

### Security stepped up at vital installations in Delhi amid soaring tensions

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** As tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the Pakistani military targeted several border areas using drones and missiles on Thursday night, heavy security was deployed at all vital installations in and around the National capital including in government buildings and areas with high footfalls on Friday.

According to a senior Delhi police official, all vital installations, including government buildings, sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants, courts, and foreign embassies are being safeguarded by deploying additional forces, including para-military personnel.

Police also strengthened vigil in areas with high footfalls, including markets, railway stations, malls, parks and Metro stations across the city, the official said.

“Security has been beefed up in Delhi amid rising tensions between India and Pakistan on Thursday”, the official said adding , a Pakistani drone attack was thwarted leading to loud explosions, sirens and blackouts in several border districts in India.

Police officials were seen regulating traffic and asking people to vacate the road around C-Hexagon, India Gate, on Thursday night. However, police officials said that the move was part of routine traffic regulation exercise generally carried out in the area.

“Security has been heightened across the city. We have increased night patrolling and DCPs have been told to neutralise any suspicious activity,” said a senior police official.

The Delhi government has also cancelled all leave of its employees until further orders.

Special police commissioners of all zones are holding meetings with deputy commissioners of all 15 districts in the national capital. Security personnel have increased vigilance at malls, markets, metro stations, airports, residential areas, hotels and other crowded locations.

Bomb Disposal Squads have also carried out anti-sabotage checks at several locations. Police checks at the borders of the national capital have been ramped up, with vehicles coming to Delhi being checked.

“All DCPs are actively monitoring law and order in their areas. They have already briefed their officers like ACPs and SHOs. DCPs are personally monitoring their area and Delhi Police is ready to deal with any kind of situation,” another official said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (East) Abhishek Dhania stated, “As part of ongoing anti-terror measures, the police conducted a thorough security inspection at the Mayur

■ ■ Continued on Page 3



West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is garlanding the portrait of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on his 164th Birth Anniversary, in Kolkata on Friday.  
Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

## In response to Mamata Banerjee’s plea, private schools declare early summer vacations in Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata :** Several private schools in West Bengal have declared summer vacations from today (Friday), after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged the educational institutions to advance the holidays by a week for the students safety in the wake of the India-Pakistan military conflict.

St Xavier’s Institution-Sodpore, Julien Day School and Delhi Public School Ruby Park were among the schools that announced summer vacations from Friday following Banerjee’s appeal.

“We were scheduled to hold classes till May 13... But, in view of the emerging situation and as suggested by the Chief minister, we have decided to advance the dates by a few days,” said Lipika

Ghosh, Principal of St Xavier’s Institution, Sodpore.

In response to an urgent appeal by Mamata Banerjee several other private schools in Kolkata and other parts of West Bengal have alsodecided to advance their summer vacation and shut down from May 9, instead of their previously scheduled dates.

The move comes in the wake of escalating Indo-Pak tensions following India’s missile strikes on Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) under Operation Sindoor.

“In view of the present situation and to ensure the safety and well-being of students, we have decided to close our school from Friday, May 9. Initially, we had planned to close from May 16,” said Siddhartha

Dey, Principal of Julien Day School.

Echoing a similar sentiment, Joyoti Chaudhuri, Principal of Delhi Public School Ruby Park, said, “We are also closing from today and will reopen on June 9. It is important to follow the government’s appeal in times like these.”

The Chief Minister, during a press briefing on Wednesday, requested all private schools across the state to prepone their summer breaks as a precautionary measure. She urged them to declare Thursday, May 8 as the last working day and begin summer holidays from May 9, coinciding with the Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. Sunita Sen, Principal of

■ ■ Continued on Page 3

## ‘We are at war with terrorists’, remarks Indian envoy to the US

**MI News Service, Washington (DC):** India is at war with the terrorists and will bring justice to victims of the Pahalgam attack by holding the “lowlifes, subhuman monsters” accountable, Indian Ambassador to the US Vinay Kwatra has said, underscoring that in no world would these terrorists be allowed a free pass.

“The frame and the template in which we look at is the terror template. April 22 was the most heinous terrorist act,” Kwatra said in an interview to CNN on Friday.

“It is nobody’s case to say that these terrorists should be given a free pass, and that’s precisely what we did day before yesterday, held them accountable, brought them to justice,” Kwatra said.

. Indian Ambassador has made it

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## 'let's not bring their morale down at this juncture', says SC on women Army officers

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** In a historic judgement with a possible far reaching effect, the Supreme Court on Friday asked the Centre not to release from service Short Service Commission women Army officers challenging the denial of permanent commission to them asking not to “bring their morale down” in “the prevailing situation”.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kottiswar Singh which posted a batch of pleas filed by 69 officers for hearing in August, said they should not be released till the next hearing.

“In the prevailing situation let’s not bring their

morale down. They are brilliant officers, you can use their services somewhere else. This is not the time that they be asked to roam around in the Supreme Court. They have a better place to be and serve the country,” Justice Kant said.

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, said it was an administrative decision based on a policy to keep the armed forces young.

She urged the top court not to grant any stay on their release and said the Indian Army needed young officers and every year only 250 personnel were granted permanent com-

mission. Senior advocate Maneka Guruswamy, appearing for colonel Geeta Sharma, referred to the case of Colonel Sofia Qureshi, one of the two women officers who had briefed the media on the Operation Sindoor on May 7 and 8.

Guruswamy said Colonel Qureshi had to approach this court for a similar relief related to permanent commission and now she has made the country proud. The bench without commenting much on the submission said the case before the top court was purely a legal one, having nothing to do

■ ■ Continued on Page 3

# Seven Pakistan backed terrorists killed in Jammu by BSF

**MI News Service, Jammu :** In the midst of an war like situation between India and Pakistan, the Border Security Force(BSF) jawans eliminated seven terrorists who were trying to infiltrate from across the Indo-Pak International Border in Jammu on Friday morning and destroyed a Pak Rangers post.

The incident took place in the Samba sector on the wee hours of Friday when the BSF jawans through the surveillance grid detected that a “big group” of terrorists was trying to infiltrate into Indian territory in the forested area of Jammu region.This infiltration bid was supported by fire from Pakistan Rangers post Dhandhar, a BSF spokesperson said.

He said the troops neutralised the infiltration bid, killing at least seven terrorists and caused extensive damage to the Dhandhar post. It also

shared a thermal imager clip of the destruction of the said post.

The Indian force is on high alert in the wake of the current hostilities between the two countries following the Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22 and India’s strike on terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation.

Earlier, the BSF also announced that it thwarted another major infiltration attempt along the same International Border in Samba sector, while destroying yet another Pakistan Rangers post. In a major escalation along the India-Pakistan border during the past 72 hours, Pakistani forces launched coordinated drone and missile attacks targeting civilian areas and military installations in Jammu on Wednesday evening. But the Indian air defence systems responded swiftly, success-

fully intercepting and neutralising all eight missiles and multiple drones aimed at key targets, including the Jammu airport.

In addition to the missile and drone assault, Pakistani troops carried out intense mortar and artillery shelling along the Line of Control (LoC), spanning from Uri in north Kashmir to RS Pura in the Jammu region. Tragically, a woman was killed in Uri as a result of the shelling.In retaliation, the Indian armed forces initiated a very successful Operation Sindoor with a series of precision strikes targeting terror infrastructure deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The operation reportedly destroyed major terror hubs, including the Jaish-e-Mohammad headquarters in Bahawalpur, Lashkar-e-Toiba’s base in Muridke,

and Hizbul Mujahideen’s command centre.

Security along the border has been heightened in light of recent escalations between India and Pakistan. Tensions have risen following the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which was followed by Indian strikes on terror targets across the border in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Meanwhile, the Chandigarh administration sounded an air raid siren on Friday, urging residents to stay indoors, as tensions between India and Pakistan escalated. The alert was lifted about an hour later.

“An air warning has been received from the air force station of a possible attack. Sirens are being sounded. All are advised to remain indoors and stay away from balconies,” the administration said in an official statement.

### IPL 2025 called off now as Indo-Pak military tensions escalate

**MI News Service, New Delhi / Mumbai :** In the wake of mounting security concerns following the military escalation between India and Pakistan, the hugely popular Indian Premier League has been suspended at least for a week by the BCCI with effect from Friday.

According to informed sources here today, the decision was taken after the match between Delhi Capitals and Punjab Kings in Dharamsala was called off due to safety reasons. The venue is located less than 100 kilometres from the bordering area of Pathankot, where air raid alerts were sounded, prompting the BCCI to take the call.

“We have decided to indefinitely suspend the IPL. The players’ safety is our utmost priority. Hence we decided to stop the tournament for now. We’ll decide later if and when the tournament can resume. Right now, national interest is of utmost importance,” sources in the BCCI said.

The match in Dharamsala, which had started later than scheduled time due to rain, was abruptly halted when floodlights in the stadium went out. Initially believed to be a technical glitch, the situation quickly escalated when players and officials were informed of the security risks posed by the air raid alerts. A player also told the that there was “panic” among both teams, and foreign players were particularly worried for their safety. Australian media had earlier reported that their players had also expressed concerns over their safety and were “ready” to return home.

The crowd in Dharamsala, which had filled up about 80 per cent of the stadium’s capacity, was immediately evacuated for safety reasons. Fans were also heard shouting anti-Pakistan slogans as they made their way out of the venue. In the aftermath, the BCCI, along with the IPL’s governing body, reviewed the rapidly evolving security situation. IPL chairman Arun Dhumal said that the decision to continue the league was in flux, with government directives yet to arrive by Thursday night. The immediate impact of the security threats has already been felt, as flights to and from Dharamsala have been suspended, with

■ ■ Continued on Page 3

## PM Modi and Mamata Banerjee pay tributes to Rabindranath Tagore on his 164th Birth Anniversary

**MI News Service, New Delhi / Kolkata :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi and West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee joined the entire nation in paying rich tributes to world famous Bengali poet Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion his 164th birth anniversary on Friday. PM Modi in a social media post on platform X said on Friday, “I pay homage to Gurudev Tagore, on the occasion of his Jayanti. His enduring wisdom and genius continue to inspire and enlighten innumerable people across generations.” The message was attached to a video clip

giving insights into the life of ‘the Bard of Bengal.’

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee also paid rich tributes to iconic poet Rabindranath Tagore on his 164th birth anniversary, and said the Nobel laureate’s creations have been illuminating the whole world. In a post on X on Friday, Mamata Banerjee, also quoted a few lines from Tagore’s famous collection of poems ‘Gitanjali’ (Song Offerings). “On the birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore, we pay our heartfelt respects and bow to him. We remember him not only on his birthday on

25th Baishakh, but every day. He is in our direction, in our language, in our hope - in everything! The whole world is illuminated by the light of his creation,” The Chief minister said. Tagore’s birth anniversary is celebrated throughout the country as ‘Rabindra Jayanti’ on 25th Baishakh, according to the Bengali calendar. Rabindranath Tagore was a multitaled iconic figure who was awarded the Nobel Prize in literature. He is renowned worldwide for his rich contributions as a poet, writer, playwright, composer, philosopher, social reformer, and painter.

## Amit Shah reviews security along Indo-Pak border, airports

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** Amid the ongoing military conflicts between the two neighbouring countries, Union Home minister Amit Shah on Friday reviewed the prevailing situation along India – Pakistan borders and in all airports across the country .Informing this official sources said here on Friday that the review meeting was held bours after the Border Security Force (BSF) jawans had foiled an infiltration bid from across the International border in Samba sector in Jammu, killing at least seven terrorists and destroying a Pakistan Rangers post.Apart from reviewing the security situation along the India-Pakistan border, Shah also took stock of the steps taken to beef up security at all airports across the country, the sources said. While the BSF guards the India-Pakistan borders on both sides of the country, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) protects the country’s airports and the Metro networks besides other vital government installations.

Those who attended the meeting included Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan, Director of Intelligence Bureau Tapan Deka, Directors General of the BSF, CISF and the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. During the meeting which continued for over an hour, the Union Home minister directed the CISF to further enhance security at all critical infrastructure

■ ■ Continued on Page 3

## Defence minister reviews security situation with three service chiefs



Defence minister Rajnath Singh is Presiding over a Security review meeting with three Service Chiefs of the Indian Armed forces in New Delhi on Friday.

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** In less than 12 hours after Indian Armed forces successfully repulsed multiple drone attacks by the Pakistani army from across the border, Defence minister Rajnath

and key establishments across the country in light of escalating tensions along the India-Pakistan border.CISF is tasked with safeguarding critical infrastructure across India, including airports, power plants, nuclear installations, space research facilities, and major government buildings.

Shah also gave separate directions to the Director General of Border Security Force (BSF), the Director General of CISF, and senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the present situation in the border areas and the security arrangements in and around all airports..

The meeting comes after Pakistan Armed Forces launched multiple attacks using drones and other munitions along the entire Western Border, targeting military establishments, airports and others on the intervening night of 08 and 09 May.

The drone attacks were effectively repulsed, and a befitting reply was given to the ceasefire violations on the LoC . The Indian Army shot down multiple Pakistani drones during a large-scale counter-drone operation along the Line of Control and International Borders on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. "Indian Army remains committed to safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Nation. All nefarious

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Singh chaired yet another comprehensive review meeting of the national security scenario with top military leadership in the national capital on Friday . A day after Pakistan’s attempts to target Indian military installations were repelled, every aspect of the evolving security situation was discussed in the meeting, it is learnt.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen Upendra Dwivedi, Air Chief Marshal A P Singh, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh.India last night neutralised Pakistan military’s attempt to hit military stations in Jammu, Pathankot, Udhampur

■ ■ Continued on Page 3



# Migrant workers ask govt to stop attack on Muslim workers outside Bengal

**MI News Service, Murshidabad/Malda:** Twenty-eight-year-old Suraj Sheikh from Samserganj in Murshidabad used to earn around ₹30,000 a month as a mason in Sambalpur, Odisha.

Suraj, who is back home, earns only ₹500 a day now-adays. "And, there is no guarantee that I will get a job every day. While staying in Odisha, I used to send ₹20,000 to ₹23,000 to my family every month. But suddenly, the situation has changed," said the youth.

Hundreds of migrant workers returned to Bengal during the past one-and-a-half months, especially after the communal violence rocked Samserganj in Murshidabad.

"The violence in my home district led to repercussions, and a section of local people attacked us. I was assaulted and I almost ran for around 12km at night to reach a highway, took a bus and reached Bengal," said Suraj.

Mainul Sheikh, a 42-year-old man from Hariharpara of Murshidabad, who was a wholesale trader of saris in Ganjam district of Odisha, also locked up his accommodation and returned home.

He used to buy saris from Cuttack and engaged youths from Murshidabad to sell the same door-to-door.

"I was fortunate to escape assault, but my salesmen were beaten up. They were attacked after the Pahalgam incident. They hurriedly left Ganjam after the attack, and I also followed them. I have no idea whether I would be able to return to Odisha," said Mainul, who used to make ₹35,000 to ₹40,000 a month.

Mainul is planning to take a room on rent at Burwan in Murshidabad district, where she would stock some garments and then go out and sell those door to door. "I have to earn at least ₹10,000 a month to run the family," he said.

Rakibul Molla, another mason from Nowda, has returned from Indore of Madhya Pradesh. There, he used to earn around ₹30,000 a month, but now, he is making ₹300 a day, working as a day wage worker on agricultural fields near his home.

"I am in deep crisis but have no idea whether I would muster the courage to go to some other state for work," he said.

