smuggling — are registered against Mansha, the spokesperson said, adding that investigation of both the cases are underway. "Mansha is a hardcore criminal who used to operate in Samba district, supplying heroin to small suppliers and individual addicts," he said.

Senior Superintendent of Police Samba, Benam Tosh said a total 67 narco-suppliers, including 13 women, have been arrested in past seven months in the district while several others have been jailed under the Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. The seven people who were arrested on Saturday in Samba had long criminal history including allegedly raping of women and drug peddling. Parvaz Ahmed, accused of abducting and raping a minor girl, has

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Modi will pay a two day visit to Saudi Arabia next week

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia beginning Tuesday with focus on further expanding bilateral cooperation in several key areas including energy, trade and defence. A number of agreements will be inked between the two sides following talks between Prime minister Modi and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud. The visit will provide an opportunity to build on the already strong strategic partnership between the two countries, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a media briefing here on Saturday. This will be Prime Minister Modi's first visit to Saudi Kingdom in his third term. Since first assuming office in 2014, Modi has travelled there twice before — in 2016 and 2019.

Sources said that trade and investments, energy cooperation, re-viving the 'India-Middle East-Europe Corridor' and defence partnership will be among the issues on the agenda for discussion between the top leaders of both the countries on April 22-23. This time PM Modi is visiting Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the Prime minister's visit follows the State Visit of Mohammed bin Salman to New Delhi in September 2023 to attend the G20 Summit and co-chair the first meet-



ing of the India-Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council. India and Saudi Arabia share close and friendly ties with a long history of socio-cultural and trade contacts. As strategic partners, the two countries share strong bilateral relations across various areas, including political, defence, security, trade, investment, energy, technology, health, education, culture and people-to-people ties. India's relations with the oil rich Kingdom have evolved into a stronger and enduring partnership in the past decade, expanding into many strategic domains, with growing investment commitments, broadening of defence cooperation and intensive high-level exchanges across sectors, the MEA statement said. The visit of PM Modi reflects the importance India attaches to its bilateral relationship with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

It will provide an opportunity to

further deepen and strengthen our multi-faceted partnership, as well as to exchange views on various regional and international issues of mutual interest, according to the MEA. The Prime Minister's upcoming visit comes at a time when the US and Iran are holding talks with Washington seeking a deal on the latter's nuclear programme and tensions in West Asia with the Hamas-Israeli conflict. PM Modi's visit also comes ahead of the expected visit of US President Donald Trump to Saudi Arabia next month.

India and Saudi Arabia established diplomatic relations in 1947. In 2010, the bilateral relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership. There have been regular high level exchanges between India and Saudi Arabia. Beginning 2024-till date, there have been 11 Ministerial-level visits from India to Saudi Arabia from India to Saudi Arabia. Saudi Foreign Minister and Saudi Minister of Industry and Mineral Resources visited India in November 2024 and February 2025 respectively.

Saudi side extended excellent co-operation during Operation Kaveri for the evacuation of Indian citizens from Sudan via Jeddah. Riyadh is also seat of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). India and GCC secretariat have maintained good relations and regular dialogues at official

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India exports first pomegranate consignment to the US via sea route

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a major development in the present volatile situation in the world trade, India has exported 14 tonnes of pomegranate, for the first time through sea route to the US, the commerce ministry said on Saturday. Traditionally the exports were done by air route. Now the industry is embracing the cost-effective and sustainable sea-freight mode. India shipped pomegranates comprising 4,620 boxes, around 14 tonnes, which reached the US East Coast last week, according to the official statement.

According to official sources, the US granted market access for pomegranates, during the season in 2024-25. India has started first full-scale sea shipment of 14 tonne of Bhagwa pomegranates



from Maharashtra to New York, marking a key step in expanding horticultural exports to the United States (US). The Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) facilitated the initiative in coordination with the

United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS), the National Plant Protection Organisation (NPPO), and the ICAR-National Research Centre for Pomegranate (NRCPP) in Solapur.

This commercial shipment follows earlier static and air-freight trials that successfully extended the fruit's shelf life to 60 days. According to APEDA, the shipment, containing 4,620 boxes, was delivered within five weeks and was positively received in terms of both appearance and quality. "This development is part of a broader effort to enable Indian horticulture producers to participate more competitively in global supply chains," said Abhishek Dev, Chairman, APEDA. "Sea protocols for perishable items like pomegranates can lower logistics costs while opening up long-distance trade opportunities."

The consignment was exported by Kay Bee Exports, a Mumbai-based APEDA-regis-

tered company, and was shipped through the Maharashtra State Agricultural Marketing Board's Irradiation Facility Centre in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. APEDA had earlier hosted USDA officials for a pre-clearance programme in December 2024 to smooth regulatory procedures for such exports. India is currently the world's second-largest producer of horticultural products, with major pomegranate-producing states including Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Andhra Pradesh. In FY 2023-24, India exported 72,011 metric tons of pomegranates valued at USD 69.08 million. For the April to January period of FY 2024-25, exports stood at \$59.76

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12 Naxal dumps and bunkers destroyed by security forces in Chhattisgarh



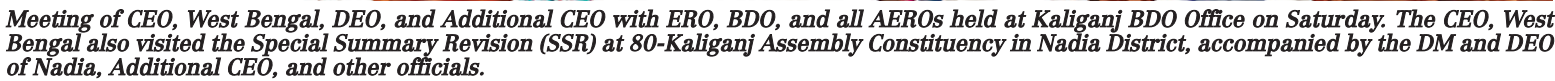
MI News Service, Raipur : In yet another successful mission to end the menace of Naxalism once and for all by next year, the security forces unearthed and destroyed as many as 12 sophisticated weapon dumps and a bunker with a concrete slab, hidden on a hill top in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district, official sources said on Saturday.

The operation was carried out by the 208th battalion of the elite Commando Battalion for Resolute Action of the CRPF unit, from its Jeedpalli camp, the sources said. "One of the hideouts was like a bunker of 160 square feet. It had a concrete slab on it. Six solar plates, two Maoist uniforms, two ceiling fans and

other materials were recovered from there," he said. Earlier this month, another Maoist bunker used by the ultras to duck aerial surveillance, dump arms and ammunition was found by the security forces in Pujari Kanker area in Bijapur district in south Bastar of Chhattisgarh. The bunker was spotted by the district reserve guard (DRG) personnel during the January 16 encounter with the Maoists in the forested area, a senior district police officer said adding the tunnel-shaped bunker, camouflaged within deep jungle with leaves and other materials, had electricity supply from a generator and can

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MI News Service, Salboni: Shalbani is poised for a significant economic boost with the upcoming inauguration of Jindal's power plant by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee next Monday, promising thousands of jobs. However, this announcement is met with cautious optimism from local residents who recall unfulfilled employment promises made during the establishment of Jindal's cement factory in the region. Salboni Gears Up for Jindal Power Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to lay the foundation stone for Jindal Steel and Power's (JSP) 1600 MW twin power plants in Jamshedpur, Salboni, next Monday, April 21st. This development follows the establishment of Jindal's cement factory in Salboni, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Chief Minister in 2016, with production commencing in 2018. While the new power plant project has instilled renewed hope among residents in the vicinity of the JSW area, a degree of skepticism persists. Initial promises associated with the cement factory, stating that local residents would be prioritized for employment, have allegedly not been fully realized. This has led to demands from the local populace for concrete assurances regarding job opportunities at the upcoming power plant. Dibyendu Mukherjee, Head of Human Resources at JSW Power Plant in Salboni, stated that the new facility is projected to generate 5,000 jobs in a phased manner, with a commitment to primarily hiring local residents. He further indicated that the first unit of the power plant is expected to be commissioned within the next three years. The inauguration ceremony next week will be closely watched by the community, keen to ascertain the tangible benefits this major infrastructure project will bring in terms of local employment and economic growth in the region.



MI News Service, Dhulian: Murshidabad in under scrutiny following an attack where the alleged presence of Municipal Chairman Inzamam-ul-Islam , who recently declared an "all out war" against Prime Minister Modi, has surfaced. Local during the unrest, a claim Inzamam was present during the unrest, a claim seemingly supported by CCTV footage from April 11, 2025. The violence erupted amidst protests against the new Waqf Act, with accusations of arson targeting homes and shops. While locals after has denied involvement and called for an NIA investigation. Municipal Chairman Inzamam-ul-Islam is facing serious allegations of involvement in recent violent incidents that transpired in Dhulian. These incidents occurred amidst widespread protests across Murshidabad against

the newly enacted Waqf Act, with Dhulian experiencing significant unrest. Local residents have asserted that Chairman Inzamam-ul-Islam was present during the disturbances, which included acts of arson targeting residential and commercial properties. This assertion is supported by purported CCTV footage dated April 11, 2025, which allegedly depicts the Chairman at the scene. Witnesses claim that groups of individuals armed with sticks were observed engaging in disruptive activities, aligning with prior statements made by the Chairman. Residents further allege that their appeals for assistance were disregarded by the Chairman. They cite a prior controversial speech delivered by him in Shamsheganj, followed by his alleged physical presence during the subsequent unrest,

as evidence of his involvement in instigating and exacerbating the situation.

In response to these allegations, Chairman Inzamam-ul-Islam has declined to provide a direct statement. However, he has called for a thorough investigation into the incidents, specifically requesting the involvement of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to identify and apprehend the perpetrators. The recent wave of protests and subsequent violence in Murshidabad, particularly in Dhulian, has raised serious concerns regarding public safety and the role of local authorities. The allegations against Chairman Inzamam-ul-Islam are currently under intense scrutiny, with local residents demanding a transparent and impartial investigation.

MI News Service, Malda: The aftermath in Malda is stark, with victims recounting the devastating speed and extent of the destruction. One resident described the scene as 'nothing, nothing... everything was burned,' highlighting the complete loss of possessions, including essential school supplies, and the urgency of the sit-

nation which left no time even to change out of uniforms. The recent unrest in neighboring Murshidabad has forced numerous families to seek refuge in a shelter camp in Vaishnabagar, Malda, leaving a significant impact on the education and well-being of the displaced children. Among those affected are over 40 young students who have lost their homes, belongings, and essential school supplies in the turmoil. Eyewitness accounts from the camp paint a grim picture. Many children, some still clad in their white school uniforms – the only clothes they managed to salvage – exhibit visible signs of trauma. They are described as being in shock, often silent and withdrawn, grappling with the memories of witnessing their homes and possessions being destroyed. The speed of the events was such that many did not even have the opportunity to change out of their school attire or gather their books and notebooks.

The shelter camp at Parlalpur High School now serves as a temporary residence for these families, including the Bardhinchu family whose children wander the grounds, physically present but emotionally distressed. The absence of learning materials – books, notebooks, pens, and pencils – underscores the immediate challenges in ensuring the continuation of their education. Mothers at the camp voice deep concerns about their children's future, questioning when it will be safe to return home and when their education can resume. The uncertainty surrounding their displacement and the loss of their educational resources have created a palpable sense of anxiety among both the children and their parents.

MI News Service, Dhaniakhal: Actress and MP Rachana Banerjee, while conducting a health camp in her constituency, extended wedding wishes to Dilip Ghosh and unexpectedly credited Mamata Banerjee for Eco Park's popularity. The comments come amidst ongoing speculation about Dilip Ghosh's recent marriage and his birthday celebrations. Actress and Member of Parliament, Rachana Banerjee, has extended her congratulations to Dilip Ghosh on his recent marriage, amidst her ongoing efforts to provide healthcare services in her parliamentary constituency. The marriage of Dilip Ghosh to Rinku Majumdar, which occurred on Friday evening, continues to generate public interest, with speculation surrounding the couple's relationship. Concurrently, Ms. Banerjee conducted a health camp in Dhaniakhal, focusing on eye care and the provision of prosthetic limbs. During the camp, she outlined plans to facilitate eye examinations and cataract surgeries for

local residents, as well as distribute artificial hands to individuals across seven assembly segments within her constituency. In her address, Ms. Banerjee conveyed her best wishes to Mr. Ghosh, stating, "I have sent him a message of greetings. May he be happy and well." When discussing the popularity of Eco Park, she attributed its accessibility and social function to the efforts of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, remarking, "Eco Park is for everyone. Today, everyone can meet there because Didi created it, and sit there. Eat and drink. Enjoy, and the love story is also beginning. Didi is everywhere." Meanwhile, Dilip Ghosh, who also celebrated his birthday, was observed taking his customary morning walk in Eco Park. Despite the presence of well-wishers bearing gifts, inquiries regarding his wife's absence were met with his response that she prefers to remain at home, dismissing the notion of romantic encounters during morning walks.

