

# Abhishek Slams BJP, Calls for Peace, Rejects Religious Polarisation

Trinamool Congress (TMC) All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday mounted a strong counter-offensive against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of attempting to polarise voters along religious lines ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Addressing a large gathering during a roadshow in Berhampore, Murshidabad district, Banerjee said that Bengal's political history has repeatedly shown that divisive politics based on religion has no place in the state. TMC's All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee accused the BJP of repeatedly using religion as a political weapon before elections. Addressing a public meeting and roadshow in Berhampore, Banerjee rejected what he called divisive politics and questioned the BJP's narrative. "From which platform is the Prime Minister abusing Mamata Banerjee? Who built that stage — Hindus or Muslims?"

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# Morning India

## RS to examine contempt of House complaint against TMC MPs

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** The Rajya Sabha's privileges committee will examine a complaint against the TMC's Mamata Thakur and former MP Mausam Noor for alleged breach of privilege and contempt of the House during the debate on the VB-G RAM Bill, the Rajya Sabha secretariat has informed.

According to a bulletin of the secretariat, a complaint against the two was submitted by the BJP's Laxmikant Bajpai. The MP alleged that the two made "unparliamentary utterances, created obstructions in the smooth functioning of the House, entered into the Well and reached the Table, thereby obstructing officers assisting the House during the debate on the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Bill, 2025 on December 18 and 19". "On consideration of facts, the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, has referred the matter under Rule 203 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report," the bulletin stated. Meanwhile, Noor resigned from the Rajya Sabha on January 5, after she quit the Trinamool Congress to join the Congress. The VB-G RAM G bill, replacing the UPA-era rural employment law MGNREGA, was passed in the Rajya Sabha on December 19 amid vociferous protest by opposition MPs. TMC MPs had also staged an overnight sit-in dharna in the Parliament complex against the passage of the Bill.

## Jharkhand HC observes state police raid on ED office 'preplanned'

**MI News Service, Ranchi :** The Jharkhand High Court has observed that the recent police raid on the Enforcement Directorate office here prima facie appears "preplanned". Justice Sanjay Kumar Dwivedi, while hearing a writ petition filed by the ED, directed on Friday the central agency to make the Union Home Secretary a party in the case.

The court ordered the Union Home Secretary to depute CRPF/BSF or any other paramilitary force to provide security to the ED office and its officers. Justice Dwivedi also directed Ranchi Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Rakesh Ranjan to ensure proper security of the ED office.

The court observed that if there is any lapse in the security of the ED office and its officers, the SSP Ranchi will directly be held responsible for that. The High court also stayed the police investigation against ED officers on the basis of an FIR registered in the Airport police station by a former Jharkhand government employee. Santosh Kumar, The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday moved the Jharkhand

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West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is seen with the Chief Justice of India, Justice Surya Kant, on her left, at the inauguration of the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court in Jalpaiguri on Saturday.

## Mamata urges CJI to protect Constitution, democracy

**MI News Service, Jalpaiguri :** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Saturday urged Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to protect the country's Constitution, democracy and judiciary. Speaking at the inauguration of the building of the Jalpaiguri Circuit Bench of the Calcutta High Court, the Chief minister also called on Justice Kant to protect people of the country from being wrongly targeted by "agencies". "Please protect the Constitution, democracy, judiciary, history and geography of the country from disaster," she said, without elaborating. "You (the CJI) are the guardian of our Constitution, we are under your legal guardianship. Please protect the people," Mamata Banerjee said. Justice Kant was also present at the programme. "These days, there is a trend of media trials before disposal of cases; this must stop, too," she added. Apart from Chief Justice of India Justice Kant, a large number legal luminaries from across the country, including several senior judges of the Supreme Court, Chief Justices of Calcutta and Odisha High Courts, several other sitting and retired judges and leading advocates like Kalyan Banerjee and West Bengal Law minister Malay Ghatak were present at the programme.



Please protect the Constitution, democracy, judiciary, history and geography of the country from disaster

CM Mamata Banerjee

Although the new court building was inaugurated

on Saturday, it will be functional only in March. The shifting will be done in between," a court official said. The circuit bench typically operates with one division bench and two single-judge benches at any given time, though the exact number of judges vary from time to time. The Bar at the circuit bench has long been demanding a permanent bench as the judges now hear cases twice or thrice a month in Jalpaiguri. Once the permanent infrastructure is functional, the circuit bench will start catering to Malda, North and South Dinajpur districts.

## Gen Z have reposed faith in BJP's development model : PM Modi

**MI News Service, Malda :** Mounting a sharp attack on the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) in West Bengal, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, claimed at a huge rally in this North Bengal town on Saturday that "People of India, especially Gen Z, have reposed faith in BJP's development model." Criticising the TMC Government in the state for the past 15 years on all fronts, the Prime minister alleged that large-scale infiltration had altered the State's demography, triggered riots in bordering districts like Malda and Murshidabad. "As a result the criminals have thrived here due to the ruling party's patronage and syndicate raj", PM Modi said.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the students during the flags off India's first Vande Bharat sleeper train connecting Howrah and Guwahati, in Malda on Saturday

Ahead of the West Bengal Assembly polls, the Prime minister made infiltration the central theme of his attack on the TMC government, alleging that large-scale illegal migration had altered the state's demographic balance and fuelled riots, while reassuring refugee communities such as the Matuas that they had nothing to fear. The Prime minister also sought to reassure refugees, particularly the Matuas, who had migrated to India after facing religious persecution in Bangladesh, amid the ongoing controversy over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. "I want to

assure refugees like the Matuas who took shelter in India due to religious persecution: you need not worry," he said emphatically.

Speaking before a massive crowd who had gathered from all corners of this North Bengal district to listen to the Prime minister Modi,

he said infiltration posed one of the biggest challenges before Bengal, asserting that even prosperous countries across the world were taking firm steps to identify and deport illegal migrants. "Infiltration is a very big challenge before Bengal. There are developed and prosper-

ous countries in the world which have no shortage of money, yet they are removing infiltrators. It is equally necessary to remove infiltrators from West Bengal," he noted.

Bengal is surrounded on all sides by BJP Governments that stand for good governance. Now it is time for good governance in Bengal too

PM Narendra Modi

Linking recent incidents of violence to the issue, including the one at Beldanga in neighbouring Murshidabad district even today and at Chakulia in North Dinajpur, the Prime Minister claimed riots had erupted in several parts of the State, including Malda and Murshidabad, due to infiltration. He alleged that the TMC's "syndicate Raj" system was actively working to ensure infiltrators were settled in Bengal, leading to demographic changes in many areas. But he said across the country, "People of India, especially Gen Z, have reposed faith in BJP's

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## BJP to announce new party president on January 20

**MI News Service, New Delhi :** Announcing the schedule for the important election of the party's national president, the BJP has said nominations for the post will be filed on January 19, and the name of the new party chief will be announced the next day.

According to the organisational poll schedule, released by BJP national returning officer K Laxman here on Friday, the nomination for the election of the party President can be filed between 2 pm and 4 pm on January 19 and the nominations can be withdrawn by the candidates between 5 pm and 6 pm same day. The scrutiny of the documents of the candidates' nomination papers will be carried out between 4 pm and 5 pm on January 19, according to the notification issued by Laxman, who is also a BJP Rajya Sabha MP. The name of new BJP national president will formerly be announced on January 20, Laxman said.

However, the much-specified post is expected to go to BJP national working president Nitin Nabin. The five-time MLA from Bihar was appointed to the

party's national working president role on December 14 last year, a move seen as signalling a generational shift within the ruling party. The BJP national working president is likely to file his nomination for the party chief's post next week. He is also likely to be elected unopposed, as there is little possibility of any other party leader entering the race, according to party sources.

Nadda, too, was first appointed as the BJP's national working president in June 2019 before going on to become the party's national president, succeeding Amit Shah after being elected unopposed on January 20, 2020. The 45-year-old, Nabin, is the son of late BJP veteran and former MIA Nabin Kishore Prasad Sinha. Within the party, he is regarded as a leader who is ideologically rooted and closely associated with the organisation. He also has a background in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). He represents the Bankipur assembly constituency in Bihar and has served twice as a minister in the Bihar government.

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## Rahul Gandhi meets Indore water contamination victims



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with the families of victims of Indore water contamination

**MI News Service, Indore :** Congress leader Rahul Gandhi here on Saturday met families and patients affected by the vomiting and diarrhoea outbreak linked to water contamination in Madhya Pradesh's Indore, the party said. State Congress president Jitu Patwari claimed 24 people have died after consuming contaminated water in the city's Bhagirathpura area, and eight to 10 patients are in a critical condition. The state government, however, has put the toll in the tragedy at seven, including a five-month-old infant. Rahul Gandhi visited four patients undergoing treatment at Bombay Hospital, a private facility, enquired about their health and met their family

members. Jitu Patwari and party leader Umang Singhar accompanied Gandhi. Later in the day the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha also visited Bhagirathpura and met affected families to express condolences. Patwari said that the Congress wanted to organise a conference in Rahul Gandhi's presence to discuss solutions to the contaminated drinking water problem, involving intellectuals, environmentalists and municipal councillors from across the state, but the administration denied permission. "Hence, we will organise this conference at a later date," Patwari said. He further claimed that 70 per cent of water supplied in the city was contaminated and not

Despite several deaths due to contaminated drinking water in Indore, state ministers are busy with grand events and are abusing us, asking why we are raising questions about this incident

Jitu Patwari  
State Congress president

potable, and described polluted water as "slow poison" that was causing serious damage to kidneys and other organs.

Targeting the ruling BJP, Patwari alleged, "Despite several deaths due to contaminated drinking water in Indore, state ministers are busy with grand events and are abusing us, asking why we are raising questions about this incident." Residents of Bhagirathpura have claimed that 24 people have died so far in the vomiting and diarrhoea outbreak that broke out in the locality last month. The state government submitted a status report before the Indore bench of the Madhya Pradesh High

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## Maharashtra civic poll result is emphatic endorsement of development agenda



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde being felicitated as BJP-Shiv Sena combine inched closer to the winning figure on vote counting day of the Maharashtra civic poll results on January 17

**MI News Service, Mumbai / Thane :** Breaching the bastion of the Thackeray family, the alliance of the BJP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena on Friday night secured a clear majority in the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) elections by bagging 118 out of 227 seats.

The Mahayuti alliance swept the municipal corporation elections in Maharashtra with Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis claiming victory in 25 of the 29 bodies. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday thanked the people of Maharashtra for blessing the NDA's agenda of pro-people governance after the BJP-led alliance took the lead in several bodies.

Fadnavis attributed the strong mandate to the alliance's development-focused governance agenda. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde has also profusely thanked voters for the Mahayuti's stellar performance in the polls to 29 municipal corporations and said the verdict was an emphatic endorsement of the state government's development agenda. The Shiv Sena won 75 seats in Thane, followed by 28 seats for alliance partner BJP. The NCP won nine seats, while the NCP (SP) emerged victorious on 12 seats. The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM)

won five seats. The Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena (UBT) ended up with a solitary win. One seat was also won by an independent candidate. The Shiv Sena's tally is higher than the 67 won in the last election, Shinde told reporters after paying tribute to mentor late Anand Dighe at Anand Ashram here. "The Shiv Sena-BJP alliance has secured a decisive mandate not only in Thane but also in Mumbai and other civic bodies. The mayor in Mumbai and in municipal corporations across the state will be from the Mahayuti. The election results reflect a pro-Mahayuti atmosphere across Maharashtra," he said. "Some fought on emotional issues, but the people have given their mandate for development. The work done in the last three-and-a-half years during my tenure as Chief Minister and now under Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has been appreciated by the people," he asserted. He said the aim would be to transform Mumbai into a global hub. "Mumbai is the financial capital of the country and should become a city of international standards. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has repeatedly said Mumbai

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## Conference on the Historical Influence of Muslims in Bengal

**Nurul Islam Khan**  
The first day of a two-day history conference, organized by the Center for Research and Excellence, was held at Aliah University's Park Circus campus. The main theme of the conference was "The Influence of Muslims in Bengal and the Development of its Trajectory."

Professor Amit Dey was present as the chief guest and speaker at the first day's seminar. He is the Ashutosh (Chair) Professor and Head of the Department of History at Calcutta University. In his discussion, he stated that the presence of Muslims in Bengal is not merely a history of political power, but has also had a lasting

research-based and unbiased perspective in historical studies.

Dr. Masihur Rahman, Chairman of the West Bengal Welfare Trust, was present as a special guest. In his speech, he said that history should not be viewed merely as a record of past events, but as an important aspect of shaping contemporary society. He also highlighted the glorious history of the role of Muslims in shaping communal harmony and pluralistic culture in Bengal.

Dr. M. Sajjad Alam Rizvi, Assistant Professor at Presidency University and Dr. Ishtiaq Hussain, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of History



impact on the administrative structure, education system, literature, architecture and social fabric. He also mentioned that these aspects need to be evaluated with a more

at Aliah University, were also present. Teachers, researchers and students also participated in the seminar, followed by a question-and-answer session.

## Two held with firearms

**MI News Service, Krishnanagar:** Acting on a tip-off, ASI Subrata Mondal, along with his team, conducted a raid at the Sahabpara Ghat area under Thanarpara police station in Nadia district on Saturday and arrested two persons.



The arrested have been identified as Nayan Mondal (21), son of Sahabul Mondal, a resident of Bagdanga Firajpur village under Domkal police station in Murshidabad district, and Habibur Mondal (23), son of Sajahan Mondal, a resident of Dogachhi Natunpara village under Thanarpara police station

in Nadia district. During a search, the police recovered two 7 mm firearms, four magazines and 20 rounds of 7 mm ammunition from their joint possession. Police sources said that a specific case is being registered against the accused under relevant sections of law, and further investigation is underway.

