

Mamata Banerjee urges officials in North Bengal to remain alert for cross-border threats and misinformation campaign

MI News Service, Siliguri : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday directed the administrative and police officials across the state, particularly in North Bengal, to remain alert and vigilant for cross-border threats in the strategically sensitive border districts.

She also asked the officials to stay alert in view of potential flooding due to heavy rain in the coming monsoon season.

Chairing a high-level administrative meeting at Uttarkanya, the state headquarters in North Bengal, at the last leg of her ongoing three-day visit to North Bengal, she said the region, which shares international borders with Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, is "highly sensitive", and directed the police and administration to intensify patrolling to prevent any infiltration bid, especially of anti-national elements. "Even though the BSF is deployed, state administrative officials must also remain vigilant," she asserted.

She also cautioned officials against the spread of misinformation and fake news, stating that updates should only be disseminated through the government during any crisis. The chief minister also raised concerns over alleged irregularities in the



West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is presiding over an administrative meeting with ministers and top government officials at Uttarkanya in Jalpaiguri on Wednesday.

voter list and asked officials to ensure proper scrutiny.

Referring to the impending danger of flash floods during the coming monsoon season, Mamata Banerjee said that heavy rainfall in neighbouring Sikkim and Bhutan often leads to flooding in all districts in North Bengal. She

said the state government has requested the Centre to coordinate with Bhutan for a joint water management mechanism to tackle the situation better. "We mustnow begin disaster management preparations without further delay and immediately. Communication between northern parts of West Bengal and

the rest of the state needs to be strengthened," the Chief minister said, while instructing officials to form dedicated disaster response teams in each district.

Underlining the strategic importance of the 'Chicken's neck' corridor that connects the seven states in Northeast India

with the rest of the country. She also spoke about development activities and expediting pending projects in north Bengal.

Earlier addressing another administrative meeting at Phulbari, the Chief Minister announced a major boost to the state-run housing initiative, 'Banglar Bari (Gramin)',

with plans to construct 16 lakh more houses in the upcoming phase.

The Chief Minister said her government stood firmly with tea garden workers. "A lot of people claim they will give a lot of things but why didn't they do so all these years? They are nowhere to be seen during any leopard attacks

yet make tall claims," she remarked.

Ms. Banerjee accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of reneging on its promise to reopen tea gardens. "Ahead of elections, I remember a BJP leader saying that they would reopen all tea gardens. But they couldn't even reopen one. I want to thank Moloy

Ghatak, Gautam, Prakash Chik Baraik, Ganga Prasad Sharma, and others for reopening eight tea gardens in Alipurduar and seven tea gardens in Jalpaiguri. Before this, 59 tea gardens were reopened by us," the Trinamool Congress chairperson added.

Tea garden workers are getting pattas. Financial assistance is being given under the Chaa Sundari Extension Scheme. Over 8,000 and 13,000 families in Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar respectively are getting benefits under this scheme," she said.

Addressing thousands of beneficiaries, Banerjee said 12 lakh families have already received funds under the Banglar Bari scheme in two phases, amounting to Rs 1.2 lakh per family, for building their homes. "We are proud that our state government, entirely from its own funds, is supporting this initiative. No one will be left behind—those who are yet to receive assistance will be included in next phases," she stated. In the next phase 16 lakh more beneficiaries are expected to receive their first installment in December 2025, and the second in May 2026. Under the same initiative, 131 displaced families from Lalitang Basti

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SC granted bail to professor Mahmudabad

MI News Service, Chandigarh : After the Supreme Court has granted interim bail to professor Ali Khan Mahmudabad, the Haryana based Ashoka University stated on Wednesday that it was "relieved" and "heartened".

Mahmudabad was arrested on Sunday by Haryana police for his social media posts related to Operation Sindoor.

"We are relieved and heartened by prof Ali Khan Mahmudabad being granted interim bail by the Hon'ble Supreme Court. It has provided great comfort to his family and all of us at Ashoka University," the university where he works,said in a statement.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday granted interim bail to Mahmudabad but refused to stay the investigation against him.A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotisar Singh directed the Haryana DGP to constitute a three-member Special Investigation Team (SIT) headed by an IG rank officer and including an SP rank woman officer within 24 hours for investigating the case.

The bench restrained the professor from writing any further online posts on the recent India-Pakistan conflict and asked him to cooperate with the SIT investigation.On Tuesday, a court in Sonapat sent Mahmudabad to

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A Royal Bengal tiger takes rest into the water at alipore zoo, tries to relief himself from heat.

Drone-like objects spotted over Kolkata sky, police probe begins

MI News Service, Kolkata : In the midst of the nationwide heightened security situation, several drone-like objects were recently spotted hovering over the night sky in Kolkata, prompting the police to investigate the matter from all angles, including the possibility of espionage, officials said on Wednesday.

At least 8-10 such objects were found flying over the Hastings area, the Vidyasagar Setu and Maidan on Monday night, they said.

A senior bureaucrat in the state administration said the Centre has also sought a report from the West Bengal government over the incident.

Incidentally, despite the present ceasefire between India and Pakistan, police has remained vigilant amid reports of nu-

merous drone sightings across the city and in other parts of the country in recent days.

Getting scared about this new development several residents contacted the police control room to report that unknown aerial objects were spotted in various locations of the city and other areas. However, police were unable to locate any drones or suspicious objects at the reported locations during investigation. In the early hours of Tuesday, a security guard at a showroom in South Kolkata informed the police control room that he noticed a drone-like flying object in the sky. On receiving this information, the night DSP and the police rushed to the spot. The caller also provided the police a video recorded using his mobile phone as proof. It showed a blinking

red light in the sky and nothing else. However, police said the video does not confirm that it was a drone. Last Saturday night, police also received calls about drones being located in the sky above some other locations. Responding promptly, police teams reached the said spots but did not find any suspicious flying object or drones there.

Similar calls were also received from other parts of the city over the past few days. However, police did not find any drone over the city's sky. Police said sometimes people see blinking lights of towers in the nearby areas and call the police control room in panic amid the present volatile situation, reporting that they noticed drones in the sky. However, no drones have been found flying in the city so far.

At least 27 Naxalites gunned down in Chhattisgarh

MI News Service, Raipur : In yet another anti-Maoist operation, at least 27 Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security forces in the forests along the border of Narayanpur-Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh on Wednesday.

According to official sources, a police informer was also killed during the encounter and a police jawan suffred injuries.

The encounter took place in dense forests between Abhujmad and In-

dravati national park area when a joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) of police from four districts was out on anti-Naxal operation, said deputy Chief Minister Vijay Sharma.

The sources said the operation by the District Reserve Guard (DRG) from four districts of Narayanpur, Dantewada, Bijapur and Kondagaon was undertaken based on information that a senior Maoist leader was hiding in a specific area in Abujmad.

The Abujmad is an unsurveyed land larger than the state of Goa. While a large part of it is in Narayanpur, it also extends to Bijapur, Dantewada, Kanker and Maharashtra's Gadchiroli

district.

Though initial reports said 26 heavily armed Maoist guerrillas were killed in the fierce gun battle between District Reserve Guard (DRG) jawans and the extremists since early Wednesday morning inside the dense forest areas of Abujmad . But the last reports confirmed the death of 27 Naxalites with the intensive combat operation in the entire areas still continuing

The offensive was launched following precise intelligence inputs about the presence of a large group of heavily armed Naxalites in the forested region, notorious for left-wing extremism. The DRG, supported by local police and paramilitary forces,

carried out the joint operation.

During and after the encounter, security forces seized multiple modern weapons, including several AK-47 and Insus rifles with hundreds of rounds of live ammunition and explosives, which the Maoists have used to terrorize the region. Officials called the recovery a major setback to the operational network of the Naxalites in the area.

Chhattisgarh, especially the Abujmad region in the Bastar division, has long been a center of Naxal violence. The state government's intensified anti-Naxal measures aim to restore peace, and

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Abishek Banerjee joins Parliamentary delegation to highlight India's anti-terror efforts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee MP will embark on a five-nation tour across Asia as part of a multi-party parliamentary delegation aimed at highlighting India's fight against terrorism through 'Operation Sindoor'. The tour, which begins with Japan, will also include visits to South Korea, Singapore, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

The delegation has been tasked with presenting India's firm response to the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam and the subsequent strikes on nine terror camps in Pakistan



and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on May 7. The Indian government has emphasized that the operation strictly targeted terror infrastructure,

avoiding any damage to Pakistani military installations or harm to civilians. The delegation, led

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Reimagine Kolkata's Future at Sandbox CCU Project Open house

MI News Service, Kolkata : The energy was electric at Techno India University as over a hundred students came together to present bold, imaginative and practical ideas for reimaging Kolkata at the grand finale of Sandbox CCU Project Showcase and Openhouse- a one-week urban design sprint. Organised by Elseplay and the rebalance institute, presented by Techno India University, and powered by Make Calcutta Relevant Again, the event celebrated the creative leadership of the city's youth in solving Kolkata's most pressing urban challenges. The presence of several experts and luminaries in the event added

immense value and encouragement to the budding urban changemakers. The Showcase and Open House featured compelling keynote addresses, a lively panel discussion and final presentations by the top teams from School of the Future, Techno India University, Techno Main Salt Lake and Bengal Institute of Technology. The week-long challenge brought together undergraduate students from STEM, business, design and humanities backgrounds to collaborate using Human-Centered Design, Systems Thinking and emerging STEM tools. "This event has proved

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Biden's prostate cancer treatment may not be the best choice for all men, says cancer researcher

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : "Me encontraron cancer en la prostata," my father told me. "They found cancer in my prostate."

As a cancer researcher who knows very well about the high incidence and decreased survival rates of prostate cancer in the Caribbean, I anguished over these words. Even though I study cancer in my day job, I struggled to take in this news. At the time, all I could muster in response was, "What did the doctor say?"

"The urologist wants me to see



the radiation oncologist to discuss 'semillas' (seeds)," he said. "They are recommending treatment." Many men, including former President Joe Biden, whose case is advanced, do choose with their doctors to treat prostate cancer. However, I understood from my work that not undergoing treatment was also an option. In some cases, that is the better choice. So I took it upon myself to educate my father on his disease and assist him with the life-changing

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Cross border crime: BSF, police hold talks with villagers

MI News Service, South Dinajpur: Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) in South Dinajpur, a district which has a 285km stretch of border with Bangladesh, are holding meetings regularly with elected representatives of villages which are near the frontier and local residents to prevent cross-border crimes. “We are having meetings with members of panchayats and other rural bodies. They have been asked to be on alert and inform the police in case they find anything suspicious. They have been told to call up the police control room to share any information that can help uphold law and order along the international border,” said Chinmay Mittal, the superintendent of police, South Dinajpur.

Around 30km of the border is unfenced in the district. In these locations, the BSF is using drones and CCTV cameras for round-the-clock monitoring and to prevent illegal activities like infiltration and other crimes. Also, additional personnel have been deployed in

these areas,” said a source. The BSF intercepted a woman and her minor child as she tried to infiltrate into Bangladesh through the border in Madhabpur that is under the jurisdiction of Patiram police station. BSF and police officials held meetings in Amritakhanda and Chingispur panchayats of Balurghat block. Both the panchayats share borders with Bangladesh. Sources in the state intelligence agencies said there are instances of smuggling and infiltration through the India-Bangladesh border in South Dinajpur. As the Centre launched Operation Sindoor against the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, a crackdown on Pakistani and Bangladeshi infiltrators has started in the Indian states. This has made the Bangladeshis, who had illegally entered India and were staying here, hurriedly return to their country. A senior official of the BSF said the meeting with elected representatives and villagers

is an important exercise in the present situation. “They can be our eyes and ears and can help us to prevent illegal activities at the borders. Our personnel have been asked to maintain regular contact with residents of the bordering areas to gather information,” he said. That the BSF is strongly focusing on the Indo-Bangla border is evident as senior officials of the central security force are visiting bordering areas of states like Bengal and Assam. Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal, the additional director general of BSF’s eastern command, reached Assam and reviewed the current security scenario at the border. He met senior officers of the Guwahati frontier of BSF which also covers a portion of the Cooch Behar district in Bengal, and was apprised about the current security arrangements and operational preparedness along the international boundary. A few days ago, Aggarwal had visited north Bengal and had been to some of the frontier areas.

WB CM Mamata Banerjee inaugurates Techno India Group World School

MI News Service, Siliguri: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the Techno India Group World School at Siliguri making the beginning of world class education for every girl child for North Bengal and entire North East part of the nation. This inauguration happen virtually during the Siliguri Business Meet 2025. Mamata Banerjee congratulate Techno India Group and Satyam Roychowdhury in particular for this contribution to education of the girl child in this region.

State provides land rights to 132 shifted families

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: Chief minister Mamata Banerjee launched the process of handing over land rights to all 132 families of Chamakdangi and Lalitong, who used to live in two forest villages on the left bank of the Teesta river, on the outskirts of Jalpaiguri.

The families have been shifted to another location because of the acute erosion of the Teesta’s banks. At the public service distribution programme held near Uttarkanya here on Tuesday, Mamata handed over the land document to Laxmi Lepcha, one of the villagers. The rest of the families also got their documents from the Dabgram 1 gram panchayat office in Salugara near Siliguri. The villages and Majhua, the new location, are in the Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri district. “Let the new location be named as Teesta Pally,” Mamata said in her speech. On May 17, the rehabilitation of the villagers who had been facing erosion and flooding by the Teesta during the past few years. “We are happy that we got the land rights of our plots. Now, each of us will have our own houses,” Champey Mukhia, who used to stay in Chamakdangi, said. Altogether, around 500 people lived in the two villages. Because of the erosion and floods, they had approached the Jalpaiguri district administration and Siliguri mayor Gautam Deb.

