

KMC to issue domicile certificates from central office

In a major relief for senior citizens in Kolkata, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided that domicile certificates will now be issued directly from its central headquarters, eliminating the need for applicants to visit Town Hall. The decision was taken amid the prevailing SIR-related concerns and is aimed at easing the documentation process for elderly residents of the city. Mayor Firhad Hakim said that senior citizens residing in Kolkata who are yet to obtain domicile certificates will now be able to apply and receive the document from the KMC's central building. "Elderly citizens will no longer have to go to Town Hall for domicile certificates. The same service will now be provided from the Corporation's central office," the Mayor said, adding that the decision was taken keeping public convenience in mind. So far, residents from all 144 wards of Kolkata were required to visit Town Hall to obtain domicile certificates.

PG 3



Rs. 3

KOLKATA

WEDNESDAY, 24 DECEMBER, 2025

PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-204

(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India



Thousands of revelers flocked Park Street in Central Kolkata amid awe-inspiring illumination marking the pre-Christmas celebration on Tuesday. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

Rahul Gandhi rattled as even family members have lost confidence in him: BJP

MI News Service, New Delhi: Slamming Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his recent remarks in Berlin, alleging that the Leader of Opposition speaks against India and defames the country on foreign soil because he is "rattled" by the fact that his party colleagues and even family members are showing "no confidence" in him, the BJP said that he has lost people's confidence. It is apparent that he has completely lost the confidence of the citizens of



he embarked on a foreign trip once again, while remaining committed to American investor George Soros, to vent his ire against the BJP and India. Rahul Gandhi, once again in opposition to Prime minister Modi and the people's mandate, started opposing India in Berlin

Shehzad Poonawalla BJP national spokesperson

India and as a result the Congress has also lost 95 elections under his leadership. BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla told a press conference at the party headquarters here. The BJP came down heavily on Rahul Gandhi after the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha alleged that the ruling party is proposing the "elimination of the Constitution" that grants equal rights to every citizen and vowed to create a system of opposition resistance that will succeed in removing it from power. Speaking at the Hertie School in Berlin last week, Rahul Gandhi accused the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of launching a full-scale assault on the country's

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'Life at stake' for Bangladeshi journalists as mobs target media

MI News Service, Dhaka / New Delhi: Amid the present volatile situation, the media in strife-torn Bangladesh is facing an extreme difficult time and the freedom of expression has been overtaken by concerns over journalists' "right to stay alive", editors of several leading Bangladeshi newspapers have said. These remarks were made on Tuesday in the wake of mobs vandalising and setting ablaze the offices of 'Prothom Alo' and 'The Daily Star' newspapers in Dhaka on Thursday night, trapping several journalists and staff inside for hours as police and fire services were initially prevented from reaching the spot.

"Freedom of expression is no longer the main issue. Now it is about the right to stay alive," Daily Star editor and publisher Mahfuz Anam said at a press conference attended by senior politicians, business leaders and media owners here today. "The media in Bangladesh is facing a fight for survival", he said. Anam said the attacks were aimed at killing journalists and staff rather than being acts of protest against specific newspapers. Otherwise, the mob would have told journalists to leave before setting the buildings on fire, he said. Instead, in a gruesome incident 26-27 media



Freedom of expression is no longer the main issue. Now it is about the right to stay alive," Daily Star editor and publisher Mahfuz Anam said at a press conference attended by senior politicians, business leaders and media owners here today. "The media in Bangladesh is facing a fight for survival" --Bangladeshi newspapers

persons were trapped on the rooftop of The Daily Star building while the

fire brigade was not allowed to reach them, Anam said. He also cited social

media messages allegedly calling for journalists of the two dailies to be hunted down and killed at their homes. Meanwhile, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) defended its delayed intervention, saying immediate action could have worsened the

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Trump repeats claim of stopping potential nuke war between India and Pakistan

MI News Service, Washington (DC): Despite India's repeated denial, US President Donald Trump has once again reiterated his claim of resolving the India-Pakistan conflict and asserted that Islamabad's leadership had credited him for saving millions of lives. "We stopped a potential nuclear war between Pakistan and India. And the head of Pakistan, a highly respected General, he's a Field Marshal and also the Prime Minister of Pakistan, said President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more...." Trump said here on Tuesday. He made these remarks at Mar-a-Lago, Florida, flanked by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth and Navy Secretary John Phelan. "You know, eight planes were shot down. That war was starting to rage, and he actually said the other day that President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more. So we solved all these wars. The only one I haven't solved yet is Russia, Ukraine," he said.

Since May 10, when Trump announced on his social media platform that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and imme-



President Donald Trump speaks at his Mar-a-Lago club, in Palm Beach, Florida.

You know, eight planes were shot down. That war was starting to rage, and he actually said the other day that President Trump saved 10 million lives, maybe more. So we solved all these wars. The only one I haven't solved yet is Russia, Ukraine --Donald Trump

diated" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim over 60 times that he "helped settle" the tensions between the two neighbours. New Delhi has, however, consistently denied any third-party intervention and said the war was stopped after the DGMO of the Pakistani army requested his Indian counterpart over telephone for an immediate ceasefire on May 10. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, tar-

geting and destroying nine major terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes.

But in spite of that President Trump has repeated more than 60 times that he

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S. Jaishankar assures India's commitment to rebuilding of Sri Lanka



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar jointly inaugurates a 120-foot dual carriageway Bailey Bridge with Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake and Foreign Minister HM Vijitha Herath, in Kilinochchi, Sri Lanka.

MI News Service, Colombo / New Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday met Sri Lankan Prime Minister Harini Amarasuriya and assured India's steadfast commitment to Sri Lanka's rebuilding post Cyclone Ditwah. Jaishankar is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's special envoy. "Good to meet Prime Minister @Dr_HariniA of Sri Lanka in Colombo today. Assured India's steadfast commitment to Sri Lanka's rebuilding post Cyclone Dit-

wah. The reconstruction package offered by India is a reflection of the deep bonding between our two nations," Jaishankar posted on X. During the meeting, Jaishankar and his counterpart Herath also jointly inaugurated a 120-foot dual carriageway Bailey Bridge in the Kilinochchi District of Northern Province. "Jointly inaugurated with FM @HMVijithaHerath in the presence of President @anuradissanayake, a 120-foot

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TMC workers eager to listen to CM Mamata in Bankura next week

MI News Service, Kolkata: In view of Chief minister Mamata Banerjee's proposed visit to Bankura on December 30, huge expectations have been generated among the Bankura district Trinamool Congress workers about what message the TMC supremo would give them before the next year's Assembly poll.

During her visit Mamata Banerjee is likely to address a rally at Barjora, the party sources informed here on Tuesday. Accordingly, they said, preparations for the Chief Minister's visit have already begun and marathon meetings among the district party leaders were being held almost daily to make the Chief minister's visit a grand success. As the year draws to a close, Trinamool Congress leaders and workers at all levels are engaged in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls. Against this backdrop, party supremo Mamata Banerjee has decided to hold a major political programme towards the end of the year. The TMC leaders in Bankura said, if all plans proceed as scheduled, the Chief Minister will address a public meeting on 30 December at the Barjora College Ground in Bankura district. However, it is yet to be confirmed whether she will hold any administrative meetings during her visit.

The Chief Minister's proposed message from the rally has generated keen interest within the district unit of the party. District sources said preparations are already underway, with the party aiming for a massive turnout. The Barjora Assembly segment falls under the Bishnupur Lok Sabha constituency. In the last Lok Sabha elections, the Trinamool Congress narrowly lost this segment by around 5,000 votes, to BJP candidate Saumitra Khan who emerging victorious. Ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, the state TMC leadership is therefore leaving no stone unturned to further strengthen the organisation with the objective of winning all Assembly segments under this Lok Sabha constituency.

Meanwhile, 1 January, will also mark the foundation day of the Trinamool Congress. With the Assembly elections approaching, the political significance of the foundation day has increased considerably this year, according to a senior party leader. The Bankura district TMC leadership believes that the Chief Minister may use the Barjora rally to outline a clear roadmap for the political battles ahead. Bankura remains a BJP stronghold, and the TMC is keen to wrest control of the seats in the 2026 Assembly polls.

NZ to amend laws for GI registration of Indian goods under FTA



Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal meets New Zealand's Minister of Trade and Investment, Todd McClay.

MI News Service, New Delhi: As India and New Zealand have concluded a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (FTA), New Zealand has taken a binding commitment under the (FTA) agreement with India to amend its laws within 18 months of the pact's implementation to facilitate the Geographical Indication (GI) registration of Indian goods besides wines, and spirits in the island nation. The current GI law of New Zealand only allows India's wines and spirits to be registered. A GI, a type of an intellectual property right, is primarily an agricultural, natural or manufactured product (handicrafts and industrial goods) originating from a definite geographical territory. The FTA includes provisions to address non-tariff barriers, apart from tariff liberalisation. This will be achieved through enhanced regulatory cooperation, transparency and streamlined customs, Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (SPS) measures and technical barriers to trade disciplines. Ministry of Commerce and Industry have noted that all systemic facilitations and fast-track mechanisms for imports that serve as inputs for our manufactured exports ensure

Boosting yields and farmer incomes, the agreement drives modern agricultural productivity. It opens doors for Indian businesses in the region through well-integrated directional exports and gives our youth choices to learn, work and grow on a global stage

Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce & Industries

that tariff concessions translate into effective and meaningful market access.

India-New Zealand economic engagement has shown steady momentum. Bilateral merchandise trade reached USD 1.3 billion in 2024-25, while total trade in goods and services stood at approximately USD 2.4 billion in 2024. Services trade alone reached USD 1.24 billion, led by travel, IT and business services. The FTA provides a stable and predictable framework to unlock the full potential of this

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Humayun Kabir backtracks on Ballygunge Nomination

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Even as the state election calendar is yet to be announced, political turbulence has erupted following the launch of a new political outfit by Bharatpur MLA Humayun Kabir. In a dramatic turnaround within 24 hours, Kabir withdrew the name of Ballygunge candidate Nisha Chatterjee, citing concerns over her conduct and background.

On Monday, during the formal announcement of his new party in Murshidabad, Humayun Kabir surprised political observers by releasing a list of candidates for 10 Assembly constituencies—well ahead of any major party. Among them was Nisha Chatterjee, who was declared the party's candidate for the high-profile Ballygunge Assembly seat in Kolkata. Nisha Chatterjee was present on stage during the announcement, lending visibility and immediacy to the decision. Kabir also announced that he himself would contest from two constituencies, while several disgruntled Trinamool Congress leaders were included in the list. However, by Tuesday morning, the decision was abruptly reversed. Soon after her nomination, several photographs and videos of Nisha Chatterjee began circulating on social media, triggering intense scrutiny and political attacks. Questions were raised regarding her personal life, public behavior, and social engagements. Amid growing controversy, Humayun Kabir announced that Chatterjee would no longer

be the party's candidate for Ballygunge. Speaking to the media, Kabir admitted that he had limited prior knowledge about her background. "I knew she was a celebrity. But after her nomination, pictures of her drinking at a bar surfaced, and the Trinamool Congress started questioning her personal life and behavior. I was unaware of all this. I had nominated her considering her as a Brahmin's daughter. Once these issues came to light, I corrected the decision within 24 hours," he said. Kabir further stated that the Ballygunge seat will now see a minority candidate from his party, reflecting the demographic composition of the constituency. He said the new candidate's name would be announced within the next seven days. Ballygunge remains one of the most politically significant Assembly constituencies in the state. Veteran Trinamool leader Subrata Mukherjee represented the seat for decades. Following his death, the constituency went to Babul Supriyo, who won the subsequent by-election. A substantial portion of Ballygunge—particularly Wards 60, 61, 64, and 65, including areas such as Park Circus, Kydarpore-Beniapukur, and Mallikbazar—has a large minority population, making candidate selection politically sensitive. The episode has sparked sharp debate over candidate vetting, political opportunism, and identity-based nominations, even before the electoral battle has formally begun.

Justice strikes: Lifers for Hanskhali teen's killers

MI News Service, Hansakhali: In a landmark verdict that underscores the courts' resolve against heinous crimes, three men received life imprisonment today in the shocking 2022 Hanskhali gang rape and murder case. The Ranaghat Additional District Judge (ADJ) court convicted nine accused on Monday, delivering sentences Tuesday under stringent sections for rape, murder, and evidence tampering. Braj alias Soheli, Ranjit Mallick, and Prabhakar Poddar—the prime perpetrators—were handed life terms for their roles in the savage assault on a teenage girl at Soheli's birthday party. The victim endured prolonged torture before her assailants dumped her, bloodied and broken, outside her home. She succumbed that

very night. Soheli's father, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader and panchayat member Samarendra Gowali, drew five years for aiding the crime and destroying evidence. Among the nine, one minor remains on interim bail under monitoring, with sentencing deferred a year. Two other minors secured release upon fines of 50,000 each. The incident ignited statewide outrage and political firestorms in 2022. Prosecutors allege the girl's body was cremated, a CBI investigation, propelling the three-year trial to its grim conclusion. This ruling sends a thunderous message: no shelter for monsters cloaked in power or kinship.

Grassroot leaders shift allegiance ahead of assembly polls

MI News Service, Barrackpore: In a dramatic development ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, Trinamool Congress councillor Srabani Kashyap of Ward No. 15, North Barrackpore, publicly indicated her intention to join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), citing repeated instances of humiliation and lack of recognition within her party. The announcement came in the presence of former Barrackpore MP and senior BJP leader Arjun Singh, who visited the Kashyapi residence on Sunday. Addressing the media, Srabani Kashyapi said, "We have decided that we will join the BJP in his presence. We are humiliated here. I am a councillor, yet I do not receive the respect I deserve within the

party." Her husband, Mrinmoy Kashyapi, who has previously been associated with former state food minister Jyoti Priya Mallick, also supported the decision. Speaking to reporters, he expressed concerns about his past political associations and criticized the functioning of certain leaders, stating, "I was politically aligned for reasons at that time. But the way things have unfolded, we believe it is time to take a different path." Former MP Arjun Singh, present during the interaction, confirmed the meeting and emphasized that the decision to formally join the BJP remains a personal choice for the couple. He further indicated that the formal induction is likely to occur after the Bengali month of Paush.

Santhali Language Day organized on the centenary of Olchiki script, officials associated with govt admin took part in discussion



MI News Service, Kharagpur: The 23rd Santhali Language Day was organized in the Jhargram Raj College campus, located in the city of Kharagpur, Jhargram. This day is celebrated to commemorate the government recognition of Santhali language by including it in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution in the year 2003.

The program held special significance as it was the completion of 100 years of Olchiki script this year. Cultural activities and discussion sessions were organized during the program. Students talked to the new District Magistrate Akanksha Bhaskar on various topics and shared their future dreams and goals. Jhargram District Mag-

Bangiyo Hindu Jagran, Hindu groups protest in Kolkata against Dipu Das lynching in Bangladesh; police resort to lathi charge

MI News Service, Kolkata: Members of Bangiyo Hindu Jagran and several other Hindu organisations staged a protest on Tuesday near the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata over alleged atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh and the recent mob lynching and killing of Dipu Chandra Das.

According to the police, the protestors had planned to submit a deputation to the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission. However, the situation escalated after a large number of demonstrators gathered near the premises, leading to tensions in the area. To prevent a breach of law and order, police resorted to a lathi charge to disperse the crowd, officials said.

In a separate protest, members of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) were detained by police in Mumbai while they were demonstrating against the same issue.

Meanwhile, several protests were staged against the violence against minorities in Bangladesh across India, including New Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and Hyderabad.

Earlier today, police detained protesting members of the VHP (Vishva Hindu Parishad) and other Hindu organisations near the Bangla-



Members of Bangiya Hindu Jagran took part in a protest march to the Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata on Tuesday.

desh High Commission in the national capital on Tuesday. A swarm of demonstrators gathered near the Bangladesh High Commission to protest against the violence against Hindus in Bangladesh.

After the protesters clashed with the heavy security deployed at the scene, the situation became chaotic.

They pushed the barricades and tried to enter the building. Police took action to control the angry crowd and detained the protesting members from the Hindu organisations. The crowd chanted "Jai Shree Ram" as the police put them inside a bus.

Sentiments against the Bangladesh Interim govern-

ment exploded as the figures of Muhammad Yunus and the country's flag were burned, and slogans against the Bangladesh government were heard all around.

