

# Mamata Banerjee demands a special session of Parliament soon to inform countrymen about Indo-Pak conflicts

**MI News Service, Kolkata :** West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee has demanded that a special session of Parliament should be convened (by the centre) soon to inform the 'countrymen' about the details of Pahalgam terror attack and India's retaliatory measures through 'Operation Sindoor,. Hailing the government's decision to send several multi-party Parliamentary delegations to many countries across the world to highlight Pakistan's role behind terrorism , the Chief minister said however, a special session of Parliament should be convened soon after the return of all the seven delegations from abroad, so that the countrymen may know about the conflict with Pakistan, its role behind terrorism and the subsequent events. On Friday, Mamata Banerjee wrote in her X handle, "I request the Centre to convene

a special session of Parliament after the delegation returns home safely." adding "I believe that the countrymen have the right to know about the conflict and its subsequent events- before anyone else." However, the way she wrote 'Before Anyone Else' in capital letters in her X handle,that has led many to believe that Mamata Banerjee might have possibly referring to the role of US President Donald Trump in the Indo-Pak conflict. Incidentally, it was President Trump who first announced the ceasefire between India and Pakistan though his Social media Post on May 10 afternoon. He also claimed that it was he who told the two countries that if they did not stop the conflict, America would stop doing trade and businesses with them .After that, according to Donald Trump, the two nuclear



power countries had agreed to a ceasefire. Possibly in view of that Mamata Banerjee has demanded in her post that a spe-

cial session be convened soon and everything should be reformed to the countrymen. Although she presented it as a

'request'. The Trinamool Congress supremo's post was reposted by the party's All India General Secretary and MP Ab-

hishek Banerjee from Japan in the midst of his tour to that country as part of an Indian Parliamentary delegation on behalf of the party to highlight Pakistani terrorism. He will also visit four more countries for the same purpose before returning to India on June 3. Meanwhile, Mamata Banerjee again wrote, "I am happy to see the way the multi-party delegation of India is highlighting the nature of terrorism in the world court. I have already said that the position that the central government will take on the issue of national interest and sovereignty, the Trinamool Congress as a party will support it." Earlier, on behalf of the Congress, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had also demanded the calling of a special session of Parliament. Apart from the Congress, Sharad Pawar's NCP, Tejashwi Yadav's RJD, Uddhav

Thackeray's Shiv Sena (UBT) as well as other anti-BJP parties like CPI, CPM also demanded holding of a special session of Parliament. But Mamata Banerjee has raised the same demand at a time when India's multi-party delegations are touring several countries. Though she announced that she would stand by the central government in national interests, she did not accept the Centre's interference in her own party affairs. Earlier the centre had finalized the name of Berhampur MP Yusuf Pathan in the delegation without informing Mamata Banerjee, despite she being the supreme leader the of the TMC. But after Trinamool Congress withdrew Yusuf's name,. Union Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju himself called Mamata Banerjee and only after that, she nominated Abhishek Banerjee for the tour.



Giant blanket of dark cloud engulfs the city sky in the afternoon in Kolkata on Friday.



People defy rain at the streets of Kolkata on Friday as the shower brings much relief to the city dwellers.

## TMC Gen Secretary Abhishek Banerjee pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi in Tokyo, reiterates India's fight against terrorism

**MI News Service, Tokyo / New Delhi :** It was an action-packed day in Japan's capital city of Tokyo, where a seven member parliamentary delegation led by JDU MP Sanjay Jha arrived late last night (local time) .

The day started with paying tributes to the bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the city centre by Tri-

ance policy towards terror and terrorism.He also informed intellectuals about the details of the Pahalgam terror attack and how India fought back, not just the narrative of Pakistan, trying to use the bogey of nuclear weapons, but also the cyber attacks and other digital warfare of spreading fake news



namool Congress All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee and others . After that, the delegation had a series of meetings with officials from the Japanese government, members of the ruling party, and several think tanks about the menace of terrorism and the need for its total elimination from all corners of the globe including from India, which is one of the worst sufferers.

The early meeting set the expectation right when the Japanese government came out fully in support of India's fight against terrorism. A big announcement was made by Japan's Foreign Minister Takeshi Iwaya, during talks with the Indian delegation. "In this fight against terrorism, Japan stands with India." During conversations with various think tanks, Abhishek Banerjee conveyed in no uncertain terms India's zero toler-

by Pakistan. It is learnt that during the interaction, one of the members from a think tank asked the visiting delegation as to why India has not maintained a stand during the Russia-Ukraine war. It was learnt through sources that the former External Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid, corrected those asking questions on this.

"It is not correct. India has never said that its Position is neutral. India has always maintained that they have only one position, and that position is that war is not a solution for everything," Khurshid said who is fully supported by Banerjee with additionalfacts. Another question asked by the intellectuals during the meeting pertained to what Operation Sindoor is and why it was named so. It was learnt

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## Pak airspace was rejected for IndiGo aircraft to avoid hailstorm

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** Amid the heightened diplomatic row between India and Pakistan since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Lahore Air Traffic Control rejected the request of

the pilots of IndiGo flight to Srinagar from New Delhi on Wednesday to enter the Pakistan airspace to avoid a massive hailstorm and a

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# PM Modi describes 'Northeast as the frontrunner of unprecedented growth'

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** Hailing the all round growth and unprecedented progress of the Northeastern region in every field during the past few years, Prime minister Narendra Modi has asserted that his government is "determined to accelerate its growth story by all means".

Addressing the 'Rising North East Investors Summit' here on Friday, the Prime minister also said that diversity of the Northeast is its biggest strength and that the region is emerging as the frontrunner of growth in the socio-economic sectors too.

"The Northeast is witnessing unprecedented progress. We are determined to accelerate its growth story," he said while inaugurating the two-day event which is being attended by Chief ministers of all the eight states in the region, union ministers, bureaucrats and diplomats among others.

Top industry leaders like Mukesh Ambani, Gautam Adani, Anil Agarwal among others attended the inaugural session.

PM Modi said for his govern-



ment, EAST means - "Empower, Act, Strengthen and Transform"."There was a time when Northeast was only called frontier, now it is frontrunner of growth," he said.

He said the Northeast was earlier synonymous with bombs, guns and rockets which took away many opportunities from youths there."Over 10,000 youths in the Northeast have given up violence in last decade," he said.

Prime Minister Modi also said that his government follows a zero tolerance policy, be it terrorism or Naxalism.

The summit is being organised with an aim of highlighting the Northeast region as a land of opportunity, attracting global and domestic investment and bringing together key stakeholders, investors, and policy-makers on a single platform, official sources said. The event is the culmination

of various pre-summit activities, such as series of roadshows, and states' roundtables, including Ambassador's meet and bilateral chambers meet organised by the central government with active support from the state governments of the Northeastern region. The summit will include ministerial sessions, business-to-government sessions, business-to-business meetings, start ups and exhibitions of policy and related initiatives taken by state governments and central ministries for investment promotion, officials said.

The main focus sectors of investment promotion include tourism and hospitality, Agro-food processing and allied sectors, textiles, handloom and handicrafts, healthcare, education and skill development, information technology and information technology enabled services, infrastructure and logistics, energy, entertainment and sports. Summit has been organised in New Delhi with an aim to highlight the region as a land of opportunity, attracting

global and domestic investment, and bringing together key stakeholders, investors, and policy-makers on a single platform.

PM Modi said, "From trade to tradition, from textile to tourism, the diversity of the Northeast is its strength. Northeast means bio-economy, bamboo, tea production, petroleum, sports, skill, an emerging hub of eco-tourism, and a new world for organic products."He said Northeast is the powerhouse of energy. "Northeast is 'Ashta Lakshmi' for us".

Better infrastructure makes tourism attractive and gives investors more confidence... We started an infrastructure revolution in the Northeast... It is now becoming the land of opportunities... The connectivity in the Northeast is becoming stronger...," he noted. Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia felicitated Prime Minister Modi with an orchid bouquet in a basket made by Northeastern bamboo and a Rising Northeast Investors Summit memento during the inauguration of the Summit.

## Basavaraju, 26 other slain Naxalites carried cumulative bounty of over Rs 3.33 cr

**MI News Service, Raipur :** The 27 hardcore Naxalites, including 12 women, who were killed during an encounter with security forces in Chhattisgarh's Narayanpur district were dreaded cadres and carried a cumulative bounty of over Rs 3.33 crore in the state.

Informing this official sources said here on Friday that in one of the biggest strikes on Naxalites, security forces gunned down Nambala Keshav Rao alias Basavaraju, the General Secretary of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), and 26 other cadres during a fierce encounter in the forested Abhujmad along Bijapur-Narayanpur inter-district border on Wednesday.

Two jawans of the District Reserve Guard (DRG) of the state police also lost their lives during the operation.

"Of the killed cadres, one was identified on Thursday as Basavaraju (70), who carried a reward of Rs 1 crore on his head in Chhattisgarh. The identities of the remaining cadres were also established on Thursday," Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range, Sundarraj P said.

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## Yunus mulls stepping down as Bangladesh's interim govt chief

**MI News Service, Dhaka :** Chief of the Interim Government in Bangladesh Muhammad Yunus is reportedly considering stepping down from his post after he is finding it difficult to work with the leaders of major political parties, who failed to come to a consensus on how to bring a real and positive change in the country.

Informing this sources within the government, quoting Student-led National Citizen Party chief Nhid Islam here on Friday, said that Muhammad Yunus was apprehensive about the evolving political situation in the country and whether he would be able to carry on with his work on a common platform with all major political parties in the coming days.

In addition there have been reports of some discord between the military and the interim government over the possible timeline for holding the parliamentary elections before the end of this year..

"We have been hearing news of Yunus' resignation since morning. So I went to meet Sir to discuss that issue .He said he is thinking about it. He feels that the situation is such that he cannot work,"

Islam reportedly told a major international media house after the meeting.

The NCP convenor said Chief Adviser Yunus expressed his fear that he would not be able to work in the current situation of the country saying, "I won't be able to work unless the political parties can reach a common ground".

The leader of the NCP, who visibly emerged with Muhammad Yunus's blessings in February this year, said he told Yunus "to stay strong for the sake of the country's security, and future, and to meet the expectations of the mass uprising".

Islam said he told the Chief Adviser he expected the political parties would forge unity and cooperate with him, and "I hope everyone will cooperate with him".

The NCP leader, however, said there was no point in Yunus staying if he could not do his work adding, "If the political party wants him to resign now... why he will stay if he does not get that place of trust, that place of assurance?". Yunus's government in the past two days was

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## DIPUBHAI PALMIST

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## Deocha-Pachami: State govt engages NIRM for feasibility study

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Bengal government has decided to engage the National Institute of Rock Mechanics (NIRM) to find out whether underground mining of coal is possible at Deocha-Pachami without shifting residents, as the state wants to avoid the time-consuming mass relocation.

The study is important because the state government is laying stress on underground mining on nearly 2,000 acres out of 3,500 acres at Deocha-Pachami in Birbhum district, where a coal mining project was proposed.

"The institute will submit a report to the state government pointing out whether it is possible to undertake underground mining without relocating people living in the project area.... The institute will prepare a detailed report on the strength of the rock layer and vulnerability of the rocks," said a source aware of the development.

NIRM is an autonomous research institute headquartered at Bengaluru under the Union ministry of mines.

The institute has been chosen for the study as it deals with field and laboratory investigations and solves complex problems in almost the entire spectrum

of rock mechanics and rock engineering related to mining and civil engineering activities.

"It is important to know whether the rock layer would cave in once coal, deposited under a layer of rock that is more than 500m thick, is extracted. If the reports suggest that underground mining is possible without relocating the inhabitants of the project area, the government will start underground mining soon," said an official.

Sources said the government did not want to relocate the residents of the project area as it could be time-consuming, and the state wanted to kick off the project at the earliest.

"This is the only project on which the government is banking heavily for the generation of jobs in the state, as other big-ticket investments eluded Bengal so far. So, the state wants to get this project commissioned as early as possible," said an official.

A section of officials has said that since a section of residents of the area has put up stiff resistance against relocation, the government is weighing options so that the project could be initiated without hurting the local people's sentiments.

"The government requires land to set up houses for relocating residents of the area. But the relocation process could take years. This is why the state wants to go for underground mining without disturbing the residents," said another official.

The government has already made some progress in carrying out underground mining on 2,000 acres since it received a good response in the global tender that was floated in December last year for underground coal mining.

Two companies from Poland and four indigenous firms have shown interest in executing the project in Deocha-Pachami. "All agencies have qualified the technical bid, and their quotation for the financial bid will soon be opened," said a source.

In Deocha-Pachami, the government has already started the initial process of open-cast mining on 376 acres. The state is also trying to initiate a coal gasification project on 1,000 acres.

"Out of the 1,200 lakh tons of coal reserve in Deocha-Pachami, about 400 lakh tons could be extracted through underground mining. This is why underground mining of coal in Deocha-Pachami is very important for the state," said a source.