Deb, in turn, apprised Mamata of the issue. The chief minister then decided to relocate the villagers. Arati Roy, the chief of Dabgram 1, and Abhiram Saibo, the deputy chief, were present in the rural body’s office to hand over the land documents to the families. “Each family will now become eligible to get assistance under the Bangla Awaz Yojna (the state’s housing scheme). They will get ₹1.20 lakh each to construct their houses,” said Saibo. **Malda Migrant worker missing in Kashmir**



MI News Service, Malda: A migrant worker from Malda is missing in Kashmir amidst the unrest between India and Pakistan. The migrant worker named Ashfaq Haque has been missing for almost twelve days. He is a resident of Dation village of Sultan Nagar gram panchayat under Harishchandrapur police station in Malda district.

Ashfaq is the eldest son of the family. Ashfaq’s family claims that he is 17 years old. The last phone conversation was with his mother during the India-Pakistan conflict. The last conversation with his family was twelve days ago. At that time, there was practically a war situation. He had told his family that there was a food problem. He would return home even in this situation. Since then, there has been no further news. The family is in great anxiety. His mother broke down in tears after not finding her son. She made a desperate plea to the administration to return her son. Meanwhile, political pressure has started after the disappearance of the migrant worker. The BJP MP claims that so many boys are having to go abroad because there is no employment in the state. At the same time, the family has been assured of help in finding the migrant. The local MLA and state minister have also assured to look into the matter.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee , accompanied by state Chief Secretary Manoj Pant and Director General Of Police Rajiv Kumar, at the start of the Administrative meeting at Uttarkanya in Jalpaiguri on Wednesday.

OBC fiasco: WBJEE results likely to be delayed

MI News Service, Kolkata: The ongoing impasse over the Other Backward Classes (OBC) reservation in the state may delay the publication of the West Bengal Joint Entrance Examination (WB-JEE) results, officials from the state Joint Entrance Examination Board (WBJEEB) have indicated. The WBJEEB not only assigns overall ranks to successful candidates but also issues category-wise rankings. These category-specific ranks are crucial as they determine admissions under reserved quotas in colleges and universities across the state. However, uncertainty over the reservation policy has emerged after the Calcutta High Court, in May 2024, struck down the OBC status of 77 communities in the state.

The state government has challenged the verdict in the Supreme Court, where the matter remains sub judice. A hearing is expected in July. As a result, admissions to undergraduate courses in government and state-aided institutions have already been held up. The WBJEE, which facilitates admissions to engineering & technology, pharmacy, and architecture courses across the state, has now been drawn into the issue. “We have already written to the state Higher Education department seeking clarity on the OBC reservation norms for admissions to courses under our purview,” a WBJEEB official said. “We are awaiting a response from them, as we need to publish results category-wise. Although there is no problem with preparing

the results, we will not be able to proceed with publishing them until the reservation policy is clarified.” This year’s WBJEE was conducted on April 27 across 303 centres, with 1,01,679 candidates appearing for the exam. The uncertainty could also affect other entrance tests conducted by the WBJEEB. The Presidency University Bachelor Degree Entrance Test (PUBDET-2025) is scheduled for June 21 and 22, while the JENPAS(UG)-2025, the common entrance test for nursing and other paramedical undergraduate courses, is set to take place on Sunday, May 25. The results of these exams and the admission processes following them, could be affected if the reservation issue remains unresolved.

Vijaya Diagnostic Centre Opens an Advanced Facility in Krishnanagar

MI News Service, Krishnanagar : In a significant boost to healthcare services in Nadia district, (Vijaya Diagnostic) Centre inaugurated a new, state-of-the-art diagnostic facility near Govt College in Krishnanagar on Wednesday. This marks the 172nd centre for the trusted diagnostic brand and introduces the region’s first 3 Tesla (3T) MRI scanner. The inauguration ceremony witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including Smt. Tarannum Sultana Mir, Smt. Savadhipati of Krishnanagar. Speaking at the event, Smt. Barnali De, Vice President of (Vijaya Diagnostic) Centre, said, “To provide better medical facilities to patients, we have opened our 172nd centre in Krishnanagar, featuring advanced services such as the first 3 Tesla MRI scanner and an 80-Slice CT. This is a



major leap in diagnostic capability for the region.” The new centre is equipped with a wide range of advanced diagnostic services, including Digital X-Ray, Ultrasonography, 2D Echocardiography, Stress TMT, Pulmonary Function Test (PFT), ECG, and comprehensive laboratory testing. All services will be handled by experienced medical professionals using cutting-edge technology. With this launch, (Vijaya Diagnostic) the Centre continues its expansion beyond Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Barasat, and the NCR region, reaffirming its commitment to providing quality diagnostic services across India.

Ranaghat Police District Recovers and Returns 100 Missing Mobile Phones to Citizens

MI News Service, Kalyani: In a significant step towards community engagement and public service, the Ranaghat Police District has successfully returned 100 missing mobile phones to their rightful owners. These phones were handed over after being recovered through diligent efforts by the police in the past

weeks. Demonstrating their efficiency and commitment, the district police have managed to recover more than 350 missing mobile phones within just two weeks, showcasing the success of their focused operations. The program took place in Kalyani. Officials from the Ranaghat Police District

have affirmed that such initiatives will continue in the future. With the aid of modern technology and swift investigative procedures, the police are determined to carry out more operations to locate and return lost or stolen mobile phones. The initiative not only highlights the force’s technological advancement but

State envisages uninterrupted power supply at Ghoramara Island

MI News Service, Sunderbans: Uninterrupted power supply at the remote Ghoramara Island in Sunderbans may soon be a reality with the district administration working to ensure adequate supply of solar power to end the woes of the residents. The district administration will take up the matter with the Non-Conventional Energy Sources (NES) department. District Magistrate, South 24-Parganas, Sumit Gupta on Monday paid his maiden visit to the island along with senior officials and local Panchayat. He interacted with the residents and took stock of whether they are getting benefits of the various social security schemes of the state government.

Ghoramara is an isolated island in the South 24-Parganas inhabited by 4,700 odd people. Most have to depend on candles or kerosene lanterns for light. A 170 KWH solar and wind power plant that has started functioning in the island in November 2024 can provide electricity for only 2-3 hours a day. There are some families in the islands who use personal solar lights since uninterrupted power supply remains a far cry. The solar plant has been set up by experts from IIT Kharagpur and CMERI Durgapur under the guidance of solar power expert Santi Pada Gon Chowdhuri, funded by the Union Ministry of Science and Technology. Also Read - CM announces 16L new homes under ‘Banglar Bari’; unveils 365 projects worth Rs 250.54 cr “Power supply was one of the major demands of the residents. We will take it up with all stakeholders so that the villagers reap the benefits of electricity round-the-clock.

There is no jetty in the island and people have to wade through ankle or knee-deep water across the river to travel to and from the island which can be reached by motor boats from Lot 8. The Transport department has already assured us of putting up a jetty,” said a district administration official. The island with seven hamlets under Sagar block of South 24-Parganas has become a symbol of climate vulnerability and community resilience. However, instead of surrendering to the encroaching sea, the residents, with support from the state government, have launched a bold campaign focused on comprehensive waste management that includes solid, plastic and liquid waste and ecosystem restoration. The Panchayat “has banned single-use plastics”.

Gupta also took stock of the waste management and the ‘Banglar Bari’ project in the island directly interacting with the beneficiaries.

Riverbank erosion: Thousands of families from Malda appeal to PM

MI News Service, Malda: Thousands of families from the Ratua-I block of Malda district have made an emotional and urgent appeal to the Prime Minister of India, seeking immediate intervention to stop the devastating riverbank erosion caused by the Ganga, Fulhar and Kosi rivers.

The erosion has already displaced nearly 80,000 people and now threatens over 100,000 residents, along with vital public infrastructure including 28 primary schools, health centres, religious sites, banks and roads. A mass petition — signed by the residents of Mahanandatola and Balaipuri and endorsed by local Panchayat heads — has been sent directly to the Prime Minister.

The letter highlights the 250-year-old history of this once-thriving settlement, now at the brink of destruction due to uncontrolled erosion. Despite repeated inspections by government officials, no substantial protective measures have been implemented so far.

Kolkata filmmaker Indira Dhar at Cannes to launch film

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata filmmaker Indira Dhar, whose Oscar-acclaimed film Putul was screened at Cannes Film Festival in 2014, has returned to the international festival this year to launch her next film, Echoes of Valour, based on the parents of an Indian army soldier.

“This is my second year at the festival. Last year, I was here with my Oscar-acclaimed film Putul. This year I am here to launch my next film,” said Dhar.

“This is a very important film as it is based on the lives of an Indian soldier’s parents,” she added.

Dhar also drew attention to the importance of Cannes Film Festival as a platform for discourse on cinema.

“We see a lot of red carpet appearances at Cannes. It’s



a film festival. There is more than just fashion. World renowned filmmakers are here. There is an exchange of cultures. That’s what I want at the festival,” she added. Echoes of Valour stars Divya Dutta and Neeraj Kabi in the lead roles. Dhar’s debut feature film, Putul, was shortlisted for the

97th Academy Awards in the Best Picture category. The film made it to the Reminder List. Putul explores the daily hardships of street children. The film received a standing ovation at the 77th annual Cannes Film Festival’s Marché du Film in 2024. The film’s cast includes names like Tanusree Shankar, Mumtaz Sorcar, Suján Mukherjee and Koneenica Banerjee. “Putul is based on street children, but it’s not just another film on the same subject. You need to watch it to understand,” Dhar said. Dhar is also known for the short films Stars and Soch and the mid-length film The Green Window. The 78th edition of the Cannes Film Festival opened in southern France on May 14 and will conclude on May 25.

Adivasis fume as Bengali or Nepali made compulsory in WBSCS

MI News Service, Kolkata: Representatives of youths and students of the tribal community have raised strong objections to a notification issued by the West Bengal Public Service Commission (WBPS), which mandates Bengali or Nepali as the only compulsory language papers for candidates appearing in the West Bengal Civil Service (WBSCS) exams. Michelle Turkey, a representative of the Doora Terai Adivasi Students’ Forum (DTASF), pointed out that the notification was issued in July last year, saying Bengali or Nepali was mandatory for the candidates. “It mandates Bengali or Nepali as the only compulsory language papers for candidates appearing in the upcoming state public service and police service examinations. This has led to discontentment among the tribal students and youths, especially those who

have pursued their education in Hindi or Santali medium,” he said. “As the preliminary and main examinations are scheduled for July 2025, we believe the tribal candidates are denied equal opportunity solely because of linguistic constraints,” Turkey added. The tribal youths said a 300-mark compulsory language paper (Bengali or Nepali) with a qualifying threshold of 30 per cent effectively disqualifies many students from the Terai and the Dooras. “Around 65 per cent of the population in both these areas is tribal people. We are not against Bengali or Nepali being part of the system, but excluding Hindi and Santali is a direct attack on the aspirations of tribal youths in this region. How can the state claim inclusivity while shutting the door on a major portion of its population?” asked Joy Prafull

Lakra, the convener of DTASF. According to them, no corrective action has been taken so far. “We have decided to continue our movement and will submit a memorandum to draw the state’s attention,” he added. Roshan Ekka, president of the North Bengal Tribal Youth Association, and Jeraldina Muchwar, a DTASF member and representative of the Adivasi Students Association at North Bengal University, have also supported the demand. “This is not just a language issue. It is about equal access to opportunity, dignity, and representation in state services. The state government and PSC should decide on it,” said Ekka. “Despite preparing hard and having the required qualifications, the tribal youths will be sidelined for not being able to write Bengali or Nepali. This is unacceptable,” Muchwar said.

State INTTUC President Ritabrata given surplus duties

MI News Service, Tamluk: The Trinamool Congress has removed the posts of the party’s trade union presidents in two industrial zones — Tamluk in East Midnapore and Durgapur in West Burdwan. State INTTUC president Ritabrata Banerjee has been assigned to head local-level core committees to control these areas directly under the state unit’s monitoring. A source said the decision to remove the district INTTUC presidents in these areas was a result of chief minister Mamata Banerjee’s displeasure over the local leaders’ high-handedness in dealing with multiple industries in Haldia and Durgapur. Haldia falls under the Tamluk unit.

ted written complaints about the high-handedness of local trade union leaders. Monday’s announcement of forming a core committee led by Ritabrata Banerjee aims to bring this key industrial zone under state-level control,” said a senior Trinamool Congress leader. The TMC announced new core committees for the Tamluk and Durgapur units, removing the existing presidents Chandan Dey and Abhijit Ghatak, the brother of minister Malay Ghatak. A source said while Ghatak has been retained as president, his jurisdiction has been confined to the Asansol region, keeping Durgapur — another major industrial hub — outside his control. A TMC source said that centralising control of trade unions in these two regions became essential for the party, especially ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, as Mamata Banerjee seeks to project Bengal as an industry-friendly state.

Mamata had earlier expressed her dissatisfaction with the situation in these industrial zones, following reports of extortion and the high-handed behaviour of party members, particularly trade union leaders. Industrialists were reportedly pressured to hire workers even when there was no demand. “The slogan of our chief minister is to ensure an industry-friendly and worker-friendly environment in the state. The duty of trade unions is to protect the interests and security of labourers, not to interfere in recruitment. Anyone who interferes in the recruitment processes of industrial units will have no place in our trade union,” said Ritabrata Banerjee. “The party has entrusted me with this responsibility, and I will do my best to ensure round-the-clock monitoring of these two industrial zones. I plan to visit both units three times a month,” Banerjee added.

Mamata Banerjee urges...

