

# Mamata: Widows to Get Lakshmir Bhandar Without Fresh Application

LakshmirBhandar continues to remain one of the West Bengal government's most popular welfare schemes, frequently drawing both praise and criticism across political lines. The financial support scheme for women—launched by the Mamata Banerjee-led government—has often been described as one of the most politically significant initiatives of the ruling Trinamool Congress. As the political atmosphere heats up ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, both the ruling party and the Opposition have been invoking LakshmirBhandar in their campaign narratives. On Thursday, from a public meeting at the Krishnanagar Government College Ground in Nadia district, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a major announcement regarding the scheme. She declared that women beneficiaries will no longer need to apply separately for widow pension after turning 60.



PG 3

**Rs. 3**  
KOLKATA  
FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 2025  
PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-192  
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)  
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

# Morning India

## Mamata Banerjee warns 'Remove one name from voter list, face dharna'

MI News Service, Kolkata / Krishnanagar : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday once again intensified her attack on Union Home Minister Amit Shah, calling him "dangerous" and accusing the Centre and the Election Commission of using the SIR of electoral rolls to unlawfully delete names of lakhs of eligible Bengali voters ahead of the 2026 assembly polls. Addressing a huge rally at Krishnanagar, the district headquarters of Nadia, about 100 km from Kolkata this afternoon, Mamata Banerjee alleged that Shah was directly guiding attempts to remove as many as "1.5 crore names" from the voters' list, and warned that she would sit on an 'indefinite dharna' if even a single eligible voter was excluded during the SIR exercise. "The country's Home minister is dangerous. His two eyes send a message of disaster — in one eye you see Duryodhan, and in the other, Dushasan," the Chief minister said, dramatically intensifying the rhetoric she has been using over the past week in her public meetings. She also accused the BJP of attempting to weaponise the SIR exercise barely two to three months before the polls. "They are so hungry for votes that they have



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee is addressing a huge rally at Krishnanagar in Nadia district on Thursday

launched the SIR now. If any eligible person's name is struck off, I will sit on a dharna till it's restored. There will be no detention camps in West Bengal," she said. Mamata Banerjee also claimed that District Magistrates in West

Bengal were now being pressured to remove 1.5 crore names during the revision. "In Bihar you may have managed it, but you cannot do this in Bengal," she said, alleging that the draft rolls were being prepared "at the instruction of the

BJP's IT cell." The Chief minister cited reports that individuals who had submitted names of grandparents as part of their documentation would be called for hearings and risk deletion from the rolls. "Now we hear those who gave

"The country's Home minister is so dangerous that you can see it in his eyes — it's terrifying. In one eye, you see Duryodhan

CM Mamata Banerjee

their grandparents' names will be summoned, and the plan is to strike off names directly from these hearings," she said. On Wednesday, Shah had warned in Parliament that those "standing with infiltrators" would "vanish from Bengal", prompting Mamata Banerjee to issue a sharp counter within 24 hours on Thursday. "There will be no NRC and no detention camps in West Bengal. We will not allow anyone to be driven out. And if someone is pushed out, we know how to bring them back," she asserted amid huge applause from the crowd. Also lambasting the Election Commission of India (EC), the Chief minister alleged that officers

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Mamata Banerjee to launch massive project for constructing 20,000 km of new roads

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is likely to inaugurate one of the largest road projects in the state here soon, launching work for the construction of over 20,000 km of new roads across all districts under the 'Pathashree' and 'Rastashree' schemes, months before the crucial state assembly polls.



The project will be entirely funded by the state exchequer, is worth ₹8,487 crore," the official said. Over 20,000 km of roads will be constructed across both rural and urban areas of West Bengal, with 15,011 km of rural roads to be built in village areas at a cost of ₹6,987 crore, he said. In addition a total of 5,019 km of roads will be built in urban areas under the jurisdiction of Kolkata Metropolitan Development Authority (KMDA) at a budget of ₹1,500 crore, he said. The state cabinet recently cleared the project and the government launched a separate tendering portal to fast-track work. "The construction is expected to begin in January," he added.

"The project includes 9,114 rural roads (15,011 km) under the Panchayat Department, costing Rs 6,987 crore, and 11,365 urban roads (5,019 km) in KMDA areas, with a Rs 1,500 crore budget starting January. In total, the phase covers 20,479 roads spanning 20,030 km, with a total estimated cost of Rs 21,987 crore

Govt official

"The project includes 9,114 rural roads (15,011 km) under the Panchayat Department, costing Rs 6,987 crore, and 11,365 urban roads (5,019 km) in KMDA areas, with a Rs 1,500 crore budget starting January. In total, the phase covers 20,479 roads spanning 20,030 km, with a total estimated cost of Rs 21,987 crore". Meanwhile, with the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls concluding today, election officials are racing to finalize corrections and re-

move fraudulent entries before the draft list is published next week. This deadline marks a crucial step in ensuring accurate electoral rolls ahead of the polls. The Election Commission (EC) has digitised data for nearly all of the state's 7.64 crore voters, and West Bengal currently has 19,64,629 transferred voters, 10,94,710 missing voters, 1,32,215 duplicate entries, and 47,832 voters categorised under 'others' (technical or miscellaneous issues).

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## General elections in Bangladesh on February 12

MI News Service, Dhaka : The much-awaited general elections in Bangladesh will be held on February 12, the first since the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in a violent student-led protest on August 5, 2024, ending all speculations about the exact date. "Voting will take place on February 12, 2026, from 7:30 am to 4:30 pm," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin said in an address to the nation on Thursday. A referendum will simultaneously be held on the same day) on February 12), to elicit public opinion on a series of reform proposals of the Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus-led National Consensus Commission. The announcement came a day after the



CEC met President Mohammed Shahabuddin, who reportedly assured him "optimum support and cooperation" to conduct the general elections in a "free, fair and meaningful" manner.

According to the election schedule, the last date for submission of nomination papers is December 29, and scrutiny of nominations will be held from December 30 to January 4. The last date for withdrawal of candidature is January 20. The final list of candidates will be published on January 21. Election campaigns will begin on January 22 and continue until 7:30 am on February 10, Nasir said. The last general elections

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list

MI News Service, New Delhi : In a major step towards presenting India's one of the most important cultural ethos before the world, Deepavali -- the festival of light -- was inscribed on the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, on Wednesday. The decision was taken during a key meeting of UNESCO being hosted at the Red Fort in Delhi. This is the first time that India is hosting a session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH). As Deepavali is now a part of the UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has welcomed the step, saying it would add to the popularity of the festival globally. The festival is a new inscription on the list, alongside cultural symbols from many other countries, like Ghana, Georgia, Congo, Ethiopia and Egypt, among others. "New inscription on the #IntangibleHeritage List: Deepavali, #India. Congratulations!", UNESCO said in a tweet on Wednesday. Deepavali, also known as Diwali, is the most widely celebrated Hindu festival in India. The decision to have the festival on the cultural heritage list was taken during a key meeting of UNESCO at the Red Fort in Delhi. Reacting

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## NIA files charge sheet against 11 Maoists for looting explosives in Odisha

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar : The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has filed a charge sheet against 11 accused persons in a case relating to the loot of around 4,000 kg of explosives by armed cadres of the CPI (Maoist) during transportation to a stone quarry in Odisha's Sundergarh district, an official said. According to a statement released by the NIA on Thursday, all the 11 accused have been charged under various sections of UA (P) Act, BNSS, Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act. The charge sheet has been filed in a special court. "During the investigation,

NIA found the 11 accused to have been actively involved in criminal conspiracy, planning and execution of the loot of around 200 explosive packets, each containing 20 kg of explosives. The explosives were being transported from Itma Explosive Station to the Banko stone quarry on May 27, 2025," it said. The vehicle, along with its driver, had been forcibly seized by 10-15 armed Maoists and was being taken to a stronghold of the CPI(Maoist) in the nearby Saranda jungle in

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Amit Shah appeared under pressure: claims Rahul Gandhi



MI News Service, New Delhi : Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday said he directly challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to discuss his press conferences on "vote chori" in Parliament but did not get any answer. A day after the Lok Sabha witnessed a heated exchange between him and Shah during a debate on election reforms, Rahul

Gandhi claimed that Shah appeared to be "under pressure". "He (Shah) used the wrong language, his hands were shaking, you would have seen all this. He is under pressure mentally that was witnessed in Parliament, the whole country saw it," the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha told reporters in the Parliament House complex. "The things

"The things I have said, he did not address, did not give any proof. We have said it publicly in press conferences. I directly challenged him to let us discuss my press conferences in Parliament. Did not get an answer. You know the reality,

--Rahul Gandhi

I have said, he did not address, did not give any proof. We have said it publicly in press conferences. I directly challenged him to let us discuss my press conferences in Parliament. Did not get an

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Goa nightclub owners detained in Thailand



Goa nightclub owners Saurabh and Gaurav Luthra

MI News Service, Panaji : The Thailand Police have detained Saurabh Luthra and his brother Gaurav, five days after they fled India soon after the devastating fire at their Goa nightclub claiming 25 lives, official sources said here on Thursday. The nightclub co-owners, against whom an Interpol Blue Corner Notice had been issued, were detained at the request of the Indian government, the sources said. "Both the accused have been detained at Phuket in Thailand, and a process is underway to bring them back to India," a senior official informed. The duo booked their tickets for Phuket through a travel portal at 1.17 am on December 7, within an hour of learning about the devastating fire at 'Birch by Romeo Lane', their nightclub at Arpora area in North Goa, the sources said. At the time when police and administration were still battling the blaze and attempting to rescue staff and others who were trapped, the two left India in the early hours of Sunday by an IndiGo flight. The Goa Police had approached the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)

Both the accused have been detained at Phuket in Thailand, and a process is underway to bring them back to India,

--a senior official

for the issuance of the Blue Corner Notice against them. According to sources, a Goa Police team will be travelling to Thailand to take custody of the brothers and bring them back to India for trial. Their escape on an IndiGo flight amid the airline's nationwide meltdown due to cancellations and delays had raised suspicion. The brothers had refused to return to India fearing arrest, and had approached a Rohini court in Delhi, seeking a pre-arrest bail. They told the court that they didn't run day-to-day operations at the Arpora club and were victims of authorities' vindictive behaviour. They also claimed that their trip to Thailand was not an escape but a planned business meeting. According to an FIR by the Goa Police, the

▶▶ Continued on page 3

## Trade deal with India aims to enhance bilateral relationship, says top US official

MI News Service, Washington (DC) : A new trade deal between India and the US under President Donald Trump and Prime Minister

Bill Huizenga on Thursday at a subcommittee hearing titled "The US India Strategic Partnership: Securing a Free and Open



the rules, then our partnership with India is critical," Huizenga

said in his opening remarks. Describing India as one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world, Huizenga said American companies increasingly see India not just as a market but as a partner to innovation, especially in AI, communications, and advanced technologies, where collaboration already exists.

American companies are eager to enter the Indian market on a level playing field. A new trade deal with India under President Trump and Prime Minister Modi would further realise this goal and enhance the relationship. Open markets, strengthening supply chains and driving innovation, all of which would chart a new beginning in our sto-

ried partnership, he said. Huizenga stressed that every American administration, whether Republican or Democrat, has strengthened ties, or certainly at least attempted to, making clear that the United States does not see India as a temporary or transactional partner. Referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to India and Prime Minister Modi's participation at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in China in September, Huizenga said, we must view this moment with clear eyes. President Putin's warm visit to India last week and India's participation in China's Shanghai

▶▶ Continued on page 3

The US-India relationship is no longer just important. It is a defining relationship of the 21st century. If America wants a free Indo-Pacific, resilient supply chains and a world where democracy, not authoritarianism, sets the rules, then our partnership with India is critical

House Foreign Affairs South and Central Asia Subcommittee Chairman Bill Huizenga

Narendra Modi would further enhance the bilateral relationship, a top US official has said, underlining that Washington's partnership with New Delhi is critical. This remark was made by House Foreign Affairs South and Central Asia Subcommittee Chair-

Indo-Pacific". "The US-India relationship is no longer just important. It is a defining relationship of the 21st century. If America wants a free Indo-Pacific, resilient supply chains and a world where democracy, not authoritarianism, sets

# Mamata Banerjee rules out NRC, Detention camps in Bengal, attacks BJP at Krishnanagar rally

**Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar, Nadia:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday firmly reiterated that the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and detention camps would "never be allowed" in the state. Addressing a public meeting at the grounds of Krishnanagar Government College, she urged people not to panic and assured that the administration would assist them during the ongoing hearing processes.

"You will go for hearings, you will fight. If you need documents, we are setting up 'May I Help You' booths. Our BLA workers will support you so that no one is deprived," Banerjee said, adding that she herself had not filled up the form yet. "I have been a three-time Union minister, seven-time MP, and three-time Chief Minister. Should I still prove to the rioters whether I am a citizen of this country?" she asked.

Banerjee launched a blistering political attack on the BJP, calling it a party that was "desperate for votes by hook or by crook". She alleged that outsiders had been brought into Bengal from different parts of the country ahead of the elections and urged people to remain vigilant.

The Chief Minister began her



address by highlighting her Government's development record. She claimed that the state had built 1.83 lakh kilometres of roads, spending Rs. 83,000 crore, despite alleged non-cooperation from the Centre.

According to her, funds under MGNREGA, PMAY and central road development schemes had remained blocked for four years. "Through the Karmashree project, we provided work to 78.31 lakh cardholders, spending Rs. 20,776

crore and generating 104.58 lakh person-days of labour," she said. In the past 14.5 years, she added, 1.84 lakh km. of rural roads had been constructed.

The Chief Minister said her Government had introduced 75 days of work under a state scheme in place of the Centre's 100 days, asserting that workers seldom received more than 30-40 days earlier. "Under Karmashree, 70 days of work have already been completed, and we will add another 5-

10 days," she said.

On the issue of Wakf properties, Banerjee stated that all matters would continue under the Wakf Act and that "no one will be allowed to encroach on Wakf land".

She repeatedly questioned the Centre over the ongoing scrutiny of citizenship documents under SIR. "Where are the Rohingyas? They enter through Manipur, Mizoram and Nagaland. Why isn't SIR happening there? Why only in states ruled by parties opposed to the BJP?" she asked.

Accusing the BJP of pursuing communal politics, Banerjee said, "We practice secular politics. BJP uses money to buy votes. Why do they need a public rally for Gita recitation?"

She also raised concerns about alleged plans to deploy Delhi Police during elections. Addressing women in the crowd, she hinted at self-defence, saying they should be "prepared with kitchen tools" if required.

Banerjee concluded her speech by assuring citizens that "no one will be driven out of their homes" under her watch, positioning her government as a bulwark against policies she described as discriminatory.



Governor of West Bengal, C. V. Ananda Bose with students and children participate in a Deepavali Jyoti March from Indian Museum to Lok Bhawan (Raj Bhawan), in Kolkata on Thursday.

## Prerana Charitable Organization Holds Felicitation Ceremony

**Nurul Islam Khan:** Recently, a delightful felicitation ceremony was held by the Prerana Charitable Organization in Mohanpur, Barrackpore. At the event, Barrackpore's renowned social worker Sheikh Montu felicitated people from various walks of life and presented them with Community Service Awards.

