

## India an existential threat for Pak: US Def Intel Agency

**MI News Service, Washington:** Pakistan is modernising its nuclear arsenal with military and economic backing from China, a process that includes the development of battlefield nuclear weapons aimed at countering India's conventional military advantage, according to the latest World Threat Assessment report released by the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency on Sunday.

The report notes that Pakistan continues to view India as an existential threat and is pursuing a comprehensive military modernisation strategy.

"Pakistan regards India as an existential threat and will continue to pursue its military modernization effort, including the development of battlefield nuclear weapons, to offset India's conventional military advantage," the assessment said.

The Pakistani military's priorities in the coming year are expected to include cross-border skirmishes with regional neighbors, counterterrorism operations, and continued development of nuclear weapons capabilities.

In 2024 alone, militants—including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and Baloch nationalist fighters killed over 2,500 people in Pakistan, despite ongoing military operations.

The modernisation of Pakistan's nuclear program includes not only weapon systems but also a focus on securing nuclear materials and enhancing command-and-control mechanisms. "Pakistan is modernising its nuclear arsenal and maintaining the security of its nuclear materials and nuclear command and control," the report stated.

Foreign materials and technologies for Pakistan's WMD programs are "very likely acquired primarily from suppliers in China," the report said, "and sometimes are transshipped through Hong Kong, Singapore, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates."

The transfers, while strategic, are not without complications. A string of terrorist attacks on Chinese nationals in Pakistan particularly those working on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) has emerged as a point of tension between the two allies. Seven Chinese nationals were killed in Pakistan in 2024.

Still, China continues to provide both economic and military largesse to Pakistan, which remains heavily reliant on Beijing to sustain its defense and infrastructure needs.

While Islamabad's military doctrine remains India-centric, its operational realities are increasingly shaped by asymmetric warfare and border instability.

The report warns that Pakistan's pursuit of tactical nuclear weapons intended for use in regional conflicts adds another layer of risk to an already volatile security environment in South Asia.

Unlike strategic warheads, battlefield nukes are designed for use on the

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Health Minister and Bharatiya Janata Party National President JP Nadda pose for a picture with NDA CMs and Dy CMs during the National Democratic Alliance Chief Ministers and Deputy Chief Ministers meeting, at Ashok Hotel in New Delhi on Sunday.

# Shashi leads Indian MPs at 9/11 Memorial in NY

## Terrorism a global shared problem: Tharoor

**MI News Service, New York:** An all-party delegation of Indian Parliamentarians, led by Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, visited the 9/11 Memorial here and paid homage to the victims of the terror attacks, expressing solidarity and underlining that the world has to be united in the fight against the "shared problem" of terrorism.

Tharoor said that the visit to the 9/11 Memorial was in a spirit of solidarity and was a "very moving moment for us".

But it was also meant to send a very strong message that "we are here in a city, which is bearing still the scars of that savage terrorist attack, in the wake of yet another terrorist attack in our own country," a reference to the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

He said that, unlike the US, India has had to endure a "very much larger number of terrorist attacks."

"We came both as a reminder that this is a shared problem but also a spirit of solidarity with the victims, who included Indians...It's a global problem, a scourge, and we must all fight it united. That was a very important message to convey," he said on Saturday.

The delegation, which

arrived in New York Saturday afternoon, visited the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in lower Manhattan and kept roses on some of the names of the victims etched on the Memorial Pool. A large number of members of the Indian diaspora were also present at 9/11 for the solemn event.

The all-party delegation will travel from New York to Guyana, Panama, Colombia, and Brazil before returning to Washington DC around June 3 as part of a diplomatic outreach aimed at projecting India's united and resolute stance against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Other members of the delegation include Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Milind Murlid Deora, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Shashank Mani Tripathi, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Ganti Harish Madhur and former Indian Ambassador to the US Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

The visit is part of India's broader engagement with key international partners, including the United States, to foster global cooperation in addressing terrorism.

Later speaking to the

media at the 9/11 memorial site, Tharoor said that through the visit to these countries, "we are hoping to be able to explain to the world how important it is for all of us to stand together against the scourge of terrorism."

"Just as the US showed such resolution and determination in the wake of 9/11, so too our country has stood up against the forces of evil who attacked us" on April 22, he said, referring to the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir in which 26 civilians were killed. "We hope that a lesson has been learnt by those who perpetrated this attack and by those who finance, train, equip and direct them, but we want to communicate to the world that we will not be sitting quietly if this is repeated," Tharoor said.

"We want the world to understand that this is not a time for indifference, but for mutual strength and mutual solidarity so that we can all unitedly stand up for the values that the United States has always cherished" - the values of democracy, human freedom, diversity, the coexistence of people of different communities, "none of which, sadly, is in the agenda of those who conducted such at-

tacks." Tharoor said India would much rather focus on its own growth and development.

"But if that is going to be thwarted, or attempted to be thwarted by malign people with weapons, then we will answer them in kind. "That is also part of our message - yes, perpetrators of terror should indeed be brought to justice, and we are not going to stop

our hunt for those who did this latest atrocity."

"But we need to think about where these people are based, where they have safe havens, where they are trained, equipped, financed, guided, armed, and often directly directed to perpetrate these horrors. And they too should be accountable for what they have been doing," he said.

## Operation Sindoor not just military mission, but 'face of changing India': Modi

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday said that Operation Sindoor was not just a military mission, but "the face of a changing India" that reflects the country's resolve, courage, and growing strength on the global stage.

Addressing the nation through his monthly radio programme Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister said, "Today the entire country is united against terrorism, filled with anger and determination." Modi hailed Operation Sindoor as a turning point in the global fight against terror, describing it as a symbol of India's growing strength and clarity of purpose.

"Operation Sindoor has infused new confidence and energy into the global fight against terrorism," he said.

He lauded as "extraordinary" the precision with which Indian forces attacked the terrorist infrastructure across the border.

Modi emphasised that the operation was not a one-off military action, but a reflection of a changing and resolute India.

"Operation Sindoor is the picture of our resolve, courage, and a changing India," he said, and delved on the impact of the operation that resonated deeply across the country.

The operation's success was followed by a series of gestures in tribute to the armed forces, ranging from patriotic poems on social media to paintings by children and massive Tiranga Yatras.

"In many cities, youth volunteered for civil defence, wrote poems, sang songs of resolve, and children made paintings carrying powerful messages," Modi said.

He talked about a recent visit to Bikaner where he was gifted paintings made by children.

"In cities like Katihar and Kushinagar, families named their newborns 'Sindoor' in honour of the operation," he said.

## Ministry of Ayush & WHO ink landmark deal

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In a landmark development poised to transform the global standing of traditional medicine systems, an agreement has been signed between the Ministry of Ayush and the World Health Organization (WHO). The agreement inked on Saturday marks

the beginning of work on a dedicated Traditional Medicine module under the International Classification of Health Interventions (ICHI), the Ayush Ministry said in a statement. Highlighting the significance of this achievement

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A large blood donation festival was held today at the Alambazar Club premises under the management of the Alambazar Navajyoti Sangha. More than two thousand voluntary blood donors donated blood today in this blood donation camp that has been going on for twenty years. Dumdum MP Saugata Roy, West Bengal Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya, Baranagar Municipality Mayor Aparna Mallick, CIC member Anjan Pal and other prominent personalities were present. Sangha Secretary and social worker Pulak Ghosh said that like every year, more than two thousand men and women donated blood this year too and that they will be supporting the poor people in the area through various social service activities throughout the year and will organize a larger program in the coming days.

## Bypoll in West Bengal’s Kaliganj on June 19, Results on June 23

**MI News Service, Nadia:** The Election Commission has announced that a by-election will be held in the Kaliganj Assembly constituency of West Bengal’s Nadia district on June 19. The seat fell vacant following the death of sitting Trinamool Congress MLA Nasiruddin Ahmed, popularly known as ‘Lal Da’, earlier this year. Ahmed, aged 70, passed away on February 1 after a prolonged illness. A veteran leader and a familiar face in Kaliganj, he had been battling age-related ailments for some time. In accordance with election rules,

the vacant seat must be filled within six months — by July 31 — prompting the commission to schedule the bypoll. The nomination process for the by-election will commence on Monday, May 26, with June 2 being the last date for filing nominations. The counting of votes is slated for June 23. Nasiruddin Ahmed first contested on a Trinamool Congress ticket in 2011 and won the seat. He, however, lost in the 2016 elections but regained it in 2021 after the party once again placed its trust on him. His demise marked the end of a

significant political chapter in Kaliganj. This by-election in Kaliganj will coincide with similar polls in four other constituencies across the country — Khandi and Visavadar in Gujarat, Neelambur in Kerala, and Ludhiana West in Punjab — all of which will also go to the polls on June 19. On the other hand, one more seat got vacant in Nadia with the demise of MLA Tapas Saha. He was the MLA of Tehatta seat in Nadia (since 2021). But earlier he was the MLA of Nadia, Palashipara also (2016). He died on May 15.

## Darjeeling tightens screws on fake pills, bans 51 drugs after quality checks

**MI News Service, Darjeeling:** The health department and drug control authorities in Darjeeling district have taken the initiative to stop the sale of fake, banned and sub-par medicines from 3,000-odd pharmacies located across the district as well as state-run medicine stores.

Tulsi Pramanik, the chief medical officer of health (CMOH) of Darjeeling, said on Saturday that instructions were issued to clear the stock of such medicines from all state-run health establishments after verifying store inventories.

“Prompt action has been taken to confirm that no such drug is used in any government-run health facility of the district or sold from any state-run medicine shops. A meeting has been held with officials of our department posted in different blocks and subdivisions,” he said.

“We are now focusing on private medicine shops. Despite a clear directive from the state, most of the drug stores in the district are not yet displaying a board in front of their shops with the list of drugs that cannot be sold,” Pramanik said.

The initiative follows specific instructions from chief minister Mamata Banerjee.

Mamata, during an administrative review meeting of eight north Bengal districts in Siliguri last Wednesday, instructed the health officials to confirm that pharmacies prominently display the list of such drugs.

“Several brands were banned. Some were found to be of low quality. Medicine shops should mention the names to make people aware. Health officials in districts will have to ensure it. They should also pay surprise visits to these shops,” she said at the meeting.

Pramanik said that on Friday, he held a meeting with the officials posted in the North Bengal Medical College & Hospital, other hospitals and blocks to work on the issue.

“Such boards will also be put up at fair-price medicine shops attached to government hospitals. We have also spoken with drug control authorities and a campaign will be held for public awareness,” said the CMOH.

He said that a section of buyers were already aware of such drugs. Recently, Pramanik said that a Siliguri resident scanned the QR code of a medicine. On not finding any information, he reported the matter to the

district drug control office. “The medicine has been sent for lab tests,” he added.