► **From PG 1**

and Chamakdangi in Jalpaiguri, whose homes were washed away in flood, have been rehabilitated in a newly constructed colony which the Chief Minister named 'Teesta Pally'.

Highlighting the state's continued support for farmers, the Chief Minister announced that financial assistance of Rs 158 crore is being transferred directly to the bank accounts of over 1 lakh potato farmers across Bengal. These farmers faced crop losses due to adverse weather condition during the current Rabi season. Since its launch in 2019, the Bangla Shasya Bima crop insurance scheme has disbursed over Rs 3,720 crore to affected farmers. Notably, the state government bears the full premium cost, making the insurance scheme completely free for all cultivators in Bengal.

Alongside these announcements, Mamata Banerjee inaugurated a total of 365 projects at a cost of Rs 250.54 crore and laid foundation stones for 134 projects with a budget of Rs 189.43 crore for Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar districts. In Jalpaiguri district, 447 houses have been built, including 162 in Malbazar and 285 in Nagrakata, with a combined cost of Rs 31.8 crore under 'Cha Sundari' project, Gas Insulation Substation at Berubari at Rs 10 crore, RCC bridge over Matura River at Banarhat at Rs 8 crore, Road renovation from Sahudangi to Belakoba at Rs. 23.13 crore. Foundation stones have been laid for 30-bedded village hospital at Banarhat at Rs 30.33 crore, 100-bedded Ma-

hakuma Hospital at Dhupguri with a budget of Rs 28.76 crore, 10-bedded Primary Health Center at Thakurnagar at Rs 4.31 crore, nine gray water management projects at Rs 8.32 crore. In Siliguri Mahakuma Parishad area, a total of 20 projects were inaugurated, costing Rs 86.68 crore. These include KV substation at Matigara block at Rs 7.41 crore, 14 health centers constructed across Matigara, Phansidewa and Naxalbari at Rs 6.1 crore, Rs 4 crore has been sanctioned for renovation of Bidhannagar market. Foundation stone laid for the Bio-Mining project under Siliguri Municipal Corporation at Rs 47.15 crore, Rs 9.88 crore has been spent for the road renovation and extension of Burdwan road. In Alipurduar District, 298 houses inaugurated under Cha Sundari scheme with Rs. 20 crore, foundation stones laid for 50-bedded State General Hospital at Birpara at Rs 9 crore, Renovation of Buxa Feeder Road and culverts at Rs 9.31 crore. Falakata-Kadambini drinking water project at Rs 7.17 crore, Road improvements at Rs. 7 crore.

Additionally, the Chief minister flagged off 10 new Sufal Bangla mobile units and 6 Volvo buses to Digha from the programme venue, enhancing both market access for farmers and public transportation options for residents. Reaffirming her government's commitment to inclusive development, Mamata Banerjee stated: "Our mission is to ensure that the benefits of growth and progress reach every corner of Bengal, from our farmers to our poorest families."

At least 27 Naxalites gunned..

► **From PG 1**

this latest encounter is a significant development in that ongoing effort. Details on casualties among the security personnel or any arrests are yet to be fully disclosed. Authorities continue area searches while staying alert for possible retaliatory attacks from the Naxals. Earlier, on March 20 in one of the deadliest anti-Maoist operations this year, security forces gunned down at least 30 alleged Maoists in two separate encounters in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh.

According to senior police officials, of them 26 Maoists were killed along the Bijapur-Dantewada boundary in South Bastar during a combing operation carried out by a joint team of security personnel in the Gangaloor police station area. The operation began early in the morning and continued into the afternoon. Following the encounter, the bodies of 26 Maoists were recovered along with a significant cache of arms and ammunition. A jawan of the Bijapur District Reserve Guard (DRG) lost his life during the operation.

In a separate incident, four Maoists were killed in another encounter along the Kanker-Narayanpur

border in North Bastar. This operation was conducted jointly by the DRG and the Border Security Force (BSF).

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the encounters as a "major success" in the ongoing efforts to eliminate Left-Wing Extremism.

"Today our soldiers have achieved another big success in the direction of 'Naxal Mukti Bharat Abhiyan'. The Modi government is moving forward with a ruthless approach and a zero-tolerance policy against Maoists who refuse to surrender," Mr. Shah posted on X.

Chief Minister Sai expressed condolences over the death of the DRG jawan and reaffirmed the State's commitment to eradicating Naxalism. "Operations will continue until Chhattisgarh is completely free from this menace," he said. The twin encounters have pushed the total number of Maoists killed in Chhattisgarh this year past 100, signaling an intensification of the anti-Maoist campaign. Incidentally the Union Home minister has repeatedly stated that the country would be freed from the menace of Naxalism by March 2026.

Abishek Banerjee joins...

► **From PG 1**

by Janata Dal (United) MP Sanjay Jha, includes representatives from various political parties and aims to raise international awareness about Pakistan's alleged support for terrorism. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with the group on Tuesday ahead of their departure.

Initially, the Centre had included TMC MP Yusuf Pathan in the delegation without any consultation with the party. Following objections from TMC leadership, Pathan's name was withdrawn. Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee later proposed Abhishek Banerjee's name after Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Kiren Rijiju called her and

sought her suggestion. Speaking briefly before his departure from Kolkata Airport, Abhishek Banerjee confirmed his travel plans, stating only, "It's time for the flight." His inclusion marks the Trinamool Congress's formal participation in this diplomatic initiative, underlining the importance of cross-party unity in addressing national security concerns.

► **From PG 1**

once again that our students are not just learners – they can be visionaries if encouraged to think differently. Sandbox CCU Project Showcase and Openhouse gave them the platform to think beyond classrooms and engage directly with real-world challenges. Their energy, creativity and commitment to the city's future has been truly inspiring," said s Pauline Laravoire, Co-Founder and CEO, the re-balance institute and Sustainability Director, Techno India Group. "We are building the coolest, most relevant learning experience in

“Women leading the Changes, MCCI launches inspiring leadership series



Padma Shri Arundhati Bhattacharya, President and Chief Executive Officer, Salesforce -South Asia and Former Senior Group President, State Bank of India

MI News Service, Kolkata: MCCI ladies Forum (MLF) launched a new initiative very recent on "Women in leadership Series." It was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Padma Shri Arundhati Bhattacharya, president and chief executive officer, Chairperson, State Bank of India. Dr. Shubhada M. Rao, Founder, QuantEco Research and Former Senior Group President & Chief Economist, Yes Bank was the Guest of Honour. The Ses-



Dr. Shubhada M. Rao, Founder, QuantEco Research and Former Senior Group President & Chief Economist, Yes Bank

sion was held virtually on Zoom. In this Session Arundhati Bhattacharya share her view on this particular topic, she said "Women are driving change across sectors, especially as more enter fields like STEM. To harness this momentum, we must create environments that value empathy, balance, and collaboration. When supported, women don't just contribute—they transform. Initiatives like MCCI's Women in Leader-

ship Series spark vital conversations for a more inclusive future," Dr. Shubhada M. Rao emphasized that achieving 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047 is impossible without greater women's participation, targeting 70% workforce involvement. She noted that many women hold leadership roles due to mandates, not merit-based promotion, highlighting the need for a mindset shift. Women must recognize their self-worth, leadership potential, and the power of networking. She encouraged the MCCI Ladies Forum to support women entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups in smaller cities through mentoring and awareness initiatives.

The session ended with a hearty Vote of thanks proposed by by Shruti Jhajharia, Co-Chairperson, MLF. She said that across the world women are raising. In boardrooms, in laboratories, in classroom, on sports fields, and on frontlines. They are pushing through ceiling made of glass and walls built of bias.

India is well-positioned to...

► **From PG 1**

trade disruptions as its domestic growth drivers and low dependence on exports anchor the country's economy..

It said "India is now better positioned than many other emerging markets to deal with US tariffs and global trade disruptions, helped by robust internal growth drivers, a sizable domestic economy and a low dependence on goods trade."

Moody's said besides, the Pakistan-India tensions, including the flare-up earlier in May, would weigh on Pakistan's growth more than on India's.

"In a scenario of sustained escalation in localised tensions, we do not expect major disruptions to India's economic activity because it has minimal economic relations with Pakistan. Moreover, the parts of India that produce most of its agricultural and industrial output are geographically distant from the conflict zones," Moody's said.

However, higher defence spending of over Rs 5,0,000 crores would potentially weigh on India's fiscal strength and slow its fiscal consolidation. The central government's infrastructure spending supports GDP growth, while personal income tax cuts bolster consumption.

India's limited reliance on the trade of goods and its robust service sector are mitigants to US tariffs. Nonetheless, sectors such as autos, which have some exports to the US, face global trade challenges despite their diversified operations.

Moody's had earlier this month lowered India's economic growth projections for the 2025 calendar year to 6.3 per cent, from 6.7 per cent, but its growth rate will be the highest among G-20 economies. In early April, the US administration announced and then paused for 90 days the implementation of sweeping, country-specific tariffs on trading partners. It maintained a base tariff of 10 per cent, with exemptions for some sectors and higher tariffs imposed previously for other sectors, including steel and aluminium.

ROWA honours ' Baul Samrat' Purna Chandra Das



Purna Chandra Das receiving award from Revenue Officials Women's Association (ROWA) in Kolkata on Wednesday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Baul legend Shri Purna Chandra Das was recently honored by the Revenue Officials Women's Association (ROWA) at a special event held at the Income Tax Office in Kolkata. At 91, the Padma Shri awardee and globally acclaimed folk artist mesmerized the audience with his soulful Baul performance. The event

was graced by ROWA Chairperson Archana Kumar, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Esther Lal Ruatkimi, IRS, and other dignitaries. Speaking at the ceremony, Purna Chandra Das emphasized the importance of preserving folk music, urging artists and music lovers alike to support this rich tradition both in India and abroad.

Enforcement Directorate Conducts Raids at Three Kolkata Locations in Digital Arrest Scam Probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) carried out coordinated raids at three locations in Kolkata early Wednesday morning as part of an ongoing investigation into a digital arrest scam that has reportedly victimized numerous individuals. The raids commenced around 7 AM, with one key location being the residence of Kamal Singh on Kali Krishna Tagore Street.

According to officials, the scam involves the use of fake digital arrest threats to intimidate and extort victims. The ED's operation focused on gathering evidence and identifying individuals connected to the elaborate fraudulent network. At Kamal Singh's residence, four women were present during the search and were subsequently questioned by the investigating team. During the searches, the ED officials seized several digital devices and important documents that are expected



ED raids at 13 Kali Krishna Tagore Street in Kolkata on Wednesday.

to aid in tracing the scam's organizers and modus operandi. Authorities are analyzing the seized materials to unravel the full extent of the racket and to identify other possible accomplices. So far, no arrests have been made, but the investigation is ongoing with authorities emphasizing that further action will be taken based on the findings. The ED has reiterated its commitment to cracking down on cyber-crime and financial fraud,

and this latest probe underscores the growing challenges posed by digital scams in urban centers like Kolkata. Officials urge the public to remain vigilant and report any suspicious digital communications, especially those involving threats of arrest or demands for money under false pretenses. The Enforcement Directorate continues to collaborate with other law enforcement agencies to safeguard citizens from such fraudulent activities.

Biden's prostate cancer...

► **From PG 1**

decisions he would need to make. Our journey can give you a preview of what a cancer diagnosis can be like. Prostate cancer was not a new topic for my father and me. His battle with his prostate health started over 10 years ago with an initial diagnosis of benign prostate hyperplasia, or BPH. The prostate gets bigger with age for a number of reasons, including changing hormone levels, infection or inflammation. Two of the most frequent symptoms of BPH are difficulty urinating and a sudden, urgent need to urinate, both of which my father experienced. Although research suggests that the factors that contribute to BPH similarly contribute to prostate cancer, there is no evidence that an enlarged prostate will necessarily develop into cancer.

Upon my father's initial BPH diagnosis, I asked about his PSA levels, the amount of prostate-specific antigens in his blood. PSA is a protein that both normal and cancerous prostate cells produce, and elevated amounts are considered red flags for prostate cancer.

When combined with a digital rectal exam, a PSA test can allow doctors to more accurately predict a person's risk of having prostate cancer.

My father said his PSA levels were elevated but that the doctors would begin active surveillance, what he called "watchful waiting," and monitor his PSA every six months to see if it rose.

After several years of monitoring his PSA, doctors found my father's PSA level had doubled. He then got a biopsy that indicated he had intermediate-risk prostate cancer.

After his diagnosis, my father was faced with the decision of how to proceed with treatment. I explained that categorising how aggressive the cancer is and how far it has spread can help determine the best course of treatment.

Prostate cancer can be grouped into four stages. Stages 1 and 2, when the tumour is still confined to the prostate, are considered early-stage or intermediate risk. Stages 3 and 4, when the tumour has spread beyond the borders of the prostate, are considered more advanced and high risk.

Some patients with early-stage or intermediate-risk prostate cancer undergo additional treatment, including surgery, radiation or radioactive seed implants called brachytherapy. Patients with late-stage prostate cancer typically undergo hormone therapy along with surgery or radiation, or chemotherapy with or without radiation.

I struggled with our conversations about what "curing" his cancer meant and how to explain his treatment options to him. I wanted to ensure he would have the best outcome and could still live his best life.

Our initial inclination was to undergo active surveillance. That meant we would monitor his PSA every six months instead of immediately starting treatment. That is appropriate for patients with early-stage and less aggressive tumours.

Some people diagnosed with prostate cancer don't immediately start treatment, because many of the tumours found through PSA testing grow so slowly that they are unlikely to be life-threatening.

Detecting these slow-growing tumours is considered overdiagnosis, because the cancer ultimately will not harm the patient during their lifetime. Nearly half of all patients with prostate cancer are overdiagnosed, often leading to overtreatment.

