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weather report

Kolkata Weather

36 ℃ | ℉

Precipitation 0%

Humidity 82%

Wind 18km/h

Mostly cloudy with a t-storm

Indian Indices

NIFTY 50		
24185.35	59.80	0.25
SENSEX		
79616.20	207.70	0.26
NIFTY BANK		
55772.70	468.20	0.85
NIFTY IT		
33990.80	-144.25	-0.42
BSE SMALLCAP		
49267.40	521.98	1.07

Gold Rates

Today gold price in Kolkata
92,900 1,01,350
»
Today gold price in Bangalore
92,900 1,01,350
»
Today gold price in India
92,900 (₹2,750) 1,01,350 (₹3,000)

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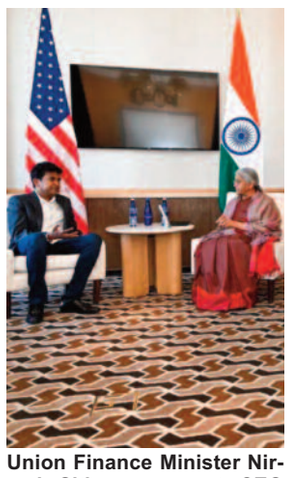


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Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman meets CEO of Turing, Jonathan Siddharth, in San Francisco on Tuesday.

Stories Inspire Progress:

WBCM Mamata Banerjee Highlights the Power of Narratives at Medinipur Solar Plant Inauguration



Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated a solar power plant in Goaltore, Medinipur, emphasizing the transformative power of stories in driving development and innovation. Addressing a gathering at the event, she articulated how narratives serve as the foundation for various initiatives, stating, "Stories are the seeds from which industries grow."

The Chief Minister's remarks underscored the importance of storytelling in conceptualizing and executing developmental projects. She highlighted that behind every successful venture lies a compelling narrative that inspires action and fosters progress. By sharing stories of local communities, challenges, and triumphs, policymakers and stakeholders can better understand the needs and aspirations of the people, leading to more effective and inclusive development strategies.

The inauguration of the solar power plant in Goaltore represents a significant step towards sustainable energy solutions in the region. The facility is expected to contribute substantially to the local power supply, reduce carbon emissions, and create employment opportunities for residents. This initiative aligns with the state's broader commitment to renewable energy and environmental conservation.

In her speech, CM Banerjee also addressed criticisms from opposition parties, asserting that the state's development trajectory is guided by the genuine needs and stories of its people, rather than external influences. She emphasized that the government's focus remains on grassroots-level engagement and the empowerment of local communities.

The Chief Minister's emphasis on the role of stories in development reflects a broader understanding of the human elements that drive progress. By valuing and integrating the experiences and narratives of individuals and communities, the state aims to foster a more inclusive and responsive governance model.

The event in Medinipur not only marked the launch of a new energy project but also served as a platform to reaffirm the state's dedication to people-centric development. CM Banerjee's message highlighted the belief that sustainable progress is rooted in the collective stories and aspirations of the populace, guiding the path towards a more equitable and prosperous future.

As West Bengal continues to pursue various developmental initiatives, the integration of storytelling into policy-making and project implementation may serve as a model for other regions. By acknowledging and harnessing the power of narratives, the state seeks to ensure that its growth is reflective of and responsive to the diverse voices of its citizens.

The inauguration ceremony concluded with a call to action for continued collaboration between the government, communities, and stakeholders, emphasizing that the stories of the people are not only the inspiration but also the blueprint for the state's ongoing journey towards development and innovation.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Deputy Governor of Makkah, Prince Saud bin Mishaal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Minister of Commerce Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Mayor of Jeddah, Saleh Ali Al-Turki upon his arrival in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Mamata Banerjee Inaugurates Goaltore Solar Power Plant in Midnapore

Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated a 112.5 MW solar power plant in Goaltore, West Midnapore, marking a significant step towards the state's renewable energy goals. This project, developed on 757 acres of land at the Durga Bandh Government Seed Farm in Jirapara, represents a total investment of ₹757 crore, with 80% funding from Germany's KfW Bank and the remaining 20% from the West Bengal government. The West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL) oversees its operation.

The inauguration is part of a broader initiative to enhance the state's energy infrastructure. Chief Minister Banerjee emphasized that the plant's commissioning would lead to a reduction in electricity costs for consumers. She also highlighted the project's potential to create numerous employment opportunities for local youth, thereby contributing to regional economic development.

In addition to the solar power plant, the Chief Minister inaugurated 110 other development projects and laid the foundation for 212 more across the region. These initiatives span various sectors, including infrastructure, healthcare, and education, aiming to improve the quality of life for residents in West Midnapore and surrounding areas.

Looking ahead, the state government plans to establish additional renewable energy projects, such as a 200 MW floating solar power plant at Bakreswar and further solar initiatives in Purulia and Baghmundi. These efforts align with the state's commitment to increasing its total power generation capacity to 18,000 MW in the coming years, with an investment of ₹48,000 crore.



The Goaltore solar power plant stands as a testament to West Bengal's dedication to sustainable development and energy security. By harnessing renewable energy sources, the state aims to reduce its carbon footprint, promote environmental conservation, and ensure a stable and affordable power supply for its citizens.

The successful completion of this project underscores the collaborative efforts between the state government and international partners in achieving shared goals of economic growth and environmental stewardship. As West Bengal continues to invest in renewable energy, initiatives like the Goaltore solar power plant play a crucial role in shaping a sustainable and prosperous future for the region.

Kiren Rijiju Defends Waqf Act Amendments, Emphasizes Benefits for Poor Muslims and Prevention of Property Misuse

New Delhi, 22 April: In a recent address, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju elaborated on the government's rationale behind the amendments to the Waqf Act, asserting that the primary objectives are to benefit economically disadvantaged Muslims and to prevent the misuse of Waqf properties. He highlighted that India possesses over 972,000 Waqf properties, the largest in the world, yet these assets have not been effectively utilized for the welfare of the Muslim community. Rijiju emphasized the need for proper management and accountability to ensure these properties serve their intended purpose. Rijiju referenced historical reports, including the 1976 Waqf Inquiry Report, the Sachar Committee Report, and the K. Rehman Khan Report, which have all advocated for more efficient and transparent management of Waqf properties. He stated that the current amendments align with these recommendations, aiming to bring about the necessary reforms for better governance of Waqf assets. The minister also noted that a significant portion of the Muslim community supports the amendments, viewing them as a step towards rectifying longstanding issues in the management of Waqf properties. He stressed that the reforms are not intended to interfere with religious freedoms but to ensure that the properties fulfill their charitable and religious purposes effectively. However, the amendments have faced criticism from opposition leaders and some Muslim organizations. Asaduddin Owaisi, leader of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen (AIMIM), expressed concerns that the changes could negatively impact the Muslim community, suggesting that the government's intentions may not be as benevolent as presented. Owaisi's remarks reflect the apprehension among certain groups regarding the potential implications of the amendments. The Supreme Court has intervened by pausing key provisions of the newly enacted amendments, indicating the contentious nature of the reforms and the need for further judicial scrutiny. This development underscores the ongoing debate surrounding the management of Waqf properties and the balance between reform and preservation of religious rights.

Education Minister Bratya Basu Urges SSC Protesters to Avoid Actions That Could Weaken Legal Review

Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu addressed the ongoing protests by candidates affected by the 2016 School Service Commission (SSC) recruitment process. In a press conference, he urged the protesters to refrain from actions that could potentially weaken the government's review petition in the Supreme Court. He emphasized the importance of maintaining a conducive environment for legal proceedings to ensure justice for deserving candidates. The protests began on April 21, 2025, with candidates demanding the publication of a list distinguishing between eligible and ineligible individuals affected by the Calcutta High Court's decision to cancel the entire 2016 SSC panel. The court's ruling, aimed at addressing alleged irregularities in the recruitment process, has inadvertently impacted many qualified candidates who now face job insecurity.

Minister Basu acknowledged the protesters' concerns and reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of eligible candidates. He assured that the state would pursue all legal avenues, including filing a review petition in the Supreme Court, to challenge the High Court's decision. However, he cautioned that any disruptive actions by the protesters could undermine the legal process and potentially weaken the case. The Education Minister's appeal comes amid heightened tensions and emotional distress among the affected candidates. Many have been protesting for over a thousand days, highlighting the prolonged uncertainty and frustration stemming from the recruitment controversy. The situation has drawn national attention, with various stakeholders expressing concern over the impact on the state's education system and the livelihoods of aspiring teachers.



In his address, Minister Basu emphasized the need for unity and cooperation between the government and the affected candidates. He urged the protesters to trust the legal process and allow the judiciary to address the complexities of the case. By maintaining a peaceful and constructive approach, he believes that a fair resolution can be achieved that upholds the rights of qualified candidates while addressing the concerns raised by the court. The government's decision to file a review petition reflects its commitment to rectifying the unintended consequences of the High Court's ruling. Minister Basu's appeal to the protesters underscores the delicate balance between advocating for justice and ensuring that legal strategies are not compromised by public demonstrations. As the case progresses, the collaboration between the government, the judiciary, and the affected individuals will be crucial in resolving the issue and restoring confidence in the state's recruitment processes. The outcome of the review petition will have significant implications for the future of teacher recruitment in West Bengal. It will not only determine the fate of the candidates affected by the 2016 SSC panel cancellation but also set a precedent for how similar cases are handled in the future.

Mohan Bhagwat Urges RSS Cadre to Champion Social Harmony and National Unity

New Delhi, 22 April: Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat called upon Sangh workers to actively promote principles essential for social harmony and the resurgence of the nation. Emphasizing the importance of unity, Bhagwat highlighted the need to transcend divisions based on caste, language, and region to strengthen the fabric of Indian society. Speaking at a gathering in Baran, Rajasthan, Bhagwat asserted that the Hindu society must unite for its own security by eliminating internal differences. He stated, "For its security, Hindu society will have to unite by eliminating differences and disputes of language, caste, and province. Society should be such that organisation, goodwill, and intimacy should be practised" Bhagwat underscored that the term 'Hindu' encompasses all sects residing in India, advocating for a cohesive society where diversity is embraced. He remarked, "Hindus consider everyone their own and accept everyone. A Hindu says, 'we are right, and you are also right in your place'. We should live with goodwill, engaging in continuous dialogue" Addressing the issue of caste-based divisions, Bhagwat called for inclusive practices in public spaces and places of worship. He emphasized the need for shared spaces such as temples, drinking water facilities, and crematoriums, encouraging participation from all sections of society Highlighting the significance of mutual respect and cohesion, Bhagwat stated that differences should be respected and that "cohesion is the key to living in harmony". He added, "Clashes are happening outside Bharat due to diversity. We see diversity as a natural part of life. You can have your own specialities, but you must be good to each other" Bhagwat also addressed the need for emotional integration among communities, emphasizing that all individuals residing in India are insiders. He stated, "There were communities that came here from other places. We fought with them then, but they are gone now. Bahar Wale sab chale gaye, ab sab andarwale hai. (There are only insiders now). So we must live, forgetting the links with outsiders. Everyone here is part of us" Bhagwat urged Sangh workers to foster friendships across all sections of society, stating that social harmony cannot be achieved through symbolic programmes alone.



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Asserts Parliament's Supremacy Amidst Judiciary-Executive Tensions

New Delhi, 22 April: Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar emphasized the unparalleled supremacy of the Indian Parliament, asserting its exclusive authority in shaping the nation's constitutional framework. His remarks come amidst ongoing debates about the balance of power among India's legislative, executive, and judicial branches.

Speaking at an event organized by the Ministry of Law and Justice at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, Dhankhar declared, "Parliament is the soul of democracy, its supremacy not amenable to any intervention from executive or judiciary." He underscored that any encroachment into Parliament's domain would constitute a constitutional aberration, contradicting the democratic essence and values.

Highlighting the role of the Constituent Assembly, Dhankhar stated that Parliament is the sole architect of the Constitution, reflecting the will of the people. He emphasized that the evolution of the Constitution must occur through Parliament, not through the executive or judiciary. Addressing the need for harmonious relations among the branches of government, Dhankhar called for collaborative discourse rather than confrontational perceptions. He suggested establishing a mechanism for structured interaction between the executive, judiciary, and legislature to resolve issues without public confrontations. Dhankhar also referenced the abrogation of Article 370, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their roles in this significant constitutional change. He noted that Article 370 was not drafted by the Constitution's drafting committee and that its removal aligns with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision.



The Vice President's remarks have sparked discussions about the separation of powers in India. While Dhankhar emphasizes Parliament's supremacy, others argue for a balanced approach. Former Supreme Court judge Justice Madan B. Lokur countered that the Constitution, not Parliament, is supreme, highlighting the judiciary's role in upholding constitutional principles.

This ongoing discourse reflects the dynamic nature of India's democratic framework, where the roles and boundaries of each government branch continue to evolve. As debates persist, the importance of maintaining a balance among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches remains paramount to uphold the Constitution's integrity and the nation's democratic values.

Mamata Banerjee Assures Unaffected SSC Teachers Amid List Controversy

Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee reassured teachers who have been unaffected by the Supreme Court's annulment of appointments. She urged them to continue their duties without concern over the ongoing controversy surrounding the publication of the list distinguishing between 'untainted' and 'tainted' candidates. The controversy erupted following the Supreme Court's decision to annul the appointments of approximately 26,000 candidates, citing irregularities in the recruitment process. This ruling has led to widespread protests among the affected individuals, demanding clarity and justice. Amidst this turmoil, the state government has been under pressure to address the concerns of those who were not implicated in any wrongdoing.

Chief Minister Banerjee, addressing the gathering, emphasized that the state government is committed to supporting the teachers who have been cleared of any allegations. She reassured them that they should not be concerned about the ongoing protests or the publication of the controversial list. "Go to your schools without worry; the government will handle the rest," she stated, reinforcing her administration's commitment to their job security.

The Chief Minister also took a veiled swipe at certain political figures, suggesting that had they been in Kolkata, the issue would have been resolved swiftly. This remark appeared to be directed at prominent lawyer and Left leader, Bikash Ranjan Bhattacharya, who has been vocal in his criticism of the government's handling of the recruitment process.

Despite the Chief Minister's assurances, the con-



troversy continues to simmer. Protests have intensified, with job seekers demanding the immediate publication of the list to distinguish between those who are eligible and those who are not. The lack of transparency has fueled distrust among the affected individuals, leading to continued unrest.

Education Minister Bratya Basu has urged the protesters to refrain from actions that could undermine the ongoing review petition filed by the state government. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the integrity of the legal process and cautioned against any activities that might weaken the state's position in court.The state government's stance has been clear: they are committed to supporting the teachers who have been unjustly affected by the Supreme Court's ruling. However, the lack of a clear and transparent process for distinguishing between 'untainted' and 'tainted' candidates has led to confusion and frustration among the affected individuals.

As the situation unfolds, it remains to be seen how the state government will address the demands for transparency and justice. The Chief Minister's assurances provide some comfort to those who have been cleared of any wrongdoing, but the ongoing controversy highlights the need for a more transparent and accountable recruitment process in the future. while the Chief Minister's assurances offer some relief to the unaffected teachers, the controversy surrounding the SSC recruitment process underscores the challenges faced by the state government in balancing legal judgments with the welfare of its citizens. The coming weeks will be crucial in determining how effectively the government can address the concerns of all stakeholders involved.

Mamata Banerjee to Visit Murshidabad in Early May Amid Tensions Over Waqf Act Protests



Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced plans to visit Murshidabad in the first week of May 2025. The visit comes in the wake of recent communal unrest in the district, which has drawn significant attention and concern.

