

# TMC Accuses EC of Fueling SIR Panic, BLO Deaths

The Election Commission is acting to appease a particular political party—this was the serious allegation raised by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Saturday, as the party intensified its protest against the ongoing SIR exercise in West Bengal. Following multiple deaths of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and ordinary residents allegedly linked to "SIR-induced panic," a TMC delegation visited the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Kolkata and submitted a detailed memorandum accusing the Commission of negligence, mismanagement, and deliberate voter exclusion. TMC leaders claimed that the Election Commission has attempted to compress two years' worth of work into just two months, without providing BLOs with adequate training or technological support. PG 3



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# Morning India

## South African President greets PM Modi with "Namaste" at G20 summit

MI News Service, New Delhi / Johannesburg : The three-day-long G20 Leaders' Summit 2025 began in South Africa on Friday amid the presence of a galaxy of top world leaders. This year's gathering carries special significance as it is the first time the Summit is being hosted on the African continent. The theme for the summit is "Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability."



Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa upon his arrival to attend the G20 Summit, in Johannesburg, South Africa.

South Africa has focused on key priorities during the summit, including strengthening disaster resilience, ensuring debt sustainability for low-income countries, mobilising finance for a just energy transition, and harnessing critical minerals to promote inclusive and sustainable growth. Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Johannesburg last evening to attend the three-day summit. On Saturday, he met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the summit venue.

During its Presidency from December 2022 to November 2023, India hosted over 200 meetings across 60 cities, representing all 28 States and 8 Union Territories (UTs). The Presidency witnessed participation on an unprecedented scale, with over one lakh attendees, including 30,000 delegates from 135 nationalities. New Delhi's leadership provided a clear roadmap for transforming the G20 into a human-centric platform. The African Union (AU) had been inducted as a permanent member of the G20 under India's presidency from 2022-2023. India's presi-

dency of the grouping, under Prime Minister Modi, has been regarded as a model for addressing global challenges. Later in the day Prime Minister Modi presented India's perspective on key global issues which are shaping the Summit's agenda. The day's highlights include the Prime Minister holding several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the Summit. The

opening session however, focussed on "Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth - Leaving No One Behind." Prime Minister Modi met South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the summit venue in Johannesburg where both leaders were seen shaking hands and greeting each other with 'Namaste'. Earlier Prime Minister Modi arrived in South African cap-

ital amid a rousing welcome to attend the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit, where he said he will present India's perspective in line with its vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'One Earth, One Family and One Future'. Leaders from the G20 are meeting for the summit this weekend without any representation from the United States after President Donald Trump announced a boycott over this widely

The theme of this year's G20 has been 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability', by which South Africa has carried forward the outcomes from the previous summits held in New Delhi, India, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

I will present India's perspective at the Summit in line with our vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'One Earth, One Family and One Future,' the Prime

The Summit will be an opportunity to discuss key global issues. The theme of this year's G20 has been 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability', by which South Africa has carried forward the outcomes from the previous summits held in New Delhi, India, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. I will present India's perspective at the Summit in line with our vision of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and 'One Earth, One Family and One Future.'

### PM Modi said prior to his departure from Delhi

rejected claims that South Africa was persecuting its Afrikaner white minority. Chinese leader Xi Jinping is also not attending the summit, as he has cut back on international travel. At the Summit, PM Modi is speaking in all the three sessions on inclusive economic growth, climate resilience, and artificial intelligence. During his maiden speech the Prime Minister put forth India's perspectives on the G20 agenda, according to a statement by the Ministry of External Affairs. "This will be a particularly special summit given that it will be the first G20 Summit being held in Africa.

"The Summit will be an opportunity to discuss key global issues.

Minister said in his departure statement ahead of his visit. The three sessions are titled: Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth Leaving No One Behind; Building our economies; the role of trade; financing for development and the debt burden; A Resilient World - the G20's Contribution: Disaster Risk Reduction; Climate Change; Just Energy Transitions; Food Systems; and, A Fair and a Just Future for All: Critical Minerals; Decent Work; Artificial Intelligence. India, under PM Modi, had spearheaded efforts that led to the African Union joining the G20 - an achievement termed as a landmark during India's G20 presidency in 2023.

## BLO found dead in Nadia district, family claims SIR work-related stress

MI News Service, Kolkata : A woman working as a Booth Level Officer (BLO) in Nadia district, bordering Bangladesh, was found dead at her residence on Saturday morning, with her family members claiming that she had been under considerable SIR work-related stress and died by suicide, police said. The BLO, identified as Rinku Tarafdar, was found hanging from the ceiling of her room at her residence in the Bangalji area of Chapra in Krishnanagar, the police officer said. "The family is claiming that she was under immense pressure due to her SIR workload. We have recovered a note from her room. The body has been sent for post mortem. A necessary probe is underway," the officer added.



Deeply shocked and saddened. Today again, we lost a Booth Level Officer in Mal, Jalpaiguri - an anganwadi worker who took her own life under the unbearable pressure of the ongoing SIR work. 28 people have already lost their lives since SIR began - some due to fear and uncertainty, others due to stress and overload. --CM Mamata

Incidentally this is the third instance when a BLO died in West Bengal for allegedly failing to take the work pressure under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). In the second such case the BLO suffered cerebral-attack-in-middle-of-sir-related-work-in-Hooghly-district and she was immediately admitted to hospital in Konnagar where she died later. The BLO identified as Tapati Biswas suffered the attack while distributing the SIR forms on Wednesday afternoon. Earlier tension prevailed at Mal in Jalpaiguri district after the body of a woman booth level officer (BLO) was found hanging from a tree in the courtyard of her house in a suspected case of death by suicide. The body of Shantimoni Ekka was found on Wednesday morning by her family members. The family members alleged she had been mentally distressed for some time due to excessive workload, election-related responsibilities, and mounting pressure had become unbearable for her, they said. Her husband and child said this over-

whelming stress pushed her to end her life. The police sent the body for a post-mortem and launched an investigation to determine the exact cause of her death. The family's allegation of "work pressure" has sparked discussion in the area. This development comes at a time when Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti is visiting West Bengal to review the special intensive revision (SIR) progress in the state. The ECI team arrived on a three day visit to review SIR exercise in Kolkata North, South and South 24 Parganas districts. Yesterday team visited Nadia and Murshidabad. The BLOs in Bengal also held a protest on Monday against the workload and tight deadlines to complete the mammoth SIR

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## Delhi Court allows accused's plea to meet lawyer at NIA headquarters



MI News Service, New Delhi : A Delhi court on Saturday allowed the plea of Jasir Bilal Wani, an accused in the Red Fort blast case, to meet his lawyer at the National Investigation Agency (NIA) headquarters, court sources said. The plea was allowed by Principal District and Sessions Judge Anju Bajaj Chandana of the Patiala House Court, they said.

On Friday, the Delhi High Court refused to pass an order to allow the accused's plea, saying he failed to show any order passed by the trial court rejecting his prayer. The high court, in the alternative, granted Wani's counsel the liberty to approach the trial court concerned on Saturday for adjudication of his plea in accordance with law. A resident of Qazigund in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag, Wani was arrested in Srinagar by the NIA on November 17 for allegedly providing technical support for carrying out terror attacks by modifying drones and attempting to make rockets ahead of the November 10 blast. The next day, Judge Chandana sent him to 10-day NIA custody. According to the NIA, Wani was an "active co-conspirator" in the blast and worked closely with "suicide bomber" Dr. Umar-un-Nabi to plan the "terror carnage". Nabi was driving the explosives-laden i20 Hyundai car that detonated outside the Red Fort and claimed 15 lives on November 10. The blast came shortly after an interstate "white-collar" terror module was uncovered with the recovery of around 3,000 kg of explosives, including ammonium nitrate, mainly from Faridabad in Haryana.

## Three, including police constable, held in Rs 7.11 cr Bengaluru heist

MI News Service, Bengaluru : In a major breakthrough, three people, including a police constable, have been arrested in connection with a massive Rs 7.11 crore robbery in the city, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said on Saturday. Briefing reporters here, Singh said Rs 5.76 crore has been recovered so far and efforts are on to trace the remaining amount. "We had formed eleven teams and deployed 200 police officers and personnel for the job. More than 30 people were interrogated and three have been arrested. The vehicle in charge, an ex-employee of CMS Infosystems and a police constable posted in Govindapura police station in Bengaluru, have been arrested," Singh said. Narrating their success Bengaluru Police Chief said they have solved the high-profile ATM cash-van robbery, arresting three key accused and recovering Rs 5.76 crore within 60 hours



Bengaluru Police have arrested three persons and recovered Rs 5.76 crore in connection with the Rs 7.11 crore daring daylight heist.

of the incident. The robbery that took place on Tuesday involving a CMS-operated cash vehicle carrying Rs 7.11 crore was found to be a well-planned insider-assisted heist. At around 12:48 pm, the CMS cash van was intercepted near Ashoka Pillar-Jayanagar Dairy Circle by robbers posing as RBI officials. The gang threatened the staff at gunpoint, seized the cash boxes, and abandoned the vehicle by 1:16

pm. As a case was registered at Siddapura Police Station, the city Police arrested the following three key individuals directly linked to the planning and execution of the heist:

The vehicle movement in charge from the CMS company was found responsible for tracking and coordinating van movements and was suspected of leaking crucial information.

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US President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump Jr. with Co-founder and Director of Wizcraft at the wedding of Netra Mantena and Vamsi Gadiraju, in Udaipur.

## Trump, Mamdani hope for positive relationship after 'productive' White House meeting



US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani shake hands as they meet in the Oval Office on November 21, 2025

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : US President Donald Trump and New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani during their high stake

first face to face meeting at the White House on Friday, expressed hope for a productive and cordial relationship despite their history

"We've just had a great meeting, a really productive meeting. We have one thing in common: we want this city of ours that we love to do very well

--Donald Trump

of mutual criticism. Speaking to the media after their hour long meeting at the Oval office, President Trump praised Mamdani - the Muslim politician whom he once referred to as a "jihadist" and threatened to strip him of his US citizenship - for his successful campaign and emphasis on cost-of-living issues. "We've just had a great meeting, a really productive meeting. We have one thing in common: we want this city of ours that we love to do very well," said Trump, who grew up in New York, adding that Mamdani had run an

"I appreciated the meeting with the President, and as he said, it was a productive meeting focused on a place of shared admiration and love, which is New York City

--Zohran Mamdani

"incredible race" and beat his rivals "easily". "I appreciated the meeting with the President, and as he said, it was a productive meeting focused on a place of shared admiration and love, which is New York City," responded Mamdani, saying he discussed issues in areas such as rent, utilities and groceries. Mamdani, a democratic socialist who embraced New York's status as a community made up of people from around the world and

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## Lobbying intensifies for post of Bihar Assembly Speaker



Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Rajiv Ranjan Singh (Lalan) with JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar, Bihar's Working President Sanjay Jha, BJP leaders Samrat Choudhary, Vijay Sinha and others after a meeting of Bihar's newly elected MLAs of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), in Patna.

The Governor will first appoint a Protem Speaker who will administer the oath to the newly elected members. After the members take the oath, the election of the Speaker will be held

--senior leader of an NDA constituent

MI News Service, Patna : Only a day after Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar allocated the portfolios among his cabinet colleagues, lobbying has intensified for the post of Speaker in the assembly, sources in the ruling NDA said on Saturday. BJP MLA Prem Kumar, who has been elected for the ninth consecutive term from the Gaya Town assembly seat, is considered the front runner for the Speaker's post as he

is also one of the senior-most leaders of the party, they said. The name of Jhaja MLA Damodar Rawat of the JD(U) was also doing the rounds, they said.

A special session of the assembly will soon be convened so that all 243 elected members can take the oath and elect a Speaker, the sources said. The date for the commencement of the

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## Dragged into forest: Six arrested in gang-rape

MI News Service, Budwan: A class 9 student was allegedly gang-raped in a forested area of Burdwan district after being dragged away while walking to a village shop with a friend. Police have arrested six accused, including four minors, based on the victim's statement. The accused have been booked under multiple provisions of the Indian Penal Code and Protection of children from sexual offences (POCSO) Act.

The assault reportedly took place earlier this week in the Aushgram area. According to the officials, the girl was intercepted on a rural path by six youths who allegedly forced her. The survivor, traumatized and threatened with retaliation, stayed silent for several days fearing public humiliation. She eventually confided in a school friend, who informed a teacher. The teacher then reported the matter to police. Following the complaint filed by the victim's mother on Thursday night, Aushgram police launched a raid and apprehended all six accused within hours. One of the adult suspects is reportedly the son of former TMC booth president. The victim was later taken to Burdwan Medical College and Hospital of medical examination. An outrage spread through the district, political reactions followed swiftly. The BJP condemned the incident, alleging deepening law-and-order failures in the state. The TMC meanwhile, called the act "inhuman and unforgivable," asserting that every perpetrator, regardless of affiliation would face justice. A senior TMC leader said, "No, one committed this brutal act will be spread. This in Bengal- there will be justice here." The leader also reiterated the party's call for the passage of the Aparajit Bill, claiming it would enable swifter justice for victim of sexual violence. The investigation is continuing under the supervision of senior officers in Burdwan district, with police not ruling out further arrested or charges.

### Cop Booked for Assault, Molestation of Maid

MI News Service, Bakura: A police officer in Bankura district stands accused of brutally assaulting his domestic help and molesting her sister after allegedly suspecting the woman of theft. The case has triggered public outrage, leading to late-night road blockades and demands for the officer's immediate suspension. The accused, identified as Subham Roy Chowdhury, Second Officer of Ranibandh Police Station, allegedly detained and tortured a maid working at his rented residence after claiming that 12 lakh rupees had been stolen.

According to the victim's statement, the officer locked her up, beat her with a belt and stick, and threatened to throw her off the roof while brandishing his service revolver. The woman said she eventually confessed out of fear to the prolonged assault. On Friday, Roy Chowdhury allegedly went to the maid's home in Rajakata village and forcibly took away cash and ornaments. When her family tried to intervene, he allegedly molested the maid's sister and made obscene remarks. Later that day, he summoned the maid back to his quarters and continued to assault her. The brutal episode sparked a wave of anger across Ranibandh. Villagers took to the streets, blocking the Khudiram Basu Statue intersection on the Bankura-Jhilimili Road from 7 pm until midnight. Protesters burned tires and demanded that strict action be taken against the officer.

### Sanofi Consumer Healthcare India

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sanofi Consumer Healthcare India Limited reported strong financial results for Q3 FY2025, with a 46% increase in revenue to ₹2,339 million and a 40% rise in net profit to ₹629 million, driven by a significant rebound in exports and a 20% growth in domestic sales. For the nine-month period, revenue grew 13% year-on-year to ₹6,274 million, with a 27% increase in profit after tax.



Paschim Banga Vigyan Mancha holds a grand procession celebrating its 40 years of spreading knowledge and the light of science, from Raja Bazar Science College to Entally Market in Kolkata on Saturday.

## Poll Panic in Murshidabad as Bomb Hauls Mount

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Murshidabad district is turning into a powder keg in the run-up to the Assembly elections, as a staggering number of crude bombs continue to be unearthed across the region. In the past three weeks alone, police have seized nearly 2,000 bombs from various sites spread across the Murshidabad and Jangipur police districts, sparking widespread alarm and questions about law and order.

According to official sources, more than 1,800 bombs were recovered from areas under the Murshidabad police district, while around 200 were seized in the Jangipur jurisdiction. The latest recovery came on Saturday when a bucket full of crude bombs was discovered inside a mango



orchard in the Jotkashi area of Samsarganj. The police cordoned off the location and called in the bomb disposal squad to neutralize the explosives. Sources said the searches began after district police launched a toll-free number earlier this month, urging residents to report suspicious activities. Since then, daily recoveries have shaken the administration. Areas such as Ranitala, identified as highly sensitive, have witnessed extensive search operations supported by sniffer dogs and metal detectors. Just from Ranitala police station limits, 30 bombs and over a kilogram of explosive

material have been seized in the past 20 days. Senior officers have intensified surveillance amid fears of pre-election unrest. "Local residents are being interrogated to trace the supply chain and identify possible larger networks behind these recoveries," a police official said. So far, about 30 people have been taken into custody for their alleged involvement in handling or storing explosives. However, the string of seizures despite the arrests has stirred fresh concern about rampant illegal bomb-making in the region. With barely five months left for the Assembly polls, residents fear Murshidabad could be sitting on a volatile cache of arms and explosives. Local voices are growing louder, demanding a decisive crackdown before the situation spirals out of control.

## "Motivated by politics, they are pressuring EC": TMC's Kunal Ghosh on SIR Exercise

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Kunal Ghosh on Friday accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of "politically pressuring" the Election Commission (EC) over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, ahead of the elections.