MI News Service, Balurghat: A BJP protest in Balurghat, called against recruitment corruption and the Murshidabad incident, escalated into a violent clash with police. Led by state president Sukant Majumdar, BJP workers broke barricades, prompting a police baton charge and strong reactions from Majumdar, who vowed consequences for the police action and alleged police provocation.

enforcement. The demonstration, led by Bengal BJP state president Sukant Majumdar, aimed to deliver a deputation at the Sub-Divisional Officer (SDO) office. According to BJP sources, the procession, which commenced peacefully, was met with police intervention, leading to a clash between party workers and officers. Barricades erected by the police were reportedly breached by the demonstrators, prompting a baton charge by the police. Sukant Majumdar expressed strong condemnation of the police action, stating, "No police could survive by baton charging here. They will not survive in the future either."

They will keep barricading everywhere and will not allow BJP people to hold protest programs. What kind of mentality is this?" The BJP alleges that the police instigated the unrest, claiming that their initial protest was conducted without aggression. Mr. Majumdar asserted that several BJP workers sustained injuries during the police's baton charge. He further stated, "This kind of incivility must stop. We were trying to give deputation peacefully. The police tried to stir up trouble by inciting.

MI News Service, Jhargram: A wild elephant was found dead at Nayagram in Jhargram district on Thursday, and the forest department suspected that the animal had consumed paddy sprayed with pesticides. Vijay Kumara Salimath, the chief conservator of forests (CCF) of the south western circle, said the use of heavy pesticides on paddy fields was the likely cause of the 12-year-old male's death.



Previously, farmers had laid electrified wires around their fields to guard against elephants. "After several awareness campaigns in the area, farmers were deterred from using electric fence-

ing on their fields. Now, if heavy pesticide use becomes a tool for farmers to protect crops from elephants, it presents a new challenge," said a forester. The human-animal conflict is a challenge for the forest department in

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Ahead of its golden jubilee celebrations in 2026, Natraj Jaljeera Company held a special meeting with its distributors and dealers in Kolkata. The company's two directors, Shailesh Shah Vohra and Ankit Shah Vohra, led the discussions focused on expanding their market presence while maintaining product quality and serving the people better. Founded in 1975 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, Natraj Jaljeera was born out of childhood memories cherished by the two founding brothers, Mahinder Shah Vohra and Rajendra Shah Vohra. Inspired by the traditional home-made drinks prepared by their mother using cumin, mint leaves, and other natural ingredients, the brothers transformed that nostalgia into a full-fledged business. Over the years, the com-

many diversified its product line. Around the year 2000, it introduced packaged spices under the brand name "Morpa," which quickly gained popularity across India and in several international markets. Today, Morpa spices are widely acclaimed and in high demand globally. During the Kolkata meet, Shailesh and Ankit Shah Vohra emphasized the importance of innovation and consistency in quality to further strengthen customer trust. Representing the city's first distributor, Shrinayaran Agency, Vikram Bhai Pogalia, Ramesh Kothari, and Raju Ji were also present and shared their insights on market trends and consumer feedback. As the company approaches its milestone 50th year, Natraj Jaljeera is poised to expand its legacy and deepen its roots in both Indian and global markets.

MI News Service, Bhangarh: Political tensions escalated in Bhangarh, West Bengal, as a Trinamool Congress party office was set ablaze and vandalized late Friday night in the Chakmaricha Tetultala Ghat area. The Trinamool Congress has accused the Indian Secular Front (ISF) of orchestrating the attack, citing prior incidents and alleging the destruction of party leadership photos and property. Adding to the unrest, a Trinamool panchayat member and his companion were attacked in Ghutiari Sharif following a party meeting. Police have launched investigations into both incidents, heightening concerns about political violence in the region."

Local TMC leadership has attributed the attack to supporters of the Indian Secular Front (ISF), alleging a pattern of such disruptive activities. Canning East MLA Shawkat Mollah corroborated these claims, stating, "ISF miscreants have been doing this repeatedly."

This party office was targeted before. It was set on fire last night." As of reporting, the ISF has not issued a formal response to these accusations. The Uttar Kashipur Police Station responded to the incident, deploying a significant police presence to the scene. An investigation is underway, with authorities conducting interviews with local residents to gather information. Adding to the volatile situation, a separate incident of assault occurred in Dhuturi Sharif. Babulal Laskar, TMC youth vice-president and panchayat member of Narayanpur region, and his companion Aizul Laskar, were reportedly attacked by unidentified assailants after attending a party meeting. This incident has further exacerbated tensions in the region. Authorities are investigating both incidents, and the increased police presence reflects the severity of the situation and the potential for further unrest."

Recently, a discussion meeting titled 'Future of the country' was held at Park Circus. The main discussant, former RSS spokesperson Professor Dr Partha Banerjee said that RSS means BJP, their only job is to destroy the communal harmony of the country. Their main goal is to kill Muslims and make them refugees. Then the second target is Christians; and those in India who

want progress, in general, are people of the secular Hindu community. Eminent Doctor Misbahul Islam, social activist Rajiv Kanti Roy, Doctor Nayeib Siddiqui, former government official Syed Nasiruddin, Nurul Amin, Irfan Ali Biswas, social activist Annie Islam, etc were present at today's discussion meeting. The program was conducted by Banga Sanskriti Mancha editor and prominent journalist Firoz Hossain.

Teenager killed in reckless speeding, 5 injured

MI News Service, Kolkata: A tragic incident on the Garden Reach Flyover late Friday night claimed the life of a 17-year-old boy and left five others injured, sparking concerns about the reckless driving habits of minors in the city. The accident occurred when a car, traveling at high speed, overturned and crashed, with most of the victims being teenagers. The deceased has been identified as Shubham Das, a resident of the Garden Reach Paharpur area. According to police sources, Shubham had gone out with friends to have tea when they decided to drive along the flyover. The car, speeding dangerously, suddenly flipped over, ejecting Shubham who was then crushed beneath it. The others were trapped inside the vehicle.

Hearing the crash, locals rushed to the scene, and emergency calls were made to the police. The injured were quickly transported to the hospital, where Shubham was declared dead. The other victims are currently receiving medical treatment for their injuries. The incident has raised serious concerns regarding the involvement of minors in driving vehicles. Local reports suggest that Shubham was behind the wheel during the crash. However, police sources state that at the time of the accident, the steering wheel was in the hands of another injured youth. Preliminary investigations indicate that the high speed of the car caused the driver to lose control, leading to the crash.

India exports first pomegranate consignment to the US via sea route

From PG 1 million, a 21 per cent year-on-year increase. Traditional markets for Indian pomegranates include the UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal, the Netherlands, Saudi Arabia, and Sri Lanka. The U.S. entry is expected to drive further diversification and volume growth, particularly if subsequent shipments perform consistently. Going forward, exporters and industry stakeholders have sought continued support from APEDA in areas such as targeted promotional campaigns, regulatory alignment, and cold-chain infrastructure development to further improve competitiveness in high-value markets.

Seven hardcore criminals arrested in J-K's Samba, weapons seized

From PG 1 been arrested from Rakh Amb Talli, while one Saleema Bibi, who was wanted in a case registered under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was taken into custody from the same locality official sources said. Meanwhile, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has reiterated his government's commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment and streamlining regulatory frameworks across various sectors in the Union Territory. He was addressing a high-level meeting convened here to review the progress on compliance reduction and deregulation under the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) framework aimed at making the regulatory environment more conducive for businesses. The meeting was part of the national initiative led by the Union cabinet secretariat in collaboration with key institutions including the PMO, NITI Aayog, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), an official spokesman said.



A voluntary blood donation camp was organized at Banshroni Vivekananda Association on Saturday, initiated by Ward 113 Trinamool Congress of Tollygunge and local municipal representative Anita Kar Majumdar. The camp was inaugurated by Minister Aroop Biswas. Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, MP Mala Roy, TMC MP Saayoni Ghosh, Kolkata Municipal Corporation Mayor in Council Debashish Kumar, Borough 11 Chairman Tarkeshwar Chakraborty, along with municipal representatives from Tollygunge and Jadavpur, were also present.

West Bengal job seekers suspend Nabanna protest, trusting CM's assurance

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant turn of events, job seekers and those who have lost employment have decided to temporarily suspend their planned Nabanna march, following assurances from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. The decision was communicated to the Howrah and Kolkata Police Commissioners via letters on Saturday. Debashish Biswas, one of the convenors of the Job Seekers and Jobless Unity Forum, confirmed that the Nabanna protest, scheduled for April 21, has been postponed for now. According to Biswas, further decisions will be made after sitting down for discussions with the Chief Minister and the Chief Secretary. The decision comes in the wake of a distressing judgment by the Supreme Court on April 3, which led to the termination of 25,752 teachers and non-teaching staff in the state. The repercussions have been felt heavily, especially in Kolkata and other districts of West Bengal, as former employees and job applicants raised their voices against the decision. In response to these developments, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had attended a rally at the Netaji Indoor Stadium on April 7, where she offered her support to the affected individuals and assured them of her government's efforts to address the situation. The promise of dialogue with the Chief Minister and senior officials has been seen as a ray of hope for those who have been adversely impacted by the Supreme Court's ruling.

Meanwhile, the School Service Commission (SSC) has officially informed that it will release separate lists of eligible and ineligible candidates on April 21. With assurances from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the SSC, and the Supreme Court's ruling, the terminated teachers have expressed renewed faith in the process. Consequently, they have announced the suspension of their planned protest march to Nabanna on April 21. Debashish Biswas, one of the key convenors of the "Job Aspirants, Employees, and Terminated Teachers United Forum," stated, "We have temporarily suspended our Nabanna march. We have informed both Howrah City Police and Kolkata Police in writing. We hope that the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister will listen to our appeals. That is what we will seek for now." He further mentioned that future decisions regarding their movement will be made only after holding discussions with state authorities.

Kolkata Police initiates 'Happiness Guarantee Program'

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid rising concerns over mental health challenges faced by law enforcement personnel, Kolkata Police has introduced a wellness initiative titled the Happiness Guarantee Program aimed at supporting officers and personnel grappling with stress, depression, and burnout. The initiative, launched at the Police Training School, witnessed participation from nearly 250 police officials, including ACPs, Joint Commissioners, and officers of various ranks. The demanding nature of police duty — spanning rigorous shifts, constant exposure to crime scenes, law and order responsibilities, and the high-stakes pressure of investigations — has long been associated with psychological strain. Over time, this relentless routine has contributed to alarming trends such as hypertension, reduced efficiency, emotional breakdowns, and even cases of suicide within the police force. To counter this, the Happiness Guarantee Program promotes structured interventions like daily yoga, meditation, breathing exercises, and mindfulness practices. These activities are not just recommended but are being actively integrated into daily routines to offer holistic stress relief. ACP (Headquarters) Alok Sanyal, the chief proponent of the program, emphasized the need to separate professional stress from personal life. "Officers must learn to disconnect from duty-related anxieties once they return home. Household involvement post-shift brings emotional balance and helps mitigate job-induced stress," he stated. The program outlines several benefits: promoting calmness during high-pressure operations, strengthening inter-personal bonds among colleagues, improving overall well-being, and fostering joy in duty. Yoga expert Papia Bhardwaj, who addressed the participating officers, highlighted the importance of flexibility in routine. "Police jobs often lack a fixed schedule. Therefore, officers must use any available time for walking, yoga, pranayama, and breathing exercises to build mental resilience and positivity," she advised. The initiative also targets a troubling reliance on sleeping pills, which some personnel use to combat insomnia born from chronic stress. By encouraging natural relaxation techniques and emotional self-care, the department hopes to reduce dependence on such medications.