## NH-12 Ganja Haul: 4 Nabbed with 30kg



**MI News Service, Krishnanagar:** Acting on a tip-off, the Dhubulia police on Thursday arrested four persons along with a white Suzuki S-Presso car and seized a huge quantity of ganja from NH-12 near Singhatia under Dhubulia police station in Nadia district.

The arrested persons have been identified as Dhaneswar Barman (32), son of Rajkanta Barman, and Manoranjan Barman (31), son of Babuchand Barman, both residents of Holdimohan village under Kotwali police station in Cooch Behar district; Rahul Barman (21), son of Paresw Barman of Chekdara village under Tufanganj police station; and Jaydeb Sarkar (24), son of Jiten Sarkar of the same address.

Besides the contraband, the police also seized the four-wheeler and four mobile phones from the accused. The operation was carried out in the presence of the Circle Inspector of Nakashipara and the Deputy Superintendent of Police (D&T). A case has been registered at Dhubulia police station under relevant sections of the NDPS Act. All four accused were produced before the court on Friday, police sources said.



An event was organised to mark the 59th founding anniversary of Dakshineswar Adyapith, the 136th birth anniversary of Annada Thakur, and the 106th Siddhotsav. The programme included the distribution of clothing to 8,000 needy people and a discussion on interfaith harmony. Those present included the temple's Secretary and Trustee, Brahmachari Mural Bhai; Speaker of the Legislative Assembly Biman Banerjee; Minister Becharam Manna; MLA Tapas Chatterjee; former Governor Shyamal Kumar Sen; NKDA Chairman Shovan Chatterjee; Kamarhati Municipality Chairman Gopal Saha; Professor Baishakhi Banerjee; Managing Director of Enami Foundation Sushil Kumar Goenka; Councillor Mithu Bose; Rahima Bibi Mondal; and other distinguished personalities.

## Ignored warning signs, paid with life: Kolkata woman dies in Sikkim hills

**MI News Service, Gangtok:** A 47-year-old woman tourist from Kolkata died tragically while travelling in the high-altitude regions of North Sikkim, raising serious concerns over tourist safety and awareness about altitude-related illnesses.



According to official sources, the woman developed symptoms of acute altitude sickness after reaching Lachung, located at an elevation of nearly 9,600 feet above sea level. Despite experiencing breathing difficulties and repeated vomiting, she continued her journey to higher-altitude tourist destinations, including Zero Point and Yumthang Valley, situated at approximately 15,300 feet. The deceased had arrived in North Sikkim with her daughter and other family members and checked into a hotel at Phaka in Lachung. Soon after reaching the area, she reportedly began feeling unwell. However, on Thursday, the family proceeded with sightseeing plans and visited Zero Point and Yumthang Valley before returning to the hotel later in the day. Officials said her condition deteriorated sharply after returning from Zero Point. After dinner, she went to sleep but suddenly became critically ill late at night. She suffered repeated bouts of vomiting and severe respiratory distress. Alarmed family members rushed her to the Army Medical Camp in Lachung, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Preliminary medical assess-

ment suggests that the cause of death was high-altitude sickness, triggered by rapid ascent and prolonged exposure to extreme elevation. The local police were informed immediately, and a case of unnatural death has been registered. An autopsy will be conducted before the body is handed over to the family, administration sources confirmed. In the wake of the incident, the Sikkim administration has issued a renewed advisory for tourists visiting mountainous regions. Travelers have been urged to assess their physical fitness before undertaking high-altitude journeys, allow adequate time for acclimatisation, avoid ascending further if symptoms appear, and immediately descend to lower altitudes in case of discomfort. Officials reiterated that while the scenic beauty of the mountains draws thousands of visitors every year, human life must take precedence over tourism. The incident has once again underscored the potentially fatal risks of ignoring altitude-related warning signs in high Himalayan regions.

## Weaver Found Hanging in Shantipur, Family Alleges SIR Notice Triggered Mental Distress

**MI News Service, Krishnanagar:** A 56-year-old handloom weaver was found hanging on Saturday in Shantipur of Nadia district, triggering allegations by his family that fear and mental stress caused by a notice related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls drove him to suicide.



The deceased has been identified as Subodh Debnath (56), a resident of Dhakapara area in Shantipur. He is survived by his ailing wife and a son. Police have sent the body for post-mortem examination. According to family members, Subodh had been under severe mental distress ever since he received a notice for a hearing in connection with the SIR process on January 4.

The family claimed that although their names were included in the voters' list in 2010 after

submitting enumeration forms, none of their names appeared in the 2002 electoral roll. Subodh earned his livelihood by weaving handloom fabrics and had been struggling to run his household for years. His wife, Lipi Debnath, alleged that the notice left him deeply shaken. "After receiving the notice, he was constantly anxious. He kept saying that if he failed to

produce documents, he might be sent to jail. He repeatedly said he would not go for the hearing," she said. Family members further claimed that Subodh had stopped eating properly and spent days worrying about the issue. They said he had also discussed his fears with several neighbours. On Saturday morning, tak-

## Violence, media attacked as Beldanga remains on Edge

**MI News Service, Murshidabad:** Tension continued to grip Beldanga in Murshidabad for the second consecutive day on Friday, as reports of violence, vandalism and attacks on journalists surfaced, prompting sharp political reactions and raising serious questions about law and order in the area.

Congress leader and former MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury strongly criticized the administration over traffic restrictions imposed ahead of TMC all India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee's scheduled visit to Berhampur, around 20 kilometers from Beldanga, on Saturday. According to Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury the Berhampur bus stand has been ordered to remain closed from 11 am to 4 pm to facilitate the political programme, a move he termed "anti-people" and reflective of administrative failure. "There is no administration left in the state. Everything is being shut down for the convenience of a leader. Common people are being made to suffer. Roads are blocked, transport is stopped, and daily life is paralysed just because a public representative has to deliver a speech," Chowdhury alleged, expressing anger over the restric-

tions. Meanwhile, the situation on the ground in Beldanga remained volatile. Visuals from the area showed angry mobs taking to the streets, wielding bamboo sticks and vandalising flex banners erected along the roadside. Journalists covering the unrest were allegedly targeted and assaulted, triggering widespread concern among media bodies. Eyewitness accounts and video footage indicated that for a prolonged period, no police personnel were visible in the affected areas, intensifying questions over the delayed response of law enforcement. Locals alleged that the absence of police emboldened miscreants, allowing vandalism and intimidation to continue unchecked. Police forces were eventually deployed by noon as the situation escalated, and efforts were initiated to restore order. Senior officials said the situation was being monitored closely and necessary steps were being taken to prevent further flare-ups. The unrest in Beldanga, coupled with political programmes in nearby areas, has once again brought the spotlight on crowd control, protection of journalists, and the balance between political activities and public convenience.



An awareness campaign to prevent dengue fever was conducted through a foot march in Ward No. 63. Led by Susmita Bhattacharya, the chairperson and councillor of Borough 7, along with Bablu Pyne, Ward 63 President. The campaign began in the Outram Street area of Ward No. 63, Kolkata. Many schoolchildren, along with their teachers, participated in the march, carrying placards urging people to avoid dirt and garbage. The children emphasized the importance of maintaining cleanliness and a healthy lifestyle, setting an example for others to keep their surroundings free from unsanitary conditions.

## SIR Chaos: Elephant Terror Shadows Voter Hearings

**MI News Service, Kharagpur:** In view of the problems being faced by the common people due to the presence of elephants in the Shalabani area of Paschim Medinipur district, the district administration has arranged for a special center for the hearing of special identity verification. It is known that many people of Jangalmahal area have received the notice of the hearing due to various reasons. According to the rules, it is mandatory to appear in the camp on the scheduled date after issuing the notice within seven to ten days. But due to the movement of hundreds of elephants in the Jangalmahal area of West Medinipur, it had become risky for the people to reach the hearing centre. Keeping this problem in mind, the district administration had informed the State Election Commission about the situation. After this, a special

hearing center was opened in Pidakata Community Hall of Shalabani Block. In this centre, people of many villages falling under Shalabani and Medinipur assembly constituencies are being heard. Roman Mandal, BDO of Shalabani, said that villages of two assembly constituencies come in the block. Residents of several villages including Kalshibhanga, Satpati, Kalaimudi, Gadmal, Lalgediya and Bhimpur have been called for hearing and notices have been issued accordingly. Madhumita Mukherjee, SDO and ERO of Medinipur Sadar, said that this decision has been taken in view of the continuous movement of elephants in the area. He told that due to elephant terror, the villagers do not face any problem in reaching the hearing center, so that special hearing centers have been made near their villages, so that people can reach safely keeping in mind the condition of the elephants. Besides, the forest department employees have also been instructed to take special vigilance. If the elephants come to the populated area, the deployment has been increased to return them to the forest.

## National and International Convention for Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Street Children, school education, health, nutrition coverage and focus on Building a future where no child is left behind'

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The International Mission for Social Welfare and Charity (I.M.S.W.C) is organized its 45th Anniversary of "National and International Convention for integrated management framework on Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Street Children. Disadvantaged Children, refugee Children. IMSWC works with grassroots and expert researchers to identify the most effective ways of supporting street children and defending their rights. Make a world where street children have the same rights and the same chance of reaching their potential as any other children. holistic Support. Strategies include supporting caregivers and strengthening community capacity, alongside providing direct education. IMSWC focus on Building a future where no child is left behind. The right to life, survival and development for street children and adolescents. Prevents child destitution and offers holistic child protection. On 16th December, 2025, at Kishanpura, naroli and dugari village of Bundi district within the State of Rajasthan. The 694 Street Children, Disadvantaged Children, refugee Children have participated in this Programme.

development programme for the Prevention of street Children and Non-formal Children are unable to go to school simply because there are no physical spaces in which they can receive an education and to ensure that street children do not return to vulnerable situations. IMSWC provide learning spaces in emergency contexts to create safe learning environments for children affected by conflict and disaster. Ensuring children with urgent protection needs are identified and receive timely services. Ensuring girls and boys are still able to access education, supporting the long-term recovery, listening and helping people and households rebuild their lives. IMSWC support for advocacy efforts is essential for ensuring that street children receive the care and support they need. Together, IMSWC can make a difference in the lives of street children and give them the opportunity for a brighter at. Pansoli, kanera and vadala village of Kheda district within the State of Gujarat. The 791 street children and Non-formal Children have Participated in this Programme.

**18th December, 2025.** IMSWC also organized Innovative integrated Programme for access to education, vocational training, and opportunities for economic empowerment by equipping mar-



ginalized street children with the skills and resources they need to build a better future for themselves. IMSWC promote to transform street-connected children's experience of the streets now, so that they are safer, with better access to services and a sense of belonging in their communities. Provide for the rehabilitation and reintegration of children. Protection of street Girls from Rape, sexual abuse (compounded by armed conflict), biologically, socially and culturally, Integrated Support, including nutrition, healthcare, and counseling, creating a safe, conducive learning environment. at Govindapuram, prakashnagar and boppudi village of Palnadu district within the State of Andhra Pradesh. The 595

street children have Participated in this Programme. **19th December, 2025.** IMSWC organized Decentralization and Vigorous efforts needed to promote, reinforce and respect the rights of the Street Children, Neglected Children and to create public highlight the necessity of structured, compassionate education to empower children, offering them a chance to develop life skills, including communication and critical thinking. IMSWC enabling them to deliver services and programmes to street children, and fight for their rights where street-connected children are treated equally; have the right to be heard; and have the right to life, survival and development and systemic recognition of street chil-

dren's rights to protection and education. at Farkawn, Venglai and murlen village of Champhai district within the State of Mizoram. The 699 Street Children, Neglected Children have participated in this Programme. **20th December, 2025.** IMSWC also organized integrated management workshop on free school education for street children, homeless children Protecting street children with Safe Shelters, IMSWC ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential. Through collaborative efforts and sustained support, Protection beggars, child substance abusers, street and working Children, rag pickers, small vendors, street performers, orphaned, deserted, trafficked and run-away children, children of migrant population, children living in unauthorized areas, slums, children of socially marginalized groups and any other vulnerable group of children and to reintegrate these children into families, alternative care and community. Support children and their families by immediate survival needs, providing essentials including water, food, shelter and healthcare. Creating safe spaces for children to recover, at Nanni, kunihar and Jagota village of Solan district within the State of Himachal Pradesh. The 588 Street

Children, homeless Children have participated in this Programme. **21th December, 2025.** IMSWC organized Access to Integrated development programme for free primary education and early childhood education for street children, orphanage Children. Prevention of street children, orphanage Children are segregated and unable to benefit from social security programmes and frequently suffer from rights violations, sexual abuse and Trafficking of Street-Living and Street-Working Children Consequences of sexual abuse, exploitation and violence due to their status and lack of legal documents. IMSWC goal is to provide street children a platform to voice their opinions and ensure street children are protected and their rights. IMSWC have developed innovative and inclusive education programmes that support street children to enjoy their right to education. These initiatives are exemplary of the approach that must be urgently taken to ensure street children, orphanage Children are no longer left behind. IMSWC provides music, drama, storytelling, outings and other child friendly cultural expression and Sports and Game coverage, at Raghunathpally, Cheetakodur and devarunpala village of Jangoan district

within the State of Telangana. The 783 Street Children have participated in this Programme. **22th December, 2025.** IMSWC also organized Preventive intervention for the general community and evaluation of the workshop on fight against street children have the right to attend school without physical, social, or economic barriers. Street Child creates inclusive, safe, secure, and sustainable schools and learning spaces which allow children to access stable, supportive relationships and routines, and acquire socio emotional skills. Prevention of Sexually transmitted diseases Of HIV, AIDS and Unwanted pregnancies. Develop better mechanisms for transfer of street children from 'non-formal' to formal education, foster Care, adoption and after-care Preserves families and encourages parents to fulfill their responsibilities. IMSWC works closely with parents, counselling and encouraging them to participate in their child's education and supporting them with obstacles they may face in sending their child to school. at Debiapur, kushkari and Badamali Laxmi Pratap High School (Higher Secondary) of Dakshin Dinajpur district within the state of West Bengal. The 812 Street Children and deprived Children have participated in this Programme. Renowned and

respected personalities Mr. Debabish Ghosh-Secretary General of IMSWC and Chief Secretary of Indian Detective and Investigation Organization, Miss. Mali Bagehi-President of the International Mission for Social Welfare and Charity, Honorable Shri, Dhar-mendra Pradhan-Minister, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Honorable Shri. Vineet Joshi-Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Honorable Shri, Jayant Chaudhary-Minister of state, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Honorable Shri. Sanjay Kumar-Secretary, Department of School Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, Honorable Shri, Balasubramanian-IAS, District Magistrate and Collector, District: Dakshin Dinajpur, Government of West Bengal, Honorable Ravi Prakash Meena-IAS, Additional District Magistrate (General) District: Dakshin Dinajpur, Government of West Bengal, Honorable Shri, Niladri Majumder-WBCSI(Executive), District: Dakshin Dinajpur, Government of West Bengal, Srimoth Swami. Shuddhipradananda Moharaj, Srimoth Swami. Bhadratmananda Moharaj, Srimoth Swami. Girishananda Moharaj are present at this Programme.



