



Petrol, diesel prices again increased by up to 91 paise, in less than 10 days

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Jan Aushadhi Expansion Mark Major Health Reforms in Bengal

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Rs. 3

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Morning India

Centre sanctions Rs 3,000 cr for healthcare revamp in Bengal, Ayushman Bharat card from July

MI News Service, Kolkata: In one of the major benefits of the double engine government, the Centre has sanctioned around Rs 3,000 crore to the new West Bengal government in the current fiscal for revamping the public healthcare sector in the state, of which Rs 500 crore has already been transferred.

Announcing this here on Saturday West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said cards for the Centre's Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme are likely to be distributed to beneficiaries of the state from July this year.

He said "We have received a sanction of Rs 2,103 crore from the Union Health Ministry for the National Health Mission for the current financial year, a fourth of which, Rs 500 crore, has already been transferred by the Centre," Suven-



du Adhikari said in a virtual press meet from the state secretariat, Nabanna.

The Centre has also allocated its share of the ₹976 crore for the Ayushman Bharat scheme for this fiscal, he said.

"In all, we have received a sanction of over ₹3,000 crore, of which we have already received ₹500 crore," Suwendu Adhikari added.

The Chief minister addressed the media after he held an hour-long virtual meeting with Union Health Minister JP Nadda.

He said about six crore holders of the Swasthya Sathi cards issued by the erstwhile TMC in Bengal will be transferred to the ambit of the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the first phase, and the number of beneficiaries will subsequently increase in phases.government in Bengal will

be transferred to the ambit of the Ayushman Bharat scheme in the first phase, and the number of beneficiaries will subsequently increase in phases.

Opportunities will also be made available to fresh applicants who did not opt for the Swasthya Sathi cards, he added.

"We are hoping to start the distribution of Ayushman Bharat cards from July, the enrolment work for which has already begun," said Suwendu Adhikari.

The Chief minister further stated that the state is also planning to ink an agreement with the Centre in Delhi for inclusion in the Ayushman Arogya Mandir network in the first week of June to extend the benefits of Ayushman Bharat to the migrant residents of the state.

"Over one crore migrants from Bengal stay outside the state for work or education purposes. The agreement, which will be signed at an event in the national capital in the presence of ministers and bureaucrats of both the state and the Centre, will extend the Ayushman benefit to the migrants as well," Suwendu Adhikari announced.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana provides health coverage of 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation.

The CM also announced that the health department would ramp up recruitment of doctors, nurses and other healthcare service workers in state-run health centres.

"The recruitment rate in this area by the pre-

vious government was abysmally low – 53 per cent as against the national rate of 98 per cent. We will fill up these positions in the next three months on a priority basis by means of a transparent recruitment policy," he said.

Suwendu Adhikari alleged that the policy of non-cooperation and opposition with the Centre, followed by the erstwhile Mamata Banerjee government, had led to an all-pervasive atmosphere of negativity in the public healthcare sector, the cost of which was borne by the general public.

"The people of Bengal were deprived of the benefits of Central schemes because of the complete breakdown of government-to-government communication during the previous era. We will bring about a landmark change in that sphere and pass on the benefits to the people," he added.

PM Modi hands over 51,000 appointment letters at 'Rozgar Mela' for empowering youths

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday virtually distributed appointment letters for central government jobs to more than 51,000 youths at a 'Rozgar Mela'.

Since the inception of 'Rozgar Mela', around 12 lakh recruitment letters have been issued through 18 such events held across the country.

Addressing the function, PM Modi said, "Today is a very important day for thousands of youths across the country. Today, more than 51,000 young people have received appointment letters for central government jobs."

Today, all the recruited youths are becoming key partners in the country's journey of development. In railways, banking, defence, health, education and many other sectors, all the youths are about to take on new responsibilities, he said.

"In the coming years, you all are going to play an important role in fulfilling the resolve for a developed India. For this achievement, I congratulate you, as well as your family members, very warmly," he said.

The Prime minister said India's youth are playing a vital role in accelerating the journey towards a 'Viksit Bharat'.

"Rozgar Mela reflects our government's commitment to empowering the 'Yuva Shakti' with new opportunities," he said.

PM Modi said the world is very excited about India's youth and technological progress.

"Today, the world wants to be a part of India's development journey," he said.

In keeping with the Prime minister's commitment to prioritising employment generation, the 'Rozgar Mela' is a major initiative aimed at translating this vision into reality, official sources said.

The 'Rozgar Mela' was held at 47 locations across the country on Saturday. The appointees, selected from all parts of India, will join various ministries and departments, including railways, home affairs, health and family welfare, and departments of financial services and higher education, among others.

'Will bring Bengal out of infamy situation': Suwendu Adhikari

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said on Saturday that his government will introduce a new recruitment policy in the next Budget session of the assembly to bring the state out from the present infamy situation, due to various recruitment scams during the previous regime

Noting that the Calcutta High Court and the Supreme Court had to intervene in these illegalities during the previous Trinamool Congress government, leading to the cancellation of 26,000 school jobs, the new Chief minister said West Bengal's image suffered a dent and that there was a need to bring the state out of the situation.

"A Bill to enact a fresh recruitment policy will be introduced in the next Budget session of the West Bengal Assembly," Suwendu Adhikari said.

Reiterating that Bengal has earned "infamy" because of multiple recruitment scams under the previous Trinamool Congress' 15 years regime, Suwendu Adhikari said efforts must be



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari hands over an appointment letter to a newly appointed candidate during the Rozgar Mela at Dr. B.C. Roy Auditorium, Sealdah, in Kolkata on Saturday.

made to restore the state's image.

Addressing a central government Rozgar Mela pro-

gramme, organised to distribute appointment letters

to newly recruited candidates as part of a nationwide

drive, Suwendu Adhikari said the Calcutta High Court

and the Supreme Court had to intervene in the alleged irregularities, as Bengal's reputation was tarnished.

"We have to bring our dear West Bengal out of this terrible situation," the Chief minister said.

He said the state, once known for its strong educational standards and intellectual legacy, had gained "infamy" because of the school jobs and municipal recruitment scams.

"Even the examination centres were tainted in such a manner that Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Northeast Frontier Railway were not holding their recruitment examinations in the state," he said.

According to him, many youths from Bengal had to travel to neighbouring Bihar, Assam and Odisha to appear for recruitment examinations.

Highlighting the impact of the alleged irregularities, he said parents educate their children with hopes of securing stable careers, but those aspirations were damaged by recruitment-related corruption during the TMC regime.

All depts asked to hand over land to railways for completion of 61 stalled projects : Suwendu

MI News Service, Kolkata: Clearing a major long pending administrative hurdle, the new West Bengal government has directed all departments concerned to hand over necessary land to the railway authorities for completion of 61 stalled projects in the state.

These projects are stalled due to land allotment issues, including one at Hili near the India-Bangladesh border in Uttar Dinajpur district and another in Purba Medinipur's Nandigram.

Announcing this at a government programme here on Saturday afternoon, West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari also stressed the need for timely completion of

these projects to improve railway connectivity in the state.

"I have directed all departments concerned to hand over land to the railway authorities for completion of 61 stalled projects in the state", he said adding that all these projects had remained stalled for several years due to land allotment issues, including one at Hili near the India-Bangladesh border in Uttar Dinajpur district and another in Purba Medinipur's Nandigram.

"I hope that following the transfer of land all these pending projects would be completed on time to improve railway connectivity in the state", he said.

Suwendu Adhikari also

asserted that the people will see the positive impact of the 'double engine' government as these railway projects are being expedited.

The Chief minister said work for a 366-metre viaduct at Chingrighata crossing in east Kolkata for the New Garia-Airport metro line, which was stalled for lack of necessary police permission for more than a year, was going on in full swing. All requisite permits had been given for the work after the first BJP government was formed on May 9. "We will use the opportunity of the double-engine government to accelerate the speed of development," the Chief minister said.

The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state.

Asserting that the central and state governments will work in tandem for the development projects, the Chief minister further stated that "A developed India will be achieved only after Bengal advances in the path of development."

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw had in February said that total work worth Rs 92,974 crore is under progress in West Bengal, covering track creation, station redevelopment and safety enhancements.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visits Mother Teresa's House, children's home



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited the Missionaries of Charity (Mother House) as part of his India tour, in Kolkata on Saturday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: During his brief three hour long maiden visit to this 'City of Joy' on Saturday, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio toured Mother House, the headquarters of Saint Teresa's Missionaries of Charity, here.

Rubio arrived in Kolkata this morning, the first stop of his maiden four-day visit to India, and was welcomed by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor at the city airport.

From the airport Rubio and his entourage including his wife Jennet, drove straight to the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in central Kolkata. They spent sometime there and spoke with the sisters and

other officials about its activities.

This is Rubio's first trip to India and also the first time a US Secretary of State and the country's top diplomat is visiting the eastern metropolis after 2013.

The crucial visit of the American leader comes just weeks after the BJP assumed power in West Bengal, registering a landslide victory in the Assembly elections.

The Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa in Kolkata, is a Catholic congregation dedicated to serving the poor, sick and destitute across the world.

Accompanied by US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor and other

officials, Rubio and his wife later visited Nirmala Shishu Bhavan - a children's home run by Missionaries of Charity - during his Kolkata stopover.

"Joined @SecRubio in Kolkata for a visit to the Missionaries of Charity. Moments like these remind us the US-India partnership rests not only on strong policies, but also on shared values and the spirit of selfless service that transcends borders," the US Ambassador to India posted on X.

Earlier in the day, welcoming the American leader to India, Gor wrote in a post on X, "Honored to welcome my friend @SecRubio to India! We have an ambitious agenda ahead, including the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting, focused on advancing @POTUS' vision for an even stronger U.S.-India partnership. Looking forward to great conversations and making real progress together!"

Rubio is the first US secretary of state to set foot in Kolkata since Hillary Clinton visited the city in May 2013.

Rubio's India itinerary, scheduled from May 23 to 26 and also encompassing Agra, Jaipur, and New Delhi, is being viewed as diplomatically significant for his scheduled energy talks with India and the meeting with ministers from the Quad nations.

"Well, we want to sell them as much energy as they'll buy. And obviously, you've seen I think we're at historic levels of US production, and US export," Rubio told reporters in Miami before he embarked on the trip to Sweden and India.

Responding to a question about India being affected by high energy prices due to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, Rubio described India as a "great partner" and said he was looking forward to meeting with ministers from the Quad nations.

The Quad meeting is planned for May 26, and it is scheduled to be attended by Rubio, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu, with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar presiding over it.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visits Kolkata, beginning his 4-day trip to India

MI News Service, Kolkata / New Delhi: Ending all speculations, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Kolkata on Saturday on the opening leg of his four-day diplomatic tour to India, with the city marking the visit that carries considerable political and historical resonance.

His arrival in the eastern metropolis ended a 14-year hiatus since another American secretary of state Hilary Clinton last visited the city in 2013. Moreover, Rubio's visit comes only weeks after West Bengal witnessed a landmark political transition with a BJP government assuming office for the first time in the state.

In a post on X, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said, "Secretary Marco Rubio has landed in Kolkata. This is his first trip to India. Later today, we will call on Prime Minister @narendramodi in New Delhi. Trade, Technology, Defense, QUAD, and many other items to discuss and advance over the next few days!"

Beginning his much anticipated four day Indian tour, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and his wife Jennet arrived in Kolkata

this morning as their first trip to the country since taking office last year.

During his brief visit to the city Rubio, his wife and other members of his delegation visited to the Mother's House in Central Kolkata. After spending some time there and meeting with the sisters of the Missionaries of Charity, the US Secretary of State left for Delhi for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the afternoon.

The top US diplomat will also hold talks with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday and will attend a meeting of the Quad foreign ministers in Delhi on Tuesday. He is also expected to visit Agra and Jaipur.

"There's a lot to work on with India: they're a great ally and partner. We do a lot of good work with them, so this is an important trip," he said on Friday about his trip to India.

The two sides are also expected to hold talks on the US-Iran war and its economic impact, including on energy supplies, and the recent tensions over the US imposing tariffs on India.

Rubio's visit is expected to serve as a high-level effort to put the partnership back on firmer ground, with both US President Donald Trump and PM Modi seen as personally invested in maintaining momentum in bilateral ties.

His visit amid geopolitical crosswinds and a global energy crisis triggered by the Iran war has also assumed a special significance as all these issues came up for discussions during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Energy shipments through the Strait of Hormuz - a narrow shipping lane that has become a flashpoint since Israel and the US attacked Iran in February - have virtually ground to a halt.Iran has used the closure of the strait as a pressure tactic in the fragile peace negotiations with the US.

India, which imports more than 80% of its energy needs, is one of the worst affected countries as its vast population of more than 1.4 billion depends on overseas fuel supply, including cooking gas and petroleum products, to sustain daily life.

Rubio has already acknowledged the challenges facing Asia's third largest economy.

"We want to sell them [India] as much energy as they'll buy. And obviously, you've seen, I think, we're at historic levels of US production and US export," he said.

There will be appetite in Delhi to boost its energy imports from the US as it will also help bridge the trade deficit that has been in India's favour - something that has constantly irked President Donald Trump.

The US goods trade deficit with India was USD 58.2 bn in 2025, a 27.1% increase over 2024.

