

### Uttarakhand govt demolishes 'Mazar' on public land

**MI News Service, Dehradun:** Bulldozers of the Uttarakhand government razed a mazar along the highway in Rudrapur of Dehradun, alleging it was built on public land.

The mazar was located on the premises of Doon Hospital for many decades. Officials were quoted as telling reporters that Pankaj Gupta, a Hindutva group member of Rishikesh, had made a complaint regarding the mazar to chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami last year.

The Dhami government has demolished over 550 mosques, mazars and madrasas in the state since 2023.

"We are razing only those structures which are built on government lands illegally. We serve them notices and seek their reply. The final action is taken only when they fail to provide documents in support of the properties," the chief minister said in Dehradun, adding that the drive would continue.

An attendant of the mausoleum told reporters: "The government didn't review our documents and took decisions without considering our claim. Local municipal officers came here late at night, along with police and bulldozers. Some of our family members were sleeping inside the mausoleum. The police asked them to leave, and the bulldozers razed the building in three hours."

Suryakant Dhasmana, vice-president of the Uttarakhand unit of the Congress, said: "We don't have any problem with the state and the central governments taking action against illegally built mosques and mazars, but our view is clear that the government is trying to create an atmosphere against Muslims."

### India & China to resume Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from June

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** After a gap of nearly five years, India and China will resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from June -- a move being seen as an attempt to normalise their relationship that was severely hit by the eastern Ladakh border standoff.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Yatra is set to take place from June to August via two routes -- Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim.

The pilgrimage to Mount Kailash and Mansarovar Lake in China's Tibet Autonomous Region holds religious significance to Hindus as well as Jains and Buddhists.

"Kailash Mansarovar Yatra organised by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is set to take place during June to August 2025," the MEA said.

The Yatra was suspended initially in 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequently because of the military

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# Modi vows justice for Pahalgam victims

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that victims of the Pahalgam terror attack will definitely get justice, asserting that terrorists and conspirators behind the killings of 26 civilians will be served the harshest punishment. Blood of every Indian is boiling by looking at the pictures of the attack, he said in his monthly Mann Ki Baat address.

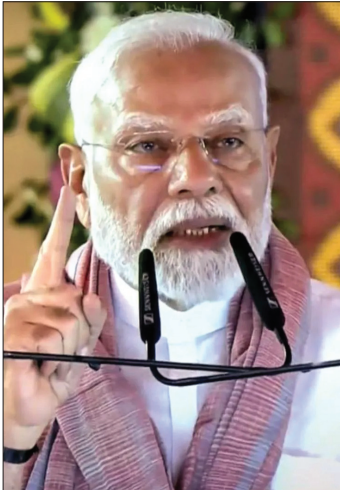
Modi said the country's unity and solidarity of its 140 crore citizens is its biggest strength in this war against terrorism.

"This unity is the basis of our decisive fight against ter-

rorism," he said. The prime minister said the attack in the famous tourist town in Kashmir reflected the desperation and cowardice of the patrons of terrorism, a reference to Pakistan, at a time when peace was returning to the Valley and there was vibrancy in its schools and colleges.

He said construction work had gained unprecedented pace, democracy was getting stronger, the number of tourists was increasing at a record rate, people's income was increasing, and new opportunities were being created for the youth.

Modi said, "Enemies of the country, the enemies of Jammu



and Kashmir did not like that. Terrorists and the masterminds of terror want Kashmir to be destroyed again and hence they executed such a big conspiracy." The prime minister said his heart is in deep anguish over the biggest terror attack on civilians in Kashmir in a long spell of time, and said the incident has hurt every citizen of the country. Every Indian is feeling deep sympathies for the affected families, no matter which state one belongs to or which language one speaks, he said. Modi said, "I can feel that the blood of every Indian is on the boil after seeing the pictures of the terrorist attack. I once

again assure the affected families that they will get justice, and justice will be definitely done. The perpetrators and conspirators of this attack will be served the harshest punishment." He added, "We have to strengthen our resolve to face this challenge before the country. We have to demonstrate a strong willpower as a nation. Today the world is watching that after this terrorist attack the whole country is speaking in one voice." The prime minister said the attack has drawn condemnation from the whole world, noting that international leaders have called him up, written letters and sent mes-

sages. Everyone has strongly condemned this heinous terrorist attack, and they have expressed condolences to the families of the deceased, he said.

Modi said, "The whole world stands with 140 crore Indians in our fight against terrorism." Terrorist had gunned down at least 26 civilians, mostly tourists, in Pahalgam on April 22, sparking nation-wide outrage and demand for a befitting response from the government, especially against Pakistan which has a history of training and arming terrorists and sending them across the border.



Indian Army personnel clear snow from the area near Gurudwara Sri Hemkund Sahib ahead of the scheduled opening of its portals on 25th May, in Chamoli district.

## Home Ministry hands over Pahalgam probe to NIA

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has taken over the probe into the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 people were killed, officials said on Sunday.

The teams, overseen by an Inspector General of Police, a Deputy Inspector General of Police and a Superintendent of Police from the anti-terror agency, are examining the eyewitnesses to the attack that took place on Tuesday at Baisaran valley in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, they said.

The eyewitnesses are being questioned in minute detail to piece together the

sequence of events that led to one of the worst terror attacks in Kashmir, they said.

The entry and exit points are being closely scrutinised by the investigating NIA teams for clues to the modus operandi of the terrorists, the officials said.

The teams, aided by forensic and other experts, are checking the entire area thoroughly for evidence to expose the terror conspiracy that led to the horrendous attack that has shocked the nation, they said.

NIA teams, which have been camping at the terror attack site since Wednes-

day, have intensified the search for evidence, they said.

The anti-terror agency has taken over the Pahalgam terror attack case following orders from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Terrorists on Tuesday opened fire in Baisaran, a popular tourist spot in the upper reaches of Pahalgam in Anantnag district, killing 26 people, mostly holidayers from other states.

Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by The Telegraph Online staff and has been published from a syndicated feed.

## Punjab Police busts weapon-smuggling module with links to Pak

**MI News Service, Chandigarh:** Punjab Police on Sunday said they have busted a weapon-smuggling module with alleged links to Pakistan and arrested one person from Amritsar.

Seven pistols, four live cartridges and Rs 1.50 lakh have allegedly been recovered from the arrested accused.

"Acting on a specific tip-off, Counter Intelligence #Amritsar busts an illegal weapon smuggling module with links to #Pakistan and arrests Abhishek Kumar from Amritsar, recovering 7 pistols (including 5 pistols of .30 bore and 2 Glock 9mm pistols), 4 live cartridges (.30 bore), and Rs 1,50,000 from his possession," Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav posted on X. He said Australia-based Jassa - "who, in close collaboration with Pakistan-based smugglers, orchestrates



the smuggling of illegal arms/ammunition through the Indo-Pak border with the help of his local associates Jodhbir Singh alias Jodha and Abhishek Kumar." The DGP said preliminary investigation revealed that Abhishek Kumar and Jodhbir Singh alias Jodha are also allegedly involved in hawala

transactions, indicating their connection to a broader network engaged in criminal activities.

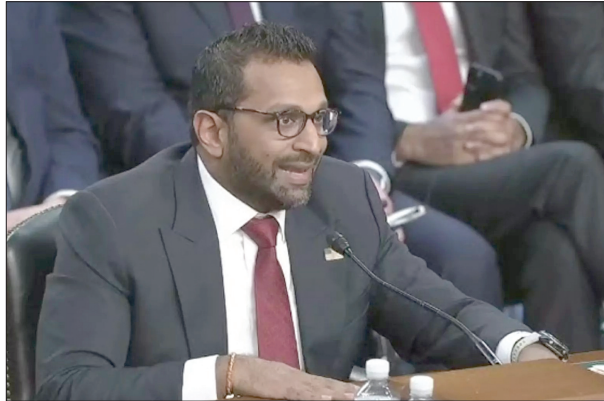
An FIR has been registered at State Special Operation Cell, Amritsar. Further investigation is underway to apprehend other associates and unearth all backward and forward linkages, he said.

## Fullest support to India in her war against terror: FBI chief Kash Patel

**MI News Service, Washington:** FBI Director Kash Patel on Sunday condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack and pledged full support to India, calling the act a "reminder of the constant threats that the world faces from the evil of terrorism".

Patel also hailed the security forces for their response to the attack.

Terrorists opened fire in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on Tuesday, killing 26 people, mostly tourists, in the deadliest attack in the Valley since the Pulwama strike in 2019. The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), claimed responsibility for



the attack. "The FBI sends our condolences to all the victims of the recent terrorist attack in Kashmir — and will continue offering our full support to the Indian government," Indian-American Patel said in a

post on X on Sunday.

"This is a reminder of the constant threats our world faces from the evils of terrorism. Pray for those affected. Thank you to the men and women of law enforcement who answer the

call in moments like these," the first Indian-American to lead the premier law enforcement agency of the United States said in the post.

The terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 has drawn widespread condemnation from countries and world leaders around the globe.

On April 25, US Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard also said America stands with India as it hunts down those responsible for the heinous Pahalgam attack.

The State Department also said the US stands with India and called for the perpetrators of the Pahalgam attack to be brought to justice.

# BSF jawan in Pak captivity: Pregnant wife asks for 'some' info from BSF's part

**MI News Service, Kolkata/New Delhi:** Rajni Shaw, the three-month pregnant wife of the BSF jawan detained in Pakistan since Wednesday, wants at least some information from BSF about her imprisoned husband in the hands of Pakistani Rangers. Rajni said "no clear information is coming from BSF about my husband's well being." "Yes, I'm pregnant. But my priority is to find out where my husband is," a distraught Rajni, 34, "I don't know whether they are giving him food and water in Pakistan. Four days have passed, and there's no sign of his rescue," the mother of an eight-year-old son added. The family is particularly anxious about Shaw's safety because of the escalation in India-Pakistan tensions since Tuesday's terror attack in Pahalgam. Shaw, 37, a head constable with the 182nd Battalion, "inadvertently"

crossed the border near Firozpur on Wednesday and was taken into custody by the Pakistan Rangers.A source said the BSF had held at least three flag meetings with the Rangers but there was no clarity yet on when Shaw might be released.

Shaw's parents Bholanath and Debanti wanted to accompany Rajni to Pathankot but were overruled.

"They are elderly and ill; they can't even walk properly without help. It isn't possible to take them there," Rajni said. "The BSF officials have been talking about flag meetings without letting me know exactly where he is. I hope that going to their office will get me more information about him."

"If the BSF office in Pathankot fails to inform me about my husband's whereabouts, I will go to Delhi. I shall visit Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

office with an appeal to rescue my husband,"she added.

Shaw had visited his home during Holi and returned to his base barely 25 days before his arrest in Pakistan.

Kalyan Banerjee, Trinamool MP from Serampore, the constituency in which Rishra falls, spoke to BSF director-general Daljit Chawdhary on Saturday about Shaw's detention.

"He informed me that all relevant government agencies and officials are making every possible effort to secure his return to India," Banerjee posted on X on Saturday morning.

"The DG mentioned that while Pakistan is taking some time, they are expected to eventually hand him back. He also assured me that Poornam is currently safe and in good health in Pakistan." Banerjee met the Shaws at their home on Saturday evening.



## SC to hear plea on banning sexually explicit content on OTT, social media

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Monday a plea seeking a direction to the Centre to take appropriate steps to prohibit streaming of sexually explicit content on over the top (OTT) and social media platforms. The plea has sought laying down of guidelines constituting a National Content Control Authority to prohibit sexually ex-

plicit content on these platforms.

According to the top court's cause list of April 28, the petition is slated to come up for hearing before a bench of Justices B R Gavai and Augustine George Masih.

The plea claimed there were pages or profiles on social media sites that were disseminating pornographic materials without any filter and vari-

ous OTT platforms were streaming content that also has potential elements of child pornography.

"Such sexually deviant material pollute the minds of youth, children and even grown up persons which gives rise to perverted and unnatural sexual tendencies thereby leading to an increase in the crime rate," it said.

The plea said if left unchecked, the

unregulated spread of obscene material could have severe consequences on societal values, mental health and public safety. It claimed the petitioners have taken numerous steps by sending representations or complaints to the competent authorities, however, the same have yielded no effective result. "It is the need of the hour that the state must uphold its constitu-

tional duty to safeguard public morality, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure that the digital space does not become a breeding ground for deviant behaviour," the plea said. It said affordability and widespread penetration of internet has made explicit materials readily available to users of

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## Three leopards caught at Jalpaiguri tea estates, relieving panicked residents

**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri:** Three leopards were trapped in different tea estates in the Jalpaiguri district on Saturday morning, much to the relief of the gardens' residents.

Sources in the forest department said workers at the Ambari tea estate, in the Banarhat block of the district, reported seeing a leopard in the garden around a week ago. Foresters put up a cage at the plantations, and on Saturday morning, the animal was found trapped inside.