Ghosh claimed that the EC is being misused to target genuine voters, alleging that real voters and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are committing suicide due to harassment. He demanded that absolutely no legitimate voter be removed while insisting that no illegal names remain on the voter list.

Speaking to ANI, Ghosh said, "After the SIR happened in 2001, it took two years. Now elections are coming. Now, motivated by politics, they are pressuring the Election Commission. Real voters are committing suicide under pressure, BLOs are committing suicide... By misusing the Election Commission, the BJP is fulfilling its political agenda. We want that not a single real voter faces any trouble and not a single real voter's name is removed from the voter list, and not a single illegal voter's name remains..."

Meanwhile, on Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah called on citizens of the

country to fully support the ongoing nationwide process of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, saying that the process is essential to protect the nation and democracy itself, with the exercise ensuring that "every single infiltrator" will be removed from the electoral list.

Addressing the Border Security Force's 61st Raising Day event at Haripur in Bhuj, Gujarat, Shah said, "Mein aaj yeh yeh spasht karna chahta hu ki humin is desh mein se eke ki ghupsetiye ko chun chun kar bahar nikalenge, yeh humara pran hai (today I want to make it clear that we will single-handedly remove all the

infiltrators from this country. This is our pledge). The SIR is a process to protect the country and our democracy."

Without naming the parties in the INDIA bloc, Shah said that "certain political parties" are trying to weaken the campaign for eliminating the so-called infiltrators, while also warning that them that the Bihar elections have already given a mandate to the NDA.

"Unfortunately, some political parties are trying to weaken the campaign to eliminate the infiltrators. These political parties are opposing the SIR process and the Election Commission's voter list sanitisation," the Union Minister said.

## Suwendhu criticises violation of EC guidelines amid SIR

MI News Service, Kolkata: BJP MLA and West Bengal assembly's Leader of Opposition Suwendhu Adhikari on Saturday condemned the alleged violation of guidelines set by the Election Commission of India (ECI) after the Additional Chief Electoral Officer of the state flagged the use of contractual staff for data entry for the draft electoral roll amid the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

Posting about the alleged violation, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader called for "immediate attention" and urged people to widely share the information so the public could remain vigilant.

"This directive from the ECI demands immediate attention. The ECI guidelines are crystal clear - Contractual Data Entry Operators, Contractual Staff,

BSK Staff, or any such personnel cannot be involved in Data Entry work for the ongoing SIR. This information needs to be shared so that the Public remain vigilant regarding any violation," Adhikari posted on X, while sharing the contact info for reporting any other violation to the poll body.

According to the Additional Chief Electoral Officer in West Bengal, "contractual data entry operators, contractual staff, BSK staff etc., cannot be used for data entry works for the ongoing SIR 2026."

Accordingly, the Additional CEO has called for appropriate action to be initiated against the Block Development Officers (BDO)/Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)/Assistant Electoral Registration Officer (AERO) who hired such staff. The ongoing SIR exercise in

West Bengal has faced opposition from the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC), making it a contentious issue ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The TMC has alleged that the officers tasked with carrying out the exercise have not received proper training, equipment, or facilities due to the "unplanned and chaotic" manner in which it is being carried out.

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday expressed serious concerns over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in the state, urging the Election Commission to intervene immediately.

Sharing her previous letter on X addressed to CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Banerjee described the SIR exercise as "unplanned, chaotic and dangerous." The letter reads, "I have time and again flagged my se-

## SIR Program Reunites Missing Child Ramzan with Family After 26 Years



MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: Ramzan Molla, who went missing at the age of 12 from Hatishala in Bhangarh, South 24 Parganas, has finally returned home after nearly 26 years, with help from the State Identification and Reunification (SIR) initiative. Ramzan left home as a young boy, traveling with a Bihar driver, and journeyed through several states, including Mumbai and Delhi, before settling in Birbhum, where he started a family.

Though he had faint memories of his childhood home, recalling only names like Hatishala-Gabatala and Mamarbari Kochpukur, Ramzan struggled to find his way back. It wasn't until he reached out to the SIR program that his search was successful. With as-

sistance from locals and extended family, Ramzan was eventually able to reconnect with his uncle, leading to his reunion with his family after decades of separation. Ramzan's remarkable return underscores the success of the SIR initiative, a program designed to reunite lost children with their families. It also highlights the political significance of Bhangarh, a region known for its strong political identity. Ramzan's story serves as a poignant reminder of the many children who go missing and the critical role such structured programs play in bringing them home. His reunion also stands as a testament to the power of community support in reuniting families torn apart by circumstances.

## "Will lay foundation stone of Babri Masjid on Dec 6 in Murshidabad": TMC MLA Humayun Kabir

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Humayun Kabir has sparked a controversy as he said he will lay the foundation stone of Babri Masjid on December 6 in West Bengal's Murshidabad district, marking 33 years of demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

"We will lay the foundation stone of Babri Masjid on December 6 in Beldanga, Murshidabad district. It will take three years to complete. Various Muslim leaders will participate in that event," Kabir said on Friday.

Ram Janambhoomi-Babri Masjid disputed structure in Ayodhya was demolished on December 6, 1992, by the Kar Sevaks.

Kabir's remarks stirred a row. West Bengal BJP secre-

tary Priyanka Tibrewal says it is nothing but "appeasement politics."

"TMC's secularism is religion-specific. When they say they will re-establish the Babri Masjid, I want to know who they will call to that Babri Masjid? Those Rohingyas who are now in fear of SIR running to the border areas? Build the Babri Masjid, where Babar came from? This is nothing but appeasement politics..." she said.

BJP leader Rahul Sinha also criticised Kabir for "politicising" the issue, while stating that they do not have an objection to building a mosque in the state.

"Anyone can build a mosque, but it should be at a proper place. We have no objection to anyone following their religion. But those

who are trying to politicise the mosque are insulting the Muslim religion. But building a mosque solely for the sake of religion would be a different matter. If all Muslims, Indian Muslims, build a mosque together, there is no inconvenience," Sinha said.

Former UP Congress president Ajay Kumar Lallu too slammed Kabir. "We're very clear. We talk about employment, education, health, security, women, farmers, labourers, equality, and inclusion. The Congress Party always talks about the Constitution, and these should be the criteria for elections," the Congress leader said.

Humayun Kabir talked about building a Babri Masjid-like mosque in the state back in 2024 as well.

## TMC targets Muslim votes as ground slips away: BJP leaders slam Humayun Kabir over Babri Masjid remarks

MI News Service, New Delhi/Kolkata: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders on Saturday sharply criticised Trinamool Congress (TMC) MLA Humayun Kabir over his controversial remarks referring to laying the foundation stone of a Babri Masjid, alleging that the TMC is resorting to communal rhetoric to consolidate Muslim votes as its political "ground slips away" in West Bengal.

Speaking in Ranchi, Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth said that the TMC and its leaders were making such statements out of their fear of "defeat" and desperation, as development-not communal politics--was now the dominant public sentiment.

"For all these people, their ground is slipping; they are seeing defeat in front of them because the country wants development and PM Modi... Now these people will lay the foundation stone for the construction of the Babri Masjid based on communalism. What do you want to do for the country? The country wants development," he said. Seth's remarks come a

day after the TMC MLA from the Bharatpur constituency in Murshidabad district called for laying the foundation stone of the Babri Masjid on December 6 in the district's Beldanga region, marking 33 years since the demolition of the disputed structure in Ayodhya.

"We will lay the foundation stone of Babri Masjid on December 6 in Beldanga, Murshidabad district. It will take three years to complete. Various Muslim leaders will participate in that event," Kabir said on Friday.

Seth further targeted West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, claiming that her government's position has been weakened and accusing her party of using communal issues for political gain.

Citing the recently concluded Bihar elections, in which the public gave a landslide mandate to the NDA, the MoS claimed that public sentiment is currently in favour of development over such matters.

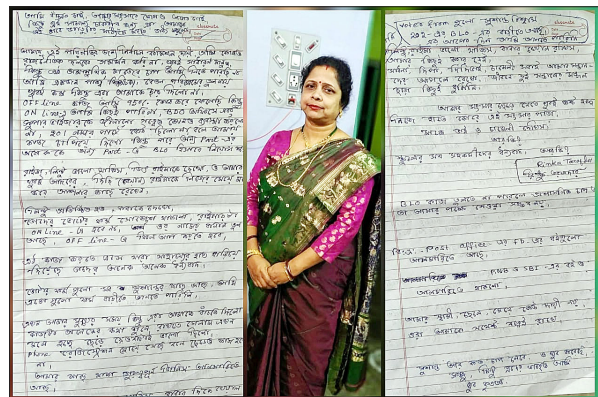
"The result of Bihar came, and everyone chose development... This kind of thing is not going to work in the country... Mamata Baner-

## Suicide of a lady BLO allegedly for work pressure of SIR

MI News Service, Krishnanagar: A Booth Level Officer (BLO) in Nadia's Krishnanagar has died by suicide, once again highlighting the growing concerns over work pressure faced by polling staff during the ongoing electoral revision exercise. The deceased, Rinku Tarafdar (51), was found hanging at her residence in Shasthitala on Friday.

A suicide note recovered from the spot reveals chilling details. Rinku wrote that she was unable to cope with the mounting administrative pressure associated with BLO duties. "If I fail to complete the BLO work, administrative pressure will follow. I cannot handle that," she wrote. She held the Election Commission responsible for her death.

Rinku, a para-teacher at Swami Vivekananda Vidya-mandir in Bangaljihi, had been



assigned BLO responsibilities in the locality. Family members said she was not comfortable with online procedures and had been under tremendous stress for days. In her note, she addressed her daughters: "Take care of your father. I never wanted to leave my family. I built this home with my own

hands."

Family says she feared heavy workload. She clarified no family member was responsible. "My husband, son, and daughter are not at fault. They take good care of me." Yet she repeatedly mentioned her inability to endure the workload: "The Election

## 'My Husband Became a Father Without Knowing'; SIR Twist in Alipurduar

MI News Service, Alipurduar: In a bizarre and alarming turn of events amid the ongoing Special Summary Revision (SIR) process, a woman in Alipurduar has accused a man of falsely identifying her and her late husband as his parents in official identity documents, including a passport and voter card.

The incident unfolded in the Hamiltonganj Netaji Pali area, where one Haider Sheikh was found to have listed Anima Bibi and her deceased husband Ballal Sheikh as his parents on his documents. The revelation came to light only when Anima began filling out her own SIR form, triggering shock and disbelief in the local community. "I was unaware of any such connection. My husband passed away four years ago, and this person is not related to me," Anima stated in her formal complaint lodged at the office of the Kalchini Block Development Officer (BDO). She further said she approached the authorities fearing potential complications for her family due to the fraudulent use of their names. Following the complaint, administrative authorities have launched an inquiry into how Haider managed to obtain citizenship and official documents under allegedly falsified parental details. Haider, however, has denied wrongdoing. Claiming to be the adopted son of the couple, he told reporters, "I have been here since birth. Ballal Sheikh was my Jathamshai (uncle) and Anima Bibi my Jethima (aunt). Now that he is no more, she is disowning me." His statements have only deepened the confusion surrounding the case. Ujjwal Sharma, a member of the local panchayat, confirmed that the matter came to their attention on Friday. "There are serious questions about how these documents were prepared and whether there has been trespassing or misuse of identity. The administration will investigate all angles," Sharma said.

**Gaudiya Vaishnava Dictionary Goes Online**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Bengal once had a vibrant culture of knowledge creation—ranging from literature, history, and reference works to monumental intellectual enterprises such as Bharatkosh and various encyclopedias. An important yet relatively lesser-known work in this tradition is the Gaudiya Vaishnava Abhidhan, compiled by Haridas Das Babaji. Haridas Das Babaji, a brilliant early scholar of the University of Calcutta, completed two M.A. degrees with First Class First rankings and gold medals before renouncing worldly life to become a humble Vaishnava ascetic. Yet his renunciation never hindered his scholarly dedication. His life was devoted to the preservation, collection, compilation, editing, translation, and publication of Vaishnava literature. From Haribol Kutir in Nabadwip, he published at least sixty-five books. His erudition earned admiration from scholars such as Suniti Kumar Chatterjee and Sukumar Sen. With almost single-handed effort, he compiled the Gaudiya Vaishnava Dictionary, an extraordinary encyclopedic work covering history, geography, linguistics, literature, philosophy, archaeology, music, and notable personalities—an invaluable resource not only for Vaishnava communities but also for students of culture and history.

**Workshop Strengthens Rural WASH Services in Bengal**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A state-level convergence workshop was held in Kolkata recently to strengthen rural Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in West Bengal. Organized by the West Bengal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (WB-SRLM), the event focused on improving behavioural change, service access, and community-led management systems. Under the DeendayalAntyodayaYojana-NRLM, the Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH component empowers rural women and promotes safe water, sanitation, handwashing, and menstrual hygiene. The "SwachchaSabujeAnandadhara" initiative, supported by Water For People, has successfully enhanced water and waste management in five districts, with plans to expand statewide. Senior officials attended the workshop.

**BLO found dead in Nadia district, family claims SIR work-related stress**

**From PG 1** exercise in their designated booths. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed shock over the BLO's death. "Deeply shocked and saddened. Today again, we lost a Booth Level Officer in Mal, Jalpaiguri - an anganwadi worker who took her own life under the unbearable pressure of the ongoing SIR work. 28 people have already lost their lives since SIR began - some due to fear and uncertainty, others due to stress and overload," Banerjee said. "Such precious lives are being lost because of the unplanned, relentless workload imposed by the so-called Election Commission of India. A process that earlier took 3 years is now being forced into 2 months on the eve of elections to please political masters, putting inhuman pressure on BLOs. I urge the ECI to act with conscience and immediately halt this unplanned drive before more lives are lost," she said. A day letter she also sent a letter to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and sought immediate halt of the SIR programme in Bengal.

**TMC Accuses EC of Fueling SIR Panic, BLO Deaths**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Election Commission is acting to appease a particular political party—this was the serious allegation raised by the Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Saturday, as the party intensified its protest against the ongoing SIR exercise in West Bengal. Following multiple deaths of Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and ordinary residents allegedly linked to "SIR-induced panic," a TMC delegation visited the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) in Kolkata and submitted a detailed memorandum accusing the Commission of negligence, mismanagement, and deliberate voter exclusion. TMC leaders claimed that the Election Commission has attempted to compress two years' worth of work into just two months, without providing BLOs with adequate training or technological support. This rushed approach, they argue, has created widespread confusion, fear, and a functional collapse of the verification system. "The process is flawed from the ground up," the party stated.

The SIR process, currently being implemented across the state, requires BLOs to verify voters' identities and update records. However, reports of deaths allegedly caused by stress and fear associated with the process have sparked major political controversy. On Saturday morning, a BLO named Rinku Tarafdar, aged 54, was found hanging at her residence in Krishnanagar. In a suicide note, she reportedly held the Election Commission responsible for the un-



A delegation of the All India Trinamool Congress, led by State Ministers Aroop Biswas, Chandrima Bhattacharya, MP Partha Bhowmik, and MP Bapi Halder, submitted a memorandum to the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's office, alleging gross mismanagement and lack of preparedness in the SIR process, in Kolkata on Saturday.

bearable pressure she faced. Rinku, a para-teacher at Champabangali Swami Vivekananda Vidyamandir, served as BLO for Booth No. 201 under Chapra Block 2. She is the third BLO to have died in similar circum-

stances, according to TMC, which claims that at least three BLOs and 34 citizens have lost their lives due to what they call "SIR panic." After submitting the memorandum, senior TMC leaders including Ministers Aroop

Biswas and Chandrima Bhattacharya, as well as MP Partha Bhowmik, addressed the media outside the CEO's office. They alleged that the Election Commission is deliberately removing 150 to 200 voter names per booth to favour a particular political party. "The Commission's website is riddled with errors—incorrect voter card numbers, mismatched photographs, wrong relationship details. BLOs aren't trained properly, yet they're being forced to work under extreme pressure," Aroop Biswas stated. Chandrima Bhattacharya echoed the concerns, saying, "Lives are being lost due to this administrative chaos. The responsibility lies entirely with the Commission."