Research suggests that many prostate cancer patients undergo unnecessarily aggressive treatments, which are often associated with significant harms, like urinary and bowel incontinence, sexual impotence and, in some cases, death.

Several studies in the US have shown that patients with early-stage prostate cancer generally have a good prognosis, and the cancer rarely progresses further. With careful observation, most will never need treatment and can be spared the burdens of unnecessary therapy until there are clear signs of progression.

Overdiagnosis and overtreatment of prostate cancer led the US Preventive Services Task Force to recommend against PSA-based screening in 2012, with caveats for high-risk groups including African American men and those with a family history of prostate cancer. The recommendation was updated in 2018 to make screening a personal choice after discussion with a clinician.

Those recommendations have resulted in reduced screening and increased prostate cancer diagnoses. Given that Black men are more likely to see the cancer progress to aggressive forms of the disease after initial diagnosis, this may worsen existing health disparities.

Developing tests that better identify patients at risk of dying from prostate cancer can decrease overtreatment. In the meantime, educating patients can help them decide if screening is appropriate for them. For underserved and marginalised communities, community outreach can help improve health literacy and enhance awareness and screening.

The test predicted that my father's risk of dying from the disease in the next five years was less than 5 per cent. Based on these results, we both understood that he had adequate time to make a decision and seek additional guidance.

My father ultimately decided to continue active surveillance and forgo immediate treatment.

SC granted bail to professor...

► **From PG 1**

judicial custody till May 27. Haryana police had arrested Mahmudabad on Sunday after two FIRs were registered against him, alleging his social media posts on Operation Sindoor endangered the sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The FIRs were lodged at the Rai police station in Sonipat district -- one based on a complaint by the chairperson of Haryana State Commission for Women, Renu Bhatia,



and the other on a complaint by a village sarpanch.

Several political parties and academicians had condemned the arrest.

Reimagine Kolkata's Future at...

the country. And it was inspiring to see how the students brought a sense of ingenuity to their ideas. This programme was designed to take inspiration from Kolkata's rich cultural heritage of the past to re-imagine its future. The participants used the city's sights, sounds and stories to create truly sustainable, inclusive and even quirky projects that solve actual problems through a bit of play" said Ro-haan Goswami, Founder and CEO, Elseplay.

The event opened with an opening address followed by insightful keynote speeches from leaders in innovation and civic design. A panel discussion, "Kolkata, Flip the Script", explored the role of youth-led innovation in shaping sustainable cities. The top student teams unveiled their urban solutions on 4 opportunity domains – learning and employment, public and heritage spaces, healthcare and wellbeing, and transportation. The event concluded with felicitations and an Open House, where the top teams engaged in meaningful interactions with attendees at their exhibition booths.

Name Change
I, Marymaggie Ho Daughter Of Marcar Catchatoor Resident Of A T Road, P.O. Makum Tinsukia, Pin: 786170, Assam, India Declare That Marymaggie Ho And Mary Maggie Marcar Nongkynrhi Are Same Identical Person As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/05/2025

Name Change
I, Saleha Khatun W/O Abdul Odud R/O 72, Tiljala Road, Block 7, Flat 1d, Ps Beniapukur, Kolkata 700046,Wb Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mosammat Saleha Khatun Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 19th May 2025 At Kolkata. That Saleha Khatun And Mosammat Saleha Khatun Both Are Same And One Identical Person Not Two Different Person.

Name Change
I, NAJIR ALI MOLLA (Old Name) S/O BADSHA ALI Residing at T-50/1, Panch Para Road, P.O - Baratala, P.S - Nadial, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700018 West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as NAJIR ALI (New Name) as declared before the Notary public govt of India at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 21-05-2025. NAJIR ALI MOLLA (Old Name) and NAJIR ALI (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mukul Bala alias Mukulchandra Bala (Old Name) S/O Late Manohar Bala Residing at Vill - Paschim Harindanga, P.o - Haritala, P.s - Hanskhali, District- Nadia, Pin-741502 West Bengal have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mukul Chandra Bala (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Ranaghat, Nadia vide affidavit no 8338 dated 14-05-2025. Mukul Bala, Mukulchandra Bala (Old Name) and Mukul Chandra Bala (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Usha Devi Sharma (old name) d/o of Late Murar Lal Sharma & w/o Pawan Kumar Sharma, residing at 30/A/98, Dr. P. T. Laha Street, Rishra, Hooghly - 712248, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Usha Sharma (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 20/05/2025. Usha Devi Sharma (old name) and Usha Sharma (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pawan Sharma (old name) son of Late Hari Prasad Sharma, residing at 30/A/98, Dr. P. T. Laha Street, Rishra, Hooghly - 712248, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pawan Kumar Sharma (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 20/05/2025. Pawan Sharma (old name) and Pawan Kumar Sharma (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Arif Ansari S/o Md Mustafa residing at 1/7, R.B.S Road, Khanpukur, P.O.- Angus, P.S- Bhadreswar, Dist.- Hooghly have changed my name from Arif Ali S/o Mustafa Ali to Md Arif Ansari S/o Md Mustafa and henceforth shall be known as Md Arif Ansari S/o Md Mustafa in all purpose as declare before the court of Judicial Magistrate , 1st Class at Chandernagore vide affidavit dated 21.05.25. Arif Ali S/o Mustafa Ali and Md Arif Ansari S/o Md Mustafa both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, S. M. Qadir Gaus, S/o. Syed Shamshad Ahmed, 73B,Topsia Road, P.O.-Tiljala, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that in Aadhaar Card & No. 9837 9679 6701 my name has recorded as S.M. Qadir Gaus. So I have change my name shall henceforth be known as Syed Mohammad Qadir Gaus (New Name), by affidavit made before the 1st Class, Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide affidavit no. 25 Dt. 07.05.2025. S.M. Qadir Gaus (Old Name) and Syed Mohammad Qadir Gaus (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhamita Dutta D/o Santosh Chandra Chanda W/o Kanakanti Dutta R/A 2886, Nayaabad, P.O. & P.S. Panchasayar, Kolkata - 700094, WB have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Court at Alipore Court (South 24 Pgs) vide Affidavit No. 29991 dt. 16.05.2025. Subhamita Chanda & Subhamita Dutta is same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ratan Bagaria, on behalf my minor son Aaditya Bagaria presently residing at BL-D1, 8th Floor, Flat- 801, P.S.-Dum Dum 2 No. Jessore Road, Kol-700028. Now I have changed his name & he shall henceforth be known as Aaditya Ratan Bagaria as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, West Bengal vide affidavit no. 2008 dated 09/04/2025 Aaditya Bagaria & Aaditya Ratan Bagaria both are same & identical person.

Name Change
I, PRODIPTA SARKAR Daughter of Tapam Kumar Sarkar, presently residing at, 1st Floor, Flat- F2, 30/31, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Police Station- Haridevpur, Kolkata-700 082, do hereby solemnly affirm and state as follows -
That my original, Correct & Accurate name is PRODIPTA SARKAR, but in all my documents i.e. in my Pan Card vide no. BXPDD0349L and in my AADHAR Card vide no. 2743 4316 2837 it was recorded as a PRODIPTA SARKAR DATTA and in my Voter Identity Card vide no. TFE 2053791 it was recorded as PRODIPTA DATTA which is recorded in Votar Identity Card, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRODIPTA SARKAR. I hereby declare that PRODIPTA SARKAR, PRODIPTA SARKAR DATTA and PRODIPTA DATTA all are same and one Identical Person by virtue of a Affidavit Sworn before 1st Class Magistrate at Alipore on 01.05.2025.

Name Change
I, Mali Saha (Old Name), wife of Achintya Saha, residing at Pranta Pally, P.O.- Malda, P.S.- English Bazar, Dist.- Malda, Pin- 732101, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mali Bhattacharya Saha (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 21/05/2025. Mali Bhattacharya Saha (new name) and Mali Saha (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhankar Ojha (Old Name), son of Haren Ojha, residing at Boimchipota, P.O.- Anandanagar, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712409, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suvankar Ojha (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 21/05/2025. Suvankar Ojha (new name) and Subhankar Ojha (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Ajay Pandey (Old Name), son of Ashok Kumar Pandey, residing at 53/54 Hazra Road, P.O.- Ballygunge, P.S.- Gariahat, Kolkata-700019, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajay Kumar Pandey (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 21/05/2025. Ajay Kumar Pandey (new name) and Ajay Pandey (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mahabuba molla (old name) wife of Serful Sardar and daughter of Abdul Gani Molla, residing at Kabi Nazrul Sarani, Baruiapur (P), Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700144, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahabuba Sardar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Mahabuba Sardar (New Name) and Mahabuba molla (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Ishaq (old name) son of Abdul Shakil residing at 52Q, G J Khan Road, P.S.- Tiljala, Kolkata- 700039, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Ishaq (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Md Ishaq (New Name) and Mohammed Ishaq (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Anand Kumar Agarwala (Old Name), son of Ramrichphal Agarwal, residing at 16, CHOWRINGHEE TERRACE, L.R. SARANI, PS BHAWA NIPUR, KOLKATA-700020, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anand Kumar Agarwal (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 19/05/2025. Anand Kumar Agarwal (new name) and Anand Kumar Agarwala (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Monika Devi Agarwala (Old Name), wife of Anand Kumar Agarwal, residing at 16, CHOWRINGHEE TERRACE, L.R. SARANI, PS BHAWA NIPUR, KOLKATA-700020, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Monika Devi Agarwal (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 19/05/2025. Monika Devi Agarwal (new name) and Monika Devi Agarwala (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Hemanta Dalui (Old Name), S/O Bablu Dalui, R/O Bhadua Dakshinpara, Bhagabatpur, Chanditala, Hooghly - 712701, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Hemanta Dollui (New Name), Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/05/2025, That Hemanta Dollui (Old Name) & Hemanta Dalui (Old Name) All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, M Sankar Rao (old name) Son of Late Mutki Tavatia Rao, residing at S 28/B/1, Bhiku Lane Baratala, Ps-Metiabruz, Kolkata-700018, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as M Shankar Rao (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 20/05/2025. M Sankar Rao (old name) and M Shankar Rao (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dudh Ali Sk (old name) son of Akbar Sekh, residing at Vill- Majherat, P.O.- Aryapara, P.S.- Nodakhali, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743377, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dudhali Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Dudhali Sekh (New Name) and Dudh Ali Sk (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Hosen Sk (old name) son of Dudhali Sekh, residing at Vill- Majherat, P.O.- Aryapara, P.S.- Nodakhali, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743377, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hosen Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Hosen Sekh (New Name) and Hosen Sk (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Sharma (Old Name), son of Bajrang Lal Sharma, residing at 311, Lake Town, Block-A, P.S.- Lake Town, Kolkata- 700089, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Kumar Sharma (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 20/05/2025. Ashok Kumar Sharma (new name) and Ashok Sharma (old name) both are same and identical person.

British Council's creative endeavour in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata/London: British Council, the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities, contemplates 'Creative Saturdays', an engaging, joy-packed programme at the British Council Library in Kolkata. Commencing from May 24 to June 7, each Saturday promises a realm of imagination, discovery, and joy, tailored exclusively for children aged 5 to 12 years.

Name Change
I, SAMIR BEHERA (old name) son of RUHLAMIN MONDAL residing at KHORDA GARAKUPI HASNA BAD, P.O.- GARAKUPI, NORTH 24 PARGANAS- 743456 , West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SAMIR MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. SAMIR MONDAL (New Name) and SAMIR BEHERA (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Panchu Lal Das (old name) son of Sudarshan Das, residing at 69/H/54, Debendra Chandra Dey Road, Tangra, Kolkata- 700015, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Panchulal Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Panchulal Das (New Name) and Panchu Lal Das (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Saurabh Jha (old name) son of Subal Kumar Jha, residing at 44 Uttar Singtala Malda, Uttar Singhalatala, English Bazar, Malda, Pin- 732101, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sourabh Kumar Jha (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Sourabh Kumar Jha (New Name) and Saurabh Jha (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Praful Chandra Nimchand Doshi (old name) son of Nimchand Nathubhai Doshi, residing at 155A, Bakul Bagan Road, P.O.- Bhawanipore, P.S.- Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700025, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Praful Nimchand Doshi (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Praful Nimchand Doshi (New Name) and Praful Chandra Nimchand Doshi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Nand Kishor Varma (old name) son of Late Ranpratap Varma, residing at 59, Baratala Street, P.O.- Burrabazar, P.S.- Postol, Kolkata-700007, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nand Kishore Varma (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Nand Kishore Varma (New Name) and Nand Kishor Varma (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Oachila Bibi (old name) daughter of Late Abdus Sattar Molla, residing at Vill & P.O.- Panitar, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743292, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Oachila Khatun Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Oachila Khatun Bibi (New Name) and Oachila Bibi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Prasanta Das (old name) son of Niranjan Kumar Das, residing at 605, Ostad Amir Khan sarani, Haridevpur kolkata-700082, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prasanta Kumar Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 20/05/2025. Prasanta Kumar Das (New Name) and Prasanta Das (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Surender Mittal (old name) son of Prem Raj Mittal, residing at BB-262, Salt Lake City, Sector 1, Bidhannagar, Pin- 700064, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Surendra Kumar Mittal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Surendra Kumar Mittal (New Name) and Surender Mittal (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, RIA GUHA KHAN (old name) Husband of MD NADEEM KHAN residing at 10/Z, BAMACHARAN ROY ROAD BEHALA KOLKATA - 700034, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RIA GUHA (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, dated 14/05/2025. RIA GUHA (New Name) and RIA GUHA KHAN (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Debtosh Bhowmik (old name) son of Raghnath Bhowmik, residing at Uttar Narkeldia, PO-Dakshin Narkeldia, East Medinipur, Pin- 721648, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debatosh Bhowmik (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Debatosh Bhowmik (New Name) and Debtosh Bhowmik (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Sharma (Old Name), son of Bajrang Lal Sharma, residing at 311, Lake Town, Block-A, P.S.- Lake Town, Kolkata- 700089, West Bengal, INDIA, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Kumar Sharma (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 20/05/2025. Ashok Kumar Sharma (new name) and Ashok Sharma (old name) both are same and identical person.