Many migrant workers

from Malda are also suffering.

Last month, a team of 40 construction workers returned to Malda from Sambalpur in Odisha following threats and attacks by a section of the local residents. On Thursday, 22 others, who used to work as hawkers in Jaipur of Rajasthan, started for Malda.

Like the earlier lot, the hawkers have also alleged harassment and threats by a section of locals and even some police men.

Rabiul Islam, who is from Bahor village of Harishchandrapur-I block, who spoke to The Telegraph over phone, said more than a thousand hawkers like him used to sell steel utensils in different areas of Jaipur.

"But after the Pahalgam tragedy, the situation changed. The locals intentionally lodged false complaints against us, merely suspecting we are not Indians but Bangladeshis. Police also harassed us by detaining us for an indefinite period, asking one after another questions," he said.

"Sensing that we might face more severity, some of us boarded a train to return

home," he added.

Mahasin Ali, another migrant worker who is also returning from Rajasthan, said that he would make around Rs. 1,000 in Jaipur.

"But we feel insecure and cannot continue to stay to make higher earnings. It would be better to stay at home," he said.

While many have returned or are returning home, a few have still preferred to stay back in their workplaces with the anticipation that the situation will improve.

Mobarak Mondal from Choto Garalgara of Dinhat 2 block in Cooch Behar stays in Vasant Kunj of Delhi. He deals in plastic scrap.

"On May 3, a team of Delhi police intercepted eight Bengalis, including me, and took us to a police station. They suspected that we were Bangladeshis. We were released after we showed our Aadhaar cards," Mondal said over the phone.

"A section of people and police always suspect us to be Bangladeshis, particularly as we speak Bengali. Some people have left for Bengal, but I am still staying in Delhi, with the hope that the situation will change," he said.

# SC dismisses plea for implementation of three-language formula in TN, Kerala, WB

**MI News Service, New Delhi/Kolkata :** The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed a PIL seeking implementation of the three-language formula, proposed by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal.

A bench headed by Justice JB Pardiwala refused to entertain the plea, saying the court cannot directly compel a state to adopt a policy like the National Education Policy 2020.

The top court in its order stated, "It (court) cannot directly compel a state to adopt a policy like the National Education Policy 2020. The court may, however, intervene if a state's action or inaction related to the National Education Policy violates any fundamental rights. We do not propose to examine this issue in this writ petition. We believe that the petitioner has nothing to do with the cause he proposes to espouse. Although he may be from the state of Tamil Nadu, yet on his own admission, he is residing in New Delhi. In such cir-

cumstances, this petition stands dismissed."

The plea was filed by BJP lawyer GS Mani, stating the refusal or failure of the state government to implement the National Educational Policy of the Central government or sign an MOU may harm the public interest or infringe on citizens' rights.

The petition sought direction to the state governments to implement the National Education Policy and sign an MOU which involves fundamental public welfare and rights of Education, constitutional rights, or government obligations that are being neglected or violated is very well maintainable.

"The state government is under a constitutional or legal obligation to implement the National Educational Policy, 2020 of the Central government and to enter into an MOU for the implementation of the said policy, scheme, or project," the petition stated.

All state governments except Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal have adopted and implemented the Central government's

most important national education policy, the tri-language curriculum policy, advocate Mani said.

In the petition, the National Education Policy is a major education policy plan brought by the Central government with the aim of improving the quality of school education for students from all walks of life. "All Indian languages should be taught free of cost to school children belonging to the poor, scheduled, tribes, backwards, and the most backwards classes," the petition added.

The petition said that the state governments of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and West Bengal are refusing to accept the three-language formula for political reasons, citing the false reason of imposing Hindi.

The Central government's laws, plans and policies are applicable to all state governments, the petition further stated. It is the duty of the state government to implement such a policy and this is a fundamental duty and right given in the Consti-

tution, it added.

"Free education is a fundamental right given by the Constitution. By refusing to accept this plan, the state government is denying the fundamental right of free education to the school children concerned. Therefore, the Supreme Court should intervene in this matter and issue an order to these three state governments to immediately implement the Central government's National Education Policy," added the PIL.

While the Centre defended the policy as a step towards multilingualism, Tamil Nadu said that it unfairly pressures non-Hindi-speaking states.

The Tamil Nadu government has accused the Central government of trying to push Hindi 'sideways' through the NEP, despite the state's longstanding resistance to such policies.

The government has strongly opposed implementing the NEP, raising concerns over the three-language formula and alleging that the Centre wants to "impose" Hindi.

# 164th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore celebrated

**MI News Service, Siliguri :** The 164th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated at the Siliguri Municipal Corporation in Siliguri on Friday.

Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti or Poncheeshe Boishakh marks the birthday of the noted Nobel laureate.

Mayor of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Goutam Deb, and other officials adorned the Rabindranath Tagore statue at Baghajatin Park with floral garlands.

Mayor of Siliguri Municipal Corporation, Goutam Deb, said, "Today is a special day for every

Bengali staying in Bengal or outside Bengal. Everyone is celebrating the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore. We are offering flowers to the statue of Rabindranath Tagore. In the evening, we are organising a gala with a noted Rabindra Sangeet singer."

Born in Calcutta (present-day Kolkata) on May 7, 1861, Rabindranath Tagore was the first Indian to receive the Nobel Prize. He passed away on August 7, 1941.

Tagore was born on the 25th day of the month of Boishakh in the year 1422 according to the Bengali calendar, so in West Ben-

gal, his birth anniversary is being celebrated today.

Tagore, who reshaped Bengali literature, holds the distinction of being the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in the year 1913 for his book of songs, 'Gitanjali' (Song Offerings).

Tagore has penned several renowned poems, songs, and literary works, including the national anthem of India - Jana Gana Mana.

Referred to as the 'Bard of Bengal', Tagore started writing poetry at the young age of eight. As an exponent of the 'Bengal Renaissance', he advanced a vast canon which comprised paintings, hun-

dreds of texts, sketches and doodles, and around two thousand songs.

His work reshaped Bengali literature and music and also changed Indian art in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

One of Tagore's most famous novels, 'Ghare-Baire' (The Home and the World), was adapted into a movie of the same name by India's Oscar-winning director Satyajit Ray.

Notably, two of his compositions were chosen as national anthems of two countries, which are India's Jana Gana Mana and Bangladesh's 'Amar Shonar Bangla' (My Golden Bengal).

# North Kolkata Khadi Fair concludes successfully

**Nurul Islam Khan** The Khadi Mela, under the inspiration of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee concluded in North Kolkata. The fair was organized in collaboration with the West Bengal Khadi and Village Industries Board, a state government agency, for the development of various small and medium

industries. In addition to the sale of various hand-made items at the fair, various cultural programs were organized at the fair premises. Yesterday, Nivedita Saha and Samarпита Saha opened the program by reciting Mangalacaran Stotra for world peace. Then the fair grounds became bustling with rec-

itations, songs and various programs. Khadi is an indigenous art, whose historical importance and significance are immense.

The first Khadi Fair of North Kolkata ended on Thursday in the presence of everyone. About Rs 1.5 crore was imported in the fair. Certificates and mementos were given to

those who sold well and displayed interesting art at the stalls on the last day. Deputy Mayor and MLA of Kolkata Shri Atin Ghosh, Chairman of Khadi Board and MLA Shri Kallol Khan, Chairman of Bureau No. 1 Tarun Saha, Chief Executive Officer Shri Mrdul Halder, Program Planning Officer Shri Biswajit Sarkar and various district officials and local municipal representatives were present.

Khadi Chairman Kallol Khan expressed his happiness with this year's huge success and the enthusiasm of buyers and sellers, announced that the fair will be organized next year as well, and said that the board will take all measures to make the Khadi industry more popular.



Congress holds Tiranga Yatra in support of Indian armed forces in Kolkata on Friday.

## STF arrests two JMB operatives for planning attacks in India

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal's Special Task Force (STF) on Friday arrested two individuals, Ajmol Hossain (28) from Nalhati and Saheb Ali Khan (28) from Murari, for allegedly spreading the ideology of the banned terrorist group Jamatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and planning attacks in India.

The arrests were made during simultaneous raids in the Birbhum district on May 8-9, 2025, according to the West Bengal STF.

The suspects were found to be propagating JMB's ideology and were part of a module that is engaged in dissemination of seditious and jihadi materials by using encrypted sophisticated mediums.

They were allegedly planning to target specific people and places in India, aiming to harm the country's sovereignty.

The suspects were involved in recruiting young Muslim men, trying to radicalise them and encourage them to join terrorist groups.

Ajmol Hossain had previously attempted to enter Bangladesh for jihadi activities and has connections across the subcontinent.

The suspects, along with others, tried to buy firearms and make explosives to support their cause of "Ghazwatul Hind."

The two suspects will be presented in court, and the police have requested remand to continue questioning them and investigating further links to their network. In a related incident, the STF of Kolkata Police had earlier arrested two individuals, including a woman, for the illegal possession of firearms. Aziz Molla (36) was found with 10 improvised single-barrel firearms, and Moyana Majhi (32) was found with a single-barrel firearm.

## SMC panel to check food quality at eateries

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** The Trinamul Congress-run Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) has formed a committee to check the city's eateries and confirm whether such outlets maintain proper standards and hygiene while serving food to people.

The committee comprises representatives of the SMC, the district health department, and officials of the Food Safety & Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

Mayor Gautam Deb said: "A committee has been formed to check if the eateries, hotels, restaurants and other food joints in the civic area are maintaining hygiene and food safety standards. The committee will

regularly visit the eateries to confirm that the food people are having in Siliguri is safe."

On Thursday, he met officials of the SMC, the enforcement branch of Siliguri Metropolitan Police, and excise and health departments.

"The state government's food quality control laboratory is located at the Kisan Mandi in Salbari (on the outskirts of Siliguri). It is not operational these days. Along with the formation of the committee, we are taking steps to make the lab operational so that food samples can be tested," the mayor said.

A source in the SMC said the committee would hold review meetings at least once a week and conduct surprise inspections at different food

joints and eateries in all 47 wards to check if there is any violation of food safety measures.

"We often receive complaints that some eateries are not maintaining proper cleanliness and hygiene. We hear that the food has poor quality and is cooked in shabby and unclean kitchens. The committee will regularly visit these places," said the source.

"Some food stalls on the streets near Jalpai More and Darjeeling More remain open till late at night. Those have to close by 10pm. Or else, we will not let such stalls run. Also, some pubs and bars stay open till late at night. It will not be allowed," the source added.

## Dist admin gives tailoring jobs to 50 women

**MI News Service, Alipurduar:** Fifty women based in Alipurduar district were provided with tailoring jobs by the district administration.

The women, who are from economically weaker sections of the society, have been given jobs with a monthly salary of 8,000 under the "Utkarsh Bangla" scheme of the state government.

"All these women were trained in tailoring by the Falakata Fab-

ric Cluster Industrial Cooperative Society for 390 hours. Today, we handed over the certificates of training and engagement letters to them," said Santriam Garai, the additional district magistrate (general) of Alipurduar.

Sources in the district administration said it was rare that 50 women were provided with jobs at one go.

An official of the district administration said the women

would be engaged to make uniforms for school and college students and staff serving in the district health department.

"They will get a monthly salary of 8,000 from the state government. It is indeed a major achievement that we could train them for three months and simultaneously provide them with obs. They will be economically self-reliant now and can support their families," the official added.



At the initiative of the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee, the 164th Rabindra Jayanti was celebrated with great pride and honor in all the district/unit branches of the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee on Friday. Under the direction of Barasat Police District Welfare Committee, Rabindra Sangeet, Rabindra Dance, and recitation of poems written by the poet were performed in memory of the world poet, Kaviguru Rabindranath Tagore. Bijitash Raut, Convener, West Bengal Police Welfare Committee was present. Central Committee leaders, DSP (AP) Barasat Police District Kumarjit Trivedi, various officers of Barasat Police District, general members and retired police personnel residing in this district were also present.

Nurul Islam Khan

# 7th World Meet Concludes Successfully at Royal Thai Army Club with Participation from Over 50 Nations

**MI News Service, Kolkata/Bangkok:** The globally celebrated 7th World Meet concluded with grandeur and unity at the Royal Thai Army Club in Bangkok, Thailand. The event, which saw participation from more than 50 countries, emerged as a landmark gathering of diplomats, martial artists, cultural icons, and peace advocates — reinforcing the universal message of peace, brotherhood, and cultural solidarity.

Founded in 2019 by Director HRH M. A. Ali, the World Meet was established as a global platform to unite nations through martial arts, diplomacy, culture, and humanitarian values. Since its inception, the meet has been held in various international locations — including the 5th World Meet in Manchester, UK, and the 6th World Meet in Indonesia — each contributing to global cooperation and cross-cultural understanding.

This year's event was organized by the World



Martial Artist Council in collaboration with the International Diplomatic Cooperation Organization, and hosted with the full support and management of the Royal Thai Army. The Chairman of the Ceremony, General Chanathip Bunnag, played a significant leadership role, offering his full support and presence throughout the event. His commitment to fostering international friendship and respect through such gatherings was widely applauded.

In his welcome speech, Director HRH M. A. Ali

passionately stated: "We want peace everywhere in this world. We don't want bloodshed anywhere. Instead of violence, let there be dialogue and understanding."

Vice President Jun Shindo of Japan, who also played a major role in planning, delivered the vote of thanks, appreciating the efforts of all delegates and acknowledging the participation of nations that have stood together in the spirit of cooperation. He called the event "a powerful reminder of how global harmony can be achieved

through respect, culture, and discipline."

President Jurapas, who previously led the 2023 and 2024 World Meets, played a vital leadership role in this edition, ensuring every aspect of the program met international standards of diplomacy and inclusion.

Adding cultural vibrancy, a renowned Muay Thai fighter participated in the ceremony, representing Thailand's martial spirit and global goodwill.

Delegates and honorees from Asia, Europe, Africa, and the Americas participated in forums, demonstrations, and award ceremonies. The event honored achievers from various fields and served as a platform to discuss global challenges and promote peaceful co-existence.

With each edition, the World Meet has grown into a symbol of hope and unity, and the 7th edition in Bangkok has set a new benchmark in global gatherings that promote dialogue over division.



In response to Mamata...

►► From PG 1

Ballygunge Siksha Sadan, said, "Our plan was to close for the summer from next week, but we are complying with the Chief Minister's request."

Modern High School Principal Damayanti Mukherjee said, "9th May is our last working day. We are abiding to our old schedule."

Lipika Ghosh, Principal of St. Xavier's Institution, Panihati, stated, "We were supposed to begin our vacation from May 14, but following the CM's advisory, we decided to pre-ponate it." The education fraternity has largely welcomed the decision, viewing it as a proactive step to prioritise student safety during a time of heightened national tension.

Secretary of La Martiniere School for Boys and Girls, Supriyo Dhar added: "After the CM's request, we have decided to switch to online classes from today till May 16. We had earlier announced to start the vacations from May 17, and that remains."

However, several schools maintained that they had already chalked out their academic calendar before the Pahalgam terror attack, and the military conflict between India and Pakistan.

"Yes, we are closing from tomorrow after the 'Rabindra Jayanti' celebrations today. But, this

was decided much earlier," Principal of Lakshmiapat Singhania Academy, Meena Kak, said.

Principal of B D Memorial International School-Narendrapur, Madhumita Sengupta, also said that it had already fixed May 8 as the last day of classes before the summer vacations.

