

Mamata Highlights MSME Growth, Launches Portal to Support Entrepreneurs

Since assuming office, the West Bengal government has prioritized state development, with a particular focus on industry and employment generation. To attract investment, the state organizes the annual 'Byabasayi Sammelan' organised by the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Association, in Kolkata, drawing both domestic and international investors. These initiatives have significantly boosted the state's revenue and created new economic opportunities. Despite these efforts, opposition parties often raise questions about industrial growth and employment prospects in the state. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly responded to critics through tangible results. On Wednesday, she addressed these concerns at a business conference held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, sending a strong message to detractors while reassuring entrepreneurs of the government's support.

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addresses the gathering at the 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025' organised by the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Associations (CWBT) at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday. Pic Prabr Bhattacharya

TMC orders door-to-door scrutiny at Bhowanipore constituency after 45,000 deletion

MI News Service, Kolkata : The top leadership of the ruling Trinamool Congress has decided to instruct its booth-level agents (BLAs) to carry out fresh, door-to-door scrutiny of deleted voters' names in Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's assembly constituency of Bhowanipore, after nearly 45,000 electors were struck off from the draft rolls there under the SIR exercise, party sources said.



According to Election Commission data, Bhowanipore had 2,06,295 voters as of January 2025. The draft rolls now carry 1,61,509 names, indicating that 44,787 voters, nearly 21.7 per cent of the electorate, have been deleted. The Commission on Tuesday published West Bengal's draft electoral rolls following the special intensive revision (SIR), deleting the names of more than 58 lakh voters on various grounds, including death and migration, and redrawing voter profiles across districts and border belts ahead of the 2026 assembly polls. The TMC is miffed over a large number of voters being marked "dead", "shifted" or "absent" by the poll panel.

With the hearing process on claims and objections expected to begin shortly, the party has directed local leadership to stand by affected voters during verification. The TMC asked local units to continue running the neighbourhood-level 'May I Help You' camps to assist people with documentation, form-filling and hearings, and said volunteers should visit homes if required. The developments in Bhowanipore come amid widespread deletions across south Kolkata and including in several other assembly constituencies including those of city Mayor Firhad Hakim and Power minister Aroop Biswas. Draft rolls show that four politically high-profile assembly segments Bhowanipore, Kolkata Port, Ballygunge and Rashbehari together recorded over 2.16 lakh deletions, nearly 24 per cent of their combined electorate. When the SIR process began, these seats together had around 9.07 lakh voters. The Trinamool

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40-day annual harshest winter period in Kashmir 'Chillai-Kalan' begins next week

MI News Service, Srinagar : The prolonged dry frosty weather in Kashmir is likely to end as there is a possibility of a wet spell in the valley, coinciding with the onset of 'Chillai-Kalan' — the 40-day harshest winter period, officials said on Wednesday. The local weather office has said a western disturbance is likely to impact Jammu and Kashmir during December 21-22 as the winter period marks its entry in the valley. Due to this weather system, there is a possibility of moderate to heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir, and light to moderate rains or snowfall in the plains of the valley, the officials said. With Chillai Kalan beginning on December 21, the chances of heavy snowfall are highest and most frequent, when the temperature drops sharply several degrees below the freezing point across the valley during this period that ends on January 30. So far during this winter, the valley has not witnessed any major wet spell. The prevailing dry weather has led to an increase in ailments like cough and the common cold. Meanwhile, most places in the Kashmir valley continued to experience sub-zero night temperatures, the officials said. Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recorded a low of minus 2.6 degrees Celsius

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PM Modi 'Deeply moved' at Vande Mataram rendition by Ethiopian singers

MI News Service, Addis Ababa : Prime Minister Narendra Modi was "deeply moved" at the rendition of Vande Mataram by African singers at a banquet hosted by his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali here. A video snippet shared by PM Modi on X on Wednesday, showed that three Ethiopian singers were singing a soulful rendition of the Indian national song. The Prime minister and members of the Indian delegation are seen clapping enthusiastically with their hands raised overhead. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to Ethiopia — the first Indian leader to do so in 15 years — marked a significant moment in Indo-African ties as the two countries formally elevated their bilateral relationship to a "Strategic Partnership". At a banquet dinner hosted by Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed, PM Modi received a heart warming welcome with a soulful rendition of 'Vande Mataram' by Ethiopian singers. This moment was even more special as India is celebrating 150 years of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's iconic poem in the 1870s, which became the pinnacle of India's struggle against British colonial rule "At yesterday's banquet dinner hosted by Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali, a wonderful rendition of Vande Mataram was sung by Ethiopian singers. It was a deeply moving moment, that too at a time when we are marking 150 years of Vande Mataram," PM Modi said on X.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Ethiopian counterpart Abiy Ahmed Ali and others during a ceremony hosted at the Addis International Convention Centre, in Addis Ababa. National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval is also seen.

To be honoured by a very ancient and prosperous civilisation of the world is a matter of great pride for me. On behalf of all Indians, I humbly accept this honour. This award is for all those numerous Indians who shaped our partnership.

PM Modi after receiving Ethiopia's Highest Award in strengthening democracy post-independence. Originating as a simple poem in the 1870s, it eventually became the national song of India. Earlier, Prime minister Modi arrived in Addis Ababa from Jordan on the second leg of his three-nation tour. Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali personally received him at the airport, highlighting the significance Ethiopia attached to the visit. In a rare and symbolic gesture, Abiy Ahmed Ali also drove Prime Minister Modi to his hotel, underlining the close ties and mutual respect between the two leaders. PM Modi was conferred Ethiopia's highest award, "The Great Honor Nishan of Ethiopia," marking the 28th foreign state honour bestowed on him. He became the first international head of state or government to receive the Great Honor Nishan of Ethiopia. According to a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs, the award was given in recognition of Prime Minister Modi's outstanding contribution to strengthening India-Ethiopia bilateral relations and for his

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Public to suggest names of 586 'uninhabited' islands in Andaman & Nicobar

MI News Service, Port Blair : In a unique initiative, the Andaman and Nicobar administration has sought suggestions from the general public for naming as many as 586 uninhabited islands in the archipelago, an official said. The Union territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands comprises of 836 islands, islets and rocks of which only 31 islands are inhabited. "We have asked for name suggestions from the general public, members of tribal communities, ex-servicemen, students, teachers, historians and environmentalists. It will be a unique task considering the difficult terrain of the archipelago," Director of Art and Culture, Andaman and Nicobar administration, Priyanka Kumari said

The names of the uninhabited islands should reflect the local tribal heritage, freedom fighters, eminent personalities, martyrs, unique flora and fauna, geographical features, historical events of national importance or any other theme considered appropriate, she said.

"All the 586 islands have unique identification numbers, and once the names are finalised by the State Names Authority, it will be sent to the MHA for the final approval," Kumari said. She said the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration will then name the 586 uninhabited islands and islets for maintaining sovereignty, cultural identity and history of the archipelago. All the names will

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'What about Kumbh mela?' Abhishek Banerjee defends Govt after Messi 'mess'

MI News Service, New Delhi: Amid sharp political sparring over the chaos that marred football icon Lionel Messi's event in Kolkata, All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) MP Abhishek Banerjee has strongly defended the West Bengal government, asserting that the state administration acted swiftly and responsibly compared to similar incidents elsewhere in the country.



Lambasting the BJP's handling of past incidents here on Wednesday, he also pointed his fingers towards e Kumbh Mela tragedy and the New Delhi railway station stampede, where many lives were lost. In contrast, he praised West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's swift response to the chaos at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, where the CM apologised within an hour and initiated action against those responsible. Reacting to the disorder at Salt Lake Stadium during Messi's GOAT India Tour appearance, Abhishek Banerjee said, "So many people were killed at the Kumbh Mela during this government's rule and the New Delhi railway station stampede... Within an hour of the incident in Bengal, the Chief Minister apologised... Action is being taken against everyone... That is why the BJP loses, and the Trinamool defeats them."

I appreciate the sentiment and intention of the Sports Minister to offer a relief from the Sports Department for the sake of impartial inquiry into the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Kirirangan (VYBK) incident on December 13, 2025

Govt. official quoting Mamata Banerjee

during the high-profile event. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has accepted his resignation. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has assumed charge of the state's sports ministry following the resignation of cabinet minister Aroop Biswas, who stepped down amid a probe into the chaos that erupted during Lionel Messi's appearance at a Kolkata stadium. Accepting her minister's resignation, an official statement from the CM said, "Until and

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Messi hopes Indian football has bright future

MI News Service, New Delhi : Argentine football legend Lionel Messi hoped that football in India has a "bright future" and expressed gratitude for the "generous hospitality" that he received here during a whirlwind three-day tour, which had thousands of fans jostling to catch a glimpse of the soccer genius in four different cities. Messi, after extending his stay by a day to visit the Anant Ambani-founded Vantara wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation centre in Jamnagar, left for his base in Miami on Wednesday. Taking to Instagram, the 38-year-old posted a one-minute highlights clip of the tour, featuring his interactions with Indian cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actor Kareena Kapoor Khan and several young footballers. He also hoped that football has a "bright future" in India "What amazing visits to Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata. Thank you for

the warm reception, generous hospitality, and all the feelings of love with which you surrounded me throughout my tour. "I hope that football has a bright future in India," he wrote underneath the video. His good wishes come at a time when Indian football finds itself at its lowest ebb. The domestic season has been brought to a halt for the want of a commercial partner and the national team's fortunes have been in a free-fall following a string of poor results. An ongoing court case over administrative issues has further deepened policy paralysis. The superstar striker, who is among the most recognisable and adored sportspersons in the world, did not play any competitive football during the trip. He was accompanied by Uruguayan great and close friend Luis Suarez and Argentina teammate Rodrigo de Paul during the tour. Messi made stadium appearances for



ticketed events in all the four cities starting with Kolkata, where things turned ugly after politicians and officials surrounded him, denying fans, who had paid thousands for a seat, a clear view of the icon. Agitated by this, the gathered spectators indulged in vandalism at the Salt Lake Stadium, prompting Messi to be whisked away by his security personnel much sooner than the originally planned time. However, Chief minister Mamata Banerjee soon personally

We carry all this love with us, and we will definitely return, hopefully one day to play a match or on another occasion, but we will definitely return to visit India.

Lionel Messi apologised to Messi for the unwanted chaos. However, his visits to Hyderabad, Mumbai and Delhi passed off smoothly as he charmed fans by posing for pictures and showcasing some of his warm-up routines besides playing briefly with young players. "We carry all this love with us, and we will definitely return, hopefully one day to play a match or on another occasion, but we will definitely return to visit India," he said after the final leg of

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Kanathi Municipality faces show-cause notice over tax hike civic complaints

MI News Service, Kathi: In a stern pre-election jolt to Trinamool Congress (TMC)-controlled Kanathi Municipality, Urban Development Minister Firhad Hakim's office has slapped a show-cause notice on the board, demanding an explanation within seven days on why it should not be dissolved for gross civic failures. The move, triggered by a public petition signed by furious residents, exposes a municipality drowning in complaints of skyrocketing holding taxes, suffocating sewage, pitch-black streets, and alleged humiliation at the hands of Chairman Suprakash Giri.

Residents' grievances paint a damning picture: holding taxes—or house taxes—hiked arbitrarily without consultation or justification, slamming an "unbearable financial burden" on ordinary citizens. Petitions accuse the board of dereliction across the board—from crumbling roads and water shortages to rampant negligence that chokes daily life. "Every corner of Kanathi reeks of sewage and darkness," one complaint blasts, with claims of mistreatment in the chairman's court violating municipal laws outright. The notice, issued Tuesday by the Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Department, brands the councilors "grossly negligent" and warns of legal dissolution if no satisfactory reply arrives by next week. With assembly polls just five months away in this Purba Medinipur stronghold of opposition leader Suwendu Adhikari, the timing fuels speculation of administrative overreach. The petition directly targets Chairman Giri, deeming the TMC-run board "utterly incompetent" under state municipal statutes. No response yet from Giri. TMC's Kanathi organizational district chairman Tarun Maiti deflected: "I'm not involved in municipal management. Our chairman will reply, and the state will decide. Opposition noise is irrelevant. BJP's Kanathi co-organizational district chairman Asim Mishra pounced, slamming TMC's "landslide" win as unmandated: "They've botched services, so their own government complains. Time for accountability—or an administrator to fix the mess." He demanded fresh polls. As the seven-day clock ticks, Kanathi's civic rot risks tipping into political firestorm.

Balughat Crematorium Shock: Neck Marks Halt Pyre, Suicide Probe Launched

MI News Service, South Dinajpur: A routine cremation turned chillingly macabre on Monday night at Khidirpur crematorium in Balughat, when workers noticed suspicious ligature marks on the neck of a 50-year-old man moments before the body was consigned to flames. The discovery prompted immediate police intervention, halting the cremation and transforming what the family claimed was a natural death into a serious suicide probe. The deceased, identified as Shambhu Sarkar, was a long-time resident of Mashnata village under Belbari gram panchayat in Gangarampur police station area. Sarkar had reportedly been suffering from prolonged illness, including kidney failure, and bore multiple wounds on his body. In recent months, he had been staying at his son-in-law's residence in Tulsipur, under Balughat police station jurisdiction. According to family members, Sarkar died on Monday evening from health complications, just before arrangements were being made to shift him to a hospital. The family claimed they found him lying on the floor, poured water on his face to revive him, and upon receiving no response, rushed to perform last rites. However, their account came under scrutiny when crematorium staff observed clear marks around the neck suggestive of hanging and immediately alerted authorities. Balughat police reached the spot without delay, stopped the cremation, and sent the body to the district hospital for post-mortem examination. The sudden turn of events sent shockwaves through the locality, with neighbours expressing disbelief and speculation of suicide spreading rapidly. Despite the murmurs, no formal complaint has been lodged so far. Police have since conducted multiple searches at the son-in-law's residence and questioned family members at length. All have denied any knowledge of suicide or foul play. District Superintendent of Police "Chinmoy Mittal" stated, "The post-mortem report will reveal the exact cause of death. We are treating the matter with utmost seriousness." The autopsy was completed on Tuesday, and the body has been handed over to the family.

Mamata Makes Surprise Visit to 'Maa Canteen,' Serves Meals to Elderly

MI News Service, Kolkata: On Wednesday morning, Kolkata witnessed a heartwarming scene as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee made a surprise visit to a 'Maa Canteen' in the city. The Chief Minister personally served food to elderly citizens, ensuring that operations were running smoothly and that everyone was being properly taken care of. Her hands-on gesture drew admiration from locals, who praised her for her personal touch and concern for the public. Mamata Banerjee has long been known for her direct engagement with citizens during district tours, whether in the hills or rural areas. She has often been seen lifting children in her arms or preparing tea and momos at roadside stalls. During the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Bengal, she continued this tradition of public outreach. On Wednesday, residents of Tilottama got to witness the Chief Minister's compassionate side firsthand. Sources confirmed that she arrived at the canteen early in the morning and distributed meals directly to the people present, many of whom were senior citizens. Locals were delighted to receive food from the CM's hands, and many offered blessings in return, expressing gratitude for her attention and care.



The visit coincided with a busy period for Mamata Banerjee, as the Election Commission released the draft voter list across the state on Tuesday. Nearly 5.5 million names were omitted from the list, including over a hundred names from her own Bhabanipur constituency. Despite being engaged in reviewing the draft list, the Chief Minister took time to visit the Maa Canteen, impressing the local community with her dedication.

The All India Trinamool Congress highlighted the visit on social media, stating, "Mamata Banerjee has always been a Chief Minister close to the people, sharing their joys and sorrows. She launched 'Maa Canteen' to provide meals to the poor. On Wednesday, she appeared at a Kolkata canteen unexpectedly, personally serving food to the hungry. People were thrilled to meet her and offered heartfelt blessings."