Howrah Division Organizes Prabhat Pheri and Cleanliness Drive at Bamangachi Railway Colony as Part of 100 Glorious Years Celebration



MI News Service, Kolkata: As part of the ongoing celebration of 100 Glorious Years of Howrah Division, a Prabhat Pheri and Cleanliness Drive were conducted at Bamangachi Railway Colony, Howrah on 20th May 2025 under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager, Sri Sanjeev Kumar. The initiative was enthusiastically supported by railway staff, officers, and residents of the colony, reflecting a shared commitment to heritage, community involvement, and hygiene. The celebration commenced with a spirited Prabhat Pheri that passed through the colony, with participants carrying banners and raising slogans commemorating the century-long service and legacy of the Howrah Division. The march aimed to engage the local community and spread awareness about the importance of the division's contributions to the Indian Railways.

Firefighting Training Organised at Noapara Carshed

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway takes all possible measures and care for ensuring commuters safety. Shri P Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway regularly monitors and reviews safety measures adopted in the 'Lifeline of Kolkata' to avoid any untoward incident like fire. In order to check the preparedness of Metro staff of different departments to tackle any fire emergency inside the tunnels or on the viaduct, regular training is conducted in Metro Railway, Kolkata.

A firefighting training programme for the field staff was conducted under the supervision of senior officers on 20.05.2025 at Noapara Carshed of Metro Railway. Metro staff were imparted training on how to douse the flame through simulation of various fire and smoke conditions. Staff from Electrical Department attended this training programme. It is expected that such training will sharpen the skill and alertness of the field staff to respond to any emergency situation and minimize the rescue time and restore normalcy at the earliest.

Regulation of trains for Bridge Maintenance Work over Northern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata: Due to Traffic Block in connection with maintenance work of Bridge No. 205 between Jafarganj & Akbarpur over Lucknow Division of Northern Railway on every Saturday, Sunday, Monday & Wednesday between 24.05.2025 & 30.06.2025. Consequently following trains will be controlled as under:

Controlling of trains:	15.06.2025,	17.06.2025,
• 15743 Balurghat - Bhatinda Express (journey commencing on 23.05.2025, 25.05.2025, 27.05.2025, 01.06.2025, 03.06.2025, 06.06.2025, 07.06.2025, 08.06.2025, 10.06.2025, 13.06.2025, 15.06.2025, 20.06.2025, 22.06.2025, 27.06.2025 and 29.06.2025) will be controlled by 135 minutes enroute. <td>20.06.2025,</td> <td>22.06.2025,</td>	20.06.2025,	22.06.2025,
• 13009 Howrah - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Doon Express (journey commencing on 23.05.2025, 25.05.2025, 27.05.2025, 30.05.2025, 01.06.2025, 03.06.2025, 06.06.2025, 07.06.2025, 08.06.2025, 10.06.2025, 13.06.2025, 15.06.2025, 20.06.2025, 22.06.2025, 27.06.2025 and 29.06.2025) will be controlled by 120 minutes enroute. <td>24.06.2025,</td> <td>27.06.2025,</td>	24.06.2025,	27.06.2025,

Sony rides to profit via music, movies & games

MI News Service, Tokyo/New Delhi: Japanese technology and entertainment company Sony logged an 18% rise in profit for the fiscal year through March on healthy results at its music and video-game operations. Tokyo-based Sony Corp. said that its annual profit totaled 1.14 trillion yen (USD 7.8 billion), up from 970.6 billion yen in the previous fiscal year. Annual sales were virtually unchanged, inching down to 12.957 trillion yen (USD 88 billion) from 13.020 trillion yen. One area that lagged among Sony's sprawling businesses was the financial segment, where revenue stalled. But its film division and its imaging and sensor solutions segment did well. Among the movies that fared positively at the box office for the fiscal year through March were "Venom: The Last Dance," featuring the Marvel Comics superhero, and "Bad Boys: Ride or Die," an action comedy, in which Will Smith and Martin Lawrence come back in their popular cop roles, the fourth installment in the series. Sony, which makes the PlayStation console and game software played on that machine, also marked healthy results in the gaming business. Its music operations, which also held up, include recordings, streaming services and music for games. The top-selling recorded music projects for the latest fiscal year globally was SZA's "SOS Deluxe: LANA," followed by Beyonce, Future & Metro Boomin and Travis Scott. For the Japan music business, the top-seller was Kenshi Yonezu's "Lost Corner" album, followed by offerings from Stray Kids and Six Tones.

Miscellaneous

100 Years of Howrah Division: The Legacy of Chandannagar in Railways and History



MI News Service, Kolkata: As the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway celebrates its centennial milestone in 2025, it reflects a century of remarkable advancements in rail connectivity interwoven with the rich historical tapestry of Bengal. Among its significant stations, Chandannagar stands out as a unique blend of French colonial heritage and modern railway infrastructure. Connected to the Howrah-Hooghly railway line since 1854, Chandannagar has played a pivotal role in the early expansion of Eastern India's railway network, making it a cherished part of the Howrah Division's legacy.

Chandannagar: A French Legacy in Bengal: Chandannagar, once known as Chandernagore, was formed through the unification of three villages—Boro, Khalisani, and Gondalpara. Spanning 19 square kilometers, this former French colony remained under French control until 1950, despite being surrounded by British India. Its French architectural charm, preserved in colonial buildings and historical landmarks, continues to narrate the town's storied past. The French East India Company established a trading post along the Hooghly River in 1673, marking the beginning of Chandannagar's colonial journey. It became a permanent settlement in 1688, saw strengthened French influence under Governor Joseph Duplex in 1730, and faced British capture in 1757 after the Battle of Plassey. Regained by the French in 1763 via the Treaty of Paris, Chandannagar voted to merge with India in a 1949 referendum, officially joining West Bengal by 1954.

Chandannagar's Contribution to the Howrah Division: Chandannagar's integration into the railway network began with the Howrah-Hooghly line in 1854, one of the earliest railway initiatives in Eastern India. As a key stop, Chandannagar Railway Station facilitated connectivity between Howrah, Hooghly, and beyond, fostering trade and travel. Today, the station remains a vital hub within the division's commitment to progress and passenger comfort.

Conclusion: The 100th anniversary of the Howrah Division is a testament to its transformative impact on Bengal's economic, cultural, and social landscape. Chandannagar, with its French colonial charm, pivotal role in early railway history, and modern railway contributions, stands as a shining example of this legacy. As we celebrate a century of connectivity and progress, Chandannagar and the Howrah Division look to the future, ready to carry forward their shared heritage into a new era of railway excellence.

Regulation of trains for Construction of Subway in Malda Division

MI News Service, Kolkata: For construction of Subway in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No. 29 between Barahat & Mandar Hill stations, 07 hours (from 09:15 hrs. to 16:15 hrs.) Traffic & Power Block have been planned in Bhagalpur - Hansdiha section on 23.05.2025. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains on 23.05.2025:	18604 Godda - Ranchi Express (journey commencing on 23.05.2025) will be controlled by 30 minutes enroute.
• 73441 Hansdiha - Bhagalpur passenger	• 73444 Bhagalpur - Hansdiha passenger
• 73443 Hansdiha - Bhagalpur passenger	

Cancellation of one pair Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana local for Track Maintenance Work

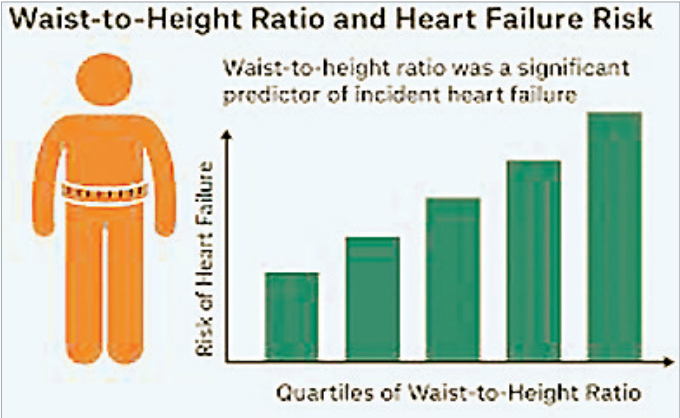
MI News Service, Kolkata: In connection with Track maintenance work between Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana section, 34935/34914 Lakshmikantapur - Namkhana - Lakshmikantapur local will remain cancelled on 23.05.2025 (Saturday/Sunday).

Waist-to-height ratio predicts heart failure incidence: Study

Sophia Antipolis [France]: The waist-to-height ratio predicts the incidence of heart failure, according to data presented today at Heart Failure 2025, a scientific congress of the European Society of Cardiology.

Obesity affects a substantial proportion of patients with heart failure (HF) and it has been reported that the risk of HF increases as body mass index (BMI) increases.2

Study presenter, Dr. Amra Jujic from Lund University, Malmo, Sweden, explained why the current analysis was carried out, "BMI is the most common measure of obesity, but it is influenced by factors such as sex and ethnicity, and does not take into account the distribution of body fat. Waist-to-height ratio (WtHR) is considered a more robust measure of central adiposity, the harmful deposition of fat around visceral organs. In addition, whereas BMI is associated with paradoxically good HF outcomes with high BMI, this is not seen with WtHR.3 We conducted this analysis to investi-



gate the relationship between WtHR and the development of HF."

The study population consisted of 1,792 participants from the Malmo Preventive Project. Participants were aged 45-73 years at baseline and were selected so that approximately one-third had normal blood glucose levels, one-third had impaired fasting glucose and one-third had diabetes. All participants were fol-

lowed prospectively for incident HF.

The study population had a mean age of 67 years and 29 per cent were women. The median WtHR was 0.57 (interquartile range, 0.52-0.61).

During the median follow-up of 12.6 years, 132 HF events occurred. Higher WtHR was associated with a significantly increased risk of incident HF (hazard ratio [HR] per one standard

deviation increase 1.34; 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.12-1.61; p=0.001), independent of confounders. When WtHR was categorised into quartiles, individuals with the highest values of WtHR (median of 0.65) had a significantly higher risk of HF compared with individuals in the other three quartiles (HR 2.71; 95% CI 1.64-4.48; p<0.001).

Study co-author, Dr. John Molvin from Lund University and Malmo University Hospital, Sweden, noted, "The median WtHR in our analysis was considerably higher than 0.5, the cut-off for increased cardiometabolic risk. Having a waist measurement that is less than half your height is ideal." He concluded: "We found that WtHR was a significant predictor of incident HF and our results suggest that WtHR may be a better metric than BMI to identify patients with HF who could benefit from therapies for obesity. Our next step is to investigate whether WtHR predicts incident HF and also other cardiometabolic disorders in a larger cohort."

16th Finance Commission will submit its report to Centre by Oct 31: Chairman

Dehradun : Chairman of the Sixteenth Finance Commission Dr. Arvind Panagariya on Monday said the commission will submit its report to the central government by October 31.

Panagariya said this in a meeting of the commission held here with Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

The chairman praised Uttarakhand for moving ahead rapidly on the development front and said that in view of the difficult geographical conditions, extensive discussions will be held to find solutions to the challenges being faced by other hill states, including Uttarakhand.

Earlier in the meeting, CM Dhami presented his views on the financial situation, challenges and development needs of the state.

He requested the Finance Commission to provide suitable compensation in keeping with the spirit of 'environmental federalism' in view of Uttarakhand's 'eco service cost', increase the weightage of forest cover in 'tax-devolution' to 20 per cent and consider special grants for proper management and conservation of forests in the state.

The Chief Minister said that in the last 25 years, Uttarakhand has made remarkable progress in the field of financial management like other areas.

The size of the state budget has crossed Rs 1 lakh crore, while in the SDG Index Report of the year 2023-24 released by NITI Aayog, Uttarakhand has emerged as the leading state in the country among the states achieving the goals of sustainable development, he said.

Referring to the two main challenges being faced by the state due to more than 70 per cent of the total geographical area of



Uttarakhand being covered by forests, Dhami said that on one hand this leads to more expenditure for the conservation of forests, while on the other hand, due to the prohibition of any other development activity in the forest area, 'eco service cost' also has to be borne.

In this regard, he requested for appropriate compensation to the State in accordance with the spirit of 'Environmental Federalism', increasing the weight prescribed for forest cover in 'Tax-Transfer' by 20 percent and special grant for proper management and conservation of forests in the State.

He said that since the state's industrial package ended in 2010, the locational disadvantage is not being met, while special budget provisions have to be made in the hilly regions

of the state due to difficult geographical conditions and other practical difficulties as the private sector participation in important sectors like education and health is very limited.

Describing Uttarakhand as very sensitive to natural disasters, the CM said that the state needs continuous financial support to effectively deal with disasters and for relief and rehabilitation work. Dhami, referring to the limited possibilities of hydropower generation in Uttarakhand due to the rules implemented after the Ganges was declared a national river, said that due to this the hydropower sector is not able to make the expected contribution and there is a huge loss in the field of employment along with revenue.

He also requested the Finance Commission to provide special assistance in view of the higher cost involved in developing additional infrastructure for transport, drinking water, health, waste management and other services in view of the 'floating population' visiting pilgrimage sites.

A delegation of the party led by State Congress Vice-President Suryakant Dhasmana also met Dr. Panagariya and requested for a green bonus for the state and economic package to stop migration and consider the special geographical conditions of the state.