# Bikoshito Bangla Bikoshito Bharat



*The development of Bengal forms the foundation of India's future, and today's launch strengthens that foundation*

*Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister*



## A transformative gift of infrastructure projects worth over ₹830 Crore in the Ports, Shipping, Inland Waterways & Rail Sectors for West Bengal

### Laying of Foundation Stone for

#### Extended Port Gate System at Balagarh including IWT Terminal and Road Overbridge

- Capacity expansion of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority, Kolkata
- Reduces Kolkata's traffic congestion
- Smoother handling of the increasing volume of containerized coal and general cargo
- Reduced logistics costs and boost to employment

### Launching of

#### Electric Catamaran at Kolkata

- Energy-efficient watercraft with air-conditioned cabin for 50 passengers
- Cuts travel time significantly and reduces load on road transport
- Equipped with state-of-the-art amenities for enhanced comfort and convenience
- Promotes tourism and regional economy

### Inauguration of

#### New Rail Line Between Jayrambati and Maynapur

- Fast and convenient rail connectivity for Bankura district and surrounding rural areas
- Improved access to major pilgrimage centres such as Jayrambati and Kamarpukur
- Better access to education, healthcare and essential services
- New opportunities for regional trade, tourism and livelihoods

### Flagging off of

- Kolkata (Santragachi) – Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express Train
- Kolkata (Howrah) – Anand Vihar Terminal Amrit Bharat Express Train
- Kolkata (Sealdah) – Banaras Amrit Bharat Express Train
- Jayrambati - Maynapur Passenger Train

- Reliable, efficient and safe option for long distance travel
- Better connectivity to important centres in North and South to improve trade, commerce and passenger movement

by

## Shri Narendra Modi Hon'ble Prime Minister

IN THE AUGUST PRESENCE OF

**Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose**  
Governor, West Bengal

**Mamata Banerjee**  
Chief Minister, West Bengal

**Sarbananda Sonowal**  
Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

**Ashwini Vaishnaw**  
Union Minister of Railways; Information and Broadcasting; and Electronics & Information Technology

**Shantanu Thakur**  
Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways

**Dr. Sukanta Majumdar**  
Union Minister of State for Education and Development of North Eastern Region

**Suvendu Adhikari**  
Leader of Opposition, West Bengal Legislative Assembly

**Rachna Banerjee**  
Member of Parliament

**Saumitra Khan**  
Member of Parliament

**Samik Bhattacharya**  
Member of Parliament



Ancient Vishnu idol unearthed in East Burdwan

MI News Service, East Burdwan: In a remarkable archaeological find, an ancient stone idol of Lord Vishnu, believed to date back to the Pala-Sena period, was recovered during pond renovation in Palashan village, Raina. The discovery has drawn the attention of historians, archaeologists, and art experts for its potential to shed light on a millennium-old cultural and religious tradition.

The idol, carved from basalt rock, stands approximately 28 inches tall, with the total height including its tenon measuring 33.5 inches, and spans 13 inches in width. Preliminary analysis suggests the statue represents 'Sridhar', a form of Vishnu, distinguished by intricate iconography. On either side of the statue, carvings depict a lion crushing an elephant, with Garuda, Vishnu's divine vehicle, on the pedestal's right side. The upper section is adorned with statues of Kirtimukh and Vidyadhars in flight, highlighting the artistic sophistication of the era. The statue was discovered buried underground during routine renovation work of a pond by local residents on Friday.

Gangasagar pilgrimage choked, Bridge needed urgently

MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: The annual Gangasagar pilgrimage witnessed severe crowd congestion this year, leaving thousands of devotees stranded and unable to reach the revered pilgrimage site. Overwhelmed ferry services and inadequate transport arrangements forced many pilgrims to abandon their journey midway. As a result, several devotees performed ritual baths in the Muriganga River at Kakdwip instead of reaching Gangasagar, while the continuous return of disappointed pilgrims further worsened congestion across the town.

Scenes of frustration and exhaustion were reported as pilgrims waited for hours in long queues at ferry ghats, only to be turned back due to overcrowding and tidal constraints. The massive influx of devotees, coupled with limited transport capacity, exposed serious gaps in infrastructure planning for one of India's most significant religious gatherings. The situation has reignited demands for the construction of a permanent bridge connecting Kakdwip to Gangasagar. Political leaders and local residents alike have called for immediate action. State Congress General Secretary Sujit Patwari stressed that responsibility should not be a point of debate. "It does not matter whether the bridge is built by the state or the center. It is imperative that the bridge is completed quickly. Millions of pilgrims are forced to return due to transportation issues. The world is watching. This is a matter of shame," he said. Pilgrims echoed similar concerns. Sutrishna Naiya Sarkar, one of the devotees, described the ordeal, stating that the overwhelming crowd made



ferry crossings impossible. "In the end, we had no option but to bathe in the Muriganga at Kakdwip itself. A bridge is the only solution," she said. Local residents also voiced their distress, noting that the arrival and return of lakhs of pilgrims disrupts daily life and restricts their own access to the Ganges. They urged authorities to remove administrative obstacles and expedite bridge construction. With millions visiting Gangasagar every year, pressure is mounting on authorities to modernize infrastructure and ensure safe, dignified, and seamless access to the holy site through permanent transportation solutions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates, lays foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth more than ₹3,250 crore at Malda, West Bengal

● another big step has been taken towards the modernization of Indian Railways. Vande Bharat Sleeper trains are being introduced in India: PM ● This is the country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train connecting the land of Mother Kali to the land of Mother Kamakhya; In the coming times, this modern train will expand across the entire country; I congratulate Bengal, Assam, and the entire country on this modern sleeper train: PM ● Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains; New Jalpaiguri - Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri - Tiruchchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar - Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar - Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express; This will further strengthen the connectivity of Bengal, and especially North Bengal, with South and West India: PM



MI News Service, Kolkata, 17 Jan.26 : Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple rail and road infrastructure projects worth ₹3,250 crore at Malda, West Bengal. It is aimed at strengthening connectivity and accelerating development in West Bengal and the North-Eastern region. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, Modi remarked that from Malda today, the campaign to accelerate the progress of West Bengal has gained further momentum. He highlighted that a number of projects related to the development of West Bengal have just been inaugurated and dedicated. The Prime Minister stated that new rail services have been introduced for West Bengal, noting that these projects will make travel easier for the people and also facilitate trade and commerce. He emphasized that the new train maintenance facilities established here will provide fresh opportunities for the youth of Bengal.

He announced that Bengal has received four more modern Amrit Bharat Express trains—New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express, New Jalpaiguri-Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express, Alipurduar-Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express, and Alipurduar-Mumbai Amrit Bharat Express. He emphasized that these trains will strengthen connectivity between Bengal, especially North Bengal, and South and Western India. The Prime Minister noted that these Amrit Bharat Express trains will make travel easier for pilgrims visiting Gangasagar, Dakshineswar, and Kalighat, as well as for those traveling to Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra. "Indian Railways is becoming not only modern but also self-reliant", emphasised Modi highlighting that India's rail engines, coaches, and metro coaches are emerging as symbols of India's technology. The Prime Minister stated that today India manufactures more locomotives than America and Europe and exports passenger train and metro train coaches to many countries, which greatly benefits the nation's economy and provides employment opportunities for the youth. Modi concluded by emphasizing that connecting India is a priority and reducing distances is a mission, which is clearly reflected in today's program.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that Indian Railways is undergoing a transformation, with electrification of railway lines and modernization of stations. He highlighted that today, including West Bengal, more than 150 Vande Bharat trains are running across the country. The Prime Minister stated that along with this, a complete network of modern and high-speed trains is being developed, which is greatly benefiting poor and middle-class families in Bengal. He also virtually flagged off the Guwahati (Kamakhya)-Howrah Vande Bharat Sleeper Train. Developed to meet the growing transportation needs of modern India, the fully air-conditioned Vande Bharat Sleeper train is set to offer passengers an air-line-like travel experience at economical fares. It will make long-distance journeys faster, safer, and more convenient. By significantly reducing travel time by around 2.5 hours on the Howrah-Guwahati (Kamakhya) route, the train

will also give a major boost to religious travel and tourism.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of four major railway projects in West Bengal, including the new rail line between Balurghat and Hili, next-generation freight maintenance facilities at New Jalpaiguri, upgradation of the Siliguri Loco Shed, and modernization of Vande Bharat train maintenance facilities in Jalpaiguri district. These projects will strengthen passenger and freight operations, improve logistics efficiency in North Bengal, and generate employment opportunities in the region.

Prime Minister dedicated to the Nation the electrification of rail lines between New Coochbehar-Bamanhat and New Coochbehar-Boxirhat, enabling faster, cleaner and more energy-efficient train operations.

Prime Minister further virtually flagged off 4 New Amrit Bharat Express trains - New Jalpaiguri-Nagercoil Amrit Bharat Express; New Jalpaiguri-Tiruchirappalli Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar - SMVT Bengaluru Amrit Bharat Express; Alipurduar - Mumbai (Panvel) Amrit Bharat Express. This will enhance affordable and reliable long-distance rail connectivity. These services will support the mobility needs of common citizens, students, migrant workers and traders, while strengthening interstate economic and social linkages.

Prime Minister also flagged off two new train services equipped with LHB coaches - Radhikapur - SMVT Bengaluru Express; Balurghat - SMVT Bengaluru Express. These trains will provide the region's youth, students, and IT professionals with direct, safe, and comfortable travel connectivity to major IT and employment hubs such as Bengaluru.

Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the rehabilitation and four-laning of the Dhurguri-Falakata section of National Highway-31D, a key road project that will improve regional road connectivity and facilitate smoother movement of passengers and goods in North Bengal.

These projects will play a vital role in building modern infrastructure creation and improved connectivity, strengthening the Eastern and North-Eastern regions as key growth engines of the Nation.

Name Change

I, Arshiya Naaz, D/o.- Md. Nanbeh having address B-24/2/B Prince Dilawar Jah Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Garden Reach Road, Kolkata-700024, having dearest my actual name is Arshiya Naaz, it was wrongly indicated Arshiya Asif. So kindly omit the Asif Title. All documents have Arshiya Naaz. So, I will be known as per vide Affidavit Arshiya Naaz. It is true & correct name.