The unrest in Murshidabad was triggered by protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act. These protests escalated into violent clashes on April 11 and 12, resulting in fatalities and widespread property damage. The Calcutta High Court intervened by ordering the deployment of central forces to restore order. Approximately 275 individuals were arrested in connection with the disturbances, and several hundred villagers sought refuge in relief camps in Malda.

Chief Minister Banerjee has emphasized that "outsiders" were responsible for instigating the violence, in collaboration with certain local elements. She has vowed to uncover and expose the conspiracy behind the unrest. Banerjee stated that she would personally visit the affected areas in Murshidabad during the first week of May to assess the situation and address the concerns of the local population.

The Chief Minister's visit is expected to focus on several key objectives. Firstly, she aims to meet with the families of those affected by the violence, offering support and reassurance. Secondly, Banerjee plans to review the security arrangements in the district to ensure the safety of residents and prevent further incidents. Additionally, she intends to engage with local leaders and community representatives to foster dialogue and promote communal harmony.

Political analysts view Banerjee's upcoming visit as a strategic move to assert the state's commitment to maintaining law and order while addressing the grievances of the affected communities. The visit is also seen as an opportunity for the Chief Minister to reinforce her administration's stance on the Waqf (Amendment) Act and its implications for the state's governance.

In preparation for the visit, the state government has initiated several measures to stabilize the situation in Murshidabad. These include enhanced patrolling by law enforcement agencies, the establishment of additional relief camps for displaced individuals, and the provision of medical assistance to those injured during the clashes. Furthermore, efforts are underway to rebuild damaged infrastructure and restore essential services to affected areas.

The upcoming visit by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee underscores the government's proactive approach in addressing communal tensions and ensuring the welfare of its citizens. By directly engaging with the affected communities and overseeing the restoration efforts, the administration aims to promote peace and stability in Murshidabad and set a precedent for handling similar situations in the future.

As the date of the visit approaches, it is anticipated that political leaders, civil society organizations, and residents of Murshidabad will closely monitor the developments. The success of the visit in alleviating tensions and fostering a sense of security among the local population will be a critical factor in shaping public perception of the government's handling of the crisis.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's planned visit to Murshidabad in early May represents a significant step in the state's efforts to address the aftermath of the recent communal unrest. Through direct engagement with affected communities and a commitment to restoring normalcy, the administration seeks to uphold the principles of justice, equity, and communal harmony in West Bengal.

"Topic Is So Complex": Kremlin Warns Against Rushing Ukraine Talks

Kyiv, 22 April: The Kremlin on Tuesday warned against rushing Ukraine peace talks, pushing back on US President Donald Trump's hopes for a speedy deal the day before Ukraine's allies are set to meet in London.Trump, who promised on the campaign trail to strike a deal between Moscow and Kyiv in 24 hours, has in three months failed to wrangle concessions from Russian President Vladimir Putin to halt his invasion.The Republican had said over the weekend he hoped a peace deal could be struck "this week" despite no signs the two sides are anywhere close to agreeing even a ceasefire, let alone a wider long-term settlement.

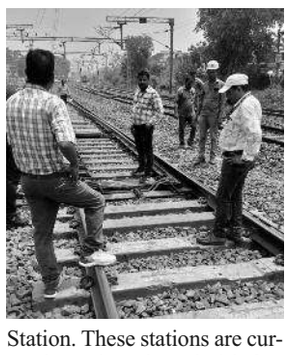
Moscow's forces occupy around a fifth of Ukrainian territory and tens of thousands have been killed since they invaded in February 2022."This topic is so complex, connected with a settlement, that, of course, probably it is not worth setting any rigid time frames and trying to get a settlement, a viable settlement, in a short-time frame," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told state TV on Tuesday.

After rejecting a US-Ukrainian offer for a full and unconditional ceasefire last month, Putin announced a surprise Easter truce over the weekend.Fighting dipped during the 30-hour period but Russia launched fresh attacks on residential areas on Monday and Tuesday, Ukrainian officials said.Kyiv and its allies dismissed the truce as a PR exercise from Putin.

Malda Division Conducts Media Tour at Sabour and Jamalpur Stations to Showcase Safety and Infrastructure Enhancements

Kolkata, 22 April: In a continued effort to enhance safety measures and strengthen infrastructure, *Malda Division organized a media tour at Sabour and Jamalpur Railway Stations today*. The event was aimed at providing the media a first-hand view of the ongoing developments that are focused on improving track safety and facilitating smooth, efficient, and safer train movements.

The tour was conducted under the guidance of key officials, including PWI/Sabour, Station Superintendent/Sabour, and CMI/Bhagalpur at Sabour Station, and PWI/Jamalpur, Station Superintendent/Jamalpur, and CMI/Jamalpur at Jamalpur



Station. These stations are currently undergoing vital infrastructure upgrades aimed at reducing accident risks and improving overall safety for passengers and staff.

At both *Sabour and Jamalpur* stations, the media delegation was shown the ongoing *Loop Line Deep Screening*, a vital measure to enhance track stability, Points & Crossings (X-ings) and *Thick Web Switches (TWS)*, designed to ensure smoother train movements and higher operational speed, contributing to increased line capacity.

The media representatives were also introduced to the *Ultrasonic Flaw Detection (USFD)* system, which plays a crucial role in proactively detecting internal flaws in rails, welds, Switch Expansion Joints (SEJs), and turnouts. This non-destructive testing method uses high-frequency sound waves to examine the internal structure of the rail, identifying potential issues before they can lead to rail fractures or accidents.

US Slaps Tariffs Up To 3,521% On Solar Imports From These Asian Nations

Washington, 22 April: In its latest tariff salvo, the Trump administration in the United States has imposed new duties-- as high as 3,521 per cent-- on solar imports from Southeast Asian countries. The new tariffs announced on Monday came after a probe found that solar manufacturers in Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Thailand were unfairly benefiting from subsidies from China and were dumping unfairly cheap products in the US market.

The new tariffs will be in addition to the 10 per cent baseline tariffs already imposed by US President Donald Trump that have upended global supply chains and markets.New duties came after a yearlong investigation by the US Department of Commerce into claims by American producers that Chinese companies in those countries were dumping solar cells and panels in America at artificially low prices.Several Chinese companies moved operations to Southeast Asia in recent years



to avoid US tariffs imposed during President Donald Trump's first term.

Tariffs on solar imports from Cambodia will be as high as 3,521 per cent. This is because the country decided to stop participating in the investigation, according to the Commerce Department.

Companies in Vietnam will, meanwhile, face levies as high as 395.9 per cent, while those in Thailand will face a 375.2 per cent tariff. Country-wide rates for Malaysia were set at 34.4 per cent.

America imported $12.9 billion in solar equipment last year from Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia, according to a Bloomberg report.

The new levies will benefit American manufacturers in capturing the US renewable power market that's on shaky ground amid political and policy changes in Washington.

"This is a decisive victory for American manufacturing," Tim Brightbill, co-chair of Wiley's international trade practice and lead counsel for the coalition of solar companies that pursued the case, told Bloomberg.He said that the findings of the US probe confirm "what we've long known: that Chinese-headquartered solar companies have been cheating the system, undercutting US companies and costing American workers their livelihoods."

The Biden administration started the investigation into the matter last year following a petition from the American Alliance for Solar Manufacturing Trade Committee, which represents companies including First Solar, Hanwha Q Cells and Mission Solar Energy LLC.

Sealdah division to run ac emu soon



Kolkata, 22 April: To fulfil the growing requirements of comfortable journey for the suburban passengers, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division is preparing to run AC EMU locals soon. Two (02) such AC EMU trains are under construction and testing phase at Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.

The routes and fares for running the AC EMU trains in Sealdah Division is under consideration and will be worked out based on the feasibility, requirements and passenger patronisation.

The salient technical features of these AC EMU rakes are as follows:

All the coaches of these trains will be fully Air-Conditioned. The coaches are made of Stainless steel body with straight side walls. All the 12-coaches of the rake are end to end connected by sealed wider vestibule gangways.

All the AC EMU coaches have 04 electrically operated double leaf automatic sliding doors in each side. The coaches having wide and large double sealed glass windows providing panoramic view. 3 seater stainless steel seats are provide in all the coaches. Total seating capacity of the rake is approximately 1100. All the coaches are covered by CCTV surveillance. Wear resistant rubber floor top, Aluminium extruded modular luggage rack & GPS based LED displays for passenger information and announcement system are provided in each coach of the rake to enhance passenger amenity and comfort.

The doors of the train will open only after arriving at stations and will close before departing from the stations and remain close while on run for safety reasons. The control of the door will remain with the Driver/Guard who will operate the doors of the train compartments.

This initiative is a part of Eastern Railway's endeavour for improving passenger comfort. The two (02) rakes of the new AC EMU trains which are expected in Sealdah Division will surely satisfy the expectations of the passengers for a cosy journey experience.



Today's Horoscope

ARIES: Ganesha anticipates some exciting times for you. You are likely to meet some people today who will prove to be assets in the future. You apply yourself to perfection in work.

TAURUS: It will be an optimistic day with its share of day dreaming, says Ganesha. You will be submissive at work, giving in or blindly following the advice of your peers.

GEMINI: You are likely to be concerned about your finances, jointly held assets and property, says Ganesha. Also, you will be a little edgy today.

CANCER: There is nothing extraordinary about today. You will be busy doing the routine work and will find contentment in the mundane. The absence of thrill.

LEO : The complete family man that you are, it is your near and dear ones who have always laid the foundation of your success. So why should today be any different.

VIRGO: Mundane, everyday routine will get on your nerves today, warns Ganesha. Don't make a mountain out of a mole hill. All said and done, you won't let anything affect your zest for work.

LIBRA: Put up that 'Do Not Disturb' sign on the door today. That's because Ganesha feels the tingle in your bones to want to stick to your preferred subject matter.

SCORPIO: Ganesha predicts you will possibly plan to launch a new product today. But put off the launch if you want to supersede certain unscrupulous elements.

SAGITTARIUS: Zoom in on complicated problems and solve them with style, says Ganesha. Don't fret over problems; instead concentrate on ways to solve them.

CAPRICORN: Today, you will get back to playing the power game, using both fair and unfair means to achieve your goals, says Ganesha. Intellectual growth will be phenomenal.

AQUARIUS: You have managed to carve a niche for yourself. Today, you may see the tangible benefits of all your past hard work. But business rivals may poke and pinch.

PIECES: An auspicious time for starting new projects, today will see you make substantial investments in your future. Your family is the foundation of your success.

Why Migrants, Including Indians, Are Losing Work Permits In Canada

Ottawa, 22 April: Thousands of migrants living in Canada, including Indians, are losing their work permits due to long delays in the paperwork renewal process, as growing backlogs and changing rules hinder efforts to maintain legal status. Despite paying taxes, migrants in Canada can't work legally or access medical care and other services if they lose their legal status.

Among those who lost their permit is Devi Acharya, who moved to Canada from India with her husband and son in October 2022. Acharya miscarried in March because she did not go to a hospital, as she could not afford another medical bill. She does not have health coverage for the same reason she cannot work -- her work permit expired while she waited for a labour market impact assessment, and if she sought medical care, she could be handed a hefty bill.

"If I got medical attention on time, maybe we could have saved the baby," she told Reuters. Acharya was working in housekeeping at Prince Rupert's Highliner Hotel in British Columbia before she lost her job. she liked the work and recently bought a house with her husband.

They applied for new labour market impact assessments in September, her immigration consultant told Reuters. They have received no response, and their work permits have expired. They are in Canada legally but cannot work. Their son, Navdev, now five years old, cannot go to school.

"Two years before we were dreaming of making Canada home," she said, "and now it's shattering."

Canada has long blamed migrants for straining services and resources amid housing shortages and rising rents. Ottawa is trying to reduce the number of migrants and is reportedly relying on people to leave voluntarily to meet its targets. Living undocumented in Canada is rare in part because it is so difficult to access



services without status.

The labour market impact assessment processing time for temporary workers hoping to become permanent residents in Canada has been increasing since at least fall 2022. It has almost tripled from 58 business days in September 2023 to 165 business days in March 2025.Quoting an email from Service Canada-- which processes these applications-- Reuters reported that as of April 1, 2025, the department was still processing labour market impact assessment applications submitted a year earlier.

"We are seeing a backlog now of more than a year. ... It's the first time we are seeing such a delay," said immigration consultant Kanwar Sierah.

It is not known exactly how many people have lost their work permits due to delays so far, but Reuters spoke to at least four families who are in this distress.

According to Canada's immigration department, migrants can keep working as long as they get a labour market impact assessment needed to maintain their status within 60 days of applying to renew their work permit. But the department does not have guidelines for people who lost status because of long waits.

The department has attributed the lengthier waits, in part, to an influx of applications, but would not provide the number of applications pending by month. The number of people applying for work permits within the country has grown compared to last year, as has the share of those applications that Canada is refusing, data from Canada's immigration department shows.

Experts say changing rules, as well as more applicants, may be contributing to the growing backlog.

"People are losing their immigration status", Sierah said, and added that some people are working under the table for exploitative employers or falling victim to "unscrupulous actors" who give them bad advice, for example, by urging them to apply for asylum when they may not have a strong case.Canada's Liberal government pledged to give undocumented people status but then backtracked and said it would provide it on a small scale for people working in certain sectors. Prime Minister Mark Carney, who leads polls ahead of an April 28 election, promises to cap immigration for now.

From Reel to Real: How Abhishek Bachchan's 'Guru' Premiere Proposal to Aishwarya Rai Became Bollywood's Most Heartfelt Love Story

Mumbai, 22 April: Where grand gestures and fairy-tale romances often play out on screen, few real-life love stories capture the imagination quite like that of Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai. Their journey from co-stars to life partners is a testament to love blossoming amidst the arc lights and camera flashes.



The seeds of their romance were sown during the filming of Mani Ratnam's 2007 film Guru, where Abhishek and Aishwarya portrayed a passionate couple. Their on-screen chemistry was palpable, but it was behind the scenes where their relationship truly began to flourish.

Abhishek, in a candid revelation, shared that while filming in New York, he would often stand on his hotel balcony, envisioning a future with Aishwarya. This vision turned into reality when, after the film's premiere in Toronto, he took her to that very balcony and proposed marriage

Adding a touch of cinematic charm to the proposal, Abhishek used a prop ring from the Guru set, the same one Aishwarya wore in the film. This spontaneous gesture resonated deeply with Aishwarya, who later remarked on the authenticity and unpredictability of their relationship, emphasizing that it's these genuine moments that define their bond

The couple's engagement was met with joy and blessings from their families. Amitabh Bachchan, Abhishek's father, recounted the moment his son shared the news of the proposal. Concerned and caring, he asked Abhishek if Aishwarya was truly happy. Upon receiving affirmation, Amitabh welcomed her into their home, telling her, "This is your home now" .

Their wedding on April 20, 2007, was a private affair attended by close friends and family. Over the years, Abhishek and Aishwarya have continued to support each other's careers and personal endeavors, often sharing glimpses of their life together on social media.

Their enduring partnership serves as an inspiration, illustrating that true love, grounded in mutual respect and understanding, can thrive amidst the glitz and glamour of the film industry.

Reflecting on their journey, it's evident that their story is more than just a Bollywood romance; it's a narrative of two individuals finding solace and companionship in each other, turning moments of reel into a lifetime of real memories.



Varun Dhawan Pre Birthday Celebration With Fans And Media.

Sonu Nigam Sounds Alarm Over Fake X Account: 'My Family's Safety Is at Risk'



Mumbai, 22 April: Renowned Indian playback singer Sonu Nigam has raised alarms about a fraudulent account on X (formerly Twitter) impersonating him. The singer took to Instagram to clarify that he is not active on X and expressed deep concern over the potential dangers such impersonation poses to him and his family.

