

Abhishek Slams NPP Govt After 18 Killed in Meghalaya Illegal Coal Mine Blast

Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday targeted the National People's Party (NPP) government in Meghalaya following a deadly explosion at an illegal coal mine in the state's East Jaintia Hills district that claimed at least 18 lives. Expressing deep condolences to the bereaved families, Banerjee said the tragedy exposed the criminal apathy of those responsible for governance. In a post on social media platform X, he wrote that the labourers were pushed into "death traps" by poverty, exploitation and the complete collapse of regulatory oversight. "At least 18 labourers have been killed in a horrific explosion at an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills. Illegal mining does not survive without political protection, administrative silence and systemic corruption. The blood of these workers stains the hands of the NPP government in the state," Banerjee wrote.

PG 3



Rs. 3
KOLKATA

SATURDAY 7 FEBRUARY, 2026
PG-8, YEAR—12, ISSUE—247
(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)
WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Mamata Banerjee hands out more cash to women, jobless youths before polls

MI News Service, Kolkata : Laying out a Rs 4.06 lakh crore interim Budget, weeks ahead of the Assembly elections in West Bengal, the Mamata Banerjee-led TMC government's decision to provide more cash sops to women and youths, apart from handing over Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees by another 4 per cent, may turn out to be another master stroke of the Chief minister's to bear fruits in the game of politics and help her to return to power for the fourth term in arow. The large chunk of women, who are the TMC's core vote bank in the state, will soon be benefiting further from most of the government socio-economic schemes like receiving a fresh hike of Rs 500 in the monthly grant under Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, and a Rs 1,000 monthly increase in the wages of ASHA and Anganwadi workers.

Presenting the interim Budget, also called vote-on-account, in the Assembly, Minister of State for Finance Chandrima Bhattacharya on Thursday said that Rs 15,000 crore has been set aside for Lakshmir Bhandar scheme till the formation of the next government, when a full-fledged Budget will be presented.

With the latest hike under this most popular scheme, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe women will now get Rs 1,700 per month,



West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee and State FM (IC) Chandrima Bhattacharya with copies of the budget, in Kolkata on Thursday.

and other beneficiaries of Lakshmir Bhandar scheme will receive Rs 1,500 every month from February, she added. While increasing the monthly remuneration of ASHA and Anganwadi workers by Rs 1,000, Bhattacharya said that they will be entitled to maternity leave

of 180 days from April onwards. In addition, the next of kin of an ASHA and Anganwadi workers will be entitled to a one-time compensation of Rs 5 lakh in case of death before attaining the age of 60 years, she said.

The minister, in presence of

The scheme will be launched from August 15 when the Trinamool Congress returns to power

Minister of State for Finance **Chandrima Bhattacharya**

Chief minister Mamata Banerjee, said Rs 100 crore has also been allotted in the interim Budget for ASHA workers and Rs 250 crore for Anganwadi workers. Also announcing a new scheme called 'Banglar Yuva Sathi' for unemployed youths, she said under the scheme, Rs 1,500 monthly allowance will be paid to all unemployed people in the 21-40 years age group in respect of all cast, creed and religion, till they get jobs or for a period of up to five years. "The scheme will be launched from August 15 when the Trinamool Congress returns to power," Bhattacharya said, adding Rs 5,000 crore will be allotted in the next financial year's Budget for this purpose. The TMC government also announced an increase of Rs 1,000 in the monthly salary of para-teachers, shiksha bandhus, sahayaks/sahayikas, samprasarak, mukhya samprasarak, special educators, and management staff will be increased by Rs. 1,000 from April. Their next of kin will be entitled to a one-time compensation of Rs 5 lakh in case of death before attaining the age of 60 years,"

Bhattacharya said. The government also allotted Rs 2,000 crore for the Mahatmasree Scheme, earlier known as Karmashree. The scheme for 100-day rural job guarantee was launched by the TMC government in the state after the BJP government at the Centre did not release the state's share of funds for MGNREGA.

Speaking at a post-Budget press conference, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called the Budget "pro-people". "It's not directionless and rudderless like the Union Budget," Mamata Banerjee said, maintaining that the state adhered to fiscal discipline even while expanding social sector spending. "Despite the state being financially deprived by the Centre, we have brought in a pro-people budget. Our commitments have not been compromised, and all promises have been fulfilled. This is not an election gimmick... Our budget reflects financial discipline. We have balanced welfare spending with fiscal prudence," she said. Former Finance minister Amit Mitra who is

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Mamata pays tributes to Lata Mangeshkar on her death anniversary



MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee paid tributes to well known singer and 'Nightingale of India' Lata Mangeshkar on her death anniversary on Friday, saying her voice still "remains the heartbeat of our nation". In a message through her X handle this morning, she wrote "Remembering "The Nightingale of India", Lata Mangeshkar, on her death anniversary. Her voice remains the heartbeat of our nation."

SC declines to entertain Jan Suraaj's plea seeking fresh Bihar Assembly elections



MI News Service, New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a petition filed by the Jan Suraaj Party, founded by former political strategist Prashant Kishor, seeking annulment of 2025 Bihar Assembly elections on the ground of violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) ahead of polls. The party had alleged the debt-ridden state, in violation of the MCC, gave away Rs 15,600 crore under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana just ahead of polls, which denied a level-playing field to other political parties. Pulling up the party for trying to use the judicial forum to gain popularity and secure relief after

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Violence erupts in Manipur over Deputy CM's oath

MI News Service, Imphal : Violence broke out in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Thursday, a day after several members of the Kuki community launched protests against the swearing-in of this Northeastern state's new Deputy Chief minister Nemcha Kipgen for joining the BJP-led government despite he being a member of their community. The situation turned volatile in the Tuibong area, where demonstrators opposed the formation of what they described as a newly installed "popular government," prompting a heavy deployment of security forces. Ten-

sions escalated as protesters clashed with security personnel, leading to the use of tear gas and lathi charge to disperse the crowd. The unrest marked a fresh flare-up in the district amid opposition to Nemcha Kipgen joining the BJP-led government as Deputy Chief minister.

According to officials, a mob gathered near Tuibong Bazaar and set fire to a pile of discarded materials, including tyres, while raising slogans against Nemcha Kipgen, who belongs to the Kuki Community which has been opposing the new state government formed with

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Fresh violence in Manipur's Churachandpur.

Shah visits forward areas in J-K



Union Home Minister Amit Shah being received by Jammu and Kashmir Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah upon his arrival, in Jammu.

MI News Service, Jammu : Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday visited forward areas along the International Border in Kathua, marking the beginning of his three-day tour of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said. In the morning the Home minister visited the border outposts of Gurnam and Boiyian in the Hiranagar sector and interacted with the Border Security Force (BSF) personnel guarding the frontier, the officials said. His visit comes amid heightened focus on border management to scuttle infiltration of terrorists and

smuggling of weapons and narcotics, and stepped up anti-terror operations that left four hardcore Pakistani terrorists of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) dead in nearly a dozen encounters in Kathua, Udhampur and Kishtwar districts over the past two weeks. The forward post of BSF is situated along the India-Pakistan border in Kathua district, where a massive operation against Pakistani terrorists was underway for the past fortnight, officials said. Shah flew in a helicopter to the Hiranagar sector of Kathua from Jammu around noon

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, BJP will continue to work for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir

Amit Shah
Union Home Minister

and was later escorted to Border Security Force (BSF) Outpost 'Vinay' to assess the ground situation, they said.

BSF Director General Daljit Singh Chaudhary, J-K Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat and other senior officers, including Inspector General of BSF, Jammu Frontier, Shashank Anand, and Inspector General of Police, Jammu zone, Bhim Sen Tuti received the Home minister and accompanied him during the tour, the officials said. Shah reached Jammu on Thursday night and held a closed-door meeting with BJP MLAs and office-bearers. After a nearly two-hour meeting at BJP headquarters here, Shah took to X and shared that he held a

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India has set bold goals, we must deliver: Astronaut Shukla

MI News Service, Panaji : Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla said on Friday that the country has set bold goals for itself, from becoming Viksit Bharat by 2047 to undertaking ambitious space missions, stressing that it is the collective responsibility of citizens to realise these aspirations. Interacting with students during the ongoing Goa Book Festival 2026 in Panaji, organised by the National Book Trust, Shukla, a Group Captain in the Indian Air Force, narrated several anecdotes about his space mission and also the preparations in the run-up to it.

"India has set very bold goals, be it Viksit Bharat by 2047 or space missions. But how can we achieve those? We all have to make it possible," he said, adding that "you all have to assume that responsibility". Shukla said India is already working on the Gaganyaan mission. "We are working to have our own space station, followed by a mission on the Moon," he said. The Gaganyaan project is an ambitious space programme to launch a 3-member crew into an orbit of 400 km for a



India has set bold goals, we must deliver: Astronaut Shukla

3-day mission. Referring to the students, Shukla said he wants to see one of them, be it a boy or a girl, to be the first Indian to set foot on the Moon. "Sky was never a limit... not for me, not for you, not for Bharat," he said. He also showed videos shot during his Axiom-4 mission, as well

as views of Earth from space. Shukla returned to Earth in July last year after an 18-day stay on the International Space Station. He became the second Indian to travel to space, under the Axiom-4 mission, after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 flight. "I am often asked to describe

There is a lot of pressure. You think about what may happen in the mission. But you also realise that you are not representing just you or your flag, but you are representing 1.4 billion people. You are going to space on their behalf

Shubhanshu Shukla
Indian astronaut

how India looks from space. This question was also asked to India's first astronaut, Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, and he aptly replied 'Sare Jahan Se Accha'. I have no better words to describe our country," he said. Responding to questions about the pressures ahead of the mission, Shukla said, "When you go for a mission, there is always pressure." "There is a lot of pressure. You think about what may happen in the mission. But you

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31 killed, 169 injured in suicide attack at a mosque in Pakistan



An explosion rocked a Shia imambara in Pakistan's capital city of Islamabad on Friday.

MI News Service, New Delhi / Islamabad : A suicide bomber blew himself up at a Shia mosque during Friday prayers in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 31 people so far and injuring about 170 others, officials said. The powerful explosion took place at Khadijatul Kubra mosque-cum-imambargah in the Tarlai area of Islamabad, the police said in a statement. The suicide bomber was stopped at the gate of the imambargah, but he detonated himself, police and eyewitnesses said. A hospital spokesman, however, quoting preliminary reports said about 190 people were wounded in the suspected suicide attack on

the Shia mosque while Friday prayers were being held. Some of the injured are said to be in a critical condition. No group has yet claimed the responsibility of carrying out the attack. Thousands of people have been killed, most of them Shias, in Pakistan's sectarian violence in recent years. "I saw a man firing at two policemen before he entered the mosque. Seconds later I heard a big bang," said one witness Zahid Khan, AFP news agency reports. The blast blew out windows in nearby buildings. Local people have been helping ferry the dead and injured in their cars or on motorbikes.

RBI retains interest rate at 5.25 pc, pauses rate cuts

MI News Service, New Delhi : After a 25 basis point rate cut in December, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday decided to pause on the policy rate front amid geopolitical uncertainties. This is the first monetary policy review after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman tabled her Budget proposals for financial year 2026-27 on February 1 in Parliament.

Announcing the sixth and final bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to retain short-term lending rate or repo rate at 5.25 per cent with a neutral stance. The rate cut pause comes on the back of the CPI-based headline retail inflation ruling below the 2 per cent lower band mandated by the government for the last four months. The central bank has been tasked by the government to ensure that consumer price index (CPI) based retail inflation remains at 4 per cent with a margin of 2 per cent on either side. Since February 2025, the RBI has reduced the policy rate by 125 basis points. In its previous policy review in December, it had trimmed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent.

Based on the recommendation of the MPC, the RBI reduced the repo rate by 25 bps each in February, 2025 and April, and 50 basis points in June amidst easing retail inflation. However, the central bank halted its rate cut in August. But in the last MPC meeting, the RBI again went for reduction in repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.25 per cent. India's retail inflation dropped to a historic low of 0.25 per cent in October 2025, marking the lowest level since the CPI series was introduced. Besides, the Indian economy has clocked better-than-expected GDP growth of 8.2 per cent in the second quarter. As per the government estimate, India's economy is estimated to grow at 7.4 per cent during the current financial year.

However, the rupee declined to a historic low and crossed 92 against a dollar last week making imports costlier, raising fears of rise



Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Sanjay Malhotra addresses a press conference after the announcement of the sixth and final bi-monthly monetary policy for the current fiscal in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The policy rates will continue to be at low levels for a long period of time (and) they will go down even further

Sanjay Malhotra

in inflation. In fact Rupee has depreciated by as much as about 6 per cent in calendar year 2025. Speaking after the central bank decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent at its bi-monthly monetary policy, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra said the key policy rates will remain at low levels for a long period and may go down even further. "The policy rates will continue to be at low levels for a long period of time (and) they will go down even further," Malhotra said in his customary post-monetary press conference.

He, however, added that the decision on rates will be taken by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Since February last year, the RBI has reduced the repo rate by 125 basis points. The governor said policy transmission on the deposit side has been slower and interest rate on fixed deposits will be going down. Replying to a question on the impact of recent trade deals signed by India, the RBI Governor said this, along with other factors, could add up to 20 basis points to the country's GDP growth.

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ECL & Dist Admin of PASCHIM BARDHAMAN join hands

MI News Service, West Bardhaman: Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), (a subsidiary of Coal India Limited) reaffirmed its commitment towards sustainable development and social well-being.

During a high-level meeting between the Director (Technical/ Project & Planning), ECL Girish Gopinathan Nair and the District Magistrate, Paschim Bardhaman Ponnambalam S. (IAS), held on 06.02.2026, elaborate discussion was held on ECL's Mine Closure Plan with a focus on Community Development and Livelihood Generation initiatives as part of sustainable mining activities and repurposing of mined out land in line with the mandate of the Government of India.

The meeting was also attended by Nitu Shukla (IAS), Additional District Magistrate (ZP), Aranya Banerjee, Additional District Magistrate (Land Reform) along with other officers from District administration as well as block level Revenue Officials.

ECL was also represented by other senior officials including P. S. De, General Manager (Co-ordination), Mrityunjay Kumar, General Manager (Environment), Robin Thounaoja, General Manager, Sagram-Sripur Area, Bhaskar Bhattacharya, General Manager (Geology) and representatives from the CSR department of ECL.

Need more central health hubs in hills: H V SHRINGLA

MI News Service, Kolkata: Rajya Sabha member Harsh Vardhan Shringla has sought the Centre's intervention to make the central government health scheme (CGHS) more accessible to the Darjeeling hills and north Bengal as a whole.

The former diplomat-turned MP said that though over two lakh central government employees, pensioners and their dependents resided in north Bengal and Sikkim, they had to make do with one CGHS wellness centre in Siliguri.

"A large section of these beneficiaries comprises senior citizens, widows, retired personnel and patients suffering from chronic and critical illnesses who are entirely dependent on CGHS for timely and affordable healthcare. Despite this substantial population, only a single CGHS wellness centre is currently functioning at Siliguri, making access to healthcare extremely difficult for residents of the hills and remote areas," Shringla told the Rajya Sabha.

