Abhishek concludes Sebaashray 2, reaches nearly five lakh beneficiaries

AITC National General Secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday shared a reflective post on social media, quoting C.S. Lewis: "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." As Sebaashray-2 comes to a close, Banerjee noted that the sentiment perfectly captures the spirit of the initiative, which focused on delivering healthcare to people without confusion, pressure, or fear. From consultations and diagnostics to medicines and referrals, the program emphasized continuity of care, ensuring that no one seeking help was left unsupported. ●Pg 3

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Morning India

Five Delhi schools receive bomb threats



MI News Service, New Delhi: Five schools in the national capital received bomb threats via email on Thursday morning. It was later declared a hoax following sweeping searches by security agencies.

According to the Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call about the threats was received around 8.30 am, which led to a thorough checking of the premises by multiple security agencies.

The DFS confirmed that Loreto Convent in Delhi Cantonment, Don Bosco in Chittaranjan Park, and Carmel Convent campuses in Anand Niketan and Dwarka have received threats.

On the other hand, Sardar Patel Vidyalaya in Lodhi Estate sent out a message to the parents of its students, informing them about the security threat.

Police and fire authorities were immediately informed, triggering evacuation protocols and anti-sabotage checks. "Following standard operating procedures, nothing suspicious was found," a DFS officer said, adding that the threat had been declared a hoax.

The Sardar Patel Vidyalaya administration informed parents that a security threat had been received in the morning, and authorities were immediately alerted. The school said a bomb squad team conducted a thorough inspection of the entire campus.

"We are relieved to inform you that the premises have been declared completely safe for use. Student safety remains our highest priority, and all necessary protocols were followed promptly and responsibly. Classes will continue as usual today," the message read.

Police sources said local police personnel, bomb disposal squads and dog squads were deployed to sweep the campuses. Students and staff were moved to safe areas in some schools, they added.

Further investigation is underway to trace the origin of the threats, police said.

On Wednesday, the Dwarka court complex received a similar bomb threat, which was declared a hoax.

Earlier in November last year, similar bomb threats via e-mails reached several other renowned schools in Delhi, forcing the Delhi Police and the authorities to conduct thorough searches in the school premises with all the threats later turning out to be as hoax.

Mamata Banerjee to meet ECI early next week



MI News Service, Kolkata: With the Trinamool Congress alleging massive irregularities in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal, , a TMC delegation led by Chief minister Mamata Banerjee is scheduled to meet the Election Commission of India on February 2.

An ECI statement on Thursday said that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had agreed to meet the TMC delegation led by Mamata Banerjee at 4 pm on February 2. The meeting comes even as the TMC has hit out at the EC for allegedly conducting the SIR in a partisan manner, to favour the BJP.

In order to meet the tip ECI officials including the CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Mamata Banerjee was scheduled to leave for Delhi on Wednesday, but she deferred her trip due to Ajit Pawar's death and the Anandapur fire incident

Last week, on the occasion of National Voters' Day on January 25, Mamata Banerjee questioned the ongoing hearings for the 1.5 crore electors of West Bengal flagged by the EC's software for having logical discrepancies in their documents or not being mapped to the last intensive revision in the state in 2002.

Launching a blistering attack on the EC and BJP alike for "unspeakable harassment" of people in the name of SIR, the firebrand Chief minister alleged in Singur on Wednesday that the exercise is an attempt to implement "NRC through the backdoor".

"Will not allow them to send anyone to detention camps, we will not allow NRC to be implemented here. Let them call you to hearings, it's only their show of arrogance, of their pride. I will shatter their pride, have faith in me," she had said.

Incidentally, Mamata Banerjee will lead a15 member TMC Delegation including the party's National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee, MP and some 'Dead' voters in the National capital to meet the CEC and other officials. As the Budget session of Parliament is on, she might also meet top leaders of other opposition parties and members of the INDIA bloc during her stay. **File Photo**

With 'Ajit Dada Amar Rahe' slogans, villagers mourn Pawar

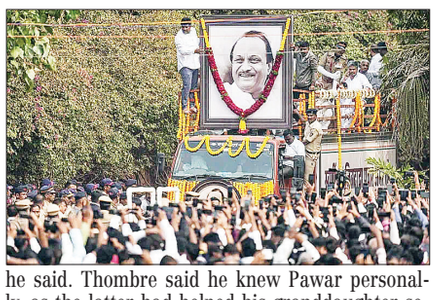
MI News Service, Mumbai / Baramati: Thousands of mourners thronged the residence of Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar at his native village Katewadi near here on Thursday morning to pay their last respects to the leader who died in a plane crash.

Grief-stricken people from Katewadi and nearby villages in Pune district, joined by NCP workers, made a beeline outside the residence gates, chanting slogans such as "Ajit Dada Amar Rahe" and "Ajit Dada Parat Ya" (Ajit Dada please come back).

"A leader like him will not born again," several mourners said, lauding his role in the region's development.

Pawar (66) was killed on Wednesday morning after the chartered aircraft crashed near the Baramati airstrip, around 100 km from Pune. Two pilots, a flight attendant and a personal security officer were also killed in the accident.

On Thursday morning, the mortal remains of Pawar were brought from the Punyashlok Ahilyadevi Hospital in Baramati, where they were kept overnight, to his Katewadi village near Baramati. With tears welling up, 65-year-old Katewadi resident Ganpat Thombre choked when asked to describe his feelings. "It has been 24 hours since the tragic incident that took our leader away. I am still unable to come to terms with the fact that Dada (as Pawar was fondly called) is no more. A leader like him will not be born again," Thombre told reporters. "Though he was the Deputy Chief minister, he paid keen attention to issues of Katewadi, Khatalpatta, Songain and other adjoining villages,"



he said. Thombre said he knew Pawar personally, as the latter had helped his granddaughter secure admission to a medical college. "He brought about transformation in this region by building good roads and schools. A leader of his stature will not be there again," he said, as tears rolled down his face. Chandrakant Mali, who came from Ter in Dharashiv district, said Maharashtra has "lost a diamond". Inside the premises where the mortal remains were kept for the last darshan, Ajit Pawar's wife and Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar, his sons Parth and Jay, and his younger brother Shrinivas Pawar accepted tributes from people with folded hands. Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, his wife and son Amit, actor Riteish Deshmukh, and several other dignitaries were among those who paid tributes to Pawar at his residence in Katewadi.

After the final darshan at the residence, the mortal remains were taken to the sports ground of Vidya Pratishthan in Baramati, where the last rites were held with full state honours.

India's economy to grow at 6.8 to 7.2 pc in FY27: Economic Survey

MI News Service, New Delhi: The eagerly awaited Economic Survey of India on Thursday projected the GDP growth in the range of 6.8 to 7.2 per cent in 2026-27, a bit lower than 7.4 per cent estimated in the current fiscal.

"The outlook, therefore, is one of steady growth amid global uncertainty, requiring caution, but not pessimism," said the pre-Budget document tabled in the Lok Sabha this afternoon.

The growth projection has taken into consideration the cumulative impact of policy reforms over recent years that appear to have lifted the economy's medium-term growth potential closer to 7 per cent.

"With domestic drivers playing a dominant role and macroeconomic stability well anchored, the balance of risks around growth remains broadly even," it said.

The survey also said the economy remains on a stable footing.

Amid the domestic currency depreciating steeply in recent months, the Economic Survey 2025-26 said the rupee's valuation does not accurately reflect India's stellar economic fundamentals and that the rupee is punching below its weight.

"Of course, it does not hurt to have an undervalued rupee in these times, as it offsets to some extent the impact of higher American tariffs on Indian goods, and there is no threat of higher inflation from higher-priced crude oil imports now. However, it does cause investors to pause. Investor



Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tables Economic Survey

reluctance to commit to India warrants examination," it said.

The document, prepared by a team of economists led by Chief Economic Advisor V Anantha Nageswaran, however, added that a strong and stable currency is a natural corollary for achieving the goal of the Viksit Bharat and global influence.

Rupee is a casualty of foreign capital flows drying up, it added.

The document tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman emphasised that India is relatively better off than most other countries due to its strong macro fundamentals.

The cumulative impact of policy reforms over recent years appears to be lifting India's medium-term growth potential to nearly 7 per cent, it said, and made a strong case for a deeper system-level institutional capacity that factors in geopolitical implications of India's rise.

India needs to prioritise domestic growth in an uncertain global environment, as well as greater emphasis on buffers and liquidity, it added.

The global environment is being reshaped by geopolitical realignments that will influence investment, supply chains and growth prospects, it added.

On the price situation, it said a subdued trajectory of core inflation indicates strengthening of supply-side conditions across the economy.

The pre-Budget document further said that based on the broad trends observed during the year, the central government remains well on track to achieve its envisaged fiscal consolidation path, aiming to attain a fiscal deficit target of 4.4 per cent of GDP in 2025-26.

As of November 2025, the Union government's fiscal deficit stood at 62.3 per cent of the Budget Estimates.

"Markets have acknowledged and rewarded the government's commitment to fiscal discipline through lower sovereign bond yields, with the spread over US bonds declining by more than half," it said.

It noted that despite heightened tariffs imposed by the United States, merchandise exports grew by 2.4 per cent (April–December 2025), while services exports increased by 6.5 per cent. Merchandise imports during April-December 2025 increased by 5.9 per cent.

The Survey said that GST and other reforms converted global uncertainty into an opportunity, and the next fiscal year would be a year of adjustment as the economy adapts to these changes.

In the backdrop of India entering into host of free trade agreements, the Survey said realising potential of trade agreements requires India to produce competitively.The FTA with Europe will strengthen India's manufacturing competitiveness, export resilience and strategic capacity, the Survey said.

The document also said that, in most years, remittances have surpassed gross FDI inflows, underscoring their importance as a key source of external funding. As a result, the current account deficit remains moderate at 0.8 per cent of GDP in H1 FY26.

The document has also said that there is no space for pessimism, but we need to be cautious amid global uncertainty.

Possible eruption of multiple global crises presents an opportunity for India to play a role in shaping global order, it added.

The Economic Survey has a separate chapter on AI and its impact.

Correction in overly optimistic asset valuations will happen if the AI boom fails to deliver the anticipated productivity gains, it said.

On India's fast-growing aviation sector, the Survey said India's civil aviation sector is on a sustained growth trajectory supported by a conducive policy environment, rising demand, and steady infrastructure expansion.

India has emerged as the world's third-largest domestic aviation market, but current passenger volumes represent only a fraction of the country's potential, it added.

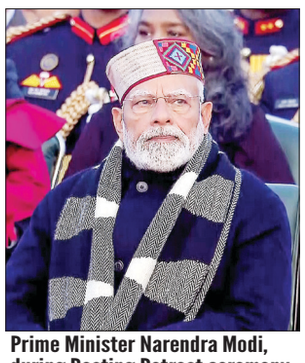
FTA with EU to create market of about 2 billion people : PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Free Trade Agreement with the European Union is for an ambitious India and manufacturers must reap benefits from a much wider international markets which are opening for them.

This was stated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday while speaking to reporters in Parliament House complex in his customary briefing at the beginning of the Budget session.

The Prime minister said the nation is also coming out of long term pending problems and working towards their long term solutions.

"Time has come to find solutions and not create hurdles", he said, adding his government is not confined to just files but ensuring last mile delivery of welfare schemes to the people. "Our priority is always human-centric while taking steps for all-round development of the country," he told reporters today in his customary briefing at the beginning of the Budget session, adding "An India full of confidence has emerged as ray of hope for world".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during Beating Retreat ceremony at Vijay Chowk, in New Delhi on Thursday.

PM Modi said the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU is for an ambitious India and urged manufacturers to benefit from new markets opening for them."A new market has already opened up. It offers quality products to 27 EU member nations," he said in an appeal to manufacturers.

India and the European Union on Tuesday announced the conclusion of negotiations for the FTA, describing it as 'mother of all deals', under which 93 per cent of Indian shipments will enjoy duty-free access to the 27-nation bloc, while import of luxury cars and wines from the EU will become less expensive.

The deal, concluded after negotiations spanning about two decades, will create a market of about 2 billion people across the world's fourth-largest economy, India, and the second-largest economic bloc, the EU.

Referring to President Droupadi Murmu's address to the joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on Wednesday, he said it was an expression of confidence of 140 crore citizens and outlined aspirations of the youth.

He also noted that Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is going to table her ninth consecutive budget on Sunday and that she is the only woman Finance minister in the world to achieve such a significant feat.

"This is a very glorious chapter of Indian democracy," he added.

Navy wins best marching contingent award in R-Day parade

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Navy has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three wings of the armed forces at this year's Republic Day Parade, officials have said.

Maharashtra won the top prize in the category of states and Union Territories for its tableau showcasing Ganeshotsav, while the culture ministry's tableau celebrating the 150-year legacy of 'Vande Mataram' emerged as the winner in the ministries and departments category.

The Navy's marching contingent comprised 144 young personnel marching shoulder-to-shoulder on the historic Kartavya Path, symbolising it as a progressive and strong maritime force, Navy officials said on Wednesday.

Announcing the results of the best marching contingents and Best Tableaux for the Republic Day Parade 2026, with Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir, and Kerala emerging as the top performers in the tableaux category, the official sources here today said Indian Navy and Delhi Police, however, won the top marching contingent honours.



The awards were decided by three separate panels of judges constituted to assess marching contingents from the three Services and the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs)/other auxiliary forces, as well as tableaux presented by States, Union Territories and Central Ministries and Departments.

Among the three Services, the Indian Navy was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent, while the Delhi Police won the award for Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.LIKE

In the States and Union Territories tableaux category, Maharashtra secured the top position for its tableau titled "Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta". Jammu and Kashmir was awarded second place for "Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir", followed by Kerala in third place for "Water Metro and 100% Digital Literacy:

●Continued to Pg 3





The West Bengal Pradesh Youth Congress held a protest rally and blocked roads against the recent fire incident at Nazirabad. The rally was held at Dharmatala in Kolkata on Thursday.

From the Common Man to Traders, All Eyes on the Union Budget 2026



The country's economy is currently going through a phase where balanced policies and visionary decisions are needed the most. Amid rising inflation, demand for employment, and business challenges, the common man, the middle class, and the trading community have several important expectations from the upcoming Union Budget. It is believed that this budget could prove to be a catalyst for giving fresh momentum to development.

Speaking exclusively to Morning India ,Anup Kumar Luharuka, Chartered Accountant, highlighted that the visible stability and steady reforms in the Indian economy have raised optimism around the budget. He noted that key sectors such as defence, infrastructure, manufacturing, green energy, agriculture, and MSMEs are expected to receive focused support to strengthen long-term growth.

Economic experts believe that discussions in this budget may focus on accelerating growth. Increased investment in roads, railways, energy, and urban development will not only boost the economy but also create large-scale employment opportunities.

An increase in capital expenditure (CAPEX) is expected to directly benefit sectors such as construction, steel, cement, and logistics, thereby accelerating economic activity at the grassroots level.

The trade and industry sector has high expectations from this budget. There has been a long-standing demand for affordable credit, simplified compliance, and relief from tax disputes for small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). If concrete steps are taken in this direction, it could provide significant relief to small traders and entrepreneurs.

At the same time, there is a strong possibility of concrete measures to promote the manufacturing sector. The government's intent is to focus on strengthening "Make in India" and "Atmanirbhar Bharat," so that domestic production increases and dependence on imports is reduced.

Traders are also closely watching this budget with regard to GST. While advancing Digital India, there is a possibility that GST return filing, e-invoicing, and the refund process may be made simpler and faster, which would further strengthen taxpayers' confidence.

Before the budget, GST-related issues have become a central topic of discussion among traders. In this budget, taxpayers are expecting several important relief measures related to GST:

- Focus on reducing litigation: The business community has long demanded resolution of pending disputes in old GST cases. In Budget 2026, there is an expectation of concrete steps such as amnesty schemes and relief in interest and penalties to reduce litigation.
- E-way bill matters: The provisions for penalties related to technical or minor errors in e-way bills may also be reconsidered.
- Post-sale discounts: Post-sale discounts remain a topic of debate among traders. This budget may bring clarification and clear guidelines on post-sale discounts.
- Possible changes in the GST registration threshold: Amendments to the GST registration limit may also be introduced.

Overall, from the common citizen to the business community, all eyes are firmly set on this Budget. It is expected to play a crucial role in strengthening the nation's development, boosting investment, and advancing meaningful tax reforms.

These are my personal views and opinions related to GST and the Union Budget.

Grand Celebration Marks 131st Birth Anniversary of Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj

MI News Service, Manmathpur: A vibrant celebration took place on the occasion of the 131st birth anniversary of Acharya Shreemat Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj, founder of Bharat Sevashram Sangha at Manmathpur in South 24 Parganas. The event featured a colourful procession from Manmathpur Pranabananda Vidyamandir to the Pranab Temple, with 131 students dressed as Swami Pranabanandaji, conveying his ideals of service, morality, and compassion. Local residents and devotees were moved by the children's disciplined and thoughtful presentation. Following the procession, a special exhibition highlighted ten major service activities of the Sangha, including education, healthcare, disaster relief, and humanitarian initiatives. The display aimed to instil a spirit of service and selflessness among the young generation while spreading awareness about the Sangha's work.

Organisers emphasised the importance of ethics, spiritual values, and humanity in today's fast-paced world. The day concluded with traditional rituals, aarti, and offerings at the temple, creating a serene and devotional atmosphere. The temple authorities also announced that the 11th Pranab Rath Yatra will be held on 2 February, marking the sacred birth tithi of Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj, with a chariot procession expected to draw large crowds. The celebration underscored Swami Pranabanandaji Maharaj's life philosophy and service-oriented ideals, inspiring the future generation to embrace spirituality and human values.

Banglar Bari (Rural) Housing Project (second phase) launched in Ausgram-1 Block

MI News Service, Ausgram: Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee formally launched the second phase of the Banglar Bari (Rural) Housing Project from Singur in Hooghly. As part of this, the project was launched in every district and block on Wednesday. Ausgram MLA Avedanand Thandar, Savapati of Ausgram-1 Panchayat Samiti Tapas Chatterjee, Block Development Officer of Ausgram-1 Development Block Biman Kar including other public representatives and block administration officials were present at the event organized on this occasion at Pragati Mancha in Block campus. The BDO said that the well-decorated tableau will begin its journey from today's event. The tableau will travel to every booth in the panchayat area for the next two months. In addition, 46 people in the block were given land Patta and 15 people were given agricultural implements. According to block administration sources, 3108 people were given housing in Ausgram-1 block in the first phase of Banglar Bari Project.





State Education Minister Bratya Basu launched the special issue of 'Udar Akash', edited by researcher Farooq Ahmed, at the Kolkata International Book Fair in Kolkata.
Pic: Nurul Islam Khan.

Probe ordered after family alleges newborn missing at Krishnanagar hospital

Dipankar Edbar, Krishnanagar (Nadia) : Authorities have ordered an inquiry after the family of a 20-year-old woman alleged that her newborn went missing at Krishnanagar District Hospital in West Bengal's Nadia district. Hospital officials, however, said recent medical findings did not confirm the presence of a foetus, leading to conflicting claims.

The woman, identified as Mampi Khatun of Nabadwip, was admitted to the hospital with labour pain, according to her family. Relatives alleged that she was taken to the labour room for a delivery procedure. Later, doctors reportedly advised an ultrasonography (USG) test and informed them that no baby was present in the womb. The family claimed they were unable to trace the newborn thereafter.