Nigam highlighted that the imposter account, operating under the name 'Sonu Nigam Singh,' has been sharing content that could easily be mistaken as originating from him.

One such post included a photo of Nigam with President Droupadi Murmu, leading to widespread confusion among his followers. "Isn't this misleading? Why wouldn't people assume it's actually me?" Nigam questioned in his Instagram post.

The singer emphasized the gravity of the situation, stating, "I am not on Twitter or X. Can you imagine a single controversial post from Sonu Nigam Singh can put me or my family's life in danger? Can you imagine to what extent this man has been playing with my name and credibility? For no fault of ours. And the press, administration, government, law, who know about this, are all quiet. Waiting for something to happen and then convey condolences. Thank you"

Nigam's concerns are not unfounded. The imposter account has reportedly been active for some time, sharing content that could be misconstrued as his own. The singer lamented the lack of action from authorities, media, and the platform itself, expressing frustration over the potential risks associated with such impersonation.

Fans and supporters have rallied behind Nigam, urging him to take legal action against the imposter. One user commented, "This needs to be dealt with legally, especially considering the fact that he has been warned many times. You should file a formal complaint and see to it that he's penalized"

This incident is not isolated. In July 2023, Nigam had warned fans about a woman impersonating a member of his social media team on Facebook, attempting to defraud fans by soliciting money for supposed charitable shows

Saif Ali Khan Finds Solace in Qatar: A New Chapter Begins After Mumbai Ordeal

Mumbai, 22 April: Bollywood actor Saif Ali Khan has acquired a luxurious property at The St. Regis Marsa Arabia Island, The Pearl, in Doha, Qatar. This decision comes three months after a harrowing knife attack at his Mumbai residence, an incident that profoundly impacted the actor and his family.<During a press event hosted by the Alfardan Group, Saif expressed his admiration for Qatar's safety, beauty, and proximity to India. He described the new property as "a home away from home," emphasizing the comfort and peace he felt during his stay. "Think of a holiday home or a second home. There are a few things I think of. One is that it's not very far away and it's easily accessible. And then the other thing is, the most important thing is that it's very safe and it feels very good to be there," Saif remarked.

The actor's choice was influenced by various factors, including the island's luxurious ambiance, the curated culinary experiences, and the overall lifestyle. He noted, "The concept of an island within an island is also very luxurious and beautiful... the views, and the food, and the kind of lifestyle, and the pace of living... These are a few of the things that led to my decision." This acquisition adds to Saif's impressive portfolio of properties, which includes the ancestral Pataudi Palace, residences in London and Gstaad, and his current Bandra apartment in Mumbai, where he lives with his wife, actress Kareena Kapoor Khan, and their sons, Taimur and Jehangir.



The decision to invest in a new home abroad is particularly poignant given the traumatic events of January 16, when an intruder broke into Saif's Bandra residence and attacked him with a knife. Saif sustained multiple injuries while protecting his house help and family. He underwent emergency surgery at Lilavati Hospital and was discharged five days later. The incident prompted the family to enhance their security measures significantly. Reflecting on his new property, Saif shared his excitement about spending quality time there with his family, especially his children. "I had gone there to do some work, and I was shooting for something, and I stayed at the property, and I thought it was amazing... it felt like home away from home, so that made it very easy," he said.

Saif's move to secure a peaceful retreat in Qatar underscores a broader trend among celebrities seeking solace and security in private, luxurious locales. His choice reflects a desire to provide a safe and serene environment for his family, away from the public eye and the unpredictability that sometimes accompanies fame. As Saif embarks on this new chapter, his fans and well-wishers hope that this new abode brings him the peace and happiness he seeks. The actor's resilience in the face of adversity and his proactive steps toward ensuring his family's well-being serve as an inspiration to many.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War March 2026 Release Delayed? Details Inside

Mumbai, 22 April: The official announcement of Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Love & War was made in January 2024. The caption of the post read, "We Bring You Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Epic Saga 'Love & War.' See You At The Movies, Christmas 2025." Fans are ecstatic to witness powerhouses Alia Bhatt, Ranbir Kapoor, and Vicky Kaushal coming together in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's epic romantic drama.



The initial release of the film was locked in by the makers for Christmas 2025 which was then postponed to March 2026. However, sources have now revealed to The Hollywood Reporter that Sanjay Leela Bhansali plans to mount a larger-than-life war sequence between Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. Taking into consideration, the massive scale of the film, the release might get postponed from March 2026.

The source told The Hollywood Reporter, "The current shooting timeline of Love & War involves a mega war sequence, which Bhansali will mount on a huge scale. But that will only be shot in November."

Furthermore, the source added, "After the sequence is filmed, which promises to be of an epic scale involving Vicky and Ranbir, the team aims to wrap up by January 2026. It will be impossible for Love & War to finish post-production and come on the big screen two months later in March. So the film might get pushed."

As for the plot of Love & War, not much has been revealed. The film marks Alia Bhatt's second collaboration with Sanjay Leela Bhansali after the 2022 blockbuster Gangubai Kathiawadi.

It also marks the ace director's second project with Ranbir Kapoor after his debut Saawariya in 2007. Vicky Kaushal will be working with the filmmaker for the first time.

Farhan Akhtar Opens Up About His Emotional Journey Following Father Javed

Mumbai, 22 April: Actor and filmmaker Farhan Akhtar has shared his personal emotional journey following his father Javed Akhtar's marriage to renowned actress Shabana Azmi. Speaking in the docuseries Angry Young Men, Farhan opened up about the initial feelings of betrayal and anger he experienced during that period. Farhan recalled a tumultuous phase in his life when he was a child, grappling with the changes brought about by his father's remarriage. He admitted, "There was a phase when I was angry with him, I felt betrayed by him. There were all those very normal emotions that I did go through as a child growing up." This period marked a significant emotional challenge for Farhan, as he navigated the complexities of family dynamics and personal feelings.



The impact of this change was not limited to Farhan alone. His sister, Zoya Akhtar, also reflected on the adjustments they had to make. She mentioned that after their parents' separation, they primarily lived with their mother, which naturally led to spending more time with her. Zoya acknowledged the difficulty in re-establishing a normal relationship with their father, emphasizing the role Shabana Azmi played in facilitating this transition. She stated, "It took time to go back to normal with my dad, and I think Shabana has played a big part in creating that normalcy."

Javed Akhtar, in the same docuseries, expressed his feelings of guilt regarding his first marriage to Honey Irani. He took responsibility for the failure of that relationship, stating, "Honey is one person in the world, towards whom I feel guilty. And she is the only person. 60 to 70% of the responsibility lies on my shoulders, for the failure of that marriage." This admission highlighted the emotional complexities involved in his personal life and the challenges faced by his family.

Shabana Azmi, too, shared her perspective on the situation. She acknowledged the pain and personal challenges of being part of a triangular relationship, especially when children are involved. Shabana chose to remain silent about her side of the story to avoid causing further pain. She credited Honey Irani for not turning the children against her, which helped in maintaining a harmonious relationship. Shabana expressed, "I give huge credit to Honey because she could have easily filled the children with tales against me. She just didn't do that. She gave them the security that you do not have to consider her an evil stepmother."

The docuseries Angry Young Men not only delves into the professional journeys of screenwriters Salim Khan and Javed Akhtar but also offers an intimate glimpse into their personal lives. The revelations made by Farhan, Zoya, Javed, and Shabana provide a nuanced understanding of the emotional complexities and the efforts made by each individual to maintain family bonds amidst personal challenges.

Farhan's openness about his feelings serves as a poignant reminder of the human side of public figures and the personal struggles they navigate. His journey from feelings of betrayal to acceptance underscores the importance of understanding, communication, and time in healing familial relationships. The role of Shabana Azmi in this process highlights the potential for empathy and support in blending families and fostering mutual respect.

As viewers continue to engage with the docuseries, the insights shared by the Akhtar family offer valuable lessons in resilience, forgiveness, and the enduring strength of familial ties. Farhan's story, in particular, resonates with many who have faced similar challenges, offering a sense of solidarity and hope for healing and reconciliation.

Rohit Shetty Clears the Air on Shah Rukh Khan Rift Rumours: 'We Chose to Chart Our Own Paths'



Mumbai, 22 April: In the fast-paced and often speculative world of Bollywood, even the smallest decisions made by filmmakers and stars are frequently blown out of proportion. Such has been the case with acclaimed director Rohit Shetty and Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan. After the massive success of their 2013 blockbuster Chennai Express, expectations were sky-high for their next venture Dilwale. However, when Dilwale failed to match the domestic box office magic of its predecessor, murmurs of a fallout between the duo began making the rounds. Now, nearly a decade later, Rohit Shetty has finally addressed the speculation, setting the record straight once and for all.

During a recent appearance on the popular Game Changers podcast hosted by film critic Komal Nahta, Shetty dismissed all rumours of a rift with Shah Rukh Khan. "Nahi, aisa kuch nahi," he said, calmly brushing aside the gossip. He clarified that their relationship remains one of mutual respect and that the narrative of a personal fallout is nothing but a myth fuelled by outside speculation.

Opening up further, Rohit explained how the course of their careers simply diverged after Dilwale. He revealed that soon after the film's release, both he and Shah Rukh decided to focus on building their own production houses and creating films independently. "Ek respect hai humare beech mein aur Dilwale ke baad ye hua ki immediately phir humne humare khud ki production house kholi. Humne decide kiya ki hum khud ki filmein banayenge. Agar loss bhi ho to humara ho, jabki loss nahi hua tha," he said, clarifying that contrary to popular belief, Dilwale was not a flop—it performed well in international markets, becoming a significant overseas success.

The film, which starred Shah Rukh Khan and Kajol in a much-anticipated reunion, was produced by Shah Rukh and Gauri Khan under their banner, Red Chillies Entertainment. Despite a lukewarm response at the Indian box office, Dilwale had a strong run overseas, especially in markets like the Middle East, the UK, and North America. According to Shetty, while the reception may not have matched the frenzy of Chennai Express, the film certainly didn't deserve the negative narrative that followed it.

Beyond clearing the air about his professional dynamic with SRK, Shetty also shed light on the meaningful relationships he has cultivated in the industry over the years. One such bond is with longtime collaborator Ajay Devgn, whom Shetty regards as an elder brother. Their partnership dates back to Shetty's early days as a director and has only grown stronger through successful franchises like Golmaal and Singham.

Shetty also spoke fondly of his recent collaborations with Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone. Praising Deepika's dedication, he shared a remarkable anecdote from the sets of his upcoming film Singham Again. According to Shetty, Deepika shot the final schedule of the film while she was four months pregnant, a testament to her professionalism and commitment. "Relations like these are rarely made," he said, underscoring the depth of the personal connections he shares with his cast.

While Rohit Shetty continues to expand his cinematic universe with Singham Again, which features a star-studded cast including Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh, Akshay Kumar, Deepika Padukone, and Tiger Shroff, Shah Rukh Khan is also gearing up for an emotional and highly anticipated project. SRK is set to share screen space for the first time with his daughter Suhana Khan in the film King, directed by Pathaan filmmaker Siddharth Anand. The film also stars Abhishek Bachchan and Abhay Verma in pivotal roles and is expected to showcase a never-before-seen dynamic between father and daughter on screen.

With both Shetty and Khan continuing to flourish in their respective paths, fans remain hopeful for another collaboration between the two icons. And as Shetty hinted in earlier interviews, he hasn't ruled it out—only waiting for the right story to bring them back together. "If something bigger than Chennai Express comes our way, we'll surely work together again," he had said. Until then, it's clear there's no bad blood—just two creative forces moving forward on their own terms.

Murshidabad's Fragile Geography: A Catalyst for Unrest"

The recent unrest in Murshidabad, West Bengal, underscores the intricate interplay between geography, politics, and communal tensions. The region's unique location has historically made it susceptible to external influences and internal strife, a vulnerability that has once again come to the fore.

Murshidabad's position as a narrow corridor, flanked by Bangladesh on one side and Jharkhand on the other, creates a 'chicken neck' scenario. This geographical configuration, with stretches where the state's width narrows to less than ten kilometers, inherently challenges administrative control and security enforcement. The presence of the Ganga-Padma river basin further complicates matters, providing both a lifeline and a potential conduit for illicit activities.

The recent violence, sparked by protests against the amended Waqf Act, appears to have been exacerbated by this geographical vulnerability. The region's porous borders and challenging terrain may have facilitated the movement of individuals and groups intent on inciting unrest. Reports suggest that the violence was not merely spontaneous but bore signs of premeditation, indicating a deeper, more orchestrated effort to destabilize the area.

The involvement of external actors cannot be discounted. Intelligence agencies are investigating potential links between the unrest and cross-border elements, particularly from Bangladesh. While official statements from Bangladesh have dismissed these concerns, the Indian government remains vigilant, recognizing the historical complexities of the region's border dynamics.

The administrative response to the unrest has highlighted the challenges of governing such a sensitive region. The initial measures taken by the state government were deemed inadequate, prompting the Calcutta High Court to order the deployment of central forces to restore order. This intervention underscores the need for a more robust and proactive approach to security in border areas.

Political narratives have further complicated the situation. Allegations of misinformation and communal polarization have surfaced, with various parties accusing each other of exploiting the unrest for political gain. Such dynamics risk deepening divisions and hindering efforts to address the root causes of the violence.

The demographic composition of Murshidabad adds another layer of complexity. With a significant minority population, the district has often been a focal point for communal tensions. Ensuring harmony in such a diverse setting requires nuanced policies that address the concerns of all communities while upholding the rule of law.

In light of these challenges, a multifaceted strategy is essential. Enhancing border security through technological surveillance and increased patrolling can deter external threats. Simultaneously, fostering community engagement and dialogue can build resilience against divisive narratives. Educational initiatives that promote communal harmony and critical thinking are vital in countering misinformation.

Furthermore, political leaders must rise above partisan interests to prioritize the region's stability. Collaborative efforts between state and central authorities, informed by ground realities, can pave the way for sustainable peace. Transparent investigations into the unrest, coupled with accountability for those responsible, will reinforce public trust in governance.

Murshidabad's recent turmoil serves as a stark reminder of the vulnerabilities inherent in regions with complex geographies and diverse populations. Addressing these challenges requires a concerted effort that transcends administrative boundaries and political affiliations. Only through inclusive, strategic, and empathetic approaches can lasting peace and stability be achieved in such sensitive areas.

Elusive Peace: Navigating the Complexities of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict

As the Russia-Ukraine conflict continues into its third year, the international community remains entangled in a web of failed ceasefires, geopolitical maneuvering, and elusive peace efforts. Recent developments, including a short-lived "Easter truce" declared by Russia, have highlighted the persistent challenges in achieving a lasting resolution. Despite the truce, hostilities resumed swiftly, with Ukraine reporting numerous violations and continued attacks on its territory The United States has played a significant role in shaping the dynamics of the conflict, with discussions around potential peace deals that include controversial proposals, such as recognizing Russia's control over Crimea and lifting certain sanctions. These suggestions have sparked backlash and concern among allies and Ukraine, underscoring the complexities of balancing diplomatic negotiations with the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. India has emerged as a potential mediator, leveraging its strategic autonomy and historical ties with both Russia and the West. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has emphasized India's commitment to facilitating dialogue and negotiations, reflecting a broader shift towards seeking diplomatic solutions over continued warfare . India's nuanced position, advocating for peace while maintaining relations with all parties, positions it uniquely in the global efforts to resolve the conflict.The ongoing war has had far-reaching consequences, not only for the immediate region but also for the global community. Economic disruptions, energy crises, and food security concerns have amplified the urgency for a resolution. The international community faces the daunting task of navigating complex geopolitical interests, historical grievances, and the imperative to uphold international law.As the conflict endures, the path to peace remains fraught with challenges. The failure of temporary ceasefires and the contentious nature of proposed peace deals highlight the need for sustained, inclusive, and principled diplomatic efforts. The international community must prioritize genuine dialogue, respect for sovereignty, and a commitment to lasting peace to navigate the complexities of the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Global Health at a Crossroads: Navigating the Path to an Equitable Pandemic Treaty

The world has recognized the pressing need for a comprehensive framework to better prepare for and respond to future global health crises. The World Health Organization (WHO) has been at the forefront of this initiative, working diligently to draft a pandemic treaty aimed at strengthening international collaboration and ensuring equitable access to essential health resources. However, as negotiations progress, several challenges and concerns have emerged, particularly from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) like India.