But it's not a straightforward solution. It's a much longer and expensive route for India to get energy shipments from the US.

And analysts say it is not logical for India to fill the current shortfall in its imports from the US.

Trump earlier said India has committed to buying more than USD 500 bn worth of American goods

"Energy security is going to be the key theme of this visit because

Exports from India to the US

Continued to Pg 3



Papiya Adhikary, MLA from Tollygunge, along with Behala Purba MLA Sankar Sikdar, inspected the Adi Ganga improvement work at Kudghat on Saturday.

Kharagpur: Appointment Letters Distributed to 142 Youths in Presence of Union Ministers

19th Rozgar Mela organized across the country; more than 51,000 youths received appointment letters

MI News Service, Kharagpur : As part of the Government of India's initiative to provide employment opportunities to the youth, the 19th Rozgar Mela was organized on Saturday 47 different centers across the country. On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the event virtually and distributed appointment letters to around 51,000 newly selected candidates in various central government departments and organizations. In Kharagpur, the program was held at the Multi-Disciplinary Zonal Training Institute / Supervisors Training Center, where nearly 142 newly appointed candidates were handed their appointment letters. A sense of excitement and joy was visible among the selected candidates and their family members during the event. Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur attended the event as the chief guest.



West Bengal Minister for Agricultural Marketing, Animal Resources Development, Panchayat and Rural Development Dilip Ghosh was also specially present at the program. Both dignitaries congratulated the newly appointed youths and said that the central government is continuously working to create employment opportunities for the youth. They urged the candidates to work with honesty and dedication and actively contribute to the development of the nation. Several senior railway officials, including Kharagpur Divisional Manager of the Eastern Railway, were also present.

Lalit Mohan Pandey, also present at the event. In his address, the DRM said that public service is a great responsibility and that young employees should fulfill their duties towards society and the nation through their work. It is noteworthy that the Rozgar Mela is part of the central government's broader initiative aimed at providing employment to youths through a transparent and fast recruitment process, promoting skill-based employment, and ensuring greater participation of young people in the country's development.

19th Rozgar Mela Held Nationwide; Over 51,000 Youth Receive Central Government Appointment Letters

MI News Service, Kharagpur : As part of the Government of India's continued efforts to provide employment opportunities to the youth, the 19th edition of the Rozgar Mela was successfully organized on 23rd May 2026 at 47 locations across the country. On this occasion, Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India virtually addressed the new appointees and distributed letters for Office of appointment to around 51,000 newly recruited candidates for various Central Government departments and organizations.

At Kharagpur, the event was held at the Multi-Disciplinary Zonal Training Institute (MDZTI)/Supervisors Training Centre (STC), where around 142 ap-



pointment letters were handed over to the newly appointed candidates.

The event was graced as Chief Guest by Shri Shantanu Thakur, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ports,

Shipping & Waterways, Govt of India. Shri Dilip Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture Marketing, Animal Resources Development, Panchayats & Rural Development, Govt of West

Bengal also graced the event with his dignified presence.

The dignitaries addressed the gathering and congratulated the new recruits. They lauded the

Central Government's initiative for generating large-scale employment and encouraged the appointees to contribute meaningfully to national development through their respective roles.

Shri Lalit Mohan Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Kharagpur, along with other senior divisional officers, were also present during the event. DRM Kharagpur also addressed the candidates and offered words of encouragement and highlighted the importance of public service.

The Rozgar Mela marks another milestone in the government's mission to empower youth, promote skill-based employment, and ensure transparent and timely recruitment processes.

Orange alert in North Bengal; Humidity surge to chock South

MI News Service, Kolkata: A pronounced weather swing is set to grip West Bengal today as the Meteorological Department issues localized warnings and heat advisories across the state. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected over large parts of North Bengal under an orange alert, while southern districts continue to reel under oppressive daytime temperatures. The weather office has singled out Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Cooch Behar and Uttar Dinajpur for heavy-rain warnings, with very heavy downpours forecast for Jalpaiguri and Alipurdwar. Authorities cautioned residents and local administrations to brace for intense precipitation, poor visibility on roads and possible waterlogging in low-lying areas. Gusty winds accompanying the rain may complicate relief measures and impede traffic, officials said.

TMC Strongman arrested in Nadia, locals claim relief after years of fear

MI News Service, Nadia : A man whose name allegedly sparked fear among local residents in parts of Nadia district has finally landed in police custody. He was produced in court on Saturday and court ordered for police remand for 2 days, a police sources said. Ramzan Ali Mondal, described by locals as a powerful Trinamool Congress-linked strongman from Hazrapur under the Dhanatala Aranghata area in Nadia, was arrested following multiple allegations of intimidation, extortion and illegal control over local businesses and ferry operations.

According to local complaints, Mondal had allegedly built a reign of fear in the area over the years. Residents accused him of threatening people, forcibly taking control of river ferry ghats and compelling



traders and locals to purchase construction materials such as sand, cement and stone chips only from his own establishments. Many villagers claimed that ordinary life had become increasingly difficult under his influence.

The turning point reportedly came when local resident Rajkumar Chowdhury lodged a written com-

plaint at the Aranghata police outpost against Ramzan Ali Mondal and his close associate Pradip Santra. Acting on the complaint, police initiated an operation under the leadership of Aranghata outpost in-charge Prabhas Saha.

Police later arrested Ramzan Ali Mondal from his residence in Hazrapur, while his associate Pradip Santra was detained from the local market area. Both were subsequently taken to Dhanatala Police Station for further legal proceedings.

On Saturday, Dhanatala police produced the duo before the Ranaghat court and sought police custody for interrogation. Following the arrests, many residents expressed relief, claiming that the area may finally witness peace after years of alleged intimidation and unrest.

Non-technical professionals account for 66% of AI enrolments at Great Learning in FY26

MI News Service, Kolkata : Great Learning on Thursday said professionals from non-technical educational backgrounds accounted for 66 per cent of enrolments in its Artificial Intelligence (AI) programmes during FY26, highlighting rising workplace adoption of AI tools across industries.

The ed-tech company said nearly 64 per cent of these learners had more than 12 years of work experience. Senior professionals and business leaders from sectors such as BFSI, healthcare, pharma, manufacturing, FMCG, retail, education and research are increasingly enrolling in AI programmes to improve operational efficiency and business decision-making.

Nanoor rocked by night blasts, two arrested after CCTV clues

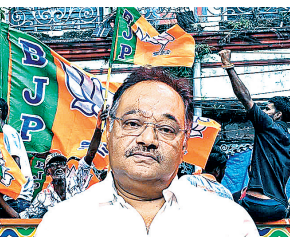
MI News Service, Birbhum: Nanoor's Takhnora village plunged into fear late Friday as a barrage of explosive device rattle lane and damage homes in what police and local leaders describe as frictional attack. Multiple blasts targets residence of several local TMC leaders and activities, leaving residents shaken and two persons arrested after showing suspects fleeing with sacks allegedly containing explosive. The attacks, concentrated in the Thupasara area, struck the homes of Bappa Chowdhury and at least five other activists — Alo Chowdhury, Rahul Sheikh, Sheikh Firoz, Sheikh Nazir and Abul Hossain Sheikh. Eyewitnesses recounted a terrifying succession of detonations. "Bomb after bomb — the whole area filled with smoke," one villager said. "People ran for their lives; had police not arrived, there would have been casualties." Several houses sustained visible damage to doors and windows.



Investigators said CCTV footage from outside Alo Chowdhury's residence formed the basis for rapid arrests. The video reportedly shows multiple individuals hastily departing the scene carrying large bags. Police confirmed two arrests and said forensic teams and bomb-disposal squads were deployed to collect remnants and establish the devices' composition. A formal FIR has been lodged and officers are pursuing further leads. Local leaders immediately blamed a rival faction within the same political formation for orchestrating the nocturnal violence. According to one claimant, the alleged perpetrators were previously expelled on charges of extortion and have returned to exact revenge through violent means. The accused group has not issued a public statement, and formal attribution remains subject to ongoing police verification.

South Bengal shakeup: 50+ Party workers hit with notices

MI News Service, Purulia/ Jhargram: State party high command has launched a sweeping disciplinary drive, issuing show -cause notices to more than 50 functionaries across the state of their alleged roles in poster -election disturbances. The action follow multiple complaints that surfaced after the recent polls alleging intimidation, physical assaults on occupation of rival party office.



ment underscored the leadership's insistence on strict organization discipline and a deemed damaging to the party's image and public order. Party sources said the leadership had repeatedly warned cadres to desist from acts of coercion and intimidation since assuming office, and that monitoring cell was set up to keep watch on errant functionary Shamik Bhattacharya stressed that grassroots strength must be earned that legitimate public service, not through muscle or coercion. He reiterated that unions and local organization must operate within legal and organizational norms and that no one would receive leniency for violating directives. The show -cause notices signal a calibrated approach: rather than immediate suspensions, the leadership has opted for formal warning and opportunities for explanation, even as it reserved the right to pursue stringent serious breaches. Political analysts say the move reflects a bid to rein unruly elements while projecting an image of internal accountability. For now, the state until appears determined while managing the optics of post -poll governance; the coming week will reveal whether the inquiry produces further disciplinary steps or reversals.

hooliganism since assuming office, and that monitoring cell was set up to keep watch on errant functionary Shamik Bhattacharya stressed that grassroots strength must be earned that legitimate public service, not through muscle or coercion. He reiterated that unions and local organization must operate within legal and organizational norms and that no one would receive leniency for violating directives. The show -cause notices signal a calibrated approach: rather than immediate suspensions, the leadership has opted for formal warning and opportunities for explanation, even as it reserved the right to pursue stringent serious breaches. Political analysts say the move reflects a bid to rein unruly elements while projecting an image of internal accountability. For now, the state until appears determined while managing the optics of post -poll governance; the coming week will reveal whether the inquiry produces further disciplinary steps or reversals.

Special Police Administration Meeting Held in Belda Ahead of Bakrid, Important Guidelines Issued to Eid Committees

MI News Service, Kharagpur : With the aim of ensuring the peaceful and harmonious celebration of the upcoming Bakrid festival, the police administration organized a special meeting on Saturday in the Belda police station area of West Medinipur district. Representatives of various Eid Committees from the region attended the meeting, which was held at a guest house in Belda. During the meeting, administrative officials discussed several important issues in detail, including government guidelines for Bakrid, security arrangements, traffic management, and maintenance of law and order during the festival. Police officials appealed to all committee members to maintain communal harmony and brotherhood during the celebrations and to strictly follow the instructions is-



sued by the administration. The administration also stated that strict vigilance would be maintained against any kind of rumor or anti-social activity, and immediate action would be taken if necessary. Officials assured that the police administration would remain fully alert throughout the festival to ensure the safety and convenience of the public. Several police officials, including Ripon Bal, Nilendu Das, and the

Belda Circle Inspector (CI), were present at the important meeting. The officers appealed to all Eid Committee representatives for cooperation, stating that only through joint efforts can the festival be celebrated peacefully and in an organized manner. At the end of the meeting, the administration conveyed a message encouraging people to celebrate Bakrid with love, harmony, and mutual respect.

Immunotherapy and BMT bat together to defeat multiple myeloma

MI News Service, Kolkata: Prabal Roy, 59, had just one year of service left when life came to a sudden halt as mild joint pain that he was experiencing two years ago spiralled into severe, almost unbearable agony. Medical investigations revealed that he had multiple myeloma — a cancer of plasma cells in the bone marrow that can affect immunity, bones and kidney function.



Roy, a former production manager at Castrol India Ltd, feared the worst. The pain was so intense that he could barely turn in bed. Today, after undergoing advanced cancer treatment, including targeted immunotherapy and autologous stem cell transplant at HCG Cancer Hospital, Kolkata, his disease is in remission. He had initially started treatment at a hospital near his home in Behala but was not satisfied with the outcome. An acquaintance then told him about the positive results achieved under Dr Arijit Bishnu, Consultant, Haematology & BMT, HCG Cancer Hospital, Kolkata. That brought him to the New Town hospital. "I could not

bear the slightest jerk at the time. My car had to travel at barely 20kmph for the 24km journey from Behala to New Town," Roy recalled. His bone pain was a typical warning sign of multiple myeloma, which can erode and weaken bones from within the marrow. Assessment revealed that he had stage III disease. Dr Bishnu started him on targeted immunotherapy, which works by attacking specific markers on cancerous plasma cells, such as CD38, while sparing surrounding healthy cells more than conventional chemotherapy. Roy subsequently underwent an autologous stem cell transplant, a procedure in which a patient's own blood-forming stem cells are collected, stored and later infused back

after high-dose chemotherapy to help the bone marrow recover. "During the stem cell treatment, I had to stay in hospital for 36 days confined to the cabin to reduce infection risk. It was a period of great anxiety for me and my wife," he said. The results were encouraging. He was later put on IV immunotherapy till December 2024. By then, his pain had subsided and he was walking independently. Oral medicines continued. One year later, his blood report showed no detectable M-band, suggesting absence of measurable disease. The finding was reconfirmed in March 2025, indicating remission. "Early diagnosis, followed by timely and appropriate treatment, can lead to good outcomes, prevent morbidity and preserve quality of life," said Dr Bishnu. "Targeted immunotherapy, combined with autologous stem cell transplant in suitable patients, has changed the treatment outlook for multiple myeloma by enabling deeper remission and better quality of life," said Dr Rupali Basu, Regional Business Head - East & AP, HCG Cancer Hospitals.