Dhasmana demanded that the state should be given a green bonus as compensation for its environmental services, protection of water, forest and biodiversity for the country.

He said that there should also be a provision of a special package for the state for long-term disaster management preparedness.

Study reveals healing ozone hole helps Southern Ocean take up carbon

England [UK] : A new study suggests that the ozone hole's negative effects on the Southern Ocean's carbon uptake are reversible, but only if greenhouse gas emissions rapidly decrease.

The study, led by the University of East Anglia (UEA), finds that as the ozone hole heals, its influence on the ocean carbon sink of the Southern Ocean will diminish, while the influence of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions will rise.

Relative to its area, the Southern Ocean takes up a disproportionate amount of carbon, which reduces the radiative effects of carbon in the atmosphere and strongly mitigates human-caused climate change. Therefore, knowing how much carbon it will absorb, and what controls this carbon uptake, is important.

Scientists from the UEA and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS), in the UK, looked at the relative role of ozone and GHG emissions in controlling the circulation of the Southern Ocean around Antarctica, focusing on how it would impact the carbon uptake.

They were interested in how the amount of atmospheric carbon taken up by the Southern Ocean has changed in the 20th century, and how it will change over the 21st century. Their findings are published today in the journal Science Advances.

Lead author Dr Tereza Jarnikova, of the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research at UEA,



said: "An interesting, and hopeful, highlight of this work is that the effects of human-caused ozone hole damage on the winds, circulation, and carbon uptake of the Southern Ocean are reversible, but only under a lower scenario of greenhouse gas emissions."

The Southern Ocean takes up lots of atmospheric carbon because of its unique circulation and properties. Winds have intensified in past decades due to the loss of stratospheric ozone, acting to reduce the uptake of carbon.

However, the study shows that this phenomenon could reverse as the ozone hole recovers. At the same time, increasing GHG emissions could also lead to stronger winds, so how the Southern Ocean circulation will behave in the future, and therefore how much carbon this ocean will take up, is uncertain.

"We found that in the past decades, the depletion of ozone led to a relative reduction of the carbon sink, in general because of a tendency of the stronger winds

to bring higher-carbon water from depth up to the surface of the ocean, making it less suitable for taking up atmospheric carbon," said Dr Jarnikova.

"This isn't true in the future: in the future, the influence of ozone on the winds, and therefore on the Southern Ocean, diminishes, and it's replaced by the increasing influence of greenhouse gas emissions, which also lead to strong winds."

The study also shows that in the future, changes in ocean circulation will have less influence on carbon uptake than they had in the past, because of the changing distribution of carbon between the surface and the deep ocean.

The team used an Earth system model (UKESM1) to simulate three sets of ozone conditions for the time period 1950-2100: a world where the ozone hole never opened; a realistic world where the ozone hole opened but started healing following the adoption of the 1987 Montreal protocol that banned ozone depleting substances; and a world where the ozone hole persisted at its 1987 size throughout the 21st century.

They also simulated two future greenhouse gas scenarios: a low emissions scenario and a high emissions scenario, and then calculated how the main physical features of the ocean change over the 150 simulated years, as well as how the amount of carbon taken up by the ocean changes in response to these physical changes.

JEE-Advanced lengthy moderate-to-difficult: Kota coaching institutes

Kota : The question papers in JEE Advanced-2025 exam, held in two shifts on Sunday, were moderate-to-difficult, with the second shift paper particularly lengthy, aspirants and experts here said.

India's premier engineering entrance test, JEE Advanced 2025 exam, organised by IIT-Kanpur, was held in two shifts at five centres in Kota. It was a record with more than 1.90 lakh students registering for the exam. In the first shift alone, 1,87,223 candidates appeared, comprising 1,43,810 boys and 43,413 girls, the experts in Kota claimed. Nitin Vijay, Founder and CEO of Motion Education, explained why girls' chances of making it to the final list were higher.

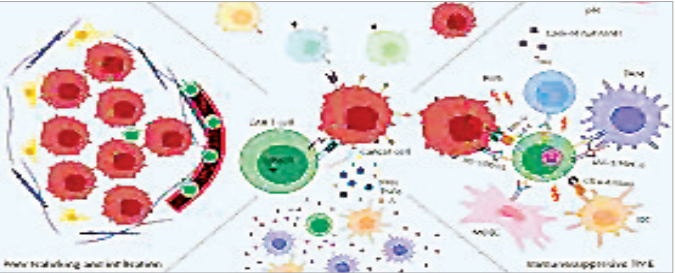
"The chances for girls to get into IITs are significantly higher in 2025 due to the increase in seats and the 20 per cent female supernumerary quota. With 1,364 new BTech seats added this year, taking the total to over 18,500 across 23 IITs, the opportunity for deserving female aspirants is brighter than ever," he said.



Female admissions in the JEE Advanced have averaged 22 per cent in the last three years, while male admissions have averaged around 78 per cent. The female supernumerary quota, in addition to the current female pool, continues to supplement their original chances. Commenting on the difficulty of the paper, Vijay on Monday said, "Mathematics was found to be the most challenging section, with lengthy, difficult, and time-consuming questions requiring conceptual clarity and profound thinking. Physics was reported as moderate to challeng-

ing, with questions requiring understanding and accuracy, while Chemistry was comparatively easier in both sessions." According to him, Paper 2 was tougher than Paper 1, particularly as eight number value-type questions were provided with no options. "As compared to previous years, no paragraph-type questions were posed," he said. Allen Career Institute Director Brajesh Maheshwari said that the first shift paper was easy, while that of the second shift was lengthy. Chemistry was completely calculative in the paper.

Ageing reduces CAR-T cell effectiveness by impairing metabolism, study shows



Lausanne [Switzerland] : People's immune systems deteriorate as they age, making cancer therapies that rely on immune cells difficult to implement.

In a new study, researchers from the University of Lausanne (UNIL), the Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), the Geneva University Hospitals (HUG), and the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) show that age-related immune decline has a measurable impact on CAR-T cell therapy, one of the most advanced forms of cancer immunotherapy.

CAR-T therapy works by engineering a patient's T-cells to recognize and destroy cancer cells. But the study found that CAR-T cells from aged mice had poor mitochondrial function, lower 'stemness', and reduced antitumor activity. The culprit: a drop in levels of nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (NAD), a molecule essential for cellular energy and metabolism of mitochondria.

"CAR-T cells from older individuals are metabolically impaired and significantly less effective," said first author Dr. Helen Carrasco Hope. "What's exciting is that we were able to rejuvenate these aged cells by

restoring their NAD levels--reviving their antitumor function in preclinical models." "Our findings strengthen the growing recognition that aging fundamentally reshapes immune cell function and metabolism," she added. "They highlight the urgent need to model age more accurately in pre-clinical studies, so that therapies are developed with the real-world cancer population in mind--where most patients are older adults."

The team used NAD-boosting compounds currently under clinical investigation for other conditions, demonstrating that this approach is translatable and potentially applicable in humans. "This is a major step toward personalized and age-conscious immunotherapy," said senior author Dr. Nicola Vannini. "By correcting age-related metabolic defects, we could improve outcomes for a large segment of cancer patients." The study adds to a growing body of work showing that age is not just a chronological number, but a biological factor that can shape therapy response. The authors call for age to be systematically considered in the development and evaluation of cell-based immunotherapies.

Study finds if mindfulness can combat anxiety

Missouri [US] : If you're worried about job, money, the status of the world, or anything else, try a moment of mindfulness.

Paying close attention to the present moment without judgment -- the basic idea behind all mindfulness techniques -- can help calm anxiety and improve focus, said Resh Gupta, a postdoctoral research associate with the Mindfulness Science and Practice research cluster.

"A lot of research has shown that mindfulness can reduce anxiety symptoms," she said.

The calming power of mindfulness is well-known to people who have made the practice a part of their daily lives. Still, experts continue to investigate how it works and which types of mindfulness might be most useful for different types of anxiety, ranging from fleeting bouts of worry to more chronic, clinical anxiety disorders. "We all experience anxiety, but it can manifest in many different ways," Gupta said. "It's a tough problem to pin down."

In a paper published in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews, Gupta and co-authors laid out a new approach to understanding the relationship between mindfulness and anxiety. Instead of taking a one-size-fits-all approach, they propose that different kinds of mindfulness practices might be helpful for different varieties of anxiety. The proposed framework should ultimately help us understand how to match anxiety sufferers with more precise treatments, Gupta said. Todd Braver, the William R. Stuckenberg Professor in Human Values and Moral Development and a professor of psychological and brain sciences, is a co-author of the paper. The other co-author is Wendy Heller, a professor of psychology at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The work was supported in part by the Mindfulness Science and Practice cluster and the Arts & Sciences' Incubator for Transdisciplinary Futures.

Braver said that the new paper is emblematic of the kinds of work being done by the cluster. "There is a growing recognition that these practices can be incredibly



People who are hypervigilant and experiencing a lot of physical symptoms of anxiety -- rapid heartbeat, sweaty palms, tightness in the chest -- may do better with a different approach. "For this type of anxiety, a form of mindfulness meditation called open monitoring may be beneficial," Gupta said. "Instead of focusing on one thing, such as the breath, you can observe all internal and external experiences from moment to moment in a non-reactive, non-judgmental way."

useful in enhancing psychological well-being," Braver said. "But we still do not fully understand the mechanisms of action by which mindfulness can produce beneficial effects. That's where the scientific research can be so valuable, by helping us more precisely identify why and how certain practices are effective."

Gupta, Braver, and Heller suggest that mindfulness combats anxiety by improving a mental process called cognitive control. "Cognitive control is the ability to regulate your thoughts and your actions in a way that helps you achieve your goals," Gupta said. "For example, if you know you have to go to the grocery store right after work, you

can keep that goal in mind during the workday and turn down an offer to do something else after work."

As Gupta explained, mindfulness and anxiety have opposite impacts on cognitive control. People who are more mindful generally perform better on tasks requiring cognitive control. That observation is supported by neuroimaging studies, which have shown that mindfulness meditation can effectively modulate activity in brain regions that support cognitive control.

On the other hand, anxiety can worsen cognitive control. "Worry occupies a lot of space in the brain's working memory system," Gupta said. "This is where your goals

are stored." This impairment in cognitive control can intensify worry symptoms, but using mindfulness to improve cognitive control can help interrupt the harmful cycle of worry.

Depending on the type of anxiety people are experiencing, some approaches might work better than others, Gupta said. People who spend a lot of time worrying may especially benefit from a type of mindfulness meditation called focused attention. "Focused attention teaches you to choose an anchor, such as your breath or a sound," she said. "You keep bringing your attention back to that anchor every time your mind wanders. Instead of focusing on the worry, you're focusing on the present moment experience."

People who are hypervigilant and experiencing a lot of physical symptoms of anxiety -- rapid heartbeat, sweaty palms, tightness in the chest -- may do better with a different approach. "For this type of anxiety, a form of mindfulness meditation called open monitoring may be beneficial," Gupta said. "Instead of focusing on one thing, such as the breath, you can observe all internal and external experiences from moment to moment in a non-reactive, non-judgmental way."

WashU's Mindfulness Science & Practice cluster offers many resources for university and community members who want to add mindfulness to their lives. The cluster sponsors regular talks as well as other events, including those in which participants can learn mindfulness practices from trained practitioners. "We're dedicated to helping the WashU and greater St. Louis community get access to tools to learn about mindfulness science and practice," Gupta said.

Braver is enthusiastic that recent research from the cluster and other institutions will help people gain a greater appreciation of the wide variety of practices that fall under the mindfulness umbrella. "People have different options they can choose from, so it becomes easier to find one that best fits your particular temperament, concerns, or current situation," he

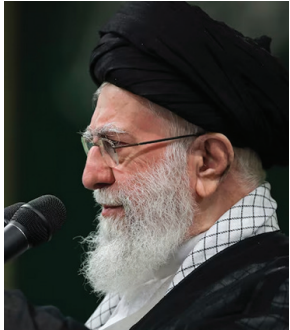
World's largest visa application centre opens in Dubai

MI News Service, Dubai:

The world's largest visa centre, touted to process 10,000 visa applications daily, has been inaugurated in Dubai. The new facility has been set up by VFS Global, a leader in trusted technology services empowering secure global mobility for governments and citizens. The centre is established in Wafi City. It is spread over 1,50,000 square feet, comprising trained visa processing professionals from 25 countries. "Visa facilitation is a key enabler of talent attraction, tourism development, and international partnerships, all essential levers of our strategy to position Dubai as the world's most connected and future-ready city," director-general of Dubai's department of economy and tourism was quoted as saying by Gulf Business. "Operating in the UAE since 2004, our journey has been defined by unwavering commitment and a deep-rooted connection with this dynamic nation and its visionary leadership," said founder and chief executive officer, VFS Global Group, Zubin Karkaria.

The CEO further said that over 20 years, the UAE has shown spectacular growth into a global hub for business, thought leadership, technology development, and innovation. "In line with Dubai's rapid development, we are proud to launch the world's largest Visa Application Centre, serving over 200 nationalities."

Iran's supreme leader dismisses U.S. stance on uranium enrichment



MI News Service, Iran: Iran's supreme leader on Tuesday pushed back against US criticism of the country's nuclear programme, saying that Tehran won't seek permission from anyone to enrich uranium and calling American statements "nonsense". "They say, 'We won't allow Iran to enrich uranium.' That's way out of line," Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said during a memorial for late President Ebrahim Raisi, who died in a helicopter crash last year. "No one in Iran is waiting for their permission. The Islamic Republic has its own policies and direction — and it will stick to them." Khamenei's remarks came as indirect talks between Iran and the US reportedly continue, though he expressed doubt about their outcome.