He pointed out that there was no CGHS wellness centre in Darjeeling town. Beneficiaries from Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik and other areas have to travel anywhere between 80km and 120km to avail basic CGHS services.

"I would request the establishment of multiple CGHS wellness centres in Darjeeling, Kalimpong, Kurseong, Mirik, Bagdogra, Naxalbari and Sikkim to ensure last-mile access to primary healthcare."

Nadi Utsav



The seminar was graced by H.E. Dr. Andrew Fleming, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, who attended the event as the Chief Guest. The exhibition was formally inaugurated by Swapan Dasgupta, eminent scholar and former Rajya Sabha Member.

MI News Service, Kolkata: JGNCA, ministry of Culture, Govt of India host Nadi Utsav in Kolkata. JGNCA, Min of Culture, Govt of India host Nadi Utsav, focused on the theme "The Fluvial Archive: The Ganges Basin, Culture and Commerce" at British Dy High Commission (British Club), Kolkata during 31st January -1st February, 2026.

And week-long Exhibition on River in Victoria Memorial Hall from 2nd February to 11 th February, 2026 .

This programme provided a unique opportunity to merge scholarly discussions with proactive environmental initiatives. By bringing together experts, researchers, and practitioners, the festival aimed to explore the intricate relationship between the Ganges River and the cultural and commercial activities that have flourished along its banks.

The Nadi Utsav not only fostered a deeper understanding of the river's role in shaping local identities and economies but also emphasized the urgent need for collaborative efforts to address environmental concerns.



The Sara Bangla Mid-Day Meal Karmee Union held a protest rally demanding a hike in honorarium and payment of retirement benefits, at Y-Channel, Dharmatala, in Kolkata on Friday.

Bangladeshi infiltrator escapes from Hospital, flees before police can detain him

MI News Service, Murshidabad: A Bangladeshi "illegal immigrant" prisoner escaped from police custody. He had been taken to the hospital for a physical examination before being brought to court. The prisoner escaped from the police cordon while being put back into the prison van! The dramatic incident took place on the premises of Baharampur Medical College Hospital in Murshidabad. The escaped prisoner's name is Rabiul Islam. He was arrested

six months ago on charges of illegally entering and roaming around in India. Since then, the young man had been imprisoned by court order. His hearing was scheduled for Friday.

According to the police and other eyewitnesses at the hospital, Rabiul was arrested six months ago on charges of illegally entering India. Since then, he has been imprisoned in the Baharampur Central Correctional Home by court order. Meanwhile, his case was scheduled for a hearing in court

again today, Friday. Therefore, he was taken to Baharampur Medical College Hospital for a health check-up along with other undertrial prisoners. The incident occurred when the prisoner was being put back into the prison van after the health examination. It is alleged that the young man broke free from the police and ran away as he was getting into the van.

The police officers and others present at the scene were stunned by the incident. Inmate Rintu Khan said, "We were

brought from the jail in a vehicle along with Bangladeshi national Rabiul Islam to see a doctor. He escaped from police custody." Police have launched a search in various places for the escaped Bangladeshi prisoner. Questions have been raised about how an undertrial prisoner managed to escape from police custody in this manner and how such security lapses occurred. The Murshidabad district police have ordered an investigation into the incident.

Lifelong CPM member from Hooghly thanks Mamata for house

MI News Service, Hooghly: A CPI(M) leader received funds under the Banglar Bari (Houses for Bengal) scheme. After building his 'dream home,' he thanked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Speaking at a public event, he said, "I have built my house with the benefits of this scheme launched by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Many people are benefiting from the state government's scheme. I thank the Chief Minister."

Milan Bag, a CPI(M) member of the Naiti Gram Panchayat in Hooghly, had applied for the Banglar Bari scheme. After a survey, a house was allocated in his name. Milan was present at a felicitation ceremony for those who received funds under the Banglar Bari scheme in Block Two of the Chanditala Assembly constituency. There, he stated that he was able to build his house with the state government's funds and thanked Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee for it.

Present at the event were Hooghly Zilla Parishad mentor Subir Mukherjee, Panchayat Samiti president Jaydev Rakshit, Block Development Officer Amalesh Biswas, and several gram panchayat heads. During the event, young children participated in a drawing competition, depicting images of the Bangla Bari (Bengal Home) project. It is worth noting that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee disbursed funds for the Bangla Bari project from a meeting in Hooghly in January. Approximately 1.2 million beneficiaries have already received this benefit, and another 1.6 million families will receive it in the next phase.



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TMC workers hold rally to thank CM for Rs 500 hike in Lakshmir Bhandar

MI News Service, Kharagpur: West Medinipur and Jhargram districts, Trinamool took out rallies in various areas of both the districts to thank the Chief Minister for increasing the allowance of Lakhi Bhandar for the youth. It is known that in the interim budget of the state, the Lakshmi Bhandar allowance for women has been increased by Rs 500. Along with this, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced unemployment benefits for the youth of Bengal under Yuvasathi Scheme. Through the scheme, young men and women aged between 21 to 40 years can get Rs 1500 as monthly



allowance. After the announcement of financial assistance in the budget, Trinamool workers celebrated by taking out rallies in different areas of both the districts and thanked the Chief

Minister of the state Mamata Banerjee. Trinamool workers say that this is not only an amount, but also an economically respectable morale to live a life.

Payel Ghosh conferred with Honorary Doctorate in Wedding and Event Industry by WCEPC

MI News Service, Kolkata/ New Delhi: In a moment of pride for the Indian wedding and event industry, Payel Ghosh, Founder and Owner of Subha Muhurat Wedding House, has been conferred with the Honorary Doctorate in Wedding and Event Industry (Honoris Causa) by the World Culture and Environment Protection Commission (WCEPC).

The honour recognises her 14 years of remarkable journey in the wedding and event sector and her outstanding contribution to redefining luxury, cultural integrity, and professional excellence in the industry. Over the years, Subha Muhurat Wedding House has emerged as a trusted name, delivering bespoke wedding experiences across Pan India and international destinations.

Payel Ghosh's journey stands as a testimony to perseverance, creativity, and visionary leadership. From humble beginnings, she built Subha Muhurat into a brand synonymous with elegance, meticulous planning, and emotional storytelling—creating



celebrations that blend tradition with modern aesthetics. Her work has not only elevated client experiences but has also generated employment, encouraged women entrepreneurship, and set high professional benchmarks within the industry.

The Honorary Doctorate was awarded in recognition of her leadership, social impact, and commitment to empowering society through her work. Speaking on the occasion, Payel Ghosh expressed gratitude to her team, clients, and mentors, stating that the recognition strengthens

her resolve to contribute more meaningfully to the industry and society at large.

With successful projects spanning India and abroad, Subha Muhurat Wedding House continues to expand its global footprint, representing Indian wedding artistry on international platforms.

This honour marks yet another milestone in Payel Ghosh's inspiring journey—one that continues to motivate aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals across the wedding and event ecosystem.

AJOY EDWARDS raises questions on Bengal fund flow

MI News Service, Darjeeling: A project to upgrade a road in Kalimpong has been stopped by the contractor after the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) allegedly failed to make payments against submitted bills, raising questions on the fund flow from the Bengal government to the hill body.

Ajoy Edwards, an elected GTA Sabha member and a leader of the Opposition camp, in letter to the GTA has stated that work on "upgradation, carpeting and other allied works" of a road from Chui-khim forest to Kiran Golai under Kalimpong Block-1 has stopped over unpaid bills to the contractor.

Work on the 2.5km road executed under the state plan for the year 2023-24 against a sanctioned project cost of 2.49 crore had started from December 2023.

Edwards said that during his recent visit to the area, residents drew his attention to the incomplete road.

"Immediately thereafter, I contacted (over the phone) the concerned agency, Shri Nitesh Agarwal, who informed me that he has already submitted a part bill amounting to 1.2 crore out of which only 20 lakh has been released till date," Edwards, leader of the Indian Gorkha Janshakti Front, wrote to the GTA chief executive Anit Thapa, who helms the Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha, and officials of the hill body. Thapa's party is a hill ally of the ruling Trinamool Congress.

"The agency further stated that the remaining work would be resumed only after receipt of the pending payment," the letter states.

Agarwal, speaking to The Telegraph, recently said he needed to check his accounts to verify the sum he received so far for the project.

A GTA source, however, said that officials of the hill body had contacted the contractor and "warned him" to complete the project. "Work will start soon," the source said.

Edwards, however, raised the larger question on whether promised funds were at all coming to the hill body from the state exchequer. "I am also deeply concerned and surprised as to why the payment against the budget allotted for the financial year 2023-24 has not been fully released, resulting in the stoppage of work and leaving the project incomplete," stated Edwards.

Sources had earlier told The Telegraph that the construction of the IT park in Kurseong, announced by chief minister Mamata Banerjee on December 8, 2023 and to be completed in December 2025, hit a dead end when the state failed to release the approved ₹24.79 crore.

"The GTA started executing the work with speed and completed a substantial amount of work. However, at the moment work is progressing at a snail's pace as the GTA has not received funds from the state," a source had earlier stated.

Panic grips Sundarbans localities after tiger attack

MI News Service,

Sundarbans: A tiger has once again strayed into a populated area of the Sundarbans! On Friday morning, local residents spotted tiger footprints near the forest. Upon receiving the news, forest department officials rushed to the spot. The incident occurred in the Jhardkhali area. A cage has been set up to capture the tiger, and tranquilizer equipment is also on standby. Forest officials have cordoned off the area.

Panic spread in the Jhardkhali area of the Sundarbans today, Friday, after a full-grown tiger entered a populated area in the early hours of the morning. A tiger, emerging from the deep forests of the Sundarbans, was seen taking refuge in the mangrove forest adjacent to the Tiger Rescue Center in Jhardkhali! In the morning, local residents reported seeing tiger footprints near the forest. The forest department was immediately informed. For-



Tiger footprints in the wet soil

est officials quickly arrived at the scene and have begun making the necessary preparations to safely capture the tiger.

Meanwhile, surveillance has been increased in the area, and cages and tranquilizer equipment have been arranged. Considering the safety of the general public, the police and administration have temporarily banned tourists from entering the park area in Jhardkhali. According to administrative sources, this ban will remain in effect until the tiger is safely returned to the forest or captured. Notably, the number of tourists in the

Sundarbans has increased several times in recent years. Tourists are frequently spotting tigers, which, while benefiting tourism businesses, is creating new problems for wildlife and the local people. Due to the excessive crowds and noise pollution, wild animals are unable to move freely in the forest.

As a result, tigers are often becoming aggressive or venturing into populated areas in search of safe refuge. Meanwhile, the lives of fishermen and honey collectors in the Sundarbans are also becoming increasingly risky. Incidents of tiger attacks are frequently occurring as they enter the forest for their livelihood. To manage the situation, the forest department has advised locals to be vigilant and appealed to them not to go near the forest unnecessarily. The administration hopes that the tiger will be safely rescued and returned to the forest soon, and that normalcy will return to the area.

IIT Kharagpur Turns Waste into Cooking Gas and Organic Fertilizer

MI News Service, Kharagpur: IIT Kharagpur is on its way to implementing a project for producing cooking gas and organic fertilizer from waste. Land has already been allocated within the IIT Kharagpur campus for this purpose, where the plant will be established. Through this project, IIT Kharagpur aims to set an example in environmental protection and energy conservation. To implement this project, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was recently signed between IIT Kharagpur and Oil India Limited at the India Energy Week 2026 held in Goa. Through this agreement, a modern compressed biogas plant will be set up on the designated land within the IIT Kharagpur campus.

At the international energy

conference held in Goa, Professor Brajesh Dubey, Dean of Campus and Community Development at IIT Kharagpur, and Ranjan Goswami, Executive Officer (Business Development) from Oil India Limited, signed the agreement. The main objective of this project is to convert waste materials into energy resources. IIT Kharagpur Director Professor Suman Chakraborty, who was visibly delighted with the agreement, said, "This will be implemented on a large scale on IIT land within the campus. On August 18th of last year, during an event celebrating the institution's foundation day, Dr. Ranjit Rath, Chairman of Oil India Limited and an alumnus of this institution, was present. We had extensive discussions with him about launching this project.

We showed him the land and other infrastructure. This agreement is a result of those discussions."

He further said, "This initiative will become a replicable model for other cities and campuses in the country in the future. We believe that this joint venture between industry and academia will show a new direction in environmental protection and energy production." He also stated that such a large-scale project would not be possible using only the waste materials from IIT Kharagpur. Therefore, waste materials will be collected from the municipality, railways, and various hospitals in the city. A separate team will be formed for the collection of this waste. He hopes that this biogas project will be operational within the next year.

Wedding bus rams into house



MI News Service, Kharagpur: A bus returning after leaving the wedding procession went out of control and entered a house in Shitalada area along the Kantakali main road of Sabang police station in West Medinipur district, causing a sensation in the area. Although a part of the house got damaged during this time, no one was reported

injured as the bus was empty. It is known that the bus named Lakshminarayan on Kantakali Medinipur route was reserved for the wedding processions. While returning after leaving the wedding processions, the bus was going at a high speed due to the road being empty. It is alleged that the driver of the bus was under the influence of alcohol.

The bus went out of control and crashed into the wall of a house on the roadside. As soon as the bus entered the house, there was chaos in the area. However, since there were no passengers in the bus at that time and the road and the area in front of the house were empty, no major damage was caused. After receiving the information, police from Sabang police station reached the spot. Police seized the bus. Police are investigating the incident to find out whether the driver of the bus was under the influence of alcohol or there was some mechanical fault in the bus due to which the accident occurred.

Balagarh police seizes cash, car & electronic devices in raid

MI News Service, Hooghly: Acting on specific intelligence, Balagarh Police Station in Hooghly district conducted a late-night raid and seized a large amount of cash along with a car and electronic devices.

On the night of February 4, 2026, Balagarh Police received specific information following which Officer-in-Charge Somdev Patra, Sub-Inspector Shubhjit Pal, Assistant Sub-Inspectors Biswanath De and M.M. Haque, along with other personnel, formed a special team. The team carried out a raid at Maa Annapurna Hotel and Bar under the jurisdiction of Balagarh Police Station.

According to police sources, two persons had rented a room at the hotel while carrying a huge amount of cash, allegedly for unlawful purposes. During questioning, the two occupants were identified as Shubhjit Kundu and Agnijeet Kundu, residents of Salboni village in Bankura district.

During interrogation, Shubhjit Kundu admitted to possessing ₹41.50 lakh in cash.



However, he failed to provide any satisfactory explanation regarding the source of the money or the purpose of bringing such a large amount. He was also unable to produce any valid documents to justify possession of the cash. Subsequently, both accused were taken into custody and brought to the police station.

A case (Balagarh Police Station Case No. 57/26 dated February 4, 2026) was registered under Sections 303(2) and 317(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). The investigating officer, SI Nitai Ghosh, pro-

duced the accused before the court, which granted five days of police remand.