The woman reportedly told relatives that she experienced severe labour pain and believed she had delivered a child. An ASHA worker, Rozina Bibi Sheikh, who had been associated with the woman's antenatal care, claimed that a USG conducted on January 21 had indicated the presence of a foetus weighing around 2.4 kg. She expressed concern over the discrepancy between earlier reports and the latest findings.

Hospital sources said recent examinations did not establish the presence of a foetus and indicated that the matter may involve medical or reporting confusion. Officials declined detailed comment pending the outcome of the inquiry. The family has lodged a written complaint with the police. Tension briefly escalated at the hospital premises, with relatives staging a protest and blocking the emergency gate.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), Nadia, described the incident as serious and said a committee has been formed to investigate. Action will be taken based on the inquiry report, officials said. Police confirmed receiving the complaint and said the matter is under investigation.

DIG Sukhendu Hira's Book Launched at the Book Fair



Nurul Islam Khan: On Wednesday, at the Kolkata International Book Fair, the sixth book, 'Amarnath Yatra', by renowned folk culture researcher and State Police DIG (Security) Shri Sukhendu Hira, was officially launched. The book was unveiled by the Commissioner of Bidhannagar, Shri Mukesh Kumar. Prominent author Kinnar Roy was also present; he has written the introduction to the book.

The clean and well-presented 96-page book, published by 'Sandhya Prakashan', is available for only 200 rupees at stall number 153 at the Kolkata Book Fair. The author's other five books are also available at various stalls. For example: 'Tadantanama' at Deep Prakashan, stall number 534, 'Naripachar Yuge Yuge' at B.B. Kundu Grand Sons, stall number 395, 'Anya Bhabna Anya Bhraman' at Karuna Prakashani, stall number 203, 'Jangalmahaler Diary' at Blackbook, Little Magazine Table number 195,

'Bankurar Ramkinkar' at Adam, stall number 550. The author has been researching lost regional and folk culture for a long time. He has traveled extensively, exploring the villages of Bengal, and has presented the golden heritage of rural Bengal to his readers. While fulfilling his duties as a high-ranking officer in the state police, he also regularly serves the world of literature. His powerful and consistent writing has already earned him acclaim in several leading daily newspapers and other publications. Sukhendu Hira commented that folk music exists, as do folk dances, folk culture, and folk religion.

Housing relief under 'Banglar Bari' scheme: Rs 60,000 distributed to selected beneficiaries



Manish Ramtake (Kharagpur, West Midnapore) : The second phase of the state government's ambitious housing scheme 'Banglar Bari (Rural)' is progressing rapidly in Kharagpur-number one block and number six Khelad area under Panchayat Samiti of West Medinipur district. According to administrative sources, a target has been set to benefit about 20 lakh families across the state under this scheme. Financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh 20 thousand will be provided to each beneficiary family. Is being done. In the same sequence, in the first phase on Wednesday, a check amount of Rs 60 thousand was distributed by Khelad Gram Panchayat to the selected beneficiaries. It was told that the main objective of the scheme is to ensure permanent houses to the poor and provincial class people, so that they can live a safe and respectable life. These houses built in the natural environment of rural Bengal are not just brick-cement structures, but are a symbol of respect, security and self-reliance. The same administration has clarified that the entire process is completely transparent and the assistance amount is being sent directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries without any broker or cutman. Let us tell you that with the resolve of a self-reliant Bengal, the state government is continuously working to take the stream of development to every village and is standing with the people of every section of the society. The objective of this scheme, run by the special initiative of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, is to provide the facility of permanent housing to the poor and deprived families of rural areas.

Western Disturbance Brings Snow to Hills, South Bengal Warms Up

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Meteorological Department has issued a significant weather update for West Bengal, predicting snowfall and dense fog in North Bengal while the winter chill in South Bengal continues to ease gradually. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), a Western Disturbance currently over Jammu and Kashmir and adjoining northwestern states will move eastward, with a new system expected to arrive by Friday. Simultaneously, an active weather axis stretching from southeast Uttar Pradesh to north Karnataka, along with an active cyclone over northeast Bihar, is influencing conditions across the state.

Playwright Chandan Sen unveils 'Sagar Saikate' and "Godhuli" at Kolkata book fair



Dipankar Edbar, Kolkata : Two poetry collections by poet Bhabatosh Bhowmik-Sagar Saikate and Godhuli-were released this year at the International Kolkata Book Fair. Published by Priya Book House (Stall 491), the books were unveiled in a formal ceremony at the fairgrounds.

Alongside these, three collections of the poet's lyrical poems-Sur Jharna, Shankhabela and Kotha O Sur-were also launched. These were published by Kamalini Prakashan (Stall 304). The books were formally unveiled by noted playwright and actor Chandan Sen, in the presence of several eminent personalities from the world of literature and culture.

While Advocate Kamal Kumar Basu has written the introduction of the three Geeti - Kabita books, Natyakar (dramatist) Chandan Sen has developed the introduction of two books Sagar Saikate & Godhuli. However, Ex IPS Officer Nazrul Islam too attended the event. Side by side, G B Mahato, an ex Railway officer and Supriya Banerjee also were in the programme.

Bhabatosh Bhowmik, who grew up in a rural environment, has been associated with literary pursuits for many years. His writings draw deeply from life's struggles, the stories of the soil and its people, love and separation, and the passage of time. He shows a distinct inclination towards lyrical poetry, where verse and melody merge to create an emotionally resonant experience.

In Sagar Saikate, the poet explores socially conscious themes alongside inner emotional conflicts, while Godhuli is suffused with love, memory and nostalgia. The lyrical poetry collections offer a unique blend of words and music, transporting readers into a different emotional realm. The books have already generated considerable interest among readers at the book fair. Poetry enthusiasts feel that these works create not just an experience of reading, but a deeper space for reflection and emotional connection.

SSB Seizes 18 Buffaloes, Over Rs 28 Lakh During Anti-Smuggling Operations

MI News Service, Siliguri: Acting on credible intelligence regarding illegal cattle smuggling, the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) seized 18 live buffaloes during an anti-smuggling operation carried out by 'C' Company at Panitanki on the Indo-Nepal border, an official communication said.

The operation, conducted in the early hours of Thursday, was based on information that the cattle were being trafficked from Naxalbari towards Siliguri via the North Bengal corridor. During night patrolling and Quick Reaction Team (QRT) deployment, a suspicious heavy-duty vehicle was spotted on AH-2. The driver abandoned the vehicle between Kestopur and Jungli Baba Mandir Turn and fled the scene.

A search of the vehicle led to the recovery of 18 buffaloes, confirming illegal transportation and a violation of animal welfare norms. The cattle and the vehicle were handed over to Bagdogra Police Station for registration of a case against the unknown driver/owner and further legal action. In separate operations, SSB also seized Indian currency worth Rs 28.5 lakh and apprehended five persons during routine checks at ICP New Bridge, Panitanki.

In the first incident on Wednesday, an Indian national, V. Agarwal (33) of Khalpara, Siliguri, was intercepted attempting to cross into Nepal with Rs 6 lakh without proper authorization. An SUV in his possession was also seized.

In a second raid, Indian currency worth Rs 22.5 lakh was recovered from four occupants of a vehicle, suspected to be intended for illegal cross-border smuggling. The apprehended individuals were Amar Bahadur Thapa (46), Raju Kausila (47), Bhim Bahadur Kausila (73) of Meghalaya, and Prem Kumar Sanyasi (36) of Darjeeling.

All seized currency, vehicles, and individuals have been handed over to the Customs office at Panitanki for further legal proceedings.

3 held in Nadia for running fake Aadhaar document racket



Dipankar Edbar, Ranaghat, (Nadia) : Three persons were arrested in Nadia district early on Thursday for allegedly running an illegal operation to create fake Aadhaar-related documents, including unauthorised name changes and enrolment of children, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Hanskhali police station conducted a late-night raid at a house in Nagorpota under Ulashi in Hanskhali. The premises belonged to Hasibur Rehman Mondal (35), where police found three men allegedly engaged in manipulating Aadhaar data using computer systems and specialised software.

The arrested have been identified as Hasibur Rehman Mondal (35) of Nagorpota, Gourab Sarkar (31) of Paschim Chunari, and Dipankar Sarkar (33) of Bethuaduari Patikabari under Nakashipara police station limits.

Police said the accused could not produce any valid authorisation or operator licence to carry out Aadhaar-related services. Investigators suspect the racket was being run for wrongful financial gain.

During the search, officers seized suspected fake receipts, UIDAI acknowledgement forms, two laptops with preloaded software, a printer, an iris scanner and a fingerprint scanner. The seizure was conducted under videography, following due legal procedure.

A case has been registered at Hanskhali police station under relevant sections of law. The trio were produced before a court and police sought their remand for further interrogation. Investigation is underway.

Traffic police's strict campaign against motorcycles fitted with modified silencers, 10 bikes with modified silencers seized

Manish Ramtake (kharagpur, West Midnapore): A comprehensive joint special campaign is being conducted by Kharagpur Town Police and Kharagpur Town Traffic Guard against the biker gangs who create ruckus on motorcycles by installing illegally modified silencers on the roads of Kharagpur city. So that peace, health of people and traffic safety are maintained on the roads of the city. During this special checking drive being run under the leadership of Traffic OC Sangeet Roy, strict action will be taken against those violating traffic rules.Action is being taken.According to police sources, motorcycles fitted with illegally modified silencers were specifically targeted in this operation. In the investigation conducted on the basis of continuous complaints, the police seized a total of 10 motorcycles making noise more than 85 decibels. The owners of these vehicles were called to the police station and were instructed to remove the illegal silencer and install the original silencer prescribed by the company. The vehicles will be handed back only after ensuring



that the rules are followed.Technical violations were also closely monitored during the campaign. During the investigation, three motorcycles without number plates were seized, while two completely modified bikes were also seized. Under this campaign, 'spot fine' action was also taken on the spot. The traffic police has given strict instructions to two-wheeler as well as bus drivers to immediately stop using high-range volume horns and use standard horns. OC Sangeet Roy has given a clear warning that this campaign is not going to stop at the moment, but will continue with more strictness in the coming days. Let it be known that at present this special action was conducted in Inda and Barabatia areas. Whereas in the coming time, it will be extended to all the major squares of Kharagpur in a sequential manner. Expanding the scope of the campaign, now strict action is being taken against those who do not wear helmets, those who ride triple, those who drive without number plates or with incomplete documents. Besides, the process of spot fine has also been started against those who use mobile phones while driving and those who do not wear seat belts in the car. The traffic police has also clarified that a separate special legal campaign will be launched against toto and auto drivers running without lights at night. Police say that the main objective of this action is to protect the common citizens from noise, inconvenience and road accidents. Besides, a continuous campaign is being run to increase awareness about traffic rules. In the coming days, awareness programs regarding traffic rules will also be organized in various schools.

Morning India
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03 Kolkata, Friday
30 January 2026

Water Supply to Be Disrupted Across South Kolkata on Saturday

MI News Service, Kolkata: A large portion of South Kolkata is likely to face a drinking water crisis on Saturday as the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) has decided to suspend water supply in several areas on January 31. The announcement was made by Mayor Firhad Hakim during a municipal session on Thursday. The disruption is being attributed to maintenance work at pumping stations and repairs of major water pipelines.

According to KMC officials, maintenance work at the Garden Reach pumping station will affect water supply across multiple parts of South Kolkata. While water supply will remain normal from 6 am to 9.30 am on Saturday, services will be completely suspended thereafter. Normal water supply is expected to resume from the morning of February 1.

Sources at the civic body said that several booster pumping stations operating under the Garden Reach Water Project will undergo special maintenance. These booster stations are responsible for supplying drinking water to areas under Boroughs 8, 10, 12, 14 and 16. Mayor Hakim stated that water services would be disrupted from 9.30 am onwards, though limited supply would be ensured during the early morning hours to allow residents to store water for the day.

Areas likely to be affected include Kalighat, Ranikuthi, Bansdroni, Garfa, Chetla, Golf Green, Laelka, Behala, Siriti, Daspara, Gandhi Maidan, Senpally, Prafulla Park, Parnasree, Metiaburuz and Sakuntala Park booster pumping station zones. As a result, water supply in Garden Reach, Jadavpur, Tollygunge, Kasba, Behala, Thakurpukur and Joka is expected to be severely affected. In some areas, water supply may remain completely suspended throughout the day, while in others it may be partially disrupted.

The Garden Reach pumping station supplies nearly 17 to 18 crore gallons of water daily to several parts of South Kolkata, including Behala, Maheshtala and Garden Reach. Civic officials acknowledged that water consumption is generally higher on weekends when most residents remain at home, and the suspension of supply on Saturday is likely to cause inconvenience.

KMC authorities said the maintenance work is part of a broader infrastructure upgrade aimed at preventing water wastage. Several major pipelines have developed cracks and leakages, resulting in significant daily loss of treated water. The repair work is expected to be completed within Saturday.

Assuring residents, civic officials said that once the maintenance work is completed, normal water supply will resume as per schedule from Sunday morning. Mayor Firhad Hakim has appealed to residents of the affected areas to store adequate water during the morning hours on Saturday, acknowledging temporary inconvenience but stressing that the measures are essential for improving long-term water supply infrastructure in the city.

Navy wins

● Continued from Pg 1

Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat".

The Ministry of Culture won the award for Best Tableau from Central Ministries and Departments for its presentation, "Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation".

Special prizes were also announced. The Central Public Works Department received a special award for its tableau "Vande Mataram – Commemoration of 150 Years", while the dance group "Vande Mataram: The Eternal Resonance of India" was also honoured.

Separately, the results of the 'Popular Choice' awards, based on an online poll conducted on the MyGov portal, were declared. In this category, the Assam Regiment was voted Best Marching Contingent among the three Services, while the CRPF topped the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces category.

For Popular Choice tableaux, Gujarat won first place for "Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance – Freedom: Vande Mataram", followed by Uttar Pradesh for "Culture of Bundelkhand" and Rajasthan for "Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Art (Usta Art)".

The Department of School Education and Literacy won the Popular Choice award among Central Ministries and Departments for its tableau on "National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Indian School Education on the Path to Viksit Bharat".

Abhishek concludes Sebaashray 2, reaches nearly five lakh beneficiaries

MI News Service, Kolkata: AITC National General Secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjeeon Thursday shared a reflective post on social media, quoting C.S. Lewis: "There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind." As Sebaashray-2 comes to a close, Banerjee noted that the sentiment perfectly captures the spirit of the initiative, which focused on delivering healthcare to people without confusion, pressure, or fear. From consultations and diagnostics to medicines and referrals, the program emphasized continuity of care, ensuring that no one seeking help was left unsupported.



Over 49 days of normal camps and five days of mega camps, Sebaashray 2 ensured seamless healthcare delivery, from medical consultations and diagnostic tests to free medicines and referrals for advanced treatment. On Wednesday night, Banerjee expressed gratitude for the spontaneous participation of the people, which made the program impactful. Even on the final day, mega camps provided 9,312 consultations, 10,620 diagnostic tests, 11,628 free medicines, and referred 50 patients for higher care. Banerjee acknowledged the dedication of doctors, nurses, lab technicians, pharmacists, and volunteers who carried the immense responsibility of healthcare delivery.

On Wednesday afternoon, Banerjee visited the model camp at Rabindranagar's Akra Ground, witnessing the culmination of the initiative. Nearly five lakh people received services during this edition. Accompanied by MLA Abdul Khalek Molla and other Trinamool leaders, Banerjee interacted with beneficiaries, greeted families, and personally engaged with children, demonstrating empathy and encouragement.

Among those helped was 10-year-old Anurag Pal from Bishnupur, whose left leg was severely affected due to a dengue infection. Banerjee had personally extended support, and a successful surgery at a super-specialty hospital in Coimbatore restored the child's mobility. Expressing gratitude, Anurag told Banerjee, "Thanks to you, I can run and play with my friends again."

Banerjee highlighted that while Sebaashray 2 has concluded, the initiative's spirit will continue. He emphasized that the program reflects responsible governance and a commitment to dignity, promising that Sebaashray would return year after year to meet the ongoing healthcare needs of the community. The program demonstrates how coordinated outreach, professional medical care, and compassionate leadership can positively impact underserved populations, reinforcing public trust in civic initiatives.

Sebaashray 2 stands as a testament to how sustained outreach, professional healthcare delivery, and compassionate governance can significantly impact the lives of underserved communities while inspiring public confidence in civic initiatives.

DGP Rajeev Kumar hails Bengal Police, stresses 'Honest Courage'

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Director General of Police Rajeev Kumar, who is set to retire on January 31, was felicitated on Thursday afternoon at the Alipore Bodyguard Lines, ahead of his superannuation. In his farewell address, Kumar strongly praised the state police force, calling the Bengal Police "the best in the country," while emphasising that courage remains the most powerful weapon of the police.



DGP Rajeev Kumar

Speaking at the event, Kumar highlighted the contribution of the Bengal Police in tackling complex and challenging situations, including the fight against Maoist insurgency. "From home guards to senior officers, everyone has played a vital role. No contribution is small," he said. Stressing the importance of integrity, he noted that "honest courage is the biggest strength of the police," clarifying that courage does not merely mean action or firing bullets.

Kumar elaborated on his definition of courage, stating that it lies in standing firm, taking responsibility, and remaining committed to one's decisions. "We are prepared to sacrifice our lives in the line of duty, and that is a matter of pride. Honest courage helps us face even the most difficult challenges," he said. He further added that courage does not mean killing people but having the moral strength to resist pressure.

Referring to coordination between Kolkata Police and West Bengal Police, Kumar pointed out the state's strategic and geopolitical importance, noting that West Bengal shares borders with three countries. "Our challenges are greater. Maintaining peace and order in such circumstances is commendable, and it makes us proud," he remarked.

January 31 marks the last working day of Rajeev Kumar as the Director General of Police (DGP) of West Bengal. However, uncertainty over the appointment to the top police post has deepened following fresh legal developments involving the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

After the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) issued its directive, the UPSC approached the Delhi High Court. Subsequently, IPS officer Rajesh Kumar filed a contempt of court petition against the UPSC, further complicating the matter. Meanwhile, the West Bengal government has made it clear that it wants Rajeev Kumar to continue as DGP.

On January 21, the state government sent a panel of eight names to the UPSC for consideration for the DGP post. Notably, Rajeev Kumar's name was included in the list forwarded by Nabanna. As per procedure, the UPSC is required to shortlist three names from the panel and send them back to the state government. However, before finalising and forwarding the shortlist, the UPSC moved the Delhi High Court, triggering the present legal dispute.

Kolkata Police Push to Expand 'Pranam' Cover for Elderly

MI News Service, Kolkata: The brutal murder of a senior woman in the Parnasree area has prompted Lalbazar to intensify efforts to strengthen the security of elderly residents living alone across Kolkata. Following the incident, the Kolkata Police have directed all police stations in the city to conduct a detailed survey to identify senior citizens who are not yet covered under the 'Pranam' project.

The incident occurred on January 19 on Becharam Chatterjee Street under the Parnasree police station area. According to police, the victim, noted singer Anita Ghosh, lived alone as her children reside elsewhere, while her husband is bedridden. Taking advantage of the situation, the domestic help allegedly attacked her with the intention of robbing her gold jewellery. The accused, Sanju Sarkar (34), attempted to flee with the valuables but was caught after neighbours raised an alarm following the victim's screams. Sarkar was later arrested on charges of murder and robbery.

In the aftermath of the crime, the safety of elderly residents living alone has once again come under focus. Police sources said all police stations have been instructed to identify areas where senior citizens are not enrolled under the 'Pranam' scheme, a community policing initiative aimed at ensuring the safety and well-being of elderly residents. Stations have also been asked to prepare a list of senior citizens whose children live outside the city or state.

