

Mamata Hits Out at BJP, EC Over SIR, Urges Unity in Bengal

West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday held a crucial meeting with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at Netaji Indoor Stadium amid the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, sending out strong political and organisational messages ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The meeting, held in the backdrop of mounting controversy over voter list revisions, was widely seen as politically significant. Addressing the gathering, Banerjee expressed concern over alleged infiltration by outsiders into the state. "Yesterday, many people entered from Bihar on motorcycles. They will work with double bullets," she claimed, hinting at possible attempts to influence the electoral process. Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government, Banerjee accused it of depriving Bengal of its rightful funds. "They have stopped all funds and then claim there is 'a lot of money'. If that is so, why give so little? Why say people will not get benefits if they own a bike or a TV?" she asked, alleging rampant brokerage and corruption at the Centre.



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Morning India

Odisha govt allocates Rs 160 cr for development of tourism in Koraput

MI News Service, Bhubaneswar : Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi said Rs 160 crore would be spent by his government for the development of tourism in the tribal-dominated Koraput district. Majhi made the announcement on Monday while addressing the five-day 'Paraba' festival organised by the Koraput district administration. "The state government will spend at least Rs 160 crore for the development of tourism in the district," he said. This will be a significant move to boost tourism in tribal-dominated areas. Chief Minister Majhi said and praised Koraput's natural allure, drawing visitors globally. The Chief minister underscored the district's attractions, from Deomali's peak to Duduma waterfall, positioning it as a burgeoning tourism hub. Local treasures like Koraput coffee and bauxite further enhance its appeal. Majhi affirmed the government's dedication to tribal and Dalit welfare, allocating over Rs 68,000 crore in the state budget. His visit included inaugurating and laying foundation stones for numerous development projects to spur the region's growth and state's commitment to tribal welfare. This initiative supports the district's inclusion in the national Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, emphasizing sustainable destination management, infrastructure, and tribal welfare.

Kashmir sees frozen night temperatures with more snow

MI News Service, Srinagar : Recent precipitation across Kashmir has led to a further dip in night temperatures as well as in day time temperatures, with the Meteorological Department forecasting another spell of snow or rain over the next 24 hours. The minimum temperature in Srinagar on Sunday night was recorded at minus 4.0 degree Celsius, which is 6.4 degree below the seasonal normal, an official with the department said. On contrary, the maximum temperature on Sunday settled at minus 6.0 degree Celsius, minus 3.4 degrees below the normal, the official said. Gulmarg in North Kashmir was the only weather station also

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CM Mamata held meeting with TMC's BLA on SIR



Chief Minister and TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee is addressing a meeting of Booth-Level Agents of the party at a 'Karmi Sabha', in presence of some other party leaders, at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Monday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee expressed her strong displeasure after repeated microphone disruptions during her address at the Netaji Indoor Stadium here on Monday.

The technical snag prompted complaints from Booth Level Agents (BLAs) present at the meeting, who said they were unable to hear her clearly. Visibly annoyed, Mamata Banerjee reprimanded the sound technicians and raised questions over why such problems keep recur-

ring at the venue. She also hinted at possible sabotage behind the repeated disruptions. "Why isn't the voice clear every day? I keep seeing that the mic operators working at the Indoor Stadium are creating problems. I noticed this earlier as well, and I'm seeing it again today. This

is too bad. I am warning you—I will take action," the Chief minister said from the stage. She added that technicians are paid for their services and must ensure proper delivery. "You take money for your work, that is your right. But you must provide proper service. What is the police doing? Why isn't anyone monitoring this? And why aren't party representatives checking the sound system in advance?" --CM Mamata Banerjee

one monitoring this? And why aren't party representatives checking the sound system in advance?" she asked. Questioning whether there was any deliberate interference, she said, "Is this a sabotage? Why does this mic problem happen every day?"

Following the disruption, the Chief Minister moved to another microphone on the stage and asked the BLAs whether her voice was audible. The meeting was attended by around 14,000 BLAs

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No information yet on prime suspect in Hadi's killing: B'desh police

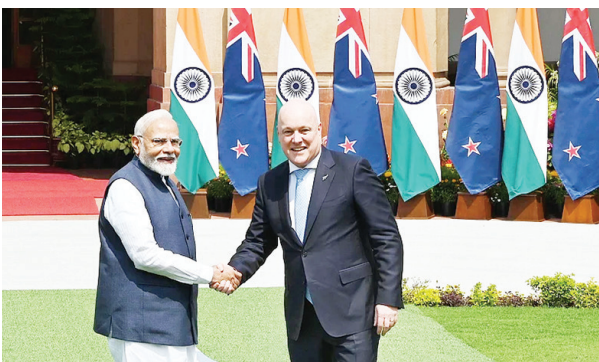
MI News Service, Dhaka : Bangladesh Police has said they are yet to have any "specific information" on the whereabouts of the prime suspect in the killing of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi. The remarks came a day after Hadi's Inqilab Mancha party issued a 24-hour ultimatum to the Interim government, demanding "visible progress" in the arrest of those responsible for his killing. Addressing an emergency news conference at the Ministry of Home Affairs on Monday, Additional Inspector General of Police (IGP) Khandaker Rafiqul Islam said law enforcement agencies are actively trying to locate one Faisal Karim Masud, identified as the gunman in the shooting, the UNB news

agency reported. "We do not have any specific information about Faisal's last location. Our forces and intelligence agencies are working to obtain it," he said, adding that there was no reliable information suggesting the suspect had left the country. The IGP cautioned that criminals often spread rumours about their whereabouts. Islam also said no concrete evidence has yet emerged linking any political party to the murder. "However, efforts are underway to gather accurate data," he said.

Detective Branch (DB) chief Shafiqul Islam said prima facie, the murder appeared to be politically motivated, as there did not seem

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India, New Zealand sign Free Trade deal focussing innovation



Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon

MI News Service, New Delhi : India and New Zealand have concluded a landmark Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a move expected to significantly deepen economic ties and boost trade, investment, and cooperation between the two countries. The agreement, described by both sides as ambitious

and mutually beneficial, is expected to enhance market access, promote investment flows, strengthen strategic cooperation, and create new opportunities for businesses, farmers, MSMEs, innovators, students and youth across sectors. Negotiations for the FTA were initiated during New

Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's visit to India in March 2025. The deal was finalised in a record nine months, reflecting strong political will and shared ambition to expand bilateral engagement. Building on the foundation of the agreement, both countries have expressed confidence that bilateral trade could double over the next five years. New Zealand is also expected to invest USD 20 billion in India over the next 15 years. The two sides also welcomed progress in other areas of bilateral cooperation, including defence, sports, education and people-to-people ties, and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the overall partnership. The announcement was made following a

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50 of over 200 Indians remain trapped in Russian army amid war in Ukraine

MI News Service, New Delhi / Moscow : Over 200 Indians have been drafted into the Russian armed forces since the start of the war in Ukraine, informed sources

concentrated efforts by the government have resulted in the early discharge of 119 of them, and efforts are ongoing for the early discharge of 50 individuals

MoS External Affairs Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh

quoting top official sources said here on Monday According to them the government replying to a query had informed the Parliament that while it was successful in getting most of them back to the country, 50 Indians still remained trapped. This even as 26 were killed and seven remained missing amid the war that seems to have no end. The Centre has said that 202 Indians are believed to have been recruited into the Russian armed forces amid the Ukraine-Russia war, the deadliest and longest since the Second World War. The Ministry of External Af-

fairs said that 26 of the 202 Indians were reported to have died, while "seven were reported missing by the Russian side". Responding to the questions of

MPs Saket Gokhale and Randeep Singh Surjewala, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, said that "concerted efforts by the government have resulted in the early discharge of 119 of them, and efforts are ongoing for the early discharge of 50 individuals". Junior minister Kirti Vardhan Singh's answer came on December 17, a day after the bodies of two Indians killed in the Russia-Ukraine war zone arrived at the Delhi airport. The central government had in September repeated its warning to Indians to stay away from the Russia-Ukraine conflict



Sonu Kumar, Aman Punia of Haryana (Right) and Mohammed Ahmed of Telangana (Left).

amid fresh reports of men from India being lured into joining the Russian military and sent to the front lines. The Centre in January said that at least 12 Indians were killed in the Russia-Ukraine war while 16 others were missing. In August 2024, it said eight Indians working in the Russian armed forces were killed during the

Ukraine war.

The current war in Ukraine started in February 2022 after Russia invaded the neighbouring country over its trying to join the US-European military bloc NATO.

The MEA said it assisted in the repatriation of the mortal remains of 10 deceased Indian nationals and facilitated the local cremation

of two others. DNA samples from family members of 18 Indians reported dead or missing have been shared with the Russian authorities to help establish the identities of the deceased. The MEA said it has assisted discharged Indians in returning home by facilitating travel documents and air tickets where required, and has also helped evacuate mortal remains by coordinating DNA-based identification with next of kin and completing documentation for local cremation or transportation to India in close coordination with families once identities are conclusively established.

The disturbing trend of South Asian young men being recruited into either side of the Russia-Ukraine war started in early 2023. It was through deceptive promises of high pay and benefits, that they lured these young men, including those from India and Nepal. Many travelled to Russia on student or

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Humayun Kabir floats new party

MI News Service, Beldanga : As announced earlier, suspended Trinamool Congress MLA Humayun Kabir on Monday floated a new outfit, 'Janata Unnayan Party', days after laying the foundation stone for a Babri-style mosque here in Murshidabad district. Addressing a public meeting in Beldanga, Kabir named eight candidates that his new party will field in the 2026 assembly elections in the state. Kabir, the MLA from Bharatpur, said he would contest the assembly polls from two seats, Rejinagar and Beldanga, both in Murshidabad. "We can only tell you later how many seats we will be finally contest-



gal will thwart Kabir's attempts and elect a strong nationalist force like the BJP, only which can defeat fundamentalists," he claimed. Meanwhile, the TMC is yet to comment on Kabir's new party. The TMC

This so-called mosque project is not a religious effort but a political one, designed to inflame emotions and consolidate vote banks --Firhad Hakim

ing," he told the gathering. Humayun Kabir said his mission is to oust Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee from power in the assembly polls, which will be due in less than six months. "She is no longer the same person I knew. She is beyond the reach of the common man," he alleged. Kabir will not be a factor in the next assembly polls. He will face the drubbing of the electorate along with his old friend TMC, with which he is still in touch in a clandestine manner. Both Kabir and his new party will be rejected by the people of Bengal," state BJP president Samik Bhattacharya claimed. He claimed Kabir was attempting to split "BJP votes" in the assembly polls. "In the wake of the situation in Bangladesh, people of Ben-

had suspended Kabir on December 4 after his announcement to build a Babri-style mosque triggered a massive row.

On December 6, the day the Babri Masjid was razed in Ayodhya in 1992, a defiant Kabir laid the foundation stone for the mosque at Rejinagar. Kabir has had a tryst with most of the major political parties in the state over the last 10 years.

In 2015, he was "expelled" by the TMC for six years for criticising the CM and alleging that she was trying to make her nephew, Abhishek Banerjee, the "king". He contested the 2016 assembly elections as an Independent from the Rejinagar seat, but lost to Congress candidate Rabiul

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Resolving differences in Manipur will take time: Mohan Bhagwat



RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat addresses during a celebration of the "100 years of RSS anniversary" programme, in Kolkata on Sunday.

MI News Service, Kolkata : Exuding confidence that a permanent peace will certainly return and ultimately prevail in the North-eastern state of Manipur, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat feels that it might take some more time to resolve differences among the warring ethnic groups in strife-torn state. Referring to his recent visit to Manipur, Bhagwat said he had held extensive talks with all tribal and social leaders as well as youth representatives of the state and became very hopeful that there was every possibility of the return of a permanent peace in the state. "The present disturbances in some pockets are mainly regarding the law and order problems, which are, however, abating slowly and will come to an end within about a year", he said.

"But bridging the minds is a great task, and it will take time," he said, asserting that the only way is to continue dialogue with different groups and bring the warring sides to "one page".

The present disturbances in some pockets are mainly regarding the law and order problems, which are, however, abating slowly and will come to an end within about a year

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat

"That can always be done, because basically the spirit is already there," the RSS chief said at a programme held here to celebrate the centenary of the Sangh on Sunday. "We could do it in Arunachal (Pradesh) and Meghalaya, and we are now doing it in Nagaland and other places," he asserted. Stating that the RSS has around 100 shakhas in Manipur, Bhagwat said maintaining peace in the violence ridden state is a great difficulty, but asserted that it will ultimately prevail and reiterated that it might take

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Courage in Canvas: Art Reflecting Leadership



MI News Service, Kolkata: Courage in Canvas is a distinctive fine arts exhibition that presented an evocative visual journey through the many moods and expressions of Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal. Held in Kolkata from December 16 to 21, 2025, at Birla Academy of Art and Culture, the exhibition featured works that moved beyond conventional portraiture. Through colour, form, and mood, the paintings captured introspection, resolve, compassion, and defiance. Conceived by artist Santanu Bandyopadhyay, the showcase highlighted the intersection of leadership, culture, and creative expression, offering visitors a thoughtful and visually engaging cultural experience.

Yas Island, calls the experience "amazing"

MI News Service, Kolkata: Millie Bobby Brown has filmed new Stranger Things-themed content at Yas Island Abu Dhabi, describing the experience as "amazing." A released video features her on a pool float, humorously referencing the series with "upside down once again." The shoot includes locations like Ferrari World, Yas Marina Circuit, and Yas Beach, hinting at mystery elements with a walkie-talkie message and the phrase "Code Red."

'Letters to Lata Didi' next March

MI News Service, Kolkata: India is set to host a musical tribute titled 'Letters to Lata Didi' by Shreya Ghoshal, honoring Lata Mangeshkar, on 7 March 2026 at Jio World Garden, Mumbai. The concert aims to showcase live arrangements of Mangeshkar's iconic songs, generating notable cultural interest. Ticket sales will begin on December 10 with pre-sale access for Kotak Mahindra Bank credit card holders and general sales starting December 14, featuring a 10% discount during presale and special meet-and-greet opportunities with Ghoshal for select customers.

Johns Hopkins University

MI News Service, Kolkata: Great Learning has launched an AI in Healthcare program in collaboration with Johns Hopkins University. This 10-week online course, designed by JHU faculty, is aimed at healthcare professionals, including medical, pharmaceutical, and biotech experts, to utilize Artificial Intelligence for enhancing decision-making and innovation. The program does not require programming knowledge. The AI in healthcare market is projected to grow significantly, highlighting the importance of data-driven, efficient systems in the sector.

