

Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has raised serious concerns over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, cautioning that the process is being carried out with undue haste and could adversely affect democratic principles, especially with the Assembly elections approaching. Sen said that while the SIR can be a constructive democratic exercise, the necessary conditions for it to be fair and effective are currently absent in West Bengal. He stressed that a proper revision of electoral rolls requires sufficient time and careful implementation. “A well-planned and adequately timed review of electoral rolls can strengthen democracy, but that is not what we are witnessing in West Bengal right now,” Sen said. According to Sen, the revision process is being rushed, leaving voters with inadequate time to submit documents to establish their eligibility. He pointed out that many people are struggling to complete the formalities within the limited timeframe provided. [PG 3](#) 

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Morning India

Shashi Tharoor remains unapologetic over Operation Sindoor stance



Who lives if India dies? "When India is at stake, when India's security and its place in the world are involved, India comes first

Shashi Tharoor

Congress MP

MI News Service, Kozhikode : Congress MP Shashi Tharoor reaffirmed on Saturday that he never violated the party's stated positions in Parliament, asserting that his only public disagreement in principle was over Operation Sindoor. Answering questions during a session at the Kerala Literature Festival here, Tharoor said he had taken a strong stand on that issue and remained "unapologetic".

His statement comes amidst recent reports stating "Tharoor's differences with the party leadership", with a speculation that he is upset over Congress leader Rahul Gandhi not adequately acknowledging his presence at a recent event in Kochi and over alleged repeated attempts by state leaders to sideline him. Explaining his position, Tharoor said that, as an observer and writer, he had written a newspaper column after the Pahalgam incident, stating that it should not go unpunished and that there should be a kinetic response. He said that while India is focused on development, it should not be dragged into a prolonged conflict with Pakistan, and that any action should be limited to targeting terrorist camps. Tharoor said that to his surprise, the Indian government did exactly what he had recommended.

Tharoor said it was Jawaharlal Nehru who posed the famous question: "Who lives if India dies?" "When India is at stake, when India's security and its place in the world are involved, India comes first," he said.

He added that political parties may have differences as part of the process of building a better India, but when national interests are involved, India must prevail. Interestingly, noted NASA astronaut Sunita Williams is also attending the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) organised by DC Books. Williams arrived in Kozhikode on Wednesday night and has been attending various events of the festival till January 25 including the inaugural event on Thursday evening along with Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan. The organisers of the Kerala Literature Festival (KLF) have announced the participation of NASA astronaut Sunita Williams, one of the world's most accomplished explorers and

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Army personnel took part in the final dress rehearsal ahead of the Republic Day Parade at Red Road in Kolkata on Saturday.

Uncertainties over meeting SC deadline for issuing list of names in Bengal under SIR

MI News Service, Kolkata : Uncertainty looms large over the Election Commission of India (ECI) to comply with the Supreme Court's directive to publish the list of voters with data discrepancies by Saturday, as Booth Level Officers (BLOs) did not receive the required software in time.

According to official sources here today, on January 19, the SC directed the ECI to display the names of those on the "logical discrepancies" list and "unmapped" voters at Panchayat, Block and Ward offices.

"But we did not get the software till Friday night. Even if the software reaches us at the last moment, it will be extremely difficult to download, print and display such a huge volume of data within a few hours," a senior official at the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office said. While it refused to stop the Election Commission from carrying



People wait in queues at a centre during hearings under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, in Balurghat, Dakshin Dinajpur district, West Bengal, Tuesday.

out scrutiny of voters flagged for "logical discrepancies" during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, the

"We did not get the software till Friday night. Even if the software reaches us at the last moment, it will be extremely difficult to download, print and display such a huge volume of data within a few hours."

a senior official at the West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer's office

Supreme Court on Monday underlined the need to ensure the exercise is transparent and doesn't cause inconvenience to anyone. To this end, it directed the EC to display the names of those flagged for "logical discrepancies" in their enumeration forms at "Gram Panchayat bhavans/

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Cabinet approves continuation of Atal Pension Yojana till 2030-31

MI News Service, New Delhi : After some initial dilly-dallying, the Union Cabinet has approved continuation of government's flagship Atal Pension Yojana (APY) up to financial year 2030-31 along with extension of funding support for promotional and developmental activities and gap funding. APY was launched on May 9, 2015 with the objective of providing old-age income security to workers in the unorganised sector. As of January 19, 2026, over 8.66 crore subscribers have been enrolled under APY.

Millions of low-income and unorganised sector workers will continue to get assured monthly pensions after retirement, as the Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the APY for the next five years. The decision also extends govern-

ment funding for outreach, development work and gap funding to keep the scheme financially viable. The approval ensures that workers without formal retirement benefits will keep getting access to a guaranteed pension of ₹1,000 to ₹5,000 per month from the age of 60, based on their contributions. The scheme gives income security in old age and supports financial inclusion across rural and informal sectors.

The Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, cleared continued government support for awareness campaigns, capacity building and other developmental activities to expand APY's reach among unorganised workers. It also approved ongoing gap

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Trade agreements worldwide opening up new opportunities for youth: PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said India is entering into trade and mobility agreements with various nations across the globe to create new opportunities for the youth both within the country and abroad. PM Modi made these remarks at the 18th Rozgar Mela where he handed over 61,000 appointment letters for various government jobs electronically.

"India is signing trade and mobility agreements with several countries. These trade agreements are bringing new opportunities for the youth of the nation," the Prime minister said, addressing the Rozgar Mela at 45 locations across the country via video conferencing. PM Modi said India has



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the 18th Rozgar Mela through virtual conference on Saturday.

the maximum number of youngsters of working age in the world and his government was making efforts to create new opportunities for them not only within the

"Over the past few years, Rozgar Mela has become an institution. Through this platform, lakhs of young people have already received appointment letters in different government departments

PM Narendra Modi

country but also abroad.

A PMO statement said the Rozgar Mela is a key initiative aimed at translating this vision into action in line with the Prime minister's commitment to accord the highest priority to employment generation. Since its

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India transitioned from "emerging" status to "pivotal" global economic force

MI News Service, New Delhi / Davos : India has witnessed a real and massive transformation in the last decade from an "emerging" status to a "pivotal" global economic force, driven by robust growth and widespread digital public infrastructure, according to a group of young Indian entrepreneurs at the World Economic Forum platform here on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion Harsh Sanghavi, also the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, emphasised that for decades India was described as an emerging economy, but today that description no longer captures the reality. Speaking at the same session organised by CII and KPMG, Union

Civil Aviation Minister K R Naidu said India stands at the intersection of trust, scale, and innovation, offering reliability through its stable democratic institutions, resilience through its diversity and size, and relevance through solutions that deliver value for money.

"India has witnessed a real transformation in the last decade from an emerging status to a pivotal global economic force, driven by robust growth and widespread digital public infrastructure", he emphasised and said that for decades India was described as an emerging economy, but today that description no longer captures the reality.



Union Minister Pralhad Joshi inaugurates the India Pavilion at the World Economic Forum, in Davos in presence of Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu

According to Sanghavi, "India is no longer emerging, India is pivotal - pivotal to global growth, to resilient supply chains; pivotal to democratic stability and pivotal to the future of innovation, sustainability and inclusive development."

Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat, Harsh Sanghavi

to democratic stability and pivotal to the future of innovation, sustainability and inclusive development."

Echoing similar sentiments, Naidu said, "India is no longer defined as merely an emerging economy. India is becoming essential to the global economic order." India's growth

today is broad-based, digitally enabled, infrastructure-backed, and inclusive by design, Naidu said. In the session, organised on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, both Sangvi and Naidu said "This is the real transformation that India has witnessed in the last decade. And one of the most consequential changes in India's development

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Bengal celebrates girl child and empowers her every single day at all crossroads of life: Mamata

"Today, Bengal's daughters are excelling in every field, from the laboratories of science to the podiums of international sports. We reaffirm our pledge to provide them with an environment where they can breathe freely, learn fearlessly, and lead boldly



CM Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata : Describing the girl child as the "future architects of our society," West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee extended her "heartiest love and blessings to every daughter of Bengal and India" on the National Girl Child Day on Saturday.

Posting a lengthy message at her x handle today, Mamata Banerjee said "Our National Girl Child Day, I extend my heartiest love and blessings to every daughter of Bengal and India. They are the future architects of our society. In Bengal, we don't celebrate the girl child merely on one day; we celebrate her and empower her every single day of the year, at all crossroads of her life",

she said. The Chief minister further stated that "From her birth to her education and self-reliance, at every single turn, our government stands by her as a supportive hand-holder. This journey begins with Kanyashree, our globally acclaimed and awarded pioneer initiative to promote girls' education and well-being by discouraging their unhealthy early marriage".

She said "1 crore girls over the years have been financially supported by us in this scheme to retain girls in formal educational institutions. Another related scheme, Sabooj Sathi, eases the child's mobility and

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Flights at Srinagar airport resume after snow cleared from runway



The Airports Authority of India, in close coordination with BRO, successfully cleared the apron and taxiways on January 24, 2026 morning to make the runway functional after an improvement in the weather.

MI News Service, Srinagar : After a day of suspension of flight operations from the Srinagar airport for the first time this year because of heavy snow, normal services resumed on Saturday after clearing ice from the runways with Herculean efforts. According to official sources here today, the Airports Authority of India, in close coordination with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), successfully cleared the apron and taxiways after 24 hours on Saturday morning to make the runway functional after an improvement in the weather. A major snowfall in Kashmir on Friday forced the cancellation of operations of all incoming and outgoing flights at the airport as heavy snow accumulated on the runway. "Flight operations have resumed at the airport as a flight has just landed at the aerodrome," officials at the Srinagar Airport here said. "A joint inspection was carried out and flight operations were resumed," they said, adding that flight opera-

tions are expected to run normally and smoothly now.

However, an Indigo flight was cancelled early morning due to unfavourable weather conditions here, while a few others were cancelled due to NOTAM (Notice to Airmen giving pilots essential information on flight safety) at Delhi, the officials said. There was some delay in the operation of a few other flights too, they added. Meanwhile, weather reports from Jaipur said night temperatures plummeted once again in parts of Rajasthan due to the effect of a western disturbance and the mercury in some places dropped to near-zero levels. However, the weather is likely to remain mainly dry across the state for the next two to three days, it said. According to local Met centre, northern winds are likely to cause a drop in temperature of 3-5 degree Celsius in minimum and 2-3 degree Celsius in maximum temperatures.



Ashish Shur's 5th Photography Exhibition is being held at the Central Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts from January 22 to January 28, 2026. This year's theme showcases the landscapes of Vietnam. The exhibition features exceptionally high-quality photographs, displayed in both color and canvas prints. Shur has previously held landscape exhibitions on Spiti and Ladakh at the same academy.

Villagers Protest: "First School, Then Vote" as Child Education Center Remains Closed for Two Years

Manish Ramtake (Kharagpur, West Midnapore) : There is deep anger among the villagers regarding the poor condition of the education system in Nischintpur village of Chandrakona block under West Medinipur district. Despite having a school building and students, Nischintpur Shishu Shiksha Kendra has been closed for the last two years due to the absence of a teacher. The villagers troubled by this problem have made it clear that if the teacher is not appointed soon, they will completely boycott the upcoming voting process. According to the information received, about sixty students were studying in this education center of Manoharpur-Ek Panchayat. This school was being run with the support of the only teacher, Tarun Pal, who retired in the year 2024. After his retirement, no other teacher was appointed, due

to which the school has been completely closed for the last two years. At present, children have to go five kilometers away from the village to study, due to which many children have left studies. Despite the closure of the school, the villagers have kept their tradition alive. This year also Saraswati Puja was organized by the villagers at an Anganwadi center located near the school. Expressing grief, villager Jyotsna Mallik said that the puja is going on, but the heart becomes distressed after seeing the condition of the school without a teacher. Saraswati Mallik, the midday meal cook of the school, whose livelihood has also ended, raised the question that this problem can be solved only by the appointment of a teacher, but the concerned authorities are not paying attention. Other villagers including

Madhumita Mallik and Bharat Doloi have collectively decided that now they will not trust any political party or administrative assurance. The villagers have clearly said that if the school is not restarted before the elections, then no voter from the village will participate in the voting. The villagers have also given the slogan 'First school, then vote'. Political rhetoric regarding this topic has also intensified. BJP Mandal President Sabuj Majumdar accused the state government and said that more than eight thousand schools have been closed in West Bengal and the public will have to answer for this. Whereas, Block Trinamool President Suryakant Doloi said that this matter is in the cognizance of higher officials and efforts are being made to restart the school by arranging at least one teacher soon.

"Death triggers SIR row in Bengal; family blames stress"

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: A political storm has erupted in Cooch Behar following the sudden death of a Booth Level Officer (BLO) during the process of verifying a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) notice. The family of the deceased has alleged that overwhelming mental stress linked to the SIR process led to a fatal stroke. The deceased, Rahman Bastadar (64), a resident of Pardubi Gram Panchayat, booth number 2/118, under Mathabhang-II block, collapsed and died on Thursday morning while visiting the residence of the local BLO to enquire about a voter verification notice issued in his younger son's name.

According to family members, a SIR notice had been issued to Rahman's younger son, Aminur Rahman. Upon enquiry, the family discovered a discrepancy in the electoral roll, where Aminur's name was allegedly recorded as "Aminul." Concerned about the future of his younger son, who is reportedly mentally unstable, Rahman had been under severe mental strain for the past several days. On Thursday morning, Rahman went personally to the BLO's house to collect details of the notice. While the officer was checking official documents, Rahman suddenly collapsed, falling face-first onto a table. He was rushed to hospital, where doctors declared him dead. "My father had been extremely anxious for the last two days," said Hafizul Bastadar, the deceased's elder son. "He was worried about my brother's name and the notice. This morning, he went to the BLO's house to understand the matter. There he suffered a stroke. The doctor told us he was no more." The family has squarely blamed fear and stress related to the SIR process for Rahman Bastadar's death. The BLO concerned, Chinumani Mandal Roy, clarified that Rahman had visited her on his own. "I did not summon him. He came in the morning to enquire whether there was a notice in his son's name. I was checking the documents and speaking to him when he suddenly fell ill and collapsed. I immediately informed his family," she said. The incident has triggered a sharp political confrontation in the district. The Trinamool Congress alleged that panic surrounding the SIR process is causing deaths and held the Election Commission responsible for creating fear among ordinary citizens. On the other hand, the Bharatiya Janata Party, while expressing condolences to the bereaved family, rejected the allegations, dismissing claims of "SIR-related deaths" as politically motivated.

Bodies on One tree: Families cry murder in Swarupnagar

MI News Service, North 24 parganas: Two young men who had gone out to watch Saraswati Puja celebrations in Swarupnagar never returned home. Their bodies were found hanging from the same tree the following morning, triggering shock, grief and allegations of murder from their families.

