

Nepal-to-Delhi smuggling plot foiled, diamonds worth Rs 4.5 crore recovered at Bagdogra airport

MI News Service, Bagdogra: The information came from a secret source. The investigators also became suspicious after seeing the behavior and movements of a person at the airport. Even after arresting him and conducting initial interrogation, the suspicion did not go away. Then, as soon as the person was searched, the eyes of the officials became bright. Valuable diamonds were recovered! A total of 46 diamonds were recovered, with a market value of about four and a half crore taka. Today, Tuesday, the diamonds were recovered at the Bagdogra airport in North Bengal. The name of the arrested person is Deepak Kumar Mahasukla Mehta alias Deepak Kumar Mehta. His home is in Delhi.

The Central Revenue Intelligence Department (DRI) achieved great success by conducting a raid after receiving a secret source of information. Diamonds would be smuggled by air! After receiving that information from a secret source, the investigators started surveillance. The Central Revenue Intelligence De-



partment (DRI) spread a net at the Bagdogra airport. The person was caught red-handed there. The accused Deepak Kumar Mehta came to the airport to catch a flight on this day. The investigators became suspicious upon seeing him.

After being questioned after his arrest, he kept his mouth shut. Then, when his luggage was checked, the huge amount of diamonds came out. It is known that the diamonds were kept in a packet inside the luggage. It is reported that they did not have

any documents. The person was finally arrested. The diamonds were confiscated. It is known that a total of 46 diamonds were being smuggled. The market value is 4 crore 33 lakh taka.

The diamonds were brought to Siliguri by road from Nepal. The precious diamonds were being smuggled to Delhi by air from Bagdogra. DRI lawyer Ratan Banik said, "A total of 808.33 carats or 161.66 grams of diamonds were recovered. The accused was arrested and produced before the Siliguri court. The court has ordered him to be kept in jail custody till February 24. Is anyone else involved in the incident and where did the plan to smuggle these diamonds come from? Those are being investigated."

BJP Leader Arrested for Allegedly Molesting Tribal Woman, Attempted Rape, Death Threats



The accused BJP leader then allegedly went to the victim's house and threatened to kill her if she told him about the incident. The victim's family then approached the police. On Sunday, the victim went to the police station and filed a complaint against the neighbor. Buddhadeb Sarkar was arrested on charges of torture, molestation and attempted rape, police said. On Tuesday, the police produced the arrested BJP leader in the Malda district court. The judge ordered his 14-day jail custody.

The incident has created a stir in the political circles of Malda. Trinamool tribal leader Amal Kisku said, "This is the culture of the BJP leaders and workers of the village. They say 'save the daughter' on their lips, but in reality it is the opposite. We want exemplary punishment for that BJP leader." The incident has left the BJP district leadership uneasy. BJP state committee secretary Amlan Bhaduri said, "The police should take action according to the law. If anyone has done such a thing, done wrong, then they will be punished according to the law."

MI News Service, Malda : A BJP leader from Malda's Baman-gola police station area has been arrested on charges of attempting to rape a tribal woman. The arrested BJP leader is named Buddhadeb Sarkar. It is alleged that the tribal woman was raped after finding a vacant room in a rice and wheat crushing mill. The sensational incident took place in Malda's Baman-gola area. A political backlash has started over the incident.

The arrested BJP leader Buddhadeb has a rice and wheat crushing mill in his village. His

wife was a candidate on a BJP ticket in the last panchayat elections. However, she lost. The arrested Buddhadeb is known as an active BJP leader in the area. According to the victim's family sources, the 24-year-old tribal woman had gone to the BJP leader's mill to crush rice on the occasion of Badna Parab on Wednesday evening at around 6:30 pm. Allegedly, the BJP leader molested the young woman taking advantage of the mill being vacant. She was also tried to rape! The victim somehow managed to push the accused away.

Murshidabad Heritage Festival 2026 Concludes, Celebrating the Region's Rich Cultural Legacy

MI News Service, Kolkata / Murshidabad: The Murshidabad Heritage Festival 2026, held from 6-8 February, concluded on a high note, leaving visitors with memories of the city's history, architecture and vibrant culture. The festival welcomed heritage enthusiasts, scholars, artists and culture lovers to experience one of Bengal's most historically significant city.