Turkish Airlines inaugurated its first European lounge

MI News Service, Kolkata: Turkish Airlines has inaugurated its first European lounge at Edinburgh Airport, enhancing the city's premium travel amenities and solidifying its status as an international gateway. This lounge, the eighth outside Türkiye, reflects Turkish Airlines' commitment to providing its renowned hospitality and luxurious experiences globally. The opening event took place on December 10 at Edinburgh International Airport.

Turkish Airlines

MI News Service, Kolkata: Turkish Airlines has signed a codeshare agreement with South African Airways, effective March 1, 2026. The agreement was finalized in Geneva by the executives of both airlines. Turkish Airlines will code its flights as TK on South African Airways routes to several African cities, while South African Airways will code its flights as SA on select Turkish Airlines routes to Istanbul and other international destinations.

World of Hyatt

MI News Service, Kolkata: World of Hyatt and Visa have launched the "World of Hyatt Club Suite Offer," aimed at enhancing travel for World of Hyatt members and Visa cardholders. This exclusive promotion offers a 15% discount on Club-level rooms and Suites at participating Hyatt hotels in India and Southwest Asia, along with complimentary breakfast and happy hour for Visa Signature and Infinite cardholders making qualifying bookings by April 15, 2026.

Four brunt alive as flames rip through Amta house

MI News Service, Howrah: A devastating house fire in Amta's Jaipur area of Howrah district claimed the lives of four members of the same family, including a class IX student, late on Sunday night. The victims were brunt to death while asleep inside their home, triggering shock and grief across the locality.

The tragic incident occurred at Sawaria village in the Jhamtia area, where flames suddenly engulfed the residential house. According to local sources, the fire broke out without warning late at night, leaving the occupants trapped with no chance

of escape. The deceased have been identified as Bharu Dalui (80), Dudhkumar Dalui (45), his wife Ratna Dalui(35), and their daughter Shampa Dalui (15), a student of class IX. Dudhkumar Dalui is survived by a son, who works as a labourer outside the state and was not present at the time of the incident. Residents noticed the blaze and immediately alerted the local police station. Fire brigade teams rushed to the spot and battled the flames for nearly an hours before bringing the situation under control. Once the fire was extinguished, the charred bodies

of the four family members were recovered from inside the house. The bodies have been sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. Police have launched an investigation to determine how the fire originated. Preliminary finding are awaited, and no official confirmation has yet been made regarding the cause of the blaze. The incident has cast a pall of morning over the village, with locals describing the loss as "unimaginable" and calling for a thorough investigation into the circumstance leading to the fatal fire.

Celebrate Christmas magic with Santa at Garden Café

MI News Service, Kolkata: Families and food enthusiasts in Kolkata have a festive reason to celebrate as Garden Café prepares to welcome guests for a heart-warming Christmas experience. The café is hosting special celebrations featuring Santa Claus, offering children a chance to enjoy the magic of the season and create lasting memories.

The café's festive programme combines family-friendly entertainment with a carefully curated seasonal menu. Guests can savour a variety of comfort foods and beloved classics, including Garlic Cheese Pizza, Mushroom Cheese Pizza, alongside South Indian favourites such as Mysore Dosa, Cheese Butter Masala



Dosa, Podi Dosa, Finger Fried Idli, Thattai Idli and freshly prepared Vada. To complement the culinary experience, the café will be serving hot winter beverages like Hot Chocolate and the aromatic Orange Blossom. The venue will feature festive décor, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for families, friends, and food lovers. The event is designed to combine the spirit of togetherness with

culinary delights, making it a unique Christmas celebration in the city. Speaking on the occasion, Sandip Nowlakha, Owner of Garden Café, said, "Christmas is a time for togetherness and joy, especially for children. At Garden Café, we wanted to create a space where families can relax, enjoy comfort food, and let kids experience the magic of Christmas with Santa. We look forward to welcoming everyone for a warm and memorable celebration." The celebrations at Garden Café promise to offer Kolkataans a blend of festive cheer, seasonal cuisine, and family-friendly fun, making it a must-visit destination this Christmas season.

3 snatchers behind bar, a bike recovered in Gayeshpur

MI News Service, Kalyani: Kalyani police under Ranaghat Police District in Nadia, arrested three persons on Monday, in connection with a snatching incident reported earlier this month. The incident took place near Kishloy School in Gayeshpur under Kalyani police station in Nadia.

According to the police sources, the incident occurred on December 4.

Three unidentified miscreants allegedly stopped one Haradhan Kirtaniya, a resident of ward No. 8 under Gayeshpur Municipality. They were on bike. The assailants threatened him, snatched his mobile phone and gold chain



and fled the spot.

A case (Kalyani PS Case No. 1217/25 dated December 4) was registered under Sections 126(2), 308(2), 351(2) and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), following which the Gayeshpur police outpost initiated an investigation.

Acting on specific intelligence, the police arrested Sushant Sarkar, a resident of Gayeshpur, Ward No. 8. Subsequent interrogation led to the arrest of two more accused, Promad Saxena, and Ajay Soren, both residents of Gayeshpur.

The police said that Sushant Sarkar assisted in the recovery of the motorcycle used in the offence and expressed willingness to help recover the stolen mobile phone and gold chain. All three accused were produced before the court, and the police sought five days' police remand of Sushant Sarkar for further investigation.

Health workers adopt 55 TB patients to strengthen care in Ranaghat-II block



MI News Service, Ranaghat: In an effort to improve treatment outcomes and reduce tuberculosis (TB)-related mortality, health workers in Ranaghat-II block in Nadia district have adopted 55 TB patients to provide sustained nutritional and social support during the course of their treatment.

The initiative, led by Block Medical Officer of Health (BMOH) Dr. Jaba Bhattacharya, covers more than half of the 85 TB patients currently registered in the block. Doctors, nurses and front-line health workers have voluntarily taken responsibility for ensuring that adopted patients receive adequate food and nutritional supplements, in addition to routine medical care.

Under the National TB Elim-

ination Programme (NTEP), TB patients are entitled to a monthly nutritional allowance of rupees one thousand through the Nikshay Poshan Yojana.

However, health officials noted that the amount often falls short of meeting the increased dietary requirements of patients undergoing prolonged treatment. The adoption initiative seeks to address this gap, which is considered a key factor influencing recovery and survival.

Dr. Bhattacharya said the district health administration was working systematically to bring down TB-related deaths and transmission rates. "Along with medical treatment, nutritional and psychosocial support are essential. Our aim is to make every

panchayat in the block TB-free through early detection, treatment adherence and community participation," she said.

The programme aligns with the Nikshay Mitra framework, under which individuals, institutions and community groups can adopt TB patients for a minimum of six months and provide nutritional assistance.

According to district health officials, participation in the scheme has increased significantly in Nadia district in 2025 compared to previous years. Data from the district health department indicate that the growing involvement of social workers, voluntary organisations and institutions has helped improve nutritional intake among patients, contributing to better treatment adherence and a decline in TB-related mortality.

District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Partha Pratim Patra said health workers across the district were showing increased sensitivity towards patient-centred care.

"Medical intervention must be supported by social responsibility. If communities and institutions come forward to support TB patients, achieving TB elimination at the district, State and national levels becomes a realistic goal," he said.

Kalyani Book Fair highlights the 'Power of Books', Special focus on Ritwik Ghatak's Birth Centenary; Inaugurator says to attract children to books before they learn to read

MI News Service, Kalyani: "Through books, it is possible to connect even with people who lived 2,000 years ago. Books link human beings with eternity and greatly expand the horizons of life," observed eminent linguist and educationist Dr. Pabitra Sarkar. He was speaking as the chief guest at the inauguration of the 29th Kalyani Book Fair, where he emphasised the importance of reading and the need to cultivate a strong reading habit.

Dr. Sarkar said that when children have a book in their hands, they begin to think and imagine. He stressed the importance of introducing books to children even before they learn to read, by reading stories aloud to them while putting them to sleep, and called for preserving the culture of sharing and exchanging books. According to him, there is a unique and profound joy hidden in the very act of learning to read.



Secretary of the Kalyani Book Fair Committee Sajal Raut informed that the fair has entered its 29th year this time. Committee president Somnath Majumdar said that along with a large number of stalls, the fair features a special theme pavilion and a cultural stage. This year, there are a total of 187 stalls, including 60 book stalls, 72 commercial stalls, and 55 food stalls.

The central theme of this year's book fair is "Ritwik Ghatak in His Birth Centenary

Year." The fair was inaugurated by Prof. Sanjay Mukhopadhyay, former head of the Film Studies Department, Jadavpur University. A significant portion of his address focused on Ritwik Ghatak's life, philosophy, and cinematic vision. He remarked, "Books are essential to free ourselves from the dark currents of the present time. For the dispossessed, the greatest weapon is the book." He also highlighted the role of books in nourishing the hunger of the soul.



A section of about 14,000 Booth-Level Agents of the Trinamool Congress who attended a 'Karmi Sabha' on SIR, addressed by Chief minister Mamata Banerjee at Netaji Indoor Stadium in Kolkata on Monday.

Hanskhali minor gang rape ; Victim's body burnt forcibly, CBI investigates, Court convicts 9

MI News Service, Hanskhali: On Monday, the Ranaghat ADJ Court convicted 9 accused in the case and pronounced the sentences following the gang rape and forcibly burnt the body of a minor after death from heavy bleeding.

This case was being investigated by the CBI on the orders of the Calcutta High Court. The

Main accused were Braja-gopal Goala alias Soheli Goala and his father Samarendra Goala, TMC leader.

Sohel Goala, Prabhakar Poddar, and Ranjit Mallick were found guilty under sections:

120B (criminal conspiracy), 34 (common intention), 201 (causing disappearance of evidence), 506 (criminal intimidation), 304(2) (culpable homicide not amounting to murder), 376DA IPC (gang rape of a woman under 16 years), and Section 6 of the POCSO Act.



Surajit Roy and Akash Barai were convicted under sections 120B, 34, and 506 IPC. Samarendra Goala, Dip-ta Goala, and Piyush Kanti Bhakta were convicted under sections 506, 201, 120B, and 34 IPC.

Anshuman Bagchi was convicted under sections 120B, 34, and 201 IPC.

This horrific incident in Hanskhali shook the entire state. According to allegations, a teenage girl was called to a birthday party

where she was gang-raped. After prolonged torture, she was left bleeding in front of her house. She suffered heavy bleeding throughout the night and died on the same night.

Allegedly, her body was cremated without a death certificate or post-mortem, and her family was threatened to remain silent. The body was allegedly taken to cremation by the miscreants by force.

The name of Trinamool

Congress leader Samarendra Goala's son, Brajagopal (Sohel), emerged in connection with the crime.

Even before the court, outside the premises, some people had questioned the role of the victim's parents. On one occasion, Samarendra Goali said, "She left my house around 5:30 that evening. Braja had gone with her, but she told him midway that she could go alone. What happened after that is condemnable. I want proper investigation. But one thing I will say, why didn't her parents get her medically examined, take her to a doctor, or even allow a post-mortem? There might be some other reason behind it and that needs to be looked into."

When the Calcutta High Court directed the CBI to take over the investigation, the probe revealed that the TMC leader and his son were the main culprits behind the crime.

Constitutional rights of poor people being snatched away: Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on VB-G RAM G law

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury on Monday slammed the Centre for passing the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) law, saying that the constitutional rights of employment of poor people are being snatched away.

On Sunday, President Droupadi Murmu granted assent to the bill, which guarantees 125 days of rural employment to people.

"But the point is that with removing Mahatma Gandhi's name from this bill, the constitutional rights of employment of the poor people of our country are being snatched away," the Congress leader told ANI here.

While the Act guarantees 125 days of employment, the Opposition parties are saying that increasing the share of funds by states, the gap of 60 days, which pauses the scheme, is akin to "killing the scheme." The Congress has alleged that the central government will use the



scheme to only benefit BJP-ruled states, and deny people employment in other states.

Congress MP and former Union Finance Minister P Chidambaram claimed that along with the changes, including changing its name, is like the "second killing of Gandhi."

Addressing a press conference at Chennai's Satyamur-

thy Bhavan, Chidambaram said, "Mahatma Gandhi has been killed a second time by altering the scheme. It is neither proper English nor Indian, but merely Hindi words written in English letters, which even ministers find difficult to understand. The new scheme will not be implemented nationwide. The

Central Government will decide which districts and regions receive work. It states that the scheme cannot be implemented for 60 days a year, without specifying which 60 days. If a district is declared 'no work', people cannot even apply for employment. The new law contains several serious flaws."

The Act guarantees 125 days of wage employment per rural household, up from the existing 100 days, for adult members willing to undertake unskilled manual work. As per Section 22, the fund-sharing pattern between the Centre and the states will be 60:40, while for the Northeastern states, the Himalayan states, and the Union Territories, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu and Kashmir, it will be 90:10.

Section 6 of the Act allows state governments to notify in advance a period aggregating up to 60 days in a financial year, covering peak agricultural seasons such as sowing and harvesting.

In Kharagpur, local police station arrested seven criminals with ganja and mobile phones

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Kharagpur rural police station arrested seven interstate smugglers with ganja, mobile phones and cash. Police said that all the arrested people are residents of different states. SDPO Dheeraj Thakur, OC Pranroy Roy held a press conference at Kharagpur Rural Police Station. SDPO said, "On Saturday, we received information from confidential sources that interstate smuggling gangs have entered Kharagpur. Similarly, the local police station was activated under the leadership of the District Superintendent of Police. On Sunday, surveillance was started on National Highway No. 16 of Akarabad in Kaliyara Gram Panchayat No. 1 of Kharagpur Rural. By 2 pm, a total of 7 smugglers were arrested from 1 lorry and 1 Scorpio car. A bag was filled with 21.957 kg of ganja, 9 mobile sets without SIM and Rs 11,150 in cash and wrong number plates were seized.



When the accused were produced in the court, the judge ordered them to be kept in police custody for 10 days. On the other hand, on Saturday night, Kharagpur Town police station arrested a notorious criminal named Dipankar Shukla with firearms and cartridges. The leader of that operation was also SDPO Dheeraj Thakur. Kharagpur residents are thanking the police for the arrest of criminals one after another.

NSIC Empowers Sundarbans Entrepreneurs to Go Global

MI News Service, Kulti: The National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), in collaboration with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is helping Sundarbans' rural communities take their products to the global market. An ONDC awareness workshop was held at Milan Tirtha Society in Kulti, South 24 Parganas, attended by

over 100 aspiring entrepreneurs from Kulti, Narayantala, and Basanti. NSIC Zonal GM Dr.