Similarly, cages were put at the plantations of the Leesh River tea estate and the Sylee tea estate, both in the Malbazar block of Jalpaiguri, where two leopards had strayed into the gardens.

"The leopards were taking away cattle and poultry. The panicked workers and their families were staying indoors all day. A section of workers were worried about their safety while working at the plantations," said a forester. On Saturday, two leopards walked into both the cages at the two tea es-

tates.

In Terai and Dooars, leopards often stray into tea estates, which are on the fringes of forest areas. Female leopards deliver cubs in the plantations to keep the cubs safe from other animals. Cattle and poultry kept in tea gardens are easy prey for the animals.

"On many occasions, tea workers have spotted cubs while working at the plantations. Usually, a few weeks after the birth, the mother takes the cubs to the forest. Also, male leopards occasionally move into tea gardens to catch prey," said a wildlife conservationist from the region.

Workers of these gardens found the leopards inside the cages and informed the foresters, who soon arrived and rescued the animals.

The leopards were taken to the nature interpretation centre in Lataguri, which is on the fringes of the Gorumara National Park. They will be observed and then released in the wild, a source said.

## Swimming pool set to come up in Alipurduar, Rs 2.88 crore allocated

**MI News Service, Alipurduar:** Swimmers in Alipurduar who intend to beat the heat by plunging into a pool, and children and others in the town who want to learn to swim, have reasons to cheer.

The north Bengal development department has taken the task of building a swimming pool in the town. A sum of ₹2.88 crore has been allocated for the project, and the tender process has been initiated, officials of the department said on Friday.

Sourav Bhattacharjee, executive engineer of the department, said: "The tender process will be over in a month. Once it is done, the work order will be issued to the agency concerned."

Sources said the pool would come up in ward 18 of the town on a plot of the McWilliam Institute, an old and reputed school of north Bengal.

"Additional electrification will be done in the area. Also, CCTV cameras will be installed in and around the pool," said a source.

In Alipurduar, there was a longstanding demand from the residents

for a swimming pool in the town.

"A section of people take their children to Cooch Behar (which is around 25km away) to learn swimming. But most of the residents could not do it due to cost and time issues. It is good that finally, we will have a pool here," said a resident.

He pointed out that earlier, marches were held on the demand, and many memorandums were submitted to the district administration. "But nothing happened.

In recent times, Suman Kanjilal, the local MLA, took the initiative and could finally get funds for the project," he added.

Sports lovers of the town have also welcomed the decision. Parag Bhowmik, an athletic coach based in the town, said it will help budding athletes. "So far, there was no place in Alipurduar to learn

swimming. Now we hope that hundreds will join the pool. Athletes and sportspeople from other fields also need a swimming pool for exercise and fitness. The pool will also help them," said Bhowmik.

## 1,400 tourists stuck as landslides hit roads, visitors stranded at hotels in Lachen and Lachung; work on to restore connectivity

**MI News Service, Gangtok:** A sudden bout of intense rainfall triggered multiple landslides and damaged roads in Sikkim on Thursday, leaving around 1,400 visitors stranded at Lachen and Lachung, two tourist hotspots in Mangan district. A group of tourists who were stuck between Mangan and Chungthang — the junction from where visitors head for Lachen and Lachung — were evacuated by road on Friday.

Senior officials, including the district collector and the superintendent of police of Mangan, have visited the affected areas. They are in contact with GREF (General Reserve Engineer Force), which functions under the defence ministry, for the early restoration of roads.

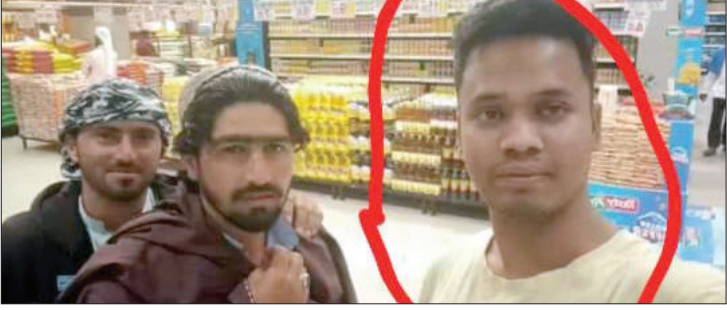
"Tourists who are stranded in Lachen and Lachung are staying at hotels. The local administration and police are monitoring the situation. We hope some roads will be cleared of debris by this evening. Then, the movement of vehicles will resume," Anant Jain, the Mangan district collector, said on Friday. Jain, along with police officers and others, visited the road closure site at Bop along the

Chungthang-Lachung road to assess the situation. "The subdivisional magistrate of Chungthang has been instructed to coordinate with the local construction companies and utilise their available machinery to expedite the restoration of road connectivity," said a source. Sources said around 600 tourists and 100 vehicles were stuck in Lachen, while another 800 tourists and 150-odd vehicles were stranded in Lachung. "Some other tourists on their way to these places were stuck in Chungthang. There were mudslides because of heavy rainfall, and water has been flowing heavily over roads. We hope the situation will improve tomorrow, but it will take some time to restore roads," said a representative of the Travel Agents' Association of Sikkim.

The natural disaster has also affected the electricity supply in Lachen, Lachung and Chungthang, and the power department is working for the restoration of electricity, he added. A major landslide occurred at Munshithang on the Lachen-Chungthang road. Another landslide hit Lema/Bob on the Lachung-Chungthang road.

# Police have kept Rana's phone, investigation on, to see if he has a terror link

**MI News Servicem, Nadia:** The recent viral photographs of one Rana Biswas from Nadia's Bhandarkhola under Kotwali police station, that bears the terrorists with high quality fire arms, has raised questions if he has the link with terrorists. The photographs were loaded at his face book while he was in Dubai for a few days in January this year. While police has been investigating the matter and kept his phone, police primarily has stated that he has no link with terrorists and he had uploaded the same just for a fun. But a local BJP leader has demanded that he has the terrorist link. He also demanded for investigation with any central Agency. Rana Biswas of Bhandarkhola under Kotwali police limits in Nadia had eloped another's wife. But soon he was compelled to return to Nadia from Sealdaha Station. He didn't go to Bhandarkhola but to Natungram under Kotwali PS. After some days his jamaibabu took Rana to Mumbai to work. He state there for 6



months. Then his brother in law (Jamai Babu) sent Rana to Dubai through one Azizul on January 3, this year. But hi return on January 11, 2025. As police stated, he was sent to Dubai with assurance of the job of houseboy in an office. After arrival he found that he was given the job of sweeper. So he soon returned on January 11, this year. However during the period of staying in Dubai, he would make calls to his home. There is a practice of using Wi-Fi against rupees 35 there. But he said not enough money to buy Wi-Fi everyday. One Amjid considerably shared Wi-Fi to

Rana. Police said that Amjid once showed him those photographs. Letter shared the photographs to Rana with condition of sharing the same at his facebook. As Rana would take advantage of using his Wi-Fi free of cost, he got agreed. So, he shared those photographs at his facebook having the picture of terrorists. One of the photographs showed Ranaghat with a terrorist. The photographs were shared when he was in Dubai. That is in January, 2025. Letter on, while one of his friends in Nadia found the photographs on the Facebook of Rana Biswas, advised Rana to

remove the same either he might face problems. But meanwhile it was spread and once got viral. However, cops of Kotwali police station in Nadia's Krishnanagar took him to police station on Saturday. Police interrogated him for a long hours. He was kept in police station overnight. IC Kotwali police station Amalendu Biswas said, "We have released him on Sunday but we have kept his phone for further investigation." He more stated that Rana has no link with terrorists and he had loaded the photographs ( that went viral) just for fun. On the other hand, Sandip Majumdar, BJP Nadia North Media convener, said on Sunday afternoon that the people of that locality of Bhandarkhola sent the photographs to him and intimated about the Facebook loading." They also provided me with his father's name and address. He has a Nexus with terrorists. I have checked the photographs. Those are not superimposed. The posting carried the words like 'Pak-

istani bhaiya' and 'My Friend', and a photograph with a terrorist. A common man cannot go to a place of that level or cannot easily have the contact with the terrorists. The Pahelgaon incident has happened recently. If Rana Biswas is interrogative properly, the terrorist link with him may come out." He demanded the investigation with any century agency on the issue of Rana Biswas. He said, "An Indian has taken a photograph with a Pakistani consisting fire arms. How was it possible? Meseems, he has a nexus with terrorists and a proper investigation is needed. I demand the Central Agency to investigate the matter." As police has kept the smart phone of Rana Biswas for investigation, to talk with him was not possible. Amjid who had shared his wi fi to Rana in Dubai, probably took him to the terrorist group that are seen in photographs. The photographs were taken on different dates in different places. It hints that Rana had a close proximity with them.

## Protests fail to halt SMC eviction drive in Burdwan Road

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** The Trinamul-board of the Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) conducted an anti-encroachment drive in Burdwan Road, a prominent thoroughfare in Siliguri, on Friday.

The eviction drive, however, was hampered for some time as some local people resorted to protests. The police intervened and brought the situation under control.

The drive was conducted to remove shanties that have come up on the road or just beside the road. A source in the SMC said that the board has taken a 'zero tolerance stand' against encroachment, as encroachment of roads and footpaths is one of the major reasons for traffic congestion in Siliguri. Previously, similar drives were conducted in Kutcheri Road, Nivedita Road, and a few other areas of the city.

"Today, our employees reached Burdwan Road with earth-movers to clear unauthorised shanties. Initially, they failed to remove the structures as some people stopped them. But later, in the presence of police, the illegal shanties were removed from the spot," said an of-

ficial of the civic body.

The state PWD is constructing a fly-over on Burdwan Road, which connects the central and southern parts of Siliguri. The civic body is also widening stretches of the existing road.

"We are taking initiatives to widen the road for smoother traffic movement. But some people are taking the opportunity to use the additional space to put up their shanties. This is unacceptable. If we allow it, the very purpose of widening the road will not be met," said a source in SMC.

The protesters, on the other hand, claimed that no prior information was given about the drive. Earlier, they had met some SMC officials and appealed to allow them to continue their trade in the locality, they said. "We went to the civic body earlier and appealed to the officials to allow us to continue our business. But without any prior intimation, the drive was conducted," said a protester.

Police intervened and dispersed the protesters who had turned aggressive and were thwarting the civic workers. Two persons were detained at the spot for trying to stop the drive, a source said.

## Caught in clash, boy shot at and loses kidney; government help eludes victim of Samserganj violence Hassan Sheikh

**MI News Service, Shamsarganj:** A stray bullet to the stomach, on the sidelines of a clash, caused the loss of a kidney for 12-year-old innocent passerby Hassan Sheikh of Samserganj, who used to help his family make ends meet from the paltry tips received for running errands at the Anupnagar Block Hospital. A stray bullet to the stomach, on the morning of April 12, changed the preteen's life forever. Sheikh is one of several instances from the strife-torn pockets of Murshidabad, on the boil earlier this month from violence and vandalism in the wake of protests against the Narendra Modi government's contentious waqf legislation. Modi's party, the BJP, has been feverishly trying to pitch the unrest as an anti-Hindu pogrom in the Muslim-majority district. On the ground in Dhulian, local sources said many people were shot at on April 12, but there have been no reports of these shootings in the mainstream media and the administration did not have any concrete information. This newspaper's inquiries in Dhulian revealed that at least 16 people were shot at that morning in the northern pocket of Murshidabad. The people had to take initiative on their own to get treatment. They said some have been and are being treated at Pakur Hospital in Jharkhand, some at Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital in Behrampur, and some at private hospitals in Murshidabad.

On the morning of April 12, the second day of the unrest, Sheikh was leaving his house and going to the block hospital, when he saw a rally on the main road in front of him, and a clash between two groups. Suddenly, a bullet hit him on the right side of his stomach, and he stooped to the ground. After the groups dispersed, some people took him to the block hospital, from where he was referred to the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital, where he spent 10 days. That is when one of his kidneys, damaged from the gunshot, had to be removed. According to the doctors, there was an infection in the

affected kidney, which would have infected the other one soon had it not been taken out. After being discharged earlier this week, Sheikh had been lying at home without postoperative treatment for three days before Trinamool Congress's MP and local businessman Khalilur Rahman went to his house at Kamate and provided assistance of Rs 50,000.

Seeing his condition, the MP had him admitted to his own private hospital, from where he was shifted to Calcutta's SSKM Hospital on Friday.

Sheikh's father Maun Sheikh said: "My wife and I make a humble living by binding bidis. We are a very poor family."

Before the injury, Hasan used to go to the Anupnagar Block Hospital every morning and run errands for the doctors and other hospital staff, in an informal arrangement. In return, they used to give him Rs 20-50 as tips. That is why he went to the hospital daily. "Nobody reached out, officially, for any help. Only (Congress leader) Adhir Chowdhury visited him at the hospital in Behrampur. Then, two days ago, Khalil saheb came and gave us 50,000 personally, and had him admitted to his own hospital," said the father.