"Our academic calendar had been set" before the developments surrounding the Pahalgam incident, she said.

The Mahadevi Birla World Academy and Calcutta Girls High School also said dates for the summer vacations had been fixed well in advance.

In the districts as well, several private schools announced the commencement of summer vacations from Friday.

"Following the developments after 'Operation Sindoor', we have decided to advance the day of commencement of vacations from May 16 to May 9," a spokesperson of a private school in Jalpaiguri said.

Summer vacations are already underway in state-run and state-aided schools from April 30, owing to excess heat.

Perhaps West Bengal is the only state where private schools have listened to the Chief minister appeal in view of the present tense situation and declared summer vacations from Friday, advancing it by about a week.

'We are at war with...

►► From PG 1

he said the killings were religiously targetted, with non-Muslims being singled out.

Addressing reports of explosions in Kashmir, Kwatra emphasised that it proves that Pakistan continues to support terror groups. "Rather than take action against them, they are essentially lending them support," he said, adding, "We wouldn't be surprised if they are themselves involved in this."

Responding to Pakistan's denial of involvement, he said, "Denial and obfuscation has always been the first part of Pakistan's strategy."

Asked about the risk of escalation, including nuclear conflict, Kwatra said the world's focus should be on Pakistan's ongoing support for terrorism. "That's what the world should be concerned about... to stop supporting terrorism. I think that's the crux," he said. The two countries witnessed strikes and counter strikes on Thursday night as Pakistan fired drones and missiles targeting border states, including Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, and Rajasthan.

India, to save its innocent civilians, shot down all the Pak missiles and drones along with three of its jets. "We are at war with terrorists," reiterates Ambassador Kwatra

Referring to the April 22 Pahalgam attack killing 25 tourists and an innocent local civilian, the Indian envoy said "They killed them in front of their wives and children, and they did so on the basis of religion. What we did a day before yesterday (Operation Sindoor) was our response to terror," he said. India's response was measured and calibrated as it took out terror factories at nine locations, he said. "We were very careful in keeping targets only to those people and their backers who carried out these dastardly killings," he said.

He also asserted that the "entire Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India", adding "the only issue is the return of the part occupied by Pakistan, which is Pakistan Occupied Kashmir."

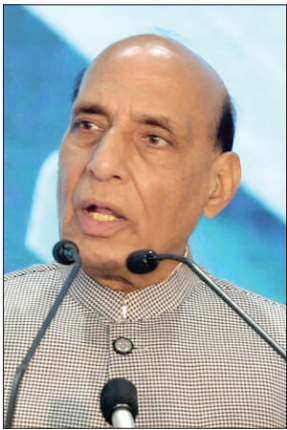
Speaking about Pakistan's unprovoked firing and targeting of Indian cities, the Indian envoy to US said it shows Pakistan stands with terrorists. "Rather than taking actions, they are providing support," he said.

Speaking about Pakistan's denial, he said it has always been a part of their strategy as he mentioned the 9/11 attacks, 26/11 Mumbai attacks and other Pakistan-backed attacks.

Defence minister reviews...

►► From PG 1

and some other locations with missiles and drones." Defence minister Rajnath Singh chaired a high-level meeting to review the security situation along the western border and operational preparedness of the Indian armed forces," a defence ministry spokesperson said. After the Pakistani attempts were foiled last night, the defence ministry said India remains "fully prepared to defend its sovereignty and ensure the safety of its people." Indian military officials said



istan last night In view of the prevailing situation, Union Health minister JP Nadda also chaired a review meeting with senior officers of the ministry on health infrastructure and review its preparedness in cases of emergency. The Senior officials of the Health Ministry briefed Nadda in detail about the conditions in hospitals and health facilities in the country. Complete monitoring is being done from the control centre, they said.

Kolkata Airport on high alert, CISF leaves cancelled

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Amidst escalating tensions and the ongoing India-Pakistan war following the Pahalgaon attack and subsequent retaliatory actions, Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has been placed under high alert. This heightened security posture includes the immediate cancellation of all leave for Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel, with those currently on leave instructed to return to duty. Further underscoring the gravity of the situation, a crucial video conference is scheduled today, convened by the DC Bureau of Civil Aviation Security, to address passenger safety protocols at the airport. These measures are part of a broader nationwide directive from the Ministry of Civil Aviation, urging all airports to implement enhanced security precautions in light of recent cross-border hostilities, which have included drone and missile attacks in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Punjab.

Heightened Security at Kolkata Airport Amidst India-Pakistan Conflict

In response to the escalating tensions and ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, Kolkata's Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport has been placed under a state of high alert. The directive comes in the wake of heightened cross-border hostilities, including recent drone and missile attacks launched by Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Punjab, which India has reportedly countered.

As part of the enhanced security measures, all leaves for personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), the agency responsible for airport security, have been immediately rescinded. CISF members currently on leave have been instructed to return to duty without delay. Further reinforcing the seriousness of the situation, a crucial meeting is scheduled today, convened via video conference by the DC Bureau of Civil Aviation Security. The focus of this meeting will be to review and strengthen passenger security proto-

cols at Kolkata International Airport in light of the prevailing geopolitical climate. Prior to this, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of CISF held a significant meeting with the Director of the Airport Authority of India and officials representing various airlines to discuss and coordinate enhanced security arrangements for passengers. Stringent security protocols have already been implemented at the airport. A no-parking policy is now in effect at both the arrival and departure areas to mitigate potential security risks. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has issued a nationwide advisory, urging all airports across the country to adopt heightened precautionary measures. Consequently, passengers traveling through Kolkata Airport are now advised to arrive at least three hours prior to their scheduled departure time, and airport gates will close one and a half hours before flight departure. These measures aim to ensure the safety and security of all passengers and airport operations during this period of heightened alert.



Tribute to Rabindranath Tagore at Jorasanko Thakur bari on his 164th Birth Anniversary in Kolkata on Friday.

Daylight robbery in Entally, crores looted, lakhs recovered

**MI News Services, Kolkata:** Following a brazen daylight robbery on May 5th in Kolkata's Entally area, where over Rs2.5 crore was looted from employees of a foreign exchanges agency forced into a taxi en route to a bank, city police have apprehended five individuals. Identified as Sanjeev Das (alias Sonu), Riju Hazra, Sheikh Shahruk, and Alamgir Khan, the accused were arrested from various locations. So far, Rs29 lakh of the stolen Rs2.66 crore has been recovered, with authorities continuing their efforts to retrieve the remaining funds.

The Kolkata Police have made significant progress in the investigation of the audacious daylight robbery that occurred in the Entally area on May 5th, resulting in the theft of 2.66 crore. Following a meticulous investigation, law enforcement officials have successfully apprehended five individuals implicated in the crime.

The arrested suspects have been identified as Sanjeev Das (also known as Pacha), Mohammad Sarfaraz (alias Sonu), Riju Hazra, Sheikh Shahrukh, and Alamgir Khan. These individuals were taken into custody from various locations across

the city. The incident unfolded when Samrat Ghosh and a colleague, employees of a foreign exchange agency, were en route to deposit 2.66 crore at a bank branch in the Park Circus area. According to the police complaint filed by Mr. Ghosh, two unidentified individuals forcibly entered their taxi and subsequently absconded with the substantial sum. Through diligent interrogation of the apprehended suspects, the police have managed to recover 29 lakh of the stolen money. Initial breakthroughs came from the questioning of Sanjeev Das, which led to the recovery of 26 lakh from the residence of his associate, Shailen, in the Subhashgram area of Baruipur. Further interrogation of Alamgir Khan resulted in the recovery of an additional 3 lakh from his residence in Tiljala. The Kolkata Police are continuing their active investigation to locate the remaining portion of the stolen 2.66 crore and to gather further details regarding the planning and execution of this bold daylight dacoity. The swift arrests and partial recovery underscore the commitment of the city's law enforcement to bringing the perpetrators to justice.

"Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata bolsters security measures amid National alert

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata, has heightened its security protocols in response to the current national alert. Key measures include : Security Level where The port has raised its security level to 2, as per directives from the Directorate General of Shipping, Employee Alertness where All personnel are instructed to remain alert and report suspicious activities to security personnel immediately, Leave Cancellation where All employee leaves are canceled from May 10 to 14, 2025, with employees required to stay at headquarters, Cyber Security where Enhanced cyber security measures will be imple-



mented to prevent cyber threats, Security Drills where the Regular security drills will be conducted to ensure preparedness, Access Control which will going to be Strict access control will be enforced, allowing entry only to individuals with valid Dock Entry Permits or Photo ID

cards. Chairman Rathendra Raman emphasized the port's commitment to safety and security, stating that the port will remain a secure gateway for maritime trade. The enhanced security protocols aim to safeguard critical infrastructure and ensure seamless port operations.

Suvendu Adhikari's fiery threat against left

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Amidst escalating tensions along the Indo-Pak border following the Pahalgaon terrorist attack, a sharp political divide has emerged in West Bengal. The CPM's vocal opposition to war, articulated by leaders like Mohammad Salim, Biman Basu, and Vikas Ranjan Bhattacharjee, has drawn a

fierce response from Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari. Suvendu, in a strongly worded statement, threatened to forcibly remove perceived "anti-India" elements from Jadavpur, suggesting a "surgical strike" against them similar to the military actions on the border. His remarks, fueled by a so-

cial media post from Dipsita Dhar, have ignited controversy, further highlighting the polarized political climate in the state. This comes as the CPM advocates for negotiations over military escalation, while simultaneously condemning inflammatory rhetoric calling for violence against Pakistan.

'let's not bring their morale...

►► From PG 1

with the achievements of the officers. In its February 17, 2020, directive the top court said absolute exclusion of women from all positions, except staff assignments, in the Army was indefensible and their blanket non-consideration for command appointments without any justification couldn't be sustained in law.

The apex court, which allowed permanent commission (PC) to women officers in the Army, said an absolute prohibition of women Short Service Commission officers to obtain

anything but staff appointments evidently did not fulfil the purpose of granting PC as a means of career advancement in the Army.

The top court also referred to the distinctions achieved by women officers, and put out an example of Col Qureshi's achievements.

Since the 2020 verdict, the top court has passed several orders on the issue of permanent commission to women officers in Armed Forces and similar orders was passed in the case of Navy, Indian Air Force and Coast Guard.

IPL 2025 called off now as...

►► From PG 1

the team buses being redirected for a safer exit. In a significant retaliation following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam that left 26 civilians, mostly tourists, dead, India launched precision missile strikes on terror hubs across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The offensive, targeting key camps of terror groups Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba, marked a decisive retaliation aimed at dismantling cross-border terror networks.

The strikes were followed by heightened military alertness along the border, prompting security measures across several Indian states. By Thursday, a state of heightened alert was visible on the ground. Multiple districts across Punjab; Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali, and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, enforced complete blackouts amid air raid sirens and reports of explosion-like

sounds in Jammu. On the night of May 8, Pakistan launched an attack on multiple Indian cities across the border, including Jammu and Pathankot, as well as areas in Punjab and Rajasthan. These attacks were successfully neutralised by the Indian Armed Forces.

Earlier in the day, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) announced that the remainder of the Pakistan Super League would be shifted to the UAE.

Meanwhile, in a time of growing unrest and military escalation between India and Pakistan, former Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma has sent a powerful message of solidarity with the Indian armed forces.

As missile strikes and counter-attacks continue across the Line of Control, and concerns of a wider conflict deepen, the former India captain urged the public to show restraint, unity, and unwavering support for the nation's defenders.

Amit Shah reviews security...

►► From PG 1

designs will be responded with force," Army posted on X. The operation was launched after Pakistan made failed attempts to send swarm drones all across various places along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Borders (IB), over 50 drones were successfully neutralised during a large-scale counter-drone operation conducted by Indian Army Air Defence units in the areas of Udhampur, Samba, Jammu, Akhnoor, Nagrota, and Pathankot areas," Defence sources said.

Pathankot. "Yesterday night, when Pakistan made failed attempts to send swarm drones all across various places along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Borders (IB), over 50 drones were successfully neutralised during a large-scale counter-drone operation conducted by Indian Army Air Defence units in the areas of Udhampur, Samba, Jammu, Akhnoor, Nagrota, and Pathankot areas," Defence sources said.

Security stepped up at vital...

►► From PG 1

Vihar Phase-1 Metro Station, a vital public installation. During the visit, CISF personnel were briefed, and a focused coordination meeting was held." He added, "The station is secured with 41 operational CCTV cameras monitoring every critical point. In each shift, 7 male and 2 female

CISF personnel remain deployed to ensure robust, round-the-clock security. This will ensure the safety of the commuters." Additional security personnel have been deployed at vital locations like New Delhi, central Delhi, the cantonment area, and the IGI Airport. Police are also monitoring social media platforms for potential threats.

Belur Math backs India's retaliation, "Not Acting is a sin"

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Amidst India's "Operation Sindoor", the military response to the Pahalgaon terrorist attack involving strikes on terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir—Swami Subirananda Maharaj, the General Secretary of Belur Math, has offered strong spiritual and scriptural justification for India's actions. Speaking at a joint program of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Belur Math, he asserted that India's retaliation is not a crime but a necessary act of defending the nation against those who seek to harm it. He emphasized the collective responsibility of the common people to support the country and government in this conflict, viewing it as a battle of good against evil.

Belur Math General Secretary Justifies India's Retaliation ('Operation Sindoor') as Scripturally Sound Swami Subirananda Maharaj, the General Secretary of the esteemed Belur Math, has offered a strong

endorsement of India's military response, codenamed 'Operation Sindoor', to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgaon. The Indian Army's operation involved strikes on multiple terrorist camps located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Belur Math views this action as a necessary confrontation between good and evil. Speaking at a program organized jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Belur Math at Jethi Ghat, Swami Subirananda Maharaj asserted that India's retaliation is not only justifiable but also aligns with spiritual and scriptural principles. He went further to state that, from this perspective, "not retaliating is a crime." During his address, Swami Subirananda Maharaj called upon the common populace to stand firmly in support of the nation and its government during this period of conflict. He emphasized that this is not merely a governmental issue but a collective struggle for all citizens.





School students perform during celebration of Rabindranath Tagore Jayanti at Rabindra Kanan, in Agartala.

Cancellation of one pair Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana Local For Track Maintenance Work

MI News Service, Kolkata: For Track maintenance work between Lakshmikan- tapur - Namkhana section, 34935/34914 Lakshmikan- tapur - Namkhana - Laksh- mikantapur local will remain cancelled on 10/11.05. 20 25 (Saturday/ Sunday).

Continuation of Running of two MEMU Special Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to con- tinue the running of 03146/03145 Deoghar – Godda – Deoghar MEMU special and 03148/03147 Bhagalpur – Deoghar -Bha- galpur MEMU special upto 16.05.2025 as per its exist- ing timings & stoppages.

**Name Change**  
I, No.14282908A Rank Ex HAV Name Nand Kishore resident of Vill.-Railpar Tankitala, P.O.-Pana- garh Bazar, Dist.-Paschim Bard- haman(WB), Pin-731348 have change my Name from Nand Kishore to Nand Kishore Gupta vide Affidavit dated 07.05.25 be- fore the 1st Class Judicial Magis- trate at Durgapur Court.

**Name Change**  
I, Begam Jahira Sultana, spouse of I, 14513257H Rank & NK Name Late Mahammad Ali resident of Vill. Ramghati,P.O.-Thiba, Dist.-Birbhum(WB), Pin-731303 have change my Name & Date of birth from Begam Jahira Sultana & 1963 (As pe PPO) to Zahira Sultana & 10 Feb 1965 vide Affidavit dated 29 Apr 25 before the Court of the J.M., 1st Class Bolpur, Dist.- Birbhum.