The deceased have been identified as Raja Bhadra (22) and Rakibul Mandal (19), residents of Swarupnagar. According to family members, the two were close friends and were often seen together. On Friday morning, the day of Saraswati Puja, they left their homes on bicycles to visit nearby pandals and festivities. Throughout the day, the youths remained in intermittent contact with their families over the phone. However, when they failed to return home by evening, concern grew. Attempts to reach Raja later in the night failed as his phone was found switched off, while Rakibul's phone rang unanswered. On Saturday morning, local residents made a grim discovery in the Dattapara area under Swarupnagar police station. The bodies of the two youths were found hanging from the same tree in a mango orchard. The incident was immediately reported to the families and the police.

Fake officer stunt: Teenager flees after being caught in English test

MI News Service, Ashoknagar: In a bizarre incident that left residents and school staff stunned, a 17-year-old boy impersonated an Income Tax officer in Ashoknagar on the morning of Saraswati Puja, arriving in a VIP-style convoy of five cars with sirens blaring. The teenager, accompanied by hired security personnel, visited two prominent schools, claiming to hold a high-ranking government position.

The incident began at Vidyasagar Banibhavan School, where the minor introduced himself to the headmaster as an Income Tax officer. His arrival, complete with a convoy of security guards, immediately drew attention and created a mix of curiosity and apprehension among students and staff. After addressing the school, he proceeded to Bidhan Chandra Vidyapith in the Vijaya Pharmacy area, where he engaged teachers in discussions about his alleged position. Suspicion arose when an English teacher, Debashis Mitra, questioned the boy on his qualifications and credentials. The minor claimed to be 17 years old, prompting the teacher to probe further in English. Unable to answer basic questions, the boy's facade quickly unraveled. Realizing the deception, school authorities called the police. The teenager managed to escape in three cars from the convoy, but two cars and the security personnel were intercepted. Ashoknagar police subsequently seized the vehicles and took the security guards into custody. Interrogation revealed that the guards had been hired locally and were unaware of the boy's true age. A fake Income Tax ID card was recovered from the minor. Authorities also learned that the teenager had not attended school since completing his ninth-grade exams in 2025. Speaking to the media, English teacher Debashis Mitra said, "I became suspicious when he could not answer basic questions about his position. It appears that marginalized youth sometimes resort to such acts for attention or to impress others. Perhaps this was intended to make an impression on Saraswati Puja, but it could have been more serious."

Saraswati Puja Celebrated with Devotion and Festivity at The CAG School

MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan: The CAG School observed Saraswati Puja with great devotion and enthusiasm on January 23, creating a spiritually vibrant atmosphere across the campus. Students, teachers and members of the management committee came together to seek the blessings of Goddess Saraswati, the deity of knowledge, wisdom, music and art.

The school auditorium was beautifully decorated with flowers, rangoli and attractive ornaments. The puja began in the morning with Vedic chants recited by the priest. Trustee and Joint Secretaries Chandresh Meghani and Parimal Ajmera, Principal



Jimmy Sahni, Joydeep Mukherjee, Sonal Jagani, Preeti Paul, Anita Ma'am, Rohini Ma'am, Bhasmati Ma'am and other teachers were specially present on the occasion. Teachers and students offered flowers, fruits and sweets during the worship. Dressed in traditional attire, the students added charm to the celebration. Books, pens

and musical instruments were placed at the feet of the Goddess as symbols of learning and creativity. The programme was successfully organised with the active support of Honorary Secretary Jay Kamdar, Joint Secretaries Chandresh Meghani and Parimal Ajmera, along with members Paresh Dattari and Gitanjali Thakkar.

Celebrate Republic Day 2026 with Exclusive ASUS Laptop Offers

MI News Service, Kolkata : ASUS, a Taiwanese tech giant, is celebrating the spirit of India's Republic Day with exciting offers across its wide range of laptops. As part of the Republic Day Sale, consumers can upgrade their digital experience with cutting-edge ASUS laptops, ranging from high-performance gaming machines to sleek and lightweight productivity devices. The offers span across ASUS' popular product line-ups, including ROG, TUF, Vivobook, and Zenbook series.

During this limited-period festive sale, customers can enjoy savings of up to 19% on select ASUS laptops, making it an ideal time to invest in advanced technology and best-in-class performance. These special Republic Day offers will be available till 26th January 2026 at leading electronics retail chains, including Reliance Digital, Croma, and Vijay Sales, ensuring easy access for customers across the country. Customers can also enjoy offers on ASUS AiO PCs, Consumer & Gaming DT and Accessories across all platforms.

In addition to the festive discounts, ASUS customers can also avail attractive bank and card finance offers, including No Cost EMI, low-cost EMI and IBID options on select models. To add more value, ASUS is also offering extended warranty plans and exclusive goodies starting at just ₹99, redeemable via the ASUS Promo website during the offer period.

Link: <https://asuspromo.in/home>

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ASUS Vivobook S14 TP3402VAO-LZ612WS INTEL I5-13420H / 16GB (8*2) DDR4 / 512GB 66,990 4% 63,990 ASUS Exclusive Stores, ROG Stores, Croma, Flipkart

ASUS Vivobook 15 M1502YA-BQ703WS AMD R7-5825U / 16GB (8*2) DDR4 / 512GB 49,990 4% 47,990 Amazon, eShop

TUF A15 2025F A 5 0 6 N C G - HN200WS AMD Ryzen™ 7 7445HS / 4GB GDDR6 NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 3050 78,990 13% 68990 ASUS Exclusive Stores, ROG Stores, Croma, Vijay Sales & Reliance Digital

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TUF A16 2025F A 6 0 8 P P - QT014WS AMD Ryzen™ 9 8940HX / 8GB GDDR7 NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 5070 189,990 21% 149990 All

ROG Strix G16 2025 G614PR-RV032WS AMD Ryzen™ 9 8940HX / 12GB GDDR7 NVIDIA® GeForce RTX™ 5070 239,990 24% 181990

A tribal village-themed pandal was seen at the BNR Utkarsh Sangh Puja Pandal

► Senior journalist Awadhesh Kumar inaugurated the pandal. **MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan.26 :** Saraswati Puja was celebrated with traditional fervor and gaiety at 74/1/14 & 15, BNR South Colony, South Eastern Railway. It symbolizes knowledge, education, and the arrival of the new harvest. Young people wear yellow clothes, install the idol in community pandals, and offer prayers with their books. Community programs and the distribution of prasad were the main attractions for the locals. Members of the Utkarsh Sangh said that the pandal was decorated in the style of a tribal village, similar to how Saraswati Puja is celebrated in tribal villages. The program was inaugurated by senior journalist Awadhesh Kumar by lighting the lamp.

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Revenge after jail: Woman burnt alive by ex-boyfriend

MI News Service, Jalpaiguri: In a chilling of revenge that has sent shockwaves across North Bengal, a young woman was allegedly set a fire by her former lover in Rajganj, Jalpaiguri district, after he was released from jail in a rape case filed by the same woman. The victim is now battling for her life at North Bengal Medical College and Hospital, while police have arrested the prime accused.

According to police family, the accused, Sariful Alam, had been in a long-term relationship with the victim, a resident of the Sanjayasikata area under Rajganj block. During the relationship, Sariful married another woman but allegedly continued to coerce his former girlfriend into maintaining contact. In July 2024, he reportedly renewed his promise of marriage and

sexually assaulted her at an abandoned location in Zamindar Para. Subsequently, the woman approached the police, accusing Sariful of sexual exploitation on the false promises of marriage. He was arrested and later served a jail sentence. Sariful returned to the village approximately five months ago, nursing a grudge, the victim's family claims. The family alleged that on Wednesday night, Sariful the victim's house and called her outside under the pretext of a conversion. Barely 200 meters from her home, he allegedly poured petrol on her and set her ablaze before feeling the scene. In a shocking attempt to suppress the crime, Sariful and his reportedly rescued the critically burnt woman and moved her across several private hospitals. At the medical facilities, they al-



legedly introduced themselves as the victim's husband and father in law to mislead authorities. Eventually, the woman was admitted to North Bengal Medical College and Hospital in a critical condition. The victim's family, unaware of her

whereabouts, began searching for her from Thursday morning. Her uncle, Khalil Mohammad, later learned through police sources that his niece was undergoing treatment at the medical college. "My brother died of cancer three years ago. The girl's mother is bedridden. She was the sole breadwinner of the family," Khalil said. "Sariful ruined her life with false promises, went to jail for rape, and after coming out, tried to burn her alive for revenge. At the hospital, he and his father lied about their identities. We want the strictest punishment — nothing less than death." The incident has triggered widespread outrage and tension in the Rajganj area. Jalpaiguri Superintendent of Police Y Raghuvanshi confirmed that the prime accused has been arrested and is currently

under interrogation. "The victim's statement has been recorded. We are thoroughly investigating all aspects of the case, including the attempt to destroy evidence," the SP said. Sariful's father has also been named in the case for allegedly aiding in the destruction of evidence and attempting to mislead hospital authorities. Rajganj MLA Khageshwar Roy condemned the incident and assured full support to the victim's family. "This is an extremely heinous crime. We will ensure the administration takes all necessary steps so that the culprits receive exemplary punishment," he said. As the woman fights for survival, the case has once again raised urgent questions about women's safety, accountability after conviction, and the failure to protect survivors even after legal action is taken.



On the occasion of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, a blood donation camp was organized at Netaji Indoor Stadium under the leadership of Babun Banerjee (Boma Da) of the Kalighat Sporting Lovers Association. Senior Trinamool leader Subrata Bakshi, along with other prominent Trinamool leaders, attended the event. While Subrata Bakshi delivered his speech, Mamata Banerjee's brother, Babun Banerjee, stood nearby. Also present were Ward 63 Councillor and Borough 7 Chairperson Sushmita Bhattacharya, MLA Alok Das, and several other dignitaries.

Kotak Rings in 30 Years

MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan. : Kotak Mahindra Bank marked 30 years of being listed on the National Stock Exchange with a bell ringing ceremony that celebrated the Bank's journey alongside India's rise as a strong, trusted and modern financial market. What began as a small NBFC in the 1980s has grown into one of India's most respected financial institutions moving in step with the country's deepening financial system.

Nuvoco Vistas

MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan. : Nuvoco Vistas Corp. Ltd., a leading building materials Company in India, announced its financial results for the quarter ended December 31, 2025. The Company continues its progress on the strategic capacity expansion in the East, coupled with the project execution at the Vadraj Cement facilities, which remains on track, with the operationalisation of the Clinker unit and Grinding units planned in phases starting in Q3 FY27.

IBM

MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan.: IBM (NYSE: IBM) today announced IBM Sovereign Core, the industry's first AI-ready sovereign-enabled software for enterprises, governments and service providers to build, deploy and manage AI-ready sovereign environments. Organizations around the world are facing a growing imperative to exercise control over their technology infrastructure.

11th Edition of Learn SA Successfully engaged 60+ travel trade partners in Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata, 24 Jan. : Marking another milestone in its journey to engage key travel trade partners across India, South African Tourism commenced its latest multi-city 'Learn South Africa' workshop series in Kolkata on 16th January 2026. Reflecting the steady rise in outbound interest from non-metro markets, the initiative will conclude with its final leg in Lucknow on 27 February 2026.



Preparations are in full swing as the final dress rehearsal for the Annual Republic Day Parade took place at Red Road in Kolkata on Saturday.

Bratya Basu Announces Reopening of Madhyamik Enrolment Portal Ahead of Exams

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state government has made a significant announcement regarding Madhyamik admit cards and enrolment. The Madhyamik examination is scheduled to begin on February 2 and will continue till February 12. Ahead of the crucial examination, State Education Minister Bratya Basu on Saturday (January 24) announced that the on-line enrolment portal would be reopened to ensure that no eligible student is deprived of appearing for the exam due to administrative lapses. In a post on social media platform X, the Education Minister on Saturday stated that several eligible candidates were unable to receive their enrolment details and admit cards for the 2026 Madhyamik examination due to negligence on the part of their respective schools. Keeping the interest of students as the highest priority, the School Education Department and the West Bengal Board of Secondary Education (WBBSE) have jointly decided to take corrective measures. As per the announcement, the online enrolment portal will remain open from 12 noon on January 27, 2026, to 12 noon on January 28, 2026. During this 24-hour window, eligible candidates who were earlier left out will be able to complete their enrolment process and secure their admit cards.

Cabinet approves continuation of Atal Pension Yojana till 2030-31

From PG 1 funding to meet the scheme's sustainability needs. Launched on May 9, 2015, APY aims to build a pensioned society by encouraging small but regular savings from workers who do not have access to formal pension systems. The scheme has become a key part of India's social security framework. As of January 19, 2026, more than 8.66 crore people have enrolled under APY. The government said sustained support is needed to keep awareness high, strengthen implementation and ensure the scheme remains stable in the long run.

Shashi Tharoor remains unapologetic over Operation Sindoor stance

From PG 1 a global icon of space science, at its 2026 edition of the Kozhikode beach. The legendary astronaut joined the event. She is well-known for her significant contributions to space exploration, achieving a record as the first woman to fly on Boeing's Starliner spacecraft during its initial crewed test flight. She is among the most experienced space walkers and the first person ever to run a marathon in space.

Abhishek Calls Block-Level Protests Over 'Unplanned' SIR

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Trinamool Congress will hold block-level protest marches across West Bengal on Sunday against what it termed an "unplanned" Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The programme was announced by party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee at a mega virtual meeting on Saturday. January 25 marks National Voters' Day, and Abhishek announced twin protest programmes on the occasion. Along with protest rallies in every block, TMC representatives will also submit memoranda to offices of the Election Commission, highlighting alleged irregularities and harassment linked to the SIR process. The party has



claimed that fear and pressure related to the revision exercise have led to the deaths of voters and Booth Level Officers (BLOs). The Special Intensive Revision of voter lists began in West Bengal in October last year, with the final rolls scheduled to be published on February 14. From the outset, the ruling party has raised objections, arguing

that the process is being conducted in an "unplanned" and hurried manner. The TMC has alleged that at least 126 people have died so far due to stress and harassment associated with the exercise. Addressing a virtual meeting of BLA-2s and booth presidents, Abhishek laid out a detailed protest strategy and issued multiple instructions to party workers. He directed party cadres and supporters to take to the streets in defence of voters' rights. TMC state president Subrata Bakshi was also present at the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Abhishek said that despite repeated deprivation by the Centre, Bengal had shown the way by building a self-reliant state.