Approximately 200 people were honored on this day. Those honored included social workers, gravediggers, people involved in funeral services, journalists, film directors,

actors, and other prominent individuals associated with various service-oriented activities. They were presented with mementos, shawls, badges, and food packets as awards. At the ceremony prominent social worker Mufti Ghulam Habib of Furfura Sharif, Arfatun Begum Rani, wife of MLA Rafiqur Rahman, Piyali Ghosh, other distinguished personalities, the organization's chief advisor Tushar Kanjilal, and actors and actresses were present. The program was anchored by Prasenjit Raha.

## "Sāgara Pran Talamalala..."

**MI News Service, Port Blair:** On December 12, 2025, the Valuable Group will commemorate the 116th anniversary of Swatantraveer Vinayak

Damodar Savarkar's poem "Sāgara Pran Talamalala" with a ceremony at Sri Vijaya Puram, Port Blair. A statue of Savarkar will be unveiled by Hon. Dr. Mohan Bhagwat, in the presence of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah. Designed by Shri Ram Sutar, the statue symbolizes Savarkar's nationalism and ideology. The event will feature performances, including Savarkar's compositions by Padmabushan Pt. Hridaynath Mangeshkar and Usha Mangeshkar, showcasing India's freedom struggle history.

## Brigade ground to resonate with constitution voices in 2026

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** As the West Bengal Assembly election of 2026 approaches, the Brigade Grounds has once again become the epicenter of politically charged public gatherings. This time, Pirzada Saferi Siddiqui is spearheading an ambitious initiative to recite the Indian Constitution in unison by lakhs of participants towards the end of January, signaling a determined effort to uphold democratic principles amid escalating political polarization.

The event, endorsed by a coalition of Pirzadas from Furfura Sharif along with representatives from various Muslim organizations and intellectual circles, aims to send a powerful message of constitutional fidelity. "This is not a substitute for religious recitations like the Gita. Everyone has the right to practice their religion without interference. Our goal is not to foment violence but to stand firm in protecting our Constitution," Siddiqui asserted. This movement emerges following a high-profile 'Gitapath in 5 Lakhs of Voices' event held recently at the Brigade Grounds by the Sanatan Sanskriti Sangsad, which drew participation from prominent BJP leaders, including state president Shamik Bhattacharya, Leader of Opposition Shuvendu Adhikari, Union Minister of State Sukanta Majumdar, and former state president Dilip Ghosh. Notably, the 2023 Gitapath event was also organized by the same group, illustrating the site's symbolic significance in the evolving political climate. For the first

time, however, the Brigade Grounds will witness the mass recital of the Constitution in what Pirzada Saferi Siddiqui describes as "a million voices" reinforcing the nation's foundational legal document. He accused certain political leaders of deliberately distorting constitutional values for narrow interests, vowing that this collective recital will serve as a safeguard against such misuse in the future. The initiative also follows the aborted Brigade public meeting protesting the Waqf Bill, which was canceled due to lack of police permission, highlighting the fraught environment for political gatherings. Taha Siddiqui, another Pirzada leader from Furfura Sharif, underscored the importance of adhering to official protocols, stating, "I have no objection to peaceful meetings at Brigade, but they must be sanctioned by authorities beforehand to prevent confusion and harassment." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was invited to participate in the recent Gitapath event but declined. She cited the event's BJP affiliations, stating, "I respect all religions and ideologies, but I cannot attend an event directly linked to the BJP. My upbringing instilled respect for Bengal's heritage and heroes, and I cannot support those who disrespect these values." As political actors intensify their efforts ahead of the 2026 polls, the Brigade Grounds persist as a contested space where constitutional ideals, communal identities, and partisan politics intersect, reflecting the deep fissures that define West Bengal's political theatre.



Kamarhati Municipality Chairman Gopal Saha on Thursday held a press conference, detailing the ongoing road construction and development work across several wards of the municipality. He stated that substantial progress has already been achieved and assured that many more development initiatives will be implemented in the coming days.

## Bride suicide sparks outcry over bank harassment in Galsi

**MI News Service, East Burdwan:** A tragic incident unfolded in Babla village under Galsi police jurisdiction, as 43-year-old Raina Santra, a mother and wife, took her own life following relentless pressure from private banks over unpaid loan installments. The woman consumed pesticide at her home and succumbed to her injuries on Tuesday afternoon at Burdwan Medical College, where she had been admitted in critical condition.

The Santa family's ordeal began a year ago, when Reena Santra, Rina's sister-in-law, secured loans amounting to several lakh of rupees from two private banks. The funds were ostensibly raised to finance Rina's daughter's marriage and cover Reena's medical treatment. Sujit Santra, Rina's husband, works as a laborer in a local rice mill, while Reena supported the household by working as a nanny. Despite their efforts to repay, the family struggled under mounting financial burdens. Unable to meet re-

payment demands, Reena was reportedly compelled to procure additional loans from local moneylenders, further deepening their debt trap. Sources close to the family allege that in the days



leading up to the tragedy, employees of one of the banks visited the family home, subjecting Reena to verbal harassment and intimidation over unpaid dues. The family asserts that this coercive behavior shattered Reena's mental well-being, ultimately driving her sister to the desperate act of suicide. Police have registered a case of unnatural death

and commenced a probe, specially investigating the conduct of the bank officials involved. Local residents express shock and sorrow over the incident, noting the border implications of aggressive loan recovery practices on vulnerable families. The case highlights the urgent need for stricter regulation and humane handling of debt recovery, especially when it involves persons facing severe financial and personal hardships. The investigation continues as authorities seek to ascertain accountability in the tragic loss of life.



Recently, Pirzadas and other dignitaries, including MLA Nirmal Majhi, were present at Amta Ramsaday College for the occasion of World Prophet Day.

## IIT Kharagpur's Dr Budhaditya Mukherjee Selected as EMBO Global Investigator; Among 12 Global Leaders Advancing Life Sciences Research

**Manish ramtake (Kharagpur, West Medinipur):** IIT Kharagpur is proud to announce that Dr Budhaditya Mukherjee, faculty member at the School of Medical Science and Technology (SMST), has been selected as a Global Investigator by the European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). He is one of the twelve scientists worldwide chosen for this prestigious distinction, placing India prominently on the global map of cutting-edge life sciences research. Dr Mukherjee's selected research project, titled "Drug pressure boosts fitness gain and reshapes Leishmania tropism in infected host", examines how drug exposure alters the behaviour and adaptability of Leishmania, the parasite responsible for Leishmaniasis. His work holds the potential to transform our understanding of drug resistance mechanisms and host-pathogen interactions. The EMBO Global Investigator Network recognises outstanding early-career group leaders performing high-impact life sciences research in EMBO partner regions across the world. This year's cohort includes scientists from Chile,



Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur

India, Nigeria, Singapore and Taiwan, representing diverse research frontiers ranging from drought-tolerant crops to coral genome regulation. As an EMBO Global Investigator, Dr Mukherjee will gain access to a worldwide network of over 800 leading researchers, along with opportunities for scientific col-

laboration, institutional visits, training programmes and funding support for joint research activities. Commenting on the announcement, EMBO Director Fiona Watt stated that the new cohort's innovative and

*The selection of Dr Budhaditya Mukherjee as an EMBO Global Investigator is a moment of great pride for IIT Kharagpur. His innovative work in the field of infectious disease biology reflects the institute's commitment to advancing impactful research that serves global scientific priorities. I congratulate Dr Mukherjee on this distinguished recognition and am confident that his contributions will continue to strengthen India's presence in the international research landscape.*

laboration, institutional visits, training programmes and funding support for joint research activities. Commenting on the announcement, EMBO Director Fiona Watt stated that the new cohort's innovative and

## Prerana Charitable Organization Holds Felicitation Ceremony



**Nurul Islam Khan:** Recently, a delightful felicitation ceremony was held by the Prerana Charitable Organization in Mohanpur, Barrackpore. At the event, Barrackpore's renowned social worker Sheikh Montu felicitated people from various walks of life and presented them with Community Service Awards. Approximately 200 people were honored on this day. Those honored included social workers, gravediggers, people involved in funeral services, journalists, film directors,

actors, and other prominent individuals associated with various service-oriented activities. They were presented with mementos, shawls, badges, and food packets as awards. Present at the ceremony were prominent social worker Mufti Ghulam Habib of Furfura Sharif, Arfatun Begum Rani, wife of MLA Rafiqur Rahman, Piyali Ghosh, other distinguished personalities, the organization's chief advisor Tushar Kanjilal, and actors and actresses. The program was anchored by Prasenjit Raha.

## Smuggling attempt by cutting trees failed, forest department seized four vehicles loaded with illegal wood



**Manish Ramtake, Kharagpur (West Medinipur):** The Forest Department has taken major action against a gang trying to smuggle trees by illegally cutting them in the dark of night. Based on secret information, the team of Medinipur Range conducted an operation in Jamtala, Amtala and Bokjudi areas and seized four vehicles loaded with illegal timber. It is known that for a long time, some people were taking advantage of the darkness of night in this area and were smuggling thick timber and selling it illegally in the city. After receiving continuous complaints, the Forest Department swung into action. A team of forest workers led by Medinipur area forest officer Malay Kumar Nandi cordoned off the area and stopped these vehicles. The seized engine trolley and pick-up van were loaded with different types of illegal thick timber. According to the Forest Department, the smugglers were active for a long time and were not able to be caught despite repeated surveillance. But this time the secret information received foiled the entire plan. The vehicles have been taken to the Forest Department office and further legal action has been initiated. Officials say that strict action will continue against such illegal activities.

**Deepavali inscribed on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list**

**From PG 1**  
to the festival's inclusion into the list, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that the festival is deeply emotional for Indians and has lived through generations. "This UNESCO tag also a responsibility; we must ensure Deepavali remains living heritage," Shekhawat was quoted as saying. PM Modi also welcomed the step and said in a tweet: "People in India and around the world are thrilled. For us, Deepavali is very closely linked to our culture and ethos. It is the soul of our civilisation. It personifies illumination and righteousness. The addition of Deepavali to the UNESCO Intangible Heritage List will contribute to the festival's global popularity even further. May the ideals of Prabhu Shri Ram keep guiding us for eternity." Notably, the 2025 session on the Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) will be chaired by HE Vishal V Sharma, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of India to UNESCO.

**NIA files charge sheet against 11 Mao-ists for looting explosives in Odisha**

**From PG 1**  
neighbouring Jharkhand. The NIA took over the case from the local police in June this year, the statement said adding that during the investigation, the NIA found that a huge quantity of explosives had been looted for use against the government machinery, including police and security forces, through the commission of terror acts. The loot was part of a conspiracy of CPI (Maoist) to disturb the nation's security and stability, it said. The NIA is continuing with its investigation into the case, the statement added.

**Amit Shah appeared under pressure: claims Rahul Gandhi**

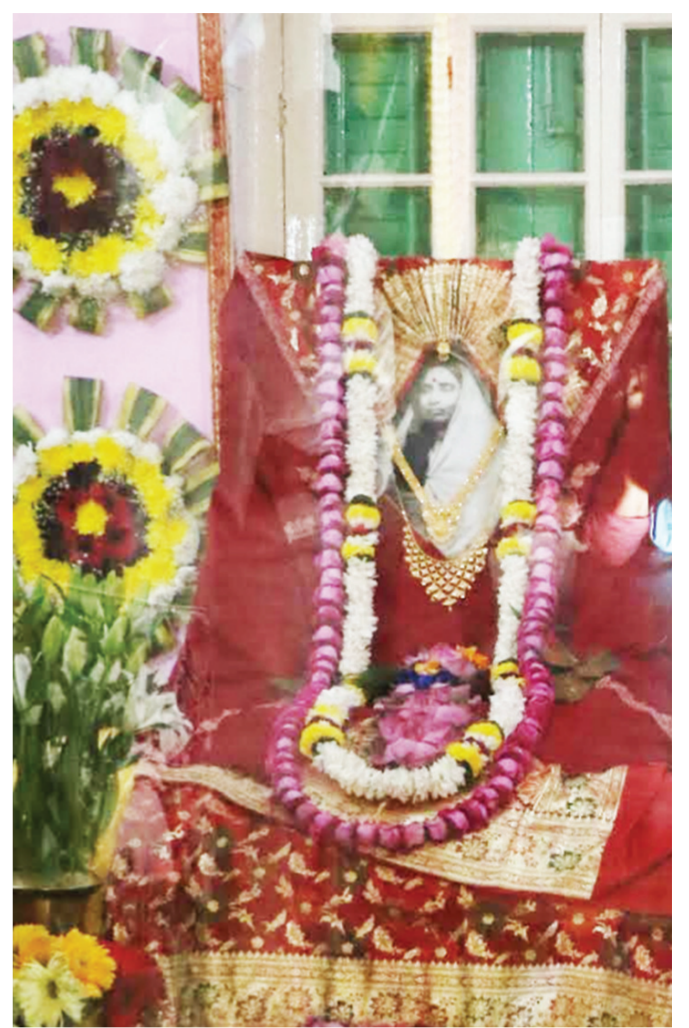
**From PG 1**  
answer. You know the reality," the Congress leader said. Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday called the Home minister's response during the debate "completely defensive" and asserted that "vote chori" is the "biggest treason". He also claimed that the Home minister did not respond to any of the points raised by him and remained evasive including on transparent voter lists, EVMs and granting immunity to the Chief Election Commissioner. The opposition MPs, including Rahul Gandhi, staged a walkout in the Lok Sabha during the debate on electoral reforms. Later in a post on X, he said the Home minister's response in Parliament on "vote theft" was "panicked" and "defensive".

**Goa night club owners detained in Thailand**

**From PG 1**  
Birch by Romeo Lane didn't have extinguishers, alarms, suppression gear, and a fire audit on record - all of which are basic fire-safety rules. Furthermore, police said that the owners, manager, partners, event organiser and senior staff conducted a fire act at the venue "without taking proper care and caution" and despite "full knowledge" that it could lead to a deadly accident. The FIR also cited that the nightclub lacked emergency exits on both the deck and the ground floor, which led to several guests being trapped in flames. Efforts to catch the Luthra brothers had been amped up, with Goa Chief Minister Pramod Madhav vowing to arrest them soon and warning other clubs in the coastal state to abide by safety rules lest they face crackdown by authorities. A second club owned by the duo, a shack in Goa, was demolished on Madhav's direction as it was illegally constructed and lacked safety measures.



The 173rd birth anniversary of Sri Sarada Devi celebrated at Sri Sri Mayer Bari at Bagbazar, in Kolkata, on Thursday.



**Mamata: Widows to Get Lakshmir Bhandar Without Fresh Application**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** LakshmirBhandar continues to remain one of the West Bengal government's most popular welfare schemes, frequently drawing both praise and criticism across political lines. The financial support scheme for women—launched by the Mamata Banerjee-led government—has often been described as one of the most politically significant initiatives of the ruling Trinamool Congress. As the political atmosphere heats up ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections, both the ruling party and the Opposition have been invoking LakshmirBhandar in their campaign narratives. On Thursday, from a public meeting at the Krishnanagar Government College Ground in Nadia district, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a major announcement regarding the scheme. She declared that women beneficiaries will no longer need to apply separately for widow pension after turning 60. "There will be no need for a separate application for

widow pension after the age of 60. As long as they live, our mothers and sisters will continue to receive LakshmirBhandar support," Mamata said, drawing loud applause from the gathering. The scheme was launched in 2021, and since then it has not only gained immense popularity within Bengal but has also reportedly inspired similar programmes in other states. The Trinamool Congress has repeatedly claimed that several Indian states have replicated the financial-support model for women, acknowledging Bengal's welfare-driven approach. With the 2026 elections approaching, there has been considerable speculation on whether the state government would introduce new reforms or enhancements under LakshmirBhandar.