Manish Kumar, a doctor at the Dhulian-based private hospital, said they were treating him for infection in the remaining kidney but more advanced technology is necessary. "So we have decided to refer him to the SSKM," he said.

On the same day, Dhulian's Tarbagan resident Ghulam Mainuddin, 22, was shot in both legs. Following treatment for nine days at the Murshidabad Medical College and Hospital, Mainuddin remains unable to stand up.

"The incident happened around 9am on April 12. I didn't know that there was trouble on the streets, that there was shooting. My mother is paralysed. I was walking towards the market to get her medicines. When I crossed the neighbourhood lane and reached the main road, I was shot," he said.

## TMC leader 'vandalises and loots hospital' in Cooch Behar

**MI News Service, Cooch Behar:** A Trinamool Congress leader based on the outskirts of Cooch Behar town and some others have been accused of vandalising a private nursing home and looting cash on Thursday night.

The nursing home authorities filed a complaint at the Pundibari police station on Friday.

Sankar Sinha, the director of Cooch Behar Mission Hospital Private Limited which is in Chakchakaarea on the outskirts of Cooch Behar, said in his complaint that around 10.30pm on Thursday, a group of 25-odd people led by Raju Dey, a TMC leader, had barged into the nursing home.

"They were carrying deadly weapons and vandalised our office, damaged

important medical documents and furniture, and forcibly took away 1.73.320 from the medicine cash section," Sinha mentioned in his complaint. He also claimed that when private security guards had tried to stop them, Dey and others had attacked them. Dhananjoy Roy, one of the guards, has sustained serious injuries and is under treatment at the same nursing home, the director said.

In his complaint, Sinha has named Dey, who is a member of the Trinamool-run Cooch Behar 1 panchayat samiti, and three others. The TMC leader denied the charge. According to him, Chakchaka's patient was being treated at the nursing home and was supposed to be discharged on Thursday

morning.

"However, the nursing home authorities prepared a bill of 1.61 lakh for the treatment and were not ready to release the patient. The family somehow arranged the money, and around 8pm, the patient was discharged," said Dey.

"As we learned about it, we went to the nursing home and raised the issue. It was unacceptable to detain the patient in such a manner. No one has ransacked anything or taken away cash," he added.

The nursing home authorities, however, maintained that they possessed CCTV footage to prove their point.

District TMC leaders, when contacted, were brief in their reactions. "Let the police find out the truth," one of them said.

## Bengal Police question youth in Nadia for posting photos of 'Pakistani terrorist friend'

**MI News Service, Nadia:** West Bengal Police on Saturday started questioning a youth in Nadia district for allegedly sharing photos of his "Pakistani friend, a terrorist", on social media, a senior officer said.

In the photographs, his "friend" was found with other militants holding a gun, the officer said, adding that the youth's parents were also questioned in this connection at Kotwali police station in Krishnagar. Initial probe revealed that the youth had gone to Qatar around three years ago, where he worked before returning home last year, he said. "We are talking to the youth and trying to find out whether these photographs are true or morphed. We are also talking to the parents of the youth. As of now, it seems that there is nothing to sensationalise. We are questioning him to get every detail of his acquaintance with this special friend," the

IPS officer told. Police have registered a case at the Kotwali police station in this connection, he said, adding that cyber experts were also examining the social media profile of the youth.

His mobile phone contacts and call details were being verified, he said.

The probe also revealed that the youth was asked to leave his village following an affair with a girl from the same locality when he left for Qatar three years ago.

"Our officers are also trying to find out whether he genuinely knew this person during his stay in Qatar or if he has randomly posted something to create some sensation," the officer said.

After returning from Qatar, the youth was jobless for a brief period before he left for Mumbai in search of work.

"Presently, he is staying here and we are cross-checking his claims," the officer said.

**MI News Service, Malda:** Police in Malda arrested two persons on Saturday in connection with the murder of a youth at Sikandarpur village in Amrity panchayat under the jurisdiction of Englishbazar police station on Wednesday. The two are Uttam Ghosh and Biswajit Rabidas. The sharp weapon



used in the murder has also been seized. "Both were produced in a court today (on Saturday). The court has sent them into police custody for six days. We will interrogate them to know the motive of the murder," said Samvab Jain, the additional superintendent of police (headquarters) of

Malda. Shibu Mandal alias Nimai, 25, was killed on Wednesday at around 2 am when he was on vigil along with other local youths to "prevent theft" at the locality. Surjo Mandal, another youth, had been injured in the incident. "Nimai and Surjo were vigilantes of one team guarding the village.

Uttam and Biswajit were guarding a neighbouring village. On that night, a rumour had spread that a gang of thieves had entered the village. Both teams attack each other as they mistook the other side to be a gang of thieves. This seems to have led to the murder," said a source.



India & China to resume...

►► **From PG 1**

standoff between the two sides on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.

The militaries of India and China completed disengagement of troops at the two remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang under a pact sealed on October 21 last year.

Two days later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks in the Russian city of Kazan and agreed to revive various bilateral dialogue mechanisms.

Following the Modi-Xi talks, the two sides held a series of meetings in the last few months which were aimed at normalising the bilateral relations.

In January, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited Beijing and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Sun Weidong.

In the meeting, the two sides decided to resume the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and agreed to take certain people-centric steps to "stabilise and re-

build" ties.

"This year, five batches, each consisting of 50 Yatris, and 10 batches, each consisting of 50 Yatris, are scheduled to travel through Uttarakhand State crossing over at Lipulekh Pass, and through Sikkim state crossing over at Nathu La Pass, respectively," the MEA said in the readout.

The applications for the Yatra can be submitted at the website: kmy.gov.in, it noted.

It said the Yatris will be selected from among applicants through a "fair, computer-generated, random and gender-balanced" selection process.

"Since 2015, the entire process commencing with on-line application till selection of Yatris is a fully computerised process," according to the MEA.

"Therefore, applicants do not need to send letters or fax to seek information. The feedback options on the website can be used for obtaining information, registering observations or making suggestions for improvement," it said.

SC to hear plea on banning...

►► **From PG 1**

all ages without any checks. It has sought a direction to the Centre to stop access to social media and OTT platforms until these platforms formulate a mechanism to ensure that all pornographic content is made inaccessible, especially to children and minors in India. The plea has urged the top court to constitute a committee headed by a retired apex court judge and consisting of eminent experts in the field to oversee and certify for publishing or stream-

ing contents on OTT and social media platforms on the lines of the Central Board of Film Certification until a law is enacted to regulate it. It has also sought to constitute an expert committee of reputed psychologists recognised by the Rehabilitation Council of India and other experts to conduct a nationwide study and submit a report to evaluate the adverse impact of sexually explicit content on those consuming such content and its after effects on society at large.

Pahalgam effect: Muslim patient alleges Hindu doctor's refusal of treatment

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A 27-year-old pregnant Muslim woman in Kolkata was allegedly refused treatment by a doctor who told her she would not treat "Mohammedan" patients in the wake of the terror attack on tourists in Kashmir.

The doctor allegedly said people from the patient's religion were killing people from hers.

The pregnant woman, who was visiting the gynaecologist for the fifth check-up on Thursday afternoon, was silent during the interaction but later called the doctor, who iterated that she was not going to treat a Muslim patient.

The woman's husband has lodged a complaint with Maheshtala police station, on the south-western fringes of Calcutta. He also wrote to the state medical council.

The doctor refuted the allegations when The Telegraph called her on Saturday. She said she was being defamed and threatened a defamation suit against the patient and her family.

The doctor and the patient are both residents of an upscale housing complex in Maheshtala.

Instances of abuse of Muslims following the attack in Pahalgam have been rampant. Instead of directing their anger at insurgents, many have cho-

sen Indian Muslims as targets after the dastardly crime.

"The doctor had herself asked my wife to come to her flat as we live in the same complex. When she heard my wife's full name, the doctor told her she won't treat Mohammedan patients. My wife could not understand what the doctor was saying because she never expected her to say such a thing," said the husband.

The family thinks the doctor knew the woman by her first name and not her religious identity.

"My wife asked the doctor if she was saying that she won't examine her at home, but the doctor again said she won't treat Muslim patients," the husband, an optometrist, told.

"She told my wife that people of our religion were killing people from her religion," he said.

The woman, a homemaker, who went to the doctor with her three-year-old daughter, was so shocked that she could not respond to the doctor at that moment. She came back and took her daughter to a mall. Later, when she returned home, she was still fuming at the insult. She called the doctor.

"My wife told her that she felt insulted at what the doctor told her. She told her she was a patient, and to a doctor a patient has no religion."

WB STF nabs man with counterfeit notes worth Rs 2.8 lakh

**MI News Service:** The Special Task Force (STF) of the West Bengal Police thwarted an attempt to smuggle a significant amount of Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) at Shalimar Railway Station, recovering a huge cache of counterfeit notes. Acting swiftly on a tip-off, the STF team conducted a raid at the station and arrested a man identified as 33-year-old Soumen Pal, a resident of Daulatabad in Murshidabad district. A thorough

search of his luggage led to the recovery of counterfeit notes with a face value of Rs 2.8 lakh, all in Rs 500 denominations. Police said that during preliminary interrogation, Pal admitted he had procured the counterfeit notes from a contact in Murshidabad. He was preparing to board an express train bound for Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai, where he intended to deliver the fake currency to his associates for profit.



Students entering the exam center to take the joint entrance examination in Kolkata on Sunday.

NIA team visits Pahalgam victim Sameer Guha's residence

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A team from the national investigation agency visited the home of Sameer Guha, one of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack.

A three-member team of the agency, led by a woman of the rank of deputy superintendent of police, reached the Guha home at Behala Sakherbazar.

"The team spent over four hours recording the statements of Sameer's wife Sabari and their daughter, Subhangi," said an NIA officer.

"They are eyewitnesses. Their accounts are very important," the officer said.

Sources in the agency said they were asked in detail about what transpired on April 22, when gun-



men launched a brutal attack on tourists at the picturesque Baisaran Valley. "The two were asked about the number of gunmen, whether they said anything or if they named any organisation," said an agency source.

Sameer, a statistical officer posted at the CGO complex in Salt Lake, was slain by the gunmen in

front of Sabari and Subhangi.

His daughter told a neighbour on Wednesday that one of the gunmen asked before shooting if he was "Modi's man".

NIA sources said the mother and daughter wondered why there was no security at Baisaran Valley. "They said they could not see a single police or soldier," said a source.

NIA teams have been sent to different states to record the statements of the kin of the Pahalgam victims. Three of them are from Bengal. The other two victims were Bitan Adhikary, who was an engineer from the city based in Florida, and Manish Ranjan, who was an officer with the Intelligence Bureau posted in Hyderabad. He hailed from Jhalda in Purulia.

State govt suffers utter shortage of drivers & conductors

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The state government is struggling to find drivers and conductors for its buses. A first tender, which was floated recently, saw only one agency responding. The transport department has decided to give it a second try.

Many buses now lie parked in depots because there isn't enough manpower to run them on the roads.

In January, in the aftermath of chief minister Mamata Banerjee slamming the state transport minister for not having enough buses on the roads, officials from the transport and finance departments met police officers to find a way to make more buses available on the city's roads.

Transport department bosses argued that close to 400 state buses could not be operated because there weren't enough drivers and conductors.

Many among the existing strength had age-related challenges,

particularly with their eyesight, and around 20 conductors and drivers were retiring from their jobs almost every month.

"Realising the dearth of conductors and drivers in running state buses, the government agreed to appoint over 480 drivers and around 400 conductors. The recruitments would be done through an agency which will be selected from a tender based on the rates they plan to charge the government for providing these personnel," a senior officer of the finance department said.

The transport department floated a tender recently seeking applications from agencies experienced in providing trained manpower.

The tender document said drivers would be within 40 years of age, must have cleared Class VIII and possess a valid licence for driving heavy commercial vehicles. The state government will pay a consolidated monthly salary of around 16,000.

Conductors must have cleared Madhyamik, be within 40 years of age and possess a valid conductor licence. The government will pay a fixed monthly amount of around 13,500.

The remuneration, many would feel, is not commensurate with the demands of the job.

"There appears to be a dearth of professional agencies that can provide drivers and conductors to run buses. Since only one of the agencies responded to the tender, it had to be cancelled. We have decided to float a second one," an official of the transport department said.

"We understand there is a gap in the demand and supply of state buses. Unless

more conductors and drivers are recruited, it will be difficult to bridge it," he said. "Even if an agency is selected, the recruitment process will take time, and we want to shorten it as much as possible."