Name Change

I, Alpna Chakraborty W/O- Biswanath Chakraborty D/O- Shibsadhan Mukherjee R/O- Narajole, WB-721211, hereby declare that I will henceforth be known as Alpna Chakraborty, D/O Shibsadhan Mukherjee (Epic No WUQ3148848) as per Affidavit No.25995 sworn at Medinipur District Judges court on 8.12.2025

NAME CHANGE

I, Nital Binod Dhalli S/o Anil Kumar Dhalli residing at 11/4/4, Canal Circular Road, Ulladanga, Kolkata-700067 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my son's actual and correct name is Nayan Dhalli & I am father of Nayan Dhalli & Pratima Dhalli is the mother of Nayan Dhalli. That in Aadhaar card of my Son's (being No 6518 9585 6903 inadvertently recorded as Mayan Dhalli in Place of his original and corrected name Nayan Dhalli. That Nayan Dhalli and Mayan Dhalli is same and one identical person vide affidavit no 4413 dated 17th April, 2025 Sworn before The Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Alipore.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD. Nurujjaman Akhand, S/o. Lt. Md. Mosiur Rahman Akhand, A Khan Ahladi (Voter, Aadhar, PAN & Digital Ration Card & all of my official docs.), R/O.- Vill.- P.O.- Tippi, P.S.- Joynagar, Dist.- 24 Pgs. (S)- 743337, declare that my name & my Father & Mother's name has been wrongly recorded in (my Old Voter Card, my mother Aadhar Card & Voter ID Card, land documents, my Father Voter Card & death certificate as Imam Ali Akhan, Akhan Ahladi (Mother), Masir Rahman Akhand, Akhan Masihar, Masihar Rahman Akhand instead of MD. Nurujjaman Akhand, Md. Mosiur Rahman Akhand (Father), vide an Affidavit dated 28.12.2025, before the Notary Public at Barupur, Kolt-144, MD. Nurujjaman Akhand, S/o. Lt. Md. Mosiur Rahman Akhand, Akhan Ahladi & Imam Ali Akhan, Akhan Ahladi, Masir Rahman Akhand, Akhan Masihar, Masihar Rahman Akhand instead of MD. Mosiur Rahman Akhand all are same and the one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Surajit Kumar Biswas, Son of Lt. Lalit Kumar Biswas, resident of B-1/320, Kalyani, Nadia, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Surajit Kumar Biswas to Surajit Biswas and henceforth I shall be known as Surajit Biswas in all purpose, Vide affidavit number 01 sworn before the Notary Public at Kalyani on 17-01-2026. Surajit Biswas and Surajit Kumar Biswas both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Sajdel Haque Gazi, residing at Vill- Dighi Kalash, P.O.- Kalash, P.S.- Magrahat, Dist.- 24 PGS (S), Pin- 743609. My name has been recorded as Sajdel Haque Gazi & Sajidul Gazi in my Son Aadhar Card & his Educational Documents. Now I shall henceforth be known as Sajdel Haque Gazi as declared before 1st Judicial Magistrate, Diamond Harbour vide affidavit no. 12835 dated 11/11/2025 Sajdel Haque Gazi, Sajidul Gazi & Sajdel Haque Gazi all are same & identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Bhawna Prasad on behalf of my father Jagdish Prasad Bagri, R/O- 3917, G.T.Road, Oriapara, Salkia, Howrah - 711106, shall be known as Jagdish Kumar Bagri, vide 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Howrah, dated- 13/01/2026. Henceforth, Jagdish Prasad Bagri & Jagdish Kumar Bagri is same and identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VIJAYA LAXMI, spouse of No. JC-640718K, Rank ex Subed- ar, Name Late SHIV KUMAR SHARMA resident of village Rambandh Asansol m.corp PO- Burnpur, Dist- Paschim Bardhaman, WB, Pin- 713325 have change my name from VIJAYA LAXMI TO VIJAY LAXMI SHARMA vide affidavit dated 16/01/2026

Name Change

I, Abdul Hossain Munshi, S/O- Lt. Hakim Munshi, residing at Narayanpur, P/O- Lakshminipul, P/S-Habra, Dist- 24pgs (N). That in the voter list of 2025 & my voter ID my father's name has been recorded as Abdul Hakim & Abdul Hakim Munshi which are incorrect. So vide Affidavit before the Ld 1st class J.M. at Barasat dt-16/01/2026 (No.1257) that Hakim Munshi, & Abdul Hakim & Abdul Hakim Munshi are same and one identical person.

Affidavit

I, Sk Golam Zikria S/o Mohammad Alta Sekh residing Vill Chachoyya, PO: Godasinghari, P.S.: Bharatpur, Dist: Mursaidabad do hereby solemnly affirm and Declare that Mohammad Ahia Sekh, Seikh Ahiya and Mohammad Ahia are the same and one identical person by an affidavit before the Notary Public at Kandi, Murshidabad on

Name Change

I, Sita Debi w/o Bisweswar Nath Malah, residing at- Bidhanpally, 2nd Lane, Barrackpore, P.O.- Nona Chandanpur, P.S.- Titagarh, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700122, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my name recorded Sita Devi Choudhary in my son's Pawan Choudhary's Passport (being No. I 1095255 issue 06/07/2015, date of expiry 05/07/2025), I, Sita Debi and Sita Devi Choudhary are the same and one identical person, Vide an affidavit (SI, No. 41) sworn before in the court of Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas date- 15/01/2026.

Name Change

I, DAUD ALI (OLD NAME), S/O- TAFE- LADDIN, Residing at North Kazipara, P.O- Kazipara, P.S.- Barasat, North 24 Parganas, W.B. PIN- 700125, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD DAUD ALI (NEW NAME) as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate Barasat Court, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal vide affidavit No 1017, Dated 17/03/2025. DAUD ALI (OLD NAME) and MD DAUD ALI (NEW NAME) both is same and identical person.

Name Change

I, SAYED HALIM, S/O-SAYED ABUL HASAN Residing at Haripur, P.O- Kotulpur & P.S- Kotulpur, Dist- Bankura WB, PIN- 722141 That in my Voter Card (No- NRZ1509462) my name and father was wrongly recorded as SAYED MD. KOLIMULLAH (name) & MD. ABUL HASAN (father's name) in place of SAYED HALIM and SAYED ABUL HASAN i.e. mentioned in PAN(BKNPH0213C), AADHAR CARD (490461939901) and other documents, Dated on 13/01/2026 After the affidavit by 1st Class Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Barasat Court, vide no-85, SAYED HALIM and SAYED MD. KOLIMULLAH, SAYED ABUL HASAN and MD. ABUL HASAN are the same and one identical person in the eye of law.

Name Change

I, Samir Ali Zamadar S/O Masud Ali Zamadar Residing at Vill & PO-South Jhapardah (Bag bagan), P.S.- Domjur, Dist- Howrah- 711405, WB. I declared that my daughter's surname changed after marriage as Sayanaj Begum and also in her birth certificate name wrongly recorded as Sayanaj Zamadar in place of Sayanaj Zamadar. My name has been wrongly recorded in my daughter birth certificate as Samir Ali Instead of Samir Ali Zamadar also My wife name has been wrongly recorded said birth certificate as Mahubda Begum instead of Mahubda Begum vide an affidavit Ld. 1st class executive magistrate at Howrah. Date-12.08.2020. That Sayanaj Begum, Sayanaj Zamadar and Sayanaj Zamadar both are the same and one identical person and Samir Ali Zamadar and Samir Ali both are the same and one identical person also Mahubda Begum and Mahubda Begum both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Yahya (Old Name) Son Of Late Md Hanif, Residing At 16, Collin Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name and Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Yahya (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/01/2026, Mohammad Yahya (Old Name) And Md Yahya (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Achyut Chakraborty (Old Name) Son Of Satyabrata Chakraborty, Residing At G-37, Karunamoyee Housing Estate, Salt Lake, Sector-2, P.S.- Bidhannagar East, Dist- 24 Parganas South , Pin- 700091, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Achyut Chakraborty (New Name) As Declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Bidhannagar, on 17/12/2025. Achyut Chakraborty (Old Name) And Achyut Chakraborty (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sweta Mishra And Sweta Jhawar Mishra (Old Names) Wife Of Rohit Jhawar, Residing At Jf-120, Salt Lake, Sector-II, P.S.- Bidhannagar, Dist- 24 Parganas North, Pin- 700091 West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sweta Jhawar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Alipore On 11/01/2026. Sweta Mishra And Sweta Jhawar Mishra (Old Names) And Sweta Jhawar (New Name) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Khalil (Old Name) Son Of Late Fayjudin Naiya, Residing At Vill- Kundakhali, P.O.- Kultaali, Dist- 24 Parganas South, Pin- 743338, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Khalilur Rahaman Naiya (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/01/2026, Khalil (Old Name) And Khalilur Rahaman Naiya (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Hasanjumal Naiya (Old Name) Son Of Khalilur Rahaman Naiya, Residing At Vill- Kundakhali, P.O.- Kultaali, Dist- 24 Parganas South, Pin- 743338, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Hasanjumal Naiya (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/01/2026, Hasanjumal (Old Name) And Hasanjumal Naiya (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Koushik Saha And Kausik Saha (Old Names) Son Of Kashi Nath Saha Residing At Ba-11/8, Ranindrapally, P.O.- Ghuni, P.S.- Baguiati, Dist- 24 Parganas North, Pin- 700059, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kausik Saha (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/01/2026, Koushik Saha And Kausik Saha (Old Names) And Kausik Saha (New Name) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mitali Sen, daughter of Murari Mohan Sen, wife of Soumen Das Biswas, residing at Uklipara, Jalpaiguri, PIN- 735101, do hereby declare that my name has been incorrectly mentioned as Mitali Sen Das Biswas in my son's passport (Passport No. T8387643) On 11.09.2025 vide Affidavit no. 24 before the court of Executive Magistrate, Jalpaiguri, I further declare that Mitali Sen is my correct and official name for all purposes. Both names refer to the same person. Henceforth, I shall be known as Mitali Sen only. This declaration is made for record correction and future reference.

Name Change

I, Prasanta Mondal, S/o Lt. Kesatopada Mondal of Kanai Sarkar Ghat, P.O. & P.S.- Chandernagore, Dist.- Hooghly declare that on 08.01.26 Ld. A.C.J.M. at Chandernagore Court vide Affidavit No. 189. Actual name Prasanta Mondal. Prasanta Mondal as well as Prasanta Mandal is the one and same identical person. If anyone has got query regarding this matter please contact ph.no.- 9331832764 within 7 days.

Name Change

I, SK NASIB ALI, declare that my minor daughter said name MOSAMMAT JULAEFA KHATUN (daughter old name), residing at FURFURA, JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY- 712706, West Bengal, India, I have changed my daughter name and she shall henceforth be known as JULAEFA KHATUN (daughter new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/01/2026. JULAEFA KHATUN and MOSAMMAT JULAEFA KHATUN both are same and one identical person (my daughter).

Name Change

I, SEKH NASIB ALI (old name) S/O SK YATOSHUBU ALI, residing at FURFURA, JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY- 712706, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SK NASIB ALI (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/01/2026. SEKH NASIB ALI (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, RUPA BISWAKARMA KHATI (old name) W/O SIDAM BISWAKARMA, residing at PRADAN NAGAR CHAMPASARI WARD NO 46 DARJEELING PIN 734003, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as RUPA BISWAKARMA (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 14/01/2026. RUPA BISWAKARMA (new name) and RUPA BISWAKARMA KHATI (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Avijit Sen Gupta Son Of Bijoy Ratan Sen Sarma By Faith Hindu, Residing At 4/1, Eastern Park, 4th Road, Po-Santoshpur, P.S.-Survey Park, Kolkata-700075, West Bengal, Do hereby notified that My Mother Manisha Sen Gupta (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Manisha Sen Sarma (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Alipore On 16/01/2026, Manisha Sen Gupta And Manisha Sen Sarma Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Avijit Sen Gupta Son Of Bijoy Ratan Sen Sarma By Faith Hindu, Residing At 4/1, Eastern Park, 4th Road, Po-Santoshpur, P.S.-Survey Park, Kolkata-700075, West Bengal, Do hereby notified that My Father Bijoy Ratan Sen Gupta (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bijoy Ratan Sen Sarma (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class At Alipore On 10/11/2025, Bijoy Ratan Sen Gupta And Bijoy Ratan Sen Sarma Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, MOHAMMED MUZAFFAR AHMED (old name) S/O SAMI AHMED, residing at 10, SAGAR TUTTIA LANE, KOLKATA- 700073, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD MUZAFFAR AHMED (new name), as declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 17/01/2026. MD MUZAFFAR AHMED (new name) and MOHAMMED MUZAFFAR AHMED (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mumun Bhattacharya (old name) daughter of Abinash Bhattacharya, by faith hindu, resident of 111/HI EKBALPORE LANE, P.O.- KHIDIPORE, P.S.- Ekbapore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name & religion and shall henceforth be known as Mehnaz Ali (new name) wife of Irshad Ali, by faith Islam, as declared Before The Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Alipore, vide an affidavit dated 16/01/2026, Mehnaz Ali (new name) and Mumun Bhattacharya (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sheikh Ali Yawar (Old Name) Son Of Md Yahya, Residing At 16, Collin Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ali Yawar Sheikh (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/01/2026, Sheikh Ali Yawar (Old Name) And Ali Yawar Sheikh (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Gangasagar garbage turns into marketable fertilizer

MI News Service, South 24 parganas: The Gangasagar Mela 2026 has concluded, but in its aftermath, the vast stretch of seashore was left burdened with enormous quantities of waste generated by millions of pilgrims. Addressing this recurring environmental challenge, the administration has introduced a bold and innovative initiative aimed not only at cleaning the coastline but also at generating income by transforming waste into fertilizer within six months.

To implement the plan, a dedicated waste management unit has been set up between bathing ghats 5 and 6 at Gangasagar. All biodegradable waste collected from the seashore, including offerings, food remnants, flowers, and organic materials, is being transported to this facility. Here, the waste undergoes a systematic processing method to produce a peat-based organic fertilizer branded as "Mrittika



Mittra." Meanwhile, non-biodegradable waste such as plastic, glass, and metal is carefully segregated and sent for recycling or other appropriate uses. Officials involved in the project stated that the initiative is designed to ensure rapid and effective cleaning of the shoreline while converting massive volumes of waste into a valuable, market-ready product. The entire conversion process is expected to be completed within six months, making it a time-efficient and sustainable solution for managing the waste generated during the annual pilgrimage. State authorities highlighted that the project reflects a shift in perspective—from viewing waste as a liability to treating it as a resource. By combining environmental responsibility with economic opportunity, the initiative aims to reduce pollution, protect the fragile coastal ecosystem, and generate revenue that can support future conservation efforts.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091 CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012. www.icicibank.com The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the 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 (₹s)	Name of Branch
1.	Anil Kumar Shaw/ Rupa Shaw/ Dinesh Pally P.O. Purba Putiary P.S. Regent Park, District South 24 Parganas West Bengal Kolkata - 700093/ LBHOW00005954303	Shop Room, Ground Floor, North-east Side (front Side), Premises No. 704, Ananda Pally-A, R.S. Dag No. 677, R.S. Khation No. 87, J.L. No. 44, Touzi No. 351, Ward No. 114, Mouza Chakdaha, Police Station Regent Park, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, District 24 Parganas (s), Kolkata- 700093, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 110 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area Be The Same A Little More or Less Together With Proportionate Undivided Share And Interest In The Land. North: by Land of Under Dag No. 678. South: By Others Property Eastby: 17 Feet. Wide K.M.C. Road West: By Land Under Dag No. 676/ Date Of Symbolic 13/01/2026	July 15, 2025 Rs. 4,48,666.00/-	Kolkata

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: January 17, 2026 Place: Kolkata Sincerely Authorised Officer For ICICI Bank Ltd.