Sources in the district health department said 51 widely used drugs had been banned after they failed in quality checks.

Additionally, following the North Dinajpur-based Paschim Banga Pharmaceuticals’ Ringer Lactate controversy in January this year when the fluid was found of low quality, 14 medicines made by the same company have been black-listed. Another 60 medicines, which were marked “not of standard quality (NSQ)” by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), have also been banned for sale.

“To improve traceability of such medicines, the state government has linked 300 commonly-used essential medicines with QR codes and has integrated all relevant data into a mobile app,” said a source.

Debabjit Sengupta, an assistant director of the drug control office in Darjeeling, said many pharmacies in the hills had put up boards bearing the list of banned medicines. But in the plains, especially Siliguri, most of the shops were yet to do so.

## 2-day training for experts with focus on Himalayan fauna, human-wildlife

**MI News Service, Darjeeling:** A two-day training programme by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) started on Saturday at the nature interpretation centre of the state forest department at Sukna, some 10km from here, for forest staff and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) personnel to promote protection and conservation of wildlife and check depredation of wild animals in human habitats.

The SSB guards the borders that India shares with Nepal and Bhutan.

In north Bengal, human-animal conflict is a major issue, which leads to the loss of crops, properties and human lives. In some incidents, wild animals, which stray into villages, are killed.

The region is also known to be a corridor for rackets smuggling live animals and animal parts. The forest department and security agencies make regular seizures.

The training, named “Methods for Monitoring Mammalian Fauna of the Himalayas”, witnessed sessions conducted by ZSI

officials and experts.

“This part of the greater Himalayan region is very important as many endangered species, including red pandas, snow leopards and salamanders are found here. Through the training, we are helping foresters and the SSB work for the protection and conservation of wild species of this region,” said Lalit Kumar Sharma, the ZSI training coordinator.

He pointed out that of the total cases received at the ZSI-run wildlife forensic lab in Calcutta for various tests of animal species and body parts, 90 per cent come from north Bengal.

“Through these tests, we learn about the presence of various rare and endangered species found in this region. For example, we knew that the Chinese pangolin lives here, but earlier this year, the DNA analysis of a sample confirmed the presence of the Indo-Burmese species of the mammal,” Sharma said.

“Participants were told that people here are not aware of the Indo-

Burmese pangolin and that its conservation is vital to maintain the ecological balance and biodiversity of southeast Asia,” said a ZSI representative.

Foresters of Darjeeling, Kurseong and Mahananda wildlife divisions and personnel of the SSB are attending the training.

A ZSI representative said that during the training, participants were sensitised on elephant corridor monitoring, wildlife crime detection, methods of collecting data on wildlife, the importance of mitigating man-animal (mostly man-elephant) conflicts and exchange of information to conserve animal species and curb crimes.

For example, participants were told that a traditional and effective method to stop Himalayan black bears from entering human habitats was to burn dried cakes of cow dung mixed with red chillies in the vicinity.

Foresters and SSB officials appreciated the initiative.

Santu Das, the additional wildlife warden of

## Kalyani University Explores Tribal Lore in Assam, Meghalaya

**MI News Service, Kalyani:** In a significant academic initiative aimed at exploring the rich cultural tapestry of Northeast India, the Department of Folklore at the University of Kalyani recently concluded a week-long fieldwork-cum-workshop across Assam and Meghalaya. Held from May 19 to 25, the programme brought together postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members, alongside participants from the university’s Certificate Course in Folklore Tourism and Community Development. The initiative was led by Professor Sujay Kumar Mandal, a noted folklorist and academician. The participants were divided into three research teams, each focusing on a specific domain: tribal culture and oral traditions, social impact assessments of tribal villages, and tourism dy-



namics at major destinations. In Assam, the team explored key locations including the Kamakhya Temple, Jhimri Gaon (inhabited by the Rabha tribe), the mystical village of Mayong—known for its traditional healing and magical practices—and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. In Meghalaya, fieldwork sites included the Dawki River, Mawlynong Village (Asia’s clean-

est), the famous living root bridges, and the Don Bosco Museum in Shillong. A highlight of the trip was the Cross-Cultural Exchange Programme held on May 22 at Pub Kamrup College in Assam’s Kamrup district. Students of the college performed traditional dances like Bihu and Sat-triya, while the Kalyani University team presented Bengali folk songs and

dances, making the event a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity. In another memorable moment, participants witnessed a traditional Bihu performance by primary school children in Mayong, providing an intimate glimpse into the region’s grassroots folk traditions. “This year, we chose to go beyond our usual fieldwork sites in West Bengal,” said Prof. Mandal. “The idea was to immerse ourselves in the folklore and tribal heritage of Northeast India. We also examined tourist satisfaction to add a new dimension to our research.” Participants described the fieldwork as both enriching and eye-opening, offering deep insights into the oral traditions, community life, and evolving socio-cultural dynamics of Assam and Meghalaya.

## Murder accused killed in Alipurduar by victim’s brother

**MI News Service, Alipurduar:** A 40-year-old man in Jaigaon of Alipurduar, who was accused of killing a person, was murdered allegedly by the latter’s brother in broad daylight on Saturday.

Sources said in 2024, during Durga Puja, Firoz Hossain, 35, was found dead and lying in a drain in the Bee Bari area of Jaigaon.

Officers of the Jaigaon police station initiated a probe and arrested 40-year-old Abdul Asmat in connection with the murder. He was produced in court and was at the correctional home in Alipurduar.

A couple of days back, Asmat got bail. He returned to his home in Ilias Nagar of Jaigaon and was staying indoors.

## Two test positive for Covid-19 in Magrahat 2 block

**MI News Service, 24 Pgs:** Two persons tested positive for Covid-19 in the Magrahat 2 block of South 24-Parganas district during a routine surveillance programme on respiratory diseases conducted by Diamond Harbour Medical College earlier this week.

The two patients, a 20-year-old woman and a teenage boy, are residents of the Magrahat 2 block. The patients were found to be Covid positive during a random sampling drive held on May 20 under the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)-led “Pan India Respiratory Virus Surveillance Programme”.

The initiative is part of a nationwide effort to track respiratory illnesses, including Covid-19, following the pandemic that began in 2019.

Samples were collected by the microbiology department of Diamond Harbour Medical College when the two individuals visited the outpatient department of the Magrahat 2 block hospital with complaints of common cold and cough. Their test results returned positive for Covid-19, prompting immediate medical attention and follow-up.

Subdivisional officer (SDO) of Diamond Harbour, Anjan Ghosh, said: “The patients were kept under home observation and are quite stable now. A medical team is visiting them regularly. Even the CMOH personally visited them and informed me that they are quite well,” he said.

The chief medical officer of health (CMOH), Diamond Harbour, Jayanta Sukul, told: “The patients

## Bin bottles and win discount: Machines installed in South Dinajpur to shred plastic containers

**MI News Service, S Dinajpur:** The South Dinajpur district administration has taken an initiative to check pollution caused by plastic or PET (polyethylene terephthalate) bottles.

In five of eight blocks in the district, the administration installed machines where people can dispose of plastic bottles. The machines would shred the bottles into minuscule pieces.

Naveen Kumar Chandra, the additional district magistrate (zilla Parishad), said: “For the first time in the state, plastic bottle crushing machines have been installed in our district as a government initiative. We have installed seven machines in five blocks, and soon, more such devices will be placed in the remaining three blocks.”

“The machines will shred the bottles, and the recycled plastic can be used to make roads and other items. We want the people of South Dinajpur to dispose of the plastic bottles in the machines. This will help reduce environmental pollution caused by plastic materials,” he added.

According to him, the machines have already been installed in Balurghat, Tapan, Hili, Kushmandi and Gangarampur blocks.

A shopping mall, a restaurant and a diagnostic centre have extended support to the project, which has been taken up under the Swachh Bharat Mission, to en-

courage people to use the machines to dispose of PET bottles.

“Once a person disposes of a plastic bottle in any machine, he will have to type his cellphone number into the machine. Then, a list of options will pop up. The person will then have to choose any option, and a message will be sent to the number,” said a source.

The message is a discount coupon, which can be used to make purchases at the shopping mall, pay food bills at the restaurant or conduct medical tests at the diagnostic centre.

“The administration is seeking support from other private units as well in the district. This will encourage more people to use the machines. Also, there is an option which anybody can choose if they decide not to avail any coupon,” the source added.

Those associated with the conservation of nature and working against increased pollution have welcomed the initiative.

“Environmental pollution is increasing every day, and one of the main reasons for such a rise is the indiscriminate disposal of plastic waste, both in rural and urban areas. We appreciate the initiative taken by the administration and hope people will opt for the scientific disposal of plastic bottles,” said Tuhin Subhra Mondal, a nature conservationist based in Balurghat.

## Lottery seller set on fire, two arrested in Midnapore

**MI News Service, Midnapore:** Panic gripped the Kheranichoti area of Midnapore town on Saturday afternoon after a shocking incident where a man was doused with petrol and set on fire in front of his shop. The victim, identified as Surajit Sau, a local lottery ticket seller, sustained severe burn injuries and has been admitted to Midnapore Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) in critical condition.

According to preliminary investigations, the incident appears to have stemmed from a business rivalry. Sau had reportedly been involved in a dispute just two days ago with a fast-food vendor from the Indkuri area over the use of a pavement space for their respective stalls. Police had intervened in that matter and relocated the fast-food vendor’s stall away from Sau’s lottery kiosk, allegedly leading to mounting resentment.

Eyewitnesses stated that around noon, two individuals approached Sau’s shop, poured petrol on him and his stall, and set him ablaze before fleeing the scene on a motorcycle. Locals rushed to douse the flames and transported the victim to the hospital. The police acted swiftly and arrested two suspects—Akash Mukhi and Omar Nath Pahiksha—both residents of the Abas area in the town. They are currently being interrogated, and police are investigating whether others may have been involved.

The incident has sparked outrage in the local community, with many expressing concern over the apparent escalation of street-level business rivalries into violent attacks. Authorities have assured a thorough investigation and strict action against those found guilty.

## 30 BJP families join TMC in Pandaveswar



**MI News Service, W Burdwan:** The BJP suffered a significant setback today in the Pandaveswar Assembly constituency, as over 30 of its supporter families joined the Trinamool Congress (TMC) at the local party office in West Burdwan district.

This mass defection has further weakened the BJP’s prospects in Pandaveswar, a seat the saffron party had been eyeing for victory in the 2026 Assembly elections.