The 'Maa Canteen' initiative was launched on Mamata Banerjee's instructions just before the 2021 assembly elections. It provides lunch comprising rice, lentils, and egg curry at just five rupees. The initiative quickly gained popularity and continues to operate successfully. As of early this year, Trinamool leader Firhad Hakim stated that 33 district hospitals host Maa Canteens, costing the state around ₹129 crore. Approximately 21.39 lakh people consume meals monthly, with nearly 7.29 crore meals served since inception.

Indian Coast Guard demonstrates pollution control measures in Odisha coast



MI News Service, Paradip: The North East Regional Headquarters of the Indian Coast Guard conducted a 'Regional Level Pollution Response Exercise' here on Tuesday, which was participated by senior representatives of the Odisha government along with local stakeholders and several resource agencies of the state, besides the Customs, Fisheries Department, Paradip Municipality and Odisha State Pollution Control Board.

Indian Coast Guard is also the Central Coordinating Authority for combating oil spills in Indian coastal waters and control the dan-

ger. An exercise cum drill in this regard was conducted in presence of stakeholders, where their roles and necessary action were clarified.

During the drill off the Paradip coast today, Indian Coast Guard and the stakeholders also took part in the real time scenario of oil spill from a merchant ship at sea. After the drill simulation of the shoreline cleanup was conducted at Paradip beach by the Coast Guard in co-ordination with the State administration and Paradip Municipality to protect the coastline in the event of oil spill reaching the shores.

Kalyani University hosts international seminar to mark Ritwik Ghatak birth centenary

MI News Service, Kalyani: Marking the birth centenary of filmmaker, playwright and cultural theorist Ritwik Ghatak, the Department of Bengali, University of Kalyani, organised a one-day international seminar on Wednesday, foregrounding his enduring influence on Bengali theatre, cinema and modern cultural thought.

The seminar was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Kallol Pal, who underlined Ghatak's relevance in contemporary academic discourse. "Ritwik Ghatak remains a towering figure in Bengali literature and cinema. A critical re-reading of his work, especially in relation to the evolution of Bengali theatre from the

past to the present, is essential for a vibrant academic environment," Prof. Pal said, congratulating the department for taking up the initiative during the centenary year. Delivering the keynote address, noted theatre practitioner and actor Chandan Sen examined Ghatak's dramaturgical contributions, tracing his creative trajectory from plays such as Jwala to Jwalanta. He observed that Ghatak's intensely modern cinematic language, coupled with a profound sense of social and existential despair shaped by Partition and displacement, forged a restless artistic temperament. Drawing a parallel with writer Manik Bandyopadhyay, Mr. Sen



noted that such creative intensity often came at the cost of personal stability. The seminar brought to-

Portion of newly built mid-day meal kitchen collapses at Shantipur school

MI News Service, Shantipur: A portion of the roof of a newly constructed mid-day meal kitchen collapsed on Wednesday at a Shishu Shiksha Kendra (SSK) in Shantipur, narrowly missing a teacher and raising concerns about the quality of construction and safety in government-run schools.

According to teacher Rita Das, the kitchen had been completed around ten days ago and remained unused until Wednesday. She was opening the door to collect kitchen supplies when a section of the roof suddenly gave way. She escaped unhurt.

Ms. Das said the incident could have turned into a major tragedy had any student been inside the room at the



time. Although students are not permitted to enter the mid-day meal kitchen, she noted that children occasionally access the area.

The SSK has 46 students, with a single teacher, while two cooks are engaged for the mid-day meal programme. Ananganwadi centre also operates from the same premises, using the school veranda.

The matter was reported to local panchayat representatives, who said the incident would be examined. Ratan Sarkar, nominated by residents to oversee works under the Amar Para Amar Samadhan initiative, alleged that he was not informed about the execution of the project, unlike earlier works. He said he would raise the issue with the authorities concerned.

The incident has renewed questions over the quality of infrastructure created under government schemes. Local residents expressed apprehension about the safety of the school building and said they would wait for an inspection by senior officials before sending their children to school.

Explosion at Nadia Ice Cream Factory Kills Owner



MI News Service, Kalyani: A 60-year-old ice cream factory owner was killed in a blast while dismantling work was underway at a closed ice cream unit in Nadia district on Wednesday morning.

The deceased was identified as Santosh Roy (60), a resident of Madanpur and one of the owners of an old ice cream factory located at Haldarpara under Birohi-1 gram panchayat in Haringhata police station area.

According to local and police sources, the ice cream unit had remained shut for the

past two months. On Wednesday around 10 am, preparations were underway to dismantle and shift the machinery from the factory premises. During the process, Santosh Roy reportedly attempted to open a machine that was still hot.

Sources said another co-owner, who was present outside the factory, had warned him to wait until the machine cooled down. However, ignoring the advice, Roy allegedly tried to open the machine while it was still hot. Moments later, a sudden explosion occurred inside the machine box.

The blast severely injured Roy, with his head sustaining fatal injuries. He died on the spot, locals claimed.

Police from Haringhata police station reached the spot soon after being informed. The body was recovered and sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. A case of unnatural death has been registered, and an investigation is underway.

gether scholars from India and Bangladesh, reflecting Ghatak's transnational relevance in the cultural history of Bengal. Academic presentations were made by Prof. Ujal Mandal (University of North Bengal), Prof. Selim Box Mandal (Jadavpur University), Prof. Abu Dayen (Jahangirnagar University, Bangladesh), and Prof. Prakash Kumar Maity (Banaras Hindu University). Discussions ranged from Ghatak's engagement with folk performance traditions and political theatre to his radical reimagining of cinematic form and sound.

The proceedings were moderated by Dr. Shyamshree Biswas Sengupta. The event saw the participation of nearly 500 students, research scholars and faculty members, indicating sustained academic interest in Ghatak's work. Senior faculty members including Prof. Nandini Bandyopadhyay, Prof. Sabitri Nanda Chakraborty, Prof. Prabir Pramanik and Dr. Seema Sarkar were also present.

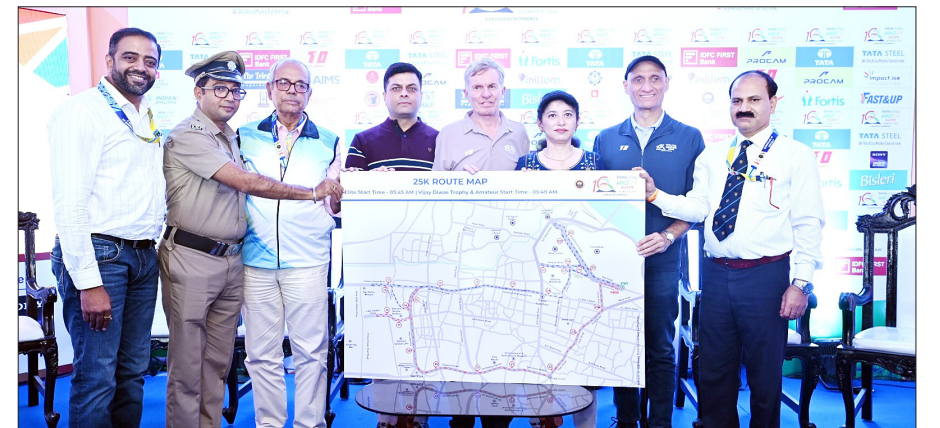
Organisers noted that the seminar was part of a broader attempt to revisit Ritwik Ghatak not merely as a filmmaker but as a multidimensional cultural thinker whose work continues to shape critical debates on art, politics and identity in South Asia.

SIR panic turns fatal in Uluberia, man dies by suicide

MI News Service, Uluberia: A wave of fear surrounding the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has claimed another life in West Bengal. In a deeply disturbing incident, Zahir Mal, a resident of Khalisani Panchayat under Rajapur police station in Uluberia, died by suicide after allegedly slipping into severe depression triggered by panic and misinformation related to voter list verification—despite his name eventually appearing in the draft electoral roll.

Zahir Mal's body was found hanging inside his house in booth number 7 of Khalisani Panchayat, sending shockwaves through the locality. Family members said he had been mentally shattered for weeks, fearing that he would be declared an "illegal citizen" and forced to leave behind his wife, children, and aged family members. According to relatives, Zahir's name did not figure in the 2002 voter list—a fact that reportedly became a source of constant anxiety for him amid rumours circulating in markets, neighbourhood shops, and social media. As panic over SIR intensified across Bengal, Zahir grew increasingly fearful, especially after repeatedly encountering news reports of deaths allegedly linked to SIR-related stress. His wife, Rozina, said Zahir would spend hours reading news on his mobile phone. "He kept seeing fake news and became terrified. He believed that because his name was not on the 2002 voter list, he would be branded a Bangladeshi and thrown out of the country," she said.

Meticulous arrangements for 23,000+ participants as they gear up for the 10th edition of Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata



MI News Service, Kolkata: Procam International has announced comprehensive arrangements for the 10th edition of the Tata Steel World 25K Kolkata, scheduled for Sunday, 21st December 2025. Over 23,000 runners across on-ground and virtual categories will participate in the World Athletics Gold Label Road Race. The USD 142,214 prize money event continues its com-

mitment to equal prize money for men and women, with a special USD 25,000 bonus for a new world record. The race will be broadcast live on Sony Sports 1 HD & SD from 5:30 am.

All five race categories will start and finish at Red Road, with a reimagined course due to the closure of Vidyasagar Setu. The new route takes runners through fresh city landmarks includ-

ing Tipu Sultan Mosque, Rabindra Sarobar, and the challenging Lakes Flyover. Race Director Hugh Jones noted that the course is more demanding but early starts and favourable weather will benefit participants. Medical Director Dr. Sanjukta Dutta emphasized runner safety, supported by an extensive medical deployment by Fortis Hospitals.

Barrackpore court slams life terms on Anupam Dutta's murderers

MI News Service, Barrackpore: A Barrackpore court on Wednesday sentenced Amit Pandit, Sanjeev Pandit and Ziaul Mandal to life imprisonment for the cold-blooded murder of Trinamool Congress (TMC) councillor Anupam Dutta, bringing legal closure to one of North 24 Parganas' most brazen cases of political violence after nearly two years.

The case dates back to the evening of March 13, 2022, when Anupam Dutta, the sitting councillor of Ward No. 8 of Panihati Municipality, was gunned down in public view. According to the prosecution, Dutta was standing on Agarpura Station Road, close to his residence, and was about to start his scooter when an assailant fired at point-blank

range. The bullet pierced his skull, causing him to collapse instantly in a pool of blood. He was rushed to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead. The killing sent shockwaves across Panihati and adjoining areas, highlighting the violent underbelly of local political turf wars. Police acted swiftly, arresting Amit Pandit on the night of the murder. Sustained interrogation led investigators to Sanjeev Pandit and Ziaul Mandal, who were subsequently taken into custody. The prosecution argued that the murder was meticulously planned and executed to eliminate Dutta amid ongoing local rivalries. A fourth accused, Bapi, was arrested during the investigation but was later released on bail. He maintained that he had been falsely implicated due to political vendetta, a claim that fuelled speculation about deeper motives and power struggles behind the assassination. After a prolonged trial, the court on Monday held the three main accused guilty of murder. On Wednesday, the sentencing was pronounced, awarding life imprisonment to all three convicts. While the Trinamool Congress has not issued an immediate official response, the verdict is being seen as a significant judicial milestone in a case that symbolised gangland-style violence in North 24 Parganas' volatile municipal politics—closing a grim chapter marked by bloodshed, fear and impunity.

Femina Award shine with glamour and pageantry



MI News Service, Kolkata: Many women grow up associating the Femina award with glamour and pageantry. While the glamour industry was never my calling, life led me through hospitality and aviation—fields admired for their shine but defined

by hard work and constant criticism. An unexpected car accident changed the trajectory of my life and taught me a powerful lesson: when your boat is sinking, you don't wait for a ship to come to your rescue; you must find your own way out. That mindset pushed me into healthcare, where I worked across corporate hospitals, contributing to growth while nurturing the dream of building my own. At 38, I founded Goodace Hospital with no financial backing, investing my life savings. From acquiring equipment to onboarding consultants and pursuing accreditation, the journey was demanding. Yet, step by step, the hospital grew. I grew, breaking barriers along the way. Today, recognition and awards are not destinations for me—they are motivation. What I firmly believe is this: education sharpens thinking, knowledge fuels improvement, and experience builds resilience. Together, they shape not just a career, but a leader.

Male skeleton found at the edge of the hide in Dantan, panic in the area



MI News Service, Kharagpur: Panic spread in the area after a male skeleton was found in Dantan police station area of West Medinipur district on Wednesday morning.

The skeleton was recovered from the bank of Chakjal Panalia Khal of Aalika-sha Gram Panchayat under Dantan police station.

As soon as the information about the incident was received, the police reached the spot and took the skeleton into their custody. According to local source-

es, on Wednesday morning, some people of the village had gone to the Khal to graze the cattle. During this time, they saw a human skeleton lying near the root of a tree on the bank of the hide. Seeing this scene, people got scared and immediately informed about it to Dantan police station.

As soon as the information was received, Dantan police station reached the spot and seized the recovered skeleton for investigation. Police said that the skeleton will be sent for testing to

determine the identity and cause of death.

At present, it is not clear for how long the skeleton was lying there. Whether the recovered skeleton is of a male or a female. There is an atmosphere of panic in the area after the incident. Local people claim that during the last Durga Puja, a teacher of the area had mysteriously gone missing. The villagers estimate that the recovered skeleton could be that of the same missing teacher.

However, the police have so far refused to reveal anything in this regard. Police say that the identity of the skeleton and the cause of death will be revealed only after the forensic report comes.

Besides, the missing cases registered in the area are also being investigated. At present, Dantan police station has started investigating the matter and investigation is being done from every aspect.



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurates the 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025' organised by the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Associations (CWBTA) at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday. Pic Prabir Bhattacharya

TMC orders door-to-door scrutiny at Bhowanipore constituency after 45,000 deletion

From PG 1

Congress (TMC) has reacted sharply to these deletions, especially in the CM's own backyard, vowing to undertake its own comprehensive verification drive. This development sets the stage for a crucial period of electoral scrutiny and political mobilization in the state. Across West Bengal, an approximate figure of 58 lakh names has been removed from the electoral rolls. These deletions are attributed to various reasons, including voters being identified as deceased, having permanently relocated. From their registered addresses, being absent from their registered addresses, or being found registered in multiple locations. This large-scale cleanup aims to ensure the accuracy and integrity of the state's voter database, thereby preventing any irregularities in the electoral process. Such a comprehensive exercise is deemed essential for maintaining electoral transparency and fairness.

PM Modi 'Deeply moved' at Vande Mataram rendition by Ethiopian singers

From PG 1

visionary leadership on the global stage. "To be honoured by a very ancient and prosperous civilisation of the world is a matter of great pride for me. On behalf of all Indians, I humbly accept this honour. This award is for all those numerous Indians who shaped our partnership," the Prime Minister said

40-day annual harshest winter period in Kashmir 'Chillai-Kalan' begins next week

From PG 1

On Tuesday night, compared to Monday night's minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, the officials said. A thick layer of fog engulfed the city and most other parts of the valley, particularly areas around water bodies, during the early hours. Qazigund in south Kashmir recorded a low of minus 3 degrees Celsius, while the temperature in Kupwara in north Kashmir settled at minus 2.2 degrees Celsius. Kokernag in south Kashmir registered a minimum of minus 0.1 degrees Celsius. In Gulmarg, the minimum temperature settled above the freezing point at 1.6 degrees Celsius, the weather office said. Pahalgam, one of the base camps for the Amarnath Yatra in south Kashmir, logged a low of minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. Shopian and Pulwama towns in south Kashmir were the coldest recorded places in Jammu and Kashmir, registering the minimum of minus 4.4 degrees Celsius with thick blanket of snow covering the entire valley.