In Hyderabad, several Hindu organisations led by the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) protested in Kotha-pet on Tuesday to condemn

the ongoing violence against minorities in Bangladesh. Vishva Hindu Parishad representatives said they are prepared to escalate their protests if no concrete steps are taken soon.

During the protest, leaders also raised concerns about the local presence of illegal immigrants, warning of

further agitation if the state government fails to address the security risks posed by infiltrators.

Shashidhar, Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) National spokesperson, said, "Atrocities are being done against Hindus in Bangladesh. The government of India should take strict action for the protection of Hindus in Bangladesh. Bangladesh infiltrators and Rohingyas in large numbers are living in Bhagya Nagar. If the state government doesn't take any action, then VHP will announce an action."

Amid the heightened tensions, Bangladesh has suspended consular and visa services in New Delhi and Agartala due to security concerns following protests.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Pranay Verma, was summoned by Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs over the protests.

27-year-old Hindu youth, Dipu Chandra Das, was brutally killed in Mymensingh, again triggering international concern over the safety of minorities in Bangladesh. Das was beaten to death by a mob over alleged blasphemy, and his body was subsequently set on fire on December 18. The incident sparked widespread outrage and condemnation.

Three get life imprisonment in Hanskhali gang-rape & murder case

MI News Service, Ranaghat: A special court in Ranaghat on Tuesday sentenced three men to life imprisonment in the Hanskhali gang-rape and murder case, in which a 14-year-old girl was allegedly drugged, gang-raped and later died of her injuries in April 2022.

The court also pronounced five-year jail term to former Trinamool Congress panchayat member Samarendra Gayali for his role in the case.

The three main convicts-Brajapal Gayali alias Soheli, Prabhakar Poddar and Ranjit Mallick, were handed down life sentences after being found guilty of gang-rape and related offences.



The incident took place when the minor victim was invited to a birthday party hosted by one of the accused. She was allegedly drugged and then gang-raped. She succumbed to her injuries the fol-

lowing morning. The court noted that the victim's body was reportedly cremated hastily without a medical examination, raising questions about evidence preservation.

In all, nine people were con-

victed in the case, and the court announced the sentencing on Tuesday. Two of the accused were juveniles at the time of the offence; they were fined Rs. 50,000 each and granted conditional bail with monitoring.

The CBI had taken over the investigation following a direction by the Kolkata High Court, after allegations of initial lapses by the state police.

Family members of the victim were present in court during the sentencing. The verdict has triggered strong reactions, with some expressing relief at the convictions, while others said they had hoped for even harsher punishment.

Nikshay Mitra Prog in JNM Hospital, nutrition support distributed to 40 TB patients



MI News Service, Kalyani: As a part of the Government of India's Nikshay Mitra initiative aimed at building a TB-free In-

dia, a programme was organised at Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College and Hospital (JNM), Kalyani on Monday. On the oc-

casion, essential nutritional food kits were distributed to 40 tuberculosis (TB) patients.

The beneficiaries are TB patients under the Kalyani Sub-Divisional Hospital and the Kalyani-Gayeshpur TB Unit. The distribution of nutrition support is aligned with the national goal of achieving a TB-free India and TB-free West Bengal, recognising the crucial role of proper nutrition in TB treatment and recovery.

Several medical professionals and officials were present at the programme, including Dr Arman Haque and Dr Vignesh Verma from the Department of

Pulmonary Medicine, College of Medicine and JNM Hospital. Also present were Dipol Roy, District PPM Coordinator, Nadia, Dr Saptarshi Biswas from the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, and Bidyut Kumar Tikadar, Superintendent, Central GST & Customs, Nadia, along with other departmental officials and staff.

The organisers highlighted that community participation and nutritional support through the Nikshay Mitra scheme play a significant role in strengthening the fight against tuberculosis and ensuring better treatment outcomes for patients.

Four Rural Roads Inaugurated Under Pathashree-Rastashree Phase IV

MI News Service, Ranaghat: In a major push towards strengthening rural connectivity, four rural roads constructed under the Pathashree-Rastashree Phase IV scheme were inaugurated on Tuesday in Shyamnagar Gram Panchayat and Baidyapur-II Gram Panchayat areas of Nadia district.

The inauguration was attended by Aneesh Dasgupta, District Magistrate, Nadia, along with Md Suboor Khan, Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ranaghat. Also present were Debasis Ganguly, Karmadhyaksha, Purta Karya O Paribahan Shyayee Samiti, Nadia Zilla Parishad; Ananya Ghosh, DMD, Ranaghat Sub-Division; the Sabhapati of Ranaghat-II Panchayat Samiti; Barnali Dey Roy, Zilla Parishad Member and Sahakari Sabhapati; the Pradhan of Shyamnagar Gram Panchayat, and other elected representatives and officials.

District administration sources said the newly inaugurated roads would significant-



ly reduce travel time, improve last-mile connectivity, and provide all-weather access to schools, health centres, markets and administrative offices for residents of several villages in the region. The roads were long-standing demands of local communities, particularly due to frequent disruptions during the monsoon season.

Speaking on the occasion, the District Magistrate said that rural road infrastructure is a key driver of inclusive development. He emphasised that the West Bengal

government is fully committed to upgrading village roads, ensuring durable construction standards and better alignment to meet present and future traffic needs. He added that improved connectivity would also facilitate smoother transportation of agricultural produce and boost local economic activity.

Officials noted that Pathashree-Rastashree is one of the flagship infrastructure programmes of the state government aimed at transforming rural road networks by constructing durable, motorable and all-weather roads across gram panchayat areas. Under Phase IV, multiple road projects have been taken up across Nadia district to bridge connectivity gaps and improve access to essential services.

Local representatives welcomed the initiative, stating that the new roads would enhance mobility, improve emergency response time, and contribute to the overall socio-economic development of rural areas.

"Will not make any difference": Shatrughan Sinha on suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir's new party

MI News Service, Asansol: Trinamool Congress MP Shatrughan Sinha said that suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir's new party, Janata Unnayan Party, will not make any difference in the upcoming West Bengal Assembly election, citing AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's failure.

Shatrughan Sinha said, "I don't think it will make any particular difference. Last time, Asaduddin Owaisi also visited Bengal and made significant efforts. You know what the results were. I can see that people are with Mamata Banerjee, and the way Mamata Banerjee is standing by the people of Bengal, even in this hour of crisis."

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM contested on six seats out of the 294 Assembly seats but failed to win any seats.

Sinha further asserted that West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee enjoys the public's complete trust and will

comfortably win the election.

"The central government has withheld nearly Rs 2 lakh crore from the state government, and on the other hand, they talk about Viksit Bharat. The public is watching everything, and the public trusts Mamata Banerjee... This time, Mamata Banerjee will win even more seats than last time... The people have made up their minds," Sinha said.

Suspended TMC MLA Humayun Kabir launched a new political party named Janata Unnayan Party, and in a show of strength, asserted that the Trinamool Congress Party would be reduced to zero in Murshidabad.

Humayun Kabir said, "On December 12, 2012, Chief Minister Mamata gave me 35 minutes of her time. I didn't ask for anything that day. In 2011, TMC had an alliance with Congress. But in Murshidabad, TMC won only one seat. Congress won 14

seats. I challenge Mamata Banerjee directly: show me that you can win a single seat. We will reduce Mamata Banerjee's party to zero in Murshidabad. I also want to warn the BJP. If they field candidates in 200 seats, I will show them by winning 100 seats!"

Humayun Kabir was suspended from TMC over remarks in which he claimed that he would inaugurate a Babri Masjid in West Bengal's Murshidabad district on December 6.

Kabir defended his actions, stating that the Constitution grants him the right to build a mosque.

The West Bengal elections are likely to be held in March-April 2026, with Mamata Banerjee's tenure ending. In the 2021 election, TMC+ won 215 out of the 294 Assembly seats, securing a comfortable majority. The NDA emerged as the second major alliance, with 77 seats.

Army jawan dies in River training accident

MI News Service, Kalimpong: A routine river-rafting training exercise of the Indian Army ended in tragedy when a jawan lost his life after a boat capsized in the fast-flowing Teesta river at Tarkhola in Kalimpong district.

The deceased has been identified as Nayek Rajaekhar, posted at the Bangdubi Army camp near Bagdogra. The incident occurred during a scheduled rafting training session being conducted along the Bardang-Rongpo stretch of the Teesta in neighbouring Sikkim. According to official sources, the raft lost control near a bridge at Tarkhola amid strong currents and turbulent waters, causing it to overturn. Nayek Rajasekhar was

swept away by the force of the river before he could be rescued. Army personnel, along with local rafting rescue teams, immediately launched a search operation, battling the swift currents of the Teesta. After an intensive effort, Rongpo police reached the spot soon after and took charge of the situation. Police officials confirmed that the body has been sent for post-mortem examination, which is scheduled to be conducted today, to ascertain the exact cause of death. The incident has cast a pall of grief over the Army unit, highlighting once again the extremities risks associate with training exercises conducted in treacherous river conditions.

IISER Kolkata Professor Receives Prestigious Bhatnagar Award



MI News Service, Kalyani: Prof. Dibyendu Das, Department of Chemical Sciences, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata, was conferred the Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award 2025 by the President of India at a formal ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, on Tuesday at 4 pm.

The Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is among India's highest honours for excellence in scientific research and innovation, recognising outstanding contributions

by young scientists across disciplines. In a notable achievement, Prof. Das is the sole awardee in the field of Chemistry for 2025, underscoring the national significance of his research contributions.

Prof. Das's work in chemical sciences has drawn wide acclaim for its originality, impact, and potential applications, placing IISER Kolkata prominently on the national research map. The honour not only celebrates his individual achievements but also reflects the growing stature of IISER Kolkata as a centre of excellence in advanced scientific research.

The IISER Kolkata community and the broader scientific fraternity have congratulated Prof. Das on this distinguished recognition, describing it as a moment of pride for Indian science and higher education.

7-year-old raped, accused flees amid mob fury

MI News Service, Howrah: In a gut-wrenching assault on innocence, a 7-year-old girl was abducted and brutally raped in Raghavpur, under Domjur police station limits, by a road worker amid unchecked influx of outsiders. Locals erupted in primal rage Monday evening, torching vehicles and clashing with police as the predator vanished into the night.

The nightmare unfolded near a panchayat-initiated road project, where transient laborers prowled unchecked. Eyewitnesses allege the accused—previously flagged for complaints, including a drunken car crash earlier that day—

first molested the child before dragging her to a half-built house for the depraved act. "Her uncle called me at 8 pm, voice breaking: the worker molested, then raped her," a resident fumed, encapsulating a community's boiling fury. Public outrage snowballed into chaos. Enraged locals vandalized four matador vans and a bike, setting one ablaze in a blaze of righteous vengeance. The Rapid Action Force (RAF) deployed as protests morphed into riots, exposing police inertia. "The family hesitated to call, but we did. Still, cops dawdled," locals accused, their pleas drowned in the melee.



A grand blanket distribution programme was organised on the occasion of Christmas near No. 1 Seal Lane, Kamal Danga Bridge, where blankets were distributed among 250 needy people by Swarna Kamal Saha. On the occasion, Ward No. 58 Councillor and MMIC Sandipan Saha, Ward No. 53 social worker Hanan Khan, Ashim Chakraborty, along with sector leaders and local representatives, were present.

Voter list hearings to begin from Dec 27, EC tightens monitoring

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Election Commission has released the draft voter list in the state over the past few days, and preparations are now underway for the hearing process, which is set to begin from December 27. Following the publication of the draft electoral roll, the Commission initiated the process of issuing notices to voters who are required to appear for hearings. Booth Level Officers (BLOs), who are responsible for individual polling booths, have been entrusted with the task of serving these notices.

According to sources in the Election Commission, the hearings in the first phase will primarily focus on voters whose details could not be mapped with the 2002 voter list. The Commission claims that the number of such voters in the state is approximately 32 lakh. In preparation for the hearings, the printing of notices is being carried out on a large scale.

Around 10 lakh notices have already been printed, and officials are confident that the printing of all remaining notices will be completed by Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has also initiated the appointment of micro observers to ensure close monitoring of the hearing process. Nearly 4,000 micro observers have reportedly been appointed for this purpose, and appointment letters have already been dispatched. These officials will be responsible for overseeing the hearings and ensuring that procedures are followed properly and transparently. Special training sessions have been arranged for the newly appointed micro observers.

Trump repeats claim of stopping potential nuke war between India and Pakistan

From PG 1 "helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan. About his unsuccessful attempts for a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine, Trump said it could not be done because there is tremendous hatred between Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelensky. Earlier early on May 10, Trump surprisingly announced that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate" ceasefire after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington. Since then he has been repeating this for more than 60 times that he had "helped settle" the tensions between the two neighbours. The claims surrounding Indian fighter jets being shot down during Operation Sindoor began doing the rounds after a Defence Attache's statement post the military exercise against terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). However, India refuted reports regarding a presentation made by the attache at a seminar in Indonesia, saying that the remarks were "taken out of context" and are "misrepresenting the intention and thrust" of the presentation.

LOST TITLE DEED NOTICE
Notice is hereby given to the general public that the Original Gift Deed No. 641 of 2003, registered at ADSP Barrackpore, pertaining to the property at Holding No. 16, Anandnagar Colony, P.S. Khardah, North 24 Pgs, measuring about 02 Cottahs, has been LOST/MISPLACED.
The current Purchaser is Mr. Rajib Das. A General Diary (GD) vide No. 321 has been lodged at Chitpur Police Station, Kolkata-700002.
Any person having any claim or objection to the property or finding the said deed should communicate the same to the undersigned within 15 (fifteen) days from the date of this publication.
Contact: Mr. Rajib Das, Mob: 8777465183
22/H/28, Raja Manindra Road, Kolkata-700037



West Bengal Ministers Shashi Panja, Chandrima Bhattacharya and Pulak Roy, flanked by MPs Partha Bhowmik and Bapi Halder, addressed a press conference at the Election Commission office in Kolkata on Tuesday.

KMC to issue domicile certificates from central office

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major relief for senior citizens in Kolkata, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided that domicile certificates will now be issued directly from its central headquarters, eliminating the need for applicants to visit Town Hall. The decision was taken amid the prevailing SIR-related concerns and is aimed at easing the documentation process for elderly residents of the city.

Mayor Firhad Hakim said that senior citizens residing in Kolkata who are yet to obtain domicile certificates will now be able to apply and receive the document from the KMC's central building. "Elderly citizens will no longer have to go to Town Hall for domicile certificates. The same service will now be provided from the Corporation's central office," the Mayor said, adding that the decision was taken keeping public convenience in mind. So far, residents from all 144 wards of Kolkata were required to visit Town Hall to obtain domicile certificates. However, the process had become a mat-



ter of concern for many, particularly elderly residents, amid the current SIR atmosphere. Many people living in Kolkata for decades but lacking adequate documentary proof have been anxious about securing valid certificates to establish residency.

As per the existing procedure, applicants are required to submit relevant documents along with an application signed by an IAS or a gazetted officer. These applications were required to be submitted at designated KMC help desks or health department counters. Mayor Hakim ex-

plained that the Corporation currently operates 20 counters that issue birth and death certificates. All documents submitted by applicants are thoroughly verified before any certificate is issued. "Documents are first cross-checked with records available in the Corporation's record room. Birth or death certificates are issued only after complete verification and matching of records," the Mayor said, underlining the importance of accuracy and transparency in the process. He further clarified that domicile certificates will be issued from the central build-

ing following the same procedure that was earlier followed at Town Hall. "The process remains unchanged. Only the location has been shifted for the convenience of the people," Hakim added. In addition, the KMC is exploring the possibility of issuing domicile certificates from borough offices in the future. Sources within the civic body said that special initiatives are being planned to enable borough-level issuance, especially through Bangla Sahayata Kendras operating in each borough office.

Meanwhile, birth certificates are already available online. However, in cases where KMC records exist for deceased individuals, handwritten death certificates will soon be issued from borough offices. This move is expected to save citizens the trouble of visiting the central office, allowing them to obtain certificates from nearby borough offices within a few days. The decision is expected to significantly reduce inconvenience for senior citizens and streamline access to essential civic documents across Kolkata.