The families, hailing from the Rasikdanga area of Gogla Panchayat under the Durgapur-Faridpur block, officially joined the TMC at the party office in Madhaipur. Satadip Ghatak, the Durgapur-Faridpur block president of the TMC, welcomed them by handing over the party flag. Bapi Bagdi and Bijan Bagdi, former active BJP supporters and workers, stated that despite years of dedication to the BJP, they received neither recognition nor assistance. In contrast, the TMC remains actively engaged with the local population throughout the year. Impressed by Mamata Banerjee’s leadership and the functioning of the TMC, they decided to join the party en masse.

Goutam Ghosh, TMC’s Gogla Anchal President, said that this move would further strengthen the party in the Pandaveswar Assembly area.

So far, both the local BJP leadership and former MLA Jitendra Tiwari have remained silent on the defection of their supporters in Pandaveswar.

## Kolkata Airport: Bengal govt, AAI focus on bird strikes, waste risks

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Bengal government’s principal secretary, Nandhini Chakraborty, has conducted a meeting to review progress on

mitigating bird strike incidents and other environmental hazards that could affect the safety of aircraft operations at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Interna-

tional (NSCBI) Airport, Kolkata. Dr. P.R. Beuria, Director, NSCBI airport, along with senior IAS officers from West Bengal, senior officials of the

Airports Authority of India (AAI), municipal representatives, other departmental officials, and airline representatives attended the

meeting on Friday. Frequent incidents of birds striking airplanes during landing or take-off have remained a key concern for AAI officials.

But Dr. P.R. Beuria, director, NSCBI airport informed the committee that bird strike incidents have decreased in recent times.



India an existential threat...

► From PG 1

conventional battlefield, which raises questions about command and control in fast-moving engagements. While Islamabad insists its nuclear doctrine is based on credible minimum deterrence, its ongoing weapons development suggests an evolving posture. China's role in en-

abling Pakistan's modernisation through both direct transfers and grey-zone logistics has drawn international attention. And as Islamabad doubles down on battlefield nuclear capabilities, the strategic stability of the region may hinge less on doctrines and more on crisis management under pressure.

Indian MPs visit Seoul...

► From PG 1

manifestations, the Embassy said in a press release. The delegation is one of the seven multi-party delegations India has tasked to visit 33 global capitals to reach out to the international community on Pakistan's designs and India's response to terror.

Besides Jha, the delegation comprises of MPs Aparajita Sarangi, Abhishek Banerjee, Brij Lal, John Brittas, Pradan Baruah, Hemang Joshi, former external affairs minister Salman Khurshid, and former ambassador of India to France and Bahrain Mohan Kumar.

The Jha-led delegation earlier visited Japan and said it was deeply encouraged by Tokyo's unequivocal

support to New Delhi's war against terror.

Tensions between India and Pakistan escalated after the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives.

India carried out precision strikes as part of Operation Sindoor on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in the early hours of May 7, following which Pakistan attempted to attack Indian military bases on May 8, 9, and 10. The Indian side responded strongly to the Pakistani actions. The on-ground hostilities ended with an understanding of stopping the military actions following talks between the directors general of military operations of both sides on May 10.

Ministry of Ayush & WHO...

► From PG 1

during the 122nd episode of Mann Ki Baat on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said,\*Friends, something has happened in the field of Ayurveda... Just yesterday, i.e. on 24th May, an MoU was signed in the presence of WHO Director General and my friend Tulsī Bhai." "Along with this agreement, work has started on a dedicated traditional

medicine module under the International Classification of Health Interventions. This initiative will help in making Ayush reach maximum number of people across the world in a scientific manner," he added. The ICHI, complementing the WHO's International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11), documents what treatments and health interventions are administered.

Garbage management: KMC to launch drive from May 28



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) will begin a week-long drive from next week to spot vulnerable garbage accumulation points in the city.

People can WhatsApp their complaints about garbage to 9073367883.

The drive will run between May 28 and June 3.

"Take a picture and send it to this number. We will clear the garbage from the place within four hours," Debabrata Majumdar, the mayoral council member in charge of KMC's solid waste management department, said on Friday while announcing the drive.

Mayor Firhad Hakim said that while the special drive will be only for a week, the KMC's solid waste management department will be watching the spots thereafter.

"These are spots where people throw garbage, and it keeps accumulating. During this drive, we will clean the spots. But this cleaning will continue even after the drive gets over. We will identify these places as black spots," he said.

A special control room will be set up for the week-long drive.

A complainant will receive a "ticket number" against her complaint. Within two hours, the complaint will be escalated to the concerned borough office. The borough team will resolve the issue and send its feedback to the control room. The control room will inform the complainant.

Hakim said the KMC would study the black spots once the week-long drive was over.

A KMC official said the civic body wants to document these vulnerable points and bring a long-term resolution.

KMC officials said the drive had larger aims — to reduce garbage disposal in the open; to make citizens conscious of the need to keep the city free of garbage.

With monsoon approaching, the risk of vector-borne diseases increases.

"Any waste has containers where water can remain accumulated for days and turn into mosquito breeding sites," said a KMC official.

Despite waste collectors visiting neighbourhoods in the morning, many residents throw waste on the road. There are places in a neighbourhood where people keep throwing waste.

The waste collectors, too, often do not collect accumulated waste.

If people point out these garbage accumulation sites, the civic body will ensure that these are cleaned.

WBCHSE mulls new plan for unsuccessful HS students

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) has announced a one-time opportunity for students who were unsuccessful or did not appear in this year's Higher Secondary

(HS) examinations to restart their academic journey under the new semester-based curriculum, starting from the 2025-26 academic session. According to a notification issued by the Council on Wednesday, students who

had passed Class XI under the old annual system but failed or missed the HS exam this year will be allowed to re-enrol in Class XI. This provision, available only for the upcoming session, also gives them the

flexibility to change their stream or subjects. "This is a one-time provision in the best interest of students. It will not be extended or considered a precedent in future," a Council official said. To avail of this opportunity, eligible

students must surrender their existing registration certificates or admit cards to their respective institutions. The re-registration process will be conducted online through the Council's portal between June 2 and 30.



State Minister Bratya Basu along with dignitaries like Mala Roy and Debashish Kumar were present at the WBPC AGM at Vivekananda Hall at Rama Krishna Mission Institute of Culture (RKMIC) at Gol Park on Sunday in Kolkata.

Heavy rain in city between Wed–Fri: MeT Dept

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Heavy rain is expected in the city and south Bengal districts between Wednesday and Friday as a low pressure area is likely to form over the Bay of Bengal around Tuesday, the Met office said.

Till Tuesday, there will be sporadic rain coupled with gusts of wind. The maximum temperature will remain in the range of 31 to 34 degrees Celsius.

"Kolkata and other south Bengal districts are likely to experience heavy rain between Wednesday and Friday," said an official of the India Meteorological Department, Calcutta.

In Met parlance, rainfall above 7cm or 64.5mm in 24 hours is considered heavy rain.

A bulletin issued by the Met office said 7cm to 11cm of rain was expected on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

"A low pressure area is likely to form over west-central and the adjoining north Bay of Bengal around May 27. Under its influence, heavy

rainfall is likely to commence from May 28 over some districts of south Bengal," said a Met official.

Heavy rain brings with it the threat of waterlogging.

A senior engineer of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) said the civic

body has been lifting silt from catch pits and manholes across the city throughout

the year so that water flow is not obstructed during heavy rain.

"We have also monitored the performance of the high-power pumps. There are no major technical glitches," said the engineer.

Before the low pressure triggers rain, the city will get sporadic rain, the Met office has said.

"The sky will remain overcast at times and clear at other times," said the Met office.

The bulletin mentioned that thunderstorms with gusty winds, lightning and light to moderate rain were expected between Sunday and Tuesday. "A cyclonic circulation lies

over north coastal Odisha and neighbourhood at 3.1km above mean sea level. Also, in the presence of favourable wind patterns and moisture incursion from the Bay of Bengal, thunderstorms with gusty winds and lightning activity are likely to continue for the next four or five days," said an IMD official.

The maximum temperature will remain between 31 and 34 degrees Celsius.

The maximum temperature on Saturday was 32.6 degrees Celsius, 2.8 degrees below normal. The minimum temperature was 25.8 degrees Celsius, 1.1 degrees below normal.

Calcutta received 1.6mm of rain between 8.30am and 5.30pm on Saturday.

"The weather was quite pleasant on Saturday, with a drizzle for some time. But the absence of the scorching sun made it quite comfortable," said a south Calcutta resident.

In some parts of the city, the sky had briefly cleared late in the afternoon.

EC launches probe into Sukanta's wife holding 2 voter IDs

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Election Commission (EC) has started an investigation into a complaint alleging that the wife of BJP's West Bengal president and Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar possesses two voter identity cards, a senior official said on Friday.

Initial probe found that the minister's wife, Koel Majumdar, holds two voter ID cards with different EPIC numbers — one registered in Balurghat and another in Jalpaiguri.

While one card was issued under her maiden name, Koel Chowdhury, the second was created after her marriage under the name Koel Majumdar.

"This could have been avoided had she submitted

Form 18. It is the responsibility of the cardholder to notify the EC of any changes. In this case, the commission was not informed," the official said.

He further explained that a new voter card was issued in Balurghat after she submitted Form 6.

"Because the EPIC numbers and surnames were different, the error was not immediately detected. We are now verifying the photographs and other personal details to confirm the identity," he added. State's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal has asked the district magistrates of Jalpaiguri and Dakshin Dinajpur to file a report on the matter as quickly as possible, EC sources said.

BMC starts work on new sit-in venue, bio-toilets, & water tankers

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The sacked school employees who were on a sit-in outside Bikash Bhavan will be shifted to a stretch of the footpath outside the gate of the swimming pool at Central Park, across the road from the education secretariat, an engineer of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation said.

A canopy will be erected by Sunday morning, and 12 bio-toilets and two water tankers of 3,000 litres capacity will be at the protest site, said the engineer.

Calcutta High Court asked the protesters to shift to Central Park from outside Bikash Bhavan. The bench asked the state to treat the protesters "with a human face". It asked the municipality to build a temporary structure so the scorching heat would not affect the protesters. It also asked that drinking water facilities and bio-toilets be arranged.

"We will comply with the orders of the court. We will prepare the shamiana by Sunday morning. We will also provide 12 bio-toilets and two water tankers of 3,000 litres capacity each," said Monodip Mukherjee, executive engineer (headquarters) of the Bidhannagar Municipal Corporation.

"Since a lot of children go to the swimming pool, it was decided that the protesting school employees should not be sitting very close to the gate of the swimming pool, but a little bit away from it," said Mukherjee.

The Bidhannagar City Police wrote to the civic body on Saturday morning, requesting them to make arrangements for the protesting teachers and non-teaching employees as per the directions of the court.