Anupam Gayen explained how local products can be showcased online and delivered nationally and internationally. NSIC Deputy GM Arunava Das emphasized connecting cottage industries with e-commerce. Lokman Molla urged banks to support genuine entrepreneurs.



CM Mamata held meeting with TMC's BLA on SIR

From PG 1 and was held against the backdrop of rising political tension over the draft electoral roll under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). More than 58 lakh names have reportedly been dropped from the draft list, sparking a major political row in the state.

According to sources, 12,20,039 voters could not be traced, while 57,604 names were removed for other reasons. Nearly 30 lakh voters marked under "no mapping" are likely to face hearings. Election Commission sources said. In response, the Trinamool Congress has launched a statewide campaign to support affected voters. The Netaji Indoor Stadium meeting included BLAs from 40 Assembly constituencies across Kolkata, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas and Hooghly districts. During the meeting, Mamata Banerjee issued several directives to BLAs and launched a sharp attack on both the BJP and the Election Commission. Following the publication of the draft voters' list in the first phase of SIR, the highest number of voters have been removed from the list. This list includes the Chief Minister's own constituency, of Bhabanipur.

However, Mamata Banerjee had held a meeting with the BLAs of Bhabanipur at her Kallighat residence last week. At that time, she had hinted that there would be further discussions with the BLAs on a large scale.

Humayun Kabir floats new party

From PG 1 Alam Chowdhury. He subsequently joined the Congress, which then had a huge presence in the district, but switched to the BJP ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. The BJP fielded him as its candidate in the Murshidabad Lok Sabha seat, and managed to secure the third spot after the TMC and Congress nominees. He then returned to the TMC and, in 2021, became the MLA of Bharatpur. Announcing the launch on Monday, Humayun Kabir said Manisha Pandey as his party's candidate from a Murshidabad Assembly seat, a move seen as an attempt to broaden his political appeal. "This party is being formed to work for the common man," Kabir told reporters. Kabir, is expected join hands with Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM for the high-stakes polls. He has said he is in talks with the Hyderabad-based party to counter both the BJP and the ruling TMC in the state. Announcing the suspension, senior Trinamool leader and Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim had earlier said the party had repeatedly warned Kabir. "The party will not have any relation with him," Hakim said. Today's event was held under heavy security, with riot police and central forces being deployed across the area.

Kashmir sees frozen night temperatures with more snow

From PG 1 recorded sub-zero temperatures, with the mercury settling at minus 2.4 degrees Celsius. Despite this, the minimum temperature the ski resort remained four degrees above normal for this time of the year. Other weather stations, including the Pahalgam resort in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, recorded minimum temperatures ranging between minus 2.0 degree Celsius and minus 4.4 degrees Celsius. Maximum temperatures across the valley remained below normal on Sunday, the official said. The department has forecast moderate to heavy and very heavy snowfall in the higher reaches of Kashmir, while light rainfall is expected in the plains.



Members of the BLO Adhikar Raksha Committee stage a gherao programme outside the ECI office on Monday, protesting alleged pressure on BLOs and the politically motivated exclusion of a particular community in the name of hearings by appointing central government employees as micro-observers

CM Mamata Hits Out at BJP, EC Over SIR, Urges Unity in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress (TMC) supremo Mamata Banerjee on Monday held a crucial meeting with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) at Netaji Indoor Stadium amid the ongoing SIR of electoral rolls, sending out strong political and organisational messages ahead of the 2026 Assembly elections. The meeting, held in the backdrop of mounting controversy over voter list revisions, was widely seen as politically significant.

Addressing the gathering, Banerjee expressed concern over alleged infiltration by outsiders into the state. "Yesterday, many people entered from Bihar on motorcycles. They will work with double bullets," she claimed, hinting at possible attempts to influence the electoral process. Launching a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government, Banerjee accused it of depriving Bengal of its rightful funds. "They have stopped all funds and then claim there is 'a lot of money'. If that is so, why give so little? Why say people will not get benefits if they own a bike or a TV?" she asked, alleging rampant brokerage and corruption at the Centre.

Striking a campaign note, Banerjee questioned repeated incidents of deaths and unrest in various parts of the country and asked how long Bengal's dignity would continue to be undermined. "Will Rabindranath Tagore, Vidyasagar and Gandhiji continue to be insulted? Will the pride of the Bengali language be humiliated?" she asked, urging party workers to ensure that the BJP is not allowed to gain a foothold in Bengal. Issuing a stern warning to councillors, Banerjee said some were not fulfilling their responsibilities. "You must take more responsibility. Go door to door and find out whose names have been deleted," she said, while also expressing fears of manipulation through artificial intelligence.

Criticising the Election Commission over alleged flaws in the SIR hearing process, Banerjee accused it of creating public harassment. She said voter names were being mismatched due to language differences between Bengali and English spellings, leading to wrongful exclusions.



MI News Service, Kolkata: A senior resident of Baguiati has fallen victim to a sophisticated online investment scam, losing ₹50 lakh after being lured into fraudulent share trading schemes promising high returns. The scammers even showed fake documents to gain the victim's trust. Initially, the victim was led to believe that his investment had grown to ₹82 lakh within a few days, only for the fraudsters to demand additional commissions to release the funds. Despite the apparent gains, the senior citizen has yet to recover his original investment. Following the realisation that he had been duped, the victim filed a written complaint at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Police Station in Salt Lake on Saturday. Police sources revealed that the victim is 74 years old. Between October and November, the scammers approached him

BLOs Protest Repeated Changes In App Outside CEO Office in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: A senior resident of Baguiati has fallen victim to a sophisticated online investment scam, losing ₹50 lakh after being lured into fraudulent share trading schemes promising high returns. The scammers even showed fake documents to gain the victim's trust. Initially, the victim was led to believe that his investment had grown to ₹82 lakh within a few days, only for the fraudsters to demand additional commissions to release the funds. Despite the apparent gains, the senior citizen has yet to recover his original investment. Following the realisation that he had been duped, the victim filed a written complaint at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Police Station in Salt Lake on Saturday. Police sources revealed that the victim is 74 years old. Between October and November, the scammers approached him

via WhatsApp and added him to a group where they highlighted the supposed benefits of share trading. Using fake Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) documents, the fraudsters created a convincing illusion of legitimacy. Trusting the documents, the victim invested ₹50 lakh, which was then shown in a fabricated wallet app as having increased to ₹82 lakh. Soon after, the scammers demanded an additional ₹3 lakh, warning that his account would be frozen if he failed to pay. The victim refused to pay further, avoiding more losses. Cybercrime experts warn that these investment scams are targeting people across age groups. The fraudsters often use WhatsApp or Telegram groups to lure investors and employ fake share trading apps that display inflated balances.

MI News Service, Kolkata: A Knowledge Series session on the New Labour Code 2025 was organised by The Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) in Kolkata. The session was addressed by Kshitij Jain, Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Kolkata; Arvind Baheti, Executive Director, Khaitan & Co.; and Prof. Vaneeta Patnaik, Associate Professor (Law), WB National University of Juridical Sciences.

Kshitij Jain highlighted that India previously had multiple labor laws creating confusion. The new Industrial Relations (IR) Code, 2020, introduces common definitions of wages, worker, and appropriate government, recognition of trade unions, negotiating councils, and rationalized standing orders. The

Baguiati Senior Loses 50 Lakh in Fake Share Trading Scam

MI News Service, Kolkata: A senior resident of Baguiati has fallen victim to a sophisticated online investment scam, losing ₹50 lakh after being lured into fraudulent share trading schemes promising high returns. The scammers even showed fake documents to gain the victim's trust. Initially, the victim was led to believe that his investment had grown to ₹82 lakh within a few days, only for the fraudsters to demand additional commissions to release the funds. Despite the apparent gains, the senior citizen has yet to recover his original investment. Following the realisation that he had been duped, the victim filed a written complaint at the Bidhannagar Cyber Crime Police Station in Salt Lake on Saturday. Police sources revealed that the victim is 74 years old. Between October and November, the scammers approached him

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Occupational Safety, Health & Working Conditions (OSH) Code sets responsibilities for manufacturers, designers, and suppliers, mandates ambulances for establishments with over 500 workers, welfare officers for 250+, limits work to six days/week, and ensures consent for women working night shifts. Wages now include basic, DA, allowances, and perks exceeding 50%. Equal pay for all genders and protections against discrimination are emphasized. Arvind Baheti noted central laws prevail over state laws, standardized wage disbursement timelines, leave encashment, and national floor wage provisions. Prof. Vaneeta Patnaik explained single registration under OSH, contract labour responsibilities, and retrenchment exclusions.

L-R: Anirudh Jhunjhunwala, Vice President, MCCI, Arvind Baheti, Executive Director, Khaitan & Co, Munish Jhajharia, Senior Vice President, MCCI, Kshitij Jain, Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (Central), Kolkata, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India., and Prof. Vaneeta Patnaik, Associate Professor (Law), The West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences at the MCCI Knowledge Series : Session on New Labour Code 2025 on Monday.

Mamata Slams BJP for Renaming Gandhi Scheme, Warns Against Undermining Bengal's Pride

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday held a meeting with Booth Level Agents (BLAs) during the hearing phase of the SIR of electoral rolls and launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led central government from Kolkata's Netaji Indoor Stadium. Accusing the Centre of attempting to erase India's history and legacy, Banerjee strongly criticised the renaming of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). Referring to the recent decision of the Narendra Modi government to change the name of the MGNREGA scheme during the last session of Parliament, the Chief Minister said the move reflected the BJP's agenda of rewriting history. The Centre has also announced an increase in guaranteed workdays from 100 to 125 under the scheme. Questioning the removal of Mahatma Gandhi's name, Banerjee said the BJP was trying to replace Gandhi's legacy with religious symbolism. "Removing Gandhiji's name and replacing it with Ram's name? The country is being turned into 'Ram Naam Satya Hai'," Banerjee said, drawing loud applause from the gathering. She alleged that the BJP was systematically sidelining national icons to push its own ideological narrative. Without naming Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Banerjee launched a personal attack, calling him authoritarian. "I have never seen such a Home Minister. He is authoritarian and controlling everything. He is controlling even the Prime Minister," she said.

Fruit Vendor Hacked to Death in Broad Daylight at Rajabazar

MI News Service, Kolkata: A brutal murder of a fruit vendor in the early hours of Monday morning triggered panic and outrage in the Rajabazar area, after unidentified assailants allegedly hacked the man to death in full public view. The deceased has been identified as Mehtab Alam, a long-time fruit seller in the locality. The shocking incident has left residents fearful and raised serious concerns over law and order in the area.

According to preliminary reports, Mehtab Alam had been running his fruit shop on the roadside in Rajabazar for several years and was well-known among local residents. On Monday, he had opened his shop as usual in the morning. Around 9:30 am, two young men arrived at his stall on a motorcycle. What began as a brief exchange soon escalated into a violent confrontation, eyewitnesses said. Local people claimed that the two youths suddenly pulled out sharp weapons and launched a frenzied attack on Mehtab, hacking him repeatedly be-

fore fleeing the spot on their motorcycle. The attack happened so swiftly that bystanders were initially left stunned. As Mehtab collapsed on the road, bleeding profusely, the assailants managed to escape amidst the chaos. Hearing his cries for help, local residents rushed to the spot and immediately arranged to take the injured vendor to a nearby hospital. However, doctors declared him dead on arrival, confirming that he had suffered multiple fatal injuries. Soon after receiving information, police reached the scene and cordoned off the area. The body was later sent for post-mortem examination to ascertain the exact cause of death. While the motive behind the murder remains unclear, eyewitnesses told police that Mehtab appeared to be arguing with the two youths moments before the attack. It is yet to be confirmed whether the dispute was related to the purchase of fruits or stemmed from a prior enmity. Investigators are also probing whether the attackers were known to the victim.

No information yet on prime suspect in Hadi's killing: B'desh police

From PG 1 to be any personal motive. However, he said, "We are examining all possible angles." Hadi, a prominent leader of the student-led protests last year that led to the ouster of the Prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, was a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections. The 32-year-old Inqilab Mancha spokesperson was shot in the head on December 12 by masked gunmen at an elec-

tion campaign in central Dhaka's Bijoynagar area. He died after a week while undergoing treatment in Singapore on Thursday. His death triggered mass violence, attacks and vandalism across Bangladesh, including stone-hurling at the Assistant Indian High Commissioner's residence in Chattogram on Thursday. Hadi was laid to rest on Saturday amid tight security beside the grave of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam near the Dhaka University mosque.

Resolving differences in Manipur will take time: Mohan Bhagwat

From PG 1 some more time." Asked by one of the participants in the lecture and interaction programme as to why the Sangh is maintaining a distance with the top BJP leadership, the RSS chief said that the Sangh has always maintained a distance with the saffron party. "We stay very distant from all BJP leaders," he said, hastening to add, but "We have always been close to Narendra bhai

(PM Modi) and Amit bhai (Union Home Minister Shah)." Both the leaders are known to be close to the Sangh, and PM Modi was earlier a pracharak of the organisation. He said such narratives regarding relations between the RSS and the BJP leadership should not be taken into account, maintaining that the Sangh does not hide its relationship with anyone, be it any political outfit.

India, New Zealand sign Free Trade deal focussing innovation

From PG 1 telephone conversation between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, during which the leaders reviewed the relationship and agreed to remain in touch. But interestingly India has not given any import duty concessions in its dairy sector for New Zealand under the bilateral free trade agreement, an official said on Monday. "The dairy sector is completely a red line for us. No duty concessions under the pact in the sector," the official said. Dairy has long been the most

sensitive, and politically charged issue in the negotiations. New Zealand is one of the world's largest dairy exporters, while India is home to millions of small dairy farmers for whom market protection is a red-line issue. In practice, however, current trade is minimal. New Zealand's dairy exports to India in FY2025 totalling just USD1.07 million, consisting of milk and cream (USD 0.40 million), natural honey (USD 0.32 million), mozzarella cheese (USD 0.18 million), butter (USD 0.09 million) and skimmed milk (USD 0.08 million).

50 of over 200 Indians remain trapped in Russian army amid war in Ukraine

From PG 1 tourist visas, only to be coerced into joining the Russian army, where salaries are reportedly often withheld and escape from frontline deployment is nearly impossible. Russian President Vladimir Putin had early on backed a plan to allow foreign volunteers to join Russia in its war against Ukraine. In some cases, the Russian authorities were giving Indians involved in any crime the option to either serve a jail term or fight on the frontlines. In October, reports emerged of Majoti Sahil Mohamed Hussein, a man from Gujarat, who surrendered to Ukrainian forces after just three days on the frontlines. The Ukrainian military said Hussein, who went to Russia on a study visa, was arrested on drug-related charges and sentenced to seven years in prison. Because he didn't want to serve the prison term, he signed a contract to become a part of the "special military operation". On the Ukrainian side, unofficial media estimates suggest around 100 Indians joined the International Legion, with at least two killed, though no official figures are available. The International Legion for the Defence of Ukraine, was formed in February 2022 after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's call for foreign support. It is a multinational unit of volunteers from over 50 countries. The trend stems from the manpower shortages in Russia and Ukraine, unemployed youths from states like Uttar Pradesh and Punjab, and shady agents targeting the youth "helping to flee". Recent casualties include 22-year-old Ajay Godara from Rajasthan, who arrived on a student visa in November 2024, was forcibly recruited, and died in a September 2025 drone attack in Donetsk's Selydove.