Biting cold set to hit Bengal, temperatures to drop from Christmas Day

MI News Service, Kolkata: There is welcome news for winter lovers in West Bengal who had been disappointed by the prolonged mild temperatures this December. The mercury is finally set to drop, ushering in a spell of biting cold across the state. Despite it being the peak winter month, temperatures hovering around 15-16 degrees Celsius had failed to satisfy those craving a proper winter chill. Persistent western disturbances had prevented a significant fall in temperature, leaving residents longing for colder days, especially ahead of the Christmas holidays. That wait, however, is now coming to an end. According to weather forecasts, as the impact of the western disturbance weakens, temperatures have begun to dip gradually. At the same time, the thick blanket of fog that had dominated the skies is also starting to clear. Meteorologists say that the state is likely to experience a spell of dry winter conditions in the coming days, replacing the damp and foggy weather pattern seen earlier. Experts have attributed the expected temperature drop to increased snowfall in Kashmir, which is strengthening northerly winds across northern India. As these cold winds move southward, temperatures in Bengal are expected to fall by 2 to 3 degrees Celsius over the next three days. Weather officials have indicated that from December 25, Christmas Day, the chill is likely to intensify, bringing a more pronounced winter feel to the state.



Left parties held a protest rally against fundamentalist attacks on religious, social and political minorities and progressive voices in Bangladesh. The rally proceeded towards the Bangladesh High Commission in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Digha dazzles with festive lights ahead of Christmas, tourist rush surges

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of Christmas celebrations, the seaside town of Digha has transformed into a dazzling spectacle, adorned with vibrant lights and festive decorations that have drawn large crowds of tourists despite the biting winter chill. From Old Digha to New Digha, streets, crossings, and public spaces have been illuminated with colourful, modern lighting arrangements, creating a festive ambience across the coastal town.

To manage the growing influx of tourists, authorities have implemented strict se-

curity and traffic arrangements. Additional police personnel have been deployed across the town to ensure safety and smooth movement. Additional Superintendent of Police, Contai, Atish Biswas said that no toto vehicles will be allowed to enter Digha from the main entry points on December 24 and 25, as well as on December 30 and 31. Tourist vehicles and route buses will be diverted through bypass roads, and seven designated parking zones have been set up where visitors must park their vehicles. Both sides of the roads in Digha have been

decorated with multi-coloured lights, while key intersections feature innovative lighting designs. The sea beach, in particular, has emerged as a major attraction, glowing with Christmas trees, stars, and artistic light installations. The shimmering lights reflecting off the waves have enhanced the visual appeal of the shoreline, turning nighttime strolls along the beach into a memorable experience for visitors. Ignoring the cold weather, tourists have been flocking in large numbers to witness Digha's festive makeover. Apart from the

beach, the newly constructed Jagannath Temple in Digha has also been beautifully illuminated. From the approach road to the temple premises and the interiors, the entire complex has been decorated with elaborate lighting. As night falls, the temple courtyard lights up, drawing devotees and tourists alike. According to temple authorities, the footfall at the Jagannath Temple has increased several-fold over the past few days, with the largest gatherings observed during evening hours. Manoj Maity, a tourist visiting Digha, said that although he

has visited the town several times in the past, this year's decorations have given Digha an entirely new look. "Everywhere you go, you see colourful lights. I have never seen Digha decorated like this before Christmas. The beach, the roads, and especially the Jagannath Temple look stunning," he said. This year marks the first Christmas and year-end celebrations since the inauguration of the Jagannath Temple. Since its opening, tourist arrivals in Digha have risen sharply, and the festive season has further boosted visitor numbers.

Rahul Gandhi rattled as even family members have lost confidence in him: BJP

From PG 1 institutional framework and capturing it in order to use it as a tool for building its political power, while asserting that this is what the opposition is fighting against. In an hour-long video released by the Congress on Monday, the Leader of the Opposition said India's largest and complex democracy is a global asset, and the "assault" on the Indian democratic system is also an attack on the global democratic system. Hitting back at him, Poonawalla said, "Rahul Gandhi is facing no confidence from people. His partners in the INDIA bloc, his own party leaders and even his family members are also passing a no-confidence motion against him one after another." "Hence, he embarked on a foreign

trip once again, while remaining committed to American investor George Soros, to vent his ire against the BJP and India. Rahul Gandhi, once again in opposition to Prime minister Modi and the people's mandate, started opposing India in Berlin," he alleged. Poonawalla claimed that Rahul Gandhi is rattled because his party colleagues themselves are "rejecting what he says", with the latest example being Shashi Tharoor, who "completely diffused" his "vote-chori (vote-theft) narrative" by appreciating the work done by the NDA in Bihar over the last 20 years. "Congress MP Imran Masood has clearly said that he does not have faith in Rahul Gandhi anymore and sought to bring Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in his place.

NZ to amend laws for GI registration of Indian goods under FTA

From PG 1 relationship. New Zealand has committed to facilitate investments of USD 20 billion into India over the next 15 years, thereby supporting manufacturing, infrastructure, services, innovation and employment under India's Make in India vision. "Boosting yields and farmer incomes, the agreement drives modern agricultural productivity. It opens doors for Indian businesses in the region through well-integrated directional exports and gives our youth choices to learn, work and grow on a global stage," stated Piyush Goel, Minister for Trade and Investment. Through elimination of tariffs on 100 per cent of its tariff lines, New Zealand would provide duty-free access for all Indian exports. This market access enhances the competitiveness of India's labour-intensive sectors including textiles, apparel, leather, footwear, marine products, gems and jewellery, handicrafts, engineering goods and

automobiles India has offered tariff liberalisation in 70 per cent lines covering 95 per cent of New Zealand India bilateral trade. The FTA opens skilled employment pathways through a new temporary employment entry visa pathway for Indian professionals in skilled occupations, with a quota of 5,000 visas at any given time and a stay of up to three years.

The agreement paves the way for the establishment of dedicated agri-technology action plans on kiwi fruit, apples and honey, focus on productivity enhancement, technology, research collaboration, quality improvement and value-chain development. Centre highlighted that commitment has been extended on Geographical Indications (GI), including amendment of its law to facilitate the registration of India's wines, spirits and 'other goods', a benefit that was accorded to the European Union (EU) by New Zealand- to be completed under defined timelines.

Jaishankar assures India's commitment to rebuilding of Sri Lanka

From PG 1 dual carriageway Bailey Bridge in the Kilinochchi District of Northern Province, one of the areas severely affected by Cyclone Ditwah. The 110 tonnes bridge was airlifted from India and installed as part of #OperationSagarBandhu." Jaishankar posted. Earlier in the day, Jaishankar called on President Anura Kumara Disanayake and conveyed Modi's warm wishes in aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah. "Pleased to call on H.E. President @anuradisanyake in Colombo today. Conveyed Prime Minister @narendramodis warm wishes and message of solidarity in aftermath of Cyclone Ditwah," Jaishankar posted. "Building on our First Responder activity under #OperationSagarBandhu, India

will commit to a reconstruction package of USD 450 million to Sri Lanka covering: Rehabilitation and restoration of road, railway and bridge connectivity; Construction of houses fully destroyed and partially damaged; Support for health and education sectors, in particular, those that have been damaged by the cyclone," the post read.

"Agriculture, including to address possible shortages in the short and medium term; Better disaster response and preparedness. India stands firmly with Sri Lanka, building on our civilisational ties, #NeighbourhoodFirst and #VisionMAHASAGAR," the EAM post read. Jaishankar said that India is proud to stand by Sri Lanka during Cyclone Ditwah and has proposed an assistance package worth USD 450 mi

'Life at stake' for Bangladeshi journalists as mobs target media

From PG 1 situation. "The reason we could not go into action there was to ensure that no human life was lost," DMP Additional Commissioner Nazrul Islam told reporters. The interim government led by Muhammad Yunus has said nine people have been arrested so far in connection with the attacks on the offices of the two newspapers and cultural organisations Chhayanaut and Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, following the death of radical right-wing youth leader Sharif Osman Hadi. The newspapers were accused by the attackers of "serving the interests" of India and the deposed prime minister, Sheikh Hasina. A staunch India critic, 32-year-old Hadi was a key figure in last year's pro-democracy uprising that ousted Hasina's Awami League regime on August 5, 2024. Hadi, also the Inqilab Mancha spokesperson died while undergoing treatment in Singapore on Thursday last week. Hadi was a candidate for the scheduled February 12 general elections. While the interim government condemned the attacks, it described the perpetrators as fringe elements, drawing criticism from rights groups and journalists who said authorities failed to prevent the violence despite appeals for protection.

Moreover, the Inqilab Mancho, has threatened the Mohammad Yunus led Interim government with a mass movement if justice is not delivered for Hadi's death. Bangladesh's unrest has started spilling across borders, with the country suspending visa services for an indefinite period after a small group of protesters gathered near its high commission in New Delhi on Monday. India too has summoned Bangladesh's envoy and conveyed strong objections over attacks on minorities and diplomatic missions. The fallout has also been visible on the streets of Kolkata, where large protests erupted outside the Bangladesh Deputy High Commission for the past two days, fuelled by outrage over the lynching and burning of Dipu Das, a Hindu man in Mymensingh and fears of growing Islamist mob violence next door.

Name Change
I, Sk. Najrul (Old Name) S/O Sk Raosan Residing at Dakshin Jagtala, Dakshin Para Maheshitla, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700141, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK Najrul (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Sk. Najrul (Old Name) and Sk Najrul (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rafik Molla (Old Name) S/O Late Abdul Khalek Molla Residing at Vill +Po - Jafarpur, P.s - Falta, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743513, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rafique Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 22-12-2025. Rafik Molla (Old Name) and Rafique Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Nashim Ahmed S/O Md Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name), Residing At 21, Gali Ghat, P.O. & P.S. Kamrathi, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700058, West Bengal, India, Have Changed The Name Of My Father From Mukhtar Ahmed (Old Name) To Md Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/12/2025. I Declare That Md Mukhtar Ahmed (New Name) And Md Mukhtar (Old Name) Refer To One And The Same Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Asutosh Pandey, S/o - Yogendra Prasad Pandey, Residing at Vill - Kamapur, P.O. & P.S. - Dhaniakhali, Dist - Hooghly, Pin - 712302, do hereby declare that due to in advertence in my Driving License being No. WB41 20180368565, my name has been recorded as Asutosh Pandey, S/o-Jogendra Prasad Pandey, On 20/12/2025 vide affidavit no. 13049 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Chinsurah, Hooghly, I affirm that Asutosh Pandey, S/o - Yogendra Prasad Pandey & Asutosh Pandey, S/o - Jogendra Prasad Pandey is the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mar Chandra Das (Old Name) S/O Lt. Nimai Chandra Das, residing at 6, Sarat Chatterjee Road, P.O- Nabagram, P.S- Uttarpara, Dist - Hooghly, 712246 WB, shall henceforth be known as Amar Chandra Das (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Serampore Court (Howrah, West Bengal), vide Affidavit dated 12.12.2025. That Mar Chandra Das (Old Name) and Amar Chandra Das (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Wasim Azad, S/O- Late Abul Khayer, residing at Vill- Ghiorash, P.O- Zafarpur, P.S - Matia, Dist. - 24 Parganas (N), Pin - 743428, declare that in my educational documents from the W.B.B.S.E. Board (Madhyamik, Roll. 3571 No. 0038), my name and, father's name are mistakenly written as Md Wasim Azad, S/O- Md Abul Khayer Azad, and in the 2002 Voter List (95 Basirhat Assembly Constituency, SL No. 184, Part No. 74, Voter ID No. HVD1871383), my name and my father's name are mistakenly written as Wasim Azad, Md. S/O- Abul Khayer Mondal. By an affidavit dated 22/12/2025 before the Learned Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Basirhat Court, I, Wasim Azad, S/O- Abul Khayer, Md Wasim Azad, S/O- Md Abul Khayer Azad, and Wasim Azad Mondal, S/O Abul Khayer Mondal, have been declared to be one and the same person.

Name Change
I, Ravishkumar.K.Patel S/O Kamlesh Bansilal patel Residing at Ratanpur Near Jogomaya School Singur, Dist- Hooghly, WB, Pin-712409, Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ravishkumar Kamlesh kumar Patel as declared before the 1st class judicial magistrate at Kolkata, Wb date-22.12.2025. Affidavit no 7262. That Ravishkumar.K.Patel and Ravishkumar Kamlesh kumar Patel both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aptel Kamleshkumar Bansilal S/O Bansilal jammadas patel Residing at Ratanpur Near Jogomaya School Singur, Dist-Hooghly, WB, Pin-712409, Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kamlesh Bansilal Patel as declared before the 1st class judicial magistrate at Kolkata, Wb date-22.12.2025. Affidavit no 7263. That Aptel Kamleshkumar Bansilal and Kamlesh Bansilal Patel both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Monisha Soni W/O Sushil Kumar Soni Residing at D-3, Sangam Complex 123, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Kolkata- Bidhanmgar, Pin-700089, Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manisha Soni as declared before the 1st class judicial magistrate at Kolkata,Wb date-22.12.2025. Affidavit no 7261. That Monisha Soni and Manisha Soni both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sushil Kr. Soni, S/O Thakur Das Soni Residing at D-3, Sangam Complex 123, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Kolkata Bidhanmgar, Pin-700089, Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sushil Kumar Soni as declared before the first class judicial magistrate at Kolkata court,date-22.12.2025. Affidavit no 7265. That Sushil Kr. Soni S/O T.Das Soni and Sushil Kumar Soni S/O Thakur Das Soni both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sushil Kumar Soni, (Aadhar No.2289 6498 0555) S/O Thakur Das Soni Residing at D-3, Sangam Complex 123, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Kolkata Bidhanmgar, Pin-700089, That in my driving license no.0120000049038 my name has been recorded as Sushil Kr.Soni, S/O T.Das Soni. That My actual name is Sushil Kumar Soni vide an affidavit before the Ld.1st class judicial magistrate at Kolkata, date-22.12.2025. Affidavit no 7265. That Sushil Kr. Soni S/O T.Das Soni and Sushil Kumar Soni S/O Thakur Das Soni both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Chowdhury & Ashok Kumar Chowdhary (old names) S/O Late Anil Kumar Chowdhury, residing at Bishaka F Nilachal, 98, Rajdenga Gold Park, East Kolkata Township, Kolkata- 700107, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Kumar Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 23/12/2025. Ashok Kumar Chowdhury (new name) and Ashok Chowdhury & Ashok Kumar Chowdhary (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rajib Kumar Pore (old name) S/O Late Netal Chandra Porla, residing at Kushpatha, Ghatul, West Medinipur, Pin- 721212, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rajib Pore (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 23/12/2025. Rajib Kumar Pore (new name) and Rajib Pore (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sagar Bhargava (old name) S/O Ramprasad Bhargava, residing at Urhana T-7, Flat- 2301, 753, Anandapur Road, Maduradhari, P.S- Anandapur, Kolkata- 700107, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sagar Ramprasad Bhargava (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 23/12/2025. Sagar Ramprasad Bhargava (new name) and Sagar Bhargava (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aswani Sunita (old name) D/o Late Ramchand Deomal Chawla, residing at FN-4G, Manick Bandopadhyay Sarani, 55 MB Sarani 4th FL, P.O. & P.S.- Regent Park, Kolkata- 700040, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sunita Baggumal Aswani (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 23/12/2025. Sunita Baggumal Aswani (new name) and Aswani Sunita (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Golam Hossen Jamadar (old name) son of Gani Jamadar, residing at Vill & P.O - Abdalpur, PS - Diamond Harbour, Dist: South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743368, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Golam Hossain Jamadar (new name) as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas, vide affidavit No. 14587 dated 08/12/2025. Golam Hossen Jamadar (old name) and Golam Hossain Jamadar (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rasanara Bibi (old name) wife of Golam Hossain Jamadar, residing at Vill & P.O - Abdalpur, PS - Diamond Harbour, Dist: South 24 Parganas, Pin: 743368, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Raosnara Bibi (new name) as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Diamond Harbour, South 24 Parganas, vide affidavit No. 14587 dated 08/12/2025. Rasanara Bibi (old name) and Raosnara Bibi (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Umesh Chandra Agrawal (Old Name) S/O Suraj Bhan Agarwal Residing at Ideal Royala, 177 Manicktala Main Road, 12th floor, Flat - 12A, Vico-Po- anarghachhi, District - Kolkata, Pin- 700054, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Umesh Chandra Agrawal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit no 52/2025 Dated 23-12-2025. Umesh Chandra Agrawal (Old Name) and Umesh Chandra Agrawal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tapas Kumar Bhunia (Old Name) S/O Late Chittaranjan Bhunia Residing at Vill - Uttar Bijaynagar, P.O - Paushli, P.s - Bhupatinagar, District - Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721444, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Tapan Bhunia (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Contai, Purba Medinipur vide affidavit no 685 Dated 13-12-2024. Tapas Kumar Bhunia (Old Name) and Tapan Bhunia (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Beauti Samanta S/O Late Biswajit Samanta Residing at Vill- Uttar Narikelda, Po - Dakshin Narikelda, Ps - Tamlik, District- East Medinipur, Pin-721648, West Bengal India that my deceased father who previously known as Biswasnath Samanta (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Biswajit Samanta (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit dated 23-12-2025. I declare that my deceased father Biswasnath Samanta (Old Name) and Biswajit Samanta (New Name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Mondal, Ashok Kumar Mondal (Old Name) S/O Subal Mondal Residing at Kholaghat, Solgohalia (CT), Ps - Barupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743363, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Ashoke Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 23-12-2025. Ashok Mondal, Ashok Kumar Mondal (Old Name) and Ashoke Kumar Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Islam Ali Mondal S/O Amjed Mondal (Old Name) Residing at Vill - Ramnagar, Po - Chakla, Ps - Degana, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743424, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Nurul Islam Mondal S/O Amjed Ali Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Barasat vide affidavit no 3352 Dated 20-08-2025. Islam Ali Mondal S/O Amjed Mondal (Old Name) and Md Nurul Islam Mondal S/O Amjed Ali Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I ADIL MUBASHIR FAROOQUE son of Mohammad Farooque, residing at 15 P O Basti, 3rd Byr Lane, P.O. Shibpur, Dist. Howrah, Pin: 711102, West Bengal, do hereby state on solemn affirmation and declare that my father's correct and actual name is MOHAMMAD FAROOQUE, which is recorded in his Aadhaar Card, Voter Id card, Pan Card and my mother's correct and actual name is SHAHINA FAROOQUE which is recorded in her Aadhaar Card, Voter Id card and PAN Card. But inadvertently my father's name has been recorded as MOHAMMED FAROOQUE instead of MOHAMMAD FAROOQUE and also my mother's name has been recorded as SHAINA FAROOQUE instead of SHAHINA FAROOQUE. By an affidavit (no 15975) of Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Sealdah on 22.12.2025 That MOHAMMAD FAROOQUE and MOHAMMED FAROOQUE Aadhar card no 32548759879 & SHAHINA FAROOQUE & SHAINA FAROOQUE Aadhar card no 497118441648 is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tinku Sk (old name) S/O Enamul Kabir, residing at Salisanda, Nalhati II, Birbhum, Pin- 731237, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Monirul Kabir (new name), as declared Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Sk Monirul Kabir (new name) and Tinku Sk (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bijoy Kumar Sen (old name) S/O Mahendra Nath Sen, residing at 8U/B, Yogodyan Lane, Kankurgachi, P.S.- Phoolbagh, Pin- 700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bijay Kumar Sen (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Bijoy Kumar Sen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Nuruzzaman (Old Name), S/O- Badruzzaman, R/O- 14/H/12, Dr. Sudhir Bose Road, P.O.- Khidirpore, P.S.- Wategung, Kol-23, declare that have change & shall henceforth be known as Md Nuruzzaman (New Name in Passport No. M7288148), vide Affidavit No. 78137, dtd. 22.12.2025, in the Court of LD. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore. That Mohammad Nuruzzaman (Old Name) & Md Nuruzzaman (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Affidavit
I, ANIL KUMAR PASWAN S/O-ASHOK PASWAN, resident of Ram Krishna Dangal, P.O. Dakshin Dhadka, P.S. Asansol(N), Dist Paschim Bardhaman, Pin 713302, declare that My name Anil Kumar Paswan has been recorded in my all documents as well as in my Service Records. That I have changed my name as Anil Kumar in place of Anil Kumar Paswan. That Anil Kumar Paswan and Anil Kumar is same identical person i.e. myself. Affidavit Ld First Class Executive Magistrate at Asansol Court, dated-28.11.2025.