### Raj, Shubhashree attends Naihati Bratyajan's Dayabaddha

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The 31st staging of Dayabaddha (Bound by Duty) by Naihati Bratyajan, directed by Aritra Banerjee, was successfully held recently at Madhusudan Mancha. The emotionally charged and socially resonant production captivated audiences and was lauded by numerous dignitaries, intellectuals, and cultural stalwarts who graced the event with their esteemed presence.

Among the esteemed attendees were Raj Chakraborty, MLA of the Barrackpore Constituency and a renowned director and producer, and Subhashree Ganguly, a leading actress of Indian cinema.

### Kolkata hosts Mongolian film fest

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** It's no secret that Kolkatans enjoy great cinema just as much as they savour a good kathi roll. On May 23, cinephiles are in for a treat as Nandan III hosted a day-long Mongolian Film Festival. The event saw the presence of Ganbold Dambajav, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to India, along with filmmaker Sudeshna Roy and Parimal Mukherjee, general secretary of Cine Central Kolkata.

The festival opened with 'The Cave of the Yellow Dog', a Mongolian-German film written and directed by Byambasuren Davaa. Mongolia's official entry to the 2005 Academy Awards for Best Foreign Language Film, the story follows a young nomadic girl, Nansal, who finds a stray puppy in the grasslands and forms a deep bond with it, despite her parents' objections.

The screening started at Nandan III. Audiences watched 'Mongol', a 2007 historical epic by Sergei Bodrov. The film traces the early life of Temüjin, who would later rise to become Genghis Khan. A collaboration between Russia, Germany and Kazakhstan, 'Mongol' was Kazakhstan's submission to the 2007 Academy Awards and was also nominated for Best Foreign Language Film.

### 12 acres of land in New Town to go under hammer

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** To be used for both residential and commercial purposes, the state government is set to send about 12 acres of land in New Town, Rajarhat, spread across Action Area II and III, under the hammer for allotment on a freehold basis. Sources in West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation (WBHIDCO) confirmed that bids are being invited for e-auction to allot the plots in New Town.

In Action Area III in New Town, 9 acres of land will be allotted on a freehold basis for residential/commercial/mixed use purposes. The starting bid price is fixed at Rs 356.40 crore.

In Action Area II, 2,428 acres of land will be allotted for the same purposes. The starting bid price has been fixed at Rs 115.38 crore. Also, 1,034 acres will also go under the hammer in Action Area II. The starting bid price has been fixed at Rs 65.52 crore.

WBHIDCO sources said around 12,000 dwelling units have already been constructed in New Town and a further 16,000 dwelling units are under construction.

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The 73rd Annual Convocation of the International Statistical Education Center, run by ISI. At this convocation ceremony, 18 international students were awarded 10-month diploma certificates. The chief guest for the event was Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Planning and Implementation, Government of India. Professor Sanghamitra Banerjee, Director, Indian Statistical Institute, addressed the gathering.

## Dr. Ananda Bandyopadhyay wins global vaccine research award for polio work

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata-born US-based physician Dr. Ananda Bandyopadhyay, known for his significant contributions to India's polio elimination efforts and measles surveillance initiatives, has been awarded the prestigious IVI-SK Bioscience Park MahnHoon Award.

Bandyopadhyay, 45, of Gates Foundation, was jointly honoured with Professor Pierre Van Damme of the University of Antwerp.



The duo was recognised for their groundbreaking work in vaccine research, particularly the development and deployment of a novel oral polio vaccine.

The International Vaccine Institute (IVI), the world's only international

organisation devoted exclusively to the discovery, development, and delivery of vaccines for global health, held the 2025 IVI-SK Bioscience Park MahnHoon Award Ceremony on April 30.

"It's great to receive such a prestigious award. It will be a big boost for future research. This recognition is a tribute to the global partnership and team effort dedicated to eradicating polio," Bandyopadhyay told PTI from Seattle.

## GTA keen on 'satellite' Darjeeling

**MI News Service, Darjeeling:** The Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) is looking at creating a satellite township of Darjeeling at Rangaroon tea garden near Ghoom.

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee raised the issue of setting up a satellite township for Darjeeling at an administrative meeting held in Siliguri.

Anit Thapa, the chief executive of the GTA, said: "Regarding the extension of Darjeeling and the satellite township, we, along with the principal secretary (of the GTA) and the DM are working on it. We will now identify the land."

Speaking to 'The Telegraph', Thapa said that the GTA was looking at setting up the satellite township at the Rangaroon tea garden.

"We are looking at the Rangaroon tea garden as it has a number of advantages," said Thapa.

To start with, Rangaroon is about 16km from Darjeeling town, near the 3rd Mile area.

"Setting up a township

there would mean that traffic will not enter Darjeeling town," said Thapa.

The need to set up a satellite township and shift most of the government offices out of Darjeeling town was raised more than two decades back. A proposal to this effect had been sent by the then Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council (DGHC) to the state government in 2002.

The then Bengal chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharya had promised to study a proposal to set up a township at Lapchajagat, some 15km from Darjeeling town, but nothing came out of it.

"That area (identified for the satellite township near Lapchajagat) comes under the forest department and it is difficult to obtain required permissions," said Thapa.

Rangaroon being a tea garden technically belongs to the state government.

The place is also known for its flora. Tenzing Norgay Sherpa, the first man to climb Mount Everest, had also opened a trekking

route for the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) through this area.

Thapa, however, said that he would also seek opinions from the public before finalising the site. "I will also go to the public and see if they have other sites in mind even though we feel that Rangaroon has many advantages," said Thapa.

The GTA is also constructing a 13km stretch from Lebong to 3rd Mile via the Pandam and the Rangaroon tea gardens.

"At the moment we are focussed on creating a satellite township for Darjeeling as it is bursting at its seams," said Thapa.

According to statistics compiled by the state government in 2001 Darjeeling town has the highest human density among all mountainous regions of the world with a population of 1,266 persons for every sqkm.

The population of Darjeeling town is more than 1.5 lakh. Another six lakh tourists visit the town on an average every year.

## Summing up the past in Police meeting



Nurul Islam Khan

Barrackpore Lat Bagan SVSPA, Azizul Bhaban on Friday witnessed a historic moment, with the sincere cooperation and enthusiasm of all the members, the auspicious inauguration of the "Look Back" program of the West Bengal Police Association was completed.

Shri Shantanu Sinha Biswas, Coordinator, West Bengal Police Welfare Commit-

tee, Shri Vasudev Pramanik, President, West Bengal Police Association, Shri Bijitash Raut, General Secretary, West Bengal Police Association, all the leaders of the Central Committee, various officers of SVSPA, past leaders of West Bengal Police Association, presidents, secretaries, officers and general members of various district branches were present.

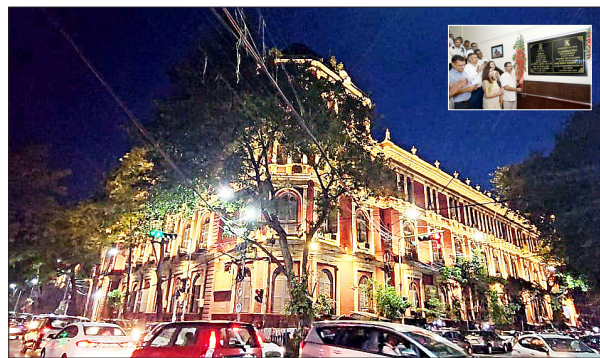
Through his speech, the General Secretary called on everyone to come together and strengthen the organization, retold the history of the organization, explained the "Return to See" program, and wished all those who participated in the "Return to See" program the best of luck.

Shantanu Sinha Biswas, through his speech, wished the organization for its growth and assured to always be by everyone's side. At the end of the meeting, the president thanked everyone present and declared the inaugural meeting a success.

## Illumination Ceremony of Historic Income Tax Office Building

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A moment of pride and heritage was celebrated today as the historic Income Tax Office building at 3 Government Place (West), Kolkata, was illuminated in a grand ceremony. The event marked a significant milestone in preserving the legacy and enhancing the architectural beauty of one of the oldest Income Tax buildings in India.

Originally constructed in 1890-91 as the Imperial Secretariat, the building has long served as a landmark of cultural and administrative heritage. Before the establishment of Aayakar Bhawan at Chowringhee, this structure housed all senior functionaries of the Income Tax



Department, particularly the Commissioner of Income Tax, Bengal.

The newly installed illumination highlights the majestic colonial architecture of the building, transforming it into a visual spectacle without any structural tampering.

The initiative reflects not just aesthetic enhancement but also the Department's commitment to preserving its rich history while embracing modernity.

As part of this heritage preservation effort, a Heritage Archive has also been

## GTA to train guides for Sandakphu trek

**MI News Service, Darjeeling:** The tourism department of the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) has devised a plan to implement a series of initiatives to strengthen sustainable tourism practices in the Singalila National Park area of the Darjeeling hills.

The initiative will begin with the off-season training of 130 guides from Maneybhanjyang. Tourists start their journey from Maneybhanjyang to reach Sandakphu, the highest point in Bengal, located at around 12,000 feet.

The move is expected to raise the standard of the tourism experience along the Sandakphu-Phauli trail. The plan will also provide steady livelihood opportunities to second-generation tourism workers in the region.

Dawa Sherpa, the field director of the GTA's tourism department, said officials had held a meeting with representatives of the Highlander Guide Association of Maneybhanjyang, and the training for the guides would begin in June.

"These individuals, many of whom are sons of former guides and porters,

represent the continuity of Maneybhanjyang's tourism heritage. Considering the evolving demand of the industry for modern skills and knowledge, we will conduct the training," he said.

"The training will focus on environmentally responsible tourism, with emphasis on sustainability and ecological preservation," added Sherpa.

According to him, the four-day training curriculum will cover basic first-aid, tourist acclimatisation protocols for high-altitude trekking, and emergency response procedures.

"The trainees will also be responsible for informing authorities such as the Sashastra Seema Bal (which guards the India-Nepal border) and the local police in case of any emergency. This will ensure better coordination and safety management during trekking," he said.

Sherpa said that from the upcoming season, it would be mandatory for all tourists and trekkers to have guides with them to trek to Sandakphu.

"This rule has been created to ensure the safety of visitors and uphold the principles of responsi-

ble tourism. The initiative also aligns with the broader goal of promoting eco-tourism and reducing the negative impact of unregulated travel in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem," he said.

While trekking from Maneybhanjyang to Sandakphu, one has to pass through the Singalila National Park.

To further tighten the safety net, the tourism department is setting up new tourist check-posts in Maneybhanjyang and Rimbick. The checkpoints are necessary to ensure that tourists and trekkers travelling to Sandakphu are physically fit. In the past one year, at least two tourists died because of high-altitude sickness and breathing problems while travelling to Sandakphu without proper acclimatisation.

"The check-posts will serve as key monitoring points, where the complete details of tourists embarking on the expedition to Sandakphu and nearby trails will be recorded. Officials will track the return of all trekkers to ensure no one is lost or left behind in the rugged terrain," said a source.

## Bangladeshi woman held at Nadia border with fake Indian ID, Mumbai links under probe

**MI News Service, Dhantala:** In a dramatic turn of events, a young Bangladeshi woman was apprehended near the Dhantala border in West Bengal's Nadia district on Thursday night for illegally entering India and allegedly living under a forged Indian identity. Authorities are investigating possible links to criminal networks or other suspicious motives behind her cross-border movement.

According to police sources, the woman had crossed into India several months ago with the help of a human trafficker. After arriving in Nadia, she acquired fake Indian identification documents. Using these forged papers, she traveled to Mumbai, where she reportedly found work



and stayed for an extended period.

During a routine patrol near the Dhantala border late Thursday night, police spotted the woman behaving suspiciously. Upon questioning, she gave conflicting answers, and an inspection of her documents revealed they were counterfeit. Eventually, during interrogation, she confessed to being a Bangladeshi national who had illegally crossed

into India.

Investigators are now trying to determine if she had any connections with extremist groups or was part of a larger network engaged in illicit activities. The fact that a lone woman managed to infiltrate the border and establish herself in Mumbai has raised questions about whether she acted alone or with assistance from organized rackets.

The accused was produced in Ranaghat court on Friday. Police have sought her custody for further questioning.

This incident comes amid an intensified crackdown on illegal infiltration across the Indo-Bangladesh border. Over 400 individuals have already been arrested in recent months.

## Kolkata Youth Football League- 2025 by Gosto Pal Memorial Sporting Club

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** 23rd May was the AFC Grassroots Football Day. On this occasion, the Central Calcutta Gosto Pal Memorial Sporting Club organized Kolkata Youth Football League- 2025.

The participant teams were:

Central Calcutta Goshto Gopal Memorial Sporting Club, Ichhapur Shivaji Sangha Football Academy, Park Circus Sarat Memorial Sporting Club, Desopran Shasmal Memorial Sporting Club, Shaheed Ashfaqulla Khan Football Coaching Camp, Goshta Paul Football School, Vidy-



asagar Memorial Football Club.

Park Circus Sarat Memorial Sporting Club is currently leading the table with 9 points, having won all three of their matches.