The space identified for protesters is used to park cars that ferry children coming to the swimming pool run by the civic body.

"We are in discussions with police to find an alternative place to park the cars. The police will, in all likelihood, allow cars to be

parked along the main road for the time being," Mukherjee said.

While asking the schoolteachers to shift to Central Park, Justice Tirthankar Ghosh of the high court said there should not be more than 200 people at the protest venue at Central Park.

Civic officials said the shamiana they will prepare will be large enough to accommodate 200 protesters.

A protesting school employee, however, told that they were unsure about the arrangements.

"The police have yet to clearly communicate to us where they are planning to shift us. We will not move till we are satisfied with the amenities provided there," said Brindaban Ghosh, a protesting school-teacher.

On Saturday evening, the authorities had started to install bio-toilets on the stretch of the footpath outside the swimming pool's gate.

The Bidhannagar City Police will keep an eye on the number of protesters at the sit-in.

"We will monitor the situation. Police personnel will be present there round the clock. We also expect the protesters to abide by the court's directions. In case the numbers exceed 200, we will request them to ensure that some of them leave the venue," said an officer of Bidhannagar (North) police station.

Central Park, spread over more than 100 acres, has several public utility projects.

The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) has taken a large part of Central Park for the construction of the East-West Metro maintenance depot; there are two booster pumping stations; the Sourav Ganguly Cricket Academy and a sports academy, part of which is the swimming pool.

A part of Central Park is also under the custody of the state forest department. There are paved walkways, and many go there for morning walks.



Unemployed teachers (six members delegation team) who lost their permanent jobs after the Supreme Court verdict met with former justice of the Calcutta High Court and BJP MP Abhijit Gangopadhyay, at his Home, Salt Lake in Kolkata.

KMC waste plant struggles to get enough material to process

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Two years since its inauguration, the construction-and-demolition-waste plant of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is still struggling to get enough waste to process.

Inaugurated in 2023, the plant that has the capacity to process 500 tonnes of waste every day is receiving only about 250 tonnes a day, said an official. It has yet to start

using the waste to make paver blocks and kerb stones, though sand and aggregate are being made there. On Saturday, the civic body's top officials met to discuss ways to plug the leaks and increase the supply of construction and demolition waste to the plant in New Town. Though the plant has been set up in New Town, the KMC operates it.

IIHM: NamAlste app brings AI to hospitality training

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The hospitality GPT, called NamAlste by IIHM (International Institute of Hotel Management), blends tech and touch, provides verified information, guides students and faculty on how to make Power Point presentations and prepare business analytical reports, its makers said.

Human touch is at the core of the hospitality industry, but in the current "smart times", the industry has to keep pace with technology, said veterans in the field.

"AI is important in our industry, but AI

will not replace people....But AI will heavily assist the hospitality industry in efficiency," said Suborno Bose, chairman, IIHM.

Technology will be able to provide customers the security of keeping their valuables in a safe in a hotel room, which is sensitive to only "face recognition". "But a handwritten note by the general manager of a hotel kept in the room is what adds a personal touch," said Bose.

Only passion will not suffice, processes like sustainable practices and waste management, have to be in place.

"Blending tech and touch, passion and process, we developed this app as a first step toward entering the world of AI in hospitality," said Bose.

He is hopeful that this app will invite others in the industry to innovate.

Those who are students now will join the workforce in the next three, four or five years, and they will have to be future-ready.

"The students will work in a competitive AI environment, and if they do not know about AI, they will not be able to cope with the pressure of it," said Bose.

In hospitality, everything has to be customer-centric, and technology helps bring service delivery and expectation closer to each other.

The head of a hotel in Bengaluru said personalisation can happen with communication and information. "If anyone is travelling to celebrate a special occasion or is allergic to any food, prior information about that can help to make the stay seamless for the guest," he said.

The app will currently be accessible by students and faculty of IIHM and that of the

60 nations who are participants in the institute's Young Chef Olympiad contest. It will be open to others after the first three months. "This is genuine, verified information not pooled from other Internet sources. It is designed to empower students, faculty, hospitality professionals and industry stakeholders with real-time access to insights, trends and global best practices," said Bose.

NamAlste is a customised large language model (LLM), and Entiovi Technologies was the tech partner of the project.



### Name Change

1. Umesh Periwal (old name) son of Ram Kishan Periwal, residing at Ward No. 15, Daga Bhawan ke Panch, Nohar, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan- 335523, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Umesh Kumar Periwal (new name) as declared before the L.d. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata vide affidavit No. 647 dated 5th May 2025. Umesh Periwal (old name) and Umesh Kumar Periwal (new name) both are same and one identical person.

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## Metro Staff help an Indisposed Passenger

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# Howrah Division celebrates Century Of Service: a tribute to 100 Years of Railway Excellence (1925–2025)

The ceremony was graced by Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, who inaugurated the function by lighting the ceremonial lamp, 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 Riju Ganguly, Postmaster General, West Bengal Circle. A highlight of the celebration was the release of a Special Postal Cover to commemorate the centenary, jointly unveiled by Shri Milind Deouskar, Shri Riju Ganguly, and Shri Sanjeev Kumar. Further enriching the occasion, a Coffee Table Book and a Souvenir capturing the Division's legacy and commitment to sustainable practices were also launched by the General Managers of Eastern Railway, Metro Railway, and DRM/Howrah. The event featured a captivating slide presentation depicting the various activities undertaken as part of the centenary.



### Name Change

I, S Roy Chowdhury (old name) son of Di No WB011988030018 person of Subrata Roy Chowdhury residing at Chandralok, Flat-A/178A SP Mukherjee Road, Kolkata- 700026, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjoy Roy Choudhury (New Name) as declared before the 15th class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, dated 23/05/2025. Sanjoy Roy Choudhury (New Name) and S Roy Chowdhury (old name) both are same and identical person.

## Name Change



celebration, followed by a vibrant cultural programme organized by the staff of Howrah Division, adding a festive spirit to the occasion.

In a touching gesture, Shri Sanjeev Kumar, DRM/Howrah, felicitated former DRMs of the Division, including Shri Somnath Mukherjee (DRM/Howrah from 05.06.2000 to 02.07.2001), who retired as Additional Member (Commercial), Railway Board, along with Shri Sumit Narula and Shri Manish Jain, both of whom previously served as DRM/Howrah. To ensure the centenary is remembered for years to come, several engaging and impactful activities were organized by the Division. These included the unveiling of a new centenary emblem, Prabhath Pheris (early morning processions) at major stations, tree plantation drives, distribution of jute bags to staff as eco-friendly souvenirs, and various competitions such as drawing and painting for the wards of railway

## Prompt Action by Howrah Division Engineering Team Resolves Waterlogging at LHS No. 38, Pakur

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Engineering Department of Howrah Division has once again demonstrated its commitment to maintaining operational excellence and public safety by promptly addressing a waterlogging issue that occurred on 23.05.2025 at LHS No. 38, Pakur. Due to continuous rainfall, waterlogging of approximately 125 mm depth was observed at LHS No. 38. However, swift and efficient action by the engineering team ensured that the situation was brought under control within 30 minutes. Two high-capacity pumps of 10 HP each, along with an additional 5 HP pump, were deployed immediately and operated continuously to clear the accumulated water. It is noteworthy that the waterlogging was limited to the duration of the rainfall, and no residual water was observed at the site once the rain ceased. To ensure round-the-clock readiness, two dedicated personnel are deputed at this LHS on a 24-hour basis. Howrah Division manages a total of 210 LHS (Limited Height Subways) and RUBs (Road Under Bridges), of which 59 locations are prone to waterlogging. All these locations are under continuous surveillance. Moreover permanent pumping systems (both departmental and outsourced), have been provided at all these places. During periods of heavy rain, these LHS are secured using a chaining system to prevent vehicle entry, ensuring safety and avoiding damage. Additionally, ground staff is deployed at each location to monitor and address any abnormalities in real-time. The prompt response at Pakur LHS No. 38 highlights the proactive and dedicated efforts of the Howrah Division Engineering Team in ensuring minimal disruption and maintaining infrastructure resilience during adverse weather conditions.

## Railway introduces Two New Trains

# Regulation of trains for rolling Block Programme over South Eastern Railway

**Short termination / Short  
origin of trains:**  
68056/68060 Tatanagar -  
Asansol - Barabhum  
MEMU passenger (journey  
commencing on  
27.05.2025 ,28.05.2025 &  
01.06.2025) will be short  
terminated at / short origi-  
nated from Adra (service  
between Adra & Asansol  
will remain cancelled).  
Moreover, 18184 Buxar -  
Tatanagar Express (jour-  
ney commencing on  
26.05.2025 , 29.05.2025 &  
30.05.2025) will be con-  
trolled enroute about 60  
minutes.

## Operation of Two New Trains

**New Express Train: Valsad-Dahod Express:** To further facilitate passenger travel in Gujarat, a second express train, the Valsad-Dahod Express, is being introduced. Train No. 19011 will depart Valsad daily at 5:15 AM and reach Dahod at 11:05 AM, stopping at Billimora, Navsari, Surat, Vadodra, and Godhra. On the return journey, the train will depart Dahod at 11:55 AM and reach Valsad at 8:05 PM. **This train will have a total of 17 coaches, including: 1 Executive Class coach 4 Third AC coaches 10 Second Class coaches 2 Guard-cum-parcel vans** One of the guard vans will be equipped to accommodate divyang (differently-abled) passengers.

## বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পিতা-ফাদে



Mamata pays  
homage to  
Ramkinkar Baij

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee paid homage to legendary sculptor and painter Ramkinkar Baij (1906-1980) in his birth anniversary. Ramkinkar Baij was a pioneering Indian sculptor and painter, known for his bold realism and use of unconventional materials like concrete, soil, and pebbles. He was a key figure in the development of modern Indian art, particularly known for his sculptures depicting rural life, especially the Santhal community in Shantiniketan. Mamata emphasized his immense contribution to the society while mentioning his immortal creations like Santhal Family, Sujata, Yaksha and Yakshini.

Govt appoints SG  
Tushar Mehta's  
team for trial  
against Rana

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The government has appointed a team of lawyers headed by Solicitor General(SG) Tushar Mehta to conduct the trial against Pakistani-Canadian terrorist Tahawwur Hussain Rana in the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack case. In a notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said the appointment has been made exercising the powers conferred under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023. The central government hereby appoints a team of Special Public Prosecutors headed by Tushar Mehta, Solicitor General of India with S V Raju, Additional Solicitor General along with Dayan Krishnan, Senior Advocate and Narender Mann, advocate for conducting trial and other matters related to the case RC-04/2009/NIA/DLI on behalf of the NIA before the NIA Special Courts at Delhi, High Court of Delhi and Supreme Court of India for three years or till the completion of trial of the said case.