Name Change
I, Fathma Begum (old name) D/o Aktar Hossen, residing at Daniakanda, Daniakanda, Hooghly, Pin-712616, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Fatema Begum (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 19/12/2025. Fatema Begum (new name) and Fathma Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anup Singh Duggal (old name) S/O Grian Singh Duggal, residing at H No 87/18, Nangal Kotli Mohalla, Backside P.N.B. P.O.- Gurdaspur, District- Gurdaspur, Panjab- 143512, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anup Duggal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/12/2025. Anup Duggal (new name) and Anup Singh Duggal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Debrupa Chakrabarti & Debrupa Chakraborty (Old Name), Wife Of Goutam Goswami Residing At Emami City, Building-C3, Fl-304.2, Jessoro Road, Vic-Dum Dum, Po & Ps-Dum Dum, Barrackpore-700028, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Debrupa Goswami (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/12/2025. Debrupa Chakrabarti & Debrupa Chakraborty And Debrupa Goswami Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nibedita Bhattacharjee (Old Name) Wife Of Anindya Haldar, Residing At 41/1, R. C. Ghosal Lane, Konnagar, P.S.- Uttarpura, Chandamagar, Pin - 712235, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nibedita Bhattacharya (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/12/2025. Nibedita Bhattacharjee (Old Name) And Nibedita Bhattacharya (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Abul Kashem (Old Name), Son Of Late Md Ebadat Mondal Residing At Vill- Bagpui, Po-Joyplui, North 24 Parganas-743234, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Abul Kashem Mondal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/12/2025. Abul Kashem And Md Abul Kashem Mondal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Dipika Kar Gupta (Old Name), Wife Of Abhijit Kar Gupta Residing At 42/6/1, Bediandanga 2nd Lane, Po-Tiljala, South 24 Parganas-700039, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dipika Halder (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/12/2025. Dipika Kar Gupta And Dipika Halder Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

SAIL moves into key phase of IISCO expansion

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Steel Authority of India Ltd has tendered out the blast furnace package tied to the planned expansion of its IISCO Steel Plant in Burnpur, signalling that the ₹45,810 crore project — expected to more than double the unit's capacity — is moving into a decisive phase.

SAIL has awarded the BF package to a consortium of Danieli Corus earlier last week, with the target completion of 41 months. The BF is capable of producing 4.3 million tonne of hot metal, forming the core part of the 4.08 mt expansion undertaken by SAIL.

Post completion, the IISCO capacity is projected to go up to 7.1 mt from the current level of 2.5 mt. The company said the BF will be one of the most advanced in the country and for SAIL, marking a major technological leap in efficiency, energy recovery and environmental performance.

The public sector steel major had received the environmental clearance from the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change earlier on June 4, kicking off what could be the largest industrial investment in a single project in Bengal to date.

Since then, the company has signed contracts for sinter plant, pellet plant, a new lime and dolomite calcination plant (LDPC) and now the BF package — all linked to the process of converting iron to crude steel. However, as the blast furnace anchors both output and efficiency in an integrated mill, the step marks a substantive shift from design to implementation in one of SAIL's most ambitious upgrades.

The SAIL management had guided investors post second quarter results on October 30 that the design engineering will be progressively followed by physical active supplies and physical ground activities at Burnpur. Effectively, it indicates that FY27 will see the steel



major making the big-ticket capital expenditure for the Bengal project.

The new plant will come up where the old unit of The Indian Iron & Steel Company, built by Bengali industrialist Biren Mookerjee pre-independence, used to be. The plant has been demolished to make way for the new unit.

SAIL has complete possession of the land for the unit, which would ensure that the PSU is unlikely to face major roadblocks as it did when the first phase of modernisation and expansion was kicked off during the UPA government under Manmohan Singh. The unit was finally commissioned in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A major differentiator with the existing plant will be the focus on flat products, which is used in automobiles and consumer durables. Advanced facilities such as hot strip mill (HSM), pickling line coupled to tandem cold mill (PLTCM), continuous galvanising line (CGL), continuous annealing line (CAL) and colour coated line (CCL) are being planned, encouraging a slew of downstream industries in the large as well as MSME sector where the employment generation could be significant.

The company estimates that employment generation from the proposed expansion itself is going to be 500 direct and 6,500 indirect jobs during the construction phase and 3,092 direct and 2,408 indirect jobs during the operation period.

SEBI rolls out PaRRVA

MI News Service, New Delhi: Investors in India will soon be able to rely on independently verified performance data of market intermediaries such as investment advisers, research analysts, stock brokers and other registered entities, with market regulator Sebi rolling out the Past Risk and Return Verification Agency (PaRRVA), a mechanism to showcase verified past returns to investors.

Sebi chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said that several international jurisdictions recognise the risks of unverified performance claims in securities markets, but India has "taken the lead" to establish an independent mechanism to validate these claims.

Launched in partnership with the National Stock Exchange and CARE Ratings, the framework connects a Sebi-registered credit rating agency acting as PaRRVA with a recognised stock exchange serving as the PaRRVA Data Centre (PDC). Together, they will independently verify past returns, using a standardised methodology, and will be monitored by an oversight committee. Initially, it is being operationalised for intermediaries who provide algorithmic trading services.

Highlighting the need for the framework, Pandey said performance reporting in securities markets has long posed risks for investors, with influencers often luring investors with exaggerated or fabricated returns.

"Sebi-registered intermediaries such as stock brokers, IAs and RAs cannot refer to past performance, making it difficult to establish their credentials. Meanwhile, unregistered entities make unverified claims, drawing investors away from regulated intermediaries. Well-regulated entities struggle to attract investors despite genuine track records," said Pandey.

Taiwanese tech giant's Kolkata tour

MI News Service, Kolkata: Taiwanese tech giant, ASUS successfully concluded the fourth and final city edition of its 2025 community initiative- Beyond Incredible with ASUS, in Kolkata recently. After successful chapters in Bangalore, Pune, and Hyderabad, the Kolkata session brought together 85+ tech enthusiasts, creators, students, and regional media for an afternoon of hands-on learning and conversations around technology, design, and product innovation. This edition also served as a year-end recap of ASUS's major gaming and non-gaming launches in 2025, setting the stage for expanding the initiative further in 2026. The event showcased a mix of ASUS's ROG and notebook lineup, featuring products such as the Zenbook models, Vivobook models, and the ROG Strix and Zephyrus series, giving attendees an immersive experience of the brand's latest innovations across consumer and gaming categories.

Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Liluah, Eastern Railway Celebrates 125 Glorious Years Of Service To The Nation

MI News Service, Kolkata, 23 Dec.25 : The Carriage & Wagon Workshop, Liluah, one of the oldest and largest workshops under Eastern Railway, celebrated its 125th anniversary with great pride and enthusiasm on 22nd December 2025. The momentous occasion was graced by the presence of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, along with Smt. Seema Deouskar, President, Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO).

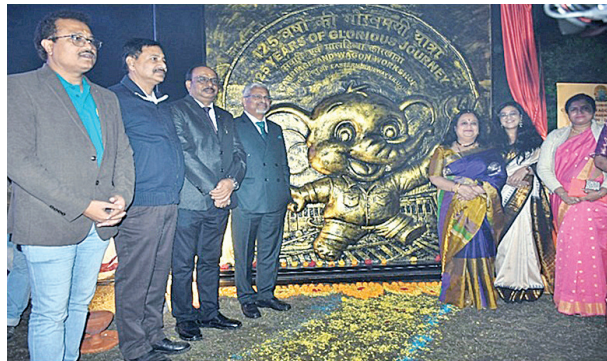
The celebration was further dignified by the presence of Shri S. P. Singh, Additional General Manager/Eastern Railway; Shri Sumit Sarkar, AGM & PCME/Metro Railway; Shri Permanand Sharma, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer/Eastern Railway; Shri Brijesh Kumar Mishra, CRS/SE Circle; Shri Vishal Kapoor, Divisional Railway Manager/Howrah; Shri Rajeev Saxena, DRM/Sealdah; Smt. Vinita Srivastava, DRM/Asansol, Principal Head of various Departments from Eastern Railway, South Eastern Railway and Chittaranjan Locomotive Works, along with several senior officials and distinguished guests.

As part of the commemorative programme, Shri and Smt. Deouskar inaugurated a series of thematic exhibitions, including a distinctive Scrap-to-Art Gallery, a mural featuring the 125th anniversary mascot, and a heritage display of drawings, postage stamps and coins. An additional exhibition showcasing small machinery from the pre-independence era offered visitors an insight into the workshop's rich industrial heritage. In his welcome address, Shri Yatish Kumar, Chief Workshop Manager, Liluah, highlighted the landmark achievements and lasting contributions of the workshop over its illustrious 125-year journey.

The celebration continued with a vibrant cultural programme reflecting India's rich diversity. The occasion further witnessed the inauguration and screening of a film depicting the heritage of the Liluah Workshop alongside its evolution through modern technology.

The Hon'ble General Manager, Shri Milind Deouskar, highlighted the workshop's longstanding tradition of dedication, innovation and excellence, commending the workforce for their invaluable contribution to nation-building through reliable railway services. He also reaffirmed Eastern Railway's commitment to modernization and employee welfare.

The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from both serving and retired railway employees, reflecting the deep sense of pride and belonging associated with this historic institution. Moving forward, Eastern Railway remains committed to preserving the legacy of the Liluah Workshop while embracing advanced technologies to build a safer, more efficient and future-ready railway network.



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Special Arrangements For Ensuring Safety And Smooth Movement Of Passengers, Special Station Management At Park Street And Maidan Stations On 25.12.2025

MI News Service, Kolkata, 23 Dec.25 : On 25.12.2025, Metro Railway is going to make special arrangements at Park Street and Maidan stations to ensure safe and smooth movement of commuters. Commuters will be able to enter Park Street station through Gate No. 2 (near Maidan area) and Gate No. 3 (near Bazar Kolkata outlet) only. Gate No.1 (near Indian Museum), Gate No. 5 (near Mayo

Road) and Gate No. 6 (near Kyd Street) will be used only for exit on that day. Gate No.4 will remain closed.

Apart from this, Gate No. 2 (near Jeevan Deep Building) and Gate No.3 (near Kanak Building) will be used only to enter Maidan station. Gate No. 1 (near Elliot Park) will be used for exit only on that day. It is appealed and requested to all concerned for co-operation in this matter.

Divisional Committee Meeting Of Hon'ble Mps Of Sambalpur Division Jurisdiction Held AT SAMBALPUR

- Hon'ble MPs discuss rail infrastructure, passenger amenities and regional connectivity
- Focus on faster project execution, new lines and improved train services

The Divisional Committee Meeting of Hon'ble Members of Parliament representing the Sambalpur Railway Division jurisdiction of East Coast Railway was held at Sambalpur today in the presence of senior railway officials, including General Manager, East Coast Railway, Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal. Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Odisha and Chhattisgarh attended the meeting and participated in detailed deliberations on railway development in the region.

The Hon'ble Members unanimously nominated Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Union Minister for Education and Hon'ble MP, Sambalpur, as the Chairman of the Divisional Committee. The meeting was attended by Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo, Hon'ble MP, Balangir; Shri Pradeep Purohit, Hon'ble MP, Bargarh; Smt. Malvika Devi, Hon'ble MP, Kalahandi; and Smt. Roop Kumari Choudhry, Hon'ble MP, Mahasamund.

The Hon'ble MPs appreciated the developmental initiatives undertaken by Sambalpur Railway Division and offered valuable suggestions for further strengthening railway infrastructure. Discussions focused on enhancement of passenger amenities, cleanliness of trains and stations, increased train frequency, new railway lines, improved connectivity to remote areas, development of road over and under bridges, timely completion of ongoing projects, train stoppages, and the need for greater revenue and employment generation in the region.

General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkwal welcomed the Hon'ble Members of Parliament and thanked them for their constructive input and guidance. He briefed the committee on the performance of East Coast Railway, progress of infrastructure projects, and continuous efforts being made to improve passenger services and meet regional freight transportation requirements.

RPF Rescues Four Minor Children Under “Operation Nanhe Faristey” In Malda Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, 23 Dec.25 : Demonstrating its continued commitment towards child safety and protection, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) of Eastern Railway successfully rescued four minor children under “Operation Nanhe Faristey” in Malda Division on December 22, 2025.

Under this initiative, RPF officials of Barharwa Post, Malda Division, rescued four minor boys and girls from Barharwa and Tinpahar Railway Stations. All the rescued minors were subsequently handed over to the concerned Chhildline authorities for further care, counselling, and necessary legal action as per procedure.