Narayangarh MLA Ramaprasad Giri Dances with Supporters on JCB During Victory Celebration

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A BJP victory celebration organized in the Tutranga Gram Panchayat area of Narayangarh block in West Medinipur district became the center of attention when Narayangarh Assembly constituency MLA Ramaprasad Giri was seen enthusiastically celebrating with party workers.

During the victory rally held on Saturday, the MLA not only participated with supporters but also suddenly climbed onto a JCB machine and was seen dancing energetically while applying saffron-colored abir (gull). A large number of BJP supporters were present during the rally.

The atmosphere turned completely festive with drums, slogans, and clouds of colored powder filling the air. During the procession, a politically charged song playing on the loudspeaker added to



the excitement, and MLA Ramaprasad Giri could not resist joining the workers in dancing to the tune. His energetic performance atop the JCB further boosted the enthusiasm among supporters. Videos and photographs of the incident quickly became a topic of discussion across

the area. Various reactions are also emerging in political circles regarding the celebration. Local BJP workers stated that the victory procession was organized to celebrate the party's electoral success and organizational strength in the Panchayat area. According to party

workers, the MLA shared the joy with ordinary workers and participated wholeheartedly in the celebrations. The entire episode has added a new dimension to Narayangarh politics, while opposition parties are also closely watching the viral celebration.

Chakdah shock: Probe begins into trader's trackside death

MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: A disturbing discovery in Sukanta Palli has prompted an urgent probe after the bloodied body of 42-year-old seasonal trader Pratham Mandal was recovered near rail lines on Saturday morning. Local police have launched multiple lines of inquiry to establish whether Mandal died in a collision, took his own life, or was the victim of foul play. Residents raised the alarm at about 8 a.m. after spotting Mandal's motionless body beside the tracks and a scooter abandoned on the adjacent road. Emergency responders rushed him first to Chakdah State General Hospital and then to Kalyani Medical College and JNM Hospital, where he was declared dead. Visible injuries and the circumstances of discovery have deepened suspicions and alarm in the neighbourhood. Pramath, a well-known vendor in the Down Station area, earned his livelihood selling seasonal items such as umbrellas and winter garments. Neighbours said he left home on his scooter early in the morning.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Distributes Over 51,000 Appointment Letters at 19th National Rozgar Mela Through Video Conferencing

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 23, 2026 : Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi distributed more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly recruited youth today via video conferencing as part of the 19th National Rozgar Mela. The event, held simultaneously across 47 locations nationwide, underscores the Government of India's steadfast commitment to employment generation and youth empowerment.

Addressing the new recruits, the Prime Minister introduced the mantra "Nagrik Devo Bhava" (The Citizen is God). He emphasized that "Nagrik Kalyan" (service to the people) should remain the core motto for every public servant. The Prime Minister further urged the youth to utilize this opportunity to actively contribute to the nation's journey toward a developed India by 2047.

In Bhubaneswar, the regional Rozgar Mela was held at the Railway Auditorium under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Union Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri Jual Oram. Addressing the gathering, Shri Oram encouraged the new recruits to earn respect within their respective organizations by maintaining integrity and to always treat the public with dignity while discharging their



official duties.

A total of 186 candidates from Odisha received their appointment letters during the ceremony for various government positions. These recruits will be joining several Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, including the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, the Department of Financial Services, and the Department of Higher Education, among others.

The event in Bhubaneswar was graced by the presence of several distinguished guests, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway (ECOR), Prof. Dr. Ashutosh Biswas, Executive Director, AIIMS Bhubaneswar; Prof. Shreepad Karmakar, Director,

IIT Bhubaneswar; Shri Nirmaljit Singh, Chief Post Master General, Odisha Circle; Shri Pranab Kumar Biswas, General Manager & Convener SLBC, Odisha; Shri Abesh Mishra, Regional Provident Fund Commissioner - I, Bhubaneswar; and Shri Bikash Ranjan Sahoo, AGM (Accounts), Bhubaneswar.

The Rozgar Mela is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at accelerating employment generation and providing meaningful career opportunities to the country's youth. Since its inception, approximately 12 lakh appointment letters have been distributed across 19 editions of the Rozgar Mela, reflecting the government's continued dedication to fostering a robust and empowered workforce.

Empowering Nation's Youth: 19th Rozgar Mela Concludes Successfully At Sealdah

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 23, 2026 : Marking a major milestone in the Government of India's ongoing mission to generate large-scale employment, the 19th tranche of the Rozgar Mela was successfully executed today. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi virtually launched the mega recruitment drive, which spanned 47 locations across the country and witnessed the simultaneous distribution of job appointment letters to over 51,000+ selected candidates. Connecting live with the venues via video conferencing, the Hon'ble Prime Minister directly addressed the newly inducted workforce, calling them the driving force behind a prosperous, self-reliant Viksit Bharat.

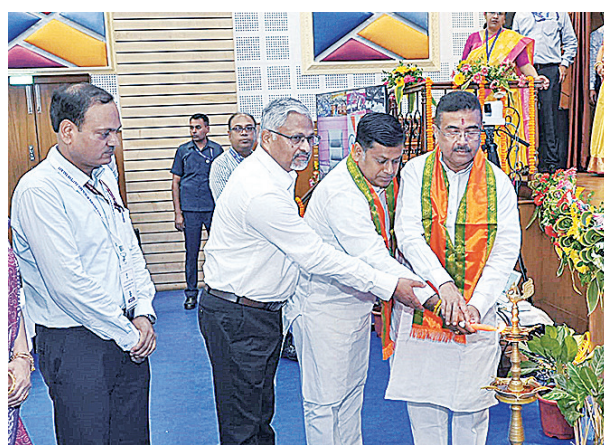
The Kolkata leg of this nationwide initiative was hosted by Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division at the Dr. B.C. Roy Auditorium. The event was elevated by the presence of Shri Suwendu Adhikari, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, who attended as the Chief Guest, alongside Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Education & Minister of

State for the Development of North Eastern Region, as the Guest of Honour.

Sharing the dais with them were Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, and Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager and top officials from a multitude of participating Central Government departments.

The morning program commenced with enthusiastic young candidates gathering at the auditorium early in the day. The local ceremony featured traditional elements, including the auspicious lighting of the lamp and a formal welcome address by the General Manager.

Delivering an impactful speech at the venue, the Chief Guest, Shri Suwendu Adhikari, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, lauded the determination of the new recruits. He remarked that earning a place in public service is an elite privilege, urging the candidates to view their new roles not merely as careers, but as an essential responsibility to elevate local communities and accelerate the socio-economic engine of the state



and the nation. He also emphasized that all the pending projects of railway in West Bengal will start as soon as possible.

Adding to the momentum, Dr. Sukanta Majumdar, Hon'ble Union Minister of State, emphasized the strategic vision behind the drive. He stated that the Rozgar Mela has completely redefined youth empowerment under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, ensuring that transparent, merit-based government job opportunities are delivered to deserving youth at an unprecedented pace.

Expressing pride in the

event's flawless execution, Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, noted that as India's premier employer, the Ministry of Railways takes great pride in leading this employment crusade. He extended his warmest congratulations to the new hires, celebrating the fact that so many diverse central ministries collaborated under one roof to give wings to the dreams of the younger generation.

The pinnacle of the day arrived right after the Prime Minister's virtual address, when Shri Suwendu Adhikari and Dr. Sukanta Majumdar stepped forward

to personally hand over the physical appointment letters to the overjoyed candidates.

Candidates those who got the appointment letters expressed their gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for organizing the Rozgar mela and offering the appointment letters to the deserving candidates. The candidates are very enthusiastically taking selfies at the B. C. Roy Auditorium. The new recruits also expressed that only by means of hard work and pure merit they achieved the success in getting the central government jobs.

The celebratory event concluded with a memorable group photograph of the dignitaries alongside the ecstatic new appointees proudly holding their letters. Commending the overall impact, Shri Shribram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, Eastern Railway, noted that this landmark event successfully mirrors the Indian Railways' commitment to anchoring the career aspirations of our youth to the sustainable, long-term growth of the country.

Dantan Railway Station Hosts Special Awareness Program on Child Safety



MI News Service, Kharagpur : A special awareness program focusing on child safety, child trafficking, child marriage, and missing children was organized on Saturday at the Dantan Railway Station premises in West Medinipur district. The objective of the program was to spread awareness among the public and promote social responsibility towards the protection of children. The program was jointly organized by the railway authorities and the administration, with participation from railway officials, administrative

representatives, and social workers. During the event, passengers and local residents at the station were urged to remain alert against crimes and issues involving children. Officials explained that due to a lack of awareness, many children often become victims of human trafficking, child labor, and other crimes. Therefore, every member of society must stay vigilant and responsible. Officials present at the program informed the public that if they notice any suspicious activity involving a child, child mar-

riage, child trafficking, or a missing child, they should immediately contact the Child Helpline toll-free number 1098 or emergency service 112. They emphasized that timely information can play a crucial role in saving a child's life. Several officials, including Dayashankar Tiwari, Rabindranath Soren, Shantanu Patra, and Pawan Rana, were present during the awareness campaign. All of them jointly appealed to the public to come forward and cooperate, stating that child safety is one of society's primary responsibilities. At the end of the program, attendees were also provided with information regarding child rights and various child protection measures. The initiative organized at Dantan Railway Station was appreciated by the public and was regarded as a positive step for society.

Security forces foil Maoist plot after recovering IED in Chhattisgarh

MI News Service, Raipur: Security forces in Chhattisgarh achieved a major success in the ongoing campaign against Maoist activities after recovering and safely destroying a pressure cooker IED (Improvised Explosive Device) weighing around five kg in the dense forest area of Hidpal village under the Barsur police station limits.



Police officials said the timely detection and neutralisation of the IED prevented what could have turned into a major tragedy involving security personnel as well as local civilians. Acting on specific intelligence inputs received on Saturday, a joint team comprising the District Police, the 'Young Platoon' and the Bomb Disposal Squad of the 195th Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force launched a cordon and search operation in the hilly and forested areas around Hidpal village, officials said.

The operation began early in the

morning at around 5 a.m. under the guidance of Second-in-Command Vikrant Verma and Assistant Commandant Sanjeev Kumar Yadav.

The teams moved cautiously through the difficult terrain, focusing on areas considered vulnerable to Naxalite presence and hidden explosive devices.

During the intensive search operation at around 8.20 a.m., security personnel spotted a suspicious object concealed inside the forest area.

Showing high alertness and strictly following safety protocols, the personnel immediately cordoned off the area and called in experts from the Bomb Disposal Squad. Upon careful examination, the suspicious object was confirmed to be a pressure cooker IED allegedly planted by Maoists with the intention of targeting security personnel and creating fear among the local residents.

Foreign-made weapons seized in Mumbai! Three arrested

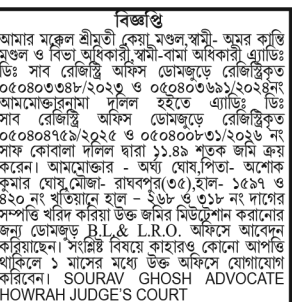


MI News Service, Mumbai: In a major crackdown, the Anti-Extortion Cell of the Mumbai Crime Branch has arrested three alleged criminals who had reportedly arrived in the city to sell illegal foreign-made weapons, officials said on Saturday. They added that the accused, all from outside Maharashtra, were apprehended during a late-night operation carried out on the basis of specific intelligence inputs.

According to police officials, credible information was received indicating that certain individuals carrying weapons were on their way to Mumbai. Acting swiftly on the tip-off, the Crime Branch laid a trap near a public toilet located on P.D. Mello Road close to St. George Hospital. On Friday night the three accused were caught red-handed during the operation.

Police recovered three firearms, magazines and 45 live cartridges from the possession of the accused. Officials said the ammunition and weapons bore the inscription 'Made in China'. However, investigators are now trying to determine the actual source and route through which the weapons entered the country, making the origin of the Chinese-marked arms a key aspect of the ongoing probe.

The arrested accused have been identified as 24-year-old Jashanpreet Mangal Singh and 24-year-old Sukhwinder Singh, both residents of Patiala in Punjab, and Arbaz, a resident of Jhalawar in Rajasthan, officials mentioned. They said all three have serious criminal backgrounds and multiple cases registered against them.



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Notice
My Client, Gourab Mukherjee, S/o. Sri Goutam Mukherjee, residing at Kalupukur Main Road, P.O. & P.S. Chandannagar, District-Hooghly, Pin-712136 under instruction hereby inform that the following original property deeds related to property situated at 167, Kalupukur Road (Near Bidyalaya) Chandannagar, Hooghly-712136 have been lost/misplaced near Baghaz More Chandannagar, Hooghly during 02 may 2026.
1) Sale Deed No : 552/ 1961,
2) Sale Deed No : 2913/1968,
3) Sale Deed No : 1408/1973.
All deeds were registered at A.D.S.R. Chandannagar. A General Diary has already lodged at Chandannagar Police Station vide GD No. 708, Dated 14.05.2026. Therefore if any individual, Bank or any Financial Institution has its charge or lien on the said property then within 7 days from the publication of the notice may send their objections along with the Supportive Evidence. If not send within given period then my client will initiate further proceeding. If found, please contact : Gourab Mukherjee Mob : 983701230.