Visitors were accommodated at heritage properties like the House of Sheherwali and Bari Kothi, immersing them in Murshidabad's living legacy. The festivities began with a traditional Shheherwali lunch and a film screening on Rani Bhawani, followed by a boat ride to Char Bangla, the terracotta temple built by Rani Bhawani and a breathtaking sunset over the Ganges, accompanied by Ganga Aarti. Visitors also explored Tantipara, witnessing skilled artisans at work on the centuries-old Baluchari weaving tradition.

Highlights included a thrilling traditional boat race, tours of Hazarduari Palace Museum, Nasipur Rajbari, and Katgola Palace and a vibrant cultural evening featuring Baul singers, Raibenshe dancers, Kathak performance



es and folk artists. The festival concluded with a film screening on The Battle of Plassey and a farewell lunch, leaving guests with cherished memories of Murshidabad's heritage and hospitality.

"The Murshidabad Heritage Festival 2026 was a remarkable success, bringing together heritage enthusiasts, artists and culture lovers from across the region. Over three days, visitors experienced the city's rich history, architectural marvels, vibrant traditions and timeless legacy. The festival also highlighted the incredible skill of local artisans" said Pradip Chopra, President of

the Murshidabad Heritage Development Society.

"Marking 16 years since MIHDS was founded in 2010, the Murshidabad Heritage Festival 2026 celebrated the city's living history, local crafts and traditions, while helping revive pride and preserve heritage," said Sandip Nowlakhia, Founding Member of the Murshidabad Heritage Development Society.

The Murshidabad Heritage Festival 2026 successfully showcased the city's timeless architecture, crafts, music, cuisine and traditions, reaffirming its status as a vibrant center of living heritage.

International Seminar



MI News Service, Howrah: A one-day international seminar on the topic of Digital Transformation and Emerging Technology in Schools was held at Hope Institute of Bengal Beldubi, Panchla, Howrah. At the beginning of the seminar on Saturday, the flag was hoisted by the editor and patron of the seminar Sheikh Golam Ehia and the president of the trust Sheikh Abdul Jalil. The seminar was started by releasing balloons by the convener and president of the college Dr. Abdur Rahim Khan and the chief guest Dr. Rupnar Dutta. Along with the opening song, Professor Sharmistha Chakraborty also performed the opening speech at the seminar. The editor Sheikh Golam Ehia highlighted the aims and objectives of the seminar. In addition, the president Dr. Abdur Rahim Khan spoke about the seminar. The chief guest of this seminar was Dr. Rupnar Dutta, H&D, Department of Education, University of North Bengal, who spoke on the subject as the "Key Note Speaker". Also speaking were Padma Shri awardee Dr. Jagadish Chandra Ghosh, Dr. Nahakpam, Bidhan Chandra Singh International College, South Korea, Dr. Subhash Chandra Bhat, Associate Professor, Banipur Government College of Education, Dr. Samir Chandra Das, Professor, Calcutta University. Dr. Sudhir Ranjan Dey, President, ISSE R Oman International. The seminar was attended by Vice-Principal Sourav Mishra, Akram Hossain Mollah, Treasurer, Moinuddin Mirde, Executive President, Professor Dola Pahari, Moshamma Nasrin Halder, Sheikh Jamil Hasan, Sheikh Samim, Professor Jayant Acharya etc.

The entire program was conducted in a smooth manner by Dr. Shamina Khan, Professor, Hope Institute of Bengal.

The editor said that since the establishment of this college in 2009, proper education has been given to the trainees. Emphasis is placed on promoting communal harmony and national integration through education.

Free Health check up Camp

MI News Service, Durgapur: Rotary Club of Durgapur Central, RID-3240 of Zone 2 in association with Swami Vivekananda Vani Prachar Samiti of Durgapur, organized a free medical camp for school-going children and their parents at Bon Fuljhore village near Durgapur on 10th February 2026 morning.

This free medical health check-up camp was attended by Rtn. Dr. Asit Chatterjee, ENT ; Rtn. Dr. S. Lahiri, Child Specialist; Rtn. Dr. Manish Verma, Dentist and Dr. Loveleen Choudhary, Paediatric who provided their expertise and services. Rtn. Dipak Kajaria was also present and assisted with free medicines to the villagers. In all 56 children and 27 villagers attended this camp of Tuesday.

The event was also attended by Rtn Mantaar Singh, President; Rtn Biren Mondal, Secretary; Rtn T K Dutta; Rtn Abhijit Nyogi and Srimati Sumalika Lahiri, along with officials of Vani Prachar Samiti.