Out of the rescued children, one minor girl was de-boarded from Train No. 13430 DN (Malda Weekly



Express) at Barharwa Railway Station following a complaint received through Twitter and Rail Madad. The remaining three minor boys were found to have fled from their homes in search of employment and were rescued before they could fall into vulnerable or unsafe situations.

The timely intervention by RPF personnel once again highlights the effectiveness of Operation Nanhe Faristey, a flagship initiative aimed at safeguarding children on railway premises and trains.

Eastern Railway reiterates its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of children and appeals to passengers to promptly report any suspicious movement of minors on railway premises to RPF or through Rail Madad.

DRM Sealdah Honors Pointsman for Saving Passenger's Life at Bira Station



MI News Service, 23 Dec, 2025, Kolkata: In an exemplary display of courage and presence of mind, Sri Soumen Ganguly, a Pointsman, Bira Station, saved the life of a old lady passenger in the morning of December 18, 2025.

The incident occurred on Line No. 1 as the 33365 Barasat-Bangaon Local was approaching the platform no 1 to-

wards Bangaon (UP direction). The Old lady passenger, while crossing the tracks, found herself directly in the path of the incoming train. Witnessing the imminent danger, Sri Ganguly acted without a moment's hesitation. Ignoring the grave risk to his own life, he leapt onto the tracks and pulled the Old lady passenger to safety just seconds before the train

passed through. The Old lady passenger, deeply moved by the incident, submitted a formal written letter of appreciation to the Railway authorities. In her letter, she expressed her profound gratitude to the Railways and specifically credited Sri Ganguly for giving her a "second life."

In recognition of his selfless act and exceptional devotion to duty, Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah Sri Rajeev Saxena honored Sri Soumen Ganguly with a bravery award and said that Sri Ganguly's swift reflexes and courageous heart, noting that such employees are the pride of the Indian Railways.

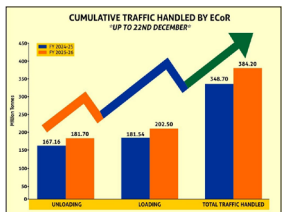
He also stated that this such type of bravery is a testament to the vigilance of our field staff. While we celebrate his heroism, we also urge all passengers to prioritize their safety by using Foot Over Bridges (FOBs) and never crossing the tracks.

Fastest 200 MT Ever – ECoR Achieves Milestone in just 263 Days

MI News Service, 23 Dec, 2025, Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway has created a new benchmark in freight transportation by achieving 200 Million Tonnes (MT) of freight loading in the shortest ever time of just 263 days during the current financial year 2025-26.

This remarkable achievement surpasses ECoR's previous best of 290 days in 2024-25, registering the milestone 27 days in advance, and reflects the zone's sustained focus on operational efficiency, infrastructure augmentation, and close coordination with stakeholders.

In comparison, ECoR had achieved 200 MT freight loading in:



- 295 days in 2023-24
 - 310 days in 2022-23
- The consistent improvement highlights the robust growth trajectory of freight operations across the zone.
- Moreover, up to 22nd December, ECoR has recorded a total freight handling of 384.20 Million Tonnes, including 202.50 MT loading and 181.70 MT unloading, registering a 10.2% overall growth compared to the

freight handling of 348.70 MT, which includes 181.54 MT loading and 167.16 MT unloading during the corresponding period in the previous year.

This historic milestone was achieved under the strong leadership of General Manager Shri Parmeshwar Funkhwar, supported by enhanced line capacity, mechanised loading systems, improved terminal management, and the dedicated efforts of ECoR employees and stakeholders.

East Coast Railway remains committed to supporting the nation's economic growth by providing reliable, efficient, and environmentally sustainable freight transportation services.

Govt launches NUDGE campaign to help taxpayers fix return errors voluntarily

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Government of India has launched a data-driven "NUDGE" campaign for the Assessment Year 2025-26 to encourage taxpayers to voluntarily review their deduction and exemption claims.

This initiative uses risk analytics to identify claims that appear potentially ineligible. According to a release from the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the campaign enables taxpayers to make voluntary corrections where required.

The outreach serves as an advisory and reflects a trust-first approach to tax administration. The government uses advanced data analytics and a risk management framework to find specific cases for the current assessment year.

These digital tools identify instances where taxpayers might have claimed ineligible refunds. Examples include bogus donations to Registered Unrecognised Political (RUPPs) and other deductions that lead to an understatement of income. The data shows that some returns contain incorrect or invalid PANs of donees, while others have errors regarding the actual amount of the deduction claimed.

allows the government to support voluntary compliance through technology. Recent data shows that many people are already using these options to correct their tax records. During the 2025-26 financial year, more than 21 lakh taxpayers updated their returns for previous years and paid over Rs 2,500 crore in taxes.

Furthermore, more than 15 lakh returns for the current assessment year have already been revised by taxpayers. These figures suggest that the voluntary correction system is helping people manage their tax duties effectively.

The tax department sends messages and emails to the identified taxpayers under the "Non-intrusive Usage of Data to Guide and Enable" campaign. This process gives people a chance to fix errors before the December 31, 2025, deadline for filing revised returns. The initiative aims to create a transparent and taxpayer-centric environment by focusing on guidance rather than immediate penalties. This method

The department advises concerned taxpayers to verify their claims and revise their returns by the end of the month to avoid further enquiries. However, taxpayers who made genuine and legal claims do not need to take any action.

"It is clarified that taxpayers who do not avail of this opportunity may still file an updated return from 1 January 2026, as permitted under law, subject to payment of additional tax liability," the release noted.

Cong vindicated on Zila Parishad, Block Samiti polls: Punjab Cong chief

MI News Service, Chandigarh: Punjab Congress chief and Lok Sabha MP Amarinder Singh Raja Warring claimed that the party stood vindicated on its assessment of the recently concluded Zila Parishad and Block Samiti

elections, citing final figures that have now come into the public domain. Quoting the data, Warring claimed that the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) won nearly 70 per cent of the seats by margins of 10 votes or fewer.

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami speaks to victims of bear attack in Chamoli

MI News Service, Dehradun: Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami spoke to the victims of the bear attack and described the courage shown by brave students Divya and Deepika as a matter of pride.

Taking serious cognisance of the bear attack incidents that occurred near school premises in the Pokhari Development Block of Chamoli district, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami demonstrated sensitivity and prompt action. The Chief Minister spoke directly to the injured student over the phone,

enquired about their health, offered words of encouragement, and wished them a speedy recovery.

The Chief Minister stated that the state government stands firmly with the affected family in this difficult time and assured that there would be no lapse at any level in treatment and security arrangements.

On this occasion, the Chief Minister also spoke to the courageous students, Divya and Deepika, who displayed exceptional bravery, presence of mind, and human compassion

by saving the lives of children during the incident. Praising their courage, he said that the bravery, patience, and sense of responsibility shown by them at such a young age are a matter of pride and inspiration for the entire state.

He said that ensuring the safety of other children without caring for their own lives during a moment of crisis is an extraordinary example of courage. Encouraging the students, the Chief Minister wished them a bright future and assured them that the state government will always

encourage and support such brave children.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami directed the district administration and the Forest Department to immediately intensify patrolling in the affected areas and ensure robust security arrangements around schools, anganwadi centres, and residential areas. He clearly instructed that all necessary and effective measures be taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future.

The Chief Minister also directed that the injured stu-

dent be provided with proper medical facilities and that every possible assistance be extended to the affected family. He instructed officials to maintain regular monitoring and to build a sense of safety and confidence among local residents.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the safety of children is the highest priority for the state government and reaffirmed that the government will work with full commitment and firmness under all circumstances to protect the lives and property of citizens.

Indo-German journalists' exchange yields handbook on rewiring trust in media

MI News Service, New Delhi : The Goethe-Institut / Max Mueller Bhavan, in collaboration with Deutsche Welle, Asian Dispatch, and Seraphim Communications, announced the release of "Journalism Connect: Rewiring Trust in Media" Handbook, a comprehensive resource that collaboratively addresses critical challenges facing journalism in Germany and India, an official statement by the Goethe-Institut said.

At a time marked by the rapid evolution of media across the world, from changing business models to digital-first medium of operations, AI-generated content, partisan reporting, and systemic disinformation, the handbook serves as a practical toolkit for media professionals and the public alike. It explores how journalists and media houses can improve reporting to foster transparency, accountability, and renew connection with their audiences.

The Handbook features comparative insights into the media landscapes of India and Germany, highlighting shared challenges and localized solutions. It offers ethical frameworks for integrating Artificial Intelligence into newsrooms without compromising accuracy or human integrity.

It also details practical actions to make journalistic storytelling diverse and more inclusive and identifies

a roadmap for newsrooms to generate meaningful audience engagement while balancing the speed of digital-first news with the rigorous fact-checking required to maintain public confidence, as per the statement.

Anja Riedeberger, Director, Information Services South Asia at the Goethe-Institut said, "The concept of trust formed the starting point for a broad examination of the fundamentals of information, media, and journalism. The fellowship provided a vital platform for emerging journalists from Germany and India to learn from each other, share diverse perspectives, and collectively forge strategies to address the continuing loss of trust in media."

"Globally, journalism is facing a growing crisis of credibility. In Germany, too, the media have struggled with a trust deficit. The program Journalism Connect offers a valuable opportunity to address this challenge collaboratively with Indian and German journalists," read a statement from the project partner Deutsche Welle (DW) Hindi, as per the statement.

"This program has brought together an extraordinary group of talented media professionals working across borders and geographies. Their stories, perspectives, and collaborations are a testament to the power of dialogue in re-

building faith in journalism," said Sunanda Rao-Erdem, Founder and CEO of Seraphim Communications.

"At a time when misinformation poses a growing threat to democratic societies, the role of well-trained and ethically minded journalists has never been more important. Trust in journalism depends on accuracy, transparency, and professional integrity, and this Handbook contributes to that effort by offering a practical framework to support informed discussion, responsible reporting, and public confidence in the media," said Surbhi Pandit Nangia, Group Vice President, Asian Dispatch. "We are honoured to work with the Goethe-Institut on this important initiative."

The design of the Journalism Connect fellowship enabled the Indian and German participants to engage with each other as a cohort as well with media experts from the two countries in virtual formats prior to facilitating rigorous in-person interactions within the Indian media landscape and with the public in October and November across Bengaluru, Kolkata, New Delhi and Pune. These diverse modes of cultural and informational exchange, experience sharing and research constitutes the knowledge presented in the Handbook.

NOTICE

It is hereby informed to the general public that my client, MD. Ifikar Ali, S/o. Late MD Akbar Ali, Address- T-146/1, Marry Road, P.O. Bartala, P.S.-Rajabagan, Kol-700018. This property acquired by me as a gift and purchase in the name of my client and I wish to sell the said property. If you are willing to purchase the said property, please contact me within 15 days by letter on my mentioned mobile number- 9330859427/9330689161, Land Schedule : Mouza- Gardenreach, Singt No. Former 79, Current 76, Khatian No. 98, Dag No. 233, K.M.C. Ward No. 138.

Abdul Quader Laskar
Advocate and Notary Public
(Govt. of W.B.)
Alipore Court

e-Tender, Quotation & Auction

E-tenders are invited for 1) laboratory equipment and 2) furniture to be purchased utilizing RUSA fund. For submitting e-tenders please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in.

A) Quotations for 1) Annual Rate Contracts for a) computer accessories, b) electrical items, c) laboratory chemicals/items, d) plumbing and sanitary items, 2) renovation of a classroom, 3) AMC for plumbing/toilets and 4) AMC for solar power plant.

B) Auctions for 1) damaged computers and 2) iron (building scrap) are invited. Interested plumber/contractor can visit and check before submitting auctions in sealed envelope. Last Date for submission of tenders, quotations and auctions is 12.01.2026. For details visit college website www.sammilanimahavidyalaya.ac.in.

**Sd/- Principal
Sammilani Mahavidyalaya,
Kolkata**

জামমোক্তারনামা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকলকে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, ১) শ্রী বংশীর পাল, ২) শ্রীমতী সুধানী সরকার (পাল) স্বামী শ্রী সুধান্ত সরকার, উভয়ে পিতা ৩) বৃনুজ পাল, ৩) শ্রী দেবশীষ পাল পিতা ৪) পীতুগোপাল পাল, সরকারের সাক্ষি উইথ, বরনামাপত্র, পোলা, হাঙ্গলী-১১১৪৮, মহাশয় মহেশনাগাল বিবিত ইং ৩০/১০/২০১৫ তারিখে ডি.এস.আর.-II, হাঙ্গলী, চুতুড়া, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত I-07861/202 তারিখে জামমোক্তারনামা দলিল মূল আদায় মক্কা শ্রী শীতল চন্দ্র পাল পিতা ৩) বৃনুজ পাল, সাক্ষি উইথ, বরনামাপত্র, পোলা, হাঙ্গলী-১১১৪৮, মহাশয় ক্ষমতাগ্রহণ আমোক্তারনামা নিবন্ধ করে এবং উক্ত আমোক্তারনামা ও স্বয়ং ক্ষমতা বহন আদায় মক্কা বিবিত ইং ১৪/০৭/২০২৫ তারিখে এ.ডি. এস.আর., চুতুড়া, হাঙ্গলী, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত ১) I-09150/2025 নং বিক্রয় কোলা দলিল মূল তত্ত্বপালী-জেলা হাঙ্গলী, থানা পোলা, মৌজা পোলা, সাবেক ৯৬ তহা হাল এং ৫৫ নং জে.এল ভুক্ত, হাল এল.আর., ৯৯৬ নং খতিয়ানে, আর.এস. ৫৩৪৫ তহা হাল এল.আর. ৬৩৪৬ নং দাগে শালি জমি যের আদায় ১৯ শতক সম্পত্তি শ্রী সৌমেন ঘোষ পিতা শ্রী নিমাই চন্দ্র ঘোষ সাক্ষি উইথ, বরনামাপত্র, পোলা, হাঙ্গলী-১১১৪৮, মহাশয়কে বিক্রয় করিয়াছেন। এবং ২) I-09151/2025 নং বিক্রয় কোলা দলিল মূল তত্ত্বপালী-জেলা হাঙ্গলী, থানা পোলা, মৌজা উইথ, সাবেক ৯৬ তহা হাল এং ৫৫ নং জে.এল ভুক্ত, হাল এল.আর., ৯৯৬ নং খতিয়ানে, আর.এস. তহা হাল এল.আর. ৬৩৪৬ নং দাগে শালি জমি যের আদায় ১৯ শতক সম্পত্তি শ্রী সৌমেন ঘোষ পিতা শ্রী নিমাই চন্দ্র ঘোষ সাক্ষি উইথ, বরনামাপত্র, পোলা, হাঙ্গলী-১১১৪৮, মহাশয়কে বিক্রয় করিয়াছেন। এক্ষেত্রে দৃষ্ট পৃথক বিক্রয় কোলা দলিল মূল আমোক্তারনামা বলে সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করিয়াছেন। এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা যাচ্ছে যে, বর্তমান ডেকে ১) শ্রী সৌমেন ঘোষ ও ২) শ্রী সৌমেন ঘোষের উভয়ের পিতা শ্রী নিমাই চন্দ্র ঘোষ মহাশয়ের আদায়ের উক্ত খরিদা সম্পত্তি নিজ নিজ নামে না পণম করবার জন্য বি.এল এন্ড আর.ও পোলা-দারপূর ব্লক অফিসে আদায়ন করিয়াছেন। ইহাতে কোলাও কোলা আদায়না অপরিহার্যকিমে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রদান হইবার আদায় ১ নং দাগে মক্কা সজিষ্ট অফিসে আদায় করিয়াছেন পরিবর্তে, অন্যথায় নিম্ন অনুসারে করা হইবে।

উইথ- মক্কা সজিষ্ট অফিস (উকিলবাবু), জেলা জজ আদালত চুতুড়া, হাঙ্গলী

Notice Inviting e-Tender

NIT NO-JOY2/17 of 2025-26 Dt.-19.12.2025. It is here invited by the BDO/EO, Joynagar-II for e-tender of 01 no. of Work vide Tender Id: 2025_ZPHD_977622_1 and last date of bid submission is 13.01.2026. For details visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in

**Sd/- BDO/EO
Joynagar-II Dev. Block/PS Nimpith, South 24 Parganas**

TENDER NOTICE

E-Tender for construction of 06 nos civil works under the jurisdiction of Basanti Block have been invited by the undersigned. Details of which as noted below:

Bid Submission Date: 23.12.2025
Bid Closing Date: 07.01.2026 and 16.01.2026

Details can be collected from the website <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in> and Office Notice Board.