**Name Change**  
Rinki Delhi, W/o- Late Satyendra Prasad Ram, re- siding at Jhulania More South Basti, P.O-Banshe- ria, PS-Mogra Dist-Hooghly , West Bengal, Pin-712502 declare that Anmol Ram, So- Satyen- dra Prasad Ram is my son. In the Aadhaar Card of my aforesaid son being Aadhaar No. 5607 0551 9491 and in Birth Certificate being Registration No. B-2023; 9-90593-00554, date of Registration - 04/12/2023, Date of birth- 28/12/2007 where the column of father's name has been correctly re- coded as Satyendra Prasad Ram. That in Death Certificate of my deceased husband being Regis- tration No- D-20229-70342-000004, Date of Registration -12/03/2022, Date of Death - 16/02/2022 where the name of my husband who happens to be father of my aforesaid son has been correctly recorded as Satyendra Prasad Ram. In the Admit card of my aforesaid son in Madhyami Pariksha ( Secondary Examination), 2024 being Registration No-4231-007005, Roll 30426 IN No.0081 where the name of my husband who happens to be father of my aforesaid son has been inadvertently written and recorded as Satyen- dra Ram instead of Satyendra Prasad Ram. by an af- fidavit in the Court of 1st. 1st Class Judicial Magis- trate Hooghly, at Chinsurah on 30th april 2025 that Satyendra Prasad Ram and Satyen- dra Ram is the same and one identical person

**Name Change**  
I, Farrukh Nishat, residing at 166/1/85, Ke- shab Chandra Sen Street, Kolkata 700009, do hereby solemnly declare that Masfa Farrukh is my daughter whose date of birth is 28.01.2009, vide affidavit sworn before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court, 24 Parganas (s) Affidavit No. 5222 on 29th April 2025. I, also affirm that due to mistake my daughter's name and her father's name has been wrongly recorded as Masfa Farrukh in my daughter's ICSE Admission Card-2025 in place of her Actual name which is Masfa Farrukh and my name should be Farrukh Nishat instead of Sk. Farrukh Nishat alias Farrukh Nishat. I also affirm that Masfa Farrukh and Masfa Fahrukh is the same and one identical person and myself Farrukh Nishat and Sk. Farrukh Nishat alias Farrukh Nishat is the same and one identical person,

**Name Change**  
I, Bhismadeb chakraborty s/o Lt. Chunilal Chakraborty, Residing at vill-Ramkrishna Pally, Shyam Sun- dar Para, P.O.-P.S.-Ranaghat, Dist- Nadia, Pin-741201 vide an Affidavit Sworn before the court of LD. Judicial Magistrate (1st class) at Ranaghat, on 02/05/2025. That I Bhismadeb Chakraborty and Bhishma Deb chakraborty and Bhishma chakraborty am the Same and one identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Aijul Mondal, S/o - Abdulla Mondal, residing at Vill-Kamdebpur, P.O.-Goripur, P.S.- Gopalnagar, Dist-North 24 Pgs.PIN - 743710, do hereby declare that in my Aadhaar Card my name has been recorded as Aijul Abdulla Mondal. On 08/05/ 2025 vide an affidavit no. 4627, before the 1st class A.C.C.J.M, Bongaon, North 24 Pgs, I affirm that Aijul Mondal & Aijul Abdulla Mondal is the same & one identical person.

‘AMAR BOSS’ hits Bengal silver screens with a bang

MI News Service, Kolkata: The much awaited Shibunandita film hits the theatre halls of Bengal with a big bang. ‘Amar Boss’, the Bengali drama film di- rected by the acclaimed duo Nandita Roy and Shi- boprosad Mukherjee cre- ates uproar in Bengali psyche from day of its re- lease. The film marks the return of legendary actress Raakhee Gulzar to Bengali cinema after a hiatus of over two decades. Her last theatrical release in Ben- gal was Rituparno Ghosh's Shubho Mahurat in 2003. She also appeared in Gaut- tam Halder's Nirban (2019), which had a lim- ited release at film festi- vals.

**PLOT AND THEMES**  
Amar Boss is a modern family drama set in a workplace environment. The story revolves around a boss whose mother starts an old-age crèche within the office premises. What begins as an unconven- tional idea soon trans- forms the office culture, bringing warmth, produc- tivity, and a sense of com- munity.

**CAST AND CREW**  
The star-studded cast of the film is furnished below: Raakhee Gulzar: Plays the pivotal role of the boss's mother. Shiboprosad Mukherjee: Co-director and actor in the film. Srabanti Chatterjee: Fea- tures in a significant role. Souraseni Maitra: Part of the ensemble cast. Shruti Das: Makes her big- screen debut with this film.

The film is produced under the banner of Windows Production. **PRODUCTION INSIGHTS** Raakhee Gulzar's commit- ment to authenticity is evi- dent in her portrayal. For instance, she insisted on sourcing a Tulsi Mala from Banaras to ensure cultural accuracy in her charac- ter's appearance. Director duo Shiboprosad Mukher- jee and Nandita Roy praised her meticulous at- tention to detail, noting that her dedication ele- vated every aspect of her performance. **FESTIVAL RECOGNITION** Amar Boss has garnered significant recognition in the film festival circuit. It was selected for the pre- stigious Indian Panorama section at the 55th Inter- national Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. This selection highlights the film's exceptional story- telling and craftsmanship. **MUSIC** Amar Boss's music plays a pivotal role in its success. The film's music has been composed by Anupam Roy, with the first song, "Boshonto Dekhesse Amake," released as a teaser on March 8, 2025. The song features Raakhee Gulzar performing a Saraswati Vandana, ac- companied by other cast members. The full song was released on March 10, 2025. Amar Boss promises to be a heartwarming tale that blends familial bonds with workplace dynamics, showcasing the transfor- mative power of compas- sion and community.

US tariffs to have small indi- rect effect: NITI Aayog member

MI News Service, New Delhi: The US reciprocal tariffs will have a small indirect effect on India given the do- mestic economy's low dependence on foreign trade, NITI Aayog member Arvind Virmani said.

He further said that in the medium term, the negative factors emanating from the imposition of tariff would be minimised with the implementation of the first phase of the proposed USA-India Bilateral Trade Agreement. In the long term, the eminent economist said the final BTA with US will aim to enhance the potential gains during the next 5 to 10 years.

The US has announced 26 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India saying New Delhi imposes high import duties on American goods. "This (26 per cent reciprocal tariffs) will have a small indirect effect on India given our low trade dependence," he said. Virmani explained that the recip- rocal tariffs are calculated by a formula which includes US trade deficit with a country and imports from that country. He said every country is however feeling the ef- fect of increased trade policy uncertainty during the last few months, adding "world trade, FDI, investment and GDP growth will all be affected." According to Virmani, in the short-medium term, the impact of differential US tariffs depends on the commodity and the relative tariffs on competitors. "Very broadly, there are three categories; (a) Exempt goods (e.g. Pharmaceuticals): Little or no ef- fect. (b) Exports in which largest competitors in US mar- ket are from EU or LAC: Reduce demand for India, (c) Asia, in which closest competitors are from East & S.E. Export, the demand for India would tend to increase," he said. Responding to a question on impact of reciprocal tariffs on inflation rate, Virmani said,"Other things un- changed, the effect of US tariffs on any one country X, would be to reduce demand for imports from that coun- try and have a deflationary impact (not inflationary)." He observed that to the extent to which US imports from many countries are reduced, all these countries would reduce the prices of their exports to other countries, be- sides the US. While noting that the direct effect on the rest of the world is therefore deflationary, Virmani said,"Supply-side disruptions can however produce sharp increase in prices of some goods, whose aggregate inflationary impact is difficult to predict at this point." Asked can India turn this crisis into an opportunity, he said every challenge is an opportunity and this one is no different. "From the time of the election of the US Presi- dent many of us have been thinking about how to maxi- mize the benefits and minimize the costs of likely US actions," he said.

According to Virmani, the agreement between US President and Indian Prime Minister to target increased trade and promote supply chains, through a mutually beneficial USA-India Bilateral Trade Agreement, is ex- pected to do that.

Continuation of SER's Special Trains

MI News Service, Kolkata: With a view to clear the extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to continue the running of Special Trains as per the given schedule:-  
• 02863 Santragachi-Yesvant- pur Special will continue to run upto 26.06.2025  
• 02864 Yesvantpur-Santragachi Special will continue to run upto 28.06.2025  
• 02841 Shali- mar-MGR Chennai Central Special will continue to run upto 30.06.2025  
• 02842 MGR Chennai Central-Shali- mar Special will continue to run upto 02.07.2025  
• 08611 Santragachi-Ajmer Special will continue to run upto 30.06.2025  
• 08612 Ajmer- Santragachi Special will con- tinue to run upto 03.07.2025

Metro to run 62 services on Purple Line from 13.05.2025



**FIRST SERVICE AT 07:57 HRS. LAST SERVICE AT 20:00 HRS.**

To meet the demand of commuters, Metro Railway Authorities are going to in- crease Metro services on the Purple Line between Joka and Majerhat Metro stations from 13.05.2025 (Tuesday). A total of 62 services (31 UP + 31 DN) on this stretch will be op- erated at an interval of 24 minutes from that day. At present, 40 services (20 UP + 20 DN) are being op- erated daily from Monday to Friday on Purple Line. Service hours on this Cor- ridor are also going to in- crease to 07:57 hrs to 20:17 hrs instead of 08:27 hrs to 15:43 hrs. There will be no services on Saturdays & Sundays as usual. **FIRST SERVICE:** From Majerhat: At 07:57 hrs (instead of 08:27 hrs). From Joka: At 08:00 hrs (instead of 08:30 hrs). **LAST SERVICE** From Joka: At 20:00 hrs (instead of 15:28 hrs). From Majerhat: At 20:00 hrs (instead of 15:28 hrs).

IA carried 1.45 Cr passengers in Mar, up 8.79% from last yr: DGCA

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian airlines car- ried 1.45 crore passengers in March, an increase of 8.79 per cent compared to the year-ago period, ac- cording to official data re- leased. The Indian carriers had flown a total of 1.33 crore passengers in March 2024. "Passengers carried by domestic airlines during March 2025 were 145.42 lakh as against 133.68 lakh during the correspon- ding period of the previous year," the Directorate Gen- eral of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said in its monthly domestic passenger traffic report. In the month gone by, IndiGo transported a total of 93.1 lakh passengers with a market share of 64 per cent while Air India Group (full-service carrier Air India and low-cost carrier Air India Express) flew 38.8 lakh passengers with 26.7 per cent market share. The two other major carriers - Akasa Air and Spice- Jet - flew 7.2 lakh and 4.8 lakh passengers, respec- tively in March 2025, cor- nering market share of 5 per cent and 3.3 per cent. IndiGo delivered the high- est on-time performance (OTP) at 88.1 per cent for March 2025 followed by Akasa Air at 86.9 per cent while that of Air India Group and SpiceJet was at 82 per cent and 72.1 per cent, respectively. OTP has been computed for four metro airports -- Ben- galuru, Delhi, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

Railway Minister Reviews Opera- tions, Directs Operation of Special Trains Based on Public Needs



MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to the temporary clo- sure of Jammu and Chandigarh airports, sev- eral passengers were stranded. To assist them, Indian Railways arranged special trains to ensure their safe and timely travel. Railway Minister Ash- wini Vaishnaw reviewed the arrangements made for train operations. After assessing the entire situ- ation, he instructed railway officials to coordinate with various government agen- cies and ensure the opera- tion of trains to assist people, especially in bor- der regions. He empha- sized that, along with regular trains, special trains should also be op- erated based on need. Following the Minis- ter's directives, on May 9, 2025, four special trains

were operated from Jammu and Udhampur:  
1. **Train No. 04612: o Departure:** Jammu station at 10:45 AM o C o a c h Composition: 12 unre- served and 12 reserved class coaches  
2. **Vande Bharat Ex- press: o Departure:** Ud- hampur at 12:45 PM o **Route:** Udhampur – Jammu – Pathankot – New Delhi o **Total Coaches:** 20  
3. **Special Train with 22 LHB Coaches: o Departure:** Jammu station at 7:00 PM  
4. **Another Vande Bharat Special Train: o De- parture:** Jammu at 3:30 PM, o **Arrival:** New Delhi in the evening  
These special train op- erations reflect Indian Railways' commitment to addressing emergent pub- lic transportation needs ef- ficiently.

Howrah Division Celebrates 100 Glorious Years with a Se- ries of Community-Centric Ac- tivities at Tarakeswar Station



MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the ongoing cen- tenary celebrations mark- ing 100 glorious years of the Howrah Division, a se- ries of vibrant and commu- nity-oriented activities were organized today at Tarakeswar railway station and its surrounding areas under the direction of Divi- sional Railway Manager, Shri Sanjeev Kumar. The event witnessed enthusias- tic participation from rail- way staff, local residents, and volunteers, creating a festive and inclusive at- mosphere. The day began with a spirited Prabhat Pheri, with participants marching through the station pre- mises and nearby areas, spreading the message of unity, heritage, and civic responsibility. This was fol- lowed by the distribution of informative leaflets high- lighting the achievements, history, and future vision of the Howrah Division, aimed at fostering greater public awareness and en- gagement. In line with the Indian Railways' commit-

ment to environmental sustainability, a tree plan- tation drive was also car- ried out in and around the station. Dozens of saplings were planted by railway of- ficials, and members of the local community, reaffirm- ing the division's dedica- tion to green practices and ecological conservation. Adding to the day's im- pactful events was a large- scale cleanliness drive. Railway staff, in coordina- tion with local volunteers, undertook a thorough cleaning of the station premises and circulating areas. The initiative was aligned with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and rein- forced the importance of hygiene and public cleanli- ness. These activities are part of a year-long celebra- tion honouring the legacy and service of the Howrah Division, which has played a vital role in the socio-eco- nomic development of the region over the past cen- tury. The Division contin- ues to remain a symbol of progress, innovation, and community partnership.

GST collection hits 'highest-ever' Rs 2.37 lakh Cr in Apr

MI News Service, New Delhi: Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection rose 12.6 per cent Y-o-Y to an all-time high of about Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April, government data showed. The GST mop-up was Rs 2.10 lakh crore in April 2024 -- the second highest collection ever since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017. In March 2025, the collection

was Rs 1.96 lakh crore. GST revenue from domes- tic transactions rose 10.7 per cent to about Rs 1.9 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods was up 20.8 per cent to Rs 46,913 crore. Refunds is- suance rose 48.3 per cent to Rs 27,341 crore during April. After adjusting re- funds, net GST collection rose 9.1 per cent to over Rs 2.09 lakh crore in April.