During her Thursday rally, Mamata also highlighted the return of a large number of migrant workers to Bengal and said the state government had engaged them in work



under the 'Karmashree' programme. "Many migrant labourers have returned home, and we have given them work through Karmashree," she asserted. The Chief Minister further spoke about other flagship welfare schemes, including Kanyashree and

Yuvashree, emphasising that Bengal's welfare architecture is meant to uplift women, youth, and vulnerable communities. She took sharp aim at the Central government for withholding funds under the MGN-REGA (100 Days' Work) scheme. From the Krishnanagar stage, Mamata reiterated her long-standing allegation of "financial deprivation" by the Centre. "This is Bengal's answer to the Centre's deprivation—the Karmashree scheme. Many people will get work under it. We do not beg. If the Centre refuses to release funds, we will run the 100 Days' Work programme on our own," she said. The Trinamool chief's comments indicate a clear strategy to position welfare schemes at the forefront of her 2026 campaign messaging. With LakshmirBhandar already being widely discussed across political circles, Thursday's announcement is expected to intensify the debate further in the coming months.

**Trade deal with India aims to enhance bilateral relationship, says top US official**

**From PG 1**  
Cooperation Organisation summit this September raised some understandable concerns. Moreover, authoritarian powers like China and Russia are redrawing borders by force, undermining democratic norms and coercing their neighbours. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Indo-Pacific, where an increasingly aggressive China threatens regional stability, global prosperity and the open flow of commerce," he said. "China's string of pearls ideology is no longer just a theory, but rather an overt attempt to encircle and control the Indian Ocean, its sea lanes, and expand the militarisation of these strategic ports and trade routes. We cannot allow this to happen. India knows this risks firsthand, Huizenga said. He also noted that India has agreed to purchase more American energy, thereby significantly reducing its reliance on Russia. Huizenga underscored that US-India cooperation today spans defence, technology, counterterrorism and trade. On counterterrorism cooperation, which he described as significant, Huizenga noted that organisations responsible for the heinous April 22 Pahalgam attack - Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and The Resistance Front (TRF) - were designated by the Trump administration as foreign terrorist organisations in July this year. "The designation reflected our shared commitment to fighting terror wherever it occurs", he said.

**Mamata Banerjee warns 'Remove one name from voter list, face dharna'**

**From PG 1**  
aligned with the BJP were now being sent from Delhi to supervise SIR hearings and influence district administrations. "Some BJP-backed people are overseeing the work of DMs. Why should only BJP's complaints be acted upon? Does the Commission work only on their letters?" she asked. She further referred to BJP's allegation seeking deletion of lakhs of names, saying, "BJP has given a complaint. They want everyone's name except their own removed. Will the Commission delete names just because BJP writes a letter?" Banerjee also took aim at the ruling party's alleged use of money to divide votes ahead of polls. "Whenever elections come, BJP tries to split votes with money. Do not allow your votes to be divided," she said, in what many political observers believe was a veiled reference to suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir's recent activities in Murshidabad by laying the foundation stone of a mosque following the model of Babri Masjid, which was demolished on December 6 more than two decades ago. The Chief minister reiterated that she had not filled her own SIR enumeration form, declaring that she would do so only after every common citizen's form was accepted. "A BLO came to my home-office. But I have not taken any form myself. Do I have to prove my Indian citizenship now to a party of rioters?" she remarked. Election Commission officials earlier has, however, clarified that as the serving Chief minister, Mamata Banerjee is already enrolled as a "marked elector", a category that includes the Prime Minister, all Chief ministers and other constitutional office-bearers, and does not legally require her to submit an enumeration form. Meanwhile, as the first phase of the SIR concludes on Thursday with draft rolls scheduled to be announced on December 16, hearings and verification will continue through December and mid of January. The final electoral rolls are scheduled to be published on February 14, the EC had said.

**Bengal Won't Tolerate Hate: Mamata on Vendor Assault**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday strongly condemned the assault on two Muslim food vendors selling non-vegetarian patties near a large-scale "Gita Path" programme in Kolkata, asserting that such acts of intolerance would never be permitted in the state. Addressing a public meeting in Krishnanagar, the Chief Minister said, "All of them (the accused) have been arrested. This is West Bengal, not Uttar Pradesh. They beat up patty sellers. We arrested everyone last night." Mamata emphasised that her government would not allow hate-driven attacks to take root in Bengal's social fabric. The incident occurred on December 7 during a mass recital of the Bhagavad Gita held at the Brigade Parade Ground, attended by several senior BJP leaders. According to the complainants, the two vendors had gone to the venue to sell chicken patties when they were suddenly confronted and assaulted. The attackers allegedly hurled away their food stock and forced the vendors to per-

form repeated sit-ups while holding their ears — a humiliation captured in videos that quickly went viral on social media, triggering widespread outrage. Police arrested three people in connection with the assault on Wednesday, with investigations currently underway to determine whether more individuals were involved. Referring to the event, Mamata Banerjee criticised the BJP, accusing the party of using religious scriptures as a political tool ahead of elections. "I do not believe in communal divisions. I want to walk with all religions," she said. "We recite the Gita at home whenever we wish. Why organise a public meeting for it? Gods stay in the heart. During Ramzan and during Durga Puja, we stand together." Questioning the intent behind hosting such a massive recital, the Chief Minister said, "Those who keep chanting 'Gita, Gita' — what did Sri Krishna say about dharma? Dharma means to uphold, not to divide. They want to destroy West Bengal. They want to capture the state and stop people from speaking in Bengali."

**General elections in Bangladesh on February 12**

**From PG 1**  
were held in January 2024 when Sheikh Hasina won the verdict marred by controversy and boycott by major parties. But only six months after Hasina's victory in the 2024 election, nation-wide protests erupted against her government. The violent street protests forced Hasina to leave for India on August

5, 2024. Three days later, Yunus took over as the Chief Adviser of the Interim Government which soon disbanded Hasina's Awami League. Sheikh Hasina, the 78-year-old Awami League leader who has been convicted and sentenced to long imprisonment and death, has been living in India in exile since she fled the country.



Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury with members of West Bengal Youth Congress took part in a protest rally during their march to Raj Bhavan regarding the Waqf Act and the BJP's conspiracy to loot Waqf properties, in Kolkata on Thursday.

**TMC Slams 'Hurried' SIR in Bengal as EC Extends Deadlines Elsewhere**

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The Trinamool Congress has strongly criticised the Election Commission (EC) for what it calls an unjustified rush to conduct the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bengal, months ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. While Bengal's timeline remains rigid, the EC has granted extended deadlines for enumeration and draft-roll publication in several other states—a move the TMC describes as discriminatory and politically motivated. According to the EC's latest notification, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat now have time until 14 December to submit enumeration forms. The deadlines in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattis-

gar and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been extended to 18 December, while Uttar Pradesh has been given until 26 December. The corresponding dates for the publication of draft rolls have also been revised: Tamil Nadu and Gujarat will publish theirs on 19 December; Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands on 23 December; and Uttar Pradesh on 31 December. In sharp contrast, the dates in Bengal remain unchanged, despite the state facing a crucial election year. The TMC argues that the EC's decision clearly reflects unequal treatment. Party leaders have raised the question: if other states can receive additional time, why is Bengal being forced to follow a compressed schedule? They claim the refusal to grant Bengal the same flexibility raises doubts about the EC's neutrality. The SIR in Bengal was announced on 28 October, along with 12 other states. This is the first such exercise in the state since 2002. For the ongoing revision, the EC has said that the 2002 voter roll will be the primary reference point, and those whose names appeared in that list will not be required to furnish additional documents. However, despite this assurance, public anxiety persists about the possibility of names being dropped from the rolls.

**CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WELFARE HOUSING ORGANISATION**  
(An Autonomous Body under the aegis of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India)  
9th Floor 'B' Wing, Janpath Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001  
Ph. 011-23772439/23355408, E-mail: cgewho@nic.in, Website: www.cgewho.in

**DEMAND SURVEY**  
The last date for the Demand Survey for the following locations has been extended up to 31st January 2026:  
Kolkata (West Bengal), Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Puducherry, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) & Ludhiana (Punjab)

**How to Apply:**  
Visit CGEWHO website "www.cgewho.in" for details, terms and conditions and to download the application form.  
For any queries, you may contact the following individuals:  
Sh. Roshan Kishore, (M): 9560022232  
Sh. Nitish Garg, (M): 8826461114  
CEO, CGEWHO reserves the right to abandon the scheme or the demand survey without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
Chief Executive Officer  
CGEWHO  
cbc 20105/12/0014/2526

Name Change

I, Md Neayazuddin (Old Name) S/o Md Sukur Residing at H/L No-17, BL No-3, Naya Bazar, P.O - Bhatpara, P.S - Jagatdal, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743126, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Neajuddin (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Md Neayazuddin (Old Name) and Neajuddin (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Liaquat Ali (Old Name) S/o Azher Ali Nuskur Residing at 32, Market Street, P.O+P.S - New Market, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700087, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Liaquat Ali Nuskur (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Liaquat Ali (Old Name) and Liaquat Ali Nuskur (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Liaquat Ali Nasker (Old Name) S/o Azher Ali Nuskur Residing at 32, Market Street, P.O+P.S - New Market, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700087, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Liaquat Ali Nuskur (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Liaquat Ali Nasker (Old Name) and Liaquat Ali Nuskur (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Gopal Modak (Old Name) S/o Narsingha Prasad Modak Residing at 5/B, Jagannath Sur Lane, P.O Beadon Street, P.S - Burtala, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700006, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Gopal Chandra Modak (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Gopal Modak (Old Name) and Gopal Chandra Modak (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI, son of Nizamuddin, residing at Holding No. 155, BL No. 1, Post Office: Kankinara, P.S. Bhat Para (New)/Jagaddal (Old), District: North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, do hereby declare that my correct name is HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI. However, in my Birth Certificate issued by the Registrar of Births & Deaths, Nalhati Municipal, my name has been wrongly recorded as "HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI" instead of "HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI". Similarly, my father's correct name is Nizamuddin, but in the Birth Certificate it has been incorrectly written as "Md Nezamuddin". It is hereby confirmed that HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI and HUSSAIN AHMED ANSARI refer to the same person; and Nizamuddin and Md Nezamuddin also refer to the same person. This notice is being published for the purpose of correction of my Birth Certificate, by an affidavit 1st class Magistrate at Barrackpore court on 8.12.2025

Name Change

I, Nasiruddin Sekh (Old Name), S/o. L. Azizul Sekh, R/o. - Vill & P.O. Nowapara, P.S.- Purbasthali, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman, WB-713515, Jahima Khatun is my wife (Old Name), declare that shall henceforth be known as Nasiruddin Sekh & my wife Tasmina Khatun (New Name), vide Affidavit SL.No. 30, Dtd. 10.12.2025, declare that before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kalna Court. That, Nasiruddin Sekh, my wife, Jahima Khatun (Old Name) & Nasiruddin Sekh & my wife Tasmina Khatun (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ghosh Akash Gour s/o Gour Ghosh Born on 12/09/1998 R/O Anjali Nivas - Gayespur, Baluhati, Howrah - 711405, West Bengal, have changed my name to Akash Ghosh for all future purpose by an affidavit in the court of 1st class judicial Magistrate Alipore court dated 08/12/2025.

NAME CHANGE

I, Chayna Das, D/o- Late Bhupendra Nath Das, presently residing at Vill + P.O-Dhalittha, P.S-Basirhat, Dist - North 24 Parganas, Pin-743412 do hereby declare that in Reinvestment Certificate under United Bank of India CSP/C 646487 issued dated 19/07/2005 inadvertently my nick name Rani Das has been written. On 27/11/2025 vide Affidavit no. 28404/25, before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that Chayna Das D/o- Late Bhupendra Nath Das & Rani Das D/o- Late Bhupendra Nath Das is same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Goutam Saha, Aadhaar No. 9171 8993 7969, Pin No. BIF574580, residing at 9A/2, Kalicharan Ghosh Road, P.S. Baranagar, District: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 700050, do hereby solemnly declare that Aritra Saha is my son whose date of birth is 21/10/1999, vide affidavit sworn before the 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court, 24 Parganas (S), West Bengal, Affidavit No. 19682 on 4th December 2025. I also affirm that due to mistake my son's document contains father name as Goutam Kumar Saha. I also affirm that GOUTAM SAHA and GOUTAM KUMAR SAHA is the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Dibakar Das S/o. Late Sachindranath Das, R/o. Dewan Behari, Singur, Hooghly-712409, declared that in my father's Hal Porcha (Dist. Hooghly, P.S. Dadpur, Mouza Bilalput, J.L. No. 97, Khatia) No. 707, Dag No. 952, 960, 974, 1086) where my father's name has been recorded as Madan Das (দেবন দাস) S/o. Dhananjay Das (দেবদাস দাস) and also recorded as "দেবদাস দাস" and also recorded as "দেবদাস দাস" in one registered sale deed no. 140752/2025 dated 25/03/2025 at A.D.S.R., Sadar, Hooghly Office instead of his original name Sachindranath Das S/o. Dhananjay Das. My father, Sachindranath Das & Madan Das (দেবন দাস) S/o. Dhananjay Das (দেবদাস দাস) এবং "দেবদাস দাস" গরমে দেবন দাস all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 6356, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 25/07/2025.

Name Change

I, Isha Shaikh (Old Name), Son Of Rustam Biswas, Residing At Rabidaspara, Rajput Teghari, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad - 742213, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Isha Hossain (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/12/2025. Isha Shaikh And Isha Hossain Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Nirupama Biswas (old name) W/O Bitan Biswas, resident of 3A2, BLOCK 5, SUGAM HABITAT, 158A NASKARHAT, PICNIC GARDEN ROAD, TILJALA, KOLKATA, 700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nirupama Mondal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Nirupama Mondal (new name) and Nirupama Biswas (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nazma Rafique (old name) W/o Md Shaban Uddin, resident of 72, Taltala Lane - Kolkata-700014, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nazma Rafique to Nazma Shaban and henceforth I shall be known as Nazma Shaban in all purpose, vide affidavit No 28 / sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 10/11/2025. Nazma Shaban (new name) and Nazma Rafique (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Rejaul Islam (old name) S/O Sk Emdadul Haque, resident of Kumargore, P.O.- Amardaha, P.S.- Shyampur, Dist.- Howrah, Pin- 711312, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Rajaul Islam (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Sk Rajaul Islam (new name) and Sk Rejaul Islam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Emdadul Hak (old name) S/O Sk Ajahar Ali, resident of Kumargore, P.O.- Amardaha, P.S.- Shyampur, Dist.- Howrah, Pin- 711312, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Emdadul Haque (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Sk Emdadul Haque (new name) and Sk Emdadul Hak (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Apurba Kumar Paul (old name) S/O Jiban Krishna Paul, resident of 9, Purbachal Netajee Park, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Garfa, South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700078, WEST BENGAL, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Apurba Paul (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/12/2025. Apurba Paul (new name) and Apurba Kumar Paul (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Qamrun Nessa, Kamrun Nisha (Old Name) W/o Haider Ali Residing at 15B Mominpur Road, Khiddirpore S.O, Khiddirpore, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700023, West Bengal, India have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kamrun Nessa (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 43/2025 Dated 09-12-2025. Qamrun Nessa, Kamrun Nisha (Old Name) and Kamrun Nessa (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, S Kundu (Old Name) S/o Mahadeb Kundu Residing at Natun Pally, P.O - Purba Putiary, P.S - Regent Park, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700093, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhas Kundu (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Sk Kundu (Old Name) and Subhas Kundu (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nakibul Hossain Mondal (Old Name) S/o Anwar Hossain Mondal Residing at 526, Bakhrat Road, Thakurpukur Bazar, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700063, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Nakibul Hossain Mondal (Old Name) and Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Anwar Hossain Mondal (Old Name) S/o Abdul Rasul Mondal Residing at 526, Bakhrat Road, Thakurpukur Bazar, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700063, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Sk Anwar Hossain Mondal (Old Name) and Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Anwar Hossain Mondal (Old Name) S/o Abdul Rasul Mondal Residing at 526, Bakhrat Road, Thakurpukur Bazar, South 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700063, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 11-12-2025. Sk Anwar Hossain Mondal (Old Name) and Anwar Hossain Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

affidavit

I, Bhagwati Goenka, wife of Pawan Kumar Goenka, residing at Panch Wat Complex, Krishna Kunj, Flat 24, VIP Road, Kolkata 700052, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bhagwati Devi Goenka, as declared before the Notary Public vide Affidavit No. 096825 dated 11th December, 2025. Bhagwati Goenka and Bhagwati Devi Goenka, both are same and identical person.