The draft treaty emphasizes the importance of global cooperation, transparency, and equity in pandemic preparedness and response. Key components include the establishment of a Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system, which seeks to ensure that genetic resources and pathogen samples shared from developing countries are reciprocated with corresponding benefits, such as vaccines and diagnostics. Additionally, the treaty advocates for increased investment in research and development, improved access to essential health technologies, and the strengthening of health systems worldwide.

Despite these commendable objectives, the draft has faced criticism for its perceived bias towards developed nations. Civil society organizations in India have expressed concerns that the treaty lacks substantive measures to guarantee financial support, technology transfer, and the sharing of proprietary technology and know-how. They argue that the current provisions place onerous surveillance obligations on LMICs without ensuring equitable access to the benefits derived from such data. This imbalance risks perpetuating the inequalities witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic, where wealthier nations secured the majority of vaccines and treatments, leaving poorer countries struggling to protect their populations.

One of the most contentious issues in the negotiations is the PABS mechanism outlined in Article 12 of the draft treaty. While LMICs advocate for guaranteed access to at least 20% of shared pandemic products, many high-income countries argue that this percentage should be the maximum limit, with some refusing to agree to any fixed percentage. This disagreement highlights the broader challenge of balancing national interests with global solidarity, a recurring theme in international health governance.

Another area of concern is the lack of independent monitoring mechanisms within the treaty. Although the draft proposes regular simulation exercises and peer reviews, experts argue that these measures are insufficient to ensure compliance and accountability. The absence of a robust oversight system raises questions about the treaty's effectiveness in holding countries accountable for their commitments, particularly in times of crisis when swift and coordinated action is paramount.

The treaty also underscores the importance of the One Health approach, which recognizes the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health. While this holistic perspective is essential for preventing future pandemics, LMICs have expressed apprehension about the potential economic and trade implications, especially in sectors like agriculture and wildlife trade. Implementing such measures without adequate financial and technical support could place additional burdens on already strained resources in these countries.

Intellectual property rights represent another significant hurdle in the negotiations. The treaty calls for increased transparency in sharing information about pandemics and other global health emergencies, including data on the spread of diseases and the effectiveness of interventions. However, the reluctance of pharmaceutical companies to waive or reduce IP royalties remains a thorny issue. Balancing the need for innovation with the imperative of equitable access to medical products is a complex challenge that requires careful consideration and compromise.

Despite these challenges, the potential benefits of the pandemic treaty are substantial. A unified framework can lead to faster and more coordinated responses to future pandemics, potentially mitigating their impact.

By emphasizing equitable access, the agreement can help ensure that developing countries are not left behind in future health crises. Moreover, the treaty can encourage countries to invest in robust public health infrastructure, leading to better overall health security.As the world continues to grapple with the aftermath of COVID-19, the urgency of finalizing an effective and equitable pandemic treaty cannot be overstated. The upcoming 78th World Health Assembly in May 2025 presents a critical opportunity for nations to come together and solidify their commitment to global health security. Achieving consensus will require addressing the legitimate concerns of LMICs, ensuring that the treaty does not disproportionately burden them while failing to guarantee access to essential resources.

The WHO pandemic treaty represents a pivotal moment in global health governance. Its success hinges on the ability of nations to transcend individual interests and embrace a collective vision for a safer, more equitable world. By fostering genuine collaboration, transparency, and mutual support, the international community can lay the foundation for a resilient global health system capable of withstanding future pandemics.

Academic Freedom Under Siege: The Trump Administration's Assault on University Autonomy"

The Trump administration has launched an aggressive campaign targeting American universities, issuing a series of executive orders that many perceive as a direct affront to academic freedom and institutional autonomy. These actions have sparked widespread condemnation from educational leaders and civil liberties organizations, raising concerns about the future of higher education in the United States.

One of the most contentious measures involves the administration's directive to universities to monitor and report on international students participating in pro-Palestinian protests. Institutions like Harvard University have been specifically targeted, with threats of funding freezes and revocation of tax-exempt status if they fail to comply. Critics argue that this move not only infringes upon students' rights to free speech and assembly but also sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into campus affairs.

Furthermore, the administration has taken aim at diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs, labeling them as sources of division and antisemitism. Executive orders have been issued to dismantle such initiatives, with the threat of withdrawing federal funding from non-compliant institutions. This has led to a chilling effect on academic discourse, as educators and administrators grapple with the implications of these policies on their curricula and campus climates.

The response from the academic community has been swift and unified. Over 100 university presidents have signed a joint statement denouncing the administration's actions as "unprecedented government overreach and political interference." They emphasize the importance of preserving academic freedom and institutional independence, warning that these executive orders threaten the very foundations of higher education.

Legal challenges have also emerged. Harvard University has filed a lawsuit against the federal government, contesting the legality of the funding freezes and asserting that the administration's actions violate constitutional protections. Civil liberties organizations, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), have joined the fray, arguing that the executive orders unlawfully restrict speech and academic freedom.

The broader implications of these policies extend beyond the confines of university campuses. By targeting institutions of higher learning, the administration sends a message that dissent and critical inquiry are unwelcome, potentially stifling innovation and progress. Moreover, these actions risk undermining the United States' reputation as a global leader in education and research, deterring international students and scholars from contributing to its academic landscape.The Trump administration's recent executive orders represent a significant encroachment on the autonomy of educational institutions and the freedoms of students and faculty. As universities and civil society push back against these measures, the outcome of this struggle will have lasting consequences for the integrity and independence of higher education in America.

India-China at 75: Strategic Calculus Over Sentimentalism

As India and China mark 75 years of diplomatic relations, the occasion calls for a measured reflection on their complex and often fraught relationship. Rather than being swayed by nostalgia or sentiment, India must adopt a strategic approach grounded in realism to navigate the multifaceted challenges posed by its northern neighbor.

The bilateral relationship has been significantly strained since the Galwan Valley clash in 2020, which resulted in casualties on both sides and marked a turning point in India-China ties. Despite multiple rounds of military and diplomatic talks, the Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains tense, with both nations maintaining substantial troop deployments in forward areas. The disengagement process has been protracted and partial, with buffer zones established in some friction points, while others like Demchok and Depsang continue to witness standoffs.

China's assertive actions, such as renaming places in Arunachal Pradesh and building infrastructure along the LAC, signal its intent to alter the status quo unilaterally. These moves are part of a broader strategy to exert pressure on India and expand its influence in the region.

Economically, the trade imbalance between the two countries is stark. India's trade deficit with China reached $85 billion in 2024, highlighting a significant dependency on Chinese imports. This economic asymmetry poses risks, especially considering China's history of leveraging trade relationships for strategic gains.

In response, India has initiated measures to reduce its reliance on Chinese goods, including banning certain Chinese apps and excluding Chinese firms from critical infrastructure projects. However, experts argue that decoupling entirely from China is neither feasible nor beneficial. Instead, India should focus on diversifying its supply chains and strengthening domestic manufacturing capabilities to mitigate vulnerabilities.

On the diplomatic front, India faces the challenge of balancing its relationships with global powers while addressing regional security concerns. China's deepening ties with Russia and its assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific have implications for India's strategic interests. India's participation in forums like the Quad and its engagement with ASEAN countries are steps toward countering China's influence, but these efforts must be part of a coherent and long-term strategy.

Furthermore, India's approach to China must be informed by historical lessons. The pre-1962 era saw India adopting a conciliatory stance toward China, which ultimately led to conflict. Today, while outright confrontation is undesirable, India must assert its interests firmly and avoid appeasement. This entails maintaining a robust defense posture, investing in border infrastructure, and engaging in proactive diplomacy to build alliances and counterbalance China's regional ambitions.

As India and China commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations, the focus should be on crafting a pragmatic and strategic policy framework. This involves recognizing the complexities of the relationship, addressing economic and security challenges, and engaging in diplomacy that safeguards India's national interests. Sentimentality has little place in geopolitics; it is through calculated strategy and resilience that India can navigate its path forward in the evolving regional and global landscape.

The Development of the Indian Army: A Journey of Strength and Transformation

The Indian Army, one of the most formidable military forces in the world today, has undergone a remarkable journey of development and transformation. From its colonial roots to its current stature as a modern and technologically advanced defense force, the Indian Army's evolution reflects the story of a nation rising in power, confidence, and global influence.

The origin of the Indian Army dates back to the time of British colonial rule. During the 18th and 19th centuries, the British East India Company established a military force composed largely of Indian soldiers, known as sepoys, who were trained and led by British officers. After the Revolt of 1857, the British Crown took direct control of India, and the Indian Army became a key part of British military strategy in Asia. Indian soldiers played a significant role in both World Wars, earning global recognition for their bravery. However, the army remained under British command, with limited opportunities for Indians to hold higher ranks.

With India's independence in 1947, the Indian Army faced immediate and complex challenges. The partition of India led to the division of military assets between India and Pakistan, and the country was soon engaged in its first war with Pakistan over Jammu and Kashmir. The newly formed Indian Army had to quickly reorganize and build a command structure led by Indian officers. General K. M. Cariappa became the first Indian Commander-in-Chief in 1949, marking a significant step toward full Indianization of the armed forces.

Over the decades, the Indian Army has been involved in several wars and conflicts that have shaped its development. These include the 1962 war with China, the Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971, the Kargil conflict in 1999, and numerous counterinsurgency and peacekeeping operations. The 1971 Indo-Pak war was a major turning point. The Indian Army's decisive victory, which led to the creation of Bangladesh, demonstrated its growing strategic capability and professionalism. This success prompted further investments in defense infrastructure and modernization.

In recent years, the Indian Army has embraced modernization to keep pace with global military standards. A significant focus has been placed on acquiring advanced weapons systems, upgrading infantry gear, enhancing communication networks, and developing cyber and space warfare capabilities. The induction of modern battle tanks like the Arjun and T-90, new artillery systems, night vision devices, drones, and surface-to-air missiles has strengthened the army's combat readiness. India has also expanded its indigenous defense production through partnerships with domestic and international companies under the "Make in India" initiative.

Training and professionalism have become key pillars of the Indian Army's development. The army maintains a rigorous system of training institutions, such as the Indian Military Academy (IMA), National Defence Academy (NDA), and Officers Training Academy (OTA), which produce highly skilled and disciplined officers and soldiers. Joint military exercises with countries like the United States, Russia, France, and Israel have also enhanced operational knowledge and interoperability with foreign forces.

Beyond warfare, the Indian Army has played a crucial role in humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, and peacekeeping. Whether it's responding to natural calamities within India or contributing to United Nations peacekeeping missions abroad, the army has earned respect for its professionalism and commitment to peace.

The development of the Indian Army reflects India's broader national progress. From colonial subordination to a powerful, independent force, the Indian Army today stands as a symbol of national pride, unity, and strength.

Zupee Achieves First-Ever Profit with 146 Crore PAT, Solidifying Its Position as India's Leading Skill Gaming Platform

Zupee, a Gurugram-based skill-based gaming platform, has reported its first-ever profit, registering a net profit of ₹146 crore in the fiscal year 2024. This achievement underscores Zupee's rapid growth and its emergence as a dominant player in the skill gaming segment.

Founded in 2018 by Dilsher Singh Malhi and Siddhant Saurabh, Zupee offers a variety of skill-based games, including Ludo, Snakes & Ladders, and quiz games, allowing users to win real money. The platform's unique approach to combining traditional games with real cash prizes has resonated with a broad user base, leading to over 100 million downloads across India. The company's financial performance in FY23 laid the groundwork for its profitability in FY24. In FY23, Zupee's operating revenue more than doubled to ₹831.5 crore from ₹405.1 crore in the previous fiscal year. This surge was primarily driven by increased user engagement and the platform's growing popularity. Despite a 66% rise in total expenses to ₹900.78 crore, Zupee managed to reduce its net loss by 72% to ₹36.5 crore in FY23, showcasing effective cost management and operational efficiency. A significant portion of Zupee's expenses in FY23 was attributed to advertising and promotional activities, which saw an 85% increase to ₹703.33 crore. These investments were crucial in expanding the platform's user base and enhancing brand visibility.



Additionally, the company focused on offering attractive cashbacks and bonuses to retain users and encourage continued engagement. Zupee's strategic partnerships have also played a pivotal role in its growth trajectory. In a notable collaboration, Zupee partnered with Reliance Jio to roll out its games on Jio's 5G smartphones, aiming to penetrate deeper into India's vast and diverse market. This alliance is expected to provide Zupee with access to Jio's extensive user base, further accelerating its growth. The company's funding history reflects strong investor confidence. In its Series B round, Zupee raised $102 million, taking its valuation to $600 million. Investors such as WestCap Group, Tomales Bay Capital, Nepean Capital, Matrix Partners India, and Orios Venture Partners have backed the company, recognizing its potential in the rapidly expanding online gaming sector.

Zupee's commitment to responsible gaming and user education is evident through initiatives like the Zupee Skilling Academy (ZSA). ZSA aims to equip Indian youth with essential digital skills, including search engine optimization, social media marketing, and analytics. In collaboration with the NIIT Foundation, ZSA has launched a hybrid learning model, providing students with access to training modules, audiovisual media, ebooks, and other curriculum-based study materials.

The company's leadership has also acknowledged the Indian government's role in fostering a conducive environment for startups. Zupee's CEO, Dilsher Singh Malhi, praised the government's efforts in balancing innovation and regulation, stating that such an approach is vital for the survival and growth of startups. He emphasized the importance of a fair, transparent, and responsible gaming ecosystem, highlighting Zupee's positive experience in working with regulatory bodies. As Zupee continues to build on its success, the company remains focused on innovation, user engagement, and market expansion. With plans to explore new gaming formats and further enhance user experience, Zupee is well-positioned to maintain its leadership in India's skill gaming industry. The company's journey from a startup to a profitable enterprise serves as an inspiring example of how strategic planning, user-centric approaches, and strong partnerships can drive success in the competitive online gaming landscape.