Mamata Highlights MSME Growth Launches Portal to Support Entrepreneurs

MI News Service, Kolkata: Since assuming office, the West Bengal government has prioritized state development, with a particular focus on industry and employment generation. To attract investment, the state organizes the annual 'Byabasayi Sammelan' organised by the Confederation of West Bengal Trade Association, in Kolkata, drawing both domestic and international investors. These initiatives have significantly boosted the state's revenue and created new economic opportunities. Despite these efforts, opposition parties often raise questions about industrial growth and employment prospects in the state. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly responded to critics through tangible results. On Wednesday, she addressed these concerns at a business conference held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, sending a strong message



to detractors while reassuring entrepreneurs of the government's support. In her opening remarks, Mamata highlighted the progress of small and

medium enterprises (SMEs) in Bengal. She noted that the state has over 660 MSME clusters, employing 13 million people, with women playing a prominent role. Emphasizing Bengal's suitability for trade, she described small retailers as the "backbone of the economy," despite the rise of online shopping. She pointed out that the state has around 6.5 million unorganized traders, all contributing significantly to economic stability. Mamata also reflected on the state's progress over the past few years, contrasting it with the challenges posed by central policies such as demonetization. She said, "The unemployment rate was 40 percent. We have reduced it. We are creating six economic corridors, around which industries and shops will thrive, benefiting small retailers. Logistics has been given industrial recognition, and export centers have opened in Kolkata and Siliguri."

Mamata Banerjee to Meet BLAs on Dec 22 Over Draft Voter List Issues

MI News Service, Kolkata:

A day after the draft electoral roll was published, showing the deletion of over 5.8 million names, Trinamool Congress supremo and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is set to hold a crucial meeting with the party's Booth Level Agents (BLAs) in Kolkata. The meeting will take place on December 22 at the Netaji Indoor Stadium, party sources said.

BLAs from Kolkata will attend the meeting, along with representatives from parts of Howrah and Hooghly districts. This comes a day after Mamata Banerjee held a similar meeting with BLAs from the Bhabanipur area on the day the draft voter list was released. From the very beginning of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly instructed party leaders to ensure that no eligible or genuine voter is excluded from the electoral rolls. BLAs of political parties play a crucial role during the SIR process, as they accompany Booth Level Officers (BLOs) during door-to-door verification of voters. Their responsibility includes closely monitoring the verification process to ensure that legitimate voters are not wrongly removed from the list.

Following the publication of the draft voter list, several complaints have emerged from different parts of the state alleging serious discrepancies. In some cases, living individuals have reportedly been declared dead in the draft rolls. One such instance has been reported from Dankuni municipality in Hooghly district, where a Trinamool Congress councillor's name was allegedly marked as deceased in the draft voter list. The incident has triggered sharp criticism from the Trinamool Congress, which has accused the Election Commission of gross negligence.

The Election Commission is scheduled to begin hearings related to objections and corrections from December 23. According to sources, even individuals whose names appear in the draft list may be called for hearings if discrepancies are found. Against this backdrop, the Trinamool Congress has stepped up its efforts to ensure that no eligible voter's name is excluded from the final electoral roll. Significantly, Mamata Banerjee's meeting with the BLAs is scheduled a day before the Election Commission begins its hearings. The party leadership sees this meeting as a critical step to prepare BLAs to raise objections, submit corrections, and assist voters during the hearing process.



A dance troupe performing at the 'Byabasayi Sammelan 2025' at the Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Wednesday. Pic Prabir Bhattacharya

Brands Are Now Systems in the Intent Economy: Dr. Erich Joachimsthaler

MI News Service, Kolkata: Dr. Erich Joachimsthaler, CEO of Vivaldi Partners Group and global branding expert, speaking at the 24th Brand Conclave in Kolkata, emphasized that brands are no longer just products or symbols—they are mental constructs, existing in consumers' minds as perceptions and associations. He traced the evolution of branding through frameworks such as the Brand Identity Prism and the Brand Equity Model, highlighting their role in modern brand thinking. "While customer-focused branding has long existed, branding of

'machines' has now become essential," Dr. Joachimsthaler noted. Debashis Dutta, Managing Director of BGS Group, added that brands have moved beyond intangible assets to become engines of value, influencing the entire business ecosystem. Sanjay Srinivas, Vice President, Marketing, ITC Limited, stressed that organizations must now focus on how AI is reshaping value creation rather than merely defining AI strategies. Rupak Barua, MD and CEO of Woodlands Hospital, reflected on the conclave's legacy, calling it a movement beyond a masterclass.

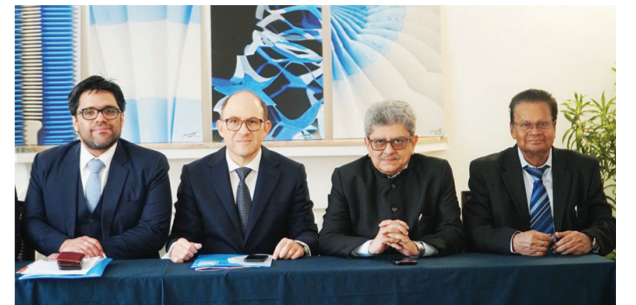
Abhishek Banerjee Likely to Meet Sonali Khatun This Week

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee is likely to meet Sonali Khatun later this week, party sources said. The meeting is expected to take place at Kalighat in Kolkata, with December 19 or December 20 being considered as the probable dates for their interaction.

According to sources, Abhishek Banerjee had earlier expressed his intention to meet Sonali following her return to India after a prolonged legal and humanitarian struggle. The meeting is now expected to materialise in the coming days. Meanwhile, Sonali Khatun's health condition has reportedly deteriorated after her return from Bangladesh. She has been admitted once again to Ramprhat Medical College and Hospital in Birbhum district after complaining of severe abdominal pain. Hospital authorities have confirmed that Sonali has been placed under special medical observation. At present, she is not being allowed to meet anyone other than her immediate family members, as doctors continue to monitor her condition closely. Sonali Khatun had earlier come into the national spotlight after she was

allegedly pushed back into Bangladesh by the Border Security Force (BSF) despite being pregnant. She was subsequently detained in a Bangladeshi jail, sparking widespread outrage and political reactions in West Bengal. From the very beginning, the Trinamool Congress strongly protested the incident, terming it inhumane and unjust. The ruling party in West Bengal moved the Supreme Court, seeking immediate intervention in the matter. During the hearing, Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant reportedly observed that humanitarian considerations should sometimes override rigid administrative actions. The apex court directed the central government to take all necessary steps to facilitate Sonali's return to India along with her child. The Supreme Court also strongly criticised the decision to push Sonali into Bangladesh and raised serious questions regarding her citizenship status. The court noted that if Sonali's father is an Indian citizen and was never deported, then on what basis Sonali was declared a Bangladeshi national. The court asserted that if her father is Indian, Sonali too must be considered an Indian citizen.

49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026 scheduled from 22 January to 3 February



MI News Service, Kolkata:

The countdown has already begun for the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026—the largest attended book fair in the world, recognised by IPA Geneva. The fair is scheduled from 22 January to 3 February 2026 at the Boimela Prangan, Salt Lake City, Kolkata. Last year, 2.7 million people visited the book fair and books worth 23 crores INR were sold. We are amazed at this landmark moment created by the booklovers. You are already aware that in the history of the International Kolkata Book Fair, for the first time, Argentina is the Focal Theme Country of the International Kolkata Book Fair 2025. It's a known fact that the Argentine footballers have a huge fan base in Kolkata. But Argentina does not stand for football only. Argentina is also a great land of diverse literature and culture. To name a few literati Victoria Ocampo, Borges, Cortazar, Roberto Arlt, Bioy are intangible

parts of the culture and literary discourse of Kolkata. Today we are very happy to host this National press conference at the Residence of Argentina, New Delhi. H.E. Mr. Mariano Agustin Caucino, H.E. Ambassador of Argentina in India is with us. It is our honour and pride to announce that he will be present at the grand inauguration ceremony of the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair 2026 on 22 January 2025 as Guests of Honour. Today, he will apprise you in detail about Argentina's participation in the book fair. Like its previous editions, the 49th International Kolkata Book Fair too will be totally digitized allowing book lovers from different parts of India and abroad to be connected with the colorful programmes of the fair. In the upcoming Book Fair, 25 January 2026 will be celebrated as 'Theme Country Argentina Day'. On 29 January 2026, Guild will commemorate 'Senior Citizen's Day' in honour of the aged.

'What about Kumbh mela?' Abhishek Banerjee defends Govt after Messi 'mess'

From PG 1

unless the impartial inquiry is over, the Sports Department will be looked after by me for the time being." "I appreciate the sentiment and intention of the Sports Minister to offer a relief from the Sports Department for the sake of impartial inquiry into the Vivekananda Yuva Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) incident on December 13, 2025," according to an official statement from the state government.

"The state government also informed that a Special Investigation Team comprising IPS officers Piyush

Pandey, Javed Shamim, Supratim Sarkar and Muralidhar has been constituted to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter. The government has already served notice to Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar, ordering him to clarify within 24 hours of communication on why such mismanagement and lapses happened in the stadium on the day and why proper coordination with concerned stakeholders, including the private organiser, was not carried out to ensure smooth conduct of the event," Banerjee said.

Public to suggest names of 586 'uninhabited' islands in Andaman & Nicobar

From PG 1

reflect the local tribal heritage, freedom fighters, eminent personalities, martyrs, unique flora and fauna, geographical features, historical events of national importance or any other theme considered appropriate. The Survey of India (SOI) is assisting the union territory administration in survey, technical support, preparing maps and marine boundaries. After finalisation of the names of the islands, the SOI will ensure that the official map and geographical data will reflect the current official names. The total land area of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is nearly 8,249 square km. In January 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi named 21 uninhabited/inhabited islands after the recipients of Param Vir Chakra (PVC), India's highest military award, dur-

ing 'Parakram Diwas' on 23 January on Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's birth anniversary to honour brave soldiers. Out of these 21 islands, 16 unnamed islands are located in the North and Middle Andaman district, while five such inhabited islands are located in the South Andaman district. The Andaman and Nicobar Administration, in consultation with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has initiated a large-scale exercise to assign names to previously unnamed islands and rock formations across the archipelago. The initiative also includes the standardization of names where similarities currently exist. Out of the total 836 islands and rocks that form the Andaman & Nicobar group, 596 have been identified for naming under this exercise.

Messi hopes Indian football has bright future

From PG 1

the tour in Delhi. Argentine icon Messi brought a wave of excitement to India, drawing thousands of fans eager for a glimpse of the football maestro wherever he went. From packed stadiums to cheering crowds lining the streets, Messi's visit was a celebration of the sport and its growing fanbase in India. Hyderabad offered a fresh start. At Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Messi, joined by Luis Suarez and Rodrigo De Paul, played with children, took laps, and kicked balls into the stands, while CM Revanth Reddy ensured fans enjoyed uninterrupted views.

Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium delivered iconic moments. Messi joined a friendly penalty shootout, exchanged jerseys with Sunil Chhetri, shared the stage with Sachin Tendulkar, and highlighted Project Mahadeva, a grassroots football initiative. The Delhi leg provided closure. Despite delays, fans at Arun Jaitley Stadium cheered Messi for his 30-minute appearance. He waved, played with children, kicked balls into the stands, felicitated the Minerva Academy team, and thanked fans in Spanish. Presented with a T20 World Cup jersey, Messi left the tour on a high, leaving fans exhilarated and fulfilled.

Name Change I, (Old Name) NURUFA BEWA W/O ABDUR RAJAK Residing at, Vill - Ashariadaha, Post - Mrishnapur, Ps- Lalgola, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742148, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from NURUFA BEWA To NARUFA BEWA (New Name) and hence forth I shall be known as (New Name) NARUFA BEWA in all purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 17 Dec 2025. NARUFA BEWA and NURUFA BEWA both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Nadia Ali Khanam & Nadiya Ali Khanum (old names) W/O Abdul Majid, resident of 47E Kustia Masjid Bari Lane, Tiljala, P.O. - Tiljala, P.S. - Tiljala, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nadia Ali Khan (new name), as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 18/11/2025. Nadia Ali Khan (new name) and Nadiya Ali Khanam & Nadiya Ali Khanum (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Avijit Bal S/o. Late Phanindra Kishore Bal, R/o. Digswi, Mogra, Hooghly- 721248, W.B., declared that in my daughter's (Arteevee Bal) Birth Certificate (Regn. No. 677, Dt. 26/04/1995) my name has been recorded as Abhijit Bal instead of my actual name is Avijit Bal. I, Avijit Bal & Abhijit Bal S/o. Late Phanindra Kishore Bal both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit No. 11775, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 27/11/2025.

Name Change I, Pradip Kumar Mukherjee (old name) S/O Mohit Kumar Mukherjee, resident of 18B, Bhabani Sen Sarani Konnagar, Hooghly, Pin- 712235, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Mukherjee (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee (new name) and Pradip Kumar Mukherjee (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change After accepting Islam I, Payel Beled D/o. Provas Beled & Kakali Beled known every where as Khadija Khatun, R/o. Khanpur Paschimpara, Chanditala, Hooghly-712707, I, Khadija Khatun & Payel Beled D/o. Provas Beled & Kakali Beled both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 271, before Notary Public, Serampore, Hooghly court on 27/01/2025.

Name Change I, Bijoy Sankar Tewary (old name) S/O Tara Shankar Tewary, resident of 127G, Satin Sen Sarani, Manicktala Main Road, P.S.- Manicktala, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bijoy Shakar Tewary (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Bijoy Shakar Tewary (new name) and Bijoy Sankar Tewary (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I Sahnur Mallick, s/o Hamid Mallick, Address - Post- Nalpur Diglhar Para, Nalpur, Thana- Sankral, District- Howrah, Pin- 711310, do hereby solemnly affirm and Declare that by an affidavit (no.8149) 1st class Executive Magistrate at Howrah Court on 10/10/2025 that Sahnur Mallick & Sahnur Mallick is the same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Dinesh Tiwary (old name) S/o Bijoy Shankar Tiwary, resident of 127G, Satin Sen Sarani, GHosh Bagan, Kankurgachi, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dinesh Tiwary (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Dinesh Tiwary (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Golak Panja (Old Name) S/O Late Kancharan Panja Residing at Vill - Akhuadangi, P.O - Sadikpur, P.S - Rannagar, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721446, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Goloke Panja (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 17-12-2025. Golak Panja (Old Name) and Goloke Panja (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Prena Tewary (old name) W/O Bijoy Shankar Tiwary, resident of 127G, Satin Sen Sarani, Kankurgachi, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prema Tiwari (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 16/12/2025. Prema Tiwari (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Gopal Das (Old Name) S/o Panchand Das Residing at Barojmath, Uttar Bakara, District - Howrah, Pin - 711110, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gopal Chandra Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-08-2025. Gopal Das (Old Name) and Gopal Chandra Das (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Ashoke Kumar Mall (Old Name), Son of Shree Kishan Mall, residing at 3, jamadar Khat Lane, Ballygunge, Kolkata - 700019, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Kumar Mall (New Name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 16/12/2025. Ashoke Kumar Mall (Old Name) and Ashok Kumar Mall (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Md Naseem, Sk. Md Naseem (Old Name) S/O Abid Hussain Residing at 40/1, Enayet Ali Shah Nagar, G.C Road, Titagarh, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700119, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shekh Md Naseem (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 17-12-2025. Md Naseem, Sk. Md Naseem (Old Name) and Shekh Md Naseem (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) MD RAFIKUL MOLLA S/O SUIJAUDDIN MOLLA Residing at, Vill - Muktagadaha, Post - Banshabaria, Ps-Hogalbaria, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741122, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from MD RAFIKUL MOLLA To RAFIKUL MOLLA (New Name) and hence forth I shall be known as (New Name) RAFIKUL MOLLA in all purpose. Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 17 Dec 2025. RAFIKUL MOLLA and MD RAFIKUL MOLLA both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Kanika Datta (Das) W/O Bidyut Ranjan Datta R/A - 61, K.K. Majumdar Road, P.O. - Santoshpur, PS - Survey Park, Kolkata - 700075 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kanika Datta (Das) as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore Court (WB) vide Affidavit No. 69554 dated 14.11.2025. Kanika Datta (Das), Kanika Datta (Das) and Kanika Datta both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) TASLEM DAFADAR S/O MUGHCHHA DAFADAR Residing at, Vill - Fulbari, Post - Bara Andulia, Ps-Chagra, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741124, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from TASLEM DAFADAR To TACHLEM DAFADAR (New name) and hence forth I shall be known as (New Name) TACHLEM DAFADAR in all purpose. Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 17 Dec 2025. TACHLEM DAFADAR and TASLEM DAFADAR both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Kamrul Zamil (Old Name), S/o - Amir Sk, R/o- Natungram, P.O-Lalgola, P.S- Lalgola, Dist- Murshidabad do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kamrul Zamil (Old Name) to Kamrul Jamal (Correct Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Kamrul Jamal in all purpose, vide affidavit no- 406 sworn before the Executive Magistrate at S.D.E.(M) Court, Berhampore, Murshidabad on 25-09-2025. Kamrul Zamil (Old Name) and Kamrul Jamal (New Name) both the names are same & one identical person.