State sets record in MSME bank lending

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Mamata Banerjee government has achieved a record in bank lending to the MSME sector during the 2024-25 fiscal. Bank lending this year reached Rs 1.82 lakh crore, surpassing the target of Rs 1.52 lakh crore. The target for fiscal 2024-25 was set at the first meeting of the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) held in June 2024 soon after the Lok Sabha polls. According to a senior Nabanna official in the 2023-24 fiscal, the bank lending was to Rs 1.42 lakh crore slightly higher than the target of Rs 1.40 lakh crore. As per projections by the Union government, against an investment of Rs 1 crore, 37 people get employed in the MSME sector.

Hence the huge lending to the

MSME sector will generate more employment which is always being emphasised by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Before Mamata Banerjee assumed power in 2011, the lending by banks was only Rs 8387 crore. Bank lending in MSME takes place in various sectors including agriculture, agri-allied sectors, fisheries, animal resources development, self-help-group, food processing industries, horticulture etc. The government had laid special emphasis on speeding up the disbursement of loans under various schemes mostly the Bhabishyat Credit Card (BCC) project where the pendency was on the higher side till December 2024.. However, a special drive in March this year ensured disbursement of loan against 28,000

applications out of 40,000 sanctioned with the amount being Rs 590 crore.

The BSS is a scheme for young entrepreneurs in the age group 18-55 years offering subsidy-linked and collateral-free loans for setting up new ventures/ projects/ micro enterprises in manufacturing, service and business / trading/ agro-based activities. Eligible applicants can take a business loan of up to 5 lakhs to start a business. Seed money of up to Rs 25000 is provided by the government. The applications were received from April 1, 2023. There are 89 lakh MSMEs in the state that employ over 1.36 crore people. 47.11 per cent of MSMEs are in the manufacturing sector with the employment being 70 lakh.

Digha Jagannath Temple: Rituals for consecration ceremony has already begun says Mamata

**MI News Service, Digha/Kolkata:** With the entire state eyeing the grand inauguration of the Jagannath Temple in Digha on April 30, 2025, on the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on social media announced that the rituals leading up to the 'Pran Pratistha' have already started. Kalash Yatra has already been performed. Banerjee in a post on X said: "With hearts filled with deep devotion, we prepare to welcome Lord Jagannath into our midst. On the auspicious occasion of Akshaya Tritiya, the Lord's humble abode in Digha will be inaugurated." She fur-

ther pointed out: "The rituals leading up to the Pran Pratistha have commenced. The Kalash Yatra was performed with heartfelt participation from devotees." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee will lead the ceremony, marking a major religious and cultural milestone for the state. The temple, dedicated to Lord Jagannath and his siblings Balabhadra and Subhadra, has been modelled after the renowned Jagannath Temple in Puri, Odisha. It spans 22 acres near the Digha railway station and has been developed with an estimated cost of Rs 250 crore, funded by the state government.

6 month window to apply as thika tenants: Mayor

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Fresh applications to be enlisted as thika tenants, a process that was not being allowed since 2014, will be opened for a six-month window from May 1, mayor Firhad Hakim announced.

All registered slums — which the state government has renamed as Utartan — will also be enlisted as thika properties, Hakim added.

"The cabinet has given its approval to take fresh applications for enlistment as thika tenants. This process had been stopped several years ago. A six-month window to submit fresh applications will be opened from May 1," Hakim said.

An official of the state government said every thika praja (tenant) had to submit a return to the

thika controller. The return had details like name, parents' name, area of the thika under the tenant's custody, the zamindar from whom the tenant got the thika land and the location of the thika land.

"Fresh applications have not been taken since 2014. Several people who were ignorant of this requirement were not receiving any civic services without this certificate. Whenever they went to the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) for mutation or for a building, the KMC asked them first to obtain the certificate," said the official.

Hakim said there were 3,079 registered slums in Calcutta. He said all of them would be enlisted as thika land to help stop the eviction of dwellers for real estate projects.



First Working Committee meeting of Junior doctors Association at shyambazar. on Sunday.

WBSSC sends list of probable anomalies to Edu dept

**MI News Service, Kolkata/Howrah:** The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) has sent a list of probable anomalies related to 'untainted' teachers, appointed through the 2016 State Level Selection Test (SLST), to the state School Education Department for verification, officials con-

another school, which was not updated in the records. In some instances, teachers were wrongly marked as non-joining. These cases have now been flagged," an official said. Schools have been instructed to stop the salaries of teachers whose names do not appear on the 'untainted' list. Group C and



firmed. Earlier this week, the WBSSC had sent a list of 15,403 teachers found 'untainted' out of 17,206 recruited through the 2016 process.

However, several discrepancies were flagged soon after the list was circulated among district inspectors of schools (DIs). Several eligible teachers alleged that their names were missing, while some, whose appointments had earlier been cancelled, found their names in the list. Schools also pointed out that certain names on the list did not match any existing staff member.

Following complaints, the WBSSC reviewed the records and identified probable anomalies. Officials said the anomalies list has been forwarded to the School Education department, which, along with DIs, is expected to verify and rectify the errors. "It is not possible for the SSC to fix these discrepancies directly. In many cases, the SSC database showed a teacher at one school, but the teacher was working at

Group D staff recruited through the 3rd Regional Level Selection Test (RLST) will also face salary stoppages, as they have not received relief from the Supreme Court.

However, physically handicapped (PH) teaching and non-teaching staff will continue receiving salaries. Heads of institutions have been instructed to carefully check if teachers transferred into their schools are included in the 'untainted' list of their original districts. Salary bills for this month must be prepared only after thorough verification to ensure eligible staff receive payments, officials said. Meanwhile, a group of teachers and non-teaching staff, under the banner of the "United Teaching and Non-Teaching Forum", staged a sit-in outside Education minister Bratya Basu's residence on Saturday, alleging their exclusion from the 'untainted' list due to unresolved discrepancies in their OMR sheets. They questioned the salary stoppage despite no proven charges.



**Name Change**  
I, Zafar Ahmed (old name) son of Sayeed Ahmed, residing at 10/2H/27, Kabitirtha Sarani, P.O.- Khidderpore, P.S.- Watgunge, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Zaffar Ahmed (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 26/04/2025. Zaffar Ahmed (New Name) and Zafar Ahmed (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Bakul Pramanik (Old Name) Son Of Mallick Pramanick, Residing At Vill - Kashipur,Po - Borbari,Ps - Bagdah, North 24 parganas - 743 270, West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bakul Pramanick (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 4207 Sworn Before The Ld A.C.J.M At Bongao On 12/04/2024. That Bakul Pramanick And Bakul Pramanick Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Pintu Singh (Old Name), Son Of Bihari Prasad Singh, Residing At 1 Ramchandra Das Lane,Ramkrishnapur,Howrah - 711101,West Bengal,Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pintu Kumar Singh (New Name )Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 25/04/2025. That Pintu Singh And Pintu Kumar Singh Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Ashim Kumar Bagani (Old Name),Son Of Adhir Bagani,Residing At Vill - Barbaria Colony, Dhanata, Nadia - 741501,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ashim Bagani(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/04/2025. That Ashim Kumar Bagani And Ashim Bagani Both Are The Same And One Identical Person Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rahaman Nazreem (Old Name), Wife Of Late Gazi Mohibor Rahaman,Residing At Arrjavv,Flat No - 3g,Block - 4,3rd Floor, Khasmallick,Po - South Gobindapur, South 24 parganas - 700145,West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nasreen Gazi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/04/2025. That Rahaman Nazreem And Nasreen Gazi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rahamatulla Sk (old name) son of Hafjuddin Sekh, residing at Vill.- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayetnagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rahamatulla Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore, South 24 Parganas, dated 24/04/2025. Rahamatulla Sekh (New Name) and Rahamatulla Sk (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Barjan Ali Sekh (old name) son of Mujit Sekh, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Chandl, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bar Jahan Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore, South 24 Parganas, dated 17/04/2025. Bar Jahan Sekh (New Name) and Barjan Ali Sekh (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sufiya Bibi (old name) wife of Barjahan Sk, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Chandl, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Supiya Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore, South 24 Parganas, dated 17/04/2025. Supiya Bibi (New Name) and Sufiya Bibi (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sangita Bhuwania (old name) Wife Of Manoj Kumar Bhuwania, residing at 279 G.T.ROAD(NORTH) 4TH FLOOR, SALKIA, HOWRAH- 711106, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sangeeta Bhuwania (new name) as declared before the notary public at kolkata, dated 26/04/2025. Sangeeta Bhuwania (new name ) and Sangita Bhuwania (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mina Lal Jain (old name) son of Late Sohan Lal Lunia, residing at 59/3, KINGS ROAD, HOWRAH, WEST BENGAL, PIN- 711101, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Minna Lal Jain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 26/04/2025. Minna Lal Jain (New Name) and Mina Lal Jain (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Sandip Jain (old name) son of Minna Lal Jain, residing at Bl-5/2, FLAT 10A, 49A MANMOHAN BANERJEE ROAD, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL, PIN- 700038, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sandip Kumar Jain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, dated 26/04/2025. Sandip Kumar Jain (New Name) and Sandip Jain (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Amar Kumar Basak (old name) son of Late Haripada Basak, residing at 9B, Jadu Mitra Lane, Kolkata- 700004, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amar Basak (new name) as declared before the Id. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide affidavit No. 564 dated 03/04/2025. Amar Kumar Basak (old name) and Amar Basak (new name) both are same and one identical person.

## Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) inspected Esplanade to Sealdah Section of Green Line



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Shri Sumeet Singhal, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) , NF Circle inspected the Esplanade-Sealdah section of Green Line today by undertaking detailed inspection of all the sub-systems, viz., track, tunnel, tunnel ventilation, train, emergency response features of Metro train operation; a pre-requisite for opening of any Metro section for passenger services. Shri Anuj Mittal, MD KMRCL & Principal Chief Engineer/Metro Railway and other high-level officials of Metro Railway and KMRCL accompanied CRS during this inspection.CRS expressed satisfaction on the readiness of the completed section for passenger service. On receipt of the formal sanction of the CRS, commissioning of entire 16.55-KM length of Green Line from Salt Lake Sector V to Howrah Maidan will be planned.

## CII aligns with States' economic & social development vision

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** CII West Bengal State Council presented a comprehensive agenda, encompassing a wide array of projects, objectives, and initiatives aimed at driving sustainable economic growth and development in the state. Debashis Dutta, Chairman, CII West Bengal State Council and Director, BGS Group, stated that CII West Bengal compliments and congratulates the initiatives taken by the State Government and also for its proactive measures in economic development, infrastructure improvement, and social welfare. Dutta highlighted the successful completion of the State's investor summit – BGBS and the implementation of policies, benefiting the state's industrial parks and economic corridors. CII complimenting the Government initiative of a single window synergy portal to

increase the confidence of the investors in the state. He commended Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's various social upliftment programs, such as Swasthya Sathi, Lakshmir Bhandar, Kanyashree, Duare Sarkar, etc, which has gone a long way in securing educational and financial independence for women, as well as addressing healthcare issue at the grassroots.

CII has submitted a comprehensive vision report which highlights existing and potential opportunities in the state and initiatives required to tap its full potential. Dutta emphasized that as the state being the second largest MSME hub of the country, CII will work closely with the Government to strengthen the MSME ecosystem by connecting them with large scale industries and creating business linkages.

An effort will be made to engage the MSMEs with CII's centres of excellence, widening the spectrum of their business endeavours and create more awareness about the GeM & TReDs portals. CII has put forward a cluster-based approach aimed at strengthening capacity development and market linkages within the leather, textile, gems and jewellery, and engineering industries. Furthermore, a district development plan for North Bengal has been recommended to support regional growth.

The Chairman further highlighted the Council's commitment to fostering environmentally conscious practices within the business community. Plans have been mapped to make reports and publications focusing on Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) preparedness among MSMEs, highlighting the importance of integrating sustainability into business operations for long-term growth.

The ESG Helpdesk, promoted by the West Bengal State Council, will remain our focus to help MSME stakeholders create the ESG framework, he said. Rupak Barua, Vice Chairman, West Bengal State Council and MD & CEO of Woodlands Hospital, stressed on the significance of training, competitions and awards to enhance competitiveness and efficiency. Proposed workshops are aimed at equipping MSMEs with the necessary skills for export business, leveraging statistical tools to increase productivity, build competitiveness among shopfloor workers, among others.