Kolkata hosts 10th Eastern India Microfinance Summit

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Association of Microfinance Institutions - West Bengal (AMFI-WB) organized the 10th Eastern India Microfinance Summit 2025 in association with MFIN and Sa-Dhan, and supported by Equifax as Knowledge Partner and M2i as Research Partner. This year the theme of the Summit was Reimagining Microfinance towards Viksit Bharat. The 10th Eastern India Microfinance Summit 2025 was recently held at Dhondhany Auditorium, Alipore, in Kolkata. The theme of this year's summit — "Reimagining Microfinance towards Viksit Bharat" — centres around three interconnected pillars that collectively shape the future trajectory of the microfinance sector.

Name Change

I, Hekmotiar Shaikh (Old Name), Son Of Isha Hossain, Residing At Rampurmore, Rajput, Teghari, Raghunathganj, Murshidabad - 742213, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Hekmotiar Sk (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/12/2025. Hekmotiar Shaikh And Hekmotiar Sk Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sudeshna Banerjee Mukherjee (old name) C/O Puspita Ranjan Mukherjee, resident of 22/E, Tollygunge Road, VTC Kalighat, P.O.- Kalighat, Kolkata- 700026, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sudeshna Mukherjee (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Sudeshna Mukherjee (new name) and Sudeshna Banerjee Mukherjee (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Muhammad Umar Afzal (old name) S/O Afzal Manzar, resident of 8, Maulvi Mujibur Rahman Sarani, Park Circus, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Umar Afzal (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Md Umar Afzal (new name) and Muhammad Umar Afzal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sahina Begum (old name) D/O Mohammed Izhar, resident of 11, Bibi Bagan Lane, P.O.- Tangra, Kolkata- 700015, P.S.- Entally, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sahina Begum (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Sahina Begum (new name) and Sahina Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sanjoy Choudhury (old name) S/O Ranjit Kumar Choudhuri, resident of 7/22, D.P.P Road, K.M.C, P.S.- Netajinagar, P.O.- Naktala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, 700047, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjay Choudhuri (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Sanjay Choudhuri (new name) and Sanjoy Choudhuri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Somia Choudhury (old name) W/O Sanjay Choudhuri, resident of 7/22, D.P.P Road, K.M.C, P.S.- Netajinagar, P.O.- Naktala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, 700047, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjay Choudhuri (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Somia Choudhuri (old name) and Somia Choudhuri (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Prodosh Bhattacharjee (old name) S/O Late Jitendra Nath Bhattacharjee, resident of 2/191, A/1 Bree Colony Regent Estate, Kolkata- 700092, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prodosh Kumar Bhattacharjee (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Prodosh Kumar Bhattacharjee (new name) and Prodosh Bhattacharjee (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Iqbal Ali, S/o Sk Minnat Ali, residing at Saltgachhi, Bodra, South 24 Parganas - 743507, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Iqbal as declared before the notary public/first class judicial magistrate alipore court, South 24 parganas, West Bengal vide Affidavit No-16276, Dated 27/10/2025. Sk Iqbal Ali and Sk Iqbal both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Anil Vyas (old name) S/O Purnam Chand Vyas, resident of Swagata Apartment Flat No-7, Block-B, 3rd Floor, Laketown, Bidhanagar, 700089, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anil Kumar Vyas (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/12/2025. Anil Kumar Vyas (new name) and Anil Vyas (old name) both are same and one identical person.



Cabin crew personnel at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International (NSCB) Airport after normalcy was restored at many airports across the country following the recent Indigo crisis, according to officials, in Kolkata.

Governor Bose Applies to Become Bengal Voter

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Governor C.V. Ananda Bose has formally applied to become a voter of Bengal, making a symbolic and politically significant gesture on the final day of the SIR Submitting his application at LokBhavan to BLOs and supervisors, Bose said, "I want to be an adopted son of Bengal. I wish to be a voter in the land where Rabindranath Tagore once breathed. My surname is 'Bose'. Netaji Subhas Chandra was also a Bose. I want to remain mentally and culturally connected to Bengal."



will be called for hearings. Commission officials said their priority is to ensure that the updated voters' list remains accurate and complete, especially ahead of the upcoming electoral cycle. Notably, the draft electoral roll for West Bengal is scheduled to be published on December 16. Citizens will be able to file applications for inclusion of their names in the voters' list until January 15, 2026, provided they meet eligibility criteria. During this period, objections regarding inclusion of ineligible names or requests for deletion can also be filed. The final voter list will be published on February 14.

Bose's decision has sparked widespread discussion in political circles, as it comes at a sensitive time in the run-up to the 2026 Assembly elections. His remarks about cultural and emotional ties with Bengal have also drawn attention, adding a layer of symbolism to what is normally a routine administrative process. With the Governor positioning himself as a "Bengali at heart," observers believe the move could carry political implications, especially amid the ongoing tension between Raj Bhavan and Nabanna.

However, officials maintain that the Governor's application will be processed like any other citizen's request, subject to verification by the Election Commission. For now, all eyes are on December 16, when the draft roll will reveal whether the Governor's name has been officially added as a voter of West Bengal.

Howrah Division conducts railone App Promotion to boost Digital Awareness



MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 December : Howrah Division, Eastern Railway, conducted a dedicated promotional campaign today at Belur Math to create wider awareness about the RailOne App among passengers and pilgrims visiting the shrine. The initiative was organised under the guidance of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager (Sr.DCM), Howrah. A Commercial Team led by the Assistant Manager/Howrah Coaching (ACM/HC) interacted with pilgrims and briefed them on the key features of the RailOne App, including online booking of reserved and unreserved tickets, platform tickets, real-time train information, PNR status, refund facilities, Rail Madad services, and several other convenient digital features. Through direct outreach, passengers were encouraged to adopt the RailOne App for a smooth and hassle-free travel experience. The promotional activity at such a high-footfall location helped spread awareness about digital ticketing and aligned with Indian Railways' ongoing efforts to promote smart, modern, and passenger-friendly services across the division.

Special Election Observer Faces Protest by Women in Falta

MI News Service, Kolkata: Special Election Observer C. Murugan came under intense protest from a group of women in Falta on Thursday, during an inspection related to the SIR. Some women allegedly advanced towards him wielding umbrellas, while others raised slogans with pointed fingers. Disturbed by the behaviour, Murugan has decided to send a detailed report to the National Election Commission, stating that such conduct toward an observer is unacceptable.

According to Murugan, the protesting women questioned him about unpaid dues under various welfare schemes—rural roads, housing benefits and central funds for development projects—issues not linked to SIR. In his report, he has emphasised that SIR is purely an electoral roll verification exercise, and questioned what connection it has with infrastructure development or the release of funds. Despite the protests and objections raised, Murugan stated that the SIR process would continue without interruption. A report is expected to be sent to the Commission. The incident occurred while the observer was reviewing the work of Booth Level Officers (BLOs). Murugan, known for his stringent supervision, had been scrutinising SIR-related tasks when the situation unfolded. The protesting women are believed to be supporters of the Trinamool Congress. Around 11 a.m., the Roll Observer reached the Falta BDO office, where he spent considerable time cross-checking the list of elderly voters. He later proceeded with BDO to the Parachali area under Debipur Gram Panchayat. Murugan visited households under booths 85, 86 and 87 to verify whether elderly voters listed on the rolls were alive and residing at their recorded addresses.

However, the moment he arrived in the area, a group of Trinamool-affiliated women began surrounding him and shouting slogans. They questioned why they had not received housing under the Awas scheme and why wages under the 100-day employment scheme had been withheld. The slogan-shouting soon caused tension in the locality.

HS Council Proposes Extra 10 Minutes for Question Reading Under New Exam Format

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Higher Secondary (HS) examination in West Bengal has begun under a newly introduced semester-based format, prompting changes in exam regulations. In view of the altered structure, the West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has proposed providing an additional 10 minutes to candidates appearing for the third and fourth semesters—the final evaluation stages. This extra time will be given exclusively for reading the question paper. The proposal, however, will only take effect once it receives final approval from BikashBhavan, to which the Council has already submitted the recommendation. According to the notification issued on Wednesday, the fourth-semester examination for 2026 will be held from 12 February to 27 February, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon. The third semester will be conducted during the same period, from 1 p.m. to 2.15 p.m. For examinees under the old curriculum, the traditional HS examination will be held from 12 to 27 February. The Council has clarified that the final semester will feature descriptive-type questions, and students will receive their papers at 9:50 a.m.—ten minutes before the writing time begins. Council president Chiranjib Bhattacharya stated, "The duration of the examination will remain unchanged. To help students manage their time better, question papers

will be distributed 10 minutes early so they can read and plan their answers." However, students had demanded additional writing time instead of reading time. During the recently concluded third-semester exams, several candidates reported a shortage of time in subjects such as Accountancy, Chemistry, and Mathematics. Many argued that the nature of these papers requires longer writing periods. Teachers also echoed similar concerns, expressing dissatisfaction that the Council opted for extra reading time rather than extending the writing duration. AbhikDatta, a final-phase HS candidate, said, "Earlier, too, we used to get 10 minutes

for the questions. What is new about this? For science students, solving all numerical questions within two hours is difficult. We faced the same issue in the third semester. Increasing the writing time would have been more helpful." Chemistry teacher Ashok Bhattacharya added, "If these 10 minutes were added to the actual writing period, students would benefit significantly." The Council has clarified that exam duration will remain unchanged: the third semester will continue to be 1 hour 15 minutes, and the fourth semester two hours. Students appearing under the old system will also follow the existing rules with no modifications.

East Coast Railway Introduces Multi-Parameter Water Quality Field Test Kits in Khurda Road Division Strengthening Safe Drinking Water Monitoring

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 December : In line with the Uniform Drinking Water Policy and in response to recent audit observations, East Coast Railway has, for the first time, introduced multi-parameter Water Quality Field Test Kits across the Khurda Road Division. These kits have been supplied to all Health Inspectors (HIs) and Food Safety Officers (FSOs) working under the Medical Department of the division. Each kit enables on-the-spot testing of 12 key water quality parameters, including: pH, turbidity, hardness, alkalinity, chloride, residual chlorine, iron, nitrate, fluoride, phosphate, ammonia and bacteriological quality.

This will significantly enhance the capability of field staff to assess drinking water sources in real time, ensure compliance with standards, and improve passenger amenities. The kits were formally distributed by Dr. Sabita Satpathy, Chief Medical Superintendent of Khurda Road Division in the presence of Dr. Raghunath Panda, Divisional Medical Officer. A live demonstration on water analysis was also conducted at the auditorium of Divisional Railway Hospital, Khurda Road to familiarise the staff with procedures and field application. East Coast Railway remains committed to ensuring safe, clean and reliable drinking water for passengers and staff across all stations and facilities.

Zonal Rajbhasha Implementation Committee Meeting Held at East Coast Railway to Promote Hindi Usage

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 December : The 56th Zonal Rajbhasha Implementation Committee Meeting of East Coast Railway (ECoR) was held today at Rail Sadan, Bhubaneswar, under the chairmanship of Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway. The meeting reaffirmed ECoR's continued commitment to strengthening the use of Hindi in official communication and ensuring strict adherence to the Government of India's Official Language Policy. During the meeting, the General Manager highlighted the crucial role of the Rajbhasha Department in enhancing communication standards across the Railway system. He emphasized that station signboards across all stations must be accurate, error free, and correctly displayed in Hindi, ensuring clear and effective communication between Railway and its valued passengers.

Men's Health Awareness Prog in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: As we all know that in general men are oblivious about their both physical and emotional well being. To address the same a awareness programme was held in Kolkata recently. Manipal Hospital Dhakuria hosted a special Men's Health Awareness Session to highlight critical health concerns among men, with a specific focus on prostate-related conditions and mental well-being.

Howrah Division Leads Initiative To Reduce Plastic Waste And Support Environmental Sustainability

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Dec.25 : Howrah Division has undertaken a significant initiative aimed at reducing plastic waste and creating a cleaner, more sustainable environment for the future.



The larger mission of reducing carbon emissions. By ensuring that discarded PET bottles are recycled efficiently, Howrah Division is making a meaningful contribution to environmental conservation while promoting sustainable practices within Indian Railways.

To streamline the recycling process, a high-capacity baling machine has been installed at Howrah. Leveraging this facility, the division successfully processed and compressed the collected PET bottles into recyclable bales.

These bales were subsequently auctioned to authorised and registered plastic recyclers, ensuring that the material is responsibly reused in accordance with environmental standards.

His Excellency High Commissioner Of Canada In India Visited East-West Metro

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Dec.25 : His Excellency Mr. Chris Cooter, High Commissioner of Canada in India has travelled in East-West Metro under the river Hooghly today i.e. on 11.12.2025.



Metro Railway and Shri Satyaki Nath, Principal Chief Operations Manager, Metro Railway and other officials of Metro Railway and KMRC accompanied during this visit of his Excellency. He was visibly pleased seeing the arrangements of underwater Metro.

Metro Railway, Kolkata. Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer/M/Blue Line, Metro Railway, Kolkata for and on behalf of the President of India invites tender for the following work: Name of Work: Operation & maintenance and Annual Overhauling of Air Conditioning Plants installed at KBEL, KSHY, KSHO, KGPK, KMRH, KCEN, KESP, KPSK, KMDI, KRSD, KNBN, KJPK, KHG, KRBS stations of Metro Railway, Kolkata. Advertisment Value: ₹ 6,49,75,998.69.