W. Bengal unveils strategic river dredging initiative

MI News Service, Kolkata: Riverbank erosion continues to pose a significant threat across various districts of West Bengal, particularly during the monsoon season. Annual flooding, triggered by the collapse of riverbanks, has led to the submergence of countless homes, displacing communities and damaging local infrastructure. In response to growing public demand for a permanent solution, the West Bengal government has now embarked on a novel strategy to tackle the crisis. In a marked shift from traditional practices, the state government, under the guidance of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has launched a public-private initiative aimed at maintaining river depth and reducing erosion through systematic dredging. State Irrigation Minister Manas Bhunia has confirmed that private entities will be allowed to extract and commercially sell dredged silt and sand from riverbeds. This policy, already in its implementation phase, will



operate through a tender system—where contracts will be awarded to the companies offering the highest royalties per cubic metre. "This time, the state will not bear the dredging costs," Bhunia declared, emphasizing that the project aligns directly with the Chief Minister's advice following protracted delays in financial support from the Centre. The state government has repeatedly accused the Central government of withholding essential funds, prompting Mamata Banerjee and senior Trinamool Congress leaders to voice strong criticism. The erosion crisis is most acute in districts like Malda, Murshidabad, and South 24 Parganas—where nearly 40 kilometers of

riverbank in areas such as Manikchak to Baishnabnagar in Malda experience annual collapse. Additional erosion hotspots include parts of East Burdwan, Hooghly, and East and West Midnapore. According to administrative sources, large swathes of land in Murshidabad also remain perennially vulnerable. In the 2025 fiscal budget, the state has introduced a dedicated "Nadibandhan" (River Control) project, allocating Rs. 200 crore to support erosion control and riverbank fortification. Officials report that district administrations in Birbhum and Midnapore have already commenced groundwork under the new scheme. Under this model, private contractors will be permitted to commercially trade the extracted silt, while paying the government fixed revenue. The dual benefit lies in generating state income while maintaining navigability and depth in critical river stretches—a pragmatic approach to a long-standing environmental challenge.



Preparation of CITU rally at Brigade Parade ground in Kolkata.

TMC launches voter verification drive through 'didir doot' app

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a politically strategic move ahead of the next assembly elections, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) has launched a comprehensive statewide voter verification campaign. The initiative, formally classified as a party programme, involves BLA-2 (Booth Level Agents) representatives conducting door-to-door surveys across West Bengal to verify voter details. This extensive campaign is being coordinated through the newly launched mobile application—Didir Doot—which was officially rolled out on Wednesday. The core objective of the initiative is to identify

and eliminate 'ghost voters' from the electoral rolls. This concern was first publicly flagged by TMC Chairperson and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee during her address at Netaji Indoor Stadium on February 27. She had accused opposition forces of manipulating voter lists by introducing fictitious names, potentially compromising the integrity of the democratic process. The launch of the drive was preceded by a series of organisational meetings led by district TMC presidents and local MLAs to outline the operational goals and methods. On the first day of the campaign,

BLA-2 workers were seen actively moving through alleys and neighborhoods, armed with smartphones, engaging with residents and collecting voter data. Currently, the campaign covers over 80,000 polling booths across the state, and operations have already commenced in 26 organisational districts. The Didir Doot app has been specifically designed to enable real-time data verification, geotagging, and seamless digital submission of reports by ground-level workers. To ensure efficiency and accuracy, TMC has already conducted training sessions for BLA-2 agents across various districts.

United WB NSQF Teachers Association Appeals for Regularisation

MI News Service, Kolkata: To address the issues of unemployment and rising population, the central and state governments jointly initiated vocational education in schools. Introduced in 2013 as a pilot in Haryana and West Bengal, this scheme enables secondary and higher secondary students to study vocational subjects alongside general ones. This dual education enhances both skill and employability. In West Bengal, the contribution of the Hon'ble Chief Minister in launching this initiative was significant. Since 2016, CSS-VSE (Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Vocationalization of School Education) under NSQF has been successfully running in over 1,611 government and government-aided schools. Around 3,222 teachers are appointed as per NCERT and state norms. These teachers, despite being full-time educators of permanent vocational subjects like IT, Electronics, Con-

struction, Banking, Health Services, etc., have been kept on a temporary basis for 12 years without any salary revision. Unlike other states, in West Bengal, the Technical Education Department (DVET) runs the scheme through private agencies, not the School Education Department. This has led to delayed salaries, missing EPF/ESI deposits, denial of maternity leave, and no provision of textbooks or resources to students. Teachers are burdened with triple workloads, including clerical tasks, without any recognition or job security. Despite repeated appeals and meetings, the issue remains unresolved. The association now seeks immediate intervention from the Chief Minister and Education Minister for regularisation, fair salary, and the removal of agencies to restore dignity and ensure justice for the thousands of dedicated vocational teachers in Bengal.

Bengal Guv visits violence-hit areas of Murshidabad despite Mamata's request

From PG 1 building measures. The immediate task is to work on confidence-building measures," the CM had said. Criticising the Governor's visit, the ruling TMC on Friday alleged that it was "aimed at stoking tension" in the already-volatile region. "When the CM had requested him to delay the visit, the Governor should have honoured that. His actions show an intent to create unrest. The NCW and NHRC visits are also politically driven to

help the BJP destabilise the situation," senior TMC MP Sougata Roy alleged. Countering the allegations, BJP state president and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar accused the TMC and said "The TMC is panicking because these visits might expose their nexus with the rioters. They are appeasing miscreants for political gains." So far, 17 companies of central paramilitary forces have been deployed in the affected areas alongside the state police.

12 Naxal dumps and bunkers destroyed by security forces in Chhattisgarh

From PG 1 easily accommodate around a dozen people during surveillance through drones in the area and was also used as an arms dump. Recovery of lathe machines and other raw materials used for making weapons in the bunker indicated that it was used as a weapon making factory by the Maoists, the police said, unwilling to be quoted. The tunnel was built on the bank of Tumrel and Talperu rivers which clearly establishes that the bunker can be used as a hideout by the Maoists for a long time, the police said. This was the eighth such

Maoist tunnel found in the Leftwing insurgency-hit Bastar in recent times. Earlier, a bunker built by the Maoists on the bank of Indravati river in Bijapur district was spotted by security personnel. Around six months ago, security forces had found half-a-dozen tunnels, dug by Maoists, in the jungles in Sukma district in south Bastar. Maoists were using the bunkers as their hideouts to ambush the security forces and cover them up during the surveillance by drones, police said. All these tunnels and bunkers were destroyed by security forces.

Modi will pay a two day visit to Saudi Arabia next week

From PG 1 level. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar visited Riyadh in September 2024 to co-chair the first India-GCC Ministerial Meeting. Saudi Arabia is India's fifth largest trading partner and India is Saudi Arabia's second largest trade partner. During FY 2023-24, India's imports from Saudi Arabia reached USD 31.42 billion and exports to Saudi Arabia were worth USD 11.56 billion. In 2023-24, bilateral trade stood at USD 42.98 billion, with Indian exports at USD 11.56 billion and imports at USD 31.42 billion. Major commodities of export from India to Saudi Arabia include engineering goods, rice, petroleum products, chemicals, textiles, food products, ceramic tiles. whereas, major commodities of import for India from Saudi Arabia are crude oil, LPG, fertilizers, chemicals, plastic and products thereof. Indian investment in Saudi Arabia has increased in recent years reaching approximately USD 3 billion (August 2023). The total Saudi investment in India has been about USD 10 billion. These investments are across diverse sectors such as management and consultancy services, construction projects, telecommunications, information technology, financial services and software development and pharmaceuticals. Saudi Arabia remained India's third largest Crude and Petroleum products sourcing destination for 2023-24. India imported 33.35 MMT of crude oil in 2023-24 from Saudi Arabia, accounting for 14.3 per cent of the India's total crude oil imports. In 2023-24, Saudi Arabia was the third largest LPG sourcing destination for India, accounting for 18.2 per cent of the total LPG imports of India for 2023-24. Another area of partnership is the India-Saudi Arabia defence ties that have strengthened in recent years. The first ministerial visit on the defence side in over 12 years took place when the then MoS (Defence) Ajay Bhatt visited Riyadh for the World Defence Show in February 2024. India and Saudi Arabia enjoy extensive naval cooperation and two editions of the bilateral naval exercise, 'Al Mohed Al Hindi', have been concluded so far. Additionally, both sides have close cooperation in defence industries and capacity building. Indian community in Saudi Arabia is 2.7 million strong and is a living bridge between the two countries.

Chief Electoral Officer visits Nadia

MI News Service, Kalyani: Manoj Agarwal, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer, West Bengal, accompanied by Arindam Niyyogi, WBCS(Exe), Additional CEO, West Bengal, visited the district of Nadia on Saturday to take stock of the Special Summary Revision related activities pertaining to 80-Kaliganj Assembly Constituency. He held a review meeting with the District Election Officer, Electoral Registration Officer, and AEROS at the Office of the Block Development Officer, Kaliganj and subsequently visited the polling stations.



During this visit, he interacted with the Booth Level Officers and Supervisors and gave necessary instructions. He was accompanied by the District Election Officer, the Electoral Registration Officer, and AEROS at the Office of the Block Development Officer, Kaliganj and subsequently visited the polling stations. Thereafter, the Chief

Electoral Officer held a press briefing with the media houses at the Office of the District Magistrate and District Election Officer, Nadia and followed it up with an interactive session with the representatives of various political parties.

Bengal's Devadatta Majhi secures perfect scores in JEE Main 2025

MI News Service, Kolkata: The long wait for lakhs of aspiring engineers across India finally came to an end as the National Testing Agency (NTA) officially released the results of JEE Main 2025 (Session 2) on Friday night. This year's results marked a remarkable milestone, with 24 students achieving a perfect 100 percentile—demonstrating exceptional academic prowess and fierce competition at the national level. Of the 24 top scorers, 22 are male students while two outstanding female candidates—Devadatta Majhi from West Bengal and Sai Monogna Guthikonda from Andhra Pradesh—secured their place among India's

engineering elite. Devadatta had previously made headlines for topping her state's Class 10 board exams, where she had already expressed her ambition to become an engineer. Her flawless JEE Main score now propels her one step closer to that dream. Rajasthan once again asserted its stronghold in the national rankings, contributing the highest number of toppers—seven in total. Telangana, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh followed closely with three toppers each. Delhi and Gujarat had two toppers apiece, while Karnataka, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh each had one student who achieved a perfect score.

Kolkata police issues notice to Telangana police over alleged illegal arrest of businessman

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a dramatic inter-state row, the Kolkata Police has issued an official notice to Telangana Police, questioning the legality of a recent arrest that bypassed all local protocol. The development stems from an incident where a businessman was allegedly taken into custody from a south Kolkata hotel by officers from Telangana without prior notification to the Kolkata Police or producing the detainee before a city court.

The officers allegedly escorted Singh out of the hotel and forced him into a vehicle, which immediately headed to the airport. Singh was reportedly flown to Hyderabad the same night. Crucially, none of this was communicated to the local police, nor was Singh produced before any Kolkata court prior to his transfer out of state. Investigators reviewing the area's CCTV footage confirmed the timeline and manner of the arrest. When Kolkata Police contacted their Telangana counterparts for information, they initially received no response. Only late on Thursday night did a vague message arrive stating, "A person has been detained from West Bengal," with no additional details.

According to sources at Lalbazar, the Shakespeare Sarani Police Station dispatched the notice to Golconda Police Station in Telangana on Friday. The notice seeks clarification on the arrest and has summoned the officers involved for questioning. The move follows a formal kidnapping complaint lodged by the friends of the arrested businessman, who alleged that the arrest resembled an abduction due to its secretive execution.

The incident occurred on Wednesday evening at a hotel on Camac Street. Yashvinder Singh, a businessman from Howrah, had rented a room there with a few friends. Shortly afterward, several men identifying themselves vaguely as police officers entered the premises. The friends claim they were not informed which state or department the officers represented until much later, when they revealed their affiliation with the Telangana Police.

