



iPhone worth Rs. 80 lakh stolen during shipment, Haringhata police arrest 3 from Bihar, 25 phones recover

MI News Service, Haringhata (Nadia) : In an inter-State investigation, Haringhata police team in Nadia, moved to Patna in Bihar twice and recovered 25 high valued iPhones, out of stolen 100 and one laptop, one computer and arrested 3 persons, said Addl. SP (HQ) , Siddharth Dhapola on Saturday. Investigation has been going on for further recovery and nab the rest miscreants.After arrival of the shipments for the concerned company (Flipkart), it was found that the high valued phones and other electronic gadgets worth around Rs. 80 lakh were vanished from two trucks. Consequently Haringhata

March. But dumbfoundingly it was seen that one logistic shipment was lacking smartphone and other electronic gadgets worth Rs. 30 lakh and the rest was lacking Rs. 49 lakh. Dhapola said, " The high valued smartphones, basically iPhones of around 100 pieces were stolen."Receiving the complaint Haringhata police started the investigation.Tarif Aziz, the I.O. of the case and a SI of Haringhata PS, stated that the complainant was lodged against 4 drivers of the two concerned logistic trucks.The online investigation showed that around 70 to 80 of the lost iPhones astonishingly were active.



police initiated an investigation following the complaint .According to ASP Dhapola, Haringhata police under Ranaghat police district in Nadia, WB., had received a complaint from one Tapan Halder on behalf of one Technological logistic company on March 27 this year. The complaint describe that the company had two shipments for a multinational company (Flipkart) in Haringhata, Nadia. These were from Ranchi and Raipur to Haringhata.The two shipments reached around mid

These were found active in Patna area in Bihar. So, a team of 5 police personal from Haringhata police station under Ranaghat police district moved to Patna on April 21. The team raided the area that was pinpointed by cyber police and arrested two king pins of the racket on April 23. While Ankita Kumar Singh was arrested from khaza Kalam PS , Md. Suraj from Hilsa PS area in Patna. Simultaneously police recovered 25 iPhones worth Rs. 25 lakh.

Wild tusker kills two near Gajoldoba early morning on way home after a kirtan

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: A wild tusker killed two youngsters near Gajoldoba in Rajganj block of Jalpaiguri district on Thursday early morning while they were returning home after a kirtan. The incident triggered protests with local people alleging that the state forest department was not taking adequate steps to prevent elephant attacks. Officials of the district administration, police and the forest department had to rush to the spot to bring the situation under control. They assured the protesters of steps to stop elephant attacks. A group of six people from the Takimari Char area of Gajoldoba were returning from a kirtan around 1.30am. While they were passing through the Dadhia-Baluchar area, they heard the sound of crackers and soon met a patrolling team of foresters. "Realising that elephants had strayed into the area from the neighbouring Baikunthapur forest, the group asked the team members to escort them till the main road. The foresters, however, told them that there

was only one elephant and it had been sent back to the jungle," said a resident of Takimari Char. Soon after, the group came across a wild tusker. The elephant attacked Tushar Das, 16, and Narayan Das, 19. It wrapped them with the trunk and tossed them on the ground. Both died on the spot, while the four others managed to run away. Local people asked why the patrolling team had left without escorting the group. With the two deaths, three persons have died in elephant attacks in the Belakoba forest range of the Baikunthapur forest division in the past nine days. Tushar was a Class IX student of Gajoldoba High School. The residents stopped a team from the Gajoldoba police outpost from taking away the bodies. Eventually, a team led by the additional divisional forest officer of Baikunthapur, with the range officer of Belakoba and others, went there and recovered the bodies around 10.30am. The bodies were sent to the Jalpaiguri district hospital for post-mortem.

Miscreant arrested with Firearm and ammunitions



MI News Service, Dhantala (Nadia) : Based on sources information, the cops from Dhantala PS held a raid at the house of one Debabrata Sarkar of barbaria

- Beltalapara, under PS Dhantala in Nadia and recovered one (01) improvised firearm and seven (07) rounds of ammunition from his exclusive possession on Friday. He subsequently was arrested.A case has been lodged in the relevant section of law in Dhantala PS against the illegal possessor Debabrata Sarkar. The accused was produced before the Court on Saturday.The police have prayed for his police remand for further investigation.

Life Insurance Corporation of India Achieves GUINNESS WORLD RECORDSTM Title for the “MOST LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES SOLD IN 24 HOURS”



Life Insurance Corporation of India is proud to announce that it has earned a GUINNESS WORLD RECORDSTM title for “Most life insurance policies sold in 24 hours.” This historic achievement, verified by GWR, recognizes the extraordinary performance of the Corporation’s dedicated agency network on 20.01.2025. On 20.01.2025, a total of 4,52,839 agents of Life Insurance Corporation of India successfully completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India. This monumental effort established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry within a

24-hour period. Team LIC is absolutely thrilled to receive this prestigious GUINNESS WORLD RECORDSTM Title. It is a powerful validation of the relentless dedication, skill, and tireless work ethics of our agents. This achievement reflects our deep commitment towards our

mission to provide vital financial protection to our customers and their families. The record attempt was the culmination of a thoughtful initiative by Mr. Siddhartha Mohanty, CEO&MD, LIC in the form of an appeal to every Agent to complete at least One Policy on “Mad Million Day” i.e. on January 20, 2025. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Mohanty thanked all our esteemed customers, agents and employees for making “Mad Million Day” historic as their incredible performance of procuring record number of Policies on a single day has now been recognized and has entered Guinness World RecordsTM.



Harmony rally observed across caste and religion on the occasion of the birthday of rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in Kolkata.

Bengal forest department plans to create new grasslands for herbivores in forests

MI News Service, Siliguri: The Bengal forest department plans to create new grasslands in the reserve forests of north Bengal to provide adequate fodder base for herbivores and prevent such animals, particularly elephants, from straying out of the forest areas in search of food. The decision was made following specific instructions from chief minister Mamata Banerjee. On Wednesday, while attending the administrative review meeting of all eight north Bengal districts, Mamata had asked senior foresters to start preparing saplings for grasslands that can develop during the upcoming monsoon season.

“During monsoons, most of the work gets halted. However, this is the time when the forest department can plant grass to make the grasslands ready in forest areas. These days, wild animals often come out of the forests in search of food. We will have to ensure that there is adequate fodder in the forests,” said Mamata. “Also, the department should take up the task of planting saplings under the social forestry scheme during this period,” she added. On Thursday, senior officers of the department said they planned to plant different varieties of grasses in 562 hectares of land in the reserve forests.

“Primarily, it has been decided to develop the grasslands in four prominent reserve forests, which are also wildlife habitats, in north Bengal. We have readied the saplings (of grasses) in nurseries at these locations and hope to finish the planting ahead of the monsoons,” said Bhaskar J. V., the chief conservator of forests (wildlife, north). Sources said a new grassland encompassing an area of around 300 hectares would be developed in Jaldapara National Park, the largest habitat of one-horned rhinos in the state, located in Alipurd-uar district. Similarly, a grassland across an area of 60 hectares would be developed in Gorumara National Park of Jalpaiguri. “There are plans to create new grasslands in Buxa Tiger Reserve and the Mahananda Wildlife Sanctuary,” said a forester. Different varieties of grass like “dhadda”, “chepti”, and “malsa”, which are food for elephants and other herbivores, will be planted in these forests, said a source. In north Bengal, elephant depredation due to lack of fodder is a regular problem. Elephants often move into villages on the fringes of forests, damaging crops, houses, and other constructions, even killing and injuring people.

SMC to make QR code must for hoardings to curb illegal and view-blocking ads



MI News Service, Siliguri: The Trinamool Congress-run board at the Siliguri Municipal Corporation (SMC) has made it mandatory to add QR codes on all display boards and hoardings featuring advertisements. The decision has been made to restrict the installation of unwanted and illegal display boards and hoardings that block the view. “The agencies engaged in the installation of hoardings or display boards will have to put QR code in every such display put in the city. This will help us to identify the unauthorised billboards and similar displays,” Rajesh Prashad Sha, the member, mayor-in-council, parking and advertisement of SMC, said on Friday.

According to the order, the respective agencies will have to include relevant information like the permission of SMC for the display, the size of the display, its validity period, and the agency’s name in the QR code. “We can simply scan the code to know whether the display is legal or there has been any violation of the civil rules and regulations. This will also discourage the trend to put up illegal display boards, banners, hoardings, or any similar display, to evade civic taxes and charges levied by the civic body,” said a source at the SMC. Sha said they have initiated a drive to remove unauthorised hoardings and display boards that have been installed without any permission from SMC. “The drive is on, and we are removing such illegal boards. Now, this QR code will further help us to regularise advertisement displays across Siliguri,” he added.

Pink Roses Entertainment organized a cultural evening of music and dance at the EZCC Aikatan Auditorium



MI News Service, Kolkata: On behalf of Pink Roses Entertainment, a cultural evening of music and dance was organized on May 23 at the EZCC Aikatan Auditorium in Salt Lake to commemorate the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam, paying tribute to their works. The event was initiated and organized by Pink Roses Entertainment’s head, international model, actress, Mrs. Asia winner, and social activist Hina Kausar. On the same day, Pink Roses Entertainment also launched a Bengali New Year calendar featuring Hina Kausar alongside other models. For some time now, through Pink Roses Entertainment, Hina Kausar has been working towards

women empowerment—creating a platform in the glamorous world for financially and socially disadvantaged but talented women who aspire to enter the industry, so they can establish themselves in society in the future. The event was graced by several distinguished guests, including Sushmita Mukerjee, Deboshree Roy, supermodel Manpreet Singh, Jayantaa Dasgupta, Lucky Ali, Rijjiya midya, businessman and social worker Rajendra Singh, among others. And show official anchor was supermodel Saptami Banerjee. Hina Kausar’s aim in organizing such events is to showcase Indian culture to the new generation so that they give more priority to their own civilization and culture than Western culture

Atrayee River dam collapse: State irrigation dept suspends 6 engineers & show-causes 1

MI News Service, Balurghat: The Bengal irrigation department has suspended six engineers and show-caused a senior engineer following the collapse of a dam on the Atrayee river in Balurghat. The department also filed a complaint at the Balurghat police station against the firm that had built the dam. In November 2021, the government began

Balurghat BJP MP Sukanta Majumdar visited the site and accused the state government of compromising the quality of work. Chief minister Mamata Banerjee had referred to the dam’s damage at the administrative review meeting in Siliguri on Wednesday. Following her instruction, the irrigation department took up the repairs on war footing.



the construction of the dam to control the flow of its water to Bangladesh. The river is an important source of water for farmers and hundreds of fishermen depend on the Atrayee. The water is drawn from the river and supplied to Balurghat after filtration and treatment. The project that entailed an expenditure of ₹32 crore was completed in January 2024. The dam, measuring 222m in length, 20m in width and 2m in height, was built at Chakbhrigu in Balurghat. “A portion of the dam, including its stairs, collapsed in February this year when there wasn’t much water in the river. On May 19, another portion of the dam collapsed and a stretch of the adjoining embankment was breached,” said a source. This led to questions over the quality of the work.

Sources said the department was forced to act against the engineers who were posted in South Dinajpur and associated with the dam after Mamata had expressed her displeasure in closed quarters. “The executive engineer who was in charge during the construction of the dam and another engineer of the same post who was posted when portions of it collapsed in February have been suspended, along with two sub-assistant engineers and two junior engineers,” said a source. “The state vigilance commission initiated a probe. A chief engineer under whose jurisdiction the dam is located has been served a showcause notice,” the source added. Jayanta Bhowmik, the executive engineer of the department in South Dinajpur, filed a police complaint against the construction firm.

Song of ‘Metro In Dino’ gets released

MI News Service, Kolkata: The teaser of ‘Zamaana Lage’ — the first song from ‘Metro In Dino’ — introduces us to a world of modern love and relationships that’s as vibrant as it is familiar. The complete song will be released on 28th May as the first track of the film’s album. After ‘Life in a... Metro’ and ‘Ludo’, ‘Metro...In Dino’ is the final chapter of Anurag Basu’s trilogy of hyperlinked cinema. Backed by producer Bhushan Kumar, the film weaves together a colourful, melody-soaked narrative of stories that reintroduces us to life in the metropolitan cities of India. ‘Zamaana Lage’ sees the return of the magical collaboration between composer Pritam and Anurag Basu — a duo known for creating chartbusters that linger long after the credits roll. This soulful track is brought to life by the evocative vocals of Arijit Singh and Shashwat Singh, who lend emotional depth and modern appeal to the song. With additional lyrics contributed by Sandeep Shrivastava, further enriching the composition.