Name Change
I, Man Mithu Samar (old name) W/o. Samar Man R/o. Kanai Sarkar Ghat, P.O. & P.S. Chandernagore, Dist. Hooghly-712136, W.B. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Man Mithu Samar to Mithu Man (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mithu Man in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 7852 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court on 17/12/2025. I, Man Mithu Samar & Mithu Man W/o. Samar Man both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, KULSOM BIBI (OLD NAME), D/O- HAREZ MONDAL,W/O- MD RAJAB ALI MONDAL Residing at Kotra Jagadighata Road, Kazipara, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, W.B.PIN- 700125, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as KULSOM BIBI (NEW NAME) as declared before the First Class Executive Magistrate Barasat Court, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal vide affidavit No. 14835 Dated 18/12/2025. KULSOM BIBI (OLD NAME), and KULSOM BIBI (NEW NAME) both is same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sajda Begum D/o Md. Younus and W/o Sk Azad, resident of 55/35/A, Tilhida Road, Gobinda Khatik Road, P.S- Topsia, Kolkata - 700046, WB in my Birth Certificate issued by KMC, Health Dept in the year 1991, my name, my mother's name and have been wrongly recorded as RANI, JULEKHA KHATOON, respectively instead of our original name as SAJDA BEGUM, JULEKHA BEGUM as mentioned on Aadhaar Card and other documents and in my Aadhar Card and my mother's Voter's ID Card my father's name has been wrongly recorded as MD. INUSH instead of his original name MD. YOUNUS as mentioned in his Aadhaar Card. That RANI and SAJDA BEGUM both are same and one identical person, i.e., myself, JULEKHA KHATOON and JULEKHA BEGUM both are same and one identical person i.e., my mother and MD. INUSH and MD. YOUNUS both are same and one identical person i.e., my father vide affidavit No. 21270 dated 19.12.2025 before Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Alipore.

Name Change
I, Noor Mohammad S/o Abdul Majid residing at Muslimpara Lane, Telinipara, P.S- Telinipara, P.S- Bhadre swar, Dist- Hooghly, WB declare that in the Electoral Roll of 2002 my name has been recorded wrongly as Mohammad Noor under my Voter ID Card WB/27/182/597057 instead of my actual name Noor Mohammad as mentioned in 2025 Electoral Roll under my voter ID Card WB/27/182/597057. That Mohammad Noor and Noor Mohammad both are same and one identical person vide affidavit dated 18.12.2025 before Ld. Executive Magistrate, 1st Class, Sadar Chinsurah, Hooghly.

Name Change
I, Jinnat Rehana, D/o MD Zulfeekar Molla, W/o Shajahan Mondal Residing at Third Avenue, 5th Street, Ulhas, P.O. Jotram, Dist Purba Bardhaman, 713104 shall henceforth be known as Jinnat Rehana Mondal as declared before the LD, Executive Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman, vide affidavit No.28,069, dated-04.08.2025 Jinnat Rehana and Jinnat Rehana Mondal Both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shajahan Mandal, S/O Sainur Mondal, Residing at Third Avenue, 5th Street, Ulhas, P.O- Jotram, Dist Purba Bardhaman, 713104 shall henceforth be known as Shajahan Mondal as declared before the LD, Executive Magistrate at Purba Bardhaman, vide affidavit No.28,068, dated-04.08.2025. Shajahan Mandal and Shajahan Mondal Both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I Sumita Bandyopadhyay, Sumita Basu D/o Lt. Sudhan Basu R/o 522, Ganaihat Road South, Jodhpur Park, 2nd floor, Kolkata-700068 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as **Sumita Beethi** as declared before the Ld. 1st class J.M. at Alipore Court vide affidavit no.1359 dated 05.01.2024. **Sumita Bandyopadhyay, Sumita Basu and Sumita Beethi** all are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I Snehar Bibi M/o Sk. Yasin R/o Vill & P.O.- Hatjanbazar, P.S.-Suri, Dist- Birbhum, Pin-731102 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as **Snehar Begum** as declared before the Notary Public at Suri Sadar Court, Birbhum vide affidavit dated 03.12.2025. **Snehar Bibi and Snehar Begum** both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, **BINOD SHAW** S/o Lt. Pannalal Shaw R/o 92/3, Sarat Chatterjee Road, P.S.- Chatterjeehat, Dist.-Howrah, Pin- 711104 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as **BINOD KUMAR SHAW** as declared before the Notary Public at Howrah Court vide affidavit no.1-152 dated 17.12.2025. **BINOD SHAW and BINOD KUMAR SHAW** both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, **NABIN AGARWALA** previously known **NABIN AGARWAL** S/o Suresh Agarwala residing at 988 Jessore Road, Rupalaya Building 4th Floor, North 24 Parganas, WB.-700074 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I changed my name from **NABIN AGARWAL** to **NABIN AGARWALA**. That **NABIN AGARWALA** and **NABIN AGARWAL** both the name is one and same identical person vide affidavit sworn before Notary Public at Sealdah on 20-12-2025.

Name Change
I, Parvez Akhtar (Old Name) S/o Ali Hassan Residing at 18A/E, Kus-tia Masjid Bari Lane, Po+Ps - Tiljala, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700039, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Parvez Akhtar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Parvez Akhtar (Old Name) and Parwaz Akhtar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Debashis Majumdar (Old Name) S/o Suresh Majumdar Residing at Vill - Naihati, P.o - Sitahati, P.s - Ketugram, District - Purba Bardhaman, Pin - 713123, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Debashish Majumdar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Debashis Majumdar (Old Name) and Debashish Majumdar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sawan Chowdhury (Old Name) S/o Ajit Chowdhury Residing at 984, Netaji Sarani, Madhyabaluria, Po - Nabapally, Ps - Barasat, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700126, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sowan Chowdhury (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 19-12-2025. Sawan Chowdhury (Old Name) and Sowan Chowdhury (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kartick Manna (Old Name) S/o Panchu Gopal Manna Residing at 1/C, Panchananatala Lane, South Sinthi, Ps - Sinthi, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700050, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kartick Chandra Manna (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Kartick Manna (Old Name) and Kartick Chandra Manna (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shailesh Omprakash Didwania (Old Name) S/o Omprakash Didwania Residing at Cambridge Green, Block -2, Flat-3G, Bakhrabat Road, Rasapunjia, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700104, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shailesh Didwania (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Shailesh Omprakash Didwania (Old Name) and Shailesh Didwania (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhadrta Saha (Old Name) S/o Debabrata Saha Residing at Block BD-395, Salt Lake Sector -1, Vtc - Bidhannagar (M), Po - Bidhannagar CC Block, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700064, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subhadrta Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Subhadrta Saha (Old Name) and Subhadrta Saha (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ranjit Gayen (Old Name) S/o Late Harekrishna Gayen Resing at 197/3, Motilal Gupta Road, Haridre vpur, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700082, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ranjit Kumar Gayen (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Ranjit Gayen (Old Name) and Ranjit Kumar Gayen (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, GANESH MONDAL (Old Name), S/o- LT. RAKHAL MONDAL, R/o- Vill.- Rajipur (Ghoshpara), P.O. + P.S.- Hasnabad, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, PIN- 743426. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as GANESH CHANDRA MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court Affidavit no. 1313 dt. 22.12.25. GANESH MONDAL (Old Name) and GANESH CHANDRA MONDAL (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, GOBINDA MONDAL (Old Name), S/O- GANESH CHANDRA MONDAL, R/O- Vill.- Rajipur (Ghoshpara), P.O. + P.S.- Hasnabad, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, PIN- 743426. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as GOBINDA MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Basirhat Court, Affidavit no. 1314 dt. 22.12.25. GOBINDA MONDAL (Old Name) and GOBINDA MONDAL (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, ALI SAMSER (Old Name) S/o- LT. KALU SARDAR, R/o- Vill. + P.O.- Kholapota, P.S.- Matia (previously P.S.- Basirhat), North 24 Parganas. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SAMSER ALI SARDAR (New Name) as declared before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Basirhat Court, Affidavit no.- 31364/25 dt. 15.12.2025. ALI SAMSER (Old Name) and SAMSER ALI SARDAR (New Name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sakila Khatun Bibi, W/o Momin Gazi, residing at Vill -Balkara, Ward No.6 under Baduria Municipality, P.O. & P.S. - Baduria, Dist. North 24 Pgs, WB, do hereby declare that in my daughter Suhana Khatun's birth certificate vide Regd. No.876/2011 dated 24.10.2011 issued from Baduria Municipality, my name has been inadvertently recorded as Sakila Bibi. On 15/12/2025 vide affidavit no. 31271 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that Sakila Khatun Bibi & Sakila Bibi is the same one & identical person.

Name Change
I, Shan Elahi (Old Name),son of Karam Elahi,residing at 1No Moti sil Street,Dharmatala, Kolkata - 700013,West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shan Elahi Shamsi (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 01/03/2024. Shan Elahi and Shan Elahi Shamsi both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Sahil Alam Ansari (Old Name) S/o Md Alam Ansari Residing at 16/1B Topsia Road South, P.o - Topsia, Topsia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Sahil Alam Ansari (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 15/2025 Dated 22-12-2025. Mohammad Sahil Alam Ansari (Old Name) and Md Sahil Alam Ansari (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Parikshit Gupta(Old Name),son of Rajneesh Gupta,residing at 96, Garden Reach Road,Hastings Court, Tower A,Flat 2E & 2F,Ps - Watgunge,Kolkata - 700023,West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Parikshit Jain(New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 22/12/2025. Parikshit Gupta and Parikshit Jain both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, MAIMUDDIN MAHAMMAD SK (Old Name) S/O LATE SHAIK GANI MOHAMMAD - Residing at VILL-NONARI, PO.- ASWATHIAPUR, PS-RAMNAGAR, EAST MEDINIPUR, Pin- 721446,West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name to (shall henceforth be known as) SHAIK MAINUDDIN MOHAMMAD (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before Notary public at Kolkata on 22/12/2025. SHAIK MAINUDDIN MOHAMMAD (New Name) and MAIMUDDIN MAHAMMAD SK (Old Name) both are same identical person.

Name Change
I, SHAIKH MUKTEJA (Old Name) S/O Late SK MORTEJA , residing at Vill- DURGAPUR, PO.- SAGARES WAR, PS.- RAMNAGAR, East Medinipur, Pin- 721446, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name to (shall henceforth be known as) SK MUKTEJA (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before Notary public at Kolkata on 22/12/2025. SK MUKTEJA (New Name) and SHAIKH MUKTEJA (Old Name) both are same identical person.

Name Change
I, Sunil Kumar Agarwala & Sunil Agarwal(Old Name),Son OfMahabir Prasad Agarwal,Residing At Block-4,30th Floor,Flat-30b,163b, Manicktala Main Road, Swarnamani Complex,Em Bypass,P.O-Kankurgachi,Kolkata-700054, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mahabir Prasad Agarwal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/12/ 2025.Sunil Kumar Agarwala & Sunil Agarwal And Sunil Kumar Agarwal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mahabir Prasad Agarwala(Old Name),Son Of Jagdish Prasad Agarwal,Residing At Bt-5th 31st Floor, Xana Tower,Ht-31ka,163b, Manicktala Main Road, Swarnamani Complex,P.O-Kankurgachi, Kolkata- 700 054, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mahabir Prasad Agarwal(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/12/ 2025.Mahabir Prasad Agarwala And Mahabir Prasad Agarwal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, SMT CHAPA RANI MUSIB, W/o of Shivo Prasad Musib, aged about 53years, by faith- Hindu,Nationality- Indian,Residence- Sri Nagar Colony, Manaitand, Dhanbad, Jharkhand, INDIA,hereby declare through this notarized public declaration affidavit executed before the Notary public at area alipore dist : South 24 Parganas on affidavit no.144C223491 ,dated 27 November 2025, that from Chapa Rani ,Champa Rani Musib and Chapa Rani Musib referred to me as one and the sameidentical person, indicating to myself only.

Name Change
I, Mahazabin Begum (Old Name) W/o Sk Md Salim Residing at 2H/1, Jala Lane, Po - Alipur, Ps - Ekbalpore, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700027, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Mahazbin Begum (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Mahazabin Begum (Old Name) and Mahazbin Begum (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Alam Ansari (Old Name) S/o Late Md Suleman Ansari Residing at 16/1B Topsia Road South, Po - Topsia, Topsia, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700046, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Alam Ansari (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 14/2025 Dated 22-12-2025. Mohammad Alam Ansari (Old Name) and Md Alam Ansari (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Mohammed Salim (Old Name) S/o Late Sk. Md Nasim Residing at 2H/1, Jala Lane, Po - Alipur, Ps - Ekbalpore, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700027, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Md Salim (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Shaikh Mohammed Salim (Old Name) and Sk Md Salim (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Maslem Ali Kazi (old name) S/o Mostakim Kazi, residing at KANKHULI AMLITALA BAZAR, Maheshtala (M), South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700066, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Moslem Ali Kazi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/12/2025. Moslem Ali Kazi (new name) and Maslem Ali Kazi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sonia Parvin, W/O- Md Sariful Rahman D/O- Safik Gazi, declare that my father said name Safirud Gazi (father old name) residing at Vill-Ghoshpara P.O. & P.S.- Hasnabad, former address vill- N/11 Hedayatullah Road Barasat Ward No. 18, Barasat -I, Dist- North 24 parganas, West Bengal, India, I have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Safik Gazi (father new name), as declared Before The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Basirhat, North 24 pgs, vide an affidavit 25528/25, dated 06/11/2025. Safik Gazi and Safirud Gazi both are same and one identical person (my father).