The friends claim they were not informed which state or department the officers represented until much later, when they revealed their affiliation with the Telangana Police's response.

Attempted robbery at Dhapa garage leaves guard severely injured

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a shocking late-night incident, an attempted robbery at the Kolkata Municipal Corporation's (KMC) newly constructed garage at Dhapa Dumping Ground left a security guard grievously injured. The incident occurred around 1:30 AM on Friday night, when KMC officials lodging a formal

complaint at Pragati Maidan Police Station the following morning. The injured guard has been identified as Anadi Tripathi.

The Dhapa Dumping Ground, often dubbed KMC's "gold mine," houses several key facilities, including waste processing units, separation plants, and a garage containing a large stockpile of old vehicles and mechanical components. These valuable assets are occasionally auctioned, making the garage a lucrative target for criminal elements.

According to KMC sources, a group of approximately 20 to 25 armed miscreants infiltrated the garage premises under the cover of darkness. Their target was reportedly scrap metal and other abandoned mechanical parts stored in the garage's storeroom. On-duty gunman Anadi Tripathi spotted the intruders and raised an alarm. While other security personnel rushed in response to his cries for help, Tripathi attempted to physically intervene and thwart the heist.

In retaliation, the intruders brutally assaulted him using sharp weapons. He sustained serious head injuries and collapsed on the spot. The assailants fled the scene before additional help could arrive.

Continuation of running of two Memu special trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to continue the running of 03146/03145 Deoghar – Godda – Deoghar MEMU special and 03148/03147 Bhagalpur – Deoghar –Bhagalpur MEMU special upto 25.04.2025 as per its existing timings & stoppages.

Regulation of trains for maintenance work over Howrah division

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Track, Signal & Over Head Equipment maintenance work in Howrah -Bardhaman Chord section, Howrah Division, Traffic & Power Block has been planned on 20.04.2025. Consequently following arrangements in train running have been made as under: *Cancellation of Trains on 20.04.2025 (Sunday):* •From Howrah: 36033, 36825 •From Chandanpur: 36034 •From Bardhaman: 36834 •From Dankuni: 32228, 32232 •From Sealdah: 32227, 32231 Moreover, 12504 Agartala - SMVT Bengaluru Humsar Express will be controlled for 50 minutes enroute on 20.04.2025.

Metromen qualified for World Bridge Championships



MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway's bridge players have made Metro fraternity proud again!

Two Metromen, Shri Sumit Mukherjee and Shri Sagnik Roy, have qualified for the 47th World Bridge Team Championships which will be held in Denmark in August, 2025.

Indian Open Team has won the final of Bridge Federation of Asia and the Middle East (BFAME) Championships by defeating Bangladesh in Dubai and qualified for the World Bridge Championships. This tournament was held from 10th to 18th April, 2025. Shri Mukherjee and Shri Roy were two important members of the Indian Open Team.

Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway has congratulated both of them for this remarkable achievement.

iPhone gift leads to heist: Café cashier arrested in Rs 2.5 lakh theft

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a bizarre case blending romance and crime, a young cashier from a popular café in Ballygunge, South Kolkata, was arrested for allegedly stealing Rs 2.53 lakh from the establishment's safe to buy an iPhone as a birthday gift for his girlfriend. Despite employing calculated tricks—like disabling the café's power to shut down CCTV surveillance—the accused, identified as Chanchal Bhuniya, was nabbed within 24 hours, thanks to a digital trail left by an app-based bike ride.

According to police and court sources, the theft occurred in the early hours of Thursday. Upon opening the café on Friday morning, the staff discovered the safe had been broken into and reported the theft to Ballygunge police. Investigations revealed that the perpetrator had entered the premises using a duplicate key and deliberately cut off the electricity around 4:30 a.m., rendering the CCTV cameras ineffective.

The police, suspecting insider involvement, began scrutinizing the call records of all café employees. Chanchal Bhuniya's phone showed a call placed to an app-based bike service during the time of the theft. The company confirmed that a ride had been booked from Ballygunge to Ramnagar in Magrahat, South 24 Parganas. Acting swiftly, officers from Ballygunge Police Station tracked Chanchal to his hometown and arrested him.

A sum of Rs 49,920 was recovered from his possession, and during interrogation, Chanchal confessed that he used the stolen money to purchase an iPhone for his girlfriend's birthday. A subsequent raid at the girlfriend's residence led to the recovery of the iPhone along with the purchase receipt.

Chanchal further revealed that he had hatched the plan months ago, shortly after joining the café, determined to impress his girlfriend with an extravagant gift. His execution, though meticulous, failed to account for the digital footprint of his escape.

Major track maintenance and modification completed successfully over Malda division in New Farakka – Barharwa section



BEFORE WORK



AFTER WORK

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Malda Division has successfully carried out a major track maintenance and modification activity in the New Farakka-Barharwa section UP line on 17th April 2025. The work was undertaken between 11:25 hrs and 15:00 hrs, aiming to enhance track safety and operational efficiency in this vital corridor.

The central task involved the removal of a Force Layout at Tildanga station on the UP line. The operation was conducted for shifting

of a point of 1.25-meter. This adjustment plays a critical role in improving the alignment and long-term stability of the track infrastructure.

In addition to the main work, several important maintenance activities were executed during the block period. These included the conversion of Point, Turn-out tamping along with 100 track meters Track using the UNIMAT machine at Bonidanga Station UP Line, ensuring proper compaction and geometry of the turnout zone. Rail piling work was also successfully executed at

LC Gate No. 62 in Between Tildanga-Bonidanga section at UP Line to strengthen the track foundation. Additionally, 06 nos welding Rail Joints has successfully completed at Tildanga Station UP Line, further enhancing track durability and performance.

These meticulously planned and executed engineering works underscore Eastern Railway's commitment to maintaining infrastructure at high standards, ensuring safety, reliability, and seamless rail operations for both passengers and freight.

Celebrating 100 Years of Howrah Division: A Journey from Vision to Reality

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Howrah Division of Indian Railways is celebrating a century of its monumental contribution to the nation's transportation network, and its history is deeply rooted in the vision, perseverance, and determination of several remarkable individuals. The story of Howrah's railway network begins long before its establishment as a division, with the pioneering efforts of Prince Dwarakanath Tagore, Lord Dalhousie, and Sir Rowland McDonald Stephenson.

With an East-West spur to connect the coalfields. Despite his ambitious plans and offers of financial support, his dream was not to be realized, as the collapse of his Union Bank and lack of influence in England led to his defeat by the East Indian Railway (EIR).

While D w a r a -



kanath's vision faltered, Rowland McDonald Stephenson, the first agent of the East Indian Railway Company, continued to push forward with the railway's development. In 1845, the EIR was formed with Stephenson at the helm, and after years of tireless negotiations with the British government, a contract was signed in 1849 to build a line from Calcutta to Rajmahal, largely based on Dwarakanath's original proposal. The first sod was turned in 1851 by Lord Dal-

Sealdah division to notify soon regarding earmarking few coaches of Matribhumi local for general passengers

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sealdah Division has closely monitored the occupancy in Matribhumi Locals, plying across the division, in the past few weeks. It has been noticed that, these ladies special trains are not running with full capacity. In recent past, Sealdah Division has achieved infrastructure development in transforming all 900 odd services into 12 car EMU rakes from earlier 9 car EMU rakes. In view of

overall capacity enhancement it has also been examined that, female commuters can have a comfortable and convenient travel experience even if some coaches of Matribhumi locals are allocated as general coaches where male passengers can also travel.

Sealdah Division is committed to provide a seamless, comfortable and safe journey for millions of passengers with a special emphasis on passenger safety and

security. In order to strike the right balance, Sealdah Division will be earmarking few Matribhumi coaches for general passengers. A notification in this regard is expected soon.

In a bid to streamline passenger flow, reduce congestion and improve overall train operations, Sealdah Division will notify soon for allowing male passengers also to board in few earmarked coaches of Matribhumi locals.

World Heritage Day observed across ER's Sealdah Division



MI News Service, Kolkata: World Heritage Day, observed annually on 18th April, serves as a reminder of the importance of preserving and protecting the world's cultural heritage. To mark the occasion,

a week-long celebration is being observed across the Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway with various engaging and educational activities planned throughout the week.

As part of the celebra-

17 box bombs recovered from Malda

MI News Service, Malda: A large number of bombs recovered from Malda. These bombs were recovered from Vaishnavnagar in Malda. It is learnt that there were boxes filled with bombs stored in sacks there. It is reported that 17 boxes of bombs were recovered from inside the sacks. The most sensational thing is that these bombs were recovered from Vaish-

navnagar in Malda as soon as Governor CV Anand Bose left Malda.

In fact, two days ago, five children were injured while playing with a ball in the neighboring police station Kaliach, mistaking it for a bomb. There is a refugee camp in Parlat Pur High School in this Vaishnavnagar police station area. Every day, central ministers, national commissioners, gov-

ernors and VVIPs go there. And bombs are being stored in that police station area. There is a lot of excitement around this. These bombs were recovered from the Jalrahi Sisa area of Vaishnavnagar. On receiving the information, the bomb squad and fire brigade reached the spot. Bombs were defused with utmost caution. But the question arises where did so many bombs come from.

AI Good at some tasks, but bad with Maths says Deutsche Bank research



NEW DELHI : Generative AI, while gaining widespread attention, is not without its flaws. A recent report by Deutsche Bank Research highlighted that despite its strengths, the technology still struggles with certain tasks, particularly when it comes to mathematical calculations.

The report noted that though generative AI has proven useful in many areas, such as summarizing, translating, and even generating creative content on a wide range of topics, its limitations in reasoning, learning abstract concepts, and developing an understanding of the world remain significant obstacles.

"Generative AI is certainly

flawed... while Generative AI is surprisingly good at some activities, it is surprisingly bad at others, such as making mathematical calculations" said the report.

As per the report one of the key issues is the tendency of generative AI systems to produce hallucinations, or inaccurate information, despite using reliable data. It noted that these systems can also introduce bias or irrelevance into their outputs, and existing solutions have not fully addressed these problems. This remains a challenge, even as AI models continue to evolve.

The report also pointed out that much of the optimism surrounding AI's potential to boost

productivity comes from controlled experiments. However, real-world applications show that the technology may not be as effective in every setting.

For instance, highly regulated industries like financial services and healthcare, where the stakes are especially high, have been slow to adopt generative AI despite the potential benefits of analyzing vast amounts of unstructured data.

The risks in these sectors--where errors could lead to serious consequences--make it harder for them to integrate AI into everyday use.

"The gap between high experimentation and low uptake is particularly striking in regulated industries such as financial services and healthcare" the report added.

In some cases, generative AI is showing potential in unexpected ways, such as generating novel research ideas, identifying irony, and even creating game engines that simulate real-world environments. However, as per report the generative AI tools will only get better from here. And indeed even if they never did, it would take years for companies and individuals to find and implement the best use cases of AI.

Diffuse Large B-Cell Lymphoma is curable. How new drug Polatuzumab is working wonders for the cancer

DIFFUSE LARGE B-Cell Lymphoma (DLBCL), the most aggressive form of non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL), is a completely curable disease, says Dr S P Sanyal, senior consultant and hemat oncologist at Mumbai's Fortis Hospital.

However, he added that while 60 per cent of patients get cured of it, the remaining 40 per cent see a high chance of a relapse. "Two years post-treatment are very crucial. If until that time, the patient manages his or her condition well and there is no sign of a relapse, we can safely say that the patient is cured."

The understanding of DLBCL has undergone a "tremendous shift," in the last two decades, say experts. Oncologists THE WEEK spoke to agreed that it is now that they've begun to understand this lymphoma much better. So much so that their knowledge of disease biology has become much better and more advanced than it was in 2010. For example, now it is established that this type of lymphoma is definitely not a genetic one and that if 10 patients suffer from DLBCL, three to four of them will die of a relapse, say experts.