Several Awareness Campaigns have been conducted over Eastern Railway to bring awareness regarding safety rules to be followed while passing or approaching any Level

## ER urges strict adherence to Safety Norms at Level Crossing Gates

**413 Persons arrested by RPF of Eastern Railway in FY 2024-25 under Section:160 (2) of Railways Act for breaking safety rules at Level Crossings**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Eastern Railway once again appeals to all road users to exercise extreme caution and strictly adhere to safety norms while approaching and crossing level crossing gates. In recent months, a good number of cases of safety violations at level crossings has been observed, including instances of road vehicles forcibly crossing or even damaging closed gates.It has been observed that several road vehicles are indulging in reckless driving near level crossings, ignoring the closing signals of the gate booms, and in many cases, colliding with the gates. These dangerous actions not only pose a severe threat to the lives of the violators and others but also cause significant disruptions to both

rail and road traffic. Damage to gate barriers and associated infrastructure delays train schedules and causes inconvenience to thousands of passengers.As per Section 160 of the Railways Act:1) If any person, other than a railway servant or a person authorised in this behalf, opens any gate or chain or barrier set up on either side of a level crossing which is closed to road traffic, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years.2) If any person breaks any gate or chain or barrier set up on either side of a level crossing which is closed to road traffic, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years.From April 2024 to March 2025, an alarming 505 cases were registered under Section 160(2) of the Railways Act for breaking or damaging level crossing gates. These incidents have led to

the arrest of 413 persons for offences related to gate-breaking and reckless driving.Eastern Railway reiterates that all road users must:• Halt at a safe distance as soon as the level crossing gate begins to close. • Keep their eyes and ears alert to approaching trains. • Under no circumstances attempt to cross the tracks when the gate is closed or in the process of closing.Public cooperation is crucial to ensure safety for all and to prevent unnecessary accidents and legal consequences. Eastern Railway time and again conducted campaigns to bring awareness among the road users regarding rules to be followed at Level Crossings. Eastern Railway strongly urges all to follow safety rules at level crossings — not just for legal compliance, but also for the safety of every life on the road and rail.Let us work together to ensure safe travel for all.

## Sealdah division organises Cleanliness Awareness Programmes at Barasat & Berhampore Court Stations



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In an effort to promote greater awareness about station cleanliness and environmental hygiene, Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway successfully organised Cleanliness Awareness Programmes today, i.e., on 26.04.2025, at Barasat and Berhampore Court stations. The campaigns witnessed enthusiastic participation from the Commercial, Health, and Environment & Housekeeping Management (EnHM) departments. Station staff, including the Station Superintendent, Station Master, Railway Protection Force (RPF) personnel, health staff and cleaning staff of both stations, actively took part in the initiative.During the programmes, extensive awareness activities were undertaken to sensitise ven-

dors, passengers, and station users about the importance of maintaining cleanliness across platforms and other station premises. An interactive sessions carried out to spread the message of "Clean Station, Green Nation". Vendors were specifically advised to maintain cleanliness around their stalls, and passengers were urged to dispose of waste responsibly in designated dustbins.Special emphasis was laid on collective responsibility and the role of every individual in keeping the railway premises clean and hygienic.

Eastern Railway remains steadfast in its mission to maintain clean, safe, and passenger-friendly stations, ensuring a pleasant and comfortable journey experience for all.

## Airtel vows to fight against SPAM

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Following the launch of its AI powered spam detection tool that flagged over 27.5 Billion calls as SPAM to its customers, Airtel recently announced the introduction of two significant enhancements aimed at staying ahead of spammers. Customers will now receive SPAM alerts for calls and SMS messages in their preferred Indian languages. This new feature will be available in ten vernacular languages, with plans to add more in the future.

Airtel's AI-powered tool will now screen and alert customers to all SPAM calls and SMSes originating from international networks. Once Airtel intensified its efforts to combat domestic spam calls, scamsters and spammers resorted to exploiting foreign networks to funnel fraudulent calls into India. This alarming trend resulted in a 12% increase in overseas spam calls in the last six months. Airtel expects to nullify this growing challenge with its new feature. Commenting on the initiative, Siddharth Sharma, Director Marketing and CEO Connected Homes, Bharti Airtel, said: "With the growing volume of SPAM traffic shifting to foreign networks, we have decided to expand our AI-powered tool to scan all SMS messages and phone calls originating from international numbers."

## Cancellation Of Emu Special Trains

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The service of 08113/08114 Howrah-Digha- Howrah EMU Special and 08115/08116 Panskura-Digha-Panskura EMU Special, which were notified to run from 26.04.2025 to 04.05. 2025, have now been cancelled with immediate effect till further advice, due to want of rake and operational constraints.

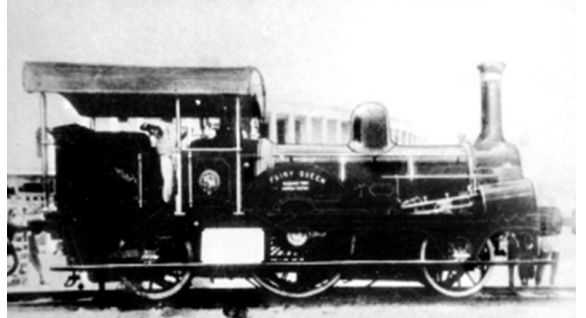
## Chandrima Bhat-tacharya gives away awards to young women achievers from Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** In a star-studded night at Kolkata, Chandrima Bhat-tacharya, Minister for health and family welfare, Land and land reforms, refugee and rehabilitation, government of West Bengal recently handed over awards to respective women achievers of West Bengal in different domains. Pratima Poddar, Tumpa Das, Taniya Sanyal, and Debjani Mukherjee , the recipients of the awards of the evening were conferred with respective awards for their glorious achievements in their social life and inspiring many in their goals to achieve success. They overcame all sorts of impediments and achieved unimaginable success as women and sent strong and loud messages of women empowerment. The programme was organized by Abha Surgy Centre in the title of 'Anyatama-Anya Naarir Golpo Award'.

Minister Chandrima applauded the winners and also thanked the organizers for their extensive philanthropic mission. She also emphasized that the government of West Bengal under the leadership of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee would always be there for anything which eventually is meant for the social development of the state.

## Miscellaneous

### Article on 100 years service of Howrah Division - History of transition from steam to electric



Steam locomotive – The Fairly Queen



First Electric train leaving Howrah in 1957

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway marks its centenary in 2025, the transformation of Howrah Division from steam-powered engines to electric traction is one of the most significant milestones in the history of Indian Railways. This evolution was driven by the growth of the city of Calcutta even after the British India Capital shifted to Delhi. Growing industrialization, vicinity to the coal and mineral belts and availability of effective modes of transportation including railways and waterways all helped in the growth of the city. Calcutta's expanding suburbs and increased congestion in the city made it evident that the existing steam-powered suburban trains, particularly those running in Howrah and Sealdah, had reached their limits. The adoption of electric traction was seen as the most efficient way to handle the rising volume of passengers and freight without the need to lay down new tracks or expand the existing infrastructure extensively. In June 1954, the Railway Board sanctioned the electrification of a 3000v DC traction system.However, advancements in global railway technology led to a change in these initial

plans. The French Railway's successful adoption of a 25 KV AC system, followed by Britain and Japan, set a new standard for efficiency and performance. In light of these international developments, India revised its electrification plans and opted for the 25 KV AC system, which was more reliable and suitable for long-distance operations.

In the early days, Howrah was home to some of the most iconic steam trains, including the Fairy Queen. These steam-powered locomotives marked a period of



innovation and development in Indian railway history. However, by the mid-20th century, as the city's industrial landscape grew rapidly, so did the population and the demand for transport which eventually led to the switch from Steam Engines to Electric traction. This switch to electric traction transformed Howrah Division into a modern, efficient transport hub. The shift from steam to electric traction alleviated congestion, reduced air pollution, and improved overall railway operations. Today, Howrah stands as a testament to this remarkable transformation, with electric trains being the backbone of its extensive suburban and long-distance services.

## NTPC appoints Anil Kumar Trigunayat as independent dir

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** NTPC said it has appointed Anil Kumar Trigunayat as Additional Director (Independent Director) on the board of the company. The board approved his appointment for a period of one year with effect from the date of notification of the power

ministry's order or until further orders, whichever is earlier, it said in a BSE filing. Trigunayat was an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer. He served in the Indian Missions in Cote d'Ivoire, Bangladesh, Mongolia, the US, Russia, Sweden and Nigeria, Libya and Jordan.

The South India Co-operative Credit Society Ltd.					
(Registration. No. 04, dated 26/04/1927)					
Dharsa, Manshatala, P.O.-G.I.P. Colony, Howrah – 711112					
SCHEDULE FOR ELECTION TO THE DELEGATES					
Sl. no.	Particulars of the Election Programme	Date	Place	Time	Name/Post of the Assigned Person(s)
1	Issuance of Nomination Papers	29/04/2025 & 30/04/2025	Office of the Society	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Authorized Person/ A.R.O.
2	Filing of Nomination Papers	02/05/2025 & 03/05/2025	Office of the Society	11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Authorized Person/ A.R.O.
3	Scrutiny of Nomination Papers	05/05/2025	Office of the Society	12:00 noon onwards	A.R.O.
4	Publication of List of Valid Nominations	05/05/2025	Notice Board of the Society	Immediately after the Completion of Scrutiny	A.R.O.
5	Last Date of Withdrawal of Candidature	06/05/2025	Office of the Society	Up to 3:00 p.m.	A.R.O.
6	Publication of Final List of valid Candidates' after withdrawal	06/05/2025	Notice Board of the Society	After 3:00 p.m.	A.R.O.
7	Date, Time & Place of Poll	25/05/2025	Head Office & other branches of the society	11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Polling Personnel
8	Counting of Votes	25/05/2025	Head Office & other branches of the society	Immediately after the poll	Polling Personnel & Counting Personnel
9	Declaration of Results	25/05/2025	Office Premises of the society	Immediately after the Counting	A.R.O.
Sd/- SURAJIT SAHA & MRINAL KANTI KUNDU Assistant Returning Officer(s) The South India Co-operative Credit Society Ltd.					



## Fear of Sun temple collapse: ASI stalls plan to remove sand

**MI News Service, Cuttack:** Fear of collapse of the 13th century Sun Temple at Konark has forced the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) to delay its decision to remove the sand from the temple's assembly hall, official sources said. Although the decision was made to evacuate the sand from the temple, known as Black Pagoda, located near the Bay of Bengal, three years ago, no work has been done to that effect so far.

The delay in the evacuation of sand from the Jagmohan or the assembly hall has already caused a lot of damage to the closed structures inside it. Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH), Odisha chapter, has asked the Odisha government to initiate a discussion with the ASI and ensure that the sand is evacuated from Jagmohan. Between 1900 and 1903, the British filled Jagmohan and closed all the doors with sand to prevent the Sun Temple from collapsing.

"An endoscopy of the temple by putting a camera inside the sanctum sanctorum from the top through grilling of the structure was done. The sand was settled and subsided by 17 feet. It needs to be topped with the new sand by evacuating the 100-year-old sand. But who will bell the cat? The temple is associated with the feelings of the crores of people. It's attached to the Odia Asmita (Odia Pride). If during the removal of the sand, the structure collapses, the critic will term you as the Kalapahada, or if it turns out to be a success, people will equate you as Dharmapada," said a senior official of ASI.

Kalapahada is a historical character who had attacked the temple in Odisha and did not even spare the Puri Jagannath Temple in 1568. Dharmapada was the 12-year-old boy who put the crown on the temple of Konark and later jumped into the sea so that the 1200 sculptors involved in the work be saved from the wrath of the then king. The king did not know that a little boy was able to put the crown whereas the sculptors failed. State convenor, INTACH and former director general of police, AB Tripathy told: "The evacuation of sand from the Sun Temple is very much an issue for us. I have already sought an appointment with the culture minister to this effect. The decision to evacuate the sand was taken during an international conference in 2010 while carrying an assessment on structural stability. Later in 2020, the then Union tourism minister Prahlad Singh Patel came and announced categorically that the sand would be evacuated." He added: "But for strange reasons, no progress has been made to this effect. The sand inside the Jagmohan has already subsided and the lateral thrust on the structural walls is a matter of concern." The Sun Temple at Konark was buried in dunes up to a good height till 1902-03, when the British engineers started the conservation works.

"After the sand was removed, an access was created to the core, the hall side of the Jagmohan. The four columns at 1/4th points had collapsed. The iron beams connecting the four columns serially had fallen down and the stones from the roofs supported by the columns were strewn all over the floor. Though the sloped roof was standing, stones were falling from the inner side, affecting the geometry of the sloped plates. At this point of time, the conservation measures to handle such a situation were non-existent. Therefore, the engineers had no option but to inscribe dry rubble masonry, and then the core was filled up with sand, first from the sides and then from the top," said a senior official. "Without this measure, more stones would have fallen from the core and the temple might have collapsed. However, access to the core has been lost from 1906 onwards.



Indian-Americans hold a vigil to pay tribute to the victims of the Pahalgam terrorist attack , in Houston, Texas, USA.

## Pahalgam attack: Kashmiri students face pan India backlash

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** An increasing number of incidents of Kashmiri students across India being beaten, threatened, evicted, and told to leave or face consequences are being reported from a number of states after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam. The aftermath of Pahalgam attack still haunts everybody and it has become a huge problem for Kashmiri students too in pan India basis. The J&K Students Association (JKSA) issued an advisory asking Kashmiri students to maintain caution. "Refrain from engaging in political discussions or posting sensitive content on social media platforms as such actions could provoke a backlash or expose them to harm," the statement read.