EASTERN RAILWAY Tender Notice No. : SG.TENDER/DSTE/SDAH/583, dated 10.12.2025. e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: e-Tender No.: SDSTE/Sig/T/24/25-26/RRSK. Name of Work with its location : Signalling work in connection with SDAH Division - CTR(P) - 20.909 TKM & TRR(P) - 4.404 TKM, CTR(P) - 4.123, TRR(P) - 27.395 TKM & TTR (FS+TWS+WC/MSC) - 3 set (1 in 12) in Sealdah Station, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 1.09.39.542.22. Earnest Money / Bid Security to be deposited : Rs. 2,04,700/-. Cost of Tender document : Nil. Completion period of the work : 12 Months. Tender submission start date : 24.12.2025. Tender submission end date : 07.01.2026 upto 14.00 hrs. Tender Bid opening date : 07.01.2026 at 14.30 hrs. Details may be available : www.irops.gov.in Technical Eligibility Criteria : The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited:

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. W\_LLH 23-2025-26, dated 09.12.2025. E-tender (open tender) is invited online by the Dy. CME/Elect, C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work: Name of the work : Complete overhauling of pantry equipment of LHB Hot Buffet Coaches, sub-pantry equipment of LHB-2-Tier & LHB-3-Tier, LHB Shatabdi Chair Car, LHB 1st AC, ICF Non-AC pantry, LHB Non-AC Chair car and different types of RA & RE (Saloon) coaches including stripping, fitting, commissioning, testing and transportation for the period of 36 months at C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway Liluah. Approx. cost of work: Rs. 2,23,28,979.02. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,61,700/-. Tender closing date with time : 01.01.2026 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete details of tender is available : www.irops.gov.in (MISC-326/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY Following e-tender is invited online by the Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711011 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : Sr.DEN/HQ/HWH. Sl.No. 1, E-Tender No. : 228\_2025-26, dtd. 09.12.2025. Description of work: P.Way maintenance work under SSE/P.Way/BMG (Up HBC -2/0-6/0, Up ML, Dn ML & Rev ML -2/0-6/0 & SYAE & EMU carshed & BEQ yard. Approx. Cost: Rs. 1,16,64,328.60. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,08,300/-. Completion period: 12 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Sl.No. 2, E-Tender No. : 229\_2025-26, dtd. 09.12.2025. Description of work: Extension of Line No. 16, 17, 18, 19 and other ancillary works at Jheel Siding under Sr. DEN/1/HWH. Approx. Cost: Rs. 1,15,30,110.83. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,07,700/-. Completion period: 4 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Cost of tender form: Nil for each. Closing date & time of tender: 08.01.2026 at 14.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.irops.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Note : Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-453/2025-26) (SDAH-298/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY Following e-tender is invited online by the Sr. Divisional Engineer/C, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711011 from tenderers having experience of similar nature of work and required financial capabilities including those registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work : Sr.DEN/HQ/HWH. Sl.No. 1, E-Tender No. : 228\_2025-26, dtd. 09.12.2025. Description of work: P.Way maintenance work under SSE/P.Way/BMG (Up HBC -2/0-6/0, Up ML, Dn ML & Rev ML -2/0-6/0 & SYAE & EMU carshed & BEQ yard. Approx. Cost: Rs. 1,16,64,328.60. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,08,300/-. Completion period: 12 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Sl.No. 2, E-Tender No. : 229\_2025-26, dtd. 09.12.2025. Description of work: Extension of Line No. 16, 17, 18, 19 and other ancillary works at Jheel Siding under Sr. DEN/1/HWH. Approx. Cost: Rs. 1,15,30,110.83. Earnest Money: Rs. 2,07,700/-. Completion period: 4 months from the date of issue of acceptance letter. Cost of tender form: Nil for each. Closing date & time of tender: 08.01.2026 at 14.00 hrs. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done next working day. The details of tender are available at website www.irops.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) & Tender document cost, in respect of E-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. Note : Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal). No manual offer will be accepted. (HWH-453/2025-26) (SDAH-298/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY E-Tender Notice No. SGW 272/25/21/63, dated 10.12.2025. Chief Signal & Telecom Communication Engineer/Project/HQ, Eastern Railway, 3rd floor, Fairlie Place, 17, Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata-700001 invites open e-tender in two packet system from the experienced and established contractors having sufficient experience in similar work and satisfying minimum eligibility criteria on the prescribed form for the following work : Name of the Work with its location : Replacement of old & overage Panel Interlocking stations to EI at Belur. Approximate cost of the work : Rs. 17,37,04,782.29. Bid Security : Rs. 10,18,500/-. Completion period of the work : 12 months. Validity of offer : 30 days from the date of opening of tender. Last Date and Time of online submission (closing) of tender document : 05.01.2026 upto 15.00 hrs. Website Address, time and date from which tender documents will be available: On Indian Railway's website i.e. www.irops.gov.in from 10.12.2025. Date and time of opening : 05.01.2026 at 16.00 hrs. Website where tender bid can be submitted: Bids are to be submitted online only. Tenderer's must register on Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) site i.e. www.irops.gov.in for participating in e-tender system. Necessary changes, corrigendum/addendum if required, would be posted on this site only. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date & time only. Manual bids/offers are not allowed against this tender. Any manual offer received shall be ignored. (COIN-54/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at Website www.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Adani unveils \$75 billion green push

MI News Service, Mumbai: Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani said the conglomerate will invest over USD 75 billion in the energy-transition space over the next five years, asserting that India must define its own development path, resist external pressures and build sovereign capabilities in resources, energy and technology.



Adani said India is the world's third-largest electricity consumer but its per-capita consumption is "less than 1,400 kWh a year, less than half the global average, one-tenth of America, and one-fifth of Europe."

Speaking at the 100th foundation day of IIT (ISM) Dhanbad, Adani said the group is building the world's largest renewable energy park at Khavda in Gujarat, spread over 520 sq km. "At full capacity by 2030, this park will generate 30 gw of green energy. At average household consumption, this is equivalent to powering over 60 million homes a year," he said. "With the first 10 GW already commissioned, we are on track to deliver the world's lowest-cost green electron, setting a global benchmark in energy transition," he added.

Adani said India is the world's third-largest electricity consumer but its per-capita consumption is "less than 1,400 kWh a year, less than half the global average, one-tenth of America, and one-fifth of Europe."

"In 200 years of industrial activity, our country has contributed just 4 per cent of cumulative global emissions, against 13 per cent from Europe, 19 per cent from the US and 20 per cent from China," he added. Adani said India must guard against "narrative colonisation" by countries that historically emitted the most carbon but now seek to dictate how developing economies should grow.

"We live in an era of narrative colonisation, where the very nations that plundered resources, enslaved continents, and burned fossil fuels for two centuries, now stand on moral platforms in foreign capitals," he said. "If we do not control our own narrative, our aspirations will be delegitimised and our right to improve our standard of living portrayed as a global offence."

Indian Railways Accelerates Renewable Energy for Traction With 812 MW Solar and 93 MW Wind Commissioned, 1,600 MW Round-the-Clock Hybrid Power Also Tied Up

Indian Railways Targets Net Zero Carbon by 2030. Progressively Meeting Power Needs Through Solar, Wind and Other Renewable Sources. 99.2% of Broad Gauge Network Already Electrified; Route Electrification More Than Doubles Since 2014, Rising From 21,801 km in Six Decades to 46,900 km Between 2014-25.

MI News Service, New Delhi, 11 Dec.25 : Indian Railways is continuously upgrading its infrastructure and rolling stock by adopting the latest technologies to enhance safety, punctuality, reliability, and passenger comfort. These upgrades reflect focused effort to modernize the system and meet growing passenger expectations.

Indian Railways has also taken up a state of the art project for running of its first hydrogen train, on pilot basis, as per specifications framed by the Research, Design & Standards Organization (RDSO) to demonstrate the use of hydrogen powered train technology in Railways.

Indian Railways has planned to progressively meet its electric power requirement for traction purpose through renewable energy sources with combination of solar, wind and other renewable sources based on strategic power procurement planning, thereby reducing its carbon emissions.

As part of its strategy to achieve the target of Net Zero Carbon Emitter by 2030, Indian Railways has planned to progressively meet its electric power requirement through renewable energy sources with combination of solar, wind and other renewable sources based on strategic power procurement planning, thereby reducing its carbon emissions.

Till November 2025, about 812 Mega Watt (MW) of solar plants and about 93 MW of wind power plants have been commissioned, which are meeting traction requirement of IR.

This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha.

East Coast Railway, Khurda Road Division Signs MoU with Canara Bank to Enhance Salary Account Facilities for Employees

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Dec.25 : East Coast Railway's Khurda Road Division today entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Canara Bank to provide enhanced facilities under The Salary Account Package for Railway Employees.

This initiative follows the Railway Board's directive, aimed at improving employee welfare and financial convenience. The MoU was formally signed by Shri Suman Chakraborty, General Manager, Canara Bank, Circle Office Bhubaneswar and Shri Pramod Behera, Sr Divisional Personnel Officer (I/C), Khurda Road Division.

From Canara Bank, the event was attended by senior executives Shri Ambika Singh, AGM/CO Bhubaneswar; Shri Sarat Chandra Bhoi, DGM/Regional Office; Shri T. Akila, AGM/RO Cuttack; Shri Sobhamay Halder, RO Bhadrak; Sk. Mehboob, RO Berhampur; Smt. Rita Das, AGM/RO Bhubaneswar; Shri Khageswar Sahu, Senior Manager, Jati Branch; Smt. Sasmita Mohapatra, Senior Manager, CO; Shri Suraj Kumar Datta, Manager and Ms. Adyasha Dash, Officer.

Representatives of recognized trade unions also graced the occasion: Shri S.K. Bhanj, DCE/CoRSC; Shri R.K. Das, AGS/CoRSU; and Shri N.K. Parida, Dy. DCE/CoRSU. The event saw enthusiastic participation from railway employees and bank officials.

The collaboration is expected to streamline financial services for staff and introduce multiple employee-friendly benefits under the Salary Account Scheme.

Malda Division Achieves A Record-Breaking One-Day Scrap Sale Of ₹3.74 Crore

MI News Service, Kolkata, 11 Dec.25 : Malda Division of Eastern Railway has achieved an unprecedented milestone in sustainable asset management and revenue optimization under the Zero-Scrap Mission.



achievement marks a significant step forward in the Division's commitment to optimal asset management and financial efficiency.

On 10 December 2025, the Division achieved a historic one-day scrap sale of ₹3.74 crore, marking the highest-ever single-day scrap disposal revenue recorded by Malda Division till date.

By converting non-serviceable assets into valuable revenue, the Division continues to contribute meaningfully to the financial strength of Eastern Railway.

The record-breaking sale was achieved under the meticulous supervision of Moses Nag, Senior Divisional Material Manager (SR. DMM), Malda. This achievement highlights Malda Division's proactive approach and dedication to sustainable and responsible asset disposal practices.

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

196 Battery Operated Vehicles Available at 79 Major Railway Stations, Prioritising Divyangjans, Senior Citizens, Sick Passengers, and Pregnant Women. Concessional Online Ticket Booking Extended to Divyangjan and Patients with Certain Illnesses; One Escort Also Eligible for Same Concession.

MI News Service, New Delhi, 11 Dec.25 : Wheelchairs are provided by Railways and are given to attendants of the Divyangjan, Senior Citizens etc free of cost to escort them from and to the trains.

coaches are treated as reserved for booking by Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) travelling on handicapped concessionary payment of due fare of that class on first come first served basis.

MI News Service, New Delhi, 11 Dec.25 : Wheelchairs are provided by Railways and are given to attendants of the Divyangjan, Senior Citizens etc free of cost to escort 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 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 person with disability booked on the authority of handicapped concession or a senior citizen or a pregnant woman, 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

Office of the Municipal Councillors 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/ULB/SR/MP/APAS/NIT-44/2025-26, Date: 11/12/2025. Number of work: SL. 01 to 38. Bid Submission Start Date (online): 11/12/2025 at 01.00 P.M. Bid Closing Date (online): 22/12/2025 at 05.00 P.M. Bid Opening Date for Technical Proposals (online): 24/12/2025 at 05.00 P.M. For details of the project go through http://tenders.wb.gov.in/nicgep/app and www.seramporemunicipality.net/tenders

Howrah Municipal Corporation Borough-II 43, Jelia Para Lane, 711106 Ph: 033-2665-0888 E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tender No.: TN/005/AE/IB-11/2025-26, Date: 12.12.2025 Detail information will be available from the Office of Borough-II H/MC. Visit the site: https://wb.tenders.gov.in / Uploading (Online) start: 16.12.2025 at 06.00 P.M. Submission closing (Online): 29.12.2025 at 06.00 P.M. Assistant Engineer Borough-II, H.M.C.

EGRA -II DEVELOPMENT BLOCK Balighai: Purba Medinipur NOTICE Re-NIT-31 of 2025-26 (2nd Call) Dated - 11.12.2025 has been invited for 12 nos. of civil work under Egra-II Development Block fund Pathashree-IV FY-2025-26 in the Purba Medinipur District. Last Date of online submission - As per available of slot on wbtender portal. For details log on to : www.wbtenders.gov.in

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091 CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012. www.icicibank.com 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 borrowers 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 symbolic 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.

# Industry bodies like ASSOCHAM can play a catalytic role in ensuring water security: Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, MoS, Ministry of Jal Shakti

New Delhi : The ASSOCHAM India Water Leadership Conclave 2025 brought together national leaders, industry heads, and grassroots champions to drive a unified agenda for India's water-secure future.

Addressing the Conclave, Dr. Raj Bhushan Chaudhary, Hon'ble Minister of State for Water, Ministry of Jal Shakti, highlighted India's major progress under the unified Ministry of Jal Shakti. He noted that initiatives such as Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Atal Bhujal Yojana, PMKSY, AMRUT 2.0, and Har Ghar Jal-which now covers over 80% of rural households-have delivered globally recognised improvements in water supply, conservation, and reuse.

Commending ASSOCHAM for adopting Water Use Efficiency (WUE) targets, he mentioned, "ASSOCHAM as an industry association can catalyse water security by advancing PPP models, supporting water-tech start-ups, promoting water use efficiency, and bridging policy with on-ground practice." Commending

ASSOCHAM for adopting Water Use Efficiency (WUE) targets, he stated, "ASSOCHAM as an industry association can catalyse water security by advancing PPP models, supporting water-tech start-ups, promoting water use efficiency, and bridging policy with on-ground practice." This commitment was echoed by the Hon'ble Minister of Jal Shakti, Shri C.R. Patil, who later congratulated ASSOCHAM on X, appreciating the industry's proactive pledges to enhance water-use efficiency, promote rainwater harvesting, increase the reuse of treated wastewater, and reduce water footprints. He added that such initiatives would play a decisive role in contributing to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of a "Viksit Bharat 2047" and in building a water-secure India. A compelling grassroots perspective was delivered by Padma Shri Uma Shankar Pandey, an eminent Indian social worker and water conservationist from Bundelkhand, who emphasised that "water is the basis of everything-life, health, agricul-



ture, energy, and even spiritual practices." Calling water "the oldest medicine," he highlighted the

massive hidden water footprint behind everyday food and rituals. Drawing on his acclaimed Jalgram model, he reminded that community-led water systems have historically sustained India, urging society to revive this responsibility and strengthening water education-from schools to universities. Delivering the keynote address, Ms. Archana Varma, IAS, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission, stressed that water will define India's economic future and called for stronger industry action and public participation. Building on this, the ASSOCHAM leadership underscored the need for innovation, community partnerships, and practical industry-led solutions to accelerate national water resilience. Mr. Mohd. Shaffi, Chairman, ASSOCHAM National Water Council, underscored that innovation must be the cornerstone of India's water transition. He noted that while the country has made progress in reuse, desalination, circularity, and

aquifer recharge, the next phase demands stronger benchmarks, robust data systems, deeper research, skilled talent, and unified WUE targets across high-demand sectors. Mr. Siddharth K. Desai, Co-Chair, highlighted the need for specialised water skills and announced ASSOCHAM's upcoming certificate programmes with a premier institute. He shared that ASSOCHAM is in advanced discussions with a leading technical institute to co-develop certificate courses that strengthen employability and enable industry to access talent aligned with emerging requirements. Industry leader Mr. Pratik Pota, MD & CEO, Eureka Forbes, advocated a shift from Har Ghar Jal to Har Ghar Swachh Jal through scalable purification solutions. The Conclave concluded with a strong message: India's water security demands coordinated action-policy reform, industry leadership, grassroots wisdom, and community ownership-working together towards a water-secure India by 2047.