"Work that normally takes two years is being compressed into two months. The Commission is being accused of trying to favour a political party. The names of 150 to 200 voters are being deliberately omitted at each booth. The Commission's website is full of errors. These lapses are costing lives," said Aroop Biswas. The TMC leaders also alleged that BLOs have not been adequately trained for the SIR and that the ECI is attempting to complete work intended for two years within just two months. State Minister Chandrima Bhattacharya said, "At this pace, it is almost certain that by 4 December, voter data across several constituencies cannot be uploaded with accuracy, paving the way for mass errors and the potential disenfranchisement of genuine voters. This situation strikes at the core of electoral integrity." Bhattacharya asserted that BLOs are being subjected to undue pressure without proper training, putting their lives at risk.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has already written to the Election Commission demanding immediate suspension of the SIR process. In her letter, she pointed out the lack of infrastructure and the impracticality of completing such a significant verification exercise within a limited timeframe. She warned that mistakes were inevitable and ordinary people would end up suffering. The Chief Minister has also taken to the streets, marching alongside citizens in Kolkata to protest against the SIR drive. Two days after the Chief Minister's letter, another TMC delegation visited the CEO's office. The leaders reiterated that many of the names being marked as "missing" or "unverified" are clearly present in the 2002 hard-copy voter list. They accused the Commission of intentionally manipulating data on its website, including incorrect card numbers and mismatched photographs, which prevent the system from accepting correction forms.

**Mayor Cracks Down on Roadside Parking**



**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim has instructed Municipal Commissioner Sumit Gupta to immediately issue a new set of guidelines regulating roadside parking across the city. According to the order, no vehicle will be permitted to park along city roads between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. The decision follows repeated observations that many unidentified, unclaimed or abandoned vehicles have been lying on the streets for years, collecting garbage and creating sanitation and security hazards. The police have been alerted, especially in the wake of the recent explosion in Delhi, prompting heightened caution in public spaces. Announcing the new measures, the Mayor emphasised that the two-hour morning window must remain completely free of vehicles in any official parking zone. Even private cars, buses, and vehicles stationed at makeshift "gumtis" must be removed during this period. On Friday, he directed the Municipal Commissioner to publish the notification and simultaneously write to the Kolkata Police Commissioner seeking immediate removal of long-abandoned vehicles that have remained parked on roads for months. The directive came after a resident from Kayasthpara in Haltu complained during the "Talk to the Mayor" phone-in programme that an unauthorised parking zone outside his home had turned

into a dumping ground. He said unknown individuals were discarding garbage between two parked vehicles, preventing sanitation workers from cleaning the area and creating an increasingly unhygienic atmosphere. Responding to the issue, Mayor Hakim said, "My sanitation workers work throughout the day to keep the city clean. Roads cannot remain dirty simply because vehicles are parked in close rows. In the interest of both citizens and cleaners, no vehicle should remain parked along roadsides during these two hours."

According to municipal sources, buses and minibuses that are usually parked overnight on several city roads will also need to be moved by 7 a.m. Vehicles at private bus stands in Dharamtala, too, must be cleared for two hours every morning. Officials from the Solid Waste Management Department explained that garbage left unattended for days tends to block gully pits, preventing drainage—especially during the monsoon—making the Mayor's instructions essential. Mayor Hakim acknowledged that many residents own vehicles but lack designated parking spaces.

Even then, he said, vehicles must be moved temporarily during the restricted period to allow road cleaning. He added that several ownerless and police-seized vehicles remain on Kolkata's roads for years due to legal complications. However, the city has designated storage facilities in Dhapa, and shifting such vehicles there would free up substantial road space and reduce traffic congestion. To reinforce public awareness about cleanliness, Mayor Hakim also released a short music video urging citizens to dispose of waste in dustbins.

**EC Issues Strict DEO Hiring Rules**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Election Commission has issued a strict directive regarding the appointment of Data Entry Operators (DEOs) for work under the SIR process. Notices have been sent to DEOs across all districts, clearly stating that temporary contractual workers, including those employed under the Bengal SahayataKarmi category, cannot be engaged for data entry tasks. The Commission has observed that such appointments were already being made in certain locations. It has warned that if unapproved personnel are recruited for DEO duties, action will be taken against the concerned EROs, AEROs, and BDOs for violating established norms.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, has reminded the state administration of the Commission's guidelines on data entry appointments. He has alleged that in sev-

eral parts of the state, contractual workers are being hired for SIR-related data entry work, which, he said, is strictly against the rules. Adhikari stated that if such irregularities are reported, the Commission will intervene and necessary measures will be enforced. Reacting to his allegations, Trinamool Congress spokesperson Arup Chakraborty criticised Adhikari's comments. "It is laughable that Suvendu Adhikari wants to decide what the Election Commission should or should not do. This is exactly why we say the Election Commission is acting under BJP's influence," he remarked, accusing the Opposition of politicising routine administrative matters. Initially, the SIR duties assigned to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) were limited to collecting voter forms. Their training sessions were also conducted accordingly. However, the Election Commission later

circulated a WhatsApp instruction stating that form collection alone would not be sufficient; digitisation of the collected forms would also be mandatory. This sudden change in requirements led to widespread discontent among BLOs in several districts. Many BLOs complained that they had not been trained for digital data entry and lacked familiarity with the software tools needed for the task. Some reported that digitising a single form was taking nearly an hour, significantly slowing down the process. Since many officers were not accustomed to prolonged data entry work, local officials proposed hiring Data Entry Operators to support them. The Commission's latest order, however, has now imposed a strict bar on appointing any temporary or unauthorised staff for this purpose, setting the stage for further administrative friction in the coming days.

**Kolkata Police Bust Hospital Tout Network**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata Police have launched a targeted investigation into the long-standing allegations of tout networks operating inside major government hospitals in the city. Acting on multiple complaints, the police made significant progress on Friday night, arresting two individuals from SSKM Hospital and Kolkata Medical College. The arrested accused have been identified as Golam-Rasool and Sachin Raut. Forty-five-year-old Golam-Rasool hails from Shilagram in Margram, Birbhum district, while 28-year-old Sachin Raut is a resident of Lalit Banerjee Street in Kolkata. Golam was apprehended from SSKM Hospi-

tal, and Sachin was detained from Kolkata Medical College. Both arrests were made late on Friday night. According to police sources, investigators are



now trying to determine how long the two had been associated with the tout racket, the methods they used to extort money from patients' families, and whether a wider network of

individuals is involved. Police plan to take both accused into custody for detailed interrogation. Allegations of tout networks inside government hospitals have become increasingly common in recent years. Patients and families frequently complain that despite spending large sums of money, they fail to receive adequate treatment. Touts often demand illegal payments in exchange for basic services or faster access to medical facilities. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee herself has repeatedly raised concerns about this issue. She had earlier instructed district police to take immediate action whenever information about touts surfaced.

**Three, including police constable, held in Rs 7.11 cr Bengaluru heist**

**From PG 1** A former CMS employee was believed to have shared operational procedures and insider knowledge. Police Constable from Govindapura Police Station allegedly provided ground support and intelligence. These arrests confirm insider involvement at multiple levels. Police revealed that the gang spent three months planning the robbery. They conducted continuous reconnaissance of the cash van route and studied and exploited CCTV blind spots along the corridor. They also used multiple vehicles and changed registration number plates repeatedly and avoided mobile phones to prevent police tracking. The accused communicated in various languages to mislead investigators. Officers suspect that 6-8 individuals were part of the larger operation, including logistics handlers, spotters, and money movers. "All the accused are from Bengaluru. We won't be able to share the exact details of the roles of each accused, but this is a serious case. We have

called the heads of the CMS company to discuss the lapses to ensure this doesn't happen again," Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh told reporters. "We have recovered some trunks in which cash was stored. The ex-employee had left the company about a year ago but was still in touch with people at the company. All three arrested accused and the others involved have had major roles," he added. Over 30 people were interrogated across Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Goa. Early leads emerged within 24 hours, helping trace movements of the accused and the vehicles used. The police said the CMS cash van had also violated multiple RBI safety norms, increasing vulnerability. One vehicle used in the heist has also been seized. The Bengaluru Police team that cracked the case has been awarded a Rs 5 lakh cash reward by the Police Commissioner for their unprecedented success.

**Trump, Mamdani hope for positive relationship after 'productive' White House meeting**

**From PG 1** offered a firm defence of Palestinian rights, is politically at odds with Trump, whose nativist politics have depicted immigrants as a dangerous internal threat and previously pushed for a ban on Muslims entering the US. Prior to the meeting he even called Mamdani a Communist. Asked about areas of disagreement with Trump, such as immigration enforcement, Mamdani said he hoped to work together towards shared goals despite their differences. He referred to a video he shared in November 2024, in which he discussed issues such as affordability and US involvement in conflicts abroad with Trump voters after the 2024 Presidential election. Mamdani said he now hopes to find common ground on ending US "forever wars" and bringing down the cost of living. "I think both President Trump and I are very clear about our positions and our views. And what I really appreciate about the President is the meeting that we had focused not on places of disagreement, of which there are many, but focused on the shared purpose that we have of serving New Yorkers," said Mamdani.

"That's something that could transform the lives of 8.5 million people who are currently under a cost-of-living crisis, with one in four people living in poverty," he said. With polls showing growing concerns over the state of the US economy, Trump has recently spoken positively about Mamdani's focus on cost-of-living issues, despite previous acrimony. "He said a lot of my voters actually voted for him," Trump told reporters. "And I'm ok with that." Mamdani flew to Washington DC for his first meeting with Trump in the White House on Friday. Trump said he "enjoyed" the meeting, which he described as "great." Mamdani emerged victorious in the closely-watched battle for New York City Mayor, becoming the first South Asian and Muslim to be elected to sit at the helm of the largest city in the US. He had been the front-runner in the NYC Mayoral election for months and defeated Republican nominee Curtis Sliwa and political heavyweight former New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, who ran as an independent candidate and was officially endorsed by Trump just hours before the elections. Indian-descent Mamdani is the son of renowned filmmaker Mira Nair and Columbia University professor Mahmood Mamdani. He was born and raised in Kampala, Uganda and moved to New York City with his family when he was 7. Mamdani became a naturalised US citizen only recently, in 2018.

**Lobbying intensifies for post of Bihar Assembly Speaker**

**From PG 1** special assembly session will be decided at a state Cabinet meeting, which will be held on November 25, they said. "The Governor will first appoint a Protem Speaker who will administer the oath to the newly elected members. After the members take the oath, the election of the Speaker will be held," said a senior leader of an NDA constituent. The two main NDA constituents - the BJP and JD(U) - are eyeing the post of Speaker, the sources said adding "Now lobbying has intensified for the post of Speaker among the alliance partners," a JD(U) leader said. Echoing him, a BJP insider said, "The lobbying is underway. Our senior-most MLA Prem Kumar is the frontrunner for the Speaker's post." Prem Kumar, who was the cooperative minister in the previous NDA government, defeated Congress candidate Akhaury Onkar

Nath by a margin of 26,423 votes this time. He was also the leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly between 2015 and 2017. Sources in the JD(U) said Jhajha MLA Damodar Rawat is also in discussion for the post. In the outgoing assembly, BJP leader Nand Kishore Yadav served as the Speaker, while JD(U)'s Narendra Narayan Yadav held the position of Deputy Speaker. "A section of JD(U) leaders believe since Awadhesh Narain Singh of the BJP holds the position of Chairman of the State Legislative Council, the assembly Speaker should go to Nishik Kumar's party," the sources said. The BJP may take the Deputy Speaker's post, they said. JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar was on Thursday sworn in as the Bihar chief minister for a record 10th term here at a grand ceremony. Along with 74-year-old Kumar, 26 ministers took the oath of office: 14

from the Bharatiya Janata Party, eight from Janata Dal (United), two from Lok Jan Shakti Party (Ram Vilas), and one each from Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM). Meanwhile, a day after the allocation of portfolios by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, several ministers, including state BJP chief Dilip Jaiswal and JD(U)'s Ashok Choudhary, took charge of their respective departments. Rashtriya Lok Morcha's Deepak Prakash, who is neither an MLA nor a member of the Legislative Council (MLC), also assumed charge of the Panchayati Raj department. Jaiswal commenced work as the minister of the industries department, and Chowdhary as the Rural Works department minister. However, the most sought after Home Department, which had been held by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar

even since he took reins of the State in 2005, has now gone to Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) after several rounds of discussions among NDA partners over portfolio allocation. Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary has been assigned the Home portfolio. Notably, Samrat stoked a controversy over his educational qualifications earlier. Only 18 out of the 26 ministers who were sworn in on Thursday have been allocated portfolios. Deputy chief minister Vijay Kumar Sinha has been assigned the Revenue and Land Reforms Department, while Mangal Pandey will head both the Health and Law Departments. Dilip Jaiswal, who is also holding charge of the State BJP, has been appointed as the Industries minister. Nitin Nabin has been assigned to Road construction as well as the Urban Development and Housing Departments.

Name Change

I, Aparna Roy (old name), W/o. Subrata Roy, R/o. 7, Sarkar Pukur Lane, Telinipara, Bhadrassar, Hooghly-712125, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Aparna Roy to Aparna Mistry Roy and henceforth I shall be known as Aparna Mistry Roy in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 7188 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court on 21/11/2025. I, Aparna Roy & Aparna Mistry Roy W/o. Subrata Roy both are the same & one identical person. Suridh Roy is my son.

Name Change

I, Prabir Banerjee (Old Name), son of Kamal Banerjee, residing at 26, Barrister P. Mitra Road, Kalitola Math, Baranagar, Po- Alam Bazar, North24Parganas- 700035, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prabir Kumar Banerjee (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 21/11/2025. Prabir Banerjee and Prabir Kumar Banerjee both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Lakshmi Devi Chowdhury (old name) wife of Lakshmi Chowdhury, residing at 831/N, Raja Ram Mohan Ray Netaji Sarkar, Behala, Kolkata- 700008, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lakshmi Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Lakshmi Devi Chowdhury (old name) and Lakshmi Devi Chowdhury (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Lakshmi Chowdhury (old name) son of Bishnudeb Chowdhury, residing at 831/N, Raja Ram Mohan Ray Netaji Sarkar, Behala, Kolkata- 700008, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lakshmi Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Lakshmi Chowdhury (old name) and Lakshmi Chowdhury (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Dhiraj Kumar Chowdhury (old name) son of Lakshmi Chowdhury, residing at 831/N, Raja Ram Mohan Ray Netaji Sarkar, Behala, Kolkata- 700008, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dhiraj Kumar Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Dhiraj Kumar Chowdhury (old name) and Dhiraj Kumar Chowdhury (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Irsad Ali (Old Name), Son Of Late Sekh Samiruddin, Residing At Sultapur Senko Uttar, Sultapur, Howrah - 711312, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Irsad Ali (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/11/2025. Irsad Ali And Sekh Irsad Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ISHRAAT JAHAN, D/O-Md.Khushid, W/O-Sheikh Imran Ali, R/O-10/1, Moulana Md.Ali Road, P.S.-Ekalpore, Kolkata-700023. My Father Original and real name MD.KHURSHID. My some Papers and Documents Wrongfully Recorded as Md.Shoib. Do hereby declare that MD.KHURSHID and Md.Shoib Same and One Identical Person Vide affidavit (No.-69212) Sworn before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore on-13-11-2025.

Name Change

I, MD SHAMIM son of Late Md. Islam aged about 32 yrs., resident of O-76, A Farooque Road, P.O. Garden Reach, P.S. Metiabruz, Kolkata 700024 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's actual and original name is MD.ISLAM which is recorded in my Aadhar card being no.630240423379 and in Voter Identity Card vide S.A/11049873. But in the Trade License issued by Garden Reach Municipality now KMC vide no.864, old 527 my father's name is wrongly recorded as ISLAM ALI in place of his real and correct name MD. ISLAM. By an affidavit no.70955 dt. 20.11.2025 before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore that Md. Islam and Islam Ali is the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy, S/o. Late Deb Prasad Sinha Roy, R/o. River Vision Apartment, Block-B, (near Womens P.S.), 6, M.G. Road, Serampore, Hooghly-712201, W.B. do hereby declare that my father Late Deb Prasad Sinha Roy, Deba Prasad Sinha Roy, Debprasad Sinharoy and Let Deb Prasad Sinha Roy all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 15893 sworn before S.D.E.M., Serampore, Hooghly Court on 21/11/2025.

Name Change

I, Jharna Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy, W/o. Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy, D/o. Bhudeb Sinha Roy, R/o. River Vision Apartment, Block-B, (near Womens P.S.), 6, M.G. Road, Serampore, Hooghly-712201, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jharna Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy to Jharna Sinha Roy and henceforth I shall be known as Jharna Sinha Roy in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 15894 sworn before S.D.E.M., Serampore, Hooghly Court on 21/11/2025. I, Jharna Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy & Jharna Sinha Roy, W/o. Sanjit Kumar Sinha Roy, D/o. Bhudeb Sinha Roy, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Wasim Rahaman S/o. Md Obaidur Rahaman, R/o. Bantika, Boichini, Pandua, Hooghly-712134, W.B. do hereby declare that I, Md Wasim Rahaman, Sk Md Owassim Rahaman & Mohammad Wasim Rahaman same person and also my father Md Obaidur Rahaman & Mohammad Obaidur Rahaman both are the same & one identical person. I have changed my name from Wasim Rahaman to Md Wasim Rahaman, vide an affidavit no. 11323 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 20/11/2025.