Desopran Sasmal Memorial Sporting Club is

in second position with 6 points, securing 2 wins and 2 losses from 4 matches.

Shaheed Ashfaqulla Khan Football Coaching Camp holds the third position with 5 points from 2 matches — 1 win and 1

draw. Ichhapur Shivaji Sangha Football Academy has drawn both of their 2 matches and has 4 points.

Vidyasagar Memorial Football Club has played 2 matches, winning 1 and losing 1, thus earning 3 points.

Central Calcutta Goshto Pal Memorial Sporting Club has played 3 matches, drawing 1 and losing 2, with 2 points.

Goshto Pal Football School has lost both of its 2 matches and is yet to earn any points. The league will continue until the first week of June ...



Basavaraju, 26 other slain...

► From PG 1

of Rs 8 lakh each on their heads. Of the killed Naxalites, three belonged to Telangana and two to Andhra Pradesh.

"Three AK-47 rifles, four Self Loading Rifle (SLR), six Insas rifles, one carbine, six .303 rifles, one Barrel Grenade Launcher (BGL), two rocket launchers, two 12 bore guns, one country made pistol, two muzzle loading guns and a huge cache of explosives and live ammunition were recovered from the encounter site," the IG said.

"Basavaraju also carried a reward of Rs 1 crore declared by the Union Home Ministry, Rs 50 lakh by the National Investigation Agency, and Rs 25 lakh each by the Andhra Pradesh and Odisha governments. It is estimated that he carried a total bounty of Rs 10 crore in all LWVE-affected states in the country. Details about it are being collected," he added.

Known by the aliases of Gaganna, BR Dada and Prakash, Krishna, Darapu Narsingh Reddy, Basavaraju joined the outlawed movement in the 1970s.

A resident of Jiyanapeta village in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, the top Maoist leader held a B.Tech degree from the then Regional Engineering College, Warangal.

Basavaraju took over as the general secretary of the banned outfit CPI (Maoist) in 2018, replacing Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganpathy, then aged 71, who stepped down due to deteriorating health and age-related issues.

He was the founding member of the central committee of Maoists, an incumbent politbureau member and chief of the central military commission of Maoists, the IG said.

Basavaraju was an expert in military training, especially in the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and explosives and attacks on security forces and police stations, he said.

He was primarily involved in the 2004 Koraput (Odisha) armoury loot wherein three lives were lost, 1,000 advanced guns and 1,000 other weapons, worth about Rs 50 crore, were looted.

He was also involved in the 2005 Jehanabad jail break (Bihar) in which 389 prisoners, including Maoists and notorious criminals, fled. He was involved in the 2010 Dantewada (Chhattisgarh) massacre, wherein 76 CRPF personnel lost their lives, the 2013 Jhiram Ghati attack (Bastar, Chhattisgarh) in which 27 people, including senior Congress leaders, were

killed, and the murder of an MLA in Andhra Pradesh in 2018, the IG said.

Security forces have inflicted a major blow to Maoists with his killing, he added..

The encounter took place in dense forests between Abujmad and Indravati 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.He said 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.

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 this latest encounter is a significant development in that ongoing effort.

Meanwhile the authorities continue their search operations, while staying alert for possible retaliatory attacks from other Naxalite groups. .

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. .

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.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 another incident on the same day, four more Maoists were killed near the Kanker-Narayanpur border in North Bastar. This operation was also 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.

TMC Gen Secretary Abhishek

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through sources that BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi explained it in detail, echoing India's sentiment.

"The ghastly attacks of Pakistan-sponsored terrorists in Pahalgam have had a huge impact on the country. This is the country where women wear the holy vermilion on their head as a mark of their marriage. Because of the attack only on male members, many women lost their husbands and were widowed. The government took a view of this sentiment and decided to name the operation as Sindoor, with a resolve to avenge those daughters and wives who had lost their fathers and husbands. This is the same as the operation logo, which also shows a small box of vermilion being scattered," Sarangi is said to have conveyed.

This delegation will also be visiting other countries, including , Malaysia and Indonesia, which have a significant Muslim population apart from South Korea and Singapore. They departed on Wednesday morning, becoming the

first of seven delegations to begin their visit. They will remain in Japan for the next two days before departing to other countries.

Apart from TMC General Secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee , Jha, former External Affairs Minister, Salman Khurshid, Left MP John Britt Brittas, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, Hemang Joshi and Pradhan Barua, are part of this delegation. Former Ambassador Mohan Kumar is also part of the delegation. This team will finish its visits to various countries and return home on June 3.

Abhishek Banerjee also held a meeting with Yasuhiro Hanashi, Acting Chairperson of the Research Committee on Counter-terrorism of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and former Minister of Justice, to highlight India's firm stance against terrorism as part of a global outreach campaign.

Earlier in the day, the delegation engaged with the diplomatic corps in Tokyo at the Indian Embassy, underscoring India's steadfast commitment to combating terrorism.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia Ganbold Dambajav meet Bidhan sabha speaker Biman Banerjee at Bidhan sabha in Kolkata.

TMC Councillor Accused of Stalling State-Approved Health Project in Kolkata

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A state-approved infrastructure project for DN De Homeopathy Medical College has been stalled for over a year allegedly due to obstruction by Trinamool Congress councillor and Kolkata Municipal Corporation Mayor-in-Council member Swapan Samaddar. The project, worth 58 lakh, had received direct consent from Chief Minister and Health Minister Mamata Banerjee following appeals by students for improved facilities.

The proposed second campus of DN De Homeopathy Medical College was slated for construction at Convent Lane, with all necessary permissions granted by the state Health Department. However, according to college authorities, the Public Works

Department (PWD) was forced to halt construction on three occasions due to interference from local miscreants allegedly acting on instructions from the councillor. Subhasish Gangopadhyay, Principal of the college, expressed frustration over repeated disruptions, stating, "The PWD informed us that work had to be stopped due to local obstruction. Though construction resumed after intervention, it was again halted. If the local councillor cooperates, the issue can be resolved." The college has formally approached the Health Department for support, asserting that the councillor's actions have created a bottleneck for critical development work. Gangopadhyay also described the lack of support as "unfortunate," especially for a project

personally approved by the Chief Minister. Councillor Swapan Samaddar has denied the allegations, claiming the area designated for construction includes a children's park and essential drainage infrastructure, which have raised concerns among residents. He dismissed the accusations as "politically motivated," asserting, "Anyone can make allegations. I don't have the power to stop a project endorsed by the Chief Minister." Despite his denial, college authorities maintain that repeated attempts to seek the councillor's co-operation have gone unanswered. With project progress at a standstill, questions are now being raised about the intent and impact of the councillor's alleged non-cooperation on a crucial public health initiative.

Rain Alert: 'Mini Monsoon' to Hit Bengal in 4 Days

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast the formation of a low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal on May 27, which is expected to intensify and move towards the northern Bay by Thursday. This weather system is likely to bring widespread rainfall to parts of South Bengal before the official onset of the southwest monsoon.

According to the IMD, heavy rainfall is forecast for several districts of South Bengal on May 28, with alerts issued for North and South 24 Parganas, as well as East and West Midnapore. Additional showers and thunderstorms are expected across Kolkata and other districts in the region over the coming days. The weather office has also warned of possible heavy rainfall in Birbhum and Murshidabad between Thursday and Friday. Several districts in North Bengal are also likely to experience intense showers during this period. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon has already made its onset over the Andaman and Nicobar Islands by mid-May and is expected to reach Kerala by the end of the month. The monsoon winds are also projected to advance into Northeast India within the next 2-3 days, indicating a potentially earlier-than-usual arrival across the country. Despite the monsoon not having officially arrived in Bengal yet, pre-monsoon activity in the form of localized thunderstorms and intermittent rain has been affecting the region almost daily. The intensity of these showers is expected to rise from May 28, coinciding with the development of the low-pressure system over the Bay. The IMD continues to monitor the evolving weather system and advises residents in the affected districts to stay alert for potential heavy rainfall and storm-related disruptions.

ICC Hosts High-Level Panel on Geo-Politics, Security & Economics Amid Global Uncertainty

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As part of its centenary celebrations, the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) hosted a distinguished panel discussion on "Global & Regional Geo-Politics, Security & Economics – In a World of Uncertainty," featuring prominent national figures.

M.K.Narayan former National Security Advisor of India & former Governor of West Bengal, Manish Tewari Member of Parliament, Arup Raha, President, Ceners-K, Ashok Kantha former Ambassador of India to China, Dr.Swapan Dasgupta former Member of Parliament and Dr. Rajeev Singh Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce . Manish Tewari emphasized India's strategic challenges in South Asia and advocated for a realist approach to national security. Mr. Narayanan described the



M.K.Narayan former National Security Advisor of India & former Governor of West Bengal addressing on Global & Regional Geo Politics, Security & Economics- In A World of Uncertainty organized by Indian Chamber of Commerce and Ceners-K in the presence Arup Raha, President, Ceners-K, Ashok Kantha former Ambassador of India to China, Dr.Swapan Dasgupta former Member of Parliament and Dr. Rajeev Singh Director General, Indian Chamber of Commerce

global order as a "shambling disorder" and warned of the escalating risks of cyber warfare and nuclear conflict, urging strategic prudence grounded in civilizational ethos. The panel addressed regional instability, India's nuclear doctrine, and the impact

of emerging technologies on modern warfare. Dr. Singh reaffirmed ICC's role in promoting dialogue on national and international concerns. The session underscored the need for pragmatic, wisdom-led policymaking in an increasingly uncertain world.

Mohun Bagan Election Heats Up Amid Senbari-Rivalry

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As the Mohun Bagan club election draws closer, a new flashpoint has emerged between the ruling and opposition factions—the historic 'Senbari' at 44 Ramakant Bose Street in Shyampukur. This traditional residence, deeply connected to the legacy of the football club, is undergoing redevelopment, and both camps are vying to establish the club's presence in the new premises. The Sen family, unable to maintain the aging structure, has opted to redevelop the approximately 2-bigha property into a residential complex. This has triggered intense political maneuvering, with both sides expressing interest in incorporating a club of office or museum within the premises. Opposition leader and former club secretary Srinjoy Basu visited Senbari months ago and proposed setting up a Mohun Bagan museum there. He received a letter from Swastik Projects—the developer handling the site—ac-

knowledging his early proposal and stating that, apart from parking on the ground floor, the rest of the building will remain residential. The letter also emphasized that Srinjoy Basu would be given priority if any non-residential allocation became possible. Ruling group leader Debashis Dutta responded by asserting that his camp formally offered to purchase 200 square feet on the first floor for a club office. Debashis Dutta added that they are willing to take the necessary steps to convert that portion for commercial use, including obtaining an NOC from the Sen family and approvals from the municipality. Extending an olive branch, Debashis Dutta suggested both camps unite for the greater cause of preserving Mohun Bagan's heritage: "Whether I remain secretary or not, I'll work to keep the history of Senbari alive. Let's do this together." However, Srinjoy Basu was skeptical of the sudden cooperative tone.

Kalyan Banerjee's 'Hooligan' Remark on Jobless Protesters Sparks Outrage

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A political storm has erupted after senior Trinamool Congress leader and lawyer Kalyan Banerjee referred to protesting jobless individuals as "hooligans" during a court proceeding on Friday. The remark, made while representing the state in the Calcutta High Court, has drawn sharp criticism from protesters and opposition leaders alike. The con-

troversy unfolded as the Calcutta High Court ruled in favor of the protesters, directing the administration to provide temporary shelters, bio-toilets, and drinking water facilities for them. The court also ordered that no punitive action be taken against individuals named in FIRs related to the protest, and that show cause notices issued by the Education Department would re-

main ineffective for the time being. However, while presenting the state's argument, Kalyan Banerjee remarked, "The State Administrative Tribunal, Vigilance Commission, and SBI branches are stunned because of the hooligans," referring to the demonstrators — many of whom are teachers who lost their jobs due to alleged irregularities in recruitment processes.

Yunus mulls stepping...

► From PG 1

exposed to several challenges with a major one involving Bangladesh's presumably consolidated military forces, which played a crucial role during the last year's student-led uprising.

The movement toppled former Prime minister Sheikh Hasina's Awami League regime and installed Muhammad Yunus to power and during the protest the army preferred not to launch a crackdown on protestors despite being called out to tame the uprising.

The military, however, extended its hand for Hasina's safe exit to India using an air force plane and installation of Yunus as the chief adviser, effectively the Prime minister, in line with the demand of Students against Discrimination (SAD), a large part of which now emerged as NCP.

Pak airspace was rejected...

► From PG 1

major air turbulence, in total contravention of global aviation regulations.