Bishwesh Bhadra
Advocate
Chandannagar Court & Judges Court, Chinsurah, Hooghly

Drug trade busted in Siliguri, one arrested

MI News Service, Siliguri: Police achieved a major success in their ongoing crackdown against narcotics in Siliguri after Bhakti Nagar Police arrested one person from the Haidarpara area under Ward No. 40 for allegedly running a drug trade under the guise of a shop. The arrested accused has been identified as Ranjit Singh.

According to police sources, the accused had allegedly been operating a narcotics business from his residence for a long time while using a shop as a cover. Acting on a tip-off, police conducted a raid at his house on Saturday and recovered a huge quantity of cannabis.

Police also seized cash from the premises, which is suspected to be linked to the illegal trade.

বিভাগীয়: আমার মক্কেল সিলিগুড়িতে মিন্দা, পিতা-আব্দুল হাকিম মিন্দা, সাং, পোঃ ও থানা- জগৎবল্লভপুর, জেলা-হাওড়া। বিগত ইংরাজী- ২৭/০৭/২০২৭ তারিখে হাওড়া-১ ডিও রেজিঃ অফিসে রেজিঃ কৃত ০৫০২০৬৫৮ নং সাক্ষি বিজ্ঞপ্তি বোর্ডের দলিল দ্বারা ১ নম্বর কুমার সান্না, ২ নম্বর কুমার সান্না, ৩ নং কুমার সান্না, ৪ নং কুমার সান্না, ৫ নং কুমার সান্না, ৬ নং কুমার সান্না, ৭ নং কুমার সান্না, ৮ নং কুমার সান্না, ৯ নং কুমার সান্না, ১০ নং কুমার সান্না, ১১ নং কুমার সান্না, ১২ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৩ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৪ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৫ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৬ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৭ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৮ নং কুমার সান্না, ১৯ নং কুমার সান্না, ২০ নং কুমার সান্না, ২১ নং কুমার সান্না, ২২ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৩ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৪ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৫ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৬ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৭ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৮ নং কুমার সান্না, ২৯ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩০ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩১ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩২ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৩ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৪ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৫ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৬ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৭ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৮ নং কুমার সান্না, ৩৯ নং কুমার 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Petrol, diesel prices again increased by up to 91 paise, in less than 10 days

MI News Service, Kolkata/ New Delhi: Putting a tremendous burden on the consumers for the third time in about ten days, petrol and diesel prices were raised by 87-91 paise per litre on Saturday, taking the cumulative increase in retail fuel rates to nearly Rs 5 a litre across the country.

Following this hike the state-owned firms will pass on the soaring international oil prices on the consumers instead of taking this additional burden on themselves.

As a result the consumes in Kolkata are the worst affected with petrol prices rising to Rs 110.64 and diesel Rs 97.02 per litre.

The latest revision pushed petrol prices higher by 87 paise per litre and diesel by up to 91 paise across the country, according to industry sources.

The back-to-back increases follow a prolonged freeze in retail fuel prices and come amid elevated crude oil prices in the global market, tightening refining margins, and a weaker rupee, which have sharply raised the cost of imports.

Following today's hike, petrol price was increased by 87 paise in Delhi to Rs 99.51 per litre from

Rs 98.64 earlier. Similarly, diesel price was hiked by 91 paise to Rs 92.49 a litre from Rs 91.58 previously.

With the latest hike, petrol and diesel prices have risen close to Rs 5 a litre since the state-owned oil marketing companies on May 15 ended the hiatus in rate revision, stoking concerns over inflationary pressures and higher transportation costs across the economy.

Petrol and diesel prices were increased by Rs 3 per litre each on May 15 and 90 paise a litre on May 19.

On all three occasions, private fuel retailers like Nayara Energy swiftly matched the price increases announced by their state-owned rivals, raising petrol and diesel rates by a similar quantum.

The latest increases came on top of hikes effected earlier by private retailers ahead of the first fuel price revision on May 15 by state-run oil companies.

Nayara Energy had raised petrol and diesel prices by Rs 5 and Rs 3 per litre, respectively, in March, while Shell increased petrol prices by Rs 7.41 a litre and diesel by as much as Rs 25 per litre from April 1.

Jio-BP, the fuel retailing joint ven-



ture of Reliance Industries Ltd and BP Plc, has, however, moved rates at its pumps in tandem with PSUs.

After Saturday's increase, petrol at PSU pumps in Mumbai now costs Rs 108.49 per litre and diesel Rs 95.02, while Kolkata prices rose to Rs 110.64 and Rs 97.02, respectively. In Chennai, petrol is priced at Rs 105.31 and diesel at Rs 96.98.

Prices vary across states due to local taxes.

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) together control 90 per cent of India's fuel market.

The back-to-back increases come after global crude oil prices surged more than 50 per cent to about USD 140 per barrel, compared to about USD 77 in late February, following US-Israeli strikes on Iran and disruptions to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz, a critical global oil transit route.

Fuel retailers had kept pump prices low despite rising input costs, a move the government said was aimed at shielding consumers

from inflation.

Opposition parties, however, accused the government of delaying price revisions until after key state elections.

The May 15 increase came after the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) expanded its electoral footprint by winning three of five state and UT elections, including West Bengal.

Despite the hikes, fuel retailers continue to absorb significant losses.

Petroleum Ministry's Joint Secretary Sujata Sharma had earlier this week stated that the May 15 increase reduced losses by about a fourth, but state-run oil firms were still losing around Rs 750 crore per day.

According to Crisil, oil marketing companies were losing about Rs 10 per litre on petrol and Rs 13 per litre on diesel even after the earlier hike.

Petrol and diesel prices are now at their highest levels since May 2022.

Rates had remained frozen since April 2022 except for a Rs 2-per-litre cut in March 2024 ahead of national elections.

The fuel price increases come amid broader efforts by the gov-

ernment to contain India's oil import bill and reduce fuel consumption.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has urged citizens and government departments to conserve fuel, encourage remote working and reduce non-essential travel as elevated energy prices put pressure on foreign exchange reserves and threaten to widen the current account deficit.

Several state governments including the new West Bengal government, have already directed departments to curb travel and reduce office attendance.

Compressed natural gas (CNG) prices have also risen by Rs 3 per kg in two instalments within this period.

Industry officials said the latest revisions appeared calibrated to partially ease pressure on oil companies without triggering a sharp inflation shock, though they acknowledged the increases would add to price pressures.

India's retail inflation accelerated to 3.48 per cent in April from 3.40 per cent in March, while wholesale inflation climbed to a 42-month high of 8.3 per cent, driven largely by higher fuel and energy costs.

State Govt Revises Eid Holiday Schedule, Announces Single-Day Holiday

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has revised its holiday schedule for Eid, marking the first major change to the state's official leave calendar since the change of government.

According to a fresh notification issued by the administration, state government employees will receive a holiday only on May 28 for Bakrid (Eid al-Adha) this year.

Under the previous holi-

day list prepared during the former Trinamool Congress government, holidays had been announced for May 26 and May 27. However, the new notification states that the festival is expected to be observed on May 28, making that the sole official holiday.

The earlier notification has consequently been withdrawn.

The decision aligns with the holiday schedule already announced by the Central Government, which had ear-

lier declared May 28 as the holiday for Eid al-Adha.

During the previous administration, the state holiday calendar had been expanded with several additional observances and, in some cases, extended festival leave. The latest revision has sparked discussions over whether the new government may introduce further changes to the holiday structure in the future.

Meanwhile, the state administration has directed po-

lice authorities across West Bengal to ensure that Bakrid celebrations are conducted peacefully and without disruption. Instructions have reportedly been issued to all police stations to maintain law and order during the festival period.

The revision follows another recent decision by the SuvenduAdhikari-led government to extend summer vacation schedules amid prevailing heatwave conditions across the state.

'Why is the govt so scared of cockroaches?' CJP founder now says website taken down

MI News Service, New Delhi: The "government has taken down" the Cockroach Janta Party's website, the satirical digital organisation's founder, Abhijeet Dipke, alleged on Saturday, claiming that "this dictatorial behaviour is opening the eyes of India's youth."

The meme-driven political movement became an Internet sensation this week in India and surpassed the BJP's follower count on Instagram.

"The government has taken down our iconic website - <http://cockroachjantaparty.org>," Boston-based Dipke wrote on X (formerly Twitter), where he has nearly two lakh followers.

"10 Lakh cockroaches had signed up on our website as members. 6 Lakh cockroaches had signed a petition to demand the resignation of Dharmendra Pradhan."

"Why is the government so scared of cockroaches? But this dictatorial behaviour is opening the eyes of India's youth. Our only crime is we were demanding a better

future for ourselves," he wrote.

"But you can't get rid of us that easily. We're working on a new home right now. Cockroaches never die."

Earlier, Dipke had in another post detailed what he called the "crackdown" on Cockroach Janta Party.

"Instagram page hacked. My personal Instagram hacked. Twitter account withheld. Back up account also taken down," he had written.

Dipke also made a post warning followers against fake accounts impersonating the Cockroach Janta Party.

The CJP sprung up after Chief Justice of India Surya Kant reportedly called "some" unemployed youth cockroaches who attack the system. The CJ later clarified that he meant those who hold fake degrees and not unemployed youth in general, but the damage had been done.

As the CJP gained momentum -- and followers -- at breakneck speed, Dipke reported the "crackdown"

through a series of hacking attempts and takedowns of social media handles and pages.

"I was on BBCWorld when Cockroach Janta Party's account was withheld in India," he wrote in one tweet. "By suppressing our voices, the BJP Govt is just exposing its autocracy to the world."

In another, he said he was getting death threats.

While most see the CJP as a manifestation of Gen-X angst, the government seems to think it is a foreign-funded security threat.

Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the BJP's Kerala president, described the CJP as a "classic cross-border influence operation" aimed at destabilising India and targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Chandrasekhar said such campaigns use "bots, AI and weaponised narratives" to create the illusion of organic public sentiment, and argued that India's rise under Modi was driving resentment among vested interests abroad.

"No cockroach, no petty opposition politician, no Modi-hating joker, no foreign vested interest can derail India's resolve to build a Viksit Bharat," he wrote on X.

Cockroach in Yamuna pollution protest

A man reached the Mathura municipal corporation office on Friday dressed as a cockroach, singing and dancing, to protest the pollution in the Yamuna.

Clad in a cockroach costume, social activist Deepak Sharma warned that if the issues were not addressed promptly, the condition of the river would worsen in the days to come.

Sharma said he was compelled to dress as a cockroach to open the eyes of the "incompetent" officials, who have virtually turned a blind eye to the pollution of the Yamuna and the rampant filth in the city.

A crowd gathered to watch him, with many filming with their mobile phones.

Mathura municipal officials did not comment on the incident.

Humid Conditions Persist in Kolkata as Rainfall Activity Expected to Intensify Across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Residents of Kolkata continued to experience oppressive weather on Saturday as high humidity levels and elevated night-time temperatures contributed to widespread discomfort across the city. Despite the absence of extreme daytime heat, the combination of moisture-laden air and warm conditions made outdoor activities particularly challenging.

According to the Regional Meteorological Centre in Kolkata, the city is likely to witness generally cloudy skies over the coming week, with the possibility of thunderstorms and light rainfall in isolated areas. Meteorologists have indicated that weather conditions are expected to remain unstable, with a gradual increase in rain-bearing systems towards the latter half of the week.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has projected that Kolkata's maximum temperature will remain around 36 degrees Celsius during the next few days, while the minimum temperature is expected to stay close to 28 degrees Celsius. On Saturday, the city registered a daytime temperature of 35.2 degrees Celsius, slightly below the seasonal average. However, the minimum temperature stood at 29.8 degrees Celsius, almost three degrees above normal, contributing to uncomfortable conditions even during the night.

Humidity levels remained exceptionally high throughout the day. Relative humidity touched 91 per cent at certain times, resulting in sticky and exhausting weather

conditions. Many residents reported feeling discomfort due to the lack of relief from the humid atmosphere, especially during the afternoon and evening hours.

Weather officials have predicted a significant rise in rainfall activity across several districts of south Bengal from May 28 onward. Light to moderate showers accompanied by thunderstorms are expected in most parts of the region. Gusty winds with speeds ranging between 40 and 50 kilometres per hour may also accompany these weather systems, particularly during thunderstorm activity.

The IMD has cautioned that hot and humid weather is likely to continue in the western districts of south Bengal over the next few days. Meanwhile, coastal districts and neighbouring

areas, including Kolkata, are expected to experience persistently humid conditions. In view of the prevailing weather, authorities have advised people to minimise outdoor exposure during the hottest part of the day, especially between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

In contrast, north Bengal is likely to witness much heavier rainfall. Forecasts indicate heavy to very heavy showers in the districts of Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar and Cooch Behar over the next 48 hours. Thunderstorms accompanied by strong winds are also expected across the region. The weather department has warned of possible waterlogging in low-lying areas, reduced visibility on roads and an increased risk of landslides in the hilly districts of Darjeeling and Kalimpong due to the anticipated rainfall.