Name Change
I, Md Asgar & Md Asghar Ali (old names) Son of Md Mainuddin, residing at 13H/42, Mayur Bharij Road, P.O.- Khidderpore, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Asgar Ali (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Md Asgar Ali (new name) and Md Asgar & Md Asghar Ali (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sagarika Bhowmick (old name) W/o Ambar Baran Bhowmik, residing at MCPJ Housing Complex Azad Hind Nagar, P.O.- Haldia Township, Dist.- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721607, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sagarika Bhowmik (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Sagarika Bhowmik (new name) and Sagarika Bhowmick (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subramaniam Varda Rajan & S. Vardara Rajan (old names) S/o Ariyur Meenakshi Subramaniam, residing at P-357, Keyatata Lane, Sarat Boso Road, P.S.- Rabindra Sarovar, Kolkata:- 700029, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subramaniam Vardara Rajan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Subramaniam Vardara Rajan (new name) and Subramaniam Vardara Rajan & S. Vardara Rajan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD RAJU SK S/o- LATE RAMLUDDIN SK Residing at, Vill - Nima Sarai, Post - Old Malda, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732128, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD RAJU SK To RAJU SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) RAJU SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 17 Dec 2025, RAJU SK and MD RAJU SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Jaynal Ali Mallick, S/O- Liakat Ali Mollick residing at 34/B,H.M M Road,P/S-Budge Budge ,Dist-24pgs(S). Have changed my father's name and shall henceforth be known as Liyakat Ali Mallick as declared before the Ld.1st class J.M.at Alipore vide Affidavit No.-76359 dt-16/12/2025 Liakat Ali Mollick (old name), & Liyakat Ali Mallick (New name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Serina Mollick,W/O- Jaynal Ali Mallick, residing at 34/B,H.M M Road, P/O+P/S- Budge Budge , Dist-24pgs(S) Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Serina Bibi as declared before the Ld.1st class J.M.at Alipore vide Affidavit No.- 76698 dt-17/12/2025 Serina Mollick (old name), & Serina Bibi (New name) is same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Smt. Chumki Ghosh, W/o- Sri Debiprasad Pal and D/o- Sri Shyamsundar Ghosh, resident of Vill.- Timna, P.O.-Champadanga, P.S.- Tarakeswar, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin-712401, W.B. declare that in our son Diptonil Ghosh's birth certificate being no. B-2021, 19-9014001517, dt. 22.08.2021 his name has been written as Diptonil (Ghosh) Pal in place of correct name Diptonil pal & in father's name has been written as Debu Pal in place of Debiprasad Pal. I hereby request to the concerned Authority to make correction and/or issue a fresh Birth Certificate in the name of Diptonil Pal & Chumki Ghosh (Mother), That Diptonil (Ghosh) Pal, S/o-Debu Pal & Diptonil Pal, S/o- Debiprasad Pal are same & one identical person vide affidavit no. 1140, dt. 12.11.2025 sworn before in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Sadar at Chinsurah, Hooghly.



A woman crosses a railway track while a train approaches amid low visibility on a winter morning, in Gurugram.

Garden Reach Collapse: Shahnawaz Hiding in UAE, Interpol Notice Issued

MI News Service, Kolkata: Shocking details have emerged in connection with the Garden Reach multi-storey collapse case, revealing that the prime accused, Mohammad Shahnawaz, has allegedly gone into hiding in the United Arab Emirates under a false identity. Sources indicated that Shahnawaz, the owner of the land on which the illegal building was constructed, fled the country soon after the deadly incident. Kolkata Police have informed the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) about his whereabouts, and efforts are now underway to bring him back to India. An Interpol Yellow Corner Notice has reportedly been issued against him.

The illegal under-construction residential building in the Garden Reach area collapsed around midnight on March 17, 2024, crashing into an adjacent settlement and triggering one of the worst urban disasters in recent years. At least 13 people were killed after being trapped under the debris, while several others were injured. The tragedy sparked massive outrage and raised serious questions about unauthorised construction and administrative lapses. Following the incident, the Calcutta High Court sought reports on the role of the state



government and civic authorities in preventing illegal constructions. The Kolkata Municipal Corporation launched an independent inquiry, while police initiated a criminal investigation. From the very beginning, Mohammad Shahnawaz, identified as one of the key accused and the landowner, remained absconding despite multiple search operations across the city and its suburbs.

Investigators now claim that Shah-

nawaz initially hid at several locations in Kolkata and nearby areas after the collapse. Once the situation cooled down, he allegedly took advantage of his overseas contacts and flew to the UAE. Sources said he is currently believed to be staying in Abu Dhabi. Shahnawaz reportedly had frequent work-related travel to Abu Dhabi and Dubai even before the incident, which made it easier for him to blend in and evade detection. However, he is said to be living there while concealing his true identity. Police sources confirmed that they are coordinating with central agencies to initiate the process of repatriation. With an Interpol Yellow Corner Notice now issued, authorities are hoping to track his movement and gather more information about his current status abroad. Senior officials said legal procedures are being followed to ensure his return for questioning and trial. It may be recalled that 88 days after the Garden Reach collapse, police filed a detailed chargesheet running into 730 pages. The chargesheet invoked several serious sections, including murder, attempt to murder, and criminal conspiracy. Six individuals, including Shahnawaz and the promoter of the building, were named as prime accused in the case.

Fake Customs Officials Dupe Kolkata Traders of 35 Lakh Over Seized Betel Nuts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Three businessmen filed a complaint at Shakespeare Sarani police station, alleging they were cheated of ₹35 lakh by a gang posing as Customs and Coast Guard officials, promising to secure the release of a seized betel nut consignment. Police said at least five people were involved, including one claiming to be a Coast Guard officer and another a senior Customs official. The incident dates back to March, when the businessmen purchased several sacks of betel nuts from Burrabazar and Budge Budge. The consignment was loaded onto two fishing trawlers from Petuaghat, South 24 Parganas, but was intercepted by the Coast Guard for being illegal. The seized betel nuts were handed to Customs, and 24 fishermen were arrested. The businessmen were informed that the consignment had been destroyed. Soon after, one individual contacted the businessmen, claiming the betel nuts were still in a Customs warehouse and could be released for a bribe of ₹42 lakh, later negotiated to ₹35 lakh.

Kolkata Researchers Seek Clarity on Netaji Ashes at Japan's Renkoji Temple



MI News Service, Kolkata: Fresh controversy has erupted over the ashes preserved at Japan's Renkoji Temple in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, with two Kolkata-based researchers announcing that they will formally seek clarification from the temple authorities regarding the true identity of the remains. The move comes amid renewed demands to bring the ashes to India, reigniting a decades-old debate surrounding Netaji's reported death and legacy. A significant section of the world continues to believe that the ashes kept at Renkoji Temple belong to Netaji, who was officially declared dead following a plane crash at Taihoku airport on September 18, 1945. A section of the Bose family has also supported this claim. Recently, Anita Pfaff, who has described herself as Netaji's daughter, reiterated her demand that the ashes be brought back to India, preferably in January, the month of Netaji's birth.

argue that there is no evidence of any such crash in 1945. The two researchers recently organised a protest meeting in Kolkata opposing Anita Pfaff's demand. The meeting was attended by several prominent figures, including Jayanti Rakshit, daughter of Ashoknath Bose and granddaughter of Netaji's elder brother Sarat Chandra Bose; Forward Bloc general secretary G Devarajan; Ranendramohan Roy, son of Azad Hind Fauj secret service revolutionary Pabitra Mohan Roy; judge and author Biplab Roy; and senior journalist Tarun Goswami, among others. Speaking at the gathering, Devarajan termed the process of bringing the ashes to India a "conspiracy" and warned of strong resistance if such a move proceeds. He recalled that freedom fighter Mathuramalingam Thevar had declared in Parliament in 1950 that he had spent 40 days with Netaji in China, a statement that had stirred the nation at the time. However, several historians and researchers strongly dispute the plane crash theory itself. According to them, no aircraft accident took place at Taihoku on the said date. Kolkata researchers Saikat Niyogi and Soumyabrata Dasgupta have cited multiple documentary sources, including official Taiwan reports, to

Name Change
I, MOHAMMAD IFTIKAR ALI (old name) S/o LATE MOHAMMED AKBAR ALI, residing at T-146 MURREY ROAD, BARTALA, KOLKATA-700018, WB, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD IFTIKAR ALI (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. MD IFTIKAR ALI (new name) and MOHAMMAD IFTIKAR ALI (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kakali Chakrabarty (old name) W/o Narayan Chakrabarty, resident of 10/B, K.P.Banerjee Sarani, Po-Konnagar,Ps-122335, West Bengal, Hooghly, Pin-712235, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kakali Chakrabarty (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Kakali Chakrabarty (new name) and Kakali Chakrabarty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Researchers find how physical exercise prevents nerve damage during chemotherapy

BASEL [SWITZERLAND] : Damage to nerves brought on by cancer therapies frequently results in symptoms that endure a lifetime. In some circumstances, medication has not worked. Simple exercises can prevent nerve injury, according to research.

The research was conducted by an interdisciplinary German team led by a sports scientist at the University of Basel. Over time, advancements have been made in cancer therapy. The quality of life following rehabilitation is becoming increasingly important; it is no longer only about surviving. Unfortunately, many cancer medications, from chemotherapy to modern immunotherapies, attack the nerves as well as the tumour cells. Some therapies, such as oxaliplatin or vinca alkaloids, leave 70 to 90 per cent of patients complaining of pain, balance issues, or feelings of numbness, burning or tingling.

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

A research team led by sports scientist Dr Fiona Streckmann from the University of Basel and the German Sport University Cologne has now shown that specific exercise, concomitant to cancer therapy, can prevent nerve damage in many cases. The researchers have reported their findings in the journal JAMA Internal Medicine.

The study involved 158 cancer



patients, both male and female, who were receiving treatment either with oxaliplatin or vinca-alkaloids. The researchers divided the patients at random into three groups. The first was a control group, whose members received standard care. The other two groups completed exercise sessions twice a week for the duration of their chemotherapy, with each session lasting between 15 and 30 minutes. One of these groups carried out exercises that focused primarily on balancing on an increasingly unstable surface. The other group trained on a vibration plate.

Regular examinations over the next five years showed that in the control group around twice as many participants developed CIPN as in either of the exercise groups.

In other words, the exercises undertaken alongside chemotherapy were able to reduce the incidence of nerve damage by 50 to 70 per cent. In addition, they increased the patients' subjectively perceived quality of life, made it less necessary to reduce their dose of cancer medications, and reduced mortality in the five years following chemotherapy. The participants receiving vinca-alkaloids and performing sensorimotor training had the largest benefit.

A lot of money has been invested over the years in reducing the incidence of CIPN, explains Streckmann. "This side effect has a direct influence on clinical treatment: for example, patients may not be able to receive the planned number of chemotherapy cycles

that they actually need, the dosage of neurotoxic agents in the chemotherapy may have to be reduced, or their treatment may have to be terminated."

Despite the investments made, there is no effective pharmacological treatment to date: various studies have shown that medications can neither prevent nor reverse this nerve damage. However, according to the latest estimates, USD 17,000 are spent per patient every year in the USA on treating nerve damage associated with chemotherapy. Streckmann's assumption is that "doctors prescribe medications despite everything because patients' level of suffering is so high."

In contrast, the sports scientist emphasizes, that the positive effect

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

Why Are Cruciferous Vegetables So Good for You?

Broccoli, leafy greens and other crucifigs are full of nutrients and even cancer-fighting properties.

If you're looking for vegetables that are rich in vitamins, minerals and even have anti-cancer properties, look no further than the group known as cruciferous vegetables.

This group of leafy greens, cabbages and mustard-like veggies pack a nutritional punch and some seriously versatile flavors.

"Cruciferous vegetables are easy to find in most places and are some of the most nutrient-rich veggies around," says registered dietitian Amber Sommer, RD, LD.

What makes crucifers so healthy? And how can you make sure you're getting enough of them to reap their benefits? Sommer walks us through it.

Cruciferous vegetables belong to the genus Brassica. They're called cruciferous because their four-petaled flowers look like a crucifix, or a cross. And their rich colors are an indication of just how nutrient-packed they are.

"A good rule of thumb for greens or any fruits or vegetables is that the deeper the color, the more nutrient-dense it is. For example, spinach contains more vitamins and minerals than iceberg lettuce," Sommer explains.

Cruciferous vegetables include some of your favorite go-to dark, leafy greens and other colorful, nutrient-rich veggies. Among the members of the cruciferous family are:

- Arugula (also called rocket).**
- Bok choy.**
- Broccoli.**
- Brussels sprouts.**
- Cabbage.**
- Cauliflower.**
- Collard and mustard greens.**

Daikon radish.

Horseradish.

Kale.

Kohlrabi.

Radish.

Rapini (broccoli rabi).

Rutabaga.

Turnip.

Wasabi.

Watercress.

Health benefits

Being in the same genus means cruciferous veggies have a lot of similar characteristics.

For example, dogs belong to the same genus as wolves. Closely related, but with some important differences. More like first cousins than siblings.

"As a group, cruciferous vegetables all offer similar health benefits. I wouldn't say any one is 'better' than the others. They each have a unique composition, so the key is to include a variety in your diet," Sommer says.

She helps explain the benefits:

1. Cancer protection

Cruciferous vegetables are a rich source of compounds known as glucosinolates, which may help fight cancer.

A number of research studies suggest that a diet rich in cruciferous vegetables may lower rates of a variety of cancers, including breast, pancreatic, bladder, lung, prostate and colon cancer.

Sommer says crucifers may also help to counteract cancer-causing nitrosamines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons that are found in charred, cured or barbecued fish or meats.

2. Fiber

Fiber is famous for keeping you, er ... regular. It also stabilizes blood sugar, lowers cholesterol.

Study finds how new type of cell therapy help ARDS patients



LOS ANGELES : A novel form of cell therapy may help patients who are critically ill with acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) brought on by severe COVID-19, according to a study.

Professor Justin Stebbing of Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) is a co-senior author of a recent study that examines the application of agentT-797, an allogeneic, unmodified invariant natural killer T (iNKT) cell treatment developed by MiNK Therapeutics.

The work was published in the journal Nature Communications.

The iNKT cell therapy has the effect of rescuing depleted T cells and inducing an anti-inflammatory cytokine response, perhaps activating antiviral immunity to assist these patients fight infection while also reducing severe, pathogenic inflammation of the lung. The new research was carried out at three medical centres and found that agentT-797, which is also under investigation in cancer trials, could be manufactured rapidly, had a tolerable safety profile and appeared to have a positive effect on mortality among critically unwell COVID-19 ARDS patients receiving intensive care.