**Sd/- Block Development Officer
Basanti Development Officer
South 24 Parganas**

E-TENDER

e-tenders are invited by Prodhon, Amarpur Gram Panchayat under Aushgram-II Dev. Block, Dist-Purba Bardhaman, from resourceful/bonafide contractors with experience and requisite credential from 15th FC (Tied) 2025-26 fund vide id 2025_ZPHD_976361_1, 2025_ZPHD_976361_2 & 2025_ZPHD_976361_3. Date of closing for submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 15/01/2026 up to 12.30 PM. For Details Visit the website: <http://www.wbtenders.gov.in>

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No. 240_2025-26 Date: 19.12.2025. Following E-tender is invited online by Sr. Divisional Engineer/2, Eastern Railway, New DRM Building, near Rail Museum, Howrah, West Bengal-71101 from tenderers having experience of Similar Nature of work and required Financial capabilities including those Registered with Irrigation/CPWD/SEB/MES or any public sector undertaking for the following work-**Sr.DEN/2/HWH. E-Tender No. 240_2025-26. Description of Work:** Construction of Gang huts at SHBC, CRAE, GRAE & JPC in the section of SSE/W/DKAE under AEN/DKAE. **Approx. Cost:** ₹ 91,85,543.41; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 1,83,700.00; **Cost of Tender Form (Rs) :** Nil; **Completion Period :** 12 Months. In case the date of closing mentioned in the Notice Inviting Tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be done on the next working day. **Closing Date and Time of Tender:** 12.01.2026 at 14.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted.

HWH-479/2025-26
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

LEASING OF PARCEL SPACE OVER SEALDAH DIVISION

No. CC3-e-auction (Opened on 06.01.2026), Dated: 19.12.2025. E-Auction is invited by Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, DRM Building, Kaiser Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for leasing of Parcel Space over Sealdah Division through IREPS Portal at www.ireps.gov.in Admin Unit/Zone: Sealdah Division - Commercial/Eastern Railway. **Auction Catalogue No. SDAH-PARCEL-51.** **Auctioning Authority:** Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah. **Auction Start (All Lots):** 06.01.2026, 12:00:00. **Auction Close Date/Time:** 06.01.2026, 13:20:00. **Auto Extension Zone:** 120 seconds. **Auto Extension Duration:** 120 seconds. **Initial Cooling Off Period:** 30 minutes. **Successive Lots Closing Interval:** 10 minutes. **Maximum Auto Extensions:** 10 Times. Details of the e-Auction Catalogue are as follows: **Seq. No.; Lot No./ Category; Description; Trips/Days; Close Date & Time; Turnover Required;** respectively- **AA/1;** 15051-SLR-F1-KOAA-GKP-25-2 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 157; 06.01.2026 at 12:30:00; 0; **AA/2;** 12317- SLR-R1-KOAA-ASR-25-1 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 313; 06.01.2026 at 12:40:00; 0; **AA/3;** 22201-SLR-F1-SDAH-PURI-25-1 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 469; 06.01.2026 at 12:50:00; 0; **AA/4;** 12315-SLR-R1-KOAA-UUD-25-1 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 157; 06.01.2026 at 13:00:00; 0; **AA/5;** 13137-SLR-R1-KOAA-AMH-25-1 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 156; 06.01.2026 at 13:10:00; 0; **AA/6;** 13151-SLR-R1-KOAA-JAT-25-1 (Parcel-SLR); Parcel Space in SLR Coach (Single Compartment); 1096; 06.01.2026 at 13:20:00; 0; **Rate Unit:** Per Trip Licensing Fee for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/6. **Min. Incr. (%) :** 0.2 for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/6. **EMD :** 10% for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/6. **Whether ROFR Applicable:** No for Seq. No. AA/1 to AA/6. **Lot Status:** RP. **Tendering for each.** SDAH-316/2025-26
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

INSV Kaundinya to embark on maiden overseas voyage for Muscat from Porbandar

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Indian Navy's pioneering stitched sailing vessel (INSV) Kaundinya is set to embark on her maiden voyage on December 29, the Ministry of Defence said in an official statement.

As per the Ministry, INSV Kaundinya, revives India's ancient shipbuilding and seafaring traditions, and will undertake her maiden overseas voyage on 29 December 2025. The vessel will be flagged off from Porbandar, Gujarat, for Muscat, Oman, symbolically retracing the historic maritime routes that connected India with the wider Indian Ocean world for millennia.

The statement said that inspired by depictions of ancient Indian ships and constructed entirely using traditional stitched-plank techniques, INSV Kaundinya represents a rare

convergence of history, craftsmanship and modern naval expertise. Unlike contemporary vessels, her wooden planks are stitched together using coconut oil rope and sealed with natural resins, reflecting a shipbuilding tradition once prevalent along India's coasts and across the Indian Ocean. This technology enabled Indian mariners to undertake long-distance voyages to West Asia, Africa and Southeast Asia long before the advent of modern navigation and metallurgy. The project was undertaken through a tripartite MoU between Ministry of Culture, Indian Navy and M/s Hodi Innovations as part of India's efforts to rediscover and revive indigenous knowledge systems. Built by traditional artisans under the guidance of master shipwright Babu Sankaran and supported by extensive research,

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER CO. LTD.

Tenders for various Contracts at Surat Lignite Power Plant (SLPP)

Interested Bidders may submit their Bids on (1) (n) procure on <http://tender.nprocure.com/> for (i) Mechanical execution for Fields Replacements and Overhauling of remaining ESP Fields during AOHs (Tender Id : 257130); (ii) HVOF metal spray coating on water wall tubes of Boiler (Tender Id : 255161) and (2) GIPCL's e-tender through: <http://tender.gipcl.com/> for (i) Tube Thickness survey by UT gauge of Boiler Pressure Parts of Units-1 to 4 Boilers (Tender Id : 2500087). These tenders can also be viewed from company's website www.gipcl.com. Last dates of submission of bids specified in NITs of individual tenders. **Addl. General Manager (O&M) - SLPP**

Sagardighi Kamada Kinkar Smriti Mahavidyalaya

Sagardighi. (Near B.D.O Office) Murshidabad. W.B-742226

e-Tender Notice

The Principal, Sagardighi Kamada Kinkar Smriti Mahavidyalaya, Sagardighi, Dist.- Murshidabad invites discount percentage rate e-Tenders for Purchase of Book. NIT Memo No. DHE/SKSKM/Govt. Grants/eNIT/01/2025 Dt.22/12/2025. Tender ID 2025_DHE_978346_1. Information details are available in the website <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>

**Sd/- Principal,
Sagardighi Kamada Kinkar Smriti Mahavidyalaya**

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION 2025

"DINAJUR B.ED COLLEGE" is going to appoint following subject **Teachers:**

- 1) Life Science
- 2) Urdu
- 3) Education (Foundation Teachers)
- 4) Political Science

Qualification: As per NCTE Rules & Regulation 2014. Interested Candidates are requested to send their Bio-Data to Whatsapp No-973435601.

Sd- Secretary

MALIGRAM GRAM PANCHAYAT

Pingla, Paschim Medinipur
Email-maligrampingla@gmail.com
Niet-22/2025-26/15th CFC(Tied) Memo No-1213 (MGP) Date-12/12/2025
Niet-23/2025-26/15th CFC(Tied) Memo No-1214 (MGP) Date-12/12/2025

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The e-tenders are invited by the undersigned for 05 Nos Schemes (Drain) for 22/2025-26/15th CFC(Tied) Tender Id - 2025_ZPHD_973160_1 to 5, 07 Nos Schemes (Water) for 23/2025-26/15th CFC(Tied) Tender Id - 2025_ZPHD_974259_1 to 7. The intending tenderers may visit website www.wbtenders.gov.in for details.

Bid submission Start date - 15/12/2025 from 6.00 P.M onwards
Bid submission closing date - 10/01/2026 Up to 10.55 A.M
Opening date of Technical Bid (online) - 12/01/2026 at 11.00 A.M

**Sd/- Pradhan
Maligram Gram Panchayat**

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091
CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs.)	Name of Branch
1.	MD Ahid/ Md Muktar/ Rahina Khatun/ Sattelite Township, Baikunthapur, Fulbari II Gram Panchayat, Police Dabgram Binaguri Jalpaiguri Darjeeling West Bengal West Bengal Jalpaiguri-734015/ LBSGI00007032056/ TBSGI00006681781	Plot No. 218 & 219 (R.S.), 548 (L.R.), Khatian No. 836/6 (R.S.), 1192 & 1207 (L.R.), J.L. No. 3, Sheet No. 18 (R.S.) & (L.R.), Mouza Binaguri, Pargana Baikunthapur, Fulbari II Gram Panchayat, Police Station Bhaktinagar Now New Jalpaiguri, Addl. Dist. Sub Registrar Office Bhaktinagar, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of All that Piece And Parcel of Vacant Land Measuring 1.52 Acre (Land Measuring 0.63 Acre in L.R. Khatian No. 1192 And Land Measuring 0.89 Acre in L.R. Khatian No. 1207), North End of R.S. Plot No. 273, 215 & 217 South; Land of R.S. Plot No. 218 & 219 East; Land of R.S. Plot No. 218; West: 12 Feet Wide Road; Date of Symbolic 19/12/2025	June 27, 2025 Rs. 2,38,48,541.02/-	Jalpaiguri

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: December 24, 2025
Place: Jalpaiguri

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Researchers unveil new tool that reveals gene behaviour in bacteria



LOS ANGELES [US]: Bacterial infections are responsible for millions of deaths each year, with the global threat made severe by the increasing resistance of microbes to antibiotic treatments.

This is due, in part, to bacteria's capacity to switch genes on and off when they detect environmental changes, including the presence of drugs.

Such switching is accomplished through transcription, which converts the DNA in genes into its chemical cousin in mRNA, which guides the building of proteins that make up the microbe's structure.

Understanding how mRNA production is regulated for each bacterial gene is central to efforts to counter resistance, but approaches used to study this regulation to date have been laborious. According to a new study, scientists revealed a trick that may speed such efforts.

According to the study authors, organisms from bacteria to humans grow as their cells multiply by dividing, with each cell becoming two. Before cells divide, they must copy their DNA such that each of the two daughter cells has a copy. To do so, a molecular machine called DNA polymerase ticks down the DNA chain, reading and making a copy of each gene one by one.

Publishing online Jan. 24 in the journal Nature, the study adds to explanations of how gene expression throughout the genome is shaped by DNA replication during bacterial growth.

Specifically, the research team found that when DNA polymerase arrives at any specific gene, it disrupts the transcription in a way that reveals the state of that gene's regulatory status.

"Our study results show that the constant replication of genes during the cell cycle as the bacterial cells reproduce and grow can be exploited to learn about many aspects of how genes are regulated," said study lead investigator Andrew Pountain, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow at NYU Langone Health and its Institute for Systems Genetics.

"We like the analogy of the electrocardiogram in medicine," said Itai Yanai, the senior investigator of the study and professor at NYU Langone's Institute for Systems Genetics.

By monitoring patterns of electrical activity in the heart, the ECG reveals a series of waves that provide a detailed, graphical view of a patient's cardiac health. Similarly, waves of changes in the abundance of mRNA in response to a gene's replication produce a signature on a graph, which the authors termed the transcription-replication interaction profile, or TRIP.

The researchers showed how specific waves can be linked to certain features. For example, whether a gene is under a specific form of control, known as repression, where a protein blocks that gene's mRNA from being made. These repressed genes were found to have characteristic, spiked TRIP patterns. "Our aim is to understand how gene regulation shapes these TRIPs, with a goal of using them to diagnose gene regulation across the entire set of thousands of genes in the bacterium," added Yanai.

"We hope that our further investigations of gene expression profiles will offer insight into how groups of genes respond to disruptions or changes in their environment."

Does your home remedy for the cold and flu actually work?

Cold remedies are almost as common as the common cold. But do they work? Nothing can cure a cold, which is caused by germs called viruses. But some remedies might help ease your symptoms and keep you from feeling so bad. Here's a look at some common cold remedies and what's known about them.

Cold remedies that work
If you catch a cold, expect to be sick for 1 to 2 weeks. That doesn't mean you have to feel awful. The following might help you feel better:

Drink plenty of fluids. Water, juice, clear broth or warm lemon water with honey helps loosen stuffiness, called congestion. These also help prevent losing too much fluid, called dehydration. Don't drink alcohol, coffee and sodas with caffeine. They can make dehydration worse.

Rest. Your body needs rest to heal.

Sip warm liquids. Many cultures use warm liquids, such as chicken soup, tea or warm apple juice, for colds. Warm liquids might ease stuffiness by increasing mucus flow.

Try honey. Honey may help coughs in adults and children who are older than age 1. Try it in warm tea or lemon water.

Add cool moisture to the air. A cool-mist vaporizer or humidifier can add moisture to your home. Moisture might help ease stuffiness. Change the water daily. Clean the unit as the maker instructs.

Soothe a sore throat

If you have a sore throat, using a saltwater gargle can relieve it for a while. Put 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon salt in an 8-ounce glass of warm water.

Children younger than 6 years most likely can't gargle.

You also can try ice chips, sore throat sprays, lozenges or hard candy. Take care when giving lozenges or hard candy to chil-



dren because they can choke on them.

Don't give lozenges or hard candy to children younger than 6 years.

Ease stuffiness
Saline nasal drops and sprays you can get without a prescription can help relieve stuffiness.

For infants, experts suggest putting a few saline drops into one nostril. Then use a bulb syringe to gently suck out that nostril. To do this, squeeze the bulb, gently place the syringe tip in the nostril about 1/4 to 1/2 inch (about 6 to 12 millimeters), and slowly release the bulb.

You can use saline nasal sprays in older children.

Relieve pain

Adults can take acetaminophen (Tylenol, others), ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB, others) or aspirin. Do not give children or teenagers aspirin.

Aspirin has been linked to Reye's syndrome, a rare life-threatening condition, in children or teenagers who have the flu or chickenpox. For treatment of fever or pain, consider giving your child infants' or children's versions of medicines available without a prescription. Examples are acetaminophen (Tylenol, others) or ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, others).

These can be used as a safer alternative to aspirin.

Try cold and cough medicines
For adults and children age 5 and older, decongestants, antihistamines and pain relievers available without a prescription might ease some symptoms. But they won't prevent a cold or shorten how long it lasts. And most have some side effects.

Experts agree that these shouldn't be given to younger children. Using too much of these medicines or not using them the right way can cause serious damage. Talk with your child's healthcare professional before giving any medicines.

Take medicines only as the label says. Some cold remedies have mixed ingredients, such as a decongestant plus a pain reliever. If you also take a pain reliever, taking a decongestant with a pain reliever could cause problems. Read the labels of cold medicines to make sure you're not taking too much of any medicine.

Cold remedies that don't work
The list of cold remedies that don't give relief is long. Some of the more common ones include:

Medicines called antibiotics
These attack germs called bacteria. But they're no help against cold viruses. Don't ask your

healthcare professional for antibiotics for a cold or use old antibiotics you have. You won't get well faster. And using antibiotics when you don't need them adds to the serious and growing problem of germs that can resist antibiotics.

Cold and cough medicines in young children

Cold and cough medicine you can get without a prescription can harm children. Do not give any cough and cold medicines to children under age 4 years.

Talk with your child's healthcare professional before giving any medicines to children ages 4 to 6 years. Know that these medicines may not help much and may have side effects.

Cold remedies with mixed study results

In spite of ongoing studies, the scientists still don't know whether some cold remedies, such as vitamin C and zinc, work. Here's what studies show:

Vitamin C

Taking vitamin C has not been shown to help prevent colds.

But some studies have found that taking vitamin C before cold symptoms start may shorten how long symptoms last. Vitamin C may help people at high risk of colds because they're often in contact with the viruses that cause colds. For instance, children who go to group child care during the winter are at high risk.

Zinc

Some studies show that zinc lozenges or syrup may prevent a cold or shorten symptoms. Other studies show zinc doesn't help.

Zinc can have harmful side effects.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration advises against using products with zinc you put in your nose. They can cause you to lose your sense of smell. Talk with your healthcare professional before using zinc.