CCC Empowers the Business Community and Professionals with Expert Insights on Heart Health



MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant step towards promoting preventive health-care and workplace well-being, the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce (CCC) organised an insightful Heart Health seminar on January 24, at The Park Hotel, Kolkata. The session brought together senior business leaders, professionals and industry stakeholders to address the growing burden of cardiovascular diseases among working populations. The seminar featured an expert address by renowned cardiologist Dr. Anjan Siotia, Director, Department of Cardiology, BM Birla Heart Hospital,

Kolkata, who shared evidence-based insights on cardiovascular prevention, stress management and heart-healthy practices tailored for high-pressure professional environments. With heart disease emerging as a leading health concern across age groups, particularly among urban professionals, the session focused on practical and actionable strategies to reduce risk factors and enhance long-term well-being. Dr. Siotia highlighted sedentary lifestyles, chronic stress, unhealthy dietary habits and lack of regular health screenings as key contributors to rising cardiac issues.

Bengal celebrates girl child and empower her every single day at all crossroads of life: Mamata

From PG 1 movement to schools by grant of a bicycle to each student. She also gets support from schemes like Shikshashree, Aikyashree, Medhashree, Taruner Swapna, in addition to getting free textbooks, school uniform, shoes, midday meals, etc as further assistance from our government in her journey along the path of education". The Chief minister further stated that "when the girl finally marries, she gets one-time financial assistance under our Rupashree scheme. Then, an adult senior woman is enrolled in the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme, which now provides financial independence to 2.21 crore women of Bengal who get direct monthly cash transfer from state government. As the prime anchor of the household, she also gets Swasthya Sathi card, which gives her and her family assured health insurance coverage @ Rs 5 lakh per year". Mamata Banerjee said "Today, Bengal's daughters are excelling in every field, from the laboratories of science to the podiums of international sports.

Amartya Sen Flags 'Haste' in SIR Process

MI News Service, Kolkata: Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has raised serious concerns over the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, cautioning that the process is being carried out with undue haste and could adversely affect democratic principles, especially with the Assembly elections approaching. Sen said that while the SIR can be a constructive democratic exercise, the necessary conditions for it to be fair and effective are currently absent in West Bengal. He stressed that a proper revision of electoral rolls requires sufficient time and careful implementation. "A well-planned and adequately timed review of electoral rolls can strengthen democracy, but that is not what we are witnessing in West Bengal right now," Sen said.



According to Sen, the revision process is being rushed, leaving voters with inadequate time to submit documents to establish their eligibility. He pointed out that many people are struggling to complete the formalities within the limited timeframe provided. "This approach is unjust to voters and harmful to the democratic framework of the country," he reportedly re-

marked. Sen also referred to his own experience during the SIR exercise, revealing that he was summoned for a hearing after the Election Commission flagged a logical discrepancy regarding the age difference between him and his mother, Amita Sen. He noted that even Election Commission officials appeared constrained by time pressures. Highlighting broader concerns, Sen said documentation-related challenges are common, particularly among individuals born in rural India. He shared that he himself does not possess a birth certificate, though his issue was eventually resolved. However, Sen expressed apprehension that many citizens lack the support or resources needed to navigate such processes, potentially risking their right to vote.

Luxury Car Crashes Into Guardrail during Republic Day Rehearsal on Red Road

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of Republic Day, a fresh incident on Kolkata's Red Road during a military rehearsal has once again raised concerns over security and reckless driving. On Saturday morning, a luxury car rammed into a guardrail while the Republic Day parade rehearsal was underway, triggering memories of the horrific 2016 accident that claimed the life of an Indian Air Force officer at the same location.

According to police sources, the incident occurred around 7:30 am when personnel deployed on Red Road noticed a black Skoda Octavia speeding towards the parade rehearsal area. Police officers immediately attempted to stop the vehicle.

However, the driver reportedly lost control and the car crashed into a roadside guardrail, bringing it to a halt. Fortunately, no injuries were reported in the incident. Eyewitnesses claimed that the vehicle was travelling at a very high speed and had three to four young occupants inside. The presence of a fast-moving civilian vehicle near a highly restricted zone during a Republic Day rehearsal caused panic among security personnel for a brief period. The Maidan police swiftly detained the driver along with the vehicle. The police have seized the luxury car and initiated an investigation. Preliminary findings suggest discrepancies in the vehicle's documents.

India-Cuba Trade Ties Discussed at MCCI Session

MI News Service, Kolkata: A special session was organised by the Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised with H. E. Mr. Juan Carlos Marsán Aguilera, Ambassador of Cuba in India on "India-Cuba Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation" in Kolkata on Saturday. Maiky Díaz Pérez, PhD, First Secretary and Spouse of Ambassador of Cuba in India also addressed the session. Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman of the Council on Foreign Trade, MCCI, highlighted Cuba's strategic Caribbean location, highly educated workforce, and strong biotechnology sector. He emphasised that Cuba is a key partner in India's mission to strengthen ties with the Global South, as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Ambassador Aguilera lauded the Kolkata International Book Fair and expressed Cuba's inter-



Juan Carlos Marsán Aguilera, Ambassador of Cuba to India, addresses the MCCI special session on "India-Cuba Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation", alongside Prof. Maiky Díaz Pérez, PhD, First Secretary, Embassy of Cuba, and Arun Kumar Garodia, Chairman, Council on Foreign Trade on Agriculture, Food Processing, Tea & Jute, MCCI, in Kolkata on Saturday.

est in participating next year. He highlighted priority sectors for bilateral cooperation, including agro-industry, bio-pharma, health, IT, energy, sports, and tourism. Noting Cuba's leadership in biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, he mentioned that Cuban bio-pharma products are exported to 45 countries. He also spoke on Cuba's energy transition to renewables, the availability of land for companies, and tourism infrastructure, including 10 international airports, three cruise terminals, and 10 international marinas, along with an electronic visa procedure. Prof. Maiky Díaz Pérez stressed that collaboration can enhance people-to-people ties, provided specific areas of cooperation are identified. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Suraj Agarwal, Co-Chairman, Council on Agriculture, Food Processing, Tea & Jute, MCCI.

Uncertainties over meeting SC deadline for issuing list of names in Bengal under SIR

From PG 1 Block offices in every taluka as well as in the Ward offices in the city)". "On the face of it, some correction exercise has to be (under)taken. But it must be transparent, with ample opportunity, without inconvenience to the voters," said Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, presiding over a three-judge bench which included Justices Dipankar Datta and Joymalya Bagchi. The list to be published will include those names having data discrepancies as well as "unmapped" voters, totalling around 1.26 crore. Official sources said the final-day delay has created uncertainty over complying with the directions. "We have the data, but the field-level execution depends entirely on BLOs," an official said, adding that "meeting the court's time-

line may not be feasible under the circumstances". Meanwhile, more than 3 lakh voters categorised as "unmapped" failed to appear for hearings despite being served notices, the official said. "Around 10 per cent of the unmapped voters did not turn up for hearings," he said adding in order to speed up the SIR exercise, the EC has decided to appoint 294 additional senior micro-observers at the assembly segment level. "The objective is to ensure transparency and faster disposal of pending cases," he said. A total of 7.62 crore enumeration forms were distributed among voters in the state, and the EC on December 16 published draft electoral rolls, in which over 58 lakh names were deleted, because of deaths, shifting and duplication in entries.



Students and devotees play with colours during Saraswati idol immersion at Judges Ghat in Kolkata on Saturday.

Trade agreements worldwide opening up new opportunities for youth: PM Modi

From PG 1 inception, more than 11 lakh recruitment letters have been issued through Rozgar Melas organised across the country, it said. The 18th Rozgar Mela was organised at 45 locations across the country, and newly recruited candidates, selected from all parts of India, joined various ministries and departments of the government. The new appointees will be serving in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, Department of Higher Education, among others.

Through this platform, lakhs of young people have already received appointment letters in different government departments," the Prime Minister said. Highlighting India's expanding global engagement, PM Modi noted that the Union government is signing trade and mobility agreements with several countries, opening up new avenues for Indian youth. "These agreements are creating multiple opportunities for our young workforce," he added. The Prime Minister also pointed to ongoing reforms aimed at simplifying governance and boosting economic activity. "The country has set off on a reform express. Its objective is to make life easier and business easier," he said. More than 11 lakh recruitment letters have been issued so far through Rozgar Melas held across the country.

India transitioned from "emerging" status to "pivotal" global economic force

From PG 1 model has been the creation of digital public infrastructure. "Platforms like digital identity, real-time payments, and consent-based data sharing, and all these have given a certain kind of advantage for the Indian economy," they said. The union minister also said lower transaction costs, formalised millions of entrepreneurs and enterprises, enabled startups to innovate without needing massive capital and delivered inclusion, not as a charity, but as a capability. "This is why India is no longer just a consumer market, but a digital global laboratory," he added. KPMG International Global Chairman and CEO Bill Thomas said India's evolution over the years sums up the incredible momentum being built around physical and digital infrastructure. Even more importantly, every single year, digital infrastructure has actually positioned India well, he added. Yezdi Nagpurewalla, CEO of KPMG in India, highlighted that the Indian government is reshaping opportunities and that India's greatest opportunities lie in domestic consumption and domestic capabilities. "India, as a nation, as a geography, is in a very, very unique position today. And it is unique because, on one hand, we are building physical infrastructure. But we are parallelly building digital infrastructure," he added. EXL Chairman and CEO Rohit Kapoor said, "Everybody is starting from scratch in terms of the implementation of AI models and implementing AI into the workflow and using it for business. "So, this is the first time that a technological intervention is being made where nobody has any experience in terms of how this needs to be done. And therefore, the talent pool in India, instead of being directed on what to do, is actually being challenged in terms of how to apply AI correctly on behalf of the world," he said. During the session, a CII-KPMG report titled 'Shift from emerging to pivotal: India in the new geoeconomic order' was also launched. CII Director General Chandrajit Banerjee emphasised the social dimensions of public investments and the inclusivity of India's growth. He also highlighted the manufacturing growth in India driven by technology and AI, the labour reforms underway, and the simplification of the Goods and Services Tax.

Commissioning Of First Single Line Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) At Sanjha In Malda Division – A First On Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata : Under the guidance of Divisional Railway Manager, Malda, Shri Manish Kumar Gupta, in a major step towards the modernisation of signalling infrastructure and enhancement of operational efficiency, Malda Division of Eastern Railway successfully commissioned the first-ever Single Line Intermediate Block Signalling (IBS) over Eastern Railway at Sanjha on January 22, 2026. The commissioning of this system marks a significant capacity augmentation in the Tikani-Dhauni section of the Bhagalpur-Godda loop.

The newly commissioned IBS has effectively bifurcated the long block section between Tikani and Dhauni into two shorter block sections, enabling smoother and more efficient train operations. This optimisation has substantially reduced train headway, thereby increasing



line capacity and minimising detention of trains. As a result, both daily commuters and long-distance passengers are expected to benefit through improved punctuality and better train availability.

The project incorporates state-of-the-art signalling and telecommunication systems to ensure enhanced safety and reliability. The IBS is equipped with Dual MSDAC (Multi-Section Digital Axle Counter)

manufactured by M/s Frauscher, ensuring accurate train detection even under adverse conditions. A Dual UFSBI (Universal Fail-Safe Block Interface) Multiplexer has been provided to ensure communication redundancy, while an integrated Data Logger enables real-time monitoring of events and diagnostics.

Simultaneously, the existing Daido make Tokenless Block Instrument (TLBI) in the Tikani-Dhauni section has been replaced with SS-BPAC(D) (Solid State Block Proving Axle Counter – Digital), marking a transition to fully digital and maintenance-friendly block working.

The successful commissioning of the first Single Line IBS over Eastern Railway at Sanjha is a significant milestone for Malda Division and reflects Eastern Railway's continued commitment to adopting modern technologies to enhance safety, efficiency and passenger con-

A NEW ERA BEGINS: Sealdah-Banaras Amrit Bharat Express Commences Its First-Ever Commercial Journey

MI News Service, Kolkata : A new era of rail connectivity unfolds today as the Sealdah-Banaras Amrit Bharat Express (Train No. 22587) begins its maiden journey from Sealdah Station. This high-speed service marks the very first time an Amrit Bharat category train connects these two ancient spiritual and cultural powerhouses—Sealdah and Banaras—directly.

This journey is set to be an enthusiastic experience for passengers, combining the heritage of the two cities with the latest in rail engineering. What truly sets this train apart is its cutting-edge new technology, featuring engines at both ends for superior



speed and a smoother, jerk-free ride, making it a pioneer in modern rail travel.

Sealdah – Banaras Amrit Bharat exp. No-22587 will depart from Sealdah (Tri-Weekly) every Saturday, Monday, and Wednesday at 19:30. It will reach its first major stop at Durgapur (Arr/Dep-

21:19/21:21), followed by Asansol Jn. (Arr/Dep-21:42/21:45), Madhupur Jn. (Arr/Dep-22:35/22:37), Jasidih Jn.(Arr/Dep-22:56/22:58). The journey continues into the next day, reaching Patna Jn.(Arr/Dep-02:43/02:50, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.(Arr/Dep-06:10/06:15), finally reaching Banaras

station at 07:20 in the morning, and 22588 Banaras – Sealdah Amrit Bharat Express (tri-weekly) will leave Banaras at 22:10 hrs. on every Friday, Sunday and Tuesday and reach Sealdah at 09:55 hrs next day.

The train features a modern 18-coach composition, including 8 Sleeper Class, 8 General 2nd Class , and 2 LSLRDP(Divyang-jan) coaches.

The arrival of the Amrit Bharat Express at Sealdah signifies a major leap in passenger comfort and technical excellence, promising a faster and more vibrant travel experience for all and improving long-distance connectivity.

Name Change
I, Yousof Ali Mollick And Yousof Mallick (old Names) Son Of Late Yakub Mollick, Residing At Vill & Post -Rabibhag, Dist-Howrah, Pin-711312, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Yousof Ali Mallick (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/01/2026. Yousof Ali Mollick And Yousof Mallick (Old Names) And Yousof Ali Mallick (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Dhruv Kapoor (Old Name) Son Of Pannalal Kapoor, Residing At Ig-6/2, Ashwini Nagar, Dist - 24 Parganas North, Pin-700159, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dhruv Kumar Kapoor (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Allipore On 21/01/2026. Dhruv Kapoor (Old Name) And Dhruv Kumar Kapoor (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sagfata Bibi (Old Name) Wife Of Reyajuddin Ansari, Residing At Uttar Momipara, Bhatol, Raiganj, Dist -Uttar Dinajpur, Pin - 733156, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sagfata Bibi (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2026. Sagfata Bibi (Old Name) And Sagfata Bibi (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Riyazuddin Ansari (Old Name) Son Of Mohedi Hussain Ansari, Residing At Ansaripara, Bhatol, Raiganj, Dist - Uttar Dinajpur, Pin - 733156, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Reyajuddin Ansari (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2026.Riyazuddin Ansari (Old Name) And Reyajuddin Ansari (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Manuda Bibi (Old Name) Wife Of Hafizul Islam Mondal, Residing At Vill -Bhubanpur, Po - Bhabanipur, Ps- Haroa, Dist- 24 Parganas North, Pin- 743445, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mahamuda Bibi (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2026. Manuda Bibi (Old Name) And Mahamuda Bibi (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Bhavesh Chovatia, (DOB 26th February 1865), son of Rajnikant D Chovatia and Bharti R Chovatia, residing at Flat 6A, 45/4A, Chakraberia Road South, Bhawanipur, Kolkata-700025, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Bhavesh Chovatia, Bhavesh Rajnikant Chovatia, Bhavesh R Chovatia refer to the same person, myself via affidavit before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 20th January 2026.