Man killed brother over dispute on buying mangoes

MI News Service, Kolkata: A longstanding family dispute over a mango orchard took a tragic turn in the Akand Kishori area of Newtown, where a man allegedly killed his own brother during a heated altercation. The incident has left the local community in shock and sparked demands for strict legal action. According to local sources, the conflict erupted between Prashant Roy and his brother Sushant Roy over mango trees located on ancestral property. The argument reportedly escalated quickly, culminating in a violent attack. Prashant allegedly struck Sushant on the head with a heavy object, causing him to collapse on the spot, severely injured and bleeding. Family members rushed Sushant to a nearby hospital, but doctors declared him dead on arrival. The police from Technocity Police Station responded promptly and arrested the accused, Prashant Roy. While no formal complaint has yet been filed by the family, police have begun an investigation based on witness accounts and preliminary evidence. The incident has stirred significant unrest in the area, with neighbors expressing anger and demanding justice. Local residents are calling for strict punishment for the accused to prevent similar tragedies in the future.

Covid-19 hits Kolkata, 2 test positive in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: After a lull of three weeks, COVID-19 cases have re-emerged in Kolkata, with a fresh case reported from a private nursing home in Kankurgachi. According to sources, a pregnant woman tested positive for the virus on Saturday. This follows an earlier case reported at a private nursing home in Alipore, where a woman was undergoing treatment since the first week of May. The resurgence in Kolkata mirrors a broader uptick in COVID-19 cases across several Indian states, including Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, and Bengaluru. In light of the rising numbers, the Delhi government has issued fresh guidelines, directing all hospitals to remain prepared. Adequate supplies of oxygen, medicines, and vaccines are being ensured, and emphasis is being placed on increased testing and genome sequencing. Hospitals have been instructed to collect samples from all infected patients and send them to Loknayak Hospital for sequencing. All data must be uploaded to a designated government portal. Health officials are closely monitoring the situation in Kolkata as part of a nationwide vigilance against a potential fresh wave of infections.

Kolkata colder than Kashmir, record breaking chill after 133 years

MI News Service, Kolkata: In an unusual turn of weather events, Kolkata has been experiencing relatively cooler temperatures compared to the Kashmir Valley, which is currently reeling under an intense heatwave. On Friday, Srinagar recorded a maximum temperature of 34.4°C, making it the third hottest May day in the city in 133 years. The temperature was approximately 8°C above normal, causing considerable discomfort to local residents. Meanwhile, Kolkata saw some relief from the heat, with intermittent rainfall and gusty evening winds reported in several districts. According to the Alipore Meteorological Department, the city recorded a maximum temperature of 32.4°C on Friday—around 3°C below the seasonal average. The contrast in weather conditions is stark, especially given Kashmir's typical reputation for cooler climes.



A boy in perky mood near Howrah Bridge during an afternoon shower at Howrah on Saturday.

Concerns mount over civic volunteers amid rising allegation of misconduct

MI News Service, Kolkata: Allegations of misconduct by civic volunteers across West Bengal have once again sparked public outrage and scrutiny over the system meant to support law enforcement. The most recent incident involves Neeraj Singh, a civic volunteer attached to the Pragati Maidan police station, who was arrested for impersonating a constable and engaging in coercive behavior. This follows a series of troubling cases, including past incidents of extortion, assault, and drunken behavior involving civic volunteers. Despite having clearly outlined recruitment guidelines, concerns continue to grow about the misuse of power and lack of accountability within the civic force. As per state regulations, civic volunteers must be local residents with no criminal background. A dedicated recruitment committee comprising top police officials oversees the selection process. However, repeated instances of alleged abuse suggest a widening gap between policy and practice. The controversy has prompted judicial attention. Both the Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court have questioned the role, recruitment process, and powers of civic volunteers. The courts have also ruled that civic volunteers should not be engaged in law and order duties, restricting their roles to traffic control and crowd management during public events. Despite these restrictions, many civic volunteers are reportedly acting beyond their mandate. Recent incidents across the state highlight a troubling pattern. In Malda, civic volunteers were accused of assaulting a driver over a toll dispute. In Panskura, a volunteer and a shopkeeper reportedly intimidated a teenager over a packet of chips. In another case, a woman caught a civic volunteer extorting money from a lorry in Baranagar. Incidents of public intoxication and abuse of authority have

also been reported. There are currently around 1.3 lakh civic volunteers in the state, including 4,522 posted at health centers. Of these, 870 are women. Initially, the minimum educational qualification was a pass in Class 10, but in 2017, the requirement was reduced to Class 8. Civic volunteers currently receive a monthly honorarium of ₹10,000. Critics argue that political interference has undermined the integrity of the system. Former police officer Arindam Acharya expressed concerns over lax oversight within the force. BJP leader Sajal Ghosh went further, alleging that many civic volunteers are affiliated with the ruling party and continue to engage in extortion and other unlawful activities under official cover. As civic volunteers play an increasingly prominent role in daily policing functions, the need for reform, transparency, and stricter enforcement of existing regulations has become more urgent than ever.

Kolkata brace for major weather event, 24 hours to impact, crucial 4 months ahead

MI News Service, Kolkata: The city is on high alert as meteorologists predict the formation of a low-pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal by Tuesday, triggering a surge in rainfall across South Bengal. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a yellow alert, with heavy rain warnings in effect for three districts on Wednesday and six districts on Thursday. Kolkata, along with Bankura, Purulia, and Medinipur, has already been experiencing intermittent showers accompanied by gusty winds, offering relief from the season's typical heat. So far, the region has largely escaped the scorching temperatures and heat waves seen elsewhere. The monsoon is expected to arrive in Kerala a full week ahead of schedule, beginning Sunday, and will also enter Northeast India on the same day. Meanwhile, a deep depression in the Arabian Sea

is poised to make landfall on Saturday, prompting heavy rainfall warnings along India's western coast. With the monsoon likely to hit Kolkata within 24 hours, questions are being raised about the city's preparedness. The risk of urban flooding looms large, especially as meteorologists warn of more intense rainfall over shorter durations—a pattern that has overwhelmed other metros like Bengaluru and Mumbai in recent years. The IMD predicts that rainfall this monsoon season could be 5% above normal. Experts warn that inadequate drainage infrastructure could lead to waterlogging in Kolkata, testing the capabilities of the municipal administration over the next four months. As monsoon rains arrive early—before the traditional Ashadh month—the challenge for civic authorities will be to mitigate flood risks and ensure the city remains functional through the season.

Survivors of abuse share stories of strength and healing in Kolkata Workshop



MI News Service, Kolkata: At a workshop titled "Glimpse of Voice: A Girl's Story of Change," organized by Jeevika Development in Ballygunge, several young survivors of sexual abuse and child marriage shared their inspiring journeys to recovery and employment. Support by Jeevika, the girls spoke about overcoming trauma and becoming self-reliant. The event, inaugurated by Tulika Das, Chairperson of the West

Bengal Commission for Protection of Child Rights, also saw participate from leaders of NGO and civil society. Daila Roy, Director of Jeevika, emphasized the Impact of mental health challenges stemming from societal conservation and stressed the importance of emotional well-being for girls. The workshop also featured creative sessions that helped participants express themselves and improved their mental health.

Saugata Roy Demands Parliamentary Debate, Hints at Tensions Ahead: "Picture Abhi Baki Hai"

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress MP Saugata Roy has once again stirred political waters, calling for a parliamentary session to address key national security concerns and intelligence failures—particularly in relation to the recent Pahelgaon incident. In a pointed statement, Roy remarked, "There will be a lot of storm in Parliament, picture abhi baki hai," suggesting that significant developments and debates are yet to unfold. The veteran MP had

earlier drawn sharp criticism for his controversial remarks on Operation Sindoor, calling the mission "aunt's sentiment" and expressing dissatisfaction with India's handling of the recent conflict with Pakistan. He also criticized U.S. involvement in the diplomatic resolution, labeling it a "shame" for India to have yielded to American pressure. Saugata Roy's comments led to a swift disassociation by the Trinamool Congress, which posted on its official X (formerly Twitter) handle that

his views do not reflect the party's official position. Despite the backlash, Saugata Roy has maintained his stance and now insists on the need for a full-fledged parliamentary session to debate the government's handling of national security. "The Pahelgaon incident clearly reflects an intelligence failure. Shouldn't that be discussed?" Saugata Roy asked, while also emphasizing that several security-related questions have been submitted for debate. He further stressed that opposition

parties had united in support of the nation during the crisis, but pressing questions remain unanswered. Backing West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's call for accountability, Roy stated, "Mamata has raised legitimate concerns as a national leader. These deserve attention in Parliament." With his continued assertions and bold remarks, Roy's latest statements indicate that tensions may escalate further within the political landscape—and especially within his own party.

BSF Jawan Purnam Shaw Returns Home After 22 Days in Pakistani Custody

MI News Service, Rishra: BSF jawan Purnam Shaw, who had inadvertently crossed the India-Pakistan border and spent 22 days in a Pakistani jail, returned to his hometown of Rishra on Friday. Shaw, visibly relieved after reuniting with his family, described the emotional moment of seeing his wife, children, and parents again as a blessing. The incident occurred amid ongoing Indo-Pak tensions when Shaw mistakenly crossed the border during duty. His sudden disappearance caused immense distress to his family, who traveled from Rishra to Pathankot in search of answers. With no clear information at the time, they feared for his safe return. Though relieved to be home, Shaw refrained from disclosing details of his time in Pakistani custody, citing official



protocol. However, he hinted at having endured a difficult ordeal. "I cannot say what happened. Only I know that. If Pakistan comes forward, we will see what can be done," he said. Despite the traumatic experience, Shaw remains committed to his duty. "We have no reason to be afraid with the training we have received. We will do what-

ever work is assigned to us. Guarding the border is our responsibility," he affirmed. Reflecting on his time in captivity, Shaw admitted he had little hope of returning. "I thought I would never come back. But with everyone's blessings, I have returned home," he said, expressing gratitude to his family and well-wishers.

Lalbazar Cracks Down on Police Personnel Making Social Media Reels in Uniform

MI News Service, Kolkata: In response to a growing trend of police personnel posting social media reels while wearing official uniforms, Lalbazar has issued a stern warning to curb such activities. Kolkata Police Commissioner Manoj Kumar Verma addressed the issue firmly during the monthly crime meeting, emphasizing that such behavior undermines the dignity and discipline of the police force. Commissioner Verma made it clear that any police officer caught making reels or videos while on duty will face strict disciplinary action. "These actions are completely out of line with the traditions and professionalism of Kolkata Police and will not be tolerated," he stated. The issue had also been raised by the city's Mayor during last month's crime meeting, highlighting concerns about constables using their official status to gain social media popularity. In recent years, several police personnel have created personal YouTube channels and shared videos, some of which reveal sensitive security details and confidential locations. Such breaches pose serious security risks and compromise operational integrity.

Bikas Ranjan Bhattacharya questions review petition, doubts job reinstatement

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid growing frustration among thousands of job aspirants affected by the recent Supreme Court verdict in the teacher recruitment scam, senior advocate and Rajya Sabha MP Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya met with a group of unemployed candidates on Saturday. The Supreme Court had earlier ordered the cancellation of over 26,000 appointments, citing large-scale irregularities. The aggrieved candidates, many of whom claim to have been legitimately selected, visited Bhattacharya at his residence seeking legal guidance and clarity on whether there was any recourse to reclaim their lost jobs.

TMC's Abhishek Banerjee said in Japan 'If terrorism is rabid dog, Pakistan is wild handler'

From PG 1 domain that I have now said that Pakistan needs to be taught a lesson in the language they understand." He added, "If terrorism is a rabid dog, Pakistan is a wild handler. We first need to bring the world together to combat this wild handler. Otherwise, this wild handler will end up breeding and raising more rabid dogs." Banerjee stated that India had handled the conflict with Pakistan responsibly and had ensured that their actions were precise and non-escalatory in nature. India had launched Operation Sindoor on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK). The TMC MP stated that India had approached Japan as it was a strategic partner, and to warn the nation of Pakistan's involvement in breeding terrorism. "We are here from different parties, united in our fight against terrorism. We have come with proofs. Today it is India, tomorrow it will be another country," he said. Banerjee added,

"Pakistan always portrays itself as a victim. After 15 days of waiting, we neutralised nine terror bases in Pakistan without endangering a single civilian life. We want to expose the actual face of Pakistan." Banerjee also pointed out that The Resistance Front (TRF), a proxy of the Lashkar-e-Taiba, had claimed responsibility for the terror attack which led to the death of 26 civilians in Pahalgam. He said that it was a well-known fact that Pakistan had obscured the LeT's role in terror attacks for years. The TMC MP whose every speech was very well appreciated in various meetings with top government officials and thin tanks in Japan, is part of a delegation which includes Ambassador Mohan Kumar, BJP MP Dr Hemang Joshi, CPI(M) MP John Brittas, BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, BJP MP Brij Lal, and BJP MP Pradan Baruah as well. The delegation aims to brief international partners on India's response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and its broader fight against cross-border terrorism.