"Yes, indirect negotiations were held during Raisi's time too, just like now," he said. "But they didn't go anywhere — and we don't expect much from the current ones either. Who knows what will happen." His comments reflect Tehran's growing frustration with the stalled nuclear discussions, as well as the broader tensions that have defined US-Iran relations in recent years. Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei told the state-run IRNA news agency that "no definitive decision has been made about the next round of negotiations," adding that "the Islamic Republic of Iran is reviewing the matter while considering the US side's contradictory and constantly changing positions". IRNA also reported that Kazem Gharibabadi, the deputy foreign minister, said that Tehran had received a proposal regarding the next round of indirect talks with Washington and was currently reviewing it. — With Agencies Inputs

PM to lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 26,000 crore in Palana, Bikaner

PM to visit Rajasthan on 22nd May

MI News Service, Delhi Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Rajasthan on 22nd May. He will travel to Bikaner and at around 10:30 AM, he will undertake darshan at Karni Mata temple in Deshnoke.

Further at around 11:00 AM, Prime Minister will inaugurate the redeveloped Deshnoke Station under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme and flag-off Bikaner-Mumbai express train. Thereafter, he will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation multiple development projects worth over Rs 26,000 crore and also address a public function in Palana. In line with his commitment to constantly improve and enhance the rail infrastructure in the country, Prime Minister will inaugurate 103 redeveloped Amrit Stations in 86 districts across 18 States and Union Territories of India developed at a cost of over Rs 1,100 crore. Over 1,300 stations are being redeveloped with modern facilities, designed to reflect regional architecture and enhance passenger amenities under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Deshnoke railway station, serving pilgrims and tourists visiting the Karni Mata Temple among others, is inspired with temple architecture and arch and column theme. Begumpet railway station in Telangana is inspired by the architecture of the Kakatiya empire. Thawe station in Bihar incorporates various murals and art works representing Maa Thawewali, one of the 52 Shakti Peethas and depicting Madhubani paintings. Dakor station in

Gujarat is inspired by Ranchhodrai Ji Maharaj. The redeveloped Amrit stations across India integrate modern infrastructure with cultural heritage, passenger-centric amenities including those for Divyangjan and sustainable practices to enhance the travel experience.

Indian Railway is marching towards 100% electrification of its network, making railway operations more efficient and environment friendly. In line with this, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of Churu-Sadulpur rail line (58 km) and dedicate to the Nation Suratgarh-Phalodi (336 km); Phulera-Degana (109 km); Udaipur-Himmatnagar (210 km); Phalodi-Jaisalmer (157 km) and Samdari-Barmer (129 km) rail line electrification. In a major boost to road infrastructure in the state, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for construction of 3 Vehicle Underpasses, widening and strengthening of National highways. He will also dedicate 7 roadways projects in Rajasthan. The roadways projects, worth over Rs 4850 crore, will facilitate smoother movement of goods and people. The highways extend up to the Indo-Pak border, enhancing accessibility for security forces and strengthening India's defence infrastructure. Furthering the vision of electricity for all and green and clean energy, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone of power projects including Solar projects at Bikaner and Nawa in Didwana Kuchaman, and Transmission Systems for Evacuation

of Power Part B PowerGrid Sirohi Transmission Ltd and Part E PowerGrid Mewar Transmission Ltd. He will also inaugurate power projects including Solar project at Bikaner, Transmission system for Evacuation of PowerGrid Neemuch and from Bikaner Complex, Augmentation of transformation capacity at Fatehgarh-II Power Station which will provide clean energy and reduce carbon emission. Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate 25 important state government projects across Rajasthan to enhance infrastructure, connectivity, power supply, health services, and water availability in the state. These include laying of foundation stone and dedication to the nation of projects for upgrading and maintaining 12 State Highways covering a total length of over 750 km worth over Rs 3,240 crore; further expansion under the program includes an additional 900 km of new highways. Prime Minister will inaugurate power projects at Bikaner and Udaipur. He will also inaugurate Nursing Colleges in Rajasamand, Pratapggarh, Bhiwara, Dholpur which will play a key role in enhancing health infrastructure in the state. He will also lay the foundation stone and dedicate to the nation various water infrastructure projects in the region including Rural Water Supply and Fluorosis Mitigation Project in Jhunjhunu District, Restructuring of Urban Water Supply Schemes in 7 Towns of Pali District under AMRUT 2.0, among others.



Haj 2025: Over half million pilgrims arrive in Saudi Arabia

MI News Service, Riyadh:

A total of 554,579 pilgrims have arrived in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) through air, land, and sea to perform Haj 1446 AH – 2025, as of Sunday, May 18. According to the Ministry of Haj and Umrah, the arrivals were distributed as follows: These figures represent 39 percent of the total Haj visas issued for this season. On Sunday, May 18, the Ministry of Interior announced that over one million pilgrims have benefited from the Makkah Route Initiative since its in-

ception in 2017, reaffirming Saudi Arabia's dedication to enhancing pilgrim services.

As part of the Pilgrim Experience Program under Saudi Vision 2030, the initiative streamlines pre-travel procedures for pilgrims at 11 airports across seven countries: Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Morocco, Turkey, and Côte d'Ivoire.

Pilgrims started arriving in Makkah and Madinah from Dhul Qada 1, corresponding to April 29,

marking the beginning of the Haj season of 2025. In a series of welcoming messages posted across its official channels, the Ministry expressed joy at the pilgrims' arrival, "Welcome, O Guests of Allah — your arrival is an honour and a joy for us."

The Ministry also emphasised the importance of obtaining an official Haj permit, which ensures access to essential services, guarantees safety and comfort, and supports a spiritually fulfilling pilgrimage.

Indian expat couple killed in gas cylinder explosion in Oman

MI News Service, Muscat:

In a tragic incident, an Oman-based Indian expat couple died in an explosion caused by a gas cylinder at a restaurant in Bousher district. The victims have been identified as 59-year-old Pankajakshan and his wife, 53-year-old Shajitha, both originally from Kanur in the southern Indian state of Kerala. They were working as accountants for a private company in Muscat.

According to preliminary findings by the Civil Defence and Ambulance Authority (CDA), the explosion—suspected to have been caused by a gas leak in the restaurant's kitchen—led to a partial collapse of the residential-commercial building where the couple lived. The incident occurred on Saturday, May 17. The couple, who had lived in Oman for more than 30 years, were residing in an apartment directly above the restaurant.

Netanyahu acknowledges pressure from allies in decision to resume Gaza aid

MI News Service, Tel Aviv:

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday that his decision to resume aid to Gaza after a weeklong blockade came after pressure from allies. In a video statement posted to social media, Netanyahu said that Israel's allies had voiced concern about "images of hunger". Israel's "greatest friends in the world", he said without mentioning specific nationalities, had said there is "one thing we cannot stand. We cannot accept images of hunger, mass hunger. We cannot stand that. We will not be able to support you". "Therefore to achieve victory, we need to somehow solve the problem," Netanyahu said.

The aid that would be let in would be "minimal", he said without specifying precisely when it would resume. Israel on Sunday said it would resume aid deliveries into the war-battered territory after a com-

plete halt on imports since early March. Israel has maintained that the blockade on goods — including fuel, food and medicine — was meant to ramp up pressure on the militant Hamas group in Gaza. The weeklong halt on aid deepened and already dire humanitarian crisis and prompted warnings of famine from food experts.

That change in approach came as Israel launched a new offensive during which it plans to seize Gaza, displace hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and secure aid distribution inside the territory.

Israel says these are all ways to push Hamas toward agreeing to a ceasefire deal on Israel's terms. And while the sides continue to negotiate a potential truce, it is not clear how much progress has been made in bridging the remaining sticking points between the sides.

Mass demolitions in Gujarat capital displace thousands; Muslim bodies condemn 'inhumane' action

MI News Service, Ahmedabad:

Thousands of Muslim families in Ahmedabad's Chandola Talab area were left scrambling to save their belongings on Tuesday as the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) launched a large-scale demolition drive, targeting over 7,000 structures—most of them homes belonging to Muslims. The action, which has drawn sharp criticism from human rights groups and minority organizations, has rendered thousands homeless. Authorities linked the demolition to "national security" concerns following the April 26 Pahalgam attack, alleging the area was illegally occupied by undocumented Bangladeshi immigrants. Since the incident, over 6,500 people—mainly Muslims—have been detained for citizenship verification. However, activists say the vast majority are Indian citizens, many of whom possess valid documents like Aadhaar and voter ID cards. The demolition resumed after the Gujarat High Court upheld an earlier drive on April 29, ruling that struc-

tures on Chandola Lake land were unauthorized. On April 28, more than 4,000 shanties in Siyasatnagar and Bengali Vaas were razed, displacing thousands, mostly poor migrants from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Bengal who work as laborers and ragpickers.

Community leaders say the government is targeting Muslims under the guise of legal and security concerns. Mujahid Nafees, convener of the Minority Coordination Committee, called the action "completely inhumane," accusing the administration of using the Pahalgam attack to justify mass evictions. "People have lived here for over 40 years," he said.

Wasif Hussain of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Gujarat echoed the sentiment, criticizing the government for demolishing homes without providing alternative shelter. "Elderly people and children are being thrown out in extreme heat with no place to go," he said. Activists are now demanding immediate rehabilitation for all affected families. — With Agencies Inputs



Security personnel display the preparedness near the International Border, during a media tour, on the outskirts of Jammu.

Black Sun: Hitler's obsession & occult engine of Third Reich

SIDDHARTHA ALBERTT
MAJUMDERR

SHADOWS BENEATH THE SWASTIKA:

Do you want to know about a piece of history quietly buried in the footnotes—that speaks about half-whispered legends, encrypted symbols, and forbidden rituals? Mystery shrouds the chilling myth of the Black Sun, a creepy symbol etched into the tower floor at Wewelsburg Castle—the headquarters of the SS under Heinrich Himmler.

For decades, this puzzling insignia has provided fodder for conspiracy theorists and academic debates. The theory is often rubished as pseudohistory. Is the myth of the Black Sun more than occult fantasy? Was it a spiritual engine designed to drive the ideological war machine of the Third Reich?

Once you remove the layers of dusty archives, you can discover something more intriguing. These facts discuss tales of ancient myths, shadowy workings of secret societies, and a calculated attempt to create a Nazi religion. The "dark sun" theory came into being to eclipse all others.

THE SYMBOL OF BLACK SUN PREDATES NAZI ERA: Long before the Nazis, ancient Germanic, Norse and Indo-European cultures mentioned look-alike symbols of the Black Sun, 12 radial sig runes spiraling from a dark center. They were often associated with power, solar deities, and rebirth. Nazis adapted a different version with

intentional distortion. In 1933, after Hitler cemented his authority, the SS began appropriating ancient esoteric imagery. These symbols were projected to serve a mythic narrative of Aryan supremacy.

The Black Sun was one such narrative. It was a modern-day fabrication with ancient aesthetic roots which was tailored to suit Nazi propaganda attempts. The Nazi Black Sun though looked like a design was actually a sigil.

WEWELSBURG CASTLE, THE RITUAL FORTRESS OF THE SS: Far away from Berlin's political heart, lies Wewelsburg Castle, nestled in the forests of Westphalia. It was a triangular fortress remodeled under Heinrich Himmler's direct supervision.

Wewelsburg was the ritual epicenter of SS ideology. At its heart was the North Tower crypt. It was a circular chamber beneath the Black Sun mosaic. It was rumored to be a place for initiation rituals, ancestral channeling, and spiritual warfare. As many as 12 SS generals, resembling like Arthurian knights, would assemble here. They represented a seat of power in Himmler's imagined spiritual empire.

Unpublished SS documents discovered in 2017 reveal plans for a "Hall of Ancestors". It houses relics, Aryan genealogy charts, and mystical items allegedly tied to Germanic legends and, curiously, Tibetan artifacts. Tibetan artifacts shed light on Nazi Tibet Expeditions Himmler engaged an-

thropologists to find the roots of the "master race."

THE VRIL SOCIETY MYTH: Edward Bulwer-Lytton in his 1871 novel The Coming Race described Vril as a cosmic force harnessed by a superior subterranean race. The popular fiction merged with fringe science, occultism, and pseudo-archeology. It turned out to be the gospel for some Nazi theorists. SS officers genuinely explored antivagrity propulsion and alternative energy sources. According to them, these were allegedly inspired by Vril's theory. A captured Ahnenerbe researcher mentioned "Black Sun energy" as a counterforce to the Judeo-Christian god in his unpublished letters. Was the Black Sun more than just a symbol? Was it an attempt to engineer metaphysical energy for supremacy?

Was Hitler an Occult Sympathiser or Strategic Manipulator?

Despite speculation of his possibility of being an occultist, Hitler was not an active practitioner of the mysterious craft. He was reportedly dismissive of astrology and mysticism—at least openly.

So what was the reason for these esoteric experiments?

Hitler, a curious student of symbolism and myth, understood the power of archetypes. He sensed the fruitfulness of infusing Nazi ideology in spiritual narratives. While Himmler performed rituals at Wewelsburg, Hitler concentrated on myth-making for the masses.

He created an aura around

him by projecting himself as a prophesied figure from the 'Reborn Wotan', the Nordic legend. The Black Sun in Post-War Subculture

The Allies may have disapproved of the Nazi regime, but the Black Sun survived. The neo-Nazi groups in Germany and South America began using the Black Sun as a covert symbol of allegiance in 1950s and 1960s. It forced its way into UFO cults and esoteric fascist circles.

The far-right online forums pedaled the theory of "hyperborean energy sigil".