Lalbazar has instructed that such elderly residents be brought under police monitoring at the earliest. Nodal officers at police stations will identify them and facilitate their enrolment in the Pranam project so that they can receive immediate assistance during emergencies. The contact details of the local police station's nodal officer will be saved on the speed dial of the senior citizens' mobile phones to ensure quick access to help.

According to Lalbazar officials, the Pranam project currently has around 60,000 registered members. However, a significant number of elderly residents living alone across the city are still not covered under the scheme. The Parnasree murder has once again raised concerns over their safety, prompting police authorities to fast-track efforts to bring the remaining senior citizens under the project's umbrella.

An official from the Community Welfare Wing of Lalbazar said that registration under the Pranam project is available to residents aged 60 years and above living within the jurisdiction of Kolkata Police. For registration, applicants are required to submit proof of address and age, a photograph, blood group details, contact numbers, and an emergency contact number. The initiative aims to ensure that elderly residents do not feel vulnerable or isolated and receive timely police assistance when needed.

CBI Raids Multiple Kolkata Locations in Bank Fraud Probe

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) launched a major search operation across Kolkata on Thursday morning in connection with an alleged bank fraud involving nearly ₹1,000 crore. Multiple locations, including Alipore and other parts of the city, were simultaneously raided as part of the ongoing investigation. The searches are being conducted at the offices and residences of the promoters of a finance company based in east Kolkata. Additional central security forces have been deployed to assist the operation.

According to sources, the case pertains to alleged fraudulent loans obtained from a public sector bank. The bank authorities had accused the finance company of misappropriating funds after availing large-scale loans, following which the CBI initiated a probe. The agency is examining documents and financial records seized during the searches.

CBI officials said the alleged fraud took place between 2014 and 2020. The primary allegations are against the promoters of the finance company and one of its subsidiary firms. Investigators claim that the companies approached a public sector bank seeking loans and submitted multiple documents in support of their applications.

As per the bank's complaint, one of the firms availed loans amounting to ₹730.82 crore in the initial phase. In a subsequent phase, another firm received loans worth ₹260.20 crore. Over time, additional amounts were also sanctioned. However, the bank alleged that soon after receiving the funds, both companies began violating loan agreements. Repayment of instalments became irregular, eventually leading to defaults.

Following a preliminary inquiry, the CBI found that the two firms had allegedly taken loans worth several thousand crore rupees from at least six other banks as well. A significant portion of these funds was allegedly not repaid, raising suspicions of large-scale financial irregularities. The ₹1,000-crore fraud case under investigation forms part of these broader allegations.

In 2023, senior officials of the concerned public sector bank lodged a formal complaint with the CBI regarding the alleged fraud. The matter also came under the scrutiny of the High Court, which directed a detailed investigation. Acting on these directions, the CBI registered a case against the finance companies and their promoters.

On Thursday morning, CBI officials arrived at the residences of the two promoters in Alipore and began searches. Simultaneous raids were also carried out at their offices and several other locations linked to the firms across Kolkata. Officials said the searches are aimed at collecting evidence related to fund diversion, misuse of loan amounts, and possible criminal conspiracy.

The investigation is ongoing, and the agency has not ruled out further action as more details emerge from the documents and electronic records seized during the raids.

Traffic control on roads during the secondary examinations

MI News Service, Kolkata: The secondary examinations are set to begin in the state's schools from February 2nd. Keeping this in mind, the Kolkata Police have introduced some changes to traffic regulations. Heavy vehicles will be restricted on examination days. Commissioner Manoj Verma has issued a notification to this effect.

The Kolkata Police notification states that on the days of the secondary examinations, goods vehicles will not be allowed to operate in areas under the Kolkata Police jurisdiction from 6 AM to 12 PM. Heavy vehicles carrying essential goods (such as LPG, petroleum, oil, lubricants, oxygen, milk, medicines, vegetables, fruits, and fish) will be allowed on Kolkata roads until 8 AM. Traffic will be controlled in areas where secondary examination centers are located, and traffic may be diverted if necessary. The Kolkata Police have stated that this rule will be applicable along with all other regulations issued for the examinations. The secondary examinations are scheduled for February 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, and 12. The West Bengal Board of Secondary Education has announced that the distribution of admit cards for the 2026 secondary examinations was completed on January 20.

Gold prices soar to all-time high; silver crosses Rs 4 lakh

MI News Service, Kolkata: The upward trend in gold and silver prices continued throughout January. Overall, prices have increased by 20 percent this month! In Kolkata on Thursday, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold reached over ₹182,000. Meanwhile, the price of silver is ₹410 per gram, or ₹410,000 per kilogram. Over time, gold has proven itself to be a reliable hedge against inflation. Investors are increasingly considering investing in gold. On Thursday, the price of 10 grams of 24-karat gold reached ₹182,335. The price of 22-karat gold was ₹16,395 per gram, and 18-karat gold was priced at ₹13,414 per gram. Meanwhile, the price of silver is also continuously rising.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh honoured with Governor's Award of Excellence



MI News Service, Kolkata: Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, veteran banker and former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bandhan Bank, was honoured with the Governor's Award of Excellence – Vande Mataram Puraskar 2026 by the Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Dr C. V. Ananda Bose, on Republic Day, January 26, 2026. The accolade recognises his pioneering contributions to financial inclusion, institutional innovation, and the socio-economic development of India.

Chandra Shekhar Ghosh has been widely recognised for his transformative role in expanding access to formal banking for underserved and marginalised communities, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. Beginning his career in the voluntary sector, he founded Bandhan-Konnagar in West Bengal and pioneered micro-credit programmes for women entrepreneurs, promoting economic self-reliance and dignity. Under his leadership, Bandhan became India's largest microfinance institution and, in 2015, transitioned into a universal bank—the first new bank in Eastern India since Independence. Shri Ghosh's career embodies service, innovation, and nation-building, inspiring inclusive growth and socially responsible finance.

Indian Coast Guard Facilitates Safe Reciprocal Repatriation of Indian Fishermen

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in coordination with the Indian Coast Guard and Bangladeshi authorities, on Thursday successfully facilitated the mutual repatriation of 23 Indian fishermen along with two Indian fishing boats (IFBs) that had been detained in Bangladesh.



The repatriation was part of a reciprocal arrangement under which India also released 128 Bangladeshi fishermen and five Bangladesh fishing boats apprehended by the Indian Coast Guard for illegal fishing within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The exchange took place early this morning along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) in the Bay of Bengal.

The Indian fishermen and their two boats were safely handed over by ICG ships Samudra Paheredar and Vijaya to Bangladeshi Coast Guard ships Kamaruzzaman and Sonar Bangla in a coordinated operation. Following the transfer, the fishermen and vessels will be returned to their respective state administrations.

The reciprocal exchange highlights the humanitarian and livelihood concerns of fishing communities and underscores the importance of maritime cooperation between India and Bangladesh. The successful operation reaffirms the commitment of both nations to ensuring the safety and well-being of fishermen, demonstrating effective collaboration in shared seas and humanitarian efforts.

Jayasimha takes the helm at Haldia Dock Complex, SMPA

MI News Service, Kolkata: A. Jayasimha has assumed charge as the Managing Director of Haldia Dock Complex, Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority (SMPA), Kolkata, effective January 22, 2026. Bringing over 36 years of experience in the port sector, he is set to lead the complex toward greater efficiency and growth.



A Jayasimha

Jayasimha started his career as a Class-I Officer at Chennai Port in 1989 and has served as Chief Mechanical Engineer at Chennai, Paradip, and Cochin Port Authorities. He spearheaded automation of Materials Management functions at Chennai and significantly improved productivity and reduced Turn-Around-Time at Paradip's mechanized Coal Handling Plant, earning commendation from the then Union Minister of Shipping.

With his vast expertise, Jayasimha aims to strengthen Haldia Dock Complex's performance and competitiveness. He emphasizes collaboration and calls upon port users, employees, and the broader trade and commerce community to support initiatives that make SMPA more vibrant and robust in the national and global port landscape.

Anandapur Fire Toll Rises to 21, Forensic Report Submitted



MI News Service, Kolkata: Four days after the devastating fire at Anandapur, the area continues to reel under grief and devastation as the death toll has risen to 21, while 28 people are still reported missing, according to police records. As time passes, hopes of finding survivors are steadily diminishing, officials said, even as rescue and recovery operations continue amid the debris.

The massive fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday at a momo factory and an adjacent decorators' warehouse in Anandapur, rapidly engulfing the premises and trapping several workers inside. The blaze altered the lives of numerous families within minutes. Firefighters deployed 12 engines and battled the flames for nearly two days before bringing the fire completely under control.

Nearly 60 hours after the incident, the momo manufacturing company issued an official statement addressing the tragedy. In a social media post, the company claimed that the fire originated in a neighbouring warehouse where unauthorised cooking was allegedly taking place and later spread to its own facility. The statement confirmed that one of the company's warehouses in Anandapur was completely gutted in the fire.

The company expressed deep sorrow over the deaths of two of its employees and one contractual security guard. It announced a compensation of 10 lakh for each victim's family, lifelong monthly financial support for dependent family members, and full responsibility for the education of the deceased workers' children.

Meanwhile, prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (earlier Section 144 of the IPC) have been imposed in the area from Wednesday midnight. The restrictions have been enforced to regulate movement and prevent gatherings as recovery operations and investigations continue.

The cause of the fire has remained a subject of intense debate. Preliminary joint reports submitted by the fire services and forensic teams to the police indicate that the blaze did not originate in the momo factory, but from the third floor of the adjoining decorators' warehouse. The report states that the fire spread rapidly from there to the momo unit. This finding contradicts the earlier claim made by the arrested warehouse owner, Gangadhar Das, who had alleged that the fire first broke out at the momo factory.

According to the report, the combined area of the factory and warehouse was around 35,000 square feet, of which approximately 8,000 square feet housed the momo unit, while the remaining space was used for decorative materials. Officials said further forensic examination may be conducted if required.

In the meantime, debris removal has begun at the site. Large twisted iron structures are being cut and cleared using gas cutters, while teams continue searching for human remains amidst the rubble, underscoring the scale of destruction left behind by the tragic blaze.

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NAME CHANGE

I, ANARUL GAZI, S/o- KASHEM GAZI, Vill. + P.O- Hakimpur, P.S- Swarupnagar, North 24 Pgs., do hereby declare that in 2002 Voter List, 93 Swarupnagar Assembly Part No. 84, Sr. No. 257, my father's name is recorded as MONGALA GAZI. On 20/1/26 vide an Affidavit (no. 3433/BC-I/26) before Executive Magistrate I affirm that KASHEM GAZI & MONGALA GAZI is the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, MD KAMARUZZAMAN, S/o- ABED ALI BISWAS, Vill.- Kirtipur, P.O- Madra, P.S- Baduria, North 24 Pgs., PIN- 743438. In 2002 Voter List, 94 Baduria Assembly Part No. 3, SL 29, Voter ID No.- HCT1692078 my name is recorded as KAMRUL BISWAS. On 27-01-2026 vide an Affidavit (No. 5131/26) before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Court, I affirm that MD KAMARUZZAMAN BISWAS & KAMARUL BISWAS is the same & one identical person.

Change of Name

I, **RATNA KUMARI** W/o. Lt. **Ananda Rao,** resident of 3L/4A1, Unit-20,Nimpura, P.O.- Nimpura, P.S.-Kharagpur (T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur hereby declare that I have changed my name as **VENKATA RATHANAM** & I shall be known as **VENKATA RATHANAM** for all future purposes. I have sworn affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Kharagpur vide affidavit no.14481 dtd. 02/12/ 2025 in support of this statement. **RATNA KUMARI** and **VENKATA RATHANAM** is same & one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Tej Narayan Gupta, S/o Late Chhapit Gupta of 517/B Ram Mohan Sarani, P.O. Baidyabati, P.S. Serampore, Dist. Hooghly declare that on 28.01.2026 Ld. Judicial Magistrate 5th Court, Hooghly (Sadar) vide Affidavit No. 843 actual name Tej Narayan Gupta, Tejnarayan Gupta as well as Tej Narayan Shaw is the one and same identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, **Debasish Chakraborty** S/o LT. Jamini Kumar Chakraborty R/o Manjari Apart., Flat No. 2, 35/C Naktala Road, P.S.-Netaji Nagar, Kolkata-700047 my name has been wrongly recorded as per SIR Voter list in Assam in 2005 **Krishna Chakraborty** instead of **Debasish Chakraborty** both are same & one identical peson vide affidavit no.13461 dated 28.01.26 at Alipore Court.

Name Change

I, Sukumar Das S/o. Tapan Das, R/o. Mallikpur, Singur, Hooghly-712409, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my Daughter's name from Mariem Das, Mariem, Mariem Sukunar Das (Old Name) to Saanvi Das (New Name) and henceforth she shall be known as Saanvi Das in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 174 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 05/01/2026. My daughter Saanvi Das & Mariem Das, Mariem, Mariem Sukunar Das D/o. Sukumar Das (Father) & Sathi Dey (Mother) both are the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md. Abdul Majid Ansare, (old name) S/O- Sapatul Miyan, residing at Vill- Birpur, P/O- Amar, P/S- Burdwan, Dist- Purba Bardhaman. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abdul Majid Miyan as declared before the Ld.1st class E.M.at Purba Bardhaman vide Affidavit No.- 44228 dt-12/11/2025 Md. Abdul Majid Ansare (old name), & Abdul Majid Miyan (New name) both are same and identical person.

Change of Name

I, VIJAYA LAXMI, spouse of No.JC-640718K, Rank ex Subedar, Name Late SHIV KUMAR SHARMA resident of village Rambandh Asansol m.corp PO-Burnpur, Dist-Paschim Bardhaman, WB, Pin-713325 have change my name from VIJAYA LAXMI To VIJAY LAXMI SHARMA vide affidavit dated 28/01/2026

Name Change

I, ASHMAT ALI, S/O-GHAIR ALI Residing at Maliakur, P.O- Bamangachhi & P.S- Duttapukur, Dist- North 24 Parganas W.B. PIN-743248 That in my Driving Licence (No-WB2519980129579) my Name, Date of Birth and Father name and address was wrongly recorded as MD ASMAT ALI (name), 07/03/1977 (DOB) & MD J ALI (father's name) in place of ASHMAT ALI, Date of Birth - 01/01/1980 and GHAIR ALI i.e, mentioned in PAN(AZCPA2872P), AADHAR CARD (535160785280), EPIC card (CKW5162755) and other documents, Dated on 21/01/2026 After the affidavit by 1st Class Ld. Judicial Magistrate at Barasat Court, vide no-2740, ASHMAT ALI(new name) AND MD ASMAT ALI(old name); 01/01/1980 (new DOB) and 07/03/1977(old dob); GHAIR ALI (new father's name) and MD J ALI (new father's name)are the same and one identical person in the eye of law.

Name Change

I, Aabutaher Mondal S/o Late Abdul Chhattar Mandal Residing at Paschim Bajitpur, Nadia Garapota, Vtc - Garapota, P.o - Garapota-Nadia, District - Nadia, Pin-741502, West Bengal India, that my deceased father who previously known as Abdulchttar Mondal, Abdulchattar Mondal (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Abdul Chhattar Mandal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 35/2026 dated 28-01-2026. I declare that my deceased father Abdulchttar Mondal, Abdulchattar Mondal (Old Name) and Abdul Chhattar Mandal (New Name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Amjad Khan (Old Name) S/o Ali Hussain Residing at 86, Pilkhana 2nd Bye Lane, P.o - Howrah, P.s - Golabari, District - Howrah, Pin - 711101, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Amzad Khan (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 29-01-2026. Mohammad Amjad Khan (Old Name) and Amzad Khan (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Samina Parveen (Old Name) W/o Md Mohsin Alam Residing at 5/H/19, Motijheel Lane, P.s - Entally, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700015, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Samina Khatoon (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Sealdah vide affidavit no 2914 Dated 28-01-2026. Samina Parveen (Old Name) and Samina Khatoon (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Shampa Nath (Old Name) W/o Subrata Kumar Nath Residing at Tentultala Purbachal Lane No - 9, Rajarhat Gopalpur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700136, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sampa Nath (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 48 Dated 28-01-2026. Shampa Nath (Old Name) and Sampa Nath (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Marjina Bibi, DOB- 23.06.1987 (as per PAN Card) W/o- Jahangir Mondal, D/o- Hayder Ali Mandal, residing at Vill. & P.O- Ghoragachha, P.S- Kalyani, Dist.- Nadia, PIN-741245, do hereby declare that my name has been recorded as মর্জিনা খাতুন, পিতা- হায়দার মণ্ডল in my Birth Certificate issued by Haringhata 1 No. GP. On 28.01.2026 vide Affidavit No. 185 before 1st Class A.C.J.M, 2nd Court Kalyani, Nadia I affirm that Marjina Bibi, W/o-Jahangir Mondal & মর্জিনা খাতুন, পিতা-হায়দার মণ্ডল is the same & one identical lady. Haydar Ali Mandal, S/o- Ketabari Mandal, Haider Mondal, হায়দার মণ্ডল and হায়দার আলি মণ্ডল, পিতা-কেতাবারি মণ্ডল is the same & one identical person i.e. my father.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mir Kerim Ali, S/o.-Lt. Mir Nur Ali, R/o.- Vill.& P.O.- Sahapur,P.S.- Bharatpur, Dist..Murshidabad-742301, WB declare that my actual name Mir Kerim Ali which is noted (in my Aadhar Card & Voter Card) but in my Electoral Roll 2002 (Voter List) my name noted as Mir Profulla.Epic No.- WB/10/068/120170 Vide Affidavit No.1989/26(V)(I) Jan 26, Dt.28.01.2026, before the Ld. Notary Public at Kandi, Court, Murshidabad. That the said my self Mir Kerim Ali & Mir Profulla both are same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Yousuf Khan (Aadhar, Pan Card, Bank P.Book, School leaving/ charecter Certificate), S/o.- Lt. Abbas Khan, R/o.-H-58/1A, Paharpur Rd., P.O. & P.S.- Garden Reach, Kol- 24, that my correct name has been wrongly recorded in my Voter Id Card Khan Noor in place of Yousuf Khan. Noor Khan (correct Nick name) is my actual nick name has recorded in 2002 SIR list & previous epic, vide Affidavit No.12895 dtd. 28.01.2026, in the Court of Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, Dtst. 24 Pgs.(S). That, Yousuf Khan@Khan Noor@Noor Khan, S/o.- Lt. Ababas Khan @Aabbas Khan@Abbas Khan all are same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Tarun Jain, S/o Gopal Das Jain, residing at Sun View 6/7/8, Ramlal Mukherjee Lane, Salkia, Howrah – 711106, P.S. Golabari, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's actual name is Gopal Das Jain, which has been wrongly recorded as Gopal Dass Jain in my Passport No. M1113302, vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Judges' Court, Howrah, on 29.01.2026.That Gopal Das Jain and Gopal Dass Jain are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Khurshid Akram Rahmani, S/o.- Lt. Moinul Islam, R/o.- Bengal Shoe Store, Behind Jama Masjid, Pucca Bazar, P.O.- Asansol & P.S.- Asansol South, Dist.- Paschim Bardhaman-713301, (WB), declare my wife's actual name (Zuhra Khatoon) has been wrongly recorded in my passport as Zohra Khatoon in place of Zuhra Khatoon, vide Affidavit Sl.No.-47, dtd. 24/12/2025, before Notary Public at Asansol. That, Zuhra Khatoon & Zohra Khatoon both are same & one identical person.