Ten fresh COVID-19 cases detected in Thane city in three days

From PG 1 government nor the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has issued any advisory on COVID-19 transmission, she said. Quoting the medical reports, she said the infected male individual, who recently returned from Delhi, is currently under home quarantine.. The emergence of this new case has sparked concern among residents of the state. Notably, while COVID-19 has been spreading in South Asian countries like China and Singapore, the infection has now reached India too following the detection of some cases in Mumbai earlier and now in Bhubaneswar. . Two deaths due to COVID-19 have been reported in Mumbai. Across India, 257 cases have been identified, with the Bhubaneswar case adding to the growing concern over the virus's resurgence. Meanwhile, amid reports of two Covid related deaths in Mumbai and a

spike in infections in several Southeast Asian countries, the Odisha government has heightened surveillance to prevent any fresh outbreak in the state. Though no new cases have been detected so far, health officials have urged people to remain alert and follow precautionary measures, especially those with underlying health conditions. Director of public health Dr Nilakantha Mishra said the state is on alert, and if any one is found positive, the sample will be sent for genome sequencing to determine the variant involved. He also clarified that the current strain causing concern is not a new variant but a known sub-lineage of Omicron. "The particular sub-variant causing a resurgence is an identified one. Similar to the last outbreaks, people with comorbidities like kidney and liver diseases or cancer must take precautions and wear face masks while in gatherings and going out," he told reports here.

If Centre, states work together like Team India, no goal is impossible, says PM Modi at NITI Aayog meeting

From PG 1 global standards by providing all facilities and infrastructure. "One State: One Global Destination. It would also lead to the development of the neighbouring cities as tourist places," he added. During the meeting, the PM also noted that India is getting "rapidly urbanised" adding "we should work towards future ready cities." "Growth, innovation and sustainability should be the engine for the development of our cities," the PM said. Chief Ministers of Karnataka, Kerala, Puducherry and West Bengal skipped the meeting.

Howrah division celebrates century of service: A tribute to 100 years of Railway Excellence (1925–2025)

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eastern Railway's Howrah Division marked a monumental milestone as it completed 100 glorious years of service on January 1, 2025, having been formed in 1925. To commemorate this historic occasion, the Division organized a series of celebratory events across stations, railway colonies, and premises beginning on April 18, 2025. As part of the centenary observances, a grand celebration was held today at Dr. B. C. Roy Auditorium, Sealda, marked by release of a Special Postal Cover to dedicate the Centenary in presence of General Manager/ Eastern Railway, Shri Milind Deouskar.

The Howrah Division, established following the British Indian Government's takeover of the East Indian Railway in 1925, was one of six divisions created under the unified railway administration. Over the past century, it has played a pivotal role in strengthening regional connectivity, economic development and railway heritage.

The grand event of Centenary Celebrations organised on 24.5.2025, began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, accompanied by Smt. Seema Deouskar, President, Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organization (ERWWO), Shri P. Uday Kumar Reddy, General Manager, Metro Railway, Smt. B. Sreelatha, President, Metro Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (MRWWO), Shri Sanjeev Kumar Divisional Railway Manager /Howrah and Shri Rijju Ganguly, Postmaster General, West Bengal Circle .

A special Postal Cover commemorating the centenary was released on the occasion by Shri Milind Deouskar/ GM, Eastern Railway, Shri Rijju Ganguly,Postmaster General, West Bengal Circle and Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah.

To honor the Division's legacy



and commitment to sustainability, a Coffee Table Book and a Souvenir were also released by the General Manager of Eastern Railway, Metro Railway and DRM/Howrah.

A slide presentation showcasing the various activities held during the centenary celebrations was also featured. A cultural programme was also organized by Howrah Division added vibrancy to the event.

On this special occasion, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager, Howrah, felicitated former DRMs of Howrah, including Shri Somnath Mukherjee (DRM/Howrah from 05.06.2000 to 02.07.2001), who retired as Additional Member (Commercial), Railway Board, Shri Sumit Narula (ex DRM/Howrah) and Shri Manish Jain (former DRM of Howrah Division).

To make this centenary celebration truly memorable, the Howrah Division has organized several impactful events:

- * A new emblem (logo) has been unveiled.

- * Prabhat Pheri (early morning processions) were conducted at major railway stations.

- * Tree plantations were undertaken to promote environmental conservation.

- * All staff members of the Division received jute bags as souvenirs.

- * A commemorative souvenir

nir has been launched.

- * A special postal cover was issued in collaboration with Department of Post.

- A coffee table book was released to depict the rich heritage of Howrah Division.

- Drawing and Painting competition among the wards of Railway employees.

- Rajdhani engine adorned with historical photographs and many more.

These events are part of observances celebrating Howrah Division's century-long contribution to Indian Railways.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, DRM/Howrah, highlighted the Division's rich legacy, its vital role in regional connectivity, and the dedication of its workforce. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to all officers and staff, past and present, whose efforts have contributed to the Division's success.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, praised the initiatives taken by the officers and staff of Howrah Division for planning and successfully executing the month long centenary celebration of Howrah Division. GM also mentioned that all the stakeholders and rail-lovers have shown great enthusiasm being unified with this centenary celebration of Howrah Division.

Temporary stoppage of Ranchi - Godda-Ranchi Express at Pundag station

MI News Service, Kolkata: Railway has decided to provide additional stoppage of 18619/18620 Ranchi - Godda - Ranchi Express at Pundag station over South Eastern Railway during Ananda Marga Dharma Maha Sammelan up to 04.06.2025.

18619 Ranchi - Godda Express & 18620 Godda - Ranchi Express will arrive at Pundag station 23:15 hrs. & 01:45 hrs. respectively and will stop at Pundag station for one(1) minutes in both directions.

Temp stoppage of 2 express trains at Pundag station

MI News Service, Kolkata: For the convenience of passengers during Ananda Marga Dharma Maha Sammelan at Ananda Nagar, Railway has decided to provide one (01) minute temporary stoppage at Pundag station over South Eastern Railway for following trains up to 04.06.2025:

- 13404 Bhagalpur - Ranchi Vananchal Express & 13403 Ranchi - Bhagalpur Vananchal Express will arrive Pundag station at 06:22 hrs. & 20:59 hrs respectively and will stop at Pundag station for one(1) minutes in both directions .

- 18620 Godda - Ranchi Express & 18619 Ranchi - Godda Express will arrive at Pundag station at 01:45 hrs & 23:15 hrs and will stop at Pundag station for one(1) minutes in both directions.

Tally unveils new plan

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tally Solutions has announced the launch of the fifth edition of its flagship annual initiative- TallyMSME Honours. Building on the momentum of four successful years, the initiative continues to recognize and celebrate emerging entrepreneurs who are shaping the future of India's MSME ecosystem through innovation, resilience, and impact.

The nominations will be open for all businesses with an annual turnover of less than INR 250 crores and a valid GSTIN number.

This year, the initiative is expanding its reach with seven events across key cities: Delhi, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Chennai, to celebrate and honour the remarkable changemakers driving impact on the ground.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammed Salauddin, S/O Abdul Bari, R/O 2 Tiretta Bazar Street, Bowbazar,Kolkata-70073, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Salauddin, Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/05/2025,That Mohammed Salauddin And Md Salauddin Ali Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Golam Kebria Molla (old name) son of Golam Mostafa Molla, residing at Kalyanpur Bagan Howrah-711303, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Golam Kebria Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata, dated 23/05/2025. Golam Kebria Molla (New Name) and Golam Kebria Molla (old name) both are same and identical person.

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the public that I, Shyamal Kumar Chakraborty son of late Sachindra Kumar Chakraborty and Pratiba Chakraborty, being one of the legal heir of the property with Seven other legal heirs, the property particularly described in the schedule hereunder written and that I, have lost the original mother deed of the said property being deed No. 1581 of 1939 registered in ADSR and ARA Calcutta, and accordingly a general diary has also been lodged by me to that effect being Regent Park Police Station GDE NO. 1531 dated 22/05/2025. Therefore, It is requested that, if, anyone finds the said lost deed, please feel free to contact here ph no. +91 7980950981 for returning the same at earliest and oblige. Furthermore, the same property following all the legal procedures will be Developed by searching a potential developers.

All PERSONS having any claim in respect thereof by way of sale, exchange, gift, mortgage, charge, trust, inheritance, possession, lease, lien or otherwise howsoever are requested to inform the same in writing to the undersigned having his residence at 9/3 Chanditalla lane, Kolkata 700040 within 14 days from the date hereof failing which, the claim or claims if any, of such person or persons will be considered to have been waived and / or abandoned/relinquished and the transfer shall be completed.

SCHEDULE ABOVE REFERRED TO

Piece and parcel of a Bastu land measuring more or less 20cottsah 1chhattak 32 sq ft situated at 9/3 Chanditalla lane, Kolkata 700040 comprising of one constructed multistoried residential building within ward no. 97 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and within the jurisdiction of Regent Park Police Station.

Howrah Division Observes World Environment Day 2025 with Awareness Campaign on 'End Plastic Pollution'



distribution of educational materials, and displays promoting eco-friendly alternatives to plastic.

A key highlight of the programme was the promotion of sustainable waste management practices and the benefits of recycling. Demonstrations were conducted to show how everyday waste could be managed efficiently to reduce environmental impact. The initiative also encouraged the adoption of reusable materi-

als and emphasized individual responsibility in protecting the environment.

Through this campaign, the Howrah Division reaffirmed its commitment to environmental sustainability and its role in driving community-wide change. The Division continues to align with national and global efforts to build a cleaner, greener future by fostering environmental consciousness and promoting responsible behavior among citizens.

Proactive Measures taken by Railways to Prevent Waterlogging at Limited Height Subway near Pakur Station

MI News Service, Kolkata: Pakur Station, a key railway station under the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway, plays a vital role in facilitating rail transport in the region. Located near this important station is a Limited Height Subway (No. 38), which serves as a popular route for commuters and local residents.

It was observed that during heavy rainfall sudden influx of excessive water, the subway experienced waterlogging, causing inconvenience to the public --- now this has been properly addressed by taking adequate measures . In response to this issue, the Howrah Division has deployed high capacity pump with 24 X 7 monitoring to mitigate the problem and ensure smooth passage for all users.

To tackle the challenge of wa-

ter accumulation during the monsoon season, three high-capacity pumps have been deployed—two pumps of 10 HP each and one pump of 5 HP. These pumps are operated continuously during heavy rains to drain the water from the subway efficiently and in a timely manner.

In addition to the mechanical measures, round-the-clock monitoring has been established. The Engineering Department has deputed watchmen to keep a vigilant eye on the subway condition at all times. Furthermore, dedicated staff at the engineering office and engineering control are overseeing the situation continuously to ensure a prompt response to any emergency.

These concerted efforts by the Howrah Division underscore Eastern Railway's

commitment to passenger convenience . The Division remains dedicated to improving infrastructure and resolving local challenges with swift and effective action.

Notice
My clients Sri Amit Sarkar and Pintu Sarkar both Son of Anukul Sarkar, They have purchased a landed property by virtue of a Registered deed at D.S.R II Alipore being Deed NO-02169/2021 as per chain Deed of power of Attorney Samir Mondal S/O Lt. Bhundal ch. Mondal vice deed no. NO-2818/2012 ADSR Alipore which lying at comprising of Mouza Bansdroni J.L. no. 45 RS and LR Dag no. 964 LR Khatian NO-1483 RS Khatian NO-641 an appeal for Mutation for their the names in the above case if any objection arises are above Matter then inform to Kolkata block office BL&LRO office 5 NO S.N. Banerjee Road Kolt-13.
MN. Case No- MN/2025/16130/4415,4416

Prabir Kumar Roy
Advocate
Alipore Criminal Court
Phone-7044384203

Sexual assault case: Mahila court finds all 9 guilty

MI News Service, Coimbatore: The Coimbatore Mahila court held all nine men arrested in the sensational Pollachi sexual assault and extortion case as guilty.

Judge R Nandhini Devi would pronounce the quantum of punishment later in the day.

All those facing the charges have been accused of criminal conspiracy, sexual harassment, rape, gang rape, and extortion, in the series of incidents including blackmail that happened between 2016 and 2018.

The victims were mostly college girls and the incident came to light after an affected student lodged a complaint with the police.

The men were also accused of filming some of their acts.

The incident caused an outrage in the state and even echoed in the state assembly.

11 বিজ্ঞপ্তি 11
আমোক্তোর নাম
১) শ্রীমতা হিম্মতী পাল, ২) শ্রী প্রবল কুমার পাল, ৩) শ্রী সনৎ কুমার পাল, ৪) শ্রী অমল কুমার পাল, ৫) শ্রীমতী স্বপ্না নন্দী, ৬) শ্রী তপস পাল, ৭) শ্রীমতা সান্ধ্যা নন্দী, ৮) শ্রীমতা বর্ণা পাল, ৯) শ্রী নিবন্ধন পাল, ১০) আদ্যনা পাল, ১১) শ্রীমতী কন্দনা ব্যানার্জী, ১২) শ্রীমতী স্বপ্না নন্দী, ১৩) শ্রী নিবন্ধন পাল, ১৪) শ্রী যত্ন পাল, ১৫) শ্রী কৃষ্ণচন্দ্র পাল, ১৬) শ্রী বৃষ্টিপদ পাল, ১৭) শ্রী মাহেশ্বর পাল, ১৮) শ্রী মানিক পাল, ১৯) শ্রীমতা শ্রীমতা নন্দী, ২০) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২১) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২২) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৩) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৪) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৫) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৬) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৭) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৮) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ২৯) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩০) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩১) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩২) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৩) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৪) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৫) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৬) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৭) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৮) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৩৯) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৪০) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৪১) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৪২) শ্রীমতী রীতা নন্দী, ৪৩) 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X faces outage, users unable to access platform

MI News Service, New Delhi: Elon Musk-owned X (formerly Twitter) suffered a major outage with users across India and some other countries reporting difficulties in accessing the social media platform, according to Downtidetector.com.