## NIT Rourkela's human-like AI robot can understand everyday language, recognise emotions

New Delhi : Researchers at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela have developed a robotic system designed to interact with people in the most human-like manner.

Developed using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Large Language Models (LLMs), the social robot can understand everyday language, follow spoken commands, answer questions, and engage in real-time conversations beyond pre-coded responses.

It is also capable of recognising users' emotions by interpreting facial expressions, such as happy, neutral, or sad. It can greet users, provide instructions, and reply using natural-sounding speech.

The system, which can be used in homes, classrooms, offices, hospitals, and community spaces, can also detect simple gestures such as waving and raising a hand, and react appropriately.

"The indigenously developed robotic system significantly aligns with the Government of India's Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat initiatives. In contrast to existing systems available globally, NIT Rourkela's social robot introduces a uniquely integrated framework that combines gesture, emotion, speech, and LLM-based conversational abilities within a cost-effective platform suitable for Indian contexts," said Dr. Anup Nandy, Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, NIT Rourkela.

The Institute has also secured a patent for the developed innovation and system.

The robot uses the Raspberry Pi system to process user inputs such as spoken commands or text-based queries.

The LLM analyses the input, determines the context, and produces an appropriate, human-like response. This output is then delivered through the robot's speech system using Google Text-to-Speech.

The robot is equipped with a wheel-based platform and navigation system for easy movement. The built-in distance-sensing module allows it to avoid obstacles and ensure safe movement in a crowded setup.

The developed robot, detailed in the paper published in the Computers and Electrical Engineering journal, is expected to cost between Rs 80,000 and Rs 90,000 based on manufacturing scale and component optimisation, said the researchers.

## UN warns 1.7 million children at risk due to severe malnutrition in Afghanistan

Kabul : The United Nations (UN) humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher has warned that 1.7 million children in Afghanistan are at risk of death due to severe malnutrition and termed the situation as "shocking."

In his remarks during a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) briefing on Wednesday, Fletcher stated that food insecurity has further exacerbated this winter, with many life-saving food distributions suspended. He further said that 1.1 million children do not have access to vital aid, leaving them extremely vulnerable, Afghanistan's leading news agency Khaama Press reported.

The UN official stated that 303 nutrition service centres have been shut due to funding shortage, further restricting emergency care for malnourished children. He said that ending restric-



tions on women and girls is critical for aid operations.

Fletcher also criticised Taliban restrictions on women working in UN offices, terming them as "unacceptable", warning that the restrictions impact essential humanitarian services. He called on the international

community to provide additional funding to operate aid programmes. On December 7, the World Food Programme (WFP) warned that hunger levels in Afghanistan are increasing at an alarming rate as the winter season is approaching.

In a statement, the WFP stat-

ed that malnutrition among children and women could reach levels "not seen in recent years," Khaama Press reported.

WFP Executive Director Carl Skau said the agency has been forced to reduce food assistance from 10 million people to two million due to funding shortages. He warned that many children could face life-threatening conditions and possibly die due to malnutrition and exposure during the winter months.

The agency's statement comes as the United Nations previously said that around 3.5 million children in Afghanistan aged below five years suffer from acute malnutrition. Humanitarian workers have said that Afghanistan remains one of the world's most food-insecure nations, with drought, economic collapse and restrictions on aid further deteriorating the situation.

## Indians getting poor quality protein nearly 50 pc is from cereals: Study

New Delhi : Nearly half of India's at-home protein intake now comes from cereals such as rice, wheat, suji, and maida, according to a study on Wednesday.

Protein supports the body's growth, repair, and immune function, and Indians consume an adequate average of 55.6 g of protein per day at home.

However, the study by non-profit policy research think tank the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) showed that cereals supply nearly 50 per cent of this protein despite

their low-quality amino acid profile and poor digestibility.

The study also found under-consumption across major food groups, such as vegetables, fruits, and pulses, and overuse in cooking oil, salt, and sugar intake.

"This study spotlights a silent crisis in India's food system: over-reliance on low-quality proteins, excess calories from cereals and oils, and stark under-consumption of diverse, nutrient-rich foods," said Apoorve Khandelwal, Fellow, CEEW.

"In a week, a person in the

poorest decile consumes just 2-3 glasses of milk and fruits equivalent to just 2 bananas, compared to 8-9 glasses and 8-10 bananas for those in the richest decile. These consumption gaps mirror broader inequities in access to balanced diets. At the same time, the country's heavy dependence on a narrow crop base for nutrition and income reduces its climate resilience. Diversification, from fork to farm, must be a national priority," she added.

The study analyses Indian dietary trends based on the latest

2023-24 NSSO Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) dataset.

It showed that India's diet remains heavily skewed toward cereals and cooking oils, with both contributing to significant nutritional imbalance.

Nearly three-fourths of all carbohydrates come from cereals, and direct cereal intake continues to be 1.5 times the RDA, reinforced by the widespread availability of subsidised rice and wheat through the PDS in lower-expenditure deciles.

## Why is antimicrobial resistance not just future threat, but a present reality

New Delhi : Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is not just a threat for the future, but a present reality affecting millions of people across the globe, particularly India, said Florian von Groote, Head of Clinical Research, at Wellcome Trust Infectious Disease Clinical Research Team, UK, on Monday.

Speaking to IANS, von Groote, an infectious disease expert, shared that AMR is one of the top global health issues causing millions of infections and deaths each year. India, with its large population, high infectious disease burden, and widespread antibiotic use, remains disproportionately affected.

"AMR is no longer a hospital-only issue but rather affects every day healthcare in India. These trends reflect widespread antibiotic misuse, gaps in infection control, and poor surveillance in many parts of the country. AMR is not a future threat but rather a present reality in India," he said.

India continues to face some of the world's highest burdens of bacterial infections.

According to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report, about one in three bacterial infections in India were resistant to commonly used antibiotics in 2023. Globally, it was one in six confirmed infections.

National AMR surveillance data also show troubling resistance patterns in pathogens such as E. coli, Klebsiella pneumoniae, Staphylococcus aureus, and Acinetobacter baumannii.

A recent study, published in the Lancet eClinical Medicine journal, warned that India is at the epicentre of a superbug explosion as



several patients in the country were found to carry multiple highly resistant organisms simultaneously. It showed that more than 80 per cent of Indian patients carry multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) -- the highest globally.

von Groote noted that attention to AMR is rising because common infections are becoming harder to treat, antibiotics are failing, and the economic impact can no longer be ignored. "Resistance levels to certain key antibiotics are indeed alarmingly high. Therapeutic options are shrinking, and many first-line and even last-line antimicrobials are losing effectiveness, resulting in previously easily manageable infections being difficult or impossible to treat," von Groote told IANS.

"India carries one of the heaviest antimicrobial resistance burdens in the world. In 2019, the country saw an estimated 267,000 deaths directly caused by drug-resistant infections, placing it among the highest contribu-

tors to global AMR deaths," the infectious disease expert added, citing data from joint research from Oxford University, UK, and the University of Washington, US.

While ICMR's latest data indicate a modest improvement in E. coli susceptibility to cefazidime (from 19.2 per cent in 2023 to 27.5 per cent in 2024), rising resistance to carbapenems and colistin remains a red flag, signalling diminishing treatment options in the country.

"Compared with other populous countries in Asia and Africa, India remains a critical hotspot... due to sheer size, high infection load, and widespread antibiotic misuse," von Groote said.

Notably, to contain antibiotic resistance, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the second version of the National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance (2025-29) with key strategies. The NAP-AMR 2.0 addresses the gaps identified in the first NAP-AMR by increasing the ownership of AMR-related efforts, strengthening intersectoral coordination, and ensuring stronger engagement with the private sector through a One Health approach.

Meanwhile, von Groote suggested rational and responsible use of antibiotics; better surveillance across humans, animals, and the environment; and a push to develop novel drugs, vaccines, and diagnostics.

The expert also mentioned simple measures such as hand hygiene and other infection control practices to reduce the need for antibiotics.

## Gravely concerned for Khaleda Zia, says B'desh ex-PM Sheikh Hasina

New Delhi : Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has expressed deep concern over the deteriorating health of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson and former PM Khaleda Zia, wishing her a speedy recovery.

In an email interview with IANS, Hasina was asked about Zia's critical medical condition and reports that security forces had been deployed at the hospital where she is being treated. Responding to the query, she said, "I am gravely concerned to hear that Begum Khaleda Zia is ill and will pray she can make a recovery."

Khaleda Zia, 79, has been battling multiple long-standing ailments, including cardiac complications, diabetes, arthritis, liver cirrhosis, and kidney problems. She remains under intensive observation in the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Dhaka's Evercare Hospital, where both local and international specialist doctors are overseeing her treatment.

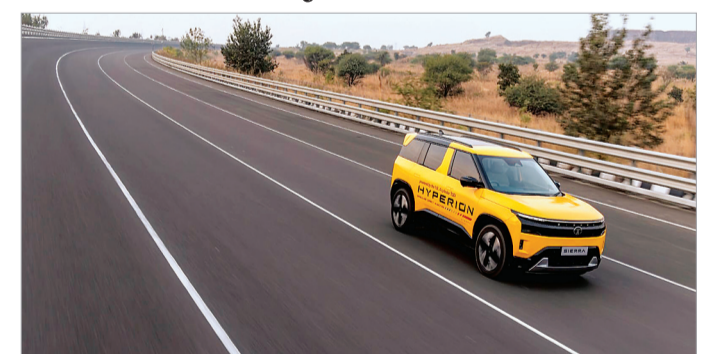
According to medical sources, Zia was admitted to Evercare on the night of November 23 on the advice of her medical board after being diagnosed with infections affecting her heart and lungs. As her condition worsened, she was shifted to the CCU on November 27 for round-the-clock monitoring.

Meanwhile, plans to airlift her to London for advanced medical treatment have faced delays. Local media, quoting BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, reported on Friday that the special air ambulance arranged through the Emir of Qatar could not land in Dhaka due to technical issues. "The air ambulance is not arriving today because of a technical issue. If everything goes well, it may reach Dhaka on Saturday," Fakhrul told UNB.

He added that the decision on whether Khaleda Zia can travel will depend entirely on her medical condition. "A medical procedure will be done today, after which the doctors will decide whether she is fit to fly. Everything depends on her health. If Madam is fit for the journey and the medical board gives approval, then she will fly on Sunday (December 7)," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, Khaleda Zia's personal physician and BNP Standing Committee member A Z M Zahid Hossain had said she was initially expected to fly to London on Friday for advanced treatment, subject to medical clearance.

## Hyperion-Powered Tata Sierra sets the New Fuel Efficiency Benchmark



Kolkata : Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles' (TMPV) newest entrant, the Tata Sierra, has achieved a remarkable milestone by entering the India Book of Records for maximum fuel efficiency achieved in 12 hours. In a certified run at NATRAX Indore, the Sierra delivered an exceptional 29.9 kmpl, surpassing the previous national benchmark. The feat was executed by the Pixel Motion team, who drove the 1.5L Hyperion-powered Sierra continuously from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM on November 30, 2025, with only brief halts for driver swaps. The record was officially validated the same day.

At the heart of this accomplishment is the all-new 1.5L Hyperion petrol engine, engineered to deliver high efficiency without compromising refinement, performance or drivability. Its advanced combustion system, torque-rich performance band and friction-optimised architecture ensured consistent fuel delivery and stable performance throughout the run. This achievement stands as a testament to the engineering innovation and capability of the Hyperion powertrain.

Speaking on this achievement, Mr. Mohan Savarkar, Chief Product Officer, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, said, "Setting a national efficiency record so early in the Sierra's journey is a proud moment for us. The Hyperion engine platform was built to push the boundaries of what petrol powertrains can achieve, and this milestone validates that effort. It strengthens the Sierra's value proposition for customers and underlines TMPV's commitment to bringing advanced, efficient and future-ready technologies to the market."

The Tata Sierra also achieved a top speed of 222 km/h at NATRAX, Indore, under specified test conditions, demonstrating the performance capability of the 1.5L Hyperion engine in a parallel run.

Please Note:

The fuel efficiency and top-speed tests were conducted in a controlled environment by trained and expert drivers under monitored conditions.

TMPV advises customers not to attempt to replicate such driving behaviour. All owners are encouraged to follow traffic rules, adhere to posted speed limits, and always prioritise safety.

The vehicles delivered to customers will be limited to a maximum speed of 190 km/h, in line with TMPV's strict safety standards.

### IndiGo offers vouchers worth Rs 10K to affected passengers



**MI News Service, New Delhi:** IndiGo, which has been facing significant operational disruptions, on Thursday announced that it will offer travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to each passenger whose flights were cancelled or delayed for long during December 3-5.

The compensation would be in addition to the amount that needs to be provided to passengers for flight cancellations under DGCA norms.

In a statement, IndiGo said it regrettably acknowledges that part of its customers travelling on December 3, 4 and 5 were stranded for many hours at certain airports, and a number of them were severely impacted by congestion.

"We will offer travel vouchers worth Rs 10,000 to such severely

impacted customers. These travel vouchers can be used for any future IndiGo journey for the next 12 months," it said.

The country's largest airline is also facing regulatory heat, and authorities have directed it to reduce winter schedule flights by 10 per cent to stabilise its operations. The carrier was operating around 2,300 flights a day till the disruptions began on December 2.

"This compensation is in addition to the commitment under the existing government guidelines, as per which, IndiGo will provide compensation of Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 depending on the block time of the flight, to those customers whose flights were cancelled within 24 hours of departure time," the statement said.

## PIL in Calcutta HC seeks stay on construction of proposed Babri Masjid-style mosque in Murshidabad

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) was filed in the Calcutta High Court on Wednesday seeking a direction to stop the construction of a Babri Masjid-styled mosque in Murshidabad district by suspended Trinamool Congress leader and Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir.

The PIL has been filed before the bench of the Calcutta High Court's acting Chief Justice Sujoy Paul. The petition was admitted and the matter is likely to be heard next week.

According to the petitioner, the name Babri Masjid is related to the Babri Masjid-Ram Janmabhoomi dispute in Ayodhya.

As a result, the atmosphere of communal harmony in the state may be disrupted and social unrest may arise if the mosque is built. Besides, the petitioner also raised questions on how suspended Trinamool Congress leader Humayun Kabir, who is also an MLA, is carrying out this construction work without the permission of the district administration.

