

# TMC IT Cell Chief Debangshu Bhattacharya Releases Viral Song Against SIR

The introduction of the SIR in Bengal has stirred political debate across the state. Questions over the rush to implement SIR in Bengal have prompted protests from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee. Taking the protest to a creative level, Trinamool Congress IT cell chief Debangshu Bhattacharya has now voiced his dissent in the form of a song, lambasting the central government and the BJP. The song also carries a political message, with hints that Mamata Banerjee is set to retain power in the 2026 Assembly elections.

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# Morning India

## Trinamool MPs demand white paper on MGNREGS funds for West Bengal

MI News Service, New Delhi/Kolkata: All India Trinamool Congress MPs staged a protest in Parliament complex on Wednesday, demanding the government to come out with a white paper on funds allocated to West Bengal under the MGNREGS and PMAY.

Trinamool MPs from both Houses stood in the Parliament complex holding blank, white placards and raising slogans.

The party's Rajya Sabha MP Sushmita Dev said Trinamool's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee had demanded a white paper on the allocations made to West Bengal in March 2024.

She said that until the payment freeze in 2021, Bengal had consistently ranked first in MGNREGA person-days generated, as well as in rural housing and road development. "They have stopped all of these out of jealousy and hatred," she alleged.

Calling the Centre's revised guidelines a "valueless and insulting diktat", Dev and other TMC MPs said the Bengal government would not deter and expand its own state-funded employment scheme, Karmashree, rather than accept the "politically motivated restrictions designed to choke Bengal's welfare programmes".

They apprehend that the Centre might release a portion of the unpaid funds just before the 2026 elections, not for development but as political optics.

"We have not received Rs 51,627 crore for MGNREGA. They have kept this money hidden.



Trinamool Congress MPs staged a protest in Parliament complex on Wednesday, demanding that Centre should come out with a White Paper on funds allocated to West Bengal under MGNREGS.

Just before the polls, they will say they have released the money, but then there won't be any time left to carry out development work. Even if they give it in December, the financial year will end in March, leaving us no time to work," Dev said repeating similar charges levelled by Chief minister Mamata Banerjee only a couple of days ago.

Incidentally, Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday escalated her long-running confrontation with the Union government over MGNREGA funds, publicly tearing up a copy of the new operational norms at a Trinamool Congress rally in Cooch Behar and declaring that Bengal "will not survive on Delhi's charity".

Her protest comes against the backdrop of a nearly two-year standoff between the Centre and

the West Bengal government over unpaid MGNREGA dues, during which the Union rural development ministry has accused the state of mismanagement and irregularities, while the state has alleged that the BJP-led government is weaponising funds to punish a political opponent.

She said the latest letter from the Centre, received two days ago, imposed a fresh set of conditions on West Bengal's MGNREGA operations — including mandatory submission of a quarterly labour budget starting 6 December and compulsory pre-employment training modules.

"Day before yesterday, we received a letter stating that starting 6 December, we must submit a quarterly labour budget. They have imposed a restrictive condition. But where is the time to

show it? This is December, and the election is due early next year. Then they said training has to be provided," the Chief minister said while tearing up a copy of the letter.

Her critique reflects a wider complaint among several non-BJP states — that the Centre has increasingly tightened procedural norms for centrally sponsored schemes, leading to delayed approvals, slowed wage disbursement and reduced state autonomy.

"When will you train and when will you give the jobs? I say this piece of paper is valueless," she said. "Under Karmashree, we are giving 70 days of work. We will increase it to 100 days. We don't want your mercy. That is why I am tearing the note. I feel it is disrespectful."

Framing the confrontation in civilisational, not merely administrative, terms, Mamata Banerjee also said: "Bengal has never bowed its head and never will. Bengal knows how to walk with its head held high."

Her remarks tap into a familiar political theme in West Bengal: the claim that the Centre is encroaching on state rights and withholding funds as leverage. The TMC has repeatedly said that the freeze on MGNREGA payments, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana allocations, and rural road development grants has crippled Panchayat-level spending, especially in politically sensitive districts where the BJP made gains in 2021.

Quoting Mamata Banerjee her party MPs reiterated that Bengal's MGNREGA dues — which her government pegs at over Rs 51,627 crore — remain unpaid, despite rural workers staging protests both in the state and in Delhi.

"The central government has stopped MGNREGA. Even the High Court has given an order in our favour. We also protest in Delhi. Cases were filed against each protesting MP. The train that we booked was cancelled. A half-minister gave us a time to meet but did not turn up," Dev said.

The allegation — that the Centre times fund releases to maximise political gain — echoes similar criticisms by other opposition-run states, including Kerala and Tamil Nadu, regarding centrally sponsored welfare schemes.

## Shashi Tharoor refuses to accept 'Veer Savarkar Award'

MI News Service, Thiruvananthapuram: Congress MP Shashi Tharoor on Wednesday categorically stated that he would not accept an award named after VD Savarkar, nor attend a related event, even as a senior party colleague wanted the Thiruvananthapuram MP not to accept any honour named after the ideologue whom he claimed "bowed before the British."

Tharoor said that he will not accept the "Veer Savarkar Award" and also won't attend the event where it will be presented in the absence of clarifications about its nature or the organisation presenting it. Tharoor, the MP from Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala, also said that "it was irresponsible on the part of the organisers to announce my name without my having agreed to receive it".

Earlier in the day, Congress leader K Muraleedharan told reporters in Thiruvananthapuram that no party member, including Tharoor, should accept any award in the name of Veer Savarkar "as he had bowed before the British."

Muraleedharan said that he does not believe that Tharoor will accept the award as doing so would insult and embarrass the Congress party. Tharoor later told reporters in the National capital that he heard about the award on Tuesday and that he was not going for the ceremony.

"I heard about it yesterday only. I am not going. I am not here," he said in response to a question on Wednesday on



his participation in the award ceremony.

Subsequently, in a post on social media platform 'X', the Congress MP said, "In the absence of clarifications about the nature of the award, the organisation presenting it or any other contextual details, the question of my attending the event today or accepting the award does not arise."

He further said that he learned from media reports that he was named as a recipient of the award when he went to Kerala to vote in the local body polls on Tuesday.

He said he had clarified then that he was neither aware of, nor had accepted, such an award. "Despite that, today in Delhi, some media outlets continue to ask the same question. Therefore, I am issuing this statement to clarify the matter unequivocally," Tharoor added.

Following Tharoor's statement, Aji Krishnan, the secretary of the Highrange Rural Development Society (HRDS) India which is presenting the award, told a TV channel

that the Congress MP was informed about the matter well in advance.

He said that representatives of HRDS India and the Chairman of the award jury had met Tharoor at his residence to invite him and the MP had asked for a list of the other recipients of the award.

"We gave him the list. He has not yet informed us that he will not come for the event. Perhaps he is scared as the Congress has made it an issue," Krishnan claimed.

Meanwhile, Kerala Law Minister P Rajeev has said it was Tharoor's decision whether to accept the award or not.

Tharoor was chosen as one of the recipients of the inaugural Veer Savarkar International Impact Award 2025, instituted by HRDS India, on Wednesday in New Delhi.

On Tuesday, he had said that he heard about the award through the media and that he was not aware of anything related to the award. Let me find out what it is," he had said.

## 11 Naxalites with Rs 82 lakh bounty surrender in Maharashtra



MI News Service, Gadchiroli (Maharashtra): Eleven senior Naxalites, carrying a collective reward of Rs 82 lakh on their heads, surrendered before Director General of Police Rashmi Shukla in Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district on Wednesday, officials said.

Four of them were in 'uniform' when the cadres laid down their arms in front of the DGP, they said. The State government had announced a cumulative reward of Rs 82 lakh on them, a police release said.

A large number of cadres have been disillusioned by the hollow Maoist ideology, frustrated by the mindless violence against civilians, and drawn to the surrender-cum-rehabilitation policy implemented by the Maharashtra government since 2005, it said.

Due to concerted efforts by the Gadchiroli Police and the Central Reserve Police Force, 112 Maoist cadres have surrendered this year in the district, the release said. Those who surrendered on Wednesday included division-

al committee members Ramesh Lekami (57), resident of Gadchiroli, and Bhima Kowasi (35), and platform party committee members Poriye Gota (41), Ratan Oyam (32) and Kamal Veladi (30), all from Chhatisgarh, it said.

The others who laid down their arms are area committee members Poriye Veladi (36), Ramaji Pungati (35), and platoon members Sonu Kato (19), Prakash Pungati (22), Sita Pallo (22), and Sainath Made (23).

If a group of Maoists surrenders, the central and Maharashtra governments have announced a total reward of Rs 10 lakh as collective assistance for their rehabilitation, the release said.

Due to the intensified anti-Maoist operations conducted by the Gadchiroli police and the opportunity provided by the government for Maoists to surrender and lead a respectable life, 146 hardcore Naxalites have laid down their arms in the district from 2022, including 112 this year, it said.

Incidentally, in a continued nationwide operations against

the underground rebels to end the Naxalite menace once and for all by March 2026 by the Centre, ten more hardcore Naxalites carrying a collective bounty of Rs 2.36 crore also surrendered before the authorities in Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh on Monday, prompting Chief Minister Mohan Yadav to declare Dindori and Mandla completely free from the Naxalite menace.

The hardcore Naxalites, including four women, laid down their sophisticated weapons, including a number of AK-47 and INSAS rifles, in front of the Chief minister himself. They were part of the 'Bharsadev area committee' of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist), officials said.

Those who returned to the mainstream will get a rehabilitation package for 15 years, while strict action will continue to be taken against those who do not," the MP Chief minister said.

The 10 cadres who surrendered belonged to the new division KB of the Maharashtra-MP-Chhattisgarh (MMC) zone comprising Kanha Tiger Reserve in Mandla and the Boramdeo Wildlife Sanctuary of Kawardha district in Chhattisgarh. It was led by ultra Sunder alias Kabir. "They had formed the GRB division comprising Gondia, Rajnandgaon and Balaghat.

"MP shares borders with Gondia district of Maharashtra as well as Rajnandgaon, Khairagarh and Kawardha of Chhattisgarh," an official said.

## Mamata visits ailing singer Nachiketa at hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday visited popular Bengali singer Nachiketa Chakraborty, who has been undergoing treatment at a private hospital in the city.

Mamata Banerjee on her return from her two-day trip to Cooch Behar, went to the health facility and enquired about the singer's health. She was there for around 20 minutes, hospital sources said.

Chakraborty was admitted to the private hospital with chest pain last Saturday, and underwent an emergency cardiac procedure the next day. The singer, who is in his early 60s, is reported to be stable, the hospital sources said. He is currently recovering and is under observation, they said.

The singer had been attending back-to-back programmes in recent days, leaving little time for rest.

According to hospital sources, the singer had a blockage in his heart. "Two stents have been inserted during the surgery. But now his condition is stable", they said.

Mamata Banerjee not only inquired about Nachiketa's well-being but also spoke separately with the doctors, seeking details of his treatment. A few months back during a Durga Puja inaugural programme, the Chief minister had gently scolded the 'Bridhashram' singer and advised him to take proper care of his ailing health. She publicly expressed concern about his weight loss and said that the singer should eat properly.

## India-US trade talks progressing well for an end : Piyush Goyal

MI News Service, Jaipur: Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday said talks with the US on the proposed bilateral trade agreement are progressing well after the US team arrived in New Delhi for the negotiations.

"Talks are continuously progressing with them. We are moving forward towards a bilateral trade agreement," Goyal told reporters here at the Pravasi Rajasthani Divas. He indicated that he may meet the visiting US official team. A delegation led by Deputy US Trade Representative



(USTR) Rick Switzer is in the national capital for two-day trade talks with his Indian counterpart Rajesh Agrawal.

The US' chief negotiator for the pact, Assistant US Trade Representative for South and Central Asia Brendan Lynch,

will hold discussions with India's chief negotiator and Joint Secretary in the Department of Commerce, Darpan Jain.

The visit is crucial as India and the US have been working for the past few months to finalise the first tranche of the pact. This is the US officials' second trip since the imposition of a 25 per cent tariff and an additional 25 per cent penalty on Indian goods entering the American market due to the purchase of Russian crude oil. The US officials last visited India on September 16.

On September 22, Goyal

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# Bagful of voter cards found dumped in Nadia; a political storm ahead of the CM's visit

**Dipankar Edbar, Santipur (Nadia)** : In yet another incident amid the ongoing SIR-linked controversies in Bengal, a large stash of voter identity cards was recovered from a garbage mound beside National Highway 12 at Santipur on Tuesday, triggering political uproar barely hours before Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's scheduled visit to the district. The discovery was made by local residents, who noticed a torn jute sack lying near a garbage pile. On nudging it with their feet, several voter identity cards spilled out, many bearing addresses from North 24 Parganas, locals said. "The sack looked suspicious because it was partly ripped.



When I moved it with my foot, cards started falling out. There must be at least 400 to 500 cards, along with several documents," said a local resident who first spotted the bag. As word spread across the

area, a crowd quickly gathered. Locals alerted the police, who arrived and seized the entire consignment of cards for investigation. The incident has triggered sharp political reactions, particularly with

the Chief Minister slated to travel on the same stretch of NH-12 to address a public meeting at Krishnagar Government College Ground on Wednesday. The Trinamool Congress accused the BJP of deliberately dumping the cards ahead of the Chief Minister's visit to create panic and discredit the state administration. "The CM will pass through this route. To create confusion and malign her image, people from outside the district have dumped these voter cards here. This is clearly the BJP's handiwork," alleged Tapan Sarkar, TMC leader and member of the Santipur Panchayat Samiti. The BJP, however, hit back with counter-

charges, alleging that the recovered cards point to systematic irregularities under the ruling party. "The area is controlled by the TMC-run panchayat. These cards were used for bogus voting. TMC has long depended on infiltrators and fake voters to stay in power. This recovery only proves that," said Somnath Kar, organisational district secretary of BJP's Ranaghat unit. Police officials confirmed the recovery but said it was too early to determine the source or purpose of the dumped voter cards. A preliminary inquiry has been initiated, officers said, adding that the cards will be sent to the district election authorities for verification.



The All India Forward Bloc - Bengal Committee, along with DSP, held a rally under the leadership of Forward Bloc State Secretary Naren Chatterjee. The rally aimed to strengthen Left unity on the path of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose, focusing on protecting people's livelihoods rather than creating division. Participants protested against rampant corruption and rising prices and demanded overall women's safety. The party also submitted a deputation from the dais at Dharamtala in Kolkata on Wednesday.