Incidents of retaliatory hate are being reported across social media platforms, from college campuses, hostels and rented homes in states like Punjab, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. One such incident was highlighted from a college in Derabassi, Punjab, where Kashmiri students were allegedly attacked in their hostel. "Local individuals and other students forcefully entered the hostel at midnight, targeting Kashmiri students with sharp weapons. Their clothes were torn, and at least

one student sustained serious injuries. Shockingly, the college security remained passive during the entire episode, failing to intervene or protect the students. Even more concerning is the fact that Punjab police did not provide timely protection or assistance, further emboldening the attackers and leaving students vulnerable and traumatized," Nasir Khuehami, national convener of the JKSA, wrote on X.

In Uttarakhand, he said, an outfit called the Hindu Raksha Dal gave Kashmiri students an ultimatum to leave or be attacked. Video footage purportedly showed mobs chanting "Kashmiri mullo, wapas jao! (Go back Kashmiri mullahs)" Khuehami wrote in another post: "We urge Uttarakhand chief minister to intervene immediately and ensure the safety and security of Kashmiri students across the state." In Prayagraj, landlords asked students to vacate immediately, citing security concerns. Some students already returned home under pressure.

"This is alarming. Prayagraj is a sensitive region, and there are growing fears of harassment and profiling. Fringe elements must not be allowed to target innocent Kashmiris. Their safety, dignity, and right

to reside anywhere in India must be protected," Khuehami posted on X. Distress calls came from Kashmiri students in Himachal Pradesh's Arni University, who said they were being harassed, abused, and physically attacked by right-wing elements.

"Hostel doors are being forcefully broken down, and students are being intimidated, labelled as 'Atankwadi' (terrorists), and coerced to vacate their accommodation under threats and violence. This is not just a security issue; it is a deliberate and targeted campaign of hate and vilification against students from a particular region and identity. The silence of local authorities is enabling this reign of fear. It reflects a dangerous collapse of law and order, emboldening mobs and right-wing elements to act with impunity. Educational institutions must be safe spaces, not battlegrounds of hate," Khuehami said. He said that he spoke to Rahul Gandhi's office, and was assured that the leader of Opposition will raise the matter with the prime minister and Union home minister. "I have been informed he will demand immediate intervention to ensure the safety and security of Kashmiri students across the country," he said.

## India must create 8 mill jobs per yr for 2047 growth goal: Chief Eco Adv

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India has to generate 8 million jobs per year at least for the next 10-12 years and raise the share of manufacturing in GDP as it strives to achieve the vision of becoming a developed country by 2047. Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India V Anantha Nageswaran said.

"We have a vision to achieve a developed India by 2047. The biggest challenge, apart from India's size, is that the external environment is not going to be so benign for the next 10-20 years as one might have had in the last 30 years, starting from 1990 or so," Nageswaran said.

"But within this context - that's a given, you can't choose your external environment beyond a point - we have to generate 8 million jobs per year at least for the next 10 to 12 years...And raise the manufacturing share of GDP, in the context of China having achieved such a tremendous manufacturing dominance, especially post-COVID," he said. Nageswaran was addressing the Columbia India Summit 2025 hosted by the Deepak and Neera Raj Centre on Indian Economic Policies at the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. He outlined that artificial intelligence, technology, and robotics are challenges that some of the developed countries of today do not have to face in their developmental journey.

"But India, with its size, has to navigate this huge, complex challenge, and there are no easy answers. If you look at the number of jobs we need to create, it's about 8 million jobs a year. And Artificial Intelligence may have a big role in taking away entry-level jobs, or low IT-enabled services jobs may come under threat," he said. He added that "it is one thing to prepare the population for a world dominated by AI, but it is another thing to ensure that "we find the right balance between labour-centric policies and technology, because technology at the end of the day is not just a choice to be made by technologists. It has to be made by public policymakers."

As India moves towards achieving the vision of 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047, the centennial year of its independence, it has to plug Indian businesses into global value chains as well as create a viable small and medium enterprise sector because manufacturing and MSME both go together. "Countries that became manufacturing powerhouses did not do so without having a viable small and medium enterprise sector," he said.

## India owes Ambedkar for spirit of justice: RSS chief Bhagwat

**MI News Service, Nagpur:** RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat gave a call to Sangh workers to uphold and propagate principles critical for social harmony and national resurgence. Bhagwat stressed the urgent need to revive and reconstruct traditional Indian family values, which he described as the "bedrock of Indian society." He said familial practices rooted in ancient Indian traditions, such as regular shared mealtimes, were pivotal in shaping the moral fabric of society. A second key principle highlighted by Bhagwat was the promotion of 'Samrasta' -- a spirit of social harmony. He urged RSS pracharakas to actively work towards eliminating caste-based discrimination, calling it a divisive force that weakens the social fabric. Bhagwat also praised Dr B R Ambedkar for his role in laying the foundation of a socially cohesive and equitable India. "The nation is indebted to Ambedkar for infusing a

spirit of reform and justice in modern India," he said. On economic matters, the RSS chief underscored the importance of reviving the spirit of 'Swadeshi', urging people to patronise domestically manufactured products rooted in indigenous traditions and skills. He said the Swadeshi ethos not only strengthens the economy but also preserves cultural heritage. Bhagwat called for greater attention to environmental conservation. He highlighted the need to protect India's natural heritage, including its wildlife and traditional systems of water management like village ponds and lakes, which he said were under threat due to modern lifestyles. Bhagwat stressed the fostering of 'Civic Responsibility' and emphasised that every citizen has a duty to contribute to nation-building in their everyday conduct. "Civic sense must become a part of our national character," he said.

## Scientists for 'angstrom-scale' chips to revolutionize semiconductor industry

**MI News Service, Bengaluru:** A team of 30 scientists from India's premier institute, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), has submitted a proposal to the government to develop 'angstrom-scale' chips, far smaller than the smallest chips currently in production. The team has submitted the proposal to the government for developing technologies using a new class of semiconductor materials, called 2D Materials, that could enable chip sizes as small as one-tenth of the smallest chips currently in global production and develop India's leadership in semiconductors.

Currently, semiconductor manufacturing is dominated by silicon-based technologies, led by advanced nations such as the US, Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan.

"A team of scientists at IISc submitted a detailed project report (DPR) to the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) in April 2022, which was revised and submitted again in October 2024. The report was later shared with the Ministry of Electronics and IT. The project promises to develop angstrom-scale chips, far smaller than the smallest chips in production today," a source in the government familiar with the proposal told.

The DPR proposes the development of 2D semiconductors using ultrathin materials like graphene and transition metal dichalcogenides (TMDs). These materials can enable chip fabrication at the angstrom scale, significantly smaller than current nanometer-scale technologies. The smallest chip currently in production is the 3-nanometer node, manufactured by companies like Samsung and MediaTek. A brief summary of the 2D materials project -- which aims to replace silicon, is available on the website of the PSA's office.

Sources in the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) confirmed that the proposal has been under discussion.

"MeitY is positive about the project. The Principal Scientific Adviser and Secretary, MeitY, have held meetings on it. MeitY is exploring the electronics applications where such technology can be deployed. This is a collaborative effort that requires due diligence at every step," an official aware of the matter said. India cur-

rently relies heavily on foreign players for semiconductor manufacturing -- a technology that is strategic from both an economic and national security standpoint.

The country's largest semiconductor project, being set up by Tata Electronics in partnership with Taiwan's PSMC, involves an investment of Rs 91,000 crore. This project has been approved under the India Semiconductor Mission and is eligible for 50 per cent capital support from the government.

In comparison, the IISc-led proposal requests a relatively modest Rs 500 crore over five years to build indigenous technology for next-generation semiconductors. The project also includes a roadmap for self-sustainability after the initial funding phase.

Globally, 2D materials have drawn significant interest. Europe has invested over USD 1 billion (around Rs 8,300 crore), South Korea over USD 300 million, and countries like China and Japan have made serious but undisclosed investments in 2D material-based semiconductor research. "2D materials will be key enablers for future heterogeneous systems.

While global momentum is building, India's efforts remain limited and need urgent scaling. This is a domain where India can take leadership, but time is running out," said an officer familiar with the efforts and global developments, speaking on condition of anonymity.

According to the PSA office website, communications regarding the project have been ongoing since 2021, with outreach to key ministries including MeitY, DRDO, and the Department of Space. NITI Aayog also recommended the project in September 2022 based on the IISc report.

The officer privy to the research ecosystem noted that several countries are already preparing for a post-silicon world as traditional chip scaling nears its limits.

"Global technology players have turned their attention to 2D semiconductors. India now needs to move from deliberation to execution.

The proposal seeks Rs 500 crore over five years, but there is still no formal assurance. This window may not stay open for long," the person added.

## TDB disapproves 'RSS songs' at Kerala's Kollam temple

**MI News Service, Kollam:** The Travancore Devswom Board (TDB), which manages the majority of temples in the Travancore region of Kerala, warned on Monday that it will take stringent action against temple advisory committees that act in ways likely to "trigger religious enmity in society".

TDB President P S Prashant toughened his stance on the functioning of temple advisory committees amid reports of the alleged rendition of the RSS "gana geetham" during a musical concert at a temple in Kottukkal in Kollam district, in the early hours of Sunday.

Members of a professional music troupe reportedly performed the song during a 'gana mela' held at the TDB-managed temple, located within the Kadakkal police station limits.

There were also allegations that RSS flags had been erected on the temple premises in connection with the festival, according to the police. "There will definitely be action against the temple's advisory committee. Several circulars in this regard have already been sent to temple management from the Board," Prashant told a TV channel.

However, certain advisory panels continue to ignore such circulars and operate based on political

interests, paving the way for "communal discord" in society, he alleged.

"Such actions will not be tolerated at any cost," the TDB President asserted. Prashant said that a section of the advisory panel at the Kottukkal temple had approached the police with a complaint against the rendition of "gana geetham" during the concert. The Board has also sought a report on the incident, he added.

As the controversy came to light, Leader of the Opposition V D Satheesan said on Sunday that the singing of the RSS's "gana geetham" during a temple festival was "a matter of grave concern" and urged the TDB to take immediate and strict action against those responsible. He noted that the violation occurred at a temple managed by the TDB, despite a High Court ruling that temples must not be used as venues for political events.

The Kadakkal police said they had received a complaint from a member of the temple's advisory committee, though a case has not yet been registered. The incident comes close on the heels of another controversy within the same police station limits, where "revolutionary songs" praising the CPI were reportedly sung during a recent temple festival.

## India envisages setting up nuclear submarine base in AP



**MI News Service, Hyderabad:** "The first phase of the Ram-billi base under Project Varsha is almost complete. After commissioning in 2026, it can be expanded and upgraded in phases, much like what is under way at the Karwar base under Project Seabird," a source said. It has taken well over a decade for the construction of the nuclear submarine base to reach this stage after overcoming major technological, environmental and other challenges. The source said, "The inner harbour is ready. Work on the outer harbour, with the requisite breakwaters and jetties, is in progress." Concurrently, India this year will also commission its third nuclear-powered submarine with nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles (called SSBN in naval parlance), INS Aridhaman, with a displacement of 7,000-tonne, to add more teeth to the underwater leg of the country's nuclear triad. Slightly bigger than the first two operational SSBNs, INS Arihant and INS Arighaat, INS Aridhaman will be able

to carry more K-4 missiles with a strike range of 3,500km. While a fourth submarine is also under construction under the secretive over ₹90,000 crore advanced technology vessel (ATV) project, there is also the plan to eventually build 13,500-tonne SSBNs, with much more powerful 190 MW pressurised light-water reactors instead of the existing 83 MW ones, as reported by TOI earlier. In Oct last year, the PM-led Cabinet Committee on Security also approved the construction of two 9,800-tonne nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSNs) for ₹40,000 crore. The eventual plan is for six SSNs, which are armed with non-nuclear missiles and other weapons for conventional warfare. On the West coast, defence minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday inaugurated additional operational, repair and logistic facilities worth over 2,000 crore under Project Seabird at the Karwar naval base, which provides the Navy with both strategic depth and operational flexibility, especially against Pakistan.







Adibah Anam, rickshaw driver's daughter, becomes Maharashtra's first Muslim woman IAS officer

**MI News Service, Yavatmal:** Defying immense odds, Adibah Anam, daughter of a rickshaw driver from Yavatmal, Maharashtra, has achieved an extraordinary feat by securing All India Rank 142 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination 2024.