Name Change I, (Old Name) BILLAL S/O MAHIRUDDIN SK Residing at, Vill - Gurdaspur, Post - Beunchitala, Ps-Daulatdaha, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742302, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from BILLAL To BILLAL SEKH (New name) and hence forth I shall be known as (New Name) BILLAL SEKH in all purpose. Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 17 Dec 2025. BILLAL SEKH and BILLAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Gurdil Prasad Chawla, S/O- Late Sri Om Prakash Chawla, R/O- 33C, Santosh Roy Road, Shaker Bazar, P.O.- Barisha, Purba Barisha, Dist.- 24 PGS (S), Pin- 700008 have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as Gurdil Prasad Chawla as declared before the Notary Public, Sealdah Court, vide affidavit no. 7933 Dated 08/12/2025 Gurdil Prasad Chawla and Gurdil Prasad Chawla both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Sarfuddin Ali (old name) W/O Sahajan Mondal, resident of Vill- Naldi, P.O.- Rajendrapur, P.S.- Malia, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743299, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Seriya Bibi Mondal (new name), as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit No. 21103, dated 20/09/2025. Seriya Bibi Mondal (new name) and Seriya Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Atul Mazumder (Old Name) S/O Mohendro Nath Mazumder R/O- 44/4 A, Rabindranath Thakur Road, Thakurpukur, Kolkata- 700063 Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sarfuddin Fakir (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Sarfuddin Fakir (new name) and Sarfuddin Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Musarat Ali Khan & Musarat Ali Khan (old names) S/O Mehbub Ali Khan, resident of 26C, Komandan Bagan Lane, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Musarat Ali Khan (new name), as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 18/11/2025. Musarat Ali Khan (new name) and Musarat Ali Khan & Musarat Ali Khan (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, DIP NR SINGH (Old Name), S/O. Late Ramnath Singh, Resident at 96, Bazar Para Lane, P. O. Salkia, P. S. Malpanchghora, District - Howrah- 711106, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as DEEP NARAYAN SINGH (New Name) as declared before the 1st class judicial magistrate at Alipur, vide affidavit No. 9196, dated 16/12/2025. DIP NR SINGH (Old Name) and DEEP NARAYAN SINGH (NEW NAME) both are same and identical person.

Name Change I, Pradeep Vincent Baroi (Old Name) As Per Di No Jh - 0520130060689, Son Of Michael Baroi, Residing At 47 Christopher Road, P.O - Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata - 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradeep Baroi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/12/2025. Pradeep Vincent Baroi And Pradeep Baroi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Rising tea imports hurting premium GI tagged Darjeeling tea: SHRINGLA



MI News Service, Darjeeling: Rajya Sabha member Harsh Vardhan Shringla informed Parliament that tea imports from African countries and Nepal have increased by 45 per cent in the first half of 2025. Speaking during Zero Hour at the Rajya Sabha, Shringla said: "India is the second largest producer of tea in the world and the largest consumer." The MP from Darjeeling expressed worry at rising tea imports. "Imports from African countries and Nepal have reportedly risen by more than nearly 45 per cent in the first half of 2025, diluting the global brand value of Indian tea and Darjeeling Tea," said Shringla. According to data of the Tea Board of India, tea imports from January to October 2024 were 16.47 million kilos. The production of Indian tea in 2024 was 1,284 million kilos. The production of Darjeeling Tea in the same year 5.6 million kilos, one of the lowest for the industry.

other countries as well. "Over 10 lakh workers and farmers and over 60 lakh families depend on the industry," the parliamentarian added. Shringla outlined the key challenges affecting the sector, including climate stress, shrinking forest cover, labour shortages, price instability and a sharp rise in low-quality imports. Calling for immediate intervention, Shringla urged stronger measures to curb low-quality tea imports and protect the premium GI-tagged Darjeeling Tea, as well as tea from Assam and the Nilgiris. Shringla also emphasised the importance of scaling community-based livelihood models — some that are currently being implemented in Darjeeling — to ensure long-term resilience for tea-garden communities. Over the years, Darjeeling Tea production has seen a steep fall from 14 million kilos in the 1970s to 5.6 million kilos in 2024, which Shringla said indicated a deep structural decline.

Name Change I, Saroj Kumar Bihuthibhusan Ray & Saroj Kumar Ray (old names) S/O Late Bibhuti Roy, resident of Vill-Nasirgram, P.O.- Nasirgram, P.S.- Bhatar, Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713165, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saroj Ray (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Saroj Ray (new name) and Saroj Kumar Bihuthibhusan Ray & Saroj Kumar Ray (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Admin steps in to resolve Hills-plains taxi feud

MI News Service, Darjeeling: The Darjeeling district administration has called a meeting with key stakeholders from the tourism and transport sectors of both the hills and the plains to break the deadlock between drivers' groups. Representatives of tour operators, transporters, and drivers' associations will attend the meeting virtually from two locations. The stakeholders from the plains will join the meeting from the subdivisional officer's (SDO) office, while their counterparts from the hills will join the session from the district magistrate's office in Darjeeling. "We were verbally informed about Thursday's meeting by an official of the state transport authority today (on Wednesday)," said Samrat Sanyal, the general secretary of the Himalayan Hospitality & Tourism Development Network (HHTDN). "The meeting will be held in virtual mode, with participants joining from both the plains and the hills."

Name Change I, Samata Jain (old name) W/O Nishant Jain, resident of Shyam Sundar Apartment, 8/2, Bijoy Basu Lane, Bhawanipore, Kolkata- 700025, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Samta Jain (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Samta Jain (new name) and Samata Jain (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Hossain Ali Sekh (Old Name), Son Of Sk Najjar Ali, Residing At Dalapadpur P. O Kharaj Word No-9, West Medinipur-721222, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Hossain Ali (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/12/2025. Hossain Ali Sekh And Sk Hossain Ali Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Raziya Sultana (old name) W/O Nurul Islam, resident of 77D, Dr. Biresh Guha Street (Dilkusha St.), Karaya, Kolkata- 700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Regia Sultana Begum (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Regia Sultana Begum (new name) and Raziya Sultana (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Abu Hossen (Old Name), Son Of Md Ahia, Residing At 00, Kulipukur, Pandua, Hooghly-712149, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Abdul Hossain (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/12/2025. Abu Hossen And Abdul Hossain Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Anita Kumari Singh (old name) W/O Dilip Singh, resident of 8/2, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, P.O.- GPO, Kolkata- 700001, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anita Singh (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Anita Singh (new name) and Anita Kumari Singh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Zibannessa Sarkar (Old Name), Daughter Of Hasem Sarkar, Residing At Pandua, Vic:Kulipukur, Po-Pandua, Hooghly-712149, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jibannessa Bibi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/12/2025. Zibannessa Sarkar And Jibannessa Bibi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change I, Diлип Kumar Singh (old name) S/O Behari Singh, resident of 8/2, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, P.O.- GPO, Kolkata- 700001, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Singh (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Dilip Singh (new name) and Diлип Kumar Singh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Md Nazrul Islam Mondal (old name) S/O Rajab Ali Mondal, residing at U-17 Karbala Road, P.O.- Bartala, Kolkata- 700018, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Najrul Islam Mondal (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No 13 dated 14/11/2025. Najrul Islam Mondal (new name) and Md Nazrul Islam Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Seriya Bibi (old name) W/O Sahajan Mondal, resident of Vill- Naldi, P.O.- Rajendrapur, P.S.- Malia, North 24 Parganas, Pin-743299, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Seriya Bibi Mondal (new name), as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Basirhat, North 24 Parganas, vide an affidavit No. 21103, dated 20/09/2025. Seriya Bibi Mondal (new name) and Seriya Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

AFIDAVIT I, Manoj Kumar Yadav (Aadhar Card No - 2195 4233 0936, S/o.- Kapildeo Yadav, R/o.- (Presently)- Flat No.70, Roy Bhadrur Road, Kol-700034, my wife's name is Sapna Kumari and his date of birth is 22/06/2024. My son's Birth Certificate being Certificate No. B/2024/092794, Date of Registration and date of issue on 15/07/2024 of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation Health and family welfare, Govt. of West Bengal where his name written as JANY. I want to rectify my said son's name DAKSH KUMAR in place of JANY at the Office of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation, in the Court of Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an Affidavit No. 76771, dtd: 17.12.2025. Henceforth, be known as DAKSH KUMAR and JANY is the same and one identical person. I Manoj Kumar Yadav and my wife SAPNA KUMARI are the natural guardian of my said son.

Name Change I, R. Roma Sunilkumar Ramtani, Roma Ramtani (old names) W/O Gourav Rohira, resident of Sunrise Heights, FL-102, 134A, Beliaghata Road, P.O.-Tangra, Kolkata- 700015, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Roma Rohira (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Roma Rohira (new name) and Roma Sunilkumar Ramtani, Roma Ramtani (old name) both are same and one identical person.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Dr. Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata has said "Kolkata has world class entrepreneurs and organizations." He also mentioned that corporate companies from Kolkata have now become "regional players to global brands". Dr. Fleming was speaking at a session on unlocking emerging trade opportunities between India and United Kingdom (UK) under Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). He further mentioned that he wants Indian compa-

Name Change I, Sarfuddin Ali (old name) W/O Sahajan Mondal, resident of Vill-Nasirgram, P.O.- Nasirgram, P.S.- Bhatar, Purba Bardhaman, Pin- 713165, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sarfuddin Fakir (new name), as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 17/12/2025. Sarfuddin Fakir (new name) and Sarfuddin Ali (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change I, Pradeep Vincent Baroi (Old Name) As Per Di No Jh - 0520130060689, Son Of Michael Baroi, Residing At 47 Christopher Road, P.O - Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata - 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradeep Baroi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 17/12/2025. Pradeep Vincent Baroi And Pradeep Baroi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah assess the arrangements of upcoming Gangasagar Mela 2026



MI News Service, Kolkata, 17 Dec.25 : The Gangasagar Mela is a festival held annually at Gangasagar, West Bengal, on Makar Sankranti. It is one of the most renowned melas in India, attracting thousands of pilgrims from across the country. The Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division has made extensive arrangements to facilitate the pilgrims' convenience. Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah inspected Kakdwip and Namkhana stations today (17.12.2025) to assess the various arrangements. Senior officers of Sealdah Division accompanied Divisional Railway Manager during his inspection. Shri Rajeev Saxena inspected the various facilities arranged for the pilgrims of Gangasagar Mela like functioning of "May I Help You" Counters, Booking Counters, Announcements through Public Address system for the guidance, Safety and Security of the Gangasagar pilgrims etc. He also reviewed timing of the additional EMU locals for the Mela purpose. He advised the Divisional Officials to make arrangements for proper guidance to the pilgrims for boarding the trains. DRM Sealdah Sri Saxena advised regular garbage cleaning in and around the stations area during Mela. Station area should be kept under strict vigil of the security personnel with CCTV monitoring. Passengers must be guided properly with the state of art signage board indicating the route to the station and emphasized on punctual running of trains. He also reviewed the special arrangements augmented for the convenience of the pilgrims of Gangasagar Mela. Additional EMU local trains will run from Sealdah and Kolkata to facilitate the pilgrims,

details of additional trains will be announced soon. He also inspected emergency lighting arrangements made at different stations on the Sealdah South Section especially at Sealdah, Lakshmikantapur, Kakdwip and Namkhana. RPF personnel at Lakshmikantapur, Namkhana and Kakdwip stations in coordination with the GRP are maintaining supervision over law and order and social harmony. It is mentioned here that for the convenience of the pilgrims, Sealdah Division has opened sufficient number of booking counters, M-UTS, ATM at Sealdah, Kakdwip, Namkhana stations round the clock. Moreover, volunteers of Civil Defense, Scout & Guide of Sealdah division and St. John Ambulance Brigade are deployed at those stations in addition to RPF and GRP. Special medical units are functioning at Kakdwip and Namkhana railway stations. Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah inspected all the above items meticulously & advised concerned departments to be more vigilant & alert during the mela period for smooth and safe train operation.

National Commission For Scheduled Tribes Holds Review Meeting With Eastern Railway Management On Reservation And Welfare Issues



MI News Service, Kolkata, 17 Dec.25 : The National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) convened a review meeting today (17.12.2025) with the management of Eastern Railway at the Eastern Railway Headquarters, Fairlie Place. The meeting aimed at safeguarding the rights and ensuring the welfare of Scheduled Tribes (ST) employees in the organisation. Key issues relating to reservation for ST employees, backlog vacancies, welfare measures, grievance redressal mechanisms and other employee-related matters were discussed in detail. The NCST delegation, led by Dr. Asha Lakra, Hon'ble Member, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, New Delhi, held discussions with Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway; Smt. Zarina Firdausi, Principal Chief Personnel Officer; and other senior officers of Eastern Railway. Other Members of the Commission were also present during the meeting. During the deliberations, Dr. Asha Lakra advised the Eastern Railway administration to carefully examine the concerns raised in the memorandum submitted by the All India Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Rail-

way Employees Association, Eastern Railway. The Eastern Railway administration made a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the current status of total staff strength, promotions and recruitment of ST candidates across various categories. Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, stated that the administration is strictly adhering to the guidelines issued by the Railway Board, diligently extending all admissible facilities to ST employees and remains committed to ensuring that all entitled benefits reach eligible candidates. Prior to the official meeting with Eastern Railway management, the NCST delegation also interacted with representatives of the All India Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Railway Employees Association, Eastern Railway, to gain a comprehensive understanding of their demands and concerns. Several important issues raised by the Association were discussed in detail with the Commission.

Walkathon for 'Bone & Joint care' awareness

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata recently hosted a 'Walkathon for bone and joint care awareness. Joint & Brain Care Hospital recently organized an awareness walk session with the patients who overcome the challenge of total knee and hip dysfunction to showcase the strength of willpower and physical capabilities despite deformity. Dr Joydeep Banerjee Choudhury, along with the eminent footballers, Goutam Sarkar, Ranjit Mukherjee and Samaresh Choudhury joined the walkathon to raise knowledge for essential bodily fitness, care and the benefits to opt for immediate medical attention as well as cure so that one refrain from a prolonged damage. This unique initiative witnessed the enthusiastic participation of near about 80 senior citizens who have suffered from severe bone and joint damage and under progressive orthopedic care, treatment and with their own resilience they have recovered.