## A Nadia woman alleges EPIC identity theft as husband 'replaces' her with second wife from Bangladesh

**Dipankar Edbar, Hanskhali (Nadia)** : In a startling case from the Indo-Bangladesh border region, a woman from Nadia's Hanskhali has accused her husband of stealing her EPIC voter card, replacing her photograph with that of a Bangladeshi woman he allegedly married, and even submitting an SIR form in the second wife's name using her identity. For 42-year-old Usha Ray, the renewed visit to her native village for routine electoral verification turned into a nightmare. When she approached the booth-level officer (BLO) at Shyamnagar in Gazna gram panchayat in Nadia's Hanskhali to collect her SIR form, she was informed that her husband had already taken the form and that it had been filled and submitted. What she discovered next was even more shocking. Usha, a birth-right Indian citizen, had lived with her husband Ashok Ray in Shyamnagar after marriage. But years of alleged domestic violence forced her to flee the house "in just one set of clothes", leaving behind all her documents. To support herself and her young son, she began working as a domestic help in Sonarpur on the outskirts of Kolkata. While she continued her struggle for survival,



her husband allegedly brought home a Bangladeshi woman and married her. Usha now claims that Ashok stole her EPIC card, replaced her photograph with that of the new wife and used Usha's voter number, age and address to fill out the SIR form for the Bangladeshi woman. "My name was in the 2002 voters' list. I am an Indian citizen. How can someone use my EPIC number for another woman?" Usha said, breaking down as she recounted the events. "I have no husband, no home. And now even

my identity is being stolen. I don't know what future awaits me." According to Usha, when she confronted Ashok demanding the form, she found another woman living in her place. "That woman's photo was used on my form," she alleged. Usha has filed written complaints with Hanskhali police and Ranaghat SDO, though she claims the BDO office initially refused to accept her plea. The incident has sparked political reactions across Nadia. Shubhadip Sarkar, Youth President of the Trinamool Congress in Krishnagar block, said, "We urge the administration to investigate and ensure that the rightful voter's name is recorded. Those who engaged in impersonation and forgery must face action under the Election Commission's rules." A BJP leader from Nadia, called the case "extremely serious". "This is a shocking allegation. We want the administration to take strict legal action immediately." Local officials said a preliminary inquiry has begun, though the Election Commission is yet to comment. For Usha Ray, the fight now is not just for identity, but for dignity and the right to be recognised as a citizen in her own country.

## Promise Delivered: MLA's Intervention Gives Chutipur Its First Concrete Road Since Independence

**Dipankar Edbar, Kaliganj (Nadia)** : Kaliganj's Chutipur village in Juranpur Gram Panchayat has witnessed a milestone moment, its first-ever concrete road since Independence. For residents who have spent decades trudging through mud, slush and knee-deep water during monsoons, the newly constructed 150-metre stretch has brought a wave of relief and celebration. For years, the road, from Yasin Sekh's house to Mikai Sekh's residence in Booth No. 207, remained in deplorable condition. Students, daily commuters and even funeral processions struggled to pass through, with the route often turning nearly impassable during rains. During the Kaliganj Assembly bypoll campaign, locals highlighted the persistent issue to Trinamool Congress candidate Alifa Ahmed. Recognising its urgency, she promised to build a concrete road if elected. Fulfilling her commitment, the newly elected MLA allocated Rs. 4.3 lakh from the MLA fund, enabling the construction of the much-awaited road. MLA Alifa Ahmed recently inaugurated the completed road, marking a turning point for Chutipur. The development has sparked widespread optimism among villagers, who believe the stretch will significantly ease travel hardships and end years of monsoon-induced suffering. Residents say the new road is more than just infrastructure, it symbolises long-denied progress and renewed hope for the community.



## "Crash Before Court: Sandeshkali Witness Hit on Way to Testify Against Shahjahan"

**MI News Service, Sandeshkali** : A chilling incident in Sandeshkali has triggered serious allegations of foul play and political intimidation after Bholanath Ghosh, a key witness set to testify against powerful political figures, narrowly survived a deadly attack. While traveling to the Basirhat court to testify in cases linked to Sheikh Shahjahan, Bholanath's vehicle was struck by a ten-wheeler truck near the Boyarnari petrol pump close to Najat. The crash killed his younger son, Satyakit Ghosh, and the driver, Sha-hanur, on the spot. Bholanath survived but remains hospitalized with severe injuries and deep shock. Eyewitnesses reported that the truck hit the car from the side at high speed, pushed it into a ditch, and that the driver fled on a bike—details that have intensified suspicion. The accident occurred on a relatively safe stretch of the Basanti Highway, further strengthening claims that this was a targeted attack rather than a routine road mishap. Bholanath, once an associate of Sheikh Shahjahan, had become a crucial witness in ED-handled corruption and criminal cases allegedly involving Shahjahan. Their



relationship had deteriorated sharply, with Bholanath earlier accusing Shahjahan of criminal misconduct and even vandalism of his property in 2021, forcing him into temporary exile. Political opposition leaders, especially from the BJP, have condemned the incident as a deliberate assassination attempt. BJP leader Sajal Ghosh termed it "a planned murder disguised as an accident." Bholanath's elder son, Biswajit Ghosh, also accused Shahjahan of orchestrating the attack from jail, implicating local leaders Sabita Roy and Moslem Sheikh as collaborators. While Moslem Sheikh denied all allegations, Roy called for an impartial investigation. With Shahjahan already facing multiple serious cases and a key witness attacked just before testifying, urgent questions are being raised about law, order, and the need for a thorough and transparent probe to restore public trust.

## Indonesian Princess Congratulates Kolkata's Erum Makeup Academy at Awards and Certification Ceremony

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Dec.25** : Erum Makeup Academy successfully completed its first batch of the intensive 5-day Masters Class with a grand Awards and Certification Ceremony. The highlight of the event was the heartfelt congratulations extended by Her Royal Highness Princess Mufida Rayya Mubarak of Indonesia to Ms. Erum Seraj, Founder & CEO of Erum Makeup Academy. Princess Mufida also extended a special invitation to all students of the academy to attend an upcoming Royal Family Event in Bali, Indonesia. His Royal Highness Prince Dr. M.A. Ali graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Speaking at the ceremony, Prince Ali praised Erum Seraj, saying, "We are extremely proud of Erum. She has represented India five times in international karate championships and brought home gold medals for the



country on all five occasions. I am confident she will now empower lakhs of young women by training them to become professional makeup artists." An emotional Erum Seraj thanked the royal guests and everyone present. She shared details of the academy's location: Erum Makeup Academy Neer Apartment, 88B Dr. Lal Mohan Bhattacharjee Road (Moulali, Opposite Ramleela Park) Kolkata - 700014

She also announced upcoming courses:  
1-Day Self-Makeup Class: 21st December 2025  
2-Month Basic to Advance Professional Makeup Course: Starting 27th December 2025 (Registrations are now open)  
Erum Seraj expressed special gratitude to the royal dignitaries, WMAC members Ms. Monimala Halder, Kainat, Nazia, and all guests for their support and presence.

## Bengal freezes: Chill tightens grip on State till Dec 19

**MI News Service, Kolkata** : Bengal reels under an unrelenting cold spell gripping every corner from Darjeeling's hills to Kolkata's streets, with temperatures shattering five-year records and showing no mercy through at least December 19. Nighttime mercury in the state capital has hovered at a biting 15°C for five straight days, while daytime highs dipped to 25°C yesterday—2.5°C below normal—heralding a winter offensive fuelled by La Niña, negative Indian Ocean Dipole, and rampaging northerly winds. Multiple cyclones stalk the horizon: an upper air circulation over eastern Bangladesh, a western disturbance in northwest India, and another cyclone brewing in Jammu and Kashmir's hills, all amplifying the westerly jet stream's chill over north India. Dense morning fog blankets North Bengal's hills, transitioning to clear skies, while light to moderate fog in northern plains could slash visibility to 200 metres in spots—no rain in sight, just dry, piercing cold for the next seven days.

## Police Welfare Office inauguration

**Nurul Islam Khan** : On Wednesday, an office of the Howrah Rural District Branch Welfare Committee was inaugurated at Howrah Panchla by the West Bengal Police Welfare Committee. SP of Howrah Rural Police, IPS officer Shri Subimal Pal, Additional SP, (IPS) Dr. Ellen George, and Convener of West Bengal Police Welfare Committee Shri Bijitashwa Raut were present on the auspicious occasion. District Convener Subhashish



Chakraborty and Joint Convener Syed Azizul Hossain along with all the high-ranking officers of the district branch and committee officials were present on the day.

## Nadia's Bagula Rural Hospital rolls out e-prescription system, aims to streamline patient care

**Dipankar Edbar, Bagula (Nadia)** : In a significant move towards digital healthcare in rural Bengal, Bagula Rural Hospital under Hanskhali police station limits in Nadia has introduced an e-prescription system, an initiative commonly seen in medical colleges and major government hospitals, but still rare across rural health centres. The new system generates a fully printed prescription carrying the patient's registration number, diagnosis details, prescribed medicines, dosage instructions, and recommended tests. The shift is expected to reduce confusion long associated with handwritten prescriptions, which often led to misinterpretation by patients, pharmacists, and even other physicians. Hospital officials said handwritten notes frequently triggered patient complaints, especially when doctors' handwriting was difficult to decipher. The digital format, they believe, will standardise treatment records and minimise potential errors. Bagula Rural Hospital caters to a dense population, and outpatient



services operate daily at least upto 4:30 pm, often witnessing heavy rush. Soon after the newly appointed medical officer-in-charge assumed responsibilities, the e-prescription model was rolled out as part of a broader effort to modernise patient-care processes. Hide quoted text. Unquote to restore. Residents said the system has made it easier to understand their diagnosis and treatment plan. Many added that the hospital is already providing free medicines, diagnostic tests, and consultations, and the new digital prescription adds transparency and convenience. "We no longer face confusion about what the doctor has written. It's clear

and easy to follow," said a patient's family member. According to hospital sources, the e-prescription will help maintain accurate digital records of patient visits, enabling smoother follow-up care and better monitoring of medicine distribution and test referrals. Staff believe it will also enhance accountability and reduce administrative bottlenecks. Health observers note that if the system proves effective in Bagula, other rural hospitals in Nadia may adopt the model. With digital healthcare becoming a statewide priority, Bagula's initiative could serve as a pilot for broader implementation across Bengal's rural health framework.

## Bought a Ticket, Got Cheated: Father-Son Duo Held in Fake Lottery Game

**MI News Service, Purulia** : A lottery racket running on fake tickets has been busted in Purulia, exposing how unsuspecting buyers are being quietly cheated in the name of luck and prize money. Acting on a confidential tip-off, the state's criminal investigation agency raided a lottery counter in the Jaipur police station area and arrested a father-son duo allegedly linked to a wider counterfeit ticket network. Investigators targeted a counter at Atakal intersection, where local resident Montu Mudi was running a lottery outlet, allegedly selling forged tickets instead of genuine ones. During the raid, officers seized a sizable quantity of suspected fake tickets from the counter and immediately arrested Montu and his son, Rakesh Mudi. Both were produced before the district court, which sent them to custodial interrogation for four days to enable a deeper probe into the racket. Preliminary findings suggest the operation is not confined to a single stall but is part of a broader fake lottery syndicate spread across Purulia district.

## Two bulbs, one fan, lakhs in dues: West Medinipur's cruel power bill nightmare

**MI News Service, West Medinipur** : An elderly BPL consumer in Chandrakona, West Medinipur, has been slapped with an electrically bill of 2.83 lakh rupees on a humble house connection that reportedly powers just two bulbs and a fan, triggering shock, panic and allegations of systemic failure. The octogenarian, already displaced once by river erosion and surviving on daily labor, now says he sees no way out labour, now says he sees no way out if the bill is not withdrawn.



grave injustice to a marginalised consumer. Local panchayat functionaries and villagers describe Golam as a destitute, homeless man who has already lost his own house to the river and now lives at the mercy of his daughter. They argue that expecting him to clear lakhs of rupees in arrears on a BPL connection violates both logic and basic principles of welfare. One neighbour points out that there is no AC, no motor, and no commercial usage in the house, underlining that such a bill "defies common sense" for a poor rural household. His daughter, Jamila Bibi, has publicly warned that the psychological pressure on her father has become unbearable, claiming that if the bill is not waived, he may feel forced towards suicide. The family and villagers are appealing for an immediate intervention, demanding that the bill be thoroughly reviewed, rectified, and, if found erroneous, fully waived. Officials of the electricity department have ac-

knowledge that the connection is indeed a BPL meter and that Golam has not paid any electricity bill since August 2010. They also state that the supply was officially disconnected once in 2022, after which Golam allegedly re-connected power on his own, a factor that may have contributed to accumulated dues and penalties being clubbed together. At the same time, the department has said the case is being examined "seriously" and has assured that necessary steps will be taken after scrutiny. The assurance has done little to calm fears on the ground, where the episode is being seen as a stark example of how bureaucratic lapses, delayed billing, and poor grievance redressal can push the rural poor into despair. The episode raises troubling questions about how BPL consumers are billed, how arrears are allowed to pile up for over a decade, and why anomalies are not red-flagged automatically in the system. It also highlights the absence of proactive safeguards for extremely vulnerable consumers who lack the means, literacy, or access to contest such demands in time. As Golam's case gathers attention, pressure is mounting on the authorities to not just provide individual relief but also audit similar BPL accounts, fix accountability for administrative lapses, and put in place fail-safes so that no impoverished consumer in rural Bengal faces a six-figure bill for a two-bulb, one-fan existence.

**PHYSICAL POSSESSION NOTICE**

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The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Physical Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Borrower Maa Sitala Engineering & (Co-Borrower) Nilkamal Manna- Proprietor & (Guarantors) Mr Nilkamal Manna and Mrs Dipanwita Manna Kandar & (Mortgage) Nilkamal Manna/Vill. Rasulpur, P.O- Benichak, P.S- Contai East Midnapore West Bengal- 721442 /256405003330 & 256455000003	Dag No. 180, 180/405, Khatian No. 4/1, 133/1, 82/1, Mouza Purba Rasulpur, J.L No. 448, Thana Contai, Contai No. 2 Deshpuran Block, A.D.S.R.O. Contai No. 1, B.L. & L.R.O. Mo: Mukundapur Po: Basantia, District East Midnapore, West Bengal (Total Area of Land- 09 Dec) North: Under Dag No. 180- Dag No. 169 & Under Dag No. 180/405- Dag No. 169 South: Under Dag No. 180- Dag No. 177 & Under Dag No. 180/405- Dag No. 406 East: Under Dag No. 180 - Remaining Part of Dag & Under Dag No. 180/405- Dag No. 180 West: Under Dag No. 180- Dag No. 180/405 & Under Dag No. 180/405- Dag No.179/ Date of Possession: 08/12/2025	01/08/2022 & Rs. 1,11,53,315.00/-	East Midnapore

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: December 11, 2025 Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

WBBSE Cuts Summer Vacation to 6 Days from Next Academic Year; New HS Exam Rules Notified

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) has announced a significant reduction in the summer vacation for government and government-aided schools from the next academic year.

Explaining the decision, Board officials said that schools are allotted 65 holidays annually, but the number of government-declared holidays has increased substantially in recent years.

A Board official noted that the State government has introduced several new holidays such as Guru Ravidas Jayanti, Bir Chilarai's birth anniversary, Easter Saturday, Hul Diwas and Karam Puja.

Meanwhile, the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education (WBCHSE) has introduced strict new rules for the HS fourth semester examination.

Cal HC Reopens Dakshineswar Property Case



MI News Service, Kolkata: A crucial new chapter has opened in the long-running legal dispute surrounding the Dakshineswar Kali Temple, as the Calcutta High Court has revived hearings to determine whether the iconic temple is a public property or a private/personal property.

All cases related to the temple have now been assigned to a Division Bench comprising Justice Sabyasachi Bhattacharyya and Justice Supratim Bhattacharya.