India's Smart Cities Mission Nears Completion: Over 90% of Projects Worth 1.5 Lakh Crore Finalized, Reports SBI

As the Smart Cities Mission approaches its 10th anniversary in June 2025, a recent report by the State Bank of India (SBI) reveals that over 90% of the projects under this ambitious initiative have been completed. Launched on June 25, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the mission aimed to transform 100 cities across India into sustainable and citizen-friendly urban centers through the implementation of smart solutions. The SBI report highlights that out of more than 8,000 multi-sectoral projects planned, 7,504 projects amounting to ₹1.50 lakh crore have been successfully completed. These projects span various sectors, including urban mobility, water supply, sanitation, energy, and public safety, reflecting a comprehensive approach to urban development. A significant portion of the completed projects focused on enhancing urban mobility and water/sanitation infrastructure. Approximately 50% of the total project cost was allocated to these two sectors, covering over 3,000 projects. On average, around ₹22 crore was spent on each project, indicating substantial investment in improving the quality of life in urban areas. The mission's funding model was designed as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, with the Central Government committing ₹48,000 crore over five years. Each selected city received an average of ₹100 crore per year, matched by equal contributions from respective state governments or urban local bodies (ULBs). Additional funds were mobilized through convergence with other government programs, ULBs' own resources, Finance Commission grants, municipal bonds, and innovative financial mechanisms. An analysis of the expenditure reveals that 92% of the funds were utilized in 21 major states, with Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra accounting for nearly one-third of the total expenditure. This distribution underscores the significant role these states have played in driving the mission's progress. Beyond infrastructure development, the Smart Cities Mission has led to notable improvements in urban living conditions. According to the SBI report, smart cities have witnessed a 23% improvement in air quality over non-smart cities during the six-year period ending in 2024. Additionally, crime rates in cities implementing the scheme have decreased by 27%, highlighting the mission's impact on public safety. Technological advancements have been central to these improvements. Over 83,000 CCTV surveillance cameras have been installed across the 100 smart cities, enhancing crime monitoring capabilities. Furthermore, the deployment of 1,884 emergency call boxes, 3,000 public address systems, and traffic enforcement systems for red light violations and automatic number plate recognition has bolstered public safety measures. Solid waste management has also seen significant advancements, with over 50 cities adopting increased technology use to improve route management and collection efficiency. Approximately 4,400 vehicles have been equipped with RFID-enabled Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) systems, digitizing and enhancing solid waste management operations. Energy efficiency initiatives under the mission include the installation of more than 52 lakh solar/LED streetlights and the construction of over 86,000 kilometers of underground electricity cabling. These efforts contribute to sustainable urban development and reduced energy consumption. Each city under the mission has developed a diverse set of projects tailored to its unique needs, many of which are being implemented for the first time. This approach has enhanced the cities' capabilities and experience, achieving broader transformational goals at the city level. As the mission nears its conclusion, with 7% of projects worth ₹14,357 crore still ongoing, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is expected to issue guidelines for cities on how to proceed with these remaining projects. The mission's legacy lies in its comprehensive approach to urban development, promoting core infrastructure, a clean and sustainable environment, and improved quality of life through smart solutions. The successful implementation of the Smart Cities Mission sets a precedent for future urban development initiatives in India, demonstrating the potential of integrated planning, technological innovation, and collaborative governance in transforming urban landscapes.

Name Change

I, Tapati Mondal (Old Name) W/O– Ganapati Mandal resident of Karbala Road, Panchanantala, Hatinagar, Murshidabad, West Bengal, Pin-742102 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Tapati Mondal to Tapati Mandal and hencefort I shall be known as Tapati Mandal (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 28/03/2025 . My name Tapati Mandal & Tapati Mondal both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Kouser Shaik (Old Name) S/O– Golam Sk resident of Vill-Ranjitpara, Po-Haribhanga, Ps-Murshidabad, Dist-Murshidabad, West Bengal, Pin-742149 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Md Kouser Shaik to Kaosar Sekh and hencefort I shall be known as Kaosar Sekh (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 22/04/2025 . My name Kaosar Sekh & Md Kouser Shaik both are same and one identical person.

India–US Trade Engagement Poised to Create New Opportunities for Workers, Farmers, and Entrepreneurs

The United States and India are intensifying their trade engagement, aiming to foster new opportunities for workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs in both nations. This renewed collaboration is expected to enhance economic growth, bolster employment, and strengthen the strategic partnership between the two countries.The recent visit of U.S. Vice President JD Vance to India marked a pivotal moment in this engagement. During his four-day trip, Vice President Vance held discussions with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, focusing on advancing trade negotiations and addressing mutual concerns. The talks aimed to forge a modern trade agreement that would benefit both economies, particularly in the context of job creation and mutual prosperity.A central theme of the discussions was the potential to double bilateral trade to $500 billion by 2030, up from $129 billion in 2024. This ambitious goal reflects the commitment of both nations to deepen their economic ties and explore new avenues for collaboration.



One of the key areas of focus is the agricultural sector. Both countries have pledged to enhance market access for each other's farm products, aiming to boost agricultural trade. The United States has agreed to increase imports of Indian mangoes and pomegranates, while India will allow greater access for U.S. products such as alfalfa hay and duck meat. This cooperation is expected to strengthen and deepen bilateral trade relations in the agricultural domain. In addition to agriculture, the two nations are focusing on supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). A landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to enable MSMEs from both countries to participate in global markets, drive innovation, and foster trade. The MoU provides a framework for discussing issues concerning the MSME sector and exploring possibilities for cooperation, including the exchange of expertise and joint programs for women entrepreneurs. The trade engagement also encompasses the digital economy. The United States is advocating for full market access for American e-commerce giants Amazon and Walmart in India's $125 billion e-commerce sector. Currently, these companies operate through local subsidiaries and face regulations that restrict them from holding inventory and selling directly to Indian consumers. The push for a level playing field aims to remove such restrictions and enhance bilateral trade in the digital domain. The strategic importance of the India–US partnership is further underscored by the establishment of the US–India CEO Forum. This bilateral platform brings together leading business leaders from both countries to foster dialogue and collaboration across key sectors. The forum aims to identify opportunities for mutual growth, address challenges in the bilateral economic relationship, and provide strategic recommendations to both governments. As the trade engagement progresses, both nations are also considering expanding their partnership by enabling businesses to participate in government procurement opportunities within each other's countries. This initiative is part of broader efforts to enhance economic cooperation and leverage mutual strengths to drive trade growth. The renewed focus on trade engagement between India and the United States is poised to create a multitude of opportunities for workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs. By addressing key sectors such as agriculture, MSMEs, and the digital economy, and by fostering strategic partnerships, both nations are laying the groundwork for a more robust and mutually beneficial economic relationship.

India–US Trade Talks Intensify as Washington Presses for E-Commerce Market Access

The United States is urging India to provide greater market access to American e-commerce giants Amazon and Walmart. The Trump administration is advocating for a more equitable environment in India's $125 billion e-commerce sector, where current regulations favor domestic companies. Under existing Indian policies, foreign e-commerce firms are restricted to operating as third-party marketplaces, prohibiting them from holding inventory or selling products directly to consumers. In contrast, Indian competitors like Reliance Retail and Tata Digital enjoy fewer operational constraints, allowing them to produce and sell goods directly. This disparity has prompted U.S. officials to seek policy changes that would level the playing field for American companies. Retail industry leaders, including Walmart CEO Doug McMillon and Amazon founder Jeff Bezos, are reportedly playing central roles in these discussions. McMillon, whose company owns Flipkart, has raised concerns over India's e-commerce restrictions directly with President Trump during private meetings. The Financial Times reports that McMillon also attended a White House meeting alongside other retail executives to discuss tariff-related issues. Despite Amazon's ongoing expansion since its 2013 entry into India, it continues to trial Flipkart in daily active users. Bank of America data showed Amazon had under 40 million daily users late last year, compared to Flipkart's 50 million. The push for expanded e-commerce access comes amid broader trade negotiations between the two nations. On Monday, U.S. Vice President JD Vance met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi to discuss finalizing a trade agreement that would also address sectors like energy, defense, and technology. Both countries have set a goal to increase bilateral trade in goods and services to $500 billion, more than twice the existing volume. As part of the bilateral trade agreement, India is considering significant tariff reductions on over half of its $41.8 billion imports from the U.S. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, currently on a five-day trip to the U.S., stated that India hopes to "positively conclude" the first part of a trade pact by this autumn. She is also scheduled to meet with the U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and officials at the U.S. Trade Representative's office. The Trump administration has placed a 90-day hold on retaliatory tariffs, including a 26 percent import duty on Indian products, to facilitate ongoing negotiations. However, President Trump has labeled India a "tariff abuser," reflecting ongoing tensions over trade practices. India's e-commerce policies have long been a point of contention. In December 2018, the Indian government implemented rules that restrict foreign e-commerce firms from selling products via companies in which they have an equity interest and from making exclusive deals with sellers. These regulations have forced companies like Amazon and Walmart to alter their business structures and have raised operational costs. The U.S. government's push for policy changes aims to address these longstanding issues and create a more favorable environment for American e-commerce firms operating in India. As trade talks continue, both nations are working to resolve these challenges and strengthen their economic partnership.



Name Change

I, RUPA BIBI (Old Name) W/O ICHANUR KABIR MOLLA Residing at Vill - Khayerpur, P.o - Polerhat, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RUPA BEGAM (New Name) as declared before the Notary public govt of India at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 22-04-2025. RUPA BIBI (Old Name) and RUPA BEGAM (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Chinu Lata Baidya (Old Name) W/O–Kamal Baidya resident of Vill-Purnanayar , PO- Rajarmath Ps-Chakdaha Dist-Nadia, West Bengal, Pin-741222 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Chinu Lata Baidya to Kakoli Baidya and hencefort I shall be known as Kakoli Baidya (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 22/04/2025 . My name Kakoli Baidya & Chinu Lata Baidya both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sariful (Old Name) S/O– Yasin Momin resident of Vill- Bahanna Bighi, Po- Baliadanga, Ps- Kaliachak, Dist-Malda, West Bengal, Pin-732201 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Sariful to Sariful Momin and hencefort I shall be known as Sariful Momin (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on22/04/2025.My name Sariful Momin & Sariful both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Abu sekh (Old Name) S/O– Kalimuddin Sk resident of Gopinathpur Dakshinpara, Ps- Beldanga, Dist-Murshidabad, West Bengal, Pin-742134 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Abu sekh to Abubakkar Sk and hencefort I shall be known as Abubakkar Sk (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 22/04/2025.My name Abubakkar Sk & Abu sekh both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I DIPESH CHANDRA SAHA S/o LT BHUPESH CHANDRA SAHA RESIDENT AT NANIGOPAL SAHA ROAD SAKTINAGAR DIST NADIA PIN 741102 CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCED FORTH BE KNOWN AS DIPESH SAHA AS DECLARED BEFORE THE EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE KRISHNAGAR COURT VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO. SL.-2 DATED ON 21-04-25. DIPESH CHANDRA SAHA AND DIPESH SAHA IS SAME AND IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, Nazma Mondal (Old Name) W/O–Mirjaruk Mondal resident of Vill- Brajanathpur, Po- Pipulbaria, Ps- Murutia, Dist-Nadia, West Bengal, Pin- 741152 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Nazma Mondal to Nazma Mandal and hencefort I shall be known as Nazma Mandal (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 22/04/2025. My name Nazma Mandal & Nazma Mondal both are same and one identical person.

Notice

ABUL KASHEM MOLLA S/O- GOLAM ROSUL MOLLA VILL- THARAHADHIA ,P/O- PAKAPOLERHAT,P/S- KASHIPUR, DIST - SOUTH 24 PARGANAS,PIN-700135 Had purchased a land/property,schedul below from chin deed Holders - MD MONIRUL ISLAM,S/O- ABDUL MOJIT MOLLA,VILL -GOCHURIYA,P/O -PITHAPUKUR ,P/S-KASHIPUR,DIST- SOUTH 24 PARGANAS,PIN -700135 Had a Purchased a land/property, schedule below, from power of attorney holder DABJANI ROY CHOUDHARY C/O-UDITANDU MUKHERJEE POA NO - 273/2018 A.D.S.R Bhangar chin deed -6364/2018 A.D.S.R Bhangar Men Deed no -1301/2020/A.D.S.R Bhangar.If any body has any objection on mutation of said land property please inform office of BL & LRO, Block Bhangar-II ,in writing or over email B.L.R.O BHN@GMAOL.COM within one month from the date of this advertisement land schedule mouza -TARAHADHAYA J/L NO- 13.DAGE NO-539 Area 2.30 Satak, under LR khatian no - 341

Name Change

I, Abdul Wohab (Old Name) S/O–Umar Ali resident of Vill- Pathanpara Po & Ps- Lalgola, Dist-Murshidabad, West Bengal, Pin- 742148 do hereby decrale that I have changed my name from Abdul Wohab to Md Abdul Wohab Ali and hencefort I shall be known as Md Abdul Wohab Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public Berhampore court on 22/04/2025.My name Md Abdul Wohab Ali & Abdul Wohab both are same and one identical person.

Banking Stocks Surge as RBI's Liquidity Measures and Rate Cuts Spark Optimism

Indian banking stocks have experienced a significant rally, driven by the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) recent liquidity-enhancing measures and interest rate cuts. These policy actions, under the leadership of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra, aim to stimulate credit growth and bolster the financial sector amid global economic uncertainties. The RBI's decision to lower the buffer rate on digitally linked deposits to 2.5% and reduce the 'run-off' factor on wholesale deposits from non-financial entities to 40% from 100% is expected to ease funding and liquidity pressures on banks. This move is particularly beneficial for lenders with high wholesale deposit exposure, such as Kotak Mahindra Bank and IndusInd Bank. As a result, Kotak Mahindra and HDFC Bank saw their shares climb by 2.3% and 2.1% respectively, contributing to a 1% boost in the financial sector's performance. Furthermore, the RBI's relaxed guidelines on the liquidity coverage ratio (LCR) are projected to release up to ₹3 trillion ($35.24 billion) in capital for banks. By lowering the proportion of high-quality liquid assets that banks must hold against digitally linked deposits, the new rules are anticipated to enhance banks' LCR by approximately 6 percentage points as of December-end. This adjustment could result in an additional credit growth of 1.4-2 percentage points, providing a substantial boost to the banking sector. The central bank's proactive approach also includes a 25 basis point cut in the repo rate, marking the first such reduction in nearly five years. This move aims to combat slowing GDP growth, elevated inflation, stagnant wages, and weak consumption. With inflation rates dropping to a six-year low of 3.34% and GDP growth slowing to 5.4% in the most recent quarter, the RBI's measures are timely interventions to stimulate economic activity. Market analysts have responded positively to these developments. The Nifty 50 rose by 0.38% to 24,217.7, and the BSE Sensex gained 0.43% to 79,750.18 in early trading. Mid- and small-cap indices also saw gains of approximately 1.1%, indicating broad-based investor confidence. However, not all banks shared in the rally. IndusInd Bank's shares dropped nearly 4% following news of a second forensic audit over a ₹6 billion discrepancy in interest income. This development underscores the importance of transparency and accurate financial reporting in maintaining investor trust. Governor Malhotra has emphasized the need for banks to act promptly to ensure that central bank liquidity measures effectively reach the broader financial system. He highlighted concerns about the declining liquidity in India's call money market, which poses challenges for effective monetary policy transmission.

Achieving "World Books of Records" by setting an example of health awareness

Building a country requires a healthy life, and for that healthy life, a healthy medical system is needed. Malay Pete is going to receive an exceptional honor in recognition of his outstanding contribution to health awareness, medical education and social welfare efforts. Malay Pete is also the President of Tripura Santiniketan Medical College.The "World Book of Records Award Ceremony 2025" is going to be organized in Almaty, Kazakhstan on May 2, where Malay Pete has been invited to participate. In this international event, prominent individuals and leaders from more than 25 countries of the world will be honored for their unique contributions in various fields, the London Book of Records said. Santosh Shukla, President of World Book of Records, London, in an invitation letter dated 15 April 2025 (Letter No. 98/2025), warmly praised Malay Pete for his contributions to medical education, institution building and social service and invited him to this international platform.The letter said, "We are proud to invite Malay Pete to this world stage, where he has become a source of inspiration through medical education."The organizers have chosen the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Almaty, located on Dosmukhamedov Street in the city, as the venue for the event. Known for its natural beauty, multiculturalism and a symbol of solidarity on the world stage. It is worth noting that Shantiniketan College and Hospital in Bolpur,

Name Change

I, ICHANUR KABIR (Old Name) S/O LATE HAZIDAR RAHAMAN MOLLA Residing at Vill - Khayerpur, P.o - Polerhat, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ICHANUR KABIR MOLLA (New Name) as declared before the Notary public govt of India at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 22-04-2025. ICHANUR KABIR (Old Name) and ICHANUR KABIR MOLLA (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, KONIKA BISWAS (Old Name) W/O GANESH BISWAS Residing at Vill - Naraharipur, P.o - Khalitpur, P.s - Petrapole, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743405, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KANIKA BISWAS (New Name) as declared before the Notary public govt of India at Kolkata vide affidavit dated 22-04-2025. KONIKA BISWAS (Old Name) and KANIKA BISWAS (New Name) both are same and identical person.