Name Change
I, MD. FAKIR (Old Name), S/o.- LT. Abdul Qadir, R/o.- M.N. Ghosh Road, P.O. & P.S.-Raniganj, Dist.-Paschim Bardhaman-713347, have change my name & shall henceforth be known as MD. FAQUEER (NEW NAME), vide Affidavit No.1445/26, Dtd. 20.01.2026, before the I.D. Chief Judicial Magistrate, at Asansol Court. That, MD. FAKIR (Old Name) & MD. FAQUEER (NEW NAME) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Chabi Pradhan is Mother of Prankrishna Pradhan residing at Vill- Bamanbirua, Post- Anikola, P.S.- Dantan, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur, (WB) Pin- 721457 have changed my name from Chabi Pradhan to Chabirani Pradhan for all future purpose vide affidavit no. 430 dated 20/01/2026.

NAME CHANGE
I, Samjed Ali Sk, S/o.- Late Sk Maulabox,R/o.-Vill.-Garhsafat,P.O.&P.S.: Moyna, Dist. Purba Medinipur, West Bengal shall be known as Sk. Shamjed, changed vide Notary, Purba Medinipur Judges Court (Affidavit No.- 5726/26) Dated: 24.01.2025. Henceforth,Samjed Ali Sk & Sk. Shamjed is the same and identical person.

Name Change
I, GIRIRAJ MUNDHRA (old name) S/o SHRI MIWAS MUNDHRA, residing at 43A, NIMTALLAH GHAT STREET, PO: BEADON STREET, PS-JORABAGAN, KOLKATA-700006, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as GIRIRAJ KUMAR MUNDHRA (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. GIRIRAJ KUMAR MUNDHRA (new name) and GIRIRAJ MUNDHRA (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, BINAY KEJRIWAL (old name) S/O NAND LAL KEJRIWAL, residing at FLAT-1A,CLASH ROAD-9/4 BUKHALASH ROAD, MOMINPUR, KHIDDIRPORE, KOLKATA-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as BINAY KUMAR KEJRIWAL (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/01/2026. BINAY KUMAR KEJRIWAL (new name) and BINAY KEJRIWAL (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subrata Kumar Sarkar (old name) son of Supravat Kumar Sarkar, residing at 52A/1A, Nazir Lane, Khidderpore, P.S.- Watgunge, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Subrata Sarkar (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Subrata Sarkar (new name) and Subrata Kumar Sarkar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Amrit Lal Gayen (old name) S/O Manimohan Gayen, residing at Purkait Gheri, Kumrapara, Dist.-South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743383, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Amrita Gayen (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 21/01/2026. Amrita Gayen (new name) and Amrit Lal Gayen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhuri (old name) son of Abdulla Reja Chowdhury, residing at Apartment- Primarc Allure, 14 Matheswartara Road, Sing Chug Sauce Factory, Tangra China Town, VTC: Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhury (new name) and Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhuri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdulla Reja Chowdhuri (old name) son of Md Rustam Ali Chowdhury, residing at 8th FR, Flat-8C, Primarc Allure, 14 Matheswartara Road, Sing Chug Sauce Factory, Tangra China Town, VTC: Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdulla Reja Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Abdulla Reja Chowdhury (new name) and Abdulla Reja Chowdhuri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sarbani Das Munshi (old name) wife of Sanjoy Bhattacharya, residing at Natun Pali, Purbra Para, P.S.-Sonarpur, Kolkata- 700150, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sarbani Bhattacharya (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Sarbani Bhattacharya (new name) and Sarbani Das Munshi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mamataj Begum (Old Name) Wife Of Kazi Saogat Rahaman, Residing At Vill & Post - Rabibhag, Dist-Howrah, Pin-711312,West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mamtaj Begum (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 21/01/2026. Mamataj Begum (Old Name) And Mamtaj Begum (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Anwar Khan S/O Late Sabir Khan @ Hossain, declare that my father said name Sabir Hossain (father old name), residing at Old Calcutta Road, Mondalpara, P.O. & P.S. -Titagarh, under Dist. North 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700119, West Bengal, India, I have changed my father name and he shall henceforth be known as Sabir Khan (father new name), as declared Before The Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Barrackpore, vide an affidavit SL No. 485, dated 21/01/2026. Sabir Khan and Sabir Hossain both are same and one identical person (my father).

Name Change
I, Hamid Md Abdul Hamid(Old Name),Son Of Md Nurur Rahman,Residing At Vill- Usthi, Ps-Usthi, South 24 Pgs -743375west Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Abdul Hamid(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2026. Hamid Md Abdul Hamid And Md Abdul Hamid Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Diljit Kour (old name) wife of Akhal Singh, residing at 274 M.A Sarani Birati, North Dumdu (M). Birati, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700051, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Diljit Kaur (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Diljit Kaur (new name) and Diljit Kour (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, 'nayab Bushra' D/O Abdul Raashid Raj And W/O Azhar Hussain Resident Of 47C, Canal East Road, Kolkata- 700011 Hereby Declare That My Mother's Actual Name Is Shahnaz Begum Which Is Indicated In Her Voter Id But Her Name Shahnaz Begum In Her Adhar Card And Sahnaz Begum In My Previous Passport. So Shahnaz Begum Shahnaz Begum And Sahnaz Begum Is Same And One Identical Person Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2025.

Name Change
I Nayab Bushra D/O Abdul Raashid Raj And W/O Azhar Hussain Residing At 47C, Canal East Road, Kolkata- 700011 Do Here Declare That Father's Old Name Was Abdul Rashid Which Is Indicated In My Previous Passport And Pan Card. But He Has Changed His New Name As Abdul Raashid Raj In His Voter Id And Adhar Card. So Abdul Raashid Raj And Abdul Rashid Is Same And One Identical Person Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 22/01/2025.

Name Change
I'Md.Akamgir'S/Omd.Faqrae Alam Resident Of 18H/11,Grish Vidya Ratan Lane Kolkata-700009 Do Hereby Declare That My Original Date Of Birth Is 21.01.1972 Which Is Recorded In My School Certificate But In My Voter Id Adhar Card And Pan Card Wrongly Recorded As 01.01.1971 In Place My Actual Date Of Birth As 21.01.1972 Vide Affidvit Sworn Before Ist Class Judicial Magistrate No.1200 At Sesldah.

Name Change
I'Md.Alamgir'S/O Md.Faqrae Alam Residing At 18H/11,Grish Vidya Ratan Lane Kolkata- 700009 Do Hereby Declare That My Father's Actual Name Md.Faqrae Alam Which Is Recorded In His Ration Card And Voter Id But His Name Wrongly Mentioned In My Voter Id As Md.Faqrag Alam And Md.Faqre Alam In My Adhar Card And Pan Card And Md.Fakhruddin In My School Certificate And Fakre Alam In His Death Certificate. So Md.Faqrae Alam, Md.Faqrag Alam, Md.Faqre Alam, Md.Fakre Alam And Fakhruddin All Is Same And One Identical Person Affidvit Sworn Before Ist Class Judicial Magistrate No.695 At Sesldah.

Name Change
I, DORAP MOLLIK (old name) son of SORAP MALLIK, residing at HOGALDURI, KALIAHAZRA, BAS-ANTI-743312, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as DORAP MALLIK (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. DORAP MALLIK (new name) and DORAP MOLLIK (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Elderly Man Dies of Heart Attack Amid SIR Panic; TMC Slams Election Commission

MI News Service, Mathabhanga: In a shocking incident that has reignited the controversy surrounding the Special Identification Report (SIR) process, 65-year-old Rahman Bastadar of Khaterbari, Angarkata Paradubi Gram Panchayat, suffered a fatal heart attack on Saturday morning while attempting to inquire about a SIR notice issued in his son's name.

According to family sources, Bastadar visited the local BLO's residence to seek clarification on the SIR-related notice. He reportedly became increasingly anxious during the visit and collapsed due to a sudden heart attack. Despite prompt efforts by his family to rush him to Mathabhanga Subdistrict Hospital, doctors pronounced him dead upon arrival. The incident has sparked outrage among local residents and political leaders. Trinamool Con-

gress leaders, including State Youth Secretary Kamlesh Chandra Adhikari, visited the bereaved family, condemning the Election Commission and alleging that the SIR process is causing undue panic and distress among ordinary citizens. Family members, visibly distraught, broke down in front of the leaders and directly vented their anger against the authorities. Police from Ghok-sadanga Police Station arrived at the scene to investigate the incident. The case has intensified political pressure in the region, as the ruling party continues to highlight the perceived flaws and human cost of the SIR system. The Mathabhanga tragedy has once again thrust the SIR process into the spotlight, raising urgent questions about its impact on vulnerable communities and the accountability of electoral authorities.

Darjeeling Shock: Five Punjab Tourists Arrested for Attack on Local Driver

MI News Service, Darjeeling: A violent altercation in Darjeeling has left the local community shaken after five tourists from Chandigarh, Punjab, allegedly attacked a local driver with a sharp weapon. The accused, identified as Sukjit Singh, Lakhinder Singh, Harshvindra Singh, Parvendra Singh, and Man-deep Singh, were apprehended by Darjee-



ling Sadar police and produced before the district court on Saturday.

According to police and eyewitness reports, the incident occurred in the Phatak area near Singhmari when the tourists, visiting Darjeeling, clashed with the local driver over the diversion of their vehicle. The verbal argument escalated into a physical confrontation, during which one of the tourists brandished a sharp weapon and injured the driver's finger. The injured driver immediately re-

ported the attack to the local drivers' association, prompting a swift response from law enforcement. "There was an argument between tourists and local drivers over the turning of a vehicle. Allegations of injuries caused by a sharp weapon have been made. Five individuals have been arrested based on these allegations," confirmed Dheeraj Das, Additional Superintendent of Police (Sadar), Darjeeling. The incident has sparked widespread concern in Darjeeling, with authorities investigating the circumstances surrounding the violent episode. The arrest of the tourists underscores the police's prompt action in containing the situation and addressing public safety concerns.

Birbhum Stir: BJP Candidate's Name in Maharashtra Voter List Sparks SIR Controversy

MI News Service, Birbhum: A political storm erupted in Birbhum after it emerged that Ujjwala Burungal, a BJP candidate for the Maharashtra Zilla Parishad elections, was also listed in the voter rolls of West Bengal. The matter surfaced during the ongoing Special Identification Report (SIR) hearings, fueling accusations and counterclaims between the ruling Trinamool Congress and the BJP. Burungal, a resident of Nashik, Maharashtra, contested the Zilla Parishad elections there, scheduled for February 5, 2026. Her name, however, was found in the 2025 West Bengal voter list for ward number 12 of Dubrajpur Municipality. She appeared for the SIR hearing after submitting the required forms to clarify her registration. The Trinamool Congress seized on the development, alleging a "conspiracy" to include voters from other states in Bengal's electoral rolls. "Our leader Mamata Banerjee has repeatedly warned about attempts to insert out-of-state voters into Bengal's lists. This case proves our concern," party sources said.

Name Change
I, Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhuri (old name) son of Abdulla Reja Chowdhury, residing at Apartment- Primarc Allure, 14 Matheswartara Road, Sing Chug Sauce Factory, Tangra China Town, VTC: Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhury (new name) and Sharwar Ahmed Chowdhuri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdulla Reja Chowdhuri (old name) son of Md Rustam Ali Chowdhury, residing at 8th FR, Flat-8C, Primarc Allure, 14 Matheswartara Road, Sing Chug Sauce Factory, Tangra China Town, VTC: Gobinda Khatic Road, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdulla Reja Chowdhury (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 22/01/2026. Abdulla Reja Chowdhury (new name) and Abdulla Reja Chowdhuri (old name) both are same and one identical person.

process. "Only the candidate can clarify her situation. The Election Commission will examine it. Legal voters will remain on the list; illegal entries will be excluded. If the allegations are correct, we will request the Commission to take action," he stated. Local officials noted procedural issues during the hearing. A Booth Level Officer (BLO) said the candidate and her husband had submitted the forms but were called for clarification due to mapping discrepancies. Shankar Burungale, her husband, explained, "Our family has lived in Dubrajpur for 70 years, though some members reside in Nashik. My wife had contested elections in Maharashtra, and her name was rightly on that list. She applied here now, as she continues to reside in Dubrajpur and for our son's education."The incident has reignited debates over the SIR process in West Bengal, with heightened scrutiny on voter registrations and political accountability. As the Election Commission examines the case, the controversy underscores the tensions between state authorities and opposition parties over alleged voter manipulation.

Historic Milestone: Jammu Division, Northern Railway Successfully Facilitates First Full Railway Rake (42 wagons) of Foodgrains (rice) to Kashmir Valley

MI News Service, New Delhi: In a significant leap toward strengthening the food security and logistics infrastructure of the Kashmir valley, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has successfully facilitated the arrival of the first-ever full railway rake of foodgrains (rice) at the Anantnag goods shed from Sangrur rail terminal in Punjab.

Earlier, the valley received a mini rake—consisting of 21 wagons carrying 1,384 tons—this achievement marks the transition to high-capacity rail transport. Following extensive deliberations with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) aimed at optimizing logistics and reducing transportation costs, a full-scale operation was greenlit.

Key Highlights:

- **Capacity Doubled:** The full rake comprised 42 wagons, carrying a total of 2,768 metric tons of rice.
- **Rapid Transit :** The consignment was loaded at the Sangrur rail terminal in Punjab on January 21st and reached Anantnag in less than 24 hours, demonstrating unprecedented efficiency in the supply chain.
- **Overcoming Challenges :** Despite a brief delay in unloading yesterday due to inclement weather, the handling operations were successfully completed today.
- **Impact on the Valley :** This milestone is expected to revolutionize the distribution network in the Kash-

mir Valley. By transitioning from mini rakes and road transport to full-capacity railway wagons, Railway department ensures:

- **Cost Efficiency:** Significant reduction in overall logistics and freight expenses.
- **Supply Stability :** A faster, more reliable method to maintain buffer stocks in the valley.
- **Environmental Benefits:** Reduced reliance on heavy truck traffic via the national highway.
- **This successful facilitation serves as a testament to the seamless coordination between the Railways, FCI, and the Jammu & Kashmir administration to ensure the seamless delivery of essential commodities to the public.**

Raina MLA Shampa Dhara Warns Election Commission Over SIR Harassment

MI News Service, East Burdwan: Shampa Dhara, Trinamool Congress MLA from Raina and former Speaker of the Assembly, on Saturday strongly criticized the Election Commission over the ongoing Special Identification Report (SIR) hearings, alleging deliberate harassment of voters. Appearing at the BDO office No. 1 in Raina, Dhara submitted multiple documents and warned that she would sit on a dharna if even a single valid voter from her constituency is excluded from the voter list. "I am a Scheduled Caste woman, elected three times. Women are being harassed. If the name of even one valid voter is left out, I will stage a hunger strike in front of the Commission," she declared. Dhara accused the Election Commission of repeatedly summoning citizens on trivial grounds despite all

necessary documents having been submitted during her election contests. "I am a public representative. I have provided all information to the Commission. Why call us again for hearings? This is deliberate harassment," she said, emphasizing plans for a larger movement in the coming days if the situation persists. The ruling party's stance has triggered a sharp response from the opposition. BJP leader Mrityunjay Chandra dismissed Dhara's allegations, accusing Trinamool of politicizing Scheduled Caste sentiments. "During their rule, Scheduled Castes were the most oppressed. If there is a minor discrepancy in spelling, the Commission can call citizens.