The original set of petitions was filed in 2022, raising allegations of irregularities in the temple's trust structure, including claims of fake trustee elections, financial mismanagement and procedural lapses.

A section of the temple's shebais (traditional custodians) approached the High Court alleging that a fraudulent electoral process has allowed one individual to remain secretary of the trust for nearly 50 years.

'No CM Without Me': Humayun's Big Claim Ahead of 2026

MI News Service, Kolkata: In the run-up to the 2026 Assembly elections, political manoeuvring in Bengal has intensified, with several parties engaging in backchannel conversations.

"No one will be able to take oath as Chief Minister without me. None of the parties will get a majority, and we will emerge as the decisive force."

According to Humayun, neither the Trinamool Congress nor the BJP will be able to form the government on their own in 2026.



Members from various non-political organisations took part in a rally to press for their demands while observing World Human Rights Day, in Kolkata on Wednesday.

Abhishek Expands 'Sebaashray 2' Outreach in Metiaburuz



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, Trinamool Congress' national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee has intensified public outreach across his parliamentary constituency by launching the second phase of the health-oriented initiative 'Sebaashray 2'.

Abhishek Banerjee also posted about the initiative on social media, highlighting the response on the ninth day of the programme in Metiaburuz.

TMC IT Cell Chief Debangshu Bhattacharya Releases Viral Song Against SIR

MI News Service, Kolkata: The introduction of the SIR in Bengal has stirred political debate across the state. Questions over the rush to implement SIR in Bengal have prompted protests from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee.

Debangshu shared the music video on social media, where it has rapidly gone viral. The video is being widely circulated across timelines, gaining attention for both its catchy tune and pointed political commentary.

A part of the song lyrics: "Jotai koro SIR, e Bangla fer Mamatar."

While he repeatedly highlights that he intends to work for the welfare of the Muslim community, he also maintains that his political outfit will be a "secular" party.

Two Separate Accidents in Kolkata; One Dead, Three Injured

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata witnessed two separate road accidents within a span of a few hours between late Tuesday night and Wednesday morning, leaving one motorcycle rider dead and three others injured.

According to police sources, the first accident occurred late Tuesday night on the EM Bypass, near the Survey Park area. A motorcyclist was travelling from the Dhalai Bridge side towards Ruby Crossing at high speed.

Local residents immediately rushed to help and rescued the injured man, who was found lying on the road in a severely bleeding condition.

In a separate incident on Wednesday morning, a speeding car met with a severe accident on Red Road near the Victoria Memorial.

Two persons were inside the car at the time of the accident, reportedly a father and son. Both sustained injuries and were rescued by police and passers-by.

The force of the collision was so intense that both the tree and the streetlight pole were left damaged. Police are examining CCTV footage and assessing whether rash driving was the primary cause in this case as well.

The online exchange underscores how education-related policies, even routine fee structures, have become highly politicized. By relying on factual documents rather than political rhetoric, Bratya Basu positioned himself as a fact-based defender of the state's education system.

Bank Employee Arrested for Allegedly Embezzling Rs 90 Lakh from Elderly Woman

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bidhannagar police have arrested a bank employee for allegedly siphoning off ₹90 lakh from the account of an elderly woman, who had trusted him implicitly.

The incident came to light on November 11, when a resident of GC Block filed a complaint with the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Branch, claiming that ₹90 lakh had mysteriously vanished from her bank account.

During interrogation, the woman revealed that she had an account in a private bank. She recalled visiting the bank to withdraw money when she first met Suraj Rajak.

CEO West Bengal holds a meeting with the five Special Electoral Roll Observers at the Office, with Special Electoral Roll Observer Subrata Gupta and other observers



CEO West Bengal holds a meeting with the five Special Electoral Roll Observers at the Office, with Special Electoral Roll Observer Subrata Gupta and other observers

Cold Wave Likely in Several Bengal Districts

MI News Service, Kolkata: December has ushered in a clear and palpable onset of winter across West Bengal, with temperatures dipping steadily, particularly in Kolkata and the wider South Bengal region.

Early morning fog is also expected across several pockets of the state. Districts including Hooghly, North and South 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Bankura, Purulia, Jhargram, and the two Burdwans, Birbhum, Nadia, and Murshidabad may witness reduced visibility during dawn and morning hours.

India-US trade talks progressing well for an end: Piyush Goyal

Continued from Pg 1 also led an official delegation to the US for trade talks. He had also visited Washington in May. The talks are also important as Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal had recently stated that India is hopeful of reaching a framework trade deal this year itself, which should address the tariff issue to the benefit of Indian exporters.

While noting that the Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) will take time, Agrawal said that India is engaged in protracted negotiations with the US on a framework trade deal that will address the reciprocal tariff challenge faced by Indian exporters.

ICICI Bank advertisement with details of a credit facility and public notice regarding a deceased borrower.



According to him, nearly two lakh supporters are expected to gather at the launch event.

Name Change I, Badal Chandra Das (Old Name), Son Of Pasupati Nath Das, Residing At G17/5, Rabindra Pally, Jyngara, Rajarhat Gopalpur (M), North 24 Parganas - 700059, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Badal Das (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/12/2025. Badal Chandra Das (Old Name) And Badal Das (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Fariduddin Ahmed (old name) son of Abdul Motaleb Mondal, residing at Vill: Chowmoha Dakshin Para, Mudiabat, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 700128, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Fariduddin Ahmed Mondal (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 09/12/2025. Fariduddin Ahmed (old name) and Md Fariduddin Ahmed Mondal (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Mohammad Sarwar (Old Name), Son Of Late Gulam Jilani, Residing At Dakshin Narayanpur, Rajarhat Gopalpur, North 24 Parganas-700136, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Sarwar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/12/2025. Mohammad Sarwar And Md Sarwar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Kolkata hosts 'Lionathon 2.0'

MI News Service, Kolkata: The city of Kolkata recently witnessed 'Lionathon 2.0'. The Lions Club of Kolkata Grand, District 322B1, successfully concluded Lionathon 2.0. The event witnessed an overwhelming turnout of nearly 1,500 participants, including students, senior citizens, fitness groups, corporate teams, special children, and volunteers united by a shared purpose—raising awareness and support for children battling childhood cancer.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Highlights India's Unique Achievement: Massive Station Redevelopment Without Halting Rail Traffic



Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways IN THE CHAIR - HON'BLE SPEAKER

upgraded to future-ready standards. Already, 160 stations have been redeveloped. From modern engineering solutions to enhanced passenger facilities, each project is being implemented in a phased and meticulously planned manner so that stations can evolve into world-class transit hubs while continuing to serve the lifeline of the nation.

● Minister Underscores Need for Safe, Phased Construction as India Manages World-Class Upgrades Amid Heavy Passenger Movement ● Over 1,300 Stations Being Upgraded Under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for Future-Ready Infrastructure

MI News Service, New Delhi, 10 Dec.25 : Indian Railways' station redevelopment mission is progressing at a scale never seen before in the country's history, despite the enormous operational challenges of running one of the world's busiest rail networks. As Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has emphasized, many countries suspend rail traffic for 3-4 years during major station reconstruction works. But in India, with millions of passengers moving daily, shutting down stations is simply not an option.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched redevelopment works for another batch of 103 Amrit Bharat Stations from Bikaner, Rajasthan, marking a major milestone in the nationwide modernisation drive. These stations, designed with improved facades, expanded circulation areas, sustainable building features, and seamless multimodal integration, reflect India's vision of modern, efficient, and passenger-friendly rail travel.

MI News Service, New Delhi, 10 Dec.25 : Indian Railways' station redevelopment mission is progressing at a scale never seen before in the country's history, despite the enormous operational challenges of running one of the world's busiest rail networks. As Hon'ble Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has emphasized, many countries suspend rail traffic for 3-4 years during major station reconstruction works. But in India, with millions of passengers moving daily, shutting down stations is simply not an option.

The Hon'ble Minister also stated that "For the first time since Independence, India is witnessing such a massive and transformative overhaul of its station infrastructure, an entirely new experience for the Nation." These works demand exceptional planning, coordination, and engineering precision, all of which are being executed without compromising day-to-day train movement. This commitment is most visible in the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, under which more than 1,300 stations—backed by an investment exceeding ₹60,000 crore are being

Name Change I, Ekaparna Purkayastha (Old Name), Daughter Of Ajoy Purkayastha, Residing At A/171 Survey Park, Santoshpur, Kolkata - 700075, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ekaparna Purkayastha (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/12/2025. Ekaparna Purkayastha (Old Name) And Ekaparna Purkayastha (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Noorheer Molla W/o Didar Molla (Old Name) Residing at Purba Kanthalia, P.O.-Bhangar, P.S.-Kashipur, District- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743502, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhara Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-12-2025. Noorheer Molla W/o Didar Molla (Old Name) and Subhara Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Subhra Mondal (old name) wife of Bappa Mondal, residing at Vill & P.O. Begopara, P.S. Ranaghat, Dist. Nadia, Pin-741256, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Suvra Mondal (new name), as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Ranaghat, Nadia, vide an affidavit dated 01/12/2025. Suvra Mondal (new name) and Subhra Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

RuMac mesmerizes Kolkata with Scottish flavour

MI News Service, Kolkata/Glasgow: Eminent Scottish musician and accordionist Ruairidh Maclean, widely known in earth as 'RuMac' recently performed at Tolly Club in Kolkata. RuMac was just flabbergasted the way he received in Kolkata. "The Kolkata audience, as I was told are warm, intellectual and very well articulated in terms of music, well I



RuMac performing on stage.

Name Change I, SEKHAR KR GHOSH (old name) S/O KARUNAMAY GHOSH, residing at HEM CHANDRA DEY ROAD, PO-BUROHSIBTALA, PS-CHINSURAH, DIST-HOOGHLY (CHANDANNAGAR), 712105, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SEKHAR GHOSH (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. SEKHAR GHOSH (old name) and SEKHAR KR GHOSH (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Subharata Saha (Old Name) S/o Debraj Saha Residing at Block BD-205, Salt Lake Sector -1, Vile - Bidhanagar (M) Po - Bidhanagar C/B, Block, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700064, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhara Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-12-2025. Subharata Saha (Old Name) and Subhara Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Swadesh Ranjan Karan (Old Name), Son Of Late Natendra Nath Karan, Residing At Baranatabanya, Baranata Banya, Dist-Purba Medinipur-721444, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Swades Ranjan Karan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/10/12/2025. Swadesh Ranjan Karan And Swades Ranjan Karan Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

RuMac was just flabbergasted the way he received in Kolkata. "The Kolkata audience, as I was told are warm, intellectual and very well articulated in terms of music, well I

Name Change I, Kabir Ali Sardar S/o Jumman Sardar (my & my father old name), residing at 113 R.R.N Bose Road, Brahmapur Badamtala, P.O.- Brahmapur, Kolkata-700096, West Bengal, India, I have changed my & my father name and we shall henceforth be known as Kabir Sardar S/o Jumman Ali Sardar (my & my father new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 08/12/2025. Kabir Sardar and Kabir Ali Sardar both are same and one identical person (my self).

Name Change I, Mohammad Shadab (Old Name) S/o Mukhtar Ahmed Residing at 49/A/1, Topsia Road South, Topsia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046 West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shadab (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-12-2025. Mohammad Shadab (Old Name) and Md Shadab (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Sharif Mondal (old name), S/O Nazrul Mandal, residing at Narayanpur, Narikeldanga, kadambagchi Chakdaha, Nadia, Pin- 741222, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sarif Mandal (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/12/2025. Sarif Mandal (new name) and Sharif Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

MI News Service, Kolkata/Glasgow: Eminent Scottish musician and accordionist Ruairidh Maclean, widely known in earth as 'RuMac' recently performed at Tolly Club in Kolkata. RuMac was just flabbergasted the way he received in Kolkata. "The Kolkata audience, as I was told are warm, intellectual and very well articulated in terms of music, well I

Name Change I, Sayani Dey S/O Rabi Dey, resident of Brahmapur Pragati Park, Sangathan Samiti Club, P.O.- Brahmapur, P.S.-Bansndron, Kolkata-700096, West Bengal, India, declared that my mother's said name is Uma Dey (mother old name), I have changed my mother name and she shall henceforth be known as Jhuma Dey (mother new name), as declared before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit No. 82992, dated 27/12/2024. Jhuma Dey and Uma Dey both are same and one identical person (my mother).

Name Change I, Swapna Kumar Das (Old Name) S/o Rampada Das Residing at 256/2, N.S.C. Bose Road, Apsara Apartment, Netaji Nagar, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700047 West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Swapna Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-12-2025. Swapna Kumar Das (Old Name) and Swapna Das (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Najrul Mandal (old name), S/O Karimbakka Mandal, residing at Kadambagachi, Narayanpur, Kadambagchi, Nadia, Pin- 741222, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nazrul Mandal (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/12/2025. Nazrul Mandal (old name) and Nazrul Mandal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

RuMac further said, "The crowd was brilliant and classy as well. I experienced them singing with me in the same rhythm and exuberance. That acted like a positive catalyst. Love you Kolkata."

Name Change I, Pramod Trivedi (old name) S/O Late Mahaveer Prasad Trivedi, resident of BOYS PARADISE, 1 M C GARDEN ROAD, NEAR BANDHU BANDHAB CLUB, SOUTH DUM DUM, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, WEST BENGAL, PIN-700074, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pramod Trivedi (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Pramod Trivedi (old name) and Pramod Trivedi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Abubakar Mondal (Old Name) S/o Abdul Mujid Mondal Residing at Kaikhali, Mondal Ganthi, Po - Airport, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700052, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abubakar Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, KM Kooshar Jahna & KM. Koshar Jahan (old name) D/O Ahasan, resident of 3rd FR, FL-F6-SE, 5/2, Haltu Bazar Road, Haltu, Kolkata-700078, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kooshar Jahan (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. KM Kooshar Jahan (new name) and KM Kooshar Jahan & KM. Koshar Jahan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of winter, when outdoor activities will increase, the New Town Kolkata Development Authority (NKDA) is planning a facelift for all 24 parks under its maintenance. "We are focusing on the children's playing areas and gazebos," an NKDA official said. The flower tubs turn into breeding grounds of mosquito larvae as water may accumulate in them, he said. "Also once the season is over, the tubs without the seasonal flowers become redundant. For now, seasonal flowers will be planted in the beds. They will be easier to replace after the season." In 2023, 348 dengue cases were reported in New Town. This was a significant increase compared to 2022, when only 37 cases were reported in the area.

Name Change I, Sadhan Ghora (old name) S/O Satyanarayan Ghora, resident of Vill-Kalyanpur, P.S.- Nandakumar, P.O.-Kalyanpur, East Medinipur, Pin-721632, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sadhan Chandra Ghora (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Sadhan Ghora (old name) and Sadhan Ghora (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Afroza Khatun (Old Name) W/o Md Miran Hosen Residing at Majlisipur, Purba Para, Po - Majlisipur, P.S. - Nusan, Barasat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 43423, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afroza Khatun (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-12-2025. Afroza Khatun (Old Name) and Afroza Khatun (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Ujjash Somani (old name) S/O Late Nand Lal Somani, resident of 89/297 BANGUR PARK RISHRA, HOOGHLY-712248, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ujjash Chand Somani (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Ujjash Chand Somani (new name) and Ujjash Somani (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NKDA revamps New Town parks

Railways revamping over 1,300 Stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme, says Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in Lok Sabha

MI News Service, New Delhi, 10 Dec.25 : In the Lok Sabha on Thursday, Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw outlined the scale and progress of India's ongoing railway station redevelopment drive. The minister said, "I would like to inform the entire House and the nation, through your medium, that in the last 11 years the PM has taken up a new initiative to redevelop the stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, which is the biggest programme for redevelopment of stations by any country in the entire world."