### Bratya Basu Attacks Left and BJP After 'Tainted' Waiting List Is Published

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bratya Basu on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the Left and the BJP, accusing them of orchestrating a "planned conspiracy" behind the cancellation of appointments following the publication of the School Service Commission's (SSC) waiting list. The list, which revealed names of candidates labelled as "tainted," has reignited political debate over recruitment and governance in the state. Addressing the issue, Bratya Basu questioned the role of certain legal counsels involved in the case. "Look at whose interests the special lawyers were serving. The person in whose name the case was filed, claiming deprivation, now figures in the list of tainted candidates," Basu said. He alleged that the entire episode was part of a carefully designed plan. "I believe there are many more hidden layers beneath the surface. What has come out so far is just the tip of the iceberg. More facts will emerge gradually," he added. The Education Minister further claimed that repeated attempts were made to stall the recruitment process. "There have been several efforts to stop appointments, but recruitment will take place. What has become clear now is that a larger conspiracy may have been hatched, even involving qualified teachers," Basu said. The latest development follows a legal challenge filed by a group of job aspirants against the SSC's 2025 recruitment process. During the hearing, Calcutta High Court Justice Amrita Sinha directed the SSC to publish the list of "tainted" candidates from the 2016 waiting list, including those who did not receive appointment letters, to ensure that no ineligible candidate enters the new recruitment process.

### Rahul Gandhi meets Indore water contamination victims

From PG 1  
Court on Thursday, in which it stated that seven people, including a five-month-old infant, died in the outbreak. Meanwhile, a 'death audit' report by a committee of the government-run Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College indicated that the deaths of 15 people in Bhagirathpura could be linked in some manner to the outbreak.

### Maharashtra civic poll result is emphatic endorsement of development agenda

From PG 1  
should become a fintech capital and a global financial hub. We are working towards that goal," he said. Shinde said the Mahayuti's ideology was clear and rooted in Balasaheb Thackeray's legacy, adding that Shiv Sena-BJP alliance is not temporary. "Our ideologies are one, and we will not compromise on them," he said when asked about future alliances and future political equations.

### BJP to announce new party president on January 20

From PG 1  
BJP chief election officer K Lakshman will formally announce the name of the national president, Nitin Nabin. According to the party sources here today, three sets of nominations will be filed for the post of national president. One set of nomination papers will carry the signatures of more than 20 elected state BJP presidents. Another set will be signed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rajnath Singh, Amit Shah, and outgoing BJP president JP Nadda. The third set will include the signatures of members of the BJP National Council, the report said.



Once a familiar winter sight, migratory birds over the Muri Ganga are becoming fewer each year. Their quiet disappearance tells a larger story of pollution, shrinking habitats, and changing climate patterns affecting ecosystems across India. Pic: Prabir Bhattacharya

### ECI Warns Against Accepting Madhyamik Admit Cards

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Election Commission clarified that hearings under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in Chakulia of North Dinajpur district will resume only after the law-and-order situation in the area returns to normal. At the same time, the Commission issued a strong warning that any official found accepting Madhyamik examination admit cards as valid documentary proof during the verification process will face strict disciplinary action. However, individuals who had only submitted such admit cards will be summoned again for fresh hearings, the Commission said. The clarification comes in the aftermath of violent protests that broke out in Chakulia on Thursday during SIR hearings. The situation turned volatile as protesters allegedly set fire to the Block Development Officer (BDO) office, causing extensive damage. Furniture, official records, and other office equipment were vandalised and gutted in the blaze, leaving the office premises completely

charred. Large groups of people were seen taking to the streets armed with bamboo sticks and rods, further escalating tensions in the area. Following the unrest, a high alert was declared across Islampur and all adjoining police station areas. Police resorted to lathi charge and tear gas shelling to disperse the crowd and regain control over the situation. During the clashes, several police personnel were injured, and there were allegations that the Officer-in-Charge (IC) of the local police station was attacked by protesters while trying to control the mob. The protesters claimed that they were being repeatedly summoned for SIR hearings, which led to widespread resentment and eventually triggered the agitation. Demonstrations related to the SIR process were not limited to Chakulia alone. Similar protest scenes were reported from several other parts of the state, including Barasat and Bankura, indicating growing unrest over voter list revision procedures.

### New Volvo Sleeper and CNG Bus Fleet Launched Across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections, State Government has announced a major boost to the state's public transport infrastructure by introducing a new fleet of modern buses across North Bengal, South Bengal, and the Kolkata metropolitan area. According to sources at Nabanna, the initiative includes Volvo sleeper buses for North Bengal, CNG buses for South Bengal, and air-conditioned CNG midi buses for Kolkata, aimed at improving long-distance and urban travel facilities. As part of the initiative, the North Bengal State Transport Corporation (NBSTC) has received six state-of-the-art Volvo sleeper buses at a total project cost of Rs 11.36 crore. These buses are expected to significantly enhance overnight and long-distance travel options for passengers from North Bengal. One of the Volvo sleeper buses is proposed to operate on the Alipurduar-Kolkata-Digha route, while another will run from Cooch Behar to Digha via Kolkata. The remaining four buses are likely to be operated between Siliguri and Digha, also passing through Kolkata. However, officials said the final routes are yet to be confirmed and services will begin after necessary preparations. Commenting on the development, NBSTC Chairman Partha Pratim Roy said this would be the first time that passengers from North Bengal districts would be able to travel to Kolkata in Volvo sleeper buses. He added that the routes and fare structures would be finalised soon. Meanwhile, the South Bengal State Transport Corporation (SBSTC) has received 13 CNG buses, with an estimated expenditure of Rs 5.2 crore. These buses have been deployed on several inter-district routes to improve connectivity. According to SBSTC officials, two buses each will operate on the Durgapur-Berhampore, Durgapur-Kolkata, and Bardhaman-Kolkata routes.

### Vidyasagar Setu to Remain Closed on Sunday for Maintenance Work

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Vidyasagar Setu, also known as the Second Hooghly Bridge, will remain completely closed to traffic for few hours on Sunday due to scheduled maintenance work, Kolkata Police announced. The bridge will be shut from 5 am to 1 pm on January 18, during which no vehicular movement will be allowed. According to an official notification issued by Kolkata Police, the temporary closure has been planned in the interest of public safety. Essential maintenance work will be carried out on the bridge during the eight-hour shutdown. Authorities indicated that repairs may include replacement of stay cables, holding-down cables, and bridge bearings, which are crucial components of the structure. Given



the importance of Vidyasagar Setu as a major arterial link between Kolkata and Howrah, elaborate traffic diversion arrangements have been made to minimise incon-

### KMC to Launch e-KMC 2.0 Module

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major step towards enhancing citizen-centric digital governance, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) is set to introduce a new online platform named e-KMC 2.0, aimed at improving services related to the Environment and Heritage Department. The move is expected to significantly reduce the long-standing inconvenience faced by citizens who earlier had to visit multiple offices and undergo lengthy documentation processes to obtain information or lodge complaints related to environmental or heritage matters. According to sources, the KMC has issued official guidelines to initiate the implementation process of the new module. The initiative forms part of a broader administrative reform undertaken by the civic body to ensure efficient gov-

ernance, transparency, and delivery of high-quality, reliable, and sustainable services. The Information Technology Department of KMC has been entrusted with the responsibility of executing the e-KMC 2.0 project. Several key modules under the e-KMC platform have already been successfully rolled out. These include services related to the corporation's finance department, contractual recruitment, and comprehensive document management. Existing modules cover a wide range of services such as property tax assessment and collection, social welfare schemes, app-based digital work diaries for engineers, mobile applications, MLA area development projects, parks and squares management, slum

development services, water supply and drainage, legal services, asphalt and asset deposits, payment of telephone and medical bills, as well as leave and attendance management. The Environment and Heritage Department will now be integrated into this digital ecosystem through the e-KMC 2.0 module. This will enable the department to efficiently maintain a comprehensive database of heritage sites and water bodies under KMC's jurisdiction. The department is primarily responsible for the conservation and maintenance of heritage buildings, statues, structures, monuments, parks, squares, and water bodies across Kolkata. Sources said the new system is designed to enhance transparency, speed, and administrative efficiency in civic services.



Mayor Firhad Hakim attended the blood donation camp titled 'Utsarga', organised by the Garden Reach Police Station at its premises on Saturday.

### Over 50 Police Officers Transferred in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Acting on the directive issued by the Election Commission of India, the West Bengal government has carried out a major administrative reshuffle involving more than 50 police officers across the state. The transfer orders were issued from Bhabani Bhavan, the state police headquarters, as part of preparations ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. A few days ago, the Election Commission had instructed the state government to transfer all police officers who have completed three years or more in the same posting, in keeping with established election norms. The directive aims to ensure free, fair, and impartial elections by preventing prolonged postings that could influence the electoral process. In compliance with the Commission's order, the state government issued

an official notification initiating large-scale transfers within the police administration. According to administrative sources, the reshuffle is strictly in line with election-related guidelines and has been undertaken to maintain neutrality and strengthen law and order during the election period. The transfer list, released recently includes officers from various ranks and departments, posted across multiple districts and police commissionerates. Senior officials confirmed that the reshuffle was carried out after reviewing tenure details to ensure adherence to the three-year rule laid down by the Election Commission. Officials said the decision was purely administrative and aimed at reinforcing confidence in the electoral machinery. "This is a routine process before elections."

### Abhishek Slams BJP, Calls for Peace, Rejects Religious Polarisation

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Saturday mounted a strong counter-offensive against the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), accusing it of attempting to polarise voters along religious lines ahead of the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections. Addressing a large gathering during a roadshow in Berhampore, Murshidabad district, Banerjee said that Bengal's political history has repeatedly shown that divisive politics based on religion has no place in the state.



let democracy prevail," he said.

Raising his pitch against communal politics, Banerjee offered everyday examples to drive home his point. "When you are thirsty and buy water on the street, do you ask whether the shopkeeper is Hindu or Muslim? When firefighters come to douse a blaze in your home, do you ask their religion?" he said, drawing applause from supporters. He asserted that communal harmony is deeply embedded in Bengal's social fabric and warned that any attempt to disturb it would be rejected by the people. "Bengal has always believed in unity. The politics of Hindu versus Muslim has failed here before and will fail again," Banerjee told the crowd. Without naming him directly at first, Banerjee took repeated jabs at former Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, calling him a "dummy candidate" of the BJP. He thanked the people of Berhampore for defeating Chowdhury in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, claiming it exposed the Congress leader's alleged closeness to the BJP. Banerjee further accused the Congress of indirectly aiding the BJP by splitting votes in key districts like Malda and Murshidabad, where minority voters play a decisive role. He claimed that Chowdhury never criticises the BJP and instead focuses solely on attacking Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

TMC's All India General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee accused the BJP of repeatedly using religion as a political weapon before elections. Addressing a public meeting and roadshow in Berhampore, Banerjee rejected what he called divisive politics and questioned the BJP's narrative. "From which platform is the Prime Minister abusing Mamata Banerjee? Who built that stage — Hindus or Muslims?" he asked, underlining his argument that Bengal's social fabric is built on communal harmony. Banerjee's remarks came against the backdrop of tension in Bel-danga, barely 20 kilometres from Berhampore, where protests over the last two days have led to unrest. Several journalists were reportedly assaulted while covering the situation, and residents expressed fear amid the disturbances. Earlier in the day, the BJP blamed the violence on alleged TMC-backed miscreants. Countering the charge, Banerjee accused the BJP of provocation and appealed to people to maintain calm. "Do not fall into traps. Do not take the law into your hands. Peace is our strength," he said. Calling for restraint, Banerjee urged residents to remain calm and vigilant. "Those who want to provoke violence want to see Bengal burn. Do not fall into their trap. Maintain peace and

### Gen Z have reposed faith in BJP's development model : PM Modi

From PG 1  
development model." He said, the Union government is also trying its best "to ensure all homeless people of Bengal get pucca houses and access to clean drinking water." Amid thunderous applause from the people, the Prime Minister reiterated that "Heartless, cruel TMC Government looting public money, preventing central aid and funds from reaching the common people of the state. "Bengal's development will happen only when TMC is defeated and BJP comes to power", he said. He asserted that "I am certain Bengal will give BJP overwhelming mandate in upcoming Assembly election."

Assembly elections. At the rally, PM Modi congratulated the Bengali people for getting country's first Vande Bharat sleeper train and four new Amrit Bharat trains. Incidentally, amid a political slugfest over the SIR of electoral rolls and the recent ED raids on the TMC's political consultancy firm I-PAC, Prime minister Modi arrived here this afternoon for back-to-back engagements for today and tomorrow. On both the days he is scheduled to address political rallies and attend government programmes. After today's well-attended rally in minority-dominated Malda, tomorrow PM Modi will address another rally at Singur in Hooghly district, where Tata's small car Nano plant was supposed to come up before it pulled out in 2008 following protests by TMC.