OFFICE OF THE BLOCK DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Udaynarayanpur, Howrah
PRESS NOTICE

E-Tender No.-WB/HWH/UNPUR/NIET-1/BDO/25-26, Dt.-21/04/2025 for 10 nos. scheme within the jurisdiction of Udaynarayanpur Development Block. **Tender ID-2025_ZPHD_837527_1 to 2025_ZPHD_837527_10**. Detail information will be available from the website **https://wbtenders.gov.in.**

Sd/- Block Development Officer
Udaynarayanpur Dev. Block

KMC Mayor Firhad Hakim Orders Investigation into Commercial Building Irregularities Following Fatal Fire Incident

Kolkata, 22 April: Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Mayor Firhad Hakim has directed the Building Department to investigate irregularities in a commercial building following a fatal fire incident on April 20, 2025. The four-story building, located at 65A Pathuriaghat Street, was registered as a dharmashala (pilgrim rest house) in KMC records but was found to be operating as a commercial establishment.

The fire, which broke out late at night, resulted in the deaths of two middle-aged individuals who were trapped inside. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the building lacked essential fire safety measures, such as fire extinguishers and emergency exits. Additionally, the upper floors, intended for accommodation, were being used for commercial purposes, including storage and retail activities.

Mayor Hakim expressed his concern over the situation, stating that the building's registration as a dharmashala was being exploited to evade taxes and regulations. He emphasized the need for strict enforcement of building codes and fire safety standards to prevent such incidents in the future.In response to the findings, the Mayor has instructed the Building Department to take immediate action. This includes demolishing any illegal constructions, removing unauthorized shutters and partitions, and ensuring that the building complies with all applicable laws and regulations.

The Kolkata Municipal Corporation, in collaboration with the Fire Department and local police, has initiated a comprehensive investigation into the incident. Authorities are examining the building's construction, occupancy records, and the circumstances leading up to the fire. The goal is to determine accountability and implement measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future.This incident highlights the importance of diligent enforcement of building regulations and fire safety standards. Mayor Hakim's prompt action underscores the KMC's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Kolkata's residents.



As the investigation progresses, it is expected that further details will emerge regarding the building's history and the individuals responsible for its unauthorized modifications. The KMC has assured the public that it will take all necessary steps to hold accountable those found to be in violation of the law. In the meantime, the Building Department has been instructed to conduct a city-wide audit of similar establishments to identify and rectify any other potential violations. This proactive approach aims to enhance safety standards across Kolkata and prevent future tragedies.

The KMC's actions serve as a reminder of the critical need for vigilance in maintaining building safety and adhering to regulatory standards. By addressing these issues head-on, the city aims to create a safer environment for all its inhabitants.

Upgradation of safety in passenger running loop line over SEALDAH Division

Kolkata, 22 April: SEALDAH division has 60 nos. of stations where passenger loop lines are available. Railway is giving emphasis on upgradation in maintenance of loop lines to enhance safety of trains while passing through them.

Earlier, maintenance of passenger running loops were done manually. Now, maintenance of passenger loops are being done through machines to improve track parameter standards. The work includes machine packing, ballasting, deep screening by ballast cleaning machine (BCM) of plain track/ turn outs, welding of unavoidable rail free joints and ensuring 100% proper fittings, re-spacing of sleepers etc. are the major works included for enhancing the track parameters of passenger running loop lines.

Railway has sanctioned approx. 59 Cr. For up gradations of passenger running loop line for SEALDAH division. Passenger running loop lines of 13 stations (Barrackpore, Baruipur Jn., KrishnaNagar City Jn., Bethuadahari, Chandpara, Deula, Debogram, Ghutiari Sharif, Hotor, Majhdia, Sonarpur Jn., Muragachha, Madhyamgram) have already been covered and by Dec'25 upgradation work of all passenger loop lines will be completed in a mission mode.

SEALDAH division is running approx. 1000 trains on daily basis to carry passengers for their destinations. We are committed for their safe and smooth journey. In this direction, SEALDAH division is taking up major safety related works like elimination of level crossing gates, interlocking of non-interlocking level crossing gates, provision of buzzer in road user signal at LC gates, provision of sliding barriers



at LC gates, improving signal visibility, provision of guard repeater signal, elimination of critical mast and leaning mast, vertical fencing at unauthorized trespassing locations, monitoring of yards through CCTV, upgradation of signalling system, upgradation of track by laying thick web switch and weldable CMS crossing. In addition to this to cater human aspects regular counselling, training of railway employee was also done frequently. Counselling of normal passengers and habitants residing nearby track was also done to avoid any unusual occurrences.

These upgrades mark another step toward modernizing the rail network and enhancing the passenger experience. Sealdah Division continues its dedication to better infrastructure, Safety standards and more efficient train operations.

"Return To School, Resume Classes": Mamata Banerjee To Protesting Teachers



Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday urged protesting teachers who lost jobs following a Supreme Court ruling, to return to work, assuring them that her government will "protect" their salaries.Thousands of teachers on Tuesday continued their overnight protests outside the West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) headquarters in Salt Lake.

"You don't need to worry about who is tainted and who is not. You only need to worry about whether you have your job and whether you are getting your salaries on time. The list to identify the tainted and untainted teachers remains with the government and the courts."

"We assure that your jobs are safe for now and you will get your salaries. Please return to your schools and resume classes. I have spoken about this several times since last night. We are with you," CM Banerjee said at an administrative programme in Midnapore.

The CM said a review petition for Group C and Group D staff, who have lost their jobs, will also be filed before the Supreme Court and "keep your faith in us till then".CM Banerjee also warned the protesting teachers not to fall prey to those trying to provoke them.

"Had I been in Kolkata, I could have solved the issue within seconds. Do not pay heed to those who are provoking you. Let the state government look after it," she said.

Referring to "similar developments in Uttar Pradesh and Tripura", CM Banerjee said, "People have lost jobs in those states in huge numbers and never got them back. Don't let that happen here." The agitators were among nearly 26,000 teaching and non-teaching staff whose appointments were invalidated by the top court on April 3, citing "widespread irregularities" in the 2016 recruitment drive.

Braving the scorching sun, the protesters numbering over 2,000 surrounded the WBSSC headquarters, denying entry and exit of officials, including its chairman Siddhartha Majumdar, who has been inside the building since last evening.

The agitating teachers have been demanding that the commission publish the list of candidates who were recruited on the basis of merit, and those who got appointments by allegedly paying bribes.



Teachers and non-teaching staff, who lost permanent jobs after a Supreme Court verdict, protest against the School Service Commission (SSC) on the second day of their demonstration at SSC Bhawan, Salt Lake, in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Cleanliness awareness drive conducted at ballygunge station

Kolkata, 22 April: In a continued effort to maintain clean station premises and reinforce its commitment to the Swachh Bharat Mission and sustainable cleanliness practices, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division organized a Cleanliness Awareness Campaign at Ballygunge Railway Station on 21st April 2025. The campaign aimed to sensitize passengers, vendors, and other stakeholders about the importance of maintaining cleanliness in and around railway premises.



The primary focus of the initiative was on proper waste disposal, discouraging littering, and prohibiting spitting within the station premises. Posters, leaflets, and on-ground demonstrations were used to effectively convey key messages to the public and promote responsible behavior while using railway facilities.

The event witnessed active participation and coordination from health staff, RPF personnel, Senior Section Engineer/Work and the cleaning staff of Ballygunge, all of whom contributed significantly to the success of the programme. Their joint efforts highlighted the importance of community involvement in achieving and sustaining a clean and hygienic railway environment.

Eastern Railway remains dedicated to upholding high standards of cleanliness and hygiene across its network and continues to engage with both passengers and staff in promoting civic responsibility and sustainable habits.

BJP's DM Office Raid in Hooghly Sparks Outrage

Hooghly, 22 April: Asignificant political confrontation unfolded in Hooghly district, West Bengal, as Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) activists, led by state president Sukanta Majumdar, launched a protest at the District Magistrate (DM) office. The demonstration was organized in response to various issues, including the cancellation of job appointments and the recent unrest in Murshidabad.The protest escalated when BJP supporters attempted to breach barricades and enter the DM office premises. This led to a tense standoff with the police, who were stationed to maintain order. Reports indicate that the situation became chaotic, with activists clashing with law enforcement personnel.

The BJP's actions have drawn sharp criticism from the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC). TMC leaders have accused the BJP of attempting to destabilize the state and disrupt the functioning of government institutions. They argue that such protests are part of a broader strategy to create unrest and undermine the state's administration.

In contrast, the BJP maintains that their protest was a legitimate exercise of democratic rights, aimed at highlighting grievances related to governance and administrative decisions. They have called for a thorough investigation into the issues raised during the protest, including the alleged irregularities in job appointments and the handling of the Murshidabad situation.



The incident has sparked widespread discussions across the state, with various political analysts and commentators weighing in on the implications for West Bengal's political landscape. Some view the protest as a sign of growing discontent among the populace, while others see it as a calculated move by the BJP to challenge the TMC's authority ahead of upcoming elections.As the situation develops, both parties have called for calm and urged their supporters to refrain from violence. The state government has promised to address the concerns raised by the protesters through appropriate channels, while the BJP has vowed to continue its campaign for accountability and transparency in governance.

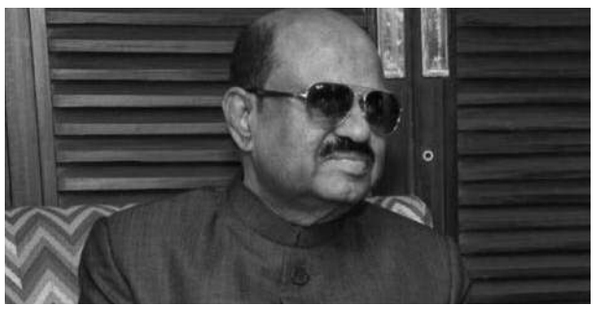
The Hooghly DM office protest serves as a microcosm of the larger political dynamics at play in West Bengal, reflecting the intense rivalry between the TMC and BJP. It underscores the challenges faced by the state in maintaining public order and addressing the diverse concerns of its citizens in a politically charged environment.In the coming days, it is expected that both parties will intensify their efforts to mobilize public opinion and garner support for their respective positions. The outcome of this confrontation may have significant repercussions for the political future of West Bengal, influencing strategies and alliances in the run-up to future elections.

As of now, the situation remains fluid, with authorities closely monitoring developments and taking necessary measures to ensure peace and stability in the region. The public's response to the incident will likely play a crucial role in shaping the political discourse in the state in the weeks and months to come.

Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose shifted to private hospital in Kolkata for further treatment: Official

Kolkata, 22 April: West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose, who had been admitted to the Eastern Command Hospital here with chest congestion, was on Tuesday shifted to a private medical facility for another round of checkup, a senior Raj Bhavan official said.Bose's health condition was "stable" when taken to the private hospital on the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass, he said.

"The governor was shifted to a private hospital today as doctors have prescribed some medical tests, which will be conducted at this medical facility," the official told PTI.



The next course of treatment will be ascertained on the basis of these medical tests, he said. The governor had complained of chest discomfort after returning from a visit to riot-hit areas of Murshidabad on Saturday night.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had visited Bose at the Eastern Command Hospital on Monday before leaving for Salboni in Paschim Medinipur to participate in the ground-breaking ceremony of a 1,600-MW power plant.

Trinamool Panchayat Chairman Arrested in Major Yaba Smuggling Bust; Party Expels Leader Amid Political Uproar

Cooch Beha, 22 April: In a shocking development that has sent ripples through the political landscape of West Bengal's Cooch Behar district, Trinamool Congress leader Mafuzar Rahman, chairman of the Gitaldaha No. 1 Gram Panchayat in Dinhata, was arrested for allegedly smuggling banned Yaba tablets. The arrest was made by the Siliguri Special Task Force (STF) late Monday night in a high-stakes operation based on confidential intel.

Rahman, who is also the husband of Bijli Khatun, the current head of the same panchayat, was apprehended along with four others, including a woman, from the Gunjubari area of Cooch Behar city. The STF recovered nearly 10,000 Yaba tablets from the group, believed to have been smuggled from Northeast India and destined for Dinhata Sitai, close to the Bangladesh border.

Following the arrest, all five accused were transferred to the Kotwali Police Station. A formal case has been registered against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. The accused were presented before the Cooch Behar court on Tuesday morning after a routine medical checkup. The judge ordered a six-day police remand for further investigation.

The incident has caused a massive political backlash, with the BJP launching a scathing attack on the Trinamool Congress. At a press conference held on Tuesday, BJP leader Biraj Bose accused Rahman of being part of an international smuggling network. Bose presented documents and photographs





of Rahman with top Trinamool leaders, alleging Rahman had previously served time in a Bangladesh prison in 2014 for similar offenses. He also expressed concern that individuals like Rahman may hold dual voter ID cards, allowing them to aid cross-border criminal activities, especially during elections.

"These are the real assets of Trinamool," Bose said, highlighting the gravity of the accusations. "These leaders act as a bridge for illegal activities between Bangladesh and India. They commit crimes here and escape back across the border."

Responding to the controversy, Trinamool Congress leader Abdul Jalil Ahmed stated he was unaware of the specifics of the arrest. However, he affirmed that if Rahman is proven to be associated with the party, appropriate disciplinary actions would be taken. "The law will take its course," Ahmed stated, though his comments were seen as evasive by critics.

Later on Tuesday evening, in an apparent damage-control move, the Trinamool Congress expelled Mafuzar Rahman from the party for six years on grounds of anti-party activities. This decision was confirmed by Cooch Behar District Trinamool President Abhijit De Bhowmik, who issued a formal statement.

"We do not support social degradation or anti-party behavior. There is no place for such individuals in our party unless they can prove their innocence in a court of law," Bhowmik said.

This latest scandal has further deepened the discomfort within the ruling party, especially with assembly elections looming next year. The involvement of Trinamool leaders in repeated drug trafficking incidents across the border areas, including Shitalkuchi and Sitai, has raised serious concerns about law and order and the integrity of grassroots leadership in the region.

Owaisi Challenges PM Modi to Question Saudi Crown Prince on Medina's Waqf Land Status Amidst Domestic Waqf Controversy



New Delhi, 22 April: In a pointed critique of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's stance on Waqf properties, All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) chief Asaduddin Owaisi has challenged the Prime Minister to inquire with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman about the status of Medina's land, questioning whether it is built on Waqf land. This challenge comes in the wake of the Indian government's proposed amendments to the Waqf Act, which Owaisi and several other leaders argue threaten the autonomy and sanctity of Waqf properties in India.

Owaisi's remarks underscore a broader concern among Muslim leaders and organizations regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2025. The bill, which has been introduced by the BJP-led central government, proposes significant changes to the management and oversight of Waqf properties. Critics argue that these changes could lead to increased government interference and potential misappropriation of properties traditionally managed by Muslim communities for religious and charitable purposes.

The AIMIM leader has been vocal in his opposition to the bill, labeling it a "direct assault on Muslims." He contends that the proposed amendments would strip Muslims of their rights to manage Waqf properties, including mosques, dargahs, and graveyards. Owaisi has also expressed concerns that the bill could pave the way for non-Muslims to become members of Waqf Boards, a move he believes undermines the religious and cultural significance of these institutions.