Name Change I, Palas Maity (old name) S/O Rabindra Nath Maity, resident of 22/5, Kowrah Sarkar Lane, P.O.-Kadamtala, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Palash Maity (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/12/2025. Palash Maity (new name) and Palas Maity (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Protap Chandra Roy (Old Name), Son Of Prahlad Chandra Roy And Prallahad Chandra Roy, Residing At Vikekananda Pally, Dogachia, Dist - 24 Parganas North - Pin- 743130, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Prallahad Chandra Roy (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 09/12/2025. Prahlad Roy (Old Names) And Prallahad Chandra Roy (New Name), All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Amber Kumar Chandgotia (Old Name), Son Of Late Atmaram Chandgotia, Residing At 13, Chapel Road, P & S - Hastings, Kolkata, 700022, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amber Chandgotia (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/12/2025. Amber Kumar Chandgotia And Amber Chandgotia Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

MI News Service, Mumbai: ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (the "Company"), shall open the Bid/Offer in relation to its initial public offer ("Offer") of Equity Shares on December 12, 2025 and close on December 16, 2025, with the Anchor Investor Bidding Date being December 11, 2025. The Offer is by way of an Offer for Sale of up to 48,97,994 Equity Shares by one of the Promoters of the Company, i.e., Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. The Offer includes a reservation of up to 2,448,649 Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible ICICI Bank Shareholders (the "ICICI Bank Shareholders Reservation Portion"). The Offer less the ICICI Bank Shareholders Reservation Portion is the "Net Offer". The Offer and the Net Offer will constitute 9.91% and 9.41% of the post-Offer paid-up Equity Share capital of the Company, respectively.

Name Change I, Pally Das (old name) W/O Mintu Chandra Das, resident of 1/86, Azad Garh Colony (Minapara Road), P.O.-Regent Park, Kolkata-700040, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Palash Das (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/12/2025. Palash Das (new name) and Pally Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Mintu Das, resident of 1/86, Azad Garh Colony (Minapara Road), P.O.-Regent Park, Kolkata-700040, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mintu Chandra Das (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/12/2025. Mintu Chandra Das (new name) and Mintu Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) SAMIUL SHAIKH S/O LAYAKAT SEKH Residing at, Vill - Joytinagar, Post - Joytinagar, Nowpara Dist. Nadia, Pin- 741140 West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SAMIUL SHAIKH TO SAMIUL SEKH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SHYAMASREE SAHA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 De 2025. SAMIUL SEKH and SAMIUL SHAIKH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Aritra Sarkar (Old Name), Son Of Late Raju Sarkar, Residing At E89, E-Block, Baghajatin, Ps-Patuli, Po-Baghajatin, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700086, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Aritra Sarkar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit No 74766 Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 08/12/2025. Aritra Sarkar And Aritra Sarkar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Rashmi Periwal (New Name), Rashmi Devi Periwal (Old Name), W/o - Rajesh Kumar Periwal, R/o-20, Mullick St. Burrabazar, Kol-700007, declare that shall henceforth be known as Rashmi Periwal (New Name), vide Affidavit No. 591, dt 09.12.2025, declare that in the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Calcutta, That Rashmi Devi Periwal (Old Name) & Rashmi Periwal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Samsuddin Sk (Old Name), Son Of Sk Samsidd, Residing At Udaypur, Bijoy Ramchak, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Pin-721152, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Samsuddin (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 08/12/2025. Mohammad Nadim (Old Name) And Md Nadim (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) SAYAMASREE MONDAL SAHA W/o- RANJAN SAHA Residing at, Vill - Vivekananda Road, Post - Mathavanga, Ps- Mathabhanga, Dist- Cooh Berar, Pin- 736146, West Bengal, Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SAYAMASREE MONDAL SAHA TO SHYAMASREE SAHA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SHYAMASREE SAHA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 02 De 2025. SHYAMASREE SAHA and SAYAMASREE MONDAL SAHA both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Jhuma Bhadra Paul (old name) D/O Loke Nath Paul and wife of Pranesh Chandra Bhadra, resident of Vivekananda Nagar, Karbala, P.O.-Madhyamgan Bazar, P.S.- Madhyamgan, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700130, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jhuma Bhadra (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Jhuma Bhadra (new name) and Jhuma Bhadra Paul (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Sunil Kumar Roy, S/o Shambhuhar Roy, Vill+ Post: Chakta, P.S.: Ketugram, Dist.: Purba Bardhaman, W/o- V.B. vide an affidavit 09/12/25 Sub Division Executive Magistrate Katwa Court Purba Bardhaman. Sunil Kumar Roy & Sunil Roy both are same & one identical person.

Name Change I, Meherunessa Bb (Old Name), Wife Of Sk Samsuddin, Residing At Udaypur, Bijoy Ramchak, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Pin-721152, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Meherunessa Bibi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Alipore Dated 05/12/2025. Meherunessa Bb (Old Name ) And Meherunessa Bibi (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Tahamina Bibi (old name) wife of Md Fariduddin Ahamed Mondal, residing at Vill: Chowmoha Dakshin Para, Mudiabat, Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 700128, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tahamina Khatun Bibi (new name) as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata dated 09/12/2025. Tahamina Bibi (old name) and Tahamina Khatun Bibi (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Pingoli Sarkar Bhalotia (old name) W/O Prakash Bhalotia, resident of F-1/9, Labony Estate, Sector-I, BL-EB, Salt Lake, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700064, WEST BENGAL, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pingoli Sarkar (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Pingoli Sarkar (new name) and Pingoli Sarkar Bhalotia (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Ashit Gupta (Old Name), son of Nishapati Gupta, residing at Kalna Gate, Khan Pukur, Adibasi Para, Bardhaman - 713101, West Bengal, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Asit Gupta (New Name) as per affidavit dated 10/12/2025 sworn before the Notary Public, Kolkata. Henceforth, I shall be known as Asit Gupta. Both names refer to the same and one identical person.

MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Dec.25 : Eastern Railway's Railway Protection Force (RPF) continues to strengthen passenger confidence through its highly effective and people-centric initiative "Operation Amanat." With rising passenger footfall across stations, the RPF plays a crucial role in securing unattended belongings, preventing misuse, and ensuring the timely return of lost items. This

proactive initiative has become an essential support mechanism for passengers who inadvertently leave behind their luggage during travel. On 08.12.2025, RPF personnel of Howrah, Sealdah, and Asansol Divisions successfully recovered several left-behind luggage items containing important and high-value belongings such as an iPhone, smartwatch, mobile phone, laptop, camera, power bank, charger, neckband, original certificates, ID cards, ATM cards, wallet, house key, car key, cash amounting to ₹18,200/-, along with clothes, a sweater, shoes, medicines, and other personal items. The total value of the recovered items amounts to approximately ₹4,24,180/-.

IPO of ICICI Prudential to open on Dec 12

MI News Service, Mumbai: ICICI Prudential Asset Management Company Limited (the "Company"), shall open the Bid/Offer in relation to its initial public offer ("Offer") of Equity Shares on December 12, 2025 and close on December 16, 2025, with the Anchor Investor Bidding Date being December 11, 2025. The Offer is by way of an Offer for Sale of up to 48,97,994 Equity Shares by one of the Promoters of the Company, i.e., Prudential Corporation Holdings Limited. The Offer includes a reservation of up to 2,448,649 Equity Shares for subscription by Eligible ICICI Bank Shareholders (the "ICICI Bank Shareholders Reservation Portion"). The Offer less the ICICI Bank Shareholders Reservation Portion is the "Net Offer". The Offer and the Net Offer will constitute 9.91% and 9.41% of the post-Offer paid-up Equity Share capital of the Company, respectively.

RPF/ER Recovers Left-Behind Luggage And Valuables; Returns Items To Owners

proactive initiative has become an essential support mechanism for passengers who inadvertently leave behind their luggage during travel. On 08.12.2025, RPF personnel of Howrah, Sealdah, and Asansol Divisions successfully recovered several left-behind luggage items containing important and high-value belongings such as an iPhone, smartwatch, mobile phone, laptop, camera, power bank, charger, neckband, original certificates, ID cards, ATM cards, wallet, house key, car key, cash amounting to ₹18,200/-, along with clothes, a sweater, shoes, medicines, and other personal items. The total value of the recovered items amounts to approximately ₹4,24,180/-.

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India's first VDA Handbook for Police & LEAs comes up

MI News Service, Kolkata: CoinSwitch, India's largest crypto trading platform, today announced the launch of Virtual Digital Assets Decoded, the country's first comprehensive handbook designed to help Indian law enforcement agencies, cybercrime units, and policymakers to navigate through the rapidly evolving VDA ecosystem. With crypto adoption accelerating across India, police and cybercrime units are increasingly facing complex cases involving digital assets. Recognizing this urgent need, CoinSwitch has developed the handbook to simplify VDA concepts and provide practical guidance for on-ground investigations. The handbook will be distributed across key police stations and cyber security units nationwide, ensuring frontline officials have direct access to the tools and insights they need.

Commenting on the launch, Ashish Singhal, Co-founder & CEO of CoinSwitch, said: "India has emerged as a global leader in grassroots-level crypto adoption, ranking first in the Global Crypto Adoption Index for the third consecutive year in 2025." This launch builds on CoinSwitch's ongoing efforts to support law enforcement and regulatory engagement in India. The company has conducted over 35 workshops and training programs on blockchain tracing and crypto fraud investigations. It has also established advisory partnerships to help shape balanced and effective crypto regulation.

ICICI Bank Regd. Office: ICICI Bank Limited, Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodra-390007 Corporate Office: ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (E), Mumbai-400051. Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector 5, Salt Lake, Kolkata, West Bengal- 700091 Notice for Disclosure of Legal Heirs of Deceased Borrower PUBLIC NOTICE Notice is hereby given that Credit Facility LBSGI0000599191 was granted to Mrs. Kavita Kundu along with the deceased Mr. Sanjoy Kundu by ICICI Bank Ltd. (The Bank). The said credit facility is secured by Mrs. Kavita Kundu along with the deceased Mr. Sanjoy Kundu by creation of the security interest by way of mortgage, with respect to the property situated at Residential Flat No. D and C, Fifth Floor, Tower A, Apartment Named "Amit Towers", Part Of R.S. Plot No. 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 512, 513, 496, 497, L.R. Plot No. 1100, 1101, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1105, 1106, 1128 and 1130, L.R. Khatian No. 2466, J.L. No. 71, Touzi No. 91, Mouza Baromohansingh, Pargana Petharghata, Atharakhali Gram Panchayat, P.O. Kadamtala, P.S. Matigara, Sub Division Siliguri, A.D.S.R. Office Bagdogra, District Darjeeling, Siliguri- 734011, West Bengal. We would like to inform you that the demise of Mr. Sanjoy Kundu has come to our knowledge during field visits conducted by the Bank officials and by telephonic communications on the registered contact numbers. In this regard, letter dated December 05, 2025 was previously sent to the registered addresses of the Borrowers and the deceased Mr. Sanjoy Kundu, for providing information about the Legal Heirs of the deceased Borrower. Therefore, this Notice is hereby given for sharing details of the Legal Heirs of the deceased Mr. Sanjoy Kundu with supporting documents for updating the Bank's records, within 15 days of publication of this Notice. You may submit the above-mentioned details to Mr. Sovan Mandal (Mob 7304904127) by ICICI Bank Ltd, Regional Processing Centre BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata-700091, West Bengal. Date : December 11, 2025 Place : Siliguri <SD> Authorised Officer ICICI Bank Ltd.

Daily Average Train Services Rise to 11,740 Post Covid 19 Rationalisation from Pre Pandemic Level of 11,283 Daily Trains

MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, New Delhi: At present, 164 Vande Bharat train services having Chair Cars are operational on the Indian Railways network. Besides, introduction of new train services, including Vande Bharat Express services and its variants, is an ongoing process on Indian Railways which depends on various factors which include:

- Capacity of that section
• Availability of path
• Availability of required rolling stock
• Availability of matching infrastructure for rolling stock
• Maintenance requirement of railway tracks and other assets

With a view to contain the spread of Covid-19 pandemic, Indian Railways (IR) had discontinued the operation of all regular passenger carrying trains with effect from 23rd March, 2020 and only special train services were being operated. Indian Railways also undertook rationalisation of time-table, including rationalisation of train services and stoppages, in a scientific manner with the assistance of IIT-Bombay. The exercise has been undertaken inter alia to provide for better passenger safety by creating maintenance corridor blocks, speeding up of train services and to improve punctuality. Since November-2021, Express train services are being operated as per rationalized time table and regular numbers.

The daily average number of train services on the Indian Railways network is 11,740 (November 2025) as against 11,283 services operating prior to Covid-19. The daily average number of Mail/Express services on the Indian Railways network is 2,238 (November 2025) as against 1,768 services operating prior to Covid-19.

Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains To cater to long and medium distance overnight travel, the Sleeper variant of Vande Bharat train has been indigenously designed. Two such rakes have been manufactured and are under trial/commissioning.

Broad Technological advancements and safety features provided in Vande Bharat Sleeper Trains are as below:

- Fitted with KAVACH
• Higher acceleration with design/operating speed of 180/160 KMPH
• Crashworthy and Jerk-Free Semi permanent couplers and Anti Climbers
• Crashworthy Design of Carbody complying with EN standards.
• EN-45545 HL3 fire safety standards.
• Fire barrier doors at the end of each coach
• Improved fire safety Aerosol based fire detection and suppression system in electrical cabinets and lavatories.
• Regenerative braking system for energy efficiency.
• Air conditioning units provided with indigenously developed UV-C lamp based disinfection systems.
• Centrally controlled Automatic Plug Doors and Fully Sealed wider gangways
• CCTVs in all coaches.
• Emergency talk-back unit for communication between Passenger and Train Manager/Loco Pilot in case of emergency.
• For Divyangjan passengers a special lavatory in the driving coaches on each end.
• Centralized Coach Monitoring System for better condition monitoring of passenger amenities such as Air conditioning, Saloon Lighting etc.
• Ergonomically designed ladder for ease of climbing on to upper berths.

This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in written replies to questions in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Prioritizing Safety, Indian Railways Triples ROB/RUB Construction, Building Over 13,600 Bridges in 11 Years Compared to 4,148 From 2004-2014

MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, New Delhi: Sanctioning and execution of works of Road Over Bridges/Road Under Bridges (ROB/RUBs) is a continuous and ongoing process on Indian Railways. Such works are prioritized and taken up on the basis of its impact on safety and mobility in train operations and impact on road users.

During 2023-24 to 2024-25, 252 Nos. of ROB/RUB works have been completed in the State of Uttar Pradesh. As on 01.11.2025, 275 Nos. ROB/RUBs are sanctioned at cost of Rs. 5,066 Cr. in the state of Maharashtra which are at various stages of planning and execution.