The petitioner claimed the Trinamool MLA's action will violate the fundamental rights provided in Articles 14, 21 and 25 of the



Constitution. Therefore, the court should immediately order a stay on the construction of this mosque.

It may be noted that for the last one week, a controversy has erupted over Kabir's decision to lay the foundation stone of a Babri Masjid-style mosque in Murshidabad district's Beldanga.

On December 4, the Trinamool Congress leadership suspended Kabir from the party for anti-party activities.

Despite his suspension, Kabir went ahead with his programme on December 6 and laid the founda-

tion stone for the mosque.

Humayun Kabir said that the construction of the Babri Masjid will start in the first week of February in Beldanga. Quran will be recited by one lakh voices a day before the construction of the mosque begins.

Notably, on December 4, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee asserted that the people of Murshidabad will never accept "politics of riots". Her remarks came hours after her party, the Trinamool Congress, suspended Kabir for allegedly pursuing communal politics over his plan to lay the foundation of a mosque on the lines of the demolished Babri Masjid in the state's Murshidabad district.

Addressing a public meeting in Berhampore in Murshidabad district, CM Banerjee said: "Trinamool Congress does not practise communal politics and is firmly against it. We cannot forget the history of Murshidabad.

Siraj-ud-Daulah is revered in every home here. This district is the land of the Nawabs. It has holy places of all religions. People remember Siraj. The people of Murshidabad will not accept the politics of riots."

### JD-U MP says Muslims have right to build Babri Masjid, defends Humayun Kabir

**MI News Service, Nalanda:** In a statement that has put the BJP-JD(U) alliance under fresh strain, Janata Dal (United) MP from Nalanda, Kaushalendra Kumar, on Monday strongly defended suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir's controversial decision to construct a mosque modelled on the demolished Babri Masjid in West Bengal's Murshidabad district.

Speaking to reporters in Nalanda—also the home constituency of Bihar Chief Minister and JD(U) supremo Nitish Kumar—the MP asserted that the Indian Constitution grants every community equal religious rights. "Muslims have full right to build Babri Masjid again. The Constitution gives equal rights to all religions; no one should object," Kumar said. He emphasised Article 25, which guarantees freedom to practise and propagate religion, adding, "If this mosque aligns with Muslim sentiments, nobody should have a problem." When reminded of the BJP's sharp criticism—labelling the proposed mosque an attempt to honour "invader" Babur—Kumar distanced himself, saying, "I have neither seen Babur nor do I know much about him. We only follow the Constitution that has been in force since Independence."

In a surprising twist, the JD(U) leader turned the tables on Mamata Banerjee, claiming it was the West



Bengal Chief Minister who had suppressed a Muslim leader for expressing religious sentiments by suspending Kabir from TMC. Kabir, who represents Bharatpur in Muslim-majority Murshidabad, had laid the foundation stone of the replica mosque on 6 December—the same date the original Babri Masjid was demolished in 1992. A day earlier, the Calcutta High Court declined to stay the construction. While JD(U) has not issued any official reaction, party sources described Kumar's remarks as his "personal opinion." The statement, however, comes at a delicate time for the NDA, with assembly polls looming in West Bengal and the BJP aggressively opposing any memorialisation of the Babri structure. Political observers see the Nalanda MP's defence as the latest sign of quiet divergence between Nitish Kumar's party and its senior ally on sensitive religious issues.

### Canada lists online extremist group "764" as terrorist entity

**MI News Service, Ottawa:** Canada on Wednesday announced it has listed the online extremist group "764" as a terrorist entity to combat new threats targeting youth, the first nation to list the group.

According to a press release from Public Safety Canada, the country is the first in the world to officially designate "764" as a terrorist organization, taking a leadership position in combating the significant threat of transnational ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) and fighting against emerging terrorist trends.

The release described "764" as a decentralized transnational network of online nihilistic violent extremists whose core be-

liefs are rooted in misanthropy and nihilism. The group seeks to destroy civilized society through violence and chaos, not as a step towards a new "state" but rather as an end in itself.

It uses various social media and gaming platforms to lure, groom and extort youth to commit violent and sexual acts, viewing these acts as entertainment and a means to erode social norms. Serious criminal cases linked to the group have occurred in Canada, Sweden, and Britain. According to the release, two other transnational IMVE groups, "Maniac Murder Cult" and "Terrorgram Collective," were also added to the list.

### SC reserves verdict on Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam bail pleas in 2020 Delhi riots UAPA case

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** The Supreme Court on Wednesday reserved its judgment on the bail applications of student activist Umar Khalid, former JNU scholar Sharjeel Imam, and several others accused in the "larger conspiracy" case linked to the February 2020 North-East Delhi riots.

A division bench comprising Justice Aravind Kumar and Justice N.V. Anjaria concluded marathon hearings that saw senior lawyers Kapil Sibal, Abhishek Manu Singhvi, Siddhartha Dave, Salman Khurshid, and Sidharth Luthra argue in favour of bail.

The Union government and Delhi Police were represented by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Additional Solicitor General



S.V. Raju.

The Delhi Police, through the SG, vehemently opposed bail, describing the 2020 communal violence as a "pre-planned, meticulously orchestrated and well-funded conspiracy" aimed at undermining India's sovereignty.

The prosecution maintained that the riots, which claimed 53 lives and injured over 700 people,

erstwhile Indian Penal Code, with the police alleging they were the "masterminds" who mobilised protests that led to widespread violence.

The petitioners challenged the Delhi High Court's September 2 order that had rejected their bail applications, contending that prolonged incarceration without trial violated their fundamental rights and that the evidence against them was largely circumstantial and based on WhatsApp chats and speeches protected under Article 19(1)(a).

After hearing both sides extensively, the bench reserved its verdict, with the final decision now awaited on whether the accused will be released on bail after spending over four years in judicial custody.

### Stop politics based on religion, says Waizul Haque

**Nurul Islam Khan:** In preparation for the mega public meeting to be held at Dharmatala in Kolkata on December 18th, organized by the Bengal Minority Intellectuals' Forum, a meeting was held today in Purbasthali, Purba Bardhaman district. The main speakers at the meeting included the organization's president, Professor Sheikh Md. Waizul Haque, MLA Tapan Chatterjee, the forum's general secretary Alamgir Molla, Mahmudul Haque Tutul, Dewan Anisur Rahman, and the president of the forum's Bardhaman branch, Dr. Qurban Ali, among others. Professor Waizul Haque said that our country's politics is facing an unprecedented crisis. In a secular state like India, every person has a political identity that determines the direction of society and nation-building, and a religious or communal identity that helps hold society together. But currently, there is an attempt to conflate these two distinct identities and create a specific and partisan political polarization. If necessary, the machinery of the state is being used to protect these harmful political interests. A recent example of this is the case of Sonali Bibi, a resident of Birbhum, who was branded as a Bangladeshi and deported solely because of her specific communal identity, and later had to be brought back to the country by order of the honorable court, though her husband and other family members are still imprisoned in Bangladesh.



Waizul Haque's organization is fighting against this. He further said that Waqf property is property dedicated to God, which has been managed according to Islamic scriptures. But the state machinery is also attacking this belief, against which the Bengal Minority Intellectuals' Forum is protesting. To give this struggle a broader scope, Waizul Haque extended his greetings and best wishes to everyone to attend the historic public awareness meeting at Dharmatala on December 18th, on the occasion of International Minority Rights Day and the foundation day of the Bengal Minority Intellectuals' Forum.

### Over 146,000 Afghan refugees return home in under 3 weeks: Ministry



**MI News Service, Kabul:** A total of 15,989 Afghan families with 146,152 members returned to their homeland from Iran, Pakistan and Türkiye over the past 18 days, Afghanistan's Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said on Thursday.

The returnees entered Afghanistan through Islam Qala in western Herat province, Torkham in eastern Nangarhar province, Spin Boldak in southern Kandahar province, Pul-e-Abraham in western Nimroz province, as well as airports, the ministry said.

All returning families have received immediate assistance, including food, drinking water, healthcare services, and free transportation to their destinations, according to the statement.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees said that about 2.7 million Afghans have returned home from Iran, Pakistan, and other countries so far this year.

An estimated 6 million Afghan refugees, the majority of whom are undocumented, continue to live abroad, primarily in Iran and Pakistan.

### Eisenkot warns Netanyahu Haredi draft bill 'dangerous' for Israel, won't strengthen IDF



**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** Writing to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Yashar party chairman Gadi Eisenkot warns that the purpose of the coalition's proposed bill regulating ultra-Orthodox military service is "not to strengthen the IDF, but you decided to pass it at any cost" anyway.

The law is "dangerous

for the security of the State of Israel" and "dismantles the framework of the people's army," argues the former IDF chief of staff, who previously served as an observer in Netanyahu's now-defunct war cabinet.

"As a military man for most of my life, as chief of the general staff under your government, and someone who has sat at the crossroads of security decision-making for years, I am

stating unequivocally that the conscription law currently under discussion in the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee harms the ID's exclusive mission: defending the State of Israel, ensuring its existence, and victory in war," he continues, arguing that "we cannot correct a historical mistake with another historical mistake, which is unlikely to be correctable, and which will be a source of grief for generations."

Eisenkot describes his letter as a "serious strategic warning for Israel's security and the values of Israeli society, similar to the one I sent you in August 2023, almost two months before the failure of October 7."

In late 2023, Eisenkot warned that the government's judicial overhaul and the reservist protests against it would have a negative impact on the IDF.

### Trump says U.S. seizes oil tanker off coast of Venezuela



**MI News Service, Washington:** The U.S. military has intercepted and taken control of an oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday. "As you probably know, we've just seized a tanker on the coast of Venezuela, a large tanker, very large. Largest one ever seized, actually," Trump said at a White House event.

U.S. forces carried out a "judicial enforcement action on a stateless vessel" that was last docked in Venezuela, according to a Bloomberg report, citing a senior U.S. official. International oil prices moved higher on news of the seizure, with Brent crude climbing as much as 0.8 percent in London trading, said the report.

Trump has recently reiterated that the U.S. military is to start strikes on land targeting drug traffickers in the Caribbean "very soon," escalating tension between the United States and Venezuela. The Pentagon has carried out at least 22 known strikes on alleged drug vessels in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific Ocean since September, killing at least 87 people aboard.

Washington has deployed around a dozen warships, including the USS Gerald R. Ford, a major aircraft carrier, and about 15,000 troops to the Caribbean Sea, which shares a significant amount of coastline with Venezuela. The region has not seen such a massive U.S. military presence for at least three decades.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has condemned Washington's actions as attempts to overthrow his government and expand the U.S. military influence in Latin America.

### Thailand says 9 soldiers killed in Thailand-Cambodia border clashes

**MI News Service, Bangkok:** Thai Defense Ministry spokesperson Surasant Kongsiri said on Thursday that the ongoing border clashes with Cambodia have left nine Thai soldiers dead and more than 120 people injured.

The clashes have displaced nearly 200,000 Thai civilians, who have taken shelter in refugee camps. Three refugees have been reported dead, and a total of 849 refugee camps have been set up so far, said Surasant at a press briefing. Meanwhile, nearly 200 hospitals and clinics have been affected to varying degrees.

Thailand's 2nd Army Area Command said in a social media post on Thursday that the clashes are still ongoing, with Cambodian forces firing on multiple locations in Thailand's Ubol Ratchathani and Sisaket provinces.

### 4 Iranian soldiers killed by "terrorists" in SE Iran

**MI News Service, Tehran:** Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said the number of its Ground Force members killed in a "terrorist" attack on Wednesday had risen to four. The fourth member succumbed to his wounds sustained in a clash with the "terrorists" in the Lar area, northeast of the provincial capital Zahedan in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, the IRGC reported through its official news outlet Sepah News, without specifying the assailants' affiliation.

It identified the slain members as Sajjad Marashi, Mohammad Bazi, Alireza Nasrabadi Sarhadi and Alireza Piri, adding that a manhunt has been launched to arrest the assailants. In an earlier statement, the IRGC said its three soldiers were killed by members of "terrorist and hostile groups" while on a mission protecting Iran's border.

### Austria passes law banning headscarves in schools for girls under 14

**MI News Service, Vienna, Austria:** Austrian lawmakers approve a law banning headscarves in schools for girls under 14, a move rights groups and experts say is discriminatory and could deepen societal divisions.

The conservative-led government —

under pressure from rising anti-migration sentiment — proposed the ban this year, arguing it is to protect girls "from oppression."

The opposition Green party votes against the ban, saying it is unconstitutional.

## Hungary rejects EU migration pact, vows not to accept any relocations

**MI News Service, Budapest:** Hungary will not implement the European Union's new migration pact and will refuse to accept any migrants under the scheme, senior government officials said on Wednesday.

Gergely Gulyas, head of the Prime Minister's Office, told reporters that EU interior and justice ministers had adopted an implementing decision defining the number of asylum seekers and reception capacity allocated to Hungary.

On Monday, the European Council reached a political agreement on the 2026 migration "Solidarity Pool," which provides for

the relocation of 21,000 asylum seekers across member states and includes 420 million euros (489.5 million U.S. dollars) in financial contributions.

Gulyas said the mechanism could "in a crisis situation allow the unlimited redistribution of migrants," a prospect the Hungarian government considers unacceptable.

"Hungary will not implement the migration pact, and will not accept a single migrant," he said.

He added that the government had followed "the most democratic procedure" by holding a referendum in which, according to him, an "overwhelming



majority" rejected mandatory migrant resettlement. For this reason, he argued, the EU cannot decide "with whom Hungarians should

live together."

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán also criticized the decision, calling it "a new, absurd, and unjust attack against Hungary" in comments posted on social media.

He said the pact would oblige Hungary to either take in migrants from other EU countries or pay a financial contribution starting next July. "I want to make it absolutely clear once and for all that as long as Hungary has a national government, we will not implement this outrageous decision," Orbán said.

He added that next April's elections would determine whether Hungarians want "a government that will strike a deal with Brussels and accept the migration pact, or ... a migrant-free Hungary."

# NZ hold the edge despite Windies' fightback on Day 2 of Wellington Test

WELLINGTON: New Zealand strengthened their hold on the ongoing second Test against the West Indies here at the Basin Reserve, thanks to the composed half-centuries by Devon Conway and debutant Mitchell Hay before their seamers undermined the West Indies' response.

The hosts built a 73-run lead after being bowled out for 278, then took two wickets with the new ball to leave West Indies 41 runs behind with eight wickets still in hand at stumps.

As New Zealand resumed from the overnight score of 24/0, the West Indies quicks troubled the hosts throughout the innings. Kumar Roach, Jayden Seales, Ojay Shields, and Anderson Phillip all found swing and seam, repeatedly forcing defensive errors. Loose strokes from New Zealand's batters only added to the pressure.

But Conway anchored the innings with a composed 60, his first fifty against the Caribbean side, punishing anything short or wide with crisp cuts and flicks among his eight boundaries. Hay, debuting at No. 6, added a composed 61, helping New Zealand rebuild after a mid-session stum-



ble.

New Zealand's innings started poorly. Tom Latham's off stump was knocked out by a sharp nip-back from Roach, and Kane

Williamson was dismissed by Phillip, whose late-straightening delivery beat his defence.

After lunch, Roach got Rachin Ravindra caught fishing at a wide

one, while Conway was caught leg side off a poor delivery from Justin Greaves, courtesy of Tevin Imlach's athletic diving catch. At 117 for 4, New Zealand remained

vulnerable.