Once again training his guns on the ruling party, PM Modi said the "hooliganism and politics of threats" practised by the TMC would soon come to an end. He claimed West Bengal was surrounded by BJP-ruled States that had ensured "good governance", and asserted that it was now Bengal's turn. "Bengal is surrounded on all sides by BJP Governments that stand for good governance. Now it is time for good governance in Bengal too," he said. Mr. Modi coined a slogan 'Paltano darkar, chai BJP sarkar' (Need to change, want BJP Government) for the West Bengal

Both locations carry strong electoral and political symbolism ahead of the assembly elections. This will be PM Modi's second visit to the state amid the ongoing SIR exercise and his first since the political firestorm triggered by the ED's searches at I-PAC offices on January 8, during which Mamata Banerjee, as TMC supreme, stormed the raid site and had accused the agency of attempting to steal the TMC's election strategy at the BJP's behest.

### Jharkhand HC observes state police raid on ED office 'preplanned'

From PG 1  
High Court, seeking a CBI probe into the raid conducted by the state police on its premises, alleging "direct interference" by the police in the functioning of the central agency. The ED counsel informed the court that the central agency was investigating an alleged scam by Santosh involving Rs 23 crore. He also informed the court that Rs 9 crore has already been recovered by the ED in the matter.

Prime Minister to Flag Off Santragachi-Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express

MI News Service, 17 Jan 2026, Bhubaneswar: Indian Railways to introduce the Santragachi-Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express, marking another significant milestone in its journey towards modern, affordable, and inclusive rail connectivity.



CCTV surveillance, and mobile charging facilities. Inaugural Train Details Train No. 06108 Santragachi-Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express will depart from Santragachi on Sunday, 18th January 2026 at 14:45 hrs, and will arrive at Tambaram at 18:45 hrs on the following day.

Khurda Road, Balugaon, Brahmapur, Palasa, Vizianagaram, and Duvvada. Other Stoppages Kharagpur, Baleshwar, Ranital, Srikakulam Road, Kottavalasa, Pendurti, Simhachalam North, Anakapalle, Samalkot, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Vijayawada, Tenali, Chirala, Ongole, Nellore, Sullurpet, and Chennai Egmore. Coach Composition: The train will consist of 22 coaches including General

Second Class sitting- 11 coaches, Sleeper Class-08 coaches, Second class cum luggage van-02 coaches and Pantry Car-01. Regular services of this will be notified separately.

Introduction of the Santragachi-Tambaram Amrit Bharat Express is not merely the launch of a new train service, but a step towards providing passengers with a faster, safer, and more affordable travel option, while strengthening long distance rail connectivity between Eastern and Southern India.

With its modern design, energy efficient LHB coaches, and affordable fares, the service will particularly benefit middle class passengers and contribute to regional growth and people centric development.

The initiative reflects Indian Railways' continued commitment to modern, passenger focused services that enhance mobility, promote regional integration, and support national development.

Muslim goods seller attacked and branded 'Bangladeshi'

MI News Service, Patna: A door-to-door goods seller earning a modest livelihood was brutally assaulted in Katihar district of Bihar by miscreants who labelled him a 'Bangladeshi'.

Akmal Hussain who sells household goods on foot in one of the localities of Katihar was selling his goods to a woman who showed interest. When the woman called him near her house to buy items, a man reportedly came to Hussain, started verbally abusing him and labelled him a Bangladeshi.

Speaking about the assault, Hussain alleged, "He verbally abused me out of nowhere, called me a Bangladeshi and asked me to show my ID card." Fearing for his safety, when Hussain tried to take out his phone, the man turned violent towards him. Narrating the ordeal, Hussain stated, "Many people gathered within no time.

He started yelling that I am a Bangladeshi and that I had come there to rape women. They then brutally assaulted me."

Hussain was badly injured and his cash was also taken by the miscreants. Akmal who now fears for his safety described that he is a poor man who is trying to earn a decent living. He demanded swift action against those involved.

An FIR has been registered. As of now, there has been no statement from the police.

Rahul Gandhi meets patients, families of Indore water contamination victims



MI News Service, Indore: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Saturday, February 17 met patients and families affected by the vomiting and diarrhoea outbreak linked to water contamination in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city.

He visited four patients undergoing treatment at Bomby Hospital, a private facility, enquired about their health and met their family members.

Madhya Pradesh Congress president Jitu Patwari that

party leader Umang Singh accompanied Gandhi.

Gandhi also visited the Bhagirathpura area, where the outbreak was reported last month, and interacted with families of the deceased persons, expressing condolences and consoling them.

Police made elaborate security arrangements in Bhagirathpura ahead of Gandhi's visit and installed barricades at several locations.

Residents of Bhagirathpura have claimed that 24

people have died so far in the vomiting and diarrhoea outbreak that broke out in the locality last month. The state government, however, in its status report before the Madhya Pradesh High Court, has pegged the toll at seven, including a five-month-old infant.

Meanwhile, a 'death audit' report prepared by a committee of the government-run Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Medical College indicated that the deaths of 15 people in Bhagirathpura could be linked to the outbreak in some manner.

The administration has paid compensation of Rs 2 lakh each to the families of 21 people who died after the outbreak began.

Officials have claimed that while some deaths had occurred due to other illnesses and causes, authorities provided financial assistance to all bereaved families on humanitarian grounds.

Justice Sujoy Paul sworn in as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court

MI News Service, Kolkata: Justice Sujoy Paul was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court here on Friday.

West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose administered the oath of office to Justice Paul at a simple ceremony in court number one, the Chief Justice's court room. Among those attended the ceremony were West Bengal Assembly Speaker Biman Bandyopadhyay, several former and present judges, Chief Justices, state ministers and senior judicial officers.

Justice Paul was transferred as a judge of the Calcutta high court on July 18, 2025. He was officiating as the Acting Chief Justice of the High Court since the retirement of former Chief Justice T.S. Sivagnanam in October last year.

West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee congratulated



Justice Sujoy Paul on his being sworn in as Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court today.

In a message through her X handle she said "Sincere congratulations to Justice Shri Sujoy Paul on his being sworn in as the Hon'ble Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court. I welcome Justice Paul to this elevated seat of justice."

Justice Pul who has been appointed as the 44th Chief Jus-

Acting Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court too.

In his speech, Justice Paul highlighted his legal journey and acknowledged the contribution of his mother, who raised him as a single parent after the loss of his father during his infancy. He further stated that though he had joined the Calcutta High Court in the 'December' of his career, after having worked as Acting Chief Justice since the retirement of former Chief Justice TS Sivagnanam, he would endeavour to maintain the purity and efficiency of the institution to the best of his efforts. He also quoted the Naradh-Smriti, an ancient scripture, "A court is not a court if there are no elders, elders are not elders unless they promote dharma, dharma is not dharma unless it promotes truth and truth is not truth if it is mixed with sophistry."

of the Calcutta High Court today following the recommendation of the Supreme Court Collegium and notification by the Government of India, is set to retire in June 2026.

Gaza and the Great Arab Betrayal: What the Leaked UAE Document Really Tells Us

MI News Service, Gaza: The leaked document alleging the United Arab Emirates' willingness to support Israel's war on Gaza does not merely expose a secret military proposal. It tears the mask off a carefully constructed political performance—one in which humanitarian sympathy is paraded in public while military alignment is negotiated in private.

If the document is authentic—and the details are too precise, too institutional, and too strategically coherent to be dismissed lightly—then it reveals something far more disturbing than quiet normalization.

It reveals Arab complicity in the machinery of Gaza's destruction.

At a time when Gaza was being flattened, when entire neighborhoods were erased, when tens of thousands of civilians—mostly women and children—were killed or displaced, senior Emirati military planners were allegedly discussing how best to assist Israel. Not diplomatically. Not symbolically. But logistically, militarily, and strategically.

This is not normalization. This is collaboration. For over a year, Abu Dhabi has projected itself as a humanitarian actor—airlifting aid, funding field hospitals, issuing carefully worded statements of concern. These gestures were welcomed, even



praised. But humanitarian aid does not exist in a moral vacuum. It cannot coexist comfortably with efforts to enable the very war creating the humanitarian catastrophe.

The leaked document suggests that while aid trucks were being showcased for cameras, Emirati military infrastructure in the Red Sea region was being quietly discussed as a possible support network for Israel's war machine. Bases in Eritrea, Yemen, and Somalia—Arab and African soil—were allegedly considered as logistical corridors for Israeli operations.

Let us be clear: this is not neutrality. This is not mediation. This is taking sides in a genocidal war while pretending to stand above it.

The Abraham Accords were sold to the Arab public as a path to peace, prosperity, and regional stability. We were told that engagement with Israel would moderate its behavior, that Arab leverage would restrain Israeli excesses.

Gaza has answered that in blood. Instead of restraint, the relationship appears to have produced strategic loyalty, even

when Israel crossed every humanitarian red line. The language reportedly used in the leaked document—describing support for Israel as an "obligation" in times of adversity—should alarm every Arab citizen.

Whatever one's view of Hamas, Gaza is not Hamas. Gaza is 2.3 million human beings trapped under siege. No amount of political labeling can erase the reality that Israel's war has overwhelmingly punished civilians—and that any Arab state assisting this war will carry that stain.

Documents like this do not simply disappear. They resurface—in archives, in courtrooms, in history books. Long after press releases fade, choices remain. The question is no longer whether Arab governments support Palestine in words. The world has heard those words for decades. The question is whether, when Gaza needed them most, they chose justice or alignment, conscience or convenience.

If the leaked UAE document is genuine, then Gaza will remember. And history will judge—not kindly, not quietly, and not on the basis of humanitarian photo-ops.

Because in moments of mass suffering, there is no neutral ground. There are only those who stop the crime—and those who help make it possible.

IAS officer Manoj Jadhav appointed as CEO of Maharashtra State Hajj Committee; Muslim community reacts

MI News Service, Mumbai: The Maharashtra State Hajj Committee has appointed a non-Muslim as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) drawing sharp reactions and concerns from the Muslim community members.

The newly appointed CEO, Manoj Jadhav, an IAS officer has taken office. The appointment is being considered as shocking since the duties involve overseeing the Hajj Committee.

Muslim clerics have expressed disappointment and demanded an answer from the officials.

Locals and activists also voiced their concerns. They emphasized that Hajj is one of the pillars of Islam and appointment of a non-Muslim man to oversee it's committees is unacceptable.

Senior advocate of Bombay High Court, Yusuf Ibrahim, in



a video message condemned the appointment and said, "It's truly shameful and shocking to know that he is appointed to overlook the Hajj Committee. A Muslim who is well-versed with the traditions of hajj and its rulings deserves the role more than him."

Ibrahimi further condemned the silence of the Congress on the subject and also stated that he will challenge the appointment after the elections.

He mentioned the Central

implementation of Hajj quota.

The Maharashtra State Hajj Committee plays an important role in executing the quota assigned by the Saudi authorities and in facilitating the Hajj journey for Indian pilgrims. Nearly 1.75 lakh Indians travel for Hajj annually, with the majority being managed by Hajj committees and nearly one-fourth opting for private operators.

The Hajj pilgrimage for 2026 is provisionally set to take place from May 25 to May 30, depending on the sighting of the moon.

The Saudi authorities have released rules for pilgrims, which include a prohibition on cooking in the camps and limits on bringing electric cooking appliances.

Pilgrims are also recommended to bring necessary medications for five to six days, along with other items like umbrellas, sunglasses, plastic mats, and protein bars.

Tender Notice

Percentage rate Tender invited vide NtE No- 10/2025-2026 APAS (2nd call), NtE No-11/2025-2026 APAS (2nd call), and NtE No-13/2025-2026 APAS (2nd call), With Video Memo No.59/En, 60/En, 61/En, 62/En, 16/01/2026. Published Date: -17/01/2026 18.00 by The Prohdan Manindranagar Gram Panchayat. Last date of Application 27/01/2026 up to 16.00 Hours. Interested contractors may visit NOTICE BOARD of Manindranagar Gram Panchayat, under Berhampore Block, MSD, and NtE No-14/2025-2026 APAS (2nd call), and NtE No-15/2025-2026 APAS (2nd call) 63/En, 64/En, Dated:-16/01/2026, by The Prohdan Manindranagar Gram Panchayat. Last date of Application 27/01/2026 up to 13.00 PM Hours Interested contractors may visit NOTICE BOARD of Manindranagar Gram Panchayat, under Berhampore Block, MSD, SD/- Prohdan Manindranagar Panchayat Manindranagar, Cossimbazar, Murshidabad.

POWER OF ATTORNEY

Notice regarding Power of Attorney as per West Bengal Govt. Order No. 1000-15/22/2022 dated 27/02/2024. This is to certify that the undersigned is the duly authorized representative of the undersigned in the State of West Bengal and has executed the below mentioned schedule by virtue of deed No.2305194/2022 dated 23/05/2022 registered at ADSP, Anasooli, P.O.-Anasooli, P.S.-Anasooli, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman in the name of S.P. BHOSLWATER. 1) Rajib Kumar son of Dilip Kumar resident of Atitil, Bahadurpur, P.O.-Bahadurpur, P.S.-Bahadurpur, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman in the name of S.P. BHOSLWATER. 2) Rajib Kumar son of Dilip Kumar resident of Atitil, Bahadurpur, P.O.-Bahadurpur, P.S.-Bahadurpur, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman in the name of S.P. BHOSLWATER. 3) Rajib Kumar son of Dilip Kumar resident of Atitil, Bahadurpur, P.O.-Bahadurpur, P.S.-Bahadurpur, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman in the name of S.P. 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BHOSLWATER. 112) Rajib Kumar son of Dilip Kumar resident of Atitil, Bahadurpur, P.O.-Bahadurpur, P.S

# 70% of Women Aged 35-55 Fail to Get Tested for Anemia And Suffer In Silence

**Kolkata:** Anemia has quietly become one of the most common yet neglected health problems among women today. Due to busy lifestyles, lack of awareness, and the tendency to ignore early symptoms, many women continue to live with low energy, weakness, and poor health without knowing the real cause. Timely blood tests can help detect anemia early, prevent complications, and significantly improve a woman's overall well-being.