Miscellaneous

Colvin Court: A Living Legacy of Colonial Architecture



MI News Service, Kolkata: Colvin Court, the presti- gious heritage housing complex located on Church Road, Howrah, stands as a majestic reminder of India's colonial past and architectural grandeur. Built in 1925, this impres- sive structure was origi- nally constructed to serve as residential quarters for British officers of the East In- dian Railway. Nearly a cen- tury later, it continues to serve a similar purpose, now housing sen- ior officers of the Eastern Railway. Strategically situ- ated just a stone's throw away from the iconic Howrah Railway Station and perched on the west- ern bank of the Hooghly River, Colvin Court com- bines elegance with utility. Its proximity to one of the busiest railway hubs in India made it an ideal loca- tion for accommodating high-ranking railway per- sonnel during the British era. Architecturally, Colvin Court is a fine example of colonial-era construction. The building is a four-sto- ried mansion composed of several independent apart- ments, each thoughtfully designed for both comfort and durability. One of the most striking features of Colvin Court is its impres- sive 20-foot-high ceilings and walls that are 36 inches by 26 inches thick. These design elements are not only aesthetically pleasing but also serve a functional pur- pose—helping to keep the in- teriors cool even during the peak sum- mer months. With its sym- metrical struc- ture, spacious verandas, and solid masonry, Colvin Court stands out as a sym- bol of architectural finesse from a bygone era. It is more than just a residen- tial complex; it is a her- itage landmark that reflects the evolution of railway administration and colonial lifestyle in India. Today, Colvin Court continues to blend heritage charm with modern func- tionality, serving as a dig- nified residence for senior officers of the Eastern Rail- way. It remains an endur- ing testament to the thoughtful planning and timeless elegance of colo- nial architecture.

Stepped up security measures Over ER



MI News Service, Kolkata: In view of the emergent situation, a couple of measures have been taken for stepping up the secu- rity system over Eastern Railway. RPF & RPSF in coordination with GRP and local police has increased the vigilance at all major railway stations and rail- way tracks in Eastern Rail- way's jurisdiction. In addition to the existing se- curity initiatives, following additional initiatives have been arranged by Security Department (RPFs) over Eastern Railway:  
• Passenger awareness ini- tiatives are being con- ducted at important railway stations and sur- rounding areas to educate passengers regarding any possible security threat.  
• Deployment of RPF & RPSF has been made at railway

stations and LC Gates. • Regular patrol is being conducted at stations and over railway tracks. • In- tensified security checking at railway stations using luggage scanner, parcel scanner and hand held metal detector. • Dog Squads deployment for checking at important major stations and passen- ger areas, Mail/Express & EMU trains etc. • Special watch at overcrowded places like PRS Counters, Clock Rooms, Waiting Halls, toilets, and in Con- course areas. • Night Checking and Track Pa- trolling are being done in the sensitive areas. • Route march are also being done over the sensitive stations & surroundings areas. • Joint checking with GRP has been made to conduct anti sabotage checks.





The 164th birth anniversary of international poet Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated with devotion and respect at various places and government offices in Hugli district along with the state. Rishra Municipality Chairman Vijay Sagar Mishra, Rishra Town Trinamool Congress President Manoj Saw and several councilors were seen paying homage to Rabindranath Tagore by offering flowers and garlands at his statue at the Rabindranath Bhawan of Rishra Municipality.

Overcoming Disability, poor student scores better in HS – Local Police Officer offers support

MI News Service, Kalyani: A heartwarming gesture from the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Gayeshpur Police Station, Joy Das, is winning hearts in Nadia district. On Friday, he personally visited the home of a differently-abled student, Rahul Chowdhury, who passed his Higher Secondary examination with 60% marks despite being 90% physically disabled and dependent on a wheelchair. The officer not only congratulated him but also promised continued support in his educational journey.

Rahul, a resident of Bela Mitra Nagar in Gayeshpur, moves around entirely on a wheelchair. During the examination period, OC Joy Das not-



ticed him entering the exam. center in a wheelchair, an image that left a lasting impression on him. "That day, I silently saluted his courage and determination. I felt that if I could do something for him, it would be truly meaningful," said the officer.

Following the release of the exam results, which revealed Rahul's impressive 60% score, Joy Das wasted no time in reaching out. On Friday, he visited Rahul's poor home, met his parents, and

presented Rahul with educational supplies including a dictionary, notebooks, and pens. The officer assured the family that he would continuously help Rahul in the field of education, according to his ability. Rahul's father works in a private factory and the family struggles financially. Despite the challenges, Rahul's achievement has been hailed as an inspiration. "His success proves that with determination and hard work, no disability can be a barrier," said Joy Das.

Local residents praised both Rahul's perseverance and the OC's compassionate support, calling it a powerful example of community solidarity and encouragement.

Banks say ATMs well stocked, services uninterrupted

MI News Service, New Delhi: State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and several other lenders on Friday said their ATMs are fully functional, well-stocked, and that digital services are operating smoothly. They also said that all their digital services are operating smoothly.

The announcements came against the backdrop of reports on social media that ATMs are likely to be shut in the coming days amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

The Press Information Bureau's (PIB) Fact Check Unit posted on X that a viral WhatsApp message claimed ATMs will be closed for 2-3 days.

"This Message is FAKE. ATMs will continue to operate as usual. Don't share unverified messages," it said.

"All our ATMs, CDMs/AD-WMs and digital services are fully operational and available for public use," India's largest bank, State Bank of India, said in a post on social media post 'X'.

India's largest lender also advised its customers not to

rely on unverified information. Similar messages have been posted by Bank of Baroda, Punjab and Sindh Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of India.

"All our digital services too are operating smoothly, ensuring a seamless banking experience from the comfort of your home," Punjab National Bank said in a post on social media platform 'X'.

Meanwhile, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will hold a review meeting on cybersecurity preparedness of banks and financial institutions in the evening, the ministry said.

Govt blocks 8,000 X accounts

MI News Service, New Delhi: Social media platform X said it had blocked 8,000 accounts in India following executive orders from the government.

X said it received executive orders from the Indian government requiring it to block over 8,000 accounts in India, subject to potential penalties, including significant fines and imprisonment of the company's local employees.

"To comply with the orders, we will withhold the specified accounts in India alone. We have begun that process. However, we disagree with the Indian government's demands," X said in a post on its Global Government Affairs handle.

"This is not an easy decision, however, keeping the platform accessible in India is vital to Indians' ability to access information. We believe that making these executive orders public is essential for transparency — lack of disclosure discourages accountability and can contribute to arbitrary decision-making. However, due to legal restrictions, we are unable to publish the executive orders at this time.

"X is exploring all possi-

ble legal avenues available to the company. Unlike users located in India, X is restricted by Indian law in its ability to bring legal challenges against these executive orders. However, we encourage all users who are impacted by these blocking orders to seek appropriate relief from the courts," it said.

X, which has been in a prolonged legal battle with the Centre over the blocking of accounts, posted contacts on free legal aid services.

In Srinagar, police booked three men for spreading misinformation and inflammatory content on social media about the current conflict.

Saudi Arabia's deputy foreign minister Adel al-Jubeir landed in Delhi to meet India's top leadership with a focus on de-escalating tensions between India and Pakistan.

Al-Jubeir, on an unannounced visit to India, is learnt to have carried a message from the Saudi leadership. "A good meeting with @AdelAljubeir, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia this morning," Jaishankar said in a social media post.

Pahalgam victim's son wants to join army

MI News Service, Balasore: Nine-year-old Tanuj Kumar Satpathy, who lost his father in the Pahalgam attack, said that he wants to join the Indian Army and confront Pakistani terrorists. Tanuj's father, Prashant Satpathy, was among the 26 people killed in the terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir on April 22. Speaking to reporters at his house in Odisha's Balasore district, Tanuj said if he gets the opportunity to meet PM Narendra Modi, he would tell him to ensure that no child like him becomes fatherless.

"I have decided to join the Army as it has avenged my father's death," he said as his mother, Priya Darshini Acharya, stood by his side. "We have been watching the news since Wednesday morning, and it gives my mother and me immense satisfaction. We are proud of our Army," he said, referring to Operation Sindoor.

Tanuj said the Army have been with him and his

mother since the beginning. "Finally, they took revenge. Therefore, I will certainly join the Army. I will study with dedication so that I can get a place in the force, and will confront Pakistan and its terrorists," he said.

Mallickpur Gram Panchayet

Mallickpur, Baruiip, South 24 Parganas

Notice Inviting Tender

Sealed Tender is invited from Reputed, Bonafied Tenderer for 11 Nos. scheme vide NIT No: 165, 166, 167, 168 & 169/MGP/2025-26, Date: 30.04.2025 under SBM(G), 5<sup>th</sup> SFC Unified Fund. Date of Sale of Tender Form : 05.05.2025 to 13.05.2025, 19.05.2025 (NIT-165), Last date of dropping of Sealed Tender Form : 13.05.2025, 19.05.2025 (NIT-165) upto 2:00 P.M. Date of Opening of Tender : 15.05.2025, 23.05.2025 (NIT-165) at 03:00 P.M. For detailed information visit [www.wbtenders.gov.in](http://www.wbtenders.gov.in) & also available at undersigned G.P. Office. Sd/-

Prodhan Mallickpur Gram Panchayat

Continuation of Running of MEMU Special Trains between Deoghar & Godda and Deoghar & Bhagalpur

For the Convenience of commuters, 03146/03145 Deoghar-Godda-Deoghar MEMU Special & 03147/03148 Deoghar-Bhagalpur-Deoghar MEMU Special trains will continue to run daily upto 16.05.2025 as per their existing path, timings and stoppages. All other instructions will remain same.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager

EASTERN RAILWAY

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Young doctor from Samastipur Muhammad Faraz's success is a ray of hope for the people

MI News Service, Kolkata: A brave young man from Samastipur, Bihar, Muhammad Faraz, has not only made his parents and the region proud by obtaining his MBBS degree from the renowned National Medical College in Calcutta, but has also won the hearts of everyone with his sincerity and spirit of service. The feeling of lack of basic medical facilities in rural areas instilled a spirit of service in Dr. Faraz. This is why instead of going to big cities or abroad, it is his mission to provide extensive medical facilities in his own area.

It should be noted that Dr. Faraz's father, Engineer Muhammad Akhlaq Saeed, is the cousin brother of Dr. K.M. Saifullah, Chief Medical Director, Naturoveda Health World,



who holds a high position in Dubai. He says that the people of my area, Rampur, Rehwa, are often worried due to the lack of proper and quality medical facilities. I want them not to be dependent on others for their health. Dr. Faraz's determination is commendable and his success is a shining example for the youth of the area. Not only his parents, relatives, teachers and friends deserve congratulations on this success, but the entire area is proud of him.

World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day celebrated



MI News Service, Howrah: On the occasion of World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day, a two-day discussion meeting and blood donation camp were organized by the Indian Red Cross Society. Howrah District Branch on 8th and 9th May 2025 at the Society's office.

The first day, May 8, began with a tribute to the portrait of Donald Sahib, the founder of the Red Cross. Then a discussion meeting was held in the presence of the members of the society's management committee and the society's staff. Secretary Dr. Sujoy Palit and Red Cross Howrah district coordinator Mandira Chakraborty and other mem-

bers spoke in the meeting.

On the second day, a blood donation camp was held on 9th May. The program began with the lighting of the lamp. Justice Apurba Sinha Roy, High Court, Justice Arjit Mukherjee, Barrackpore Court and Swami Shradhamayananda Maharaj of Belur Math were present as special guests at the blood donation camp. Also present were Red Cross Patron Amitabh Jana, Editor Dr. Sujoy Palit and other prominent personalities. The entire program was beautifully implemented with the initiative of all the staff and all the members of the management committee.

Court can't force states to implement NEP: SC

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court dismissed a petition filed by BJP leader and lawyer G.S. Mani, which asked for the implementation of the three-language formula under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and West Bengal.

A bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan rejected the plea, stating that the court does not have the power to force a state to follow a central policy like the NEP.

"Whether the states should adopt the National Education Policy 2020 or not is a vexed issue. The Supreme Court, through Article 32 of the Constitution, can issue directives to ensure that the rights of the citizens are protected. It cannot directly compel a state to adopt a policy like the NEP. The court may, however, intervene if a state's action or inaction related to the NEP violates any fundamental rights,"

The court also questioned the petitioner's connection to the issue, pointing out that

although Mani is from Tamil Nadu, he now lives in New Delhi.

"We do not propose to examine this issue in this writ petition. We believe that the petitioner has nothing to do with the cause he proposes to espouse. Although he may be from the state of Tamil Nadu, yet on his own admission, he is residing in New Delhi. In such circumstances, this petition stands dismissed," the court said.

The plea was filed amid ongoing row over Hindi imposition. While the Centre claimed the NEP promotes multilingualism, Tamil Nadu argued it puts unfair pressure on non-Hindi-speaking states.

The state has opposed the policy, accusing the Centre of trying to "impose" Hindi through the three-language formula.

Tamil Nadu chief minister M.K. Stalin has been a vocal opponent of the NEP, especially its three-language formula, accusing the Centre of attempting to impose Hindi and non-Hindi speaking states.

16 Bangladeshi nationals, 7 children, and one Indian Tout held for illegal cross-border activity in Nadia

MI News Service, Dhantala: In a significant breakthrough in curbing cross-border illegal movement, Dhantala Police on Wednesday evening apprehended sixteen Bangladeshi nationals, ( 16 + 7 children ) including seven children, and one Indian tout from the Baranberia Nilalapara area under Duttapuria Gram Panchayat in Nadia.

According to police sources, the foreign nationals had illegally entered India a few months ago with the assistance of an Indian handler. After traveling across various parts of the country, they had returned to the Dhantala area on Wednesday with the intention of crossing back into Bangladesh. Ashish Mourya, the Superintendent of police, Ranaghat police district said, " The arrested Bangla Na-



tionals spent long time at various corners of the country. While some of them stated that they were in Maharashtra, some in Gujarat. But all these are matter of investigation."

The arrested Indian tout has been identified as Ram Udagar Kamat (45), a native of Madhubani district in Bihar, currently residing near the Fire Brigade in Kolkata.

The Bangladeshi nationals hailed from the Narail and Jessore districts of Bangladesh. Police confirmed that they include men, women, and children who had crossed the Indo-Bangladesh border

near North 24 Parganas district without valid documentation.

During questioning, the group admitted to entering India illegally and revealed plans to re-enter Bangladesh through unauthorised means. They entered long months back.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of the law at Dhantala Police Station. All arrested individuals were presented before the court on Thursday. Police have launched further raids to identify and apprehend other members of the cross-border trafficking network.

Authorities have reiterated their commitment to tackling illegal migration and ensuring tight vigil along the international border.