Indian Railways Provides Free Wi-Fi at 6,117 Stations Nationwide

● CCTV Surveillance Installed at 1,731 Stations and 11,953 Coaches to Ensure Safe and Secure Journey ● New Delhi Railway Station Equipped with 250 CCTV Cameras for Enhanced Security MI News Service, Kolkata, 17 Dec.25 : Free Wi-Fi services have been provided at 6117 Railway Stations across Indian Railways. No separate funds have been sanctioned by Ministry of Railways on these Wi-Fi services at Railway stations. There is no personal information asked to access Wi-Fi service provided at the Railway Stations except the mobile number used for OTP. Appropriate action is taken promptly by railway administration whenever there are any issues with regard to working of Wi-Fi facility at stations. The installation of CCTV cameras at stations and coaches is an ongoing process. So far, CCTV surveillance system has been provided at 1731 stations and 11,953 coaches for ensuring safe and secure journey to railway passengers. CCTV Surveillance System are provided and charged under capex expenditure. CCTVs were already installed at New Delhi Railway station to cover outdoor areas like entry/exit points, foot over bridges, platforms etc. and indoor areas like waiting halls, ticket counters etc. However, some new areas were developed at New Delhi station premises after February 15, 2025 and accordingly additional CCTVs are provided to cover these areas. Presently, 250 Nos of CCTVs are provided at New Delhi Railway station. This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply to questions in Lok Sabha today.

Dr. Fleming in all praise for Bengal corporate orgs

MI News Service, Kolkata: Dr. Andrew Fleming, the British Deputy High Commissioner to Kolkata has said "Kolkata has world class entrepreneurs and organizations." He also mentioned that corporate companies from Kolkata have now become "regional players to global brands". Dr. Fleming was speaking at a session on unlocking emerging trade opportunities between India and United Kingdom (UK) under Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA). He further mentioned that he wants Indian compa-

nies in UK market. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) recently convened a high-level interaction in Kolkata recently to explore emerging trade opportunities between the United Kingdom (UK) and India under CETA, organised as part of the Niryat Bandhu initiative aimed at mentoring new and aspiring exporters. The session featured Trade Commissioner for South Asia, Harjinder Kang, formerly the UK's Chief Negotiator for the UK-India Free Trade Agreement.

Cognizant Unveils Next-Gen Cyber Defense Center in Bengaluru

MI News Service, Bengaluru: Cognizant (NASDAQ: CTSH) today announced the launch of its Next-Gen Cyber Defense Center (CDC) in Bengaluru. This center is key to the company's worldwide CDC network and is Cognizant's largest facility designed to deliver advanced AI-powered platform-centric cybersecurity services, engineering and transformation services to clients globally.



Cognizant has a strong cybersecurity practice with longstanding experience, driven by seasoned professionals with deep expertise. At the Bengaluru CDC, these specialists aim to provide round-the-clock monitoring and rapid response to security incidents, supporting clients across diverse industries and geographies. The center features an integrated threat research lab, supported by strategic alliances with leading technology companies. "Cybersecurity is entering a new era where hyper-connect-

Stoppages of fourteen pair express at Patna Sahib station for two minutes

MI News Service, 17 Dec 2025, Kolkata: On the occasion of 35th Birth Anniversary of Shri Guru Govind Singh Ji Maharaj, Railway has decided to provide two (02) minutes temporary stoppage for following thirteen pair Express trains at Patna Sahib station from 19.12.2025 to 02.01.2026:

- 13233/13234 Howrah-Prayagraj Rambag-Howrah Bibhut Express.
22213/22214 Shalimar-Patna-Shalimar Duronto Express.
18449/18450 Puri-Patna-Puri Baidyanath Dham Express.
22948/22947 Bhalpur-Surat-Bhalpur Superfast Express.
13241/13242 Banka-Rajendra Nagar Terminal-Banka Intercity Express.
12303/12304 Howrah-New Delhi-Howrah Poorva Express.
13331/13332 Dhanbad-Patna-Dhanbad Intercity Express.
13423/13424 Bhalpur-Ajmer-Bhalpur Weekly Express.
22405/22406 Bhalpur-Anand Vihar Terminal-Bhalpur Garib Rath Express.
12327/12328 Howrah-Dehradun-Howrah Ushashana Express.
12315/12316 Kolkata-Udaipur City-Kolkata Ananya Weekly Express and
13229/13230 Godda-Rajendra Nagar Terminal-Godda Weekly Express.

Passenger reservation system downtime activity

MI News Service, 17 Dec 2025, Kolkata: In view of Passenger Reservation System (PRS) downtime activity for Sysgen Parameter update & Servers Reboot Activities in PRS on the intervening night between 23:45 hrs. of 18.12.2025 & 02:15 hrs. of 19.12.2025. During this period Kolkata PRS system will not be available for Charting, Current Booking, Internet Booking as well as Enquiries.

আমার মঙ্গল নূর নদী পিতা-মুহ মঙ্গল পুত্রক সাং-ময়ূরপুর মুসলিম মহালা পোঃ নদীয়া-বাবুগঞ্জী জে. এল.৩৪, এল আর ১২৬৩ নং দাগে শালি জমি পরিমাণ ৫ কাঠা জমি বিক্রয় করিবার জন্য দেবের দাস নূর ইসলাম মোল্লাকে বজবজ সাব রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে ১৪/১২/২০২৫ তারিখে ৩২৬৫ নং আম মোজার নদীয়া দলিল করা মূল উক্ত আম মোজার দলিল মূল রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত ১৪৪৪ নং দলিল মূলে আমার মঙ্গল জমিট বিক্রয় করিবার ও কোনো অভিযোগ থাকিলে লিখিত তারিখ হইতে এক মাসের মধ্যে বজবজ-২ নোদাখালী বি এল আর ও অফিসে লিখিত জানাইবে। NASIMA KHATUN-Advocate Enroll. No.: F/256/195/2013 Alipore Criminal Court Kol-700027

Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana Trains 31,839 Youths Nationwide; 5,862 Beneficiaries from Uttar Pradesh: Union Rail Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

MI News Service, 17 Dec 2025, New Delhi: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw informed to the Lok Sabha that Indian Railways has developed a comprehensive training ecosystem that is primarily designed for its own employees, offering structured training interventions at various stages of their career for effective skilling, re-skilling, and up-skilling. The Union Railway Minister stated that to support this, Indian Railways has established an extensive network of training centres across all Zonal Railways and Production Units. Within a Zone also, these training centres are spread out across different locations of Divisions or Workshops.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw stated that at the same time, with the aim of enhancing employability and promoting entrepreneurship among the youth, the Railways launched the Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana, a pan-India entry-level skill development programme covering 16 technical trades. The scheme was launched in September 2021, with an objective to empower trained candidates to pursue wage employment or self-employment. While replying to a question in the Parliament Vaishnaw informed that the training under Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana is provided free of cost to the Trainees, at 98 training centres of Zonal Railways & Production Units, spread across the country. The candidates from any part of the country can join this training. 14 of these training centres are located in Uttar Pradesh. The Minister stated that since inception, 31,839 youths from all across the country have been provided short-term technical skill training at designated Railway Training Centres under scheme Rail Kaushal Vikas Yojana. 5862 of these belong to Uttar Pradesh, out of which 64 are from Saharanpur district. This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in written replies to questions in Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Regulation of trains for development work in Howrah division

MI News Service, 17 Dec 2025, Kolkata: In connection with installation of Casted RCC boxes and slabs segments by road crane for construction of proposed Limited Height subway (LHS) of level crossing gate no. 29/B/T between Azimganj & Poradanga stations in Katwa - Azimganj section over Howrah Division, 430 minutes (from 08:50 hrs. to 16:00 hrs.) Traffic & Power Block has been planned on 20.12.2025. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

- Cancellation of trains on 19.12.2025: From Azimganj: 53027, 53029
Cancellation of trains on 20.12.2025: From Azimganj: 63433, 53433
From Rampurhat: 63434, 63008
From Malda Town: 53028
From Bhalgaur: 53030
From Nimitia: 53052
From Katwa: 63013
From Barharwa: 53434
Short termination/short origination of trains on 20.12.2025: 13177 Sealdah - Jangipur Road Express will be short terminated at Lalbagh Court.
13178 Jangipur Road - Sealdah Express will be short originated from Lalbagh Court.
63007 Katwa - Rampurhat MEMU will be short terminated at Azimganj.
53053 Katwa - Nimitia passenger will be short terminated at Azimganj.
Rescheduling of trains: 13017 Howrah - Azimganj

Guadaveta Express will leave Howrah at 10:05 hrs. instead of 06:05 hrs.
13018 Azimganj - Howrah Guadaveta Express will leave Azimganj after arrival of 13017 Howrah - Azimganj Guadaveta Express.
13126 Sairang - Kolkata Express (Journey commencing on 19.12.2025) will leave Sairang 11:15 hrs. instead of 07:15 hrs.
Moreover, 63031 Katwa - Azimganj MEMU will be controlled by 20 minutes enroute.

আমার মঙ্গল মহঃ আবাস নিয়া পিতা-মুহঃ লতিফ সাং-ময়ূরপুর মুসলিম মহালা পোঃ ও নদীয়া-ময়ূরপুর নদীয়া মঙ্গলের খদির জমির মৌজা-নিশ্চিন্তপুর জে. এল.৩৫, এল আর খতিয়ান ৩৬২২ এল. আর. ১২৬৩ নং দাগে শালি জমি পরিমাণ ৫ কাঠা জমি বিক্রয় করিবার জন্য নূর খেতা খানী-রতনজি বেটা বজবজ সাব রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে ২৪/০৮/২০২২ তারিখে ৩৭২২ নং আম মোজার নদীয়া দলিল করা মূল উক্ত আম মোজার দলিল মূলে ০১/১২/২০২৫ তারিখে বজবজ সাব রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত ২৭০২ নং দলিল মূলে আমার মঙ্গল জমিট বিক্রয় করিবার ও কোনো অভিযোগ থাকিলে লিখিত তারিখ হইতে এক মাসের মধ্যে বজবজ-১ বি এল আর ও অফিসে লিখিত জানাইবে। NASIMA KHATUN-Advocate Enroll. No.: F/256/195/2013 Alipore Criminal Court Kol-700027

SIMEST & ICC sign historic MOU

MI News Service, Mumbai: SIMEST, the company belonging to the CDP Group that supports Following E-tenders are invited online by Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 from tenderers having experience of fishing for undertaking for following works: SI.No.-1. Tender No.: AEN-SHOP-FISHING-ST-25-26. Date: 15.12.2025. Name of work: For fishing right for Railway South Tank at Liluah under CWM/Liluah for a period of five years. Reserve Price: ₹ 9,77,040. Earnest Money: ₹ 97,800. SI.No.-2. Tender No.: AEN-SHOP-FISHING-NT-25-26. Date: 15.12.2025. Name of work: For fishing right for Railway North Tank at Liluah under CWM/Liluah for a period of five years. Reserve Price: ₹ 13,41,006. Earnest Money: ₹ 1,34,200. Cost of tender form: ₹ 0 (for SI.No. 1 & 2). Completion period: Five years from date of acceptance (for SI.No. 1 & 2). In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bundh/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 tender. However, opening of the tenders online will be done on next working day. Date and time of closing of Tender: (1) On 05.01.2026 upto 12:00 hrs. for Tender No.: AEN-SHOP-FISHING-ST-25-26 & (2) On 05.01.2026 upto 15:00 Hrs. for Tender No.: AEN-SHOP-FISHING-NT-25-26. The details of the tenders are available at website: https://www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. Payment of earnest money deposit (EMD) in respect of E-tendering should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. No manual offer will be accepted. (MISC-331/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

the international growth of Italian enterprises, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The agreement was formalised during the Italy-India Business Forum and is aimed at intensifying economic collaboration between the two nations while fostering new bilateral investment opportunities. The MoU was signed in the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Antonio Tajani, and Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal. The signatories were SIMEST CEO Regina Corradini D'Arenzo and ICC Director General Rajeev Singh. The purpose of this MoU is to strengthen cooperation between Italian and Indian companies by promoting joint initiatives and creating pathways for access to business opportunities in both countries. The agreement outlines a series of collaborative efforts, including the promotion of joint initiatives between enterprises in Italy and India, support for investments by companies in both markets through financial instruments made available by SIMEST, enhanced knowledge and information sharing on investment opportunities, mergers and acquisitions, new industrial projects and startups, and the creation of a stable collaborative network linking the two business communities. In a joint statement, Regina Corradini D'Arenzo, CEO of SIMEST, and Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General of ICC, expressed their shared commitment to the partnership. They said, "The signing of this agreement with the Indian Chamber of Commerce confirms SIMEST's clear commitment to supporting the investments of Italian companies in a key market for Made in Italy such as India, providing them with dedicated financial tools and specialised know-how."

Kolkata Airport employees protest over working uniform

MI News Service, Kolkata: The cleaning crew at the departure level of the Kolkata airport protested by refusing to work for about 40 minutes when one of them was told to either wear his uniform or go on leave. A new agency has been assigned the cleaning job at the airport, but it has been forced to retain all the old hands engaged by the previous agencies. Trouble started around 9am when the contractual employee was seen reporting for work without the uniform. "This particular employee always creates trouble, and during his time of duty, he is rarely found at his post and is instead seen chatting," said an airport official. "On Tuesday, one of our officials saw him inside the terminal without wearing the uniform. So he was asked to leave, but he refused," he said. The cleaning agency person allegedly threatened the lady official, daring her to make him leave the terminal. The argument took place at the check-in area on the departure level of the terminal building, in front of security hold area number four, which is used for the movement of VIP passengers. "He said several others working for other agencies at the airport routinely did not wear uniforms and that he was being singled out," said the airport official. Senior airport officials have instructed personnel from the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to prevent the employee from entering the terminal building unless he is in uniform, according to an official. "He was informed that wearing a uniform is part of his responsibilities," said the official. After the contractual employee was asked to vacate the premises around 10.30am, a group of approximately 30 individuals, including the agency's personnel and local Trinamool leaders, staged a protest in front of the airport man-

ager's office situated at gate number 3C on the terminal's departure level. It continued for around 40 minutes. Later, airport officials held a meeting to end the standoff. "It was decided that the agency would provide fresh uniforms and winterwear to all contractual employees, and they would have to wear them to duty. From January 1, if these employees don't wear a uniform, they would not be allowed to enter the terminal building," the official said. In the evening, the same employee was seen chatting with a group inside the terminal. Rakshak Securitas has been awarded the contract for housekeeping, including cleaning of the departure level of the terminal. The agency secured the contract in July 2024; however, it was compelled to keep all employees from the former agency, according to an official. "We have around 300 contractual employees. After Tuesday's meeting, it has been decided that we would provide them with fresh uniforms," said an official of the agency. Lack of cleanliness has been a problem that has troubled the Kolkata airport for years.