Name Change

I, Jahanara Bibi (old name), W/o. Monirul Nayek, R/o. Kotalpur, Mahanad, Polba, Hooghly-712149, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jahanara Bibi to Jahanara Bibi Nayek and henceforth I shall be known as Jahanara Bibi Nayek in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 1040 sworn before Notary Public, Chinsurah, Hooghly Court on 21/11/2025. I, Jahanara Bibi & Jahanara Bibi Nayek W/o. Monirul Nayek both are the same & one identical person. Nayek Mahima Monirul is my daughter.

NAME CHANGE

I, SRISTI RAI D/o Abhishek Kumar Rai, resident of NFA-83 IIT Kharagpur WB have changed my name from SRISTI RAI to SRISHTI RAI (Notary Public affidavit no. 12292, 18.11.2025 at Kharagpur) and will be known as SRISHTI RAI. SRISTI RAI and SRISHTI RAI refer to same person.

Konnagar BLO's Cerebral Attack Sparks CM's Rs 1 Lakh Aid



MI News Service, Hooghly: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday intervened personally after a Booth Level Officer (BLO) from Konnagar collapsed due to alleged overwork linked to the electoral data uploading process. The Chief Minister spoke to the family of the ailing official, Tapati Biswas, and announced financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh for the household.

Sources said Biswas suffered a cerebral attack late one night while uploading enumeration forms online as part of the State Information Report (SIR) process. Her family members alleged that extreme mental stress and sleepless nights during the ongoing electoral data assignment led to her sudden illness. Following the incident, Tapati was rushed to the Matri Sadan Hospital under Konnagar Municipality and later shifted to Kolkata Medical College and Hospital as her condition worsened. The matter reached the Chief Minister's Office after Tapati's brother-in-law, Pradeep Biswas, reported the situation to the CM. Acting swiftly, Mamata Banerjee called the family to assure them of support and directed officials to arrange immediate medical and financial assistance. The episode has reignited concerns among field-level staff over mounting pressure during ongoing electoral enumeration duties, especially those requiring digital processing late into the night.

Ghatal BJP MLA Cultivates Field, TMC Calls It Pre-Election Stunt

MI News Service, Ghatal: BJP MLA Sheetal Kapat has triggered political controversy after a video showing him cultivating potatoes on his farmland—dressed in a lungi and ghazi—went viral. The footage also captures Kapat filling out State Information Report (SIR) forms while working in the field. Shortly after the video spread, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) dismissed the act as staged “drama” ahead of the upcoming elections.

TMC leaders alleged that the BJP legislator deliberately showcased himself in farming activities to influence voters with a crafted grassroots image. Ghatal TMC leader \*\*Vikas Kar\*\* criticized Kapat, saying voters would not be swayed by such theatrics. He further claimed that the ruling party under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee continues to drive development efforts in the region independently, asserting that Kapat and the BJP have failed to contribute meaningfully to local development during their

Indian Railways Crosses 1 Billion Tonne Freight Loading in FY 25-26

Railways Achieve Major Freight Milestone Driven by Strong Coal, Iron Ore, Cement and Container Loading; Daily Freight Touches 4.4 MT, Surpassing Last Year's Levels



MI News Service, New Delhi, 22 Nov.25 : Indian Railways' freight performance continues to strengthen India's economic backbone, with cumulative loading this year crossing the 1-billion-tonne mark—reaching 1020 Million Tonnes (MT) as of 19 November. This milestone reflects broad-based support from key sectors: coal remains the largest contributor at 505 MT, followed by iron ore (115 MT), cement (92 MT), container traffic (59 MT), pig iron & finished steel (47 MT), fertilisers (42

MT), mineral oil (32 MT), foodgrains (30 MT), raw materials for steel plants (approx. 20 MT), and balance-other-goods (74 MT). Daily loading continues to hold strong at around 4.4 MT, higher than 4.2 MT last year, demonstrating improved operational efficiency and sustained demand. Coal Freight Train Freight loading between April to October further underscores this positive trajectory, touching 935.1 MT in 2025, compared to 906.9 MT during the same period last year, marking a healthy

year-on-year growth. This sustained momentum, combined with improved daily loading rates, demonstrates Railways' capacity to support India's industrial expansion and infrastructure development. Iron Loading Recognizing the critical role of cement in India's infrastructure growth, Railways has taken significant steps to optimise this segment's logistics capabilities. The recent rollout of comprehensive reforms including the Policy for Bulk Cement Terminals and rationalized rates for bulk cement

movement in containers, represents a strategic initiative to modernise cement transportation. These measures aim to increase bulk handling capacity, reduce transit time, and lower logistics costs, directly benefiting both industry players and end consumers while driving greater efficiency across the supply chain. Such targeted interventions catalyze sectoral transformation.

Fertilisers Unloading Shifting bulk goods movement to rail yields multiple benefits that extend beyond mere commercial metrics. It reduces carbon footprints, decongest highways, and provides industries including MSMEs access to greener logistics solutions. These developments reinforce India's commitment to sustainable growth, aligning freight operations with the nation's journey towards Net Zero Carbon Emission targets and positioning Railways as a catalyst for both economic and environmental progress.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDUL HALIM MOLYA, S/o-MOSTAFA MOLYA, residing at VIII.-Rajapur, PO- Murarisha, PS-Hasnabad, Dist.- North 24 Pgs., do hereby declare that my name has been recorded as HALIM MOLLA in my son SK. HABIB MOLLA's Aadhar Card (no. 8546 6803 7126) & Birth Certificate (Reg. no. 62 dt. 31.03.2007 issued from Rajendrapur GP) On 09.09.2025 vide Affidavit no. 18735 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that ABDUL HALIM MOLYA & HALIM MOLLA is the same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ANIL PAUL (Old Name), S/o- LT. RAJESHWAR PAUL, R/o- VIII.-Sajadana, PS- Basirhat, North 24 Parganas. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ANIL KUMAR PAL (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court Affidavit no. 1237 dt. 22.11.2025. ANIL PAUL (Old Name) and ANIL KUMAR PAL (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD SAHA ALAM MONDAL, in my Birth Certificate (vide Regd. no. -118 dt. 31.01.97) my name has been recorded as MD SHAHA ALAM, S/o- MD. MEFTAUDDIN, Mother name- MAFIJA. On 27.10.25 at the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat vide Affidavit no. 23912/25 MD. SAHA ALAM MONDAL S/O- MD. MEPTAUDDIN MONDAL Mother name MAFIJA BIBI MANDAL and MD SHAHA ALAM S/O- MD. MEFTAUDDIN, Mother name MAFIJA is the same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, RUMA NATH CHOWDHURY (Old Name), W/O- SATYAJIT NATH, R/O- Basirhat Ghori Bari, PO+PS- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, PIN-743411. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RUMA NATH (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Basirhat Court Affidavit no. -27162 dt. 11.11.2025. RUMA NATH CHOWDHURY (Old Name) and RUMA NATH (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD ASHARUL ISLAM, in my Birth Certificate (vide Regd. No. 1586 dt. 02-09-97) my name has been recorded as MD. ASARUL ISLAM, S/o- MD HABIBULLYA AKUNJEE, Mother name- NURNEHAR BEGUM. On 24.10.2025 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, vide Affidavit no. -23745/25 MD. ASHARUL ISLAM, S/O- HABIBULLAH AKUNJI, Mother name NURNEHAR BIBI AKUNJI & MD ASARUL ISLAM, S/O- MD. HABIBULLYA AKUNJI, Mother name NURNEHAR BEGUM is the same & identical person.

Name Change

I, Rumpia Siddique, daughter of No. 157/61544K Rank Ex Hav Name Mofizul Alam Siddique resident of Ward No -04 Vidyasagar Pally Circus Maidan P.O.- Katwa Police Station-Katwa, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, Pin-713130, State- West Bengal have changed my name from Rumpia Siddique to Rumpiya Siddique vide Affidavit dated 20 Nov 25 before the Court of Ld. Sub-Div. Executive Magistrate (1st Class) at Katwa, Purba Bardhaman.

NAME CHANGE

I, Aryum Krishna Chatterjee son of Anurupa Dutta residing at 2B Lake Temple Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata 700029, P.S. Tollygunge, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arian Chatterjee as declared before the Notary Public at CMM's Court, Kolkata vide affidavit no. 20 on 11-11-2025. Aryum Krishna Chatterjee and Arian Chatterjee both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Minati Podder, W/o Swapna Kumar Podder, M/o Chandan Poddar, R/o-VIII & P.O.- Mugkalyan, P.S.-Bagnan, Dist-Howrah, 711312, W.B. mistakenly mentioned D.O.B-01/07/1964 instead of 12/06/1953, changed vide Notary, Howrah Court, Dated:21.11.2025. Minati Podder DOB (01/07/1964 & 12/06/1953) is the same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Swapna Kumar Podder, S/o Chittaranjan Podder F/o Chandan Poddar, R/O-VIII & P.O.- Mugkalyan, P.S.-Bagnan, Dist-Howrah, 711312, W.B. mistakenly mentioned D.O.B- 01/07/1957 instead of 01/01/1955, changed vide Notary, Howrah Court, Dated:21.11.2025. Swapna Kumar Podder DOB (01/07/1957 & 01/01/1955) is the same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Srishi Rai D/o Abhishek Kumar Rai, resident of NFA-83 IIT Kharagpur WB have changed my name from SRISTI RAI to SRISHTI RAI (Notary Public affidavit no. 12292, 18.11.2025 at Kharagpur) and will be known as SRISHTI RAI. SRISTI RAI and SRISHTI RAI refer to same person.

Additional Temporary Stoppages Of Ranaghat Bangoan - Sealdah AC EMU Local At Gopal Nagar & Bamangachhi Stations

MI News Service, Kolkata, 22 Nov.25 : To fulfil the demand of passengers, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division has decided to provide additional temporary stoppages of both 33762 Ranaghat - Bangoan - Sealdah AC EMU local, 33761 Sealdah - Bangoan - Ranaghat AC EMU local at Gopal Nagar station (in Ranaghat - Bangoan section) and at Bamangachhi station (in Bangoan - Barasat section) on experimental basis with effect from 22.11.2025 till 31.12.2025.

Regulation Of Trains For Maintenance Work At Sealdah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, 22 Nov.25 : Due to maintenance work, 225 minutes (from 23:45 hrs. of 24.11.2025 to 03:30 hrs. of 25.11.2025) Traffic & Power Block on line no. 05 of Bridge no. 01 between Sealdah & Bidhan Nagar Road stations has been planned. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under: Cancellation of train on 24.11.2025: 32249 Sealdah - Dankuni local, 32252 Dankuni - Sealdah local, 31447 Sealdah - Naihati local, 31450 Naihati - Sealdah local. Short termination / Short origination: 31542 Shantipur - Sealdah local will be short terminated at Barrackpore on 24.11.2025, 31511 Sealdah - Shantipur local will be short originated from Barrackpore on 25.11.2025. Moreover, 53171 Sealdah - Lalgola passenger will leave Sealdah at 04:15 hrs. instead of 03:45 hrs. on 25.11.2025.

India's Labour Code Revolution: Gig Workers Finally Covered

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has introduced landmark reforms in labour laws through the notification of four new labour codes, marking the first major changes since independence. These codes consolidate and replace 29 previous laws to modernize employment protections and simplify compliance for employers. Crucially, for the first time, gig and platform workers—such as food delivery agents, ride-hailing drivers, and freelancers—have been formally recognized under labour laws, entitling them to social security benefits including insurance coverage, health protection, disability support, and old-age benefits.

Second Hooghly Bridge Closed Sunday: Plan Your Route Now

MI News Service, Howrah: The Second Hooghly Bridge, popularly known as Vidyasagar Setu, will be closed to all vehicular traffic from 5 AM to 2:30 PM on Sunday, November 23, for urgent and critical repair work. Maintenance by the Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners (HRBC) will involve replacement of stay and holding-down cables, bearings, and other essential structural components necessary for the bridge's safety and long-term durability.



In anticipation of heavy traffic, Howrah City Police have issued a detailed advisory with alternative routes. All non-goods vehicles intending to cross the bridge toward Kolkata will be diverted to Howrah Bridge (Rabindra Setu), Nivedita Setu, or Old Bali Setu (Vivekananda Setu). Goods vehicles approaching from Kolaghat via NH 16 and heading for Kolkata through the Kona Expressway/Second Hooghly Bridge will instead be rerouted via Nivedita Bridge, following the Dhuloghar-Nibra-Solop-Pakuria-CRR Bridge corridor. Traffic from Kolkata bound for Howrah via Vidyasagar Setu is advised to use Howrah Bridge or Nivedita Bridge. Specific detours have also been outlined for vehicles heading toward Kolaghat and Dankuni, excluding goods vehicles. Authorities have emphasized that the prolonged closure is necessary to allow comprehensive rehabilitation and to reduce frequent maintenance interruptions in the future. However, commuters should anticipate significant traffic delays during the peak morning hours and plan their journeys accordingly. Police have urged motorists to follow instructions on-site, allow extra travel time, and exercise patience. Officials stress that these repairs are crucial to ensure the continued safe operation of one of Kolkata's most critical transportation lifelines, safeguarding both daily commuters and long-term structural integrity of the bridge.

Humanity Shines Amid Road Blockade: Food for Stranded Drivers

MI News Service, Nadia : Enduring severe hardship caused by the worsening condition of local roads, villagers in Nadia launched a prolonged road blockade demanding immediate government intervention. Protesters alleged that funds earlier sanctioned for road repairs were misused, leaving the stretch in an even more deteriorated state. The crumbling road and constant dust clouds have added to daily suffering, especially during winter when respiratory problems intensify.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDUL HALIM MOLYA, S/o-MOSTAFA MOLYA, residing at VIII.-Rajapur, PO- Murarisha, PS-Hasnabad, Dist.- North 24 Pgs., do hereby declare that my name has been recorded as HALIM MOLLA in my daughter RESHMI KHATUN's Birth Certificate (Reg. no. 184, dt. 31.07.14 issued from Rajendrapur GP) & in her Aadhar Card (no. 9667 3566 4334) it has been recorded as ABDUL HALIM MOLLA. On 09.09.2025 vide Affidavit no. 18736 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that ABDUL HALIM MOLYA, ABDUL HALIM MOLLA & HALIM MOLLA is the same & identical person.

Name Change

I, Dilbar Khan (Old Name), Son Of Late Md Ismail, Residing At 36/A/H/3, Kabitirha Sarani, Po-Khiddirpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Dilwar Khan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/11/2025. Dilbar Khan And Md Dilwar Khan Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sebgatullah Siddique & Sebgatullah (Old Name), Son Of Late Najmud Saadat Siddique, Residing At Vill & P.O - Furfura, PS - Jangipara, Hooghly - 712706, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammed Sebgatullah Siddique (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata, On 21/11/2025. Sebgatullah Siddique & Sebgatullah And Mohammed Sebgatullah Siddique All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Lolit Kumar Toshniwal (old name) son of Shyam Sundar Toshniwal, residing at 96 A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Bhawanipore, Kolkata - 700025, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lalit Kumar Toshniwal (new name) as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Lalit Kumar Toshniwal (old name) and Lolit Kumar Toshniwal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Cherusery Ranganathan Subramanian (old name) son of Late C S Ranganathan, residing at H.I.G-H-6, Niva Park Phase-2, Brahmapur, Kolkata- 700068, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as C R Subramanian (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. C R Subramanian (new name) and Cherusery Ranganathan Subramanian (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sweta Agarwala (Old Name), Wife Of Atul Roongta, Residing At Tower 4,30k, South City Residency, 375 Prince Anwar Shah Road, Jodhpur Park, Kolkata - 700068, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sweta Roongta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 20/11/2025. Sweta Agarwala (Old Name) And Sweta Roongta (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Gadadhar Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Kungali Biswas, Residing At Tarapur, Jhau Mahal - Tarapur, Nadia - 741402, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Gadai Biswas (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 966 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Ranaghat On 06/05/2016. Gadadhar Biswas (Old Name) And Gadai Biswas (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Abhishek Paul (old name) son of Biswajit Pal, residing at 141/1, South Sinteoh Road, P.O.- Sinteoh, Kolkata- 700050, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abhishek Paul (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Abhishek Paul (old name) and Abhishek Paul (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Boundu Kundu (old name) son of Bimal Kundu, residing at Barabara- Ghanda Bili Nakajipuri Onda Bankura, Pin- 722144, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Baul Kundu (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Baul Kundu (new name) and Boundu Kundu (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) son of Late Mohammad Sukur Ali, residing at Vill & P.O.- Dhalittha, PS- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743412, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name) and Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) son of Late Mohammad Sukur Ali, residing at Vill & P.O.- Dhalittha, PS- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743412, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name) and Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) son of Late Mohammad Sukur Ali, residing at Vill & P.O.- Dhalittha, PS- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743412, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name) and Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) son of Late Mohammad Sukur Ali, residing at Vill & P.O.- Dhalittha, PS- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743412, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/11/2025. Mohiuddin Ahmed (new name) and Md Mohiuddin Ahamed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Toto Driver's Honour: Returns Lost Gold, Mobile to Passenger

MI News Service, Malda: An extraordinary display of honesty by a Toto driver in Malda has drawn widespread appreciation from the public as well as the police, after he traced and returned a passenger's lost bag containing gold ornaments, cash, a mobile phone, and important documents. According to police sources, the incident occurred when Bhishti Dutta, a resident of Bachamari in Old Malda, was travelling by Toto from Bachamari to Sahapur. During the journey, she unknowingly left behind her wallet in the vehicle. When she realized the loss, she immediately went to Malda police station and filed a complaint, prompting officials to begin a search for the missing items. Meanwhile, the driver, Subir Hossain, 30, of Sajapur area, had already discovered the bag left behind in his vehicle.