Lalu Prasad Yadav  
expels elder son Tej  
Pratap from party

**MI News Service, Patna:** RJD president Lalu Prasad expelled Tej Pratap Yadav from the party for six years for "irresponsible behaviour", and snapped all family ties with his elder son. Prasad made the announcement in a post on X in the afternoon. "Ignoring moral values in personal life weakens our collective struggle for social justice. The activities, public conduct and irresponsible behavior of the eldest son are not in accordance with our family values and traditions. "Therefore, due to these circumstances, I remove him from the party and family. He is expelled from the party for 6 years," the RJD supreme said. The move came a day after a viral Facebook post stated that Yadav, a former Bihar minister, was "in a relationship" with a young woman. Yadav, however, claimed that his account on the social media platform had been "hacked". The post had drawn flak from social media users, many of whom reminded the 37-year-old politician of his marriage that took place with much fanfare in 2018. "My social media platform was hacked and my photographs were edited wrongfully," Yadav wrote on X on Saturday night, referring to the post that had gone viral and was taken note of by media outlets. Yadav had tied the knot with Aishwarya, the grand-daughter of former Bihar chief minister Daroga Rai. However, within a few months, Aishwarya left his house, alleging that she was driven out by her husband and in-laws.



Medics prepare a ward for COVID-19 patients at Gandhi Hospital in the wake of several states reporting Covid cases, in Hyderabad.

SC seeks centre's response about  
betting & gambling spree in IPL

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court said people were betting and gambling in the garb of Indian Premier League and sought the Centre's response on a PIL seeking to regulate betting applications. A bench of Justices Surya Kant and N Kotiswar Singh issued notice to the Centre on a plea filed by K A Paul, who claimed many children had died suicide after using online betting and gambling applications. The petitioner alleged several on-line influencers, actors and cricketers were promoting such online apps, luring children in the process. Paul said in case of cigarettes, packs had pictures indicating the ill-effects of smoking, but in case of betting apps, no such caution was publicised and even former Indian team cricketers promoted the applications during the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL). The bench said, "In the name of IPL, a lot of people are betting and indulging in gambling. This is a serious issue." Paul claimed of representing "mil-



lions of parents" whose children have died in the past couple of years. "More than 1,023 people died by suicide in Telangana, as 25 Bollywood and Tollywood actors/influencers played with the lives of the innocents," he said. Paul said an FIR was lodged in Telangana against influencers, as the matter violated fundamental rights. The bench

expressed its helplessness terming the situation as "aberrations of society" and said the enactment of law cannot stop people from betting voluntarily. "Nowadays, we have given the internet to our children. They carry it even to their schools. Parents watch one TV, children watch another. This is complete social aberration. What can be done? When people are indulging in these betting voluntarily. Principally, we are with you that it should be stopped... But probably you are under a misconception that it can be stopped through a law," the bench said. Justice Kant added, "Just like we can't stop people from committing murder, a law cannot prevent people from indulging in betting or gambling." The bench said it would ask the Centre what it was doing on the issue and sought its reply. The top court requested for the assistance of the attorney general and solicitor general in the matter and said if necessary, it would seek response from all states subsequently.

Tirupati to use AI,  
facial recognition



**MI News Service, Tirupati:** The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), the official custodian of the famous Venkateswara temple here, is exploring the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and facial recognition technology to enhance the pilgrimage experience, said an official. TTD executive officer (EO) J Syamala Rao said the temple body will employ these technologies to authenticate genuine pilgrims for ensuring a smooth darshan (visit to deity), prevent impersonation and fraudulent activities and ease accommodation, access control and other operations. "TTD envisioned adopting the latest technological solutions available in the market including Artificial Intelligence to improve the overall pilgrimage," said Rao in a press release. As part of these futuristic initiatives, the EO said pilgrims will be provided with time slotted darshan tokens, which will capture their facial features using facial recognition technology. On capturing a pilgrim's image, he said it will be sieved through data from the past 30 days or about 10 lakh images to root out duplicate bookings and thereby enable servicing more number of pilgrims. By implementing this solution, token issue

and verification process becomes quick and hassle-free while impersonation and fraudulent activities can be prevented, said Rao. AI and facial recognition technology are also contemplated to track pilgrim numbers at various locations such as queue lines, compartments and inside the Tirumala temple, among others. The installation of AI-powered facial recognition cameras are expected to power this facial detection, said Rao. "This solution leverages TTD management to exactly assess the probable darshan time expected for the pilgrims who are waiting and also can assess the darshan time for pilgrims joining queue lines," he said. Powered by this tech, the temple body will be equipped to notify pilgrims of the expected darshan time so as to empower them to properly plan their pilgrimages. Installed across darshan paths in the temple, TTD can estimate the time taken to complete darshan under various categories and also fix gaps in operations. Further, AI and facial recognition cameras will come in handy to track and identify intruders in Tirumala at exact locations. Eventually, the EO observed that facial recognition technology will be extended to all possible TTD services.

Cow protectors attack  
Muslims allegedly carrying  
beef, victims deny

**MI News Service, Aligarh:** Hoodlums masquerading as "cow protectors" attacked four people carrying meat in a mini-truck in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh, leaving three of them hospitalised. While the victims, all of them Muslim, claimed they were carrying buffalo meat — which isn't banned — the police said samples were being sent for testing. Aligarh Rural superintendent of police Amrit Jain told reporters the police had asked residents of the village where the attack took place to "submit a complaint" against the victims. He did not say whether any case would be registered against the hoods for the attack, claimed by the Akhil Bharatiya Hindu Sena, a little-known satellite of the Bjp-jr. Kaushambi district, 500km southeast of Aligarh, had two days earlier witnessed an attack on an animal trader and his two employees, who were ferrying live buffaloes, by extortionists who displayed a Bjp flag and signage of a "cow protection" organisation. Two of the attackers have been arrested on charges of extortion and assault, the Kaushambi police said. The Aligarh victims' mini-truck was stopped at Alahdadapur village and they were beaten up. The attackers claimed there was beef in the vehicle. Jain, the SP, said three of the four victims had been admitted to hospital. He said samples of the meat had been collected for analysis. "We have asked the villagers to submit a complaint; the police will investigate," Jain told reporters at the spot as a mob chanted "Jai Shri Ram". Akhil Bharatiya Hindu

Sena president Kishan Pathak, a local man, said his team had intercepted "butchers and suppliers of prohibited cow meat" and handed them over to the police. Jain said the police had "rescued" the victims. The men arrested in Kaushambi were allegedly travelling in an SUV fitted with a hooter and displaying a Bjp flag and a nameplate of the district president of the Goraksha Prakashth, a VHP wing. "They intercepted my truck near the Mahabali Baba Hanuman Mandir and demanded ₹20,000 to allow us to transport the animals," Rohit Pal, an animal trader from Naubasta in Kaushambi, told reporters. Pal said he was taking the buffaloes to the Ajuha Mandi, a cattle market, for sale. "They thrashed me and my two helpers when I refused to give them any money. They said nobody could go to the cattle market without their permission. They ran away when some people gathered there," he said. Sanjay Tiwari, a local police inspector, said: "We have arrested Sangam Pandey and Sunny Maurya aka Sarvesh." The police had obtained footage of the incident from a CCTV installed in front of the temple. Kaushambi City superintendent of police Shivank Singh said one of the three victims was "badly injured". Goraksha Prakashth district president Rupesh Vishwakarma said: "Those arrested don't belong to our organisation." Man beaten to death A man was allegedly beaten to death with a stick during an altercation between two groups in Lalitpur district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Saturday.

Cannes Film Fest: Boman Irani &  
Makarand Deshpande unveil poster of  
Prasenjit Chakraborty's "CHINDI PAKAD"

**MI News Service, Kolkata/Cannes:** In a proud moment for Indian cinema, veteran actors Boman Irani and Makarand Deshpande unveiled the official poster of filmmaker Prasenjit Chakraborty's upcoming urban drama CHINDI PAKAD at the Indian Pavilion during the 78th Cannes Film Festival. The poster launch, hosted by Shristi Creation Film Productions in association with Rituparna Sengupta, drew widespread attention for its bold narrative and symbolic design. CHINDI PAKAD explores the underbelly of urban life, tackling themes of addiction, survival, and the human spirit. The eye-catching poster features the title stylized with a green bottle replacing the letter "I" in CHINDI, a powerful visual metaphor for the film's deeper message. Speaking at the event, BOMAN IRANI said, "It's inspiring to see filmmakers push the enve-



lope and bring untold stories to light. CHINDI PAKAD is one such bold cinematic journey, and I'm honored to be part of this launch at Cannes." MAKARAND DESHPANDE, known for his intense character portrayals, added, "The rawness and realism reflected in the poster instantly drew me in. Films like these give voice to the marginalized and offer a

powerful mirror to society." Director and producer PRASENJIT CHAKRABORTY (PRIYAM) shared, "CHINDI PAKAD is not just a film—it's a voice from the streets, a story that demands to be heard. Launching the poster at Cannes, with stalwarts like BOMAN IRANI and MAKARAND DESHPANDE, gives the film the global platform it deserves."

Ship spills  
'hazardous  
material' in  
Arabian Sea,  
Kerala issues  
warning

**MI News Service, Kochi:** The Kerala State Disaster Management Authority has issued a warning to the public after the coast guard reported a possible spillage of "hazardous materials" from a cargo vessel in the Arabian Sea off Kerala. The 184-metre-long Liberian cargo vessel, MSC ELSA3, en route to Kochi port from Vizhinjam port, containing marine gas oil and Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil (VLSFO) met with an accident on Saturday at 1.25pm at 38 nautical miles to the Southwest of Kochi. All 24 crew members are reported to be safe. The accident occurred due to rough sea conditions caused by the onset of Southwest monsoon, which reached the Kerala coast. Nine crew members managed to escape using life jackets. The navy used a helicopter to save the remaining crew members. The 24-member crew of the vessel comprised one Russian, the Master, 20 Filipinos, two Ukrainians and one from Georgia. The warning issued by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) cautioned that there were chances of the "hazardous materials" getting washed ashore on the Kerala coast, and under no circumstances should people touch or even try to explore the objects. A possible oil spill is also feared to have occurred, and it might affect aquatic mammals. KSDMA member Secretary Shekhar Lukose Kuriakose informed that the cargo vessel turned to one side, which led to several cargo boxes falling into the Arabian Sea. Video images of cargo items floating in the sea had also been released by the coast guard. "People should immediately inform the police or 112 if they see any cargo items floating in the sea or if they wash ashore. Under no circumstances should people touch it. The containers may drift towards Thiruvananthapuram (South Kerala) or Kasaragod shorelines (North Kerala)," said Kuriakose. The coastal police have made announcements via loudspeakers along the Kerala coastline, warning the general public to stay alert and not to approach any unidentified objects.