During the remand period, the accused revealed that an additional ₹10 lakh had been hidden under a concrete bed inside the hotel room. The cash was recovered and seized by the police.

So far, a total of ₹51.53,500 has been recovered. Police have also seized a Hyundai 110 car, a Dell laptop, a money-counting machine and three mobile phones. Investigation into the source of the money and the motive behind the incident is ongoing.

Prof. Nasir Ahmed strongly condemned remarks made by Humayun Kabir against Firhad Hakim

MI News Service, Siliguri: Prof. Nasir Ahmed strongly condemned the recent remarks made by Humayun Kabir against Firhad Hakim, Mayor of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and Minister for Municipal Affairs and Urban Development.

Prof. Nasir Ahmed alleged that the MLA not only used indecorous and abusive language against Hakim, but also made unacceptable personal attacks by maligning his birth identity and dragging in the religious background of his parents.

Termining the comments "dangerous, divisive and utterly unacceptable", Prof. Ahmed said AIMO will never tolerate such language or behaviour from an elected representative. "No MLA has the right to use slang, abusive words or make personal attacks



involving the parents, religion or family members of a Cabinet Minister, the Chief Minister or anyone else," he said.

Prof. Ahmed also expressed grave concern over Humayun Kabir's reported statement that he would not allow Firhad Hakim to enter Murshidabad and that

Hakim would not be able to return home if he did. "This is nothing but an open threat of dire consequences. Such intimidation and arrogance from a public representative is a serious threat to democratic norms and the rule of law," he added.

Condemning the statement in the strongest terms, Prof. Ahmed announced that AIMO will launch a protest movement against Humayun Kabir over the issue. "AIMO will hit the streets to protest this threatening, inflammatory and irresponsible conduct and to send a clear message that such behaviour will not be tolerated in a democratic society," he said.

The organisation has demanded immediate action and accountability, asserting that public representatives must uphold dignity, restraint and constitutional values in public life.

SC declines to entertain Jan SuraaJ's plea seeking fresh Bihar Assembly elections

From PG 1
having lost the polls, a bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joy-malya Bagchi asked it to approach the Patna High Court as the issue pertained to only one state. Prashant Kishor party also challenging the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections, had sought fresh polls in the state over alleged misuse of the welfare scheme to influence voters. The two member SC bench heard the plea, which challenged the Bihar government's decision to transfer Rs 10,000 to women beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana after the election schedule was announced allegedly in violation of the Model Code of Conduct (MCC). "We cannot issue an omnibus direction for the entire state that too at the instance of a political party," the CJ said and asked the party, represented by senior advocate C U Singh, to approach the Patna High Court. The Jan SuraaJ Party (JSP) had moved the Supreme Court seeking fresh elections in Bihar after the BJP-led NDA retained power in the 243-member Assembly by winning 202 seats, while the INDIA bloc secured 35 seats. The JSP has not only failed to win any seat, most of its candidates have forfeited their deposits. The petition accused the state government of violating the MCC by transferring Rs 10,000 to women beneficiaries under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana after the poll schedule was announced and sought action under Article 324 of the Constitution and Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act. The Mukhyamantri Mahila Rojgar Yojana provides an initial financial grant of Rs 10,000 to women to promote self-employment and small businesses in the state.

India has set bold goals, we must deliver: Astronaut Shukla

From PG 1
also realise that you are not representing just you or your flag, but you are representing 1.4 billion people. You are going to space on their behalf," he said. Shukla said that in such situations, he always reminds himself that this is not the time to be afraid. "This is the time to perform. If you let yourself down now, there is no point in choosing you," he said. Recounting his experience before entering the rocket, he said, "You can see the rocket from two and a half kilometres away, fully illuminated." You are also given the option to play a song to pump yourself up. I played 'Vande Mataram' from the film Fighter at full volume, and I was ready for the mission," he added.

Mamata Banerjee hands out more cash to women, jobless youths before polls

From PG 1
currently the Chief Economic Adviser of the Chief minister also hailed the Interim budget as 'outstanding, exceptionally good' and claimed that in spite of the government's extreme financial constraints because of the Centre's alleged step motherly attitude, the Budget had 'done wonders' to provide maximum financial benefits to millions of people, particularly the women and youth in the state without creating any discriminations of sorts. He said contrary to general conceptions, the state had been able to increase its revenue generations to a great extent and put in place an able fiscal discipline in all departments to maximise income. To drive his point home he had elaborated his claims with latest figures.



Kolkata Police Commissioner Supratim Sarkar, along with senior police officials, reviewed the security arrangements at the venue ahead of the T20 World Cup match between West Indies and Scotland at Eden Gardens Stadium in Kolkata on Friday.

Abhishek Slams NPP Govt After 18 Killed in Meghalaya Illegal Coal Mine Blast

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday targeted the ruling National People's Party (NPP) government in Meghalaya following a deadly explosion at an illegal coal mine in the state's East Jaintia Hills district that claimed at least 18 lives.
Expressing deep condolences to the bereaved families, Banerjee said the tragedy exposed the criminal apathy of those responsible for governance. In a post on social media platform X, he wrote that the labourers were pushed into "death traps" by poverty, exploitation and the complete collapse of regulatory oversight.
"At least 18 labourers have been killed in a horrific explosion at an illegal coal mine in Meghalaya's East Jaintia Hills. Illegal mining does not survive without political protection,



administrative silence and systemic corruption. The blood of these workers stains the hands of the ruling NPP government in the state," Banerjee wrote.
The TMC leader demanded strict action against all those involved, including mine operators and officials who allegedly enabled illegal mining

activities. He stressed that accountability must be fixed and those responsible must face prosecution and punishment. The explosion occurred at a coal mine in Thangskhu village while workers were engaged in coal extraction. Preliminary reports suggest the blast was caused by the use of dynamite during mining operations. Several workers are still missing, raising fears that the death toll may rise. Rescue operations are currently underway in the area, while police have launched an investigation into the incident. Meghalaya is ruled by the NPP, with the Trinamool Congress serving as the principal opposition party in the state.
The incident has once again highlighted the dangers of illegal coal mining in Meghalaya, despite existing bans and repeated court directives aimed at curbing unsafe mining practices.

Firhad Hakim Slams BJP Over Minority Remarks



MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Assembly proceedings turned tense during the State Budget Session after senior Trinamool Congress leader and minister Firhad Hakim launched a strong counterattack against BJP MLA Agnimitra Paul over her remarks on budgetary allocation for minority development and madrasa education. Reacting sharply to Paul's statement questioning whether increased funds for minorities were being used to protect illegal immigrants, Hakim said minorities were being deliberately and unfairly portrayed as criminals. "Minorities are not criminals. We have sacrificed our lives during India's freedom movement, yet you continue to hate us," he said, triggering loud protests from the opposition benches. He firmly rejecting what he termed a divisive narrative, Hakim repeatedly

asserted that the minority community could not be branded as criminals under any circumstances. He accused the BJP of spreading hatred and creating social divisions for political mileage. His emotional remarks further escalated tensions inside the Assembly, leading to shouting and slogan-raising from both sides.
Citing historical figures, Hakim questioned whether icons such as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and poet Kazi Nazrul Islam could be labelled as criminals. "Were they criminals?" he asked, directing his remarks at the BJP benches. He said such narratives insult the contributions of minorities to the nation's history and freedom struggle. The minister further stated that Muslims had never been criminals and urged the opposition to introspect. Addressing BJP lawmakers, Hakim said they should feel ashamed of making such comments. He also hummed the patriotic line 'Sare Jahan Se Achha' to underline that India belongs to all communities and not to any single religion or group. Following Hakim's remarks, the Assembly witnessed repeated disruptions, with heated arguments, slogans and counter-slogans echoing across the House.

ED Files Chargesheet in RG Kar Fin Scam; Arrest Warrant Issued Against Former Dy Superintendent



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the elections, the financial irregularities case involving RG Kar Hospital and Medical College has once again come under the spotlight in West Bengal's political and administrative circles. After a prolonged probe, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday filed its first chargesheet in the case before the court at Bichar Bhavan, marking a significant step in the investigation. ED sources said the chargesheet names former RG Kar Hospital principal Sandip Ghosh, along with Biplab Singh and Suman Hajra, as accused. All three are currently in judicial custody. Ghosh was earlier arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and is lodged

at Presidency Correctional Home. While proceedings in the CBI's corruption case are underway, the ED's chargesheet on alleged financial misappropriation has added fresh momentum to the case. Biplab Singh and Suman Hajra were also arrested earlier by the CBI. Investigators have claimed that both acted as vendors associated with the hospital. According to CBI sources, Singh's firm supplied medical equipment and related materials to RG Kar Hospital and allegedly secured multiple contracts without following due tender procedures. Similar allegations have been levelled against Hajra, with investigators alleging large-scale financial irregularities in the allotment of contracts.

Vidyasagar Setu to Remain Closed for 12 Hours on Sunday

MI News Service, Kolkata: Traffic movement across Vidyasagar Setu, also known as the Second Hooghly Bridge, will remain completely suspended for 12 hours on Sunday due to scheduled maintenance work, Kolkata Police announced on Friday. The iconic bridge will be closed to all kinds of vehicular traffic from 6 am to 6 pm on February 8 in the interest of public safety.



holding-down cables and bearings, which are crucial for the bridge's long-term stability and safe operation. Authorities have clarified that no vehicles will be allowed to ply on Vidyasagar Setu during the 12-hour

shutdown period. In view of the closure, elaborate traffic diversion plans have been put in place to ensure smooth vehicular movement and to minimise inconvenience to commuters. Vehicles approaching the bridge from Jirat Island via AJC Bose Road will be diverted through Turf View towards Hastings Crossing, from where they can proceed via Howrah Bridge. Similarly, vehicles coming from JN Island through KP Road will be redirected via 11 Furlong Gate towards Hastings Crossing, officials said. Traffic heading towards Vidyasagar Setu from the Khidirpur side along CGR Road will also be diverted towards Hastings Crossing. From there, vehicles will be able to

take a left turn and use Howrah Bridge to cross the river. In addition, vehicles moving along KP Road towards the bridge will be allowed to proceed towards Ghora Pass near the Y Point, according to the traffic advisory.
Kolkata Police have advised commuters to plan their journeys in advance and to use Howrah Bridge as the primary alternative route during the closure period. Motorists have also been urged to follow traffic signals and instructions issued by on-duty personnel to avoid congestion. Officials confirmed that Vidyasagar Setu will be reopened for traffic after 6 pm on Sunday, once the maintenance work is completed.



Scotland players during their training session ahead of the T20 World Cup match between West Indies and Scotland at Eden Gardens Stadium in Kolkata on Friday..

Six Madhyamik Examinees Injured in Road Accident

MI News Service, Kolkata: A tragic road accident occurred in Howrah on Friday as six Madhyamik examinees were injured while returning home after appearing for their examination. The incident took place on the third day of the Madhyamik exams at Hantal in Jagatballavpur area, triggering panic among locals and guardians. According to local sources, the injured students were from Bargachhi-aPriyanathPathshala and had their examination centre at Bishalakhmi High School in Hantal. After completing the examination, the students were returning home on two motorcycles. While travelling through the area, one of the bikes reportedly lost control and rammed into a roadside tree at high speed. Moments later, the second motorcycle, which was following closely behind, also crashed into the first bike. As a result of the collision, all six students sustained injuries of varying degrees.

Elderly Man Arrested for Allegedly Molesting Minor Girl

MI News Service, Kolkata: An elderly man was arrested for allegedly sexually harassing a 16-year-old girl inside a moving private bus in south Kolkata. The accused was detained by the girl's mother and fellow passengers and later handed over to police officials from the Behala Women Police Station, police said. According to police sources, the incident occurred recently when the minor girl was travelling with her mother on a private bus from Gopalnagar in the Alipore area. The bus was overcrowded at the time, and the girl was standing among other passengers. Taking advantage of the rush, the accused elderly man came close to the girl and allegedly began touching her inappropriately while the bus was in motion. Police said the victim initially tried to move away from the accused, but due to the heavy crowd inside the bus, she was unable to do so.

An Innovative Lamp Procession Held in Kolkata on the 152nd Appearance Anniversary of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the occasion of the 152nd appearance anniversary of Srila Bhaktisiddhanta Saraswati Goswami Prabhupada, the founder of Gaudiya Math and a Gaudiya Vaishnava Acharya, a special lamp procession and ceremonial multi-tier lamp lighting programme was organized by the Baghbazar Gaudiya Mission. As part of the observance, 152 youths carrying

lit lamps started from the Math premises and circumambulated the Math and the surrounding areas. The procession later reached the Baghbazar Sarbojanin Durgotsav ground, where the main segment of the programme concluded with the collective lighting of a large ceremonial lamp stand. The entire area was illuminated by the glow of the lamps.

RBI retains interest rate at 5.25 pc, pauses rate cuts

From PG 1
Earlier, the RBI upwardly revised GDP forecast for the first and second quarters of the next fiscal year. At the press conference, Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar said the RBI will be able to manage government borrowing programme comfortably. The government's gross borrowing has been pegged at Rs 17.2 lakh crore during the next fiscal year, while net borrowing was Rs

11.73 lakh crore. Malhotra added that T-bills will help manage yield curve and the government would be able to raise net borrowing of Rs 11.73 lakh crore at a reasonable rate. On the Budget announcement regarding data centres, he said it will bring in a lot of foreign investments. To another question, Malhotra said currency in circulation has increased quite a lot in the last one year.

Violence erupts in Manipur over Deputy CM's oath

From PG 1
the major representation coming from the rival Meitai community. The situation worsened when security forces attempted to clear the area. Protesters, who reportedly outnumbered the deployed personnel, resorted to stone-pelting, triggering a baton charge. Two people sustained minor injuries during the clashes. Security officials said the situation remained tense, with additional forces being rushed in to prevent further escalation. People in the Kuki dominated mountainous district of Churachandpur in Manipur has been on edge since Wednesday evening, following Kipgen's joining the new cabinet as the Deputy Chief minister and taking oath. Several Kuki groups have also warned community MLAs against participating in the government formation, calling for a total shutdown in

Churachandpur and protests at multiple locations. Amid the unrest, new Manipur Chief Minister Y Khemchand Singh, who belongs to the majority Meitei community, said his government's top priority would be addressing the problems faced by people displaced due to ethnic violence in both hill and valley districts. Speaking to reporters, Singh said the government would soon prepare a roadmap to facilitate their return home. "Our first priority will be to look after the problems of internally displaced persons in both the hills and the valley. The biggest issue is that they are not able to return to their homes. The government will formulate a roadmap very soon," he said. Singh was earlier picked up as the leader of the NDA MLAs in the state when Nemcha Kipgen was also selected as the Deputy Chief minister from the Kuki community.