I, SK. DAUAD ISLAM, S/o LATE SK. NASIRUDDIN ISLAM, residing at Vill & P.O. Bargharia, P.S. Swarupnagar, Dist. North 24 PGS, PIN - 743247, W.B. do hereby declare that my father's name has been inadvertantly recorded as NASIRUDDIN SEKH in voter list of 2002, Assembly No. 93, Part-157, Sl. No. 370 & in his death certificate (Reg. No. D-2020:02553-000088 dt. 18.09.2020) his name has been recorded as NASIRUDDIN ISLAM SK. On 22.01.2026 vide affidavit no. 4112 before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Barasat, I affirm that SK. NASIRUDDIN ISLAM, NASIRUDDIN SEKH & NASIRUDDIN ISLAM SK is the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) CHAITONYA MONDAL S/o- MRITYUNJOY MANDAL Residing at, Vill - Pomia Palsonda, Post - Nabagram, Ps- Nabagram, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742181, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from CHAITONYA MONDAL To CHAITONYA MANDAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) CHAITONYA MANDAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, CHAITONYA MANDAL and CHAITONYA MONDAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) REAZUL HAQUE S/o- HABIL MOLLA Residing at, Vill - Mahesh Nagar, Post - Birpur, Ps- Chapra, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741126, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from REAZUL HAQUE To RIYAJUL HAQUE MOLLA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) RIYAJUL HAQUE MOLLA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, RIYAJUL HAQUE MOLLA and REAZUL HAQUE both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) DILDAR HASSAN S/o- RIYAJUL HAQUE MOLLA Residing at, Vill - Mahesh Nagar, Post - Birpur, Ps- Chapra, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741126, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from DILDAR HASSAN To DILDAR HASSAN MOLLA (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) DILDAR HASSAN MOLLA in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, DILDAR HASSAN MOLLA and DILDAR HASSAN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) SEKH FAIZUL & FAIJUL S/o- LATE SEKANDAR SEKH Residing at, Vill- Uttar Lakshmipur (Narhatta), Post - Koklamari, Ps- Englishbazar, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732208, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from SEKH FAIZUL & FAIJUL To FAIJUL SEKH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) FAIJUL SEKH in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, FAIJUL SEKH and SEKH FAIZUL & FAIJUL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, **Sabera Begam**, **W/O- Salim Ali Badsa**, residing at Vill.+P.O.- Barunda, P.S.- Bagnan, Dist.- Howrah.That in the voter list of 2002 my name has been recorded as **Tulu Begam Mallik**,**W/O- Selim Ali Mallik** and in my voter card as **Sabera Begam,W/O- Selim Ali Badsha** Which are incorrect. So vide Affidavit before the Ld. 1st class J.M. at Uluberia dt-28/01/2026 (No.3575) that **Sabera Begam, W/O- Salim Ali Badsa** & **Tulu Begam Mallik,W/O- Selim Ali Mallik** & **Sabera Begam,W/O- Selim Ali Badsha** both are same and one identical persons.

Name Change

I, Prity Chanda (Old Name) Wife Of Piyush Kanti Maji, Residing At Vill- Sagarpur, P.S.- Daspur, Dist - Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721211, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Prity Chanda Maji (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/01/2026. Prity Chanda (Old Name) And Prity Chanda Maji (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Jyotsnatara Barui Wife Of Safijudadin Barui, Residing At Vill - Gabati, P.S.- Haripal, Dist - Hooghly, Pin - 712403, West Bengal, India. My Husband Name Wrongly Entered In His Death Certificate Safijuddin Barui Instead Of Safijudadin Barui. I, Decalred Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 28/01/2026. Safijuddin Barui (Oldname) And Safijudadin Barui (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Ramjan Ali Mandal (Old Name) Son Of Late Akbar Mondal, Residing At Vill - Adityapur, P.O.- Goribpur, P.S.-Gopalnagar, Dist- 24 Parganas North, Pin - 743710, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ramjan Ali Mondal (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata Dated 28/01/2026. Ramjan Ali Mandal (Old Name) And Ramjan Ali Mondal (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Prabir Kumar Chattopadhyay (Old Name) Son Of Late Indu Bhusan Chatterjee, Residing At 1/1, Panna Jhil Barasat, P.O.- Noapara, P.S. - Barasat, Dist - 24 Parganas North, Pin - 700125, West Bengal, India. Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Prabir Chatterjee (New Name) As Declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Barasat On 20/12/2006. Prabir Kumar Chattopadhyay (Old Name) And Prabir Chatterjee (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I,Malina Madhusudan Samanta, W/O - Madhusudan Samanta, Vill Rajnagar Srinath, P.O - Rajnagar, P.S Kakdwip, Dist - South 24 Parganas, State - West Bengal. At Present address- Near Tata Power, Kalyanngr Saki Viharroad Chandivali Sakinaka, Mumbai, State - Maharastra after marriage and through 1st Class Magistrate Affidavit on 20.1.26. Subarna Jana D/O -Ashok Jana and Malina Madhusudan Samanta, W/O Madhusudan Samanta is a same and Identical Lady.

Name Change

I, Aabutahera Mondal (Old Name) S/o Late Abdul Chhattar Mandal Residing at Paschim Bajitpur, Nadia Garapota, Vtc - Garapota, P.o - Garapota-Nadia, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Aabutaher Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 36/2026 Dated 28-01-2026. Aabutahera Mondal (Old Name) and Aabutaher Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nemat Shoib (Old Name), Daughter Of Md Shoaib,Residing At 59/H, G.J.Khan Road, Kolkata- 700039, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Nemat Shoaib (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/01/2026. Nemat Shoib And Nemat Shoaib Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Sanjay Kumar Jain (old name) S/O Late Ladhulal Saraogi, residing at P-332, C.I.T Road, Scheme-VIM, Kolkata-700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sanjay Kumar Saraogi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/01/2026. Sanjay Kumar Saraogi (new name) and Sanjay Kumar Jain (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Navin Jain (old name) S/O Sanjay Kumar Saraogi, residing at P-332, C.I.T Road, Scheme- VIM, Kolkata- 700054, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Navin Saraogi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/01/2026. Navin Saraogi (new name) and Navin Jain (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammed Robiul Islam Mondal (old name) S/O Abdul Hamid Mondal, residing at Vill & P.O.- Aturia, P.S.- Baduria, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743427, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Robiul Islam Mondal (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 29/01/2026. Md Robiul Islam Mondal (new name) and Mohammed Robiul Islam Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Bidhan Mondal (Old Name) s/o Late Adhir Chandra Mondal, residing at 18/2 Subhash Pally 2nd Floor, Regent Estate, Kolkata-700092, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bidhan Chandra Mondal (New Name), as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 28/01/2026. Bidhan Chandra Mondal (new name) and Bidhan Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Rahima Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Arap Ali Khan, Residing At Parganti, Baruipur- 743502, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rahima Khan (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/01/2026.Rahima Bibi (Old Name) And Rahima Khan (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Ashish Kumar Bagchi (Old Name), son of Joydeb Bagchi, residing at Ashray, 1B 4th Road, Eastern Park, PO_ santoshpur, PS- Survey Park, kolkata- 700075, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashish Bagchi (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 29/01/2026. Ashish Kumar Bagchi and Ashish Bagchi both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sanjay Kumar Gupta (Old Name), Son Of Ram Gopal Gupta, Residing At A/04/04 Kwic, Howrah-Amta Rd & Mumbai Rd, Nh-6bankra Howrah-711403, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sanjay Gupta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/01/2026. Sanjay Kumar Gupta And Sanjay Gupta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Shahid (Old Name As Per Dl No Up5020130022337), Son Of Faizurrahman, Residing At T-35 Baishnabghata,1st Floor, Patuli, Kolkata- 700094, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shahid (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 22/01/2026. Mohammad Shahid And Shahid Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, "Sk. Qurban", S/o.- Lt. Mohamad Shakoor, R/o.- 4/3/H/70, Bhukailash Road, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kol-23, that, since birth & throughout my life I have been known called & identified my name "RAJU" (in my Aadhar, PAN Card, Passport and all identity & official docs), shall henceforth be known as RAJU in all personal, legal, Government & official records. That all the information provided by me is true, vide Affidavit No. 3425, dtd. 29.01.2026, before the 1st Class Magistrate at Alipore.

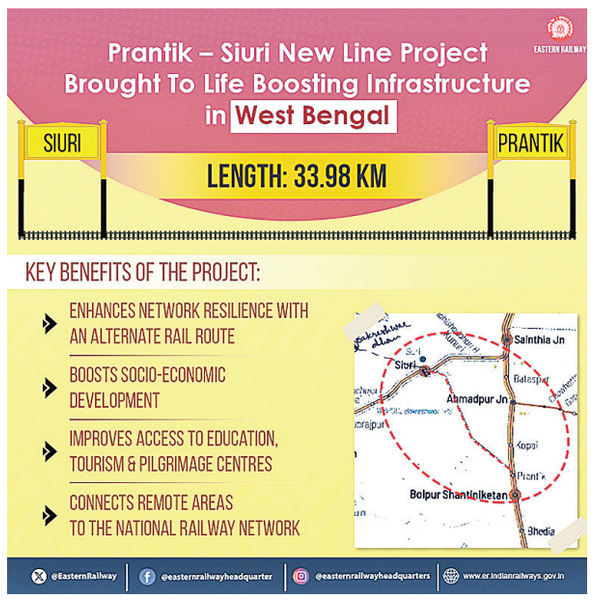
Name Change

I, (Old Name) AMANULLAH SEKH and AMANULLAH SK S/o- YANUS SK Residing at, Vill - Surkhali, Post - Sankarpur, Ps- Khargram, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742159, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from AMANULLAH SEKH and AMANULLAH SK To AMANULLA SK (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) AMANULLA SK in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, AMANULLA SK and AMANULLAH SEKH and AMANULLAH SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) TUJAM SEIKH S/o- NUMER SK Residing at, Vill - Nonadanga Paschimpara, Post - Nonadanga, Ps- Khargram, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 731241, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from TUJAM SEIKH To TUJAMMEL SEIKH (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) TUJAMMEL SEIKH in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, TUJAMMEL SEIKH and TUJAM SEIKH both are Same and one identical person.

Prantik – Siuri New Line Project Brought To Life



MI News Service, Kolkata, 29 Jan.26 : Railway Board had sanctioned Prantik – Siuri new line (33.98 Km) as material modification for the work of doubling between Chinpai – Sainthia (31.61 Km). But this project of new line between Prantik – Siuri was in pending condition. The present Union Government leaving no stone unturned for bringing holistic development of West Bengal. As a part of the endeavour of the Union Government to bring transport network at every corner of West Bengal, the Ministry of Railways has brought Prantik – Siuri new line project into life for quick execution of the project.

Establishing Railway Link between Prantik & Siuri is strategically vital for the holistic development of Birbhum district as well as surrounding regions in West Bengal.

Completion of this new line project will bring multi dimensional benefits as follows:-

• Network Resilience & Alternate Route: The line creates a strategic loop connecting the Sahibganj Loop (at Prantik) with the Andal - Sainthia Branch (at Siuri)

• Socio-Economic Benefit: Siuri is the Administrative Headquarters of the Birbhum District. Bolpur/Prantik is the largest sub-divisional town and a major educational hub. A direct rail link will facilitate efficient movement for the public between the administrative seat and the cultural capital of the district.

• Tourism & Cultural Development: Strengthens tourism around UNESCO-listed Santiniketan, Bakreswar hot springs, Tarapith, and other pilgrimage centers.

• Educational Linkage: It directly connects students from the district headquarters and western Birbhum (Rajnagar/Dubrajpur areas) to Visva Bharati University (Santiniketan) and ancillary educational institutes, expanding the catchment area of these institutions.

With this revival of Prantik – Siuri new line (33.98 Km) project, the people of West Bengal will be greatly benefitted not only as a boost to regional connectivity but at the same time bringing the erstwhile remote areas to the larger railway network of the country through connective link.

TMC councilor initiates R-Day celeb Week



MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day of India, a dignified flag-hoisting ceremony was organized by Dalhousie Ekta Club with great pride and enthusiasm. The programme was held under the overall supervision of the Club's Chairman, Anand Singh (Guddu). The ceremony was formally inaugurated by local TMC Councillor Vijay Upadhyay, who hoisted the National Flag and initiated the celebration week.

Regulation Of Trains For Non-Interlocking Work

MI News Service, Kolkata, 29 Jan.26 : Due to Pre- Non Interlocking/ Non Interlocking work in connection with commissioning of Automatic signaling in Sitarampur – Barachak section from 31.01.2026 to 01.02.2026, following arrangements in train running have been made as under: **Cancellation of trains on 31.01.2026:** • 63555 Barddhaman – Barkakana MEMU. • 63556 Barkakana – Asansol MEMU. **Cancellation of trains on 01.02.2026:** • 63555 Barddhaman – Barkakana MEMU. • 63556 Barkakana – Asansol MEMU. • 13503 Barddhaman – Hatia Express. • 13504 Hatia – Barddhaman Express. • 13545 Asansol – Gaya Express. • 13546 Gaya – Asansol Express. • 63541 Asansol – Gomoh Passenger. • 63542 Gomoh – Asansol Passenger. **Short termination/short origination of trains:** 63509/63510 Barddhaman-Jhajha – Barddhaman MEMU will be short terminated at /short originated from Asansol on 31.01.2026 & 01.02.2026.

Moreover, 12354 Lalkuan – Howrah Superfast Express (journey commencing on 31.01.2026) and 13151 Kolkata – Jammu Tawi Express (journey commencing on 01.02.2026) will be controlled for 30 minutes and 10 minutes respectively.

Fourth Railway Line Approved Between Baikunthand Urkura at ₹426 Crore

• Expansion Will Ease Congestion and Improve Punctuality inPassenger Traffic, Besides Ensuring More Reliable FreightOperations

• New Railway Line on Mumbai Howrah High Density Route toSupport Power, Coal, Steel, Cement and Other Core Industries

MI News Service, New Delhi, 29 Jan.26 : The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned the construction of a fourth railway line between Baikunth and Urkura, covering a length of 26.40 kilometres, at an estimated cost of ₹426.01 crore, under the South East Central Railway.

The Baikunth–Urkura section is a vital part of the Bilaspur–Raipur–Nagpur main line, which also falls

on the Mumbai–Howrah high-density railway network, one of the busiest rail corridors in the country.

At present, this section is operating with saturated capacity, underscoring the urgent need for capacityexpansion.

The sanctioned fourth line will significantly ease congestion and enhance the smooth movement of trains. The project will create capacity for additional passenger and coaching services, reduce delays, and improve punctuality on this heavily utilised section. In addition to passenger benefits, the project is expected to facilitate additional freight traffic of approximately 14.25 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). This increase in freight handling capacity is projected to generate additional annual earnings of about ₹61.70 crore for Indian Railways, starting from the first year of commissioning.

The region has witnessed rapid expansion of power plants, coal mines, steel and cement units, along with the development of new and allied industries. The new line will ensure faster and more reliable transportation of bulk commodities, supporting industrial growth and strengthening supply chains. The work has been identified under the Energy, Cement and Mineral Corridor, reflecting Indian Railways' continued focus on strengthening infrastructure in high-traffic and economically critical regions. Once completed, the fourth line between Baikunth and Urkura will not only transform travel for passengers by making journeys faster, smoother, and more reliable, but also bolster freight operations, supporting the region's industries and economic growth.

Sealdah Division Celebrates 77th Republic Day: DRM Sealdah Highlights Record Growth, Technological Marvels, and Commitment to 'Viksit Bharat 2047'

MI News Service, Kolkata, 29 Jan.26 : On the occasion of the 77th Republic Day, Sealdah Division of Eastern Railway celebrated the spirit of the nation with patriotic fervor. Divisional Railway Manager, Sealdah, unfurled the National Flag at the Divisional Sports Ground, followed by a comprehensive address detailing the division's landmark achievements in the current financial year. Sri Saxena emphasized that Sealdah Division, the "lifeline of Kolkata," is deeply committed to India's journey toward becoming a developed nation by 2047. The celebration featured a spectacular ceremonial parade where contingents from the RPF, St. John Ambulance, Civil Defence, and Scouts & Guides marched in unison and offered a grand salute to the Chief Guest followed by cultural event by small children of Chahak Academy (Run by ERWWO).



Division highlighted a transformative year for passenger services, marked by the introduction of new AC local trains, Humsafar, and Amrit Bharat Express. Significant infrastructure milestones were achieved, including the opening of the Krishnagar-Aamghata section and the redevelopment of stations under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Beyond connectivity, division also focused on passenger comfort by installing 67 new platform sheds, modern toilet complexes, and "Dava Dost" medicine stores across 20 stations. Punctuality also saw a notable improvement of 2-3% over the previous year.

On the economic front, Sealdah Division emerged as a powerhouse, registering a 24.24% growth in originating freight loading and a 36.56% increase in freight earnings. Safety remains the cornerstone of operations, with the successful installation of the KAVACH system in 41 locomotives and the deployment of AI-based Face Recognition Software in 127 stations. The division also maintained a commendable zero-consequential accident record, earning the prestigious Safety Shield.

Staff welfare and healthcare saw record-breaking advancements, including 3,159 promotions—the highest in Eastern Railway. BR Singh Hospital set a benchmark by installing a 3 Tesla MRI machine and advanced telemedicine services, a first for Indian Railways. Security measures were equally robust, with the RPF rescuing 141 children and recovered luggage for passengers.

Shri Saxena also acknowledged the commendable activities of Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation, Sealdah (ERWWO) for their active participation in various social welfare initiatives. The celebration was concluded on a high note and attended by President ERWWO/Sealdah Smt Nidhi Saxena, other branch officers and employees of division.

Name Change

I,Ravi Shankar (Old Name), Son Of Bachan Prasad, Residing At Flat No-2c,301, Roy Bahadur Road, Ps-Behala, Kolkata- 700053west Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ravi Shankar Gupta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Metropolitan Magistrate At Kolkata On 09/02/2018. Ravi Shankar And Ravi Shankar Gupta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rakesh Saraf (old name) S/O Ramawatar Saraf, residing at 48/9B, Jessore Road, Bangur Avenue, Tulsidham, Complex, Kolkata- 700055, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rakesh Kumar Saraf (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 27/01/2026. Rakesh Kumar Saraf (new name) and Rakesh Saraf (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Newborn Care Corner Inaugurated At Malda Railway Hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata, 29 Jan.26 : In a significant step towards strengthening neonatal healthcare services, a Newborn Care Corner was inaugurated on recently at Malda Railway Hospital in the august presence of Smt. Manisha Gupta, President, ERWWO/Malda, along with members of the Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO).



This important healthcare initiative has been undertaken under the stewardship of Shri Manish Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda, and Dr. Anupa Ghosh, Chief Medical Superintendent, Malda Railway Hospital. Equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure and supported through intersectoral convergence, the Newborn Care Corner will play a vital role in providing quality healthcare services to newborns while fostering a strong emotional bond between mothers and their infants.

Aligned with the vision of the Prime Minister's Samagra Swasthya Mission, the facility is expected to contribute significantly towards the reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and serve as a key support system for intrapartum and immediate postpartum care.

To ensure effective and accessible neonatal care, hospital personnel were provided in-house hands-on training in neonatal resuscitation, conducted in collaboration with the Indian Academy of Pediatrics, Malda.

Indian Oil Corporation Ltd Signs Letter of Intent with Akasa Air to Advance Sustainable Aviation Fuel Supply

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, India's flagship national energy major, signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) with Akasa Air, India's fastest-growing airline at Wings India 2026, to explore the future supply of Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF).