They have even summoned me," Chandra remarked. The incident has intensified political tension in East Burdwan, highlighting the growing controversy surrounding the SIR process and the escalating confrontations between the Trinamool Congress and the Election Commission.

Lucknow Horror: Father Kills 4-Year-Old Daughter Over Counting Exercise

MI News Service, Uttar Pradesh: In a shocking case of child cruelty, a four-year-old girl was beaten to death by her father, Krishna Jaiswal, after failing to count up to 50. The incident, which has sent ripples of outrage across the region, underscores the extreme consequences of domestic violence.

According to police reports, the incident occurred on January 21, when Jaiswal was teaching his daughter at home. Frustrated at her inability to complete the counting exercise, he reportedly attacked her with a bread rolling pin. The assault was so severe that the child lost consciousness. Panicking, the father took her to a nearby government hospital, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. In an attempt to conceal the crime, Jaiswal initially told his wife that the child had fallen down the stairs. However, upon seeing multiple injury marks on the girl's body, the mother grew suspicious and immediately alerted the police. During interrogation, Jaiswal confessed to the killing, stating that he had beaten the child out of anger over her inability to study.

Office of the BANKRA-I GRAM PANCHAYAT
Bankra, Dumjur, Howrah-711403
E-mail:pradhan@bankraipg@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
Encrypted electronic bids are hereby invited by the Pradhan on behalf of Bankra-I Gram Panchayat, Dumjur, Howrah from eligible bonafied contractors/agencies/bidders vide NIT reference / memo no.- 511/BGP-I(SM-91 TO 05) and 312/BGP-I (SI NO-01 TO 08). Dated : 22.01.2026 at the jurisdiction area of Bankra-I Gram Panchayat within Dumjur Block, Howrah, W.B. Last date for the online receipt of tender is 12/02/2026 at 17:00hrs. Details will be available at the website https://wbenders.gov.in
PRODHAN
Bankra-I Gram Panchayat
Dumjur, Howrah

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is for the awareness to the General Public that Original Sale Deed No- 4488/1976, Registered in Book - I, Vol No-55, Pages from 168 to 175, Registered before SIR Barasat (Bhupendra Nath Maitra described as Seller/Vendor and Nandadulal Banerjee and Others described Purchaser therein, area of land 17.125 Decimals) and Original Sale Deed No-4489/1976, Registered in Book- I, Vol No- 55, Pages from 176 to 183, Registered before SR Barasat (Bhupendra Nath Maitra described as Seller/Vendor and Debnabrata Banerjee and Others described Purchaser therein, area of land 17.125 Decimals) both deeds are lying and situated at Mouza: Chakmaghata, J.L.No. 26, Block: Barasat-II, Totuoi No. 146, Pargana: Anwarpur, Comprised in R.S. Dtg No. 90 (34.25 Decimals) under the local limits of Madhyanyagram Municipality, Ward No. 13, previously 6, Holding No. 19(pqr) and formerly 20, Chandigarh Main Road at P.S: Madhyanygram, under the jurisdiction of A.D.S.R Barasat, District: North 24 Parganas, had been missing from the custody of my Client namely Mr. Debnabrata Banerjee S/O Late Narayan Chandra Banerjee, and could not be traced out, and a General Dhows has already been lodged at Sanamaree Police Station, being G.D.E. No-1104 dated 16.01.2026 by Mr. Debnabrata Banerjee, and One Affidavit (Before the I.D. Executive Magistrate at Chinsurah, Vide No- 60 Dated- 21.01.2026) also done by Mr. Debnabrata Banerjee. If any person or Institution or Bank having Right Title Over the said property or any claim upon the aforesaid deeds, are requests to inform the undersigned within Fifteen Days (15 days) of the Notice. Otherwise it shall presumed that the property is free from all the encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained thereafter.
Surrajit Dutta
District Judges Court Hooghly at Chinsurah
Mob. No. 7003431761

Four-year-old girl
beaten to death by
father for failing to
write numbers

MI News Service, Faridabad: A routine homeschooling session took a tragic turn in Faridabad after a four-year-old girl allegedly lost her life following a severe assault by her father for failing to complete writing numbers up to 50, police officials said on Saturday. The accused has been identified as Krishna Jaiswal (31), who was arrested after a complaint was lodged at the Sector 58 police station. He was later produced before a city court, which granted the police one day of remand for further questioning, sources confirmed. Jaiswal is a native of Kheratiya village in Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district and had been residing with his family in a rented accommodation in Faridabad. According to police, both Jaiswal and his wife were employed with private companies. While the woman would leave for work during the day, Jaiswal stayed back at home to care for their children and supervise his daughter's studies.

The incident reportedly occurred on January 21. Investigators said that during a homeschooling session, Jaiswal instructed his four-year-old daughter to write numbers from one to fifty. When the child struggled to complete the task, he allegedly lost control and began beating her in a fit of rage. The assault is believed to have caused severe injuries, leading to the child's death. The matter came to light later in the evening when the girl's mother returned home from work and found her daughter lying motionless. Shocked by the scene, she immediately alerted the police. A team from the local police station rushed to the spot and took custody of the body.

ED used as tool to
divert attention
from real issues:
Robert Vadra

MI News Service, New Delhi: Businessman Robert Vadra on Saturday said the Enforcement Directorate is being used by the government as a tool to divert attention from real issues. The remarks of Vadra came following the Rouse Avenue Court granting time to the Enforcement Directorate to argue on consideration of a supplementary charge sheet filed against businessman Robert Vadra in the Sanjay Bhandari money laundering case. Robert Vadra told, "I have nothing to say. The timing says it all. Whenever Parliament is about to open, and the government is expected to answer uncomfortable questions raised by the opposition, the ED is used as a tool to divert attention from the real, compromising issues." The Enforcement Directorate had filed a supplementary charge sheet against Vadra in the ED case linked with arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari. The court pulled the ED for not filing the list of unrelieved documents of the case. The court has directed ED to file the document by the next date of hearing. The next hearing date is February 26. Rouse Avenue Court on Saturday granted time to the ED to argue on the consideration of a supplementary charge sheet filed against Robert Vadra in a money laundering case linked to arms dealer Sanjay Bhandari. Special Judge Sushant Changotra listed the matter for consideration on February 26. The court pulled up the Enforcement Directorate (ED) for not filing a consolidated list of unrelieved documents. The court granted time to file documents and arguments after hearing submissions from special public prosecutor (SPP) Naveen Kumar Matta, assisted by Advocate Faizan Khan. The court directed the ED to file a document on or before the next date of hearing.



Vehicles stuck on the snow-covered Jammu-Srinagar National Highway after heavy snowfall, near Banihal in Ramban district, Jammu and Kashmir. The highway remained closed for the second consecutive day as Banihal received more snowfall compared to the Kashmir valley

Remain strong and prepared, draw inspiration
from NCC cadets: Defence Minister to youth

MI News Service, New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday urged the country's youth to remain physically, mentally and emotionally strong amid growing global uncertainties, calling on them to draw inspiration from National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets who played a key role during Operation Sindoor.

Addressing cadets at the NCC Republic Day Camp at Delhi Cantt, Singh described the NCC as the nation's "second line of defence" and said the cadets performed exceptionally well when the country stood united behind the Armed Forces during the operation. He noted that NCC cadets contributed by raising public awareness during nationwide mock drills conducted as part of Operation Sindoor. "As the world is going through a period of uncertainty, our youth must remain prepared to take on every challenge," the Defence Minister said. Referring to India's military response to the Pahalgam terror attack, Singh said Indian Armed Forces destroyed terrorist targets



in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with courage and restraint, targeting only those responsible for harming the nation. Highlighting the role of young people in nation-building, Singh said the youth would play a decisive role in achieving the Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's vision of a 'Viksit Bharat' by 2047. Comparing the youth to Abhimanyu from the Mahabharata, he said

they possess the ability to enter any "Chakravyuh" and emerge victorious. "Expectations from the youth have increased. They are invaluable assets of the nation," he added.

Singh termed the NCC an effective platform for shaping disciplined, focused and patriotic citizens. He said that while the modern world promotes comfort and instant gratification, NCC train-

ing through drills, camps and parades pushes cadets out of their comfort zones and equips them with vital life skills, including disaster response. He added that NCC also teaches patience, continuity and focus, qualities essential for leadership across professions. Advising cadets to always be prepared with alternative plans in life, the Defence Minister stressed the importance of having Plan B and Plan C to overcome setbacks. "Keep a 'military way' in mind, beyond 'my way or the highway'," he said.

Recalling NCC's contribution to the nation, Singh noted that several prominent leaders and war heroes, including Param Vir Chakra Awardees Captain Manoj Pandey and Captain Vikram Batra, were NCC cadets. He also said NCC cadets served as the second line of defence during the 1965 and 1971 wars. During the event, Singh presented the Raksha Mantri Padak and Commendation Cards to outstanding cadets for exemplary performance and dedication to duty.

BJP National President
Nitin Nabin to visit West
Bengal on January 27-28

MI News Service, New Delhi: BJP's newly-appointed National President Nitin Nabin will be on his first official visit to West Bengal on January 27 and 28, during which he will participate in a series of key organisational meetings aimed at strengthening the party's grassroots framework ahead of the state assembly elections. Nitin Nabin will chair a State Core Team Meeting in Durgapur on January 27, focusing on organisational strategy, political roadmap, and upcoming programmes. On January 28, Nabin will attend the Bardhaman Bibhag Karyakarta Sammelan at Chitralaya Mela Maidan, Purba Bardhaman, where he will interact with party workers. Later in the afternoon, he will participate in the Asansol District Karyakarta Meeting in Raniganj, addressing organisational issues and guiding party workers at the district level.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah will visit West Bengal on January 30 and 31. During his two-day tour, Amit Shah is expected to hold important organisational and political meetings, further energising the party cadre and reviewing preparations for the upcoming political challenges in the state. The back-to-back visits of senior BJP leaders underline the party's focused efforts to strengthen its organisation and sharpen its political strategy in West Bengal. This comes as the BJP aim to



emerge as the single largest party in the upcoming West Bengal elections and end Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee's 14 years of rule.

Earlier, Nitin Nabin chaired a meeting related to the party's central office bearers at the BJP headquarters in the national capital. The BJP chief reviewed the party's election preparations in West Bengal, Assam, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Puducherry, and expressed satisfaction with the progress. During that meeting, Nabin said that the party is confident of forming governments in West Bengal, Assam, and Tamil Nadu, and expects a strong performance in Kerala. The meeting also discussed the party's success in local body elections, including in Maharashtra. Nitin Nabin emphasised the need to strengthen the BJP's booth and mandal units, providing guidance to office-bearers on organisational matters.

"Had informed party in
advance": Shashi Tharoor
on skipping AICC meet

MI News Service, Kozhikode: Speaking for the first time since skipping the All India Congress Committee (AICC) meet, party leader Shashi Tharoor on Saturday said that he had informed his party leaders about his intention not to attend the meeting beforehand.

While he said that certain media reports about him skipping the meeting "might be true, while others may not be", such things should not be discussed on a public platform. "It is better to convey concerns directly to the party leadership. Several things have appeared in the media, some of which may be true while others may not be, and that such matters should not be discussed on public platforms. I had informed the party in advance that I would not be attending the programme and whatever I have to say will be said within the party," he said, while at the Kerala literature festival. Tharoor's comments come a day after he missed a key AICC meet to discuss preparations for the upcoming Kerala Assembly polls.

The Congress leader had informed the leadership that he wouldn't be able to attend the meeting, which had already been postponed, due to his prior commitments at the Kerala Literature Festival. Tharoor had gone to the festival to speak on his latest book, Sree Narayana Guru. "Dr Tharoor is in Calicut for the Kerala Literature Festival, Asia's Biggest Literary Festival. He is speaking on his latest book on Sree Narayana Guru. He had informed the party that he won't make it," according to the Congress MP's office. He also said, "I have nothing to say about the Ernakulam controversy. I had wished to release the book at the event, but the book launch at the Jaipur Literature Festival had to be postponed due to political commitments. This is the reason I chose to attend the event in Kozhikode." The All India Congress Committee (AICC) meeting



was attended by multiple party leaders, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, party General Secretary (Organisation) KC Venugopal, Rahul Gandhi, Jairam Ramesh, Deepa Dasmunshi, Meira Kumar and others in Delhi. Congress leaders have earlier informed that there is "no difference of opinion" with Tharoor and the central leadership.

"He spoke to the leaders about that, and I guess the leaders have given him permission to be there. This is not about him skipping the meeting. It is an important literary festival in Kerala that he attends every year. This is about our pathway ahead," said party leader Shafi Parambil. "It is also very important for the party and for us, so he is releasing that (his book), that is why he sent us a message. Party is his priority, he was just in an event with Rahul," said Deepa Dasmunshi, AICC General Secretary. When asked if Tharoor is 'angry' with the leadership, she added, "No, no, nothing like that. Tharoor is very happy with the Congress party and the central leadership; there is no difference of opinion on this." This is not the first time the Congress leader has skipped the AICC meeting. Earlier, Tharoor had been criticised by other party leaders for his stance on being part of the multi-party delegation on Operation Sindoor, which went to different countries to put forward India's stance following the Pahalgam terror attack.

Doda accident: Mortal remains
of Army Jawan Mohit Chauhan
brought home to Jhajjar

MI News Service, Jhajjar: The mortal remains of Army jawan Mohit Chauhan, who lost his life in the Doda road accident, were taken to his hometown in Jhajjar on Saturday. They were accompanied by vehicles donned with the Indian flag and the public on foot to honour his contribution to the country.

A day earlier, a wreath-laying ceremony was held for the ten army jawans who died in an accident in Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir. An equal number of personnel sustained injuries during the mishap.