Lymphoma is the most common type of blood cancer that accounts for around 25,000 new cases annually in India. In a recent press conference, DrSanyal spoke about an FDA-approved therapy for first-line treatment of DLBCL - the use of Polatuzumab, a new drug, in combination with chemotherapy - now available in India - which will offer patients access to cutting-edge care and the potential for improved outcomes. This is the first FDA-approved therapy for the first-line treatment of DLBCL.

Polatuzumab is a first-in-class anti-CD79b antibody-drug conjugate (ADC). Data from Polatuzumab trial data indicates a significant reduction of 27% in risk of progression-free survival, disease progression, relapse or death compared to the existing standard-of-care of MabThera/Rituxan plus cyclophosphamide, doxorubicin, vincristine and prednisone (R-CHOP), say experts. Since the adoption of chemotherapy in 2002, approximately 11 clinical trials have failed to demonstrate improved clinical outcomes for DLBCL. Polatuzumab's success is a remarkable breakthrough.

"The problem is many patients undertake the wrong means of treatment through self-medication, such as consuming pills meant for treating tuberculosis as a way of treating the DLBCL lymphoma. Add to that the problem of delayed diagnosis and the situation looks bleak. We mostly see this type of lymphoma in two clear age groups, viz 10 to 20 and 50 to 70. Last year I treated about seven to eight cases of children and young adults in the 10 to 20 age bracket. Now, with this new treatment regimen, the chances of a patient dying from DLBCL will reduce by up to 27% compared to the current treatment option. In my observation so far, 77% of patients who got the new treatment did not show any worsening of the disease after 2 years of having been on this therapy, said Sanyal.

Study finds how weight loss could reduce chances of severe infections in diabetic people

WASHINGTON : According to new research, weight loss therapies may lower the risk of severe flu cases and other infections in patients suffering from diabetes.

The research will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (9-13 September).

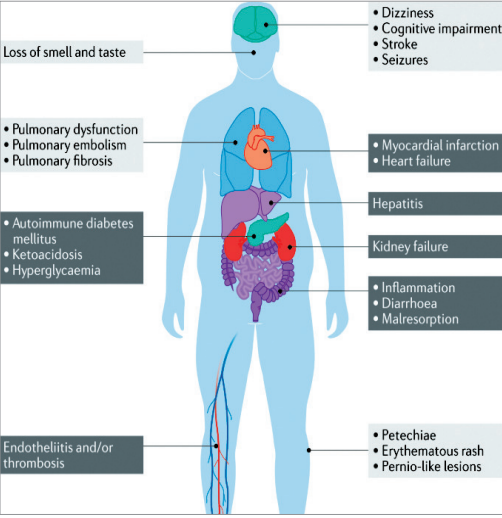
The study by Rhian Hopkins and Ethan de Villiers, of the University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter, in the United Kingdom, there is evidence to support the link between severe illnesses and a higher BMI.

In contrast, there was no evidence that mild hyperglycaemia contributes to the likelihood of a severe infection.

Hopkins says: "Up to one in three hospitalisations in people with diabetes are for infections and people with diabetes are twice as likely to be hospitalised with infections than the general population. They are also at high risk of readmission."

"Previous studies have found that a higher BMI and poor blood sugar control are associated with severe infections. However, these studies have been observational and so haven't been able to prove that the links are causal."

"If one or both of these factors can be shown to be causal, it may be possible to design interventions to lower the risk of severe infections in those at high risk, such as people with diabetes." The new study used data from the UK Biobank, which holds medical and genetic data on around 500,000 people in the UK, to explore the effect of higher BMI and poor blood sugar control on hospitalisation for bacterial and viral infections. The 486,924 participants were classified into three groups: those with a record of hospitalisation for a bacterial infection, such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection, (n=64,005) or a viral infection, such as flu, (n=14,562) and an infection-free control group (n=408,357). A higher BMI was found to be associated with hospitalisation with infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection



increased by 30 per cent per 5-point increase in BMI (for instance, an increase in BMI from 30 kg/m2 to 35 kg/m2). Similarly, every five-point increase in BMI was associated with a 32 per cent increase in the likelihood a severe viral infection.

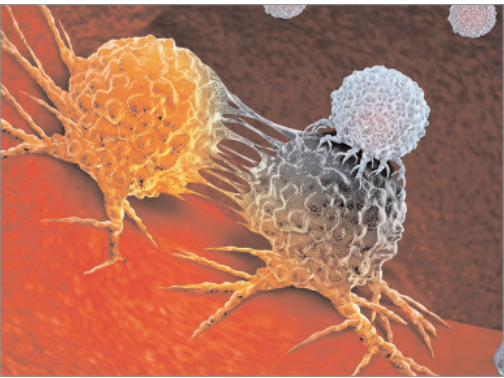
Mild hyperglycaemia was also found to be associated with severe infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 32 per cent per 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c, a measure of blood sugar levels. Similarly, every 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c was associated with a 29 per cent increase in the likelihood of a severe viral infection.

The team then used Mendelian randomisation, a technique that uses genetic information to establish whether a factor actually causes ill health, to determine if the relationships were causal.

This suggested that a higher BMI is one of the causes of severe bacterial and viral infections.

However, mild hyperglycaemia did not appear to be a cause of severe infections.

Long-term metastatic melanoma survival dramatically improves on immunotherapy: Study



NEW YORK [US] : Long-term data from a landmark international trial show that about half of patients with metastatic melanoma treated with a combination of immune checkpoint inhibitors live cancer-free for 10 years or more, according to a new report from Weill Cornell Medicine and Dana-Farber Cancer Centre investigators and colleagues.

The 10-year follow-up research, published in the New England Journal of Medicine, will bring the phase 3 CheckMate 067 trial to a conclusion. The research, which followed 945 patients treated at 137 sites across 21 countries, found that combining nivolumab and ipilimumab, immunotherapies that suppress two separate immune checkpoint proteins, significantly improved outcomes for a condition that had previously been nearly deadly. Subsequent studies of patient outcomes at three, five, and 6.5 years after the trial began revealed that the effect lasted several years for individuals who responded to the medication.

"This was a practice-changing trial," said first author Dr. Jedd Wolchok, the Meyer Director of the Sandra and Edward Meyer Cancer Center and professor of medicine at Weill Cornell Medicine and an oncologist at NewYork-Presbyterian/Weill Cornell Medical Center. "The median survival for this population is now a little over six years, and people who are free from cancer progression at three years have a high likelihood of remaining alive and disease-free at the 10-year time point." In 2011, the median sur-

vival for patients with metastatic melanoma was just six and a half months. However, the emergence of immune checkpoint inhibitors, which facilitate the ability of the immune system to attack cancer, as a treatment option gradually began to increase survival. The CheckMate 067 trial demonstrated that nivolumab alone or in combination with another checkpoint inhibitor, ipilimumab, is a more effective approach than ipilimumab alone.

"This trial is a key part of how we talk to patients about the lasting benefits of immune checkpoint therapy and the potential of combining multiple immune therapies to improve treatment outcomes," said Dr. F. Stephen Hodi, the director of the Melanoma Center and the Center for Immun-Oncology at Dana-Farber and the co-senior author of the study. Dr. James Larkin of The Royal Marsden Hospital in the UK is the other co-senior author.

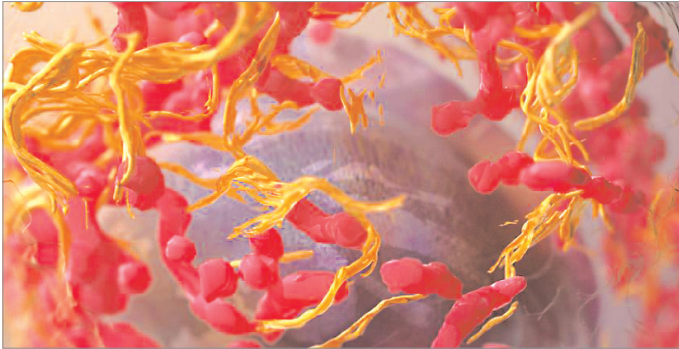
In addition to confirming long-term survival in about half of patients treated with the combination, the 10-year analysis found no new safety signals for the treatment. Some physicians worried that treatment-related health problems might emerge later because patients must continue taking the drugs long-term. But the 10-year analysis found no concerning signals of long-term toxicity. There was also no resurgence of well-documented acute toxicities and few recurrences of melanoma.

The team analyzed melanoma-specific survival and overall survival at 10 years and found the two diverge long-term, showing that metastatic melanoma survivors become increasingly likely to die of other causes as they age, an indication of long-term treatment success, according to the investigators.

"After a decade of follow-up, we can now confidently tell our patients that there are treatments available with the potential to transform metastatic melanoma into a manageable, long-term condition, instilling confidence about the future," said Dr. Hodi.

In addition to demonstrating a reassuring long-term efficacy and safety profile for this immune checkpoint inhibitor combination, the investigators hope the data will also help improve the care protocols for metastatic melanoma survivors.

Study finds how skin cancer occurrence in young adults declines



SOLNA [SWEDEN] : A recent study suggested that the risk of malignant melanoma, or skin cancer, may be declining in Sweden, at least for people under the age of 50. "We can see a trend break in young adults around 2015 where the incidence curves are falling," says first author Hildur Helgadottir, senior consultant and associate professor of oncology at the Department of Oncology-Pathology, Karolinska Institutet.

Her research colleagues have examined the incidence and death of melanoma for various age groups over time by analysing data from the Swedish Melanoma Registry. This indicates that they have made a comparison between people in the same age range at one point in time and people in the same age range at another.

The findings indicate that while the new-onset curves for individuals over 50 continue to rise, they began to decline about 2015 for those in the younger age groups.

"This is the first time we see this in Sweden, and we are actually the first European country to report a decline," said Hildur Helgadottir. In terms of mortality, the curves have also turned downwards for ages up to 59, but not for those over 60. Hildur Helgadottir believes that the decrease in mortality in the younger groups is due both to a

reduction in the incidence of the disease and to the introduction of new oncological drugs that have improved the prognosis for the disease. She believes that the fact that mortality is not decreasing in the elderly is because the incidence of the disease is still so high in this group. "The question is why the risk of melanoma has decreased. "We have not directly analyzed the causes in our study, but we have hypotheses about factors that we believe have interacted," said Hildur Helgadottir.

"There are four main factors," she said. The first is increased awareness of sun protection.

"The first national 'Sun Safe' campaign in the 1990s specifically highlighted the importance of protecting children. About 20 years later, we believe that this has led to a reduction in the incidence of the disease in younger adults,"

said Hildur Helgadottir.

Another factor is that access to sunbeds has decreased drastically. Since 2018, there has been an 18-year age limit on sunbeds, but the number of public sunbeds decreased much earlier.

Third, mobile phones and computers mean that children and young people are spending more time indoors and are not exposed to sunlight in the same way today. Finally, immigration means that there are more individuals in Sweden with darker pigmentation who can tolerate the sun better. "We see that it is necessary to continue the work of emphasizing the importance of sun protection so that the reduction of melanoma in younger people is maintained and that the incidence will eventually also decrease in older people," said Hildur Helgadottir.

The Impact of Neurobion Forte on Hair and Skin Health

NEW DELHI : Most people resort to a good many supplements and vitamins in the quest for glowing, healthy skin and hair. One of those dietary supplements, that gives rise to hobby for advantages to hair and pores and skin is Neurobion Forte. This is accompanied by important B Vitamins of Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, Nicotinamide and Calcium Pantothenate. This will difficult on how Neurobion Forte allows hair and skin fitness and why you need to take it as a part of your everyday regime.

What is Neurobion Forte?

Neurobion Forte is a combination of three very essential B vitamins: Specifically, the B1, B6, and B12. In essence, these vitamins being in the lifeless class play rather important roles within the body such as in manufacture of energy, proper functioning of nerves and also in the formation or development of red blood cells. Neurobion Forte is occasionally prescribed for persons who are deficient in these vitamins or who require additional support for their enhanced functioning of the nervous system and good health.