'Take the message, don't kill the messenger': Sonam Wangchuk to Centre over 'cockroach' movement

MI News Service, New Delhi: Environmentalist and educationist Sonam Wangchuk on Saturday voiced support for the online "cockroach" movement led by the self-styled "Cockroach Janata Party" (CJP), describing himself as an "honorary cockroach" while urging the government to engage with the concerns being raised by youngsters instead of suppressing their digital expression.

The online campaign, which uses satire and the imagery of a cockroach as a symbol of resilience and dissent, has gained traction in recent days amid allegations by its founders of a crackdown on their social media presence, including account suspensions and hacking incidents. The movement has positioned itself around issues such as unemployment, exam paper leaks and public accountability.

Speaking to PTI, Wangchuk said the campaign should be viewed as democratic feedback rather than a threat, and praised what he described as the creativity of young Indians in expressing frustration through satire instead of violence.

"Such creative expressions by our youth are nothing to worry about and nothing to be afraid of. The government should take the message -- don't kill the messenger," he

said, adding that the concerns raised by the movement deserved attention rather than suppression.

Asked whether he would formally join the movement, Wangchuk replied in a lighter vein that he did not qualify for membership as he was "neither unemployed nor lazy", but still considered himself an "honorary cockroach".

Drawing parallels with political cartoons and newspaper caricatures, Wangchuk argued that humour and symbolism were legitimate democratic tools and should be seen as feedback rather than hostility towards the government.

Wangchuk said issues such as alleged exam paper leaks and demands for accountability should not be dismissed, noting that such concerns routinely trigger ministerial resignations in other countries.

He also warned against attempts to suppress online dissent, saying shutting down accounts or curbing digital expression could deepen frustration among young people and potentially push anger in more dangerous directions. Referring to political unrest in Nepal,



marks, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke alleged a coordinated crackdown on the satirical digital outfit, claiming it had lost access to all of its social media accounts following a series of takedowns and hacking incidents.

In a post on X, Dipke claimed that his personal Instagram account had also been hacked. His remarks came two days after the CJP's account on X was withheld in India, prompting him to create a new account.

The outfit on Friday launched a campaign seeking the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over alleged systemic failures in the education sector and the NEET-UG 2026 paper "leak". Later in the day, Dipke claimed he had received death threats and shared screenshots of the messages online.

On Saturday, Dipke listed what he described as coordinated action against the movement, alleging that its Instagram page had been hacked, its X accounts withheld or removed, and that the group no longer had access to any of its platforms.

He urged followers not to treat any new posts from those accounts as official statements from the CJP. The organisation's website was also inaccessible on Saturday, with Dipke linking the alleged crackdown to the group's recent campaign.

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre has made an offer for constitutional safeguards under Article 371, instead of the Sixth Schedule, and a legislative body for Ladakh, activists from the region said on Saturday, while stressing that discussions were still underway and no final agreement had been reached.

Talking to PTI a day after their meeting with a sub-committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), activist Sonam Wangchuk said the government had proposed safeguards for Ladakh on the lines of Articles 371A and 371G and agreed in principle to a governance structure for the entire region rather than limiting powers to district councils.

Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) member Sajjad Kargili said that the Centre had also proposed legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers for Ladakh and had been asked to share a formal draft for consultations with legal and constitutional experts.

The meeting between representatives of the Leh Apex Body (LAB), KDA and the MHA sub-committee on Friday focused on constitutional protection for Ladakh, democratic representation and the long-pending demand for statehood.

According to Wangchuk, the discussions centred on Ladakh's demand for inclusion under the Sixth Schedule and statehood, while the government suggested safeguards under Article 371.

"The government said it has some issues with the Sixth Schedule but is willing to consider protections under Article 371," Wangchuk said.

Article 371 grants temporary, transitional and special provisions to some states to accommodate their unique socio-cultural

and regional developmental needs. Under the Sixth Schedule, special administrative and legislative protections are given for tribal areas in certain northeastern states through Autonomous District Councils with powers over land, forests, local governance customs and certain civil and judicial matters.

Wangchuk noted that earlier proposals had envisaged powers remaining confined to district councils in Leh and Kargil, with major decisions continuing to rest with the Lieutenant Governor and bureaucracy.

"Yesterday, they agreed that whatever constitutional arrangement is created will be at the level of the whole of Ladakh and not at the district level," the activist said, calling it a significant departure from earlier proposals.

Explaining the demands, Wangchuk divided them into three broad categories -- legislative, executive and financial powers. Under the proposed framework, he said, an elected institution representing the whole of Ladakh would have powers to make laws, oversee administration and exercise financial authority.

"This is a very big change," Wangchuk said, pointing out that elected representatives currently exercise limited control over Ladakh's annual budget while most decisions are taken by officials and the Lieutenant Governor.

"The best arrangement in India is a state. We are moving in the direction of a UT with legislature or statehood," he said.

Wangchuk indicated that the Centre's main reservation regarding statehood related to Ladakh's financial viability and ability to sustain administrative expenditure through its own

revenue.

"Their objection was mainly about income and resources," he said, adding that studies were being undertaken to assess Ladakh's economic capacity and future revenue potential.

At the same time, Wangchuk cautioned against treating the latest discussions as a final settlement.

"There is no reason either for disappointment or excitement. This is a work in progress. There is an in-principle understanding, not an agreement," he said.

Kargili, meanwhile, underscored that the government had placed a proposal before the delegation but that its contents needed careful examination.

"A proposal has been submitted by the government. It says safeguards will be given to Ladakh under Articles 371A and 371G, and legislative, executive, administrative and financial powers will also be given," he said.

Article 371A applies to Nagaland and provides that the Parliament cannot legislate on matters relating to the Naga religion, social practices, customary law, land rights, and civil and criminal justice, without the consent of the state assembly. Similar protections have been given under Article 371G to Mizoram.

Kargili said the LAB and KDA had requested the government to provide a written draft similar to the memorandum already submitted by Ladakh representatives.

"We asked the government to give us a draft so that we can discuss it with our legal and constitutional experts and then give our response," Kargili said.

While welcoming continued engagement, Kargili stressed that the process remained at a preliminary stage.

"There is neither disap-

pointment nor excitement. This is only a dialogue, and we can speak further once we receive the draft," he said.

He described the continuation of the talks itself as encouraging.

"Dialogue is also positivity. It is not positive to stop talking," Kargili said, adding that both sides appeared committed to finding a mutually acceptable solution.

Referring to the atmosphere of the meeting, he said the MHA had emphasised that discussions were not taking place "as two opposing sides but as one", with the shared objective of addressing concerns of Ladakh's people.

"The people of Ladakh should maintain regional sensitivity, diversity and balance. People should get representation and respect," Kargili said, outlining the broader concerns raised during the talks.

No date has yet been fixed for the next round of discussions, though Kargili said the delegation had requested the government to share the draft before convening another meeting.

The two prominent civil society groups from Ladakh -- Leh Apex Body (LAB) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) -- have been jointly demanding statehood for Ladakh, constitutional safeguards for land and jobs, and greater democratic powers since Ladakh became a Union Territory without a legislature in 2019.

In a joint statement, after the sub-committee meeting here, both groups said they have reached an "in-principle understanding" with the Government of India on restoring democracy in Ladakh and providing constitutional safeguards on the lines of Nagaland, Sikkim and Mizoram under Article 371.

Despite a large body of research on how navigation works in the brain

Washington DC : Our sense of direction is essential for navigating the world around us. It serves as the brain's internal compass, guiding us in the right direction and, more significantly, prompting us to reverse course when we're going the wrong way.

Yet despite a large body of research on how navigation works in the brain, scientists still lack a clear understanding of how this internal compass directly guides behavior. Now, a study conducted in fruit flies and led by researchers at Harvard Medical School offers new insights into how two distinct brain regions -- the seat of the compass and the steering center -- communicate during navigation.

The findings are published in Nature.

In the study, researchers examined the brains of fruit flies knocked off course while running in a particular direction. They discovered that three distinct groups of neurons enable communication between the compass and the steering regions of the brain and work together to help the fly course-correct. In doing so, the neurons translate signals from a fly's internal compass into behavior to keep it moving in the right direction.

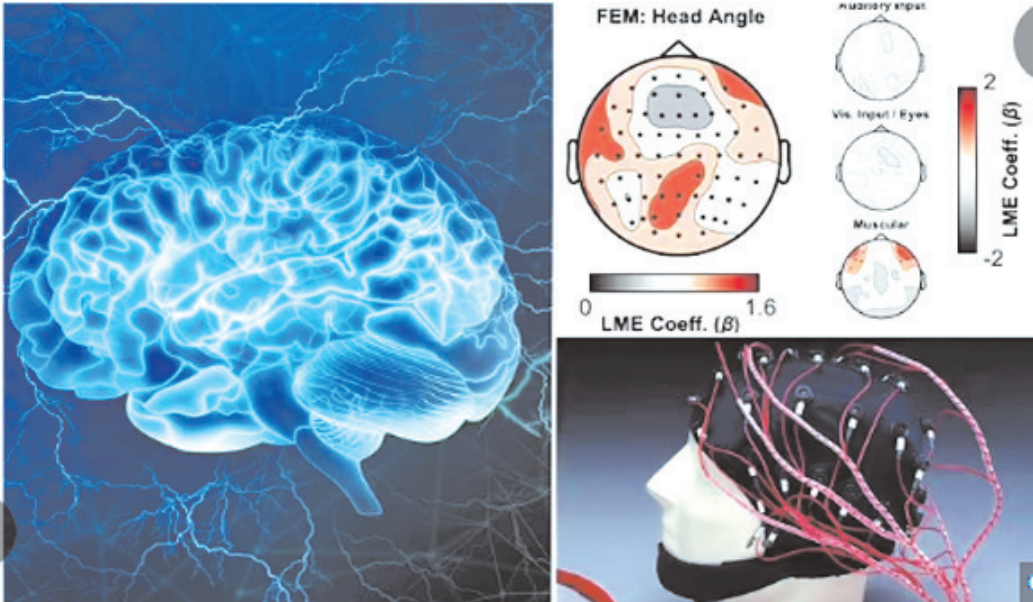
"Until now, no one really knew how sense of direction, which is an internal cognitive state, relates to the actions an animal is making in the world," said senior author Rachel Wilson, the Joseph B. Martin Professor of Basic

Research in the Field of Neurobiology in the Blavatnik Institute at HMS.

Despite their small size, fruit flies have complicated brains and behaviors -- and thus the findings could provide a foundation for future studies on how signals in the brain become actions in more complex species, including humans.

Staying on course

Humans and other complex animals have an internal compass made of brain cells that use internal and external information to generate a sense of direction. In fruit flies, scientists have figured out that these cells -- called head-direction cells -- are arranged in a circle, making them especially easy to study. Contrary to what their name implies, fruit flies spend more time walking than flying. Previous research has shown that as flies walk around, these head-direction cells actively track their rotational movements, such as turning right or left. In the new study, Wilson and colleagues wanted to explore how this compass is functionally connected to the steering region of the brain to understand how it guides navigation. To do this, they used an existing wiring diagram of every neural connection in the fruit fly brain to build a computational model of how these regions might be linked. With this model, they were able to identify and make predictions about the layer of neurons that connect the two regions. To validate their predictions, the



"I think we've touched on one of the most mysterious aspects of brain function, which is how we hold information and intentions in our mind in a latent form and then act on them," Wilson said, adding that even insects have this ability. "In the future, we're going to investigate how this works."

Wilson is also interested in learning more about the three groups of neurons the study identified -- and whether analogous groups of neurons dedicated to fine and coarse adjustments exist in other brain networks.

"We have a hunch that this is actually a major principle of brain function and might explain a lot of seemingly redundant pathways in the brain," Wilson explained. Wilson added that because fruit flies have complex brains and behaviors, they are a good starting point for studying aspects of cognition that exist in higher-order species such as mice or humans.

researchers analyzed the activity in the layer of neurons identified

by the model as the flies walked around in a virtual reality envi-

ronment. Often, flies ran straight in a random direction, likely in an

Researchers find how physical exercise prevents nerve damage during chemotherapy

BASEL [SWITZERLAND] : Damage to nerves brought on by cancer therapies frequently results in symptoms that endure a lifetime. In some circumstances, medication has not worked. Simple exercises can prevent nerve injury, according to research. The research was conducted by an interdisciplinary German team led by a sports scientist at the University of Basel. Over time, advancements have been made in cancer therapy. The quality of life following rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important; it is no longer only about surviving. Unfortunately, many cancer medications, from chemotherapy to modern immunotherapies, attack the nerves as well as the tumour cells. Some therapies, such as oxaliplatin or vinca alkaloids, leave 70 to 90 per cent of patients complaining of pain, balance issues, or feelings of numbness, burning or

tingling. These symptoms can be very debilitating. They can disappear following cancer treatment, but in around 50 per cent they become chronic. Specialists call it chemotherapy-induced peripheral neuropathy, or CIPN for short.