CPR: A Life-Saving Skill Training Conducted At Ranaghat Car-shed

MI News Service, Kolkata, 22 Nov.25 : In a workplace where every second counts, especially during medical emergencies, equipping frontline railway staff with life-saving skills is essential. Recognizing this need, the Health and Family Welfare Department of Sealdah Division organised a comprehensive hands-on CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) training programme combined with a health check-up camp at the Ranaghat Carshed on 21 November 2025. The initiative aimed not only to enhance employee well-being but also to empower them with critical first-response abilities that can help save lives. Dr. Kalpana Mandal, Chief Medical Superintendent, Sealdah, emphasised the importance of timely CPR and how trained staff can save a life during emergencies. Dr. Sanjeev Choudhary, Additional Chief Medical Superintendent (H&FW), Sealdah, conducted a practical demonstration of CPR and provided hands-on training to the Carshed employees, ensuring that participants gained confidence in performing the procedure correctly. A total of 95 employees benefited from the programme, which received wide appreciation for enhancing health awareness and promoting a safety-oriented work culture within the Carshed.



Sourav Seth, Dental Surgeon, B.R. Singh Hospital. The screening covered hypertension, diabetes, and clinical assessment for anaemia. ECG tests were conducted whenever required, and dental examinations were carried out for all participants. A total of 95 employees benefited from the programme, which received wide appreciation for enhancing health awareness and promoting a safety-oriented work culture within the Carshed.

CAQM inspects 101 sites in Sonipat, finds 29 units violating air pollution rules

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) carried out a major inspection drive in Sonipat, Haryana, on November 21, as part of its "Operation Clean Air".

During the drive, 101 sites were checked. These included six construction and demolition (C&D) sites, while the rest were industrial units.

As per the release, a total of 20 Flying Squad teams of the Commission were deployed for the operation.

The enforcement action was conducted in both conforming and non-conforming industrial areas of the District.

The inspection was led by the District administration, including Deputy Commissioners (DCs), and Deputy Commissioners, Duty Magistrates, and Police personnel were also present to support and facilitate smooth operations.

In non-conforming areas, officials inspected 55 units and found 21 violations. In the industrial areas, 46 inspections were conducted and 8 violations were detected.

The major violations found were the use of unapproved fuel, missing or faulty Air Pollution Control Devices (APCDs), with around 20 units having malfunctioning systems, running units without valid Consent to Operate from the State Pollution Control Board, and breaking Construction and Demolition rules.

CAQM said strict inspections are essential to stop pollution at the source and to protect people living near such polluting units.

Meanwhile, the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) NCR and Adjoining Areas has revised the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) for the entire NCR, directed to impose the measures for 'Severe' AQI category under GRAP Stage IV to be taken under GRAP Stage III, a press release said.

According to a press release by CAQM, as measures under GRAP IV are now under GRAP III, the NCR State Governments/GNCTD will decide whether public, municipal, and private offices can operate at 50 per cent strength, with the rest working from home.

The Central Government may decide to permit work from home for employees in central government offices.

"BJP, EC working together to cancel over 50,000 votes in constituencies won by INDIA bloc": Akhilesh Yadav's big allegations on SIR

MI News Service, Lucknow: Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday accused Election Commission and Bharatiya Janata Party of misusing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that they are working together to "cancel over 50,000 votes" in the assembly constituencies where INIDIA bloc parties registered a victory in 2024 Lok Sabha election.

Addressing a press conference, Akhilesh Yadav expressed concern about the EC and the BJP, particularly about the BJP's "targeting" of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal through SIR.

"After the Bihar elections, we learn from newspapers, social media, and other sources that the BJP is preparing on an extensive level in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in collaboration with the Election Commission. After the 2024 loss, the BJP and EC are targeting UP and West Bengal," Akhilesh Yadav said.

"The most important point is that the BJP, its government, its officials, and the Election Commission are working together to cancel over 50,000 votes in the assembly constituencies where the Samajwadi Party and the INDIA Alliance won in 2024, using the pretext of SIR," he alleged.

Akhilesh Yadav said that the Samajwadi Party will remain vigilant against this and appealed to people to ensure their names are on the voter list.

"This is what is happening in Uttar Pradesh, and preparations are underway in West Bengal, so we are vigilant. We appeal to people to ensure that their name is in the voter list," Akhilesh Yadav said.

Currently, a nationwide SIR is underway in 12 states and union territories, with the final elector's list to be published on February 7, 2026.

These states and UTs are: Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress will hold an internal meeting on November 24, chaired by party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. The objective of this meeting will be a SIR-related review, improvements across many places and districts, and ensuring that no names are left out.

International organisations welcome India's Labour Codes; highlight global momentum for social protection and inclusive growth

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prominent international organisations such as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the International Social Security Association (ISSA) have welcomed the Government of India's announcement on November 21, 2025, to bring the four Labour Codes into effect.

As per the Ministry of Labour & Employment, "Recognising the reforms as a significant step towards strengthening social protection, enhancing minimum wage frameworks and building institutional capacity, these global bodies highlighted that India's efforts contribute significantly to the broader international discourse on inclusive and modern labour systems. Their remarks further underscore India's growing leadership in shaping global labour and social security standards."

The Director-General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in his post, stated: "Following with interest developments of India's new Labour Codes announced today, including on social protection & minimum wages. Social dialogue among the government, employers & workers will remain essential as reforms are implemented, ensuring they're positive for workers and businesses."

ISSA, in its post on social media platform 'X', stated: "India's Labour Codes add momentum to global efforts for stronger, more inclusive social security systems. ISSA welcomes this milestone and encourages sustained investment in coverage, protection and institutional capacity."

These statements by key international organisations reflect the positive global response to India's Labour Codes, particularly in advancing fair wages, expanding social protection coverage and promoting greater formalisation of the workforce.

Nine additional traction substations to come up in blue line

MI News Service, 22 Nov 2025, Kolkata: Metro Railway Kolkata is upgrading its different systems for improvement of its services, amenities and safety system. As a part of this initiative, Power Supply System, Traction Substations, Tunnel Ventilation System, Environment Control System (commonly known as Air-conditioning System), Signalling System, Third Rail System, Rail Track System are going to be upgraded very soon to prepare the Blue Line for the future where trains shall be operated with reduced headway to achieve the ultimate goal of 90 sec with which London, Moscow Metro is operating at present.

The Ministry of Railways has already sanctioned umbrella works to implement these ambitious projects.

In order to improve train operations in Blue Line, which is a 41 years old Corridor and country's oldest Metro Corridor, seven additional traction substations will be constructed along its stretch. A work has been proposed to add under sanctioned umbrella work. Seven additional sub-stations will be built at Kalighat, Netaji Bhawan, Maidan, Esplanade, M.G. Road, Sovabazar-Sutanuti and in between Belgachia and Shyambazar. With this, Blue Line shall have traction substations at each station like Purple Line and Orange Line.

Apart from this, in order to meet the demand of additional traction power with fire safety, an order for two Traction SubStations (TSS) at Chandni Chowk and Geetanjali has already been placed. The TSS coming up at Chandni Chowk will help to avoid congestion of rakes between Esplanade and Central stations where there are two TSS for four stations.

In addition, the ventilation and cooling system of stations as well as tunnels are also being upgraded. In the 41 year old existing system, tunnels were also cooled as the rakes were non air conditioned. But as Metro Railway, Kolkata is now armed with all AC rake fleet, discarding all non AC rakes, it provides the opportunity to shift to state-of-the-art TVS (Tunnel Ventilation System) to have state-of-the-art smoke extraction system as well. In the existing system, forced ventilation using centrifugal fans of 110 kW at fourteen midpoints are being used. These fans rotate 24X7 hrs and consume total energy of 3 crores units annually at a cost of Rs 21 Cr annually. By installing Variable Frequency Drive in midpoint in 2021-2022 this consumption was reduced to half. These fans can rotate in one direction to work as exhaust fans.

All these fans shall now be replaced by axial fans which are suitable for two hour operation even if the air temperature it handles reaches 250 °C. These fans will rotate automatically when fire / smoke in tunnel occur or ambient temperature of the tunnel crosses the set limit or concentration of CO2 or sub-soil temperature inside the tunnels crosses the set limit. A work order has already been placed on an Indian subsidiary of a Japanese company for upgrading Blue Line's stations Environmental Control Systems (ECS) and upgrading the Tunnel Ventilation System (TVS). This holding company has already commissioned ECS and TVS systems in more than one hundred underground Metro stations in Singapore Metro. Team of Japanese engineers has already visited Jatni Das Park station air conditioning plant and other areas.

Once completed, passengers will have a more comfortable riding experience in Metro Railway, Kolkata, Asia's fifth Metro network. This upgrade with state-of-the-art technology will also ensure improved fire safety and save Rs.11 Cr annual electricity bill as well as reduce carbon footprint by 12,300 Metric Tonnes annually.

Additional temp stoppages of Ranaghat - Bangaon - Sealdah AC EMU local at Gopal Nagar & Bamangachhi stations

MI News Service, 22 Nov 2025 Kolkata: To fulfill the demand of passengers, Eastern Railway's Sealdah Division has decided to provide additional temporary stoppages of both 33762 Ranaghat - Bangaon - Sealdah AC EMU local, 33761 Sealdah - Bangaon - Ranaghat AC EMU local at Gopal Nagar station (in Ranaghat - Bangaon section) and at Baman-gachhi station (in Bangaon - Barasat section) on experimental basis with effect from 22.11.2025 till 31.12.2025.

MI News Service, Ferozepur: Border Security Force (BSF) troops recovered a drone, ICE drug and pistol parts along Pak-border

MI News Service, Ferozepur: Border Security Force (BSF) troops recovered a drone, ICE drug and pistol components in two separate operations along the Pakistan border in Ferozepur, officials said on Friday.

In the first incident, the BSF said an intelligence-backed operation led to the recovery of "01 pistol (without slide & barrel) concealed in an agricultural field near the border village-Changa Rai Uttar."

In the second operation, carried out on Thursday, BSF troops recovered "01 DJI Mavic 3 Classic drone along with 01 packet of ICE drug (Gross weight - 566 Grams) from the area of village Kamal Wala in Ferozepur."

According to the BSF's Punjab Frontier Public Relations Officer, the recoveries reflect the force's continuous surveillance along sensitive border points and its resolve to "leave no stone unturned to keep the Nation's borders secure and protect its own citizens."

"We need affordable care, better health insurance for every individual": Neurologist Dr JD Mukherji

MI News Service, New Delhi: Dr (Col) Joy Dev Mukherji, a renowned neurologist, emphasised the pressing need for affordable healthcare and comprehensive health insurance coverage for every individual. He believed that quality healthcare should be accessible to all, regardless of economic background.



Speaking with ANI, Mukherji emphasised that high treatment costs prevent many people, especially from villages, from accessing modern medical care and also called for improved medical evacuation systems and greater awareness of health insurance.

In an interview with ANI, Dr Mukherji said, "The cost of treatment is so high, there has to be a cheaper, more meaningful health insurance policy for the individual. I think that is what is required. So that they can afford the modern treatment. There's no reason why someone from a village can't have thrombolysis. We don't have adequate medical evacuation systems. These are the policy decisions that we have to take. Correct medical evacuation for people who are critically ill, deeper penetration of the insurance, medical insurance and awareness. I think these three things will make a lot of difference."

The doctor said India needs better health insurance coverage, like in countries with universal insurance. He also said that government hospitals are overcrowded, forcing many patients to travel to big cities for treatment.

"You know, the penetration of, see, 1.4 billion people, it's not easy to insure everybody. But the insurance penetration is very much required. Many countries offer universal insurance coverage. We need to adopt that kind of policy at least because our government hospitals are overwhelmed with patients--too many of them. You can't do it. You can't do them justice. And everyone gravitates to the bigger cities for treatment," Dr Mukherji said.

Insurance penetration is measured as the ratio of total premiums collected to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is one of the parameters used to assess the development level of the insurance sector in a country.

Dr Mukherji warned that neck massages at barber shops can lead to serious artery injuries, increasing the risk of stroke. He also cautioned that sedentary lifestyles, smoking, vaping, and poor cholesterol are causing strokes in young adults and among gym-goers.

"The sedentary lifestyle and also neck massages. I want to highlight this. People get many neck massages at their barber shop, which can cause what we call a carotid artery dissection. What happens is the artery has got double, it's got a wall. Now, if there's a breach in the wall, the blood enters the wall, and there's no blood supply distally, that means it's flowing upwards towards the organ. So that can also cause a stroke. So a lot of strokes are happening because of these reasons also. I think there are a lot of youngsters who go to the gym, and they think that we are fine. But their lipids may be awfully bad. They may be smoking, even vaping, hashish; all these are risk factors for stroke. They may not have been well documented, but we are seeing them every day. Every day we see the 30-40-year age group coming with strokes. Yeah. Yeah. Even while gymming, they may have a dissection of the aorta," he said.

CPI(M) calls for immediate withdrawal of Labour Codes

MI News Service, New Delhi: The CPI(M) Polit Bureau on Saturday strongly opposes the unilateral notification of the four Labour Codes by the BJP-led Central Government.

CPI(M) in a statement said that the Labour Codes dismantle 29 hard-won labour laws that have, till now, protected the workers to some extent. Despite many limitations, to an extent, the wages, working hours, social security, industrial safety, inspection-compliance mechanisms, and collective bargaining were in place.

"Instead of simplification, the new Codes seek to dilute and abolish long-established existing rights and entitlements of workers with proactive sponsorship of the Government and administration," CPI(M) added.

CPI(M) further said in a statement that The Govern-

ment's claim that the Labour Codes will boost employment and investment is completely baseless. The Codes are designed to leave labour unprotected in the face of capital's onslaught. Their aim is to lure national and international capital by ensuring that all meaningful labour regulations covering various aspects of labour rights are nullified. Further, they seek to snatch away the right to strike and criminalise any collective action by the working class.

"The Labour Codes, in totality, seek to establish a jungle raj by unilaterally empowering the corporate class to bulldoze the rights and entitlements of workers with the Government's authoritarian design, defend the rights and entitlements of the working people, and advance their fight for more comprehensive labour rights and protections.

obnoxious violation of democratic and federal norms in pushing these Codes without genuine tripartite consultation with stakeholders, particularly workers. The Government sidelined trade unions throughout the process and rushed the legislation through Parliament without debate. Instead, the Government arrogantly rejected the valid objections to the Labour Codes based on irrefutable arguments and concrete documentary evidence. The CPI(M) calls for the immediate withdrawal of the Labour Codes and urges all trade unions and democratic forces to build united struggles to resist the Government's authoritarian design, defend the rights and entitlements of the working people, and advance their fight for more comprehensive labour rights and protections.

"Om, Sun and Kovidara tree": Indologist Lalit Mishra discovers Ayodhya's ancient flag

MI News Service, Greater Noida: Indologist Lalit Mishra's groundbreaking discovery has brought Ayodhya's ancient flag back to its rightful place. Mishra stumbled upon the flag while studying a painting from the pictorial Ramayana of Mewar, later confirming its mention in Valmiki Ramayana's Ayodhya Kand.

On Saturday, he said the flag was hoisted at the Shri Ram Jannabhoomi Temple in Ayodhya on November 25 will carry three symbols: Om, the Sun, and the Kovidara tree.

Kovidara tree is a hybrid of the Mandar and Parijat trees, created by Rishi Kashyap and showcasing ancient plant hybridisation. The Sun symbol represents Lord Ram's Suryavansh lineage, and Om is the eternal spiritual sound.