Stalls/Outlets at Stations over Sealdah Division Under 'One Station One Product' Scheme

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah hereby invites application in sealed packet (single) and in prescribed format from Individuals, Self Help Groups (SHGs), Marginalized or weaker sections of society etc., dealing with indigenous products for participation in "ONE STATION ONE PRODUCT" Scheme at 101 nos. stations over Sealdah Division. Salient features of the scheme:- (1) Tenure of the project: ● Taki Road – 30 days starting from 30.05.2025. ● Tala, Baranagar Road, Taldi – 30 days starting from 01.06.2025. ● Majerhat, Taherpur, Aranghata – 30 days starting from 02.06.2025. ● Akra, Santoshpur, Komagata Maru Budge Budge – 30 days starting from 03.06.2025. ● Dhubulia – 30 days starting from 04.06.2025. ● Subhashgram – 30 days starting from 06.06.2025. ● Dakshin Durgapur, Netra, Champahati, Ghotiari Shariff, Magrahat – 30 days starting from 09.06.2025. ● Bangaon Jn., Dattapur, Bamangachhi, Guma, Bira, Dakshineswar – 30 days starting from 10.06.2025. ● Hridaypur – 30 days starting from 11.06.2025. ● Baharu, Kakkdy, Dakshin Barasat, Basirhat, Kalyani Simanta, Kalyani Silpanchal – 30 days starting from 12.06.2025. ● Kalyanpur, Hotar – 30 days starting from 13.06.2025. ● Majhergram, Bally Ghat, Eden Garden, Laigola, Cossim Bazar – 30 days starting from 16.06.2025. ● Chandpara, Gangnapur, Bagbazar, Shasan Road, Suriyapur, Palgachandi, Gede, Kalarayanpur Jn, Habibpur, Jagaddal, Titagarh, Ichpur – 30 days starting from 17.06.2025. ● BBD Bag, Prinsepghat, Bidyadharpur, Piali – 30 days starting from 18.06.2025. ● Bhagwanga, Muragachha, Beldanga, Bethuadahari, Debgam, Rejinagar, Plassey, Majdia, Nangi, New Alipur, Birnagar, Shantipur, Payradanga, Braje Bridge, Khardaha, Kankinara – 30 days starting from 19.06.2025. ● Gopalnagar, Burra Bazar, Patipukur, Kalikapur, Basuladanga, Dhapdhai, Bagula, Banpur, Palpara – 30 days starting from 20.06.2025. ● Badkulla, Kashinganar Halt – 30 days starting from 22.06.2025. ● Gobardanga, Thakurnagar, Ashoknagar Road, New Barrackpore, Durganagar – 30 days starting from 24.06.2025. ● Bisharpara Kodalia – 30 days starting from 25.06.2025. ● Jagani – 30 days starting from 26.06.2025. ● Krishnapur, Murshidabad, Berhampore Court, Phulia, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Ballygunge Jn., Baghajatin, Gocharan, Namkhana, Deula, Dhamua, Diamond Harbour, Canning, Sangrampur – 30 days starting from 27.06.2025. (2) Token Registration Fee: ₹ 2000/- only inclusive of GST for the allotment period of 30 days for each stall. (3) Infrastructure: (i) Stalls/Outlets shall be provided by Railways. (ii) A maximum of 20 units of electricity per One Station One Product outlet shall be permitted for one spell of 15 days as basic facilitation subsumed in the registration charges. For additional units of electricity over and above the limit of 20 units, the applicable charges shall apply on actual basis. (4) Submission of applications: Within 15:00 hrs. of 28.05.2025. Applications in the letterhead of the organization/plain white sheet of paper along with photocopy of document (as mentioned in Eligibility Criteria) addressed to the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Room No. 44, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 to be submitted in sealed envelope at designated place in the Office of Station Master/ Station Manager/ Booking Supervisor of concerned station. In case of receipt of more than one application: Open lottery/public draw of lots to be done for selection at respective stations at 16.00 hrs. on 28.05.2025. Name of station with Identified products, eligibility criteria for participation & supporting documents and EOI documents along with the detailed terms & conditions can be downloaded from the official website [www.e.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.e.indianrailways.gov.in) and also can be seen at the Notice Board at the Office of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Room No. 44, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Sealdah EASTERN RAILWAY

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SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office : ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091. CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Ar Surgicals Private Limited & (Guarantor) Anshu Choudhary & Ambu Choudhary & Arya Choudhary & Rohit Roy & Usha Choudhary & (mortgagor) Anshu Choudhary & Ambu Choudhary & Arya Choudhary & Usha Choudhary Represented By Directors Anshu Choudhary & Rohit Roy Hindusthan Enclave, Flat No. 3 And 4, 4th Floor, Block A P.S. Sonarpur, Mouza Ramchandrapur, Narendrapur, Near Manjuri Garden District 24 Parganas (South) Kolkata-700103/ 128405000448	Deed No. I-2667/13, Flat No. 4, 4th Floor, Block A, R.S. Dag No. 790 and 858, Khatian No. 106 and 85, L.R. Dag No. 918 and 981, L.R. Khatian No. 1867 and 1868, J.L. No. 58, Touzi No. 110, Revenue Survey No. 196, P.S. Sonarpur, Mouza Ramchandrapur, Bonhooghly Gram Panchayat- I, District Registry Office Allpore, A.D.S.R. Office Sonarpur, District 24 Parganas (South), Kolkata 700103, West Bengal (Flat Measuring More or Less 1306 Sq. Ft. Including Super Built- Up Area Together With one Covered Car Parking Space Being Car Space No. 8 In Ground Floor in Block A Along With Undivided Proportionate Share of Land) & Deed No. I-2668/13, Flat No. 3, 4th Floor, Block A, R.S. Dag No. 790 and 858, Khatian No. 106 and 85, L.R. Dag No. 918 and 981, L.R. Khatian No. 1867 and 1868, J.L. No. 58, Touzi No. 110, Revenue Survey No. 196, P.S. Sonarpur, Mouza Ramchandrapur, Bonhooghly Gram Panchayat- I, District Registry Office Allpore, A.D.S.R. Office, Sonarpur, District 24 Parganas (South), Kolkata 700103, West Bengal (Flat Measuring More or Less 1306 Sq. Ft. Including Super Built- Up Area Together With one Covered Car Parking Space Being Car Space No. 7 In Ground Floor in Block A Along With Undivided Proportionate Share of Land) / Date of Symbolic: 07/05/2025	03/02/2025 Rs. 34,28,810.82/-	Kolkata
2.	Borrower South Point Medicare & Gyandara Pramanik & Kartick Chandra Das & Subhra Das & (Mortgagor) Apu Das & Nipu Das & Tapan Das/ Represented By Partners Tapan Das & Subhra Das Udayrampur, Amtala Kanyanagar South 24 Parganas Bishnupur- 743503/ 325505001406/ 32555000003	Dag No. 554, Khatian No. 31, J.L. No. 32, Mouza Kanyanagar Gram, Pargana, Atiabed, Touzi No. 395, Re.Sa. No. 16, 74, Thana & A.D.S.R.O. Bishnupur, District South 24 Parganas (Admeasuring an Area of 3 Katha 10 Chatak or More or Less 6 Satak) / Date of Symbolic: 07/05/2025	02/07/2024 Rs. 50,77,089.00/-	Bishnupur
3.	Borrower Choudhary Vanijya Private Limited & (Guarantor) Abhijit De & Gyandara Pramanik & Kartick Chandra Das & Subhra Das & (Mortgagor) Puspita Rani Pramanik / Represented By Directors Puspita Rani Pramanik & Rishi Arya Flat No. B-3, 3rd Floor, Golden Tower, Premises No. 49, Diamond Harbour Road, P.S. Thakurpukur, Sakher Bazar, Barisha, Near Chandomata Villa West Bengal Kolkata-700008/ 695005600502	Flat No B-3, 3rd Floor, Premises No 49, G+4 Storied Building, Ward No. 126, Diamond Harbour Road, Mouza Sarkelat, Parganas Magura, J.L. No. 14, District Collectorate Touzi Nos 411, R.S. No. 183, Appertaining to R.S. & Khatian No. 293 & 240, Dag No. 214 & 215, P.S. Thakurpur, Within Kolkata Municipal Corporation (South Suburban Unit), Assessee No. 41-126-04-0047-6, District South 24 Parganas, Situated in Between Mahatma Gandhi Road, Kolkata 700008, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of Super Built Up Area 1250 Sq. Ft. Together With one Open Car Parking Space Measuring About 120 Sq Ft. Together With Proportionate Undivided Impartible Share of Land) / Date of Symbolic: 07/05/2025	02/12/2024 Rs. 23,45,280.56/-	Kolkata

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: May 09, 2025, Place: Kolkata & South 24 Parganas Sincerely Authorised Signatory, For ICICI Bank Ltd.



## Kia India Unveils Carens Clavis: Big on Features, Bold Design and Unmatched Comfort



**New Delhi:** Kia India, a leading mass-premium carmaker, today unveiled the latest addition to its Carens portfolio - the Carens Clavis. Positioned as a big, bold, and Spacious 3-Row vehicle, the Carens Clavis is crafted for today's large, modern families, bridging the gap between MPVs and SUVs. It blends comfort, space, and bold design with advanced technology, safety, and a future-forward aesthetic.

The name "Clavis" is derived from the Latin phrase Clavis Aurea, meaning "Golden Key." It

symbolizes access to unforgettable family adventures and serves as a gateway to cherished memories. With Carens Clavis, Kia offers a vehicle that reflects the aspirations of new-age families, combining insightful observations, thoughtful design, and the best global technology.

Since its debut, the Kia Carens has redefined the family car segment in India, earning the trust of over 2 lakh families in just three years. Rooted in Kia's deep understanding of Indian households, where mobility is about shared

moments across generations, the Carens struck a chord with its space, comfort, and emotional appeal. The Carens Clavis is a natural next chapter in Kia's family-first story, created in response to evolving lifestyles and aspirations. The Carens Clavis offers exceptional 6 & 7-seater comfort, combining bold design, premium space, and advanced technology to deliver a refined, purpose-driven experience for today's dynamic families.

Mr. Gwanggu Lee, MD and CEO of Kia India, said, "Innovation is

the core of everything we do, driven by advanced technology and distinctive design. The unveiling of the Carens Clavis represents a key milestone in our journey, embodying our commitment to a progressive, premium, and purpose-led approach. We recognize the evolving needs of our customers, and with the Carens Clavis, we're offering more than just a vehicle, it's a thoughtfully crafted experience that enhances everyday mobility. As we continue to push boundaries, we remain focused on delivering smart, design-led solutions that empower families and inspire confidence on every drive."

### Design: The Big Bold Smart Family Car

The Carens Clavis embodies a bold design philosophy, seamlessly merging elegance with sportiness in its upright SUV-like stance. Its hi-tech features and advanced engineering inspire confidence, making it an ideal choice for families who seek both flair and functionality. Every line and surface is crafted to stand out, stylish, robust, and unmistakably modern, reflecting a spirit that is as adventurous as it is safe. This is a vehicle built for those who want to go anywhere, offering the versatility and smart innovation that defines a truly big, bold, and inspiring family car.

## Physicists snaps first images of 'free-range' atoms: Study

**Washington Dc [US] :** Physicists captured the first images of individual atoms freely interacting in space. The pictures reveal correlations among the 'free-range' particles that until now were predicted but never directly observed.

MIT physicists have captured the first images of individual atoms freely interacting in space.

Their findings, appearing in the journal Physical Review Letters, will help scientists visualize never-before-seen quantum phenomena in real space.

The images were taken using a technique developed by the team that first allows a cloud of atoms to move and interact freely.

The researchers then turn on a lattice of light that briefly freezes the atoms in their tracks, and apply finely tuned lasers to quickly illuminate the suspended atoms, creating a picture of their positions before the atoms naturally dissipate. The physicists applied the technique to visualize clouds of different types of atoms, and snapped a number of imaging firsts. The researchers directly observed atoms known as "bosons," which bunched up in a quantum phenomenon to form a wave. They also captured atoms known as "fermions" in the act of pairing up in free space -- a key mechanism that enables superconductivity.

"We are able to see single atoms in these interesting clouds of atoms and what they are doing in relation to each other, which is beautiful," says Martin Zwierlein, the Thomas A. Frank Professor of Physics at MIT. In the same journal issue, two other groups report using similar imaging techniques, including a team led by Nobel laureate Wolfgang Ketterle, the John D MacArthur Professor of Physics at MIT. Ketterle's group visualized enhanced pair correlations among bosons, while the other group, from Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, led by Tarik Yefsah, a former postdoc in Zwierlein's lab, imaged a cloud of noninteracting fermions. The study by Zwierlein and his colleagues is co-authored by MIT graduate students Ruixiao Yao, Sungjae Chi, and Mingxuan Wang, and MIT assistant professor of physics Richard Fletcher.

"These techniques allow you to see the overall shape and structure of a cloud of atoms, but not the individual atoms themselves," Zwierlein notes. "It's like seeing a cloud in the sky, but not the individual water molecules that make up the cloud."

## Indore claims to have become India's first beggar-free city



**Indore :** Indore has become the country's first beggar-free city, officials have said. There were about 5,000 beggars on the city streets a year ago before the administration launched a campaign, they said. "Indore has become the country's first beggar-free city," district magistrate Ashish Singh told reporters on Thursday. Beggars in the city were rehabilitated by helping them find employment, while children involved in begging were enrolled in schools, he said. "The campaign we launched for the elimination of begging has itself become a model. It has been recognised by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and also a World Bank team," Singh added.

Indore is one of the 10 cities where the Union ministry has started a pilot project to eliminate

begging. District programme officer of the Women and Child Development Department, Ramnivas Budholia, said the campaign against begging was launched in February 2024.

There were about 5,000 beggars in the city, including 500 children, he said. "In the first phase, we ran an awareness campaign. Then the beggars were rehabilitated. We also found many beggars who used to come to Indore from Rajasthan to beg," said Budholia. Begging as well as giving money to beggars or buying anything from them has been banned in the city, and so far three FIRs have been registered for violations, he said.

A reward of Rs 1,000 is given to anyone providing information about begging, and many people have claimed the reward so far, said another official.

## China's exports rose higher than expected 8 in April as new US tariffs took effect

Beijing, May 9 (AP) China's exports rose 8.1% in April from the year before, the government said Friday, faster than economists were expecting, though exports to the United States sank more than 20%. Economists had forecast that China's global exports would grow about 2% in April, down from a whopping 12.4% year-on-year increase in March. Imports fell 0.2% in April from the year before.

The data were released a day before US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and other top US officials were due to meet with Beijing's lead trade envoy, He Lifeng. The plans for talks in Geneva, Switzerland, could bring a shift in the stalemate over President Donald Trump's hikes in tariffs on Chinese goods to as much as 145%.

But the world's two biggest economies are at odds over a raft of issues, including colliding strategic interests that will likely impede progress in the talks.

Some of the punitive tariffs, including Beijing's retaliatory 125% tariffs on U.S. exports, could be rolled back, but a full reversal is unlikely, Zichun Huang of Capital Economics said in a report.

"This means China's exports to the U.S. are set for further declines over the coming months, not all of which will be offset by increased trade with other countries. We still expect export

growth to turn negative later this year," Huang said.

China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States was nearly \$20.5 billion in April, down from about \$27.2 billion a year earlier. In the first four months of the year, China's exports to the United States fell 2.5% from a year earlier, while imports from the U.S. fell 4.7%.

Preliminary data also show that U.S. imports from other countries not subject to US President Donald Trump's 145% tariff on Chinese products have been rising quickly.

Exports to the United States form just a part of China's trade, and exports to the rest of the world have helped offset that weakness. Exports to Southeast Asian countries were up 11.5% from a year earlier in the first four months of this year. Exports to Latin America also climbed 11.5%. Shipments to India jumped nearly 16% by value, and exports to Africa surged 15%.

Some of the fastest growth was in Asia, reflecting moves by Chinese and other manufacturers to diversify their supply chains outside of the Chinese mainland.

Exports to Vietnam jumped 18% year-on-year, while exports to Thailand were up 20%.

Measured on a monthly basis, China's total exports rose just 0.6% in April, while imports increased by nearly 4% from March.

# What is grounding could it improve my sleep Here's science behind this TikTok trend

**Rockhampton (Australia) :** (The Conversation) Have you ever felt an unexpected sense of calm while walking barefoot on grass? Or noticed your stress begin to fade as you stood ankle deep in the ocean? If so, you may have unknowingly "grounded" yourself to the earth.

Grounding, also known as earthing, is the practice of making direct physical contact with the Earth's surface. Our ancestors embraced this trend without knowing it. But with the invention of indoor homes, footpaths, roads, and even shoes, we have become less physically connected with the earth.