A research team led by sports scientist Dr Fiona Streckmann from the University of Basel and the German Sport University Cologne has now shown that specific exercise, concomitant to cancer therapy, can prevent nerve damage in many cases. The researchers have reported their findings in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine. The study involved 158 cancer patients, both male and female, who were receiving treatment either with oxaliplatin or vinca-alkaloids. The researchers divided the patients at random into three groups. The first was a control group, whose members received standard care. The other two groups completed

exercise sessions twice a week for the duration of their chemotherapy, with each session lasting between 15 and 30 minutes. One of these groups carried out exercises that focused primarily on balancing on an increasingly unstable surface. The other group trained on a vibration plate. Regular examinations over the next five years showed that in the control group around twice as many participants developed CIPN as in either of the exercise groups. In other words, the exercises undertaken alongside chemotherapy were able to reduce the incidence of nerve damage by 50 to 70 per cent. In addition, they increased the patients' subjectively perceived quality of life, made it less necessary to reduce their dose of cancer medications, and reduced mortality in the five years following chemotherapy. The participants receiving vinca-alkaloids and performing sensorimotor

training had the largest benefit. A lot of money has been invested over the years in reducing the incidence of CIPN, explains Streckmann. "This side effect has a direct influence on clinical treatment: for example, patients may not be able to receive the planned number of chemotherapy cycles that they actually need, the dosage of neurotoxic agents in the chemotherapy may have to be reduced, or their treatment may have to be terminated." Despite the investments made, there is no effective pharmacological treatment to date: various studies have shown that medications can neither prevent nor reverse this nerve damage. However, according to the latest estimates, USD 17,000 are spent per patient every year in the USA on treating nerve damage associated with chemotherapy. Streckmann's assumption is that "doctors prescribe medications

despite everything because patients' level of suffering is so high." In contrast, the sports scientist emphasizes, that the positive effect of exercise has been substantiated, and this treatment is very cheap in comparison. At the moment, she and her team are working on guidelines for hospitals so that they can integrate the exercises into clinical practice as supportive therapy. In addition, since 2023 a study has been ongoing in six children's hospitals in Germany and Switzerland (PrepAIR), which is intended to prevent sensory and motor dysfunctions in children receiving neurotoxic chemotherapy. "The potential of physical activity is hugely underestimated," says Fiona Streckmann. She very much hopes that the results of the newly published study will lead to more sports therapists being employed in hospitals, to better exploit this potential.



ARIZONA [US] : New research suggested that living less than 0.3 miles from a pesticide use area before getting pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of stillbirths.

Research by Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre.

Certain pesticides, particularly the class of organophosphates, were linked to stillbirth throughout the first trimester of pregnancy and a 90-day preconception window, according to research findings.

The study "Pesticide Exposure During the First Trimester and Its Associations With Stillbirth" was released in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. "These findings underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes." To conduct the study, researchers linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27 different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290 stillbirths from 2006 to 2020. They found that living within .31 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day pre-conception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin,

organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births pre-conception. During the first trimester, fenpropathrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated with stillbirths.

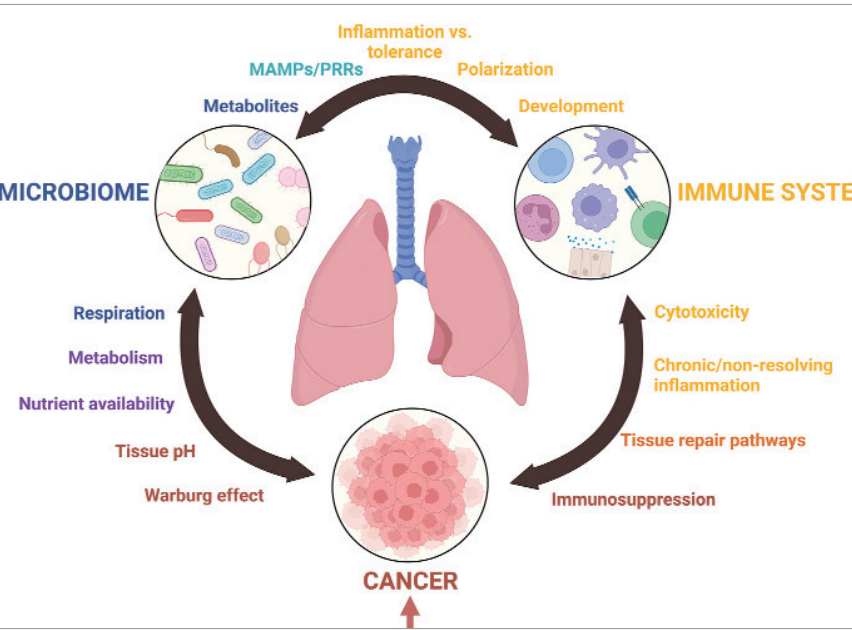
"Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center and BIO5 Institute. "Within the pyrethroid class, cyfluthrin exposure during the 90 days prior to conception almost doubled the risk of stillbirth." Pesticides are chemical substances used to control pests in various settings. They are commonly categorized into different classes, such as organophosphates, pyrethroids and carbamates. The primary route of exposure for most people is through diet, but household use, agricultural drift and occupational exposure are also significant pathways. Researchers say while some pesticides may not have been directly implicated in this study, they could still pose risks to maternal and fetal health. Pregnant women may be particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure due to physiological changes during pregnancy, such as increased metabolic rate, altered hormone levels and changes in the immune system. The developing fetus may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides during this period of rapid growth and development. "Further research is essential to fully understand the safety profiles of various pesticides and to understand the underlying mechanisms of pesticide-induced stillbirth," Furlong said.

Study finds how lung cancer captures immune cell metabolism for its own growth

LA JOLLA (CALIFORNIA) [US] : Lung adenocarcinoma is the most common type of lung cancer, accounting for the majority of cancer-related fatalities in the US. There are various causes of lung adenocarcinoma, one of which is a mutation in a protein known as EGFR. Non-mutant EGFR stimulates cell proliferation in response to injury, but mutated EGFR promotes out-of-control growth, which can lead to cancer. Modern immunotherapies are ineffective against EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma, and while certain medications exist to treat the malignancy, patients usually acquire resistance to them within a few years. This gap in the therapy toolkit prompted Salk Institute researchers to look for weak points in the cancer's development process. The researchers discovered that EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma hijacks a specialized population of lung-resident immune cells known as macrophages, which are responsible for disposing of diseased and damaged cells as well as maintaining a delicate balance of protective lipids (fats) around lung alveoli, which are required for breathing. Lung cancer cells recruit macrophages into the tumor microenvironment and modify their lipid metabolism, transforming them into cancer fuel sources. The newly powered tumor cells subsequently stimulate further macrophage growth to provide additional fuel--a novel self-perpetuating cancer strategy.

The findings, published in Cancer Discovery on January 25, 2024, provide new inspiration for lung adenocarcinoma interventions that disrupt this tumor cell-macrophage relationship. The researchers suggest that treatments using EGFR inhibitors may be more successful when paired with statins, a class of drugs commonly used to lower cholesterol levels.

"We have discovered a novel way that lung cancer cells manipulate their local environment and other cell types surrounding them to promote their own growth. In this case, the tumor cells exploit lung-resident macrophages--remodeling them to provide nutrients, like cholesterol, to the cancer cells and stimulate tumor growth," says senior and co-corresponding author



"Our results reveal new therapeutic possibilities for immunotherapy-resistant EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinomas," said co-corresponding author Christian Metallo, professor and holder of the Daniel and Martina Lewis Chair at Salk. "We have identified a key metabolic relationship between macrophages and alveoli that is exploited by tumor cells to support the cancer's metabolic demands--now we just have to disrupt that exploitation."

Susan Kaech, professor, director of the NOMIS Center for Immunobiology and Microbial Pathogenesis, and holder of the NOMIS Chair at Salk. "One exciting implication of this work is that lung cancer treatments may be improved by simply adding statins, an already widely used class of drugs, to the patient's treatment plan." Lungs rely on tiny bulbs called alveoli, which expand and deflate with our breath, to facilitate the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the air and our blood. Alveoli are crucial to human survival, and their health is dependent on a lipid-rich environment created by alveolar

cells and sustained by macrophages. Lipids, such as cholesterol, are fatty compounds that support bodily function by helping cells move, store energy, and absorb vitamins. This unique ability of lung-resident macrophages to maintain lipid balance becomes more complicated when tumor cells begin to exploit those lipids to help themselves grow. A better understanding of the mechanisms macrophages use to regulate their metabolism and lipid production can provide insight into how tumor cells selfishly manipulate those mechanisms to help themselves. "The tumor cells excrete even

more of a growth factor called GM-CSF (granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor), which then causes the macrophages to grow alongside them and change their metabolism, resulting in excess lipids that the tumor cells use to strengthen themselves," says first author Alexandra Kuhlmann-Hogan, former postdoctoral researcher in Kaech's lab and current postdoctoral researcher at UC Los Angeles. "The cancer was effectively hijacking this normal macrophage process of maintaining the lungs with healthy lipids in order to fuel itself."

"Not only were the tumor cells metabolically reprogramming the macrophages--they were also instigating a feedback loop that encouraged an optimal metabolic state in the tumor cells themselves," said co-corresponding author Katerina Politi, scientific director of the Center for Thoracic Cancers at Yale Cancer Center and professor of pathology at Yale School of Medicine. When the EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma cells secreted GM-CSF, it stimulated a gene in the macrophages called PPARγ (peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor gamma), which jump-started their metabolic reprogramming and subsequent secretion of lipids. In addition to using these macrophage-curated lipids to grow, the tumor cells also use the lipids to power the continued activation of the EGFR-drive that helps the cancer grow. Kaech predicts that disrupting this loop could be a novel intervention for slowing down EGFR-driven cancer growth. Exactly how the delivery of lipids like cholesterol to tumor cells powers the EGFR oncogenic pathway, the researchers aren't yet sure.

"Our results reveal new therapeutic possibilities for immunotherapy-resistant EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinomas," said co-corresponding author Christian Metallo, professor and holder of the Daniel and Martina Lewis Chair at Salk. "We have identified a key metabolic relationship between macrophages and alveoli that is exploited by tumor cells to support the cancer's metabolic demands--now we just have to disrupt that exploitation."

US preparing for fresh round of military strikes on Iran: Media reports



MI News Service, Washington : The Trump administration is preparing for a fresh round of military strikes against Iran despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, US media reported, citing sources with direct knowledge of the planning. However no final decision had been made as of Friday afternoon (local time).

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump claimed that Iran was seeking negotiations after recent US military actions, saying Tehran's military capabilities had been severely weakened and insisting the country "will never have a nuclear weapon".

Addressing a rally in New York's Rockland County, Trump said the US military had inflicted major damage on Iran and warned that Washington would not allow Tehran to develop nuclear weapons.

"Now, Iran, their Navy's gone, their air force is gone everything's gone, their leaders are gone," Trump told supporters. "And if you read the fake news, you'd think they're doing just fine. They're not doing just fine. They want to settle so badly."

Trump later repeated the claim while discussing energy prices and the US economy. "We're going to have to journey down to the Middle East," he said. "Be-

cause Iran is going to have a nuclear weapon if we don't stop them. And I said, we're going to have to do it, and we have stopped them." "They're not going to ever have a nuclear weapon," Trump added. "They're never going to have a nuclear weapon."

The President framed the Iran confrontation as part of a broader national security and economic strategy, arguing that stabilising the Middle East would help lower global energy prices. "Oil prices are going to tumble as soon as I finish up with Iran, tumble, boom," Trump said.

The remarks came as Trump praised recent US military operations and highlighted what he called the strength of the American armed forces.

"We have the greatest military in the world right now," Trump said. "There's nobody like our equipment. There's nobody like the stuff we produce."

He also referenced "Operation Epic Fury", describing Iran as "the world's number one state sponsor of terror". "They send their money all over the world to create problems," Trump said. "Never going to happen."

Trump used the rally to argue that his administration had restored American global standing after what he described as weakness under former President Joe Biden.

"I was with the king of Saudi Arabia two years ago," Trump said. "He said, 'Mr. President, it's amazing, two years ago, you were a dead country.'"

The President also claimed his tariff policies and economic agenda had strengthened the US economy despite global tensions.

"Today, we just -- an amazing thing happened," Trump said. "The Dow Jones hit 50,702." Trump's comments on Iran drew some of the loudest applause of the evening as supporters repeatedly chanted "USA, USA".

Gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China, 90 killed

MI News Service, Beijing : A massive gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China has killed at least 90 people, state media reported on Saturday. It is learnt that a total of 247 workers were underground at the time of the blast, which occurred at 7:29 pm (1129 GMT) on Friday at the Liushenyu coal mine in Shanxi province. At least 90 people had died and 123 others were sent to hospital for treatment, four of whom were in critical or severe condition, state broadcaster said. Of those sent for treatment, 33 had returned home as of 2:00 pm on Saturday, it added.

A total of 755 emergency and medical personnel were dispatched to the site to undertake rescue operation. Friday's explosion was the worst mining disaster in China since 2009, when 108 people were killed in a mine blast in northeast Heilongjiang province.

Sulphur smell



Survivor and injured miner Wang Yong told the state broadcaster that there was a "puff of smoke" and he smelled sulphur. He recalled seeing people choked by the smoke before he fainted.

"I lay down for about an hour and woke up by myself. I called the people next to me and got out of the mine together".