According to the White Knight Corps, the army vehicle carrying troops for an operation slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather. "In an unfortunate incident, an army vehicle carrying troops for an operation slipped off the road while navigating treacherous terrain in bad weather in the general area of Doda. There are multiple casualties, including fatalities. The injured have been evacuated for further treatment," said White Knight Corps in their official statement. The army personnel who lost their lives included Sowar

Monu, Sowar Jobanjeet Singh, Sowar Mohit, Dafadar (DFR) Shailendra Singh Bhadoriya, Sepoy Samiran Singh, Sep Praduma Lohar, Sowar Sudhir Narwal, Naik Hare Ram Kunwar, Sepoy Ajay Lakra, and Sowar Rinkhil Balyan.

The students of Sant Ishwariye (Ishwer) Bhartiya Vidya Mandir in Nainsu, Udhampur, gathered on Friday to pay tribute to the 10 Army Jawans who lost their lives in a road mishap. The school premises were filled with a sombre silence as students lit candles and traditional earthen diyas. While mourning the fallen, the students also offered collective prayers for the "early and complete recovery" of the 11 soldiers currently battling injuries sustained in the accident.

A wreath-laying ceremony was held for the ten army jawans who died in an accident in the Doda district of Jammu and Kashmir. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed deep anguish over the tragic road accident. In a post on X, PM Modi said that the army personnel's service to the nation will be remembered forever.



Nursing college students take part in the immersion procession of a Goddess Saraswati idol on the banks of the Hooghly river in Kolkata.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju calls
an all-party meeting at 11 am on Jan 27: Sources

MI News Service, New Delhi: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has called an all-party meeting at 11 am on January 27 to discuss key national issues and legislative business ahead of the Budget Session, according to sources.

The meeting will be held in the main Committee Room of Parliament and will set the agenda for the session, which begins on January 28 and runs until April 2. The Budget Session will commence on January 28 and continue till April 2, with one break. The first phase is scheduled from January 28 to February 13, while the second phase will run from March 9 to April 2. The Budget Session will feature 30 sittings, with the Union Budget 2026-27 being presented on February 1. President Droupadi Murmu will formally open the session, addressing members of both the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Ahead of the budget, the Ministry of Finance on Wednesday took to X to



highlight the previously announced customs duty rates.

During the previous Budget sessions, in a decisive move to solidify India's position as a global electronics hub and to promote domestic manufacturing of electronic goods, the Union Finance Ministry announced an increase in the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) on flat panel displays to 20 per cent. The move was aimed at correcting the inverted duty structure on the goods. The Ministry also reduced the BCD on open cells and key components to 5 per

cent. "In line with our 'Make in India' policy, and to rectify inverted duty structure, I propose to increase the BCD on Interactive Flat Panel Display (IFPD) from 10 per cent to 20 per cent and reduce the BCD to 5 per cent on Open Cell and other components," the Finance Minister said in a post on X. To further boost local manufacture of Open Cells for LCD/LED TVs, BCD on parts of Open Cells was fully exempted, building on earlier reductions, it said.

The all-party meeting is set to discuss the agenda for the session to ensure a smooth proceeding. In the last two sessions, including the monsoon and winter sessions in 2025, the Opposition parties have sought to discuss the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls, which is underway across the country. In the last session, certain leaders have called for a discussion on the Delhi blast near Red Fort, air pollution, and other pressing matters.



Army personnel take Mohit's mortal remains for cremation at Gijarodh village in Jhajjar.

Indian Medical Talent Demand is at an All-Time High

For decades, the movement of Indian medical talent was framed through the narrow lens of loss. In 2026, the narrative has undergone a fundamental shift. According to the OECD International Migration Outlook 2025, Indian-trained doctors have become the indispensable backbone of the UK and US healthcare systems. Yet, this is no longer a one-way street. As India's own Medical Tourism Hub is projected to grow into a \$15 billion+ industry this year, a new cycle of 'circular excellence' is emerging, creating high-tier leadership roles for returning veterans who bring global expertise back to Indian soil.

A landmark BMJ study recently revealed that patients treated by international medical graduates—specifically those from India—often see better clinical outcomes than those treated by locally trained peers. This quality surplus arrives at a critical juncture—WHO projects a global shortage of 11 million healthcare workers by 2030. While 2026 workforce trends show that shortages in the West are now structural, India's medical education engine is at an all-time high, producing over 118,000 MBBS graduates annually. This allows India to export excellence without depleting its own essential care.

This surge is backed by a massive domestic initiative. The Indian government has more than



LALIT PATTANAİK

doubled the number of medical colleges from 387 in 2014 to over 819 in 2026, aggressively standardizing skills through the mandatory National Exit Test (NExT) and the 'One Nation, One Curriculum' initiative to ensure Indian graduates meet global benchmarks.

Lalit Pattanaik, President and CEO at Global Med Force, one of the global talent exchange agencies, views these international stints as a strategic evolution of the Indian medical career. "We

position these international roles as super-specialization phases," Pattanaik says. "Our doctors are heading to hubs in Kuwait for AI-driven robotics or Australia for genomics, with the clear intent to eventually bring those advanced skills, technologies and new care techniques back to India's healthcare sector."

The focus remains on prestigious career expansion. Joseph Cheria, Country Director-India at GMF, emphasizes that the



JOSEPH CHERIA

global market is finally recognizing the unique clinical acumen of Indian professionals. "This is about empowering Indian doctors to lead on a global stage. We are seeing a demand for high-impact leadership, not just service," Cheria explains.

As India moves toward becoming the world's clinical talent hub, the 'Global Consultant' is the new face of Indian healthcare diplomacy—solving a universal crisis while preparing for a homecoming.

The objective is to prevent child marriage through awareness : Rajesh Kumar Sinha

Ranchi : Under the direction of Hon'ble Justice-cum-Executive Chairman, JHALSA, ShriSujit Narayan Prasad, and under the guidance of Hon'ble Member Secretary, JHALSA, KumariRanjanaAsthana and Hon'ble Judicial Commissioner, Ranchi, Shri Anil Kumar Mishra-1, and under the supervision of the DLSA Secretary, an awareness program was organized today, January 24, 2026, at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential Schools in Bundu, Mandar, Angara and Kanke on the occasion of National Girl Child Day.

The DLSA Secretary said that the objective of celebrating National Girl Child Day is to create legal awareness about the prevention and prohibition of child marriage, to make communities aware of the adverse legal, social and health consequences of child marriage, to increase awareness about government welfare schemes for girls, to promote community monitoring and reporting systems, and to enable states/districts to focus on local issues related to girls. During the legal awareness program at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, Kanke, the DLSA team comprising Deputy LADC Rajesh Kumar Sinha, LADC Assistant Pankaj Sharma, PLVs JameelAkhtar, RajendraMahto, Malti Devi, Sarita Devi, Sharda Devi, Babita Devi, Bhanu Devi and BhartiShadev were present. Rajesh Kumar Sinha said that



It is also known that at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, Mandar, the program was made successful by the DLSA team's Deputy LADC Rajesh Kumar Sinha, LADC Assistant Pankaj Sharma, Warden InduLakra, and PLVs Suman Thakur, Vinita Kumari, SoniKumari, KalendraGop, Renu Devi, and SoniKumari. A street play was also organized on the theme of BetiBachao, BetiPadhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter).

child marriage is a crime. During the program at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, Bundu, SavitriKumari, Warden BhumikaKumari, PLVs Sonamani Devi, Rukmani Devi, B i m l a K u m a r i, PradyumanPramanik, and SoyeB Ansari were present. Meanwhile, at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, Angara, the program was made successful by PLVs Baby Sinha, MeenaSrivastava, MaltiKumari, AghanuBediya, and Shila Devi.

It is also known that at Kasturba Gandhi Girls Residential School, Mandar, the program was made successful by the DLSA team's Deputy LADC Rajesh Kumar Sinha, LADC Assistant Pankaj Sharma, Warden InduLakra, and PLVs Suman Thakur, Vinita Kumari, SoniKumari, KalendraGop, Renu Devi, and SoniKumari. A street play was also organized on the theme of BetiBachao, BetiPadhao (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter).

Tata Power led OdishaDiscoms lead National Power Rankings

Tata Power led Odisha Discoms has solidified their position as a national leader in the energy sector, achieving top-tier honors in the Fourteenth Integrated Ratings and Rankings Report of Power Distribution Utilities for FY 2025. The latest report, released by the Ministry of Power evaluated a total of 65 utilities across India. This milestone marks the third consecutive year that the Tata Power-led OdishaDiscoms have been recognized on a national platform for their transformative impact on the state's power infrastructure.

TPNODL emerged as a standout performer, securing the 9th position nationally among all discoms. This milestone marks a significant achievement for Odisha, with TPNODL and TPCODL both maintaining the prestigious A+ grade, while TPWODL secured a high-performance A grade.

The report highlights a significant upward trajectory for Odisha's power infrastructure, citing the collective progress of these utilities as a successful transition toward a modern, resilient power grid. A major factor contributing to these high national rankings is the marked improvement in billing efficiency across the state. Specifically, the Ministry of Power cited TPNODL and TPCODL for recording improvements of over 2 percentage points, a feat that underscores their

technical proficiency. Furthermore, all three Discoms have demonstrated exceptional financial discipline by maintaining an efficient collection cycle, achieving a Days Receivable period of 60 days or less, which contributed to the broader national trend of the distribution sector turning profitable for the first time in history during FY 2025. Commenting on the recognition, Mr. Gajanan Kale, Chief of Odisha Distribution Business and CEO, TPNODL said "We are dedicated to fundamentally transforming India's power distribution landscape by building utilities that are not only operationally efficient and future-ready but also deeply rooted in the needs of our customers. This national recognition from the Ministry of Power is a testament to our success in placing the consumer at the heart of our digital and infrastructural evolution. We are grateful for this honor and remain committed to setting new benchmarks in reliability and service excellence for every household we serve."

By adopting best practices in smart grid automation, AI-driven customer support, and strategic loss reduction, Tata Power led OdishaDiscoms continue to set a national standard for power distribution excellence. In partnership with the Government of Odisha, these joint ventures under the Tata Power umbrella have led one of the most ambitious distribution reforms in India.

SBI Life launches 'Jolly & Polly', portrayed by new brand ambassadors Rishabh Pant and RavindraJadeja

To inspire India to balance passion with responsibility

Mumbai : SBI Life Insurance, one of India's most trusted private life insurers, onboarded Cricketing superstars, Rishabh Pant and RavindraJadeja as its brand ambassadors, introducing them as 'Jolly' & 'Polly', two distinctive characters guiding individuals to pursue their dreams, while simultaneously ensuring that familial responsibilities are secured.

At a time when life insurance awareness is rising, SBI Life is focused on making the category more meaningful in people's everyday lives. Anchored in the brand philosophy of 'ApneLiye, ApnoKeLiye', 'Jolly' & 'Polly' represent a simple but often profound truth: personal aspirations and family responsibilities are not competing choices. By financially securing the needs and aspirations of loved ones, individuals are liberated to wholeheartedly pursue their own dreams.

'Jolly', brought to life by Rishabh Pant, embodies instinct, optimism, and the courage to live fully. He is seen encouraging people to see life differ-



ently, showing that planning is not giving up freedom, but protecting and pursuing it. 'Polly', personified by RavindraJadeja, represents composure, assurance, and long-term thinking. He is seen guiding the conversation with calm and clarity, emphasizing

that preparedness is an act of responsibility that strengthens both personal ambition and family security.

Together, 'Jolly' & 'Polly' mirror the inner conversations common in Indian households, balancing the desire to move forward with the responsibility of

caring for loved ones. Their role is not to dramatize insurance but to normalize it, demonstrating that protection through life insurance has an empowering impact on individuals, enabling optimism and progress.

SBI Life unveiled two TVCs set in everyday Indian settings—where aspirations meet responsibility and meaningful conversations build confidence.

The first TVC follows a young woman's decision to pursue wrestling which sparks concern within her family, where Jolly and Polly help her family see that the assurance on family's financial protection with SBI Life allows her to chase her dreams. The second TVC shows a man transitioning into practicing women's rights law raising concerns of family's future finances, with Jolly & Polly reinforcing that when a family's future is financially secure, individuals are liberated to pursue purpose-driven paths with impact.

Across both films, 'Jolly & Polly' guide the story quietly, reinforcing the message: when promises to loved ones are protected, individual's inner resolve become stronger. The films conclude with the characters' call to action: "KaroPooreApneRaade, Apno Se KiyeSabhiVaade"

Researchers discover wide range of risk factors for young-onset dementia

England [UK] : Researchers discovered a wide range of risk factors for young-onset dementia. The findings bring the notion that heredity is the only cause of the disease into question, paving the potential for innovative prevention measures.

The full study is entitled 'Risk factors for young-onset dementia in the UK Biobank: A prospective population-based study', published in JAMA Neurology.

The large-scale study revealed 15 risk variables for late-onset dementia, which are identical to those for Alzheimer's disease. For the first time, they suggest that by focusing on health and lifestyle variables, it may be feasible to lower the risk of young-onset dementia.

Relatively little research has been done on young-onset dementia, though globally there are around 370,000 new cases of young-onset dementia each year.

Published in JAMA Neurology, the new research by the University of Exeter and Maastricht University followed more than 350,000 participants younger than 65 across the United Kingdom from the UK Biobank study.

The team evaluated a broad array of risk factors ranging from genetic predispositions to lifestyle and environmental influences. The study revealed that lower formal education, lower socioeconomic status, genetic variation, lifestyle factors such as alcohol use disorder and social isolation, and health issues including vitamin D deficiency, depression, stroke.

Technology, economics might help save endangered species: Study

WASHINGTON DC : In the 50 years after the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was passed in December 1973, the world has changed drastically.

Two Ohio State University academics were among a group of experts invited by the journal Science to explore how the ESA has evolved and what its future may hold.

Tanya Berger-Wolf, faculty director of Ohio State's Translational Data Analytics Institute, led a group that wrote on "Sustainable, trustworthy, human-technology partnership."

Amy Ando, professor and chair of the university's Department of Agricultural, Environmental, and Development Economics, wrote on "Harnessing economics for effective implementation."

Berger-Wolf and her colleagues wrote, "We are in the middle of a mass extinction without even knowing all that we are losing and how fast." But technology can help address that.

For example, they note the value of tools like camera traps that survey animal species and smartphone apps that allow citizen scientists to count insects, identify bird songs and report plant observations.

New tech has allowed scientists to monitor animal and plant populations at scale for the first time, said Berger-Wolf, who is also a professor of computer science and engineering, evolution, ecology and organismal biology, and electrical and computer engineering. One challenge is to find new ways to extract all the information from these new sources of data.