Mishra faced challenges identifying the Kovidara tree, initially confusing it with Kachnar because of their shared botanical names. The flag's return marks a significant moment, reconnecting modern India with its rich heritage.

Mishra said the memory of Ayodhya's ancient flag and its sacred tree was lost after the Mahabharata war. Still, he is glad the forgotten symbol has now been rediscovered and restored.

Speaking to ANI, Lalit Mishra said, Bhagwan Ram belonged to the Suryavamsa, according to our mythological beliefs. So we put a sun symbol also on the same flag. The committee accepts both symbols. And what you see today, the flag, has got imprints of the Kovidara tree and the symbol of the sun. Also, around the sun symbol, they created a creative design and wrote 'Om'. So it is now three symbols, Om, Sun and the Kovidara. So this is how the flag has returned to Ayodhya, where it originated. In a long tradition of many thousands of years, we lost it. The thing is, we lost the knowledge of the flag after the Mahabharata war.

"What happened in the Mahabharata war, Ayodhya's king Brihadbal participated. And from the Mahabharata, we know that he was killed. So after he was killed, Ayodhya was ruined and forsaken. And I think by that time, because it was ruined, the tradition had lost the memory of the flag and the tree also. So what happens is that a tracing point comes in the period of Kalidasa. So Kalidasa describes the beauty of the flower and the tree. But he does not remember the same tree that is featured on Ayodhya's flag. Because the tradition was broken, the memory of the plant and the flag did not survive. So that's why, in all the subsequent, some 299 Ramayanas, there is no mention of this tree or the flag. So now I am very happy that it has been discovered and it has found its place," Mishra said.

Mishra said he accidentally discovered Ayodhya's ancient flag in a painting of the pictorial Ramayana of Mewar and later confirmed its mention in the Valmiki Ramayana, tracing the tree symbol created by Rishi Kashyap to one of the earliest plant-hybrid experiments.

Piramal Finance Limited advertisement containing a table of immovable property listings with columns for S.I. No., Name of the Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s), Description of the Secured Assets, Demand Notice Date and Amount, and Date of Possession.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS advertisement for E-Tender Notice regarding PCMM/CLW/HWH/E-Procurement/56, dated 19/11/2025, for supply of materials for manufacture of Electric Locomotive.

# Leading Causes of Fertility Challenges in Males and Females

Fertility challenges are increasingly common in India, affecting a significant number of couples seeking to conceive. Understanding the leading causes of infertility is crucial for timely intervention and treatment.

"Fertility challenges can arise from various factors in both males and females. In females, common causes include ovulation disorders, such as PCOS, blocked fallopian tubes, and endometriosis. For males, issues like low sperm count, poor sperm motility, and hormonal imbalances are primary contributors. Age, lifestyle factors like smoking or obesity, and underlying medical conditions can also affect fertility in both genders. Early diagnosis and targeted treatments are essential for addressing these challenges effectively," says Dr. Sonali Mandal Bandyopadhyay, an IVF specialist at Birla Fertility & IVF in Howrah. In females, several factors contribute to fertility



issues. Ovulation disorders, such as Polycystic Ovary Syndrome (PCOS), are among the most prevalent. PCOS affects hormone levels and can disrupt regular

ovulation, making conception difficult. Other common causes include blocked fallopian tubes, often resulting from pelvic inflammatory disease or

endometriosis, a condition where tissue similar to the uterine lining grows outside the uterus, causing pain and fertility challenges. For males, the situation is

equally concerning. Key issues include low sperm count, poor sperm motility, and hormonal imbalances, which can significantly impede fertility. Recent studies indicate that environmental factors, such as exposure to pollutants and chemicals, alongside lifestyle choices like smoking and excessive alcohol consumption, are also detrimental to male reproductive health.

Age is another critical factor affecting fertility in both genders. Women over 35 and men over 40 face declining fertility rates, with advanced age linked to decreased egg and sperm quality. Lifestyle factors such as obesity and sedentary behavior further exacerbate these challenges, as they can lead to hormonal changes that impact reproductive capabilities. Recognizing the diverse causes of fertility issues can empower couples to seek appropriate medical assistance and improve their chances of conception.

## Weight loss surgery is more effective in controlling hypertension rates: Study



LOS ANGELES [US]: According to a study published today in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, bariatric surgery is more effective at controlling hypertension rates, or high blood pressure, in people with obesity and uncontrolled high blood pressure, than blood pressure medication alone.

People who had bariatric surgery had a lower BMI and were on fewer drugs after five years while maintaining normal blood pressure levels than those who solely used antihypertensive medications.

According to the CDC, the U.S. obesity and hypertension rates in adults are 41.9 per cent and 45.4 per cent, respectively.

Obesity is a proven risk factor for cardiovascular disease and a key contributor to high blood pressure, both of which can increase the chance of a heart attack, stroke, and heart failure.

"In clinical practice, obesity is an overlooked condition. As a consequence, there is a frequent failure in approaching obesity as a crucial step for mitigating the risk of important cardiovascular risk factors including hypertension," said Carlos Aurelio Schiavon, MD, FACS, lead author of the study and a surgeon specializing in bariatric surgery at Heart Hospital and BP Hospital in Sao Paulo.

Researchers in this study looked at the impact of treating obesity to lower high blood pressure. While there are new medications to treat obesity, long-term adherence to medication can be challenging.

This study looks at bariatric surgery as a better long-term solution to control obesity and, as a result, high blood pressure.

The GATEWAY trial included 100 people (76 per cent of which were female) who had a body mass index (BMI) of around 36.9 kg/m<sup>2</sup>. All participants had hypertension and were using at least two medications.

People with previous cardiovascular events and poorly con-

trolled Type 2 diabetes were excluded. Subjects were assigned to either Roux-en-Y gastric bypass with medical therapy or medical therapy alone and the primary outcome was reduction of at least 30 per cent antihypertensive medications while maintaining blood pressure levels less than 140/90 mmHg at five years.

At five years, BMI was 28.01 Kg/m<sup>2</sup> for those who received bariatric surgery and 36.40 Kg/m<sup>2</sup> for those on medical therapy alone. People who had bariatric surgery had an 80.7 per cent reduction in the number of medications they were taking compared to a 13.7 per cent reduction in those only using medical therapy.

Hypertension remission, defined as controlled blood pressure without medications, was 46.9 per cent in those who underwent bariatric surgery compared to 2.4 per cent in those on medical therapy alone.

"Our results underscore the importance of approaching obesity in reducing hypertension rates," Schiavon said.

Limitations of the study included that it was a single-centre, open-label study with a small sample size and there was loss of follow-up in some patients.

In an accompanying editorial comment, Michael Hall, MD, MSc, professor and chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, said the study provides important long-term data on the benefits of gastric bypass on weight loss and blood pressure control, but questions remain.

"Further studies assessing the threshold for bariatric surgery in people with obesity, optimal timing of bariatric surgery in obese people with cardiometabolic diseases, type of bariatric surgery and comparative studies of obesity pharmacotherapies and bariatric surgery are needed to clarify the optimal treatment pathways for this common and growing disease," he said.

## Males born to obese moms more likely to develop health issues as adults: Research



WASHINGTON DC [US]: Males born to obese mothers are more likely to be overweight at birth and suffer metabolic issues later in life, such as liver disease or diabetes.

The way that male sex hormones activate pathways in the developing liver is partly to blame.

That's the finding from a new study led by University of South Australia (UniSA) researchers looking at the impact of maternal obesity on fetal liver androgen signalling.

Male fetuses of obese pregnant women have different signals that are activated by male sex hormones in the liver, which encourages them to prioritise growth at the expense of their health.

UniSA researcher Dr Ashley Meakin says androgens give men their male characteristics and are crucial in their development, but if there are too many, male fetuses grow too large, causing not only problems at birth, but impacting liver function as an adult.

Female fetuses exposed to excess testosterone from an obese pregnancy are wired to switch off the androgen pathway in the liver, restricting their growth and lowering the risks of metabolic disorders in adulthood.

"We know there are sex differences in metabolic disorders in later life in response to maternal obesity," Dr Meakin says.

"Men are more prone to non-alcohol fatty liver diseases and diabetes as an adult if their mother is obese during pregnancy and their birth weight is above 4 kg (9 lb 15 oz).

"They are genetically wired to prioritise androgens because it supports the development of male characteristics - including size - but too much androgen is bad."

Study lead author Professor Janna Morrison, Head of the Early Origins of Adult Health Research Group at UniSA, says it's a fine balance for women getting the right nutrition in pregnancy to ensure optimal conditions for their unborn child to flourish.

"There are also risks for offspring being malnourished during pregnancy," she says. "If you are too little, too big, born too early, or a male, you are more vulnerable to negative outcomes later in life. You need the Goldilocks pregnancy: you must be the right size, born at the right time."

Prof Morrison says unless society changes its approach to nutrition, it will be an uphill battle to reduce obesity and associated health issues, from the womb into adulthood.

"As a society, we urgently need to address obesity. If children were taught early on about the importance of healthy eating, it would carry through into adulthood, including during pregnancy, where the right nutrition is so important."

Dr Meakin says in the intervening period, supplements that address nutritional imbalances in pregnancy could provide the fetus with the best chance of optimal development.

The liver androgen signalling study, recently published in Life Sciences, is among a series of studies by Prof Morrison and colleagues that investigates the impact of maternal under- and over-nutrition on the placenta, heart, lung, and liver.

## New type of cell therapy shows promise for ARDS patients

LOS ANGELES [US]: A study suggested that a new type of cell therapy may improve the prognosis of patients critically unwell with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) caused by severe COVID-19.

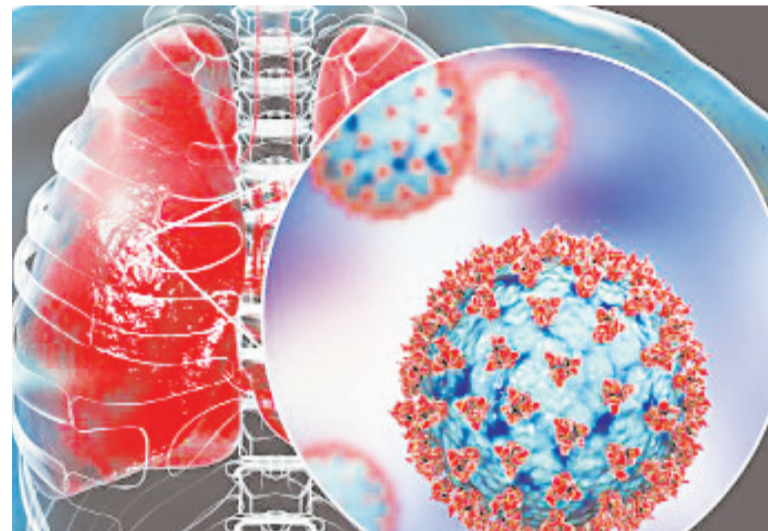
Professor Justin Stebbing of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a joint senior author of a new study published in the journal Nature Communications that looks into the usage of agent-T-797, MiNKTherapeutic's allogeneic, unmodified invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell therapy.

The iNKT cell therapy has the effect of rescuing depleted T cells and inducing an anti-inflammatory cytokine response, perhaps activating antiviral immunity to assist these patients fight infection while also reducing severe, pathogenic inflammation of the lung.

The new research was carried out at three medical centres and found that agent-T-797, which is also under investigation in cancer trials, could be manufactured rapidly, had a tolerable safety profile and appeared to have a positive effect on mortality among critically unwell COVID-19 ARDS patients receiving intensive care.

The exploratory trial included 20 mechanically ventilated patients with severe ARDS secondary to Covid-19. Of the 20 patients in the trial, 14 survived (70 per cent) at 30 days (compared to a control group of 10 per cent), and there was an 80 per cent lower occurrence of bacterial pneumonia amongst those who received the highest dosage of agent-T-797, compared to those who received fewer cells.

Twenty-one patients were treated overall (the main trial, plus one under compassionate use), which included five who were also receiving venovenous extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (VV-ECMO), known as 'the most aggressive salvage therapy' for critically ill patients with ARDS. In VV-



ECMO, deoxygenated blood is pumped through a membrane lung and returned to the body via a cannula.

This trial is believed to be the first immune cell therapy of any type to be used in critically unwell patients undergoing VV-ECMO. Survival of the VV-ECMO cohort was 80 per cent after 30 and 90 days, and 60 per cent after 120 days. This compares favourably to the overall survival of 51 per cent for patients with Covid-19 who were treated with just VV-ECMO at the same institution, during the same timeframe.

Joint senior author Justin Stebbing, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge, England, said, "During this small, exploratory study we observed that MiNK/iNKT cell treatment, which is also being advanced for people with cancer, triggered an anti-inflammatory response in ARDS patients."

"Despite a poor prognosis, critically ill patients treated with this therapy showed favourable mortality rates and

those treated at the highest dose also had reduced rates of pneumonia, underscoring the potential application of iNKT cells, and agent-T-797 in particular, in treating viral diseases and infections more broadly.

"Agent-T-797 was manufactured rapidly and as opposed to using patients' cells, it is 'off-the-shelf' and made from healthy donors' cells. The potential of this therapy to be used across a number of severe infections warrants randomised controlled trials."

Dr Marc van Dijk, Chief Scientific Officer at MiNK and co-author of the study said, "These published findings reinforce the unique power and potential of iNKT cells to mitigate severe acute respiratory distress."

"The data demonstrate agent-T-797's encouraging survival benefit, ability to help clear secondary infections, and tolerable administration in ventilated patients and those on VV-ECMO support."

## Study finds how weight loss could reduce chances of severe infections in diabetic people

WASHINGTON: According to new research, weight loss therapies may lower the risk of severe flu cases and other infections in patients suffering from diabetes.

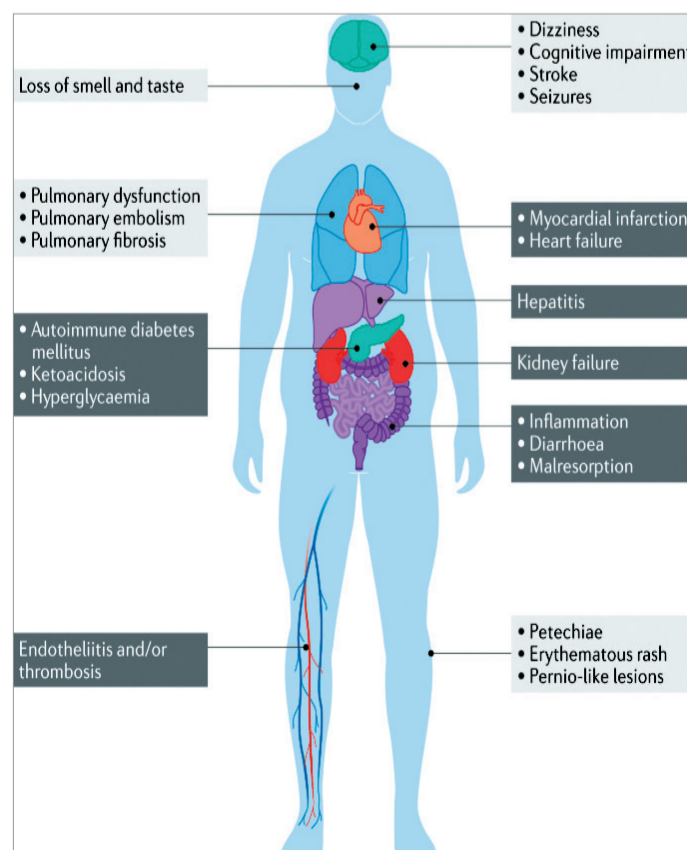
The research will be presented at the annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) in Madrid, Spain (9-13 September).

The study by Rhian Hopkins and Ethan de Villiers, of the University of Exeter Medical School, University of Exeter, Exeter, in the United Kingdom, there is evidence to support the link between severe illnesses and a higher BMI. In contrast, there was no evidence that mild hyperglycaemia contributes to the likelihood of a severe infection.

Hopkins says: "Up to one in three hospitalisations in people with diabetes are for infections and people with diabetes are twice as likely to be hospitalised with infections than the general population. They are also at high risk of readmission."

"Previous studies have found that a higher BMI and poor blood sugar control are associated with severe infections. However, these studies have been observational and so haven't been able to prove that the links are causal."