The pilots of the damaged aircraft had sought permission from the Pakistan Airport authorities to use the Pakistan airspace for sometime to avoid any danger to 220 passengers and the crew members, but the request was unceremoniously rejected, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)in India regretted and said in a statement here on Friday. Among the passengers were a five member Trinamool Congress (TMC) delegation led by the party's Rajya Sabha leader Derek-O- Brian. Other members of the delegation are Sagarika Ghosh, Manas Bhunia, Nazimul Haq and Mamata Bala Thakur. In a detailed statement about the incident, the DGCA said, however, fortunately there was no injury to any passengers who were on the flight and that the aircraft made a safe landing at Srinagar airport in the evening despite its "nose radome" was substantially damaged in the hailstorm.. he incident of the aircraft encountering turbulence is now being probed by the DGCA. The IndiGo aircraft, operating as flight 6E 2142, was flying near Pathankot when it ran into extreme weather conditions, including a hail-storm and severe turbulence. According to the DGCA, the flight crew initially sought permission from the Indian Air Force's Northern Control to deviate left toward the International Border to avoid the storm. As the weather worsened, the crew attempted to reroute through Pakistani airspace by contacting Lahore Air Traffic Control. However, this request was flatly refused.

"With limited options and the aircraft already in close proximity to the thunderstorm, the crew decided to continue on the same heading and penetrate the weather system to reach Srinagar by the shortest possible route," the DGCA said . Despite the challenging conditions, there were no injuries reported among the passengers. The aircraft, however, suffered damage to its nose section, specifically the radome, which typically houses weather radar equipment. The DGCA confirmed that the incident is under investigation. It was very unfortunate that the crew of IndiGo flight had sought permission to enter the Pakistan airspace to avoid turbulence due to extreme weather conditions, but the request was rejected, the DGCA statement stated further . "The flight was cruising at 36,000 feet when it encountered a violent storm near Pathankot. The aircraft was struck by hail and faced intense turbulence, causing major disruptions to its flight systems," DGCA said adding the pilot declared PAN PAN to Srinagar air traffic control (ATC).

Adding to the tensions is the increasingly visible role of the military, which had initially refused to crack down on protestors during the 2024 uprising that dismantled the Awami League regime. Meanwhile, : Bangladesh's Chief of Army Staff (COAS), General Waker-Uz-Zaman on Wednesday addressed all officers at the Army Head Quarters (AHQ) in Dhaka, during which he reportedly stated that there will be no Humanitarian Corridor, nor any port allotted to any foreigners till an elected government comes to power in the country.

Sources revealed that the address was followed by an intense interactive session, which also included online participation.

Zaman underscored that Bangladesh Army will not allow anything that will affect the sovereignty and geographical stability of the country. His statement was reportedly greeted with a huge applause by the officers.

The COAS expressed serious concerns that the Muhammad Yunus-led interim government was taking decisions while keeping the country's Armed Forces in the dark.

Speaking about elections, he said that an elected government should be in power by January 1, 2026 after concluding "free and fair" polls following which the army will return to the barracks.

While the COAS appreciated some personal qualities of Yunus, he noted that there are some "foreigners" in the interim government who are acting irresponsibly and will go back to their country when things go wrong.

Zaman pointed out the importance of the 1972 Constitution of Bangladesh and stated that any large-scale changes are not desirable. The General said that he is not able to understand the proposed "July Declaration" and further touched upon the "meaningless and hollow thought" on the removal of the President of Bangladesh. The COAS underlined that mob aggression and lawlessness will not be tolerated and will be taken seriously.



**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) SANGITA GOENKA W/o- SOHAN LAL GOENKA , Residing at, Vill- balia nawabganj (Banshata), Post- Old Malda, Ps- Malda, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732128, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SANGITA GOENKA To SANGITA DEVI GOENKA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SANGITA DEVI GOENKA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, SANGITA DEVI GOENKA and SANGITA GOENKA both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) TANIA BHADRA W/o- PINAK SUBHRA DAS, Residing at, Vill- Bandhroad abhirampur, Post- Mokdumpur, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732103, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from TANIA BHADRA To TANIA DAS BHADRA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) TANIA DAS BHADRA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, TANIA DAS BHADRA and TANIA BHADRA both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) BLION KUMAR SARKAR S/o- BIREN SARKAR, Residing at, Vill- Durgapur, Post- Bholadanga, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741126, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from BLION KUMAR SARKAR To BLION SARKAR (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) BLION SARKAR in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, BLION SARKAR and BLION KUMAR SARKAR both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) BIREN CNADRA SARKAR S/o- BHAGIRATH SARKAR, Residing at, Vill- Durgapur, Post- Bholadanga, Ps- Nakashipara, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741126, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from BIREN CNADRA SARKAR To BIREN SARKAR (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) BIREN SARKAR in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, BIREN SARKAR and BIREN CNADRA SARKAR both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) GRECY PANDEY D/o- BHARAT PANDEY, Residing at, Vill- Dangapara, Post- Bulbul Chandri, Ps- Habibpur, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732122, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from GRECY PANDEY To GRACY PANDEY (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) GRACY PANDEY in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, GRACY PANDEY and GRECY PANDEY both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) MD ASHIRUDDIN S/o- CHAD MOHAMMAD, Residing at, Vill- Kashim nagar, Post- Jadupur, Ps- Kaliachak, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732212, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD ASHIRUDDIN To ASIRUDDIN (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) ASIRUDDIN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, ASIRUDDIN and MD ASHIRUDDIN both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) ASARAF SARDAR S/o- ISMAIL SARDAR, Residing at, Vill- Rasikpur, Post- Khandpur, Ps- Murutia, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741152, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from ASARAF SARDAR To AASARAF ALI SARDAR (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AASARAF ALI SARDAR in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, AASARAF ALI SARDAR and ASARAF SARDAR both are Same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shamim Akhtar, S/o, Abdul Hannan, resident of holding no. 25, Gaur Charan Roy Chowdhury Ghats Road, P.S.- Shibpur, Howrah- 711 102 do solemnly affirm and declare that my actual name is Shamim Akhtar which has recorded in my Aadhar card, Pan Card, Due to inadvertent my name has been wrongly recorded in my daughter's birth certificate (Howrah MC), ISCE certificate & admission card issue for Class-X for the year 2024-25. I declare that Shamim Akhtar and Shamim Akhter both are same and one identical person vide affidavit no. 7789/25 dated 24.05.2025 before the Court of LD. 1st Class Executive Magistrate at Howrah.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Hemant K. Patel, son of Kirt Kumar M. Patel, residing at 64, Padmapukhuri Road, Vaidhavy Apartment, Bhadracharya, Kolkata- 700020, West Bengal , do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my correct and actual name is Hemant K Patel which has been recorded in my Aadhar card being no. 5830 8468 9074, in my pan Card AGHPPT695M and in my passport being no. X6387306. In my Driving Licence being no. WB01 19830619116, my name has been recorded as Hemant K. Patel. , But inadvertently my Divrig Licence WB 01- 199930619116 my father's name has been wrongly recorded as K.K. Patel instead of Kirt Kumar Patel, in my pan card being no AGHPPT695M recorded as Kirt Kumar Patel and in my passport being no. x6387306 my father's name has been recorded Kirt Kumar Patel and in aadhaar card no. 5830 8468 9074 recorded as Kirt Kumar M. Patel. By an affidavit ( no. 5065) in the Court of the LD. 1st Class Judicial magistrate at Calcutta on 23.05.2025 that Hemant K Patel and Hemant K Patel is the same and one identical person and Kirt Kumar Patel, K K Patel, Kirt Kumar M. Patel are the same and one identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Nimai Chandra Guchait (old name) son of Late Sitaram Guchait, residing at Vill.- Suranarayanpur, P.O.- Rajpore, P.S.- Daspur, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721211, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nimai Guchait (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 21/05/2025. Nimai Guchait (New Name) and Nimai Chandra Guchait (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I,Rohima Khataun Mir (Old Name) W/O Syed Shammii Tobraj And D/O Mir Mohibul Hossain,Residing At Benadaha,Madda,Dist-Murshidabad,Pin-742133,West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mir Rohima Khatun(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2025.Rohima Khataun Mir(Old Name) And Mir Rohima Khatun(New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mir Mohibul Hussain (Old Name) S/O Late Mir Mohammad Hossain, Residing At Benadaha, Madda, Dist-Murshidabad, Pin-742 133, West Bengal, India,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mir Mohibul Hossain (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2025. Mir Mohibul Hussain (Old Name) And Mir Mohibul Hossain(New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Farida Begum Saiyda (Old W/O Syed Saifur Rahman And D/O Late Saifur Rakib,Residing At Bazar Para,Rajshahi,Haridist-Birbhum,Pin-731224,West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Syed Farida Begum(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2025.Farida Begum Saiyda (Old Name) And Syed Farida Begum (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Shankar Agarwal And Sankar Lal Agarwala(Old Names) S/O Late Nath Mall Agarwala,Residing At 1,Dalimittalla Lane,Beadon Street, Kolkata-700006,West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sankar Lal Agarwala(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/05/2025. Shankar Agarwal And Sankar Lal Agarwala (Old Names) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Lotif Pramanik (Old Name) S/O Late Dudu Pramanik,Residing At G-13,Brahmapur Place,Po-Badamtala, Ps-Bansdroni,Kolkata-700096,West Bengal,India,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Latif Pramanik(New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/05/2025.Lotif Pramanik (Old Name) And Latif Pramanik (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Yashwant Pratap Singh (Old Name) S/O Bhagwan Baksh Singh,Residing At H/102,Green View, 27/1, B.T. Road, Po & Ps - Kamrathi,Pin-700058, West Bengal, India,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Yashwant Pratap Bahadur Singh (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/05/2025.Yashwant Pratap Singh (Old Name) And Yashwant Pratap Bahadur Singh (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

**Name Change**  
I, Rizwana Khatoun @Ruby Prasad, wife of Abhishek Prasad, daughter of Peer Mohammad, residing at 64/G, G. T. Road, Golabari, Howrah 711106, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that before marriage my name was Rizwana Khatoun and after marriage on 21st January 2023, change to Ruby Prasad and Ruby Prasad and Rizwana Khatoun are one and same identical person vide affidavit before the Ld 1st Class Executive Magistrate at Howrah dated 19th May 2025.

**Name Change**  
I, Manoj Kumar Maity, S/O. Lt. Lakshan Maity, residing at N.S.S. Kuliyaipara, Gayeshpur (M), P.S.- Kalyani,Dist.- Nadia, PIN.- 741251, do hereby declare that my name has been wrongly recorded as Monaj Maity at the Birth Certificate of my daughter Supali Maity. My AAD-HAAR No. is 286463512845 and I want to rectify the mistake in her Birthdity Certificate. By Affidavit at Nadia, Kalyani Court on 20.05.2025, I declare that Manoj Kumar Maity and Monaj Maity are the same identical person, i-e, myself.

**Name Change**  
I, (Old Name) SOHAN GOENKA S/o- SARWAN KUMAR GOENKA, Residing at, Vill- balia nawabganj (Banshata), Post- Old Malda, Ps- Malda, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732128, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SOHAN GOENKA To SOHAN LAL GOENKA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SOHAN LAL GOENKA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 22 May 2025, SOHAN LAL GOENKA and SOHAN GOENKA both are Same and one identical person.

**NAME CHANGE**  
I, Md Afzar Hussain, on behalf of my son Umar Farooque Hussain, R/o-10a/3 topsia 1st lane, Tiljala, South 24 parganas, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, Shall be known as SUBHAN HUSSAIN S/o Md Afzar hussain as declared before the Judicial Magistrate, Sealdah Court vide affidavit (4890) Dated 22.05.25

## ASAP: Kejriwal launches student wing of AAP

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal said Hindu-Muslim politics practised by mainstream parties for the last 75 years is the root cause of all problems in the country. Speaking at the launch of the party's student wing -- the Association of Students for Alternative Politics (ASAP) -- here, the former Delhi chief minister accused the current BJP dispensation of destroying the city's education system. "Our country is grappling with a lot of problems. People do not have food or access to education. Why is this happening? It is because parties like the BJP, the Congress and others have only indulged in politics in the last 75 years," he said. "These parties are only teaching our school chil-

dren about Hindu-Muslim... This is the root cause of problems in our country," he said. Talking about the ASAP, he said student cultural groups will be formed in colleges across the country under the forum. Kejriwal said the AAP has proved that elections can be fought with complete honesty. He also hit out at the BJP-led government in Delhi for the long power cuts in the national capital. "Nowadays, there are three to four hour-long power cuts in Delhi, which did not happen earlier. Within three months, they (BJP) have started ruining the education in Delhi," he said. "The AAP did not allow the private school mafia to increase fees in 10 years of its tenure," he added.

## 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 imag-

ing 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.