In a recent protest organized by the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) at Jantar Mantar in Delhi, Owaisi joined other leaders in denouncing the bill. He emphasized that the legislation is not aimed at protecting Waqf properties but rather at facilitating their appropriation by the state. The protest saw participation from various political parties and civil society groups, all united in their opposition to the proposed changes.

Owaisi's challenge to Prime Minister Modi to question the Saudi Crown Prince serves as a rhetorical device to highlight what he perceives as a double standard in the government's approach to Waqf properties. By referencing Medina, a city of immense religious significance in Islam, Owaisi aims to draw attention to the importance of preserving Waqf properties and respecting their religious and cultural heritage.

The controversy surrounding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill has also reached the judiciary. Several petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the bill have been filed in the Supreme Court by various political parties and religious organizations. The court has clubbed these petitions under the title "In re: Waqf (Amendment) Act 2025" and has directed the Union government to respond. In the interim, the court has ordered that no Waqf property be denotified or altered until the next hearing.

The government's rationale for the amendments centers on the need to address issues and challenges in regulating and managing Waqf properties. However, opponents argue that the bill's provisions could lead to administrative chaos and erode the independence of Waqf Boards.



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah takes stock of the devastation caused by recent flash floods and landslides, in Ramban.

India Halts ₹5,000 Crore Rail Projects in Bangladesh Amid Political Turmoil

New Delhi, 22 April: India has indefinitely suspended all train services to Bangladesh due to escalating political unrest in the neighboring country. This decision affects key cross-border trains, including the Maitree Express, Bandhan Express, and Mitali Express, which have been canceled since mid-July 2024. The suspension has been extended indefinitely following the resignation of Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the subsequent establishment of an interim government amid widespread protests.

The political crisis in Bangladesh began with student-led protests demanding the removal of a controversial job quota system. These protests escalated into calls for Prime Minister Hasina's resignation, leading to her departure from the country and the formation of an interim government led by Army Chief General Waqar-uz-Zaman. The unrest has severely disrupted daily life and transportation, prompting India to halt all train services to Bangladesh indefinitely.

The affected trains include the Kolkata-Dhaka-Kolkata Maitree Express, the Kolkata-Khulna-Kolkata Bandhan Express, and the Dhaka-New Jalpaiguri-Dhaka Mitali Express. The Mitali Express, which runs between New Jalpaiguri and Dhaka, has been suspended since July 21, 2024. Indian Railway officials confirmed that these services will not resume until a favorable response is received from Bangladesh regarding the resumption of cross-border train operations .

In addition to passenger services, freight operations between the two countries have also been affected. Indian freight trains carrying essential goods, including food grains, have been stranded in Bangladesh, while loaded wagons from Bangladesh remain stuck in India. This disruption has impacted trade and logistics, highlighting the interconnectedness of regional transportation networks.

The suspension of train services has also affected infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing connectivity between India and Bangladesh. Notably, the Maitri Setu Bridge, which connects Sabroom in India to Chittagong in Bangladesh, remains non-operational due to the ongoing unrest. This bridge is part of broader initiatives to improve trade and transport links between the two countries, facilitating access to international markets through the Chittagong International Seaport . The political turmoil in Bangladesh has far-reaching implications for regional stability and economic cooperation.

Mayawati Urges Dalit Community to Remain Vigilant Against Parties with Double Standards

New Delhi, 22 April: Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) supremo Mayawati cautioned the Dalit community to be wary of political parties exhibiting double standards, emphasizing the importance of discernment in choosing allies. She highlighted that certain parties, while seeking Dalit support, have historically undermined the community's interests.Mayawati's remarks come amid ongoing discussions about the implementation of caste-based census and reservation policies. She criticized parties that, despite advocating for Dalit rights during election campaigns, have failed to take substantial actions once in power. The BSP leader pointed out that such inconsistencies not only betray the trust of Dalit voters but also hinder the progress of social justice initiatives.

The BSP has long positioned itself as a champion of Dalit rights, drawing inspiration from leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Kanshi Ram. Mayawati's leadership has been instrumental in bringing Dalit issues to the forefront of national politics. However, her tenure has also been marked by controversies, including allegations of corruption and the lavish expenditure on statues and memorials dedicated to Dalit icons, which critics argue diverted funds from essential welfare programs.



In her recent statement, Mayawati urged the Dalit community to critically assess the actions of political parties, rather than being swayed by mere promises. She called for a collective effort to hold these parties accountable for their past actions and to demand concrete measures that address the community's needs. The BSP leader emphasized that true empowerment comes not from symbolic gestures but from tangible policies that uplift the marginalized.

Mayawati's call to action resonates with the broader discourse on social justice and affirmative action in India. As the nation grapples with issues of caste discrimination and inequality, her statement serves as a reminder of the need for genuine commitment to the welfare of Dalits. It also underscores the importance of political accountability and the active participation of marginalized communities in shaping policies that affect their lives.

Mayawati's admonition to the Dalit community is a timely reminder to remain vigilant and discerning in the political arena. As the country moves forward, it is imperative that all political parties demonstrate sincerity in their commitment to social justice and the upliftment of marginalized communities.

Five Tourists Feared Dead in Pahalgam Terror Attack; PM Modi Directs Amit Shah to Visit Site

Jammu, 22 April: A militant attack in Pahalgam, a renowned tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir, has resulted in the deaths of at least five tourists, with eight others injured. The attack occurred on April 22, 2025, in the Baisaran meadow area, a popular spot surrounded by scenic landscapes, which was crowded at the time of the incident. Authorities have labeled the incident a "terror attack," attributing it to militants opposed to Indian rule in the disputed region .

The victims, primarily Indian tourists, sustained gunshot wounds and were evacuated to local hospitals for treatment. Security forces have sealed off the area and initiated a manhunt for the perpetrators. The attack marks one of the most significant assaults on civilians in the region in recent years, drawing widespread condemnation from political leaders and citizens alike.

In response to the attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, currently on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, has directed Home Minister Amit Shah to visit the site of the attack and assess the situation firsthand. The directive underscores the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of tourists and citizens in the region.

The Jammu and Kashmir administration has taken immediate steps to review security measures in the Kashmir Valley. Chief Secretary Chandraker Bharti emphasized the need for devising standard operating procedures (SOPs) to minimize the chances of such incidents. He called for initiating prophylactic measures to ensure minimal disturbances in the day-to-day lives of citizens and stressed the importance of safeguarding both political workers and tourists. Additionally, he suggested sensitizing vulnerable sections, including migrant laborers, minorities, and tourists, about safety measures to be observed under all circumstances .

The attack has also prompted concerns regarding the safety of tourists in the region. In the past, the Indian government has advised tourists to curtail their stay in Kashmir during periods of heightened security threats. For instance, in 2019, ahead of the Hindu pilgrimage to Amarnath, the government deployed 10,000 extra troops and advised pilgrims and tourists to leave the valley due to security concerns

The Kashmir region, claimed in full but ruled in part by both India and Pakistan, has been a focal point of conflict since the start of an anti-Indian insurgency in 1989. While violence has tapered off in recent years, sporadic militant attacks continue to occur. Tourists have been rare targets, but incidents such as the June 2024 attack on a bus carrying Hindu pilgrims, which resulted in nine deaths and 33 injuries, highlight the ongoing security challenges in the region .The international community has expressed concern over the recent escalation in violence. The United Nations and various human rights organizations have called for restraint and urged all parties to prioritize the safety and well-being of civilians. Diplomatic efforts are underway to address the underlying issues contributing to the unrest and to promote peace and stability in the region.

As investigations into the Pahalgam attack continue, authorities are working diligently to apprehend those responsible and prevent further incidents. The government remains committed to ensuring the safety of all individuals in Jammu and Kashmir and is taking all necessary measures to restore peace and security to the region.

The tragic events in Pahalgam serve as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges faced by the region and the need for continued efforts towards reconciliation and peacebuilding. The resilience of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, coupled with concerted efforts from all stakeholders, will be crucial in overcoming the challenges and building a peaceful and prosperous future for the region.

As the situation develops, updates will be provided to keep the public informed and ensure transparency in the government's response to the attack. The thoughts and condolences of the nation are with the victims and their families during this difficult time.

Government Clarifies: FASTag Not Replaced by GPS-Based Tolling from May 1

New Delhi, 22 April: In response to recent media reports suggesting the replacement of the FASTag system with GPS-based toll collection starting May 1, 2025, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has issued a clarification. The government has stated that no such nationwide rollout of a GPS-based tolling system is planned for the specified date.

The confusion arose from announcements regarding the introduction of an "ANPR-FASTag-based Barrier-Less Tolling System" at select toll plazas. This hybrid system aims to enhance toll collection efficiency by combining Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) technology with the existing FASTag system. The implementation of this system is intended to reduce congestion and waiting times at toll booths, but it does not signify the discontinuation of FASTag nationwide.



The government has emphasized that FASTag will continue to be the primary mode of toll payment across national highways. Motorists are advised to maintain their FASTag devices and ensure they are adequately funded to facilitate seamless travel. The introduction of ANPR technology at certain toll plazas is an additional measure to streamline the toll collection process and is not a replacement of the existing system.

The clarification aims to address any concerns among road users and to prevent any disruptions in travel plans. The MoRTH has assured that further updates will be communicated through official channels to keep the public informed about any future changes to the toll collection system.

In conclusion, while the government is exploring technological advancements to improve toll collection, the FASTag system remains operational, and no immediate changes are expected. Motorists are encouraged to stay updated with official notifications to ensure a smooth travel experience.

Spreading misinformation: EC sources reject Rahul Gandhi's claims on electoral rolls in Maharashtra

New Delhi, 22 April: Election Commission sources on Tuesday refuted Rahul Gandhi's allegations of abnormal voter turnout in the Maharashtra polls, asserting that any "misinformation" being spread was a sign of disrespect towards the law and hurt the efforts of political workers and polling personnel.

They also said such claims brought disrepute to the thousands of representatives appointed by political parties and demotivated lakhs of election staff working untiringly and transparently during elections.

After any unfavourable verdict by voters, trying to defame the Election Commission (EC) by saying that it had been compromised is completely absurd, the poll body sources said.

On Monday, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Gandhi alleged in Boston, US, that, in simple terms, more people voted in the Maharashtra assembly election than there were adults in the state.

"The Election Commission gave us a voting figure for 5:30 pm, and between 5:30 pm and 7:30 pm, 65 lakh voters voted. This is physically impossible. For a voter to vote, it takes approximately three minutes and, if you do the math, it would mean that there were lines of voters till 2 am but this did not happen," he had said.

Rejecting the claims, the sources underlined that 6,40,87,588 (6.40 crore) electors who reached the polling stations from 7 am to 6 pm voted in the Maharashtra polls.

About 58 lakh votes were polled per hour on an average, they said.Going by the average trend, nearly 1.16 crore voters could have voted in the last two hours, they added."Therefore, casting of 65 lakh votes by electors in two hours is much below the average hourly voting trend," an EC functionary pointed out.

The sources noted that voting progressed in the presence of polling agents formally appointed by candidates or political parties in every polling booth.

The Congress' nominated candidates or their authorised agents had not raised "any substantiated allegations" regarding any kind of abnormal voting at the time of scrutiny before returning officers and election observers the next day.



On the issue of alleged fudging of electoral data, the sources said voter lists in India, including Maharashtra, were prepared according to the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

According to the law, either just before the elections or once every year, special summary revision of electoral rolls is conducted and its final copy handed over to all national or state political parties.

After the finalisation of electoral rolls for the Maharashtra polls, as against 9,77,90,752 (9.72 crore) electors, only 89 appeals were filed before the first appellate authority -- the district magistrate concerned -- and only one before the second appellate authority -- the state chief electoral officer.

"Therefore, it is amply clear that there was no grievance of the Congress or any other political party before the conduct of the Maharashtra assembly election in 2024," the functionary said.

During the voter list revision, for over one lakh polling booths, along with 97,325 booth-level officers appointed by electoral registration officers, 1,03,727 (1.03 lakh) booth-level agents were also appointed by all political parties.

These included 27,099 booth-level agents appointed by Congress.

"Therefore, these unsubstantiated allegations raised against the electoral rolls of Maharashtra are an affront to the rule of the law," the functionary asserted.

All Indian elections are held according to the law and the scale and accuracy with which the polls are held are widely acclaimed across the world, the sources said.

They said it was common knowledge that each election process, including the preparation of electoral rolls, polling and counting, were carried out by government staff, that too, in the presence of authorised representatives formally appointed by political parties or candidates from the polling station up to the constituency level.

Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, during an address to the Indian diaspora in Boston on Sunday raised concerns about the integrity of India's electoral process, drawing a sharp attack from the ruling BJP.Rahul alleged that the Election Commission is no longer impartial and suggested there are serious flaws in the system.

"It is very clear to us that the Election Commission is compromised, and it is very clear that there is something wrong with the system. I have said this multiple times…." he said.Referring to the Maharashtra Assembly elections as an example, Rahul claimed irregularities in voter turnout data and raised questions on the BJP-led coalition's victory that had surprised many because the BJP had fared very poorly in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha elections held barely months before.

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Kieron Pollard's Stirring Pep Talk Sparks Mumbai Indians' Re-sounding Victory Over Chennai Super Kings

Mumbai, 22 April: The Mumbai Indians (MI) secured a decisive victory over the Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at the Wankhede Stadium, a triumph that was significantly influenced by a motivational speech delivered by MI's batting coach, Kieron Pollard. This win not only marked a pivotal moment in MI's IPL 2025 campaign but also ended a challenging streak of five consecutive losses to their arch-rivals, CSK. Prior to the match, Pollard, a former MI stalwart and now the team's batting coach, addressed the players with a heartfelt message. He expressed his fatigue over consistently having to commend CSK after defeats and urged his team to alter this narrative. Pollard recounted, "Before the game, Mahela Jayawardene gave me the opportunity to speak. I told the players, 'I'm tired of saying well played to Chennai. It's time to change that.' I'm glad the boys listened."

The impact of Pollard's words was evident on the field. MI's batting lineup, led by Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav, executed a near-flawless chase of CSK's target. Rohit contributed a solid 76 runs, while Suryakumar added a swift 68, leading MI to victory with 26 balls to spare. This performance not only showcased the team's batting depth but also highlighted the effectiveness of strategic planning and execution.Pollard's decision to promote Suryakumar to the number three position was a tactical masterstroke. He explained, "We wanted Surya to face as many balls as possible. With Rohit and Surya both in form, we aimed to finish the game early. Surya's ability to disrupt spinners with his sweep and reverse sweep shots was crucial against CSK's skilled spin attack."

This victory propelled MI to the sixth position on the points table, keeping their playoff aspirations alive. Conversely, CSK found themselves at the bottom of the standings, facing an uphill battle to salvage their season. Pollard's influence extends beyond tactical decisions; his leadership and motivational skills have been instrumental in fostering team cohesion and resilience. His transition from a celebrated player to a mentor has been seamless, and his deep understanding of the game continues to benefit MI.

As MI prepares for the remaining fixtures of the season, the team will look to build on this momentum. Pollard's emphasis on unity, strategic acumen, and mental fortitude will be key as they aim to secure a spot in the playoffs and contend for the championship. In the high-stakes environment of the IPL, where pressure and expectations are immense.

Harsha Bhogle Denies Commentary Ban Amid Eden Gardens Pitch Controversy

Mumbai, 22 April: Veteran cricket commentator Harsha Bhogle has addressed recent speculations suggesting that he was barred from commentating during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 match between Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and Gujarat Titans at Eden Gardens. Bhogle clarified that his absence was due to scheduling and personal reasons, not because of any ban or directive from the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).