"If one or both of these factors can be shown to be causal, it may be possible to design interventions to lower the risk of severe infections in those at high risk, such as people with diabetes." The new study used data from the UK Biobank, which holds medical and genetic data on around 500,000 people in the UK, to explore the effect of higher BMI and poor blood sugar control on hospitalisation for bacterial and viral infections. The 486,924 participants were classified into three groups: those with a record of hospitalisation for a bacterial infection, such as pneumonia or a urinary tract infection, (n=64,005) or a viral infection, such as flu, (n=14,562) and an infection-free control group (n=408,357). A higher BMI was found to be associated with hospitalisation with infections. The



likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 30 per cent per 5-point increase in BMI (for instance, an increase in BMI from 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> to 35 kg/m<sup>2</sup>). Similarly, every five-point increase in BMI was associated with a 32 per cent increase in the likelihood of a severe viral infection. Mild hyperglycaemia was also found to be associated with severe infections. The likelihood of being hospitalised with a bacterial infection increased by 32 per cent per 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c, a measure of blood sugar levels. Similarly, every 10mmol/mol increase in HbA1c was associated with a 29 per cent increase in the likelihood of a severe viral infection. The team then used Mendelian randomisation, a technique that uses genetic information to establish whether a factor actually causes ill health, to determine if the relationships were causal. This suggested that a higher BMI is one of the causes of severe bacterial and viral infections. However, mild hyperglycaemia did not appear to be a cause of severe infections.

The study didn't focus on individuals with diabetes. However, given how vulnerable they are to infections, the results may be of particular relevance to them, says Hopkins. She adds: "Infections are a major cause of death and ill health, particularly in people with diabetes. Anyone admitted to hospital with a severe infection is also at high risk of being admitted again with another. However, we currently have few effective ways to prevent this."

"This study demonstrates that higher BMI is a cause of hospital admission with infection. Clinicians could discuss weight loss options for people with a high BMI at risk of severe infections and readmission to hospital for infection."

"While this message may be particularly relevant to people with diabetes, it applies more widely, too."

# Shah defends nationwide voter-list verification, says it targets "illegal settlers" in the country

**MI News Service, New Delhi** : During the Border Security Force's Raising Day ceremony in Bhuj, Gujarat, Union Home Minister Amit Shah strongly justified the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, asserting that the initiative is essential for national security and the protection of Indian democracy.

He stated that the government intends to identify and remove people he described as unauthorised infiltrators from electoral records, calling it their firm responsibility towards the nation. He said, "Ek ek ghuspeti ko chun chun kar nikalenge (every infiltrator will be brought out)."

Shah accused some political parties, particularly those within the INDIA al-



liance of opposing the clean-up effort for political gains. According to him, such groups are trying to undermine the Election Commission's revision drive by creating doubts among the public. He

pointed to the recent Bihar verdict as "evidence of the public's support" for the administration's approach on national security and illegal immigration. He appealed to citizens everywhere to cooperate

when officials visit homes for verification and insisted that the exercise is purely aimed at preventing misuse of voting rights. The Home Minister said voter lists must reflect only legitimate residents and "not those who have entered illegally and threaten India's interests".

In the same event, Shah praised the BSF and Indian Army for their actions in Operation Sindoor, claiming that Pakistan's announcement of a ceasefire demonstrated the strength and deterrence of Indian forces. He highlighted that the BSF, created after the 1965 Indo-Pakistan war, has grown into one of the largest border-guarding forces in the world and remains vital to India's inter-

national and border security strategy.

The government claims that the exercise is a routine and lawful clean-up similar to revisions conducted before every major election only more thorough this time to prevent fraud and manipulation.

Shah's remarks come at a time when the SIR process has triggered heated political debate. Opposition leaders and rights-based organisations argue that such language may be used to target specific communities, particularly Muslims and migrants from neighbouring countries, increasing fears of discrimination. They warn that genuine citizens may be left out of voter lists due to bureaucratic errors or identity-based suspicion.

# J&K's SIA raids office of 'Kashmir Times' in Jammu; editors call it attempt to silence independent media

**MI News Service, Srinagar** : In Jammu, the State Investigation Agency (SIA) of the J&K Police on 20 November carried out a major search at the head office of the English-language newspaper Kashmir Times, as part of a security investigation linked to alleged promotion of secessionist and anti-national activities.

The agency said the raid, conducted at the Residency Road premises, followed a First Information Report (FIR) accusing the publication of "criminal conspiracy with secessionist and other anti-national entities operating within and outside J&K".

During the operation, investigators allegedly recovered items including AK-series rifle cartridges, pistol rounds, grenade safety levers and unspecified documents from the newsroom's offices and adjacent premises. The SIA said the raid was conducted in presence of an executive magistrate and followed legal procedure. Forensic examination of the seized equipment and digital devices is underway.

Editors and owners of Kashmir Times — Prabodh Jamwal and Anuradha Bhasin issued a joint statement condemning the ac-



tion as an assault on press freedom. They said the allegations were "designed to intimidate, to delegitimise and ultimately to silence" their newspaper, which they described as one of the few independent voices willing to challenge power in Jammu & Kashmir.

They highlighted the legacy of the newspaper founded in 1954 by veteran journalist Ved Bhasin and argued that interrogating a media house for carrying out criticism of the government is not the same as being inimical to the state. Their statement called for withdrawal of the allegations and respect for constitutional rights of journalism.

Political parties from Kashmir also weighed in,

with the National Conference (NC) and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) describing the raid as an attempt at media suppression rather than a normal security operation.

Officials from the SIA claim that the investigation is part of a broader probe into terror and extremist networks in the region, citing recent searches of multiple sites in Kulgam and elsewhere.

The Kashmir Times digital edition continues to operate, while the print edition in Jammu has been suspended since 2021-22 amid earlier regulatory pressures. The management said that while their office may be raided, their commitment to truth remains intact.

# Lebanese Health Ministry blames Israel for 331 deaths since ceasefire



**MI News Service, Beirut** : Israeli strikes and violations have killed 331 people and injured 945 in Lebanon since a cessation of hostilities agreement took effect a year ago, the Lebanese Ministry of Health said on Friday.

The figures cover the period from Nov. 28, 2024, shortly after the U.S. and French-brokered truce began, through Nov. 20, 2025.

In a statement, the ministry's Public Health Emergency Operations Center attributed the casualties to Israeli raids, at-

tacks, and breaches of the agreement intended to end the fighting triggered by the war in Gaza.

While the truce formally ended full-scale combat, tensions have persisted. The Israeli military has continued periodic strikes in Lebanese territory, saying they are necessary to address immediate Hezbollah threats.

Israel has also maintained forces at five strategic points along the Lebanese border, missing a Feb. 18 deadline for a full withdrawal required by the agreement.

# CJI Gavai's tenure saw 21 judges from marginalised castes appointed

**MI News Service, New Delhi** : Ten judges from Scheduled Caste category, eleven from Other Backward Classes and Backward Classes were appointed to different high courts of the country during Chief Justice of India BR Gavai's tenure of around six months.

Justice Gavai, who is the country's first Buddhist and second Dalit CJI, headed the three-member collegium of the apex court which recommended 129 names to the government for appointment as judges of different high courts, out of which 93 names were cleared.

Five judges — Justices NV Anjaria, Vijay Bishnoi, AS Chandurkar, Alok Aradhe and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi — were also appointed to the apex court during his tenure.

According to the details of appointment of judges



uploaded on the apex court's website from May 14 onwards, when Justice Gavai became Chief Justice of India, 93 names cleared by the government for the high court included 13 judges from minority communities and 15 women judges.

Five of them are related to former or serving judges and 49 judges were appointed from the Bar while rest were from the service cadre. CJI Gavai is set to demit office on Sunday, November 23 and his

successor Justice Surya Kant will be sworn in as the next Chief Justice of India on November 24.

Justice Gavai, the 52nd Chief Justice of India, has delivered prodigious verdicts during his six-month tenure, including those that stayed key provisions of the Waqf law, struck down the tribunal reforms statute and allowed the Centre to grant post facto green nods to projects.

Friday was the last working day of CJI Gavai, who was the second Dalit after K G Balakrishnan to head the Indian judiciary.

Overwhelmed by rich tributes on his last working day, CJI Gavai said he was leaving the institution "with a full sense of satisfaction and contentment" and as a "student of justice" on concluding four decades of journey as a lawyer and a judge.

# Afghanistan builds over 1,300 schools in 4 years

**MI News Service, Kabul** : Afghanistan's Ministry of Education has constructed 1,315 school buildings across the country over the past four years in a continued push to improve access to education, the state-run Bakhtar news agency reported on Saturday.



According to the report, the ministry has recently completed an additional 179 modern schools and six religious schools across 21 provinces. The combined value of these new facilities exceeds 32 million U.S. dollars. The construction efforts were financed through the Ministry of Education's budget as well as support from various aid organizations, the report said. These projects aim to address long-standing shortages of proper school facilities, particularly in rural areas where students have often studied in tents, open fields, or damaged buildings.

# Japan Moves Closer To Restarting World's Largest Nuclear Plant

**MI News Service, Tokyo** : Japan has taken a major step toward restarting the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant — the world's largest — for the first time since the 2011 Fukushima disaster. Niigata Governor Hideo Hanazumi announced on Friday that he has approved a partial restart of the facility, marking a significant milestone in the country's return to nuclear energy.

The restart plan, proposed by Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO), still requires approval from the Niigata prefectural assembly and Japan's nuclear regulator. If cleared, it would allow TEPCO to operate a nuclear reactor for the

first time since its Fukushima plant suffered a catastrophic meltdown after a massive earthquake and tsunami. Hanazumi said the proposal will be presented to the prefectural assembly in December, where he will formally seek lawmakers' consent. The approval sought covers the restart of Reactor No. 6, followed by Reactor No. 7 at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant. The plant's revival is central to TEPCO's long-term reconstruction plan as it continues to bear the enormous financial burden of the Fukushima disaster, which forced the evacuation of 150,000 people and resulted in trillions of yen in compensation and decommissioning costs.

# Trump sets deadline for acceptance of U.S.-proposed Ukraine peace plan

**MI News Service, Kyiv** : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday on X, following a phone call with U.S. Vice President JD Vance, that the Ukrainian side "agreed to work together with the U.S. and Europe at the level of national security advisors to make the path to peace truly doable."

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21 (Xinhua) -- U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday set Nov. 27 as the deadline for accepting a 28-point peace plan proposed by his administration to end the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

"I've had a lot of deadlines, but if things are working well, you tend to extend the deadlines," Trump told Fox News Radio. "But Thursday is it -- we think an appropriate time."

Ukraine was losing land and "will lose in a short period of time," he said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Friday on X, following a phone call with U.S. Vice President JD Vance,



that the Ukrainian side "agreed to work together with the U.S. and Europe at the level of national security advisors to make the path to peace truly doable."

In an address to the nation, Zelensky said: "Ukraine could now face a very difficult choice: either the loss of dignity, or the risk of losing a key partner. Either the difficult 28 points, or an extremely difficult winter."

# Netanyahu holds cabinet meeting amid surge in Israeli settler violence in West Bank



**MI News Service, Jerusalem** : Israel's prime minister met with top security officials to assess a rising tide of Israeli settler violence in the West Bank, an Israeli official said Friday, as he faces increasing US pressure to halt the flare-up that could undermine Washington's peace plan for Gaza.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convened his security cabinet late Thursday, bringing together officials from the military, the country's domestic security service Shin Bet and police to discuss the recent spike in violence, according to an Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not permitted to talk about a

closed-door meeting. The Prime Minister's Office did not immediately respond to request for comment about what was discussed at the meeting. The Israeli official said there would be a follow-up meeting.

Washington is hoping Israel can contain the rising settler violence to avoid jeopardising the UN Security Council-approved US plan for Gaza, which authorises an international force to provide security and envisions a possible path to an independent Palestinian state.

Netanyahu has called the perpetrators "a handful of extremists" and urged law enforcement to pursue them for "the attempt to take the law into their own

hands." But rights groups and Palestinians say the problem is far greater than a few bad apples, and attacks have become a daily phenomenon across the territory.

Israel's government is dominated by far-right proponents of the settler movement including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich, who formulates settlement policy, and Cabinet minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who oversees the nation's police force.

The UN Humanitarian office reported that October saw the highest number of Israeli settler attacks since it began tracking in 2006, with more than 260 incidents causing injuries or property damage. That's on top of 2,660 settler attacks recorded this year through the end of September.

The security cabinet meeting comes a day after Israel's Civil Administration announced plans to expropriate large swaths of Sebastia, a major archaeological site in the West Bank. Peace Now, an anti-settlement watchdog group, said the site is around 450 acres — Israel's largest seizure of archaeologically important land.

Separately, Israeli settlers celebrated the creation of a new, unauthorised settlement near Bethlehem.

# UN humanitarian workers concerned by West Bank violence, Gaza aid access obstacles

**MI News Service, United Nations** : UN humanitarian workers said Friday the level of violence in the West Bank is deeply concerning, while efforts to pour more aid into the Gaza Strip are being thwarted.

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said reasons for concern include casualties, property damage, displacement, loss of livelihoods, and a strong sense of insecurity in the West Bank due to the violence.

The number of Palestinian children killed in the West Bank in 2025 reached 50, including two girls, the youngest 2 years old. Overall, more than 200 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces since the start of the year in the West Bank, OCHA noted.

The office said it documented 29 attacks between Nov. 11 and 17 by Israeli settlers that led to 11 injuries and damaged 10 homes, two mosques, nearly two dozen vehicles and a wide range of agricultural assets, including livestock, seasonal crops and roughly 1,000 trees and saplings.

In the northern West



Bank, large-scale operations by Israeli forces have left tens of thousands in prolonged displacement, causing additional school closures and further tightening movement restrictions. In the town of Ya'bad, where Israeli troops have been operating for two weeks, 55 people were newly displaced, OCHA said.

The office said the United Nations and its partners provide cash aid to families displaced or otherwise affected. More than 10,000 households have received such support so far this year.

OCHA continues to call for the protection of civilians, which includes enforcing the law against anyone

who carries out attacks and for lethal force to be used only in strict accordance with internationally agreed law enforcement standards. "War-like tactics must not be tolerated as the new normal in the West Bank," it said.

In the Gaza Strip, continuing obstacles are hindering the humanitarian scale-up since the Oct. 10 ceasefire, OCHA said. Restrictions on visas and import approvals, too few operating crossing points and limited facilitation of humanitarian movements inside the strip are among the impediments to aid delivery.

The office said that between Nov. 12 and 18, the United Nations and its partners tried to coordinate

over 50 humanitarian movements with the Israeli authorities. Most were to collect cargo from the three border crossings. Others were for search-and-rescue work, road repairs, assessments and clearances, or staff deployment.

OCHA said that supplies from the Kerem Shalom/Karem Abu Salem crossing, also in the south, continue to be directed through the Philadelphi Corridor and along the Al Rasheed coastal road, a congested route that limits convoy size.

On Thursday, the United Nations and its partners ended the first round of the catch-up immunization campaign, which began on Nov. 9. The office said that on Monday and Tuesday, humanitarian teams distributed 121,000 towels, more than 2,800 dignity and hygiene kits, nearly 4,800 handwashing stations, 1,000 buckets, 225 jerry cans and 13 water tanks for 400,000 people. More than 10,000 tents, 130,000 tarpaulins, 150,000 bedding kits and 1,000 kitchen sets were distributed between Nov. 13 and 18.

# 37 Maoists surrender before Telangana DGP amid intensified anti-Maoist operations

**MI News Service, Hyderabad** : In yet another major surrender, 37 Maoists are surrendering before the Telangana DGP B Shivadhar Reddy in the city on Saturday, November 22. The Maoists are of different ranks and were underground for several years. Several high-profile Maoists have surrendered in Telangana in recent months. The Maoists are surrendering large numbers in view of major operations launched by security forces in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. The Union government set a deadline of March 2026 to end the Maoist movement in the city. A few hundred Maoists were killed in "Exchange of Fire", in different States in the past few months.

# UN peacekeeping mission reports rising violence in South Sudan's Upper Nile state: spokesperson

**MI News Service, United Nations** : The UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan has been reporting escalating intercommunal violence, cattle raids and aerial bombardment in the country's Upper Nile State, a UN spokesperson said Friday. The incidents in Ulang and Baliet counties of the Upper Nile State, according to local authorities, have caused multiple casualties, impacting women and children, and displaced around 12,000 people, said Stephane Dujarric, spokesperson for the UN secretary-general, at a daily briefing. The United Nations is "deeply concerned by the rising violence in Upper Nile State," Dujarric told reporters. In response, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan deployed a patrol to Baliet this week, where peacekeepers engaged with local officials and provided emergency medical assistance, he said.