The LOI proposes to establish a framework for collaboration between the two companies to support the airline's sustainability goals through the potential supply of SAF.

SAF is a critical pathway for reducing lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from air travel and is expected to play a key role in the aviation sector's transition towards net-zero emissions.

"This LOI reflects our commitment to scaling low-carbon fuels and supporting our customers in their energy transition. By leveraging our expertise across fuel production, supply, and logistics, we aim to play a meaningful role in enabling an early transition to the usage of SAF." said Shailesh Dhar, Country Head (Aviation Business) at Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.

Pursuant to the LOI, the companies will work towards evaluating potential SAF supply volumes, delivery locations, and timelines, as well as the use of approved sustainable feedstocks and production pathways.

S. E. Railway to commence the construction work for six new railway lines in West Bengal

MI News Service, 29 Jan 2026, Kolkata: The construction work for Six New Railway Lines in West Bengal which have been sanctioned by Railway Board will commence shortly. These new Rail line projects will be executed by South Eastern Railway to improve connectivity, boost regional economy and provide better access for the local residents.

The Railway Lines are:

1) Kanthi-Egra New Line

This new line project of 26.2 Km will cover the East Medinipur district of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 247.28 crores (approx). This will be a new Rail connectivity in this area.

2) Nandkumar-Balaipanda New Line

This new line project of 28 Km will cover the East Medinipur district of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of 275.14 crores (approx). This will be a new Rail connectivity in this area.

3) Nandigram-Kandiamari (Nayachar) New Line

This new line project of 7 Km will cover the East Medinipur district of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 75.62 crores (approx). This will be a new Rail connectivity in this area.

4) Bowaichandi-Arambagh New Line

This new line project of 31 Km will cover East Bardhaman & Hooghly districts of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of 267.37 crores (approx). The construction of this new railway line will reduce the rail distance between Bowaichandi and Arambagh by around 90 Kms.

5) Bowaichandi-Khana New Line

This new line project of 24.4 Km will cover the East Bardhaman district of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of Rs. 38.92 crores (approx). The construction of this new railway line will reduce the rail distance between Bowaichandi and Khana by around 64 Kms.

6) Bankura (Kalabati)-Purulia via Hura New Line

This new line project of 65 Km will cover the Bankura & Purulia districts of West Bengal. The line will be constructed at a cost of Rs.294.89 crores (approx).

The local residents, who are deprived of rail communication, will now be immensely benefitted. The new lines will enhance business opportunities and new job opportunities will be generated for the local people. Moreover, with the new mode of transportation, medical and educational opportunities will grow in these regions.

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. : SG.Tender/DSTE/SDAH/590, dated 28.01.2026. e-Tenders are invited by the Sr. Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work. **e-Tender No.: SDSTE/TELE/T/17/25-26/CAP,RRSK,SF. Name of Work with its location :** (i) Provision of 48F OFC in Dum Dum Jn.-Barasat, Barasat-Hasnabad, Barasat-Bangaon, Bangaon-Majhergram section in Sealdah Division. (ii) Provision of RTU at Interlocked LC gates (OSL) in the section of ASTE/W in Sealdah Division. **Tender Value:** Rs. 9,08,38,381/-. **Earnest Money / Bid Security to be deposited :** Rs. 6,04,200/-. **Cost of Tender document :** Nil. **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months. **Tender submission start date :** 09.02.2026. **Tender submission end date :** 23.02.2026 upto 14.00 hrs. **Tender Bid opening date :** 23.02.2026 at 14.30 hrs. **Details may be available :** www.ireps.gov.in **Technical Eligibility Criteria :** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria :** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or 'V' whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N= Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/ audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/ Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted** : As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar nature of Work :** Supply, Installation & Commissioning of Datalogger or RTUs or Any Signal Interlocking works involving EI or RRI or PI or IBS or IBH or LC Gate Interlocking or Yard modification or UFSBI or Track Circuit (AFTC or DC TC) or Axle Counter (SSDAC or MSDAC or HA-SSDAC) or Automatic Signalling. **Note** : The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/their claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/ certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page).
(SDAH-373/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-LCGT-NDAE-KWAE dated 27.01.2026. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, DRM Building near Railway station, Howrah-711101 invites open e-Tender in single packet system against Tender No. SDSTE-LHS-LCGT-NDAE-KWAE **closing date 20.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** Howrah Division - Signalling work in connection with - Schedule A1 - Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 5/3 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/NDAE. Schedule A2-Telecommunication Cost for construction of LHS at Gate No. 5/3/E at Km. No. 19/9-11 between station KMAE-JIT under Jurisdiction of AEN/NDAE. Schedule B1 - Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 5/4 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/NDAE. Schedule B2-Telecommunication Cost for construction of LHS at Gate No. 5/4/E at Km. No. 20/1-3 between station KMAE-JIT under Jurisdiction of AEN/NDAE. Schedule C1 - Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 21/C/E in B.K section under AEN/KWAE. Schedule C2-Telecom cost for Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate no. 21/C/E in B.K section under AEN/KWAE. Schedule D1 - Signalling Cost for Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 8/3 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/NDAE. Schedule D2 - Telecom cost for Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 8/3 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/NDAE. **Advertised value :** Rs. 3,42,15,901.24. **Earnest Money/Bid Security :** Rs. 3,21,100/-. **Tender document cost:** 0/-. **Validity of offer:** 60 days. **Period of completion:** 12 months. **Bidding start date :** 06.02.2026.
(HWH-568/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
Tender No. SLSDELACHFOT0825-26 dated 28.01.2026. Sr. DME (Loco), Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Beliaghata, Kolkata-700014 invites open e-Tender in single packet system against Tender No. SLSDELACHFOT0825-26 **closing date 18.02.2026 at 15.00 hrs.** Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of Work :** One time contract for retro fitment of CAB AC and implementation of modification for removal of Harmonic Filter from WAP7 class of 3-phase electric locomotives fitted with IGBT based Propulsion equipment as per RDSO modification sheet no. RDSO/2024/EL/MS/0504 (Rev 1&2). **Advertised value :** Rs. 43,89,600/-. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 87,800/-. **Tender document cost:** 0/-. **Validity of offer:** 90 days. **Period of completion:** 6 months. **Bidding start date :** 04.02.2026.
(SDAH-371/2025-26)
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
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EASTERN RAILWAY
E-tenders are invited by the Chief Works Manager, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 from reputed, approved and eligible contractors of Railways and those of appropriate list of Department of Govt./Public Sector undertaking for the undermentioned work : **Sl.No. 1, Tender No.: Engg-PWDstaff-25-26-LLH. Name of work :** Infrastructure facilities for Staffs including Lockers, Benches, Changing Area and earmarked for PWD staff on Ground floor and Mezzanine floor. **Tender value :** Rs. 3,72,57,504.53. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 3,36,300/-. **Sl.No. 2, Tender No.: Engg-MRS-25-26-LLH. Name of work :** Provision of Material Racking system at Rapair Bay (F-Shop area). **Tender value :** Rs. 1,80,62,486.74. **Earnest Money :** Rs. 2,40,300/-. **Cost of Tender document :** Nil for each. **Completion period:** 270 days (for Sl.No. 1) & 180 days (for Sl.No. 2). **Date & time of closing of tender :** On 19.02.2026 upto 12.00 hrs. The details of tender are available at website **https://www.ireps.gov.in** along with corrigendum (if any). Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website. No manual offer will be accepted. (MISC-376/2025-26)Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Declare Guru Ravidas Jayanti as national holiday: Punjab Congress chief Warring

MI News Service, Chandigarh: Punjab Congress president Amarinder Singh Raja Warring on Thursday demanded that Guru Ravidas Jayanti be declared a national holiday, on the lines of birth anniversaries of other Gurus and prophets.

Warring said he intended to raise the issue during the Zero Hour in the Lok Sabha on Thursday, but could not do so as the House was adjourned before the matter could be taken up.

Talking to reporters later, the PCC president said it has been a long-pending demand of the followers of Guru Ravidas that his birth anniversary should be declared a national holiday. He pointed out that there are lakhs and crores of devotees who worship Guru Ravidas with divine reverence.

The Congress leader said birth anniversaries of other Gurus and prophets are already observed as national holidays, and the same status should be accorded to Guru Ravidas Jayanti as well.

Warring said that coming from Punjab, which has a large population of followers of Guru Ravidas, he has been pursuing the issue on multiple platforms. He reiterated that he wanted to raise the matter in Parliament but was unable to do so due to the adjournment of the House.

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer (G)/Santragachi, South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur Division acting on behalf of President of India invites open tender, through e-Tendering in **www.ireps.gov.in** website as per details mentioned below. Eligible contractors are requested to apply for the same through online only, in **www.ireps.gov.in** website. No offline tender will be accepted for this tender. Please read the tender document carefully uploaded in the document section for details. **Sl. No.** 1. **Tender Notice No. Elect-Chg-OT-25-26-BSBP39**, **Name of the work** : Electrical work for the work for DN Common Loop Line beside DN main Line at Bir Shibpur station. **Tender Value :** ₹ 19,10,092.15. **EMD/Bid Security :** ₹ 38,200/- . **Sl. No.** 2. **Tender Notice No. Elect-Chg-25-26-Abada-40**, **Name of the work** : Electrical work for 100 bedded Running Room with Combined Crew Lobby at Abada (ABB)/Sankrail station under Kharagpur Division of S.E. Railway. **Tender Value :** ₹ 90,72,548.77, **EMD/Bid Security :** ₹ 1,81,500/- **Tender Closing date & time :** 23.02.2026, 11:00 hrs for Sl. No. 1 and 26.02.2026, 10:30 hrs. for Sl. No. 2. Tender Notice, tender document and other details are given in the **www.ireps.gov.in** (PR-1118)



Responding to a long-standing demand of the local people, the 'Nutan Bazar Reinforced Concrete Bridge' over the Nutan Bazar canal in Ward 112 of Tollygunge was inaugurated today by the Minister Aroop Biswas and the Minister Dr. Manas Ranjan Bhunia. Local municipal representative Gopal Roy was also present.

Vaishno Devi Shrine Board begins second phase of seed dispersal in Trikuta Hills

MI News Service, Katra: The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) began the winter plantation drive and the second phase of aerial seed dispersal at the Trikuta Hills on Thursday.

A demonstration exercise was held at SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital in Kakryal. The seed-dispersal activity shall be carried out during the week, taking advantage of favourable weather conditions to improve seed germination and achieve better ecological outcomes.

It may be recalled that the Shrine Board has formulated an aerial seeding plan to improve green cover in the inaccessible areas of the Trikuta Hills over the next ten years.

According to the release, the programme achieved an estimated 3% ecological regeneration success rate, which is considered meaningful given the region's challenging terrain. Despite steep slopes, rocky surfaces, and uneven soil depth, some of the dispersed seeds germinated, resulting in early vegetation growth that improved soil stability and green cover.

The experience also provided useful insights about suitable plant species, which are now being used to make the current phase more effective.

The existing phase aims to cover approximately 83 hectares across identified locations, including Banj Nallah, Khari Extension, and parts of Barkli, Koura Sumb, Kalal, Banjala and Matali Dabbar, located on the right side of the Shrine Board's Serli Helipad.

The activity involved the aerial dispersal of seeds of various species like Amla, Anaar, Siris, Karangal, Thuja, Gulmohar and Bamboo, etc., to enhance green cover and support ecological restoration in these hilly and environmentally sensitive areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, said that, under the directions of SMVDSB Chairman Manoj Sinha, the Shrine Board has made significant progress in increasing the green cover in the Shrine area.

He highlighted that, through the Annual Greening Plans (AGPs), more than 19 lakh saplings have been planted in recent years to preserve the sacred region's natural beauty and ecological balance.

He further affirmed that the aerial-based afforestation drive complements several other environmentally responsible initiatives undertaken by the Shrine Board, including the adoption of solar energy, scientific waste management through a ban on single-use plastic and segregation of waste at source, as well as water conservation measures across the Shrine complex and adjoining areas.

Court rejects bail plea of ex-MCD councillor Tahir Hussain, two others in UAPA case

MI News Service, New Delhi: Delhi's Karkardooma Court on Thursday rejected regular bail pleas of Tahir Hussain, Athar Khan and Saleem Malik alias Munna. They are accused in a case linked to the alleged conspiracy of the Delhi riots. They have been charge-sheeted under UAPA.

Additional Sessions Judge (ASJ) Sameer Bajpai rejected the bail pleas of Ex MCD councillor Tahir Hussain, Athar Khan and Saleem Malik alias Munna.

While rejecting the bail pleas, the court said there is no merit in the applications in view of the provisions of ofthe Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

On January 5, the Supreme Court granted bail to 5 accused in this case. The bail pleas of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam were rejected by the apex court.

"Now, despite the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court regarding co-accused persons, when this Court has once formed the opinion that prima facie a case is made out against the applicant, no other different opinion can be formed now by reviewing the earlier order," ASJ Bajpai said in the order passed on January 29.

While dismissing the bail plea of Tahir Hussain, the court said, "Accordingly, the Court doesn't find merits in the application, and the same is hereby dismissed."

The court dismissed Tahir Hussain's bail application on March 30, 2024, and stated that the Allegations against the Accused are prima facie true.

"In the earlier order, this Court also observed that a prima facie case was there against the applicant and the bar under section 43D(5) OF UAPA was there and therefore, the case of the applicant was not a fit case for bail," the court said in the order.

In this case, Tahir Hussain, Umar Khalid, Sharjeel Imam, Natasha Narwal, Devangana Kalita, Asif Iqbal Tanha, Ishrat Jahan, Safoora Zargar and others are accused in this case. They are charge-sheeted under the IPC and the UAPA. The matter is at the stage of arguements on charges.

General Manager, East Coast Railway, Calls on Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

MI News Service, 29 Jan 2026, Bhubaneswar: Parmeshwar Funkwal, General Manager, East Coast Railway, participated in a high level review meeting chaired by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, to assess the progress of major railway infrastructure and developmental projects in the State.

The meeting was attended by the General Managers of East Coast Railway, South Central Railway and South Coast Railway, along with senior officials from Indian Railways and the Government of Andhra Pradesh including officers from the Revenue and Forest Departments of the State Government. Discussions focused on strengthening rail infrastructure, enhancing line capacity and improving connectivity to support economic growth, passenger convenience and freight movement.



Several important projects pertaining to East Coast Railway were reviewed during the meeting. These included the doubling of the Kottavalasa–Koraput railway line, the fourth line between Kottavalasa and Vizianagaram, and the third and fourth line between Vizianagaram and Naupada along the busy Howrah–Chennai main line were also reviewed. Progress of the Vizianagaram–Titlagarh third line project, a vital capacity enhancement link between Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, was also discussed.

In addition, the major upgradation of Visakhapatnam Railway Station, being undertaken to provide world class passenger amenities and modern station infrastructure, formed an important part of the deliberations. The Chief Minister emphasized the importance of close coordination between the State Government and Indian Railways for timely completion of the projects and advised the concerned departments, including Revenue and Forest, to expedite the process of providing necessary statutory clearances. He also assured full support of the State Government in matters relating to land acquisition, clearances and inter-departmental coordination.

NOTICE
DISTRICT : HOOGHLY
IN THE COURT OF THE LD. DISTRICT DELEGATE AT CHANDERNAGORE
Ref :- Act 39 Case No 47 of 2024
Petitioner :- SMT. SOMA NATH, W/O Shri. Tarak Chandra Nath, D/o. Late Bijoy Krishna Debnath, resident of- Balaji Appt., 3rd Floor, Flat No. 3E, G.B. Dutta Road, PO- Sodepur, PS- Khardah, Dist.- North 24 parganas, Kolkata-700110, West Bengal.
It is hereby notified that the applicant has filed an application before the Hon'ble Court for obtaining a Succession Certificate in respect of an amount of Rs. 1,08,315/- (Rupees One Lakh Eight Thousand Three Hundred Fifteen only) approx. as on 31.03.2024 laying is Post Office-Telenipara, S.O. 712125, IFSC Code-1POSOOOODOP, As per the Savings Bank Passbook vide Saving Account No. 6484059860, Department of Post, India, standing in the name of her deceased parents, Late BIJOY KRISHNA DEBNATH & LATE CHHAYA DEBNATH. If anyone has any statement or objection in this regard, he/she may appear before this Court within 30 (Thirty) days from the publication of this notice. Otherwise, the case will be settled unilaterally.
Amit Chakraborty Advocate
By Order (Sherestadar) District Delegate at Chandernagore

E-tender
E-tender is invited for Purchase of Braille Paper of Regional Braille Press vide Tender ID: 2026_MEE_994986_1. For details https://wbtenders.gov.in.
Sd/-
Secretary
Ramakrishna Mission Ashrama
B.B.A., Narendrapur

আমমোক্তারনামা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা সকলকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, শ্রী মদন মোহন দত্ত পিতা ৺সত্যচরন দত্ত, সাকিম ইছাপুর প্রকাশ্য গোপীনগর, গোপীনগর, ধনিয়াখালী, হুগলী-৭১২৪০২, হাল সাকিম ২৪৮/২ জি.টি রোড, বাহির শ্রীরামপুর, বৈদ্যবাটী (এম), মল্লিকপাড়া, শ্রীরামপুর, হুগলী-৭১২২০৩, মহাশয় বিগত ইং ১৬/০৯/২০১১ তারিখে এ.ডি.এস.আর., ধনিয়াখালী, হুগলী, অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রীকৃত I-03113/2021 নং আমমোক্তারনামা দলিল মূলে, আমাকে (শ্রী শংকর দত্ত পিতা ৺রাধারমন দত্ত, সাকিম ইছাপুর প্রকাশ্য গোপীনগর, গোপীনগর, ধনিয়াখালী, হুগলী-৭১২৪০২,) ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তার নিযুক্ত করেন এবং উক্ত আমমোক্তারনামা দলিল মূলে আমি বিগত ইং ১৪/১১/২০২৫ তারিখে এ.ডি.এস.আর., ধনিয়াখালী, হুগলী, অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রীকৃত I-04664/2025 নং বিক্রয় কোবালা দলিল মূলে **শ্রী কৃষ্ণ মান্না** পিতা শ্রী স্বপন মান্না, সাকিম ইছাপুর প্রকাশ্য গোপীনগর, গোপীনগর, ধনিয়াখালী, হুগলী-৭১২৪০২, মহাশয়কে ১১ শতক সম্পত্তি বিক্রয় করিয়াছি। **তপশীল**- জেলা হুগলী, থানা ধনিয়াখালী, মৌজা গোপীনগর, ৪৩ নং জে.এল ভুক্ত, হাল এল.আর. ৬৪৮ নং কৃষি খতিয়ানে, আর.এস. তথা হাল এল.আর. ২০/৯৪৬ নং দাগে শালি জমি ষোল আনায় ২০ শতকের মধ্যে ০.৫৫০০ অংশে ১১ শতক সম্পত্তি অত্র দলিলে আমমোক্তারনামা বলে বিক্রয়কৃত সম্পত্তি হইতেছে। এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে, **শ্রী কৃষ্ণ মান্না** পিতা শ্রী স্বপন মান্না, মহাশয় তাহার উক্ত খরিদা সম্পত্তি নিজ নামে নাম পত্তন করিবার জন্য বি.এল এ্যান্ড এল.আর.ও ধনিয়াখালী ব্লক অফিসে আবেদন করিয়াছেন। ইহাতে কাহারও কোন আইনানুগ আপত্তি থাকিলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার হইবার আগামী ১ মাসের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ঠ অফিসে আপত্তি জানাইতে পারিবেন, অন্যথায় নিয়ম অনুসারে কার্য্য করা হইবে।
ইতি- শ্রী শংকর দত্ত (আমমোক্তার)

আমমোক্তার নামা
আমরা ক্রেতাদ্বয় (১) শ্রী স্বপন কুমার বর্মন, পিতা- ৺কামদেব বর্মন (২) শ্রীমতী কল্পনা বর্মন, স্বামী- স্বপন বর্মন, সাং:- জগাছা, জি আই পি. কলোনী হাওড়া, বিক্রেতাগণ (১) শ্রীমতী পুষ্পরানী ঘোষ (২) ভবেশ কুমার ঘোষ (৩) দীপক কুমার ঘোষ (৪) আবেশ কুমার ঘোষ (৫) শ্রীমতী পাপড়ী ঘোষ এর পক্ষে নিযুক্ত আমমোক্তার (১) শ্রী সোমেশ দাসগুপ্ত (২) শ্রী প্রদীপ মণ্ডল এর নিকট হইতে হইতে ADSR হাওড়া অফিসে অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রীকৃত ৭৮১/২০০৩ আমমোক্তার নামা দলিল দ্বারা থানা- মৌজা, জগাছা (০৬) L.R. খতিয়ান নং ১৪৭৬, ৮৬৮, ২৬৮, ১২৩৪ এবং ১০৮৭/১ এবং. L.R. 52 নং দাগে (১) ৮৭৯/২০০৬ নং দলিল দ্বারা ০২ কাটা ০১ ছটাক ১৭ বর্গফুঃ এবং (২) ৮৮১/২০০৬ নং দলিল দ্বারা ০২ কাটা ০১ ছটাক ২৫ বর্গফুঃ বাস্তু জমি ক্রয় করিয়া নাম পত্তনের আবেদন করিয়াছি। উক্ত বিষয়ে দাতাগনের বা সংশ্লিষ্ট কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১ মাসের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ট B.L. & L. R.O. বালী জগাছা এর নিকট আপীল করতে পারেন। অন্যথায় আইনানুগ কার্য্য হবে।

LOST & FOUND
This is to inform everyone that on 19/01/2026, while traveling from Karunamoyee to Taratala KMC office, I have lost the file containing the original Deed of Gift of my flat located at 111 JadunathUkil Road, Flat No. A-5, 3rd Floor, Ward no. 115, KMC Deed number is 12172, Book-1, Volume 41, Pages 4294-4325, Year 2010, D.S.R-2, S 24 Parganas. I have filed a General Diary (GDE no.1645) regarding this matter at Haridevpur Police Station on 21/01/2026. If anyone finds the file, please inform me at this number: 7980116118.