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

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

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

This trial is believed to be the first immune cell therapy of any type to be used in critically unwell patients undergoing VV-ECMO. Survival of the VV-ECMO cohort was 80 per cent after 30 and 90 days, and 60 per cent after 120 days. This compares favourably to the overall survival of 51 per cent for patients with Covid-19 who were treated with just VV-ECMO at the same institution, during the same timeframe. Joint senior author Justin Stebbing, Professor of Biomedical Sciences at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge, England, said, "During this small, exploratory study we observed that MiNK's iNKT cell treatment, which is also being advanced for people with cancer, triggered an anti-inflammatory response in ARDS patients. "Despite a poor prognosis, critically ill patients treated with this therapy showed favourable mortality rates and those treated at the highest dose also had reduced rates of pneumonia, underscoring the potential application of iNKT cells, and agentT-797 in particular, in treating viral diseases and infections more broadly. "AgentT-797 was manufactured rapidly and as opposed to using patients' cells, it is 'off-the-shelf' and made from healthy donors' cells. The potential of this therapy to be used across a number of severe infections warrants randomised controlled trials." Dr Marc van Dijk, Chief Scientific Officer at MiNK and co-author of the study said, "These published findings reinforce the unique power and potential of iNKT cells to mitigate severe acute respiratory distress."

"The data demonstrate agentT-797's encouraging survival benefit, ability to help clear secondary infections.

Study reveals how new breast imaging tech transforms cancer diagnosis

ILLINOIS : A new breast imaging technique detects cancer with high sensitivity while significantly lowering the likelihood of false-positive results, according to a study published today in Radiology: Imaging Cancer, a journal of the Radiological Society of North America.

Researchers believe the method can deliver more reliable breast cancer screening to a larger range of individuals.

Mammography is an effective new breast imaging technique detects cancer with high sensitivity while significantly lowering the likelihood of false-positive results, according to a study published today in Radiology: Imaging Cancer, a journal of the Radiological Society of North America. The new screening method for early detection of breast cancer; however, its sensitivity is reduced in dense tissue due to the masking effect of dense fibroglandular tissue.

Because nearly half of the screening population has dense breasts, many of these individuals

require further breast imaging, usually with an MRI, following mammography.

Low-dose positron emission mammography (PEM) is a novel molecular imaging technique that provides improved diagnostic performance at a radiation dose comparable to that of mammography.

For the study, 25 women, median age 52, recently diagnosed with breast cancer, underwent low-dose PEM with the radiotracer fluorine 18-labeled fluorodeoxyglucose (18F-FDG). Two breast radiologists reviewed PEM images taken one and four hours post-18F-FDG injection and correlated the findings with lab results.

PEM displayed comparable performance to MRI, identifying 24 of the 25 invasive cancers (96 per cent). Its false-positive rate was only 16 per cent, compared with 62 per cent for MRI.

Along with its strong sensitivity and low false-positive rate, PEM could potentially decrease downstream healthcare costs, as this study shows it may prevent

further unnecessary work compared to MRI. Additionally, the technology is designed to deliver a radiation dose comparable to that of traditional mammography without the need for breast compression, which can often be uncomfortable for patients.

"The integration of these features--high sensitivity, lower false-positive rates, cost-efficiency, acceptable radiation levels without compression, and independence from breast density--positions this emerging imaging modality as a potential groundbreaking advancement in the early detection of breast cancer," said study lead author Vivianne Freitas, MD, MSC, assistant professor at the University of Toronto.

"As such, it holds the promise of transforming breast cancer diagnostics and screening in the near future, complementing or even improving current imaging methods, marking a significant step forward in breast cancer care." Low-dose PEM offers potential clinical uses in both screening and diagnostic settings.

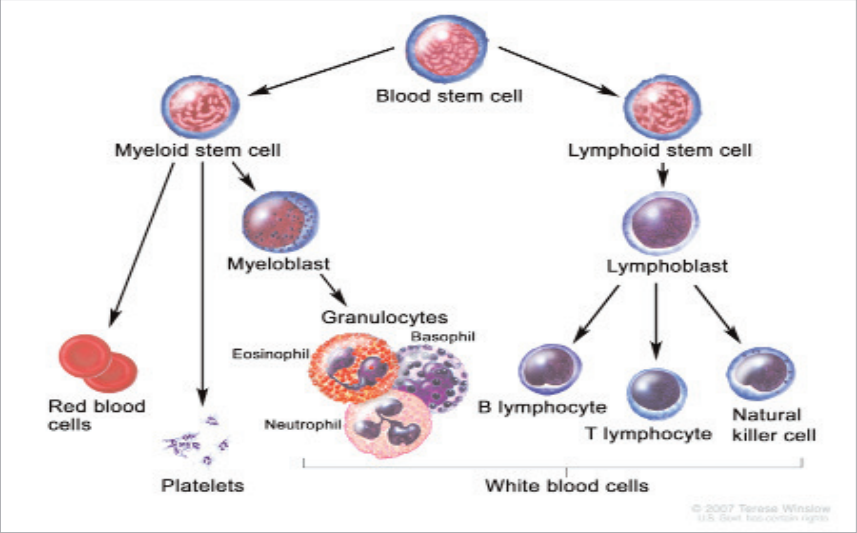
Study reveals type of childhood leukaemia originates during foetal development

BARCELONA : Acute myeloid leukaemia is the second most prevalent type of acute leukaemia in childhood, and it can be detected within a few months of life. The disease's early beginning raised the possibility that the cancer originated before birth. However, validating this notion has been difficult due to the scarcity of prenatal or newborn samples.

The opportunity to study the origin of this leukaemia arose from the case of a five-month-old baby diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia at the Hospital Nino Jesus in Madrid, explained Pablo Menendez, ICREA professor at the University of Barcelona and the Josep Carreras Institute.

"The parents, who had preserved the umbilical cord blood, opened a line of research that until now had not been possible to address," added the researcher.

Using precision medicine techniques, researchers analysed the complete genome of the tumour. Unlike tumours in adults, where thousands of mutations are detected, only two chromosomal alterations were identified in this leukaemia. 'Genome analysis allowed us to design a personalised diagnostic method to monitor the disease,' says Xose S. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Barcelona. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oviedo. 'But these data raise new questions, such as when the tumour arose and in what order these mutations have appeared,' he highlights. These questions are difficult to



answer, since such research requires blood samples from the baby before the diagnosis, something that is impossible in the vast majority of cases. However, in this particular case, the existence of a frozen umbilical cord sample allowed researchers to separate different populations of blood cells at birth and to study whether any of the chromosomal alterations detected in the tumour were already present during foetal development.

The study revealed that a translocation between chromosome 7 and 12 was already present in some haematopoietic stem cells

in the umbilical cord. In contrast, the other chromosomal alteration, a trisomy of chromosome 19, was not present in the foetus, but was found in all tumour cells, suggesting that it contributes to increasing the malignancy of the leukemic cells. 'These data are highly relevant for understanding the development of a devastating disease, and the existence of this umbilical cord sample was crucial to be able for conducting a study that had been impossible until now in acute myeloid leukaemia', adds Talia Velasco, researcher at the Josep Carreras Institute and the University of

Barcelona and co-leader of the study. In addition to reconstructing the genomic alterations that the cells undergo to generate this leukaemia, the study has also identified a molecular mechanism that had not been observed before in this type of leukaemia and which causes the activation of a gene, called MNX1, which is frequently altered in this type of tumour. Knowledge of these alterations is essential for developing cell and animal models that allow us to understand the disease's evolution and develop new therapies for treating these pathologies. The study has been led by Xose S. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oviedo-IUOPA, Talia Velasco and Pablo Menendez, from the Josep Carreras Institute and the University of Barcelona, with participation from researchers from four other institutions, including the Hospital Infantil Universitario Nino Jesus, the Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, the Instituto de Biomedicina y Biotecnologia de Cantabria and the Instituto de Investigacion Sanitaria La Princesa de Madrid.

This research has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of the parents and funding from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the European Research Council, the AECC Scientific Foundation, the Foundation Unontrecienmil, the "La Caixa" Foundation, the Government of Catalonia, CIBERONC and the III Health Institute.

A feat of engineering precision: Howrah division executes three major bridge works in a single traffic block

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Demonstrating exceptional engineering capability and seamless inter-departmental coordination, the Howrah Division of Eastern Railway has achieved a significant infrastructure milestone by successfully replacing plate girders of three important railway bridges within a single stipulated traffic block on December 21, 2025. The work was carried out in the Sainthia-Nalhati section of the strategically vital Sahibganj Loop, a key corridor for both freight and passenger train operations.

This complex operation was meticulously planned and executed by the Bridge



Unit of Howrah Division in close coordination with all concerned departments. All activities were completed safely and efficiently within the sanctioned traffic block of

seven (07) hours, from 11:30 hrs to 18:30 hrs, reflecting high standards of technical expertise, precision, and teamwork.

At Bridge No. 141 (Down Line), the existing plate girders were replaced with new welded plate girders designed for a 25-ton axle load. The operation was successfully completed within the allotted block period using two 350-ton cranes.

Similarly, Bridge No. 143 (Down Line) underwent replacement of old plate girders with new welded plate girders suitable for a 25-ton axle load. This critical activity was executed using one 500-ton crane and one 350-ton crane,

ensuring accuracy, safety, and timely completion.

At Bridge No. 171 (Down Line), old plate girders were replaced with new welded plate girders designed for a 25-ton axle load. The work was completed using one 350-ton crane, strictly adhering to prescribed safety norms and timelines.

The successful completion of all three bridge replacement works within a single traffic block underscores Howrah Division's strong commitment to infrastructure upgradation, enhanced operational safety, and increased load-carrying capacity to meet future traffic requirements.

Temporary stoppage of five weekly express trains at Garbeta station over South Eastern Railway

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Railway has decided to provide temporary stoppage for two minutes of following five (5) Mail/Express trains at Garbeta station over South Eastern Railway during 11th Sarvabhooma Bhakta Sammilani of Shri Shri 108 Swami Nigamananda Paramahansa Dev for the period from 25.12.2025 to 31.12.2025.

Arrival & Departure of fol-

lowing trains at Garbeta station:
13418 Malda Town – Digha Weekly Express journey commencing on 25.12.2025 (Arr:18.03/Dep:18.05)
13417 Digha – Malda Town Weekly Express journey commencing on 26.12.2025 (Arr:03.48/Dep:03.50)
13506 Asansol – Digha Weekly Express journey commencing on 28.12.2025 (Arr:08.18/Dep:08.20)

13505 Digha – Asansol Weekly Express journey commencing on 28.12.2025 (Arr:18.38/Dep:18.40)
18449 Puri – Patna Weekly Express journey commencing on 29.12.2025 (Arr:22.58/Dep:23.00)
18450 Patna – Puri Weekly Express journey commencing on 31.12.2025 (Arr:18.03/Dep:18.05)
18419 Puri – Jaynagar Weekly Express journey com-

mencing on 25.12.2025 (Arr: 22.58/Dep:23.00)
18420 Jaynagar – Puri Weekly Express journey commencing on 27.12.2025 (Arr:18.03/Dep:18.05)
15640 Kamakhya – Puri Weekly Express journey commencing on 28.12.2025 (Arr:18.03/Dep:18.05)
15639 Puri – Kamakhya Weekly Express journey commencing on 30.12.2025 (Arr:22.58/Dep:23.00)

Howrah division honours staff for outstanding performance and commitment to safety

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, proudly recognizes the outstanding performance, alertness, and dedication of its staff members whose timely actions ensured safe and smooth train operations and helped prevent possible untoward incidents.

Major Safety Enhancement through HADB Installation

Sri Priyash Kumar Chandra, SSE/C&W at Rampurhat (RPH), made a significant contribution to railway safety by successfully setting up 27 Hot Axle Box Detectors (HADB) in Howrah Division.

These detectors continuously monitor bearing temperatures of all types of rolling stock and generate alerts in case of abnormalities. This system has helped prevent incidents such as brake binding and possible derailments, thereby greatly enhancing



safety in Eastern Railway, Howrah Division.

Exceptional Alertness at Gangatikuri (GGLE)

Sri Vivek Kumar, Pointsman-B at Gangatikuri (GGLE), demonstrated exceptional alertness by detecting a crack in the SKB welding. He immediately informed the Station Manager, GGLE, enabling prompt corrective action. His presence of mind played a vital role in main-

taining operational safety. Timely Detection during Wagon Examination at Pakur (PKR)

On 31.10.2025, during routine examination of a rake, Sri Aman Kumar, Technician-II, PKR, and Sri Kauslendra Paswan, Technician-II, PKR, noticed excess pull in the CBC. On further inspection, they found that the front CBC of wagon was broken. Their alertness, prompt

action, and presence of mind helped avert a possible untoward incident and ensured safe train operations.

In recognition of their outstanding service, Shri Vishal Kapoor, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Howrah, awarded these staff members during a safety meeting held at the New DRM Building Conference Hall, on 21.12.2025 in the presence of senior officers and officials of Eastern Railway, Howrah Division. The DRM appreciated their quick action, presence of mind, and sincere efforts toward ensuring railway safety.

Eastern Railway, Howrah Division, commends these staff members for their exemplary performance and reaffirms its strong commitment to maintaining the highest standards of safety and reliability in train operations.

Multi-purpose health drive organised at Siuri Railway Station over Asansol Division

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Asansol: With a continued focus on the health and well-being of railway employees and passengers, Asansol Division organised a Multi-Purpose Health Drive at Siuri Railway Station on 22 December 2025. The programme was conducted by the Health and Family Welfare Department, Divisional Railway Hospital, Asansol, under the overall supervision of the Divisional medical administration.

The health drive was carried out by a dedicated team comprising medical officers, nursing staff, health educators, dietician, pharmacist and paramedical personnel, ensuring comprehensive medical coverage and smooth conduct of the pro-



gramme for railway staff.

During the camp, a range of essential health services were provided, including ECG, blood pressure monitoring, blood sugar testing, height and weight mea-

surement, BMI assessment, spirometry and other basic health examinations. Based on medical assessment, medicines were distributed with appropriate medical advice, supporting early

detection of health issues and promoting preventive healthcare practices.

In addition, a CPR training session was conducted for Siuri station staff to enhance preparedness in handling medical emergencies. The training aimed at strengthening emergency response capability at the station, thereby contributing to improved passenger safety and staff readiness.

The health drive received encouraging feedback from participants. Such initiatives reaffirm Asansol Division's commitment to ensuring

healthy manpower, efficient railway operations and a safe and passenger-friendly railway environment through regular healthcare outreach and preventive health initiatives.

Eight Railway Staff Honored by ECoR for Dedication and Alertness

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal felicitated eight frontline railway employees for their outstanding dedication, alertness, and valuable contribution towards ensuring safe and uninterrupted train operations.