Many users, attempting to use the microblogging platform, came across notification that read: "Cannot retrieve posts at this time. Please try again later."

According to Downtidetector.com, a website performance tracking tool, more than 2,000 users in India reported issues with the platform.

Of these, 45 per cent faced trouble logging in, 39 per cent experienced problems with the app, and 16 per cent reported issues with the website.

The number of users complaining about the issues peaked at 06.18 pm with 2,151 users reporting issues. The outage later

ended.

Users in the United States and Canada also reported issues.

According to Downtidetector.com, more 25,699 users reported issues with the platform on Saturday evening in the United States. Of these, 68 per cent faced trouble logging in, 24 per cent experienced problems with the app, and 8 per cent reported issues with the website.

The website tracking tool showed that in Canada, more than 2,230 users reported issues with the platform on Saturday evening.

Downtidetector.com only reports an incident when the number of problem reports is significantly higher than the typical volume for that time of day.

Earlier on March 10 this year, a major outage hit X with thousands of users worldwide reporting issues, according to Downtidetector.

Two top JJMP Naxalites carrying bounties neutralised by Jharkhand Police in Latehar

MI News Service, Ranchi : In a significant victory for security forces in Jharkhand, two Naxal leaders from the Jharkhand Jan Mukti Parishad (JJMP) group, including its chief Pappu Lohra and zonal commander Prabhat Ganju, were neutralised by Jharkhand Police in Latehar district on Saturday.

The encounter, which took place during a search operation, resulted in the death of both leaders, who were carrying bounties of Rs 10 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, respectively. Police also recovered arms and ammunition from the site.

Amol Vinukant Homkar, IG Operations of Jharkhand Police, confirmed the operation's success, calling it a "big day" in the region's ongoing battle against Naxalism.

Speaking to ANI, CM Sai said, "Our jawans are continuously fighting naxalism and being successful in their operations. This operation that took place in the Abujmah area of Narayanpur has been the biggest one so far. Our jawans have been extremely successful. Our jawans neutralised the General Secretary of Maoists, Basavaraju, and it is a big blow to the Naxals."

The operation, led by security forces including the District Reserve Guard (DRG), resulted in the killing of leader Basavaraju and the successful elimination of 27 Naxals during an encounter on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister interacted with the jawans who participated in the mission and flagged off new motorcycles provided to DRG personnel to aid in future anti-Naxal campaigns in the region.

"Naxalism has broken its back, and now the resolve of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah is to eliminate Naxalism from the entire country by March 31, 2026. That path is getting closer," he said.

Lohra and another Naxalite have been killed in the encounter."

"Pappu Lohra had a reward of Rs 10 lakh on him. One police Jawan, Awadh Singh, has been injured, but he is completely out of danger. Naxalism is breathing its last in the entire nation. As per the resolution of Home Minister Amit Shah, the nation will soon be free from Naxalism," he said.

On Friday, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai hailed the killing of Naxal leader Basava Raju and the successful elimination of 27 Naxals during an encounter in the forest area of Abujmahad in Narayanpur on May 21 and called the operation the state's most significant success in fighting Naxalism.

Speaking to ANI, CM Sai said, "Our jawans are continuously fighting naxalism and being successful in their operations. This operation that took place in the Abujmah area of Narayanpur has been the biggest one so far. Our jawans have been extremely successful. Our jawans neutralised the General Secretary of Maoists, Basavaraju, and it is a big blow to the Naxals."

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Speaking to ANI, Homkar said, "It's a big day for all the security forces working in Jharkhand to eliminate Naxalism. JJMP Naxal group - along with its Supremo Pappu Lohra - were gathered in Latehar PS area for inducing violence."

"A police team was in a search operation in the forest area when the Naxal group opened fire - the police retaliated, and the encounter went on for a long time. Police later searched the area, where two bodies were recovered and another Naxal was injured," he said.

Adding further, he stated, "The bodies were identified as Pappu Lohra - the chief of the Naxal group, and he has an award of Rs 10 lakh on his head; and of Prabhat Ganju, the zonal commander of the Naxal group carrying an award of Rs 5 lakh on his head. The police also recovered arms and ammunition from the site."

Meanwhile, MoS Defence Sanjay Seth also spoke to ANI over the Latehar encounter and said, "An encounter with Naxalites began at 6 am in the rural areas of Latehar. Pappu

India paused Indus treaty as Pak undermined goodwill: MEA

MI News Service, New Delhi: India's decision to put the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance is only a natural outcome of Pakistan putting in abeyance the principles, including friendship and goodwill, guiding the agreement, the Ministry of External Affairs has told a parliamentary committee.

The MEA has said changes in the ground situation, including engineering techniques, climate change and melting of glaciers, have made a renegotiation of the treaty's terms imperative, a line that delegations visiting world capitals will also take in defending India's decision to put the agreement in abeyance after the horrific Pahalgalam terror attack, sources said.

Besides, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri has noted in his briefing that the 1960 treaty in its preamble says that it is concluded in a "spirit of goodwill, and friendship". All these principles have in effect been held in abeyance by Pakistan, he added.

Misri had recently briefed a parliamentary committee on Indian actions, including Operation Sindoor, following the April 22 terror strike in Pahalgalam, and has spoken to all seven multi-party delegations visiting 33 countries and the European Union to explain India's position following the conflict with

Pakistan.

The MEA said that Pakistan had been stonewalling India's requests for a government-to-government negotiation over the treaty due to changes in the ground situation since it was signed.

There is a compelling case for the treaty to be renegotiated to make it fit for the 21st century, as it was based on the engineering techniques of the 1950s and early 1960s, the MEA has said.

Other fundamental changes include climate change, melting of glaciers, the variation in quantities of water available in the rivers and demographics.

These, besides a quest for clean energy, mandate renegotiations for the distribution of rights and obligations under the treaty.

It added, "The treaty in its preamble says that it is concluded in a spirit of goodwill, and friendship. All these principles have in effect been held in abeyance by Pakistan. The unrelenting cross-border terrorism from Pakistan interferes with our ability to exploit the treaty as per its provisions." The MEA said it is only natural and well within India's right to hold the treaty in abeyance when the fundamental ground situations have changed completely.

"Russia reaffirms support to India on terrorism; stands in solidarity," says ex-diplomat Manjeev Singh Puri

MI News Service, New Delhi/ Moscow: Former Diplomat Manjeev S Puri, who is part of all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi to Russia and other nations, said on Saturday that Russia has extended support to India's stance on terrorism and expressed solidarity, adding that the Russian leadership was "positive" and "understood India's position" completely.

Speaking to ANI, Puri noted that India and Russia share a long-standing strategic partnership, and it was only natural that Moscow was the first stop for the Indian delegation.

He further said the purpose of the visit was to convey India's concerns regarding terrorism and what it expects from the global community -- particularly from its close allies like Russia.

"India and Russia have old relationships, we are strategic partners, and we came to Russia, and the first stop was Russia. Why? Because we want to talk about what happened and what we expect from the world and our friends, with our strongest friends. And that was Russia. We came in, what did we receive from them? Everything that we would have thought of. They were positive, they understood our

position, and what they said was that we stand firmly in solidarity and unity with you on terrorism, terrorists... Perpetrators of terrorism should be caught and brought to justice. Exactly the same kind of thing that we believe in. This was accord by Russia exactly as we thought by their leadership. We hope that the message gets through to Pakistan strongly that it is not just India, the world is saying so that this is something you've taken too far...," Puri told ANI.

The delegation is in Moscow to brief Russian leaders on India's response to the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgalam on April 22, in which 26 civilians were killed, and cross-border terrorism.

The former Diplomat asserted, "Russians have been in strong solidarity with us. There is no doubt about it. They have said it publicly, they have said in conversations with Prime Minister and EAM and we appreciate this. That's our old ally and that's what we expect from them."

Days after United States (US) President Donald Trump claimed that he played a role in settling the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan, Puri told ANI.

government has already made it clear that it was Pakistani side which had requested for the cessation of hostilities on which India agreed.

He said, "We resolve issues bilaterally. The timelines have been laid by the Indian government very clearly that Pakistani DGMO called our Director General as part of the hotline system which has been in place. We responded and the ceasefire was there. Pakistanis made the request and we agreed and it happened very soon thereafter."

As the Group 6 of all-party delegation is slated to visit Slovenia on May 27, stressing the importance of this nation, Puri said that Slovenia is currently part of the United Nations (UN) Security Council and such countries have global responsibility at this time.

"We want to tell them the same thing that we told to our Russian friends. Slovenia is serving at the UN Security Council for the moment. These are the countries which have global responsibility at the moment. They are important countries. And they understand it. It is important for us to draw attention to the fact that India has been strong on terrorism for decades. It is the time that world also becomes

extremely strong on terrorism and those who perpetrate terrorism," Puri stated.

Earlier today, DMK MP Kanimozhi Karunanidhi asserted that links to terrorist attacks in India are always "traced back to Pakistan," as she reiterated India's zero-tolerance policy against terrorism.

The delegation, led by Kanimozhi, includes Samajwadi Party (SP) MP Rajeev Rai, Capt. Brijesh Chowta of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Prem Chand Gupta of Rashtriya Janata Dal, Ashok Kumar Mittal of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), and former Ambassador Manjeev S Puri.

They arrived in Moscow on Friday.

On Saturday, the delegation members paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's statue at the Indian Embassy in Moscow, where they were warmly welcomed by Indian Ambassador to the Russian Federation Vinay Kumar.

They also held a meeting with the Russian State Duma and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Apart from Russia, the delegation will visit Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, and Spain to highlight Operation Sindoor and reaffirm India's unwavering stand against terrorism.

"India's message was simple, clear; will respond to any escalation by Pakistan:" Envoy Vinay Kumar

MI News Service, New Delhi/ Moscow: Indian Ambassador to Russia Vinay Kumar said that India's message to Pakistan was "simple and clear" that any escalation would be met with a response.

Speaking to the media on Saturday, he said, "Our message was very simple and very clear that India will respond to any escalation by Pakistan. They had started with terrorist attack in Pahalgalam and there had to be a response."

Further, the envoy emphasised that, "every action will have consequences."

Highlighting India's stance, he affirmed, "Our message was crystal clear to all the leaders who spoke to Indian leaders that if Pakistan wants to cease fire, if Pakistan wants to stop this, then they simply have to call the Indian military command."

After India's response to Pakistan escalation; on May 9 and 10, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO to offer a ceasefire, which was accepted.

"So after two days on

9th or 10th night when Indian Air Force responded to Pakistani escalation. Pakistani DGMO called and offered ceasefire and the ceasefire was accepted. So to repeat the ceasefire came into being by request of Pakistani DGMO to his Indian counterpart," he said.

AAP MP Ashok Kumar Mittal, part of an all-party delegation led by DMK MP Kanimozhi, emphasised India's commitment to peace, citing the motto "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the whole world is one family).

Mittal expressed pain over the April 22 Pahalgalam attack, where 26 people were killed, saying it was an attempt to create "panic and enmity based on religion."

"India is a peaceful country. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam - the whole world is one family - this is our motto, and PM Modi follows it strictly. But, at the same time, if anything is put up on us, like a terror attack, we will respond to that," he said.

"26 people were killed in Pahalgalam, but more painful was that they were killed based on religion

and in front of their families... This was an attempt made by Pakistan to create panic and enmity based on religion. But, they couldn't succeed," he added.

Samajwadi Party's Rajeev Rai highlighted the strong cooperation between India and Russia, particularly in combating terrorism and said that "India-Russia cooperation is really old... And the way we have a deep relationship, we think it will continue in the future, it will continue to move forward."

Rai mentioned the effective use of the S-400 system, stating, "S-400 is used well. We foiled many of their missiles."

Further, Rai emphasized Russia's solidarity with India in combating terrorism, saying, "Russia said no compromise on terrorism. We are with you in all solidarity and all our support will be there with India to combat terrorism."

He criticized Pakistan's role in terrorism and affirmed, "The problem is with the Pakistan army. The civilian government in Pakistan... is a puppet government."

"A loser army chief will

get a field marshal, will be decorated with a field marshal. So this is the way the army behaves there," he added.