Shah visits forward areas in J-K

From PG 1
meeting with BJP MLAs and senior members of the party. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Modiji, BJP will continue to work for the prosperity of Jammu and Kashmir," he wrote on X. Meanwhile the police and other security forces were put on high alert because of Shah's visit, the officials said and senior officers are expected to brief him about the ground situation along the border. A massive search operation has been underway in the forest area of Kathua district since January 23 when police and other security forces intercepted a group of five terrorists who had infiltrated from across the International Border in the Hiranagar sector. Four policemen and two terrorists were killed in a fierce gunfight in the district on January 27.
Shah is also scheduled to meet the family members of the Jammu and Kashmir Police personnel killed in the line of duty at the Lok Bhavan in Jammu upon his return from Kathua and present appointment letters to some of them selected on compassionate grounds. This is Shah's third visit to the Union Territory after the formation of the National Conference government in October last year. Tomorrow Home minister Shah will take stock of various development programmes in the UT at a meeting at the Lok Bhavan in Srinagar. He will also interact with the local people there also to get a first hand idea about the present scenario of J-K. Before returning to Delhi later, he will attend another meeting where the security situation in J&K will be reviewed, the officials said.

Name Change
I, Sk Aijul (old name) S/o. Sk Ehiya, R/o. Iswarbaha, Sahaganj, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712104, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Aijul to Sk Aijul (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Aijul in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 227 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 06/02/2026. I, Sk Aijul & Sk Aijul S/o. Sk Ehiya both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ratika Rahatgi, daughter of Sundar Mohan Rohatgi, residing at 11, Jadual Mullick Road, Malapara, Beadon Street, Kolkata-700006, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Sundar Mohan Rohatgi and Sundar Mohan is the same and one identical person, indicating my father only via affidavit in the Court of Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Calcutta dated 5th February 2026.

Name Change
I,Asif Karim Mir S/O Abutaleb Mir Residing at Laskarpura, Sankrail, VT C -Manickpur, P. O. - Delta mil,Howrah-711309,WB.I declared that my actual date of birth is 09.08.1999 issued by my birth certificate but there has been wrongly recorded my sex as Female instead of Male issued by Manickpur G.P.In my Aadhar & pan card my date birth has been wrongly recorded as 02.07.1999 instead of 09.08.1999. This is a true statement as per vide an affidavit before the Ld.1st class executive magistrate at Howrah. Date-30.01.2026.

Name Change
I, Hitesh Chovatia (DOB) 02nd September, 1975, son of Rajnikant D Chovatia, residing at Enclave Building, 45/2 Chakrabortia Road South, 1st Floor, Kolkata – 700025, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Hitesh Chovatia and Hitesh R. Chovatia refer to the same person, myself via affidavit before the Notary Public at Kolkata dated 06th February 2026.

Name Change
I, ARHAM ALI son of SHAMIM AHMED aged about 21 yrs., resident of Z-3/174, Dr.A.K. Road,P.O. Badartala, P.S; Nadial, Kolkata 700044 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that my father's actual and original name is SHAMIM AHMED which is recorded in my Aadhar card being No.3025 2840 9346 and in my father's Aadhar Card being no.7689 0966 3874 .But in all my school documents including Certificate of Migration being Unique ID Number 7614104 issued by Council for Indian School Certificate Examination, New Delhi my father's name is wrongly recorded as SHAMIN AHMED in place of his real and correct name SHAMIM AHMED. By an affidavit no.18358 dtd. 05.02.2026 before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore that SHAMIM AHMED and SHAMIN AHMED is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, NAFISHA SHAHID, resident of 38B, Mofidul Islam Lane, Entally, Kolkata -14 do hereby declare that my father's actual name is SHAHID AKHTER, which has been inadvertently printed as SK SHAID AKHTAR in Voter ID Card FND2078525 and in Death Certificate being Registration No. 1043/08/T instead of SHAHID AKHTER which is my father's actual name. That my father's name also wrongly and misspelled as SAGAR which is recorded in my Birth Certificate being Registration No. 7368 , Madhyamik Admit Card being Roll No. 708682N 0205 and Madhyamik Registration Certificate being Registration No. 6192-255492. By an Affidavit No. 6541 on 30.01.2026 that SHAHID AKHTER, SK SHAID AKHTAR and SAGAR are the same and one identical person that is my father.

Name Change
I, ALISHA SHAHID , resident of 38B, Mofidul Islam Lane,Entally, Kolkata -14 do hereby declare that my father's actual name is SHAHID AKHTER, which has been inadvertently printed as SK SHAID AKHTAR in Voter ID Card FND2078525 and in Death Certificate being Registration No. 1043/08/T instead of SHAHID AKHTER which is my father actual name. By an affidavit No. 2040 on 19.01.2026 that SHAHID AKHTER & SK SHAID AKHTAR are the same and one identical person that is my father;

Name Change
I, MINATI GHOSH @ MINATI BHOWMICK (OLD NAME), w/o- Himangshu Kumar Ghosh, d/o - Nandan Kanta Bhowmick, residing at 88F, Dumdum Road, South Dumdum (M), Dist. North 24 Pgs, Kolkata- 700030, have changed my name & shall henceforth be known as MINATI GHOSH BHOWMICK (NEW NAME) as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 28/01/2026. MINATI GHOSH BHOWMICK (NEW NAME) & MINATI GHOSH @ MINATI BHOWMICK (OLD NAME) are the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Bijoyeta Bardhan, W/o. Pushpendu Bardhan, R/o.- 884, Lake Town, 4th Floor, Block-A, Lake Town, 24 Pgs (N)-700089, W.B. that, before my marriage name was Bijoyeta Das, after marriage my name is Bijoyeta Bardhan, have change my name and shall henceforth be known as Bijoyeta Bardhan (actual name), vide Affidavit SI. No. 4088, dtd. 05.02.2026, before the Notary Public at Bidhanagar, Dist-24 Pgs (N). Henceforth, Bijoyeta Das & Bijoyeta Bardhan both are same & one identical person.

Change of Name
I, ASHOKE KUMAR ROY @ ASHOK KUMAR ROY S/o Late KALACHAND ROY, residing at Gaikata, Jhapetapur, Ward No.-25, P.O. - KGP, P.S.-Kharagpur (T), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur shall henceforth be known as ASHOK ROY as declared in the Court of Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kharagpur vide affidavit no.1623 dated 04/02/2026. ASHOKE KUMAR ROY, ASHOK KUMAR ROY S/o Late KALACHAND ROY and ASHOK ROY S/o Late KALACHAND ROY both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tarak Nath Batabyal (Old Name) S/o Sanjit Kumar Batabyal Residing at 178, Cripser Road, P.o - Konnagar, P.s - Uttarpara, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712235, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Tarak Batabyal (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2026. Tarak Nath Batabyal (Old Name) and Tarak Batabyal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Batin Shake (Old Name) S/o Neyamat Sekh Residing at Vill+P.o- Banerjee Chak, P.s - Jaynagar, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743337, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Abdul Batin Sekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2026. Abdul Batin Shake (Old Name) and Abdul Batin Sekh (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sekh Mohammad Ali, Sk Mahammad Ali (Old Name) S/o Sekh Mahboob Ali Residing at 73/H/4, Dr. Sudhir Basu Road, P.o - Khiddripore, P.s - Ekbalpore, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700023, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Mahammad Ali (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2026. Sekh Mohammad Ali, Sk Mahammad Ali (Old Name) and Sk Mahammad Ali (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Panchu (Old Name) S/o Rahamat Ali Residing at 29A/H/24, Palm Avenue, P.o - Ballygunge, P.s - Karaya, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700019, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Sk Panchu (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2026. Shaikh Panchu (Old Name) and Sk Panchu (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Premangshu Adhikari (Old Name) S/o Late Anil Adhikari Residing at 134 Raja Dinendra Street, P.o - Shyambazar, P.s - Ultadanga, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700004, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Premanshu Adhikari (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 06-02-2026. Premangshu Adhikari (Old Name) and Premanshu Adhikari (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Rasid, S/o.- Lt. Abid Hussain, R/o.- Shibpur Bye Lane, P.O.- Bansberia, P.S.- Mogra, Dist.- Hooghly-712502, that my wife's actual name Anwari Begum has been wrongly recorded in son's (Mohammed Atfab Alam) birth certificate as Anowari Begam (Aadhar & PAN Card), vide Affidavit No.04, dtd. 19.01.2026, in the Court of Ld. Executive Magistrate, Hooghly at Chinsurah. That, Anwari Begum & Anowari Begam both are same identical person.

Name Change
I, Mubin Rahaman Ostagar @ Sk Mubin Rahaman (old name) S/o. Dabirahamad Ostagar, R/o. Musar, Bhabna, Dadpur, Hooghly-712305, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mubin Rahaman Ostagar @ Sk Mubin Rahaman to Mubinhahaman Ostagar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mubinhahaman Ostagar in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 2542 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 31/01/2026. I, Mubinhahaman Ostagar & Mubin Rahaman Ostagar @ Sk Mubin Rahaman S/o. Dabirahamad Ostagar, all are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sandip Mondal (old name) S/o. Late Ratan Mondal, R/o. Koota Shyamsundarpur, Sahaganj, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712104, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sandip Mondal to Sandip Francis Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sandip Francis Mondal in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 7248 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 11/08/2025. I, Sandip Mondal & Sandip Francis Mondal S/o. Late Ratan Mondal both are the same & one identical person. Mathew Snehasis Mondal is my son.

Name Change
I,Harendra Nath Mahato S/o Late Biku charan Mahato Residing at 20/1 Old Nimta Road,Belghoria, P.O. & P.S.-Belghoria,Kolkata-700056, North 24Parganas,Wb.I declare that my former name Harendra Nath Mahata instead of Harendra Nath Mahato vide an affidavit Before The 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Calcutta. Date. 30.01.2026. Affidavit No. 2608. Harendra Nath Mahato and Harendra Nath Mahata both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Atasi Manna W/o. Benode Kumar Manna, R/o. Debanandapur, Chinsurah, Hooghly-712123, do hereby declare that in my son's birth certificate (Regn. No.WB-BR-2011/200 18/17631, dated 29/06/2011), where my son's/parents name has been recorded as Anubrata Bauri S/o. Benode Kumar Bauri as Father & Atasi Bauri (Manna) as Mother, instead of his/our actual name Anubrata Manna S/o. Benode Kumar Manna as Father & Atasi Manna as Mother. That my son/parents Anubrata Manna S/o. Benode Kumar Manna as Father & Atasi Manna as Mother and Anubrata Bauri S/o. Benode Kumar Bauri as Father & Atasi Bauri (Manna) as Mother all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 4567, dated 02/02/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Nafisa Bibi (old name) W/O Sayed Ali Laskar, residing at Jagannathnagar, P.S.- Maheshtala, Pin-700140, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nafisa Khatun (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 06/02/2026. Nafisa Khatun (new name) and Nafisa Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kayem Ali Gayen (old name) S/O Chattar Gain, residing at SUREN JANA PARA, CHUNAKHALI, BAS-ANTI, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, 743611, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kayem Ali Gain (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 06/02/2026. Kayem Ali Gain (new name) and Kayem Ali Gayen (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) RAJINA PARVIN W/o SARIFUL HOQUE Residing at, Vill - Biswaspara, Post - Jalangi, Ps- Jalangi, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin-742305, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from RAJINA PARVIN To ROJINA PARVIN (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) ROJINA PARVIN in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026. ROJINA PARVIN and RAJINA PARVIN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) SAIF SAHORIHAR HOQUE C/o- SARIFUL HOQUE Residing at, Vill - Biswaspara, Post - Jalangi, Ps- Jalangi, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin-742305, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from SAIF SAHORIHAR HOQUE To SAIF SAHORIHAR HOQUE (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) SAIF SAHORIHAR HAQUE in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026. SAIF SAHORIHAR HAQUE and SAIF SAHORIHAR HOQUE both are Same and one identical person.

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

Name Change
I, (Old Name) LALU SK is recorded in my 72 Kaliganj Vidhansava Nirbachak list of 2002 Part no 1040, S/o- NAYATULLA SEKH Residing at Vill - Hazrapota, Post - Plassey, Ps-Kaliganj, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741156, West Bengal. Shall henceforth be known as (New Name) LAL MOHAMMAD SEKH That my name LAL MOHAMMAD SEKH and LALU SK is the same and one identical person. Vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kandi Murshidabad.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MONIRUL MONDAL S/o- CHHALIM MONDAL Residing at, Vill - Chhota Andulia, Post - Chhota Andulia, Ps- Chapra, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741123, West Bengal. Do hearby declare that I have Changed my name from MONIRUL MONDAL To MANIRUL MONDAL (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New name) MANIRUL MONDAL in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026. MANIRUL MONDAL and MONIRUL MONDAL both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, RAJELA BIBI S/o- SIRAJ SK is recorded in my Son's Passport No-N5047872 and my Voter Card Residing at Vill - Bhuraninagar, Post - Kunin, Ps- Burwan, Pin-742168, Dist- Murshidabad, West Bengal. That my name FAJELA BIBI is recorded in my Aadhaar Card. Shall henceforth be known as (New Name) RAJELA BIBI that my name RAJELA BIBI and FAJELA BIBI is the same and one identical person. Vide an affidavit sworn before the 1st Magistrate at Berhampore Murshidabad.

Name Change
I, Nazma Bibi, W/o.- Lt. Anowar Ali, R/o.- Shibpur Gandhi Colony, P.O.-Tribeni, P.S.- Mogra, Dist.- Hooghly-712503, that my actual name has been wrongly written & recorded in my Sons' Atfab Alam birth certificate as Nazma Khatoun in place of Nazma Bibi (in my Aadhar & PAN & Voter Card), vide Affidavit SI.No. 14, dtd. - 21.01.2026, in the Court of Ld. Executive Magistrate Hooghly at Chinsurah. Henceforth, Nazma Bibi & Nazma Khatoun both are same identical person.

Change of Name
I, JMATA JAJAARA (Old Name), W/o MUSTAKIM ANSARI, residing at 5 R.B.S. Road Khanpukur, P.O. Angus, P.S. Bhadreswar do hereby notified JMATA JAHAN AARA (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Chandernagore Court Dated on 29.01.2026, SI. No. 1224. JMATA JAJAARA and JMATA JAHAN AARA same and one identical person.

Budget opens equity investment route for PROI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday outlined a set of proposals in the Union Budget 2026–27 aimed at widening investment access, strengthening financial markets and expanding infrastructure and tourism-related initiatives.

She said individual persons residing outside India (PROI) will be permitted to make equity investments in listed Indian companies through a portfolio investment scheme. Sitharaman also proposed raising the investment limit for PROIs to 10 per cent from the existing 5 per cent. In addition, she said a framework will be created to provide suitable access to funds and derivatives on corporate bond indices. On urban development, the finance minister said the government will continue to focus on building infrastructure in cities with a population of over five lakh, signalling sustained spending in large urban centres.

Presenting the Budget, Sitharaman also announced plans to upgrade the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre at Jamnagar in Gujarat. She added that the country's telescope infrastructure will be upgraded to support work in astrophysics and astronomy. Tourism and skill development featured prominently in the proposals. The government will launch a pilot scheme to upgrade the skills of 10,000 guides across 20 iconic tourist sites. Sitharaman said India has the potential to offer a world-class experience in mountaineering. She further said the Centre will develop ecologically sustainable trails in Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, linking tourism development with environmental considerations.