Completion & commissioning of ROB/RUB works depends on various factors like cooperation of State Governments in giving consent for closure of LC, fixing of approach alignment, approval of General Arrangement Drawing (GAD), land acquisition, removal of encroachment, shifting of infringing utilities, statutory clearances from various authorities, law and order situation in the area of project / work sites, duration of working season in a year for the particular project / area due to climatic conditions etc. All these factors affect the completion time of the projects / works.

Railways have taken following measures to expedite the progress of ROB/RUB works: (i) Joint survey with concerned State Govt./Road Owning Authority is done before finalizing the General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) to ensure smooth execution.

(ii) Periodic meetings of Railway & State Government officials are done to resolve various issues related to ROB/RUB works.

(iii) Standardization of superstructure drawings for various combinations of span, skewness and width of road on the Railway portion has been done to avoid delays during the design approval. This has been issued in the form of a compendium, which can be directly adopted for Road Over Bridge across Railwaylines for expeditious planning.

(iv) ROB/RUB works are planned to be executed on a single entity basis by Railway wherever possible. In case any Road Owning authority/State Govt. wants, then Railway may permit them to execute the work on a single entity basis.

This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in written replies to questions in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Howrah division conducts promotional drive on rail one app at Howrah station



MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, Kolkata: The Commercial Department of Howrah Division, Eastern Railway, conducted a special promotional drive on the Rail One App today at Howrah Station, under the guidance of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager. The programme was organised in coordination with ACM/Howrah with the aim of increasing awareness and encouraging wider adoption of the app among passengers and railway staff.

As part of the initiative, ACM/Howrah, along with the commercial team, conducted a live demonstration of the Rail One App, explaining its key features, functionalities, and various passenger-centric services. The session highlighted the app's capability to handle booking of reserved, unreserved, and platform tickets, as well as cancellations and refunds.

Other key features showcased included Rail Madad, PNR status updates, real-time train tracking, food ordering, and a host of additional services designed to enhance passenger convenience.

Passengers and railway employees responded enthusiastically to the demonstration, interacting with the team and appreciating the app's user-friendly interface and comprehensive service offerings.

The drive effectively promoted the advantages of digital ticketing and reinforced Indian Railways' commitment to seamless, efficient, and technology-driven service delivery.

Special camps going on to facilitate commuters for recharging smart cards online and promote UPI payment-based ticketing system



MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, Kolkata: In order to make different digital payment modes introduced in Metro Railway familiar to the commuters and enhance the share of digital transactions in ticketing, Metro authorities have been arranging special camps at different Metro stations regularly. As a part of this initiative, Special Camps were organised today i.e. on 10.12.2025 by Metro staff at all stations of Blue Line, Green Line, Purple Line, Orange Line and Yellow Line. In these camps, Metro users were made aware about improved 'Aamar Kolkata Metro' app and how to download it from Google Play Store (Android) and App Store (iOS).

Metro staff also showed them the procedures how to use it. Metro commuters were also helped to purchase tokens and recharge/buy their Smart Cards through ASCRM machines with the help of UPI Payment Based Ticketing System. They have shown keen interest to shift to digital system and adopt smart ways to purchase tokens, Mobile based QR code tickets, Smart Cards

and recharge it. They were visibly happy as this digital mode is helping them to save their valuable time as they don't need to stand in the long queues in front of the booking counters to recharge or purchase their Smart Cards or tickets.

This is to notify that smt. ANITA DEVI W/O GANGA PRASAD MAHATO Address MAHA MADPUR SHAKRA PS-SAMASTIPUR Dist-SAMASTIPUR has/have purchased the below mentioned land schedule by virtue of deed/deeds no 2773 dated 21/03/2025 (A.D.S.R./DSRA/D.S.R.) with the help of power of attorney deed no.6829 dated 26/08/2021 (A.D.S.R./ASANSOL/ADSR) executed by sri. BHAGIRATH RANA S/O RADHA RAMAN RANA address KABERI APT ARADANGA PS-ASANSOL SOUTH Dist PASCHIM BARDHAMAN and the said applicant has/have applied with the same land schedule for mutation vide mutation case no.MV/2025/205/4031 at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O (EP-1) dist.Paschim BARDHAMAN. If there is any objection for mutation in this respect, any concerned principle are requested to submit objection along with relevant documents to the concerned revenue office at the office of the S.D.L & L.R.O (EP-1) within one month from the date of publication of this notice, otherwise law will take its own course. Land Schedule Block:- ASANSOL, S. Sub-Divisional land and land reforms office (EP-1) Mouza:- MOHISHILIA, J.L.No:- 37, L.R Plot no:- 2772. Name of the recorded owner:- BHAGIRATH RANA, L.R.Khatian:- 3825

This initiative is part of a series of promotional drives being conducted across the Division to boost awareness and usage of the Rail One App. Passengers are encouraged to download the Rail One App from the Play Store to experience hassle-free, paperless, and smart railway services.

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Wheelchairs Available at 5,868 Railway Stations Across Country to Assist Divyangjan and Senior Citizens

MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, New Delhi: Wheelchairs are provided by Railways and are given to attendants of the Divyangjan, Senior Citizens etc/for cost of cost to them from and to the trains. However, whenever attendants are not available, licensed porters (Sahayaks) can be hired on pre-fixed nominal rate to escort the Divyangjan etc. Information in this regard is displayed at prominent places in railway station premises. At present, wheelchairs are available at 5868 stations over Indian Railways.

Other initiatives taken towards providing improved facilities for elderly, disabled and sick passengers include the following: (i) In the computerized Passenger Reservation System (PRS) there is a provision to allot lower berths to Senior Citizens, Female passengers of 45 years and above automatically, even if no choice is given, subject to availability of accommodation at the time of booking.

(ii) A combined quota of six to seven lower berths per coach in Sleeper class, four to five lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 3 tier (3AC) and three to four lower berths per coach in Air Conditioned 2 tier (2AC) classes (depending on the number of coaches of that class in the train) has been earmarked for senior citizens, female passengers of 45 years of age and above and pregnant women.

(iii) Instructions have been issued for earmarking a minimum of 07 seats for senior citizens in 1st and last/2nd class general compartment for entire period of local train services on suburban sections of all Zonal Railways.

(iv) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the onboard Ticket Checking Staff has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

(v) The following reservation quota for Divyangjan has been earmarked in all Mail/Express trains including Rajdhani/Shatabdi type trains irrespective of the availability of concessional facilities to Divyangjan: a) Four berths in Sleeper class (two lower and two middle). b) Four berths in 3E or 3A class (two lower-

and two middle). The class out of these two i.e. 3E/3A in which quota is to be earmarked can be decided by Zonal Railway concerned keeping in view the number of coaches of that class available in the train. c) Four berths in Special Reserved Coach for Disabled (SLRD) coach of Garib Rath Express trains. d) Four seats in reserved Second Sitting (2S) air-conditioned Chair Car (CC) in those trains which have more than two coaches of these classes.

(vi) Instructions have been issued that in all Mail/Express Trains (except fully reserved trains), the SLRD coaches should be treated as unreserved coaches earmarked for exclusive use of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).

(vii) In case of Garib Rath Express Trains and other fully reserved trains, these coaches are treated as reserved for booking by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) travelling on handicapped concessional payment of due fare of that class on first come first served basis.

(viii) Instructions have also been issued that in the tickets issued through Computerized Passenger Reservation System, to the extent feasible, one lower berth should be allotted to the Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) and the person accompanying him/her as escort should be allotted middle/upper berth near the person with disability subject to availability of accommodation.

(ix) After departure of the train, if there are vacant lower berths available in the train, and if any Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) booked on the authority of handicapped concessional ticket, who has been allotted upper/middle berth, approaches for allotment of vacant lower berths, the onboard Ticket Checking Staff has been authorized to allot the vacant lower berth to them making necessary entries in the chart.

(x) Separate counters are earmarked at various Passenger Reservation System (PRS) centres for dealing with the reservation requirements received from Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), senior citizens, Ex.MPs, MLAs, accredited journalists and freedom fighters, if the average demand per shift not less than 120 tickets. In case there is no justification for earmarking of an exclusive counter for any of these categories of persons including Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), one or two counters depending upon the total demand are earmarked for dealing with the reservation requests for all these categories of persons.

(xi) Concessional online ticket booking facility has been extended to the Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) on the basis of photo identity cards issued by the Zonal Railways and to patients suffering from certain illnesses. One escort accompanying the Divyangjan and patients suffering from certain illnesses is also eligible for same element of concession.

Manufacturing of India's First Hydrogen-Powered Train-Set Completed; Green Hydrogen Production Plant Based on Electrolysis Process Being Established at Jind

MI News Service, 10 Dec 2025, New Delhi: pilobasis, as per specifications framed by the Research, Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) to demonstrate the use of hydrogen powered train technology in Railways. Manufacturing of Hydrogen Train-set has been completed.

For providing hydrogen for use in this train-set, a hydrogen plant has been conceived at Jind. In this plant, hydrogen is being produced using electrolysis process which is key element of green hydrogen generation.

Prominent features of Hydrogen Train-set are as below: Designed and Developed in India demonstrating Indian Railways' commitment to Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Presently, it is the world's longest (10 coaches) and most powerful (2400 kW) Hydrogen Train-set on Broad Gauge platform.

The train-set comprises of two Driving Power Cars (DPCs) of 1200 kW each, totalling 2400 kW along with eight passenger cars.

Zero CO2 emissions; only emission is water vapour. Major step in development of next generation fuel technology in Railways.

This project involved designing from first stages, prototype manufacturing and first-time development of hydrogen traction technology in Indian Railways. As the Hydrogen Train-set and its infrastructure have been developed on a pilot basis, direct comparison of the cost of hydrogen-fueled trains with established traction systems at this stage would not present a fair cost comparison.

CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS E-Tender Notice (WATER AFFECTED STOCK OF IMPORTED NEWSPRINT REELS) E-Auction forms are invited from interested bidders for disposal, strictly on 'As is Where is' basis, on 'Per Kg Basis' Water Affected Stock of Imported Newsprint Reels Approx. 57.77 MT belonging to M/s. Bartman Pvt. Ltd. (Case Handled by SAHU ISLA) Salvage of the above materials can be inspected at, B.D. Casting Limited Dankuni Commercial Complex Dankuni, West Bengal 711225 to 18/12/25, after taking prior appointment from Mr. Nitin - 9810331841. E-Auction to be held on 19/12/25. For E-Auction forms, Contact Ms. Khushi at Mobile-999085386

Soliver Setters Pvt. Ltd. (Auctioneers) Add: 203, 2nd Floor, Usha Kiran Building, Azadpur Commercial Complex, Delhi - 110033 or download from website: www.soliver setters.com Last date for submission of Auction form is 19/12/25 before 12.30 PM.

Office of the Municipal Councilors Serampore Municipality 1, N. S. Avenue, Serampore, Dist.: Hooghly, Pin: 712201 Notice Inviting e-Tender e-Tender is invited from experienced and resourceful bidders vide NIT No- WB/MAD/SL/SR/MP/APAS/NIT-43/2025-26, Date: 10/12/2025. Number of work- SL 01 to 38. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 10/12/2025 at 01.00 P.M. Bid Submission Closing Date (online): 20/12/2025 at 06.00 P.M. Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposals (online): 22/12/2025 at 06.00 P.M. For details of the project go through http://wb.tenders.gov.in and www.seramporemunicipality.net/tenders

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Open Tender Notice No. MC-54 Amenity-HWH-24, dated 09.12.2025.

Tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer (Chg. & TS), Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 for the following work: Name of the work: Maintenance & fitment of Passenger Amenities in coaches at Sorting Yard Coaching Depot of Howrah Division during Primary, Secondary & Round trip maintenance for 2 years. Tender value: Rs. 5,30,78,020.85. Earnest Money to be deposited: Rs. 4,15,400/-.

Period of contract: 24 months from the date of commencement of work. Website particulars for submission of tender online: www.ireps.gov.in Bld closing date & time: 31.12.2025 upto 14.00 hrs. (HWH-447/2025-26)

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.ireps.gov.in or www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

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Regulation of Trains for Traffic & Power Block over Sealdah Division

Due to 03 hours 45 minutes Traffic & Power Block from 23:45 hrs. of 11.12.2025 (Thursday) to 03:30 hrs. of 12.12.2025 (Friday) on Line no. 5 of Bridge no. 1 (Km. 0/18V-0/31V) between Sealdah & Bidhannagar Road stations over Sealdah Division, following trains will be regulated as under: CANCELLATION on 11.12.2025 (Thursday): (1) 31447 UP Sealdah-Naihati Local & (2) 31450 Down Naihati-Sealdah Local. SHORT TERMINATION & SHORT ORIGINATION: (1) 31542 Down Shantipur-Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Barrackpore on 11.12.2025 (Thursday) and 31511 UP Sealdah-Shantipur Local will be short originated from Barrackpore on 11.12.2025 (Friday). (2) 33858 Down Bangaon-Sealdah Local will be short terminated at Dum Dum Cantonment on 11.12.2025 (Thursday) and 33815 UP Sealdah-Bangaon Local will be short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment on 11.12.2025 (Friday). RESCHEDULED: 53171 UP Sealdah-Lalgola Passenger will be Re-scheduled for 30 min i.e. will leave from Sealdah at 04:15 hrs. instead of 03:45 hrs. after the publication of 11.12.2025 (Friday). There may be delay in train running during block period. Inconvenience is regretted.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Regulation of Trains for Traffic & Power Block over Sealdah Division

## Indian scientists engineer CRISPR protein to boost gene editing to treat genetic diseases, cancer

**New Delhi** : Scientists from Kolkata-based Bose Institute have created GlowCas9 -- a CRISPR protein that lights up while performing gene editing -- to help boost treatment of genetic diseases and cancer, said the Ministry of Science and Technology on Wednesday.

While CRISPR-Cas9 had been designed to cut and correct DNA with accuracy, scientists could not observe Cas9, the molecular surgeon, in living cells in real time, as traditional detection methods relying on fixing or breaking open cells make it impossible to track the process as it unfolds.

With the newly engineered CRISPR protein, scientists could observe the Cas9 enzyme as it enables them to edit genomes using the CRISPR-Cas9 system for treating genetic diseases, including cancer.

"Gene therapy could be a permanent cure for many life-threatening hereditary diseases. Developing effective, affordable, and safe gene therapy methods remained a challenge for decades," said the Ministry.

"Tracking gene editing as it happens or watching the molecular machinery as it works, cutting, repairing, and rewriting DNA inside living cells can help monitor CRISPR operations in living cells and tissues without destroying them," it added.



The finding led by Dr. Basudeb Maji, from the Bose Institute, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), opens a new chapter in the visualisation and tracking of genome engineering. Arkadeep Karmakar, a Ph.D. researcher in Maji's lab, designed GlowCas9 -- a bioluminescent version of Cas9 that glows inside cells, by fusing Cas9 with a split nano-luciferase enzyme derived

from deep-sea shrimp proteins.