President Xi Jinping urged "all-out efforts" to treat the injured and called for thorough investigations into the incident.

He "emphasised that all regions and departments must draw lessons from this accident, remain constantly vigilant regarding workplace safety ... and resolutely prevent and curb the occurrence

of major and catastrophic accidents".

A person "responsible for" the company involved in the explosion has been "placed under control in accordance with the law".

State media initially reported four deaths and dozens trapped after levels of carbon monoxide -- a highly toxic, odourless gas -- in the mine were found to have "exceeded limits".

Some of those stuck underground were in "critical condition", that report said. The death toll then jumped sharply as the morning wore on. Shanxi, one of China's poorer provinces, is the centre of the country's coal-mining.

Mine safety in China has improved in recent decades, but accidents still occur in an industry where safety protocols are often lax and regulations vague.

In 2023, a collapse at an open-pit coal mine in the northern Inner Mongolia region killed 53 people.

Iran weighs latest peace proposal as US strike fears grow

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran on Saturday, May 23, weighed a new peace proposal amid growing fears of possible fresh United States military action.

Tehran also accused Washington of making "excessive demands" during ongoing negotiations.

Iranian media said leaders of the Islamic Republic were reviewing the latest diplomatic proposal as efforts continued to prevent further escalation in the region.

The tensions intensified after US media reports suggested Washington was considering new strikes against Iran if talks failed to make progress.

Qatar has warned against closing the Strait of Hormuz amid rising regional tensions linked to the Iran crisis.

Qatar's Prime Minister and Foreign Minister held a

phone call with Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi, reaffirming Doha's support for ongoing mediation efforts aimed at securing a comprehensive agreement to end the crisis, according to Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the conversation, the Qatari minister urged all parties to respond positively to diplomatic efforts to help achieve lasting peace and stability in the region, Al Jazeera reported.

He also warned that closing the Strait of Hormuz or using it as a bargaining tool would worsen the crisis and threaten the interests of countries across the region.

The minister described freedom of navigation as a "fundamental and non-negotiable principle" and called on all sides to respect international law and the principles of good neighbourliness.

Amid conflict, millions in Nigeria face hunger in coming lean season: UN

MI News Service, United Nations: Millions of people across Nigeria are bracing for one of the worst lean seasons on record amid conflict, violence and insecurity, UN humanitarian aid officials said Friday. In a news release, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that economic pressures and unprecedented funding constraints are pushing Nigerian families to the brink.

The UN Humanitarian Country Team in Nigeria reported that nearly one in seven people, or 35 million people nationwide, are likely to face acute food insecurity during this year's lean season from June to August, said the office.

"This makes Nigeria one of the world's largest hunger crises, with the burden falling overwhelmingly on northern Nigeria," it said. "If assistance is further delayed, millions of families will be forced to further reduce meals, sell assets and withdraw their children from school."

OCHA said that acute malnutrition is also projected to peak, placing millions of children at risk. Across northwest and northeast Nigeria, it is estimated that 6.4 million children are likely to be acutely malnourished this year.

The United Nations and its humanitarian partners are appealing for urgent funding to scale up life-saving assistance. "Resources from the Nigeria Humanitarian Fund have jump-started the response, but more is needed to meet immediate life-saving humanitarian needs," OCHA said. "The already hyper-prioritized 516 million U.S. dollar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is just over 40 per cent funded, with 215 million dollars received."

Israeli strikes kill six paramedics in southern Lebanon within 24 hours

MI News Service, Beirut : Lebanon's health ministry reported on Friday that six paramedics were killed in two separate Israeli strikes in southern Lebanon within 24 hours, condemning the attacks as clear violations of international humanitarian law.

According to the ministry, an overnight strike in the town of Hanaway killed four paramedics from the Islamic Health Association. Hours later on Friday morning, another strike in Deir Qanoun En-Nahr killed two medics from the Al-Rissala Scouts Association.

The Israeli military stated that the Hanaway strike targeted Hezbollah infrastructure sites where militants were present. In Deir Qanoun En-Nahr, it said forces identified and struck two Hezbollah militants on motorcycles. The military added that it was investigating reports of civilian casualties in both incidents and had ordered residents to evacuate the areas beforehand to reduce harm.



A video released by the health ministry from Deir Qanoun En-Nahr, verified by Reuters through matching buildings, trees, and road layout with archive imagery, shows two men in yellow vests attending to a person on the roadside. As an ambulance approaches, a strike hits, leaving the men on the ground. The ministry reported six total deaths in that incident, including the two medics and a Syrian child.

Deir Qanoun En-Nahr had already suffered a deadly airstrike earlier this week that killed 14 people — the deadliest single attack since a fragile ceasefire was announced

last month.

Since the current escalation began on March 2, more than 3,100 people have been killed in Lebanon, including 123 medics, over 210 children, and nearly 300 women, according to the health ministry. Several hospitals in the south have also been damaged or rendered inoperable.

International humanitarian law specifically protects medical personnel and healthcare infrastructure during conflicts. The incidents have raised fresh concerns over the safety of frontline responders in the ongoing Israel-Hezbollah clashes.

Iran closes western airspace amid reports of possible US military action

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran imposed new airspace restrictions on Saturday, May 23, the 85th day of the American-Israeli war on Iran, as reports suggested the Trump administration is reviewing military options against Tehran.

A Notice to Air Missions (NOTAM), identified as OIIX A1010/26, announced the closure of airports across the western section of the Tehran Flight Information Region, with only a limited number of facilities permitted to operate during daylight hours.

The restrictions are expected to remain in place until Monday, May 25, with airlines required to seek fresh approval from Iran's Civil Aviation Authority before operating passenger flights in affected areas.

The announcement came amid heightened regional tensions and continued diplomatic activity involving Washington and Tehran.

Axios reported that Trump convened senior national security officials on Friday morning to assess diplomatic efforts and review possible scenarios if talks collapse. Vice President JD Vance, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and CIA Director John Ratcliffe were among those present at the meeting.

Sources cited by Axios said the administration still sees a possible window for progress within the next 24 hours.

The Wall Street Journal, citing US officials, reported that Trump told aides he wanted to allow more time for diplomacy, although he has not ruled out military action if negotiations fail.

White House spokeswoman Carolyn Levitt told CBS News that the president was "keeping all options open", while administration officials said the Pentagon remains ready to carry out any directive issued by Trump.



CBS reported that US defence and intelligence agencies have begun updating overseas recall rosters as contingency planning intensifies. Some military personnel reportedly cancelled Memorial Day weekend plans amid expectations of possible developments.

Speaking at the White House, Trump said Iran would never be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon and claimed recent US military operations had reinforced deterrence.

"Iran is dying to make a deal," Trump said, while also praising what he described as the strength of the US military.

Trump later cancelled weekend travel plans to New Jersey, citing official responsibilities requiring him to remain in Washington.

Iranian officials indicated that negotiations would fail if Washington insists on limitations involving Tehran's highly enriched uranium stockpile.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said discussions would not succeed if talks shifted towards detailed negotiations over Iran's uranium reserves, according to IRNA and Reuters.

Tehran, while reiterating that Pakistan remains the primary mediator.

Baghaei said the visit of Pakistan Army chief General Asim Munir to Tehran should not be interpreted as evidence of a decisive breakthrough.

Tasnim News, which is affiliated with Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, quoted a source close to the negotiating team as saying limited progress had been achieved, although major disagreements remain unresolved.

According to the source, current discussions are centred on ending the conflict, while Pakistani mediators continue exchanging messages between both sides.

Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi told UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that Washington's "excessive demands" remain the principal obstacle to diplomatic progress.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement cited by Tasnim said Guterres stressed the importance of diplomacy and opposed the use of force against national sovereignty.

After Rs 34 cr crowdfunding, Kerala man set to return home from Saudi Arabia

MI News Service, Riyadh: Abdul Rahim, a native of Kodampuzha near Feroke in Kerala's Kozhikode district, is expected to return home soon after completing a 20-year prison term in Saudi Arabia that ended on Wednesday, May 20, according to media reports.

Members of the Abdul Rahim Legal Aid Committee said the remaining legal procedures linked to his release are nearing completion. The committee stated that the issuance of an exit visa — regarded as the final step before departure — could take place shortly, while travel arrangements for his return to India have already been prepared with the support of the Indian Embassy.

The committee also said the Eid al-Adha holidays in Saudi Arabia could slightly delay the completion of formalities, although efforts are continuing to avoid further setbacks.

Rahim travelled to Saudi Arabia in 2006 to work as a driver for a Saudi family. He was also responsible for caring for



Anas Al Shahri, a 15-year-old boy with disabilities. During a journey, a medical breathing device used by the boy reportedly became disconnected inside the vehicle, after which the teenager lost consciousness and later died.

Following the incident, Saudi authorities arrested Rahim and charged him in the case. He was later sentenced to death under Saudi law.

The case attracted widespread attention in Kerala after the victim's family agreed to accept blood money, paving the way for the death sentence to be commuted. A public fundraising campaign launched under the banner "Save Abdul Rahim" received support from people

across Kerala and expatriate communities abroad.

The campaign raised nearly Rs 34 crore, which organisers described as one of the largest crowdfunding efforts in the state. Businessman Boby Chemmanur was among those who publicly supported the initiative.

The Abdul Rahim Legal Assistance Committee informed the Saudi court in April 2024 that the compensation amount had been arranged. The funds were later transferred through an account established by India's Ministry of External Affairs.

The Riyadh Criminal Court later overturned Rahim's death sentence after the compensation amount was handed over to the victim's family. However, his release was delayed because of proceedings related to a public rights case.

Several hearings connected to his release petition were subsequently postponed for procedural reasons, extending his imprisonment beyond the completion of his sentence.

Ahead of Eid al-Adha, PETA deploys AI robot goat to speak against animal slaughter



MI News Service, Mumbai : People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has unveiled 'Awaaz', a child-like robot goat, who speaks to encourage people to make animal-free food choices and inculcate vegan eating habits.

A video shows the realistic-looking robot goat engaging in gentle, interactive conversations in English and Hindi, asking children and other passersby — "Do you consider me a friend or food?"

Awaaz will visit college campuses and city centres to engage with members of the public across the country. PETA India aims to create more vegans and encourage slaughter-free expressions of sacrifice with Awaaz's help, the organisation said.

"Some people think we are food, or that our lives can be taken. But my life means something special to me, just like yours is valuable to you," Awaaz is seen saying in the video.

"Like humans, goats feel pain and fear, and they don't want to be killed," a statement from PETA said, adding that Awaaz will encourage college students and members of the public to let goats live, and to choose delicious animal-free foods like jackfruit, tofu, mushrooms and mock mutton instead.

Each person who goes vegan spares the lives of nearly 200 animals every year and reduces their own risk of developing heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Raising animals for food is also a leading cause of water pollution and land use, and a United Nations report concluded that a global shift towards vegan eating is necessary to combat the worst effects of the climate catastrophe, the release said.

UNICEF expressed concern over rising violence against children in Bangladesh

MI News Service, Dhaka : The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) expressed grave concern over the recent surge in brutal violence against children reported across Bangladesh, including the rape and killing of girls and boys in places meant to ensure their safety.

Stressing that "brutality against children must stop", Rana Flowers, UNICEF Representative in Bangladesh, said that the growing number of reports of brutal and sexual violence against women and children across the country in 2026 underscored the urgent need to strengthen child and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention measures nationwide.

"The culture of impunity enjoyed by perpetrators must end, and the gaps in prevention, reporting, institutional safeguarding, child-friendly police and justice, community protection and social services must be addressed. There is also a need for psychosocial support for the women and children, with far stronger accountability of schools,



madrasas, workplaces, neighbourhoods and care settings," read a statement issued by Flowers.

"Violence spreads when communities stay silent. UNICEF appeals for children, women, families and community members to report violence, abuse or exploitation through available protection services, including Child Helpline 1098, which provides support and referral services for children in need of assistance," she added.

According to Flowers, women and children subjected to abuse deserve to have their dignity respected and their rights protected. She said that the sharing of photos, videos or identifying personal details amounts to

further abuse of the victims.

"All who share and re-share are adding to the trauma of survivors, the trauma of families, and the disrespect of the victim," she added.

UNICEF appealed to the public, media outlets and social media users to respect the rights of the victims and their families by refraining from sharing such content. Instead, it urged people to raise their voices for stronger protection systems and an end to the impunity of perpetrators.

"Every child has the right to protection everywhere, in communities, schools, at home, and even in how their stories and images are treated in public spaces," Flowers noted.

FIFA: ARSENAL
STAR ETHAN
NWANERI CALLED
UP TO ENGLAND'S
PRE-WORLD CUP
TRAINING CAMP

NEW DELHI : Ethan Nwaneri has been called up to join England's pre-World Cup preparation camp in the United States as manager Thomas Tuchel continues to assess the country's emerging talent ahead of the tournament.

The Arsenal youngster will link up with the senior squad in Florida alongside Alex Scott, Josh King, and Rio Ngumoha as part of England's preparations before the World Cup begins later this summer.

England confirmed Nwaneri's inclusion on Saturday through an update on the team's official social media channels, one day after Tuchel announced his 26-man squad for the tournament.