Bengal should utilize unused land for industrial growth: PM's Eco Advisor

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC), Sanjeev Sanyal categorically mentioned that "Bengal should utilize stray or unutilized land for industrial purpose."

He was speaking at a programme hosted the Calcutta Chamber of Commerce in Kolkata. He also mentioned that West Bengal needs sensible politics that will lead to holistic development. Sanyal said, "Many states are taking full advantage of different policies being conceived the central government. Why should Bengal remain as an exception?" He further mentioned that while developing Bengal, Centre should stress upon the uplifting the infrastructure facilities in Bengal whether in terms of road, rail water or air connectivity. He stressed that Kolkata should come up as "pro-generator" not only for West Bengal but for the entire Eastern India. To him "Kolkata's revival will act as a positive catalyst not only for entire West Bengal but for the holistic growth of Jharkhand and Odisha as well."

Name Change
I, Mushtaque Ahmad Khan (old name) S/O Mohammad Hadis Khan, residing at 7/6, ADAM BIRKMYRE ROAD, 786 CLUB, RISIIRA, HOOGHLY-712248, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohammed Mushtaque Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 06/02/2026. Mohammed Mushtaque Ahmed (new name) and Mushtaque Ahmad Khan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Moomita Das (old name) wife of Prasanta Kumar Das, residing at Vill & P.O. Palashpai, P.S.- Daspur, Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721146, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Moomita Das Maiti (new name), as declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No. 4266, dated 03/02/2026. Moomita Das Maiti (new name) and Moomita Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with students during 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' programme, in New Delhi

FM proposes one-time measure to facilitate sales from SEZs to domestic mkt

MI News Service, New Delhi: Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday proposed a special one-time measure to facilitate sales by eligible manufacturing units in special economic (SEZs) to the domestic tariff area at concessional rates of duty.

It was a demand from the industry as they were facing issues related to utilization of capacities in the SEZ units due to high tariffs in the US. "To address the concerns arising about utilization of capacities by manufacturing units in the SEZs due to global trade disruptions, I propose, as a special one-time measure, to facilitate sales by eligible manufacturing units in SEZs to the DTA at concessional rates of duty," she said in her Budget speech. The quantity of such sales will be limited to a pre-



scribed proportion of their exports. She said that necessary regulatory changes will be undertaken to operationalise these measures while ensuring level-playing field for the units working in the DTA.

The industry had earlier requested the Centre to permit them sale of products manufactured in SEZs in the domestic market on payment of duty foregone

on inputs as that would help promote value addition. At present, units in SEZs are allowed to sell their products in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA or domestic market) on payment of duties on an output basis (finished goods).

These zones are treated as foreign territories for trade and duties, with restrictions on duty-free domestic sales. Companies operating within SEZs are allowed to import materials and components duty-free, with the condition that the finished goods produced are meant to be exported out of India and sold in the Indian domestic market on payment of applicable duties on the output. SEZs have emerged as an important contributor to India's exports. Total exports from these zones stood at USD 176.6 billion in 2024-25.

Eight Arrested in Maheshtala for Fake Call Centre

MI News Service, Kolkata: Eight persons were arrested late from Maheshtala in South 24 Parganas for allegedly running a fake call centre that targeted US citizens through cyber fraud. The arrests were made following a raid by the cyber-crime wing, during which police seized five laptops, 12 mobile phones and two routers.

According to police sources, the accused were operating from a rented apartment at Jot Shibrampur in Maheshtala, where they had set up a bogus call centre. Posing as representatives of Microsoft and leading American banks, they allegedly contacted US citizens, claiming to provide technical support services. During these calls, the accused reportedly collected personal and financial details of victims and cheated them of money. Police said the fraudsters used social media platforms and online tools to expand their reach. Several victims later contacted Microsoft to verify the calls and discovered the scam, prompting complaints that led to a case being registered at Kolkata's Cyber Crime Police Station in November last year. Acting on specific intelligence, police conducted a raid at Green Field City, Block-46, Flat 7B, around 3.40 am and arrested eight persons from the premises. The accused have been identified as Juned Ali, Mohammad Sakir, Mohammad Khurshid Akhtar, Shadab Khan, Zakir Khan, Husein Ahmed Khan, Sheikh Amirullah and Kundan Roy.

AFFIDAVIT
I, Gurjinder Singh s/o late Swarn Singh Punraj residing at H. No 565/431 beside church Dewanmari PO, Nimpara, PS Kharagpur (T) Dist Paschim Medinipur Pin 721304 shall henceforth be known as Gurjinder Singh as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) Kharagpur. Paschim Medinipur vide affidavit no 1607 dt 03.02.26. Gurjinder Singh and Gurjinder Singh both are same and identical person.

Court Sentences JMB Terrorist to Eight Years' Imprisonment for Sedition

MI News Service, Kolkata:A city court recently sentenced Bangladeshi Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) terrorist Zahidul Islam alias Bomaru Mizan alias Kausar to eight years of rigorous imprisonment in a case related to sedition and conspiracy to escape from jail. Mizan is the prime accused in the 2014 Khargarghar blast case. The sentence was pronounced by Chief Judge Sukumar Ray of the Calcutta City Sessions Court after Mizan was found guilty under multiple sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), along with charges of sedition, criminal conspiracy, use of explosives and illegal infiltration. The case was investigated by the Special Task Force (STF) of

Kolkata Police. According to the prosecution, while lodged at Alipore Central Jail, Mizan had planned an escape with the help of his associates. The conspiracy involved attacking police personnel escorting him to court by hurling petrol bombs to free him during transit. Based on intelligence inputs, the STF registered a case on February 16, 2019. Chief Public Prosecutor Dipankar Kundu said the plan posed a serious threat to public safety and national security. The STF arrested 10 people in connection with the plot and filed a chargesheet under stringent laws. On Wednesday, Mizan pleaded guilty before the court. Taking into account the gravity of the offence, the court awarded him an eight-year jail term.

GRSE Q3 results show strong performance

MI News Service, Kolkata: Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE), has announced its financial results for the third quarter & nine months ended December 31st 2025.

HIGHLIGHTS OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE Q3 FY26 ARE FURNISHED BELOW:

•Total Income for the Q3FY26 stood at Rs. 1,958 Crore against Rs. 1,343 Crore in Q3FY25 with growth of 46% (Y-o-Y). •Revenue from Operation has increased to Rs. 1,896 Crore in Q3FY26 from Rs. 1,271 Crore in Q3FY25, registering a growth of 49% (Y-o-Y). •The Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization stands at Rs. 234 Crore in Q3FY26, as against Rs 147 Crore in Q3FY25, with an increase of 59%. •Profit Before Tax (PBT) is Rs. 218 Crore for Q3FY26 as compared to Rs 134 Crore in Q3FY25, registering a growth of 63% (Y-o-Y). •Profit After Tax (PAT) is Rs. 171 Crore in Q3FY26 as against Rs. 98 Crore in Q3FY25, registering a growth of 74% (Y-o-Y). •Earnings per share (EPS) for Q3FY26 is Rs. 14.91, against Rs. 8.57 in Q3FY25.

CMDE PR Hari, IN (Retd), Chairman and MD, GRSE Ltd said, "We have delivered five warships so far during the year and are currently executing 10 major shipbuilding projects comprising of 42 platforms. Our other verticals, like Ship Repairs, Portable Steel Bridges and Naval Weapon Systems are also doing well."

Winter Chill Returns This Weekend as Temp Dip Across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: As the month of Magh draws to a close, winter, which had earlier shown signs of fading, appears to be making a brief comeback across West Bengal. After a noticeable rise in temperatures over the past few weeks, the mercury has once again begun to dip, bringing back a chill in the air. According to the Alipore Meteorological Department, temperatures are likely to fall further in the coming days, reviving winter conditions across both North and South Bengal.

The intensity of winter that was experienced during the month of Poush had largely disappeared by early Magh, with temperatures climbing well above normal levels. Kolkata, for instance, had recently recorded minimum temperatures hovering around 16 to 17 degrees Celsius. However, the renewed downward trend in temperatures has raised expectations that winter may take a U-turn before bidding farewell. Meteorologists suggest that the drop could be sharp, with a noticeable change in weather conditions. On Friday, Kolkata recorded a minimum temperature of 15.7 degrees Celsius, which is 1.2 degrees below normal. The weather office has forecast dry conditions across the state for now, ruling out any possibility of rainfall or snowfall in the immediate future. While the intensity of fog has significantly reduced in South Bengal, parts of North Bengal are still likely to experience foggy conditions, which may continue to disrupt normal activities in some districts over the next few days.

The Alipore Met Office has further indicated that temperatures across both North and South Bengal could fall by at least two degrees Celsius within the next 24 hours. As a result, Kolkata's minimum temperature may dip to around 13 degrees Celsius, accompanied by a renewed winter feel. In several districts of South Bengal, minimum temperatures could once again fall below the 10-degree mark. In North Bengal, Darjeeling is expected to witness a sharp drop, with temperatures potentially falling to around 3 degrees Celsius. On Friday, Darjeeling recorded a minimum temperature of 4.8 degrees Celsius, while Kalimpong emerged as one of the coldest places in the state at 10 degrees Celsius. In South Bengal, the lowest temperatures on Friday were recorded in Siuri in Birbhum and Kalyani in Nadia, both at 11 degrees Celsius. Other districts also experienced chilly conditions, with Asansol recording 12.7 degrees Celsius, Purulia 13 degrees, Panagarh 13.2 degrees, Sriniketan 12.1 degrees, Bankura 13 degrees and Berhampore 13.6 degrees Celsius. With temperatures expected to fall further, residents across the state may experience a brief resurgence of winter before the season finally fades away.

AI-powered digital stethoscopes show promise in bridging screening gaps

New Delhi : As tuberculosis (TB) continues as the deadliest infectious cause of deaths globally, a new study has shown that artificial intelligence (AI)-enabled digital stethoscopes can help fill critical screening gaps, especially in hard-to-reach areas.

In a commentary published in the journal Med (Cell Press), global experts contended that stethoscopes combined with digital technology and AI can be a better option against the challenges faced in screening programmes, such as under-detection, high cost, and inequitable access.

"AI-enabled digital stethoscopes have demonstrated promising accuracy and feasibility for detecting lung and cardiovascular abnormalities, with promising results in early TB studies. Training and validation in diverse, high-burden settings are essential to explore the potential of this tool further," said corresponding author Madhukar Pai from McGill University, Canada, along with researchers from the UAE, Germany, and Switzerland. Despite advancements in screening and diagnostic tools, an estimated 2.7 million people with TB were missed by current screening programmes, as per data from the World Health Organization (WHO). Routine symptom screening is also likely to miss people with asymptomatic or subclinical



"AI-enabled digital stethoscopes have demonstrated promising accuracy and feasibility for detecting lung and cardiovascular abnormalities, with promising results in early TB studies. Training and validation in diverse, high-burden settings are essential to explore the potential of this tool further," said corresponding author Madhukar Pai from McGill University, Canada, along with researchers from the UAE, Germany, and Switzerland. Despite advancements in screening and diagnostic tools.

TB. While the WHO recently recommended several AI-powered computer-aided detection (CAD) software, as well as ultra-portable radiography hardware, higher operating costs and upfront hardware act as a deterrent. This particularly appeared difficult in primary care settings and or among pregnant women due to radiation concerns. At the same time, AI showed significant potential for screening, including applications beyond CAD of TB from radiographs, said the researchers. "One application of AI for disease screening is to interpret acoustic (sound) biomarkers of disease, with potential to identify sounds that appear nonspecific or are inaudible to the human ear," they added, while highlighting the potential of AI in detecting and interpreting cough biomarkers and lung auscultation to analyse breath sounds. Studies from high-TB burden countries, including India, Peru, South Africa, Uganda, and Vietnam, highlighted that AI-enabled auscultation could hold promise as a TB screening and triage tool.

"AI digital stethoscopes may become useful alternatives to imaging-based approaches for TB screening, with the potential to democratise access to care for populations underserved by radiography," the researchers said.

India-EU FTA to improve access, price competitiveness for Indian auto component makers

Mumbai : Indian auto component manufacturers are likely to enjoy more access to European markets with improved price competitiveness under the proposed India-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), a report said on Friday.

The report from ICRA said that "tariff rationalisation and preferential access are expected to enhance pricing competitiveness and sourcing opportunities with European original equipment manufacturers (OEMs)".

The EU is a major automotive production hub and better trade terms could help Indian suppliers deepen participation in global supply chains, the report said.

It could help domestic component manufacturers compete more effectively with suppliers from countries that currently enjoy tariff advantages in the region, the ratings agency noted.

Automobiles and components currently make up about 3 per cent of India's exports to the EU, leaving room for expansion as barriers ease, the report said.

ICRA highlighted that the FTA includes a phased reduction in import duties on EU origin completely built units (CBUs), with tariffs falling from as high as around 110 per cent to roughly 10 per cent within specified price thresholds and quotas.

The change is expected to mainly affect premium vehicle segments while leaving mass market passenger vehicles largely insulated, the report said.

The report added that EV tariffs are likely to remain unchanged initially, giving domestic EV supply chains time to adjust to evolving trade dynamics.

Further, improved market access could encourage investments in precision engineering, electronics integration and specialised component manufacturing, and encourage technology collaboration and product diversification with European manufacturers.

"Export-focused mid-sized firms and MSMEs engaged in specialised components and aftermarket products could see improved access to European buyers as sourcing bases diversify and procurement strategies evolve within global automotive supply chains," the report noted.

Regarding imports to India, the report said the tariff cuts are likely to only benefit premium internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles, with small or mid-segment cars remaining largely unaffected.

The EU is granting India preferential zero tariff access on 97 per cent of its tariff lines, covering 99.5 per cent of India's export value. India will eliminate or cut tariffs on 92 per cent of its tariff lines.

Copper up 40 pc globally in FY26; H1 FY27 forecast at \$11,000-\$12,000 per tonne

Mumbai: Global copper prices have surged nearly 40 per cent this fiscal (FY26), reaching around \$13,000 per tonne by January 2026, driven by persistent mine-side supply disruptions, declining ore grades and inventory dislocations across exchanges, a report said on Friday.

Ratings agency ICRA said in the report that tight supply conditions outside the United States and uncertainty around tariffs are expected to support prices in the range of \$11,000-12,000 per tonne in H1 FY27.

However, it maintained that potential downside risks for copper prices cannot be ruled out in FY 27. Copper market will remain in deficit through CY25 and CY26, as supply growth continues to lag demand, thereby supporting prices, the agency forecasted.

Tariff-related uncertainties in the US and the risk of renewed trade actions have led to inventory build-ups at COMEX and draw-downs at London Metal Exchange (LME), tightening availability outside United States.