"These inactive enzyme pieces reconnect when Cas9 folds correctly, producing light. This is because when the pieces are brought to close proximity, they can reassemble to restore enzymatic activity and produce a visible signal akin to the gentle light of fireflies," stated the researchers in the study, published in the journal *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*.

The glowing activity allows scientists to monitor CRISPR operations in living cells, tissues, and even plant leaves --without harming them. The team found that GlowCas9 is very stable and maintains its structure and activity at higher temperatures compared to the conventional enzyme. Such sturdiness is important for gene therapy, where stable Cas9 delivery can greatly increase treatment success.

GlowCas9 also increases the precision of homology-directed repair (HDR) -- a DNA repair process crucial for fixing hereditary mutations that are linked to genetic diseases like sickle cell anaemia, and muscular dystrophy.

GlowCas9 can also be tracked in plant systems, hinting at safe, non-transgenic applications in crop improvement, the researchers said.

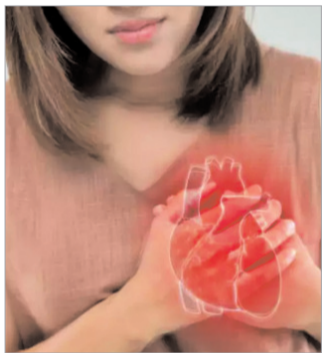
## Thalassemia and Hemoglobin Disorders Often Missed Without Proper Tests, Need for Premarital and Genetic Screening

**Undiagnosed Hemoglobin Disorders Pose Risks for Future Generations**  
**Many people live with abnormal hemoglobin levels without knowing it. With rising cases of Thalassemia trait and other genetic blood disorders, couples should undergo screening, especially before marriage and pregnancy**

**Kolkata:** Hemoglobinopathies, genetic conditions that affect the structure or production of hemoglobin, often go undiagnosed because symptoms can be very mild or easily mistaken for common issues like weakness or fatigue. Many people carry abnormal hemoglobin traits without any visible signs, which increases the risk of passing on serious conditions like Thalassemia to their children. This makes early screening, especially premarital and pre-pregnancy testing, extremely important. Abnormal hemoglobin levels may be missed during routine blood tests. Basic tests can detect anemia, but do not always identify the specific genetic problem. This leads to delayed diagnosis and missed opportunities for counselling and preventive care. Targeted diagnostic tests such as Hemoglobin Electrophoresis, HPLC testing, and genetic mutation analysis are essential for accurate detection of Thalassemia traits and other hemoglobin disorders. If both partners carry the Thalassemia trait, there is a 25% chance that their child will be born with Thalassemia Major, a severe and lifelong condition requiring regular blood transfusions. With simple screening, these risks can be identified early and managed through counselling, planning,

and timely medical guidance. Dr Abhik Banerjee, Zonal Technical Chief, Apollo Diagnostic Kolkata said, "Routine blood tests often miss hemoglobin disorders, which is why we advise more specific tests for accurate diagnosis. Tests like Hemoglobin Electrophoresis help us separate and study different types of hemoglobin to see if a person carries an abnormal form. HPLC is even more precise and gives a clear picture of all hemoglobin components, making it easier to identify silent carriers. In some cases, we also recommend genetic mutation analysis, which checks the DNA directly to confirm the exact mutation responsible for the condition. These tests guide us in offering the right counselling to individuals and couples. If both partners are carriers, there is a 25% chance of having a child with Thalassemia Major, a lifelong and serious condition. This is why premarital and pre-pregnancy screening is extremely important. With awareness and timely testing, families can prevent avoidable suffering and make informed decisions about their future." Dr Banerjee added, "With advancements in diagnostic technology and growing public health awareness, early detection of hemoglobin disorders is now easily achievable. Doctors stress that community outreach programs, routine screening drives, and counselling initiatives can significantly reduce the burden of undiagnosed cases. Hospitals also encourage individuals especially those planning a family to proactively opt for these specialized tests even in the absence of symptoms. Increasing public awareness and strengthening preventive screening can play a vital role in reducing the incidence of severe Thalassemia and helping future generations lead healthier, more informed lives."

## Why might nonfermented milk increase heart disease risk in women?



the composition of our gut microbiome," he explained. The beneficial effects of yogurt are likely related to its benefit to the microbiome.

Chen further noted that while more research is needed about the microbiome and heart health, "many studies have found that different compositions of the microbiome can help with decreasing the risk of high blood pressure, diabetes, and even heart disease."

a cardiologist at UTHealth Houston, also spoke with MNT about the study.

Higgins, who was not involved in this research, did not find the study results on nonfermented milk surprising. He told us that:

"Given that there are effects of increased inflammation, especially in women, that is not surprising. Men appear to be [better able] to break down some inflammatory products in the non-fermented milk." He also spoke on how fermented milk could offer more cardiovascular benefits, noting that "fermented milk is loaded with vitamin B12, D, riboflavin (B2), calcium, magnesium, and protein, which has been associated with reduced inflammation."

"Also, it promotes an improved microbiome (gut health), improved immunity, reduced stress, and helps maintain blood sugar levels," he added. While the study authors say more research is necessary, the study does lend to the possibility of dietary guidelines one day being changed to include fermented milk.

A board-certified interventional cardiologist and medical director of the Structural Heart Program at MemorialCare Saddleback Medical Center in Laguna Hills, CA, who was not involved in this study, spoke with Medical about its findings. Reflecting on why there would be an association of an increased risk in women who consume nonfermented milk developing heart disease or heart attacks compared to men, Chen said it remains unclear. "It is possible that sex-specific differences in the metabolism of milk components such as lactose result in differences in degradation products, which can potentially cause differences in oxidative stress and inflammation," he suggested. "This could then lead to increased risk of developing heart disease." Chen also discussed how fermented milk could potentially offer heart-protective benefits. "Fermented milk products such as yogurt are rich in bacteria (for example, Lactobacillus) that influence

## Metabolic surgery can help prevent organ damage, failure due to uncontrolled diabetes: AIIMS doctor

**New Delhi** : While uncontrolled diabetes is unfolding as a silent crisis in India, resulting in organ damage and failure, metabolic surgery can help prevent it, according to a doctor at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi on Wednesday.

India is already known as the diabetes capital of the world, but Dr. Manjunath Maruti Pol, Additional Professor, Department of Surgery at AIIMS, New Delhi, shared that uncontrolled diabetes is surging complications such as kidney failure, heart attacks, strokes, neuropathy, and retinopathy, among others.

In India, 70 million people suffer from diabetes, and 50 per cent of them have uncontrolled diabetes, shared the doctor, noting that the worldwide criteria for HbA1c (a measure of blood sugar control) is 7. But in India, it is 7.5.

"Uncontrolled diabetes can be defined as when HbA1c levels continue to remain at 7.5 despite taking 3 or more than 3 medicines and controlling diet and lifestyle for at least 2 years," Pol said.

He stated that HbA1c is inversely related to the occurrence of complications. In other words, if HbA1c increases, organs will begin to fail in a short duration, leading to death.

"Surgery is now an internationally recommended treatment for selective uncontrolled Type-2 Diabetes Mellitus (T2DM)," the expert said. Surgery as a treatment for diabetes was formally recognised in 2016 by the International



Diabetes Federation (IDF).

How it is done

According to the guidelines, this surgery can be performed on patients aged 18 to 65 years.

Unlike Type-1 diabetes, where surgery is conducted on the pancreas, the surgery for uncontrolled Type 2 diabetes is done on the stomach and intestine.

"The stomach is made small and small intestine is joined, with this, the stomach is sized like a tube, the size of that stomach varies depending on the metabolic profile of the patient, and small intestine, we join that small tube, so that the food goes directly to the intestine, bypassing the duodenum," Pol said.

So when the food goes directly there, there are certain GLP or

hormone release, in a physiological dose and rhythm, time, quantity, he added, noting that the surgery halts the damage.

"In our own retrospective analysis, we have performed over 100 surgeries, with 35 per cent on patients with uncontrolled Type-2 diabetes. All of them are currently off diabetes medications," the expert stated.

He lauded the rapid pace of improvement post-surgery. Many patients show near-normal blood sugar levels from the first post-operative day, proving that the benefits are weight-independent.

"The cost of the surgery, done via laparoscopy or robotic, is between Rs 3 and 6 lakhs," Pol said, adding that the benefits are indeed significant.

# Vijayan says UDF ready to give Jamaat-e-Islami "clean certificate"

**Kannur (Kerala)** : As the second-phase local body poll campaign ended in north Kerala on Tuesday, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan raked up the issue of an alleged political understanding between the Congress-led UDF and Islamist group Jamaat-e-Islami.

He accused the alliance of trying to give the group a "clean certificate" while seeking new political alliances in the state.

Speaking at a meet-the-press programme organised here as part of the two-phase local body polls, Vijayan said the Congress and its key alliance partner, the Indian Union Muslim League, were willing to unite with the group despite its controversial past and isolated position among the Muslim majority.

"It is evident that the masses in Kerala are not largely supporting the UDF. Even some who were part of the UDF are increasingly drifting away. When this happens, they feel the need to adopt a new approach if they want to grow. They are looking to see whether a new force can be brought together," Vijayan said, as seven districts, including areas that are strongholds of the IUML, go to the local body elections on Thursday.

The first phase of local body polls in seven southern districts was held on Tuesday. The veteran CPI(M) leader criticised those who adopt a communal extremist stance, warning that the UDF's willingness to ally openly with such groups was troubling.

"Once that is arranged, the UDF leadership is in a position to give them a clean certificate. Leaders of both Congress and the Muslim League are speaking positively about them," Vijayan alleged. He warned the Muslim League against ceding control to Jamaat-e-Islami.

"If the Indian Union Muslim League hands over authority to Jamaat-e-Islami, it will lead to the League being swallowed up. That would not be good for the country," the chief minister said, adding that even Congress, which claims Mahatma Gandhi's legacy, would be acting against its own principles by encouraging such groups.

He said that Jamaat-e-Islami's support among the Muslim masses remained limited.



"Jamaat-e-Islami is a movement that has become isolated from the Muslim majority. This is because of its own positions. They did not believe in elections. They were not interested in broader national affairs. At every stage, they adhered strictly to their own positions," Vijayan said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Kerala Assembly, V D Sathesnan, has said the Congress-led UDF has no arrange-

ments with the Jamaat-e-Islami but has accepted its support in elections since 2019. The chief minister also accused both the RSS and Jamaat-e-Islami of spreading false information and misleading people. "Their method is to present lies in a way that seems true. Their own leaders have said this before: 'Say a lie forcefully. Repeat it continuously. Then many people will believe it'. Both the RSS and Jamaat-e-Islami use this tech-

nique effectively," Vijayan alleged.

Recalling the history of communal tensions in Kerala, he noted that minority communities who had previously stayed away from Left-wing movements began to support the Left when they saw who was willing to fight against majority communalism. "Their experience showed them that it was the communists. Consequently, earlier hostility changed, and the masses began to accept Left-wing movements to a considerable extent," he said.

Vijayan rejected allegations that the CPI(M) had aligned with the RSS, saying attempts to brand Left-wing activists as "RSS loyalists" were misleading.

"Even if opposition leaders, some Muslim League members, or Jamaat-e-Islami supporters attempt to label us as Sanghis, people will not be misled. It will only remain a day-dream of the communal extremists led by Jamaat-e-Islami," he said.

He also spoke about the Congress-Muslim League interpretation of his meetings with the prime minister and central ministers, emphasising that, as chief minister, engagement with the central government was essential.

"Meeting the prime minister or central ministers to bring Kerala's vital issues to their attention is for the benefit of the state. Official meetings must continue at every stage. Even when support is delayed, it does not mean we adopt a no-contact approach," he said, referring to projects such as the Kannur airport and disaster relief efforts.

The chief minister reiterated CPI(M)'s position against communalism and the Sangh Parivar's activities in Kerala.

"The Sangh Parivar has been attempting to suppress and eliminate us in Kerala. We strongly oppose it. Any communal allegations against us have no impact in the state," he said.

"None of us can ever be fitted into a 'Sanghi uniform'," Vijayan said, taking a swipe at the state Congress leaders, adding that the uniform would only fit those who guarded RSS shakhas, protected them, had RSS cases withdrawn, collaborated with Kar Sevaks, or bowed before images of Golwalkar.

"None of this applies to us Communists, and that must be made clear," the chief minister added.

Ukraine ready for "security guarantee" elections in 60-90 days: Zelensky



**MI News Service, Kiev:** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Tuesday that his country will be ready for elections in 60 to 90 days if the United States and Europe guarantee security for such a vote, the Interfax-Ukraine news agency reported.

"Moreover, I ask now, and I declare this openly, that the United States help me, possibly together with European colleagues, to ensure security for the elections. And then in the next 60-90 days, Ukraine will be ready to hold elections. I personally have the will and readiness for this," Zelensky told reporters.

The president also noted that the issue of elections in Ukraine depends primarily on Ukrainians, not on the people of other countries.

He said that while the United States is not yet ready for Ukraine to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, negotiations on providing stable security guarantees are underway.

# Donald Trump's Israel-Hamas ceasefire plan faces pitfalls moving into next stage

**MI News Service, Gaza:** With the remains of one hostage still in Gaza, the first phase of the US-brokered ceasefire in the war between Israel and Hamas is nearly complete, after a two-month process plagued by delays and finger-pointing. Now, the key players — including Israel, the Palestinian militant Hamas group, the United States and a diverse list of international parties — are to move to a far more complicated second phase that could reshape the Middle East.

US President Donald Trump's 20-point plan — which was approved by the U.N. Security Council — lays out an ambitious vision for ending Hamas' rule of Gaza. If successful, it would see the rebuilding of a demilitarized Gaza under international supervision, normalized relations between Israel and the Arab world and a possible pathway to Palestinian independence. But if the deal stalls, Gaza could be trapped in an unstable limbo for years to come, with Hamas remaining in control of parts of the territory. Israel's army enforcing an open-ended occupation and its residents stuck homeless, unemployed, unable to travel abroad and dependent on international aid to stay alive.

Sheikh Mohammed bin



Abdulrahman Al Thani, the prime minister of Qatar and a key mediator, said over the weekend that the ceasefire is at a critical point, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to travel to the White House this month to discuss the next steps. Here is a closer look at the next stages of the ceasefire and the potential pitfalls. Trumps plan calls for the formation of an international force — known as International Stabilization Force — to maintain security and train Palestinian police to one day to take over. That force has not yet been formed, and a deployment date has not been announced.

Some countries — including Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia, Pakistan and Indonesia — have expressed willingness to participate. But no firm decisions have been made. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity to

discuss diplomatic talks, says partner countries are holding meetings this month to finalize operations. He predicted "boots on the ground" in early 2026.

Trump has said he will head an international board to supervise a committee of Palestinian technocrats running Gaza's day-to-day affairs. The board will oversee reconstruction and an open-ended reform process by the Palestinian Authority, with the goal of one day allowing the internationally recognized authority to govern Gaza. So far, Trump is the only board member officially named, though former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's name has been floated as a possibility. Another US official, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss closed-door deliberations, says members of the board will be announced in the coming weeks.

The key challenge will be forming a board that can work with Israel, Hamas, the mediators and international aid agencies. So far, Trump is the only board member officially named, though former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's name has been floated as a possibility. Another US official, also speaking on condition of anonymity to discuss closed-door deliberations, says members of the board will be announced in the coming weeks.