Earlier, the all-party delegation to Russia, led by Kanimozhi, held a press conference in Moscow where they shared how terrorism being spread by Pakistan is harming the world at large, and that India wants to act as an ambassador of the anti-terrorist drive of the world.

Apart from Russia, the delegation's visit spans several countries, including Slovenia, Greece, Latvia, and Spain, highlighting Operation Sindoor and India's unwavering fight against terrorism.

On May 7, the Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed.

These steps come in the wake of the barbaric Pahalgalam terrorist attack in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were murdered.

TASMAC scam: SC cracks whip on ED

The bench took note of the submissions of senior advocates -- Kapil Sibal and Amit Nand Tiwari -- that the state itself has lodged over 40 FIRs in cases related to allotment of liquor shop licences from 2014.

Speaking to reporters soon after the court order, the DMK organisation secretary alleged that after Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014, the ED has been used against non-BJP ruled states.

"In Tamil Nadu, the MK Stalin-led DMK government that assumed office in 2021 has been gaining popularity ever since and the chief minister's stature has been rising. Unable to digest this and the DMK alliance's electoral triumph after 2021, the ED was used to malign the DMK and the BJP leaders used to make all kinds of charges," he said.

"The SC staying the ED

probe against TASMAC is a big blow to such things and is in deference to the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu...we welcome the (SC) order. The union government should stop misusing ED at least after this," he said.

The DMK-run state government approached the Supreme Court challenging ED's raids on TASMAC premises. The state contested the April 23 ruling by the Madras High Court, which dismissed petitions filed by both the government and TASMAC and allowed the ED to continue its investigation under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The arguments of TASMAC and the state government over the harassment of its officers, who were detained for hours during the searches, were observed to be "inadequate and highly disproportionate" by the high court

"when compared to the rights of millions of people of the country".

Back in March, the central agency claimed it found "multiple irregularities" in the operations of TASMAC, which has a monopoly over liquor trade in the state. The ED also said it found "unaccounted" cash worth Rs 1,000 crore.

The agency said it had found "incriminating" data related to corporate postings, and transport and bar licence tenders, as well as indent orders 'favoured' a few distilleries.

There was also "evidence", the ED said of fraudulent pricing, that is, surcharges of Rs 10 to Rs 30 per bottle sold by TASMAC outlets imposed with the "involvement" of TASMAC officials.

The raids were repeated last week where as many as ten premises were searched under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Covid-19 variant NB.1.8.1 & 4 instances of LF.7 type detected in India: INSACOG data

MI News Service, New Delhi: One case of the newly emerging COVID-19 variant NB.1.8.1 and four instances of the LF.7 type have been detected in India, according to INSACOG data. As of May 2025, the World Health Organization (WHO) classifies LF.7 and NB.1.8 subvariants as Variants Under Monitoring, not as Variants of Concern or Variants of Interest. But these are the variants that are reportedly driving the rise in Covid cases in China and parts of Asia.

According to data from the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), one case of NB.1.8.1 was identified in April in Tamil Nadu and four cases of LF.7 were detected in Gujarat in May.

In India, the most common variant remains JN.1, comprising 53 per cent of samples tested, followed by BA.2 (26 per cent) and other Omicron sublineages (20

per cent).

Though WHO's preliminary risk assessment classifies NB.1.8.1 as posing a low public health risk globally, its spike protein mutations such as A435S, V445H, and T478I suggest increased transmissibility and immune evasion compared to other variants.

As of May 19, the country had 257 active Covid cases.

A meeting chaired by the Director General of Health Services and attended by experts from the National Centre for Disease Control, ICMR, and other key health institutions recently reviewed the situation.

However, several regions have reported localized increases. Delhi recorded 23 new cases, Andhra Pradesh reported four in the last 24 hours, Telangana confirmed one, and a nine-month-old in Bengaluru tested positive amid a gradual rise over the past 20 days. Kerala reported 273 cases in May alone.

CBI files charge sheet against former J&K Guv S P Malik

MI News Service, New Delhi: The CBI has filed a chargesheet against former Jammu and Kashmir governor Satya Pal Malik and five others, including Jammu and Kashmir government officials, have been named as accused.

"The case pertains to the alleged malpractices in the award of the ₹2,200-crore contract for civil works of the Kiru hydroelectric power project to a private company in 2019," he said.

The official, however, declined to comment when asked why Malik was named as an accused as the allegation of graft was levelled by him.

In a post on X, Malik said he was receiving treatment at the Ram Manohar Lohia hospital in Delhi. "I am getting a lot of calls from my well-wishers which I am unable to take.... I am very unwell and not in a position to talk."

Malik had in November 2021 alleged that he had been offered a bribe of ₹300 crore to clear two files when he was the Jammu and Kashmir governor. A year later, the CBI registered two FIRs in connection with the corruption allegations levelled by Malik over the award of contracts for a group medical insurance scheme for government employees and for civil works related to the Kiru project.

SC grants stay on Rs 5,712-Cr GST notice sent to gaming platform First Games

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court has granted a stay on a Rs 5,712-crore GST notice sent to fintech firm One97 Communications-owned real money gaming platform First Games, a regulatory filing said.

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence, New Delhi had issued a show cause notice (SCN) to First Games in April.

"We hereby inform you that First Games has in-

formed us on May 24, 2025 at 10:44 am (IST) that in the writ petition ...filed by First Games challenging the said SCN, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has on May 23, 2025 stayed the proceedings of the SCN," the regulatory filing said.

One97 Communications, which owns Paytm brand said the tax matter is an industry-wide issue and not limited to First Games and the matter is being heard by the apex court.

Poachers shot Forester in Satkosia Tiger reserve

MI News Service, Cuttak: A forester was killed allegedly by poachers near Satkosia Tiger Reserve in Odisha's Dhenkanal district in the early hours of Saturday, officials said.

Acting on a tip-off, an eight-member team of the Forest Department went to Tanchira village around 3.30 am when they came face to face with the poachers.

Soon, the poachers opened fire, and Prallahad Pradhan, the in-charge forester of Hindol range, was shot in the stomach, officials said.

He was rushed to a nearby health facility, from where he was taken to the Angul district headquarters hospital. There, he was declared dead, they said.

Divisional Forest Officer (Dhenkanal) Sumit Kar said four

poachers were arrested and a gun was seized.

Expressing grief over the death of the forester, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi announced a compensation of Rs 30 lakh for his family.

The CM directed the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF) Prem Kumar Jha to visit the spot and investigate the incident.

In a post on X, Jha said, "In this sad moment, I, on behalf of the Forest and Wildlife Department family, wish the departed soul peace and extend our deepest condolences to the bereaved family." Following the incident, Forest Employees' Association secretary (Dhenkanal) Birendra Dehuri said forest guards should be adequately equipped to deal with armed poachers.

drivers were disposed of at such a place from where they could not be recovered like rivers and ponds. Devendra Sharma facilitated a kidney transplant racket, and he would find and bring the donors from UP, Bihar and West Bengal," Gautam added.

Sharma's crimes date back nearly three decades. In 1994, after losing Rs 11 lakh in a failed attempt to secure a gas dealership,

ment and in 1 case he has also been awarded death penalty."

The police said that since 1998, Sharma has been found involved in an illegal kidney transplant racket.

"He and his gang used to target taxi drivers and truck drivers. They used to murder them and steal their cars. The cars were later sold in the grey market, and the bodies of the

Police nab Serial killer 'Doctor Death'

MI News Service, Jaipur: In an ashram in Rajasthan's Dausa, 67-year-old Devender Sharma was living a life as a priest. Delhi Police crime branch officers apprehended him. Because the man in saffron robe was a convicted serial killer; with a criminal history involving at least 27 cases of murder, kidnapping, and robbery,

who had vanished after being granted parole in August 2023.

Once known for running a kidney transplant racket, Sharma later became infamous for murdering taxi and truck drivers, dumping their bodies in crocodile-infested canals, and selling their vehicles in the grey market.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Aditya Gautam said, "Dr Devendra Sharma has been involved in many murder cases, due to which he became famously known as 'Doctor Death'. His involvement has been found in about 26-27 cases so far, and he has already been convicted in 6-7 cases, in which he has been sentenced to life imprison-

Covid 19 India Outbreak 2025–Active Cases, Update Today, Start Date

The COVID-19 pandemic in India is part of the global pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus. As of January 2025, India had recorded 45,041,748 instances of COVID-19 infection. The first cases were documented on 30 January 2020, in Kerala. A second wave that started in March 2021 was more destructive than the first, causing shortages of medical supplies including vaccines, oxygen cylinders, and medical beds. On 16th January 2021, India launched its vaccination campaign using the local Covaxin and the AstraZeneca vaccine (Covishield). India topped the globe in both new and active cases by the end of April 2021. India declared on 30th January 2022, that over 720 million individuals had received all recommended vaccinations, with over 1.7 billion doses having been given. It was made compulsory for Indians to get the 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination which were available in all the private



and government-headed hospitals. Read the article further to know about the details of Covid 19 India Outbreak 2025 and its state-wise active cases.



Covid 19 India Outbreak 2025
A proportion of the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic brought on by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus is affect-

ing India. 45,041,748 cases of COVID-19 infection have been reported in India as of 19th August 2025. In Kerala, the first instance was documented on 30 January 2020. In March 2021, a second wave that was more damaging than the first broke out, leading to shortages of medical supplies such as oxygen cylinders, medical beds, and vaccines. India's immunization program, which uses the AstraZeneca vaccine (Covishield) and the regional Covaxin, was started on 16th January 2021. By the end of April 2021, India led the world in both new and active cases. On 30th January 2022, India reported that over 720 million people had got all advised immunizations, totalling over 1.7 billion doses. The COVID-19 immunization, which comes in two doses and is available in both government-run and private facilities, is now required for Indian citizens. Continue reading to learn more about the Covid-19 India Outbreak 2025 and the active cases that are currently being reported per state.

Adults with intellectual disabilities are at risk for dementia

Intellectual disability (ID) is thought to be associated with an increased risk of dementia and its onset is influenced by both inherited and acquired factors. It is also known that a lower cognitive reserve-the capacity for thinking developed by learning and deliberate mental effort-increases the risk of dementia in the general population. It is hypothesised that dementia is more common in people with ID given the likelihood of a shorter educational lifespan and a reduced intellectual capacity. The prevalence of dementia among individuals with ID without Down syndrome (DS) in comparison to the general population is unknown, and the risk variables that affect dementia risk aren't fully understood. Recently, researchers uncovered the prevalence of dementia and identified the risk factors that can lead to dementia among people with ID in Japan. The team was led by Professor ShintaroTakenoshita, Assistant Professor in the Department of Neuropsychiatry at Okayama University Hospital, Japan. Their findings were published in the journal Alzheimer's Research & Therapy on 18 July 2023. "Diagnosing dementia in people with ID is difficult owing to the mixed effects of innate cognitive decline and the cognitive decline that occurs over time due to dementia. However, it is quite possible to diagnose dementia if cognitive and lifestyle functions are assessed chronologically based on information from family and other support persons. We believe that even in persons with intellectual disabilities, dementia needs to be properly evaluated," explains Prof. Takenoshita regarding the group's motivation to pursue the study. The team surveyed the severity of ID, educational history, and comorbidities across 1,831 participants in residen-



tial treatment facilities spread across Japan. The relevant data was collected by interviewing caregivers of all the participants, and a direct examination was performed-using clinical criteria for dementia and neurocognitive disorders-for participants suspected of having cognitive decline.

Emphasizing the report's key findings, Prof. Takenoshita says, "We found that 6.44% of the participants were diagnosed with dementia. Furthermore, our analyses revealed that dementia was more prevalent in younger people with ID compared to the general population. Lastly, we pinpointed seven factors with significant links to dementia. These were hypertension, depression, stroke, age, severity of ID, duration of education, and traumatic brain injury." These findings are expected to enable better screening for dementia and improve the support and medical care for people with ID. It is important to note that some of the risk factors are modifiable. Therefore, depending on a patient's profile, providing adequate education, preventing head trauma and stroke, and making hypertension and depression medications readily available could be the first steps in preventing the onset of dementia in people with ID. "This is the largest study that explores the prevalence of dementia in a population with ID. Additionally, we minimized the study's bias by surveying participants from a wide geographic range. This implies that the risk factors we identified are reliable targets for designing interventions intended to minimize the risk of dementia in people with ID," explains Prof. Takenoshita. Moving forward, Prof. Takenoshita is confident that future studies can build on the scope of his team's work. As the understanding of dementia evolves, public health recommendations in medical policies can be developed specifically for people diagnosed with ID. Along these lines, the insights on the modifiable risk factors can potentially help catch the onset of dementia and ensure that people with ID do not miss out on treatment or interventions that are readily available.