With this, she becomes the first Muslim woman from her state set to join the prestigious Indian Administrative Service (IAS), according to Clarion India. Raised in a modest household, Adibah's story is one of sheer determination and purpose. She began her education in a Zilla Parishad Urdu School, scoring an impressive 94% in SSC and 92.46% in HSC (Science). Though she once dreamt of becoming a doctor, her maternal uncle, Jan Nizamuddin Sahib, guided her toward civil services, believing she could bring broader change. He supported her emotionally and financially, becoming a pillar in her journey. Adibah completed her graduation in Mathematics from Abhedha Inamdar College, Pune, with 85.20%. Despite clearing the NET exam, she chose not to enter academia and began preparing for the UPSC.

Her early attempts were marked by struggle, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her third attempt, from Mumbai's Hajj House under Maqsood Khan Sahib's mentorship, brought her closer, but she still missed the final list. Refusing to give up, she joined the Residential Coaching Academy at Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi, where she finally succeeded. Choosing Urdu Literature as her optional subject despite a science background, she showcased her academic versatility and deep cultural roots. Her parents remained her silent strength. "My father never asked me to stop.

Saudi report: Egypt demands 'full file' from Hamas on hostages' condition by early May

**MI News Service, Riyadh:** The Saudi Al-Arabiya channel reports that as part of negotiations for a hostage release deal and a ceasefire, Egypt is demanding a "full file" from Hamas regarding the condition of the hostages in Gaza by early May. The report doesn't specify what such a file will include. The channel also reports that the mediators are considering the possibility of a short-term ceasefire, but Israel is refusing and insisting on the disarmament of Hamas. The Hamas delegation in Cairo, which arrived in Egypt on Saturday morning and included all five senior officials who currently make up the organization's leadership council, left Cairo last night after less than 24 hours in the country.



Indian Army personnel clear snow from the area near Gurudwara Sri Hemkund Sahib ahead of the scheduled opening of its portals on 25th May, in Chamoli district.

Foundation Stone laid for New Maheshmara Halt Station, fulfilling Long-Cherished Demand



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Marking a major stride towards strengthening rail connectivity and enhancing passenger amenities, the foundation stone for the proposed Maheshmara Halt Station, located between Deoghar and Mohanpur stations under Asansol Division of Eastern Railway, was laid today by Shri Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, in the esteemed presence of Shri Chetna Nand Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol, along with senior railway officials. The new Maheshmara Halt will be developed at an estimated cost of ₹1.86 crore. Once operational, all trains moving towards Dumka and Godda will halt at the station, vastly improving travel options for the local populace. This facility will provide convenient rail access to a large section of Maheshmara's residents, covering areas such as Bajinathpur, Bandha, Kunda, Karnibad, Bilasi, and Jhaunsagari. Nearby villages like Thadi, Aamgachhi, Vishanpur, Banda, and Singardih will also directly benefit.

Additionally, the construction of this halt is expected to ease the challenges posed by the existing railway level crossing. Responding to a long-standing demand of the local community, Maheshmara Halt Station is set to offer easier and more direct access to the railway network, reducing dependence on distant stations and simplifying daily travel for thousands. Beyond easing commutes, the strategic location of the halt is anticipated to spur socio-economic growth in the surrounding areas by facilitating smoother transportation of people and goods. The project underscores Eastern Railway's continued commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and expanding passenger-centric infrastructure. The occasion drew an enthusiastic gathering of local residents, public representatives, and railway officials, reflecting the widespread support for the project and marking another important milestone in Eastern Railway's journey of infrastructural advancement.

ECoR GM Inspects Key Rail Infrastructure Projects in Western Odisha



**MI News Service, Odisha:** East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal conducted a comprehensive inspection of critical rail infrastructure and traffic facility works across the Sambalpur-Jharsuguda Railway Section in Western Odisha. The inspection included visits to Jharsuguda Road, Brundamal, Lapanga and Sarla stations with a detailed review of ongoing projects and railway sidings that support the region's industrial growth. Key projects inspected included BPSL Siding at Lapanga, Jharsuguda Road Station, Brundamal-Jharsuguda Flyover, MAVB Siding at Brundamal, Brundamal Yard and Sarla Freight Examination Depot.

Shri Funkwal reviewed traffic facilities, railway infrastructure and operational enhancements with Divisional Railway Manager of Sambalpur Division Shri Subash C Chaudhary and other senior ECoR officials. A major milestone during the visit was the inspection of the newly commissioned Freight Train Examination and Routine Overhauling (ROH) Facility

at Sarla Station, which is set to handle 90-100 train examinations and 100 wagon ROHs per month. Improve operational efficiency and reduce turnaround time for BTAP wagons by 30% and Enhance freight handling capacity and safety. The facility is expected to significantly boost economic activity by supporting the needs of key regional industries, including steel, aluminum & coal, and fostering job creation and revenue growth. General Manager also emphasized the importance of stakeholder coordination and industrial collaboration to maximize railway efficiency and national economic development.

During the inspection, the General Manager also stressed the importance of strengthening safety measures across stations and rail yards, and enhancing passenger amenities such as improved waiting areas, upgraded lighting, drinking water facilities, and better signage—ensuring a safe and comfortable experience for travellers while maintaining operational excellence.

8 killed, many injured as vehicle ploughs into Vancouver street festival crowd

**MI News Service, Vancouver [Canada]:** Several people were killed and multiple others injured after a vehicle drove into a crowd attending a street festival in Vancouver on Saturday evening, police said, as per reports by CBC News. The incident occurred shortly after 8 am near East 41st Avenue and Fraser Street, where the Lapu Lapu Day Block Party was underway. Vancouver police confirmed that the driver involved is in custody and emphasised that the incident was not a hit-and-run. In a post on X, the Vancouver Police Department said, "A number of people have been killed and multiple others are injured after a driver drove into a crowd at a street festival at E. 41st Avenue and Fraser shortly after 8 am tonight. The driver is in custody. We will provide more information as the investigation unfolds."

Authorities said further details would be shared as the investigation progresses. Videos posted on social media earlier in the evening showed emergency crews attending to several people lying on the ground, with some appearing seriously injured. CBC News has contacted the Vancouver Police Department for additional updates. Meanwhile, political leaders expressed their shock and condolences over the tragedy. The NDP, which had held a campaign event at the festival earlier in the day, reacted swiftly, reported CBC News. In a statement posted on X, NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh said he was "horrified to learn of an incident at Vancouver's Lapu Lapu Day celebrations that injured and killed innocent people," adding that his thoughts were with the victims, their families, and Vancouver's Filipino community "who were coming together today to celebrate resilience."

Vancouver Mayor Ken Sim also released a statement, saying he was "shocked and deeply saddened" by what he described as a "horrific incident" at the festival. "Our thoughts are with all those affected and with Vancouver's Filipino community during this incredibly difficult time," he said. British Columbia Premier David Eby expressed similar sentiments, posting on X that he was "shocked and heartbroken" to learn of the lives lost and the injuries sustained at the celebration. Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre also reacted, saying he was "shocked" by the "horrific news" and thanked first responders for their efforts at the scene, while offering support to the Filipino community and all those affected. The Lapu Lapu Day event, held for the second consecutive year in Vancouver, commemorates Lapu Lapu, an Indigenous resistance leader in the Philippines who fought against Spanish colonization in the 16th century, CBC News reported.

2 Israeli soldiers killed in Gaza

**MI News Service, Jerusalem:** Two Israeli soldiers were killed on Friday in the northern Gaza Strip, according to separate statements issued by the Israel Defense Forces and the Israel Police on Saturday evening. The two are Ido Voloch, 21, an armored corps officer and platoon commander, and Neta Yitzhak Kahana, 19, an undercover officer in the Border Police. Israel's state-owned Kan TV News reported that a Border Police ambush force encountered a squad of militants in the Shajaiyah neighborhood, eastern Gaza City, and Kahana was killed in the ensuing battle. According to the report, about 15 minutes later, during the rescue operations, militants fired an RPG rocket at the rescue force, resulting in an Israeli soldier being moderately wounded. About an hour later, militants fired an RPG at an Israeli tank in Shajaiyah, during which Voloch was killed and another soldier was moderately wounded. The channel added that in the Tel al-Sultan refugee camp in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip, four Israeli armored fighters were injured, one seriously and three moderately, by explosive devices.

death anniversary of A.K. Fazlul Huq



Nurul islam khan

April 27, 2025, was the 63rd Death Anniversary of the first Prime Minister of undivided Bengal, A.K. Fazlul Huq. Like other years in the heart of West Bengal, this year too the day was celebrated under the initiative of Bhupindra Unnayan Morcha of India (BHUMI). On behalf of BHUMI, wreaths were laid on the memorial plaque named after A.K. Fazlul Huq at Park Circus. Speaking on behalf of BHUMI, Dr Ramiz Raja said, "The condition of the memorial is very bad. The area is dirty and littered with garbage. We wash it off with water and pat dry. It is very sad that there is no trace of Huq sahib in West Bengal. No such information is known about his house also at 88/2 Jhaudala Lane. "BHUMI has raised their voice for a museum several times in the past in the name of A.K. Fazlul Huq. The 150th Birth Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla has also been celebrated on behalf of BHUMI. A booklet on Sher-e-Bangla has also been published by WBMDFC. At present, Sher-e-Bangla has been forgotten. Sher-e-Bangla's ideals, morals and fight for the oppressed deprived Bengali people are no longer remembered today. The supporters and the members of the BHUMI are of the opinion that the path shown by Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Huq can revive the present society plagued by communal poison.

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Meeting in memory of Sufi Sahab



Nurul Islam Khan

It is our responsibility and duty to maintain the past traditions and communal harmony of the state. Separatists and evil forces must be defeated. Pirzada Hazrat Maulana Tamim Uddin Siddiqui said these words at a meeting in Devgram Shantipur Paschim Para, Nadia on Saturday. On this day, the 84th Annual meeting of Shah Sufi PirTajammul Hossain Siddiqui, a descendant of Pir Hazrat Dada Huzur, Mujaddide Zaman, of Furfura Sharif and his senior and distinguished Khalifa, was held. Al Farah Mission Secretary Pirzada Tamim Siddiqui said that Islam has taught peace and harmony. But with the rise of some undemocratic forces in the country, minorities are being persecuted. We have to protect the secular, democratic and constitution of the country. He protested against the atrocities in Kashmir. Pir Hazrat Maulana Syed Alamgir Hossain Sahab conducted the Majlis of Zikr. The sermons were delivered by Pirzada Maulana Syed Intiaz Hossain, Maulana Shafiqul Islam Khan and Maulana Monirul Islam. Pirzada Maulana Masum Siddiqui Sahab of Sitapur Sufi Darbar Sharif spoke in the light of the Quran and Hadith. He prayed for the welfare of the human race. Other speakers highlighted the life and work of Sufi Sahab Huzoor. It was also discussed that he was a profound scholar of the spiritual world. Pir Maulana Mohiuddin Siddiqui, Maulana Bahauddin Siddiqui, Maulana Musa Siddiqui, Maulana Mustafa Siddiqui, Moinuddin Siddiqui and many others were present. The meeting was organized by all the children of Sufi Sahab Huzoor.

Pahalgam killings: Candlelight vigil in Toronto calls on Canada to designate Pakistan as terrorist state after Kashmir attack

**MI News Service, Toronto:** Hundreds of Canadians from diverse communities gathered on a frigid night in Toronto to stage a massive candlelight vigil and rally condemning the recent massacre of Hindus in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, by Pakistan-backed jihadi terrorists. Organised by Hindu Forum Canada, COHNA, and several other Hindu organisations, the event on Saturday brought together over 500 Hindus, Jews, Baloch, Iranians, and other Canadians who marched through Toronto's streets chanting "Pakistan Murdabad" and calling on the Canadian government to officially designate Pakistan as a terrorist state.

The solemn vigil saw leaders from all participating communities urging immediate and decisive action. The gathering denounced not only the violence in Kashmir but also the broader threat of Islamist-Jihadi extremism. Hindu organisations, joined by Jewish, Iranian, Baloch, and other Canadian groups, stood shoulder to shoulder, affirming a united stand against terrorism. The rally honoured the victims of the Pahalgam attack with candles and prayers, sending a message that terrorism must be confronted, not ignored. Drawing a stark comparison, the rally cited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's warning: "What happened in Israel can happen anywhere" -- a statement that now resonates deeply with the tragedy unfolding in Kashmir.

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Speakers warned that terrorism does not recognise borders

and that indifference only emboldens extremists. Yet many

noted the glaring silence from groups and individuals who had previously staged massive protests in support of Gaza but are now quiet when Hindus in India fall victim to similar extremist violence.

This silence, speakers said, reflects a disturbing double standard. While cries for justice rang loudly for others, Hindus -- as victims -- often receive no such support. The gathering emphasised that the atrocities faced by Hindus and other minorities, from massacres to cultural erasure, are not isolated national incidents but a global issue rooted in unchecked religious extremism. "Silence is complicity," speakers said, stressing that standing against terror is a stand for peace, justice, and

humanity. Journalist Daniel Bordman, speaking to ANI from the rally, highlighted the urgent need to confront emerging narratives aimed at denying or distorting the attack. "We're here because I'm worried that within a week or so, there will be an attempt to try and shift the narrative. We already see that people are denying the atrocity, people are trying to shift the blame or institute conspiracies," Bordman said. Drawing parallels with the Jewish community's experiences, he emphasised the importance of immediate, visible solidarity: "There's a lot of Iranians here, there's Jews here, there's people from the Baloch community -- all different communities coming together to say -- 'We support the victims

of the terrorist attack, not the perpetrators."