The key challenge will be forming a board that can work with Israel, Hamas, the mediators and international aid agencies. Trump's plan calls for an economic development plan to "re-build and energize Gaza," which suffered widespread destruction during the war and where most of the territory's 2 million people are displaced and unemployed.

Still, no such plan has been announced. Egypt is expected to host a conference this month for donor nations to pledge reconstruction aid. The United Nations has estimated the cost of rebuilding Gaza would amount to \$70 billion. Raising that money will be difficult. Even more difficult would be finding a plan acceptable to the many governments involved, along with their private sector partners.

# Karnataka tables strict hate speech and hate crime prevention bill

**MI News Service, Bengaluru:** The Karnataka government introduced the Karnataka Hate Speech and Hate Crime (Prevention) Bill, 2025 in the state Legislative Assembly on Wednesday, December 10, 2025. The bill, cleared by the state cabinet on December 4, aims to curb expressions and acts that promote enmity, hatred, or disharmony targeting individuals or communities.

Under the proposed law, "hate speech" includes any expression — spoken, written, through signs, visible representations, or electronic means — made in public view with the intent to cause injury, disharmony, or feelings of enmity, hatred, or ill-will against any person (living or dead), class, group, or community.

Bias based on religion, race, caste, community, sex, gender, sexual orientation, place of birth, residence, language, disability, or tribe is explicitly classified as hate speech. The bill defines "hate crime" as the act of communicating, publishing, circulating, promoting, propagating, inciting, abetting, or attempting to spread such hate speech to create disharmony or hostility toward individuals, groups, or organisations. Punishments are stringent. Anyone



found guilty of committing a hate crime faces imprisonment ranging from a minimum of one year to a maximum of seven years, along with a fine of ₹50,000.

For repeat or subsequent offences, the jail term increases to a minimum of two years and may extend up to ten years, with a fine of up to ₹1 lakh.

The legislation has sparked debate over the broad definition of hate speech and its potential impact on freedom of expression. Critics fear it could be misused, while supporters argue it is necessary to protect vulnerable communities from targeted hatred and violence in an increasingly polarised society. With the bill now tabled, it will undergo discussion and scrutiny in the Assembly before possible enactment into law.

# Khurda Road Division Appeals to Students to Travel with Dignity and Responsibility

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Dec.25:** Khurda Road Division of East Coast Railway has appealed to students across the region to uphold dignity, self-respect and responsible behavior while travelling by train. College and school authorities have been requested to motivate and guide their students to travel with proper tickets, as this reflects genuineness, discipline and contributes to nation-building. Travelling without a valid ticket is not only an offence under the Railways Act but also a social offence that undermines civic responsibility.

To strengthen awareness, Khurda Road Division is conducting special drives at various educational institutions. As part of this initiative, an awareness programme was organised at Women's College, Puri, where discussions were held on ticketless travel, student Monthly Season Tickets (MST) and the benefits of concessional travel available to students. The session was attended by the Commercial Officers and officials, Station Director, Puri; RPF personnel and Ticket Checking

Staff. Officials also met the Principal of SCS College, Puri. The Principal assured that a notice would be issued to all students regarding the importance of purchasing valid tickets. As assured, the Principal has issued a formal advisory urging student to obtain proper tickets before travelling on any train. Ticket checking staff has been instructed to keep a copy of this notice for awareness purposes while interacting with student passengers found without tickets.

Student Concessions and Benefits Khurda Road Division reiterated the substantial concessions available to students:

- 50% concession on the base fare for all eligible students
- 75% concession for SC/ST students
- Girls students are given priority and extended benefits in concessional travel
- MST facility allows unlimited travel up to 150 km per month at highly subsidised rates

For example, the Puri-

Cuttack distance is 90 km. ● Ordinary fare for a MEMU/Passenger train is ₹25 one way (₹50 both ways) and the monthly expenditure without concession is approx. ₹1500. ● MST fare: ₹355 (Passenger/MEMU) and ₹580 (Superfast) for journey up to a distance of 90Kms for both side. ● A recognised student to pay approximately: ● ₹180 per month (up to Class 12 for boys; up to Graduation for girls) ● ₹100 per month for SC/ST students (up to Class 12 for boys; up to Graduation for girls)

These significant concessions make MST the most economical and disciplined means of daily travel for students. Khurda Road Division earnestly appeals to Students, Parents, Teachers, School and College authorities to support this initiative by encouraging responsible and lawful travel. Ensuring that every journey is undertaken with a valid ticket is a mark of integrity and respect towards the nation's public transport system.

# Regulation Of Trains For Non-Interlocking Work At Khana

**MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Dec.25:** Due to non-interlocking work at Khana in Howrah division, following trains will be regulated as under:-

**CANCELLATION:** 13179 Sealdah - Siuri MEMU Express (journey commencing on 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 13180 Siuri - Sealdah MEMU Express (JCO 12.12.2025 & 13.12.2025), MEMU trains between Bardhaman & Asansol (journey commencing on 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 63505, 63506, 63507, 63508, 63515, 63516, 63517, 63518, 63521, 63522, 63523, 63524, 63549. MEMU trains between Rampurhat & Bardhaman (journey commencing on 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 63021, 63022, 63550 Andal - Bardhaman MEMU (journey commencing on 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 63552 Asansol - Andal MEMU (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 63141 Sealdah - Godda MEMU (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025), 63142 Godda - Sealdah MEMU (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025). **DIVERSION:** Following Mail/Express train will run via diverted route with additional stoppages (Journey commencing on 10.12.2025) 12378. Following Mail/Express

train will run via diverted route with additional stoppages (Journey commencing on 11.12.2025) 13174, 12363, 13160. Following Mail/Express trains will run via diverted route with additional stoppages (Journey commencing on 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025). 13017, 13018, 13027, 13028, 13154, 13153, 13053, 13054, 13161, 13162, 12345, 12346, 13147, 13148, 12344, 12343, 13173, 12377, 13015, 13016, 13187, 13188, 12347, 12348, 22321, 22322, 12378.

Following Mail/Express trains will run via diverted route with additional stoppages (Journey commencing on 12.12.2025). 13176, 13159. **SHORT TERMINATION/SHORT ORIGINATION:** 63520 Bokaro Steel City - Bardhaman (JCO 11.12.2025, 12.12.2025 & 13.12.2025) and 63510 Jhajha - Bardhaman MEMU (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025) will be short terminated at Asansol. 63519 Bardhaman - Bokaro Steel City (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025) and 63509 Bardhaman - Jhajha MEMU (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025) will be short originated from Asansol. Moreover, 13427/13428 Howrah - Sahibganj - Howrah Intercity Express (JCO 11.12.2025 & 12.12.2025) will stop at all stations between Bardhaman & Rampurhat.

# Dargah not built on demolished temple grounds, TN government fact checks

**MI News Service, Tamil Nadu:** The Tamil Nadu government on December 8 debunked the fake news which falsely claimed that a Dargah was being built on temple grounds on the Thiruparankundram Hill, calling it "a rumour that spreads hatred."

One of the few states actively trying to curb the rapid spread of communal tension through misinformation, the Tamil Nadu government's fact-checking department officially stated that the rumour of the Madurai Koripalayam Dargah built on demolished temple grounds is false. The claims went viral after photos of the Dargah were widely circulated by right-wing outfits, comparing it to temple-like structures.

However, the viral videos show Sikandhar Dargah, an original Islamic shrine which was officially built in the 14th century in a Dravidian architectural style, inspired by the Pandiyas. Citing the book Islamic Architecture, published by the Government of Tamil Nadu's Department of Museums, the team further clarified that historically, Islamic structures were built using the state's Dravidian elements, which can resemble temples' cornices and pillars.

The similarities in such building designs often highlight the shared craftsmanship that defines Tamil Nadu's architectural history, and not the conversion of a temple into a Dargah. "The book explains with evidence that many similar Islamic places of worship in Tamil Nadu, like temples, are built based on Dravidian architecture. Do not spread religious hatred! Do not believe the rumours!" the X post read.

"Because of the continuous civil wars among the members of the ruling family, the Sultans who ruled Madurai could not bring much either in Islamic religion or art. However, according to Ibn Batuta, the



newcomers, the Sultans, from the north, adopted the local customs of the region. He also says that there was no destruction of temples and breakage of idols," the source read. The book states that Sultan Alauddin was buried at Goripalayam in Madurai beside the Vaigai River, where his mausoleum was constructed in the mid-14th century. And, although its architecture resembles that of a Pandya-period temple, the dome marks it as an Islamic structure. The outer walls of the mausoleum are embellished in classic Pandya temple style. The structure itself is built on a raised base, from which a set of steps leads to the graves. The niches (Kostas) on three sides, which were once closed, have now been opened for visitors to view the grave from outside.

In Rajasthan's Ajmer, a right-wing group claimed that the revered Moinuddin Chishti Dargah was built on land that was originally a Shiva Temple, and was allegedly seized to construct the Dargah. The president of the National Hindu Army, Vishnu Gupta, had filed a case in a local court claiming that there is a temple inside the premises of the Dargah shrine.

Gupta had called for the Ajmer Dargah to be renamed "Sankat Mochan Mahadev Temple," as well as an official survey by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). It prompted the court to issue notice to the Dargah committee, the ASI, and the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

# Howrah Division Unveils Indigenously Developed Ballistic Shield For Enhanced RPF Security



**MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Dec.25:** The Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has successfully designed and developed an advanced Ballistic Shield aimed at significantly enhancing the safety and operational capability of the Railway Protection Force (RPF). A Ballistic Shield is a bullet-proof, tactical protective shield designed to safeguard personnel from firearm projectiles, shrapnel, blunt-force attacks, and other ballistic threats. It is commonly used by law enforcement teams during high-risk opera-

tions such as counter-insurgency and crowd control. Constructed using high-grade stainless-steel plates, the Ballistic Shield is engineered to withstand small-calibre bullets fired from considerable distances. In addition to ballistic protection, the shield is specifically designed to safeguard RPF personnel from stone pelting—an issue that often arises during certain law-and-order situations in crowded railway environments.

Standing at a height of 7 feet, the shield provides extensive physical coverage to personnel. A notable design feature is the integration of 17.4 mm toughened transparent glass, which ensures wide visibility and allows RPF staff to maintain situational awareness while remaining securely protected.

Ergonomically crafted, the Ballistic Shield enables two RPF personnel to operate it simultaneously, enhancing coordination during field operations. Mounted on 360-degree swivel wheels, it allows rapid movement in any direction, ensuring swift response during emergent situations. Its mobility and robust design make it suitable for both offensive and defensive deployment in sensitive and high-footfall areas of the station.

With this development, the Howrah Division reaffirms its commitment to innovation and security enhancement, equipping RPF personnel with modern tools to effectively manage evolving operational challenges.

# US revokes 85K visas, cites public-safety concerns

**MI News Service, Washington:** The United States has revoked 85,000 visas across multiple categories this year, a senior State Department official said, describing the action as part of an intensified effort to protect American communities and enforce public-safety standards.

"We've revoked 85,000 visas of all categories, including more than 8,000 students, which is more than double the numbers the year before," said a State Department official in response to a question.

"Some of the top reasons why we revoked the visas were DULs, assaults, and theft, which together account for almost half of the revocations in the past year. These are people who pose a direct threat to our communities' safety, and we do not want to have them in our country," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said the administration's visa-vetting posture remains stringent, particularly for applicants from high-risk environments. On Afghanistan, the official said: "I think this administration has always had concerns with the security in Afghanistan [following the withdrawal] and making sure that we can appropriately vet and validate that visa applicants won't be a threat."



Reiterating that security checks will not be rushed, the official added: "We will take as much time as it takes, and we will not issue a visa until we are sure the applicant does not pose a threat to Americans' safety and security."

The official was also asked whether participating in fact-checking or content-moderation efforts — including work for social-media or civil-society organizations — could be grounds for a visa denial under the Trump administration's recently established policies.

"Freedom of speech is a fundamental American value, and the Trump Administration is defending Americans from foreigners who wish to censor them," the official said. "That's why Secretary Rubio instituted in May a visa restriction targeting foreign nationals who censor Americans."

But the official added that such cases are not assessed on a single

criterion.

"When determining whether an applicant qualifies for a visa, consular officers look not just at one single factor, but at the totality of an individual's circumstances, then they make a case-by-case determination regarding eligibility for a US visa," said the official.

The heightened scrutiny comes at a time when the US continues to refine its immigration and vetting procedures following the 2021 military withdrawal from Afghanistan, which left thousands seeking resettlement or visas through special US programs. American officials have repeatedly stressed that all Afghan applicants must clear multilayered security checks — a process that has led to long delays but remains central to US national security policy.

The United States has historically adjusted visa and immigration policies in response to shifts in global security conditions, including after major geopolitical events or changes in administration. Visa revocations for criminal conduct are not uncommon, but large-scale actions — such as the 85,000 figure cited this year — underscore Washington's ongoing emphasis on public safety and homeland-security risk assessments across all visa categories.

# Israel, Bolivia restore diplomatic ties severed over Gaza war

**MI News Service, Jerusalem:** Israel and Bolivia have restored diplomatic relations about two years after Bolivia cut ties over Israel's military onslaught in Gaza. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said in a statement that its foreign minister, Gideon Sa'ar, and his Bolivian counterpart, Fernando Aramayo, signed a Joint Communiqué in Washington, D.C., to renew diplomatic relations between the two countries. "We agreed to reestablish full diplomatic relations and to appoint ambassadors in a timely manner," Sa'ar said during the signing ceremony, according to the statement. The ministers also exchanged mutual invitations for government and private-sector representatives to "explore new opportunities for cooperation." "We committed our two Foreign Ministries to ongoing dialogue on bilateral, regional, and multilateral issues," Sa'ar added. In October 2023, Bolivia severed diplomatic ties with Israel, accusing it of committing crimes against humanity in the Gaza Strip.



## India-Nepal Divyang T20 Cricket Series from December 13 in Ranchi

**PC JHA**  
**RANCHI:** The state capital Ranchi is set to host another international cricket event as the India-Nepal Divyang T20 Cricket Series, titled the Champion Spirit Cup, will be held from December 13 to 15 at the Amitabh Choudhary Cricket Stadium, Angara.

The three-match international T20 series is being organised by the Jharkhand Disabled Cricket Association and Round Table India (RT-244, 160, 284), under the recognition of the Divyang Cricket Control Board of India.

Akash Khosla, chairman of Round Table India Ranchi Chapter 244, said such tournaments deserve greater encouragement. He added that Round Table India primarily works in the field of education for underprivileged children and has built over ten thousand classrooms across the country. "Our commitment also includes ensuring inclusion for persons with disabilities," he stated.

The series is being sponsored by Round Table India, Jharkhand Education Project Council, CCL and the Government of Jharkhand, with additional support from NTPC, HP, CMPDI, Megha Milk, Jharkhand Viklang Jan Forum, Leeds, Seva Sadan Koderma, Jharcraft, PNB Bank, Asha and several other local institutions.