Anemia is a condition in which the body does not have enough healthy red blood cells or hemoglobin to carry adequate oxygen to tissues. As a result, the body feels tired and weak, even after routine activities. Iron-deficiency anemia is the most common type seen in women. Anemia in women is often caused by iron deficiency due to poor diet, heavy menstrual bleeding, repeated pregnancies, blood loss, or poor absorption of nutrients. Chronic illnesses, vitamin B12 or folate deficiency, and certain medical conditions can also contribute to anemia. Women with anemia may experience constant tiredness, weakness, dizziness, headaches, pale skin, shortness of breath, hair loss, and difficulty concentrating. Since these symptoms develop gradually, many women tend to ignore them. If anemia is not detected and treated on time, it can lead to severe fatigue, reduced immunity, heart strain, complications during pregnancy, delayed recovery from illness, and poor quality of life. Long-term untreated anemia can increase the risk of serious health problems.

\*DrAbhik Banerjee, Zonal Technical Chief East Zone, Apollo Diagnostic Kolkata said.\* "Alarmingly, close to

*"Key tests women should take for anemia are the hemoglobin test to measure the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood and confirm anemia. Iron Studies (Serum Iron, Ferritin, TIBC) help identify iron deficiency and iron stores in the body. Complete Blood Count (CBC) provides overall information about red blood cells and anemia severity. Vitamin B12 and Folate Tests allow for the detection of nutritional deficiencies causing anemia. So, understand that anemia is easy to detect and treat if addressed early. Management includes an iron-rich diet, supplements, treating the underlying cause, and regular follow-up tests. Despite this, there is still a significant lack of awareness, and many women continue to ignore testing. Women shouldn't dismiss persistent tiredness and to prioritize routine blood tests for a healthier, more active life."*

70% of women aged 35-55 do not opt for routine blood tests, allowing anemia to go undiagnosed and untreated for years. Nearly 40% of women who are tested show signs of anemia and are advised to take appropriate treatment. They often normalize fatigue and weakness, unaware that untreated anemia can lead to serious complications affecting the heart, immunity, and reproductive health. Early testing can prevent years of unnecessary

suffering. Simple blood tests can make a huge difference. Women who should regularly test include adolescents, women with heavy menstrual cycles, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, working women with constant fatigue, and those following restrictive diets. Early detection through blood tests allows us to manage anemia effectively with diet changes, supplements, and treatment, restoring energy and improving daily life."

\*DrAbhik further added.\* "Key tests women should take for anemia are the hemoglobin test to measure the oxygen-carrying capacity of blood and confirm anemia. Iron Studies (Serum Iron, Ferritin, TIBC) help identify iron deficiency and iron stores in the body. Complete Blood Count (CBC) provides overall information about red blood cells and anemia severity. Vitamin B12 and Folate Tests allow for the detection of nutritional deficiencies causing anemia. So, understand that anemia is easy to detect and treat if addressed early. Management includes an iron-rich diet, supplements, treating the underlying cause, and regular follow-up tests. Despite this, there is still a significant lack of awareness, and many women continue to ignore testing. Women shouldn't dismiss persistent tiredness and to prioritize routine blood tests for a healthier, more active life." Anemia should not be accepted as a "normal" part of a woman's life. Regular blood tests are the key to early detection, prevention of complications, and long-term health. Awareness, timely testing, and proper treatment can help women regain strength, confidence, and quality of life.

## CSIR enhancing India's scientific ecosystem through green road tech, indigenous diagnostic kits

*The CSIR-CCMB developed a rapid, low-cost molecular test for sickle cell anaemia, enabling early diagnosis using just a single drop of dried blood, while the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) developed India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease.*

**New Delhi :** The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) worked to transform India's scientific ecosystem by reinventing roads using green technology, protecting biodiversity, and boosting healthcare with indigenous diagnostic kits, according to a report.

In 2015, CSIR's laboratories across the country played a significant role in developing innovations that strengthened infrastructure, improved healthcare outcomes, enhanced climate resilience, and reinforced India's strategic autonomy, the Times of Oman reported.

"The year 2025 will be remembered as a defining chapter in India's scientific journey -- one in which research moved decisively from laboratories to the heart of national development," the report said.

Under the CSIR, the green technology was scaled up for enhancing more than 200 kilometres of rural roads in Uttar Pradesh. The technology reduced emissions and enabled faster and all-weather construction.

The world's first port road, at Hazira in Gujarat, was built using steel slag technology, turning industrial waste into a durable and environmentally responsible asset by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRRI).

Nearly 30 tonnes of end-of-life

plastic technical textiles were integrated by the Institute into expressway construction.

In the agriculture sector, the world's first genetically modified cotton fully resistant to pink bollworm -- a pest responsible for heavy crop losses -- was developed by the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

The CSIR-Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) protected diversity by creating the world's first DNA-based test to detect illegal shahtoosh in pashmina shawls. This strengthened efforts to protect the endangered Tibetan antelope.

The lab also established India's first Zoo Bio Bank at Darjeeling Zoo, preserving genetic material of endangered species for future conservation and research.

CSIR labs also transformed healthcare through indigenous science.

The CSIR-CCMB developed a rapid, low-cost molecular test for sickle cell anaemia, enabling early diagnosis using just a single drop of dried blood, while the CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB) developed India's first indigenous CRISPR-based gene therapy for sickle cell disease.

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Chemical Biology and partner laboratories advanced novel therapies for triple-negative breast cancer, along with smart anti-cancer agents and targeted nanoparticle drug delivery systems. CSIR's contributions also led to the building of climate-resilient homes and smarter waste systems.

The labs also strengthened defence capabilities, drove innovation through industry and start-ups.

## India Stack widening financial and digital inclusion: Report

**New Delhi :** India's digital public infrastructure and tech push laid the groundwork on which agentic AI can thrive on trusted data and integrated workflows, a report said on Friday.

The report from the World Economic Forum said the country's India Stack is creating digital rails that have widened financial and digital inclusion.

India Stack includes the Aadhaar digital identity, the Unified Payments Interface that processes over 18 billion transactions a month, DigiLocker, and the Account Aggregator framework.

"With a \$4 trillion economy, a young, tech-savvy population, and policies that prioritize openness, India is positioned to shape the age through models that combine scale, sustainability, and equity," the report said.

The government is bolstering that foundation with investments in next generation computing and artificial intelligence, including the National Quantum Mission's aim to develop 1,000 qubit quantum computers by 2031 and the expansion of AI compute capacity supported by 18,693 GPUs.

"Equitable progress depends not on the tools themselves, including how we deploy agentic



AI, but on how we reimagine the systems, skills, and values that govern their use," the think tank said.

It lauded India's work in this area as India Stack, ambitiously reimagining technology "as a public good and deploys models that combine scale, sustainability, and equity."

The report also forecasted that AI agents could handle about 45 per cent of routine enterprise tasks by 2029, but cautioned that more than 80 per cent of generative AI pilots fail to deliver measurable earnings gains, and only

one in three employees say approved AI tools meet their needs.

However, early adopters reported productivity gains of 40-60 per cent. Scaling this demands new architecture and bold leadership as agentic AI fast becomes the backbone of enterprise operations, the report noted.

Analysts estimated that AI and related technologies will create 170 million new roles by 2030 while displacing 92 million jobs, and urged businesses to invest in skills, design ethical systems, and focus on inclusivity.

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

**LA JOLLA (CALIFORNIA) [US] :** Lung adenocarcinoma is the most common type of lung cancer, accounting for the majority of cancer-related fatalities in the US. There are various causes of lung adenocarcinoma, one of which is a mutation in a protein known as EGFR. Non-mutant EGFR stimulates cell proliferation in response to injury, but mutated EGFR promotes out-of-control growth, which can lead to cancer. Modern immunotherapies are ineffective against EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma, and while certain medications exist to treat the malignancy,

patients usually acquire resistance to them within a few years. This gap in the therapy toolkit prompted Salk Institute researchers to look for weak points in the cancer's development process. The researchers discovered that EGFR-driven lung adenocarcinoma hijacks a specialized population of lung-resident immune cells known as macrophages, which are responsible for disposing of diseased and damaged cells as well as maintaining a delicate balance of protective lipids (fats) around lung alveoli, which are required for breathing.

# Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

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

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

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

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

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. "These findings underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes." To conduct the study, researchers



linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27 different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290 stillbirths from 2006 to 2020.

They found that living within .31 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day preconception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births

pre-conception. During the first trimester, fenprothrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated with stillbirths.

"Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and

Airway Disease Research Center and BIO5 Institute. "Within the pyrethroid class, cyfluthrin exposure during the 90 days prior to conception almost doubled the risk of stillbirth."

Pesticides are chemical substances used to control pests in various settings. They are commonly categorized into different classes, such as organophosphates, pyrethroids and carbamates. The primary route of exposure for most people is through diet, but household use, agricultural drift and occupational exposure are also significant pathways. Researchers say while some pesticides may not have been directly implicated in this study, they could still pose risks to maternal and fetal health. Pregnant women may be particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure due to physiological changes during pregnancy, such as increased metabolic rate, altered hormone levels and changes in the immune system. The developing fetus may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides during this period of rapid growth and development.

"Further research is essential to fully understand the safety profiles of various pesticides and to understand the underlying mechanisms of pesticide-induced stillbirth," Furlong said. "This study underscores the need to develop strategies for mitigating exposure to protect maternal and fetal health."

## One more district in Bulgaria declares flu epidemic measures



**Sofia :** One day after flu epidemic measures were introduced in Bulgaria's Varna District for the first time this season, neighbouring Dobrich District decided to follow suit.

The measures in the north-eastern Bulgarian region will be in effect from January 19 to January 23, local media reported on Thursday.

During the five-day period, in-person classes in all schools will be suspended. Hospital visits, planned surgeries, child immunisations, and pediatric consultations will also be halted. The decision was prompted by a sharp rise in the registered incidence rate, which reached 207 cases per 10,000 people in the January 5-11 week, compared with 47 cases per 10,000 in the previous week.

Bulgaria's Chief Health Inspector Angel Kunchev told reporters on Wednesday that the country was on the verge of a flu epidemic, with infection rates also rising in regions such as Silistra, Burgas, Yambol, Haskovo and Pernik.

According to Kunchev, the positive sign is that the epidemic wave is subsiding as quickly as it is growing. He said he expects the situation to nor-

malise in most regions by February.

Seasonal influenza (the flu) is an acute respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses. It is common in all parts of the world. Most people recover without treatment.

Influenza spreads easily between people when they cough or sneeze. Vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease.

Symptoms of influenza include acute onset of fever, cough, sore throat, body aches and fatigue.

Treatment should aim to relieve symptoms. People with the flu should rest and drink plenty of liquids. Most people will recover on their own within a week. Medical care may be needed in severe cases and for people with risk factors.

There are 4 types of influenza viruses, types A, B, C and D. Influenza A and B viruses circulate and cause seasonal epidemics of disease.

Influenza can worsen symptoms of other chronic diseases. In severe cases influenza can lead to pneumonia and sepsis. People with other medical issues or who have severe symptoms should seek medical care.

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

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

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

"We have discovered a novel way that lung cancer cells manipulate their local environment and other cell types surrounding them to promote their own growth. In this case, the tumor cells exploit lung-resident macrophages—remodeling them to provide nutrients, like cholesterol, to the cancer cells and stimulate tumor growth," says senior and co-corresponding author Susan Kaech, professor, director of the NOMIS Center for Immunobiology and Microbial Pathogenesis, and holder of the NOMIS Chair at Salk. "One exciting implication of this work is that lung cancer treatments may be improved by simply adding statins, an already widely used class of drugs, to the patient's treatment plan." Lungs rely on tiny bulbs called alveoli, which expand and deflate with our breath, to facilitate the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between the air and our blood. Alveoli are crucial to human survival, and their health is dependent on a lipid-rich environment created by alveolar cells and sustained by macrophages. Lipids, such as cholesterol, are fatty compounds that support bodily function by helping cells move, store energy, and absorb vitamins. This unique ability of lung-resident macrophages to maintain lipid balance becomes more complicated when tumor cells begin to exploit those lipids to help themselves grow. A better understanding of the mechanisms macrophages use to regulate their metabolism and lipid production can provide insight into how tumor cells selfishly manipulate those mechanisms to help themselves. "The tumor cells excrete even more of a growth factor called GM-CSF (granulocyte macrophage colony-stimulating factor), which then causes the macrophages to grow alongside them and change their metabolism, resulting in excess lipids that the tumor cells use to strengthen themselves," says first author Alexandra Kuhlmann-Hogan, former postdoctoral researcher in Kaech's lab and current postdoctoral researcher at UC Los Angeles. "The cancer was effectively hijacking this normal macrophage process of maintaining the lungs with healthy lipids in order to fuel itself."

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

## India Open 2026: Christie beats Loh Kean Yew; An Se Young to take on Wang Zhi Yi in women's singles final

**NEW DELHI** : Indonesia's Jonatan Christie mixed his tactics and kept his nerves in key situations to beat former world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore in the men's singles semifinals while world no. 1 An Se Young set up a women's singles summit clash against China's Wang Zhi Yi in the Yonex-Sunrise India Open 2026, a BWF World Tour Super 750 event organised by the Badminton Association of India, here on Saturday.

Third seed Christie fought back in the opening game from 5-11 to beat the Singaporean 21-18, 22-20 in 46 minutes to reach the men's singles final. Earlier, An Se Young defeated former champion Ratchnok Intanon of Thailand 21-11, 21-7 while Wang got the better of compatriot Chen Yu Fei 21-15, 23-21 in the women's singles



semifinals.