The controversy began when reports surfaced about a letter from CAB Secretary Naresh Ojha to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), requesting the removal of Bhogle and fellow commentator Simon Doull from the commentary panel for matches in Kolkata. The letter cited their critical remarks about the Eden Gardens pitch, which they claimed did not favor the home team, KKR.

Addressing the issue on social media platform X, Bhogle stated, "There are some inappropriate conclusions being drawn about why I wasn't at yesterday's game in Kolkata. Quite simply, it wasn't on the list of matches I was down to do! Asking me would have resolved the issue. Rosters are done before the tournament starts. I was rostered for two games in Kolkata. I was there for the first and an illness in the family prevented me from being at the second."

Bhogle's comments aimed to dispel the notion that his absence was due to any punitive action. He emphasized that his commentary assignments are scheduled in advance and that his inability to attend the second match was due to unforeseen personal circumstances.

The CAB's letter had expressed dissatisfaction with Bhogle and Doull's analysis, particularly their observations that the Eden Gardens pitch was not conducive to KKR's spin-heavy bowling attack, which includes players like Varun Chakravarthy, Sunil Narine, and Moeen Ali. Doull had even suggested that KKR consider finding a new home venue if the pitch conditions continued to be unfavorable.

KKR's management, including captain Ajinkya Rahane and head coach Chandrakant Pandit, had also voiced concerns about the pitch, advocating for surfaces that better suit their team's strengths. Despite these internal discussions, the public nature of the commentary and subsequent CAB response brought the issue into the spotlight.

Bhogle's clarification seeks to refocus attention on the importance of accurate information and the dangers of drawing conclusions without full context. His reputation as a respected commentator underscores the need for open dialogue and transparency within the cricketing community.

As the IPL 2025 season progresses, the incident serves as a reminder of the complexities involved in balancing team strategies, pitch conditions, and media commentary. It also highlights the significance of clear communication among all stakeholders to maintain the integrity and spirit of the game.



Jos Buttler stumps Ajinkya Rahane.

Michael Slater Sentenced to Four Years in Prison for Domestic Violence but Released After Time Served

New Delhi, 22 April: Former Australian cricketer Michael Slater has been sentenced to four years in prison following a series of domestic violence offenses. However, due to time already served in custody, he has been released from prison.



Slater, once a celebrated opening batsman for Australia, faced multiple charges related to domestic violence incidents that occurred over several months.

The court proceedings revealed a pattern of abusive behavior, including stalking, intimidation, and physical assault against his former partner. These actions led to his arrest and subsequent legal battles, culminating in the recent sentencing.

The court acknowledged that Slater had already spent a significant amount of time in custody awaiting trial. Given this, and considering factors such as his mental health struggles and efforts towards rehabilitation, the judge ruled that the time served was sufficient, leading to his immediate release. This decision has sparked discussions about the legal system's handling of domestic violence cases, especially involving high-profile individuals.

Slater's legal troubles began in 2021 when he was first charged with domestic violence offenses. Over the next few years, he faced additional charges, including breaching apprehended violence orders and engaging in threatening behavior. His actions not only tarnished his public image but also led to the loss of his commentary roles and other professional opportunities.

Throughout the legal proceedings, Slater's defense highlighted his battles with mental health issues, including depression and substance abuse. They argued that these factors contributed to his behavior and emphasized his commitment to seeking treatment and making amends. The court took these considerations into account during sentencing.

The case has reignited conversations about domestic violence in Australia, particularly concerning the accountability of public figures. Advocates stress the importance of supporting victims and ensuring that perpetrators face appropriate consequences, regardless of their status. Slater's release, despite the severity of his offenses, has been met with mixed reactions from the public and advocacy groups.

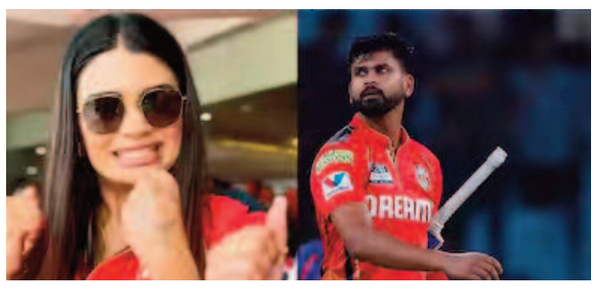
As Slater reenters society, there is hope that he will continue his rehabilitation efforts and use his experiences to raise awareness about domestic violence and mental health. His journey serves as a reminder of the complexities surrounding such cases and the need for a balanced approach that considers both justice and rehabilitation.

The cricketing community, once proud of Slater's on-field achievements, now watches closely as he navigates this new chapter of his life. His story underscores the importance of addressing personal issues before they escalate and the role of support systems in preventing such outcomes.

Michael Slater's sentencing and subsequent release highlight the challenges within the legal system when dealing with domestic violence cases involving prominent individuals. It emphasizes the need for continued dialogue, support for victims, and comprehensive strategies to address the root causes of such behavior.

Shreyas Iyer's Sister Condemns Online Abuse Following Punjab Kings' Defeat to RCB

New Delhi, 22 April: In the wake of Punjab Kings' (PBKS) seven-wicket loss to Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) in Match 37 of the IPL 2025 season, Shresta Iyer, sister of PBKS captain Shreyas Iyer, has publicly addressed the online abuse directed at her and her family. The defeat, which occurred on April 20 at Mullanpur, saw PBKS being outplayed by RCB, leading to a wave of criticism from fans, some of which targeted Shresta personally.



Shresta took to Instagram to express her dismay over the unwarranted attacks, stating, "It's honestly disappointing to see people stoop so low as to blame the family for simply showing up to support. Whether we're physically present or cheering from afar, our support for the team is unwavering." She further criticized the mindset of the trolls, adding, "To those pointing fingers at me, your shallow mindset is not only laughable, it's embarrassing." Shresta emphasized that she has attended numerous matches, both for India and other teams, many of which ended in victory, highlighting the irrationality of the blame directed at her.

The match in question saw PBKS setting a target of 158 runs, which RCB chased down comfortably in 18.5 overs. Shreyas Iyer's performance with the bat was underwhelming, contributing to the team's inability to post a more competitive total. This loss came shortly after PBKS had defeated RCB at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, making the reversal in fortunes more pronounced.

The incident involving Shresta Iyer is not isolated; it reflects a troubling trend where family members of players become targets of online abuse following team losses. Such behavior underscores the darker side of fan engagement in sports, where passion crosses into personal attacks. The anonymity provided by social media platforms often emboldens individuals to express vitriol without accountability.

This situation brings to light the broader issue of cyberbullying in sports, particularly in cricket, where players and their families are subjected to intense scrutiny and criticism. The mental health implications for those targeted can be significant, leading to stress, anxiety, and a sense of isolation. It also raises questions about the responsibilities of social media platforms in moderating content and protecting users from harassment.

There have been calls for stricter regulations and enforcement against online abuse. Sports organizations, including the BCCI and IPL franchises, are being urged to implement support systems for players and their families, providing resources to cope with the pressures of public scrutiny. Educational campaigns aimed at promoting respectful fan behavior are also being considered as a means to curb the prevalence of online trolling.

The cricketing community has started to acknowledge the importance of mental health and the impact of online abuse. Players have begun to speak out about their experiences, advocating for a more compassionate and understanding fan culture. By sharing their stories, they hope to foster an environment where criticism remains constructive and personal attacks are unequivocally condemned.

As the IPL 2025 season progresses, the focus remains on the performance of teams and players. However, incidents like the one involving Shresta Iyer serve as a reminder of the human aspect behind the sport. Athletes and their families are not immune to the effects of public opinion, and the line between passionate support and harmful behavior must be clearly defined and respected.

The online abuse faced by Shresta Iyer following PBKS's defeat to RCB highlights the need for a cultural shift in how fans engage with sports and athletes. Promoting empathy, respect, and responsible behavior online is essential to ensure that the spirit of the game is upheld and that those who dedicate their lives to sports are supported rather than vilified.

KKR Coach Targets Ajinkya Rahane, Sunil Narine, Top Order Stars As Ugly Blame Game Begins

Kolkata, 22 April: Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) mentor Dwayne Bravo threw his weight behind all-rounder Andre Russell, following the loss to Gujarat Titans (GT) in IPL 2025 on Monday. Russell failed to lit up KKR's 199 chase against GT, despite scoring just his second double-digit score this season -- a stuttering 21 off 15 balls. After the match, Bravo was questioned about Russell's struggles in IPL 2025, especially against spinners. However, Bravo played down the talks, saying Russell isn't the only one struggling for runs at KKR.

"Andre Russell is an experienced and successful player. Yes, in a couple of games, the leg-spinners got him out. But I don't think we are batting well as a team. That is the reality. Russell is not the only one struggling. As a group, we have to ensure players are backed. We need to keep preparing well. IPL is a tough tournament. If you don't start well, batters can go into a period where they lose confidence," said Bravo, who is a four-time IPL winner. Bravo rued over the fact that KKR's top-order has failed to provide good starts this season, making the job tougher for finishers like Russell and Rinku Singh.

"Not every team has leg-spinners and today he was up against a quality spinner like Rashid Khan. When Russell walks in to bat, every time the run rate is at 14 or 15 runs per over. Work needs to be done at the top to give him a chance to finish off games like he has been doing all these years for KKR.

Saudi Clubs Intensify Pursuit of Barcelona Stars with Lucrative Offers Amid Financial Strains

Riyadh, 22 April: Saudi Arabian clubs have launched an aggressive campaign to acquire several key players from FC Barcelona, presenting the Catalan giants with substantial financial offers. This move comes as Barcelona continues to navigate ongoing financial challenges, making the allure of high transfer fees increasingly difficult to resist.

Among the primary targets is Dutch midfielder Frenkie de Jong. Since his arrival from Ajax in 2019 for €86 million, de Jong has experienced a mixed tenure at Camp Nou, with injuries and fluctuating form affecting his consistency. Under current manager Hansi Flick, de Jong has found limited opportunities, starting only a handful of matches this season. His substantial weekly wage of €484,615 adds to the club's financial burden, and with his contract set to expire in 2026, Barcelona is reportedly open to negotiations should a suitable offer materialize.

Brazilian winger Raphinha has also attracted significant attention from Saudi clubs. Having joined Barcelona from Leeds United in 2022 for a reported €58 million, Raphinha has become a vital component of the team's attacking prowess. This season, he has showcased exceptional form, contributing 17 goals and 10 assists across competitions, including standout performances in the UEFA Champions League. Despite previously declining lucrative offers from the Middle East, the escalating interest and potential financial incentives may prompt reconsideration.



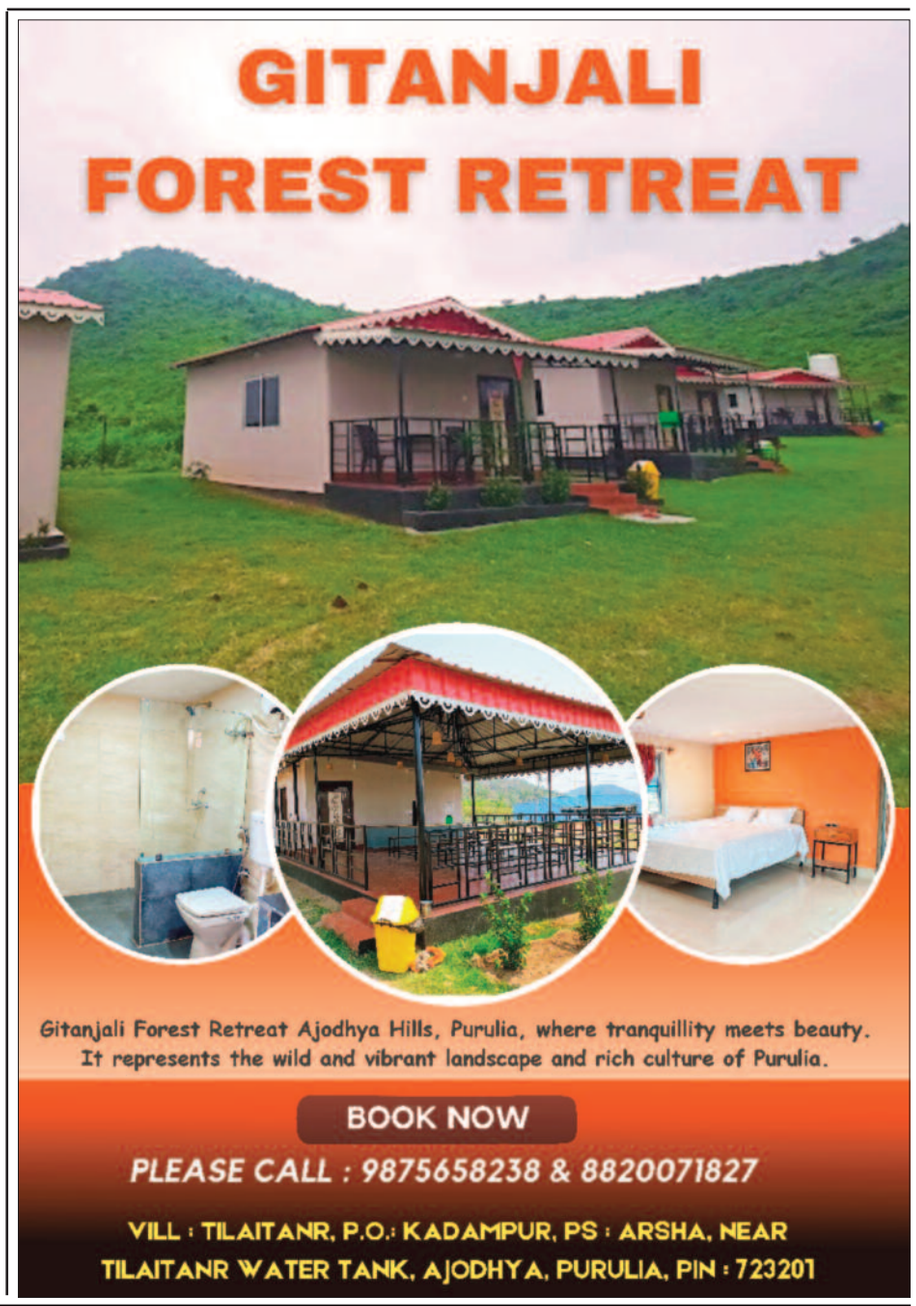
Young talent Ansu Fati is another player on the radar of Saudi clubs, notably Al-Hilal and Al-Nassr. Once heralded as the future of Barcelona, Fati's progression has been hampered by injuries and limited playing time. A move to the Saudi Pro League could offer him a fresh start and regular minutes, while providing Barcelona with a financial boost.

In addition to established stars, Saudi clubs are eyeing Barcelona's emerging talents. Midfielder Unai Hernández, a standout performer for Barcelona B, is reportedly close to a move to Al-Ittihad. The proposed deal includes a €4.5 million fee, with additional add-ons and a sell-on clause, underscoring the Saudi clubs' strategy of investing in both seasoned and upcoming players.

One of the most ambitious pursuits involves Spanish midfielder Pedri. Despite his commitment to Barcelona, with a contract running until 2026 and a verbal agreement to extend until 2030, Saudi Arabia has reportedly offered him the role of ambassador for the 2034 FIFA World Cup, which the nation is set to host. Such an offer highlights the lengths to which Saudi clubs are willing to go to secure top-tier talent.

Barcelona's financial situation remains a critical factor in these developments. The club's need to balance the books may necessitate difficult decisions regarding player sales. While the potential departure of key players poses challenges on the sporting front, the influx of funds from such transfers could provide much-needed financial relief.

As the summer transfer window approaches, the dynamics between Barcelona and interested Saudi clubs are expected to intensify. The outcome of these negotiations will not only shape the future of the players involved but also have significant implications for Barcelona's strategic planning and financial stability.



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