"Stocks in COMEX-registered warehouses increased sharply to around 498 kilo tonnes (kt) by December 2025 from around 98 kt in January 2025, reflecting front-loading of refined copper imports into the US ahead of potential tariff



iff actions under review in June 2026," the report mentioned. Further, ongoing mine supply disruptions contributed to the sharp price rally in recent months. Elevated copper prices are expected to pose near-term demand moderation risks, particularly in price-sensitive end-use segments. Softening physical premiums in China indicated emerging demand sensitivity at higher price levels, suggesting risks of demand deferral or substitution in the near term, the agency predicted. India's domestic copper consumption is expected to grow at 10-12

per cent annually over the next two years, although the pace is likely to moderate from the elevated 14-15 per cent growth seen in seven months of FY26. Over the medium term, India's copper demand is expected to be increasingly driven by energy-transition-linked applications, including renewable energy, power grids, data centres and electric vehicles. ICRA forecasted upstream copper entities to likely benefit from firm prices, supporting operating profitability, while downstream smelting and refining entities could face margin pressure.

Study gives insight into effectiveness of CT scan to assess people with chest pain

WASHINGTON [US] : Previous investigations indicated that less than 40 per cent of patients with stable chest discomfort who underwent invasive coronary angiography had obstructive coronary artery disease. Recent randomized clinical trials have shown that using computed tomography angiography (CTA) first in evaluating these patients is beneficial, and a new study presented at the American College of Cardiology Cardiovascular Summit backs up this strategy, finding that CT was associated with a higher likelihood of revascularization when compared to other imaging modalities or no testing.

Stable angina is a type of chest pain that happens when the heart muscle requires more oxygen than usual—for example, under stress, exercise, or cold weather—but does not receive it, frequently due to blocked coronary arteries. Patients with stable angina are typically treated with guideline-directed pharmacological therapy and lifestyle adjustments, but they may also require a coronary revascularization operation to restore enough blood flow and alleviate their symptoms.

"Right now, when a patient presents to their primary care physician or cardiologist with symptoms suspicious for angina, they are commonly referred for additional testing," said Markus Scherer, MD, Director of Cardiac CT and Structural Heart Imaging at Atrium Health-Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute and the study's senior author.

Between October 2022 and June 2023, researchers at Atrium Health-Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute in Charlotte, North Carolina, assessed 786 patients who had no prior diagnosis of coronary artery disease and underwent elective invasive coronary



THE 2021 AHA/ACC GUIDELINE FOR THE EVALUATION AND DIAGNOSIS OF CHEST PAIN SUGGESTS EITHER NON-INVASIVE FUNCTIONAL IMAGING OR CORONARY CTA AS THE INITIAL TEST WITHOUT SPECIFYING A PREFERENCE FOR ONE OR THE OTHER.

angiography (ICA) for the evaluation of suspected angina. The pre-ICA testing strategies were: no noninvasive testing with direct referral to ICA (44%), stress echocardiogram (3%), stress myocardial perfusion imaging (15%), stress MRI (2%) and coronary CTA (36%). The study cohort had a mean age of 66 years, was 63% male, 37% female, 81% White, 13% Black, 1% Asian, 1% Hispanic and 1% other.

The researchers compared rates of subsequent revascularization between patients whose initial evaluation was coronary CTA versus stress testing or clinical judgement (no testing). The "CT first" strategy was associated with subsequent

revascularization in 62% of patients compared to 34% for the combination of other modalities or direct ICA referral.

The 2021 AHA/ACC Guideline for the Evaluation and Diagnosis of Chest Pain suggests either non-invasive functional imaging or coronary CTA as the initial test without specifying a preference for one or the other.

According to the researchers, there are a multitude of reasons health systems don't currently use a CT first approach, including the availability of high-quality CT scanners; availability of qualified cardiac CT interpreting physicians; and challenges in transitioning to a newer approach after decades of pre-established patterns (i.e. stress testing). Furthermore, a CT first approach is predominantly advocated for patients with

Vidarbha stands at core of India's energy story, Adani Group to power this journey: Jeet Adani

Nagpur : Adani Defence and Aerospace Director Jeet Adani on Friday said that Vidarbha stands at the core of India's energy story, and the Adani Group's presence in Vidarbha is not transactional; it is generational.

Addressing the 'Advantage Vidarbha 2026' here, Jeet Adani said the Adani Group is here to build energy security, create high-quality jobs, uplift communities, and strengthen India's economic foundations.

"Our investments here align with three national priorities -- powering India's clean and reliable energy future, developing integrated industrial and logistics ecosystems, and enabling inclusive growth for communities and youth," said Jeet Adani, also Director for Adani Airports.

At Tiroda, "we operate Maharashtra's largest and most advanced 3,300 MW supercritical power plant -- built to the highest global standards of efficiency and environmental responsibility. In 2025, we revived the 600 MW Butibori power plant, demonstrating our commitment to resolving stressed assets and strengthening India's power infrastructure," he told the gathering.

Through a 25-year supply agreement, "we now ensure 6,600 MW of dependable electricity for Maharashtra, combining unparalleled solar generation from Khavda with robust thermal baseload supply. This is the backbone supporting Maharashtra's industries, its cities, and its digital economy," said Jeet Adani. Moreover, one of the most transformative commitments is the Rs 70,000 crore Integrated Coal Gasification and Downstream Derivatives Complex at Linga, Kalmeshwar. "This project will create 30,000 direct jobs, build advanced chemical manufacturing capabilities, boost energy independence for critical industries, and place Nagpur firmly on the global map of clean energy technologies. This is not just an industrial venture - it is a new platform for national self-reliance," said Jeet Adani.



gy technologies. This is not just an industrial venture - it is a new platform for national self-reliance," said Jeet Adani.

The Adani Group is also strengthening Vidarbha's role as a logistics gateway through a 75-acre ICD at Borkhedi and the acquisition of 24 border check posts across Maharashtra. These assets reduce freight costs, boost exports, and improve global competitiveness for thousands of businesses.

"In aviation and defence, our acquisition of Indamer Technics Pvt. Ltd. has expanded our 30-acre MRO complex at MIHAN. With 15 aircraft bays, FAA and DGCA certifications, and integration with the Air Works global network, Nagpur is rapidly emerging as an international centre for aircraft maintenance, repair, and overhaul," he informed.

Across Gondia and Nagpur, the Adani Foundation is supporting primary healthcare, education, and women's empowerment through 43 SHGs, the Fortune SuPoshan nutrition programme, and initiatives in solar lighting, clean water, sports, and school development. This is growth built on dignity, inclusion, and compassion. "I see Vidarbha not merely as a region of Maharashtra, but as a region that will help define India's growth story for decades to come," said Jeet Adani.

Hungama OTT's Popular Anthology Hasratein Returns With Season 3: Six Women, Six Stories, One Unshakable Need to Choose Themselves

Mumbai: Hungama OTT, one of India's leading digital entertainment platforms, has announced the launch of Hasratein Season 3, the next chapter of its widely loved anthology that continues to explore women's inner worlds, unspoken desiresand quiet rebellion. After the resounding success of the first two seasons, this season raises the bar higher, delving into lives shaped by suffocating marriages, rigid traditions, political manipulationand emotional neglect.

Over the years, Hasrateinhas carved a powerful space for stories often left untold, resonating deeply with audiences for its raw and honest portrayal of women navigating desire, identityand societal constraints. With Season 3, the show brings together six gripping episodes that blend elements of thriller, crimeand drama, each bold, intimateand unapologetically human. Hasratein Season 3 premieres with its first two episodes on January 22, followed by two episodes on January 27, with the final two episodes releasing on February 4.

Polycystic ovary syndrome linked to memory, thinking problems: Research

WASHINGTON [US] : According to research published in the online edition of Neurology, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology, people with polycystic ovary syndrome may be more prone to experience memory and cognitive issues in middle age. The study does not establish a link between cognitive deterioration and polycystic ovarian syndrome. It merely displays a correlation.

Polycystic ovary syndrome is a hormonal disorder that is defined by irregular menstruation and elevated levels of a hormone called androgen. Other symptoms may include excess hair growth, acne, infertility and poor metabolic health.

"Polycystic ovary syndrome is a common reproductive disorder that impacts up to 10% of women," said study author Heather G. Huddleston, MD, of the University of California, San Francisco. "While it has been linked to metabolic diseases like obesity and diabetes that can lead to heart problems, less is known about how this condition affects brain health. Our results suggest that people with this condition have lower memory and thinking skills and subtle brain changes at midlife. This could impact a person on many levels, including quality of life, career success and financial security."

The study involved 907 female participants who were 18 to 30 years old at the start of the study. They were followed for 30 years, at which time they completed tests to measure memory, verbal abilities, processing speed and attention.

At the time of testing, 66 participants had polycystic ovary syndrome.

In a test measuring attention, participants looked at a list of words in different colors and were asked to state the color of the ink rather than read the actual word. For example, the word "blue" could be displayed in red, so the correct response would be red.

Researchers found for this test, people with polycystic ovary syndrome had an average score that was approximately 11% lower compared to people without the condition.

After adjusting for age, race and education, researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower scores on three of the five tests that were given, specifically in areas of memory, attention and verbal abilities, when compared to those without this condition.



On the auspicious occasion of Shah-e-Barat, the beloved Trinamool Congress party leader and social worker from North Kolkata, Ashok Kumar Chakraborty alias Mana Chakraborty, visited the Moulana Ali Dargah. He was accompanied by social workers from Ward No 53, Khalid Iqbal alias Rashid, Raju Khondokar and others. It is worth noting that Ashok Kumar Chakraborty alias Mana Chakraborty is counted among the secular leaders of West Bengal, especially Kolkata, who always talks about Hindu-Muslim unity and considers humanity as his religion. He also prayed for the good health and well-being of Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee, and for the TMC party's victory in the 2026 assembly elections.

Railway safety awareness drive conducted at Bally

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, Howrah: Howrah Division of Eastern Railway organized a focused Railway Safety Awareness Drive at Bally (BLY) Railway Station on 05 February 2026 to reinforce safe practices among passengers and the general public.

As part of the initiative, the Divisional Cultural Association of Howrah Division creatively engaged commuters and local residents through a thematic presentation titled "Yamraj", symbolically conveying the serious consequences of unsafe behavior at level crossings and near railway tracks. The impactful performance drew attention to the importance of adhering to railway safety norms in a relatable and memorable manner.

Local residents, daily commuters, and railway staff actively participated and extended their support to the awareness programme, reflecting a shared commitment towards railway safety.



The drive emphasized key safety practices, including: Use of Foot Over-Bridges (FOBs) and subways for crossing tracks. Strict adherence to railway signals and warnings. Avoidance of mobile phone usage near railway lines and level crossings. Howrah Division emphasizes that safety is a shared responsibility and appeals to all passengers and the public to strictly adhere to the prescribed safety measures at all times.

East Coast Railway to Run Holi Special Trains to Manage Festive Rush

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, Bhubaneswar: To facilitate smooth, safe and comfortable travel for passengers during the ensuing Holi festival, East Coast Railway has made comprehensive arrangements to manage the expected surge in passenger traffic. As part of these measures, East Coast Railway has planned to operate 62 Holi Special Trains from its jurisdiction during March 2026, connecting major destinations across different parts of the country.

These special train services are being introduced in anticipation of heavy passenger demand during the festive period, particularly from passengers travelling to their native places and important cultural, religious and commercial destinations. The initiative reflects East Coast Railway's proactive approach towards ensuring enhanced connectivity and minimizing inconvenience to passengers during peak travel periods.

The Holi Special Trains will connect key destinations including Sambalpur-Erode, Visakhapatnam-Tirupati, Visakhapatnam-SMVV Ben-

galuru, Visakhapatnam-Charlapalli, Visakhapatnam-Shallimar, Puri-Patna, Puri-Udina, Bhubaneswar-Yeshwantpur and Bhubaneswar-Dhanbad, among others, thereby catering to travel needs across southern, eastern, central and northern regions of the country.

In addition to the planned services, East Coast Railway will continuously monitor passenger demand and introduce additional special trains or augment services wherever required, ensuring maximum passenger convenience and seamless travel during the festive rush.

East Coast Railway remains committed to providing safe, efficient and passenger friendly services, especially during major festivals, through meticulous planning, strengthened operational preparedness and effective crowd management measures. Passengers are advised to check train schedules, halts and booking availability through authorized railway enquiry systems and IRCTC platforms for the latest updates.

Lower Energy Cost, Better Maintenance Practises and Increased Freight Led to Surplus in Railways: Ashwini Vaishnaw

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: The Operating Ratio, Gross Traffic Receipts and Net Revenue of Indian Railways in the last three Financial Year (FY). CAGR of Railways Gross Traffic Receipts in 2024-25 over 2022-23 is 5.1%. The Zonal Railway-wise Surplus/Shortfall are available in Annual Statistical Statement of Indian Railways which is available on website of Indian Railways. This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini



Vaishnaw, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Augmentation of additional one AC chair car coach in Dhano Dhany Express

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, Kolkata: The augmentation of additional coaches in popular express trains is an ongoing initiative aimed at improving overall travel experience for passengers. Accordingly, for better comfort & to clear the extra rush of the passengers, Railway has decided to augment additional one AC Chair Car coach in 13117/13118 Kolkata - Lal-gola - Kolkata Dhano Dhany Express on permanent basis, leaving Kolkata w.e.f. 10.2.2026 & leaving Lalgola w.e.f. 11.2.2026. The train will run with 15 coaches instead of 14 coaches.

5.08 Lakh Recruitment in Indian Railways Between 2014-15 and 2024-25: Ashwini Vaishnaw

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: Presently, recruitment against 1,43,086 vacancies of non-gazetted personnel has been taken up on Indian Railways as per Annual Calendar 2024 and 2025. During January to December 2024, ten Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 92,116 vacancies were notified for filling up of posts of Assistant Loco Pilots (ALPs), Technicians, Sub-Inspectors, Constables in Railway Protection Force (RPF), Junior Engineers (JES)/ Depot Material Superintendent (DMS)/ Chemical & Metallurgical Assistant (CMA), Paramedical Categories, Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate), Non-Technical Popular Categories (Under-Graduate), Ministerial & Isolated Categories and Level-1 categories such as Assistants, Track Maintainers and Pointsmen.

First stage/Single stage Computer Based Tests (CBTs) for 59,678 posts has been completed. 2nd stage CBTs for the posts of ALP, JE/DMS/CMA and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate & Under-Graduate) have also been completed. Computer Based Aptitude Test (CBAT) for the post of ALP and Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate) and Computer based Skill Test for the post of Non-Technical Popular Categories (Graduate-level) and Ministerial & Isolated Categories have also been completed. CBT for 32,438 vacancies for level -1 categories has commenced from 27.11.2025 in 140 cities in 15 languages. Physical efficiency Test (PET) for 4,208 vacancies of Constable (RPF) has been completed on 06.12.2025.

Panels for more than 34,000 candidates for various posts including the posts of Technicians, Junior Engineers, Paramedical Categories, Sub-Inspectors (RPF) and Assistant Loco Pilots have been finalised. Majority of them are in safety categories.