Bordman warned that Kashmiri Hindus, who have faced seven genocides in history, could face an eighth if the world remains passive. "If we don't stand up, if the people of this world don't take a strong position, they could face an eighth. It's important to prevent that from happening," he said. Critiquing Canada's muted response, Bordman called for stronger official support for India: "I think the Canadian government needs to release a stronger statement... You really have to show that terrorism doesn't pay." He stressed the need for Canada to mention India explicitly and to show solidarity with fellow democracies facing terror threats.



# Mumbai Indians defeat Lucknow Super Giants by 55 runs : Bumrah’s 4-wicket haul and Rickelton’s fifty shine



Mumbai : Jasprit Bumrah's brilliant four-wicket haul, along with Trent Boult's three-wicket performance, helped Mumbai Indians (MI) secure their fifth win of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), defeating Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) by 55 runs at Wankhede Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 216, LSG began their innings with Mitchell Marsh and Aiden Markram. In the third over, MI's veteran bowler, Bumrah, dismissed Markram for just 9, surpassing the record of MI's bowling coach Lasith Malinga (170 wickets) to become the highest wicket-taker for MI with 174 wickets.

Nicholas Pooran joined Marsh at the crease, and Pooran aggressively took on Deepak Chahar in the final over of the power-play, hitting him for three sixes. LSG finished their power-play on 60/1, with Pooran at 27\* and Marsh at 21\*.

Will Jacks made an impact in



his first over, removing Pooran for 27 and LSG captain Rishabh Pant for just 4. Ayush Badoni then joined Marsh at the crease. Badoni took on Karan Sharma in the 10th over, smashing him for two consecutive sixes, and LSG brought up their 100 in the same over.

On IPL debut for MI, Corbin Bosch bowled a brilliant first over, giving away only six runs, while Boult dismissed Marsh for 34 (24), including three fours and two sixes, in the 12th over.

Impact substitute David Miller joined Badoni at the crease, with LSG needing 93 runs off 42 balls. However, Boult got rid of Badoni for 35 (22), including two fours and two sixes, in the 15th over.

Bumrah took three wickets in the 16th over, dismissing Miller for 24 (16), Abdul Samad for 2, and Avesh Khan for a duck. LSG now required 74 runs off the last four overs. Bumrah finished with four wickets in his four overs, giving away just 22 runs. Corbin

Bosch cleaned up Ravi Bishnoi for 13 (14) in the 19th over, and Boult removed Digvesh Rathi in the final over. LSG were all out for 161, falling short by 55 runs.

Apart from Bumrah and Boult, Will Jacks (2/18) and Corbin Bosch (1/26) contributed with the ball.

Earlier, MI posted a total of 215/7 in 20 overs, thanks to impactful fifties from Ryan Rickelton (58) and Suryakumar Yadav (54). LSG captain Rishabh Pant won the toss and opted to bowl first.

Rohit Sharma and Rickelton opened for MI. Rohit started aggressively, hitting two sixes off Mayank Yadav. However, Mayank struck back, dismissing Rohit for 14 off a slower delivery, caught at short third man.

Rickelton took charge, blasting 49 runs off 24 balls inside the power-play, as MI reached 66/1 in the first six overs. He and Will Jacks (29 off 21) put together a 50-run partnership. However, Digvesh Rathi dismissed Rickelton

for 58 off 32 balls, which included six fours and four sixes.

Suryakumar Yadav joined Jacks, and MI crossed 100 in the 10th over. Yadav played an explosive knock, making 54 off 28 balls, including four fours and four sixes, before being dismissed in the 18th over by Avesh Khan.

Naman Dhir (25\* off 11) and Corbin Bosch (20 off 10) finished off the innings strongly in the final overs. Dhir and Bosch smacked 19 runs off the 19th over, which included two sixes and a four.

Avesh Khan dismissed Bosch in the final over, and MI ended their innings at 215/7.

For LSG, Mayank Yadav (2/40) was the standout bowler, while Avesh Khan also took 2/42. Rathi, Bishnoi, and Prince Yadav took one wicket each.

**Brief Score:** Mumbai Indians 215/7 (Ryan Rickelton 58, Suryakumar Yadav 54) vs Lucknow Super Giants 161/10 (Ayush Badoni 35, Mitchell Marsh 34; Jasprit Bumrah 4/22).



Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Yash Dayal and teammates celebrate the dismissal of Delhi Capitals's Karun Nair during their IPL 2025 match, at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Sunday.

## Pratika Rawal’s unbeaten 50-run knock guides India Women to victory over Sri Lanka by 9 wickets

COLOMBO : Pratika Rawal's unbeaten 50-run knock guided Indian Women side to victory over Sri Lanka Women in the first match of the ODI tri-series at the R Premadasa Stadium on Sunday.

With this victory, Women in Blue have a net run rate of +2.082 and they are at the top in the points table. On the other hand, the hosts Sri Lanka are at the bottom of the standings. The match was reduced to 39 overs due to rain. The Indian Cricket Team is wearing black armbands today to pay homage to the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, as a mark of respect for the innocent lives lost and solidarity with the affected families. Chasing a mere total of 148 runs, the Indian batters Pratika Rawal and Smriti Mandhana came out in the middle to open the innings for the side. Both players started off positively and attacked the bowlers from the first over. The Indian Women's Cricket Team completed the 50-run mark on the last ball of the ninth over as Pratika slammed a boundary on the bowling of Kavisha Dilhari. At the score of 54, the Indian team lost the first wicket as Mandhana was sent back to the pavilion after scoring 43 runs off 46 balls. The wicket was taken by left-arm spinner Inoka Ranaweera. Following Mandhana's dismissal, right-hand batter Harleen Deol came out to bat in the middle along with Pratika. The Women in Blue touched the 100-run mark in the 21st over as Harleen Deol smashed a boundary on the bowling of Kavisha Dilhari. The



Harmanpreet Kaur-led side completed the chase in the 30th over with nine wickets in hand. Pratika Rawal and Harleen Deol remained unbeaten on the crease. For Sri Lanka, Inoka Ranaweera (1/32 in 7.4 overs) was the only bowler to snap a wicket for the hosts. Earlier in the first innings, the Chamari Athapaththu-led side were bundled out for 147 in 38.1 overs. The runs came from Hasini Perera (30), Kavishi Dilhari (25), and Anushka Sanjeevani (22). For

India, three wickets were snapped by Sneha Rana, two wickets each were grabbed by Deepti Sharma and Nallapureddy Charani and one wicket was bagged by Arundhati Reddy in their respective spells

**Brief Score:** Sri Lanka Women 147 all out in 38.1 overs (Hasini Perera 30, Kavishi Dilhari 25, Sneha Rana 3/31) vs India Women 149/1 in 29.4 overs (Pratika Rawal 50\*, Harleen Deol 48\*, Inoka Ranaweera 1/32).

## Madhya Pradesh League set for bigger second season, says Mahanaaryaman Scindia



INDORE : The Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) is gearing up for its second season with significant expansions, Vice President of the Gwalior Division Cricket Association (GDCA) Mahanaaryaman Scindia confirmed. The son of Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, Mahanaaryaman, highlighted that the upcoming season will feature more teams, new policies, and a stronger focus on player development.

While speaking to ANI, Mahanaaryaman said, "This year will be our second season."

"Many new policies and teams are coming up this time. Last year we had five teams, but this year we will have seven teams. Two new teams, one each from Bundelkhand and Chambal, have joined us. We will also have three women's teams this time," he added. Mahanaaryaman emphasised that the league's primary aim is to provide a strong platform for players to push for national recognition. "I want this platform to be useful for our players so that they get to play national cricket," he said.

The tournament is scheduled to kick off on May 27 in Indore. Mahanaaryaman also confirmed that next year's edition will be organised in Gwalior.

He said, "I want this platform to be useful for our players so that they get to play National cricket... Today we are having a player draft, and the tournament will be held on 27 May in Indore. Next year it will be organised in Gwalior..."

The league will feature several big names as icon players, boosting its profile further. Arshad Khan and Kulwant Khejroliya, both associated with Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League (IPL), and Avesh Khan, representing Lucknow Super Giants, will be involved. Harpreet Singh Bhatia, who featured for Punjab Kings last season, and fast bowler Kuldeep Sen.

Additionally, Kumar Kartikeya from Rajasthan Royals, Madhav Tiwari of Delhi Capitals, Royal Challengers Bangalore captain Rajat Patidar, and Kolkata Knight Riders' vice-captain Venkatesh Iyer will lend their experience and star power to the MPL.



## Indian Women’s Hockey Team go down 2-3 against Australia A in Perth

NEW DELHI : The Indian Women's Hockey Team put in a determined and gritty performance but fell short against Australia A, going down 2-3 in their second game of the Australia tour, at the Perth Hockey Stadium on Sunday. It was India which took the lead through Jyoti Singh (13'), after which Australia A came back from a goal down with Evie Stansby (17'), Dayle Dolkens (48'), and Jamie-Lee Surha (52') finding the back of the net. India's second goal came through Sunelita Toppo (59'), according to a release from Hockey India.

The Indian Women's Hockey Team were out of the blocks faster than Australia A, showing great intent and control in their attacking forays. The early pressure was on the hosts, as India attacked at pace. However, Australia A were

able to hold their own, and made the Indian Women's Hockey Team work hard. The pressure eventually paid off as the Indian Women's Hockey Team won a PC in the final phase of the first quarter, and Jyoti Singh (13') wasted no time in give her side the 1-0 lead.

Under pressure, Australia A fought back in the second quarter, and were awarded a Penalty Stroke which was converted by Evie Stansby (17'). After that, the Indian Women's Hockey Team continued to attack the hosts, who however held on for the rest of the quarter. At the half-time break, both teams were locked at 1-1.

After the break, both Australia A and the Indian Women's Hockey Team were going for the second goal, resulting in a flurry of attacks at both ends. While it was

Australia A which did most of the attacking in the initial phases of the quarter, the Indian Women's Hockey Team counter-attacked and closed out the third quarter strongly. With 15 minutes to go, the teams were still level at 1-1.

Early in the final quarter, Australia A edged ahead as Dayle Dolkens (48') scored for the hosts, to make it 2-1, and soon after Jamie-Lee Surha (52') added another. The hosts led 3-1, but the Indian Women's Hockey Team fought back as Sunelita Toppo (59') found the back of the net. However, the Indian Women's Hockey Team could not find an equaliser as Australia walked away with the win. The Indian Women's Hockey Team will face Australia in the third match of the tour on May 1.

## "My desire is to return to Mohun Bagan, but it's not in my hands": Mumbai City FC's Prabir Das

BHUBANESWAR : Prabir Das, currently with Mumbai City FC (MCFC) on loan from Kerala Blasters FC (KBFC), has openly admitted his desire to return to Mohun Bagan, the club where he first made his name in Indian football.

"Yes, if you ask me whether I want to be back, I would say everybody has that desire to play for Mohun Bagan, but desire is not everything -- you don't have control of your desires," Prabir told ANI.

"If I have the desire to play for a club, can I just go? (laughs) It's not that simple. You have to adjust to the situation. It becomes tough and hard, but if you cannot adjust, you are finished," he added.



Prabir, who rose to prominence after joining Mohun Bagan in 2016, emphasised that while players' emotions and passion are important, clubs often plan strategically for the future.

Speaking about the possibility of rejoining Mohun Bagan, Prabir said, "It's not only my desire, there are many players like me who love Mohun Bagan."

"My desire alone doesn't mean anything. The club has its own plans; they will bring in young players to build for the future. My emotions and passion, which the fans appreciate, might push for my comeback, but the people who are building the team have different goals for the betterment of the club," he explained.

"As a player, if you ask me, of course I would want to return but desire is not everything. Sometimes you have to accept the reality and move on," he said.

While Prabir would love to stay in Kolkata, he acknowledged that a footballer's journey is often decided by external factors.

"I would like to stay in Kolkata because I am from Kolkata," Prabir said. "Few things are not in my hand," he noted.

"Sometimes the club doesn't want to keep you, and then you have to move out. After that, you look at the best offers from other clubs -- where there is the most interest in you. I went there (Bengaluru FC), and after playing, there were again two or three offers. Kerala (Blasters) showed interest, so I went there on loan. Unfortunately, I got injured. It all depends on how much interest the clubs show, and then I decide. These are the realities for professional footballers, where and how you go is not always in your control. Sometimes, the decision turns out to be a disaster. Sometimes, it's just not in our hands," he added.