Office of the Concillers of Haringhata Municipality

Subarnapur, Haringhata, Nadia. Notice Inviting e-Tender. Chairman, Haringhata Municipality invites e-Tender No.-WB/MAD/ULB/HM/NIT-21e (2nd Call)/2025-26. Memo. No-2525/HM/2025 Dated: 17/12/2025. Tender Id: 2025_MAD_975925_1 Date of Publishing-17/12/2025, 6.30PM. Bid Submission Closing Date-20/01/2026, 6.30PM. For details please visit- www.wbtenders.gov.in

আমার মঙ্গল ১। মহাবাদ আলি পিতা-আবু সালাম ২। নারায়ণ বেগম স্বামী-মহাবাদ আলী সাং-আর. ১৯৫ লিচু বাস-আবু-বদরগঞ্জা থানা- নাদিয়ার নদীয়া মঙ্গলের খদির জমির মৌজা-জামাপুর জে. এল.৩৪-এল আর খতিয়ান ৬৬২ এল. আর. ২৭৫ দাগে মোট পরিমাণ ১ কাঠা ২৭ বর্গফুট জমি বিক্রয় করিবার জন্য সুব্রজিত বিশ্বাস ও মনিমা বোরাকে বজবজ সাব রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে ২৪/১২/২০২২ তারিখে ৪৬৩৩ নং আম মোজার নদীয়া উক্ত আম মোজার মূল রেজিষ্ট্রি অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত ১৩০৮৪ নং দলিল মূলে আমার মঙ্গল জমিট বিক্রয় করিবার ও কোনো অভিযোগ থাকিলে লিখিত তারিখ হইতে এক মাসের মধ্যে বজবজ-১ বি এল আর ও অফিসে লিখিত জানাইবে। NASIMA KHATUN-Advocate Enroll. No.: F/256/195/2013 Alipore Criminal Court Kol-700027

JU gets Rs 47 Cr under RUSA 2.0

MI News Service, Kolkata: Jadavpur University (JU) will get ₹47 crore under the Rashtriya Uchchatarata Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA 2.0), under one condition — that the university utilises the amount by March 31, an education department official said on Tuesday. Sixty per cent of the grant will be provided by the Union government and the remaining by the state. The funds will be routed through the state education department. A meeting last week at Bikash Bhavan, the education secretariat, deliberated on how the university could get the money. Of the ₹100 crore allotted for JU under the scheme, the university got ₹53 crore in 2019. Vice-chancellor Chiranjib Bhattacharjee said they were deciding on the areas where the money could be utilised. "The money is for us. The only condition is we have to spend the money by March 31," said VC Bhattacharjee. In November, Calcutta University got 35 crore under the scheme from the Union and state governments. CU will spend the amount on instruments and research. The JU vice-chancellor said they had plans to spend part of the amount to develop an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system, which is an integrated software platform that centralises and automates administrative, financial, and student-related processes, replacing manual systems. Bhattacharjee said

though many small-scale initiatives have developed their own ERP systems, JU did not have one. The absence of the facility forced the university — acknowledged for its engineering education across the country — to rely on a manual system resulting in delays in result publication, a JU official said. The official said any assessment agency like the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) examines, among other things, whether an institute possesses an ERP system that connects various departments to streamline operations like admissions, fee collection and results publication. A JU official said the money could also be used to upgrade labs or institute scholarships. "Teachers had submitted projects hoping that they would get the money under RUSA. As the release of funds was put on hold, the projects could not get going. Now funds could be allotted to some of the projects," the official said. Das had then told this newspaper: "We made expenditures following an assurance that the support (from the Centre) would go on. Despite several reminders to the education ministry, the money has not come and we are not able to make reimbursements." A JU official said the resumption of funds could be a boon considering that the university was going through a crunch following cuts in the annual sanction from the state government and a fee structure which, according to many, is the lowest in the country.

Public Notice

This is to notify that Sri NARAYAN KARACHANDANI, S/o Late MURRAY CHANDANI, Manager of M/s. Little Shop, having its registered office at 4, Chowringhee Lane, Diamond Centre, 8th & 9th Floor, Kolkata - 700016 and residing at Flat No. 508, 25A Park Street, Kolkata - 700016, West Bengal, hereby requested that the Original Mutation Certificate is believed to be misplaced/lost relating to the below-mentioned property/M/s. Little Shop has purchased the shop premises at Forum Rangoli Mall, being Shop No. G2-3 & 4 at 212 Girish Ghosh Road, Howrah, and the said premises has been mutated under Assessment Department Memo No. 0775/ASST/BS/17-18 dated 09/08/2017 (Assessment No. 20002136943), formerly under Ward No. 88, Howrah Municipal Corporation, now under Ward No. 15, Bally Municipality, Plotting No. 212 (BL-Com/G-2-3 & 4). Any person who may find or be in possession of the said Original Mutation Certificate is hereby requested to submit the same along with supporting documents to the Office of the Chairman, Bally Municipality, and the Office of the Mayor, Howrah Municipal Corporation, and/or the Office of the Sub-Divisional Land & Land Reforms Officer, within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which the authorities shall proceed as per law. If the person, to whom the firm shall apply for a certified/duplicate mutation certificate, is not the person mentioned hereunder, the same shall be returned. Land Schedule Block: Bally Municipality Jurisdiction: Sub-Divisional Land & Land Reforms Office/Formerly under: Howrah Municipal Corporation (Ward No. 58)/Now under: Bally Municipality (Ward No. 15)/Plotting No. 212 (BL-Com/G-2-3 & 4)Recorded Owner: M/s. LITTLE SHOP

ICICI Bank

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken 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.

Table with 5 columns: Sr. No., Name of the Borrower(s)/Loan Account Number, Description of Property/Date of Symbolic Possession, Date of Demand Notice/Amount in Demand Notice (Rs), Name of Branch. It lists two properties with their respective details and branch information.

Symbolic Possession Notice

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002. Date: December 18, 2025 Place: Dabrajpur & Bolpur & Kolkata. Sincerely Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Eastern Railway

CORRIGENDUM to Advertisement of E-Auction Programme of Eastern Railway for the month of December, 2025 published earlier by Chief Materials Manager/Sales, Eastern Railway, 17, N.S. Road, Kolkata-700001. A partial modification has been made in the e-Auction programme of Sealdah for the month of December, 2025 as under and the other dates of Depots & Divisions shall remain unaltered. Division: Sealdah. Existing Date: 18.12.2025. Revised Date: 26.12.2025. (STORES-56/2025-26) Tender Notices are also available at website: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd

Unit No. 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. C 66, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai- 400 051. Demand Notice Under Section 13(2) of Securitisation Act of 2002. ACRE-ARC has acquired the entire Financial Assets along with underlying securities of the Borrower under the provisions of section 5 of the SARFAESI Act from the Assignor. By virtue of the said Acquisition of debt, ACRE-ARC has acquired all the rights, title and interest in the outstanding debts of the Borrower acting in its capacity as trustee by way of assignment of Financial Assets as per financial documents and the underlying securities, ACRE-ARC has stepped into the shoes of Assignor being Secured Creditor to the Borrower and is entitled to recover outstanding dues in respect of the Loan facilities and enforce the underlying security interest.

Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd

Unit No. 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. C 66, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai- 400 051. The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Please be informed that the said notice is also under section 13(13) informing the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors that the said mortgaged property should not be sold/leased/transferred. Date: 18/12/2025, Place: 24 Parganas (South) Authorized Officer, Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.

Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd

Unit No. 502, C Wing, One BKC, Radius Developers, Plot No. C 66, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai- 400 051. The steps are being taken for substituted service of notice. The above borrowers, co-borrowers and/or their guarantors (where ever applicable) are advised to make the payments of outstanding within 60 days from the date of the publication of this notice failing which further steps will be taken after the expiry of 60 days of the date of this notice as per the provision of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. Please be informed that the said notice is also under section 13(13) informing the borrowers/guarantors/mortgagors that the said mortgaged property should not be sold/leased/transferred. Date: 18/12/2025, Place: 24 Parganas (South) Authorized Officer, Assets Care & Reconstruction Enterprise Ltd.

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Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

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

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

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

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

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. "These findings



underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes." To conduct the study, researchers linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27

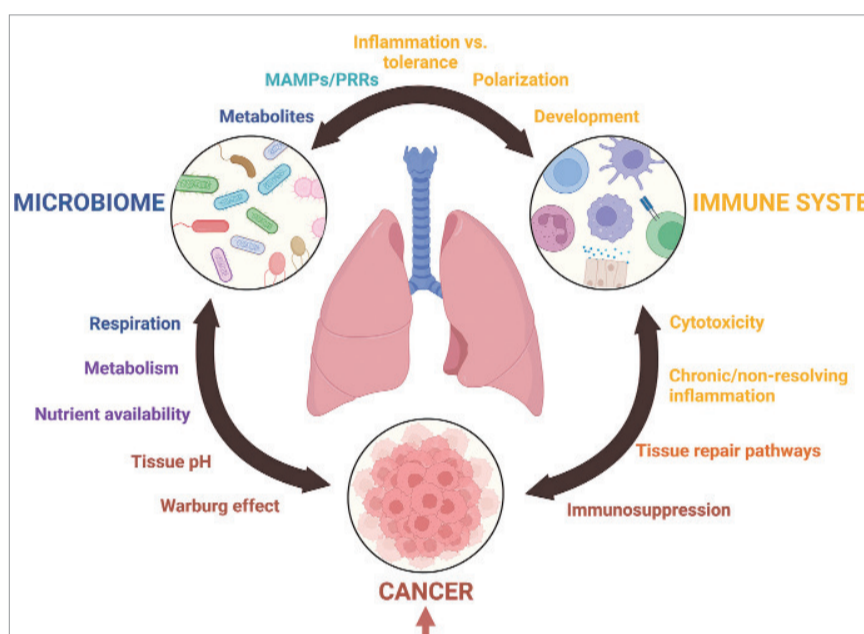
different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290 stillbirths from 2006 to 2020. They found that living within .31 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day preconception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births preconception. During the first trimester, fenprophathrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated with stillbirths. "Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center and BIO5 Institute.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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Scientists find new method of boosting chemical reactions using electricity

CHICAGO [US]: A study conducted by chemists at the University of Chicago discovered a technique to use electricity to enhance a sort of chemical reaction commonly used in the synthesis of novel pharmaceutical medication candidates. The finding, which was published in Nature

Catalysis, represents an advancement in the field of electrochemistry and indicates a road ahead to creating and directing reactions—and making them more sustainable.

"What we want to do is understand what's happening at the fundamental level at the electrode interface, and use that to predict and design more efficient chemical reactions," said Anna Wittig, UChicagoNeubauer Family Assistant Professor and the senior author on the paper. "This is a step towards that eventual goal."

In certain chemical reactions, electricity can boost the output—and because you can get the needed electricity from renewable sources, it could be part of making the worldwide chemical industry greener. But electrochemistry, as the field is known, is especially complex. There is much scientists don't know about molecular interactions, especially because you have to insert a conductive solid (an electrode) into the mix to provide electricity, which means the molecules interact with that electrode as well as with each other. To a

scientist trying to untangle the roles each molecule is playing and in what order, this makes an already complicated process even more complicated.

"What if you think about it as electrochemistry providing us with a unique design lever that's not possible in any other system?" she said.

In this case, she and her team focused on the surface of the electrode that provides the electricity to the reaction.

"There were hints that the surface itself is catalytic, that it plays a role," Wittig said, "but we don't know how to systematically control those interactions at the molecular level."

They tinkered with a type of reaction that is commonly used in manufacturing chemicals for medicine, to form a bond between two carbon atoms.

According to theoretical predictions, when this reaction is performed using electricity, the yield from the reaction should be 100 per cent, that is, all the molecules that went in are made into a single new substance. But when you run the reaction in the lab, the yield is lower.

The team thought the presence of the electrode was tempting some of the molecules away from where they were needed during the reaction. They found that adding a key ingredient could help, a chemical known as a Lewis acid added to the liquid solution redirected those molecules.

IDFC FIRST PRIVATE BANKING AND HURUN INDIA RELEASE THIRD EDITION OF INDIA'S TOP 200 SELF-MADE ENTREPRENEURS OF THE MILLENNIA 2025

KOLKATA: IDFC FIRST Private Banking and Hurun India launched the third edition of 'IDFC FIRST Private & Hurun India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025', a list of the 200 most valuable companies in India founded after the year 2000. These companies are ranked according to their value, defined as market capitalisation for listed companies and valuations for non-listed companies. The cut-off date to arrive at this list was 25th September 2025. This list refers to companies headquartered in India only (state-owned companies and subsidiaries of foreign companies are not included). The combined value of all companies on the India's Top 200 Self-made Entrepreneurs of the Millennia 2025 list stands at INR 42 lakh crore and features entrepreneurs from 51 cities across India. For the first time since the list's inception, Deepinder Goyal (42), founder of Eterna, has overtaken R K Damani (70) of DMart to claim the No.1 spot. Bengaluru leads with 88 entrepreneurs, followed by Mumbai with 83 and New Delhi with 52, together accounting for more than half the list. Financial services top the sectors with 47 companies, followed by Software & Services (28), Healthcare (27) and Retail (20). Notably, 189 companies - nearly 95% of the list - have external investors, with the rest bootstrapped.

Study shows how brain's internal compass guides the body

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

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

The findings are published in Nature.

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

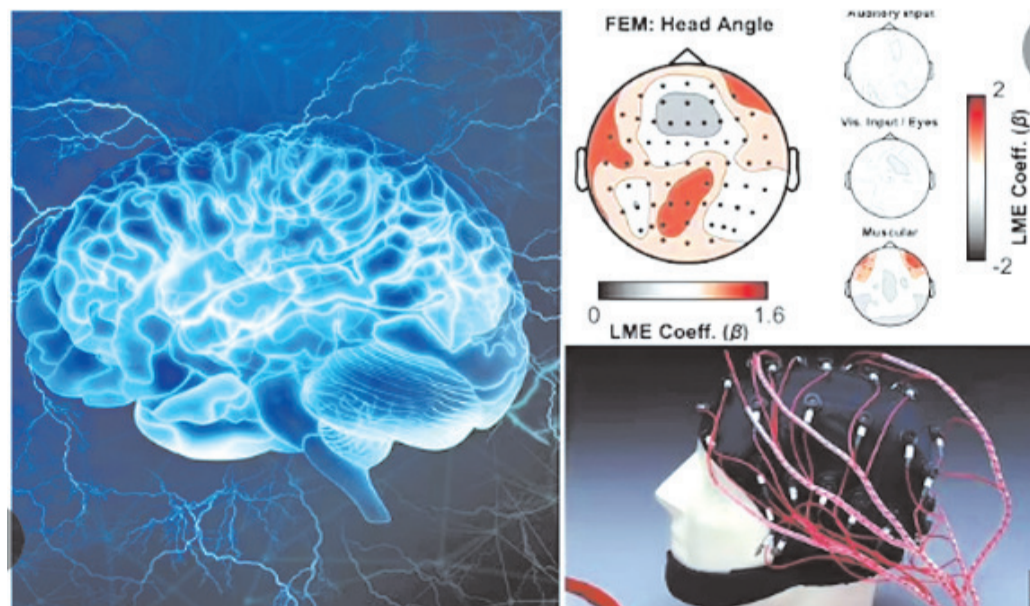
"Until now, no one really knew how sense of direction, which is an internal cognitive state, relates to the actions an animal is making in the world," said senior author Rachel Wilson, the Joseph B. Martin Professor of Basic

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

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

Staying on course

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



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

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

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

researchers analyzed the activity in the layer of neurons identified

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

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

effort to escape their environment. When their virtual world was rotated to move them off course, the flies swiftly course-corrected. Interestingly, these course corrections were carried out by three separate groups of neurons: Two sets of neurons nudged the fly to go right or left, and one issued a signal to turn around completely.

"You can think of these three groups of neurons as three sentries guarding a castle," Wilson said, "with each responsible for surveilling in a different direction and prompting the correction needed to keep the fly moving towards its goal." The findings explain how fruit flies use their sense of direction to estimate where they are in relation to a goal and how they use this estimate to adjust their behavior.

"This is a really concrete description of how a complicated cognitive process works and how it produces specific, guided behaviors in real time," Wilson said. The findings complement a second study, also published in Nature on Feb. 7 and led by a separate team of researchers at The Rockefeller University, that describes parts of the same neuronal circuit in fruit flies. Taken together, the two studies provide an even more complete understanding of how sense of direction translates into behavior in the animals.