Grounding has been suggested to have a number of benefits, such as improving mood, and reducing stress and pain. But overall, there's limited conclusive evidence on the benefits of grounding.

Somewhat ironically, the concept of grounding in 2025 is heavily influenced by technology, rather than getting out into nature. Consumers are being hit with social media reels promoting a range of technologies that ground us, and improve our health.

Among the most common are promises of improved sleep

with the use of a grounding sheet or mat. But is this just another TikTok trend, or could these products really help us get a better night's sleep?

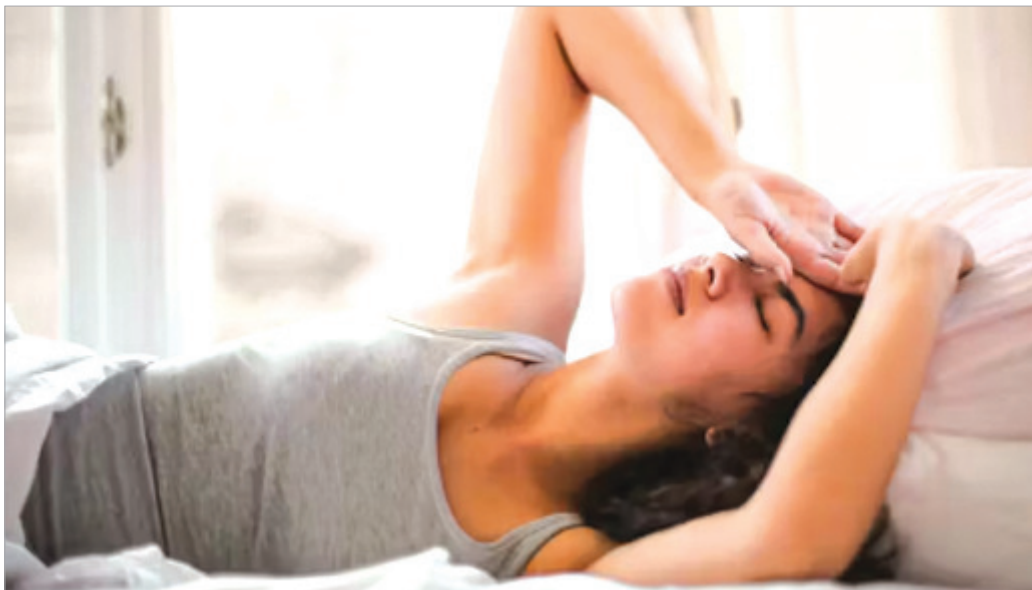
Bringing the outdoors in  
The human body is conductive, which means it can exchange electricity with Earth and artificial sources, such as electronic devices or objects. (Sometimes, this exchange can result in an electric or static shock.)

Proponents of grounding claim the practice reconnects "the conductive human body to the Earth's natural and subtle surface electric charge".

They credit this process with physiological and psychological benefits (but again, the evidence is limited).

Grounding technologies can vary in type (for example, under-desk foot mats, mattress toppers and bed sheets) but all are designed to provide a path for electric charges to flow between your body and the earth.

The bottom prong you see in your three-prong wall socket is a "ground" or "earth" terminal. It provides a direct connection to earth via your building's wiring, diverting excess or unsafe voltage into the ground. This protects you and your devices from potential



electrical faults. Grounding technology uses this terminal as a pathway for the proposed electrical exchange between you and earth, while in the comfort of your home.

Could grounding improve your sleep?

The research in this area is still emerging.

A 2025 study from Korea recruited 60 participants, gave

half of them a grounding mat, and gave the other half a visually identical mat that didn't have grounding technology. The researchers used a "double-blind" protocol, meaning neither the participants nor the researchers knew which participants were given grounding mats.

All participants wore sleep trackers and were asked to use their mat (that is, sit or lie on it)

for six hours per day. The researchers found that after 31 days, participants in the grounding mat group slept longer on average (as measured by their sleep trackers) than those in the control group.

The researchers also used questionnaires to collect measures of insomnia, sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and stress. After 31 days, participants in both

groups improved on all measures.

There were no differences between the grounded and ungrounded groups for sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and stress. And while grounded participants showed significantly lower insomnia severity after the intervention, this difference was also present at the start of the study. So it's unclear if grounding had a tangible impact on sleep.

In another double-blind study, published in 2022, researchers in Taiwan examined the effectiveness of using grounding mats to improve sleep among patients with Alzheimer's disease. The findings indicated that spending 30 minutes on a grounding mat five times per week resulted in improved sleep quality.

While previous research has suggested using grounding technologies may lead to improvements in mood, no differences were seen in measures of anxiety and depression in this study.

Grounding for gains?  
Grounding technology has also been touted as having other benefits, such as reducing pain and inflammation.

A 2019 study found participants who slept on a grounding mat after intense exercise felt less sore and showed lower levels of

inflammation in their blood compared to those who were ungrounded.

Grounding after a workout may help you feel better and recover faster, but it's still unclear whether and how grounding affects long-term training results or fitness gains.

Add to cart?  
So should you cash in on your favourite influencer's discount code and grab a grounding mat? At the risk of spouting a common cliché of cautious scientists, our answer is that we don't know yet.

What we do know is the existing research, albeit emerging, has shown no evidence grounding technology can negatively affect your sleep or recovery after exercise. So if you love your grounding mat or grounding sheet, or want to see if grounding works for you, feel free to give it a go.

Keep in mind, grounding products can retail for anywhere from around A\$30 to \$300 or more. On the other hand, grounding on the grass in the great outdoors is free. While there's limited evidence that grounding outdoors can improve sleep, spending time in outdoor light may itself benefit sleep, regulate circadian rhythms, and improve mood.





**Tender Notice No. SG-Tender/DSTE/SDAH/5444 Dated: 08.05.2025.**  
E-Tender is invited by Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, S&T, RMS Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following work. **'e-Tender No. SDSTE/TELE/T/04/25-26/RRSK; Name of Work with its Location:** Provision and strengthening of data networking backbone system for the provision of Railnet in different health units and also smooth operation of e-Office at various field offices and units over Sealdah division; **Tender Value:** Rs. 4,98,98,070.50; **Cost of Tender Document:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited:** Rs. 3,99,500.00; **Completion Period of the Work:** 9 (Nine) Months; **Tender Submission Start Date:** 22.05.2025; **Tender Submission End Date:** 05.06.2025 upto 14.00 hrs. **Tender Bid Opening Date:** 05.06.2025 at 14.30 hrs. Details may be available: [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) **Technical Eligibility Criteria :** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria :** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or 'V' whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/ audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted:** As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar Nature of Work:** Any Telecom work involving provision of MIS/LAN/WAN/Hotline/UTS/PRS/FOIS/video added enquiry system/video enquiry system/Data connectivity/Datacom equipment/video conferencing/wireless communication/secured communication/Wi-Fi/Telecom work involving computer based enquiry system to be considered as similar nature of work for the instant tender work. **Note:-** The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/their claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). SDA/5444/2025

**No. CW/PARK/E-auction Approval/2025** **Dated: 07.05.2025**

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Room No. 44, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 (Auction Conducting Officer) has published e-auction catalogue on [www.ireps.gov.in](http://www.ireps.gov.in) for operation of Parking lots over Sealdah Division. **(1) Auction Catalogue No.: PARK-MAY-25-96; Auction Start Date & Time : 19.05.2025 at 12:00 hours; Seq. No.; Lot No. & Station respectively : AA/1; PARKING-SDAH-BTY-TW-173; Bethuadahari (BTY). AA/2; PARKING-SDAH-IP-TW-281; Ichhapur (IP). AA/3; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-108; Jagaddal (JGDL); AA/4; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-111; Agarpara (AGP); AA/5; PARKING-SDAH-AGP-TW-317; Bhasila (BSLA). AA/6; PARKING-SDAH-BSLA-TW-291; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/7; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-103; Bhasila (BSLA). AA/8; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-105; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/9; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-107; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/10; PARKING-SDAH-SEP-TW-199; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/11; PARKING-SDAH-SEP-TW-47; Sodpur (SEP). AA/12; PARKING-SDAH-IP-TW-87; Ichhapur (IP). AA/13; PARKING-SDAH-NAI-TW-295; Nangi (NAI). AA/14; PARKING-SDAH-NAI-TW-294; Nangi (NAI). AA/15; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-104; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/16; PARKING-SDAH-AGP-TW-311; Agarpara (AGP). AA/17; PARKING-SDAH-BTY-TW-53; Bethuadahari (BTY). AA/18; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-109; Jagaddal (JGDL). AB/1; PARKING-SDAH-DAKE-MX-186; Dakshineswar (DAKE). AC/1; PARKING-SDAH-BTY-RW-272; Bethuadahari (BTY).**

**(2) Auction Catalogue No.: PARK-MAY-25-97; Auction Start Date & Time : 20.05.2025 at 12:00 hours; Seq. No.; Lot No. & Station respectively : AA/1; PARKING-SDAH-BNJ-TW-25; Bangaan Jr. (BNJ). AA/2; PARKING-SDAH-BLH-TW-22; Belgharia (BLH). AA/3; PARKING-SDAH-GUMA-TW-72; Guma (GUMA). AA/4; PARKING-SDAH-BLH-TW-170; Belgharia (BLH). AA/5; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-99; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/6; PARKING-SDAH-DGNR-TW-234; Durganagar (DGNR). AA/7; PARKING-SDAH-CG-TW-54; Canning (CG). AA/8; PARKING-SDAH-KYI-TW-243; Kalyani (KYI). AA/9; PARKING-SDAH-IP-TW-90; Ichhapur (IP). AA/10; PARKING-SDAH-BPC-TW-180; Berhampore Court (BPC). AA/11; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-102; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/12; PARKING-SDAH-KYI-TW-117; Kalyani (KYI). AA/13; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-110; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/14; PARKING-SDAH-BP-TW-33; Barrackpore (BP). AA/15; PARKING-SDAH-BLH-TW-23; Belgharia (BLH). AA/16; PARKING-SDAH-JGDL-TW-94; Jagaddal (JGDL). AA/17; PARKING-SDAH-GUMA-TW-73; Guma (GUMA). AB/1; PARKING-SDAH-RMTR-MX-240; Remount Road (RMTR). Prospective bidders are requested to visit IREPS e-auction module for further details.**

(SDAH/47/2025-26)

March 18, which, according to data released by health authorities in Gaza on Thursday, have so far killed 2,651 Palestinians and injured 7,223. Amid the Israeli blockade, Khalil Al-Daqrn, spokesperson for Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, said Thursday in a statement that many wounded could face "a death sentence" as hospitals in Gaza "are unable to accommodate" them due to "a severe shortage of medicines" out of the blockade. Also on Thursday, the Civil Defense in Gaza said in a press statement that 75 percent of its vehicles have stopped operating due to the depletion of fuel amid the Israeli blockade and attacks, apart from "a severe shortage of generators and oxygen devices." The UN has already warned of an impending humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, reporting increasing signs of acute hunger, particularly among children. The situation is rapidly deteriorating as the U.S.-based food relief organization World Central Kitchen announced Wednesday that it would halt cooking in Gaza due to the depletion of humanitarian supplies, forcing the closure of most community kitchens in the enclave after running out of stock.

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The eulogy was strangely erotic, written by jihad commander Masood Azhar Alvi for his nephew, Talha Rashid, who was slain in combat in Kashmir in 2017. “The martyr’s sins are forgiven when the first drop of his blood falls,” he wrote, “and he is spared the agony of the grave, the terrors of the day of judgment; he is married to seventy-two virgins; his family granted God’s mercy. His head wears a crown of honour, any one of the gems studding it more valuable than all this world.” From his Inter-Services Intelligence-provided safehouse, the Jaish-e-Mohammed chief has now issued directions, urging his followers to respond to India’s air strikes by following Talha’s steps. The words are of political significance: Azhar lies at the heart of powerful clerical networks in southern Punjab in Pakistan, which have a deep influence in poor communities, parts of the urban middle class, and sections of the military rank-and-file. The Government of Pakistan claims Azhar escaped from house arrest in 2019, and made his way to Afghanistan. Those claims are denied by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The latest letters, however, make clear he is in close contact with events in his homeland. Large numbers of Fidayeen groups of the JeM have carried out attacks in Kashmir, as well as across the rest of India—from the Akshardham Temple to the Jammu & Kashmir legislative assembly, and Parliament House. Two Indian intelligence officials ThePrint spoke to said that in the event of a long-drawn war, those groups would be brought into play to harry Indian military movement along the strategically vital highway linking Pathankot with Jammu, and on to the Kashmir valley.

Prior to that, the Telangana government also ran a security check on all people of Pakistani origin and deported them based on guidelines issued by the central government as a security measure post the Pahalgaon terror attack.

The VHP in its statement also asked the Telangana government to deport "illegal infiltrators who have set up residences around defence establishments (DRDO and DRDL) in Hyderabad. The Telangana government will be holding a series of events as part of the Miss World pageant that began on May 7 in Hyderabad. As part of the event, a heritage walk will be held in the Old City on the evening of May 13.

Over 120 Miss World contestants from countries such as India, the USA, Venezuela, South Africa, Canada, Guadeloupe, Gibraltar, Martinique, and Curacao will participate in the walk and experience the culture and history of Hyderabad. The Hyderabad police have also banned drones in 10 areas of the city in view of the Miss World pageant.

**SC slams BJP MP**

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India, while dismissing a public interest litigation (PIL) seeking contempt proceedings against BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, strongly criticized his remarks targeting Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna and the judiciary.

The court said Dubey's statements were "irresponsible," "absurd," and appeared to be a deliberate attempt to undermine public confidence in the judiciary. A bench comprising CJI Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar observed that while the court would not initiate contempt action, Dubey's statements *prima facie* amounted to contempt. The court said the comments were intended to "scandalize and lower the authority" of the Supreme Court and showed a clear intent to "impute motives" to the bench.

However, it emphasized that the judiciary is not so fragile that it would be shaken by such "ludicrous" statements. "We are of the firm opinion that courts are not as fragile as flowers to wither and wilt under such statements," the bench noted, stressing judicial restraint. It added that not every contemptuous remark justifies prosecution and that judicial wisdom lies in exercising discretion.

The PIL, filed by advocate Vishal Tiwari, sought contempt action under Article 129 of the Constitution and Section 15 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. It cited an interview Dubey gave to ANI, where he alleged that CJI Khanna was "responsible for all civil wars happening in the country" following the court's decision to stay the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Short Termination/Short Origination of Trains:			
Sl. No.	Train No. & Name	Short terminated at	Journey Commencing On
1	22861 Howrah - Kantabani Ispat Express	Rourkela	15.05.2025
	12872 Titagarh- Howrah Ispat Express	Jharsuguda	

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In the run up to 2024 elections Rahul Gandhi in particular talked of the need for caste census. This was supported by many opposition leaders. Congress ruled states and NDA ruled Bihar also carried out the census. This caste census issue was one of the major planks of the opposition's slight revival from being in the dumps in that election.

Modi opposed caste census tooth and nail stating that this is part of Urban Naxal thinking. Its parent organization RSS said that it is a ploy to divide Hindu society. In this background when on 30th April 2025 the Modi Cabinet took the decision to include caste as a part of the forthcoming census. As such the census which was due in 2021 has been pushed forward so far.

There are many guesses as to why at this point of time BJP has decided to get this done.