**Name Change**  
I, Nurul Islam (old name) son of Late Sk Samsul Haque, residing at T-60/A, Jugi Para Lane, P.O.- Bartala, P.S.- Rajabagan, Kolkata-700018, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Nurul Islam (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 23/05/2025. Sk Nurul Islam (New Name) and Nurul Islam (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Pradip Chakrabarty (old name) son of Late Santi Prakash Chakrabarty, residing at 14/A/2/A, Khatir Bazar Lane, P.O.- Rishra, Dist-Hooghly, Pin- 712248, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Chakraborty (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 23/05/2025. Pradip Kumar Chakrabarty (New Name) and Pradip Chakrabarty (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Aparna Chattopadhyay (old name) wife of Gouri Prasad Chattopadhyay, residing at 48, Anukul Chandra Road, Tentulberia, P.S.- Narendrapur, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 700084, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aparna Chatterjee (New Name) as declared before the Metropolitan Magistrate 1st Class at Kolkata, dated 17/05/2023. Aparna Chatterjee (New Name) and Aparna Chattopadhyay (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Mohd Iqbal Mohd Ibrahim (old name) son of Mohammad Ibrahim, residing at 45/H/16, Karl Marx Sarani, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohammad Iqbal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 22/05/2025. Mohammad Iqbal (New Name) and Mohd Iqbal Mohd Ibrahim (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Bernadette Sharma (old name) daughter of Supaia Chokkalingam, residing at 2/1, Malanga Lane, Bowbazar, Kolkata- 700012, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bernadette Chokkalingam (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 19/05/2025. Bernadette Chokkali ngam (New Name) and Bernadette Sharma (old name) both are same and identical person.

**Name Change**  
I, Gopal Das (old name) son of Late Jugul Chandra Das, residing at Dumurdaha, Hooghly, Pin- 712515, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gopal Chandra Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 17/05/2025. Gopal Chandra Das (New Name) and Gopal Das (old name) both are same and identical person.

## ERWWO organizes "Summer Camp -2025" to promote holistic development among children



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As part of its ongoing welfare initiatives, the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO) successfully organized a vibrant and engaging "Summer Camp - 2025" for the children of Arundaya Gholeshapur School and wards of railway employees residing in the Gholeshapur Colony. The camp was held from 19th May to 23rd May 2025 at Arundaya Gholeshapur School. A total of 27 enthusiastic participants, aged between 4 and 12 years, took part in a variety of fun-filled and enriching activities. The camp featured sessions on Dance, Abacus, Meditation, Yoga, Karate, Art & Craft, and Spoken English, all conducted by experts from "CRACTIVITY," a reputed multi-activity center. On the concluding day, certificates were awarded to all participants by the President of ERWWO, in the gracious presence of other executive members, recognizing the children's active involvement and achievements. The summer camp provided a unique blend of learning and enjoyment, aimed at promoting physical, emotional, and cognitive growth in a safe, supportive, and stimulating environment. ERWWO remains committed to organizing such meaningful activities that nurture creativity, discipline, and overall development among children of the railway fraternity.

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## New passenger amenities at Howrah and Esplanade Metro Stations



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Metro Railway has been constantly taking new initiatives to improve its services as well as amenities for the benefit of the commuters. As a part of such initiative, digital locker service has been inaugurated at Howrah Metro station of Green Line-2. Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway, has inaugurated this service today for the benefit of the commuters. In his address, Shri Reddy said that this service would help commuters to get rid of fatigue and soothe their strained nerves at an affordable cost and improve their experience of commuting. Such a Relaxation Chair service will soon be provided at Dakshineswar Metro station. It is to be noted that for providing quality medicines at an affordable price, Metro Railway has already opened Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Netaji, Dakshineswar and Sealdah stations. Another such outlet will be opened at Kavi Subhas station of Orange Line very soon. For commuters, Branded Food Outlets will also be opened at different Metro stations soon. Contracts for opening such Branded Food Outlets have been awarded for Howrah and Sealdah stations.

Street, Mahanayak Uttam Kumar and Esplanade stations soon. In another unique initiative, Relaxation Chair service has also started at Esplanade Metro station of Blue Line today. Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway, has inaugurated this service today for the benefit of the commuters. In his address, Shri Reddy said that this service would help commuters to get rid of fatigue and soothe their strained nerves at an affordable cost and improve their experience of commuting. Such a Relaxation Chair service will soon be provided at Dakshineswar Metro station. It is to be noted that for providing quality medicines at an affordable price, Metro Railway has already opened Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMBJK) at Netaji, Dakshineswar and Sealdah stations. Another such outlet will be opened at Kavi Subhas station of Orange Line very soon. For commuters, Branded Food Outlets will also be opened at different Metro stations soon. Contracts for opening such Branded Food Outlets have been awarded for Howrah and Sealdah stations.

## Dehradun to host rifle/pistol national selection trials

**MI News Service, Dehradun:** The Indian shooting federation said the national selection trials 3 and 4 in rifle and pistol events for Group A shooters will be held from June 24-30 in Dehradun. The trials will be conducted at the Trishul Shooting Range. These trials are being held to pick the Indian team for the 16th Asian Shooting Championships 2025 in Kazakhstan in August and ISSF World Cup in China and Egypt later this year.

## The Cardiology Team of B.R. Singh Hospital has demonstrated a remarkable achievement



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Cardiology Team of B.R. Singh Hospital, Eastern Railway, has demonstrated a remarkable achievement in cardiac care with the successful treatment of a young woman suffering from a serious congenital heart condition. A 27-year-old female patient presented to the hospital with complaints of shortness of breath and palpitations. A detailed cardiac evaluation revealed a large Atrial Septal Defect (ASD) with a left-to-right shunt—an acyanotic congenital heart disease that often requires surgery for recovery. However, considering the patient's young age, her responsibilities as a mother of a small child, and her preference for a minimally

invasive approach, the hospital's expert cardiology team opted for a device closure procedure instead of conventional surgery. On 7th May 2025, an ASD device closure was successfully performed using a 38 mm device. The procedure was smooth, and the patient was discharged in stable condition. Her family expressed heartfelt gratitude for the expert care and attention provided by the hospital. This successful outcome not only marks a medical milestone for the patient but also reflects B.R. Singh Hospital's ongoing commitment to delivering advanced, compassionate, and patient-centric cardiac care within the Eastern Railway healthcare system.

## World Environment Day Campaign - Seminar on "End Plastic Pollution" Organized by EnHM, Howrah Division



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As part of the ongoing World Environment Day campaign being observed from 22nd May to 5th June, the Environment and Housekeeping Management (EnHM) department of Howrah Division organized a seminar on the theme "End Plastic Pollution" at the EnHM office under the direction of Divisional Railway Manager, Shri Sanjeev Kumar. The initiative aims to promote awareness and action toward reducing plastic waste and fostering sustainable practices within railway operations. The central seminar witnessed enthusiastic participation from Chief Health Inspectors (CHIs), office staff, and housekeeping (HK) personnel. During the event, the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (EnHM & Frt) delivered a keynote address, emphasizing the urgent need for collective and sustainable action to tackle the growing menace of


plastic pollution. He highlighted the importance of minimizing single-use plastics in railway premises and encouraged the adoption of eco-friendly alternatives in day-to-day operations. Simultaneously, awareness campaigns were conducted at major stations across the division. On 22nd May 2025, activities were held at Banel, Bardhaman, and Rampurhat stations. Continuing the momentum, similar drives were organized on 23rd May 2025 at Pakur, Bolpur, Rampurhat, and Bardhaman. These outreach programmes are designed to educate staff and passengers on the harmful impacts of plastic pollution and inspire community participation in creating a cleaner, greener environment. The Howrah Division remains steadfast in its commitment to environmental stewardship in alignment with Indian Railways green initiatives.

## JCI keeps eye on prices as MSP raised to Rs 5,650

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) said it is ready to support to farmers and prevent a distress sale if the market price of jute falls below the minimum support price (MSP) for crop year 2025-26 (July 2025-June 2026). The Centre has fixed the MSP for the benchmark TD-3 variety at ₹5,650 per quintal for crop year 2025-26, up from ₹5,335 in the previous year. JCI managing director Ajay Kumar Jolly said sowing

is expected to increase 10 per cent this year, and production is likely to be higher. In 2024-25, JCI has procured 5.05 lakh quintals worth ₹252 crore so far, and the MSP window will remain open until June. In the preceding crop year (2023-24), the procurement stood at 13.17 lakh quintals. JCI plans to modernise the supply chain through block chain technology and provide an e-auction platform for raw jute buyers and sellers.

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

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Sadikul Sekh & (Guarantor) Sadikul Sekh & Murtuj Sk & Rajib Shikh & Habiba Bibi & (Mortgagor) Sadikul Sekh/ Represented By Proprietor Sadikul Sekh Vill Mahurajpur Bali Gokulpur West Bengal Murshidabad- 742302/ 214905500155	R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 406 & 407, Sabek Khatian No. 93, 318 & 377, Hal Khatian No. 189 & 33, Touji No. 16, Mahal Mouja No 124 Maharajpur, Thana Daulatabad, Sub-Registry Office Berhampore, District Murshidabad, West Bengal (Addressing an Area Of 23.5 Satak)/ Date Of Symbolic: 21/05/2025	03/03/2025 Rs. 41,72,571.16/-	Murshidabad

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: May 23, 2025, Place: Murshidabad

Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.







# 'Health isn't shaped by genes alone : it's in the air and all around us'

**New Delhi :** India stands at the cusp of becoming a global leader in exposomics research, with the potential to reshape its understanding and prevent the disease, said DrKalpanaBalakrishnan, Dean of Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research.

Balakrishnan, who was part of a recent forum on exposomic-sorganised by the Johns Hopkins University in Washington DC, told PTI that India's unique blend of traditional and modern health risks makes it "a natural laboratory" for exposome science.

The term "exposome" was coined by Dr Christopher Wild in 2005. It refers to the totality of environmental exposures that individuals experience throughout their lives, from conception to death.

Unlike a genome, which is inherited and fixed, the exposome is dynamic, ever-shifting and deeply intertwined with health outcomes.

Noting that genes and genetic susceptibility alone cannot explain why people develop a chronic disease, Balakrishnan said, "Someone may not have the genetic markers for heart disease or diabetes, but still end up with them because of multiple environmental exposures experienced over a life course. That's the exposome."

While the Human Genome Project advanced genetic science within a decade, diseases affecting

the cardiovascular system, endocrine disorders and mental health issues remain poorly understood through genetics alone, she explained, emphasising the need for cutting-edge tools that can capture exposures from chemical, physical, biological and psychosocial hazards and their interactions with lifestyles or living conditions.

When asked about what kind of tools and technologies are needed for exposome mapping, Balakrishnan told PTI that High Resolution Mass Spectrometry (HRMS) that can simultaneously screen thousands of chemical compounds in air, water, soil and food is one of the key technologies.

"You don't just test for what you expect - A, B, and C. You do untargeted analysis to discover D, E, F and beyond. Otherwise, you stay blind to the unknowns," she said.

For biological responses, Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and a suite of omics platforms, including metabolomics, proteomics, and genomics, are vital.

"These help us understand how internal systems react to exposures," Balakrishnan said, noting that samples from blood, urine and other tissues provide critical biological signatures.

However, exposomics isn't confined to the laboratory. It now includes satellite-generated data for physical exposures like air pollution, urban heat islands, vegeta-



tion cover, and land-use changes.

"We can map environmental factors at high spatial resolution for entire populations," she said, adding that this is especially critical for a country like India, where environmental risks vary drastically by region and socioeconomic status.

Highlighting the complexity of exposomic data, Balakrishnan, who is also the director at World Health Organisation (WHO)

Collaborating Centre for Occupational Environmental Health, mentioned that mapping it requires deep learning and AI-powered pattern recognition beyond basic statistical methods.

"These computational tools are crucial. We need them to make sense of massive, layered datasets across environmental samples, biological responses, and population demographics," Balakrishnan told PTI.

She further referred to the successful models in the North American and European exposome consortia, where patterns between pollution, green spaces, and genetic variants are predicting risks for diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular conditions.

"Imagine if we could replicate and scale that here in India," she said.

India's opportunity lies in its landscape, which includes tradi-

tional public health challenges like poor sanitation and lack of clean water. These challenges exist alongside modern hazards like ultra-processed food, air pollution and psychosocial stress.

"We're seeing exposure overload from both ends," Balakrishnan said. "That's why we need a holistic, integrative framework in the numerous ongoing cohorts in the country, and exposomics can give us that," she added.

Stressing that India cannot rely on siloed scientific approaches, she further stated that it is not just the job of medical scientists.

"We need engineers, economists, social scientists, and urban planners in the room - together with policymakers from the start," she emphasised.

Adding an international perspective, Dr Rima Habre, associate professor of environmental health and spatial sciences at the University of Southern California and co-director of the NIH-funded NEXUS Center for Exposome Research Coordination, said India holds immense potential for global collaborations in exposomics.

Speaking to PTI, Habre said, "I connected with DrBalakrishnan around exposomics at a recent visit to Ahmedabad, India, where we were both invited speakers at an ICMR-NIOH conference.

"I presented our vision in the NEXUS Center, which I co-lead with Dr. Gary Miller and Dr. Chirag Patel, to link US-based and

international researchers and infrastructure for a truly global exposome initiative."

She added that India's diversity of environmental and social stressors, shaped by unique regional policies and cultural practices, offers unparalleled insight into the totality of health-relevant exposures.

"DrBalakrishnan's work in establishing large, population-based cohorts in India is foundational for exposomics," Habre said, calling for a globally connected but locally governed framework to reduce the environmental burden of disease.

PoornimaPrabhakaran, Director of the Centre for Health Analytics Research and Trends (CHART), Ashoka University, echoed the sentiments.