In addition, as per Annual Calendar for the year 2025, nine Centralized Employment Notifications (CENs) for 50,970 vacancies have also been issued. The RRB examinations are quite technical in nature entailing large scale mobilization of men and resources and training of manpower. Railway overcame all these challenges and successfully conducted the recruitment in a transparent manner following all laid down guidelines. No instance of paper leakage or similar malpractice has occurred during the entire process. Further, as system improvement, the Ministry of Railways has introduced a system of publishing the annual calendar from 2024 for recruitment to various categories of Group 'C' posts. The introduction of the annual calendar is benefitting the aspirants in the following manner:

- More opportunities for candidates;
- Opportunities to those becoming eligible every year;
- Certainty of exams;
- Faster Recruitment process, Training and Appointments

This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday.



Members of the Coal India Limited Officers' Wives Samity (CLOWs) organised a donation drive at the Rohini Coal India Complex, Kolkata. As part of the initiative, around 200 house helpers were supported with essential items, reflecting CLOWs' commitment to community welfare.

To Improve Rail Connectivity in the Border Region, DPRs for Qazigund – Srinagar – Budgam Doubling (118 km) & Baramulla to Uri New Line (40 km) Prepared

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: To extend the rail connectivity of existing Srinagar – Baramulla section, a survey for Sopore to Kupwara (34 km) New Line has been sanctioned and the Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared. However, the project has been dropped because it was found to be infeasible. To further improve rail connectivity, in the Border region, the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) of following projects have also been prepared:

Qazigund – Srinagar – Budgam doubling (118 km) Baramulla to Uri new line (40 km) After preparation of DPR, sanctioning of project requires consultation with various stake-holders including State Governments

and necessary approvals viz. appraisal of NITI Aayog, Ministry of Finance etc. As sanctioning of projects is a continuous and dynamic process, exact timelines cannot be fixed.

Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project of total length 272 Km has been recently commissioned. USBRL project covers the districts of Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.

The USBRL project has made substantial socio-economic contributions to the region, with employment generation being a significant aspect of its impact. The project has generated more than 5 Cr. man-days of employment.

Another crucial facet of the

USBRL Project's socio-economic development efforts has been the construction of over 215 km of approach roads, which include construction of a tunnel and 320 small bridges. This road network has helped the local population in improvement of their connectivity with other areas and also improvement in socio-economic states.

With the all-weather, reliable and comfortable rail connectivity of valley portion with rest of the Indian Railway network, tourism will get a big boost.

This information was provided by the Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Ashwini Vaishnaw, in a reply to a question in Rajya Sabha on Friday.

Ministry of Railways Following up the Land Acquisition Process with Govt. of Kerala for Angamali – Sabarimala New Line Project

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: Tirur is presently being served by 90 train services including 20631/20632 Mangaluru Central-Thiruvananthapuram Central Vande Bharat Express, inter alia providing connectivity to cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, etc. To facilitate the passengers of Tirur, stoppage of 22475/22476 Hisar-Coimbatore Express has been provided at Tirur w.e.f 28.01.2026. Further, 16329/16330 Nagercoil-Mangaluru Junction Amrit Bharat Express (with scheduled stoppage at Tirur), has also been introduced w.e.f.12.01.2026.

Besides, provision of stoppages of train services depends on the traffic justification, operational feasibility including availability of extra time on the section & availability of matching infrastructure such as Platform length etc.

Angamali – Sabarimala New Line Project Angamali - Sabarimala via Erumeli new line project was sanctioned in 1997-98 on 50:50 cost sharing basis. Work on Angamali-Kaladi (7 Km) and long lead works on Kaladi-Perumbavoor (10 Km) was taken up. However, further works on this project could not be taken forward due to protests by local people against land acquisition and fixing of alignment of the line, court cases filed against the project and inadequate support from the Government of Kerala. Accordingly, the project was kept under abeyance in Sept, 2019.

Subsequently, to provide connectivity to Sabarimala Shrine, a survey on alternate alignment i.e. Chengannur - Pamba (75 Km) new line was also carried out. However, the project was not found feasible.

Meanwhile, the estimated cost of the Angamali - Sabarimala via Erumeli new line project was updated at 3,801 crore and submitted to Government of Kerala for the acceptance of the estimate and willingness to share cost of the project.

In August 2024, the Government of Kerala communicated their conditional consent. Government of Kerala was requested by Railway to submit unconditional consent for sharing the cost.

Then the Minister of Railways requested the Chief Minister of Kerala to acquire land using their share of 50% of the cost of the project. Once land acquisition by State starts, work can proceed further.

Now, on the request of Ministry of Railways, the Govt. of Kerala has initiated land acquisition proceedings and the Angamali – Sabarimala new line project has moved forward. Ministry of Railways is following up the land acquisition process with Govt. of Kerala.

Budget allocation in the recent years has increased significantly. Budget allocation for infrastructure projects and safety works, falling fully/partially in the State of Kerala

including Angamali – Sabarimala project is as under

For 2009-14 Outlay 372 crore/year, For 2025-26 Outlay 3,042 crore (more than 8 times)

So far, 1,337 stations have been identified for development under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Development works at railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme have been taken up at a good pace. Till now, works have been completed at 172 stations. Names of stations completed so far are as following:

Alnavar, Amb Andaura, Ambikapur, Amgaon, Anandpur Sahib, Anara, Ayodhya Dham, Badami, Bagalkot, Bajinath Paprola, Balrampur, Bantawala, Barabhum, Baramati, Bareilly City, Baripada, Barmer, Barpali, Begumpet, Beohari, Bhanupratappur, Bhilai, Bhind, Bijoor, Bimalgarh, Bommi-di, Bundi, Chanda Fort, Chalakudi, Changanassery, Chennai Park, Chidambaram, Chinchpokli, Chinnasa Salem, Chirayinkeezh, Cuttack, Dakor, Derol, Deshnoke, Devlali, Dharwad, Dhule, Dongargarh, Fatehabad, Fatehpur, Fatehpur Shekhawati, Gadag, Gangapur City, Godda, Godhra Jn., Gogameri, Gokak Road, Gola Gokarnath, Gontinagar, Govardhan, Govind Garh, Govindpur, Govindpur Road, Hafizpeta, Haibargaon, Haldia, Hapa, Harpalpur, Hathras City, Hodal, Idgah Agra Jn., Izzatnagar, Jaisalm-

er, Jam Jodhpur, Jam Wanthali, Joychandi Pahar, Junnor Deo, Kakinda Town, Kalyani Ghoshpara, Kamakhyaaguri, Kanalus Jn., Karaikudi Jn., Karamsad, Karimnagar, Katni South, Kedgaon, Khairthal, Khambhalaya, Khalilabad, Koppal, Kosamba Jn., Kuliturai, Kuttipuram, Lasalgaon, Limbdi, Lohardaga, Lonand Jn., Mahe, Mahuva, Mailani, Mandal Garh, Mandawar Mahwa Road, Madhupur, Manapara, Mandi Dahwadi, Mangalagiri, Mannargudi, Matunga, M.C.S. Chhatrapur, Mithapur, Morappur, Morbi, Muktsar, Munirabad, Muri Jn., Murtizapur Jn., Naipaur Jn., Nandura, Narmadapuram, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Itwari Junction, Okha, Orcha, Palitana, Panagarh, Panki Dham, Parel, Parlakhemundi, Pirpainti, Piska, Pokhrayan, Polachi Jn., Polur, Porbandar, Rajgarh, Rajmahal, Rajula Jn., Ramghat Halt, Rayanpadu, Saharanpur Jn., Sahibzada Ajit Singh Mohali, Sahibgungji, Samakhiali, Samalpatti, Sanchi, Sankarpur, Savda, Sonai, Shahad, Shajapur, Sholavangi, Shoranur Jn., Shridham, Siddharth Nagar, Shihor Jn., Siuri, Sri Bala Brahmeswara Jogulamba, Srirangam, Srivilliputtur, S.Thomas Mount, Sullurpeta, Suraimanpur, Swaminarayan Chappia, Talcher, Tamuk, Thawe, Thiruvananthapuram, Tuni, Ujhani, Urkura, Utran, Vadakara, Vadala Road, Vidisha, Vridhdhachalam Jn., Wadakancheri, Warangal.

Indian Railways' Safety Measures Yield Results:58% Drop in Signalling Failures Contribute to Sharp Decline in Accidents

MI News Service, 6 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: Modernization of Signalling System Infrastructure

Indian Railway is continuously modernizing current infrastructure of its signalling system as under :

1. To improve reliability, Electrical/Electronic Interlocking Systems with centralized operation points and signals in place of old mechanical signalling have been provided at 6660 stations as on 31.12.2025.

2. Interlocking of Level Crossing (LC) Gates has been provided at 10,097 Level Crossing Gates up to 31.12.2025 for enhancing safety at L.C. Gates.

3. Complete Track Circuiting of stations to enhance safety by verification of track occupancy by electrical means has been provided at 6,665 stations up to 31.12.2025.

4. Axle counters for automatic clearance of Block Section, BPAC (Block Proving Axle Counter) are provided to ensure complete arrival of train without manual intervention before granting line clear to receive next train and to reduce human element. These systems have been provided on 6142 Block Sections up to 31.12.2025.

5. Automatic Block Signalling (ABS) that enhances line capacity within existing track infrastructure has been provided at 6625 Route km up to 31.12.2025.

6. Other reliability enhancement measures by embedding redundancies into the various signalling systems are being incorporated viz

(i) provision of dual detection systems, (ii) redundancy in power supplies and

(iii) redundancy in transmission media etc.

7. Provision of power operated lifting barriers at interlocked level crossing gates with sliding boom to enhance reliability for improvement in train operation.

8. Signalling assets maintenance are planned & under taken during Rolling Block introduced in Indian Railways (Open Lines) General Rules vide Gazette notification dated 30.11.2023, wherein work of integrated maintenance/repair/replacement of assets is planned up to 52 weeks in advance on rolling basis and executed.

9. Detailed instructions on issues related with safety of Signalling, e.g. mandatory correspondence check, alteration work protocol, preparation of completion drawing, etc. have been issued.

10. System of disconnection and reconnection for S&T equipment as per protocol has been re-emphasized.

11. Regular counseling and training of staff is undertaken.

In view of the above measures, signalling failures has reduced by about 58% during last 11 years. Further, as a consequence of various safety measures taken over the years, there has been a steep decline in the number of accidents.

Safety and Welfare of Track Maintenance Employees

Following measures have been taken for the safety and welfare of track maintenance employees:

1. Track maintainers have been equipped with essential safety gears while working in hazardous environments. The major safety equipment like Retro Reflective Safety Jackets (Luminous Vests), Safety Shoes, Gloves, Safety Helmet with detachable miner's light, Tricolour Light Emitting Diode (LED) 3 cell torch, Rain Coat, Winter Jacket etc. have been provided to them.

2. In order to enhance efficiency and reduce physical strain of these employees, Light Weight Tools and equipment like Spanner, Hammer, Crowbar etc. have been provided. In addition, battery/hydraulic operated machines and automated systems have been devised for light maintenance tasks like extracting/inserting fittings, tightening bolts, lubrication of rails jointset, to minimize physical fatigue and improve productivity.

3. Mechanized maintenance of tracks using various types of Track Machines have been introduced for all types of strenuous jobs such as tamping, ballast cleaning, lifting & aligning of track as well as grinding, cutting, drilling of rails etc. to reduce the manual efforts. Multiutility/Rail borne vehicles have been provided for track maintenance to mobile gangs.

4. To reinforce safety practices, regular counselling and medical examinations are carried out. Regular training sessions are conducted to raise awareness about potential hazards. The 'Personal Safety First' programme with proper safety protocols is conducted through seminars and workshops, where these employees are trained on 'How to stay safe while working on or near the track'.

5. Regular training programs on track safety rules, use of machines/tools, first-aid etc. are conducted through Zonal Training Centres (ZTC) with practical and visual training aids for better appreciation.

6. As regard to welfare measures to employees, they have been provided Gang Tools cum Rest Room, Gang Huts, Toilet's facilities at manned level crossing, Water bottle (2 litre, heat-insulated), family accommodation to take care of education and health of dependents. Further, Risk and Hardship Allowances have been provided according to nature of duty of the track maintainers.

7. Flexibility in duty roster as per climatic conditions and requirements are permitted. Recognition and awards for exemplary performance in safety and maintenance of tracks are done for encouragement of track maintainers.

8. VHF based Approaching Train Warning System gives an advance warning to staff through handheld VHF Receiver device on changing Advance Starter Signal to Green for coming train in block section. These devices are being provided to staff working on railway track of all routes for added safety in addition to normal protection precautions. This system is being introduced progressively across Indian Railways network. About 340 block sections have been covered so far with this system.

As a result of the above safety measures, there is 66% reduction in no. of deaths of railway staff during track maintenance work from 196 in 2013-14.

Railways follow a compensation mechanism under which an amount of Rs. 25 lakhs (w.e.f. 01.01.2016) as ex-gratia lumpsum compensation is paid by the Railways to the family dependents of an employee who loses his/her life due to accidents in the course of performance of duty.

Compensation for Death and Injury of Railway Passengers in Train Accidents

Accidents victims are paid ex-gratia relief soon after an accident or untoward incident. Total amount of ex-gratia paid by the Railways to the next of kin of deceased in train accidents during the last three years (2022-23 to 2024-25) is Rs. 30.75 Crores.

Compensation for death and injury of railway passengers in train accidents and untoward incidents, as defined under Section 124 and Section 124-A (read with Section 123) of the Railways Act, 1989, is decided by Railway Claims Tribunal (RCT) on the basis of a claim application filed by the victims/their dependents before RCT and it disposes of the cases after following the due judicial process. Railway Administration pays compensation when a decree is awarded by Hon'ble RCT in favour of the claimant and Railways decide to implement the decree.



बैंक ऑफ बरोडा
Bank of Baroda

ROSARB KMR

4, Brabourne Road, Kolkata - 700 001
Email: SARKOL@bankofbaroda.bank.in

E-AUCTION
SALE NOTICE

ANNEXURE-A
SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES
"APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 8 (6) & or 9(1)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) & or 9(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s), Mortgagor(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of **Bank of Baroda**, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is"** basis for recovery of dues in below mentioned account(s). The details of Borrower/Mortgagor/Guarantor(s)/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below:

Slr Lot No.	Name & address of Borrower/s/ Guarantor/s / Mortgagor (s)	Detailed description of the immovable property with known encumbrances, if any	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-auction	Reserve Price	Status of Possession (Symbolic / Physical)	Property Inspection date & Time
					EMD amount Bid Increase Amount		
1	Mr. SUBRATA CHAKRABORTY, Flat No.A, 2nd Floor, Premises No.271, Vidhyamandir Road, P.S-Regent Park, Kolkata-700093.	Equitable mortgage of one flat being flat no.-A, measuring 820 sq ft super built up area more or less (Tiles Floor) consisting of Two bed rooms, one Living/Dining, One Kitchen, One Toilet, One W.C. and one Verandah, at the north-east side, on the second floor of the said Ground Plus Three storied Residential Building. The above mentioned flat is situated on the piece and parcel of Bastu Land measuring 3 Cotts 2 Chittaks 7 sq ft more or less being scheme plot no.-16 together with a ground plus three storied Residential Building built and for erected thereon, lying situated at Mouza Purba Puliaary, J.L No.43, comprised in part of C.S. Plot No.-13, within the limits of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (Jadavpur Unit) ward No-114 being premises no. 271, Vidhyamandir Road and its Assessess, No.31-114-26-0271-8, P.S.Regent Park, Kolkata-700093, ADSR office Alipore, District: South 24 Parganas, West Bengal.	Rs 25,38,182.84 plus further Unapplied Interest, costs and charges thereon w.e.f 12-02-2022 till date of Final Payment.	11-03-2026 Time 2.00pm to 6.00pm	Property i. Rs. 24,02,000/- ii. Rs. 240200/- iii. Rs 10,000/-	Symbolic	10/03/2026 3:00pm-5:00pm Concerned Officer- Sambit Krishna Debbarman Mobile-9836235120 (with prior appointment)

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/link to the websites link <https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.htm> and online auction portal <https://baanetnet.com> Also, prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Mobile **8335005066**

1. The sale is subject to confirmation by the Secured Creditor Bank.

2. Property is in Symbolic Possession and Bidder is purchasing the property in symbolic possession at his/own risk & responsibility.