A strong starting point Wilson said that her team's observations have implications beyond identifying the connec-

tions between the brain's compass and steering regions. The findings provide important clues about the format and location of navigational goals in the brain -- and may pave the way for understanding how other types of goals are stored.

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"By understanding a system in one small brain, I think we've made important progress toward forming clear hypotheses about how it may work in more complicated brains," she said. "At this point, I don't see an obvious end to the similarities between species."

Lukashenko urges earlier resolution of Ukraine crisis to prevent further loss of life

MI News Service, Minsk: Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko said that the conflict in Ukraine will eventually end in peace, but emphasized that an early resolution is crucial to prevent further loss of life.

In an interview with the American Newsmax TV, Lukashenko expressed strong concerns about the humanitarian cost of prolonged fighting, noting the high number of casualties and severely wounded individuals returning from the front lines. The interview took place recently and was published on the Belarusian president's website on Wednesday.

The Belarusian leader pointed out that a peaceful resolution depends on multiple parties, not just the efforts of a single country, noting that the U.S. president alone cannot resolve the conflict, which directly involves Russia, Ukraine, and neighboring states like Belarus.

Australia police charge surviving Bondi Beach gunman as first funerals held

MI News Service, Canberra: Australian authorities say they have charged a man who opened fire on a Jewish Hanukkah celebration on Sydney's Bondi Beach, killing 15 people, with "terrorism" and murder charges, as mourners gathered to begin funerals for the victims.

Police and local courts said on Wednesday that 59 charges are being introduced after the deadly shooting that also wounded dozens of others, including two officers.

Among the offenses are "committing a terrorist act", murder, wounding with intent to murder, placing an explosive, and discharging a firearm with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

There are 20 people receiving care in Sydney hospitals for injuries sustained in Sunday's shooting, according to NSW Health. That includes one patient in a critical condition and several in a critical but stable condition.

Two gunmen, identified



as 50-year-old Sajid Akram and his 24-year-old son Naveed Akram, carried the attack using six firearms owned by the former. New South Wales Police Commissioner Mal Lanyon said police were still waiting for medication to wear off before formally questioning the son, who was shot but survived the shooting. Naveed Akram reportedly woke up from a coma on Tuesday afternoon. Sajid Akram died at the scene of the shooting. "For his fairness, we

need him to understand that is exactly happening," he said. New South Wales state police said in a statement on Wednesday that they will say in court that the man "engaged in conduct that caused death, serious injury and endangered life to advance a religious cause and cause fear in the community." "Early indications point to a terrorist attack inspired by ISIS, a listed terrorist organisation in Australia," the police said in a statement, referring to

the armed group also known as ISIL. First funeral held as legislation advances

The first funerals were held on Tuesday to remember the victims of the attack, which took place during the Jewish festival of lights. Rabbi Eli Schlanger and Rabbi Yaakov Levitan were hailed by their family and peers, including during a ceremony at a local synagogue.

Syrian-Australian man Ahmed al-Ahmed tackled one of the gunmen during the attack, wrestling a shotgun from his grip and turning it on the attacker. Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Tuesday that he is "the best of our country" for saving countless lives as he visited the hospital where the man was being treated for gunshot wounds.

Tens of thousands of people have donated to al-Ahmed in a fundraising page established by Australians who have never met him, with the campaign raising over 2.3 million Australian dollars (\$1.5 million).

Al-Ahmed was shot several times in the arm, and faces several months of recovery after undergoing surgery and having more operations scheduled. New South Wales Premier Chris Minns told a news conference that he is calling parliament back next week in order to deal with "urgent legislation" in light of the shooting before Christmas.

He said the government is proposing a bill on gun reform, with possible measures including capping the number of firearms a person is allowed to own, and reclassify straight shotguns. Minns also said he wants legal reforms so no applications can be accepted for protests after "terror events" in order to preserve social calm. A mass demonstration in the current "combustible situation" could cause major issues, according to the official.

Indian Railways Nears Full Electrification at 99.2% of Broad Gauge Network, Far Ahead of UK (39%), Russia (52%) & China (82%)

● 100% Electrification Across 14 Railway Zones and 25 States/UTs

MI News Service, New Delhi, 17 Dec.25: Electrification of railway network on Indian Railways (IR) has been taken up in mission mode. So far, about 99.2% of Broad Gauge (BG) network has been electrified. The electrification in remaining network has been taken up. Electrification carried out during 2014-25 and before 2014 is as under:

Period, Route Kilometer Before 2014 (about 60 years)	2014-25	46,900
India	99.2%	
United Kingdom	39%	
France	60%	
Spain	67%	
Russia	52%	
Japan	64%	
China	82%	
Switzerland	100%	

Indian Railways' achievement in railway electrification stand out globally. According to the latest report of International Union of Railways (IUC) of June, 2025, railway electrification in important rail-ways systems is as under: Country Rail Electrification

Zone	% Electrified
1 Central Railway	100%
2 East Coast Railway	100%
3 East Central Railway	100%
4 Eastern Railway	100%
5 Konkan Railway	100%
6 Kolkata Metro	100%
7 North Central Railway	100%
8 North Eastern Railway	100%
9 Northern Railway	100%
10 South Central Railway	100%
11 South East Central Rail	100%
12 South Eastern Railway	100%
13 West Central Railway	100%
14 Western Railway	100%
15 North Western Rail	98%
16 Southern Railway	98%
17 Northeast Frontier Rail	95%
18 South Western Rail	95%

State/UT wise status of electrification including Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Tamil Nadu is as under:

SN	STATE	% Electrified
1	Andhra Pradesh	100%
2	Arunachal Pradesh	100%
3	Bihar	100%
4	Chandigarh	100%
5	Chhattisgarh	100%
6	Delhi	100%
7	Gujarat	100%
8	Haryana	100%
9	Himachal Pradesh	100%
10	Jammu & Kashmir	100%
11	Jharkhand	100%
12	Kerala	100%
13	Madhya Pradesh	100%

Major Capacity Enhancement Works Underway For Mumbai Suburban Rail Network: Ashwini Vaishnav

● Procurement Underway for Automatic Door Systems in 238 New Trains to Boost Mumbai Rail Safety

● New Train Stoppages Provided at Palghar to Facilitate Passengers in Mumbai Suburban

● Palghar Station Served by 104 Train Services Including 46 Mail/Express, 16 Passenger & 42 Suburban Services

● Boisar Station Served by 99 Train Services Including 41 Mail/Express, 16 Passenger & 42 Suburban Services

MI News Service, New Delhi, 17 Dec.25: To facilitate the passengers of Palghar, stoppages of the following trains have been provided at Palghar in the recent past:

1. 22955/22956 Bandra(T)-Bhuj Kutch Express (w.e.f. 17th May, 2025)
2. 12489/12490 Sri Ganganagar-Dadar Express (w.e.f. 18th May, 2025)

Similarly, stoppage of 22927/22928 Bandra(T)-Ahmedabad Lokshakti Express at Saphalestation (located near Palghar) has also been provided w.e.f. 04.09.2025.

Presently, Palghar and Boisar stations are served by 104 (including 46 Mail/Express, 16 Passenger and 42 Suburban services) and 99 (including 41 Mail/Express, 16 Passenger and 42 Suburban services) train services respectively.

Bateswar Station, of Cultural, Historical and National Importance, Converted to a Class 'B' Station

MI News Service, New Delhi, 17 Dec.25: The Agra Division has proposed the conversion of Bateswar (BASR) from a 'D' class halt station to a 'B' class crossing station. At present, Bateswar (BASR) is a 'D' class halt station located in the Bhandari-Udimore section, between Bah (HAB) and Fatehabad (FAB) stations.

Bateswar holds significant cultural, historical, and national importance. It is the janmsthal of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, which further enhances the relevance of this location. Bateswar is also known for its ancient heritage, including the prominent and historic Shiv temples situated along the Yamuna riverbank.

Apart from its religious significance, the region is renowned for hosting the famous Bateswar Pashu Mela, which attracts large numbers of visitors from across the region every year.

Scope of Work The proposed conversion includes the following works:

1. 02 numbers of loop lines of length 750 metres each
2. Station Building, including El building
3. 01 number of High-Level Platform
4. Circulating Area development
5. Water tank, Borewell and Pump house
6. Divyangjans facilities and other minimum essential amenities works
7. Signalling and Telecom gears & Electronic Interlocking
8. OHE modification for 02 numbers of loop lines

Saudi Arabia suspends ship permits for Yemen's Aden port amid rising tensions



MI News Service, Aden, Yemen: Saudi Arabia has suspended the issuance of permits for ships to enter the port of Aden in southern Yemen, amid heightened political and military tensions, a local official from Yemen's Ministry of Transport said on Tuesday.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the suspension affects the Aden port, which is controlled by the Southern Transitional Council (STC), but stressed that the motives behind the move remain unclear.

"The suspension has continued for the third consecutive day without any official explanation," the official said, adding that there are "no clear indications about the reasons for this decision."

He noted that it remains uncertain whether the measure is intended as temporary pressure on the STC or represents a longer-term policy shift.

The port of Aden is a critical lifeline for Yemen, facilitating the import of food, fuel and medical supplies for millions of people across the conflict-ravaged country, including northern areas under the control of the Houthis group. Any disruption to port operations could have severe humanitarian consequences, the official warned.

"This port serves the entire country," he said. "The suspension of ship permits may badly affect the flow of essential goods to civilians already suffering from years of war."

The move comes as STC continues to expand its military presence in several strategic provinces, defying repeated calls by the internationally-recognized government to withdraw its forces from Hadramout and Al-Mahrah, a military official told Xinhua.

According to the military official, the STC has shown no indication of reversing its moves, despite local and regional mediation efforts, particularly from Saudi Arabia, which dispatched a senior delegation to Hadramout in recent days in an attempt to de-escalate tensions. However, the efforts failed to halt the deployment, and Saudi forces later withdrew from Aden as the STC pressed ahead with its plans.

ICC rejects Israel's bid to halt Gaza war crimes probe

The Hague: The International Criminal Court on Monday, December 15, rejected Israel's petition to block an investigation into war crimes committed in Palestine. The judges at the ICC refused to overturn a lower court decision allowing the ICC prosecutor to investigate alleged crimes in Israel's war on Gaza following the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

The decision will allow the continuation of the court's investigation into the matter. In November 2024, the ICC issued an arrest warrant against Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant over alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Israel does not recognise the jurisdiction of the ICC, and has been trying to block the investigation. The ICC had also issued an arrest warrant for Hamas leader Ibrahim al-Masri, but later withdrew it after his death. The appeal emphasised whether the ICC prosecutor was required to issue a fresh notification to Israel before investigating events that took place after October 7, 2023. Israel argued that the October 7 attacks on Gaza constituted a new situation, triggered by additional referrals submitted to the court by seven other countries since November 2023, including South Africa, Chile and Mexico.



The judges rejected this argument, stating that the original notification issued in 2021, when the ICC formally opened its investigation into alleged crimes in occupied Palestine, already covered later events.

They said no new notification was required, meaning the arrest warrants against Netanyahu and Gallant remain valid. The ruling comes at a time when Israel continues to violate the ceasefire agreement reached with Hamas on October 10, 2025.

Since the United States brokered ceasefire came into effect, Israel has violated the agreement 391 times. So far, 1,063 were wounded, and 632 bodies recovered, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health.

Since October 7, 2023, the ministry says, at least 70,663 Palestinians have been killed and 171,139 injured.

One patient still in critical condition from Sydney terror attack; 17 total in hospital

MI News Service, Canberra: One patient remains in critical condition after being injured in the terror shooting targeting a Jewish event at Sydney's Bondi Beach on Sunday, local media report. The gunman who attacked the event killed 15 people and injured dozens.

Two additional people are in a "critical but stable" condition, according to the tally in local media. In total, 17 people who were injured in the attack remain hospitalized.

Cuba condemns U.S. naval blockade against Venezuela

MI News Service, Havana: The Cuban government has expressed strong opposition to the naval blockade imposed by the United States against Venezuela, local media reported on Tuesday. Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel said on X that Cuba "firmly supports (Venezuelan) President Nicolas Maduro, the Bolivarian and Chavista Revolution, and its Popular-Military Union." In a separate post on X, Cuban Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla also voiced full support for the Venezuelan government, describing the naval blockade against Venezuela as "a gravely serious violation of international law and an escalation of aggression against the Bolivarian government."

U.S. President Donald Trump said Tuesday that he has ordered a total blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers traveling to and from Venezuela, escalating a months-long pressure campaign against Maduro.

In response, the Venezuelan government said in a statement that Trump had issued what it called a "grave and reckless threat" against the country, claiming that it violated international law, free trade and freedom of navigation. Trump claimed Venezuela's oil, land and mineral resources as U.S. property and demanded their immediate surrender, while seeking to impose a naval blockade aimed at "robbing the nation of its natural wealth," the statement added.

Venezuela reaffirmed its sovereignty over its natural resources and its right to free navigation and commerce in the Caribbean Sea and international waters, it said, adding that it would act in strict accordance with the UN Charter and international law. In response to the threat, Venezuela's permanent representative to the United Nations would immediately file a formal complaint.

Trump expands US travel ban to 20 more countries

MI News Service, Washington: US President Donald Trump signed a proclamation to expand US travel restrictions, adding 20 more countries and the Palestinian Authority to the list. The move sharply widens limits on who can visit or immigrate to the United States.



Five countries now face a full travel ban to the US. Another 15 countries face partial restrictions. The administration also fully restricted travel by people using Palestinian Authority-issued travel documents. The White House said the decision is part of its effort to tighten US entry standards. Officials linked the move to security concerns. They cited the recent arrest of an Afghan national accused of the shooting of two National Guard troops near the White House over Thanksgiving weekend.

The restrictions include several exemptions. People who already hold valid US visas are exempt. Lawful permanent residents are exempt. Diplomats, athletes, and some other visa holders are exempt. Entry may also be allowed if it serves US interests. The administration did not say when the new measures will take effect. Trump announced the original round of restrictions in June. At that time, citizens of 12 countries were barred from entering the US. Nationals of seven other countries faced partial limits. The move revived a signature policy from Trump's first term.

The June ban covered Afghanistan, Myanmar, Chad, the Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Haiti, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, and Yemen. Partial restrictions were imposed on Burundi, Cuba, Laos, Sierra Leone, Togo, Turkmenistan, and Venezuela. On Tuesday, the administration added Burkina following countries to the full ban list: Faso, Mali, Niger, South Sudan, Syria

It also imposed a complete restriction on travel by people holding Palestinian Authority-issued documents. South Sudan had already been under significant limits. Another 15 countries were added to the partial-restriction list. They are: Angola, Antigu Barbud, Benin, The Ivory Coast, Dominica, Gabon, Gambia, Malawi, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania, Tonga, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The restrictions apply to visitors and immigrants. They affect people seeking short-term travel and those seeking permanent entry. In his proclamation, Trump said many of the affected countries have "widespread corruption, fraudulent or unreliable civil documents and criminal records."

It said these problems make it hard to properly vet travelers. Officials also cited high visa overstay rates. They said some governments refuse to take back citizens that the US wants to deport. They pointed to instability and weak government control in some countries. Immigration enforcement, foreign policy, and national security concerns were also cited in the national travel ban. The administration also changed earlier restrictions. Laos and Sierra Leone were moved from partial limits to full suspensions. In contrast, Turkmenistan saw some easing of restrictions. The administration said the country had made improvements. All other provisions announced in June remain in place. The new measures against Palestinians go further than earlier steps. In recent months, restrictions already made it nearly impossible for holders of Palestinian Authority passports to obtain US travel documents for business, work, education, or tourism. The new decision bars them from emigrating to the US. According to the proclamation, several "US-designated terrorist groups operate actively in the West Bank or Gaza Strip and have murdered American citizens."