"But even with all this data, we are still monitoring only a tiny fraction of the biodiversity out in the world," she said. "Without that information, we don't know what we have, how different species are doing and whether our policies to pro-



"We have to take into account feedback effects. People take an action, and that changes the ecosystem and that changes what people do," she said. "We need to capture those feedback effects." "Economists have been working to understand how we can coordinate landowners where we don't have to implement draconian land use regulations, but still protect habitat," Ando said. "That is a very promising tactic that can protect species and also reduce the cost to people of doing so."

tect endangered species are working."

Most important, Berger-Wolf said, is the need to make sure to keep humans in the process. Technology needs to connect data, connect different regions of the world, connect people to nature and connect people to people. "We don't want to sever the connection between people and nature,

we want to strengthen it," she said. "We cannot rely on technology to save the world's biodiversity. It has to be an intentional partnership between humans and technology and AI."

Economics should be another partner in the fight to save endangered species, Ando said.

"There's this tendency to think that protecting

endangered species is all about biology and ecology," Ando said. "But various tools in economics are very helpful in making sure the work we do to implement the Endangered Species Act is successful. That is not always obvious to people."

For example, bioeconomic research is a multidisciplinary effort between economists and biologists to work together to see how human behavior interacts with ecological processes and systems.

"We have to take into account feedback effects. People take an action, and that changes the ecosystem and that changes what people do," she said. "We need to capture those feedback effects."

The result can be novel ways to protect endangered species, such as "pop-up" habitat modification. For example, ranchers can take down fences temporarily while elk are migrating to allow them to move freely. Rice fields can be temporarily flooded during shorebird migration to give them a place to rest and feed on their travels.

We can "draw upon economics to optimize the timing, location and extent of temporary actions to maximize their net benefits to society," Ando wrote in Science. Another way economics can help is to develop policies that protect species before they become so threatened that they need ESA protection. A common issue is that multiple landowners will all need to work together to protect the habitat of threatened species. But often, if some landowners take actions to protect a species, other landowners will think they don't have to.

"Economists have been working to understand how we can coordinate landowners where we don't have to implement draconian land use regulations, but still protect habitat," Ando said.

"That is a very promising tactic that can protect species and also reduce the cost to people of doing so."

BJP wants to control judiciary: Congress on Sambhal CJM transfer row

MI News Service, New Delhi: Congress Media In-charge Pawan Khara on Saturday raised the issue of Judge Vibhanshu Sudheer's transfer from the post of Sambhal Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and said that Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath should not bring a "tried and tested model" in another state to "control the judiciary" in Uttar Pradesh.

Addressing a press conference at the party headquarters in New Delhi, Khara said, "Lawyers in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, are outraged, and slogans are being raised there. Young people, women, students, labourers, religious leaders, the middle class — every section of the country is troubled by the BJP."

He shared a video of the Gujarat riots accused Babu Bajrangji's video and said that the clip "clearly shows how then-Gujarat Chief Minister changed the judge to give him relief. This means it's a tested model, which is now being



implemented in Uttar Pradesh."

He further asserted that Sudheer's transfer "shows how the BJP wants to control the judiciary", adding that the Congress party stands with the lawyers of Sambhal.

This comes as the Allahabad High Court recently ordered the transfer of 14 judicial officers, including Vibhanshu Sudheer. Sudheer has now been posted as Civil Judge, Senior Divi-

sion, Sultanpur.

The transfer came days after Sudheer, on January 19, directed the Sambhal police to register an FIR against the then Circle Officer Anuj Chaudhary and the Station House Officer in connection with the shooting of a youth during the Sambhal violence of November 2024.

Following the order, the Sambhal police had stated that they would approach the Allahabad High

Court, challenging the CJM court's directive.

"Following this order, the judge was transferred and demoted in his next posting. Then a new judge was appointed in Sambhal, but when the lawyers protested, he was quietly removed as well," Khara claimed. The Congress leader further asserted that this is not the first case when the judges were transferred to "change the orders".

In the Delhi riots, he claimed that Justice Muralidhar, who had given orders against BJP leaders, was also transferred in the middle of the night, adding that this shows "how the BJP arbitrarily transfers judges who hold up the scales of justice".

Khara said that one "example model" is in Gujarat, where many individuals like D.G. Vanzara, Maya Kodnani, and Babu Bajrangji were granted relief by changing the judges. "Such a model is extremely dangerous for democracy and justice. Therefore, we

welcome the initiative taken by the legal community to protect democracy and justice," he added.

The Congress leader said that what happened in Sambhal, Delhi, Jaipur, and Gujarat "shows that after God, if people expect justice from anyone, it is the king (the ruler)."

"Even God delivers justice to people through the king, but what happens when the king himself becomes an obstacle to justice and prevents it from being delivered? If the king considers religion, caste, and language while dispensing justice, then imagine how long democracy can survive in this country," he said.

"That is why the Congress party stands with the legal community, because they have taken to the streets for justice. We hope that Yogi Adityanath will not implement this 'Gujarat model' in Uttar Pradesh, because this model will not provide justice to the common man," Khara added.

Stalin slams Modi's "double engine" pitch, says it won't run in Tamil Nadu

MI News Service, Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday for his "double engine" government remark, declaring that such a model would never succeed in the state. The exchange came after PM Modi addressed an NDA election rally in suburban Maduranthakam, kicking off the campaign for the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls. Modi urged voters to "free Tamil Nadu from the clutches of the DMK" and install a "double engine" sarkar—one where the state and central governments work in sync—to accelerate the state's development and ensure it marches "shoulder to shoulder" with the Centre.

Taking strong exception, Stalin hit back through a post on X, asserting that Tamil Nadu has achieved remarkable progress despite what he called deliberate obstacles placed by the BJP-led central government. He challenged the Prime Minister to explain why states without a "double engine" government—such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana, Karnataka, and West Bengal—continue to record impressive economic growth and outperform many others.

"The double engine that the PM talks about will not run in Tamil Nadu," Stalin wrote. "Tamil Nadu has achieved historical growth by overcoming all the obstacles created by the BJP government at the Centre."

The Chief Minister's rebuttal underscores the long-standing political rivalry between the



DMK and BJP in the state, where the saffron party has struggled to make significant inroads. Stalin highlighted Tamil Nadu's self-reliant model of development, crediting it for the state's consistent industrial expansion, high human development indices, and investment inflows even amid perceived central roadblocks on funds, projects, and policy support.

The verbal sparring comes at a time when both sides are gearing up for a high-stakes Assembly election. While the NDA aims to capitalise on anti-incumbency narratives and promises of seamless Centre-state coordination, the ruling DMK is positioning itself as the guardian of Tamil Nadu's autonomy, federal rights, and Dravidian model of welfare and growth.

Political observers see Stalin's sharp response as an early signal of the aggressive campaign style the DMK plans to adopt in countering the BJP's "double engine" pitch in the southern state

J-K MP Engineer Rashid allowed to attend Budget Session in custody

MI News Service, Delhi: A Delhi court on Saturday, January 24, granted custody parole to jailed Lok Sabha MP Engineer Rashid to attend the upcoming Budget Session of Parliament.

Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police personnel to his place of visit.

Additional Sessions Judge Prashant Sharma passed the order, granting Rashid permission to attend the session that would begin on January 28, subject to conditions imposed earlier about travel costs and others.

Rashid's counsel Vikhyat Oberoi told the court that his client's appeal about travel costs is pending before the Delhi High Court.

In November last year, the court had granted Rashid custody parole to attend the Winter Session of Parliament on all dates.

It had also allowed him to attend the Monsoon Session between July 24 and August 4, 2025, in a similar manner.

In 2024, Rashid was granted interim bail to campaign for the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly polls.

The Independent MP has been lodged in Delhi's Tihar jail since 2019, after he was arrested by the National Investigation Agency under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in a 2017 terror-funding case.

In the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Rashid defeated National Conference's Omar Abdullah by over 2 lakh votes to win the Baramullah seat.



White House weighing possible total oil blockade against Cuba: Report

MI News Service, Washington: The White House is weighing a possible total blockade of Cuba's oil imports among options aimed at driving regime change in the Caribbean country, U.S. media outlet Politico reported Friday.

No final decision has been made so far, but related debates are ongoing within the Trump administration, said the report, citing people familiar with the matter.

The loss of Venezuelan oil shipments -- and the resale of some of those cargoes that Havana used to obtain foreign currency -- has already throttled Cuba's economy, said the report, adding that a total blockade of oil imports into Cuba could "spark a humanitarian crisis."

U.S. President Donald Trump ordered "a total and complete blockade" of



all sanctioned oil tankers going into and out of Venezuela in mid-December 2025. U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said earlier this month that the United States will not only market stored oil in Venezuela but also control the sales of oil output from the country indefinitely.

Cuba imports about 60 percent of its oil supply, according to the International Energy Agency. Venezuela had been Cuba's main crude supplier before the U.S. forces' seizure of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Jan. 3.

Brazil's Lula says Trump is attempting to 'create a new UN'

MI News Service, Brasilia: Brazilian President Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva has accused his United States counterpart Donald Trump of wanting to create "a new UN", days after the US president launched his new "Board of Peace" initiative in Switzerland.

"Instead of fixing" the United Nations, "what's happening? President Trump is proposing to create a new UN where only he is the owner," Lula said in a speech on Friday.

Speaking in Rio Grande do Sul, Lula also said that Trump "wants to run the world through Twitter".

"It's remarkable. Every day he says something, and every day the world is talking about what he said," Lula said, according to Brazil's Folha de Sao Paulo newspaper.

Lula defended multilateralism against what he called "the law of the jungle" in global affairs and warned that "the UN charter is being torn".

Lula's remarks come a day after he spoke by phone with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who urged his Brazilian counterpart to safeguard the "central role" of the UN in international affairs.

His comments also come as the



White House withdraws the US from dozens of UN bodies and Trump launches his "Board of Peace", while imposing his "America First" agenda on global politics and trade through tariffs and military threats to such a degree that allies of Washington question whether they can now trust the US.

Trump launched the board with a signing ceremony in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday, during the annual summit of the World Economic Forum, another international body that has increasingly presented itself as an alternative to the UN system.

Members of the board include Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is accused of war

crimes by the International Criminal Court and whose forces have killed more than 300 staff members from the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, in Gaza.

The US originally said that the "Board of Peace" would oversee the rebuilding of Gaza after more than two years of Israel's genocidal war on the besieged enclave, but the board's 11-page charter does not mention Gaza, suggesting its interests may have expanded in scope.

The UN, which was created in the wake of World War II, has said it is experiencing funding shortfalls for its humanitarian and human rights activities, as the US and other Western countries redirect funding away from international aid towards military spending.

The world body operates on a regular budget of about \$3.72bn annually, of which the US was required to contribute \$820m in 2025, although it has fallen behind on payments under the Trump administration. By contrast, the draft charter of the Board of Peace says that countries would be required to pay \$1bn if they wish to remain members for more than three years.

Furfura's historic gathering at Pakshi concludes

Mohammad Nurul Islam: The historic gathering at Pakshi, Pabna, a place of great tradition, concluded on Saturday after the Fajr prayer. The 74-year-old assembly ended with the resounding chants of "Amin, Amin" from over a hundred thousand people. The Gaddinashin Pir of Furfura Sharif, Shaykhul Hadith Shaykh Mishkat Siddiqui, inaugurated the assembly with Zikr (remembrance of God). Among those who delivered sermons were Pirzada Mujahid Siddiqui, Pirzada Mustafa Siddiqui, Ayatullah Siddiqui, Pirzada Sawban Siddiqui, Pirzada Miftahul Siddiqui and many others. Osama Khandaker and Osman bin Ayatullah were also present. Pir Ansar Siddiqui and Pir Abu Ibrahim Siddiqui, along with all the descendants of the great Pir, were in charge of the main responsibilities of this assembly. Renowned speakers from the subcontinent were also present. Various educational institutions for or-



phaned children are run free of charge at this shrine. Provisions for higher and modern education are also available. Various public welfare and social service activities are ongoing here. The Gaddinashin Huzur (the head of the shrine) presided over the entire assembly. On this day, the Pir Sahib addressed the vast congregation. Lakhs of devout Muslims from numerous districts and sub-districts attended the assembly. After the assembly, the Pir Sahib advised the people to reach their destinations safely. On this day, the students of the madrasah were honored with turbans.

Iran says 10 foreign intelligence services behind recent unrest

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said Friday that 10 foreign intelligence services were behind recent "terrorist" incidents in the country. In a statement on its official outlet Sepah News, the IRGC described the incidents as part of a failed "U.S.-Israeli plan" to threaten Iran's territorial and national integrity. It said a foreign "command room" was set up after a 12-day conflict in June to create internal chaos, provoke military intervention, and mobilize groups seen as a threat, without providing evidence.

In an interview with news agency ANI, Dr Ilahi drew a sharp distinction between reality on the ground and what he termed as a manufactured narrative driven by journalists, adversarial forces, and Iran's enemies. "There is a very deep gap between fact and imagination," he said, stressing that much of what is circulated internationally does not reflect the actual situation inside the country. Acknowledging the existence of economic challenges, Dr Ilahi made it clear that these difficulties are not internal failures but the direct outcome of sustained economic warfare against Iran. "Yes, we have economic problems; some people are angry because of the economic situation, which has been created by

certain countries through sanctions," he stated, placing responsibility squarely on the sanctions regime imposed by Western powers.

He further warned that these economic pressures are being deliberately exploited by vested interests to create instability and push political agendas. According to him, isolated expressions of discontent are being amplified and weaponised to falsely project a picture of nationwide unrest.

Firmly dismissing alarmist claims circulating online, Dr Ilahi asserted that Iran remains firmly in control of the situation. "At the moment, the situation is very good, is under control, and is nowhere near what is being claimed on social media," he said.

His remarks challenge the dominant international narrative that portrays Iran as being on the brink of collapse, a narrative Iranian officials argue is part of a broader psychological and information war aimed at delegitimising the Islamic Republic. Despite enduring harsh sanctions and external pressure, Iran, Dr Ilahi maintained, continues to function with stability and resilience, contrary to the distorted images promoted abroad.

Davos meeting calls for dialogue, cooperation amid global changes

MI News Service, Davos, Switzerland: The World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting 2026 concluded here on Friday, with participants widely stressing that a rapidly changing world requires more dialogue and stronger cooperation amid global challenges.

At the final panel discussion of the meeting, Director-General of the World Trade Organization Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala said the trade sector has suffered "the most severe shock in 80 years," noting that global trade rules have been weakened.

She said the world cannot go back to how it was, calling for greater resilience in both the public and private sectors to cope with future uncertainty.

Speaking on how to manage risks associated with artificial intelligence (AI), Okonjo-Iweala underscored the necessity of global cooperation.

"There are certain problems we just cannot



solve in this world alone," she said, adding that "no one country or even one region can be responsible for regulating or putting the guardrails on AI."

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde said, "We have to be careful about the distribution of wealth. We have to be careful about the disparity that is getting deeper and bigger," adding, "If we don't pay attention to that, we are heading for real trouble."