Nwaneri spent the second half of the season on loan at Olympique de Marseille after making 12 senior appearances for Arsenal during the first half of the campaign. The 19-year-old featured 10 times in France, although opportunities became limited following managerial changes at the Ligue 1 club.

The midfielder initially made an immediate impression in Marseille, scoring on his debut against RC Lens under then-head coach Roberto De Zerbi. However, De Zerbi's departure, before taking charge of Tottenham Hotspur, altered Nwaneri's role within the squad.

Under new manager Habib Beye, the teenager struggled to earn regular minutes and faced criticism for his consistency and commitment in training.

Despite that, England's coaching staff continue to hold Nwaneri in high regard. The midfielder already has 15 appearances for England's Under-21 side and is viewed as one of the country's brightest young prospects.

England's squad will assemble in Palm Beach on June 1 before beginning their World Cup preparations with friendly matches against New Zealand in Tampa and Costa Rica in Orlando.

Tuchel's side will then travel to Kansas City, their tournament base, ahead of opening their Group L campaign against Croatia in Dallas on June 17. England will also face Ghana and Panama during the group stage.



U23 Asian Wrestling C'ships: Sagar, Suraj through to finals on first day

NEW DELHI : India started its participation at the United World Wrestling (UWW) U23 Asian Championships in Da Nang, Vietnam, on a positive note, as Greco-Roman wrestlers Sagar Singh and Suraj moved on to their respective gold medal matches on the first day at the Tien Son Sport Centre.

Leading India's efforts were outstanding performances in the 67kg and 60kg Greco-Roman categories, where both wrestlers demonstrated attacking spirit and calmness under pressure to earn their spots in the evening finals.

Sagar Singh delivered a strong performance in the

67kg category, demonstrating tactical discipline and consistency throughout the preliminary rounds to reach the gold medal match. He is joined in the finals by Suraj in the 60kg division, who also secured his spot in the title match after a confident campaign during the day, ensuring India at least a silver medal.

In the 77kg category, Kumar Sachin fought hard but narrowly lost in a close semifinal match against Alikhan Dursonov. Meanwhile, Indian wrestlers in the 72kg and 82kg categories couldn't advance past the early rounds due to tough continental competitors.

Kabuni Welcomes AB de Villiers as a Super Coach, Reinforcing its Ambition to Transform Global Cricket Training

Kabuni, the AI-powered sports technology platform redefining cricket training, is today announcing the appointment of former South Africa captain and global star AB de Villiers as a Super Coach.

The addition of AB de Villiers marks a further significant step forward in Kabuni's mission to make world-class cricket coaching accessible to players at every level. He joins previously-revealed Kabuni Super Coaches Sourav Ganguly and Shane Watson.



This collaboration brings together Kabuni's cutting-edge technology with AB de Villiers' deep cricketer expertise, creating a powerful blend of data-driven insights and real-world experience for aspiring cricketers. Fans aged 12-16 in India will be able to compete for a chance to play for de Villiers' team through a new nationwide tournament launching in June, utilising Kabuni's technology.

Kabuni's platform is designed to transform traditional net practice by capturing player movement and ball tracking in real time, translating it into simple, actionable feedback.



Lucknow Super Giants' Josh Inglis and captain Rishabh Pant run between the wickets during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match between Lucknow Super Giants and Punjab Kings at Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Saturday.

IPL 2026: When and where to watch KKR vs DC, know all details

KOLKATA : Kolkata Knight Riders and Delhi Capitals will enter Sunday's IPL 2026 league-stage finale at Eden Gardens knowing their playoff hopes are hanging by a thread. While both teams are still mathematically alive in the race for the final knockout berth, qualification scenarios remain heavily dependent on results elsewhere.

The key equation centres around Punjab Kings' clash against the already-eliminated Lucknow Super Giants on Saturday. A Punjab victory would officially end Delhi's campaign and leave KKR requiring a massive win over DC to overcome Punjab's superior net run-rate. Even a narrow PBKS victory would mean Kolkata need a huge margin of victory to stay in contention. Both teams will also hope for Mumbai Indians to defeat Rajasthan Royals in the first game on Sunday, the penultimate match of the league stage, with RR capable of sealing qualification by reaching 16 points.

Delhi's inconsistent campaign



has largely revolved around the performances of KL Rahul, who has scored 533 runs at a strike rate above 171. The return of David Miller has strengthened the middle order, but underwhelming bowling displays from Axar Patel and Kuldeep Yadav have hurt DC throughout the season.

KKR, meanwhile, have staged a strong comeback after an injury-hit start disrupted their

bowling unit. Six wins in their last seven matches have revived Kolkata's hopes and restored momentum heading into the final league fixture.

When: Sunday, May 24, 7:30 IST

Where: Eden Gardens, Kolkata

Where to watch: The KKR vs DC match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the

game.

SQUADS:

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (c), Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (wk), Ramandeep Singh, Rinku Singh, Sunil Narine, Anukul Roy, Vaibhav Arora, Harshit Rana, Umran Malik, Varun Chakravarty, Cameron Green, Finn Allen, Matheesha Pathirana, Kartik Tyagi, Rahul Tripathi, Tim Seifert, Tejasvi Dahiya, Sarthak Ranjan, Rachin Ravindra, Akash Deep, Prashant Solanki, Daksh Kamra

Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (captain), KL Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav, Karun Nair, David Miller, Pathum Nissanka, Tristan Stubbs, Sameer Rizvi, Nitish Rana, T. Natarajan, Mukesh Kumar, Ashutosh Sharma, Dushmantha Chameera, Lungi Ngidi, Vipraj Nigam, Sahil Parakh, Prithvi Shaw, Abhishek Porel, Ajay Mandal, Tripurana Vijay, Madhav Tiwari, Auqib Nabi Dar, Mitchell Starc, Kyle Jamieson, and Rehan Ahmed

Badminton: Chinese shuttlers storm into four finals at Malaysia Masters

KUALA LUMPUR : Chinese shuttlers booked spots in four finals at the 2026 Malaysia Masters after a strong showing in Saturday's semifinal matches in the BWF World Series event in the Malaysian capital.

In men's singles, Li Shifeng defeated compatriot Hu Zhe'an 21-17, 21-16 to advance to the final, where he will face Thailand's Panitchaphon Teeraratsakul on Sunday. Women's singles star Chen Yufei cruised past Japan's Hina Akechi 21-11, 21-14 and will take on Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon in the title match.

In women's doubles, Chen Fanshutian and Luo Xumin rallied to beat fellow Chinese pair Bao Lijing and Cao Zihan 18-21, 21-9, 21-19, setting up a final clash against Japan's Sayaka Hirota and Ayako Sakuramoto, reports Xinhua.

Mixed doubles duo Gao Jiaxuan and Wei Yaxin also battled into the final after overcoming Denmark's Mathias Christiansen and Alexandra Boje 22-24, 21-16, 21-18. They will meet Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Sapsiree Taerattanachai in the championship match.

Earlier, Chinese shuttlers stormed past their quarterfinal opponents on Friday,



securing semifinal berths across multiple events.

Men's singles world junior champion Hu Zhe'an outplayed Indonesia's Jonatan Christie 14-21, 21-13, 21-16, while Li Shifeng defeated France's Toma Junior Popov 21-18, 15-21, 21-5.

Women's singles player Chen Yufei outplayed Thailand's Pitchamon Opatniputh 21-19, 21-9.

Women's doubles pair Bao Lijing and Cao Zihan overcame Chen Yan Fei and Sun Liang Ching of Chinese Taipei 21-14, 18-21, 21-15, while Chen Fanshutian and Luo Xumin overpowered Japan's Rin Iwanaga and Kie Nakanishi 24-22, 21-18.

Mixed doubles duo Gao Jiaxuan and Wei Yaxin outplayed Malaysia's Chen Tang Jie and Toh Ee Wei 21-18, 21-16, while Guo Xinwa and Chen Fanghui defeated Presley Smith and Jennie Gai of the United States 23-21, 22-20.

Man Utd captain Fernandes crowned Premier League's player of the season

NEW DELHI : Bruno Fernandes has been named the Premier League Player of the Season after delivering a remarkable campaign that powered Manchester United back into the UEFA Champions League places.

The United captain enjoyed one of the finest individual seasons of his career, combining creativity, leadership, and consistency to emerge as the standout performer in England's top flight. Fernandes becomes the first Manchester United player to win the award since Nemanja Vidic claimed the honour in 2011.

The Portugal international's influence has been reflected most strongly in his extraordinary creative numbers. Fernandes registered his 20th assist of the league season against Nottingham Forest last weekend, matching the all-time Premier League record jointly held by Thierry Henry and Kevin De Bruyne.

With one game still remaining against Brighton & Hove Albion on Sunday, Fernandes now has the opportunity to become the outright record-holder for most assists in a single Premier League season.

Alongside his playmaking brilliance, Fernandes has also contributed eight league goals, taking his overall tally to 28 goal involvements in 37 appearances this campaign.

No player has created more chances in the Premier League this season than Fernandes, whose 132 chances created place him comfortably ahead of the competition. The United skipper produced 43 more chances than the next-best player, Dominik Szoboszlai of Liverpool.

Fernandes' award arrives just weeks after he was voted the Football Writers' Association Men's Footballer of the Year, underlining the widespread recognition for his performances during United's resurgence.

United's campaign had looked uncertain midway through the season following managerial upheaval and inconsistency, but Fernandes remained the side's driving force throughout the turbulent period. His leadership and output proved central to the club's eventual rise to third place under Michael Carrick, securing a return to Champions League football.

Fernandes topped a strong shortlist that included Declan Rice, David Raya, Gabriel Magalhães, Erling Haaland, Antoine Semenyo, Igor Thiago, and Morgan Gibbs-White.



AIFF General Body approves adoption of National Sports Governance Act

KOLKATA : The All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Saturday adopted the National Sports Governance Act 2025 (NSGA) during its Special General Body Meeting (SGBM) held in Kolkata on Saturday.

The SGBM, held at a hotel in the city, saw the presence of 19 members of the Executive Committee, 32 members of the Member State Associations along with representatives of FIFA and Asian Football Confederation (AFC).

An official release stated: "The General Body unanimously approved the adoption of the NSGA by the AIFF".

The National Sports Governance Act would play an important role for Indian football administration under the national sports framework as it focuses on improving the governance structure and increasing transparency and accountability for all sports federations.

The constitutional reforms for the Member Associations of AIFF were also discussed during the meet. The AIFF, according to the body, would circulate the draft constitution for its Member Associations to take

feedback from them.

"The General Body discussed that the draft Constitution for the Member Associations be shared with the MAs, who are to be allowed 15 days to respond with their final suggestions," the release stated.

Besides the governance reforms, discussion also took place on the commercial aspects for the federation's Master Rights Agreement (MRA). The MRA is one of the most significant commercial decisions for Indian football, which defines and regulates its media rights, sponsorships and marketing agreements.

It was declared during the meeting that two firms submitted their bids for the agreement and the General Body approved that the Executive Committee be given the power to further negotiate on the issue.

"The Federation further discussed the Master Rights Agreement (MRA), for which, it has received bids from two entities. To that extent, the General Body unanimously approved that the Executive Committee be given the power to discuss and deliberate upon the MRA negotiations," the release added.

Hesson begins Pakistan's World Cup rebuild, backs youth ahead of Australia ODI series

NEW DELHI : Pakistan head coach Mike Hesson has outlined the team's long-term vision for the ODI format, with the newly-appointed head coach insisting the team's focus is firmly fixed on building a deeper and more balanced squad ahead of the next ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

As Pakistan prepare for their upcoming home ODI series against Australia national cricket team, Hesson made it clear that the selection strategy over the coming months will revolve around expanding the player pool rather than relying solely on established names.

"Look, I think with one-day cricket with the World Cup in mind, in a year and a half, you know, we have to widen the group. So rather than the same players always being selected, the ODI squad is a work in progress. And there's a number of areas we need to develop. And we need to make sure come the World Cup in a year and a half that we've actually got the best squad," Hesson said on the PCB Podcast.

Pakistan's preparations have already begun through an intensive white-ball training camp organised by Hesson and his support staff, designed to evaluate both



emerging players and senior members of the setup.

"The last two weeks have been a good chance for us to identify some of that new talent, challenge them against some of the existing stuff, or existing players, and work out where the gaps are, you

know, because some of these young guys are promising, but, you know, still got a lot of work to do," said the the Pakistan head coach.

The upcoming Australia series is expected to serve as an important testing ground for several young players

included in Pakistan's 16-member ODI squad, particularly with a few first-choice batters unavailable.

"With the likes of Fakir Zaman and Saim Ayub, Usman Khan all sort of being out, it gives some opportunities for us to look at some younger ones, particularly in the batting side," the former RCB coach opined.

Hesson also expects Australia to arrive highly motivated after Pakistan's dominant 3-0 T20I series win over them earlier this year as he said, "They'll be exposed to an Australian side who'll be hurting from their performance over here last

time."

Despite Australia's setback in the shorter format, Hesson believes ODI cricket remains one of their strongest areas.

"Their squad looks strong and they'll be coming over here. ODI cricket is probably one of their stronger formats at the moment. That group is certainly probably better than their T20 at the moment," Hesson mentioned.

While excitement surrounds the inclusion of several young players, Hesson urged supporters to remain patient as the next generation adjusts to international cricket.