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A colorful Mahfil at the Sayyedia Darbar in Furfura



Nurul Islam Khan: On Monday, an Isā-e-Sawāb (a ceremony for conveying spiritual merit) was held in memory of Shaykhul Hadith Allama Peer Ahaj Syed Maulana Muhammad Ghulam Sarwar Hussain (Rah) at Belpara in Furfura. The gathering, conducted in accordance with the ideology of Peer Dada Huzur (Rah), was held in a solemn atmosphere with a Zikr (remembrance of God) session. Turbans were presented to the students of the Madrasah and Orphanage established by the Peer Sahib, "Mujaddediya Bokhariya Nazimiya Hafiziya Madrasah and Orphanage." The program began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by over four hundred Hafiz (those who have memorized the entire Quran). Teachers Peerzada Syed Amjad Hussain, Peerzada Syed Saker Hussain, Peerzada Syed Ziauddin Hussain, Peerzada Syed Aftabuddin Hussain, Peerzada Syed Nazimuddin Hussain and others delivered sermons and advice. The Peer Sahib was a teacher to thousands of students. His memory was commemorated at the gathering by Peerzada Syed Abedin Hussain, Peerzada Syed Imad Uddin Hussain, Peerzada Syed Hammad, Peerzada Syed Hammam Hussain and Peerzada Syed Mehraj Hussain. Peerzada Idris Siddiqui, Peerzada Kashem Siddiqui, Peerzada Tahabib Siddiqui, Peerzada Saferi Siddiqui, Peerzada Muarekhin Siddiqui, and many others were also present. The final prayer was offered by Peerzada Hazrat Hafez Syed Ziauddin Hussain.

IndiGo crisis: Delhi HC junks PIL seeking increased compensation to passengers

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Delhi High Court on Wednesday refused to entertain a PIL seeking direction to the Centre and IndiGo airline to pay a compensation of four times the full ticket price to all passengers whose tickets were cancelled in November and December after the roll out of the new Flight Duty Time Limitation (FDTL). A bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela said it has already taken cognisance of the issue while hearing another Public Interest Litigation (PIL) and granted liberty to the petitioner to seek intervention in the pending petition.

"We don't see any reason as to why the concerns raised here cannot be taken up with the earlier petition. The jurisprudence developed by the Supreme Court and high courts around PILs permits the court to expand the scope of a petition in public interest..." "We decline to entertain this petition with liberty to the petitioner to seek intervention in the pending petition. The writ petition stands disposed of," the bench said. According to the petition filed by the Centre for Accountability and Systemic Change (CASC) through its president Prof Vikram Singh, the IndiGo fiasco has triggered widespread concern across the aviation sector, and due to sudden disruption and last-minute cancellation of thousands of flights, stranded passengers faced severe inconvenience.

From Ranchi to IPL; Shushant Mishra & Amit Kumar Set to Showcase Their IPK Skill

PC JHA

RANCHI : Jharkhand cricket received a major boost at the IPL Auction 2026, with two young cricketers from Ranchi earning spots in the world's premier T20 league. Left-arm fast bowler Sushant Mishra has been signed by Rajasthan Royals for Rs 90 lakh, while leg-spinner Amit Kumar has been picked up by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 30 lakh.

Sushant Mishra, a left-arm pacer from Ranchi, entered the auction with a base price of Rs 30 lakh. A competitive bidding war ensued between Kolkata and Rajasthan Royals before the Jaipur-based franchise secured his services for Rs 90 lakh. In the previous season, Sushant was part of Gujarat Titans, who had signed him for Rs 2.20 crore, but the franchise released him ahead of

this year's auction.

Sushant's recent performances in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy have been consistent, underlining his growing maturity as a bowler. Hailing from a modest family background, he has reached this level through relentless hard work and determination despite limited resources. He has also represented India at the Under-19 World Cup, marking him as one of Jharkhand's most promising fast-bowling prospects.

Expressing confidence in his son's future, Sushant's father, Sameer Mishra, said he firmly believes that strong performances in domestic cricket and the IPL will eventually earn Sushant a place in the Indian national team. He added that Sushant is currently focused on the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, where he continues to deliver impactful performances.

Meanwhile, Amit Kumar, a

bowler from the Sai Dhurwa Cricket Academy in Ranchi, has been signed by Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs 30 lakh. Amit has been training in cricket since the age of eight and is known for his effective leg-spin bowling.

Leg-spinner Amit Kumar rises from humble beginnings

Amit Kumar hails originally from Sasaram in Bihar. His father is a farmer, while his brother serves in the Home Guards. Despite financial constraints, Amit remained committed to cricket and pursued the sport with unwavering focus and discipline.

An impactful leg-spinner, Amit has consistently impressed in state-level tournaments across age groups. His performances for the Under-16, Under-19 and Under-23 Jharkhand teams have drawn widespread praise. In the Under-23 state tournament, he finished seventh among the high-



est wicket-takers in the country, highlighting his effectiveness and control as a bowler. Currently, Amit Kumar is representing Jharkhand in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, where the team has delivered an impressive campaign and advanced to the final. His contributions with the ball are being

seen as a key factor behind Jharkhand's strong showing in the prestigious domestic T20 tournament. With the inclusion of Sushant Mishra and Amit Kumar, Jharkhand's presence in the IPL continues to grow, reflecting the state's rising stature in Indian cricket.

World Athletics to introduce new distances to race walk events in 2026

BEIJING : World Athletics will introduce half-marathon and marathon distances to race walk events in 2026 in an effort to help fans better grasp the speed of the sport, president Sebastian Coe has said.

Under the schedule for the World Athletics Race Walking Team Championships on April 12, 2026, the traditional 20-kilometre race walk will be replaced by a half-marathon race walk, while the 35 km event will shift to a marathon race walk. It will be the first time the new distances appear at major international competitions.

"I think it's a good decision to change those distances to distances that people have become accustomed to in other events," Coe said during a virtual media call on Tuesday. "They can relate to the times, and it's often overlooked just how talented and how fast our race walkers are going."



Coe added that he expects the new distances to remain in place long term, noting they would also suit the Olympic program, reports Xinhua.

Race walk formats have undergone several changes in the past decade. The women's 50km debuted at the 2017 and 2019 World Championships alongside the men's 50km and both 20km events, but both 50km races were dropped before reaching the Olympic stage and replaced by a 35km event at the 2022 World Championships in Oregon.

The men's 50km was also removed from the 2024 Paris Olympics in favour of a marathon race walk mixed relay.

In April, the IOC released the Los Angeles 2028 athletics schedule, confirming the half-marathon as the only walking distance for men and women.

He also confirmed that the mixed 4x400m relay and the mile

race - introduced for the 2026 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow - will remain part of the programme for the 2030 edition as well.

Coe said he was as frustrated as anyone at the farcical situation surrounding the legal world record belonging to banned Kenyan Ruth Chepngetich's marathon, but added that the governing body's hands are tied. Chepngetich's astonishing two hours, nine minutes and 56 seconds run in Chicago in October 2024 remains the legal world record even though she was handed a three-year anti-doping ban this year, with her results expunged only from March.

Coe said that her excuse that she took her housemaid's medicine was dismissed by the Athletics Integrity Unit, which says it is continuing to investigate Chepngetich for other potential violations.

World Tour Finals: Satwik-Chirag rally past Liang/Wang to open campaign with statement win



HANGZHOU : India's top men's doubles pair, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, began their BWF World Tour Finals 2025 campaign on a strong note with a gutsy comeback against a pair of Chinese, Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium on Wednesday.

Up against a pair that had won four of their last five meetings, the World No. 3 Indians showed resilience and control to prevail 12-21, 22-20, 21-14 in a high-intensity contest that lasted just over an hour. The victory gives Satwik and Chirag an early boost in a fiercely competitive Group B, which also features Malaysia's Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik and Indonesia's Fajar Alfian/Muhammad Shohibul Fikri.

Satwik and Chirag started brightly but lost momentum in the opening game as the Chinese duo took control to close it out 21-12. The Indians responded strongly in the second, absorbing pressure and staying composed in the closing stages to edge it 22-20 after trailing for the early parts. Carrying that momentum into the decider, Satwik and Chirag stamped their authority, pulling away after an early exchange to seal the match 21-14.

The Indian pair will next face Alfian and Fikri on Thursday as they look to seal a semifinal berth in the season-ending showpiece. Alfian and Fikri started with a defeat to Malaysia's Aaron Chia/Soh Wooi Yik 24-22, 19-21, 19-21 on Wednesday.

Group A comprises the top-seeded pair Kim Won Ho/Seo Seung Jae of Korea, Wei Chong Man/Wun Tee Kai of Malaysia, Sabai Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani of Indonesia, along with Chiu Hsiang-Chieh/Wang Chi-Lin of Chinese Taipei.

In other matches on Wednesday, Women's World No.1 An Se Young of South Korea defeated Indonesia's Putri Kusuma Wardani, with the top-seed struggling to win 21-16, 8-21, 21-8.

Carlos Alcaraz splits with coach Juan Carlos Ferrero

NEW DELHI : Tennis World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz has parted ways with his coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, on Wednesday. Alcaraz's seven-year association with fellow Spaniard Ferrero, a former No. 1 player who assisted Alcaraz in winning his first six Grand Slam titles, comes to an end.

Samuel Lopez and Ferrero, who won the French Open in 2003, were just named ATP Coach of the Year for their work with Alcaraz, who won eight trophies in 2025, including the US Open and Roland Garros.

"It's very difficult for me to write this post... After more than seven years together, Juanki and I have decided to end our time together as coach and player. Thank you for turning childhood dreams into realities. We started this journey when I was barely a kid, and throughout all this time, you've accompanied me on an incredible journey, on and off the court. And I've enjoyed every step of it so much with you. We've managed to reach the top, and I feel that if our sports paths had to part ways, it had to be from up there."

"From the place we always worked toward and always aspired to reach. There are so many memories that come to mind that picking just one wouldn't be fair. You've helped me grow as an athlete, but above all as a person. And something I value so



much: I've enjoyed the process. That's what I'll hold onto, the path we've travelled together. Now, times of change are coming for both of us, new adventures and new projects. But I'm certain we'll face them the right way, giving our best, as we've always done.

Always adding up. I wish you all the best from the heart in everything that comes. I'm left with the peace of mind of knowing we didn't hold anything back, that we gave everything we had for each other. Thank you for everything, Juanki!" Alcaraz posted on X.

At the age of fifteen, Alcaraz began training with the 2001 French Open champion at the former world number one Ferrero's academy, which was approximately an hour's drive from Alcaraz's house. Alcaraz won his first major at the US Open in 2022,

followed by Wimbledon in 2023, the French Open, and another Wimbledon in 2024. This year, he won both the US Open and the French Open once more.

Ferrero, Alcaraz's former coach, posted on Instagram, "Today is a difficult day. One of those times when it's hard to find the right words. Saying goodbye is never easy, especially when there are so many shared experiences behind it. We have worked hard, grown together, and shared unforgettable moments. I want to thank you for the time, the trust, the learning, and above all, for the people who have surrounded me throughout this journey. I take with me laughter, challenges overcome, conversations, support during difficult moments, and the satisfaction of having been part of something truly unique. Today, a very important chapter of my life comes to an end. I close it with nostalgia, but also with pride and excitement for what may come next. I know that everything I have lived has prepared me to be better. Thank you, Carlos, for the trust, the effort, and for making your way of competing make me feel so special. I wish you all the best, both professionally and personally. I wish I could have continued. I am convinced that good memories and good people always find a way to cross paths again. Thank you from the bottom of my heart," he added.

4th T20I: Toss in Lucknow delayed due to excessive fog, inspection scheduled for 6:50 pm

LUCKNOW : The toss for the fourth T20I between India and South Africa has been delayed due to excessive fog at the Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium on Wednesday. The next inspection by the match officials will take place at 6:50 pm. "Toss in Lucknow has been delayed due to excessive fog. Next inspection at 6:50 PM," said an update from the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on their 'X' account.

Earlier on Wednesday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) had issued an orange alert for 'very dense fog' in 13 districts of eastern and central Uttar Pradesh. It also issued a yellow alert for dense fog in 27 districts from the eastern to western parts of the state.

The fog at the stadium has been so thick that spectators were barely able to see the stands situated at the opposite end. With fog set to get worse, there are concerns over whether the match will happen or not. It is to be noted that this is the first time Lucknow is hosting a T20I game in the month of December.

Former India batter Robin Uthappa noted on the live broadcast that delay-



ing play could prove counterproductive, as fog is likely to intensify as the evening progresses. Fortunately for India, ace fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah took part in the warm-ups ahead of the match, after he missed the third T20I in Dharamsala due to personal reasons.

But vice-captain Shubman Gill has been apparently ruled out due to a foot injury, with Sanju Samson likely to come into the playing eleven. India is

leading the five-game series 2-1, with two matches remaining, and are considered a favourite to clinch the series if they manage to win in Lucknow. But for that to happen, the game needs to take place in biting cold conditions, provided the fog goes down.

India currently lead the series 2-1. After winning the first T20I, India lost the second match before winning the third to take the lead in the five-match series.

National Shooting C'ship Competitions: Anantjeet, Darshna clinch mixed team skeet gold

NEW DELHI : Rajasthan's team of Anantjeet Singh Naruka and Darshna Rathore delivered a steady performance to secure a gold medal in the Senior Skeet Mixed Team event at the 68th National Shooting Championship here at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range on Tuesday. They narrowly defeated Uttar Pradesh 45-43 in a tense gold medal showdown.

Asian Champion Anantjeet and Darshna worked well together, with Anantjeet scoring 21 targets and Darshna 24, to beat the Uttar Pradesh team of Olympian Mairaj Ahmad Khan (21) and Areeba Khan (22) in the gold medal match. Earlier, Rajasthan led the qualification with 143 hits, with Anantjeet scoring 73 and Darshna 70, earning a direct place in the final.

Uttar Pradesh secured their spot in the final by narrowly defeating Haryana in a shootout during qualification. Mairaj (74) and Areeba (68) combined for a score of 142, tying with Haryana, and ultimately winning 4-3 in the shootout.

Haryana's team, comprising Raiza Dhillon (72) with 21 hits and Ishaan Singh Libra (70) with 20 hits, went on to win the bronze medal after defeating Madhya Pradesh 41-39 in the third-place match. The Madhya Pradesh players, Rituraj



Bundela (20) and Mansi Raghuvanshi (19), finished in fourth place.

In the Junior Skeet Mixed Team event, the Telangana duo of Yuvek Battula and Lakku Venkat Lakshmi each scored 19 hits to win the title. Madhya Pradesh put up a tough fight, with Jyotiraditya Sisodiya hitting 17 and Vanshika Tiwari scoring 20, but they narrowly missed victory by one point in a tight final.

Punjab secured the junior bronze medal, with Harmehar Singh Lally and Parmeet Kaur achieving third place by scoring 40 hits. They edged out the Rajasthan team of Yashasvi Rathore and Yashwardhan S Rajawat, who finished

with 39 hits. Earlier in the junior qualification, Telangana led the standings with 141 targets, scored by Yuvek (73) and Venkat Lakshmi (66), securing their place in the gold medal match. Madhya Pradesh finished second with 140 hits, achieved by Vanshika (71) and Jyotiraditya (69). Punjab came in third with a total of 136 hits, with Harmehar scoring 73 and Parmeet Kaur 63. Rajasthan finished fourth with 133 hits, thanks to Yashasvi (70) and Yashwardhan (63). The 68th National's action proceeds with the 10m Air Pistol Women's finals set for Thursday at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range here in New Delhi.