Cough sound analysis assists in determining severity of Covid-19 patients

While most persons infected with COVID-19 experience minor symptoms and recover in a matter of weeks, the global pandemic caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus remains a significant health danger. Some of those infected may develop more severe illness and pneumonia, resulting in a more bleak outlook. Although techniques for assessing patients' risk have been created, diagnostic and prognostic tools rely mostly on expensive and less accessible imaging technologies such as radiography, ultrasonography, or computed tomography (CT). As a result, there is a need for the development of a simpler and more easily accessible prognostic tool that allows healthcare providers to identify individuals who have developed or are at risk of getting severe disease. This would simplify patient triage and allow for earlier intervention, even at home or in primary care settings. In the early stages of COVID-19, a research team directed by IBEC and Hospital del Mar, with support from the Universitat Politècnica de

Catalunya (UPC), CIBER-BBN, and CIBERES, conducted a study based on the analysis and interpretation of cough sounds. This method is given as a potentially predictive, straightforward, and user-friendly tool for assessing the risk of severe pneumonia. The study included smartphone recordings of voluntarily coughing sounds from 70 patients with SARS-CoV-2 infection, all taken within the first 24 hours of their hospitalisation. IBEC performed an acoustic analysis of these recordings, which revealed significant changes in cough sounds depending on the severity of the respiratory ailment, which had previously been confirmed by imaging tests and the requirement for supplemental oxygen. According to the findings, this approach might be utilised to classify COVID-19 patients as mild, moderate, or severe, as well as to monitor patients with chronic COVID-19. The study used data obtained at Hospital del Mar between April 2020 and May 2021, and the results were published in the European Respiratory Journal Open Research.



Identification of brain signals for improved memory

Memory performance varies widely between people. Now, scientists at the University of Basel have found that specific brain signals are connected to these variations. While it is well known that certain brain regions play a crucial role in memory processes, so far it has not been clear whether these regions exhibit different activities when it comes to storing information in people with better or worse memory performance. Having investigated this matter, a research team led by Professor Dominique de Quervain and Professor Andreas Papassotiropoulos has now published its results in the journal Nature Communications. In the world's largest functional imaging study on memory, they asked nearly 1,500 participants between the ages of 18 and 35 to look at and memorize a total of 72 images. During this process, the researchers recorded the subjects' brain activity using MRI. The participants were then asked to recall as many of the images as possible - and as in the general population, there were considerable differences in memory performance among them. Signals in brain regions and networks In certain brain regions including the hippocampus, the researchers found a direct association between brain activity during the memorization process and subsequent mem-



ory performance. Individuals with a better memory showed a stronger activation of these brain areas. No such associa-

tion was found for other memory-relevant brain areas in the occipital cortex - they were equally active in individuals with all levels of memory performance. The researchers were also able to identify functional networks in the brain that were linked to memory performance. These networks comprise different brain regions that communicate with each other to enable complex processes such as the storage of information. "The findings help us to better understand how differences in memory performance occur between one individual and another," said Dr. LéonieGeissmann, the study's first author, adding that the brain signals of a single individual do not allow for any conclusions to be drawn about their memory performance, however. According to the researchers, the results are of great importance for future research aimed at linking biological characteristics such as genetic markers to brain signals. Basel-based research on memory The current study forms part of a large-scale research project conducted by the Research Cluster Molecular and Cognitive Neurosciences (MCN) at the University of Basel's Department of Biomedicine and the University Psychiatric Clinics (UPK) Basel. The aim of this project is to gain a better understanding of memory processes and to transfer the findings from basic research into clinical applications.

Do you know cognitive behavioral therapy comforts fibromyalgia pain experienced by brain? Study finds

Patients with fibromyalgia (FM), a condition that mostly affects women and is marked by chronic pain, tiredness, and brain fog, usually have limited access to treatment options and explanations for their symptoms. Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT), according to researchers at Mass General Brigham, can significantly lessen the burden of FM by, among other things, reducing pain-catastrophizing, a detrimental cognitive and emotional response that can exacerbate pain by way of helplessness, rumination, and intrusive thoughts. Neuroimaging research that demonstrates a decline in connection between brain regions associated with self-awareness, pain, and emotional processing lends support to this conclusion. The findings of the study were published in Arthritis & Rheumatology. "In this study, we looked at the interplay between psychological processes and the brain's connectivity patterns in response to pain," said co-senior author Robert Edwards, PhD, a clinical psychologist in the Department of

Anesthesiology, Perioperative & Pain Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a founding member of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system. "We wanted to explore how CBT, a talk therapy aimed at combatting maladaptive thoughts, can enhance individuals' daily functioning and alter the brain's processing of pain-related information." Edwards explains that CBT can reduce negative cognitive and emotional responses to pain. He says that while these responses are normal, they can amplify the disabling effects of chronic pain, and make conditions like FM more burdensome. The research team for the study included researchers from three Mass General Brigham members: Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Massachusetts General Hospital. Mass General Brigham brings together 16 member institutions, including academic medical centers, top-tier specialty hospitals, community hospitals and more. Research that spans more than one of these entities is more than

the sum of its parts, helping to provide insights and unique perspectives from multiple settings and areas of expertise. Researchers recruited 98 women, randomly assigning 64 to a treatment group receiving CBT and 34 to a control group that received education about FM and chronic pain but was not taught specific CBT techniques. All participants were between 18 and 75 years old and had a confirmed FM diagnosis for at least six months. To collect baseline data, all participants completed several validated pain and quality of life questionnaires. Each group participated in eight intervention sessions, con-

sisting of 60-75-minute visits with a licensed mental health provider. Participants were primarily assessed for their levels of pain interference, or a measure of how much their pain disrupted their daily activities, pain catastrophizing, pain severity and the overall impact FM had on patients' quality of life. Results demonstrated that those who underwent CBT experienced significantly greater reductions in pain interference. CBT participants also exhibited significantly less pain catastrophizing and reported that their FM symptoms had significantly less impact on their daily lives. The team saw evidence that after undergoing CBT, patients experienced changes in the activities of all three networks that suggested a diminished focus on pain. "Prior to participants undergoing CBT, we saw that certain parts of the brain linked to self-awareness and sensation were very connected, suggesting patients were pertinently aware of the pain sensation they were experiencing and internalized these symptoms," said co-first author Jeungchan

Lee, PhD, an instructor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation based at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and the Athinoula A. Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital. "After CBT, these connections were significantly less strong, suggesting that patients were better at separating themselves from their pain after therapy." This study was limited to women, partly because of its high prevalence, and partly to eliminate confounding gender differences in brain activity. In the future, the researchers hope to collect data from men and non-binary patients with FM. Additionally, CBT includes several therapeutic components, and these results cannot be generalized to assess the impact across all forms of CBT on reducing FM chronic pain. Both Lee and Edwards agree that these findings ultimately suggest that complex chronic pain conditions like fibromyalgia should be addressed with a multitude of pharmacological and cognitive therapies.

Researchers discover genetic code of rare kidney cancer



For the first time, the inherited characteristics of reninoma, a rare form of kidney cancer, have been investigated. Researchers from the Wellcome Sanger Institute, Great Ormond Street Hospital, and The Royal Free Hospital also identified a potential pharmacological target that may be used as an alternative to surgery in the new report. The findings were published in Nature Communications. Reninoma is one of the rarest cancers in humans, with just about 100 instances having been identified globally to date (1). Even though surgery can usually treat it, it can still spread and generate metastases or cause severe hypertension. Reninoma is currently managed only by surgery since there are no available medication treatments. It was unknown till now. Researchers discovered that the development of this rare cancer is caused by a specific error in the genetic code of the cancer gene NOTCH1. The team examined two cancer samples - from a young adult and a child (2) - with advanced genomic techniques, known as whole genome and single nuclear sequencing (3). Their findings suggest that the use of existing drugs targeting this specific gene is a possible solution to treating reninoma for patients where surgery is not a viable option. TarynTreger, first author of the study and The Little Princess Trust Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute, said: "Many

cancerous tumours have already been deciphered with genomic technologies, however, this is not so true in rare cancers, particularly those affecting children. Our work aims to fill that gap. This is the first time that we have identified the drivers for reninoma and we hope that our work continues to pave the way towards new therapies for childhood cancers." DrTanzinaChowdhury, co-lead author of the study, at Great Ormond Street Hospital, said: "Rare kidney cancers known as reninomas do not respond to conventional anti-cancer therapies. The only known treatment at the moment is surgery. Our study shows that, actually, there is a specific and well-studied gene that drives this rare cancer. If we use already known drugs that affect this gene, we might be able to treat it without the need for an invasive technique such as surgery." Dr Sam Behjati, co-lead author of the study, Wellcome Senior Research Fellow at the Wellcome Sanger Institute and Honorary Consultant Paediatric Oncologist at Addenbrooke's Hospital, said: "Rare cancers are exceedingly challenging to study, and patients with such tumours may therefore not benefit from cancer research. Here, we have a powerful example of cutting-edge science rewriting our understanding of an ultra raretumour type, reninoma, whilst delivering a finding that potentially has immediate clinical benefits for patients."

Rahul Gandhi visits Poonch's gurdwara, temple, madrasa Christian missionary school



MI News Sevice, J&K: Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday reached J&K's Poonch district to meet the victims of the cross-border shelling by Pakistani troops during recent hostilities between the two countries.

J&K Congress president, Tariq Hameed Karra, told reporters that Rahul Gandhi will visit shell-hit structures, including a gurdwara, a temple, a madrasa and a Christian missionary school.

"He will also meet the bereaved families and the members of the civil society. He is the first national leader to reach out to the affected population to express his solidarity and share their pain," Karra said.

Saturday's is the second

visit by the Congress leader to J&K since the dastardly April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that claimed 26 lives, including 25 tourists and a local.

He visited Srinagar on April 25 to meet those injured in the Pahalgam terror attack. He had also met the J&K Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and several stakeholders during that visit.

During his visit to Jammu and Kashmir last month, following the Pahalgam terror attack, LoP Rahul Gandhi had said that the idea behind the terror strike was to divide the people of the country, and India needed to stand united to defeat terrorism once and for all.

On Saturday morning, LoP Rahul Gandhi reached Jammu airport and left for

Poonch in a helicopter to visit the areas affected by cross-border shelling and meet the affected families.

The Poonch sector witnessed the worst artillery shelling after India carried out precision-guided strikes during 'Operation Sindoor' on nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on May 7 in response to the dastardly Pahalgam terror attack.

Heavy artillery shelling on civilian facilities by Pakistan killed 28 people, 13 in Poonch district and injured more than 70 others between May 7 and May 10 across Jammu and Kashmir.

Thousands of border residents had to abandon their homes in areas near the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) to seek refuge in safer areas identified by the government.

DGMOs of India and Pakistan agreed to a ceasefire on May 12. India, however, made it clear that while trade and the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan will remain in abeyance, the ceasefire understanding will only be respected as long as Pakistan does not allow any terror activity on its soil against India.

Israeli attacks kill 76; no aid relief for besieged northern Gaza

MI News Sevice, Gaza: Israeli attacks have killed at least 76 people across Gaza since early on Friday, and casualties continue to mount amid ongoing strikes.

Witnesses to Israel's bombing of a family home in Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp that left some 50 people dead or missing told Al Jazeera that "the Israeli military is killing civilians for fun".

UN chief Antonio Guterres said the conflict in Gaza has reached the "cruelest phase of this cruel conflict" as Palestinians starve while Israel allows

only a "teaspoon of aid" to enter the famished enclave and "nothing has reached the besieged north".

Israel's war on Gaza has killed at least 53,822 Palestinians and wounded 122,382, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. The Government Media Office updated the death toll to more than 61,700, saying thousands of people missing under the rubble are presumed dead.

An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the Hamas-led attacks on October 7, 2023, and more than 200 were taken captive.

Gaza's children face imminent death under Israeli siege: UN

MI News Sevice, 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.

BJP's Hypocrisy: 0% Muslim MPs in Parliament, yet 16% Representation in Delegation

MI News Sevice, New Delhi: The tragic terrorist attack in Pahalgam has once again highlighted the brutal realities of terrorism before the global community.

Simultaneously, it has exposed the BJP government's internal inconsistencies and external contradictions in its approach to national security and minorities, especially Muslims.

To expose Pakistan-sponsored terrorism on international level the Modi administration has formed seven all-party delegations aimed at drawing international attention to India's stated zero-tolerance policy on terrorism. These delegations, comprising 59 members—including leaders from the Left, Congress, DMK, NCP, Shiv Sena, and even the BJP—are scheduled to visit the United Nations, the European

Union, Gulf countries, Africa, the United States, and East Asia.

On the surface, this move appears to be an attempt at promoting national unity, diplomatic foresight, and the strategic use of international pressure. But a closer look reveals a troubling contradiction that undermines the very spirit of democracy and constitutional equality.

This hypocritical approach to governance suggests that Muslims are being used merely as symbolic "faces" for international optics, rather than being included as meaningful stakeholders in national affairs. The delegations include respected figures such as Ghulam Nabi Azad, Salman Khurshid, E.T. Mohammed Basheer, Mian Altaf Ahmad, and M.J. Akbar—all of whom possess considerable diplomatic experience

Rajasthan Assembly disqualifies BJP MLA for pointing gun at SDM

MI News Sevice, Anta: The Assembly membership of Rajasthan BJP MLA, Kanwarlal Meena, has been terminated after he was found guilty in a case where he threatened an SDM with a pistol in 2005.