There is a view that this is being done keeping in mind the forthcoming elections in Bihar in particular. As such the timeline for this caste census and conversion of the findings into policy has not been outlined. The most likely reason may be the electoral compulsions in Bihar and in other elections in future. It is clear that the plank of Rahul Gandhi in particular has been caste census and lifting of the ceiling of 50% on reservations. This got a positive response from substantial sections of the electorate and so RSS-BJP might be venturing on this step for social justice to which they are opposed to the core.

It can be unhesitatingly said that the emergence, foundation of RSS was mainly to oppose the rising awareness of Dalits for social justice, particularly after the efforts of Jotirao Phule and later by Bhimrao Ambedkar, the pioneers of social justice in the last two centuries. As dalit awareness started rising the upper caste started feeling the discomfort and came with the concept of Hindu nation. It goes without saying that Manusmriti was the core principle guiding their social values. The second M.S.Golwalkar of RSS, M.S. Golwalkar eulogized the laws of Manu as being most ancient and needed to be emulated in the present times. As Gandhi, particularly after 1932 began his yeoman efforts to work against caste system, going from village to village ensuring that dalits can enter the public places, temples and water sources, the RSS kept totally aloof from any such effort and kept training its swayamsevikas and Pracharaks in the values of caste and gender hierarchy. Savarkar, whom RSS regards greatly did make some efforts against the caste system, but they were hardly deep set and in due course were eclipsed by his politics of loyalty to British rule.

**PM News Service, Delhi:** The Waqf Amendment Act-2025, passed by the Parliament, owing to the betrayal of Nitish Kumar and Chandra Babu Naidu to 'secularism', has been subjected to an interim stay, by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. There were around 100 petitions tagged to the matter, which was taken by Supreme Court on May 5, and is now to be listed on May 15. The Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi did not speak a word during the debate in Parliament. His sister Priyanka Gandhi, who is MP from Wayanad, which has 40% Muslims, skipped the vote, despite Congress party whip. So much so for secularism-upholders! PM Narendra Modi took a typical moral high ground and did not vote. He had to see the visiting Crown Prince from Dubai, and avoided any uncomfortable moment. The Union government is jittery. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has openly threatened judiciary to not to interfere in government affairs. BJP nominated Vice President Jaideep Dhankar has minced no words to belittle judiciary and has referred Parliament to be 'supreme' unlike the SC. His diatribe against judiciary did not halt as he took the same stand on his visit to Lucknow on May 1. BJP MP Nishkant Dubey has attributed CJI to be responsible for the 'civil-wars' in the country. BJP has distanced itself from his stand. CJI has stopped government to not appoint any new member to the Central Waqf Council and Estate Waqf Boards, and also not to change the character of any Waqf-by-user property either notified or registered before the Act came into force. 'Waqf by user' is in the eye of the storm. The government with his entire wherewithal along with millions of social-media outlets who endorse BJP worldwide, have full throvtly unleashed a campaign against Waqf Board, which obviously is a campaign against Muslims. A perception is being built that Waqf Board is an all-marauding body, which can stake claim on any property under the sun, while government looks hapless over it.

[illegible]



# Pakistan violated airspace, used Turkish-made Asisguard Songar models: Colonel Sofiya Qureshi

**NEW DELHI:** In a major escalation along India's western front, the Pakistani army carried out multiple airspace violations and drone intrusions on the night of May 7 and 8, targeting Indian military infrastructure.

Addressing a press briefing on Friday, Colonel Sofiya Qureshi revealed that 300 to 400 drones were deployed across 36 locations, with several being shot down by Indian forces using both kinetic and non-kinetic methods. Initial investigations suggest the drones were Turkish-made Asisguard Songar models.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi said during the press briefing, "On the night of May 7 and 8, the Pakistani army violated Indian airspace several times over the entire western border to target military infrastructure. Not only this, the Pakistani army also fired heavy-calibre weapons along the Line of Control. Around 300 to 400 drones were used to attempt infiltration at 36 locations."

She added, "The Indian armed forces shot down many of these drones using kinetic and non-kinetic means. The possible purpose of such large-scale aerial intrusions was to test air defence systems and collect intelligence. Forensic investigation of the wreckage of the drones is being done. Initial reports suggest that they are Turkish Asisguard Songar drones..."

During the press briefing, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said, "Pakistan did not close its civil airspace despite it launching a failed unprovoked drone and missile attack on May 7 at 08:30 pm. Pakistan is using a civil airliner as a shield, knowing fully well that its attack on India would elicit a swift air defence response. This is unsafe for unsuspecting civil airliners, including international flights that fly near IB between India and Pakistan. The screenshot we just showed shows the data of the application FlightRadar24 during a high air defence alert situation in the Punjab sector."

She added, "As you have seen, the airspace on the Indian side is absolutely devoid of civil air traffic due to our declared closure. However, there are civil airlines flying the air route between Karachi and Lahore. Indian Air Force demonstrated considerable restraint in its response, thus ensuring the safety of international civil carriers. In response to the Pakistani attack, armed drones were launched at four air defence sites in Pakistan. One of the drones was able to destroy an AD radar. Pakistan also carried out artillery shelling across the line of control using heavy-calibre artillery guns and armed drones...which resulted in some losses and injuries to Indian army personnel. Pakistan army also suffered major losses in Indian retaliatory fire."

Escalating its tensions with India, Pakistan targeted Jammu using Hamas-style missiles to target multiple areas on Thursday, defence sources had told ANI. The sources said the attack resembled a Hamas-style operation in Israel, where multiple cheap rockets were used to target cities. Pakistan's attempted retaliation came in the wake of India's Operation Sindoor, where the Indian armed forces targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. The operation was a direct response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack. Earlier on Thursday, the Indian Army had shot down more than 50 Pakistani drones during a large-scale counter-drone operation along the LoC and International Borders.



(Combo Picture) A view of the artillery shells fired by Pakistan armed forces during ceasefire violation, in Jammu on Friday. (ANI Photo)

THE DEFENCE MINISTRY HAD SAID THAT ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 7-8, PAKISTAN ATTEMPTED TO ENGAGE A NUMBER OF MILITARY TARGETS IN NORTHERN AND WESTERN INDIA INCLUDING AWANTIPURA, SRINAGAR, JAMMU, PATHANKOT, AMRITSAR, KAPURTHALA, JALANDHAR, LUDHIANA, ADAMPUR, BHATINDA, CHANDIGARH, NAL, PHALODI, UTTARLAI, AND BHUJ, USING DRONES AND MISSILES.

PAKISTAN IS USING CIVIL AIRLINES AS SHIELD, SAYS INDIAN ARMY

**NEW DELHI:** Wing Commander Vyomika Singh exposed Pakistan's airspace tactics, saying that Islamabad deliberately kept its civil airspace open after launching a "failed unprovoked drone" and missile attack on Wednesday, effectively using civil airliners as shields.

Addressing the special briefing on Operation Sindoor on Friday, Wing Commander Vyomika Singh said, "Pakistan did not close its civil airspace despite it launching a failed unprovoked drone and missile attack on 7 May at 08:30 hours in the evening. Pakistan is using civil airliner as a shield, knowing fully well that its attack on India would elicit a swift air defence response."

She further emphasised that this decision endangered unsuspecting civil airliners, including international flights operating near the India-Pakistan border.

"This is not safe for the unsuspecting civil airliners including the international flights which were flying near IB between India and Pakistan," she said.

During the briefing the Wing Commander showed the data of the application flight radar 24 during a high air defence alert situation in the Punjab sector.

Singh pointed out that while India's airspace was closed due to the heightened alert.



“COLONEL SOFIYA QURESHI SAID DURING THE PRESS BRIEFING, "ON THE NIGHT OF MAY 7 AND 8, THE PAKISTANI ARMY VIOLATED INDIAN AIRSPACE SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE ENTIRE WESTERN BORDER TO TARGET MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE. NOT ONLY THIS, THE PAKISTANI ARMY ALSO FIRED HEAVY-CALIBRE WEAPONS ALONG THE LINE OF CONTROL. AROUND 300 TO 400 DRONES WERE USED TO ATTEMPT INFILTRATION AT 36 LOCATIONS."

## GOVERNMENT EXTENDS CLOSURE OF 28 AIRPORTS UNTIL MAY 15 AMID TENSIONS

**NEW DELHI:** After Pakistan attempted to attack multiple cities in Northern India using drones, the Ministry of Civil Aviation on Friday extended the closure of 28 airports across the country until 15 May morning from 10 May.

A senior government official confirmed that after a meeting with other stakeholders, the decision has been taken and airlines and airport authorities have been informed about it.

In their statement, Indigo Airlines mentioned that in accordance with the latest directives from the relevant authorities, all flights to and from the following destinations will remain cancelled



until 5.29 am on May 15 due to temporary airport closures.

Srinagar, Jammu, Amritsar, Leh, Chandigarh, Dharamshala, Bikaner, Rajkot, Jodhpur, and Kishangarh airports will be closed until May 15.

These precautionary measures have been instituted with your safety and security as our highest priority. We remain fully committed to providing unwavering support while navigating this situation together, reads the statement.

Air India also issued a travel advisory for the passengers.

In a social media post on X, they wrote, "Following a notification from aviation authorities on continued closure of multiple airports in India, Air India flights to and from the following stations - Jammu, Srinagar, Leh, Jodhpur, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Bhuj, Jammu and Rajkot - are being cancelled till 0529 hrs IST on 15 May, pending further updates. Customers holding valid tickets for travel during this period will be offered a one-time waiver on rescheduling charges or a full refund for cancellations."

# MHA writes to states, UTs to strengthen Civil Defence measures amid hostile threats

**NEW DELHI:** In light of the current security environment and the threat of hostile attacks, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has urged all states and Union Territories (UTs) to augment civil defence measures under the Civil Defence Act and Rules of 1968.

Highlighting Section 11 of the Civil Defence Rules, 1968, the Ministry in a letter titled "augmentation of civil defence measures in the states/UTs" reminded that state governments are empowered to undertake all necessary actions for the protection of people and property, and to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of vital services during a hostile attack.

In the letter issued, considering the last night attacks by Pakistani forces in Jammu and Jaisalmer regions, the provision also authorizes the use of local authority funds for such emergency measures, giving them precedence over other financial obligations.

In the communication, the Ministry has requested that "states and UTs invoke Section 11 and grant emergency procurement powers to their respective Directors of Civil Defence." This step is aimed at enabling swift and efficient implementation of precautionary and protective measures.

"In the current hostile attack scenario, I would like to draw your kind attention towards Section 11 of the Civil Defence Rules, 1968, which inter-alia empowers the State Governments, to take such measures, which in the opinion of the state government necessary for the protection of persons and property from injury or damage, or for ensuring the due maintenance of the vital services, in the event of hostile attack. The funds of the local

authority shall be applicable to the payment of the charges and expenses incidental to such compliance, and priority shall be given to such compliance over all other duties and obligations of the local authority," reads the letter.

"I shall be grateful, if Section 11 of the CD Rules, 1968, can be invoked and necessary Emergency Procurement Powers to the Director Civil Defence of your state and UT, may be granted so that efficient implementation of the necessary precautionary measures can be implemented."

Officials emphasized that timely action and preparedness at the state and local levels are essential to mitigate the impact.

The call to strengthen civil defence measures follows a serious security incident along the India-Pakistan border as Pakistan on Thursday night launched a series of coordinated drone and missile attacks along India's western border, targeting regions in Jammu and Kashmir, and Rajasthan. According to Indian defense officials, the attacks were largely intercepted by India's air defense systems, including the S-400 missile defense system, preventing significant damage.

These strikes were reportedly in retaliation to India's Operation Sindoor conducted earlier this week, which targeted terrorist camps in Pakistan following a deadly terrorist attack in Kashmir that killed 26 tourists on April 22. The escalating conflict has led to heightened tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors, with both sides accusing each other of aggression and violating airspace. The situation remains volatile, with international calls for restraint and diplomatic engagement to prevent further escalation.

## Nirmala Sitharaman reviews banking sector preparedness amidst tension at borders

**NEW DELHI:** Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday convened a high-level meeting with the Managing Directors and CEOs of Public and Private sector banks and insurance companies amidst emerging security concerns arising from tensions at the western border.

Senior officials from the Department of Financial Services (Ministry of Finance), CERT-In, RBI, IRDAI and NPCI attended the meeting, which focused on reviewing the banking sector's operational and cybersecurity preparedness, including digital public-facing applications such as internet banking and UPI, as per a statement from the Ministry of Finance.

The Managing Directors and CEOs of all the Banks and Insurance Companies apprised the Union Finance Minister about the measures they are undertaking, given the ongoing tensions at the border.

Bank MDs and CEOs informed that cybersecurity measures have been reinforced throughout the banking system.

Anti-DDoS (Distributed Denial-of-Service) systems have been implemented by banks to protect against massive cyber-attacks.

To guarantee institutional



readiness, mock drills have been held encompassing cybersecurity and disaster recovery scenarios at the highest levels.

They apprised that phishing attempts are being actively watched, and staff members have received several internal alerts to increase awareness.

Bank officials stated that their Security Operations Centre (SOC) and Network Operations Centres are fully operational and on high alert.

These centres are coordinating closely with CERT-In and the National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre (NCIIPC), facilitating real-time data sharing and threat monitoring.

## AS PAK REELS UNDER INDIAN PRESSURE

# Nawaz Sharif advises brother Shehbaz to ease tensions diplomatically

**ISLAMABAD:** Amid escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Pahalgam attack and India's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty, former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif stepped in to advise his brother, current Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, on the need for a diplomatic approach to ease the growing crisis, The Express Tribune reported.

Following India's suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty in the wake of the Pahalgam attack, Nawaz Sharif returned to Pakistan from London to help his brother the Prime Minister.

After his arrival, The Express Tribune reported that Sharif had advised PM Shehbaz Sharif to ease tension diplomatically after he briefed the PML-N supremo on the decisions taken by the National Security Committee (NSC) meeting in the wake of the suspension of the IWT by India.

It was said that Sharif wanted the PML-N-led coalition government to utilise all available diplomatic resources to restore peace between the two nuclear-armed states, saying he was not keen on taking an aggressive position, The Express Tribune reported.



Earlier in 2023, Nawaz Sharif had underlined the importance of having good relations with India and said that his government was ousted in 1999 because he opposed the Kargil war.

According to The News International, Nawaz had said that PML-N always performed well but was always ousted from power.

"I want to know why my governments were overthrown in 1993 and 1999. Was it because we opposed the Kargil war," Nawaz had said.

Nawaz Sharif was the Prime Minister of Pakistan when his government was

AFTER HIS ARRIVAL, THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE REPORTED THAT SHARIF HAD ADVISED PM SHEHBAZ SHARIF TO EASE TENSION DIPLOMATICALLY AFTER HE BRIEFED THE PML-N SUPREMO ON THE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE NSC MEETING IN THE WAKE OF THE SUSPENSION OF THE IWT BY INDIA.

overthrown in a coup d'etat on October 12, 1999. Last year, Nawaz also admitted that Pakistan had 'violated' an agreement with India in 1999.

"On May 28, 1998,

Pakistan carried out five nuclear tests. After that Vajpayee Saheb came here and made an agreement with us. But we violated that agreement...it was our fault," the former PM had said.

The agreement mentioned by Sharif was the "Lahore Declaration," which he and then-Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed on February 21, 1999, with the goal of fostering peace and stability between India and Pakistan. However, shortly after the signing, Pakistani troops infiltrated the Kargil district in Jammu and Kashmir, leading to the Kargil War.