Durand Cup: Asia's  
oldest football tournament  
now in 5 states

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Asia's oldest football tournament, the Indian Oil Durand Cup, will be back with its 134th Edition and for the first time in its storied history, be hosted in as many as five states with Manipur's capital Imphal, making a comeback after a two-year gap. The Durand Cup Organising Committee also announced the dates for this year's tournament to be between July 22- August 23, 2025. The century-old tournament shifted its home base to Kolkata – the Mecca of Indian Football from Delhi back in 2019, and, will also continue to hold that status for a sixth consecutive edition. The Durand Cup has reinstated itself as the country's premiere competition, growing from 16 teams to 24 teams, including participation from all

the Indian Super League (ISL) teams. Organised by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army on behalf of the three Services, the tournament is unique in the sense that it pits Services teams against India's best football clubs and over the past couple of editions, has also seen foreign participation with Army teams from neighbouring nations. A total of six venues, two in Kolkata (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan and Kishore Bharti Krirangan) and one each in Imphal (Khuman Lampak stadium), Ranchi (Morhabadi Stadium) or Jamshedpur (JRD Tata Sports Complex), Shillong (Jawahar Lal Nehru Stadium) and Kokrajhar (SAI Stadium) have been earmarked for the 134th IndianOil Durand Cup edition.

Students boycott Film & Television Institute in Arunachal



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Centre-run Film and Television Institute, Arunachal Pradesh, lacks basic infrastructure and academic necessities, which has prompted students to boycott classes. The institute, under the Union ministry of information and broadcasting, started operating in the 2024-25 academic session. The administration of the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute (SRFTI), Kolkata, looks after the management of the Arunachal Pradesh FTI, the third national film institute in the country. According to the students, the institute lacks infrastructure such as a classroom theatre and post-production blocks. The gym, library and technical resources remain defunct. It has failed to provide basic living conditions as electricity is not available 24x7. There is no power backup, campus security, functioning classrooms and digital access, they say. "Students continue to fall sick due to unsafe water, face frequent Internet blackouts, and attend classes in unsafe or unfinished spaces," the students said. The institute offers separate Master's courses in documentary, screenwriting and screen acting. A total of 45 students have been given admission, with each student paying over ₹2 lakh, including hostel fees. The students have sent letters to the authorities in December 2024 and January seeking clarity on facilities and basic planning. The institute acknowledged the problems without clarifying when the facilities would be extended. In March, the students observed an academic boycott and submitted a list of demands. A meeting was held and a document of promises shared. One classroom theatre was supposed to be delivered by April, but it is nowhere close to completion. WiFi in the girls' hostel was supposed to be in place by April 25, however, the work has just begun. Mineral water cans were agreed to, but it remains a pipe dream. "Since no concrete roadmap was offered, students formally declared an indefinite academic halt via email, demanding accountability, implementation and a written response," they said.







## Trump admin puts new restrictions on scribes at Pentagon

**MI News Service, Washington:** U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth issued orders that require journalists to have official escorts within much of the Pentagon building, the latest in a series of Trump administration restrictions placed on the press. The measures, which take effect immediately, bar credentialed reporters from most of the Department of Defense headquarters in Arlington, Virginia, unless they have an official approval and escort. "While the Department remains committed to transparency, the Department is equally obligated to protect CSNI (classified intelligence) and sensitive information - the unauthorized disclosure of which could put the lives of U.S. Service members in danger," Hegseth said in a memorandum. He called the protection of classified national intelligence information and operational security "an unwavering imperative for the Department." The Pentagon Press Association, a membership organization representing the interests of the press corps covering the U.S. military, said the new rules appeared to be a "direct attack on the freedom of the press." "The decision is purportedly based on concerns about operational security. But the Pentagon Press Corps has had access to non-secured, unclassified spaces in the Pentagon for decades, under Republican and Democratic administrations, including in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, without any concern about OP-SEC from DoD leadership," the statement said. The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a Reuters request for comment on the press association's statement. Since President Donald Trump returned to office in January, the Pentagon has launched an investigation into leaks that resulted in three officials being placed on administrative leave. It has also required legacy media organizations, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, CNN and NBC News, to vacate their Pentagon office spaces in a new rotation system that brought in others, including outlets generally friendly to the Trump administration such as the New York Post, Breitbart, the Daily Caller and One America News Network.



Preparations underway at Gurudwara Hemkund Sahib ahead of its opening for public, in Chamoli district, Uttarakhand.

## Russia launches massive air attack on Ukraine, at least 13 dead

**MI News Service, Kiev/Moscow:** Russian forces launched a barrage of 367 drones and missiles at Ukrainian cities overnight, including the capital Kyiv, in the largest aerial attack of the war so far, killing at least 13 people and injuring dozens more, officials said. The dead included three children in the northern region of Zhytomyr, local officials there said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on the United States, which has taken a softer public line on Russia and its leader, Vladimir Putin, since President Donald Trump took office, to speak out. "The silence of America, the silence of others in the world only encourages Putin," he wrote on Telegram. "Every such terrorist Russian strike is reason enough for new sanctions against Russia." It was the largest attack of the war in terms of weapons fired, although other strikes have killed more people. The assault comes as Ukraine and Russia prepared to conduct the third and final day of a prisoner swap in which both sides will exchange a total of 1000 people each. Ukraine and its European allies have sought to push Moscow into signing a 30-day ceasefire as a first step to negotiating an end to the three-year war. Their efforts suffered a blow earlier this week when Trump declined to place further sanctions on Moscow for not agreeing to an immediate pause in fighting, as Kyiv had wanted. Ukraine's air force said Russia had launched 298 drones and 69 missiles in its overnight assault, although it said it was able to down 266 drones and 45



missiles. Damage extended to a string of regional centres, including Ukraine's second-largest city, Kharkiv, as well as Mykolaiv in the south and Ternopil in the west. In Kyiv, Tymur Tkachenko, head of the city's military administration, said 11 people were injured in drone strikes. No deaths were reported in the capital, although four were killed in the region around the city, according to officials. This was the second large aerial attack in two days. On Friday evening, Russia launched dozens of drones and ballistic missiles at Kyiv in waves that continued through the night. In northeastern Ukraine, Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said early on Sunday that drones hit three city districts and injured three people. Bombs shattered windows in high-rise apartment blocks. Drone strikes killed a 77-year-old man and injured five people in the southern city of Mykolaiv, the regional govern-

nor said. He published a picture of a residential apartment block with a large hole from an explosion and rubble scattered over the ground. In the western region of Khmelnytskyi, many hundreds of kilometres away from the frontlines of fighting, four people were killed and five others wounded, according to the governor. "Without pressure, nothing will change and Russia and its allies will only build up forces for such murders in Western countries," the Ukrainian president's chief of staff Andriy Yermak wrote on Telegram. "Moscow will fight as long as it has the ability to produce weapons." Russia's Defence Ministry reported that its air defence units had intercepted or destroyed 95 Ukrainian drones over a four-hour period. The Mayor of Moscow, Sergei Sobyanin, said 12 Ukrainian drones had been intercepted on their way to the capital.

## PM to visit Gujarat on 26th and 27th May

**PM to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth around Rs 24,000 crore in Dahod**  
**PM to lay the foundation stone and inaugurate development projects worth over Rs 53,400 crore at Bhuj**  
**PM to participate in the celebrations of 20 years of Gujarat Urban Growth Story**  
**MI News Service, Delhi:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will visit Gujarat on 26th and 27th May. He will travel to Dahod and at around 11:15 AM, he will dedicate to the nation a Locomotive manufacturing plant and also flag off an Electric Locomotive. Thereafter he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth around Rs 24,000 crore in Dahod. He will also address a public function. Prime Minister will travel to Bhuj and at around 4 PM, he will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 53,400 crore at Bhuj. He will also address a public function. Further, Prime Minister will travel to Gandhinagar and on 27th May, at around 11 AM, he will participate in the celebrations of 20 years of Gujarat Urban Growth Story and launch Urban Development Year 2025. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. In line with his commitment to enhancing connectivity and building world-class travel infrastructure, Prime Minister will inaugurate the Locomotive Manufacturing plant of the Indian Railways in Dahod. This plant will produce electric locomotives of 9000 HP for domestic purposes and for export. He will also flag off the first electric locomotive manufactured from the plant. The locomotives will help in increasing freight loading capacity of Indian Railways. These locomotives will be equipped with regenerative braking systems, and are being de-

signed to reduce energy consumption, which contributes to environmental sustainability. Thereafter, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 24,000 crore in Dahod. The projects include rail projects and various projects of the Government of Gujarat. He will flag off Vande Bharat Express between Veraval and Ahmedabad & Express train between Val-sad and Dahod stations. Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone and inaugurate multiple development projects worth over Rs 53,400 crore at Bhuj. The projects from the power sector include transmission projects for evacuating renewable power generated in the Khavda Renewable Energy Park, transmission network expansion, Ultra super critical thermal power plant unit at Tapi, among others. It also includes projects of the Kandla port and multiple road, water and solar projects of the Government of Gujarat, among others. Urban Development Year 2005 in Gujarat was a flagship initiative launched by the then Chief Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the aim of transforming Gujarat's urban landscape through planned infrastructure, better governance, and improved quality of life for urban residents. Marking 20 years of the Urban Development Year 2005, Prime Minister will launch the Urban Development Year 2025, Gujarat's urban development plan and State Clean Air Programme in Gandhinagar. He will also inaugurate and lay the foundation stone for multiple projects related to urban development, health and water supply. He will also dedicate more than 22,000 dwelling units under PMAY. He will also release funds of Rs 3,300 crore to urban local bodies in Gujarat under the Swarnim Jayanti Mukhyamantri Shaheri Vikas Yojana.

## Germany: Knife attacker injures 18 at Hamburg Stn, assailant arrested

**MI News Service, Hamburg:** Eighteen people were injured in a knife attack in Hamburg station on Friday evening, Germany's Bild newspaper reported, and local police confirmed they had arrested the suspected assailant. Four victims are in critical condition and six others are seriously injured, Bild reported, saying the motive for the attack was unclear. Police said the suspected assailant was a 39-year old woman who allowed herself to be arrested without resistance. "So far we have no evidence that the woman could have acted with political motivation," said Hamburg police spokesperson Florian Abbenseth. "Rather, we have findings on the basis of which we are now investigating in particular whether she may have been in a state of mental distress." German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said in a post on social media platform X that the news from Hamburg was "shocking." "My thoughts are with the victims and their families," he said.