3. Bank will hand over the possession of property symbolically only and successful Auction bidder/purchaser will not claim physical possession from the bank.

4. Bank will not be responsible or duty bound for handing over of physical possession.

5. Successful Auction purchaser will not be entitled to claim any interest, in any case of return of money.

6. Successful Auction purchaser has to submit the Declaration Cum Undertaking confirming the above terms & conditions immediately after e-Auction.

7. Subsequent to sale if successful bidder fails to submit Declaration Cum Undertaking, the Bid EMD amount will be forfeited.

Date: 06.02.2026, Place :- Kolkata

Authorised Officer
Bank of Baroda

T20 World Cup: Clash of Green Card and Aadhar Card holders is a good opportunity for players, says SKY

MUMBAI : With as many as eight players in the USA squad tracing their roots to India, Saturday's clash between the two countries in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Wankhede Stadium is being jokingly referred to as a match between those holding a Green Card against those with an Aadhar Card.

Captain Maunak Patel, spinner Harmeet Singh, batter Shubham Ranjane, Jasdeep Singh, Sanjay Krishnamurthi, Milind Kumar, Saiteja Mukkamalla, and experienced pacer Saurabh Netravalkar are the eight players in the United States squad that trace their roots to India. Harmeet, Shubham, and Netravalkar are products of the Mumbai maidans, where they rubbed shoulders with the likes of Suryakumar Yadav and Shivam Dube.

On the eve of their clash, India captain Suryakumar Yadav said having players of Indian origin in other teams is a good thing for the sport, as more players are getting a chance to play the game at the international level.

"They've gone now to the land

of dollars. But I see it from a good perspective. It's good that people are getting an opportunity. Even though they're playing from other countries, it's a good opportunity for them. I've played a lot of cricket with them. But right now, we're having fun in our own cricket. The way we're playing cricket. At least I have played in Mumbai, so I know how it works here. It'll be fun. We'll start the tournament tomorrow, and after that, we'll catch up slowly," the Indian captain said.

He admitted that they have not played a lot against associate nations like the USA, Namibia, and the Netherlands, which bring in a lot of unknown elements to the game. He said they keep themselves abreast by watching videos of those teams and preparing well.

"See, we do see a lot of videos. Yes, we don't play them often. But at the same time, we have a lot of preparations going on. When we have bowlers meeting, batters meeting. We see the bowlers. We play a similar kind of fast bowlers when we are practising in the nets as well. So yes, there are a lot of prepara-



tions behind it. Though we have a disadvantage that we don't get to play these nations. But definitely you have to be prepared. At this level, there is no excuse," said Suryakumar Yadav.

SKY said the presence of little-known teams does not mean India will have an easy time in the middle of the group stages.

where you can see. A good player doing well on any given day. That requires 1 or 2 batters to make a difference. Or 1 or 2 bowlers to have a good - good 24 balls on that given day. So we'll have to play the same way as we've been playing against all the teams. So there are no weak or tough teams in the competition. I think they are all the same," he said.

The 36-year-old batter, known for his 360-degree stroke-making ability, said he is in a happy space as a captain with an abundance of riches at his disposal, which he says is a happy headache to have.

"As a captain, I'm feeling good. I keep reminding myself that when you say captain, it sounds overrated. Say, leader, it sounds better. The feeling of a leader. So when you say captain, there's a little complacency. But it's good. It's a good responsibility to lead such a good group on home soil. And starting the campaign from Wankhede. So I'm very excited, and it's a good responsibility," he said.

He said there is no added pressure as a leader, and he sees

the ICC Men's T20 World Cup as a good opportunity for himself and his players. "See, there's no double-thoughts that we've been playing good cricket, but at the same time you have to be in the present as well. Yes, you're playing at home. You're expected to win the tournament. The way you've been playing your cricket. No one has defended the title. No one has won on home soil. Yes, everything runs in everyone's mind. But at the same time, you have to be in the present as well.

"You have to see what you want to do on the given day. What kind of cricket do you want to play? That is, I think it is very important. And just stay in the present. Have your feet where you are. Stay grounded, because when you're playing at home. You want to be more excited. You want to give people more than they expect. And at those times, you might make a mistake. But I think staying in the present will be the key in this World Cup. Even though we go till the end. But I think every game we play, we will have to be very relaxed and think about the game we're playing," the India skipper said.

T20 WC: GLITTERING OPENING CEREMONY TO GET TOURNAMENT UNDERWAY IN MUMBAI

MUMBAI : The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 will burst into life on Friday evening with a high-energy opening ceremony at Mumbai's iconic Wankhede Stadium, setting the tone for an action-packed tournament before co-hosts India face the USA.

The show opens with a powerful musical medley from Rishab Sharma and Shivamani before the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Trophy makes a spectacular arrival, carried into the stadium by a jetpack performer in a moment designed to captivate fans inside the Wankhede Stadium.

The tournament trophy will be greeted by ICC Chairman Jay Shah and former India captain Rohit Sharma, who led the defending champions to glory at the previous edition in 2024. They will be accompanied by 20 children representing every participating country and will formally declare the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 open.

Following the trophy's arrival, fans will be treated to headline singing and dance showcases, with chart-topping star Badshah delivering a high-energy live performance before Nora Fatehi takes centre stage for a dynamic dance spectacular, supported by a large cast of dancers. The ceremony culminates with both artists coming together for a grand finale.

The ceremony has been designed to reflect the pace and energy of T20 cricket, with the field of play acting as a unified visual canvas and the official tournament logo forming the main performance stage. The show will close with a stunning pyrotechnic display before the fireworks begin on the pitch with India vs USA starting at 7 pm IST.

RANJI TROPHY QUARTERFINAL Jharkhand Bowled Out for 234 against Uttarakhand

PC JHA

RANCHI : Jharkhand were dismissed for a modest total of 234 runs in 84 overs on the opening day of their Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Uttarakhand at the Keenan Stadium on Friday. Uttarakhand then began their first innings and reached 4 runs without loss at stumps.

Aditya Singh top-scored for Jharkhand with a patient and determined innings of 83 off 167

balls, striking ten fours and one six. Virat Singh was the other notable contributor, scoring 47 runs and offering some resistance in the middle order.

Uttarakhand's bowlers put in a disciplined performance to keep the Jharkhand batting lineup under pressure throughout the day. Jamejay was the pick of the bowlers with four wickets, while Aditya Rawat provided excellent support, claiming three wickets to restrict Jharkhand to a

below-par total.

With the bat, Uttarakhand had a brief but steady start before the close of play, finishing the day at 4 for no loss in their first innings.

The quarterfinal encounter remains delicately poised as Uttarakhand will look to capitalise on the early advantage on Day Two, while Jharkhand's bowlers will aim to strike early and bring their side back into the contest.

England beat India by nine wickets, seal series 4-1 in 5th Mixed Disability T20I



JAIPUR : England capped off a dominant campaign with a commanding nine-wicket victory over India in the fifth and final T20I of the Mixed Disability Series in Jaipur, on Friday, sealing the series 4-1.

Batting first, India struggled to build momentum and were bowled out for 125 in 19.2 overs. The hosts lost early wickets, with Wasim Iqbal departing cheaply.

Akash Singh was the standout performer with the bat for India, scoring a fighting 51 off 43 balls, which included four boundaries and two sixes.

Captain Ravindra Sante also contributed with a brisk 33 off 26 deliveries, trying to steady the innings in the middle overs.

However, England's disciplined bowling attack kept the pressure on throughout. Farooq

Mohammad and Liam O'Brien were effective in breaking partnerships, while regular wickets ensured India never truly recovered. Contributions from the lower order were minimal, as India lost wickets in quick succession to be restricted to a below-par total.

In response, England made light work of the chase, reaching 128 for 1 in just 12.4 overs. Opener Jon Gale anchored the innings with an unbeaten 53 off 36 balls, showcasing composure and clean stroke play.

Wicketkeeper-batter Angus Garant Brown played a match-winning knock of 62 off just 34 deliveries, smashing five fours and five sixes to put the Indian bowlers under immense pressure.

The Indian bowling attack struggled to find breakthroughs, with the lone wicket coming at 102 when Brown was dismissed. Josh Price remained not out as England comfortably crossed the finish line with more than seven overs to spare.

England's emphatic win underlined their superiority throughout the series, as they outplayed India in all departments to clinch the five-match series 4-1.

Mumbai Open WTA 125K: 'Indian players have the potential to beat anyone,' says third seed Jeanjean

MUMBAI : Third seed Leolia Jeanjean believes Indian women players have the quality and potential to challenge top opponents, as she progressed to the quarterfinals of the Mumbai Open WTA 125K Series at the Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) courts on Friday.

The world No. 115 French player, who is enjoying her good start to the 2026 season, praised the depth in Indian women's tennis after opening her singles campaign against India's Vaishnavi Adkar.

"I think India has really good players. Even last year, I played Sahaja (Yamalapalli), and she's really good. Maaya (Rajeshwaran Revathi) also has incredible potential. The quality of tennis is really high. They have the potential to play against anybody here and beat anyone," Jeanjean said.

The 30-year-old added that greater exposure at the international level could help Indian players become more consistent.

"Maybe they just need to play more tournaments to be more consistent at this level," she noted.

Jeanjean, who is also competing in the doubles draw alongside Switzerland's Naima Karamoko, expressed satisfaction with her performances so far in Mumbai.

"I played two really good matches. A couple of days ago, it was my first win of the season, so I'm really happy. The conditions are good, the people are nice and the organisation is really good. It has been a wonderful experience so far," she said.

The Frenchwoman has steadily climbed the rankings over the past few seasons and has featured in the main draws of the French Open, US Open and Australian



Open. One of the highlights of her career came at the 2022 French Open, where she reached the third round and registered her first win over a top-10 player by defeating Karolina Pliskova.

Jeanjean's career, however, has not been without challenges. A serious knee injury at the age of 15 forced her to step away from professional tennis for several years. After undergoing surgery, she later moved to the United States and played collegiate tennis before returning to the professional circuit full-time at the age of 25.

Looking ahead, Jeanjean said consistency and mindset remain her key goals. "The aim is to be more consistent in these tournaments, try to break through and push towards the top 70. It's not easy, so the key is to keep a good mindset, stay positive on court and enjoy the process," she said.

'TO PERFORM LIKE THAT WITH FEVER SHOWS INCREDIBLE CHARACTER': RCB HEAD COACH LAUDS SMRITI'S FIGHTING SPIRIT

VADODARA:Royal Challengers Bengaluru head coach Malolan Rangarajan has revealed that captain Smriti Mandhana was unwell before the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2026 Final against the Delhi Capitals at BKC stadium (Kotambi) on Thursday.

According to the coach, Mandhana was suffering from a 103-degree fever a day before, but still stood up to play a match-winning knock for her team to win the trophy.

"For people who didn't know, Smriti was at 103 degrees last evening. She did whatever she could behind the scenes to be fully fit and available for us. To turn up for a final like that without any complaints shows incredible character. Thank you for being such a wonderful captain," he said in the post-match press conference.

Smriti Mandhana led from the front with a breathtaking 87 off just 41 balls in the RCB's historic run chase of 204 runs. She also forged an important 165-run partnership, which helped the team clinch their second title.

The coach also highlighted the collective effort that powered RCB's title run, noting that match-winners emerged at different stages of the season.

"Different players stood up at different times; we had many match-winners. That's a reflection of the hard work the girls have put in during preparation. As a coaching staff, we couldn't have asked for anything more," he said.

Georgia Voll's composure under pressure drew special praise, with Rangarajan acknowledging the unseen preparation behind her breakthrough final, where she scored 79 runs off just 54 balls.

"The work she's put in behind the scenes, and to turn up like that on the biggest night, I'm so very happy for her. Very well done," Rangarajan said.

With RCB now set to wear two stars on their jersey after their win, Rangarajan made it clear that the hunger remains intact.



In today's hockey, attacking alone is not enough, defense is also important: Navneet Kaur

BENGALURU : Indian Women's Hockey Team's star forward Navneet Kaur believes modern-day hockey demands more from attacking players, highlighting the importance of defensive contribution even for strikers as the team continues preparations at the ongoing national camp ahead of the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualifier in Hyderabad, Telangana.

"In today's hockey, attacking alone is not enough. As a striker, defensive skills are also very important. I am focusing on tackling and applying pressure without the ball, because winning the ball back is a big advantage for the team," she opined.

While highlighting her personal focus, Navneet reiterated that the team's primary objective remains qualification for the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey World Cup. "Our goal is very clear. We want to qualify for the World Cup and give our best



performance in the qualifiers," she remarked.

The camp, which forms a key part of India's build-up to

the FIH Hockey Women's World Cup Qualifier Hyderabad Telangana 2026, is scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from

March 8 to 14. The top three teams from the tournament will secure qualification for the 2026 Women's FIH Hockey

World Cup.

Speaking about the camp environment, Navneet remarked, "The camp is going well. We have a new coach and a strong core group, and the quality of training has been very good. Everyone is focused, and we are preparing well for the upcoming competition."

Navneet further spoke about working under newly appointed Head Coach Sjoerd Marijne, highlighting the clarity he has brought to the group.

"He has a very direct way of communicating. He tells us clearly what he expects from us, what we need to improve, and what kind of performance he wants on the pitch. There is no confusion, and that helps us work better as a team," she remarked.

With several senior players having previously worked with Marijne, Navneet opined that the familiarity has helped the squad settle quickly. "He under-

stands how Indian players play, and we also know what he expects from us. That mutual understanding helps us move forward faster as a team," she said.

Navneet also recently led her team, SG Pipers, to the Women's Hero Hockey India League title and spoke on the impact and exposure it provided for the broader group. "After playing in the Hero Hockey India League alongside foreign players, the confidence level is different among the younger players. The learning from that exposure is clearly visible when players come back into the national camp," she opined.

She added that the mindset within the group has evolved significantly. "There is a very positive mindset in the camp. Players want to try new things. Even if something does not work immediately, we continue to push ourselves and keep learning," Navneet remarked.