India's longitudinal research infrastructure provides a fertile ground to pioneer large-scale exposomics studies tailored to developing country contexts, she told PTI.

"As a global effort to scale exposomics gathers momentum, we must account for a multitude of diverse exposures across geographies and populations spanning biomarkers, environmental risk factors and 'omics'," she said.

This is in light of the recent Exposome Moonshot Forum hosted in Washington DC where there is already an effort across EU (EIRENE) and now US (NEXUS) and IREN to initiate this effort globally, Prabhakaran said.

## Stop making cents US Mint moves forward with plans to kill the penny



**Washington :** The Trump administration says making cents doesn't make sense anymore. The U.S. Mint has made its final order of penny blanks and plans to stop producing the coin when those run out, a Treasury Department official confirmed Thursday. This move comes as the cost of making pennies has increased markedly, by upward of 20 per cent in 2024, according to the Treasury.

By stopping the penny's production, the Treasury expects an immediate annual savings of USD 56 million in reduced material costs, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity to preview the news. In February, President Donald Trump announced that he had ordered his administration to cease production of the 1-cent coin. "For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents. This is so wasteful!" Trump wrote at that time in a post on his Truth Social site. "I have instructed my Secretary of the US Treasury to stop producing new pennies."

There are about 114 billion pennies currently in circulation in the United States - that's USD 1.14 billion - but they are greatly underutilized, the Treasury says. The penny was one of the first coins made by the U.S. Mint after its establishment in 1792. "The nation's treasury secretary has the authority to mint and issue coins "in amounts the secretary decides are necessary to meet the needs of the United States." Advocates for ditching the penny cite its high production cost - almost 4 cents per penny now, according to the U.S. Mint - and limited utility. Fans of the penny cite its usefulness in charity drives and relative bargain in production costs compared with the nickel, which costs almost 14 cents to mint.

The Wall Street Journal first reported the news.

Pennies are the most popular coin made by the U.S. Mint, which reported making 3.2 billion of them last year. That's more than half of all the new coins it made last year. Congress, which dictates currency specifications

such as the size and metal content of coins, could make Trump's order permanent through law. But past congressional efforts to ditch the penny have failed.

Two bipartisan bills to kill the penny permanently were introduced this year.

Sens. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and Jeff Merkley, D-Ore., introduced the Make Sense Not Cents Act this month. In April, Reps. Lisa McClain, R-Mich., and Robert Garcia, D-Calif., along with Sens. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., and Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., introduced the Common Cents Act.

Jay Zagorsky, professor of markets, public policy, and law at Boston University, said that while he supports the move to end penny production, Congress must include language in any proposed legislation to require rounding up in pricing, which will eliminate the demand for pennies.

Zagorsky, who recently published a book called "The Power of Cash: Why Using Paper Money is Good for You and Society," said otherwise simply ditching the penny will only increase demand for nickels, which are even more expensive, at 14 cents to produce.

"If we suddenly have to produce a lot of nickels - and we lose more money on producing every nickel - eliminating the penny doesn't make any sense."

Mark Weller, executive director of the Americans for Common Cents group - which conducts research and provides information to Congress and the Executive Branch on the value and benefits of the penny - says "there has been an evolution over the past six months that inevitability the production of the penny will be halted." His group advocates for the U.S. to find ways to reduce the cost of producing the nickel, especially since it will be more in demand once the penny is totally eliminated from circulation. "It's incumbent on Treasury to come up with a cheaper way to make the nickel," Weller said. "Let's make sure we're making our coins as least expensively as possible and maintaining the option to use cash in transactions."

## UK will roll out chemical castration for sex offenders

**London :** The British government will roll out the use of medication to suppress the sex drive of sex offenders, as part of a package of measures to reduce the risk of reoffending and alleviate the pressures on the prison system, which is running out of space.

Justice Secretary ShabanaMahmood said Thursday that so-called chemical castration would be used in 20 prisons in two regions and that she was considering making it mandatory.

"Of course, it is vital that this approach is taken alongside psychological interventions that target other causes of offending, like asserting power and control," she said in a statement to Parliament following the release of an independent sentencing review.

Though the review highlighted the treatment wouldn't be relevant for some sex offenders such as rapists driven by power and control, rather than sexual preoccupation, Mahmood said that studies show that chemical castration can lead to a 60 per cent reduction in reoffending.

It's been used in Germany and Denmark on a voluntary basis, and in Poland as mandatory for some offenders.

The recommendation was part of a wide-ranging review led by former Justice Secretary David Gauke. As well as looking at ways to cut reoffending, Gauke recommended reforms to overhaul the prisons system, which is running at near capacity.

One of the first things Mahmood did as justice minister after Labour returned to power after 14 years last July was sanction an early-release program for prisoners to free up space. She says she inherited a judicial system that had



been neglected for years by the previous Conservative government and set up the review as a means to stabilize it.

"If our prisons collapse, courts are forced to suspend trials," she said. "The police must halt their arrests, crime goes unpunished, criminals run amok and chaos reigns. We face the breakdown of law and order in this country."

The review recommended that criminals could be released from prison earlier than they are now for good behavior, while judges could be given more flexibility to impose punishments such as driving bans. It also recom-

## FDA panel is split on updates to COVID shots as questions loom for fall vaccinations

**Washington :** Government advisers were split Thursday on whether drugmakers need to update their COVID-19 vaccines for next season, a decision overshadowed by confusion over a new Trump administration policy that may limit which Americans can get the shots.

The Food and Drug Administration's outside experts have met annually since the launch of the first COVID-19 vaccines to discuss tweaking their recipes to stay ahead of the virus. The challenge is trying to gauge how the virus might evolve before fall vaccinations begin.

"We all want to make the perfect choice and that's probably not possible," FDA's Jerry Weir told the panel of outside experts.

Some of the panelists voiced support for a switch to a newer coronavirus subtype named LP.8.1. It's currently the dominant version and part of the same family that circulated last year - known as the JN.1 branch of the virus family tree.

"We cannot predict the future, but it seems like LP.8 would be more likely to provide us better coverage," said Dr. Eric Rubin, a Harvard infectious disease expert and editor of the New England Journal of Medicine.

Other panelists noted that subtype is such a close relative that last year's shots seem to offer cross-protection, at least for now but with no guarantee there wouldn't be a different version circulating by the time a vaccination campaign ramps up in the late summer or early fall. Several advisers noted that people who want to get ahead of a summer surge like the U.S. typically experiences could seek out the current vaccines.

Hanging over the meeting was an FDA announcement earlier this week that upended the prior U.S. policy of recom-



mending annual COVID-19 boosters for all Americans ages 6 months and older. Instead, the FDA said routine vaccine approvals will be limited to seniors and younger people with underlying medical risks, pending new research for healthy adults and children.

While that change has big implications for a fall vaccination campaign, FDA leaders repeatedly sidestepped questions from advisers about whether recommending an updated formula would trigger restrictions outlined in the new policy.

"I don't have an answer today," said Weir. "I think a lot of this is still under discussion." FDA staffers also wouldn't con-

firm whether the advisers would be given a chance to meet about the new standards later. FDA vaccine chief Dr. Vinay Prasad said in opening the meeting that the agency wants "to give people a little more time to digest" the new policy and is open to feedback from its experts - although apparently not in Thursday's public forum.

Last fall's recipe was tailored to the so-called JN.1 family of omicron descendants. The advisory panel voted unanimously that the family still is the right overall target, but left the FDA to decide which specific subtype to choose.

Novavax brewed shots targeting the parent JN.1 variant and said Thursday it

mended that sentences of less than 12 months would also be scrapped for tougher community sentences. It also called for the immediate deportation for foreign nationals handed a three-year sentence or less.

The review called for higher investment in the probation service to allow officers to spend more time with offenders for their rehabilitation and extra funding for the many more who are monitored with electronic tags in the community.

Mahmood responded by giving a 700 million-pound (USD 930 million) a year for probation within years.

"If the government doesn't put the resources into probation that is necessary, then the risk here is that we won't make progress on rehabilitation that we need, and there will be a public backlash against it," Gauke said.

The prison population in England and Wales has doubled over the past three decades or so to nearly 90,000. That's despite a fall in crime rates and is driven in part by the fact that longer sentences are being handed out amid pressure to be tough on crime.

Robert Jenrick, the justice spokesman for the Conservatives, warned that scrapping short sentences would be effectively "decriminalizing" offenses like burglary, theft and assault. And monitoring tags, he said, are as useful as "smoke alarms putting out bonfires" in stopping reoffending.

In response, Mahmood said that she was clearing up the mess left by the Conservatives and that the government has also embarked on the largest expansion of prisons since Victorian times in the 19th century.

was a good choice for this fall as well. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines last year targeted a subtype called KP.2 and company representatives told the FDA meeting that it showed cross-protection, but that they favored an update.

The debate reflected an international difference of opinion on the closely related virus strains. The World Health Organization recently issued guidance that last year's version remained OK but that vaccine-makers could also choose an update, while the European Medicines Agency preferred that newer LP.8.1 subtype.

While demand for vaccinations has dropped, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates 30,000 to 50,000 adults have died from COVID-19 since October. The virus continues to cause "enormous burden" on the health care system, CDC's Dr. Fiona Havers told panelists. Older adults count for most hospitalizations and deaths but COVID-19 also is "a major cause of pediatric hospitalization," especially in children under 2 - many of whom had no underlying medical problems before their infections. The strain decision normally isn't the final word on recommendations about who should be vaccinated.

The CDC's own advisory panel meets in June to make recommendations about the fall shots. Among its options are keeping universal access or recommending vaccination for high-risk groups but still giving lower-risk people the choice in getting a shot. CDC staffers presented real-world data Thursday showing that getting a booster last fall offered added protection even in people who had been infected and previously vaccinated. Company studies reached the same conclusion - including one by Moderna that compared medical records of about 900,000 people.



## Israel will control ‘all of Gaza’: Netanyahu

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** The entire Gaza Strip will be under the Israeli military's control at the end of its latest offensive, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says in his first news conference since December, setting out maximalist conditions for ending the devastating war on the besieged Palestinian enclave. Hundreds of Palestinians have been killed in relentless Israeli bombardments across Gaza in recent days, at least 82 since dawn Wednesday, as starvation takes hold and only a small amount of aid trucks is allowed in with the blockade in effect in place.

Netanyahu also said that if “there is an opportunity for a temporary ceasefire and hostage exchange deal, Israel will be open to it”. The Israeli leader laid out the following conditions for ending the war: the release of all captives, the disarmament of Hamas, the exile of its leadership and the possibility of carrying on a plan outlined by United States President Donald Trump in February that would expel Palestinians from Gaza.

Trump has said the US should run Gaza and transform the territory into the “Riviera of the Middle East”. This is the first time Trump's plan has been mentioned by Netanyahu as one of the conditions to halt fighting. Multiple nations and rights groups have called the plan ethnic cleansing.

Netanyahu said Israel should avoid a “humanitarian crisis to preserve our freedom of operational action”, referring to Israel's decision to allow a very limited number of humanitarian aid trucks into Gaza.

## German far-right group attacks asylum seekers, migrants

**MI News Service, Berlin:** German police have arrested five people accused of involvement with a far-right group calling itself “Last Wave of Defence”, which allegedly aimed to carry out attacks on asylum seekers, migrants and political opponents. The early-morning arrests in various parts of Germany followed arson attacks on a community centre and a refugee shelter. Germany's Justice Minister Stefanie Hubig said in a statement that what was “particularly shocking is that all those arrested today are said to have been minors when the terrorist group was founded”. According to federal prosecutors, 13 properties were also searched as part of the operation. Four of those arrested – identified only as Benjamin H, Ben-Maxim H, Lenny M and Jason R, in line with German privacy rules – are suspected of membership in a domestic terrorist organisation.

# Another step towards strengthening Railway Infrastructure in Bihar

• **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology laid the foundation stone for the project of wagon POH capacity augmentation at Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop**  
• **Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Shri Samrat Choudhary, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar present on the occasion**  
**MI News Service, Patna:** In another bonanza for fresh impetus in the form of ₹78.96 crore towards development of Jamalpur Workshop, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology laid the foundation stone for the project of Wagon POH capacity augmentation at Jamalpur Workshop today (23.5.2025). Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Shri Samrat Choudhary, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar were also present on the occasion.

On arriving at the Jamalpur Workshop, Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways, Shri Vaishnaw along with the other ministers and dignitaries visited different shops like wagon manufacturing shop and crane shop. At Wagon Manufacturing Shop, the Railway Minister inspected manufacturing of BOXN Wagons, BLCs wagons and Brake Van having provision of toilets, manufactured at Jamalpur Workshop. At the Crane Shop, Hon'ble Minister inspected newly manufactured 140 tonne crane, 8-wheeler tower car and Jamalpur Jack which are the icons of this Workshop. While at the Workshop, the Union Railway Minister got warm welcome by the staff of the Jamalpur Locomotive Workshop. Afterward, the Union Railway Minister visited IR-IMEE Jamalpur where he released a booklet titled “Centre of Excellence” containing detailed development scheme on different branches of engineering like Welding, Pneumatics, Hydraulics & Mechatronics. The book



contains the action plans on these four subjects to develop the infrastructure, training facility at this prestigious training centre for engineers at IR-IMEE, Jamalpur. This endeavour contains an investment plan of ₹350 crore for development of the whole area.