Ai+ Enters the Flagship League with NovaFlip - First Launch from Its New Series

Ai+ Smartphone today announced NovaFlip, an innovative addition to the premium flip smartphone market, at a price point of under Rs 40,000. This is in line with the company's mission to make high-quality technology accessible for everyone. Scheduled for release in Q1 2026, this



device marks the beginning of Ai+ Smartphone flagship Nova Series, a collection that merges cutting-edge innovation with affordability. Building on the success of the Nova 5G launch in July 2025, Ai+ Smartphone is expanding its flagship offerings with the Nova Series, featuring models like the Nova Pro, Nova Ultra, Nova Flip, and even a future Fold variant. Each device is intentionally crafted to provide outstanding performance, unique features, and a user experience that sets a new benchmark in the smartphone industry. Unlike conventional smartphones that treat the flip form factor as a hardware novelty, NovaFlip runs on NxtQuantum OS, designed to adapt intelligently across folded and open states. Core interactions are optimised for quick checks and glanceable information when the phone is closed, while delivering a complete smartphone experience when opened. The privacy-first architecture of NxtQuantum OS ensures zero pre-loaded bloatware, no invasive trackers, and complete user control over personal data, prioritising long-term trust over short-term engagement tactics. "Flip smartphones bring back things people genuinely miss: compactness, physical interaction, and a sense of control," said Madhav Sheth, CEO, Ai+ Smartphone and Founder, NxtQuantum Shift Technologies. "There's nostalgia in that experience, but there's also a very modern need behind it. People want devices that are easier to carry, easier to live with, and less demanding of their attention." He added, "NovaFlip blends that familiarity with everything a modern smartphone needs to deliver today. It's a flip phone that fits current lifestyles, purposeful, expressive, and designed for moments when you want to engage quickly or disconnect just as easily." The NovaFlip launch represents a significant milestone in Ai+ Smartphone's 5G roadmap, reinforcing the brand's commitment to diversifying its smartphone portfolio to meet the needs of the premium market while ensuring budget-friendliness. The Q1 launch will release NovaFlip with full product details and availability, marking the beginning of Ai+ Smartphone's flagship Nova series.

Axis Bank Launches Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans for MSMEs

Axis Bank, one of India's leading private sector banks, has announced the launch of Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans, an industry-first, cash-flow-based lending solution designed especially for micro and small businesses across India. This innovative, fully digital product offers unsecured loans ranging from ₹2 lakh to ₹20 lakh, enabling merchants, particularly retail shops, to access quick credit and repay through everyday instalments aligned with their business cash flows.

The solution is entirely digital, with eligibility evaluated through cash-flow intelligence and other parameters rather than traditional financial statements. As part of the loan journey, customers will also be extended Axis Bank current account services, ensuring a seamless end-to-end experience from onboarding to disbursement. Applicants receive an instant credit decision within minutes, and funds are disbursed within few days. Repayments are automatically collected through daily instalments, allowing merchants to repay based on actual sales instead of hefty EMIs. This Everyday

Instalment (EDI) model offers repayment flexibility and helps maintain steady working capital. Commenting on the launch, Vijay Shetty, President & Head - Commercial Banking Group, Axis Bank, said, "Digital Merchant Cash Advance Loans bring instant credit facility and current accounts together into one seamless, digital solution, supported by flexible daily repayments aligned to merchants' business needs. By leveraging cash-flow-based underwriting, we aim to make timely funding more accessible for MSMEs. This launch is a significant step in advancing our data-driven lending and reinforcing our commitment to empower India's MSMEs with simple, fast and reliable credit." With this launch, Axis Bank further strengthens its focus on the MSME sector by widening credit access and enabling faster funding for businesses that traditionally struggle to obtain formal credit due to limited or no collateral or financial statements. MSMEs seeking to avail Merchant Cash Advance can apply through their nearest Axis bank branch or visit the website for further information.

Bharti Airtel Announces Change in Top Leadership

Ranchi: Bharti Airtel has announced a change at its top leadership level as part of a structured succession plan. Gopal Vittal, who has led the company as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for the past 13 years, was appointed Vice Chairman of Bharti Airtel Limited in October 2024. At the same time, Shrawin Sharma was named CEO-designate of the company.

In line with the pre-defined succession process, Gopal Vittal will assume the role of Executive Vice Chairman of



Bharti Airtel with effect from January 1, 2026. In this capacity, he will oversee Bharti Airtel and all its subsidiary companies.

In his new role, Vittal will also be responsible for driving group-level synergies across key areas such as digital and technology initiatives, network strategy, procurement, and talent management. Additionally, he will focus on shaping the group's long-term strategy and preparing the organization to meet future business requirements.

Hypertension guidelines do not include potassium-enriched salt: Study

NEW SOUTH WALES [AUSTRALIA] : An international panel of experts published a suggestion in the scientific journal Hypertension published by the American Heart Association, calling for the inclusion of low-sodium potassium-enriched salt in hypertension therapy guidelines.

High levels of sodium intake and low levels of potassium intake are widespread, and both are linked to high blood pressure (hypertension) and a greater risk of stroke, heart disease and premature death. Using a salt substitute where part of the sodium chloride is replaced with potassium chloride addresses both problems at once.

Professor Alta Schutte at The George Institute for Global Health and UNSW Sydney said that despite data from randomised controlled trials demonstrating the health benefits of potassium-enriched, sodium-reduced salt substitutes, they are rarely used.

"We found current clinical guidelines offer incomplete and inconsistent recommendations about the use of these salt substitutes," she said.

"Given the wealth of evidence available, we feel it's time to include salt substitutes in treatment guidelines to help address spiralling rates of uncontrolled high blood pressure around the world and reduce preventable deaths."

Potassium-enriched salt can be used as a direct replacement for regular salt (sodium chloride) when seasoning, preserving or manufacturing foods. Importantly, while other salt reduction strategies make foods taste less salty, switching to potassium-enriched salt is

"No issues with serious harm from hyperkalaemia were recorded in any of the trials to date, though all were done in clinical settings. Our recommendation for use in hypertension is based on patients being managed by a healthcare worker. Healthcare workers know not to recommend potassium-enriched salt in the presence of kidney disease and risks for these patients can be avoided."

undetectable by most people. "Unwanted taste effects are the main reason why efforts to reduce salt intake have failed for more than two decades. The willingness of patients to keep using potassium-enriched salt removes that barrier, which is why it can be a game-changer," Prof Schutte added. A global collaboration of researchers from the US, Australia, Japan, South Africa and India reviewed 32 separate hypertension treatment guidelines - two from global organisations, five from regional organisations and 25 from country organisations - published between 1 January 2013 and 21 June 2023. They found all guidelines referred to sodium reduction, with most recommending reducing salt intake.



Many also recommended increasing dietary potassium intake, but only two - the Chinese and European guidelines - made a specific recommendation for using potassium-enriched salt.

Dr Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global public health organisation focused on preventing 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease, said that the number of people living with hypertension had doubled in the past 30 years to about 1.3 billion. "High blood pressure kills more than ten million people every year - almost 20 people every minute. Twenty percent of these deaths can be linked to a single culprit: eating too much salt," he said. "Based on the evidence, there is little

doubt that most patients with hypertension and their families should reduce their overall salt intake and, when choosing to consume salt, should switch from regular salt to potassium-enriched salt. This will help reduce blood pressure and protect against serious complications such as stroke and premature death."

Dr Frieden emphasized the shift required to our food environment. "As a society, we must prioritize availability and accessibility of low-sodium, potassium-enriched salts - at home, in restaurants, and in grocery stores. These products should not be marketed or priced as a luxury. Low-sodium, potassium-enriched salt can become the new default." Another barrier to uptake has

been concerns about causing elevated levels of potassium in the blood (hyperkalaemia) in people with advanced kidney disease.

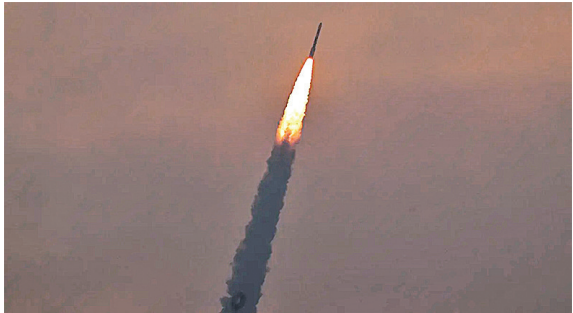
Professor Bruce Neal, Executive Director at The George Institute Australia and Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Imperial College London, said it is clear that patients with advanced kidney disease should not use potassium-enriched salts, but this applies to a very small proportion of the population, and these patients are already recommended to avoid salt intake.

"No issues with serious harm from hyperkalaemia were recorded in any of the trials to date, though all were done in clinical settings. Our recommendation for use in hypertension is based on patients being managed by a healthcare worker. Healthcare workers know not to recommend potassium-enriched salt in the presence of kidney disease and risks for these patients can be avoided."

The authors argued that given potassium-enriched salt is one of the few dietary interventions patients comply with long-term, it is logical to at least consider the use of potassium-enriched salt for all those with hypertension.

"We strongly encourage clinical guideline bodies to review their recommendations about the use of potassium-enriched salt substitutes at the earliest opportunity - if the world switched from using regular salt to potassium-enriched it would prevent millions of strokes and heart attacks every year at very low cost," added Prof Schutte.

ISRO to launch BlueBird Block-2 satellite of US' AST SpaceMobile on Dec 24



MI News Service, New Delhi: The launch of the Blue-Bird Block-2 communication satellite of the United States' AST SpaceMobile will take place on December 24 at 8:54 AM IST, the India Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said.

ISRO stated that the LVM3-M6/BlueBird Block-2 Mission is a dedicated commercial mission onboard the LVM3 launch vehicle, which will launch the Blue-Bird Block-2 communication satellite of AST SpaceMobile, USA. This mission marks the sixth operational flight of LVM3.

In this mission, LVM3-M6 will place the BlueBird Block-2 satellite into Low Earth Orbit, which is the largest commercial communications satellite to be deployed in Low Earth Orbit. It will also be the heaviest payload to be launched by LVM3 from Indian soil.

The satellite is part of the next generation of Blue-Bird Block-2 communication satellites, designed to provide space-based cellular broadband connectivity directly to standard mobile smartphones, ISRO said.

LVM3, developed by ISRO, is a three-stage launch vehicle comprising two solid strap-on motors (S200), a liquid core stage (L110), and a cryogenic upper stage (C25). It has a lift-off mass of 640 tonnes, a height of 43.5 meters, and a payload capability of 4,200 kg to Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

In its earlier missions, LVM3 successfully launched Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, and two OneWeb missions carrying 72 satellites. The previous launch of LVM3 was the LVM3-M5/CMS-03 mission, which was successfully accomplished on November 2 this year.

AST SpaceMobile, as per its website, is building the first and only space-based cellular broadband network accessible directly by everyday smartphones, designed for both commercial and government applications.

According to AST SpaceMobile, its BlueBird satellites provide broadband directly to standard smartphones without specialised hardware or phone modifications, allowing users to make video calls, browse the web, and use 4G and 5G internet speeds from anywhere on Earth.

Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina, 16 others indicted at ICT over allegations of enforced disappearances

MI News Service, Dhaka: The International Crimes Tribunal on Tuesday framed charges in a crimes against humanity case against 17 accused, including former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over allegations of enforced disappearances during the Awami League's rule, Daily Star reported.

It further reported that the three-member tribunal passed the order after reading out the four charges brought against the accused, who also include Hasina's former defence and security adviser Maj Gen Tarique Ahmed Siddique (ret'd) and 11 army officers.

As per Daily Star, of the 17 accused, 10 former Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officers from the army were produced before the tribunal during the proceedings.

Before framing the charges, the tribunal asked the accused present in the dock whether they pleaded guilty. All ten pleaded not guilty. One of them told the court they expected justice through the tribunal.

According to Daily Star, the officers are Brig Gen

Md Qamrul Hasan, Brig Gen Tofayel Mostafa Sarwar, Brig Gen Md Mahbub Alam, Brig Gen Md Jahangir Alam, Col AKM Azad, Col Abdullah Al Momen, Col Md Sarwar Bin Kashem, Col Anwar Latif Khan, Lt Col Md Moshiur Rahman Jewel, and Lt Col Md Saiful Islam Sumon.

The report said that the Tribunal has fixed January 21 for the opening statements.

Citing the prosecution, it said that 14 detainees were illegally confined and tortured at the TFI cell between 2016 and 2024.

The International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh had last month convicted Sheikh Hasina and sentenced her to death, finding her guilty of "crimes against humanity" for her efforts to suppress the July 2024 anti-government protests.

Sheikh Hasina has said that the verdict of International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was not a judicial exercise but a political one, describing it as a "political assassination in judicial robes."

She said she was denied the right to defend herself and to appoint lawyers of



her choice, alleging that the tribunal had been used to conduct a "witch hunt of the Awami League."

Despite the allegations, Hasina said her trust in Bangladesh's constitutional framework remains intact. "Our constitutional tradition is strong, and when legitimate governance is restored and our judiciary regains its independence, justice will prevail," she said.

Against this backdrop of legal action and recent violence, Hasina accused the interim administration headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus of lacking democratic legitimacy

and driving the country toward instability by weakening institutions and empowering extremist elements.

She also questioned the credibility of elections scheduled for February, citing the continued ban on the Awami League. "An election without the Awami League is not an election, but a coronation," she said, alleging that Yunus is governing "without a single vote from the Bangladeshi people" while attempting to bar a party that has won nine national mandates.

Hasina warned that voter participation historically collapses when people

are denied the option to vote for their preferred party, leading to widespread disenfranchisement. Any administration formed under such circumstances, she said, would lack moral authority and squander an opportunity for genuine national reconciliation.

The ICT verdict, she said, has also triggered demands for her extradition, which she dismissed as coming from "an increasingly desperate and drift administration," while others recognise the proceedings as a politically driven "kangaroo tribunal." She expressed gratitude for India's continued hospitality and the support extended by political parties across India.

Explaining her exit from Bangladesh, Hasina said she left to prevent further bloodshed and not because she feared accountability.

Placing developments within a regional context, Hasina addressed the worsening of India-Bangladesh relations, including Dhaka's decision to summon the Indian envoy. She blamed the interim administration for issuing hostile statements

against India, failing to protect religious minorities and allowing extremists to influence foreign policy.

She underscored that India has been Bangladesh's most dependable partner for decades and said bilateral ties are deep-rooted and enduring, expressing confidence that relations would stabilise once legitimate governance is restored.

Turning to rising anti-India sentiment and concerns over the safety of Indian diplomats, Hasina said the hostility is being driven by extremists emboldened under the Yunus regime. She alleged that these groups had attacked the Indian embassy, media organisations and minorities, and that Yunus had elevated such elements to positions of authority while releasing convicted terrorists.

She said India's concerns over the safety of its personnel were justified, adding that a responsible government would safeguard diplomatic missions and prosecute those issuing threats, rather than shielding what she described as hooligans.

India installs 120-foot Bailey Bridge in Sri Lanka's Kilinochchi District

MI News Service, Colombo: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar joined Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Disanayake and Foreign Minister Vijitha-Herath on Tuesday to inaugurate a critical 120-foot dual carriageway Bailey Bridge in the Kilinochchi District.

Sharing a post on X, Jaishankar wrote, "Jointly inaugurated with FM @HNVijitha-Herathin the presence of President @anuradisayanake, a 120-foot dual carriageway Bailey Bridge in the Kilinochchi District of Northern Province, one of the areas severely affected by Cyclone Ditwah."

"The 110-tonne bridge was airlifted from India and installed as part of #OperationSagarBandhu," the post added.

Earlier in the day, Jaishankar announced that India has proposed a comprehensive USD 450 million assistance package to support Sri Lanka's reconstruction efforts following Cyclone Ditwah.

The announcement follows the successful completion of the immediate humanitarian phase under Operation SagarBandhu, India's rapid response to the crisis.

Speaking in Colombo as a special envoy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jaishankar emphasised India's commitment to its neighbour during a uniquely challenging period, saying "the letter from PM Modi that I handed over builds on our first responder role and commits a reconstruction package of USD 450 million to Sri Lanka."

Jaishankar detailed the scale of the ini-



tial relief efforts, noting that the operation "delivered around 1100 tonnes of relief material" and "about 14.5 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment were also provided."

He outlined the proposed assistance package, stating, "The assistance package that we have proposed is worth USD 450 million. It will include USD 350 million in a Concessional line of credit and USD 100 million in grants." Jaishankar stated.