Hay and Daryl Mitchell steadied the innings with a 73-run stand, only for West Indies to break through soon. Hay miscued a pull shot in the fourth over of the session, and Glenn Phillips, after an adventurous cameo worth 18, slogged one into the hands of Philip.

The tail, however, proved stubborn as Jacob Duffy, Zakary Foulkes and Michael Rae chipped in valuable runs to stretch the lead before Seales finally ended the innings by removing Rae.

With Blair Tuckner unavailable due to injury, New Zealand declared upon losing their ninth wicket.

By stumps, New Zealand quicks had already repaid those late-order runs, striking twice to leave the West Indies 32 for 2 in their second innings.

**Brief Scores:** West Indies 205/10 and 32/2 in 10 overs (Brandon King 15\*, John Campbell 14; Michael Rae 1-4, Jacob Duffy 1-8) trail New Zealand 278/9d in 74.4 overs (Mitchell Hay 61, Devon Conway 60; Anderson Phillip 3-70, Kumar Roach 2-43) by 41 runs



## Champions League: Leaders Arsenal stay perfect, Man City beat Real Madrid away

NEW DELHI: Table-topping Arsenal made it six wins from six and cemented their place at the top of the league phase table with a 3-0 win against Club Brugge, while Manchester City City emerged victorious 2-1 from their trip to Real Madrid. Superb Noni Madueke and Gabriel Martinelli strikes helped Arsenal move to six wins from six in the league phase.

One of seven changes to the XI that defeated Bayern on Matchday 5, Madueke hit a scintillating opener on 25 minutes when he held off Joaquin Selys deep in Club Brugge's half, drove forward and thundered a long-range strike into the top-right corner. The hosts twice came close through Aleksandar Stankovic?

later in the first half, but Arsenal responded emphatically after the break - Madueke heading in Martin Zubimendi's cross on 47 minutes before Martinelli cut in to curl a superb third nine minutes later. The return of Gabriel Jesus, out of action since January, added further sweetness for the Gunners, UEFA reports.

Meanwhile, Nico O'Reilly's instinctive strike and Erling Haaland's cool penalty sealed a comeback victory for the Man City. Real Madrid enjoyed the brighter opening, Vinicius Junior dinking wide early on before Rodrygo applied a neat finish to a sweeping move just ahead of the half-hour.

Pep Guardiola's men were behind for a little over seven minutes, levelling when O'Reilly pounced after Thibaut Courtois was unable to hold a Joško Gvardiol header. With half-time approaching, Haaland marked his 50th Champions League start with a calm spot kick following a foul on the Norwegian international by Antonio Rüdiger. Substitute Endrick came closest to conjuring up an equaliser, but nodded against the crossbar late on. Elsewhere, Leverkusen's Alejandro Grimaldo found a late equaliser to deny Newcastle a win on their travels in Germany.

Anthony Gordon's fine second-half performance had looked like enough only for Grimaldo to run into the area and smash past Aaron Ramsdale with two minutes remaining. Leverkusen led when captain Robert Andrich's header hit Bruno Guimarães on the back and deflected in, Gordon levelling by drilling in a penalty after Nick Woltemade had been fouled. The England man then crossed for teenager Lewis Miley to head in but Grimaldo.

## Champions League: Athletic Club hold PSG to goalless draw, Dortmund held by Bodo/Glimt

NEW DELHI: Paris Saint-Germain were held to a goalless draw in Bilbao as Athletic Club became the first team in this season's Champions League to prevent the holders from scoring.

Unai Simon was the hero for the hosts, producing a string of big saves including two point-blank stops against Senny Mayulu and a late attempt by fellow Spaniard Fabian Ruiz.

Bardley Barcola came closest for Paris when he raced in behind but his shot crashed back off the crossbar as it remained all square at San Mames. In another match, Bodo/Glimt twice battled back from behind to take a spirited point away at Dortmund with a 2-2 draw. Dortmund largely controlled the game but Nikita Haikin in the Bodo goal made two smart saves to keep the visitors in it.

Julian Brandt opened the scoring for Dortmund, Haitam Aleesami equalising before the break. Brandt added his second before Haikin's stops allowed Jens Petter Hauge to wrongfoot Gregor Kobel down the other end and claim a battling draw for his side.

Elsewhere, Second-half goals from Weston McKennie and Jonathan David helped Juventus to back-to-back wins in the Champions League. Both sides had chances in the first half, Pafos striker Anderson hitting a post.



The hosts started the second half with real purpose, however, and the pressure finally told when McKennie blasted into the net after nice build-up play. As Pafos pushed for an equaliser shortly after going behind they were hit on the counter, Kenan Y?ld?z picking out David who finished coolly to seal the points.

Copenhagen earned successive wins in the Champions League proper for the first time since 2010/11 as Andreas Cornelius swept in a 90th-minute winner at Villarreal for 3-2 win. The visitors took an early lead when Mohamed Elyounoussi applied a first-time finish, but Villarreal levelled two minutes into the second period

through Santiago Comesaña.

The Danish side retook the lead a minute later as Elias Achouri swept in Yoram Zagoue's cross with his first touch. Villarreal again pegging them back when Tani Oluwaseyi - another second-half introduction - prodded in on 56 minutes. Then came Cornelius' winner.

## GS Delhi Aces move to top spot; Rajasthan Rangers hold second place after day two in TPL 7



AHMEDABAD: Day two of the Tennis Premier League (TPL) Season 7 delivered another series of closely fought matches at the Gujarat University Tennis Stadium, with GS Delhi Aces and Chennai Smashers kicking off proceedings on the charcoal-coloured surface court.

In the Women's Singles, Sofia Costoulas continued her strong form from the opening day with a composed 17-8 victory over Irina Bara, dominating the rallies with her consistency baseline.

She then partnered with Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan in the Mixed Doubles, where the duo maintained their momentum to secure a 16-9 victory against Irina Bara and Rithvik Bollipalli, further strengthening GS Delhi Aces' hold on the tie.

Chennai Smashers responded in the Men's Singles, with Dalibor

Svrcina narrowly defeating Billy Harris 13-12 in a close contest. Svrcina and Rithvik Bollipalli then secured a 14-11 win in the Men's Doubles. However, when the overall points were counted, GS Delhi Aces claimed a 56-44 victory to start their day on a winning note.

In the second match, SG Pipers Bengaluru faced Yash Mumbai Eagles. Riya Bhatia provided the Aces with an impressive start, defeating Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 17-8 in the Women's Singles. In Mixed Doubles, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty and Rohan Bopanna maintained their unbeaten streak with a confident 14-11 victory over Riya Bhatia and Niki Poonacha. Ramkumar Ramanathan then put SG Pipers ahead with a confident 15-10 win against world number 57 Damir Dzumhur in the Men's Singles. The tie came down to the Men's

Doubles, where Niki Poonacha and Damir Dzumhur narrowly defeated Ramkumar Ramanathan and Rohan Bopanna 13-12, allowing Yash Mumbai Eagles to secure a narrow 51-49 overall victory.

In the third match of the day, Hyderabad Strikers faced Gujarat Panthers. In the Women's Singles, Carole Monnet delivered a sharp performance to secure a 14-11 victory over Nuria Brancaccio, showcasing excellent court coverage and control.

She carried that form into the mixed doubles alongside Vishnu Vardhan, where the Hyderabad pair edged Nuria Brancaccio and Anirudh Chandrasekhar 13-12 to strengthen their position in the tie. In the Men's Singles, Alexandre Muller narrowly defeated Stefano Travaglia 13-12 in a closely contested match. In the Men's Doubles, Chandrasekhar/Müller won 13-12 against Travaglia/Vardhan, securing the overall tie for Hyderabad with a score of 51-49 Strikers.

In the final game of the day, Gurgaon Grand Slammers faced Rajasthan Rangers. In the Women's Singles, 25-year-old Sahaja Yamalapalli narrowly defeated Ekaterina Kazionova 13-12 in a fiercely contested match, giving Gurgaon a positive start.

The Rangers responded in the mixed doubles, where Ekaterina Kazionova and Suresh Dakshinasekar teamed up effectively to secure a 13-12 victory over Balaji Sriram and Sahaja Yamalapalli.

## India's Abdul Quadir Indori wins two gold medals at Asian Youth Para Games in Dubai

DUBAI: India marked a proud moment at the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 as Abdul Quadir Indori delivered an impressive performance in the swimming events, winning two gold medals in the 50m Butterfly and 50m Backstroke events.

"Golden glory for India! A remarkable achievement that reflects his dedication, discipline, and the rising strength of India's young para-athletes. Congratulations, Abdul!" Paralympic Committee of India shared on X. The Opening Ceremony of the Asian Youth Para Games 2025 was also held on Wednesday in Dubai, featuring cultural performances and participation from young para athletes representing various Asian nations countries.

Among the nations, Iran, the table toppers at the last edition in Bahrain 2021 with 51 gold medals, will field the largest delegation with 195 athletes, demonstrating their deep commitment to youth development and Para sport excellence. Uzbekistan (124), Thailand (122), and India (122) follow, bringing in the second- and third-largest teams to the competitions, the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC) informed in a release on Friday.

## Kooch Behar Trophy

### Jharkhand Edge Kerala by 6 Runs in Thrilling Finish

RANCHI: Jharkhand registered a narrow yet memorable 6-run victory over Kerala in a gripping encounter of the Kooch Behar Trophy at the Sanjay Singh Cricket Stadium, securing full points from the match.

Batting first, Jharkhand posted 206 runs in their opening innings. Kerala responded strongly with a total of 333, gaining a significant lead. However, Jharkhand mounted an impressive comeback in their second innings, riding on a brilliant century by Anmol Raj, who scored a superb 133, and a

valuable 77 from Yash Rathod. Their efforts powered the team to a competitive 313. Chasing the target, Kerala faltered under pressure in their second innings. The Jharkhand bowlers kept tightening the noose, eventually bundling Kerala out for 180. Captain Ishan Om delivered a standout performance with the ball, claiming five wickets and spearheading the team's fightback. With this hard-fought win, Jharkhand strengthened their position in the tournament and showcased their resilience in a match that went down to the wire.

## Sarthak and Cinderella Clinch Under-17 Titles at National TT Ranking Championship

RANCHI: Odisha's Sarthak Arya and West Bengal's Cinderella Das emerged champions in the Under-17 category at the fifth UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championship, held at the Harivansh Tana Bhagat Indoor Stadium on Thursday.

Sarthak claimed the boys' U-17 crown by defeating West Bengal's Rupam Sarkar 11-6, 11-7, 4-11, 14-12 in an intense final. This victory marked his second U-17 title of the season, having earlier secured a win in Panchkula. Sarthak established early control in the match, while Rupam fought back by winning the third game. However, in crucial moments, Sarthak steadied himself to seal the contest.

In the girls' category, Cinderella Das delivered a commanding performance to overcome Avisha Karmakar 11-6, 11-8, 11-9, capturing her second title of the season. Avisha, who reached the final for the first time, found herself outplayed as Cinderella maintained relentless pressure throughout. The semifinals and quarterfinals witnessed spirited battles, with all four finalists-Sarthak, Rupam, Cinderella, and Avisha-displaying grit and consistency to advance to the title round. The prize distribution ceremony was graced by former DIG Hemant Toppo as the chief guest, along with Airport Director Vinod Kumar, JOA treasurer Sivendra Dubey, and former Gujarat TTS secretary Kushal Santhani. The proceedings were conducted by JSTTA secretary Samarjit Singh.

## Kochhar pips Ganapathy Pukhraj for maiden IGPL win

DUBAI: Karandeep Kochhar finally secured his first title on the IGPL Tour with a hard-fought win at the IGPL Invitational UAE hosted by Shiv Kapur. Kochhar edged out young Veer Ganapathy and Pukhraj Singh at the Els Club in Dubai during the tenth IGPL event of the inaugural season. Kochhar, a recent winner on the Asian Development Tour, made amends for his runner-up finish at the IGPL Invitational Kolkata, while Ganapathy's wait for a first professional win continued as he was left knocking on the doors yet again.

Kochhar shot a third consecutive 3-under 69 to total 9-under, while Ganapathy, who was seemingly cruising to a fine win, was left lamenting a costly triple bogey on the Par-4 14th hole on the back nine. He scored an even par 72 and finished one shot behind Kochhar.

Also finishing tied second was Pukhraj, the winner of IGPL Jamshedpur. He shot 2-under 70 and, like Ganapathy, was left at 8-under and one behind the winner.

Pranavi Urs, the history-maker at IGPL Mumbai, where she beat Kochhar to second place, was sole fourth. She shot a 1-under 71 and totalled 7-under for the 54 holes. Pranavi became the first woman winner on the IGPL and the first woman to win a pro event while playing against men. Gaganjeet Bhullar's winning streak ended with a fifth-place finish after a round of 71 and a total of 6-under. His previous rounds were 67-72. Bhullar had previously won every time he teed off in his last three IGPL events starts. Tournament host Shiv Kapur (72) was tied for 16th place with Ridhima Dilawari (75) at 1-under total, while Jeev Milkha Singh, who flew in straight from Mauritius where he was the runner-up on the European Legends Tour, shot 73 and finished tied-18th in his first appearance on the IGPL Tour.

Another teenage star, Kartik Singh (71), legend SSP Chawrasia (72), and another young rookie pro, Raghav Chugh (72), are tied for sixth place, and all of them are still waiting for their first win on the IGPL Tour, which now has one more event to go in Colombo. The IGPL Order of Merit leader, Aman Raj (73), was tied with Hitaashee Bakshi, who again demonstrated final round heroics with a 6-under 66, and Mysuru golfer Yashas Chandra, who has been performing well. Chandra shot 71, finishing tied at 4-under with Aman Raj and Hitaashee.

## TPL 7: Former World No. 23 Damir Dzumhur lauds tournament's global prominence



AHMEDABAD: Two days into Season 7 of the Tennis Premier League (TPL), the league's expanding international reputation has been strongly validated by players across generations, as former World No. 23 Damir Dzumhur, representing Yash Mumbai Eagles, and young Czech player Dalibor Svrcina of Chennai Smashers shared their initial thoughts on the tournament and offered insights into TPL's growing global reach.

Damir Dzumhur, a 33-year-old veteran of the league with experience facing top players like Carlos Alcaraz, stated that he was aware of TPL long before arriving in India.

He said, "I had spoken to a couple of international players that played TPL in the past and a lot of them told me the management is very good and it's very fun being inside the team. I myself have played Davis Cup for my country (Bosnia and Herzegovina) for 15 years so I really enjoy working together as a team."

He also praised TPL's unique format while saying, "I like how it works with only 25 points a match. This is incredible for someone who wants to start watching Tennis because Grand Slam matches can go for about 4-5 hours and not everyone enjoys that. It's shorter, there is always movement, there is always something happening. It's a lot of fun for people watching," he said.

"The surface is very nice, the weather is great. Everything we have here to practice and play is really good. I'm definitely up to do it again in future years," he concluded.

Representing the younger generation of international players experiencing TPL for the first time, Dalibor Svrcina shared similar praise. The 23-year-old Czech player, who recently entered the top 100 rankings said, "It's been really good so far. The facilities, hotel and the organisers are good. We feel very welcomed here. As a team we are in the positive numbers. My goal now is to help my team reach the semifinals."