KULPI DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
KULPI, SOUTH-24 PARGANAS
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are hereby invited by the B.D.O, Kulpi vide **NIT NO-146/KLP/ICDS Fund/2025-2026 & 2026_ZPHD_995705_ (1-4).** Bid Submission Last Date: **06.02.2026 up to 06.00 PM & 2026_ZPHD_995705_ (5-13).** Bid Submission Last Date: **07.02.2026 up to 05.00 PM.** For details visit Website: **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Kulpi Development Block

KULPI DEVELOPMENT BLOCK
KULPI, SOUTH-24 PARGANAS
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are hereby invited by the B.D.O, Kulpi vide **NIT NO- 147/KLP/ICDS Fund/2025-2026 & 2026_ZPHD_995223_ (1-13).** Bid Submission Last Date: **06.02.2026 up to 06.00 PM.** For details visit Website: **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Sd/-
Block Development Officer
Kulpi Development Block

E-TENDER
e-tenders are invited by prodhan , Ramnagar Gram Panchayet under Ausgram-II Dev. Block,Dist.-Purba Bardhaman from resourceful/bonafide contractors with experience and requisite credential from 15th FC Fund vide **Memo No. -1544/RGP/2025-26 Date-29/01/2025, NIT No.-31/RGP/2025-26, Memo No.- 1545/RGP/2025-26, NIT No. 32/RGP/2025-26, date-29/01/2025 & Memo No.- 1546/RGP/2025-26, NIT NO-33/RGP/2025-26, date-29/01/2025. Closing of Submission of Technical Bid & Financial Bid on 10/02/2026 up to 5 P. M. Details visit the Website http://wbtenders.gov.in**
SD/-
PRODHAN
RAMNAGAR GRAM PANCHAYET

আমমোক্তারনামা সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি
এতদ্বারা সকলকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, ১)**শ্রীমতী মিনতী ভট্টাচার্য্য** পিতা ৺যোগেশ চন্দ্র ভট্টাচার্য্য, সাকিম ডি ২৮/১৩০ পান্ডে হাভেলি, বারানসী, আদমপুর, উত্তরপ্রদেশ-২২১০০১, মহাশয়া বিগত ইং ২০২৪ সালে ডি.এস.আর.-IV, বারানসী, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত IV-00279/2024 নং আমমোক্তারনামা দলিল মূলে **শ্রী অমরেশ ভট্টাচার্য্য** পিতা ৺যোগেশ চন্দ্র ভট্টাচার্য্য, সাকিম ১৪৪/১ মানকুন্ডু গড়েরধার, চন্দননগর, হুগলী-৭১২১৩৬, মহাশয়কে ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তার নিযুক্ত করেন এবং ২)**শ্রী চন্দন ভট্টাচার্যী**, ৩)**শ্রী সোমনাথ ভট্টাচার্যী**, উভয়ের সাকিম মোহিতনগর, অরবিন্দ, জলপাইগুড়ি-৭৩৫১০২, পঃবঃ, ৪)**শ্রীমতী কৃষ্ণা রায়**, সাকিম বউবাজার, জে.সি. বোস লেন, পান্ডাপাড়া, ওয়ার্ড নং ১১, জলপাইগুড়ি-৭৩৫১০১, পঃবঃ, ৫)**শ্রীমতী বর্ণালী ঝা**, সাকিম ডাঙ্গাপাড়া, মোহিতনগর, পাটকাটা, জলপাইগুড়ি-৭৩৫১০২, পঃবঃ, সকলের পিতা ভবরঞ্জন ভট্টাচার্যী, মহাশয়/মহাশয়াগণ বিগত ইং ২০২৪ সালে ডি.এস.আর., জলপাইগুড়ি, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত I-04275/2024 নং আমমোক্তারনামা দলিল মূলে **শ্রী শশাঙ্ক গুপ্ত** পিতা চন্দ্র কুমার গুপ্ত, সাকিম ১২৬ পুরানি সবজি মান্ডি, সদর বাজার, লালগঞ্জ, রায়বেড়েলি, উত্তরপ্রদেশ-২২৯২০৬, মহাশয়কে ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তার নিযুক্ত করেন। প্রকাশ থাকে যে, উক্ত দুইটি পৃথক আমমোক্তারনামা বলে ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত আমমোক্তারদ্বয় ১)**শ্রী অমরেশ ভট্টাচার্য্য** ও ২) **শ্রী শশাঙ্ক গুপ্ত** মহাশয় যৌথ ভাবে বিগত ইং ২২/০১/২০২৫ তারিখে ডি.এস.আর.-I, হুগলী, চুঁচুড়া, অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত I-00691/ 2025 নং বিক্রয় কোবালা দলিল মূলে আমার মক্কেল **শ্রীমতী সঞ্চারী গুপ্ত** স্বামী শ্রী শশাঙ্ক গুপ্ত, সাকিম ১২৬ পুরানি সবজি মান্ডি, সদর বাজার, লালগঞ্জ, রায়বেড়েলি, উত্তরপ্রদেশ-২২৯২০৬, মহাশয়কে **তপশীল**–জেলা হুগলী, থানা চন্দননগর, মৌজা চন্দননগর, সিট নং ২৪, জে.এল. নং ১, হাল এল. আর ৯১২ নং খতিয়ানে, আর.এস. ১৩০ নং তথা হাল.এল.আর. ১৯০ নং দাগে বাস্তু জমি ষোল আনায় ০.০৪২ একর তন্মধ্যে ০.০১৪ একর সম্পত্তি উক্ত বিক্রয় কোবালা দলিল মূলে আমমোক্তারনামা বলে বিক্রয় করেন। এতদ্বারা সকলকে অবগত করা যাইতেছে যে, বর্তমান **শ্রীমতী সঞ্চারী গুপ্ত** স্বামী শ্রী শশাঙ্ক গুপ্ত, তাহার উক্ত খরিদা সম্পত্তি নিজ নামে নাম পত্তন করিবার জন্য বি.এল এ্যান্ড এল.আর.ও সিঙ্গুর এ্যাট মানকুন্ডু ব্লক অফিসে আবেদন করিয়াছেন/ করিতেছেন। ইহাতে কাহারও কোন আইনানুগ আপত্তি থাকিলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচার হইবার আগামী ১ মাসের মধ্যে সংশ্লিষ্ঠ অফিসে আপত্তি জানাইতে পারিবেন, অন্যথায় নিয়ম অনুসারে কার্য্য করা হইবে। **Ashis Kumar Chakraborty** (Advocate) Judges' Court Hooghly

IN THE LEARNED COMMERCIAL COURT AT RAJARHAT
FOR THE DISTRICT, NORTH 24 PARGANAS, HOWRAH, HOOGHLY AND NADIA
TITLE SUIT (COM) NO. 109 OF 2024
Minu Patra and Four Others .....Plaintiffs
-Vs-
Maitraye Hazra and Three Others. .....Defendants
To,
NOTICE
Ma. Monimala Jana, wife of Gobinda Prasad Jana, residing at 116/1/1 X Road, P.O. Netajigarh, P.S. Liluah, District Howrah, Pin Code-711108 (Defendant No. 4).
That the Plaintiffs have instituted a suit being Title Suit (Com) No. 109 of 2024 (Minu Patra & Ors. Vs Maitraye Hazra & Ors.), against you along with other defendants for (a) Decree of declaration that the Deeds of Conveyance dated May 31, 2024 and June 7, 2024, executed by the defendant no.1 in favour of the defendant nos. 3 and 4 respectively are illegal, null and void and non-est; (b) Decree for delivery up and cancellation of the Deeds of Conveyance dated May 31, 2024 and June 7, 2024 executed by the defendant no.1 in favour of the defendant nos.3 and 4 respectively; (c) Decree for recovery of khas possession of the Scheduled property hereunder written in favour of the plaintiffs; (d) Decree of mandatory injunction directing the defendants and each of them to put the plaintiffs back into vacant and peaceful possession of the portion of the suit property mentioned in the Schedule hereunder written and delineated in the sketch map annexed as "H-1" hereto. (e) Attachment; (f) Receiver, (g) Commission; (h) Costs; (g) Further or any other relief or reliefs as to the plaintiffs are entitled to in law and equity. You are directed to appear before the Learned Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed, in accordance with law to defend on your part within 30 days of this publication. The next scheduled date is fixed on January 31, 2026. Take notice that, in default of your appearance, the suit will be heard in your absence in accordance with law. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this the 17 day of January Two Thousand and Twenty-Six.
By Order
Sheristadar
(Arijit Kuma Sampui)
Commercial Court at Rajarhat
For The District, North 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Nadia
BY ORDER
Sheristadar
Commercial Court
Rajarhat, North 24 Pgs

Nischinda Gram Panchayat
Bally, Howrah
Re E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE
Re-Electronic Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafied and resourceful bidders for development works vide **e-NIT No. -14, Sl. No.-2-6 and 8_3rd Call,** Published date: **29/01/2026.** Date of Closing : **09/02/2026.** Date of Opening: **11.02.2026.** Details are available in **https://wbtenders.gov.in** & **https://etender.wb.nic.in** and Office Notice Board.
Sd/-
Prodhan
Nischinda Gram Panchayat

Nischinda Gram Panchayat
Bally, Howrah
Re E-TENDER & E-TENDER INVITING NOTICE
Re-Electronic Tenders & Electronic Tenders are hereby invited from the bonafied and resourceful bidders for development works vide **e-NIT No. -18, Sl. No.-2,3,4-2nd Call,** Published date: **28/01/2026.** Date of Closing : **07/02/2026.** Date of Opening: **09.02.2026 & e-NIT No. -19,

Hypertension guidelines do not include potassium-enriched salt: Study

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Unwanted taste effects are the main reason why efforts to reduce salt intake have failed for more than two decades. The willingness of patients to keep using potassium-enriched salt removes that barrier, which is why it can be a game-changer," Prof Schutte added.

A global collaboration of researchers from the US, Australia, Japan, South Africa and India reviewed 32 separate hypertension treatment guidelines - two from global organisations, five from regional organisations and 25 from country organisations - published between 1 January 2013 and 21 June 2023.



They found all guidelines referred to sodium reduction, with most recommending reducing salt intake. Many also recommended increasing dietary potassium intake, but only two - the Chinese and European guidelines - made a specific recommendation for using potassium-enriched salt.

Dr Tom Frieden, President and CEO of Resolve to Save Lives, a global public health organisation focused on preventing 100 million deaths from cardiovascular disease, said that the number of people living with hypertension had doubled in the past 30 years to about 1.3 billion.

"High blood pressure kills more than ten million people every year - almost 20 people every minute. Twenty percent of these deaths can be linked to a single culprit: eating too much salt," he said. "Based on the evidence, there is little doubt that most patients with hypertension and their families should reduce their overall salt intake and, when choosing to consume salt, should switch from regular salt to potassium-enriched salt. This will help reduce blood pressure and protect against serious complications such as stroke and premature death."

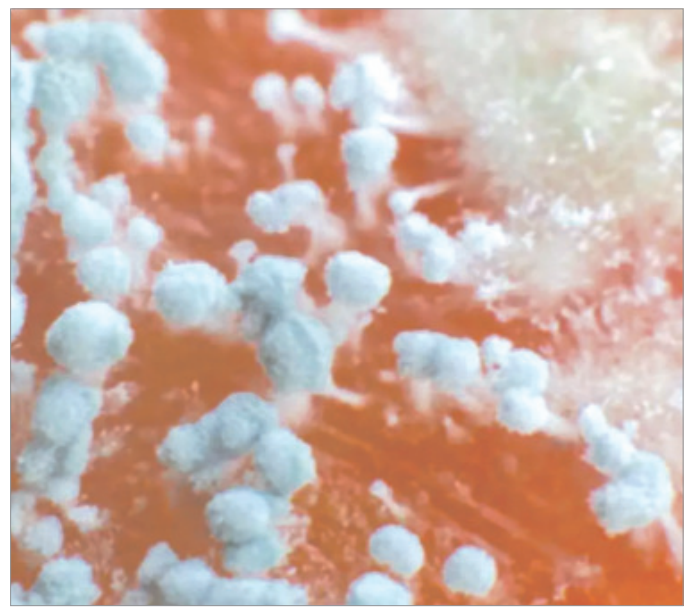
Dr Frieden emphasized the shift required to our food environment. "As a society, we must prioritize availability and accessibility of low-sodium, potassium-enriched salts - at home, in restaurants, and in grocery stores. These products should not be marketed or priced as a luxury. Low-sodium, potassium-enriched salt can become the new default." Another barrier to uptake has been concerns about causing elevated levels of potassium in the blood (hyperkalaemia) in people with advanced kidney disease. Professor Bruce Neal, Executive Director at The George Institute Australia and Professor of Clinical Epidemiology at Imperial College London, said it is clear that patients with advanced kidney disease should not use potassium-enriched salts, but this applies to a very small proportion of the population, and these patients are already recommended to avoid salt intake.

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

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

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

Study finds novel therapeutic method for cytokine storm



"Our results suggest that CRS can be treated with an IL-6 receptor antibody that has a short half-life," said the study's lead author, Sujin Kang. "This can prevent vascular damage and, at the same time, reduce the side effects associated with blocking IL-6."

TOKYO : Researchers at Osaka University have developed a new therapy technique for cytokine storm, a devastating inflammatory disease caused by an infection or severe burn.

Cytokines are chemical messengers that aid in the elimination of germs and viruses, as well as the regulation of inflammation. The body carefully balances them to help the immune system function properly. However, if the immune system overreacts, this balance is thrown off.

A serious infection or a severe burn can unleash a cytokine storm in the body. During the storm, also known as cytokine release syndrome (CRS), the body overproduces cytokines, causing life threatening inflammation.

Interleukin-6 (IL-6) is an important cytokine in the storm because it promotes inflammation that harms the body. IL-6 delivers its message by binding to IL-6 receptors inside cells, instructing them to propagate inflammation. Because IL-6 plays a crucial role in CRS, therapies that inhibit the IL-6 signal can reduce inflammation.

However, this blockage is typically long-lasting, resulting in adverse consequences.

In a study published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Osaka University researchers developed a strategy to suppress IL-6 signals while minimising treatment negative effects. The researchers used an antibody that briefly inhibits the IL-6 receptor to stop the inflammatory signal. The brief pause was sufficient to protect the tissues from cytokine storms caused by sepsis or serious burns.

"Our results suggest that CRS can be treated with an IL-6 receptor antibody that has a short half-life," said the study's lead author, Sujin Kang.

"This can prevent vascular damage and, at the same time, reduce the side effects associated with blocking IL-6." Vascular damage happens when an infection or burn causes the cells that line the inner surface of blood vessels to become leaky. The leaking fluid triggers a cytokine storm and can cause a secondary infection. The group also reported a potential mechanism for this damage to cells. When IL-6 binds to its receptor, it activates a protein called hypoxia-inducible factor-1a (HIF1a), which amplifies inflammation.

"We found that blocking the IL-6R-HIF1a signal strengthened vascular endothelial cells and improved vessel integrity. This helped to prevent leakage from the vessels and relieved the inflammation caused by CRS," explained senior author Tadamitsu Kishimoto. "We hope this will help patients suffering from CRS and other inflammatory diseases in the future."

Study suggests unintended weight loss is warning to see doctor

BOSTON [US] : According to a Dana-Farber Cancer Institute study, unintended weight reduction raises the likelihood of receiving a cancer diagnosis during the next year.

"If you are losing weight and you aren't trying to lose weight by making changes in your exercise routine or diet, people should see their doctor to consider possible causes," said lead investigator Brian Wolpin, MD, MPH, Director of the Gastrointestinal Cancer Center at Dana-Farber and Director of the Hale Family Center for Pancreatic Cancer Research.

"There are many conditions that can result in unexpected weight loss. Your doctor can determine if there is something that needs evaluation."

The findings were published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Compared with participants who did not lose weight, recent weight loss was associated with a significantly increased risk for several types of cancer, including the upper gastrointestinal tract (including oesophagal, stomach, liver, biliary tract, and pancreatic cancer), haematological (including non-Hodgkin lymphoma, multiple myeloma, and leukaemia), colorectal, and lung cancers. However, recent weight loss wasn't found to be associated with increased risk for other cancer types, such as breast cancer, genitourinary cancer, brain cancer, or melanoma. "Unexpected weight loss can come from cancer or many other conditions," said Wolpin.

"Sometimes weight loss is due to more exercise or a healthier diet, and this can be beneficial to people's health. However, when a patient experiences unintentional weight loss not due to healthier behaviours, seeing your primary care doctor is appropriate, so they can determine whether



an additional evaluation is necessary for other causes of weight loss, including cancer." The study assessed 157,474 participants in two large longitudinal studies: the Nurses' Health Study, which enrolled nurses aged 30 to 55 starting in 1976, and the Health Professionals Follow-Up Study, which enrolled male health professionals aged 40 to 75 years starting in 1986. Participants were followed until 2016. Weight was reported by participants every other year in a biennial questionnaire that also included questions about physical activity. The questionnaire requested responses about dietary changes every four years. This information enabled Wolpin and colleagues to assess each participant's level of weight loss-promoting behaviours. Weight loss-promoting behaviours were classified into "high" for those making both dietary improvements and increases to physical activity, "medium" if they made only one change, and "low" if they made no changes to diet and exercise.