## IMF holds talks with Pak on FY26 budget

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that it held "constructive discussions" with Pakistani authorities on the upcoming budget while committing to continue talks in the coming days. The IMF team started high-level policy talks in Islamabad on May 19 to discuss the FY 2025-26 budget, which went on for days but apparently were inconclusive, forcing the government to delay the announcement of the budget till June 10. "We held constructive discussions with the authorities on their FY2026 budget proposals and broader economic policy, and reform agenda supported by the 2024 Extended Fund Facility (EFF) and the 2025 Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF)," the IMF's mission chief Nathan Porter said in a statement. "We will continue discussions towards agreeing over the authorities' FY26 budget over the coming days," the statement added. The current discussions were focused on actions to enhance revenue, including bolstering compliance and expanding the tax base and prioritising expenditure. "The authorities reaffirmed their commitment to fiscal consolidation while safeguarding social and priority expenditures, aiming for a primary surplus of 1.6 per cent of GDP in FY2026," Porter said. He added that talks covered ongoing energy sector reforms aimed at improving financial viability and reducing the high-cost structure of Pakistan's power sector as well as other structural reforms which will help foster sustainable growth and promote a more level playing field for business and investment. The government emphasised its commitment to "ensuring sound macroeconomic policy-making and building buffers," according to the statement. "In this context, maintaining an appropriately tight and data-dependent monetary policy remains a priority to ensure inflation is anchored within the central bank's medium-term target range of 5-7 per cent," Porter stressed. "Rebuilding foreign exchange (FX) reserve buffers, preserving a fully functioning FX market, and allowing for greater exchange rate flexibility are critical to strengthening resilience to external shocks," added Porter. The IMF also said that its next mission associated with the next EFF and RSF reviews was expected in the second half of 2025. Pakistan and the IMF signed a USD 7 billion EFF loan last year and the country so far received two tranches, including the second one disbursed this month. The IMF executive board approved the fresh assistance to Pakistan notwithstanding New Delhi's apprehensions that the funds could be used for cross-border terrorism.

## Neuschwanstein Castle: A Bavarian architecture that inspired many including Nazis

SIDDHARTHA ALBERTT MAJUMDERR

Perched on a cliff in the Bavarian Alps near Füssen, Germany, Neuschwanstein Castle is the epitome of the idyllic. Its spires soar to the heavens, while the surrounding landscapes are an invitation to daydreaming. It's the stuff of fairytales, so much so, that the man who had it built is dubbed the "fairytale king" — Ludwig II of Bavaria, who was born in 1845. "Neuschwanstein is nestled in this Alpine landscape. Reminiscent of a theatrical setting, Ludwig II aimed to unite architecture, art and landscapes into a Gesamtkunstwerk — a complete artwork," Alexander Wiesneth, of the Bavarian Palace Administration. **ENVISIONED AS A PLACE OF REFUGE:** Just weeks after the mysterious death of Ludwig II in 1886, Neuschwanstein was opened to the public. It was an ironic twist of fate, as the king had it built as a private refuge for himself, desperately seeking solitude. Modeled as a medieval knight's castle, inspiration for Neuschwanstein came during Ludwig II's travels in 1867 to Wartburg Castle near Eisenach, Germany and to Chateau de Pierrefonds in France. As the eccentric Ludwig II himself wrote to his revered friend, opera composer Richard Wagner, in May 1868: "It is my intention to rebuild the old castle ruin [...] near the

Pöllat Gorge in the authentic style of the old German knights' castles, and I must confess to you that I am looking forward very much to living there one day," as the Bavarian Palace Administration notes. **A TRIBUTE TO COMPOSER RICHARD WAGNER:** Construction of the "new castle" that was to include 200 rooms began in September 1869 and continued over decades, but was never fully completed. The building melded various styles that included towers, chapels and arches, but also featured modern achievements like central heating, flushing toilets and a bell system to summon servants. Neuschwanstein's design was also dedicated to Wagner, whose operas "Tannhäuser," "Lohengrin" and "Parsifal" profoundly influenced Ludwig. The Singers' Hall boasts gilded frameworks and frescoes depicting knights, courtly love and other legends of medieval times, like the Holy Grail. The ceiling reveals zodiac signs, while wall images show Parsifal's son, the "Swan Knight" Lohengrin. Ludwig II himself had identified with such figures since his youth. **MYSTERIOUS DEATH OF LUDWIG II:** Yet, these majestic rooms, like the Throne Hall and the Ballroom — begging to be filled with illustrious guests and lavish parties — remained empty. After all, the king wanted his peace. With construction of Neuschwanstein dragging on

over many years, Ludwig himself only lived at Neuschwanstein briefly, before his baffling death at the age of 40 — officially ruled to be a suicide by drowning, a theory that has however been disputed. Ludwig II's lifeless body was discovered floating in Lake Starnberg, near Munich, together with the corpse of his physician, after the two had set out on an evening stroll in June 1886. **DEPOT FOR ARTWORKS LOOTED BY NAZIS:** However, it is not just Neuschwanstein's lavish, fairytale design that gained the castle fame. Its role as a depot for Nazi-looted artworks during World War II has also made it rather infamous, as featured in George Clooney's 2014 film "The Monuments Men." After German troops invaded neighboring France in 1940, Adolf Hitler authorized the taskforce led by Alfred Rosenberg to "search libraries, archives, lodges and other philosophical and cultural institutions of all kinds for appropriate material and to seize such material," which included cultural holdings by Jews, as noted on the Smithsonian Institution's American Archives of Art and at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum sites. Between 1940 and 1945, Nazi officials transferred stolen valuables, primarily from Jews, to locations throughout Europe, and later, to Germany, including salt mines, monasteries and castles. Neuschwanstein Castle was ideal as a depot and site for the

Rosenberg taskforce headquarters. Tucked away near the Austrian border, far from the capital Berlin or other likely Allied targets, it provided ample space. **UNEARTHING THE LOOTED TREASURES:** Ultimately, when Allied forces stormed Neuschwanstein in 1945, they unearthed catalogues, photo slides and lists documenting over 20,000 artworks and other pieces that had been stolen by the Nazis, including Rothschild jewelry and furniture, as well as the "Ghent Altarpiece" masterpiece by the Van Eyck brothers. Many of these items had stemmed from France. It was due to the valiant efforts of French curator Rose Valland that the Allied task force discovered the Neuschwanstein cache in the first place, said one of the "Monuments Men," art historian S. Lane Faison Jr., in an interview found at the Archives of American Art. "She pretended to be a [Nazi] collaborator," Faison noted of Valland, who worked at the Jeu de Paume Museum in Paris, one of the Nazis' collection points before they shipped stolen wares to Germany. For years, Valland had secretly tracked where the art was being transported and her meticulous records auspiciously landed in the hands of Allied forces. Toward the end of the war, the Munich Central Collecting Point (MCCP) was established, with the aim of returning artworks looted by the Nazis to their rightful owners. Matthias Memmel, responsi-

ble for provenance research at the Bavarian Palace Administration, stressed to DW with regard to "The Monuments Men" that "Neuschwanstein Castle was happy to cooperate with the film project, as it made the historical merit of the American Allies, the 'Monuments Men,' better known to a broad international public." Maria Blenk, Bavarian Palace Administration museum specialist, explained to DW that visitors do ask questions about Neuschwanstein and the Second World War. "Americans in particular, but also British people, remember the history of the 'Monuments Men' and many have or had family members who were stationed in Bavaria, so they are interested in the more recent history of Neuschwanstein." **A LOOK TO THE FUTURE:** Neuschwanstein was only one of Ludwig II's lavish construction projects. Others include the rococo Linderhof Palace and the baroque Herrenchiemsee Palace. Together, they are up in a bid to become a UNESCO World Heritage site. Whether the dream of a king, the site of a former Nazi-looted art depot or being the inspiration for Walt Disney's Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty castles, Neuschwanstein remains in the imaginations of many. As the Bavarian Palace Administration's Alexander Wiesneth notes, the similarity between King Ludwig II and Walt Disney is clear: Their vision of architecture was about "telling a story."

## Isale Sawab in Rajkhola



Mohammad Nurul Islam

The annual Isale Sawab was held at Rajkhola Siddiqiya Darbar Sharif in Howrah Panchla on Sunday. This meeting was held in memory of the famous Bengali scholar and saint Hazrat Shahsufi Pir Allama Mohammad Jamaluddin Siddiq Al Mujaddidi (Rah). The Mujaddide Zaman Ala Hazrat Dada Huzur Pir Qibla (Rah) was one of his prominent caliphs in Furfura Sharif. The president of this Du'ar Mahfil was Gaddishin Pir Mr. Alhbaz Maw: Mohiuddin Siddiq Sahib (founder). The invited Waezin of Furfura Sharif, Mr. Hazrat Allama Pir Alhbaz Qari Ismail Siddiqui Sahib, was present. Pirzada Hazrat Maulana Sawban Siddiqui spoke in the light of the Quran and Hadith. The meeting was conducted by Mohammad Nizamuddin Siddiqui. The disciples and devotees of Huzoor were in support. The overall management was done by Allama Jamaluddin Siddiquia Educational and Welfare Trust.



# IPL 2025: All-round CSK finish campaign with 83-run win over GT

**AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT)** : A brilliant performance by young batters Dewald Brevis and Urvil Patel followed by a sensational spin assault helped Chennai Super Kings (CSK) end their Indian Premier League (IPL) campaign with an 83-run win over Gujarat Titans (GT) at Ahmedabad on Sunday.

CSK finished in the bottom spot with four wins and 10 losses, giving them eight points. GT are still at the top with nine wins and five losses, giving them 18 points.

In the run chase of 231 runs, the opening pair of skipper Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan started with some flashy hits. However, a fine catch by Urvil Patel at slip removed Gill for 13 in nine. GT was 24/1 in 2.3 overs.

Anshul Kamboj and Khaleel Ahmed delivered a thunderbolt to GT, as Khaleel, with Anshul's assistance, removed Jos Buttler (5 in seven balls) while Anshul removed Sherfane Rutherford for a four-ball duck. GT was 30/3 in 4.3 overs.

At the end of six overs, GT was 35/3, with Shahrulkh Khan (0\*) and Sudharsan (15\*) unbeaten.

GT reached the 50-run mark in 7.4 overs.

In the 10th over, Shahrulkh and Sudharsan removed some pressure with their big hitting, taking



of the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 season at the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium on Sunday.

This was the highest score for Chennai this season. CSK skipper MS Dhoni won the toss and elected to bat. Ayush Mhatre and Devon Conway opened the innings for CSK; after a quiet first over from GT seamer Mohammed Siraj, Mhatre charged Arshad Khan in the second over, smashing him for 28 runs.