The targets for manufacturing of wagons, crane and Jamalpur Jack etc. has continuously been increased with increase in workload and at the same time infrastructure has also been augmented. But Our Government is aiming for a paradigm shift in the scenario. Under vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the development of Bihar reflects to the giant leap in budgetary allocation for Railways in Bihar of about ₹1000 crore a decade ago to the present day budgetary allocation for railways to the tune of ₹10,000 crore. Moreover, there are many other in the anvil for the development of Bihar like redevelopment of 98 stations and other Railway projects worth ₹1,00,000 crore. The Railway Minister informed that, 1832 km of new track has been laid in Bihar and 34000 km of Railway track laid all over India in the last 10 years. Electrification has been completed over 50,000 km. Electrification of Railways has also reduce the dependence on oil imports. He also mentioned that Prime Minister's concern for Bihar for which the first Vande Bharat was run from Bhagalpur and Namohar from Jaynagar in Bihar. He expressed that all these endeavours

will bring a prosperous socio-economic condition for Bihar. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Union Minister of Panchayati Raj, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, praised the Union Railway Minister for micro level thinking and bringing the development to that level for a holistic approach.

Shri Samrat Choudhary, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar and Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Dy. Chief Minister of Bihar speaking on the occasion, expressed their thanks to Railways contribution towards the development in Bihar. With the laying of foundation stone for the project for wagon POH Augmentation from 545 to 800 wagons per month at Jamalpur Locomotive workshop, the wagon overhauling capacity will be increased over 255 units per month. This capacity enhancement project will be executed at a cost of about Rs 79 crore. This will lead to improvement in turn around time, increase in availability of wagon & improvement in operation. Shri Pranav Kumar, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Ajay Kumar Singh, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Rajiv Kumar Sinha, Hon'ble MLA, Sri Lal Mohan Gupta, MLC and General Manager of Eastern Railway, General Manager of East Central Railway and other dignitaries were also present on the occasion.

In the morning, after arriving at Jamalpur station, Shri Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Union Railway Minister also visited the 2nd Class Waiting Hall and other facilities for the passengers.



An army official pays tribute to the mortal remains of sepoy Gaykar Sandip Pandurang, who was killed in an encounter with terrorists on Thursday during a cordon and search operation launched by security forces in Kishtwar district, during his wreath laying ceremony at Satwari, in Jammu district.

## EU reaches initial deal to lift economic sanctions on Syria: Reports

**MI News Service, Vienna:** European Union countries have given a green light to lifting economic sanctions on Syria in a bid to help the war-torn country recover after the ouster of Bashar al-Assad, according to diplomats speaking to news agencies.

Ambassadors from the EU's 27 member states struck a preliminary agreement for the move, which should be formally unveiled by foreign ministers meeting in Brussels later on Tuesday, diplomats said, noting that the final decision is up to ministers. This follows an announcement by the United States last week that it is lifting sanctions on Damascus. According to sources, the reported agreement to lift the sanctions as a “re-

ally significant” development. “It's first of all an acknowledgement that the EU recognises the authority which is operating now in Syria, and that there need to be more financial transactions to pave the way for the creation of financial stability and improve the living standards of the people in Syria,” he said. Sanctions were levied during the rule of al-Assad in 2012 and 2013 and concern the transport, energy and the banking sectors, Ahelbarra said. The country's new leadership has urged the West to ease the restrictions to help Syria recover from years of despotic rule and civil war. EU diplomats told the agreement should see sanctions cutting Syrian banks off from the global

system and freezing central bank assets lifted.

But diplomats said the bloc was intending to impose new individual sanctions on those responsible for stirring ethnic tensions, following deadly attacks targeting the Alawite minority. Other measures targeting the al-Assad regime and prohibiting the sale of weapons or equipment that could be used to repress civilians were set to remain in place. The latest move from the EU comes after its first step in February, suspending some sanctions on key Syrian economic sectors. Officials said those measures could be reimposed if Syria's new leaders break promises to respect the rights of minorities and move towards democracy.

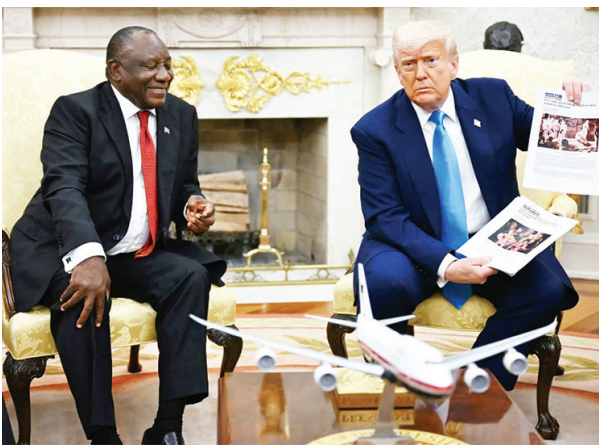
## India asks B'Desh to verify 2,369 illegal migrants for deportation

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** India said it has asked Bangladeshi authorities to verify the nationality of more than 2,300 illegal migrants who are believed to be from the neighbouring nation. New Delhi urged Dhaka to verify the nationality of the illegal migrants so that they can be deported.

“We have asked the Bangladeshi side to verify their nationality. We have a pending list of 2,369 people who are required to be deported,” External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing. He was responding to a question on authorities in various states identifying illegal migrants from Bangladesh. “Foreigners staying in India illegally, whether they happen to be Bangladeshi nationals or any other national, they will be dealt with as per law. We have a large number of Bangladeshi nationals here who are required to be deported,” Jaiswal said. “Many of them have actually completed their jail sentences, and in many cases, the nationality verification is pending since 2020. “So almost five years have gone by. We would urge the Bangladeshi side [to] expedite the verification process so that people who are required to be deported can be sent back to Bangladesh,” Jaiswal added. India's push-back against the illegal Bangladeshis came against the backdrop of severe strain in bilateral ties between the two countries.

There has been a sharp downturn in India-Bangladesh relations after deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled Dhaka and took shelter in India in August last year in the face of a massive anti-government protest.

## Trump accuses South Africa of ‘white genocide’



**MI News Service, Washington:** US President Donald Trump, in a tense Oval Office meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa accused the that country of orchestrating a genocide against white farmers, presenting a barrage of misleading video clips and discredited con- spiracy theories in a dramatic and confrontational exchange.

What began as a diplomatic meeting quickly spiralled into a contentious display of Trump's embrace of far-right narratives. Many recalled Trump's meeting with Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelensky and his warm engagements with authoritarian regimes in the Middle East, where he avoided criticising human rights abuses. At one point, Trump dimmed the lights and ordered aides to play a video mash-up that purported to show evidence of “racial persecution” against white South Africans. The footage included years-old clips of inflammatory political speeches and scenes of white crosses lining a rural highway, which Trump claimed were graves of murdered white farmers. In reality, the video showed a 2020 protest near Newcastle, South Africa, following the murder of a local white farming couple, reported Reuters as well as The New York Times. The white crosses were symbolic, not actual grave markers, organisers had told South African broadcaster SABC at the time. Throughout the meeting, Trump repeatedly interrupted Ramaphosa, accusing South Africa's black-led government of complicity in what he called “land seizures” and “ethnic cleansing.” When asked by a journalist what it would take for him to believe there is no genocide occurring, Ramaphosa responded, “It will take President Trump listening to the voices of South Africans,” reported a foreign news paper. But Trump appeared unmoved. “Turn the lights down and just put this on,” he said, introducing the controversial video. The confrontation highlighted Trump's continued support for a debunked conspiracy theory that claims white Afrikaner farmers are being systematically murdered in South Africa — a theory amplified by fringe groups and promoted by billionaire Elon Musk, who was present at the meeting. Standing near Trump's deputy chief of staff

Stephen Miller, Musk reportedly nodded as the president referenced him: “Elon is from South Africa. This is what Elon wanted.”

According to South African police, 44 murders were linked to farming communities in 2024, only eight of which involved farmers. In contrast, the country recorded more than 26,000 murders nationwide last year, most of the victims being black. A Western Cape high court earlier this year dismissed the “white genocide” theory as “clearly imagined and not real.” Trump also criticised South Africa's land reform efforts, inaccurately claiming that the government is violently expropriating land from white farmers. In fact, while President Ramaphosa signed a law in January permitting expropriation without compensation “in the public interest,” the legislation has not yet been enforced. Ramaphosa pushed back during the meeting, insisting, “Our government policy is completely against what [Trump] was saying.” He acknowledged South Africa's crime challenges but stressed they affect all communities. “We have a multiparty democracy in South Africa that allows people to express themselves,” he said, invoking Nelson Mandela's legacy of dialogue and reconciliation. Trump also referenced the controversial struggle song Kill the Boer, terming it a call to violence. Multiple South African courts have ruled the chant is a historical liberation song and not hate speech. Despite Ramaphosa's attempts to lighten the atmosphere, including gifting Trump a book on golf, the meeting remained overshadowed by Trump's fixation on Afrikaner grievances.

He even tried to joke with the President, who had become irate when a reporter asked him about a free plane from the Qatari government. “I am sorry I don't have a plane to give you,” Ramaphosa said to Trump. “I wish you did,” Trump replied. “I'd take it. If your country offered the US Air Force a plane, I would take it.” As Ramaphosa spoke about strengthening US-South Africa trade relations, Trump appeared disengaged, flipping through photos of alleged white victims of violence. “I want you to look good,” Trump said, returning to his claims. “I don't want you to look bad.”

# Gaza’s children face imminent death under Israeli siege: UN

**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** Thousands of children in Gaza are at risk of imminent death after a nearly three-month total Israeli blockade on the besieged enclave, which has spread famine, the United Nations relief chief warns. That has put 14,000 babies at risk of dying in the next 48 hours, Tom Fletcher said in an interview.

“We need to flood the Gaza Strip with humanitarian aid,” the UN's undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs said, describing the situation as “chilling”. All food, medicine and other life-saving aid had been blocked by Israel from entering Gaza beginning on March 2. As of Monday, a trickle of aid was authorised to enter for the first time since then but was not immediately distributed.

Addressing the European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels on Tuesday, Philippe Lazzarini, the head of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), said relief organisations have run out of words to describe the horrors unfolding in Gaza at Israel's hands. “But the worst in all this is that we are confronted with a situation: If there is political will, the war can



stop. The siege being imposed on Gaza can be lifted,” Lazzarini said. Since early March, at least 57 children are reported to have died from malnutrition. A UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) assessment says more than 93 percent of children in Gaza, or about 930,000, are at risk of famine UNRWA Director of Health Akihiro Seita added on Tuesday that the situation is getting “exponentially” worse and may soon arrive at a point that is “beyond our control”.

Israel told the UN that it would allow the entry of 100 trucks carrying humanitarian aid, a day after it said it allowed only nine aid trucks into the enclave for the first time in more than 80 days. But UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said no humanitarian aid has been distributed yet, despite more supplies being dropped off on the Palestinian side of the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing. The Israeli moves have been roundly slammed for fulfilling only a “drop in the ocean” of the humanitarian

needs in Gaza, which has been largely reduced to rubble by Israeli air strikes and ground operations, which were expanded at the weekend. Israeli attacks continue to kill dozens of Palestinians, including many children, each day while what's left of infrastructure and aid supplies are being destroyed. The municipality of Deir el-Balah in central Gaza announced on Tuesday that a major well, the last remaining source of drinking water in the area, was destroyed along with its generator in an Israeli strike. This comes as more than 100,000 Palestinians have been driven out of their homes and shelters in the past several days alone, according to the UN, and have nowhere safe to go as they face famine. The Israeli army bombed the Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza's Khan Younis as well, hitting life-saving medical supplies and causing widespread destruction across the hospital's different facilities, including oxygen lines and a laboratory. “In northern Gaza, the Indonesian Hospital is under siege by the Israeli military with patients unable to enter or get out,” Al Jazeera's Hind

Khoudary said, reporting from Deir el-Balah. “Aside from the Nasser and Indonesian hospitals, two other major hospitals in Gaza, the European and al-Awda, have been bombed and largely put out of service in the past few days,” she added. Tess Ingram, a UNICEF communications manager, explained to Al Jazeera why a scheme hatched by the United States and Israel to take control of aid distribution in Gaza was unacceptable for the international community. She said the UN and its international partners had 400 distribution points all over Gaza to help Palestinians whereas now only a “handful” of militarised points in southern Gaza will be used under the US-Israel plan “This would mean that people would have to walk a long way to collect a packet that weighs up to 25kg [55lb] and then walk back again,” she said. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu emphasised that only a “minimal” amount of aid will be allowed into Gaza for diplomatic and political reasons as international pressure and condemnation is directed at him and his government.