How Neurobion Forte Benefits Hair Health

Hair health is directly proportional to the nutrition we consume. Among these, B vitamins have been found to have major roles in maintaining strong and healthy hair. Here are some of the ways each component of Neurobion Forte works for your healthy hair:

1. Hair growth stimulation
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ed to play a role in the introduction of blood cells, which might be efficacious in bringing oxygen and other vitamins to the scalp and hair follicles. This provides nourishment for maintenance of healthy tresses and also stops falling hair.

2. Strengthening Hair

Vitamin B5 is Calcium Pantothenate for which is well-known for strengthening hair follicles. It tremendously prevents thinning and snapping of hair; hence, will always maintain it to be so.

3. Hair Damage Reduction

Vitamin B3, or Nicotinamide, increases the drift of blood in the hair scalp. It ensures that the hair follicles get hold of their suitable share of nourishment and oxygen so that the hair grows healthful and loose from any sort of damage.

4. Reduces Hair Fall

Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, or Vitamin B6, is concerned in good sized protein metabolism. Because hair is basically made from a protein, this diet ensures that your frame consumes the best amount of protein with a purpose to keep your hair in healthy shape and hence lessen the probabilities of hair fall.

Effect of Neurobion Forte on Skin

As well as hair, phases of skin good health depend a great deal on vitamins and nutrients one consumes. Besides, B vitamins that Neurobion Forte contains, have a lot of the positive effects at the level of the skin:

1. Skin Moisturizing
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Riboflavin, works on maintaining most reliable pores and skin moisture to prevent dryness and gain a smooth and supple complexion. It additionally enables to nourish healthy pores and skin cells.

2. Enhances Radiance

Vitamin B3 or Nicotinamide is well known for radiance of skin. It tends to reduce redness, blotchiness, or other variations in skin color, making one's natural skin tone obtainable.

3. Reduces the Appearance of Fine Lines and Wrinkles

Vitamin B5 is anti-aging. Fine lines and wrinkles are greatly reduced for the reason that it retains the elasticity and skin moisturizing. This vitamin may also help in healing the skin itself and therefore bringing down

blemishes or scarring to the skin.

4. Resists Skin Infections

Vitamin B6, otherwise referred to as Pyridoxine Hydrochloride, is very important in maintaining healthy skin by freeing it from several infections. It helps regulate the levels of some hormones which if misbalanced may trigger eczema and acne.

How to Make Neurobion Forte Work for You in Your Routine

* Taking Neurobion Forte for hair and skin is more than just the use of the nutrient health supplement; it's all about the manner you contain the supplement into your daily routine. Here are a few tips:

* Take the Recommended Dosage: Take the medication in keeping with the dose advocated on the Neurobion

Forte package deal or consistent with the prescription of your medical doctor. The preferred encouraged dose is one tablet daily inquisitive about a meal.

* Add to a Well-Balanced Diet: Because Neurobion Forte combines a number of very crucial B nutrients, ingesting a well-balanced eating regimen with end result, greens, complete grains, and lean proteins ensures popular suitable health. It additionally works properly together with the complement.

* Stay well-hydrated with enough water consumption degrees most of the day to preserve healthful pores and skin and hair.

* Good skin care and hair care: Other than the medication course of Neurobion Forte, ensure good skin care by cleansing, moisturizing, and sun protection. The same holds for hair care, using gentle hair care products.

Precautions

Neurobion Forte is generally considered to be safe and well tolerated, but on rare occasions, some individuals may experience side effects. These could be manifest through certain gastrointestinal issues as nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Adverse reactions experienced should be reported to a healthcare provider. Neurobion Forte should be taken under medical supervision by individuals with medical conditions and those taking other medications simultaneously to avoid possible drug interactions.

Neurobion Forte And Online Medicine Delivery

The rise of online pharmacies has made managing pain easy. While searching for 'online medicine delivery near me' on the web, you might get many options for medicine apps. These apps allow you to order medicine online easily from the comfort of your home and provide great discounts, making online medicine purchase a wonderful experience. You can order Neurobion Forte from these medicine apps, but try ordering from a reputable online pharmacy that has good reviews and a track record.

Takeaway

Neurobion Forte is an excellent and powerful B complex supplement with plenty to offer for both hair and skin. It promotes hair growth, strengthens hair, prevents hair damage, and reduces hair fall to hold your hair healthful and bouncy. For the skin, it retains moisture, enhances radiance, and decreases symptoms of getting old infections to the pores and skin to achieve that younger and sparkling complexion. Neurobion Forte introduced in your day will ensure that, with a nicely-balanced weight loss program and right hydration, you experience wholesome pores and skin and beautiful hair. As with all dietary supplements, this product should be used below the guidance to be suitable for character fitness desires. If taken the right way, you will be able to get the benefits of Neurobion Forte to the fullest and enjoy radiant-looking skin and lush hair.

13-year-old Muslim boy stabbed with glass bottle after allegedly refusing to chant 'Jai Sri Ram'



MI News Sevice, Kanpur: A disturbing incident has emerged from Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur district, where a 13-year-old Muslim boy was allegedly attacked by a group of minors for refusing to chant "Jai Shri Ram." The incident took place in the Sarsaul area under the Maharajpur police circle.

According to reports, the boy was approached by a group of children who initially demanded that he touch their feet. When he refused, they allegedly became aggressive and asked him to chant "Jai Shri Ram." The boy once again declined, after which he was reportedly stabbed with a broken glass

bottle. The attack left the teenager with injuries, and he was rushed to a local hospital where he is currently receiving treatment. An FIR has been registered in connection with the incident, and police have launched an investigation into the matter. Authorities have stated that they are treating the case seriously and are working to verify all claims made in the complaint.

The case has raised concerns about communal tensions and the involvement of minors in such violent behavior. It has also sparked conversations about safety and religious freedom for children.

Sambhal's police officer Anuj Chaudhary gets clean chit in Jummah-Holi remarks case



MI News Sevice, Sambhal: Sambhal Circle Officer Anuj Chaudhary has been given a clean chit by the police following an investigation into his controversial remarks linking the Hindu festival of Holi with Friday prayers (Jumma).

The comments, made during a media briefing before Holi, sparked widespread criticism and led to a formal complaint by former IPS officer Amitabh Thakur in March.

During the briefing, Chaudhary stated, "Holi is a festival that comes once a year, whereas Friday prayers take place 52 times in a year. If anyone feels uncomfortable with the colours of Holi, they should stay indoors on that

day. Those who step out should have a broad mindset, as festivals are meant to be celebrated together." The remarks were perceived by many as insensitive and dismissive of religious sentiments, prompting a police inquiry.

On Saturday, a senior police official confirmed that Chaudhary has been cleared of any wrongdoing, stating, "CO Anuj Chaudhary has been given a clean chit for his Holi and Jumma remarks." The official did not provide further details about the investigation or its findings.

The issue gained additional sensitivity given the prevailing tension in Sambhal, which has been on edge since November 24. Violence erupted following a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid in the Kot Garvi area.

The clashes between security forces and locals led to the deaths of at least four Muslims and left several others injured. In connection with the violence, authorities have detained 81 individuals, the majority of whom are Muslims.

Iran condemns deadly U.S. airstrikes on Yemen's fuel port

MI News Service, Tehran: Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei on Friday strongly condemned the U.S. lethal airstrikes on the Yemeni fuel port of Ras Isa.

He made the remarks in a statement released by the ministry in response to the overnight U.S. airstrikes on the Yemeni port on Thursday, which killed at least 80 people.

Baghaei said the attacks were "a clear instance of the crime of aggression and in flagrant violation of the fundamental principles and regulations of the United Nations Charter and international law."

He stressed that the U.S. "aggressions" against Yemen aligned with its "all-out support for Israel's occupation and genocide" in the occupied Palestinian territories, and

would escalate insecurity in the region and threaten international peace and security.

The strikes started late Thursday night. According to Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, the victims included workers and employees of the port, who came under violent U.S. airstrikes while on duty.

The U.S. Central Command has confirmed in a statement that it struck and destroyed Ras Isa on Thursday "to eliminate this source of fuel for" and "degrade the economic source of power" of the Houthis.

In mid-March, U.S. President Donald Trump ordered "decisive and powerful military action" against the Houthis after the group announced plans to resume attacks on Israeli targets, citing Israel's blockade of humanitarian aid to Gaza as the reason.

Protest without harming govt property and people: Pir Saheb

Nurul Islam Khan
Our protest and struggle should be peaceful. We should ensure that no harm is done to government property or common people, said Pir Shaikh Mishkat Siddiqui, the head of Furfura Sharif. He said in a meeting that the new Waqf Act must be repealed. It is against the constitution. The Central government is taking away the fundamental rights of the people. The unjust Act will be destroyed one day, he called on them to understand the right path. He also said to pray more and more. Pir Saheb advised and said that the only solution to all prob-



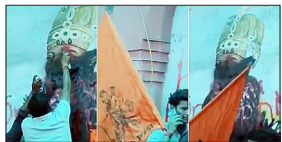
lems is prayer. Waqf property belongs to Muslims and their ancestors. Society is benefiting from that property. The government is doing injustice by taking away their Allah-given properties. However, he said we will respect the Supreme Court verdict in this regard.

Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar's portrait defaced at Ghaziabad station

MI News Sevice, Ghaziabad: On Friday, the portrait of Bahadur Shah Zafar, the last Mughal emperor, at the Ghaziabad railway station was defaced allegedly by individuals allegedly associated with the right-wing group Hindu Raksha Dal, who mistakenly believed the portrait to be of Mughal ruler Aurangzeb.

According to The Indian Express, members of the Hindu Raksha Dal sprayed black paint on the mural as a form of protest. The group claimed responsibility for the act, citing Aurangzeb's historical actions as justification. "Why do we have pictures of such a man (Aurangzeb) who has destroyed our temples, built mosques, and killed our sisters? The youth of today have awakened and will not tolerate such figures being honored," said Pinki Chaudhary, president of the group.

The Railway Protection Force (RPF) has registered a case under Sections 147 (unlawful entry) and 166 (defacement) of the Railways Act against unidentified persons. Authorities have launched an investigation to identify the perpetrators.



Divisional Railway Manager Rupesh Raman Tripathi, who was present at the station during a routine inspection, condemned the act. "I got to know about the defacement. I know that it was Bahadur Shah Zafar's portrait and he had a huge role in the 1857 revolt. This was not a good act. No one has the right to deface public property and we take action once it is brought to our notice," he said.

Chief RPF Officer S.S. Gabrayal stated that legal action would follow once those involved are identified. The portrait, which was part of an art project highlighting historical figures, is expected to be restored once the investigation concludes.

Chhattisgarh Waqf Board sends notices to 400 'illegally possessed properties' in state

MI News Sevice, Chhattisgarh: Chhattisgarh State Waqf Board has sent notices to offenders who have illegally occupied its properties by the means of deceitful registered shells and others who have failed to pay the due rents for several years.

The board has sent notices to over 400 people including 78 individuals from Raipur and has claimed over 500 crore worth properties. Speaking to the Indian Express, Salim Raj, the chairman of Waqf Board confirmed this and said, "The



Waqf properties cannot be sold or least by anyone permanently. We found that the Waqf properties were illegally registered through fictitious processes and those who sold such properties for charitable purposes could not be traced as their addresses were fake."

Raj also added, "We have asked the collectors and the SPs to recover all the illegally sold properties, cancel the registrations and also resolve the issue that came to light during the survey of the Board."

The people who have been sent notices include those living on the Waqf properties but have not paid rent since years.

According to Raj, in Chhattisgarh no non-Muslims have donated any land to Waqf Board. He expressed his disappointment over individuals treating Waqf properties as their personal assets and said that all properties are being evaluated by the Board currently.

A team from the Ministry of minority affairs was sent to Chhattisgarh last week to inspect the work properties and their current status.

Now even Sharbat is divided: Communal polarization of business

MI News Service: Even something as simple and unifying as sharbat has now fallen prey to communal polarization—divided along Hindu-Muslim lines.