The USD 450 million package is currently being "finalised in close consultation with the government of Sri Lanka" to ensure the funds are directed toward the most critical infrastructure and recovery needs.

This latest move reaffirms India's "Neighbourhood First" policy, positioning New Delhi as the first responder and a steady partner in Sri Lanka's path to stability.

Jaishankar landed in Colombo on Monday evening and was received by Deputy Minister of Tourism RuwanRanasinghe.

Taiwan detects six Chinese aircrafts, six naval vessels around nation

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence detected six sorties of Chinese aircraft and six naval vessels operating around the country as of 6 am (local time) on Tuesday.

As per the MND, of the seven sorties, two crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). "Six sorties of PLA aircraft and six PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. Two out of six sorties crossed the median line and

entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded," the ministry said in a X post.

Earlier on Sunday, Taiwan detected seven sorties of Chinese aircraft, seven naval vessels and an official ship around its territorial waters as of 6 am (local time). As per the MND, of the seven sorties, five crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. In a post on X, the MND said, "Seven sorties of PLA aircraft, seven PLAN vessels and one official ship operating around

Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. Five out of seven sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

Meanwhile, the bipartisan US House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) has released a new report titled "Ten More for Taiwan", outlining urgent steps to strengthen deterrence against potential Chinese aggression toward Taiwan and to preserve peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Al Ain Zoo records 390 animal births in 2025

MI News Service, Al Ain: Al Ain Zoo has welcomed approximately 390 newborn animals by the end of December, with 65 per cent belonging to endangered species, underscoring the success of its sustainable population programmes.

The zoo said the births reflect its ongoing commitment to wildlife conservation and the protection of global biodiversity.

Species recorded include Addax, AddraMhorr Gazelle, African Dorcas Gazelle, African Spurred Tortoise, Barbary Sheep, Arabian Gazelle, Arabian Sand Gazelle (Rhim), Arabian Tahr, Arabian Oryx, Beisa Oryx, Black-Faced Impala, Chad Dama Gazelle, Greek Tortoise, Hippopotamus, Mhorr Gazelle, Nile Lechwe, Scimitar-Horned Oryx, and



Speke's Gazelle.

The Zoo's animal care teams work around the clock to provide suitable habitats, balanced nutrition and continuous health monitoring, applying scientific best practices to support the well-being of

mothers and increase the survival rates of newborns.

In 2025, Al Ain Zoo recorded data on 18 species from various species through the global ZIMS system, which specialises in documenting and managing animal in-

formation across international zoological institutions.

"The Zoo relies on ZIMS for its accurate and comprehensive data, which includes species identification and classification, documentation of daily behaviour, feed records, and operational logs," Reem Ahmed Al Kaabi, Animal Records Officer, said.

She said sharing data with other zoos supports international coordination and strengthens collective conservation efforts.

ZIMS is a specialised platform designed for registrars, keepers, and animal care professionals, and is used by more than 1,200 accredited zoos worldwide, making it one of the most important documentation systems in the field.

Nine US lawmakers urge War Department to list Chinese tech firms tied to PLA

MI News Service, Washington DC: A group of nine legislators has addressed a letter to Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, requesting the inclusion of several Chinese tech companies in a department-maintained list for allegedly supporting the military of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), as reported by The Epoch Times (TET).

The letter, dated December 18, mentions that these nonmilitary tech companies are aiding in the "modernisation, internal security initiatives, and military projection capabilities" of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). In 2021, the National Defence Authorisation Act created a list to be kept by the Defence Department (now the War Department) identifying all Chinese military entities, aimed at preventing the U.S. government from accidentally supporting the military, surveillance, and intelligence functions of the CCP.

Among the firms the lawmakers proposed is the artificial intelligence company DeepSeek, which, as per a report from the Jamestown Foundation, has defence contracts with the PLA and other Chinese organisations amounting to tens of millions of yuan, or millions of U.S. dollars. The signatories of the letter are Republican chairpersons from nine distinct committees in Congress, including Senator Rick Scott (R-Fla.), and Representatives John Moolenaar (R-Mich.), Rick Crawford (R-Ark.), Andrew Garbarino (R-N.Y.), Rob Wittman (R-Va.), Bill Huizenga (R-Mich.), Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.), Darin LaHood (R-Ill.), and Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.), as mentioned in the TET report.



lenskyy said the strike was carried out just days before Christmas, when families hoped to be safe at home.

"An attack ahead of Christmas, when people simply want to be with their families, at home, and safe," he said, calling it a clear sign of Russia's intentions.

He also pointed out that the attack came during ongoing discussions aimed at ending the war, accusing Russian President Vladimir Putin of refusing to stop the violence.

"This Russian strike sends an extremely clear signal about Russia's priorities. An attack ahead of Christmas, when people simply want to be with their families, at home, and safe. An attack was carried out essentially in the midst of negotiations aimed at ending this war. Putin still cannot accept that he must stop killing. And that means that the world is not putting enough pressure on Russia "

"Now is the time to respond. Russia must be pushed toward peace and guaranteed security," he said.

Dutch retain top spots, India men suffer sharp drop -- a look at how FIH World Rankings shook things up in 2025

LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND) : The Netherlands men and women teams maintained their top positions, winning trophies and titles to keep chasers at bay as the FIH World Rankings experienced many upheavals in a crucial year before the 2026 World Cups.

International hockey in 2025 delivered a relentless calendar of top-flight action - from the FIH Hockey Pro League battles to Nations Cup and Nations Cup 2 drama, along with Continental Championships across all continents-sparking notable shifts in the World Rankings, the sport's global governing body reported on its official website on Tuesday.

As the year wound to a close, across both the men's and women's games, familiar powers consolidated their positions while emerging teams made meaningful gains.

In the women's rankings, the Netherlands (3809), who started the year in the top spot, maintained their stranglehold throughout the year with another stellar season where they added more trophies to their cabinet with

championship runs at the Pro League and the EuroHockey Championships. In contrast, Argentina (3326), Belgium (3109), and China (2977), with great continental championship and Pro League campaigns, continue in the second, third, and fourth places respectively, where they started the year, the FIH report said.

Spain (2777) are amongst the biggest gainers of the year among the top-10 rankings, as they find themselves in the fifth spot, having started the year in eighth! Spain's climb comes at the expense of Australia (2758), Germany (2734), and England (2510), who have all dropped one place from where they started the year, ending it in sixth, seventh, and eighth spots.

New Zealand (2319), who won the Women's FIH Hockey Nations Cup and the Oceania Cup in 2025, have climbed to ninth place above India (2315), who suffered Pro League relegation in 2025. Japan (2186) and the United States (2172) are up two places to eleventh and twelfth at the expense of Ireland (2030) and



Chile (1999), who are down to thirteenth and fifteenth, with Scotland (2015) in fourteenth, the report added.

Korea (1864) remain in sixteenth, followed by France (1742), whose triumph at the FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2 saw them climb three spots up. Italy (1737), Uruguay (1736), and South Africa (1670) round out the top-20, with Canada (1668) and Malaysia (1667) just outside!

In the men's rankings, the Netherlands (3376) and Belgium (3225) continue to hold the top two spots, but there are plenty of shake-ups below compared to the start of the year! Germany (3116) are up one spot to third following a successful EuroHockey campaign, followed by Argentina (3022), who are up to fourth after starting the year in eighth spot! Australia (3007) and Spain (2995) are up one spot each in fifth and

sixth, followed by England (2864) and India (2845), who suffered the biggest drops, having started the year in third and fifth spots respectively, as per the report.

France (2371) remain in the ninth, while New Zealand (2254) and Ireland (2246) have swapped places with each other since the start of the year. South Africa (2127) and Malaysia (2097) remain steady in twelfth and thirteenth.

Following their promotion to the FIH Hockey Pro League, Pakistan (2034) are up one place to fourteenth, followed by Wales (1989) and Korea (1981). Egypt (1956), who had a stellar debut at the FIH Hockey Nations Cup 2, are big movers for the year, finding themselves in seventeenth. Japan (1982), Canada (1863), and Scotland (1843) round out the top-20, with Austria (1805), Chile (1727), China (1723), Poland (1694), and the United States (1690) occupying the next five spots.

The rankings calculation model that FIH introduced on January 1, 2020, moved away

from the previous tournament-based rankings system to a dynamic, match-based method where opposing teams exchange points in official, FIH-sanctioned games. The number of points exchanged depends on the result of the match, the relative ranking of the teams, and the importance of the match. More information about the new ranking model can be found below.

The number of points exchanged depends on the result of the match, the relative ranking of the teams, and the importance of the match.

The calculations are based on the Elo rating system, which is used as the basis of many other sports ranking systems. When two nations play against each other, several ranking points are exchanged between them, and in every match, the number of points gained by one team is exactly matched by the number of points lost by the other.

Teams will win more points for beating teams ranked above them, and therefore, teams will lose more points for losing to a team

FINAL RANKINGS:	YEAR-END
Men (top 10)	
1. Netherlands	
2. Belgium	
3. Germany	
4. Argentina	
5. Australia	
6. Spain	
7. England	
8. India	
9. France	
10. New Zealand	
WOMEN (TOP 10)	
1. Netherlands	
2. Argentina	
3. Belgium	
4. China	
5. Spain	
6. Australia	
7. Germany	
8. England	
9. New Zealand	
10. India	

ranked below them. Teams will win fewer points for beating teams ranked below them, and therefore, teams will lose fewer points for losing to a team ranked above them.

ALL VIJAY HAZARE TROPHY MATCHES IN BENGALURU MOVED FROM CHINNASWAMY TO BCCI COE

NEW DELHI : All Vijay Hazare Trophy matches that were set to take place at Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium have been relocated to the BCCI Centre of Excellence, due to a directive from the Karnataka government citing security issues.

"All Vijay Hazare Trophy matches scheduled to be held at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium will now happen at the BCCI CoE. It's a decision which was taken earlier in the day due to security reasons, as said by the state government," a DDCA official told IANS on Tuesday.

The official further said that both participating teams for the opening game had been notified, and their pre-match training session is now set to take place at the BCCI CoE. "The Delhi team has been told about it and their pre-match practice against Andhra will now happen at CoE," the official added.

Meanwhile, all the Vijay Hazare matches in Bengaluru will be held without spectators. The Bengaluru police have assured a strong security presence around the Aerospace Park, where CoE is located.

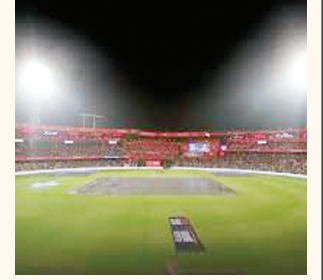
Karnataka Police have refused permission for the Vijay Hazare Trophy match between Delhi and Andhra Pradesh at Chinnaswamy Stadium, citing serious safety and crowd-control concerns.

The decision was taken after a thorough inspection by Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar, officials from the Greater Bengaluru Authority, and the Fire Department, who identified critical gaps in venue infrastructure and emergency preparedness.

On Monday, a committee constituted by the Karnataka government, comprising officials from the police, public works and fire safety departments, inspected the Chinnaswamy Stadium and submitted a report.

The Bengaluru City Police Commissioner had already issued a 17-point advisory outlining mandatory safety measures. The committee verified whether these points had been complied with and submitted its findings to the government.

"The committee had gone to the stadium on Monday, on the instructions of the Home Department. Officers from various departments, including fire, Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom), Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and police, had inspected the stadium.



Women Journalists Badminton Tournament Concludes in Grand Style in Ranchi

PC JHA

RANCHI : The Women Journalists Badminton Tournament, jointly organised by the Sudha and Arman Charitable Trust and the Ranchi Press Club, concluded successfully with great enthusiasm and sporting spirit in Ranchi.

A total of 26 women journalist shuttlers participated in the tournament, delivering commendable performances and underlining that despite the pressures of newsroom deadlines and field reporting, women journalists continue to excel on the sports court as well.

The event was graced by Minister of State for Defence and Ranchi MP Sanjay Seth as the chief guest, while former Union Minister Subodh Kant Sahay attended as the guest of honour. Both dignitaries added to the excitement by stepping onto the court and playing a few rallies. Other guests present included Sunil Sahay and Pranav Kumar Babbu.

Sudha and Arman Charitable Trust Chairman Shubh Narayan Dutt and Secretary Manoj Shrivastava praised the newly elected committee of the Ranchi Press Club for organising the tournament efficiently within a short time frame. Dutt highlighted the challenges faced by women journalists in balancing professional and personal responsibilities and appreciated their continued commitment.

Ranchi Press Club President Shambhu



Nath Chaudhary termed the event a proud moment for the club, while Secretary Abhishek Sinha said the Press Club would continue organising sports activities, seminars, and dialogue-based events to help journalists manage professional stress.

Addressing the gathering, Sanjay Seth announced a Rs 10 lakh grant for the construction of a rooftop coffee house at the Ranchi Press Club. He said the facility would serve as a space for interaction, discussion,

and relaxation for journalists and city residents alike, and praised the growing participation of women in sports.

Subodh Kant Sahay noted that sports play a vital role in reducing occupational stress and expressed delight at watching women journalists perform as skilled shuttlers.

In the tournament results, Karishma won the singles title, defeating runner-up Pooja Bose. In doubles, Muskan and Aditi clinched the championship.

JSCA President Ajay Nath Shah Deo Extends Christmas Greetings to Church Leaders in Ranchi



PC JHA

RANCHI : Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) President Ajay Nath Shah Deo paid a courtesy visit to the Archbishop's House on Purulia Road, Ranchi, on Tuesday to

extend warm Christmas greetings and best wishes to senior church leaders.

During the visit, Shah Deo met Archbishop Vincent Aind and Provincial Superior Father Ajit Kumar Xess, conveying his heartfelt wishes for peace, har-

mony, and goodwill on the occasion of Christmas. The interaction reflected the spirit of mutual respect and communal harmony, highlighting the importance of unity and compassion during the festive season.

Shah Deo expressed appreci-

ation for the role played by religious institutions in promoting social values, education, and service to humanity. He noted that festivals like Christmas serve as a reminder of love, kindness, and togetherness, values that transcend religious and social boundaries. The church leaders warmly received the JSCA President and exchanged greetings, emphasizing the significance of dialogue and cooperation among different sections of society for collective progress and social harmony.

JSCA life member Jasbir Singh Khurana was also present during the meeting, adding to the cordial atmosphere of the occasion. The visit concluded on a positive note, with an exchange of goodwill and reaffirmation of shared values of peace and unity.

Ashes: Rob Key to investigate allegations of players having 'a drinking stag-do' before Adelaide Test

MELBOURNE : England cricket team's managing director Rob Key defended the team's four-day trip to Noosa, taken between the second and third Ashes Tests, and stated that the board is investigating claims that their travel was turned into a beer-filled stag party.

Away from the field, England's mid-series trip to Noosa, a well-heel coastal resort in Queensland, has also come under the microscope. The squad headed there for four nights after their heavy defeat at the Gabba, describing it as a chance to reset rather than a break for leisure. Head coach Brendon McCullum, who organised the visit, described it as "excellent" and believed it would leave the team refreshed ahead of the third Test.

Key did not join the squad in



Noosa and initially said he had no concerns about the players'

conduct. However, following the loss in Adelaide, reports emerged

likening the trip to a stag do. He said he would investigate the

claims to establish whether any action was necessary.

"If there's things where people are saying that our players went out and drank excessively, then of course we'll be looking into that. Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol for an international cricket team is not something that I'd expect to see at any stage, and it would be a fault not to look into what happened there. But from everything that I've heard so far, they were very well behaved," Key told reporters at the MCG on Tuesday.

"I've read what's been written in the last day or so, and if it goes into where they're drinking lots and it's a stag do, all that type of stuff, that's completely unacceptable. I'm not a drinker. I think a drinking culture doesn't help anyone in any stretch whatsoever.

"I have no issue with the Noosa trip if it was to get away and just throw your phone away, down tools, go on the beach... Everything that I've heard so far is that they sat down, had lunch, had dinner, didn't go out late, had the odd drink. I don't mind that. If it goes past that, then that's an issue as far as I'm concerned... There's lots of people there that might disagree with that, but that's what we'll find out," he added.

What was dubbed as a potentially era-defining tour has instead prompted another phase of reflection for English cricket, after consecutive defeats in Perth, Brisbane, and Adelaide. With the Ashes already lost, England's immediate goal is to minimise the damage, starting with the Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