The employees recognized were:

- Boni Kiran Kumar, Station Superintendent, Jaggayapalem
- Kallepalli Suneel, Technician-I / C&W, Visakhapatnam
- Pillala Ramu, Track Maintainer-IV, Jarati
- Venkateswararao Kaya, Goods Train Manager, Koraput



- Jogi Ramesh, Technician-I / C&W, Visakhapatnam
- V. Someswara Rao, Loco Pilot (Mail/Express), Titlagarh
- Subhendu Kumar Sahoo, Pointsman 'A', Bad-

- abandha
- Satish Kumar, Pointsman 'A', Charbatia

Their timely response and proactive actions ensured operational safety, prevented potential disruptions, and upheld the high

safety standards of Indian Railways.

While presenting the awards, the General Manager emphasized that frontline staff such as Track, Signal and OHE Maintainers, Loco Pilots, Technicians, Goods Train Managers and Station Managers form the backbone of railway operations, and their constant vigilance and dedication are critical to maintaining efficiency and safety across the railway network.

East Coast Railway reaffirmed its commitment to fostering a strong culture of safety and operational excellence, while continuing to recognize and encourage the invaluable service rendered by employees working at the grassroots level.

Iraq, Pakistan vow to strengthen ties, promote regional stability

MI News Service, Baghdad: Iraqi President Abdul Latif Rashid discussed with his Pakistani counterpart Asif Ali Zardari here on Sunday ways to strengthen bilateral ties and promote regional stability.

According to a statement from the Iraqi presidency, both leaders emphasized the impor-

ance of "aligning positions and strengthening coordination" to contribute to regional security and stability and help ease existing tensions.

During expanded talks between their delegations, Rashid reaffirmed Iraq's commitment to deepening cooperation in cultural, scientific and economic

fields, highlighting the potential of maritime connectivity and the benefits of expanding cooperation in religious tourism.

The two sides also discussed enhancing military coordination, drawing on Pakistan's expertise in air force development and pilot training, as well as boosting intelligence and security infor-

mation-sharing in counterterrorism efforts.

For his part, Zardari expressed Pakistan's readiness to broaden cooperation with Iraq across multiple sectors, praising the historical ties between the two nations and affirming support for the shared interests of both peoples.

Diversion of two express trains for maintenance work

MI News Service, 22 Dec 2025, Kolkata: Due to feeder wiring works for all line between Jaugram & Palla Road stations in Howrah Division, 90 minutes Traffic & Power block has been planned for 02 days on 24.12.2025 & 25.12.2025. Consequently, following trains will be diverted as under:

- 12370 Dehradun – Howrah Kumbh Express (journey commencing on 22.12.2025 & 23.12.2025) will be diverted via Bardhaman – Bandel.
- 15272 Muzaffarpur – Howrah Jansadharan Express (journey commencing on 23.12.2025) will be diverted via Bardhaman – Bandel.
- 15234 Darbhanga – Kolkata Maithili Express (journey commencing on 24.12.2025) will be diverted via Bardhaman – Bandel – Dum Dum Jn. with stoppages at Bandel & Naihati.

Spl ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to address Thailand-Cambodia conflict

MI News Service, Kuala Lumpur: The Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting to address the Thai-Cambodia conflict was held on Monday in Kuala Lumpur, as the regional grouping seeks to promote de-escalation.

Malaysia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the meeting serves as a platform for the grouping to consider possible steps to support de-escalation and the cessation of hostilities, in the interest of peace and regional stability.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan, who chaired the meeting, reminded those present that ASEAN stands at a critical juncture in regional and global affairs, as geopolitical disruptions challenge the very foundations of the region's order.

"This threatens ASEAN's credibility as one of the most peaceful and successful regional organizations and integration projects in modern history. And in a highly interconnected ASEAN and world, a security shock is an ASEAN matter and a global concern. This is why everyone must make cessation of hostilities and peaceful resolution a top priority," he said.

Ukraine says latest peace talks with U.S., Europe "productive"

MI News Service, Kiev: Ukraine's talks with U.S. and European partners over the past three days in the U.S. state of Florida were "productive and constructive," Ukraine's top peace negotiator Rustem Umerov said on Sunday.

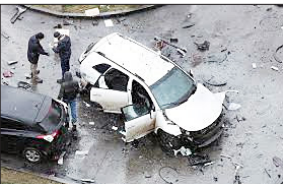
In a Facebook post, Umerov said discussions between Ukraine and the U.S. focused on further development of a 20-point peace plan, aligning positions on multilateral and U.S. security guarantee frameworks for Ukraine, and further development of an economic and prosperity plan.

The sides also discussed timelines and the sequencing of next steps.

"Our shared priority is to stop the killing, ensure guaranteed security, and create conditions for Ukraine's recovery, stability, and long-term prosperity," Umerov said.

U.S. presidential special envoy Steve Witkoff issued a similar statement on X, confirming that "a series of productive and constructive meetings" were held over the past three days.

Russian general killed in car explosion



MI News Service, Moscow: Russian Lieutenant General Fani Sarvarov was killed in a car explosion in Moscow on Monday, the Russian Investigative Committee said.

According to the committee, an explosive device was planted under a car and detonated on Yasenevaya Street in southern Moscow on Monday morning. Sarvarov, head of the Operational Training Directorate of the Russian Armed Forces' General Staff, died from injuries.

An investigation has been launched into the murder, with authorities examining multiple possible motives, including alleged involvement by Ukrainian special services, it said.

The lynching of Dipu Chandra Das: Bangladesh must ensure the safety and rights of its Hindu community

MI News Service, New Delhi: The brutal lynching of 25-year-old Dipu Chandra Das in Bangladesh must be condemned in the strongest possible terms. It is not merely the killing of a young man; it is a chilling reminder of how quickly mob hysteria, fueled by rumors and religious sensitivities, can overpower law, reason, and humanity. Such acts strike at the very foundations of any civilized society and expose a dangerous erosion of the rule of law.

Dipu Chandra Das, a young Hindu garment factory worker, was lynched to death in Bhaluka, Mymensingh, over allegations of blasphemy. According to reports, he was tied up, beaten mercilessly, killed, and then his body was set on fire, while thousands of people reportedly stood by as silent spectators. The sheer scale and savagery of the violence underline a grim reality: mobocracy, when left unchecked, can turn ordinary citizens into accomplices to unspeakable crimes. This incident reflects a deeply disturbing state of lawlessness that demands urgent and uncompromising response from the authorities.

To its credit, the Bangladesh government responded swiftly and unequivocally. In an official statement issued on Friday, the government described the killing as "deeply unfortunate and unacceptable," reiterating that there is "no place for such violence" in the country. The statement reaffirmed Bangladesh's commitment to protecting the lives and rights of all citizens, irrespective of religion or community. It emphasized that Bangladesh was founded on the ideals of secularism, pluralism, and equal citizenship—principles that are fundamentally incompatible with mob violence driven by religious hatred.

Crucially, law enforcement investigations have already punctured the very basis on which the mob acted. Mohd Samsuzzaman, a Company Commander of the Rapid Action Battalion in Mymensingh, told The Daily Star that no evidence was found indicating that Dipu Chandra Das had written anything on Facebook that could have



hurt religious sentiments. This revelation exposes the tragic absurdity of the lynching: a young man was tortured and killed not for any proven act, but on the basis of rumor, suspicion, and collective frenzy. The Chief Adviser of the Government of Bangladesh later confirmed that ten suspects had been arrested in connection with the lynching, sending a clear message that perpetrators would be held accountable.

This firm response matters. In South Asia, mob lynching has increasingly become a tool of intimidation, particularly against minorities, with allegations of blasphemy or sacrilege often serving as the spark. What distinguishes a state governed by law from one sliding into chaos is not the absence of crime, but the certainty of accountability. By condemning the killing and arresting those involved, the Bangladesh government has taken a step in the right direction—one that deserves recognition and reinforcement.

After Osman Hadi, another student leader shot in Bangladesh

MI News Service, Dhaka: Unidentified gunmen on Monday shot in the head Moteab Shikder, a second leader of Bangladesh's violent student-led 2024 uprising.

The attack took place in southwestern Khulna city, days after the killing of prominent youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi.

"The Khulna Division head of NCP (National Citizen Party) and central coordinator of the party's workers front, Moteab Shikder, was shot a few minutes ago," NCP's joint principal coordinator Mahmuda Mitu said in a Facebook post.

Mitu, a doctor, said Shikder was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The Kaler Kantha newspaper, quoting hospital sources, said Shikder was shot on the left side of his

head, and he was bleeding profusely when he was brought to the facility, where the doctors started emergency treatment.

The attack came days after Hadi, a prominent leader of the student-led protests last year that led to the ouster of the prime minister Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government, was shot in the head on December 12 by masked gunmen at an election campaign in central Dhaka's Bijoy Nagar area.

The 32-year-old Inqilab Mancha spokesperson died while undergoing treatment in Singapore on Thursday. Hadi was a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections.

The interim government of Muhammad Yunus staged a nationwide mourning for Hadi's death on Saturday and said no stone would be

left unturned to track down his killers as violence erupted in Dhaka and other major cities afresh over the attack and subsequent death.

Faisal Karim Masud's parents, wife and a female friend of the prime suspect have been arrested by police, but said they were unsure about his current whereabouts.

After Monday's clandestine attack on Shikder in Khulna city's Majid Sarani area, police said they were yet at dark about the attack perpetrators or motive but launched an "immediate manhunt" for their arrest.

Local police station chief Animesh Mondal, however, informed reporters that Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) authorities now shifted Shikder to its City Imaging Centre to pinpoint the state of his injury.

Israel bars Save the Children from working in Gaza

MI News Service, Gaza: Israel has barred Save the Children, a leading non-profit organisation, from carrying out relief work in Gaza after it introduced new rules that mandate international NGOs to register under its new framework, in a move that could hamper the inflow of humanitarian aid to the besieged strip.

The Israel government said it mandatory for NGOs to register under its new framework by December 31. "We do not wish to impede aid distribution but to prevent hostile actors or supporters of terrorism operating in the Palestinian territories," Israel's Ministry of Diaspora Affairs and Combating Antisemitism told the news agency AFP.

As of Nov 2025, the ministry said it has received around 100 registration requests, of which 14 have been rejected on grounds of "involvement in terrorism, antisemitism, delegitimation of Israel, Holocaust denial, denial of the crimes of Oct 7."

The most contentious requirement for the NGOs is to prove they do not work for the "delegitimation" of Israel, which aid workers say is dangerously vague.

The NGOs barred under the new rules include Save the Children, one of the best known and oldest in Gaza, where it helps 120,000 children, and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC). They are being given 60 days to withdraw all their international staff from the Gaza Strip, the occupied West Bank and Israel, and will no longer be able to deliver any aid.

Humanitarian workers say the crisis come amid reports of Palestinians facing a harsh winter, widespread malnutrition and famine, and continued air strikes under a fragile ceasefire brokered by the U.S.

The United Nations strongly denounced the new registration system, calling for its immediate withdrawal, warning that it could choke the already trickling flow of aid into the beleaguered Gaza Strip.

In a sharply worded statement, the Humanitarian Country Team of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (HCT) warned that under the current rule, dozens

of NGOs face deregistration and forced closure of their operations within weeks.

"They represent only a fraction of the response in Gaza and are nowhere near the number required just to meet immediate and basic needs. If they are pushed out, the humanitarian response will not survive," read the statement.

According to the report, around USD 1 billion worth of assistance is delivered annually across the Strip. "Yet millions of dollars' worth of food, medicines, hygiene supplies and shelter materials are now stuck outside Gaza, unable to reach families in need," the statement read.

Raising an alarm, the UN stated that if NGOs are forced to leave, one in three health facilities in Gaza would close almost immediately, cutting off care for tens of thousands of patients.

"Lifesaving assistance must be allowed to reach Palestinians without further delay," the statement concluded, urging Israel to allow aid, without which the consequences would be catastrophic.

U.S., Ukraine call Miami talks "productive" amid Russian military advances

MI News Service, Beijing: U.S. and Ukrainian negotiators on Sunday hailed the talks in Miami, Florida, as "productive and constructive" amid Russian troops' advances on the eastern front of Ukraine.

Three-day talks on the Ukraine crisis finished on Sunday among the United States, Ukraine, and European representatives in Florida, described by the U.S. presidential special envoy Steve Witkoff on the social platform X as "productive and constructive."

Witkoff said the discussions focused on key documents, including the further development of a 20-point plan. "Particular attention was given to discussing timelines and the sequencing of next steps," he said.

"We are working construc-

tively and substantively. We are counting on further progress and practical results," top Ukrainian negotiator Rustem Umerov said on the Telegram messenger.

After the talks on Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called for broader consultations with European partners.

"We are moving at a fairly rapid pace, and our team in Florida has been working with the American side," Zelenskyy said on the Telegram messenger.

In another post on X, Witkoff also praised the result of a separate talk between the United States and Russia.

"Over the last two days in Florida, the Russian Special Envoy Kirill Dmitriev held productive and constructive meetings with the American delegation

to advance President (Donald) Trump's peace plan on Ukraine," Witkoff wrote.

While no breakthroughs were announced in the Miami talks, the Russian forces have been advancing steadily on the battlefield.

Over the past week, "Russia has launched approximately 1,300 attack drones, nearly 1,200 guided aerial bombs, and 9 missiles of various types" against Ukraine, Zelenskyy said.

In the eastern Sumy region, Russian troops have crossed the border with Ukraine and taken 50 people from a local village, according to Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andrii Sybiba.

In recent months, Russian troops have secured a foothold in some of the villages in the Sumy region.

KRISHNAPPA GOWTHAM RETIRES FROM ALL FORMS OF CRICKET

NEW DELHI : Former India all-rounder Krishnappa Gowtham has called time on his professional cricket career, announcing his retirement from all formats on Monday. The 37-year-old shared the news at a special press conference held at the KSCA Media Lounge, attended by Karnataka State Cricket Association president Venkatesh Prasad, vice-president Sujith Somasundar, and secretary Santosh Menon.

Gowtham featured once for India at the international level, making his lone ODI appearance against Sri Lanka on July 23, 2021. His only international wicket came in that match, when he dismissed wicketkeeper Minod Bhanuka.

He rose to prominence in the Indian Premier League when he became the most expensive uncapped Indian player at the IPL 2021 auction, after being snapped up by Chennai Super Kings for INR 9.25 crore. That record later changed hands, first with Avesh Khan and more recently with Kartik Sharma and Prashant Veer at the IPL 2026 mini-auction.

Across his IPL career, Gowtham has turned out for Mumbai Indians, Rajasthan Royals, Punjab Kings, Chennai Super Kings and Lucknow Super Giants. His final appearance in the league came in May 2024, representing Lucknow Super Giants against Sunrisers Hyderabad.