Baba Ramdev, whose Sangh affiliations are well known, is a living embodiment of the alliance between Hindutva politics and corporate interests. Draped in saffron robes, he is both a symbol and a product of the Sangh-BJP's Hindutva-corporate nexus. People still recall the moment when Ramdev, fearing arrest, tried to escape dressed in a salwar-kurta—a garment often associated with Muslims. Ironically, it was this "Muslim" attire that shielded him during his moment of cowardice. Yet today, this same Ramdev is at the forefront of peddling hatred and fear about Islam and Muslims.

His latest controversial remark is: "There is a company selling sharbat, and the money it earns is used to build madrasas and mosques. If you drink that sharbat, madrasas and mosques will flourish. But if you drink Patanjali sharbat, gurukuls, Acharyakulam, Patanjali University, and the Indian Education Board will thrive. That's why I call this Sharbat Jihad. Just like love jihad and vote jihad, Sharbat Jihad is also going on."

This video statement, currently circulating on social media, is a thinly veiled attack on Rooh Afza. Interestingly, Ramdev does not challenge its quality. Rooh Afza is a non-alcoholic herbal drink created in 1906 in Ghaziabad by Hakim Hafiz Abdul Majeed during British rule. An expert in Unani medicine, he crafted the drink using herbs and rose essence to provide relief in the scorch-

ing Indian summers. Today, it is manufactured by Hamdard Laboratories, a well-regarded institution. The current formula includes eight herbs and extracts from eight fruits and vegetables. Over 115 years, Rooh Afza's quality and reputation have remained intact.

A rival product, Dil Afza, was introduced to compete with Rooh Afza but was later banned by the Delhi High Court—a decision upheld by the Supreme Court.

No official report or credible evidence supports Ramdev's allegation that the proceeds from Rooh Afza are used to build mosques or madrasas. He has offered no proof to back this inflammatory claim. Publicly available information shows that Hamdard is run by a non-profit trust with a secular ethos. It celebrates both Holi and Eid, and in 2008, actress Juhi Chawla became its brand ambassador. Had the company been driven by a religious agenda, it is unlikely she would have represented the brand.

On the other hand, Ramdev openly admits that profits from his sharbat will fund educational initiatives aligned with the Sangh ideology—institutions that are likely to promote a regressive worldview rooted in varna and caste hierarchy, rather than scientific temper and constitutional values. His agenda is a clear attempt to erode secularism and the foundational principles of the Indian Constitution.

The Rise of Patanjali: A Corporate Built on Controversy

Patanjali was co-founded by Ramdev and Balkrishna in 2006. From toothpaste and skincare to treatments for fever and typhoid, the



brand now covers a vast product range and is valued at over Rs 10,000 crore. Ramdev's rise—from a TV yoga guru to a corporate tycoon—illustrates the worst aspects of crony capitalism: deceit, fraud, and exploitation.

To promote his products—often criticized for their dubious quality—Ramdev has consistently attacked modern medicine. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he claimed that lakhs had died due to allopathy and introduced Coronil as a cure. The AYUSH Ministry later banned the product, labeling it "sub-standard." In 2016, the army rejected Patanjali's Amla juice due to poor quality. Its cow ghee has also faced scrutiny. Back in 2006, CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat accused Ramdev of using human and animal bones in his medicines—an allegation supported by factory workers who also reported violations of labor laws and underpayment. The Labour Department's inquiry confirmed these charges.

Deadly US airstrike on Yemeni oil port escalates Trump's campaign against Houthis

MI News Service, Sanaa: A drone view shows charred vehicles standing in the aftermath of what Al Masirah TV said was a U.S. strike on the Ras Isa fuel port, Al Jazirah, Yemen, in this screengrab from a handout video released on April 18. Photo: Reuters

A US airstrike on an important oil port held by Yemen's Houthi rebels killed more than 70 people and wounded many others, the Iranian-backed rebel group said on Friday, marking a major escalation in the military campaign President Donald Trump launched against the faction last month.

The overnight strike on the Ras Isa port sent massive fireballs billowing skyward and turned tanker trucks into burning wrecks.

It was the first American attack on a Houthi-controlled oil facility in the new US bombing campaign. It also came just before the resumption of negotiations in Rome between the US and Iran over Tehran's rapidly advancing

nuclear programme, which Washington has linked to its attacks in Yemen.

The US is targeting the Houthis because of the group's attacks on shipping in the Red Sea, a crucial global trade route, and on Israel.

The Houthis are the last militant group in Iran's self-described "Axis of Resistance" that is capable of regularly attacking Israel.

The port is a major hub for incoming fuel shipments that power areas of Yemen held by the Houthis, and analysts say the airstrike could seriously affect daily life there.

The Houthis, who said the attack killed at least 74 people and wounded 171 others, aired graphic footage of the aftermath on their al-Masirah satellite news channel, showing corpses strewn about the port and smashed tanker trucks. They denounced the strike as a "completely unjustified aggression".

"It targets a vital civilian facility that has served the Yemeni people for decades," the group said in a statement.

Meta deletes 90,000 pro-Palestine posts at Israel's request

MI News Service, San Francisco: Since October 7, 2023, when Israel launched its latest military offensive on the Gaza Strip, a parallel battle has been unfolding online. According to a recent report by Drop Site News, technology giant Meta has removed over 90,000 pro-Palestinian posts from Facebook and Instagram, allegedly in response to takedown requests from the Israeli government.

The data, reportedly sourced from whistleblowers with access to internal records, indicates that Meta complied with 94 percent of Israeli takedown requests.

Most of the targeted accounts were based in over

60 countries, mainly Arab and Muslim-majority nations. In contrast, only 1.3 percent of the takedown requests were related to Israeli users.

Much of the removed content was flagged under Meta's internal categories related to "violence and incitement" or other security-related concerns.

While Meta has not officially confirmed the figures, it has defended its moderation policies repeatedly, claiming they are designed to promote safety and curb incitement to violence.

With mainstream media offering limited coverage, Palestinians have relied on social media to share evidence of the crisis in Gaza.

Hindu women caught smuggling liquor in Burqa in Katihar

MI News Sevice, Mania: Two Hindu women were caught smuggling liquor under burqas at Mania railway station in Katihar, Bihar, revealing the persistent failure of the state's liquor ban and the controversial misuse of religious clothing.

Veena Devi and Nandini Kumari, residents of Pipradhari Tola, were arrested while attempting to bring liquor from West Bengal into Bihar. Disguised in burqas over sarees and pretending to be pregnant, they had tightly taped tetra packs of foreign liquor to their bodies—Veena with 9 litres, Nandini with 8.1 litres.

Subhash Kumar Singh, Excise Superintendent, said the women were caught based on a tip-off, part of a special crackdown targeting border smuggling routes like railway lines and rivers. "Their plan was clever, but not clever enough," Singh remarked, emphasizing that smugglers are constantly adapting to evade law enforcement.

The incident sparked outrage and debate. While burqas are often criticized by right-wing groups as symbols of backwardness or extremism when worn by Muslim women, the silence after Hindu women used the garment for criminal activity has exposed double standards. "This is pure hypocrisy," said Zeba Khan, a women's rights activist in

Cup of Unity

In his article "Hindu Sharbat aur Muslim Sharbat", independent journalist Sanjeev Shukla recounts a powerful anecdote:

During the trial of the Azad Hind Fauj soldiers at the Red Fort, Colonel Sehgal, Dhillon, and Shah Nawaz became national symbols of resistance. To disrupt this unity, the colonial government ordered tea to be served as "Hindu tea" and "Muslim tea" to the imprisoned soldiers. But the soldiers rejected this communal ploy. Each morning, when the tea arrived, they would mix it in a large vessel and share it—reaffirming their collective spirit and unity.

This act was a beautiful symbol of the unity that powered India's freedom struggle.

Rebuilding Divisions for Profit

The unity achieved through India's independence movement—breaking down barriers of caste and religion—is being systematically dismantled by the Sangh-BJP and their corporate allies. By stoking communal divisions, they seek to secure their political and economic dominance. The challenge before us is to resist this unholy nexus of Hindutva and corporate power.

What is needed is a broad-based alliance of the oppressed—Dalits, Adivasis, farmers, and workers—united by inclusive, people-oriented policies. The longer this battle is delayed, the more damage will be inflicted on India's secular fabric, unity, and constitutional democracy. Figures like Ramdev stand in direct opposition to the values of equality, fraternity, and justice that underpin our republic.

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'Cancel the new Waqf Law'—several Peer Sahebs raised this demand at a recent meeting held in Houghly.

IPL 2025: Buttler, Rutherford power GT to seven wicket win over DC

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT) : A brilliant knock from Jos Buttler and his century partnership with Sherfane Rutherford helped Gujarat Titans (GT) crush Delhi Capitals (DC) by seven wickets in a high-scoring clash at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium on Saturday.

With their fifth win in seven matches, GT have climbed to the top of the points table, displacing DC to the second spot, who suffered their second loss.

During the run chase of 204 runs, Shubman Gill was run out by Karun Nair for seven in five balls, which gave the GT a massive blow in their second over. GT was 14/1 in 1.4 overs.

Following this early jolt, Jos Buttler joined Sai Sudharsan, and both picked their respective targets in spin and pace. While Sai collected two fours against Starc, Buttler proved to be lethal against DC skipper Axar Patel and Vipraj Nigam's spin. GT brought up their 50 runs in 4.3 overs, thanks to a huge six over long-on by Buttler.

At the end of six overs, GT was 67/1, with Sai (34*) and Buttler (25*) unbeaten. Sai smashed Mukesh Kumar for two fours in the final over of the powerplay.

However, in the eighth over,



in four overs.

In the next over, some more brute hitting from Buttler and careful strike rotation brought down the deficit to 25 in 18 balls.

Rutherford failed to clear a full toss by Mukesh Kumar, giving a catch to Starc at long-off, for 43 in 34 balls, with a four and three sixes. GT was 193/3 in 18.5 overs.

The equation came down to 10 runs needed in the final over and Rahul Tewatia started off by

six. GT was 23/1 in 1.4 overs.

KL Rahul joined Nair in the middle; Siraj, playing his 100th IPL match, was taken on the charge by the GT batters, and he conceded 33 runs in his first two overs. Prasidh Krishna removed KL Rahul with a slower ball for 28 (in 14 balls, with four boundaries and a six) in the 5th over. DC skipper Axar Patel joined Nair at the crease. DC was 58/2 in 4.4 overs.

DC finished on 73/2 after the power play; this was the best power-play score for Delhi in this IPL season. Krishna gave GT two important breakthroughs; he removed Karun Nair also for 31 off 18 balls, with two fours and two sixes in the 9th over. DC was 93/3 in 8.2 overs.

After 10 overs, DC were 105/3, with Axar Patel 14* and Tristan Stubbs 8* unbeaten; Axar and Stubbs brought up their 50-partnership in the 14th over, and both batters contentedly rotated the strike. Axar and Stubbs took on GT veteran spinner Rashid Khan in his last over, smashing him for two sixes. Siraj removed Stubbs in the 15th over for 31 in 21 balls and his innings included two fours and a six. DC was 146/4 in 14.2 overs. Ashutosh Sharma joined the DC skipper in the mid-

dle. Krishna removed Axar Patel in his last over, scoring 39 in 32 balls. His innings included a four and two sixes. DC was 173/5 in 17.1 overs.

Vipraj Nigam joined Ashutosh in the 18th over, Krishna took back-to-back wickets as Vipraj nicks to the first slip, and Jos Butler took a blinder. DC was 173/6 in 17.2 overs. The impact sub for DC - Donovan Ferreira, came to the crease to face the hat-trick ball. Ashutosh Sharma fought back after he smashed two sixes in Krishna's last over.

DC's impact sub did not make any impact with the bat, he also managed to score 1 before falling to Ishant Sharma. DC was 191/7 in 18.4 overs.

Sai Kishore bowled a brilliant last over, as he gave only nine runs and removed Ashutosh Sharma for 37 (19 balls); his innings included two fours and three sixes.

Prasidh Krishna (4/41) was the pick of the bowlers for GT Siraj, Arshad, Kishore, and Ishant Sharma took a wicket each. Brief Scores: DC: 203/8 (Axar Patel 39, Ashutosh Sharma 37, Prasidh Krishna 4/41) lost to GT: 204/3 in 19.3 overs (Jos Buttler 97*, Sherfane Rutherford 43, Kuldeep Yadav 1/30).