After a vital cameo from Mhatre, he was removed by IPL 2025 purple cap holder Prasidh Krishna for 34 (17). His innings included three fours and sixes each. Urvil Patel joined Conway in the middle. CSK crossed the 50-run mark in the 5th over. They finished their power play on 68/1, Devon Conway 14 (11), and Urvil Patel 11 (8). This was the highest power-play score for CSK in the ongoing IPL. After a decent innings, Patel was removed by Sai Kishore for 37 (19); his innings included four fours and two sixes, and Shivam Dube joined Conway in the middle. Shivam Dube was caught on long-on, trying to up the batting run rate, in the 13th over for 17 in 8 balls; his innings included two sixes, and Dewald Brevis joined Conway on the crease. CSK crossed the 150-run

mark by the end of the 13th over; Conway completed his second fifty of this season in the following over, smashing a six off veteran spinner Rashid Khan.

Khan cleaned up Conway on the next delivery for 52(35). His innings included six fours and two sixes; Ravindra Jadeja joined Brevis in the middle.

After 16 overs, CSK were 173/4, Ravindra Jadeja 7 (9), Dewald Brevis 15 (8). Brevis and Jadeja counter-attacked GT Seamer Gerald Coetzee, hitting him for 14 runs in the 17th over.

Chennai crossed the 200 runs mark in the 18th over; this was CSK's first 200+ score this season, batting first.

Brevis completed his second fifty of the season in just 19 balls. Brevis and Jadeja smashed 20 runs off Siraj in the 19th over. CSK finished their 20 overs on 230/5, the highest score of Chennai this season.

In bowling, Prasidh Krishna (2/22) was the pick of the bowlers for Gujarat, while Rashid Khan, Sai Kishore and Shahrulkh Khan picked a wicket each.

Brief score: CSK 230/5 (Dewald Brevis 57, Devon Conway 52; Prasidh Krishna 2/22) beat GT: 147 in 18.3 overs (Sai Sudharsan 41, Arshad Khan 20, Anshul Kamboj 3/13).

## "PBKS should be concerned about their bowling": Anil Kumble ahead of IPL playoffs

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : Following Punjab King's (PBKS) loss to Delhi Capitals (DC) in the Indian Premier League clash on Saturday, former Indian cricketer Anil Kumble said that the former should be concerned about their bowling.

Sameer Rizvi saw his team home with an unbeaten 58 off 25 balls studded with three fours and four sixes as the DC chased the target of 207 with three balls to spare at the Sai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur on Saturday.

Punjab Kings have already qualified for the playoffs and are sitting at the second spot with seventeen points.

Speaking at the PBKS bowling, Kumble said, "Yes, PBKS should be concerned about their bowling. We have seen that on display. Other than Arshdeep and without [Harpreet] Brar to an extent... we don't know what happened to Chahal [who missed the game]. It's certainly worrying. And with Marco Jansen not being there for the playoffs, this is a worry,"



## Rashid Khan joins unwanted list; concedes joint most sixes in an IPL season

**AHMEDABAD** : Gujarat Titans (GT) veteran spinner Rashid Khan has added his name to an unwanted list. He has conceded the most sixes (31) in an Indian Premier League (IPL) season.

Rashid, the first Afghan player in the IPL, has equalled the record of conceding the most number of sixes with GT's front-line seamer Mohammed Siraj.

He was smashed for three sixes on Sunday during his outing against the Chennai Super Kings in the ongoing IPL at the iconic Narendra Modi Stadium.

It was GT's last league stage match, and Rashid ended the group stage with nine wickets in 14 matches, his worst average of 53.66 since his IPL debut in 2017. If he can't pick two wickets in the playoffs, it'll be his worst-ever season in the league.

Rashid joined Gujarat Titans in 2022, where he took 19 wickets to help them secure the IPL title in their debut season. In 2023, he claimed 27 wickets, including GT's first-ever IPL hat-trick against Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), and dazzled with a blistering 79\* off 32 balls against Mumbai Indians (MI).

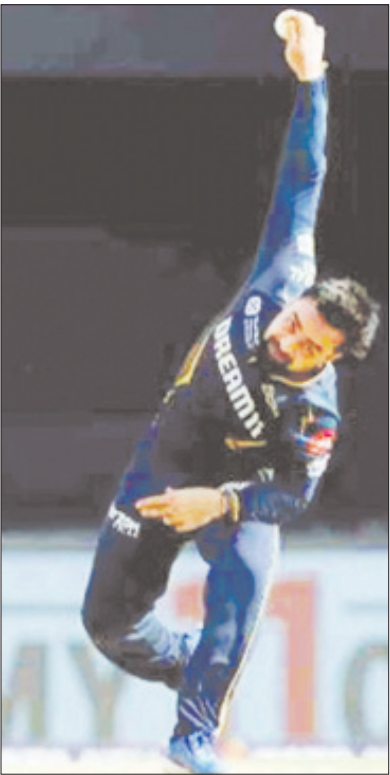
In 135 IPL matches, Rashid has grabbed 158 wickets, with an average of 23.63 and an economy of 7. For GT, he took 65 wickets in 59 matches earlier he was with Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Coming to the match, fifties from Devon Conway and Dewald Brevis powered Chennai Super Kings (CSK) to 230/5 in 20 overs against Gujarat Titans (GT).

This was the highest score of Chennai this season. CSK skipper MS Dhoni won the toss and elected to bat. Ayush Mhatre and Devon Conway opened the innings for CSK; after a quiet first over from GT seamer Mohammed Siraj, Mhatre charged Arshad Khan in the second over, smashing him for 28 runs.

Chennai crossed the 200 runs mark in the 18th over; this was CSK's first 200+ score this season, batting first. Brevis and Jadeja smashed 20 runs off Siraj in the 19th over. CSK finished their 20 overs on 230/5, the highest score of Chennai this season.

In bowling, Prasidh Krishna (2/22) was the pick of the bowler for Gujarat, while Rashid Khan, Sai Kishore and Shahrulkh Khan picked a wicket each.



## India A players reach UK for England Lions matches

**NEW DELHI [INDIA]** : The members of India A squad led by Abhimanyu Easwaran reached England on Sunday ahead of their matches against England Lions starting from June 3 onwards.

As a part of the tour, India A will play two first-class matches against the England Lions at Canterbury and Northampton on May 30 and June 6, before concluding their outing with an intra-squad match against Team India on June 13 at Beckenham.

Pacer Tushar Deshpande posted a picture posing with Ruturaj Gaikwad, Tanush Kotian, Dhruv Jurel, Yashasvi Jaiswal and skipper Abhimanyu, captioned, "Work crew."

The team will be led by Abhimanyu Easwaran, who has been a domestic cricket stalwart for Bengal, with 101 first-class games, 7,674 runs at an average of 48.87, 27 centuries and 29 fifties behind him.

He did have a disappointing tour to Australia last year, where he ended up with just 36 runs in four innings.

Batters Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan will join the squad ahead of the second match. Currently, they are serving as the backbone of the Gujarat Titans (GT) batting line-up.

The dream domestic season 2024-25 for Vidarbha star Nair concluded with the 863-run season in Ranji, with an average of 53.93, four centuries and two fifties in 16 innings across nine matches. His best score of 135 came in the final, and his team emerged victorious.

A massive highlight of his season was the Vijay Hazare Trophy one-day tournament, where he top-scored with 779 runs in nine matches and eight innings at a stunning average of 389.50 and a strike rate of 124.04, with five centuries and a fifty and best score of 163\*. He played a massive role in his team's run to the finals, where they lost to his former team, Karnataka.

In the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy T20 competition, Nair

made 255 runs in six innings, averaging 42.50 at a strike rate of 177.08, with three half-centuries and the best score of 77. His team was knocked out in the quarterfinals.

This strong performance has reignited hopes for an India call-up for Nair, who last played for India in 2017. Nair was the only Test triple centurion for India after legendary opener Virender Sehwag.

Indian team's regular opener, Yashasvi Jaiswal, who has been an integral part of the top order since his debut in 2023 at the international level, will also be playing the India A matches. He also had a memorable Border-Gavaskar Trophy for India and was one of their brightest spots with 391 runs in five matches, with a century and two fifties in 10 innings.

Also, wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, Nitish Kumar Reddy, and pacer Akash Deep, who had some promising outings during the ICC World Test Championship cycle 2025-27 against England and Australia, are included in the squad. The strongest performer out of these has been Nitish, who made a stunning Test debut in Australia, with 298 runs in five matches at an average of 37.22, including a century at the Boxing Day Test in Melbourne.

Jurel has played four Tests for India, scoring 202 runs at an average of 40.40, with a fifty. He also shone for India A with some solid performances in Australia against Australia A last year. Also, Ishan Kishan, who made his return to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Central Contract this year after being excluded from it last year, has been added as a second-wicketkeeper-batter option alongside Jurel.

Ishan has played two Tests for India, scoring 78 runs in three innings, including a fifty.

Shardul Thakur, who has delivered some fighting outings in England, notably three half-centuries, including of which came in the ICC World Test



## GUJARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION FELICITATES SHUBMAN GILL

**AHMEDABAD (GUJARAT)** : In a momentous development for Indian cricket, Shubman Gill has been appointed as the new Test captain of Team India. The Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) felicitated the young cricketer on Saturday, celebrating his rise to one of the most prestigious roles in Indian sport.

The felicitation ceremony, held in Ahmedabad, recognised Gill's consistent performances, leadership qualities, and his journey from a promising youngster to a key figure in the Indian cricket setup. The GCA, proud of Gill's association with Gujarat Titans (GT) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and his deep connection with the state, posted the announcement on their official X handle.

"Gujarat Cricket Association felicitated Shubman Gill as the new Test Captain of Team India! A rising star, a fearless leader - the future of Indian cricket shines brighter than ever from the land



of legends! Congratulations, Captain Gill!"

Gill's first assignment as Test captain will be a challenging five-match series in England. With the team set to depart in the coming weeks, the cricketing fraternity will be keenly watching how the young captain marshals his troops

in overseas conditions.

Having already proved his mettle across formats with the bat, the 25-year-old now has the added responsibility of leading a new generation of Indian cricketers in the longest format of the game. Gill has become one of the youngest players to hold the posi-

tion in recent years. Though he lacks captaincy experience in the red-ball format, he has led India in a five-match T20I assignment in Zimbabwe in 2024. Gill has also been captaining the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League.

Gill has also served as vice-captain in ODIs and T20Is. He was Rohit Sharma's deputy in India's victorious Champions Trophy campaign in the UAE in February 2025. In Test cricket, Gill has played 32 matches and scored 1,893 runs, including five centuries.

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.