# Gill emerges frontrunner to be India's new Test captain: Sources



**NEW DELHI [INDIA] :** Following Rohit Sharma's retirement from Test Cricket, right-hand batter Shubman Gill is likely to be named the captain of the Indian Cricket Team in the longest format, as per sources.

On May 7, Rohit announced his retirement from Test cricket after a career spanning 67 Tests and 11 years, ahead of the England tour, kickstarting India's ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 cycle from June 20 onwards.

He amassed 4,301 runs at an average of 40.57, with 12 centuries and 18 fifties. His highest score of 212 came during a memorable home series against South Africa in 2019. He finishes as India's 16th-highest run-getter in the longest format.

After Rohit's departure, Shubman Gill is the frontrunner to lead the Indian side in whites,

whereas wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant is the likely choice as as his deputy.

Right-arm seamer Jasprit Bumrah was also considered a potential candidate for the Test captaincy; however, recurring injury concerns in recent times have diminished his prospects. Another name in contention was middle-order batter KL Rahul, but at 33, his age is seen as a limiting factor for a long-term leadership role.

The India A squad for the tour to England was announced on May 16, with several notable players part of the squad, including Karun Nair, who got the reward for an extraordinary season of domestic cricket.

As a part of the tour, India A will play two first-class matches against the England Lions at Canterbury and Northampton on

May 30 and June 6, before concluding their outing with an intra-squad match against Team India on June 13 at Beckenham.

The team will be led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, who has been a domestic cricket stalwart for Bengal, with 101 first-class games, 7,674 runs at an average of 48.87, 27 centuries and 29 fifties behind him. He did have a disappointing tour to Australia last year, where he ended up with just 36 runs in four innings.

India A squad: Abhimanyu Easwaran (C), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Karun Nair, Dhruv Jurel (VC) (WK), Nitish Kumar Reddy, Shardul Thakur, Ishan Kishan (WK), Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Harshit Rana, Anshul Kamboj, Khaleel Ahmed, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Sarfaraz Khan, Tushar Deshpande, Harsh Dubey.

## "I am ready for Season 12": Aslam Inamdar set for PKL comeback

**MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) :** As the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) season 12 player auction approaches on May 31-June 1 in Mumbai, Aslam Inamdar stands as a symbol of determination. The versatile all-rounder, retained by Puneri Paltan, is ready to make his comeback after a challenging Season 11 that saw him play just seven matches before suffering a season-ending knee injury.

"For a Kabaddi athlete, injury is a common issue - it's a part of life and an important part of the game. I believe a player is truly recognised only when he shows his potential after an injury, how he prepares himself and makes himself fit," reflected Aslam, as quoted by the PKL press release.

The 25-year-old suffered a meniscus tear in his knee that required surgical intervention. "I made a decision that I had to recover quickly. It has been six months now, and I have recovered properly. I am ready for Season 12," he declared confidently.

Aslam's absence was keenly felt by Puneri Paltan in Season 11. The team that had conquered PKL in Season 10 with him as captain could only manage an 8th-place finish.

"I was able to play seven matches, and until then, my team was at the top of the table in Season 11. When I was ruled out, my team's confidence level went down, I feel, and that affected our performance," Aslam recalled.

What sets Aslam apart is his deep connection with the Puneri Paltan franchise, a relationship spanning five seasons since Season 7. He started in their youth academy, 'Yuva Paltan', and went on to captain the team to glory.

In the PKL, he has scored 545 points from 70 matches and picked up 38 points in seven matches in Season 11 before his unfortunate injury.

"I have had a lot of trust in Puneri Paltan - I can say it's unbelievable for me. The owner talks to me about every situation. After my injury, he has treated me like family.

## "JOS IS GOING TO BE A BIG LOSS FOR US": GT BATTER SHERFANE RUTHERFORD ON BUTLER'S ABSENCE IN IPL PLAYOFFS

**NEW DELHI [INDIA] :** Gujarat Titans (GT) batter Sherfane Rutherford acknowledged that GT wicketkeeper/batter Jos Buttler's absence for the team in the Indian Premier League (IPL) playoffs is going to be a "big loss" as he is set to fly back to England for their home series against West Indies starting from May 29.

However, he emphasised that this situation presents an opportunity for the remaining players to step up and take responsibility. He believed the team should focus on their own performance rather than relying on others.

Buttler will not be available for the playoffs as he was selected to play for England's ODI team. The playoffs of the IPL start on the same day.

"Well, to be honest, to get to the team sports, yes, Jos [Jos Buttler] is going to be a big loss for us, but I feel like it's important for us as players to put our hands up. It's an opportunity for us, you know, to fill in that gap. Yes, we would like to have him, but as I said, it's important for us as players to put our hands up, so there's no time to look around on anyone else. It's just for us as players, you know, to just take responsibility. And, you know, hopefully we can do it to the best of our abilities," Rutherford told reporters.

Sri Lanka wicketkeeper/batter Kusal Mendis will replace Jos Buttler in the GT squad for the ongoing IPL. Butler has been the backbone of GT's middle order, smashing 533 runs in 13 matches with an average of 66.63 and a strike rate of 165+.

On the other hand, Sherfane Rutherford has made 267 runs in 11 innings at an impressive strike rate of 160+. Overall, the batter has made 373 runs in 21 matches so far in his IPL career with a best score of 46 runs.

GT remains on top in the IPL points table, with 9 wins and 4 defeats in their 13 matches, and they have 18 points. GT will next play MS Dhoni-led Chennai Super Kings in their last league stage game on Sunday, May 25, at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.



## "I know where I stand within hierarchy": England's Ollie Pope ignores speculations about his place ahead of India tour

**NOTTINGHAM [UK] :** After scoring a ton against Zimbabwe during the ongoing one-off Test, Ollie Pope dismissed the growing speculation about his axing from England's squad in the upcoming five high-stakes Tests against India, scheduled to begin from June 20.

Test captain Ben Stokes dropped a compelling hint about including young Jacob Bethell in England's squad, citing his impressive run in New Zealand last year. Bethell's inclusion would likely come at the expense of opener Zak Crawley or the number three Pope, who laboured for runs during the three Tests against the Blackcaps.

On the opening day of the one-off Test, Crawley crossed the three-digit mark, which eluded his bat for the first time since July 2023. After being trapped by Sikandar Raza in front of the stumps, Crawley returned with 124(171), and then Pope took centre stage with his masterclass.

He struck handsomely above a 100 strike rate, defined the true meaning of 'Bazball' and stayed unbeaten with 169 from 163 deliveries when umpires decided to call the end of the opening day's action.

"Watching those two [Duckett and Crawley] score runs, you don't want to be the one to miss out, so it was nice to get in the flow of things early," Pope told Sky Sports.

After sending a strong message in response to his critics before the squad announcement for the India series, Pope assured



that he knows where he stands in the "hierarchy" and ignores the media and the speculations to ensure his "mental game" remains unfazed.

"We have had some good conversations, and I know where I stand within the hierarchy, which is always good. Communication is really good. I have learnt along the way not to read too much in the media, especially in the lead-up to a series. It doesn't help me. I try to score as many runs as I can and not let that side impact my mental game," he added.

Pope, who averaged 38.80 and struck 194 runs in three Tests in New Zealand, found his lost mojo and shone in the purple patch. He fired 171 from 166 deliveries before giving away an edge from his lacklustre drive, which flew straight into the wicketkeeper's gloves.

As he returned towards the dressing room with a standing ovation from the crowd, Pope became the first batter to score all his eight centuries in Test cricket against eight different oppositions.

## Angelo Mathews to retire from Tests after first Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh match

**COLOMBO [SRI LANKA] :** Former Sri Lanka captain Angelo Mathews on Friday announced that the first test match against Bangladesh in June will be his last red-ball appearance for his country, as per the ICC official website.

Mathews, who made his Test debut against Pakistan in 2009, has been a cornerstone of Sri Lankan cricket for over 15 years, excelling as both an all-rounder and a leader.

Aggregating 8,167 in 118 matches, he is only behind Kumar Sangakkara (12,400) and Mahela Jayawardena (11,814) for most Test runs by a Sri Lankan. He also proved handy with the ball with 33 wickets to his name.

Mathews will have a chance to add to those runs and wickets in his 119th and final match in 'whites' against Bangladesh next month. He is also Sri Lanka's third most successful Test captain, having led the side to 13 wins in 34 matches between 2013 and 2017.

Announcing his retirement via social media, Mathews said, "It is time for me to say goodbye to the most cherished format of the game, International Test Cricket! The past 17 years of playing cricket for Sri Lanka have been my highest honour and pride. Nothing can match that feeling of patriotism and servitude when one dons the National Jersey."

"I have given my everything to cricket and Cricket has given me everything in return and made me the person that I am today. I stand grateful to the game and thankful to the thousands of Sri Lanka



Cricket fans who have been there for me throughout my career during my highest of highs and lowest of lows. The first test match against Bangladesh in June will be my last red-ball appearance for my country," the post added.

While announcing his retirement, Mathews also confirmed that he will remain available for selection in the white-ball formats. His last appearance for Sri Lanka in limited-overs cricket came over a year ago, during their group-stage clash against New Zealand at the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

Sri Lanka Cricket took to their social media handle and reacted to the 37-year-old player's decision to leave Test cricket.

"A true servant of Sri Lanka Test Cricket. Thank you, @Angelo69Mathews, for 17 years of unwavering dedication, leadership, and unforgettable moments in the red-ball format. Your commitment and passion have inspired a generation. We wish you all the very best as you step away from Test cricket and look forward to seeing your continued contributions in white-ball cricket," SLIC wrote on X.

# SURFING FEDERATION OF INDIA CONFIRMS 6TH EDITION OF INDIAN OPEN OF SURFING

**MANGALURU (KARNATAKA) [INDIA] :** The Indian Open of Surfing (IOS), the second stop in the National Surfing Championship series, is set to return for its sixth edition. The event was recently announced by the Surfing Federation of India (SFI), the governing body for Surfing and Stand-Up Paddling in the country, according to a release from SFI.

Recognized by the International Surfing Association, this prestigious national competition will be hosted by the Mantra Surf Club and organized by the Surfing Swami Foundation. Set against the scenic backdrop of Sasihithlu Beach in Mangalore, Karnataka, the event will take place from May 30 to June 1, 2025.

The three-day premier surfing competition will witness participation from India's top-ranked surfers in four categories: Men's Open, Women's Open, Groms (U-16) Boys and Groms (U-16) Girls.

Following the International Surfing Festival Kerala Varkala 2025, held in April, the Indian Open of Surfing (IOS) serves as the second stop in the National Championship Series.

This highly competitive event

showcases intense action and fierce rivalry between surfers from the east and west coasts of India. Each event in the series carries crucial ranking points that determine the surfers' standings at the end of the season.

Last year, India earned its first-ever surfing quotas for a multisport event, securing two spots for the 2026 Asian Games at the Asian Surf Championship 2024 in the Maldives - a milestone that marks a new era for surfing in the country.

The current edition of the Indian Open of Surfing holds significant importance, as it offers athletes the opportunity to boost their rankings and enhance their chances of qualifying for the Asian Surf Championship, the qualifier event for the 2026 Asian Games scheduled later this year.

Arun Vasu, President, Surfing Federation of India, on the announcement said, "We are pleased to announce the sixth edition of the Indian Open of Surfing -- the premier surfing event on the west coast since its inception. In 2024, our surfers created history by securing qualification spots for the Asian Games for the first time, mark-



ing a significant milestone that has elevated the sport's profile across the country. As we set our sights on Aichi-Nagoya 2026, the competition promises to be more intense than ever."

Kishore Kumar, Harish Muthu, Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, and Sanjay Selvamani are among the top surfers to watch at the Indian Open of Surfing, following their standout performances at the Asian Surfing Championship and the Maruhaba Cup in 2024.

These athletes have also secured multiple national championship titles in recent years. The year 2024 was a landmark for Indian surfing, with the national team earning a 5th-place ranking in Asia and making a strong impression on the international stage.

Rammohan Paranjape, Vice President, SFI and Director, Mantra Surf Club said, "The sixth edition of the Indian Open of Surfing stands as a testament to the dedication and success of the previous editions.

This championship holds a special place in my heart, as we at Mantra Surf Club have been hosting and organising it since its inception. Over the years, we've received tremendous sup-

port from the Government of Karnataka and various corporate partners.

I hope this year's event is even more successful and impactful, especially as the sport has gained new found recognition following our surfers' qualification for the Asian Games last year."

Before the Indian Open of Surfing (IOS), Surfing Swami Foundation, in collaboration with Panambur Surfing School, Mantra Surf Club, and Indica Surf School, will organise a Grom Search at Mangalore's Panambur Beach.

The initiative aims to identify and nurture young surfing talent from the coastal regions of Karnataka. Focused on youth development, this event serves as a platform to scout promising young athletes and offer them a pathway into structured coaching programs, mentorship, and long-term development opportunities.

The selected groms (young surfers) will be given access to professional training under the guidance of seasoned coaches and affiliated surf schools, helping them build not just sporting careers but also alternate livelihoods and a brighter future.