"We wanted to differentiate healthy weight loss from unhealthy weight loss," said Qiaoli Wang, MD, PhD, a research fellow at Dana-Farber and the manuscript's first author. "Healthy weight loss can come from dietary changes or increased exercise. But unhealthy weight loss that occurs unexpectedly can be due to an underlying cancer." Patients with advanced cancer often lose weight, but weight loss is often not thought to occur with early-stage disease. This study found that similar levels of weight loss occurred before diagnosis of both early and late-stage disease. This is important because unintentional weight loss could be a sign of a developing cancer that could help diagnose the cancer earlier when there's a chance for more effective treatment.

The mechanisms by which cancer results in weight loss vary depending on the type of cancer. This study strengthens findings from past research that connected unexpected weight loss with an increased cancer risk. In previous research, weight data was collected by doctors from patients potentially seeking out care for an illness.

In this study, weight data was collected prospectively and regularly for decades and was not dependent on doctor visits to identify weight changes. This study also considered all types of cancers. However, the two studies analyzed were focused on health professionals, which is not a group that is fully representative of the U.S. population.

Poor sleep quality, insomnia linked to consuming energy drinks among students: Study

WASHINGTON DC [US] : A Norwegian study that was published in the open-access journal BMJ Open found that college students who drink energy drinks have insomnia and poor sleep quality. Additionally, pupils clocked fewer hours of sleep each night the more frequently they consumed. However, the results show that even a single can, one to three times per month, is associated with an increased risk of sleep disturbance.

According to the researchers, energy drinks have variable amounts of sugar, vitamins, minerals, and amino acids in addition to an average caffeine concentration of 150 mg per litre. Touted as physical and mental rejuvenators, they are well-liked by youths in general and college students specifically. While there is some evidence to suggest that they reduce sleep quality, it's not clear exactly which aspects of sleep might be more or less affected, or whether there are any sex-specific differences in these effects.

To explore these issues further, the researchers drew on 53,266 eighteen to 35-year-old participants of the Students' Health and Well-being Study (SHOT22 study)---the most recent wave of a large national survey of college and university students in Norway.

The students were asked how often they drank energy drinks, with the response options of daily, weekly (once; 2-3 times; 4-6 times), monthly (1-3 times), and seldom/never. They were also asked detailed questions about their usual sleep patterns: when they went to bed and got up; how long it took them to fall asleep (sleep latency); wakefulness after going to sleep. Sleep efficiency was then calculated from the total nightly hours of sleep vs time spent in bed. Insomnia was defined as experiencing difficulties falling and staying



asleep and waking early on at least 3 nights of the week, plus daytime sleepiness and tiredness for at least 3 days of the week, for at least 3 months. However, there was a clear dose-response association for both sexes between energy drink consumption and fewer hours of sleep. Both men and women who reported daily consumption slept around half an hour less than those reporting only occasional or no consumption. Similar associations were also observed for waking after falling asleep and taking longer to fall asleep. Increasing consumption was associated with a corresponding increase in both nocturnal wake time and time taken to fall asleep--poorer sleep efficiency. Insomnia was also more common among both women and men reporting daily consumption than among those reporting occasional or no consumption: 51 per cent vs 33 per cent (women) and 37 per cent vs 22 per cent (men).

Overall, higher energy drink consumption was associated with an increasing risk of sleep problems across all the aspects studied, with the strongest associations for short sleep duration.

Compared with those reporting no or only an occasional energy drink, men who reported daily consumption were more than twice as likely to say they slept fewer than 6 hours/night, while women were 87 per cent more likely to do so.

But even those reporting having an energy drink just 1-3 times a month were still at heightened risk of sleep problems.

This is an observational study, and as such, no firm conclusions can be drawn about the cause.

The researchers acknowledge that reverse causality--whereby energy

Chemists design novel method for generating sustainable fuel: Study

OHIO [US] : For many years, chemists have been striving to create high-value products from waste molecules. Now, an international team of experts is looking into methods to use electricity to speed up the process.

In their study, recently published in Nature Catalysis, researchers demonstrated that carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, can be converted into a type of liquid fuel called methanol in a highly efficient manner.

This procedure involved taking cobalt phthalocyanine (CoPc) molecules and uniformly spreading them over carbon nanotubes, which are graphene-like tubes with unique electrical characteristics. An electrolyte solution was present on their surface, and when an electrical current was sent across it, CoPc molecules could accept electrons and use them to convert carbon dioxide into methanol.

Using a special method based on in-situ spectroscopy to visualize the chemical reaction, researchers for the first time saw those molecules convert themselves into either methanol or carbon monoxide, which is not the desired product. They found that which path the reaction takes is decided by the environment where the carbon dioxide molecule reacts.

Tuning this environment by controlling how the CoPc catalyst was distributed on the carbon nanotube surface allowed carbon dioxide to be



as much as eight times more likely to produce methanol, a discovery that could increase the efficiency of other catalytic processes and have a widespread impact on other fields, said Robert Baker, co-author of the study and a professor in chemistry and biochemistry at The Ohio State University.

"When you take carbon dioxide and convert it to another product, there are many different molecules you can make," he said. "Methanol is definitely one of the most desirable because it has such a high energy density and can be used directly as an alternative fuel."

While transforming waste molecules into useful products isn't a new phenomenon, until now, researchers have often been unable to watch how the reaction actually takes place, a crucial insight into being able to optimize and improve the process. "We might empirically optimize how something works, but we don't really have an understanding of what makes it work, or what makes one catalyst work better than another catalyst," said Baker, who specializes in surface chemistry, the study of how chemical reactions change when they occur on the face of different objects. "These are very difficult things to answer."

But with the help of special techniques and computer modeling, the team has come significantly closer to grasping the complex process. In this study, researchers used a new type of vibrational spectroscopy, which allowed them to see how molecules behave on the surface, said Quansong Zhu, the lead author of the study and former Ohio State Presidential Scholar whose challenging measurements were vital to the discovery.

"We could tell by their vibrational signatures that it was the same molecule sitting in two different reaction environments," said Zhu. "We were able to correlate that one of those reaction environments was responsible for producing methanol, which is valuable liquid fuel."

According to the study, deeper analysis also found these molecules were directly interacting with supercharged particles called cations that enhanced the process of methanol formation.

More research is needed to learn more about what else these cations enable, but such a finding is key to achieving a more efficient way to create methanol, said Baker.

"We're seeing systems that are very important and learning things about them that have been wondered about for a long time," said Baker. "Understanding the unique chemistry that happens at a molecular level is really important to enabling these applications." Besides being a low-cost fuel for vehicles like planes, cars and shipping boats, methanol produced from renewable electricity could also be utilized for heating and power generation, and to advance future chemical discoveries.

"There's a lot of exciting things that can come next based on what we've learned here, and some of that we're already starting to do together," said Baker. "The work is ongoing." Co-authors include Conor L. Rooney and Hailiang Wang from Yale University, Hadar Shema and Elad Gross from Hebrew University, and Christina Zeng .

Morning India
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07 | Kolkata, Friday
30 January, 2026

OUR VOICES

Palestinian Foreign Minister seeks stronger India role, recalls historic ties

MI News Service, Delhi: The Palestinian Foreign Minister VarsenAghabekian underscored the long-standing relationship between India and Palestine, called for a balanced Indian role in West Asia, and expressed hope for wider international recognition of Palestine during his visit to New Delhi.

"I'm glad to be in India. This is my first visit and I hope it is not the last," the minister said, describing India as the "4th largest economy and country we look highly" upon.

Recalling high-level engagements, she noted that the last visit by the Palestinian President to India took place in 2017, during which several memoranda of understanding were signed. "I'm privileged to be here. So I bring greetings. From President Abbas from the Palestinian leadership from the people of Palestine, be it in occupied



East Jerusalem," she said.

Highlighting the historical roots of bilateral ties, the minister said relations dated back to the 1930s and recalled India's support for the Palestinian cause in 1947. She referred to Mahatma Gandhi's opposition to the partition of Palestine and said India had continued to stand with Palestinians in their struggle against occupation.

She said India had, in recent years, firmly supported the two-state solution, the right of Palestinians to self-determination, and relevant resolutions at the Human Rights Council. At the same time, she acknowledged India's strategic interests and its relations with both Palestine and Israel, calling for a balanced approach in the region.

The minister said Palestine believed India could play a major mediating role between Israel and Palestine and help bring an end to the conflict and occupation. She added that India's stance in favour of international law, the two-state framework and the New York Declaration was "very clear to us".

Expressing appreciation for India's developmental assistance, she said New Delhi had supported numerous projects in Palestine, particularly in education, healthcare and social infrastructure. She cited Indian-backed schools across the West Bank, support to hospitals and specialised medical centres, and assistance for multipurpose buildings such as sports and recreation centres for Palestinian children.

At the diplomatic level, she noted India's support for building the infrastructure of the Palestinian Diplomatic Institute, which is nearing completion and is expected to facilitate training and exchanges for Palestinian diplomats.

Emphasising the historical context of the conflict, the minister said, "The Palestinian struggle and the Palestinian problem did not start two years ago, nor 10 years ago, nor in 1967 it started over 100 years ago," referring to the Balfour Declaration and the displacement of Palestinians. Concluding her remarks, she said Palestine hoped more countries would come forward to recognise the Palestinian state.

Colombian Satena flight disappears then found crashed with 15 on board, all dead

MI News Service, Bogota: Colombian authorities confirmed a devastating aviation accident on January 28, after a small commercial plane operated by the state-owned airline Satena vanished from radar while en route in north-eastern Colombia, later found crashed with no survivors among the 15 people aboard, reported CNN.



Satena's Flight NSE 8849, a Beechcraft 1900D registered as HK-4709, departed Camilo Daza International Airport in Cucuta at about 11:42 am (local time), bound for AguasClaras Airport in Ocana, a flight of roughly 20-25 minutes. The flight maintained normal contact with air traffic control until 11:54 am (local time), when all communications and radar returns abruptly ceased just minutes before its expected landing.

Initial reports described the aircraft as missing and sparked urgent search-and-rescue operations by Colombia's civil aviation authority, the Aerospace Force, military units, and local emergency teams across the rugged Catatumbo region near the Venezuelan border, an area known for dense jungle terrain and complex weather patterns that have challenged responders. Satena's statement confirmed that the flight carried 13 passengers and two crew members, and that all available resources were activated in coordination with aviation and defense officials, reported CNN.

Tragically, later in the day the wreckage was located near Curasica, Playa de Belen in Colombia's Norte de Santander province. Official updates confirmed that the aircraft had crashed in a rural, mountainous area and that none of the 15 people on board survived.

Among the dead were Diogenes Quintero, a 36-year-old member of Colombia's House of Representatives representing conflict victims, and Carlos Salcedo, a social leader and congressional candidate. Quintero was widely regarded as a committed advocate for his region, and political leaders across Colombia expressed profound sorrow at the loss of life.

Satena and national authorities have pledged a full investigation into the accident's cause. "We extend our most sincere condolences with profound sorrow and our deepest solidarity to the families of our passengers and crew who lost their lives in the accident," the airline said in a public statement, adding it would make all resources available to support families and determine what happened.

Officials continue to piece together the final moments of Flight NSE 8849, examining flight data, environmental conditions, and the challenging geography of the impact zone as part of a comprehensive probe into this tragic loss of life.

India gifts second tranche of election-related assistance to Nepal

MI News Service, Kathmandu: India on Thursday provided the second tranche of election-related assistance to Nepal as the nation heads for the March 5 election following the Gen-Z protest.

As per the release from the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu, the second tranche of election-related assistance from India was gifted to Nepal, in the presence of the Minister for Finance of Nepal, Rameshore Prasad Khanal. Charge d'affairesa.i., Dr. Rakesh Pande.

"Ceremonially handed over more than 250 vehicles to the Government of Nepal, in a ceremony held in the Ministry of Finance in Kathmandu on 29 January 2026," the release stated. "These supplies are a part of the assistance sought by the Government of Nepal, in connection with preparations for the upcoming elections in the country."

In his remarks, Finance Minister Rameshore Prasad Khanal mentioned the longstanding cooperation and friendly ties between India and Nepal. He also thanked the Government and people of India for the supplies and appreciated their significance in preparations for the upcoming



elections.

The first tranche of such election-related assistance by the Government of India was handed over to Nepal on 20 January 2026. More deliveries are expected to occur in batches over the coming weeks.

The ongoing cooperation and support from the Indian side are not only an apt reflection of the multifaceted, multi-sectoral development partnership between the two countries, but also symbolise the deep mutual trust and friendship between the people of India and Nepal.

Trump-appointed acting cyber chief uploaded sensitive files to public version of ChatGPT

MI News Service, Washington: The interim head of the US Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) uploaded sensitive contracting files into a public version of ChatGPT last summer, triggering automated security alerts designed to prevent the disclosure of government material, Politico reported, citing four Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials familiar with the matter.

According to Politico, the incident involved acting CISA director MadhuGottumukkala, who sought special approval from the agency's Office of the Chief Information Officer to use ChatGPT shortly after joining CISA in May, at a time when the tool remained blocked for most DHS employees.

Although none of the documents were classified, officials said the material included contracting files marked "for official use only", a designation applied to sensitive government information not intended for public release.

Cybersecurity monitoring systems later detected the uploads in August, with multiple alerts recorded during the first week alone, Politico reported. Following the detection, senior DHS leadership initiated an internal review to assess whether the disclosures had compromised government security, though the outcome of that review remains unclear.

After the activity was flagged, Gottumukkala met senior DHS leaders to review what had been uploaded. Politico reported that then-acting DHS general counsel Joseph Mazzara and DHS chief information officer Antoine McCord participated in evaluating potential risks to the department. Gottumukkala also held meetings in August with CISA CIO Robert Costello and chief counsel Spencer Fisher regarding the incident and the proper handling of sensitive material.

In response to the episode, CISA Director of



Public Affairs Marci McCarthy said in a statement emailed to Politico that Gottumukkala "was granted permission to use ChatGPT with DHS controls in place", adding that "this use was short-term and limited". She also said the agency remained committed to "harnessing AI and other cutting-edge technologies to drive government modernisation and deliver on" Trump's executive order aimed at removing barriers to US leadership in artificial intelligence.

McCarthy further stated, "Acting Director Dr MadhuGottumukkala last used ChatGPT in mid-July 2025 under an authorised temporary exception granted to some employees. CISA's security posture remains to block access to ChatGPT by default unless granted an exception."

Politico reported that any information entered into the public version of ChatGPT is shared with OpenAI and may be used to help generate responses for other users. By contrast, AI tools approved for DHS staff, including the agency's internal chatbotDHSChat, are configured to prevent data from leaving federal systems.

One official told Politico, "Gottumukkala forced CISA's hand into making them give him ChatGPT, and then he abused it." Federal employees receive training on handling sensitive material, and DHS policy requires investigations into the "cause and affect" of any exposure of official-use documents, including whether disciplinary action is warranted. Measures can range from retraining to more serious consequences such as suspension or revocation of security clearance, officials said.

China escalates diplomatic row with Australia over Darwin port control

MI News Service, Beijing: China has issued a strong diplomatic warning to Australia over the latter's intention to take back control of the strategically important Port of Darwin, a key northern facility currently leased to a Chinese-owned company under a long-term agreement, reported Al Jazeera.



The dispute further strains relations between Canberra and Beijing, already challenged by broader tensions on security and trade.

China's ambassador to Australia, Xiao Qian, told reporters this week that Beijing views Australia's push to reclaim the port as "no way to do business" and warned Canberra against altering the status of the lease, which has been in place since 2015. He complained that Australia wanted to reverse the arrangement: "When you're losing money, you want to lease it to a foreign company, and when it's making money, you want to take it back?"- a comment that encapsulates Beijing's ire at the policy shift.

The Port of Darwin, located in Australia's Northern Territory, was leased for 99 years to the Landbridge Group, a company owned by Chinese billionaire Ye Cheng, with the aim of boosting local economic activity through expanded trade operations. However, the lease has been controversial in Australia due to concerns over national security and foreign influence, particularly given the port's proximity to Asia and its use for allied military logistics.

Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has reiterated his government's commitment to bringing the port back under Australian ownership, arguing that control of such critical infrastructure is in the "national interest." He reaffirmed this stance during a visit to East Timor, saying Australia was determined to ensure the port "goes back into Australian hands."

In response, Ambassador Xiao warned that Beijing would "take measures to protect the Chinese company's interests" if Canberra pursued forced changes to the lease, without specifying what actions might be taken. He also suggested that such a move could have broader implications for Chinese investment, cooperation and trade with the region, framing the potential repossession as detrimental to economic ties.

Official statements from Beijing's foreign ministry have underscored that Landbridge acquired the lease through market mechanisms and that its legitimate rights and interests should be protected. China has called for Australia to honour the contractual arrangement, emphasising the importance of a transparent and stable business environment for foreign enterprises.

Humanitarian Welfare Trust's Blood Donation Camp and Clothing Distribution Program

MI News Service, New Delhi : On January 28th, from morning till evening, the Humanitarian Welfare Trust organized various social programs. Among them were a blood donation camp, a health camp, an eye examination camp, and the distribution of winter clothing to the needy. On this day, approximately 50 men and women donated blood. Several hundred people received free eye and health check-ups. Simultaneously, winter clothing was distributed to about 500 needy individuals. Those present at the event included Mohammad Farooq, Secretary of Maulana Azad Academy; Irfan Ahmed Khan, Director of Achievers Site; Kumar Gautam, Manager of Naul SBI Bank; social worker Ali Hossain Mallick; Ghulam Yahya, Director of Ankur Public School; Maulana Musa Kalimullah; Mufti Wasimul Bari; educationist Haradhan Rail; social worker Debashish Bandyopadhyay; Nakol area head Jahanara Khatun; deputy head Sadananda Das; Howrah District Council member Manowara Begum; social worker Syed Abu Sufian; Abdul Qader Khan, President of Humanitarian Trust; and Vice President Abdul Munim, among others.

The Humanitarian Welfare Trust is a well-known name in Howrah and Bengal. Since its inception in 2018, this trust has been involved in various social activities throughout the year, including providing food and clothing to the homeless at railway stations during natural disasters and festivals, and providing books, notebooks, pens, etc., to meritorious but underprivileged students. The trust's secretary, Sajjad Hassan, said that he established this trust in 2018 to carry out social work, and they are gradually moving forward with the cooperation of every member of society. He sought everyone's cooperation so that the trust can do even more work in the future.

India's creative energy has huge global influence; working with India a priority: British High Commissioner

MI News Service, Delhi: Underscoring that India's scale, diversity and creative energy have a huge global influence, British High Commissioner to India Lindy Cameron on Thursday said it is both a privilege and a priority for the UK to work with India in the creative space and co-create models that resonate globally. Speaking at an event organised by the British Council, Cameron said the creative economy plays a vital role in the UK-India relationship and is increasingly recognised as a powerful driver of inclusive and sustainable growth for both countries.

The two-day event, Creative Convergence: Growth Reimagined, will explore the next phase of India's creative sector.



"For the UK, working with India in the creative space is both a privilege and a priority. India's scale, diversity and creative energy have a huge global influence. The UK complements this with policy, innovation, research, creative entrepreneurship and international networks. So together, I believe we can co-create models that resonate not only in our two really significant countries, but also across the wider global creative economy," Cameron said.

She added that the creative economy sits at the intersection of culture, technology, skills and enterprise, and is increasingly seen as a powerful engine of inclusive and sustainable growth.