# Central Vietnam Floods Kill 41, Heavy Rain And Landslides Continue

**MI News Service, Hanoi** : Central Vietnam is grappling with rising floodwaters and landslides after three days of relentless rain that have claimed at least 41 lives, state media reported on Thursday. Water levels in towns and villages already under water are expected to rise further as heavy rainfall continues. Over the past three days, several areas in central Vietnam have recorded more than 1,500 mm of rainfall. The region, a key coffee-producing belt and home to the country's most popular beaches, is highly vulnerable to storms and flooding.

# 2nd Test: Kuldeep picks three as persistent India keep South Africa to 247/6

**GUWAHATI** : Kuldeep Yadav's three wicket haul became the standout bowling effort on the opening day of the first ever Test at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium, as a persistent India restricted South Africa to 247/6 in 81.5 overs before bad light forced stumps to arrive early on day one.

The left arm wrist-spinner returned figures of 3-48, while Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Siraj, and Ravindra Jadeja took a wicket each as India got rewarded for their persistence by picking four wickets in the final session. On a good red soil batting pitch, all South African batters got good starts, but none went on to a half century.

Each time the batters looked to accelerate, India were sharp enough to seize the opportunity and pick scalps, thus ensuring the visitors never fully ran away with opening day honours. With South Africa now into their lower order, India will aim to wrap up the innings quickly on Day Two.

In the morning, after electing to bat first, Aiden Markram and Ryan Rickelton ensured South Africa had a steady start against new ball bowlers Bumrah and Siraj. The duo got decent carry and swing, though two sets of byes went against wicketkeeper and skipper Rishabh Pant's name.

Though the atmosphere was subdued at India's newest Test venue due to sparse attendance, which was in complete contrast to the well attended Eden Gardens Test last week, Bumrah and Siraj continued to keep the openers in check. Markram finally opened his account with a solid punch off Bumrah for four, before surviving a scare on four when Rahul dropped his catch at slip.

With Siraj bowling touch too full and wide, Markram and Rickelton scored a few boundaries off him, as South Africa reached 34/0 at the first drinks break. Nitish Kumar Reddy struggled for consistency -- drifting onto the pads too often and conceding boundaries to Markram, while Kuldeep and Washington Sundar found some turn and bounce, though Rickelton got streaky boundaries off them.

Captain Pant's decision to bring Bumrah late in the session to deliver the breakthrough paid off when he had Markram chopping on to his stumps for 38, and Rahul, who had earlier split a chance of him, had a smile full of relief on his face as India finally had a wicket before tea break.

The second session began with a bang for India as Yadav got a flighted delivery to drift in before spinning away, and the outside



edge on Rickelton's attempted drive was safely pounced by Pant, as South Africa suddenly lost both of their set batters in quick succession.

After some quiet time, Temba Bavuma began by thumping Kuldeep over mid-on for four,

before Tristan Stubbs got an outside edge off Siraj going for a boundary. Bavuma took on Siraj by pulling and punching him for successive boundaries, before Stubbs danced down the pitch to loft Kuldeep over long-on for six.

Though Kuldeep and Jadeja

tested the duo, it was of little effect as Bavuma, who survived an lbw appeal off the latter and forced India to burn a review on him, and Stubbs remained rock solid. With little assistance on offer for the spinners, India reverted to pace from both ends, and that didn't

result in a change of fortunes as runs continued to flow.

India had a bit of a scare when Siraj suffered a knock on his knee during a mid pitch collision with Stubbs, who was rushing through for a quick single. Stubbs was the first player to check on Siraj, before physio Kamlesh Jain came out with an ice pack to nurse the fast bowler. After two to three minutes of treatment, Siraj was back on his feet, and play resumed.

The sparse crowd swelled marginally as the second session unfolded, with South Africa holding firm against disciplined Indian bowling. It was classic Test cricket, marked by resolute batting from Bavuma and Stubbs, as 74 runs came in the second session. India were rewarded for their persistence after lunch as Jadeja removed Bavuma, who fell for 41 off 92 balls, attempting to loft over extra cover but instead chipped to mid off.

Bavuma's dismissal ended his steady 84 run stand with Stubbs. The breakthrough could have come earlier when Bavuma chanced a risky single in the second over after the lunch interval. But substitute fielder Devdutt Padikkal failed to gather cleanly at square leg, allowing Stubbs to escape. After India continued to

bowl probing lines on a surface offering little assistance, Kuldeep managed to dismiss Stubbs for 49 when the batter looked to defend, but the delivery bounced a fraction more and held its line, with Rahul taking a sharp catch at first slip.

South Africa's inexperience in Indian conditions was further exposed when Kuldeep lured Wiaan Mulder into playing a big shot on a generously tossed up delivery that dipped, and with not much elevation in the shot, it made for a straightforward catch to mid off. For a short while, India's disciplined bowling was quelled by Tony de Zorzi and Senuran Muthusamy, hitting seven boundaries between themselves.

But Mohammed Siraj struck with the first ball of his spell with the second new ball to dismiss de Zorzi, thanks to a brilliant catch from captain Rishabh Pant diving to his left to complete a superb take with both hands in front of first slip. The dismissal provided India with a timely lift late to end day one on a high.

**BRIEF SCORES:**  
South Africa 247/6 in 81.5 overs (Tristan Stubbs 49, Temba Bavuma 41; Kuldeep Yadav 3-48, Ravindra Jadeja 1-30) against India

## JHARKHAND'S RISING HOCKEY TALENTS FINDS PATH TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE

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**RANCHI** : Once again, the daughters of Jharkhand have proven that dedication, discipline, and relentless hard work pave the way to success. Fourteen young talents from the Girls' Hockey Centre of Excellence, located at Morabadi, have secured government jobs, bringing pride and recognition to the state.

The athletes, trained at the prestigious Centre of Excellence (Girls) Hockey Training Centre, have been recruited across major national institutions including South Eastern Railway, CISF, and BSF. Their selection highlights both their sporting excellence and the state's growing contribution to national hockey.

According to available information, appointments took place between April and October 2025 across various departments.

Those joining South Eastern Railway include Alabela Rani Toppo, Sammy Bara, and Binima Dhan.

Recruited by CISF are Nikki Kullu, Pramodini Lakra, Nirali Kujur, Mahima Tete, and Neeru Kullu.

Meanwhile, Eline Ddungdung, Edline Bage, Phulmani Bhengra, Rashmi Horo, Rajni Kerketta, and Anika Ddungdung joined the Border Security Force.

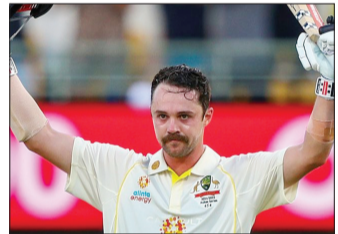
This cohort of players has not only excelled at national-level tournaments but has also emerged as role models for aspiring female athletes in tribal and rural regions of Jharkhand. Their journey reflects the growing impact of structured training programs, enhanced sports infrastructure, and the state's continued focus on nurturing grassroots talent.

## Ashes: Head, Starc lead Australia to eight-wicket win in Perth

**PERTH** : England slumped to a heavy defeat in the opening Ashes Test as Travis Head's explosive century powered Australia to a remarkable comeback victory in Perth on Saturday.

In the first Ashes match to finish inside two days since 1921, Head tore apart England's bowling with a breathtaking 69-ball hundred - the second-fastest in Ashes history. His 123 carried Australia to their target of 205 in just 28.2 overs, securing an eight-wicket win and a 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

The turnaround was dramatic. Australia had conceded a 40-run first-innings deficit and were



effectively 105 behind when England moved to 65-1 shortly after lunch, only for the match to unravel for the visitors. Mitchell Starc's 10-wicket haul, combined with a series of poor English shots and a bold Australian call to elevate Head up the order, deepened England's long-running struggles

in the country - they have now lost 14 and drawn two of 16 Tests in Australia since 2011.

A collapse of six wickets for 39 runs in 11 overs - including a brutal spell of 3-0 in six balls that removed Ollie Pope, Harry Brook and Joe Root - left England reeling. Despite a brief counterattack from Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse, who added a fifty stand, England were dismissed for 164 in 34.4 overs, losing their final nine wickets for 99.

Chasing what would be the highest total of the match, Australia instead romped home as Head produced one of the great Ashes knocks. England's bowlers,

so dominant the previous day, were dismantled, while the Perth crowd revelled in the one-sided finish.

The only suspense was whether the contest would stretch into a third day. Head ensured it would not, giving England ample time to reflect ahead of the day-night second Test in Brisbane on December 4.

**Brief Scores:** England 172 (Harry Brook 52; Mitchell Starc 7-58) & 164 (Gus Atkinson 37; Scott Boland 4-33) lost to Australia 132 (Alex Carey 26; Ben Stokes 5-23) & 205/2 (Travis Head 123; Brydon Carse 2-44) by eight wickets.

## Sub-jr Women Hockey Academy C'ship: Khalsa to meet HAR in Zone A & B final



**KHALSA HOCKEY ACADEMY (AMRITSAR) SECURED A 2-1 WIN AGAINST PRITAM SIWACH HOCKEY ACADEMY, SONEPAT, TO PROGRESS TO THE FINAL.**

**KARNAL (HARYANA)** : Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar) and HAR Hockey Academy booked their place in the final of the 3rd Hockey India Sub-junior Women Academy Championship 2025 - Zone A & B at the Kailash Hockey Stadium in Karnal, Haryana, on Saturday.

Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar) secured a 2-1 win against Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy, Sonapat, to progress to

the final. Laxmi (10', 32') scored a brace for the winner, while Diya (6') got on the scoresheet for Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy.

Meanwhile, HAR Hockey Academy registered a 16-0 victory against the Sports Hockey Academy of Khalsa's Kolkata in the second semifinal. Vishakha (7', 14', 16', 43'), Antika (22', 45', 54', 60'), and captain Radhika (21', 49', 58', 58') scored four goals each. Jyoti (13'), Himanshi

(27'), and Anjali (28', 52') also contributed to their victory.

Earlier, Pritam Siwach Hockey Academy, Sonapat, registered a 2-0 victory against Roundglass Punjab Hockey Club Academy. Nancy Saroha (23') and Diya (53') scored for the former, propelling them to the top of the table in Pool A.

In Pool B, HAR Academy registered a massive 31-0 victory over Hockey Family Badkhalsa NCR

Hockey Society. Anika scored a double hat-trick (7', 8', 10', 14', 41', 45'), while Vishakha (37', 38', 38', 45', 49'), Anjali (2', 9', 15', 42', 50'), and Jyoti (11', 19', 32', 35', 37') struck five goals each. Bharti (28', 55', 58', 60') netted four goals, and Tamanna (12', 57') scored a brace. Vanshika (33'), Tannu (50'), Kaphi (56'), and Himanshi (30') contributed one goal apiece.

Khalsa Hockey Academy (Amritsar) prevailed 3-0 against R K Roy Hockey Academy with goals from Jashandeep Kaur (21'), Laxmi (26'), and Muskan Gill (41'). Meanwhile, Markandeshwar Hockey Academy defeated Raja Karan Hockey Academy 5-0. Anchal (4'), Nancy Kashyap (44'), Aashna Kamboj (48'), and Diya (35', 47') scored for the winners.

The 3rd Hockey India Sub-Junior Women Academy Championship 2025 (Zone A & B) started at the Kailash Hockey Stadium in Karnal, Haryana, on November 15, bringing together promising young talents from leading hockey academies of India. It will end on Sunday with the grand finale.

## 'It can't get much worse than that': Hamilton after qualifying slowest in Las Vegas

**LAS VEGAS** : Lewis Hamilton admitted things "can't get much worse than that" after qualifying slowest on pure pace for the first time in his Formula 1 career at the Las Vegas Grand Prix on Saturday. After calling his debut season with Ferrari a "nightmare" in the wake of the team's double DNF at the Sao Paulo Grand Prix, Hamilton's fortunes dipped even further in Las Vegas.

Although he showed strong speed during practice, rain and a damp circuit during qualifying disrupted the session, and Hamilton was unable to find any performance, leaving him at the back of the grid.

"I just don't really have words for it. It's obviously not good enough, and I didn't have any -- I couldn't get any temperature into the tyres. I just had a lot of under-steer, and then I think one of my front brakes was glazed, so I was really struggling to stop in the corners," said Hamilton following his Q1 exit.

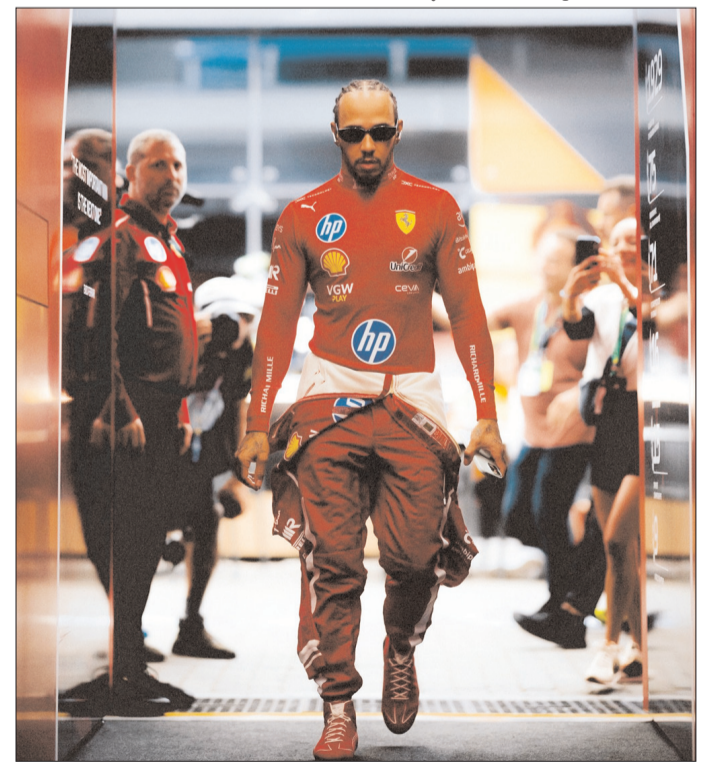
Hamilton's result signalled an unwelcome milestone for the seven-time World Champion and marked the first time a Ferrari has qualified slowest since the 2009 Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

In the much drier final practice session, Hamilton had demonstrated encouraging speed, finishing fifth fastest.

Of the drop off in the wet, he added, "It's very annoying, of course, because I felt in (FP3) that the car was feeling awesome. Honestly, I thought it was going to be a great day, but it's turned out to be the worst. So it obviously can't get much worse than that."

At the end of Q1, confusion arose over whether Hamilton had crossed the line in time for a final push, with the seven-time champion telling Sky Sports F1, "I had to have a lift, and when I came to the line, it was red."

He also seemed to strike a loose cone during the session, a moment that may have unintentionally affected his pace.



# HOCKEY: INDIAN MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM READY TO HIT THE GROUND RUNNING AT SULTAN AZLAN SHAH CUP

**IPOH** : The Indian men's hockey team is gearing up to begin their Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 campaign in Ipoh, Malaysia, from November 23 to 30. Having won the tournament five times, India are the second-most successful team in the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup and are set to make their first appearance in the tournament since 2019, when they finished as runners-up.

The upcoming tournament will be the 31st edition of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup, which is considered one of the most prestigious invitational hockey tournaments around the world. This year's edition will feature India, Belgium, Canada, Korea, New Zealand, and hosts Malaysia, compet-

ing in a round-robin format, with the top two teams qualifying for the final.

Led by captain Sanjay, the Indian team will begin its campaign against Korea on November 23. The Men in Blue will then face Belgium on November 24, Malaysia on November 26, and New Zealand on November 27, before concluding their league campaign against Canada on November 29.

With Team India building towards the 2026 FIH Men's Hockey World Cup and the 2026 Asian Games next year, this tournament provides an opportunity for competitive preparation as well as testing new combinations.

The squad consists of Pawan and



Mohith HS as goalkeepers, while the defensive unit comprises Poovanna Chandura Boby, Nilam Sanjeev Kess, Yashdeep Siwach, Jugraj Singh, Amit Rohidas, and captain Sanjay.

Rajinder Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vivek Sagar Prasad, and Mohammed Raheel Mousen will be present in the midfield, while Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanan Lakra, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Dilpreet Singh, and Abhishek will lead the attack for India.

Ahead of the tournament, Craig Fulton's Indian team underwent an extensive training camp in Bengaluru. Speaking about the team's preparations, captain Sanjay said, "We've

gone through thorough preparations in the build-up to the tournament with a focus on certain areas that we identified. This competitive tournament offers us an opportunity to test ourselves against strong international opponents, and we're ready to hit the ground running."

"There's a good blend of youth and experience in the squad, and the energy within the group is positive. Our preparation helped everyone understand their roles and responsibilities. Now, our focus is on delivering consistent performances and challenging for the title," he concluded.

All matches of the Sultan Azlan Shah Cup 2025 will be broadcast live on FanCode from November 23 to 30.