After U-18 Asian glory, Neeraj Chopra fan Himanshu Jakhar eyes Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Himanshu Jakhar, who created history after becoming the first Indian to clinch gold in men's javelin throw at the U-18 Asian Athletics Championships in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday, will be a major attraction at the upcoming Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar, scheduled from May 4 to 15.

Himanshu, who hails from Salahawas village in the Jhajjar district of Haryana, clinched the yellow metal with a massive throw of 67.57 meters, much ahead of China's Lu Hao (63.45m) and Uzbekistan's Ruslan Sadullaev (61.96m). His father, Dalbir, and mother, Reena, are farmers, as per a Sports Authority of India (SAI) press release.

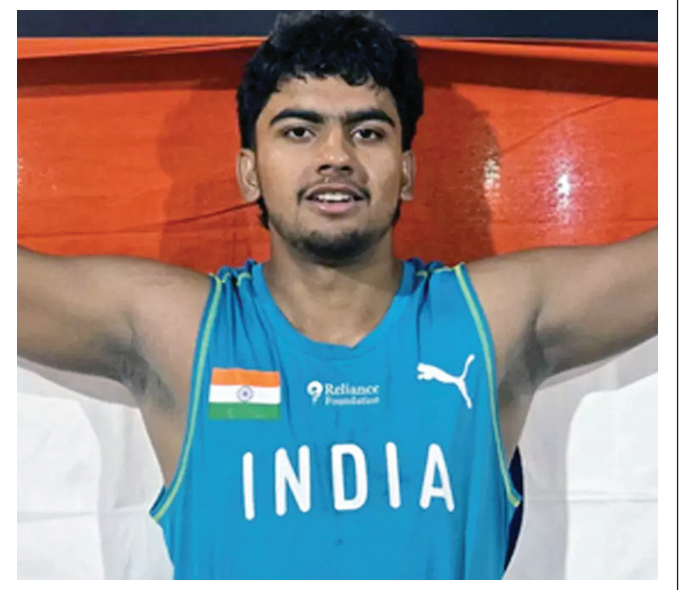
The 17-year-old Himanshu Jakhar picked up a javelin just five years back, training in his home village initially before shifting to the SAI Centre in Hissar. Talking to SAI Media from Saudi Arabia, Himanshu said that his next target is the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar, scheduled from May 4 to 15.

"It has been a wonderful experience to be able to win gold for the country here. But it was a lot of hard work, along with my coaches, to reach this far. I have been training at the SAI Centre in Hissar under coach Arvind for the last 2-3 years and with better coaching, better equipment, better ground and gym, etc. I was able to make the country proud. My next target is now to attract the talent scouts at the Khelo India Youth Games and then Junior Nationals," Himanshu said.

"Khelo India is a great initiative of the Government of India, and a platform like this is essential for individuals in my age group to slowly make a contribution towards the nation," he added.

Himanshu, whose previous personal best in the 700 g javelin throw was 74.56 m, achieved at the National Junior Athletics Championships in December 2024, sees Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra as his inspiration.

"He (Neeraj Chopra) is an inspiration to not just me but the entire country. What he has achieved for India does not happen every day. What I like about him is his work ethic, dedication, and humility despite earning so much fame. I try to learn how he conducts himself during competitions, how he greets his competitors, and how he keeps himself so cool during pressure situations," Himanshu Jakhar said.

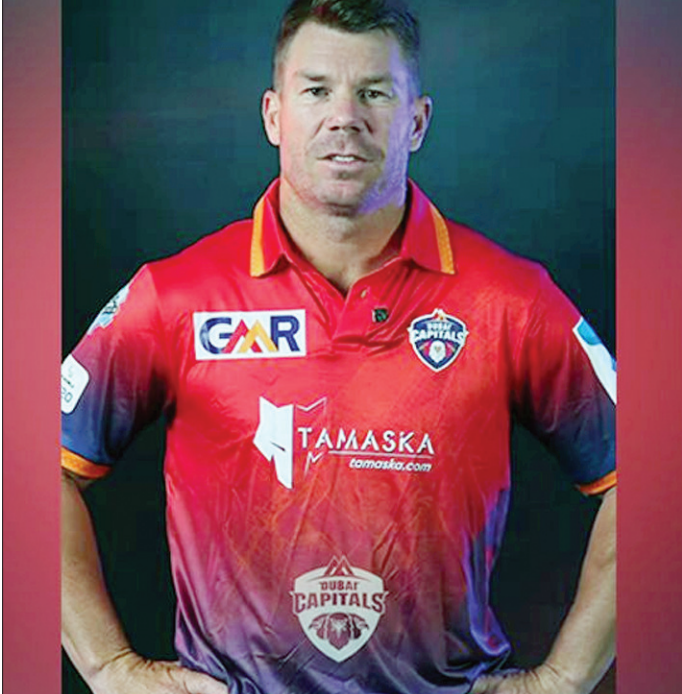


Australia legend David Warner joins Seattle Orcas for Major League Cricket 2025

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Former Australia opener David Warner joined the Major League Cricket (MLC) franchise Seattle Orcas for the upcoming third edition, which will kickstart from June 12. This would be Warner's maiden appearance in the USA-based T20 league, as reported by ESPNcricinfo.

Warner is currently participating in the Pakistan Super League 2025, where he is leading the Karachi Kings in the tournament. So far in his cricketing career, the left-hand batter has played a total of 401 T20s where he has managed to score 12,956 runs at a strike rate of 140.27.

Seattle Orcas had a strong start in the inaugural Major League Cricket season in 2023, finishing at the top of the points table, but fell short in the final against MI New York. Their performance, however, saw a sharp decline in the second season, as they ended at the bottom under Heinrich Klaassen's captaincy,



managing just one win in seven matches.

The 2025 edition of Major League Cricket will run from June 12 to July 13. Unlike last year, the tournament will not overlap with The Hundred, allowing David Warner to feature for London Spirit without any scheduling conflict.

David Warner went unsold in the IPL 2025 mega auction and will miss the tournament for the first time since 2009. The south-paw is currently the fourth-highest run-getter in the IPL, with 6565 runs from 184 innings.

Warner made a strong impact in this year's Big Bash League, returning as captain of the Sydney Thunder and guiding the team to the final. He was the tournament's second-highest run-scorer, amassing 405 runs across 12 innings. Earlier this year, in February, Warner was part of the Dubai Capitals squad that clinched the International League T20 (ILT20) title.

Abhishek Nayar returns to KKR coaching staff following removal as India's assistant coach

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : Former Indian cricketer Abhishek Nayar has returned to the Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) coaching setup, announced the defending Indian Premier League (IPL) champions on Saturday.

KKR made the announcement on X.

In a post on X, KKR wrote, "Welcome back home, @abhishek-nayar1"

<https://x.com/KKRiders/status/1913559286132637967>

Following a disappointing performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25 against Australia, India decided to remove assistant coach Abhishek Nayar and fielding coach T Dilip.

BCCI sources informed ANI that assistant Batting coach Abhishek Naiyyar, fielding coach T Dilip, and Strength and Conditioning coach Soham Desai have been removed following India's poor performance in the BGT series and alleged dressing room leaks.



India suffered a disappointing 3-1 defeat to Australia in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2024-25, losing the opportunity to qualify for the World Test Championship (WTC) Final at Lord's.

India began the series with a

historic win in Perth but failed to sustain its momentum and lost the series 1-3.

Nayar's role was scrutinised as the Board was not happy with the apparent 'Kolkata Knight Riders touch' in the team management.

Nayar and former Netherlands star Ryan Ten Doeschate joined Team India's support staff as assistant coaches during the white-ball tour of Sri Lanka last year. Nayar and Doeschate were also assistant coaches at KKR and worked with Gambhir and won the 2024 IPL title with him and captain Shreyas Iyer.

Currently, KKR is placed at number six in the points table halfway through their campaign, with three wins and four losses. Their previous match was a shambolic loss to Punjab Kings (PBKS) in which they were skittled out for 95 runs while chasing a target of 112 runs. Their next game will be against the Gujarat Titans (GT) at Eden Gardens on Monday.

Condition of Pakistan, PSL teams same: Basit Ali gives scathing remark, says PSL standard has 'dropped'

ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN) : Former cricketer Basit Ali took a dig at the Pakistan Super League and drew a comparison between the current Pakistan team and the PSL teams, following the franchises' struggles to chase in the ongoing edition of the nation's premier T20 tournament.

In the 10th edition of the Pakistan Super League (PSL), franchises have found it hard to orchestrate a successful chase. Out of eight fixtures, Karachi Kings and the defending champions, Islamabad United, are the only teams to stand triumphant in their attempts to chase the given target.

Basit, who has closely monitored the events unfolding in the

PSL, lambasted the teams for their inability to compete. He compared the Pakistan team and the franchises by underlining the similar 'mindset' factor.

"The condition of Pakistan and PSL teams is the same. There is no mindset. They can't chase. I feel sad to see this. PSL standard has gone down. This is not cricket. The Champions Cup had better cricket," Basit said on his YouTube channel.

Both chases were pulled off during the initial days of the ongoing PSL. Islamabad began its title defence by gunning down Lahore Qalandars' 140-run target in the lung-opener clash. In the third fixture of Pakistan's top-tier T20 tournament, Karachi toppled Multan Kings 234/5 with an



explosive century from James Vince. The 54-year-old went on to cite the cash-rich Indian Premier League (IPL) as an example to make his case for the lack of cut-throat fixtures in Pakistan. Basit feels the absence of gripping matches has removed the element of fun from the league.

"In IPL, such scores are chased in an over before. Here, our teams lose by 50 or 60 runs. Hasan Ali has been bowling well and will return to the team. There is no fun because of the lack of competitiveness," he added. The PSL action will continue on Saturday with the two bottom sides, Peshawar Zalmi and Multan Sultans, going head-to-head to find some winning momentum in their favour.

GT SPINNER SAI KISHORE JOINS SPECIAL CLUB, BECOMES THIRD TO ACHIEVE SPECIAL FEAT IN IPL

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT) : Gujarat Titans spinner Ravisrinivasan Sai Kishore's introduction for the first time in the 20th over of the first innings against Delhi Capitals on Saturday was just the third instance of such a scenario unfolding in the Indian Premier League (IPL) history.

Sai Kishore was introduced in the final over of the first innings to bowl the first of the match. He became just the third spinner to do so in the cash-rich league after former Sri Lankan star Sanath Jayasuriya and Mumbai Indians stalwart Rohit Sharma.

Jayasuriya was the first to do so after he was handed the ball in the 20th over of the first innings to bowl for the Mumbai Indians against the Rajasthan Royals in Durban in 2009. Rohit became the second to do so in 2010, while representing the Deccan Chargers against Mumbai.

Fifteen years later, Sai Kishore added his name to the list. In his sole over of the match, Kishore kept a lid on DC's scoring rate and scythed the all-important scalp of the free-scoring Ashutosh Sharma.

He conceded just nine runs from the over and kept DC at bay to ensure DC failed in its pursuit of crossing the 210-run mark. On the penultimate delivery, Kishore bowled a flatter delivery to lure Ashutosh to go for glory.

The uncapped star took the aerial route and lofted the ball high into the air towards long-on. Substitute fielder Mahipal Lomror made no error and took a comfortable catch to send Ashutosh back to the dressing room on a scorching 37(19).

With DC putting up 203/8 on the board, Jos Buttler took the mantle on his shoulders to steer GT to victory. It was a clinical chase from the hosts with Buttler dictating the flow of the game authoritatively.

He stayed unbeaten on 97(54) to ensure GT prevailed and reclaimed its spot at the summit. Sherfane Rutherford, who was introduced as an impact substitute, chipped in handsomely with his 40(30).

With 10 runs required from the final over, Mitchell Starc, DC's last match hero, became the victim of GT's onslaught. He was hammered away for a towering maximum and a four as GT celebrated a seven-wicket triumph.