"Creative economy, of course, plays a really vital role in the UK-India relationship. It sits at the intersection of culture, technology, skills and enterprise, and is increasingly recognised as a really powerful driver of inclusive and sustainable growth for both countries," she said. Referring to developments in 2025, including the conclusion of a trade agreement, Cameron said the past year marked a new era in UK-India relations, defined by ambition and partnership.

Taiwan detects 5 PLA aircraft sorties, 5 PLAN vessels around its territory

MI News Service, Taipei: Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense on Thursday said that it detected five sorties by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft and five People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels operating around its territory up to 6 am (UTC+8).

It added that three out of five sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ).

In a post on X, the MND said, "5 sorties of PLA aircraft and 5 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 3 out of 5 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded."

Earlier on Wednesday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense said that it detected four sorties by China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft and five People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels operating around its territory up to 6 am (UTC+8).

It added that one balloon was also detected during the timeframe.

In a post on X, the MND said, "4 sorties of PLA aircraft and 5 PLAN vessels operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 1 balloon was detected during this timeframe. We have monitored the situation and responded."

Earlier on Tuesday, Taiwan's MND said that it detected two PLA aircraft sorties and five PLAN vessels operating around its territory.

"2 PLA aircraft, 5 PLAN vessels and 1 official ship operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. We have monitored the situation and responded," MND said in its post.

On Monday, Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense (MND) said it detected five sorties of Chinese aircraft and eight People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) vessels operating around Taiwan up to 6 am (UTC+8).



In a post on X, the MND said that five sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's central and southwestern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ).

"5 PLA aircraft, 8 PLAN vessels and 3 official ships operating around Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 5 out of 5 sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern ADIZ. We have monitored the situation and responded," MND said.

According to the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Taiwan is an integral and indivisible part of China, which has been separated from the mainland since 1949.

Under its "one country, two systems", achieving China's complete reunification is a shared aspiration of all Chinese people, both within the country and abroad. The Communist Party of China and the Chinese government regard the fulfilment of this goal of peaceful reunification as a historic mission and have been working persistently toward it.

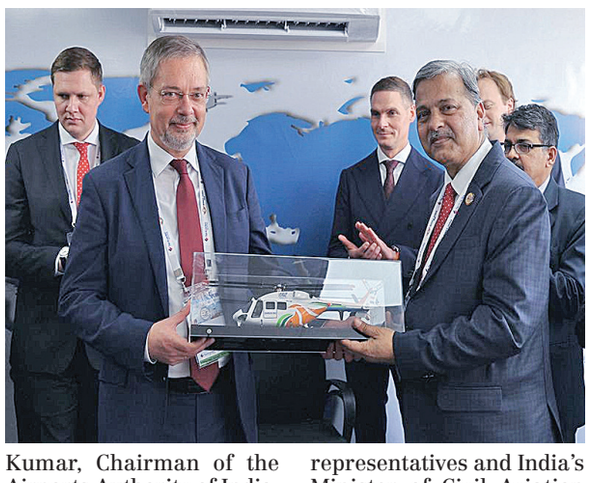
Russian Delegation showcases aircraft, signs Superjet Cooperation Pact with HAL at Wings India 2026

MI News Service, Hyderabad: Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov, as part of the Russian delegation led by Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russia Gennady Abramenkov, visited the international civil aviation exhibition "Wings India 2026" in Hyderabad, Telangana on Wednesday.

On the sidelines of the air show, the head of the diplomatic mission, together with Gennady Abramenkov and CEO of the United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) Vadim Badekha, toured the Russian part of the exhibition, in particular the Superjet 100 and Il-114-300 aircraft, took a demonstration flight aboard the latter, and addressed the media.

The Ambassador also took part in the ceremonial signing of an agreement on joint activities between the UAC and the Indian aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, governing cooperation on the licensed production of the Superjet aircraft in India.

Continuing the official program, the Russian delegation joined a plenary session of a thematic conference, where the key speakers from the Indian side included Samir Kumar Sinha, Secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation of India, and Vipin



Kumar, Chairman of the Airports Authority of India.

The first day of the exhibition concluded with a meeting between Russian representatives and India's Minister of Civil Aviation KinjarapuRammohan Naidu, during which issues of bilateral cooperation in the sector were discussed, with an emphasis on expanding the number of joint projects. Last month, the Russia-India Business Forum 2025, led by the Roscongress Foundation and held alongside President Vladimir Putin's state visit, concluded with a unified commitment to expand trade, investment, and sectoral collaboration across both countries.

According to a release, over two days, the Forum convened senior officials, industry leaders, investors, and policy institutions for dialogues, B2B meetings, and multi-sector consultations aimed at shaping long-term bilateral growth.

BEARDMAN, EDWARDS, RENSHAW TO DEBUT FOR AUSTRALIA IN T20I SERIES OPENER AGAINST PAKISTAN

LAHORE : Mahli Beardman, Jack Edwards and Matthew Renshaw will make their T20I debut for Australia when they take on Pakistan in the series opener at the Gaddafi Stadium.

The series is regarded as key preparation for Australia ahead of the Men's T20 World Cup to be staged in India and Sri Lanka from February 7. Australia will be led by Travis Head, as regular skipper Mitchell Marsh has been rested following Perth Scorchers' victory in the Big Bash League (BBL) final on Sunday.

None of the three debutants are part of Australia's squad for the Men's T20 World Cup, but injuries to Pat Cummins, Josh Hazlewood, Tim David and Nathan Ellis, along with Glenn Maxwell being managed, have opened the door for them to have some game time.

Renshaw, set to bat at number four, comes off a strong campaign with Brisbane Heat that included his maiden BBL century in a record 258-run chase against Perth Scorchers. The left-hander, who has 14 Test and three ODI caps, now completes the set as an all-format international men's player.

Allrounder Edwards impressed with the ball in BBL 15 by claiming 19 wickets to finish as second leading wicket-taker in the competition. He first made headlines with a One-Day Cup century for New South Wales at 18 and has since risen to captain the state's Sheffield Shield side.

Beardman, 20, earns his first senior cap after playing a key role in Australia's Under-19 World Cup triumph in 2024. The right-arm quick showcased his pace with consistent spells above 140kph and picked up 13 wickets in 11 matches for Perth Scorchers this season. The game in Lahore is the first of three matches to be played in four days as both sides sharpen preparations for the T20 World Cup.

Australia playing eleven: Travis Head (captain), Matthew Short, Cameron Green, Matthew Renshaw, Cooper Connolly, Mitchell Owen, Josh Philippe, Jack Edwards, Xavier Bartlett, Adam Zampa, and Mahli Beardman



Hockey India names 33-man core probable group ahead of FIH Pro League in Rourkela

NEW DELHI : Hockey India on Thursday announced a 33-member core probable group for the senior men's national camp, scheduled to be held in Rourkela, Odisha from February 1 to 7.

The camp will form part of the team's preparations for the upcoming phase of the FIH Men's Pro League, which is scheduled to be staged at the Birsa Munda International Hockey Stadium in Rourkela from February 10 to 15.

The home leg will mark the start of the year's first campaign for India. The squad assembles following the recently concluded Hero Hockey India League, which provided competitive exposure to several senior players while offering younger prospects the opportunity to play alongside some of the finest international players.

The camp will comprise Pawan, Suraj Karkera, Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar and Princedeep Singh as goalkeepers.

Meanwhile, the defensive unit features Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sumit, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Yashdeep Siwach, Nilam Sanjeep Xess and Amandeep Lakra.

In midfield, the group includes Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma and Rosan Kujur.

Rounding off the list, the forward line is made up of Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage and Maninder Singh.



Speaking ahead of the camp, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "Post the Hero Hockey India League, we felt this was the right time to rotate the squad. We've rested a few senior players to manage workload, while rewarding performances from players who've earned their opportunity. The Pro League legs in Rourkela and Hobart are an important part of the selection process as we move towards finalising the World Cup and Asian Games squad."

33-member list for the Senior Men's Camp

Goalkeepers: Pawan, Suraj Karkera, Mohith Honnenahalli Shashikumar, Princedeep Singh

Defenders: Amit Rohidas, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Harmanpreet Singh, Jugraj Singh, Sumit, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Yashdeep Siwach, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra

Midfielders: Rajinder Singh, Manmeet Singh, Hardik Singh, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Vishnu Kant Singh, Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Rosan Kujur

Forwards: Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Shilanand Lakra, Mandeep Singh, Araijeet Singh Hundal, Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh, Selvam Karthi, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Maninder Singh

Six Girls from Jharkhand Selected for Indian Team in SAFF U-19 Women's Football Championship

PC JHA

RANCHI : Six young footballers from Jharkhand have earned selection in the 23-member Indian squad for the SAFF Under-19 Women's Football Championship 2026, scheduled to be held from January 31 to February 7 in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The championship is being organised under the aegis of the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).

The tournament will feature teams from India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. The selected players from Jharkhand will represent the country at the international level, marking a significant achievement for the state's football development programmes.

Out of the six players, four-Elizabeth Lakra, Anita Dungdung, Suraj Muni Kumari and Vinita Horo-are trainees of the Residential Girls' Football Training Centre at the Indoor Stadium, Gumla, operated by the Jharkhand government's Sports Department. Anushka Kumari from the Residential Girls' Football Training Centre, Hazaribagh, and Divyani Linda from Star Warriors Football Academy, Ranchi, have also been included in the national squad.



India will begin its campaign with an opening match against host Nepal on January 31, 2026.

The achievement has drawn widespread appreciation from Chief Minister Hemant Soren, Sports Minister Sudivya Kumar Sonu, Sports Secretary Manoj Kumar, Sports Director Asif Ikram, Jharkhand Football Association General Secretary Gulab Rabbani, Deputy Director of Sports Rajesh Kumar, senior sports officials, district sports officers, coaches and football enthusiasts across the state.

However, it has been noted that the tournament coincides with the Class 10, 11 and 12 board examinations of several selected players. Due to this conflict, one selected player has already withdrawn her name from the team.

In view of this, the All India Football Federation has written to the Jharkhand Chief Minister and the Sports Minister, requesting special examination arrangements for the selected players so that their academic year is not adversely affected. The Sports Minister has initiated efforts in this direction, and the outcome is awaited.

It is noteworthy that the Manipur government has already made provisions for special examinations for its selected players participating in the championship.

Ranji Trophy: Unadkat picks four as Saurashtra get 31-run lead over Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH : Veteran left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat claimed four wickets as Saurashtra bowled out Chandigarh for 136 on the opening day of their Elite Group B match in Ranji Trophy 2025-26, before taking a 31-run lead at Cricket Stadium, Sector 16, in Chandigarh on Thursday.

Opting to field first after winning the toss, Saurashtra bowled out Chandigarh in 42.1 overs, with Unadkat taking 4-44, while Chirag Jani and Chetan Sakariya picked up two wickets each, and Prerak Mankad chipped in with one scalp.

For Chandigarh, Jagjit Singh Sandhu and Arjit Singh scored 29 runs each, while Arjun Azad made 20. In response, Saurashtra reached 167/1 at stumps in 38 overs. Harvik Desai struck an unbeaten 80 off 117 balls, including nine fours and a six, while Jay Gohil was also not out on 61 off 59 deliveries.

The day also saw Saurashtra spinner Dharmendrasinh Jadeja being felicitated for making his 100th first-class appearance. Skipper Unadkat, team manager Mohansinh Jadeja, and coach Niraj Odedara presented a memento to him in the presence of both teams.

BCCI Apex Council member Jaydev Shah said, "Dharmendra is an outstanding cricketer with exceptional spin skills. He has been a great contributor to the game and has brought glory to his teams on many occasions."

At Holkar Stadium in Indore, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra shared the honours on a dramatic opening day, with 12 wickets falling in a must-win contest. MP were bowled out for 187, with Rajvardhan Hangargekar claiming five wickets. By the time stumps arrived, MP reduced Maharashtra to 52/2, with Prithvi Shaw and Arshin Kulkarni back in the pavilion.

At the IS Bindra Stadium in Mohali, Punjab recovered from 168/6 to close on 303/9 against Karnataka on a turning pitch. Emanjot Chahal was unbeaten on 77, while Shreyas Gopal and Vidyadhar Patil picked up three wickets apiece for Karnataka, who need a victory to stay in contention for the knockouts.



In Porvorim, Goa ended the day at 279-8 against Kerala. Goa were powered to the total thanks to Suyash Prabhudessai's 86 and Yash Kasvankar's 50, while Arjun Tendulkar added a brisk 36. Ankit Sharma was the standout bowler for Kerala with 5-88, and was supported by Nedumankuzhy Basil's 2-55 and Sachin Baby's 1-36.

Aus Open: Mertens-Zhang set up women's doubles final against Danilina-Krunic

MELBOURNE : Fourth seeds Elise Mertens and Zhang Shuai booked their place in the final with an authoritative straight-sets victory, while seventh seeds Anna Danilina and Aleksandra Krunic survived a dramatic three-set battle to reach their second Grand Slam final together.

Mertens and Zhang comfortably beat Ena Shibahara and Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2 in under 90 minutes on Margaret Court Arena, securing their second major final after Wimbledon 2022.

"Really great performance. I think we're really there as a team. Communication was there, and I felt like today everything kind of worked. But you know, it's been a great tournament so far, so tomorrow (we'll) have a day off or a day of practice and then on to the finals," Mertens said after the match.

The semifinal was a smooth outing for Mertens and Zhang, who previously escaped elimination by saving three match points in the second round against Jovic and Mboko, then came from a set down in the quarterfinals to stay in the tournament.

"We kind of were fighting, at that point, to stay in the tournament, and now we're in the final. So you know, anything can happen when you keep on fighting," Mertens said.

Against Shibahara and Zvonareva, the No. 4 seeds took control early. After splitting the first two games, Mertens and Zhang won four straight to lead 5-1. They briefly wobbled, surrendering a break, but quickly closed the set. The second followed a similar pattern: a strong start, a late break while serving for the match, then a quick response to win. Zhang played a key role at the end, setting up and converting their third match point.

"This is our second time playing together at a Grand Slam and (now) second final. Oh my God, we should keep playing (together) forever," said Zhang during her on-court interview.

Earlier on Rod Laver Arena, Danilina and Krunic reached the final after a tough 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-4 win over Dabrowski and Stefani, lasting nearly two and a half hours. They had upset top seeds and defending champions Siniakova and Townsend in the quarterfinals.

"I feel like this match had everything in it. (So many) ups and downs. Luisa and Gaby played a great match. It's always tough to play against them, and I mean, obviously, it was emotional. We just tried to hang in there, especially after a break down in the third, and it worked out for us well," Krunic said in their on-court interview.

Danilina and Krunic led 5-2, but Dabrowski and Stefani fought back. The No. 7 seeds won the tiebreak. In the second, the Canadian-Brazilian pair broke late to level the match.

The drama continued in the decider. Dabrowski and Stefani initially led 2-0, but a rain delay and roof closure shifted momentum. Danilina and Krunic rallied to 3-3, then broke again to near victory. However, they were broken while serving for a match point. Undeterred, the No. 7 seeds responded i.mmediately with a break to love, sealing the contest with a spectacular rally on match point. "They were confusing me from the first point. I tried to think about my own game; what I'm supposed to do, what comes from my racket, but they're a very energetic team. They move well at the net, and they know how to play doubles. Today was a very different match for us, and I'm happy that at the very end we found that extra energy to be in Saturday's final," Krunic added.

With both teams having already tasted heartbreak at major finals, Saturday's showdown promises a compelling battle for the women's doubles crown in Melbourne.



Squash: Senthilkumar, Chotrani advance in Washington

WASHINGTON : Reigning men's national champion Velavan Senthilkumar and Veer Chotrani advanced in the Squash on Fire Open in Washington with hard-fought first round wins in the PSA Bronze-level event.

World No. 46 Senthilkumar rallied to beat England's Tom Walsh 12-14, 11-8, 11-8, 11-6 and will next meet Mexican world No. 11 and second seed Leonel Cardenas. World No. 49 Chotrani edged out Hungary's Balazs Farkas 6-11, 9-11, 11-5, 11-9, 11-3, and will take on French world No. 19 and fourth seed Baptiste Masotti next.

Chotrani found himself on the brink of defeat to the Hungarian No. 1, sitting 8-2 down in game four, having lost the first two games before winning the third. But the talented Indian dug deep to win nine of the next 10 points, sending the match to a decider and shifting the momentum firmly in his favour. He carried that momentum into the decider, too, racing clear to bring up seven match balls at 10-3, needing only one to get over the line.

Meanwhile, Women's National champion and seventh seed Anahat Singh received a first-round bye. That was followed by another five-game tussle between Menna Hamed and Wai Yhann Au Yeong in the match immediately afterwards.

Au Yeong only got into the tournament earlier this week but threatened an upset in round one as she came out on top of two lung-busting tiebreaks in the first two games against Hamed, winning the first 15-13 and the second 19-17.

Hamed was being hampered by an injury to her toe and started game three 1-0 down after being given a time violation for a delayed return to court, but she quickly began to find her rhythm and her range nonetheless.

After closing out game three 11-5, she overturned a 5-3 deficit to take the fourth 11-7 and would need only seven more minutes to clinch her spot in round two, wrapping up the decider with a neat backhand drop down the linear 10-4.

Later in the day, there was an impressive 3-2 win for Hayley Ward over Xin Ying Yee, while Noor Zaman overcame a tricky test in the form of wildcard Yee Xian Siow.

Sam Todd also got the better of crowd favourite Valerii Fedoruk in the day's final match on the glass, and Nathan Lake rounded out the day's play with a 3-1 win over Mazen Hesham.

India beat England by 7 wickets in opening match of Mixed Disability T20I series



GREATER NOIDA : India made a strong start to the historic five-match Mixed Disability T20 International series against England, registering a convincing seven-wicket victory in the opening match at the Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Stadium in Greater Noida on Thursday.

Batting first after losing the toss, England posted 173/5 in their allotted 20 overs. Captain Callum Flynn set the early tempo with an aggressive 26 off 16 balls, while Lian O'Brien anchored the innings with a composed 55 off 41 deliveries, striking four boundaries and three sixes.

Wicketkeeper-batter Angus Grant Brown added valuable runs in the latter half, scoring a fluent 53 off 34 balls to ensure England crossed the 170-run mark.

Indian bowlers maintained discipline during key phases of the innings. Akash Singh and Vivek Kumar picked up important wickets at crucial moments, preventing England from building sustained partnerships and keeping the target within reach.

In response, India chased down the total with confidence, reaching 175 for 3 in 18.5 overs. The chase was spearheaded by wicketkeeper-batter Yogendra Bhadoria, who delivered a match-winning performance with a magnificent 94 off 59 balls. Bhadoria's innings, which included six fours and five sixes, provided stability and momentum throughout the run chase.

Yogendra Bhadoria was adjudged the Player of the Match for his outstanding match-winning knock.

Speaking after the match, Yogendra Bhadoria said, "This award means a lot to me, but more importantly, it belongs to the entire team. We played with belief and confidence, and it feels special to contribute to a series that stands for inclusion and equal opportunity."

Yogendra received support from Akash Singh, who played a quickfire knock of 36 off just 15 balls, striking at an impressive rate and putting pressure back on the English bowlers. Arjun Gawre contributed 13 runs, while Majid (12 not out) and skipper Ravindra Sante (11 not out) guided India to victory without further loss.

The win gives India a 1-0 lead in the series, which is being played as part of efforts to promote inclusivity by bringing together players with physical, hearing, and intellectual disabilities in a single international format.

The second T20I will also be played in Greater Noida as the landmark series continues.