The Assembly has issued an official notification confirming the termination.

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani announced on Friday that MLA from Anta constituency, Kanwarlal, has been disqualified from the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly following his conviction in a court of law. The disqualification is in accordance with Article 191(1) (e) of the Indian Constitution and Section 8(3) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Devnani stated that the disqualification took effect from the date of conviction, and consequently, the Anta (193) Assembly seat in District Baran has been declared vacant. The Speaker clarified that the decision was made after receiving legal advice from the Advocate General of Rajasthan.

"I do not work under any kind of pressure," he emphasised. "All decisions are made strictly in accordance with the law and only after a thorough examination of all aspects." He further stated that precedent exists for such matters, noting that pre-



vious Speakers have also taken time to study and act on similar cases. Devnani cautioned against politicising the issue, underlining that the matter is purely legal in nature.

He explained that the Advocate General was asked to provide legal counsel on the day of the court's verdict regarding MLA Kanwarlal. According to established legal provisions, an MLA stands disqualified from the date of conviction, and the notification of the seat's vacancy is formally issued by the Legislative Assembly. He also referenced Article 177 of the Constitution, stating that the Advocate General has the constitutional authority to participate in the proceedings of the Legislative Assembly and offer legal opinions when required. Earlier, the Assembly Secretariat had issued a notice to Kanwarlal, requiring him to respond by May 7.

He was asked to clarify whether he had received any relief from the Supreme Court to stay his

sentence. As the Supreme Court did not suspend the conviction or sentence, the Speaker was left with no option but to revoke his membership.

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly, Tikaram Julie, has welcomed the disqualification of convicted MLA Kanwarlal Meena as a "victory of justice, truth, and the Constitution." He termed the action taken by the Assembly Speaker as a result of the Congress Party's continued struggle to uphold constitutional values.

"Satyameva Jayate—truth has prevailed. This is the triumph of the Congress Party's movement to save the Constitution," Julie said. He credited the success to the vision and resolve of national leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge, stating that the Congress remained firm in its stand and fought relentlessly to defend constitutional values. Julie called the development a key milestone in the Congress Party's 'Save Constitution' campaign, emphasising that their struggle was rooted in the rule of law and democratic principles. "Our movement followed the path shown by our leaders, and in the end, the Constitution prevailed. Its dignity has been preserved," he stated.

Police Register FIR Against Dalit Scholar For Questioning Operation Sindoor and Rafale Deal in Facebook Post

MI News Sevice, Allahabad: A Dalit PhD scholar in student leader from Allahabad University was booked by Azamgarh police after his Facebook post in which he questioned international security issues, the controversial Rafale fighter jet deal and the silence of Modi government on alleged corruption and losses during the recent Indo Pak conflict.

In this post Manish Kumar questioned, "why has the Modi government not yet denied the reports that claim India lost multiple Rafale jets during the conflict? Why has there been no transparency and clarification? He further questioned the financial side of the Rafale deal hinting at the involvement of Ambani for corporate interests.

Manish is the state pres-



ident of the All India Students Association which is the student wing of the communist Party of India.

Following his post, an FIR was registered on May 14 at Katharipur police station under sections of Bharatiya nyay Sanhita pertaining to inciting public disorder and misleading online content.

Several student groups and civil society activists came forward in support of Manish calling the FIR an attack on free speech and an attempt to silence

dissent.

Condemning the actions of police the AISA stated, "The FIR against comrade Manish is not an exception. It is a part of a country-wide assault on descent launched after the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor. In Jammu and Kashmir, over 3000 arrests have taken place. In Assam, 42 people were jailed for 'Pro Pakistan' post."

In Uttar Pradesh alone, 30 people have been arrested and 40 FIRs have been lodged. Across India, students, artists, and citizens are being targeted. This is not democracy. This is rule by fear."

Manish has not been arrested yet but police say that legal action is underway. Meanwhile the rights group plans to challenge the FIR in court.

Banu Mushtaq Becomes First Indian Muslim to Win International Booker Prize for Heart Lamp

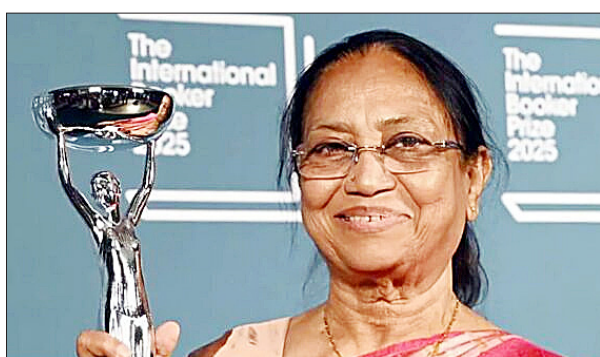
MI News Sevice, London: In a historic moment for Indian literature, Banu Mushtaq has been awarded the prestigious International Booker Prize for her evocative collection of short stories, Heart Lamp. With this win, she becomes the first Indian Muslim to receive the globally celebrated literary honour, marking a proud milestone not only for Indian writers but for marginalized voices across the world.

Heart Lamp, a hauntingly beautiful anthology, weaves together tales of resilience, memory, and identity, capturing the essence of human struggle and spiritual endurance through a uniquely Indian Muslim lens. The stories traverse varied

landscapes—both rural and urban—bringing to life the lived experiences of women, the pain of displacement, and the quiet strength of resistance.

Announcing the award at a ceremony in London, the jury praised Mushtaq's "lyrical prose, emotional depth, and fearless exploration of themes often left untouched in mainstream narratives." The panel noted that her work "shines a powerful light on silenced stories, offering readers an intimate window into communities seldom heard on global literary platforms."

Speaking after receiving the award, Mushtaq said, "Heart Lamp was born out of the stories I carried from my grand-



mother's lap, from alleyways in Old Delhi to remote towns across India. This prize is a recognition of our voices, our languages, and our truths. It belongs to every girl who has ever picked up a pen with a dream."

Literary critics and cultural commentators have hailed the win as ground-

breaking. Prominent Indian author and Booker Prize winner Arundhati Roy called Mushtaq's recognition "a moment of literary justice."

"This is not just a personal triumph but a powerful assertion of pluralism in literature," she said.

Mushtaq's win is also being celebrated in aca-

demic and cultural circles for broadening the global imagination around Indian Muslim identity, particularly through the genre of short fiction, often overlooked in international awards.

As the world takes note of Heart Lamp, Banu Mushtaq's voice now echoes across borders, reminding us that powerful storytelling transcends geography, religion, and language—offering light, even in the darkest corners.

Her journey, both deeply personal and profoundly political, stands as an inspiration to emerging writers, particularly from underrepresented communities, who are daring to tell their own stories to the world.

Bharat-Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour is the new offering of IRCTCby Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train

MI News Service, Kolkata: After the successful operation of one-of-a-kind train tour connecting India with Nepal, IRCTC is all set to operate another singular tour connecting India with its other neighbour, Bhutan on 'Bharat Bhutan Mystic Mountain Tour' commencing on 28.06.2025.

The 14-day tour starting from New Delhi will cover Guwahati, Shillong and Cherrapunji in North eastern part of India before proceeding for Hasimara Railway Station in West Bengal from where the tourists will be taken to Phuentsholing, the border town to enter into Bhutan. In the next 6 days, the group will be exploring Thimphu, Punakha, the erstwhile capital and Paroknown for its natural beauty and sacred sites.

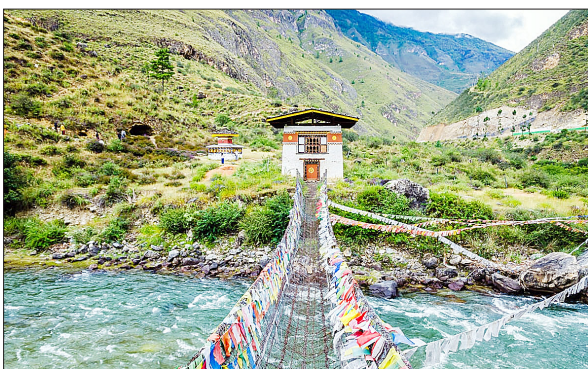
The train journey will commence from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station for Guwahati Railway Station. Needless to say, the first destination and essentially a transit point is the capital city of Assam, Guwahati. Darshan

at Kamakhya Temple located at the heart of Nilachal Hills and one of the oldest and most hallowed of the Shakti Peeths, will be done here at Guwahati before continuing for Shillong popularly known as 'Eastern Scotland' offering a mix of breathtaking landscape and vibrant culture. After experiencing a sunset over the Umiam Lake viewpoint, the guests will arrive at the capital city of Meghalaya and settle down for the night. The next day is dedicated to a full day excursion to Cherrapunji, a city where the monsoons are legendary. Perched on the edge of the Himalayas, the tourists will be visiting the spectacular waterfalls viz Seven sisters' waterfalls, the celebrated Nohkalikai & Elephant Falls. Mawsmai caves offer a glimpse of the unique formations and underground pools. After a night rest at Shillong, the tourists shall be exploring Shillong early next day before returning back to Guwahati. The day will end with a sunset cruise on the mighty Brahmaputra be-

fore boarding the train for onward journey to Hasimara Railway Station, the nearest railhead to Bhutan border.

Early next morning, the train reaches the Hasimara Railway Station where the tourists deboard the train and proceed for Phuentsholing immigration check point which is located around 20 kms away. After completing the immigration procedure, the tourists enter the capital city of Bhutan, Thimphu. With an evening free to reconnoiter the surroundings, the day ends with a night halt at the largest city of Bhutan. The next day is dedicated to the local sightseeing of Thimphu. Motithang Zoo, painting school, National Library and Thimphu Handicraft market will be a part of the day's activities culminating in Tashi Chho Dzong (known as the Thimphu Dzong), a majestic fortress doubling up as a monastery and central secretariat of the Bhutan Government.

Early next day, the tourists will proceed for the erstwhile capital of Bhu-



- The new tour will cover Guwahati, Shillong & Cherrapunji in India and Thimphu, Punakha & Paro in Bhutan.
- The 13 nights and 14 days itinerary will start from Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station on June 28, 2025.
- State of the art Deluxe AC Tourist Train with AC I, AC II & AC III classes will accommodate total 150 tourists.
- Tourists can also board from Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla Jn., Kanpur, Lucknow and Varanasi railway station on this tourist train.
- Off-board guided tours to major landmarks across India and Bhutan with culturally immersive travel model.

tan, Punakha. En route there is a halt at Dochula Pass, a mountain pass in the snow-covered Himalayas and a historical landmark. On arrival at Punakha, the guests explore the Punakha Dzong, one of the largest Dzongs in Bhutan which is situated near two

rivers - the Pho Chu (Male River) and Mo Chu (Female River). Tourists pass through the suspension bridge to arrive at Dzong. Later the group stops over at the city for a night halt.

The group proceeds for Paro next day, the city famous for its terraced



paddy fields and quaint farmhouses scattered throughout the valley. Lamperi Royal Botanical Park, Tamchog Lhakhang iron bridge - which sits across the Paro River and the iconic Paro Dzong (houses the district Monastic Body as well as government administrative offices of Paro Dzongkhag. It is listed in Bhutan's Tentative List for UNESCO inclusion) are a part of the day activities. With a night halt in Paro, the next day start with the venerated Taktsang Lhakhang (also known as the Tiger's Nest), situated at the northern end of the valley. Later

the guests visit National Museum has an intriguing collection of artifacts that provide a wonderful introduction to the rich culture and heritage of the Kingdom. Later in the day, the guest will experience archery session (national sport of Bhutan) followed by relaxing hot stone bath which uses medicinal water or Menchu. The day ends with dinner with cultural show and the last night at Paro.

Early next morning the group shall start its return journey by checking out and proceeding for Hasimara Rail Station after completion of border for-

malities. On arrival, they will board the train for Delhi Safdarjung Railway Station.

The package has been attractively priced at Rs. 1,58,850/- per person in ACI Coupe, Rs. 1,44,892/- per person in ACI Cabin, Rs. 1,29,495/- per person in ACII, and Rs. 1,18,965/- per person for ACIII. The all-inclusive price in all categories will cover train journey in respective class, night stay at 3-star category hotels, all meals (vegetarian only), all transfer & sight-seeing in buses, travel insurance and services of tour escort. All necessary efforts will be made by IRCTC to provide a safe and memorable experience to the guests.

For details, you can visit the IRCTC website: <https://www.irctctourism.com/bharatgaurav>, and bookings are available online on a first-come, first-served basis on the web portal. For more information, you can contact IRCTC at 8595931047 (Monika), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930299 (Pranalla) and 8882826357 (Prafeel).

SHUBMAN GILL NAMED INDIA'S NEW TEST CAPTAIN AS BCCI ANNOUNCES SQUAD FOR ENGLAND SERIES



MUMBAI (MAHARASHTRA) : Right-hand batter Shubman Gill has been appointed as the new Test captain for India while wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant will serve as his deputy in the longest format, as the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced squad for the highly anticipated five-match Test series against England on Saturday.

BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia and the Men's selection committee attended the meeting at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai.

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 lim-

iting factor for a long-term leadership role.

India has added Abhimanyu Easwaran to the Test squad. He 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 had a disappointing tour to Australia last year, where he scored just 36 runs in four innings.

Following Kohli's retirement from the longest format of the game, a couple of budding and solidified figures like Sai Sudarshan and Karun Nair have been added to the middle-order.

Sudarshan has bided his time in India's domestic circuit and has carved out his name as a future all-format prospect, standing out as one of the prominent names to fill the everlasting void left by Virat.

The 23-year-old Tamil Nadu batter ran rampant with his sizzling batting display and mustered up 304 runs in three Ranji Trophy matches at 76.00, including a double-hundred, a century and a fifty each. When one dives deeper, Sudharsan has featured in 29 First-Class fixtures, racked up 1,957 runs, averaging nearly 40, glistered with seven centuries and five half-centuries.

Karun, who asked for a second chance with a heartfelt tweet in December 2022, made the most of the opportunity while representing Vidarbha domestically. The man who is just the second Indian to blaze his way to a triple hundred exhibited quintessential form and has pushed a case for his return to the Indian team since his last Test in 2017.

He was the fourth-highest run-scorer in last season's Ranji Trophy with a staggering tally of 863 in nine appearances at 53.93.

In the bowling department, right-arm seamer Jasprit Bumrah will be leading the unit on England soil. Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh and Shardul Thakur are the other fast bowlers in the squad.

Clearing the air on right-arm pacer Mohammed Shami's inclusion in the squad, BCCI Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar said, "Unfortunately, Shami is not available right now due to fitness reasons."

The Indian cricket team is set to tour England in 2025 for a five-match Test series, part of the 2025-2027 ICC World Test

Championship.

The series will take place from June to August 2025, with matches at Headingley (Leeds), Edgbaston (Birmingham), Lord's (London), Old Trafford (Manchester), and The Oval (London).

This will be India's first bilateral series since both Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli announced their retirement from Test cricket earlier this month.

India's Test squad for England series: Shubman Gill (c), Rishabh Pant (vc), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel, Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav.

RAJAT PATIDAR, PAT CUMMINS FINED FOR MAINTAINING SLOW OVER RATE DURING RCB VS SRH CLASH

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) regular skipper Rajat Patidar was fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during the 65th encounter of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 against the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) on Friday at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow.

As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences, Patidar was fined Rs 24 lakhs. The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser, as per the IPL Media Advisory.

SRH captain Pat Cummins was also fined in the same game for maintaining a slow over-rate during the match.

Sunrisers Hyderabad's bowlers Pat Cummins and Nitish Reddy shine as Hyderabad post a commanding victory over Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) by 42 runs in the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL), on Friday at Lucknow.RCB were bowled out for 189.

After this defeat, RCB is placed third in the IPL points table, with 17 points, eight wins, four defeats, and a no-result match.

On the other hand, SRH is placed eighth with five wins and seven defeats in 13 matches; they have 10 points.

With the play-off race heating up, the defeat may serve as a timely reminder for the Bengaluru franchise to tighten their combinations and bring their top-order firepower in sync with a more consistent middle-order performance.



Open Water Swimming debuts at Khelo India Beach Games 2025, brings back memories of nation's storied legacy

DIU [INDIA] : Open water swimming emerged as one of the most interesting sporting acts at the inaugural Khelo India Beach Games (KIBG) 2025 in Ghoghla Beach, Diu. Young swimmers braved jellyfish stings and strong tides with determination before emerging out of the pristine Arabian Sea and sprinting towards the finish line.

Maharashtra and Karnataka swimmers dominated the sea in the 5km and 10km events at the KIBG, offering further hope that India's long coastline offers the perfect natural environment to groom open water swimmers.

"Maharashtra as well as beaches in Goa are safe. Karnataka, Kerala, and parts of Gujarat are also good. Bengal also has places like the Ganga jetty to practice sea swimming," mentioned Rahul Chiplonkar, KIBG Competition Manager for Sea Swimming.

Sea swimming has a storied legacy in the country. Pioneers like Mihir Sen, who became the first Asian to swim across the English Channel in 1958, and later Arati Saha, Taranath Shenoy, Rohan More and more, brought global attention to India's capabilities in endurance swimming.

"Maharashtra is the most prominent state—it has a 40-year legacy in sea swimming. Then Karnataka and Kerala follow, due to their coastal geography. West Bengal also has a strong legacy. We've had legends like Mihir Sen and Bula Chowdhury, who were the first to cross the English Channel. Bula Chowdhury is still active—she swam in Mumbai last year," added Chiplonkar, who made open water swimming an integral part of his life since 2005.

Crossing the English Channel is one of the prime targets open water swimmers have. KIBG medallist from West Bengal, Pratyay Bhattacharya, wants to



cross it too but with a new intent. "I want to become the fastest Indian to cross the English Channel next year, if I get sponsors," said the 25-year-old, who won silver at the 10km event in Diu. "People swim for 11-12 hours to cross the English Channel, but that won't make me happy. I want to target below nine and possibly stay closer to the 8-hour 15 minute-mark," Bhattacharya told SAI Media.

Bhattacharya, who started off open water training 10 years back at SAI Kolkata and later moved to SAI Tripura under coach Biswajit Dey Chowdhury, has competed at the Asian Championships in 2019 and 2022, making a 10th finish in both editions. "In Uzbekistan in 2022, I was the only Asian in the entire subcontinent to finish under time limit. And I stood 10th," continued Bhattacharya, who tried making a record in 2024 swimming the Palk Strait, from Sri Lanka to India.

"I was at a record pace. Unfortunately, there were two relay teams who started along with me and one person died in the sea from stroke. So, the full expedition was cancelled. I was

pulled up 7-8 hours before, and thus I couldn't make the record," the 25-year-old said.

Pratyay Bhattacharya, however, has already triumphed the world's longest open water competition for two-straight years - a stretch of 81kms - from Ahiran Ghat of the Bhagirathi River in Jangipur, Murshidabad to Gorabazar Ghat in Berhampur.

"This is an international event organised by the Murshidabad District Swimming Association, in association with Swimming Federation of India. I participated twice in 2023 and 2024 and became the champion both times, beating swimmers from Spain as well," he said.

Open water swimming does bring up attractive records but the practical challenges are enormous and unpredictable. "The weather and natural conditions plays a major role in open sea water swimming and the water and currents within the sea are completely different. The swimmers have to get a proper hang of low tide and the high tide," said Neha Sapte, who swam a 33 km stretch from Dharamtar Jetty to the Gateway of India at the age of nine

in 2001.

However, taking challenges head-on is something that has always intrigued Indians. "In the sea, there are tides, saltiness, dehydration risk, marine life like jellyfish, low visibility and muscle injuries. Safety is also a major concern when catering to 40 or 100 swimmers. But the youth of India is ready to take that challenge head-on. That's the great part," added Chiplonkar.

"Definitely it's an adventure sport and we are dealing with the sea, so there is a lot of risk that we have to take care of. Youngsters today love to take challenges, come out of their fears, and explore new things. Open water swimming is a budding sport in India as well as a competitive sport. 5km and 10km are Olympic distances, but it has a huge adventure element too," said Chiplonkar, who swam from Mumbai to Mangalore - distance of 1031 kilometres in 13 days, in 2016.

In the first edition of the modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896, the swimming competition was held in open water. In 2000, the Olympic Games first included a triathlon with a 1500 m swim leg, and in 2008, a 10 km open water swim. Open water swimming has now been included in the Olympic Games since 2008.

With the sport now being recognised in Khelo India Beach Games, Neha Sapte, also the team manager of Maharashtra swimming team at KIBG 2025, sounds hopeful. "The government's effort to include open sea swimming in national events is a huge boost. It adds legitimacy to what was once considered just a passion sport," Neha told SAI Media. "Open water sea swimming may not yet be mainstream," she added, "but it is exactly the kind of sport that builds courage, resilience, and national pride—one stroke at a time."

KKR's 'Runs to Roots' returns: KKR Co-owner Juhi Chawla, cricket stars plant first trees of 2025 initiative

KOLKATA (WEST BENGAL) : The Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) commenced the 2025 edition of their environmental initiative 'Runs to Roots', with a tree planting ceremony at Banabitan Biodiversity Park. KKR Co-owner Juhi Chawla led the event alongside players Manish Pandey, Vaibhav Arora, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Anukul Roy, according to a release from KKR.

Over the years, KKR has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to environmental conservation through various initiatives. What began in 2017 as 'Plant a 6' has evolved into 'Runs to Roots' in 2024 to create a larger impact, with the team now planting one tree for every run scored during the IPL season. The 2024 initiative resulted in 2,667 new trees across the region, matching the team's total run tally for the season.

"Cricket has always brought people together across India, and with 'Runs to Roots', we're using that shared passion to give back to the planet. Every run scored by our players this season will directly contribute to planting trees - real action for a greener future," said Juhi Chawla, KKR Co-owner and environmental advocate, as quoted from a release by KKR.

"Each sapling is a step towards cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more sustainable tomorrow. I'm proud that KKR is taking responsibility beyond the game, showing leadership where it matters most," he added.

"At KKR, excellence extends beyond cricket," remarked Venky Mysore, CEO of Kolkata Knight Riders.

"The 'Runs to Roots' initiative represents our philosophy of using our platform responsibly. By converting our sporting achievements into tangible environmental impact, we're creating a legacy that will benefit generations to come. We hope to surpass last year's numbers both in runs scored and trees planted," he said.

This initiative highlights KKR's focus on preserving urban green spaces in Kolkata and beyond. As the IPL 2025 season progresses, fans can track the growing environmental impact of each KKR match, transforming every cricket statistic into a measure of positive ecological change.



To harness sports potential of Northeast region, government to stage Khelo India Northeast Games every year: Mansukh Mandaviya

NEW DELHI [INDIA] : Identifying the Northeast as a powerhouse of sports talent, Honourable Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Saturday said that Government of India is fully committed to strengthening the sports ecosystem in the region through multiple initiatives including hosting Khelo India Northeast Games in one of the eight Northeast states every year. These states include Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

The Union Sports Minister announced this while addressing a large gathering during the Rising Northeast Investors Summit 2025 at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on Saturday. Mansukh Mandaviya said that people knew the Northeast as the region of India's first sunrise, but in the 10 years of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, the Northeast is taking strong strides towards development. He said that

Northeast is continuously contributing towards the development of 'Naya Bharat.'

With the target of hosting the Commonwealth Games in 2030 and the Summer Olympics in 2036, the Sports Minister said that a country as vast as India is a perfect place for organising international competitions throughout the year. Elaborating on this, he said that currently India is experiencing three seasons - monsoon in Southern India, snowfall in areas in the upper reaches of the Himalayas and summer heat in Western India. According to him, India was the best choice for 'Play in India' like the 'Make in India' initiative by PM Modi.

"The way Northeast is undergoing transformation, the sports goods industry and sports ecosystem are developing, the day is not far when the world will converge in the Northeast to play. Today, India's best athletes are coming from the Northeast. They are representing India in top interna-



tional competitions and taking Indian sports forward. In line with the Khelo India Youth Games and University Games, we will be staging the Khelo India Northeast Games here every year,

which will not only help us scout talent, harness potential, but also provide a platform to showcase our traditional games as well," Dr Mandaviya said.

Mansukh Mandaviya said that

sports infrastructure in the Northeast has increased exponentially, with 86 projects currently in use. Under the Khelo India scheme, Rs 439 crore was sanctioned in 2021 for 64 sports infrastructure projects across the Northeast region. These include synthetic turfs, multipurpose halls, swimming pools, and hostels.

The Sports Minister said that the region is home to over 250 Khelo India Centres (KICs), which is training more than 8000 athletes, and 8 Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCs) that is paving the way for a robust grassroots ecosystem. As of now, 3 National Centres of Excellence (NCOEs) in Guwahati, Itanagar, and Imphal are providing world-class training to 600 athletes.

Giving an example of Khelo India's flagship scheme for women, the Sports Minister said that around 13,000 girls from the Northeast competed in the ASMITA League across various disci-

plines last year. This was enough proof how the region is gradually becoming a good nursery of talent that will provide a strong bench strength for the national team later.

Dr Mandaviya also informed that the Government will be starting a massive talent identification drive across the sub-continent, where anyone can shoot a video of a player's performance and send it to the Sports Ministry by uploading it on the National Sports Repository System (NSRS) portal. SAI will send talent scouts to the location of the event and after assessing the performance of the athlete will induct him in either the Khelo India Centre or NCOE depending upon their potential.

The Northeast region hosted the Khelo India University Games Ashtalakshmi in 2023. It was a landmark moment showcasing Northeast's capability to host large-scale national events in disciplines like athletics, football, boxing and archery.