The Indian squad, led by Suvro Zordar, includes Mahantesh Chaluwadi (vice-captain), Nafees Siddiqui, Kailash Prasad, Jameer Pathan, Anwar Muqtari Ansari, Sajid Kareem Tamboli, Dharmendra Kumar, Syed Shah Aziz, Aqib Malik, Rahul Sharma, Suraj Mankale, Md. Shaikat Ali, Jitendra Kumar Yadav, Mahesh Kumar Agli, Shyam Chakwa and Ranchi players Vijay Kumar Mahato and Chandan Lohra.

DCCBI president Mukesh Kanchan informed that Nepal's team will arrive on December 12 and will pose a strong challenge. Jharkhand Disabled Cricket Association president Rahul Mehta thanked all sponsors and appealed to the media to highlight the event as a step towards meaningful inclusion. Entry to the matches, scheduled to begin at 11 a.m., will be free at the Usha Martin University campus. Due to financial constraints, no cash prize has been kept this year.

Key contributors to the event include Sarita Sinha, Jagdish Singh Janggu, Antu Turkey, Patras Turkey, Priyanka Ghosh and Mukesh Kumar.

**DUBAI:** Virat Kohli's twin centuries and an unbeaten half-century in the recently concluded ODI series against South Africa have helped him make additional progress in the latest ICC Men's ODI Player Rankings and get closer to replacing teammate Rohit Sharma as the No. 1 ODI batter.

Kohli has not attained the No.1 ranking since Pakistan's Babar Azam overtook him in April 2021. However, he is now nearing the top position again, thanks to his excellent performances at home. The 37-year-old was named Player of the Series for scoring 302 runs in three matches, and he was rewarded with a rise in the latest rankings, moving up two places to second overall behind teammate Rohit.

Rohit scored a total of 146 runs throughout the series, securing his position at the top of the rankings. Meanwhile, Kohli narrowed the gap to within eight points, thanks to his unbeaten 65 not out in the series finale in Visakhapatnam. India's upcoming ODIs include a three-match series against New Zealand at home starting from January 11. All attention will be on Kohli and Rohit as they compete to secure the top position in the ODI

rankings.

Kohli wasn't the only Indian player to see significant improvements in the updated rankings this week; teammate KL Rahul also made notable progress in the ODI rankings for batters.

The wicketkeeper-batter climbed two spots to rank 12th overall. Left-arm spinner Kuldeep Yadav was the biggest mover among ODI bowlers, rising three places to third. South African players also advanced in the ODI batter rankings: Quinton de Kock moved up three rungs to 13th, Aiden Markram improved four places to 25th, and Temba Bavuma climbed three spots to 37th, despite India winning a high-scoring series 2-1.

The latest T20I rankings see changes after the series opener between India and South Africa, with Proteas young star Dewald Brevis climbing three spots to reach eighth among

# Kohli edges nearer to dethroning Rohit as the No. 1 ODI batter



T20I batters, entering the top 10 overall.

Three Indian players improved their T20I bowler rankings after their convincing 101-run win in Cuttack. Axar Patel rose two spots to 13th, Arshdeep Singh climbed three places to 20th, and Jasprit Bumrah moved up six positions to 25th.

It's no surprise that Mitchell Starc has leapt in the latest Test Bowler Rankings, climbing three spots to reach third place. This increase is due to his back-to-back Player of the Match awards in the first two Ashes Tests against England. Starc has taken 18 wickets in two matches and is climbing to a new career-high rating, currently holding his best-ever ranking of third as a result.

England's decline in form Down Under saw Harry Brook drop two

places to fourth in the Test batter rankings. Kane Williamson (second) and Steve Smith (third) each

move up one spot behind Joe Root at the top.

The opening Test between New Zealand and the West Indies ended in a draw in Christchurch, with players from both teams earning points in the latest Test rankings, especially Black Caps' left-hander Rachin Ravindra. He climbs nine spots to 15th place in the latest Test batter rankings, while teammate Tom Latham advances six places to 34th overall after scoring a century in the second innings at Hagley Oval.

West Indies pair Shai Hope, who moved up 19 places to reach joint 48th, and Justin Greaves, who rose 16 spots to 60th, improved their positions in the Test batter rankings following their performances on the final day in Christchurch. Meanwhile, veteran fast bowler Kumar Roach advanced five places on the Test bowlers list after taking seven wickets in the match.



## Bayern beat Sporting to strengthen Champions League position

**BERLIN:** Bayern Munich came from behind to secure a 3-1 victory over Sporting CP in the UEFA Champions League, with teenage forward Lennart Karol at the heart of the recovery.

Intent on repairing its European standing, Bayern took the reins early and appeared to secure an early lead when Karol finished smartly in the area. The effort was ruled out for a marginal offside, but it set the tone for a dominant first half in which the hosts controlled possession and territory. Harry Kane and Serge Gnabry both went close, while Sporting goalkeeper Rui Silva was repeatedly called into action, reports Xinhua.

Sporting offered little sustained attacking threat before the break, though they nearly profited from Bayern's high line when a sharp cross caused momentary confusion in the defence, forcing Manuel Neuer into an instinctive save. Despite striking the woodwork and wasting several promising openings, Bayern went in at the interval without reward.

The match briefly shifted after the restart. Sporting struck against the run of play on 54 minutes when Joao Simoes surged down the flank and his low cross deflected off Joshua Kimmich and beyond Neuer, though Bayern drew level ten minutes later when Gnabry steered home from a corner.

## FIBA, NBA target 2027 launch for new European club basketball league

**GENEVA:** International basketball association (FIBA) secretary general Andreas Zagklis said that the world basketball governing body is working with the National Basketball Association (NBA) on plans to launch a new European club competition in 2027.

"I believe it will happen, but we need approvals by the respective boards of the NBA and the FIBA Central Board," Zagklis said at FIBA's annual media video conference. "October 2027 is a realistic target. It is an ideal way of closing the curtain on the FIBA Basketball World Cup in Doha and moving into a new project that shapes the European club basketball landscape in a positive way," Zagklis said on Tuesday. In March, FIBA Europe and the NBA announced plans to launch a new professional men's league in Europe featuring 16 teams. NBA Europe and Middle East managing director George Aivazoglou previously identified cities including London, Paris, Rome, Berlin, and Barcelona as potential hosts, though neither the official name nor launch date has been finalised, reports Xinhua. Zagklis stressed the competition would be a joint venture rather than a purely NBA product. "I would not call this an NBA competition because FIBA will be part of this," he said. "If you want to call it an NBA-FIBA competition, I could agree."



## Grand Opening of MMK Inter-House Cricket Tournament 2025: MMK Green Triumphs in the Opening Match

**RANCHI:** The MMK Inter-House Cricket Tournament 2025 began with great enthusiasm and ceremony at the Mahatma Gandhi Stadium, Bariatu, on Tuesday. The tournament was inaugurated by the school principal, Kahkashan Parveen, who encouraged the players to play with true sportsmanship and uphold the spirit of the game. The opening match featured MMK Red facing MMK Green. After winning the toss, MMK Green opted to bat first and scored 112 runs for the loss of eight wickets in the allotted 20 overs. Harsh Mirdha emerged as the top scorer, displaying impressive batting skills. On the bowling front, Javad of MMK Red delivered a brilliant spell, claiming six crucial wickets. Chasing the target, MMK Red succumbed under pressure and were bowled out for 87 runs, handing MMK Green a thrilling victory in the inaugural clash. For his outstanding all-round performance, Javad was declared the "Man of the Match." The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from teachers, students, and sports lovers, setting an energetic tone for the rest of the tournament.

## Squash World Cup: India thrash Switzerland 4-0 in campaign opener

**CHENNAI:** India thrashed debutants Switzerland 4-0 in their Pool B opener of the Squash World Cup 2025, opening their campaign in style at the Express Avenue Mall. Velavan Senthilkumar, India's national champion and ranked 45th in the men's squash standings, set the tone in the first match by defeating world No. 296 Robin Gadola 3-0 (7-6, 7-6, 7-5).

Gadola, a member of the Swiss team that has secured bronze in the previous two World Squash Team Championships, took a 6-5 lead in the opening match before Velavan scored two consecutive points. Clutch finishes and narrow margins characterised the rest of the competition. In the second match, 17-year-old Anahat Singh of India, the youngest squash player in the competition and making her World Cup debut, competed calmly. The world No. 28 woman from India easily defeated Celine Walser 3-0 (7-1, 7-4, 7-2). In the second set, Walser made a brief comeback at 4-4, but Anahat maintained her focus and precision to secure the victory. In the third match, Abhay Singh, India's top-ranked men's squash player (ranked 29th globally), defeated Louai Hafez 3-0 (7-0, 7-5, 7-3). Singh controlled the game early on and remained strong when the Swiss player made a late attempt to comeback.

## Ashes 2025-26: England should still stick with Brendon McCullum as coach, says O'Keefe

**SYDNEY:** Former Australia off-spinner Steve O'Keefe believes England should still stick with Brendon McCullum as their head coach despite mounting pressure on him following successive defeats in the ongoing five-game Ashes series. England's aggressive tactics have come under immense scrutiny after losses in Perth and Brisbane, with critics questioning the side's reluctance to adapt. With McCullum's over-training comments post the Brisbane loss getting a lot of backlash, calls for change have grown louder. O'Keefe, however, believes England should persist with the former New Zealand captain, pointing to the transformation he has overseen since taking charge of the side in 2022. "Look, I'd say sitting back and taking the emotion out of it (he should remain coach)."

## IOA and Italian National Olympic Committee sign MoU to strengthen bilateral sports cooperation

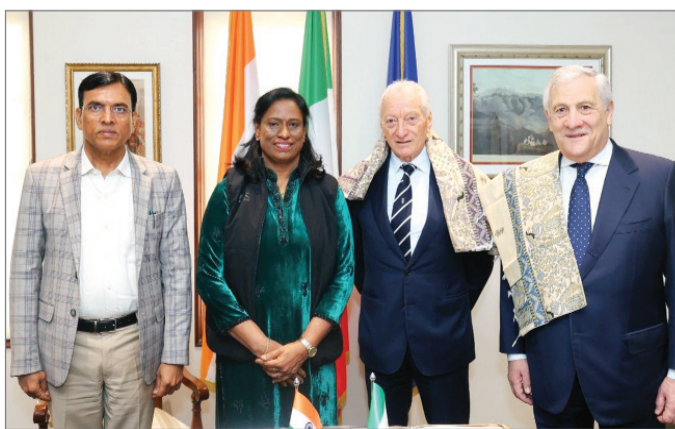
**NEW DELHI:** The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and the Italian National Olympic Committee (CONI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday to strengthen bilateral cooperation in sports.

The MoU outlines structured plans for joint training camps, coaching exchanges, collaborative sports science programmes, and development pathways for emerging athletes, signalling a new era of cooperation between the two Olympic committees.

The signing ceremony was attended by Antonio Tajani, Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, along with Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, demonstrating the strong strategic commitment of both governments to enhance cooperation through sport.

"This partnership arrives at a crucial moment for India's sporting ambitions. Access to world-class facilities and joint training programmes will significantly strengthen our athletes' preparation for future Olympic cycles. The Government of India welcomes this initiative and is committed to supporting meaningful international collaborations that uplift Indian sport," Mandaviya said.

Antonio remarked, "This collaboration reflects the growing



partnership between our countries. Sport has a remarkable ability to bring people and cultures together, and today's agreement reinforces our shared commitment to cooperation, innovation, and excellence".

The agreement creates a structured framework for the joint promotion of sport, exchange of expertise, and mutual access to each nation's elite sporting infrastructure and high-performance centres for athletes, coaches, and sports science professionals.

Speaking on the occasion, IOA president PT Usha said, "Today marks a proud moment for the Indian Olympic movement. This partnership with CONI opens new horizons for our athletes to train, learn, and excel within one of the

world's most respected sporting systems. The exchange of knowledge, expertise, and infrastructure will play a pivotal role in elevating India's global sporting performance. We look forward to a long and inspiring collaboration with our Italian counterparts".

Echoing this sentiment, Luciano Buonfiglio, President of CONI, noted, "Italy and India share a deep passion for sport, and this MoU represents an important step in strengthening that bond. By opening our high-performance facilities and expertise to each other, we are building a bridge of excellence that will benefit both nations' athletes for years to come. CONI is delighted to join hands with IOA in this forward-looking initiative".

## Aditya, Tanishka sweep U-15 titles at National Ranking TT Championships

**PC JHA**

**RANCHI:** West Bengal's Aditya Das and Karnataka's Tanishka Kalbhairav produced commanding performances to clinch the Under-15 Youth Boys and Girls titles on Day 5 of the fifth UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships at the Harivansh Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium. Aditya overcame Tamil Nadu's K. Akshay Bhushan 12-10, 13-11, 11-8 in a high-quality final marked by tight opening games. Both initial sets went to deuce, but Aditya's composure under pressure proved decisive before he closed out the third game with authority. In the girls' final, Tanishka registered one of her most confident outings, defeating Bengal's Ahona Ray 11-6, 11-7, 11-8. Having fallen just short of titles earlier, the Karnataka paddler looked sharper and more assertive, dictating rallies with her aggressive topspin play. The semifinals in both categories were dominated by straight-game wins. Aditya beat Aarav Acharya (TTFI-1) 12-10, 11-7, 11-8, while Akshay downed Maharashtra's Prateek Tulsani 13-11, 11-9, 11-6. In the girls' draw, Tanishka swept past Sreejani Chakraborty of West Bengal, and Ahona edged out compatriot Shreya Dhar in a gripping five-game duel. Earlier, the quarterfinals delivered several tense contests. Aditya survived a five-game battle against Bengal's Himson Mondal, recovering from behind to win 7-11, 13-11, 7-11, 11-5, 11-8. Aarav also displayed grit to beat Somdev Sengupta in another five-setter, while Prateek and Akshay advanced comfortably. In the girls' section, Tanishka brushed aside Telangana's Sri Saanvi, while Sreejani and Ahona posted straight-game victories over Divija Paul (Assam) and Myraa Sangelkar (Maharashtra). Shreya completed the last-four lineup with a fluent win against Ankolika Chakraborty. With their composed, all-round displays in the finals, Aditya Das and Tanishka Kalbhairav reinforced their status as two of the most promising talents in the country's youth table tennis circuit.

**Athletic Bilbao lose Spain international Laporte for two months with a hamstring injury**

**MADRID:** Athletic Club Bilbao suffered a significant injury blow on Wednesday as Spain international Americ Laporte was diagnosed with a severe hamstring injury. The defender was forced off in the 33rd minute of Saturday's 1-0 home win over Atletico Madrid after falling awkwardly. The club issued a brief medical update on Wednesday morning, noting he "underwent an MRI scan yesterday [Tuesday]." "Following further tests... it has been confirmed that the player has suffered a severe muscle injury to the biceps femoris in his left leg. The defender has begun his recovery process and is awaiting further tests," concludes the communicate. Athletic did not give a timeline, but the nature of the injury suggests an absence of around two months, ruling Laporte out of January's Spanish Supercup, Champions League games against Paris Saint-Germain, Atalanta, and Sporting Lisbon, and several La Liga fixtures. The setback, combined with Yeray Alvarez's suspension until April for a doping violation linked to a hair-loss product, leaves coach Ernesto Valverde with only two senior central defenders, Dani Vivian and Aitor Paredes -- and Paredes is suspended.