In the men's singles semifinal, Loh came out all guns blazing in the opening game and went for quick winners and took a 11-5 lead. But Christie then began

engaging the Singaporean in longer rallies and relied on his defensive skills to force errors from his opponents. The Indonesian won six straight points to draw level at 15-15 and then

relied on quick net taps and down the line smashes to pocket the opening game.

In the second game, Loh needed time to get back his focus as he sprayed a couple of smashes wide. But once he found his rhythm, it looked like the eighth seed would take the match into the decider as he opened up a 17-13 lead by keeping Christie away from the net. But the Indonesian once again went for quick attacks. Christie needed two match points to close out the match and extended his winning streak over Loh to 9-0. "In the second game when Loh started to come back, I held my nerves and adapted to the game better and managed to win," said Christie after the match. The Indonesian will now face the winner of the other semi-

final between Victor Lai of Canada and Chinese Taipei's Lin Chun-Yi.

Results (so far):  
Men's singles: 3-Jonatan Christie (INA) bt 8-Loh Kean Yew (SGP) 21-18, 22-20

Women's singles: 1-An Se Young (KOR) bt 7-Ratchnok Intanon (THA) 21-11, 21-7; 2-Wang Zhi Yi (CHN) bt 4-Chen Yu Fei (CHN) 21-15, 23-21

Women's doubles: 1-Liu Sheng Shu/Tan Ning (Chn) bt 6-Baek Ha Na/Lee So Hee (Kor) 21-12; 21-21; 21-14; 5-Yuki Fukushima/Mayu Matsumoto (Jpn) bt 2-Pearly Tan/Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) 21-16, 21-13

Mixed doubles: 3-Dechapol Puavaranukroh/Supissara Paewsampran (Tha) bt 1-Feng Yan Zhe/Huang Dong Ping (Chn) 16-21, 21-19, 21-16.

## Jharkhand Senior Federation Cup Wrestling Selection Trials Conclude in Ranchi

MI CORRESPONDENT

**RANCHI** : The Jharkhand Senior Federation Cup State-Level Wrestling Selection Trials were successfully conducted at the Wrestling Training Centre, Morabadi, Ranchi, to select athletes for the Senior Federation Cup National Wrestling Championship 2025-26.

The national championship for both men and women is scheduled to be held from February 12 to 14, 2025-26, in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. A total of 86 wrestlers from various districts of Jharkhand participated in the trials, showcasing their skills and competitive spirit.

Based on their performance in the selection trials, 28 wrestlers will be shortlisted. The final team will be formed after a 10-day special coaching

camp aimed at improving technical skills and physical conditioning. Following this training programme, the Jharkhand Senior Federation Cup Wrestling Team will represent the state at the national championship in Ghaziabad.

The selection trials-cum-competition were formally inaugurated by Babul Kumar, Treasurer of the Jharkhand State Wrestling Association. Several dignitaries were present on the occasion, including Bokaro District Wrestling Joint Secretary Mrityunjay Nath Choudhary, along with Chandan Kumar, Vikas Chyavan, Roshan Kumar, and other officials and supporters.

The event marked an important step in strengthening Jharkhand's wrestling talent pipeline and preparing athletes for national-level competition.



## M Chinnaswamy Stadium given permission to host IPL, international matches again



**NEW DELHI** : The M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru has been cleared for marquee cricket fixtures to return to the venue has ended months of uncertainty after the stadium was taken off the cricketing calendar following a stampede during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL 2025 title winning celebrations on June 4, when eleven people were killed, while 56 people suffered injuries.

In its aftermath, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) shifted several major events away from the Chinnaswamy Stadium, including the Duleep Trophy, the India-South Africa men's A series, Vijay Hazare Trophy and 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup, includ-

ing the final. Hosting matches at the ground again was subject to the implementation of recommendations from the Justice Michael D'Cunha report, which was formed as part of the investigation into the tragedy.

"KSCA is confident of fulfilling all the stipulated conditions. The Association has already presented a detailed compliance roadmap before the Expert Review Committee and remains fully committed to implementing all safety, security, and crowd-management measures in letter and spirit," added Mruthyunjaya.

The KSCA also endured administrative

upheaval, operating without a treasurer and secretary for months after both resigned, citing moral responsibility for the tragedy. Last year, the Venkatesh Prasad-led panel took charge, and began to act on its first priority of bringing back matches to the iconic cricketing venue.

With the state government's clearance now secured, it would be interesting to see if RCB will play all of its IPL 2026 home games in Chinnaswamy, considering that its vice-president Rajesh Menon met Chhattisgarh CM Vishnu Deo Sai for playing two games at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Cricket Stadium in Naya Raipur.

## WPL 2026: RCB Elect to Bowl as Hamilton Debuts for Delhi Capitals

**NAVI MUMBAI** : Royal Challengers Bengaluru won the toss and elected to bowl first against Delhi Capitals in the 11th match of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026, here at Dr DY Patil Sports Academy, Navi Mumbai.

Delhi Capitals have drafted in Lucy Hamilton as a replacement for the injured Chinelle Henry, while Royal Challengers Bengaluru have overhauled their squad by bringing in Georgia Voll, Prema Rawat and Sayali Satghare in place of Arundhati Reddy, Linsey Smith and Dayalan Hemalatha.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru captain Smriti Mandhana said, "Yeah, I mean wherever we play we get good support. Everyone turns out in huge numbers. We will like to field first today. We have 3 changes today. Voll comes in for Linsey. Prema comes in for Hema and Sayali comes in, Aru



misses out because she is unwell today. Well unfortunately, Aru was unwell. There was a forced change. We always thought we were one batter short. Though, we won the first three games and it sends out right signal that we are not panicking and it is just based on team combination. Yeah, again for us. It is about doing smaller things right. Everyone is really looking to do small things right. What happens on the field is because of hard work and this team works hard." Delhi Capitals captain Jemimah Rodrigues said, "(On leading against Smriti Mandhana) No! I have led against her (Mandhana) in domestic cricket as well. It is always a fun rivalry. Not really. I didn't pick up her call. Yeah, 100%. We were happy either batting or bowling first. Our gameplan remains the same. Sometimes losing the toss is good. They

will be batting fourth on this wicket. We have one change. Chinelle Henry is out due to an injury in the last game. Lucy Hamilton is in and making her debut tonight. We have played together for Brisbane Heat. She is the youngster. She also led Australia's Under-19 side. She is someone who is sorted and has a good head on her shoulders."

Playing XIs:  
Royal Challengers Bengaluru Women: Smriti Mandhana (c), Georgia Voll, Richa Ghosh (wk), Shreyanka Patil, Grace Harris, Nadine de Klerk, Gautami Naik, Sayali Satghare, Radha Yadav, Prema Rawat, Lauren Bell  
Delhi Capitals Women: Shafali Verma, Lizelle Lee (wk), Laura Wolvaardt, Jemimah Rodrigues (c), Marizanne Kapp, Niki Prasad, Lucy Hamilton, Neha Rana, Minnu Mani, Shree Charani, Nandani Sharma

## U19 WC: Sri Lanka's Chamuditha Sets Record for Highest Individual Score with 192 Against Japan

**WINDHOEK** : Sri Lanka's Viran Chamuditha has set a new record for the highest individual score in ICC Under-19 Men's Cricket World Cup history by hitting 192 against Japan at the Namibia Cricket Ground on Saturday.

Chamuditha, the 17-year-old opener from St. Servatius' College, Matara, eclipsed his Sri Lanka's compatriot Hasitha Boyagoda's score of 191 set against Kenya in 2018, by striking 26 fours and a six before falling to Timothy Moore.

Chamuditha shared a record-breaking 328-run opening stand with Dimantha Mahavithana, which is a new record for the biggest partnership for any wicket in the tournament's history, surpassing the 303-run effort by England's Dan Lawrence and Jack Burnham against Fiji in 2016.

Chamuditha's innings added to a list of landmark knocks in the competition, joining Boyagoda, New Zealand's Jakob Bhula (180 against Kenya in 2018), West Indies' Donovan Pagon (176 against Scotland in 2002) and England's Lawrence (174 against Fiji in 2016).

The mammoth stand powered Sri Lanka to 388 in their opening match of the 2026 edition, leaving Japan facing a daunting chase. Chamuditha has played 17 Youth ODIs so far for Sri Lanka and had hit three fifties before hitting 192, also his maiden century in the 50-over format.

The 16th edition of the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup is being hosted by Zimbabwe and Namibia, with the ongoing group stage set to feature 24 matches over ten days. Both Zimbabwe and Namibia will stage 12 group matches each.

The Super Sixes and playoff rounds will also be split between the two hosts, before the knockout phase shifts entirely to Zimbabwe.



## Pro Wrestling League: Haryana Thunders roar with dominant 7-2 win over Punjab Royals

**NOIDA** : Haryana Thunders made a thunderous statement on their Pro Wrestling League (PWL) 2026 debut, outclassing Punjab Royals with a dominant 7-2 win in their opening tie at the Noida Indoor Stadium on Friday night.

Displaying authority across weight categories, Haryana Thunders seized control early and never let go, blending sharp tactical execution with relentless scoring to underline their championship ambitions. Punjab Royals struggled to find momentum as Haryana's wrestlers dictated the pace and direction of the contest from start to finish.

The evening began with Ashirov Ashraf setting the tone in the men's 86kg category, edging past Tareel G in a closely contested 6-5 bout.

Although Punjab found a response through Chandermohan, who defeated Parvinder 13-6 in the men's 74kg bout, Haryana quickly regained control and never looked back.

The highlight of the night was a clinical performance by Neha Sangwan, who was deservedly named Player of the Match after registering a flawless 8-0 victory over Punjab captain Roksana Zasina in the women's 57kg bout.

Momentum firmly shifted Haryana's way as Iryna Koliadenko produced a commanding 15-2 win over Ana Godinez in the women's 62kg category, followed by Ankush's solid 5-2 victory against Chirag in the men's 57kg bout. Tumor Tulga then delivered one of the most domi-



nant performances of the night, blanking Islam Guseinov 15-0 in the men's 65kg category to further stretch Haryana's lead.

The women's 76kg contest ended in a hard-fought 2-2 draw between Kajal and Priya Malik, but any hopes of a late Punjab resurgence were extinguished when Yui Susaki secured a walkover win against Hansika Lamba in the women's 53kg category. Punjab managed one more win through Dinesh, who defeated Anirudh Gulia 7-3 in the men's 125kg bout, but the tie was already firmly in Haryana's grasp.

Reacting to the impressive start, the Haryana Thunders owner Ms Prerana Banka expressed pride in the team's mindset and preparation.

"This win reflects the hard work put in by our wrestlers and support staff over the past few months. It's just the beginning, but the intent shown tonight is exactly what Haryana Thunders stand for, fearless, disciplined and hungry for success. We believe this squad has the potential to go all the way," she said.

With this commanding victory over Punjab Royals, Haryana Thunders opened their PWL 2026 campaign on a high.

## Aus Open: Federer, Agassi light up opening ceremony at Melbourne Park

**MELBOURNE** : On Saturday night at the Australian Open, Roger Federer, Andre Agassi, Lleyton Hewitt, Patrick Rafter, and Ashleigh Barty entertained the crowd with a lively exhibition doubles match during the opening ceremony, sharing laughs throughout.

Federer arrived in Melbourne on Thursday morning and received a warm welcome from fans. The tennis icon later spoke about the Alcaraz and Sinner rivalry that has etched itself into the tennis landscape in a similar manner to Federer vs. Rafael Nadal. The six-time Australian Open champion participated in the Grand Slam's inaugural ceremony in a special 'Battle of the World No. 1s' game on Saturday.

As the lights illuminated Rod Laver Arena, the crowd fell quiet as the four ATP No. 1 Club members walked out together, then rose once more when Rod Laver stepped in for the coin toss.

Six-time Australian Open champion Federer immediately set the tone for the evening, taking the microphone and greeting the crowd as though he had never left. "I have missed you and it is great to be back. It's just where we left off, so many memories and nice to dive back into it," ATP reported.

Hewitt was already bouncing on his toes, Rafter appeared relaxed, and Agassi calmly scanned the arena before the match started. Hewitt started the match serving, and the crowd



quickly erupted in cheers. Federer hit a forehand lob that, despite being framed, surprisingly landed as a winner over Rafter, causing all four players to laugh and Hewitt to shake his head.

As the match progressed, the contrasting styles became evident. Agassi joked about remaining behind the baseline, while Rafter tried to avoid hitting forehands at all costs. In a first-to-four format, the first two sets went by quickly, with the score at 4-2, 2-4, and the Australians taking the first set.

With a third set remaining to

determine the winner, Barty stepped onto the court to replace Agassi. The former World No. 1, who won the Australian Open in 2022 before retiring, was greeted with loud cheers upon her return. Barty swiftly settled into her rhythm from the baseline, and alongside Federer, secured a 4-2 victory in the third set, in front of a record-time crowd of 10 champion Novak Djokovic, who watched from court-side.

"It was beautiful. It was fantastic. I couldn't be any happier. Just being back in Melbourne with my friends, legends, rivals,

is always a thrill. I am a big historian of the game and looked back at who has paved the way for us and this is a beautiful moment for tennis and obviously I am looking forward to the Australian Open." Federer said after the game. Agassi has won the Australian Open four times, and Hewitt made it to the final in 2005. Rafter's top performance was reaching the semi-finals in 2001. The Australian Open begins on Sunday, with Carlos Alcaraz competing. Jannik Sinner is the two-time defending champion.