In 36 IPL matches, the spin-bowling all-rounder scored 247 runs at a strike rate of 166.90, while also taking 21 wickets at an economy rate of 8.24. Beyond the IPL, he enjoyed solid returns in domestic cricket, finishing with 737 runs and 116 wickets across 32 first-class games. In List A cricket, he scored 400 runs and claimed 51 wickets in 32 matches, while his T20 career saw him amass 454 runs and take 32 wickets across 49 appearances.

One of the defining moments of Gowtham's career came during the 2019 Karnataka Premier League, when playing for Bellary Tuskers. In a remarkable all-round display, he blasted 134 off just 56 deliveries - including a 39-ball hundred - and followed it up with sensational bowling figures of 8 for 15 in the same match.

Ishan Kishan named captain as Jharkhand announce squad for Vijay Hazare Trophy

RANCHI : India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has been named captain of Jharkhand for the upcoming Vijay Hazare Trophy Elite (VHT) 2025/26, the Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) confirmed. The domestic 50-over tournament begins on December 24, with Jharkhand set to open their campaign against Karnataka in Ahmedabad.

The squad announced for the season features a mix of experience and youth, including Kumar Kushagra, Anukul Roy, Robin Minz, Abhinav Sharan and Virat Singh, as Jharkhand look to build on recent success in white-ball cricket.

Kishan's appointment follows a standout Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy 2025/26 season, where he led

Jharkhand to their maiden SMAT title. The wicketkeeper-batter was in outstanding form throughout the tournament, amassing 517 runs from 10 innings at an average of 57.44, with two hundreds and two half-centuries to his name. His defining moment came in the final against Haryana, where he struck a commanding 101 to guide his side to the championship. That run of performances has also earned Kishan a recall to the Indian squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. He has been included as the team's second-choice wicket-keeper-batter, behind Sanju Samson, marking a return to the national setup on the back of sustained domestic excellence. "He bats at the top in white-ball cricket. He's been in good form. He's played before for India. He has a double



hundred in one-day cricket. He wasn't in the Indian team because there's a Rishabh Pant and a Dhruv Jurel ahead. They're two pretty good players," Chief Selector Ajit Agarkar told the media during the press conference to announce the Indian squad for the Men's T20 World Cup.

Jharkhand Squad For Vijay Hazare Trophy 2025/26: Ishan Kishan (WK & captain), Virat Singh, Utkarsh Singh, Kumar Kushagra (WK & vice-captain), Robin Minz, Anukul Roy, Sharandeep Singh, Shikhar Mohan, Pankaj Kumar (WK), Bala Krishna, Md Kounain Quraishi, Shubh Sharma, Amit Kumar, Manishi, Abhinav Sharan, Sushant Mishra, Vikash Singh, Saurabh Shekhar, Rajandeep Singh, Shubham Singh.

National Shooting C'ship: Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav claims 10m air rifle gold

BHOPAL : Navy's Kiran Ankush Jadhav produced a composed and consistent performance to clinch the gold medal in the 10m Air Rifle Men final in the 68th National Shooting Championship, currently underway here at the MP State Shooting Academy.

Jadhav finished with 252.1, holding off Olympian Arjun Babuta, who secured a silver medal with 251.4, while reigning 50m Rifle 3 Positions national champion Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar completed the podium with 229.8.

Arjun's Railways teammate Shahu Tushar Mane finished fourth with 209.3, followed by Himanshu (181.1), Ramayana Tomer (166.7), Onkar Vikas Waghmare (145.4), and Pradeep Singh (123.3) to round out the final lineup.

In the 10m Air Rifle Men Junior final, Gujarat's Mohammed Murtaza Vania delivered an authoritative display to secure the gold medal with 254.3. Abhinav Shaw of West Bengal claimed the silver with 251.6, while Onkar Vikas Waghmare finished third with 230.1 to earn the bronze medal.

Naraen Pranav of Karnataka finished fourth with 209, following a shoot-off with Onkar, while Divyanshu Shailendra

Dewangan (187.5) and Parth Mane (166.9) placed fifth and sixth, respectively, the latter also bowing out after a shoot-off. Uma Mahesh Maddineni

Kendre (166.4), who exited after a shoot-off. Abishek Sekhar (145.2) and Ritesh Ravindra Ghule (123.1) were the other finalists.

The medal ceremonies were conducted in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, with Pawankumar Singh, Secretary General, NRAI, and Sureshwar Singh (M L A), President, Swami Vivekanand Degree College, Masai, Bahraich, a n d Member, Panchayat Raj Samiti V i d h a n Sabha, Uttar Pradesh, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The medals were also presented by Col. C. Naren Babu, Sena Medal Awardee and Commanding Officer, AMU-Mhow; Shri Nilesh Rane, Director, Caprie Sports; Deepak Kumar Dubey, Coach of the Indian Shooting Team; S; Dhiraj Singh, CRO, 10m Rifle Event, 68th NSCC, Bhopal; Sanjeev Gupta, Assistant Director of Sports, M.P. State Shooting Academy, Bhopal; and Asim Baruah, Chief RTS, 68th NSCC Rifle Event, Bhopal.

The action at the Madhya Pradesh State Shooting Academy continues on Tuesday (December 23, 2025) with the 10m Air Rifle Mixed Team event scheduled, with the first final set to begin at 12:45 pm.



(145.3) and Himanshu (123) completed the finals.

Onkar Vikas Waghmare went one better in the 10m Air Rifle Men Youth final, converting his strong form into gold with 250. Onkar built a decisive advantage in the closing shots to finish just 0.3 ahead of his state teammate Naraen Pranav, who took silver, while Shaktihivel Senthivel of Tamil Nadu won the bronze medal with 229.5.

Parth Mane (208.2) finished fourth, followed by Abhinav Shaw (187.3) and Pritam

Pro Wrestling League unveils Logo ahead of fifth season



NEW DELHI : The Pro Wrestling League (PWL), sanctioned by the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), unveiled its new official logo ahead of the fifth season, signalling the league's revival after a seven-year hiatus.

The Pro Wrestling League is scheduled to return in January 2026, featuring top Indian and international wrestlers, promising high-intensity competition and a commercially viable framework designed to support the sport's growth.

The newly launched logo is a modern, dynamic emblem inspired by the traditional red-and-blue wrestling mat, symbolising strength, balance and competitive spirit. The logo represents a complete reset for the Pro Wrestling League, which has undergone a significant structural and operational overhaul under its new ownership and management.

PWL's renewed mission is to create a world-class professional platform for wrestlers by bridging the gap between grassroots akhadas and the global competi-

tive stage. The league aims to provide structured opportunities, international exposure and a professionally managed environment for athletes, while contributing to the long-term growth and credibility of wrestling in India.

The revitalised vision is being implemented in close collaboration with the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), ensuring the league operates in line with national regulations and governance standards. The collaboration is expected to strengthen the pathway for emerging wrestlers to progress from traditional training systems to the national and international spotlight.

The league is now being operated under the ownership and management of ONO Media, led by partners Akhil Gupta and Dayaan Farooqui. The new management has moved away from previous frameworks to build a transparent, athlete-first ecosystem focused on professionalism, integrity and long-term sustainability within Indian wrestling.

Speaking on the occasion, Akhil Gupta, CEO, Pro Wrestling League, said, "The new logo reflects our vision for the future of the Pro Wrestling League - modern, aggressive and world-class. More importantly, it represents a clean slate. We are building a league that honours the sport and its athletes through transparency, professionalism and long-term commitment. The past is behind us, and the focus is firmly on creating a sustainable ecosystem for Indian wrestling."

"This logo launch marks the beginning of a new era for the Pro Wrestling League. The identity represents trust, opportunity, and ambition. As we prepare for our return after seven years, our priority is firmly on placing athletes at the center of the ecosystem and delivering a league that wrestlers, fans, and stakeholders can truly believe in," added Dayaan Farooqui, Chairman, Pro Wrestling League.

With its new identity and reimagined structure, PWL aims to usher in a new era for professional wrestling in India.

MEET MOHAMMAD IZHAR - THE LEFT-ARM PACER FROM BIHAR WHO CAUGHT THE EYE OF MUMBAI INDIANS

NEW DELHI : Mohammad Izhar had little time to savour the feeling of his IPL dream coming true. As his name was called out at the IPL 2026 auction, the left-arm pacer from Birpur in Bihar's Supaul district was already racing against the clock - within 15-20 minutes, he needed to board a bus for a six-hour ride to Patna, where the Vijay Hazare Trophy camp awaited him.

"When the auction was on, I was at home with my brothers in law. While from the outside I was very excited and nervous, I was very anxious about whether my name will come in the auction or not. Finally, the Mumbai Indians picked me and it brought in a different level of happiness.

"While I was feeling very good and excited about getting a chance to be in IPL, I became very emotional. Though everyone began celebrating at home, I had to leave to catch the bus for Patna, so I didn't celebrate it much," Izhar recalled in an exclusive conversation with IANS.

The five-time champions have been renowned for unearthing uncapped gems through a robust scouting system. Though they had a small purse in IPL 2026 auction, picking Izhar for his base price of Rs 30 lakh is very much a signal that they may have unearthed another gem in the making.

Even as he remained engaged with the trials of Kolkata Knight Riders, Izhar recalled how the five-time champions chose patience in having a look at him. "Though Mumbai Indians is a big franchise, they are so humble,



which even words cannot explain. When they called me for a trial, I was at KKR's trial.

"But despite being such a big team, they waited for me to come for the trials. When I reached, I was very tired, but I saw they waited for me and told me to rest for a while, so that I could bowl comfortably after recovering. I rested well and then went through the trials very well. It's a very good franchise and the coaches there were very humble." Izhar's cricketing journey began in Birpur, a town in Supaul district, where tennis ball cricket was the gateway to bigger dreams. His transition to leather ball cricket came through a chance observation by his local mentor Jaichand, who spotted raw talent that others missed.

"Jaichand bhaiya and Birbal bhaiya got me into leather ball cricket and taught me a lot for the last 2-3 years. Previously, I played tennis ball cricket and in one of the games, Jaichand

bhaiya saw me bowling and then he told me to start playing with a leather ball.

"I then went on to play for the district and initially it felt a little tough as I was straightaway playing these games without having played leather ball cricket before. But it began so well that I haven't looked back after that. Birbal bhaiya is a star bowler himself. I learnt a lot from him and Jaichand, who himself was a cricketer," he added.

Watching legendary fast bowlers Mitchell Starc, Shoaib Akhtar and Brett Lee also transformed Izhar's casual interest into a Junoon (passion) to play cricket. "Starc has always been my idol from the start. Then seeing Akhtar and Lee take wickets brought in a junoon in me about playing cricket. From the start, it was not like I will play for India or be in IPL. Gradually, I started playing and those thing started to come in my mind.

"You do get a good under-

standing of these things once you start to put yourself through the grind. I started setting aims that I want to play for the state and do well there. It was in my mind that I wanted to play in the IPL, though the goal of playing for India is still at the top. But I didn't anticipate that I will get picked this year. So, I am very thankful to God that I got picked for IPL this year."

Like many young cricketers from smaller towns, Izhar's early journey wasn't paved with automatic support. Bihar's limited cricketing infrastructure meant initial struggles were there, but his father's growing belief in him transformed everything.

"When I started playing, my father started giving me a lot of support. He began to understand that I have games to play and do well in them. The support from him grew so much that he started taking care of everything around me by himself. Whenever I got small bruises, he would put a bandage quickly at home."

The Bihar Cricket Association's faith proved equally crucial, especially after Izhar had a disappointing previous season. The backing from BCA officials, including previous President Rakesh Tiwari, allowed Izhar to rebuild confidence and rediscover form when it mattered most.

"Last year, I did not get anything great in terms of performances. I started preparing for this season early and the association trusted me to come good. So I am very thankful for that to all of them in BCA. I am very thankful for the chances because of which

I got selected for the IPL.

"I had a good performance this time in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (taking nine wickets in five games in Kolkata), where the IPL scouts saw me, called me for trials, got into the auction and now I will be in IPL."

Izhar's bowling arsenal centers on both inswing and outswing, complemented by variations of slower ball essential for success in T20s. Operating around 135 kmph, Izhar acknowledges his game remains a work in progress, particularly his execution of yorker and consistency with swing deliveries.

"I also have the yorker in my repertoire, but I need to groom and polish it more. In all, I need to do everything better because I am not always perfect. Like my in swing and out swing is not perfect yet, and I need to work on it more. I always try to work on the small things and make my bowling better. Plus, there are some variations of slower ball that I need to polish and groom more."

With an IPL deal in hand, Izhar will have access to two masters of the craft - Trent Boult, whose left-arm swing bowling mirrors Izhar's own style, and Jasprit Bumrah, whose yorkers and control have redefined modern-day fast bowling. "Boult bowls with the left arm like me and Bumrah swings the ball well. His yorkers are deadly. I am going to learn a lot from them."

For youngsters from modest cricketing outposts, Izhar's rise carries a clear message: patience and persistence outweigh the lure of instant success.



Suryakumar Yadav to play two Vijay Hazare Trophy matches in Jan 2026

NEW DELHI : India T20I captain Suryakumar Yadav and all-rounder Shivam Dube have informed the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) of their availability for two Vijay Hazare Trophy fixtures scheduled for January 6 and 8.

Mumbai's 50-over campaign will get underway in Jaipur from December 24, with their opening league match against Sikkim on Wednesday. As per a report by Indian Express, Suryakumar and Dube are set to feature in the games against Himachal Pradesh on January 6 and the next against Punjab two days later.

"Surya and Dube have informed us that they will be playing two Vijay Hazare Trophy games on January 6th and 8th. Their names will be added in the Mumbai squad. As far as Rohit Sharma is concerned, he will be playing two league games at the moment," an MCA official was quoted as saying in the report.

All players who were part of India's recent 3-1 T20I series victory over South Africa have been directed to play at least two matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy. The BCCI has communicated this requirement to its contracted players, continuing a push for greater participation in domestic cricket.

Earlier this year, selection committee chair Ajit Agarkar had stressed the importance of internationals turning out in

domestic competitions whenever their schedules allow.

"I think we made it clear a year or a couple of years back that whenever players are available, they should be playing domestic cricket. I mean, that's the only way you'll keep yourself sharp and playing cricket, if you've got a long enough break. Whether that's possible with the international cricket you're playing or not, that only time will tell, but if the guys are free, they should be playing domestic cricket," Agarkar had said.

The Indian T20I squad will have just under a month off before regrouping in Nagpur for the first of five T20Is against New Zealand on January 21. That series will be their final outing before India begins their T20 World Cup title defence against the USA at the iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on February 7.