They associate it with Antarctica bases, Nazi flying saucers, and ancient alien bloodlines. The Black Sun—literally a dark sun—was projected as a powerful symbol of mysticism, supremacy, and a rejection of modernity. The Third Reich wasn't just a political concept—it was an ideological machine trying to reshape history.

The Black Sun wasn't just associated with the occult but was the axis of a diabolical metaphysics.

FINAL THOUGHTS: A LINGERING SHADOW: The Black Sun remains one of the most intriguing symbols of the 20th century. Designed as a spiritual black hole, it dismissed truth, distorted history, and pedaled the theory of power.

Hitler is no more and but Nazi Neo-Nazis kept him alive still today. The theory of cult neo-esotericism is growing online and ancient symbols are reborn in the digital arena.



Delhi Capitals' Mustafizur Rahman and teammates celebrate the wicket of Mumbai Indians' Rohit Sharma during their Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match, at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

Gwalior to host Madhya Pradesh League from June 12

GWALIOR (MADHYA PRADESH) : The Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) is set to return for its latest season, commencing June 12 with matches being held in Shrimant Madhavrao Scindia Cricket Stadium in Shankarpur, Gwalior.

The Madhya Pradesh League has been relocated from Indore to Gwalior in view of the advancing monsoon in Indore and delay in the conclusion of the Indian Premier League (IPL).

Interestingly, Gwalior also hosted the inaugural edition of MPL last year, making it a familiar venue for players and organizers alike. Originally, the league was set to commence on May 27 in Indore, aligning with the IPL's earlier scheduled conclusion on May 25.

Organised by Gwalior Division Cricket Association (GDCA) under the aegis of MP Cricket Association, the men's competition, which featured five teams last season, has been expanded to seven, with the inclusion of teams from the Bundelkhand and Chambal regions, a MPL release said.

Speaking about the Madhya Pradesh League, Chairman Mahanaaryaman Scindia said, "Gwalior holds a special place in the hearts of our players and fans, and we are thrilled to return here. With two new men's teams and the introduction of our inaugural Women's League, we're proud to expand opportunities for talent across Madhya Pradesh".

Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) CEO Ravi Patankar said they are pleased to confirm that all logistical preparations for the venue shift have been successfully completed.

"With the new start date firmly in place, we look forward to delivering an exciting and seamless tournament for players and fans alike."

The jersey unveiling ceremony will also take place in Gwalior on May 27. This season will witness the launch of a Women's Cricket League, which will be held alongside the men's matches. The women's competition will feature three teams, including one representing the capital city of Bhopal.

Men's teams: Gwalior Cheetahs, Bhopal Leopards, Jabalpur Royal Lions, Rewa Jaguars, Indore Pink Panthers, Chambal Ghariyals, Bundelkhand Bulls

Women's teams: Chambal Ghariyals, Bhopal Wolves, Bundelkhand Bulls.



RCB STARS UNWIND WITH PICKLEBALL



BENGALURU (KARNATAKA) : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) players are enjoying their time off the field after securing a spot in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 playoffs. Ahead of their match against Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH), several team members were seen relaxing and bonding over a game of pickleball.

RCB's official X handle shared pictures of star batter Virat Kohli and his wife Anushka Sharma in action, playing pickleball with full intensity. The couple was joined by veteran wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik and his wife Dipika Pallikal, a professional squash player.

Adding to the mix was RCB pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar, who also took part in the fun session. The players using the light-hearted game as a way to stay fresh and focused ahead of the high-stakes play-

off match.

"Powering through teamwork, RCB Style!"

They are currently sitting in second place with 17 points, eight wins, three losses, and one no-result, and still have two matches to play.

Virat Kohli (505 runs in 11 innings with seven fifties), Devdutt Padikkal (247 runs in 10 innings with two fifties), skipper Rajat Patidar (239 runs in 10 innings with two fifties) and Tim David (186 runs in eight innings with a fifty) have been match winners with the bat, while Josh Hazlewood (18 wickets) and Krunal Pandya (14 wickets) have been the leading performers with the ball.

The highly anticipated clash between Royal Challengers Bengaluru(RCB) and Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) was abandoned on May 17 due to rain. The one point eventually helped them to qualify for the playoffs.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru Squad: Jacob Bethell, Virat Kohli, Mayank Agarawal, Rajat Patidar(c), Jitesh Sharma(w), Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Krunal Pandya, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Lungi Ngidi, Yash Dayal, Suyash Sharma, Rasikh Dar Salam, Manoj Bhandage, Liam Livingstone, Swapnil Singh, Philip Salt, Mohit Rathee, Swastik Chikara, Abhinandan Singh, Nuwan Thushara, Josh Hazlewood.

Gujarat Giants announce new coaching staff ahead of PKL 2025 auction

AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT) : With the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) 2025 Player Auction to be held from May 31 to June 1, Gujarat Giants have made strategic changes ahead of the new season, including a new coaching staff, according to a release from Gujarat Giants.

The move aims to build a fearless, robust, and title-contending squad for the brand new campaign in season XII.

Jaivir Sharma has been appointed as the new head coach, while Varinder Singh Sandhu will take over as Assistant Coach of Gujarat Giants.

With over three decades of experience, Jaivir is among the most respected figures in Indian kabaddi. He is a championship-winning coach with an impressive track record and brings a wealth of experience along with tactical acumen to the leadership role.

Jaivir, who has been serving with the Sports Authority of India (SAI) since 1992, has been instrumental in shaping the careers of numerous national and international kabaddi players. Under his guidance, Indian team has clinched Gold medal at prestigious international events, including the Asian Games, Kabaddi World Cup and multiple marquee kabaddi championships.

"I'm excited to be joining Gujarat Giants. I look forward to developing a fearless and humble philosophy within the team, with the aim of making us one of the strongest contenders in the PKL. I'm grateful to Adani

Sportslines for placing their trust in me and giving me this exciting opportunity. I'm eagerly looking forward to the PKL auction and building a strong, competitive squad," said Jaivir, as quoted from a release by Gujarat Giants

Since joining the league in 2017, Gujarat Giants has built a strong reputation for grooming star players such as Rohit Gulia, Sachin Tanwar, Sunil Kumar, Parvesh Bhainswal and Pawan Sehrawat, all of whom have become household names and key figures in the league.

Gujarat Giants, the two-time PKL finalists, also take pride in backing young coaching talent and offering them the platform to rise and shine.

A prime example is Manpreet Singh, who came through the ranks to become one of the most successful coaches in PKL's history.

Continuing that tradition is Varinder, a talented coach with elite-level kabaddi experience and 17 years of exemplary service in the Indian armed forces. He brings a blend of leadership, discipline, and modern tactical insights to his new role with the Gujarat Giants. Varinder will work closely under the mentorship of Jaivir as he transitions into the league's setup.

Varinder has served as the head coach of the Indian women's kabaddi team, leading them to win multiple historic Gold medals, including at the 19th Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, and the 6th Asian Kabaddi Championship 2025 in Iran. He was the coach of the Punjab state team and the

Indian Air Force (IAF) at various tournaments, including the National Games 2023 and 2025, where he played a key role in inculcating a winning mindset among young players.

Speaking about his new role and his upcoming PKL debut as an assistant coach, Varinder said, "I'm really excited to join the Gujarat Giants' family. It's an incredible opportunity to be part of one of the biggest Kabaddi leagues in the world.

I'm also eager to experience the player auction for the first time and look forward to building a solid squad for the new season. I'm committed to contributing to Gujarat Giants' success and helping the team achieve its collective goals with our Head Coach (Jaivir)."

Welcoming the dynamic new coaching staff, Sanjay Adesara, Chief Business Officer, Adani Sportslines, said, "We are delighted to welcome Jaivir Sharma and Varinder Singh Sandhu to the Gujarat Giants family. Both bring valuable coaching experience and strong credentials to the table, and we are confident that their expertise will help Gujarat Giants achieve the ultimate goal of winning the title."

"At Adani Sportslines, it is part of our philosophy to support young players and coaches by providing them with the right platform to grow and excel. We believe [Varinder] Sandhu's addition to the team, under the mentorship of our experienced Head Coach [Jaivir], will strengthen our journey towards achieving great things for Gujarat Giants," he added.



Khelo India Beach Games 2025: Golden day for hosts Daman & Diu on Day 1 of pencak silat competition

DIU (DAMAN AND DIU) [INDIA] : Hosts Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu had a golden start on Day 2 of the first Khelo India Beach Games in Diu on Tuesday. The first golds of the Games were decided in pencak silat competition with Daman & Diu, winning two of the first three, according to the SAI Media Release.

Pencak silat is a form of Indonesian martial art, and it was great to see a Union Territory hemmed by the Arabian Sea excelling in the open competition at these Games. Prasanna Narendra Bendre of Daman & Diu won the gold in the senior men's tunggal (artistic) event. At the same time, Kirtana Manojkumar Acharya of the home team struck gold in the senior female category.

A third gold was decided in the pencak silat competition in the morning session at the Ghoghla Beach. In a solo event (artistic), Punjab's Aaryan won gold ahead of Odisha's Sohil Gurung. Pencak silat is a highly technical sport with points awarded on



artistic forms and creativity.

Bendre is the most accomplished player in the region, with a silver and two bronze medals to his name at international events. He won the sil-

ver in the 2022 Asian championship in Jammu and Kashmir, while his two bronzes came in the 2024 Asian championship in Dubai and the 2024 world championship in Abu Dhabi.

Bendre really hopes these Khelo India Beach Games go a long way towards promoting tourism in Diu.

"That will be good for us. A better economy will help all sports and the infrastructure," he said, as quoted from the SAI Media Release.

The beach soccer competition started on Monday and there was a spate of one-sided group matches in both men's and women's competitions. Lakshadweep recorded one of the biggest wins when their men thrashed Gujarat 19-1. Odisha women blanked Madhya Pradesh 18-0.

There are six medal sports in these Games, ending May 24: soccer, volleyball, kabaddi, open swimming, sepak takraw, and pencak silat, and two non-medal sports (mallakhamb and tug-of-war).

Pencak silat results

Solo Creative Senior Male: Gold: Aaryan with score of 560 (Punjab), Silver: Sohil Gurung, 542 (Odisha), Bronze: Vaibhav Valmik Kale, 541 (Maharashtra) and Kevin, 525

(Nagaland)

Tunggal Senior Female: Gold: Kirtana Manojkumar Acharya with score of 408 (Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu), Silver: Bhoomikajiten Drājain, 397 (Madhya Pradesh), Bronze: Edwina Lhinghoithem Hanghal, 387 (Nagaland) and Dolly Leishangthem, 380 (Manipur)

Tunggal Senior Male: Gold: Prasanna Narendra Bendre with score of 420 (Dadra & Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu), Silver: Raja Das, 397 (West Bengal), Bronze: Raves Ahmad, 391 (Jammu and Kashmir) and Krishna Nursing Panchal, 382 (Maharashtra)

Key beach volleyball results:

Men: Telangana 2-0 Andaman & Nicobar (walkover), Tamil Nadu 2-0 Daman & Diu; Jammu and Kashmir 2-0 Daman & Diu

Women: Telangana 2-0 Karnataka (walkover); Kerala 2-0 Maharashtra (walkover); Andhra Pradesh 2-0 Karnataka (walkover); Maharashtra 2-0 Daman & Diu.

"Big thing for players": Indian Women's Hockey Team captain welcomes Amity-Hockey India partnership to support players' education

NOIDA (UTTAR PRADESH) : Indian Women's Hockey Team captain Salima Tete and defender Jyoti have welcomed the partnership between Amity University Online (AUO) and Hockey India (HI), calling it a big step towards helping players continue their education alongside their sports careers.

Amity University Online has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hockey India to offer educational opportunities to hockey players at the international, national, and state levels.

Speaking to ANI, Salima Tete said, "Thank you, Amity University and Hockey India, this is a very big thing for the players. The players need this, and this is a very good thing for the players. Now that we are joining, the children who will come to the camp, if they don't complete their graduation, they can join Amity

University. This is very easy for us, and we are getting a lot of support from Amity University. This is a big advantage for us. When we go to play a tournament and there is an exam in between, this is a very difficult situation for us."

She added, "When we go to play a match, and there is an exam in the group, we have to leave the game and give the exam, we have to choose between the two. This is a very difficult time for us. After leaving the exam, we have to wait for the next year, and we have joined you, this will help us a lot, and this is a very good thing for us. We can join online classes, and we can learn a lot. To complete our graduation, we have to take responsibility, we have to work on our graduation. This is a very good thing for us."

Indian Women's Hockey Team defender

Jyoti also praised the initiative. She said, "I am very happy about it because we players have been given the opportunity to study further. As we are in camps, it is difficult for us to give exams, to come home, and to return. So, online, if we are outside, playing a tournament in a foreign country, then we can also give exams there. It is very helpful for us to complete our further studies." This partnership supports the overall growth of sportspersons by allowing them to continue their education without affecting their sports careers, according to a Hockey India press release. Under this agreement, Amity University Online will offer a special scholarship program designed for athletes. This program understands the difficulties players face in balancing sports and studies and aims to support them in achieving both.

Along with up to 100 per cent scholarships through the CHAMPS initiative (Celebrating Heroes with Amity Merit Program Scholarships), Amity University Online also offers free access to a three-month Certificate Course in Sports Psychology to help improve players' mental strength and performance.

The MoU was signed by Bhola Nath Singh, Secretary General of Hockey India, and Ajit Chauhan, Chairman of Amity University Online. The signing was witnessed by Sekar J Manoharan, Treasurer of Hockey India, and senior officials from Amity University in Noida.

During the event, Indian Women's Hockey Team captain Salima Tete and defender Jyoti formally enrolled in Amity University Online's Sociology and MBA Marketing programs, respectively. They are the first two players to benefit from this new partnership.