Noting that trust has been eroded to some extent, Lagarde called for rebuilding confidence

through dialogue.

Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed Al-Jadaan also emphasized the need to expand dialogue and cooperation, urging support for institutions such as the WEF, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In closing remarks, WEF President Borge Brende said dialogue is essential to moving the world forward, noting that strengthening markets, facilitating engagement, addressing conflicts and achieving inclusive growth all depend on decision-makers talking to each other.

Turkiye's FM Fidan says Israel 'looking for opportunity' to attack Iran

MI News service, Ankara: Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said there were signs that Israel was seeking an opportunity to attack Iran, warning such a move could further destabilise the region.

"I hope they find a different path, but the reality is that Israel, in particular, is looking for an opportunity to strike Iran," Fidan told Turkish broadcaster NTV in an interview broadcast on Friday.

Asked specifically whether this assessment applied to both the United States and Israel, Fidan stated that Israel, in particular, was seeking such an opportunity, the Türkiye Today news outlet reported.

The foreign minister added that he had conveyed concerns directly to Iranian officials during a recent visit to the country.



"When I went to Tehran in recent days, I told them everything about the process as their friend," Fidan said. "And you know, a friend speaks bitter truths," he said, according to Türkiye Today.

Fidan's warning followed after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told his Iranian counterpart Masoud Pezeshkian in a phone call on Thursday

that Türkiye was opposed to any foreign interventions in Iran and that it valued its neighbour's peace and stability.

A senior Iranian official told the Reuters news agency on Friday that Tehran would treat any attack by its enemies "as an all-out war against us" — the latest sabre-rattling in an escalating war of words between Washington and

the Iranian leadership.

On Thursday, US President Donald Trump said that he had sent an "armada" of naval ships towards the Gulf region with Iran in its sights, once again ramping up rhetoric against Tehran after cooling his comments last week after apparently backing away from threats to attack Iran amid widespread antigovernment protests.

"If the Americans violate Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity, we will respond," the senior Iranian official told Reuters.

"This military buildup — we hope it is not intended for real confrontation — but our military is ready for the worst-case scenario. This is why everything is on high alert in Iran," the official said.

"This time we will treat any attack — limited, unlimited, surgical, kinetic,

whatever they call it — as an all-out war against us, and we will respond in the hardest way possible to settle this," the official added.

"A country under constant military threat from the United States has no option but to ensure that everything at its disposal can be used to push back and, if possible, restore balance against anyone who dares to attack Iran."

US media has reported that the USS Abraham Lincoln aircraft carrier and its strike group of vessels have diverted from the South China Sea to the Middle East and are expected to arrive in the Gulf region in the coming days.

The US military last staged a major buildup of naval forces in June 2024 in support of Israel's 12-day war on Iran and in advance of US attacks on Iran's nuclear programme.

3RD T20I: INDIA AIM TO WRAP UP SERIES WIN AGAINST NEW ZEALAND AS DEW FACTOR LOOMS LARGE IN GUWAHATI

GUWAHATI : Riding high on confidence gained after taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match series, India will look to seal the five-match T20I series when they face New Zealand in the third T20I match at the ACA Stadium, Barsapara in Guwahati on Sunday.

India delivered a powerful statement in the second T20I at Raipur, where they pulled off a stunning chase of 208 in just 15.2 overs to take a 2-0 lead, underlining their dominance in the series and momentum ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, to be co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka.

It was the second-highest successful chase in India's T20I history. Only India's 211/4 against Sri Lanka in Mohali in 2009 stands above it, with the Raipur effort also eclipsing chases of 209/4 vs West Indies (Hyderabad, 2019), 209/8 vs Australia (Vizag, 2023), and 204/4 vs New Zealand (Auckland, 2020).

The emphatic finish was also the biggest win by balls remaining for a full member nation while chasing a target of over 200. It surpassed Pakistan's 24-ball victory against New Zealand in Auckland in 2025 and Australia's 23-ball win over West Indies in Basseterre that same year. Batting first, New Zealand struggled for stability early on before Rachin Ravindra counterattacked with a brisk 44 off 26 balls to rebuild the innings. India's bowlers shared the workload effectively, with Harshit Rana, Varun Chakravarthy, Hardik Pandya, and Shivam Dube claiming one wicket each, while Kuldeep Yadav stood out with two crucial breakthroughs. New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner anchored the latter half of the innings with an unbeaten 47 off 27 balls, guiding the visitors to a competitive total of 208 for 6.

India's reply, however, quickly swung the contest in their favour despite the early setbacks of Abhishek Sharma and Sanju Samson. Ishan Kishan launched a fierce counterattack, smashing 76 runs at a blistering strike rate.

Aus Open: Sinner overcomes Spizzirri, Darderi upsets Khachanov to set up all-Italian affair in Rd-4



MELBOURNE : Jannik Sinner's Australian Open title defence was pushed to the brink on Saturday, but the World No. 2 dug deep to navigate extreme conditions and a fearless opponent, defeating American qualifier Eliot Spizzirri 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-

4 to reach the fourth round at Rod Laver Arena.

Sinner's resilience was tested most severely midway through the match. After splitting the opening two sets, Spizzirri surged ahead 3-1 in the third as Sinner began to visibly struggle

with cramping, his movement and service motion clearly compromised in the oppressive Melbourne heat. With the Heat Stress Scale reaching Level 5, officials intervened and ordered the roof closed, triggering a temporary suspension of play.

The short interruption proved pivotal. When play resumed after less than 10 minutes, Sinner looked revitalised. Drawing on his experience and composure, the four-time major champion steadied himself, clawed back the third set, and ultimately completed the victory after three hours and 45 minutes of attritional tennis. For Spizzirri, the match represented a breakthrough moment despite the loss. Playing in the third round of a Grand Slam for the first time, and making his Australian Open main-draw debut, the American showed no hint of intimidation against a Top 10 opponent. He matched Sinner stroke for stroke from the baseline for long stretches, striking freely and taking the fight to the defending champion.

Statistically, the contest was messy and demanding. The first three sets alone lasted nearly three hours, with Sinner committing

46 unforced errors. The decisive margin came on break points: Sinner converted eight of 11 opportunities, while Spizzirri managed just six of 16, including only one from six chances in the third set, a missed opening that allowed Sinner to wrest back control while battling physical distress.

Even after the mandated 10-minute heat break following the third set, Spizzirri refused to fade, again breaking first to lead 3-1 in the fourth. But Sinner's poise under pressure proved decisive, as he reeled off games with controlled aggression to seal the win and book a fourth-round meeting with fellow Italian Luciano Darderi, their first career matchup.

Darderi arrived with momentum of his own. The 23-year-old produced one of the standout results of the tournament and scripted history by upsetting 15th seed Karen Khachanov 7-6(5), 3-

6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach the second week of a Grand Slam for the first time in his career.

Currently ranked No. 25, the Argentine-born Italian showcased a rapidly evolving all-court game on Melbourne's hard courts, outlasting the former Australian Open semifinalist in a high-quality encounter. After edging a tense opening-set tiebreak, Darderi briefly lost momentum as Khachanov claimed the second, but the Italian's sustained baseline pressure and fearless shot-making swung the match back in his favour.

Breaking serve at key moments in both the third and fourth sets, Darderi closed out one of the biggest victories of his career. Traditionally known as a clay-court specialist, he has now underlined his growing versatility and set up an all-Italian clash with the defending champion for a place in the quarterfinals.

RAILWAY SPORTS BOARD CROWNED SENIOR CHAMPIONS AT 60TH NATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP IN RANCHI

PC JHA

RANCHI : The Railway Sports Board asserted its dominance in Indian long-distance running by emerging champions in both the men's and women's senior categories at the 60th National Cross Country Championship, which concluded successfully at the Army Ground, Kutia, Namkum, here on Saturday.

The prestigious national championship was organised jointly by the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), New Delhi, and the Jharkhand Athletics Association. More than 700 athletes from across the country, representing state units, institutional teams and services, competed on a specially designed two-kilometre loop course, making the event one of the most competitive editions in recent years.

In the men's 10 km team championship, the Railway Sports Board clinched the title with 38 points, finishing ahead of Uttar Pradesh (40 points) and Rajasthan (48 points). The Railway Sports Board continued its stellar performance in the women's 10 km team category as well, securing the championship with an impressive 16 points. Uttar Pradesh finished second



with 30 points, while Kerala claimed third position with 69 points.

The championship carries added significance as it serves as a major selection platform for athletes aiming to represent India at the upcoming Asian Cross Country Championships, thereby enhancing the competitive intensity of the races.

In the Under-20 boys' 8 km team category, Uttar Pradesh emerged champions with 22 points, followed by Maharashtra (45 points) and Haryana (75 points). The Under-20 girls' 6 km team title was won by Maharashtra with 21 points, while Karnataka (76 points) and

Himachal Pradesh (83 points) finished second and third respectively.

The event was inaugurated with the ceremonial flag-off by Chief Guest Dr Mahua Manjhi, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha, Jharkhand). Special guests Ajay Nath Sahdev, President of the Jharkhand State Cricket Association, and Sanjay Pandey, Vice President of JSCA, were also present to encourage the athletes and present awards to the winners.

Several eminent personalities from national and international athletics bodies attended the championship, including Adille Sumariwalla, Vice President of

World Athletics; Lalit Bhanot, SAFF President; Radha Krishnan Nair, Chief Coach of the Indian Athletics Team; B.E. Stanley Johns, Treasurer, AFI; Ravindra Chaudhary, AFI Technical Chairman; and Shivendu Dubey, Treasurer of the Jharkhand Olympic Association.

The smooth conduct of the championship was ensured under the guidance of Dr Madhukant Pathak, Chairman of the AFI Finance Committee and President of the Jharkhand Olympic Association, along with Jharkhand Athletics Association President C.D. Singh and several dedicated officials and volunteers.

FIFA to award record prize money to Women's Champions Cup participants

GENEVA : A record-breaking prize money will be awarded to the inaugural FIFA Women's Champions Cup winner, the world football governing body announced on Saturday.

The final champion of the Women's Champions Cup will receive 2.3 million U.S. dollars while the runner-up will earn one million, FIFA said.

The champions from every confederation will compete for the intercontinental club title. The two semifinals are scheduled at Brentford Stadium (Gtech Community Stadium) in London, Britain, on January 28. The final will be played at Arsenal Stadium (Emirates Stadium) on February 1.

The losing semi-finalists will each get a cash award of USD 200,000, whereas Auckland United FC (NZ) and Wuhan Chegu Jiangda WFC (China) who were eliminated in earlier rounds, will each receive a cash award of USD 100,000.

FC of the United States, the CONCA-



CAF champion, will face SC Corinthians of Brazil, the CONMEBOL champion, in the first semifinal, while European champion Arsenal of England will take on CAF

champion AS FAR of Morocco in the other.

In addition to the prize money awarded to the finalists, the other two losing teams will also receive 200,000 U.S. dollars each. The two teams eliminated in Round 1 and Round 2 - OFC representative Auckland United of New Zealand and AFC representative Wuhan Jiangda of China - will receive 100,000 dollars each.

FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafstrom said the prize structure shows the organization's belief in the fast growth of women's club soccer. It also shows their commitment to making long-term investments that improve competitions around the world.

"A total payout of close to USD 4 million distributed among the six participants based on their performance is a clear statement of the belief in women's club football and the players, teams and competitions driving its continued rise," said FIFA Secretary General Mattias Grafstrom.



Scotland set to replace Bangladesh in T20 World Cup 2026: ICC sources



NEW DELHI : Scotland's cricket team is all set to replace Bangladesh in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be played in India and Sri Lanka from February 7.

A source close to the development told IANS that ICC has reached this decision after the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) remained firm on its stance of not traveling to India. The official confirmation from the governing body will come soon.

"Since the ICC released its statement earlier this week and the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) appears adamant about not travelling to India, Scotland is set to replace Bangladesh in the T20 World Cup. An official confirmation is expected very soon," ICC sources told IANS on Saturday.

Bangladesh earlier informed the ICC that they would not travel to India due to security concerns amid deteriorating relations between the two nations and requested that their matches be relocated to Sri Lanka. However, the ICC reiterated that the T20 World Cup will proceed as per schedule, with Bangladesh's matches to be played in India.

This follows the BCCI's direction to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) to release pacer Mustafizur Rahman for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 amid prevailing political tensions between the two countries.

ICC also gave a 24-hour deadline to BCB for conveying its final decision on playing the tournament as planned.

Scotland is the top-ranked team not to have qualified for the global event and is the first option to replace Bangladesh after the country decided to stick to its position of not travelling to India, even after a vote on this issue yielded a 14-2 verdict against them in the ICC. Scotland will now be placed in Group C in the preliminary stage of the tournament. They will play against the West Indies on February 7, Italy on February 9, and England on February 14 in Kolkata. Scotland will play its final group stage game in Mumbai against Nepal on February 17.

Government will decide Pakistan's participation in T20 World Cup, Mohsin Naqvi

MUMBAI : With the ICC deciding to replace Bangladesh with Scotland for their refusal to play their matches in India, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has approached the government regarding the participation of their team in the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup in solidarity with Bangladesh.

Pakistan's participation in next month's Twenty20 World Cup now hinges on the government's clearance, said PCB Chairman Mohsin Naqvi, in response to Bangladesh's ouster after the International Cricket Council rejected their request to relocate their matches from India over security fears, Telecom Asia Sport (www.telecomasia.net) has reported.

"Whether we play in the T20 World Cup or not, the decision will be taken by the government," Naqvi, who is also the country's Interior Minister and thus the second-in-command in the Pakistan government, said in Lahore on Saturday.

"Our PM (Shahbaz Sharif) is out of the country. When he comes back, we will take advice from him. The decision by the government will be final and binding, and if they say no, then they (ICC) may invite any other team."

Naqvi said PCB has alternate plans.



"We have alternate plans A, B, and C, which we can use when the time comes. We have done this before during the Champions Trophy, so nothing new for

us, and we know how to deal with such matters."

Despite the ICC Board meeting outvoting Bangladesh's demand on Wednesday, Bangladesh's interim government refused to change its stance, which they took after the Board of Control for Cricket in India expelled Mustafizur Rahman from the Indian Premier League Franchise Kolkata Knight Riders over the geo-political situation.

The ICC's Dispute Resolution Committee also rejected the Bangladesh Cricket Board's plea and replaced Bangladesh with the next-ranked team, Scotland.

The report said, Naqvi blasted the ICC over injustice to Bangladesh, "Bangladesh is a big stakeholder, and they have been unfairly treated in this case. This I maintained in Wednesday's meeting as well, and their stance has many factors which I will tell when the situation arises."

According to the report, Naqvi criticised the ICC for favouring one country -- India. "One country is dictating and when the ICC changed venues for Pakistan and India in a favour then why it was not done for Bangladesh," Naqvi questioned," Naqvi said.