The medical camp aimed to provide essential healthcare services free of cost to the local community, and the Rotary Club of Durgapur Central is committed to continuing its efforts in serving the community through such initiatives.

Production Oriented Theatre Workshop by Little Thespian in association with National School of Drama

MI News Service, Kolkata: Little Thespian in association with National School of Drama (Extension Programme Department, New Delhi) Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India organized a 30 days Production Oriented National Theatre Workshop from 22nd December 2025 to 21st January 2026 at Anuchintan Arts Centre. The workshop was the brain child of Camp director Uma Jhunjhunwala. The workshop focused on unlocking the hidden talents of fresh as well as practicing artists through the creative activities which included the art of designing, the science behind scenography and sets. The workshop dealt with the different acting methods and the various genres of acting, relating with co-actors, flawless backstage management and speech and voice modulation.

Three experts took the students on a variety of aspects of theatre. Shri Amit Banerjee (Sangeet Natak Academy Awardee) worked on the voice, speech modulation and acting of the students. Shri Manish Mitra (Director, Kasba Arghya) worked on design and direction while Dr. Gagandeep (Assistant Professor, Drama Dept, Rabindra Bharati University) took the students in



the world of Scenography. The workshop was attended by 25 students both from within and outside Kolkata. This workshop culminated by the staging of play Dafta which is a biting satire by Uma Jhunjhunwala, skewering the corruption, apathy, and inefficiency that plagues offices. Set in Yamlok, the play unfolds in the office of Yamraj, where the bureaucratic red tape of the afterlife mirrors our own world. The play tackles timeless issues: farmers struggling to feed their families despite tilling the soil for all; the marginalized lower castes and classes fighting for dignity; a cobbler burned alive

for daring to ask for bread for his kin; and a famine-ravaged commoner, bereft of family and hope and women enduring unchanged hardships since Sita and Draupadi's times. Yet, amidst the darkness, humans cling to the Hope fairy, living for a better tomorrow. Jhunjhunwala's sharp critique shines a light on the dark continuities between past and present.

The play was directed by Dr. Gaurav Das with Md. Asif Ansari as Assistant director. The scintillating light was designed by Rahul Sardar. The soulful vocal and Esraj was rendered by Ananya Bhaskar with Tridip Saha on Percussion. The beautiful choreography was done by Nayan Sadhak & Samar Mridha. The candidates who participated and acted are Gunjan Azhar, Sangeetha Vyas, Annie Das, Nupur Bhoutika, Navya Shanker, Sneha Das, Babita Sharma, Shreemanti Sen, Firoz Hussain, Aditya Vats, Arpit Kumar, Bapan Naskar, Koushik Chakraborty, Kushagra Saxena, Samrat Chakraborty, Liton Sarkar, Mohit, Ram Arsay Shaw, Satyam Pandey, Sourik Bera, Subhashis Bag, Sahbaz Khan, Rahul Sardar, Nayan Sadhak, Biplob Naskar and Samar Mridha.



Mid-Day Meal workers took part in a protest rally and blocked roads over the non-increase of their wages and concerns about student food allocations in Kolkata on Tuesday.

Iron Pipe Falls from Multi-Storey Roof in Mangalohat, Howrah, Kills Two People

MI News Service, Howrah: Two people were standing outside a multi-storey building, leaving their business belongings inside. They were standing there and talking about business transactions. At that time, an iron pipe fell from the top of the multi-storey building. And that was the end of it. The two people lost their lives in an instant. The others present were scared and terrified by the suddenness of the incident. The tragic incident took place at the Trade Center in Mangalohat area under the Howrah Municipality. The names of the two deceased are Sheikh Irfan and Khokon.

According to police and local sources, the incident took place on Tuesday, at around 12:30 pm. The Howrah Trade Center is next to the municipality. Mangalohat is held in that area every week. The market was going on since morning. Sheikh Irfan and Khokon had been making a living as traders



Police officers at the scene.

and mutiars in that market for a long time. The two were working to remove goods from the warehouse of the trade center around noon.

There were reports that some construction work was going on on the roof of the 13th-storey building. Meanwhile, two people were talking in front of the building after coming out of the trade center. A few others were scattered around. At that time, a terrible accident occurred. While the work was going on above, a thick, heavy iron rod

fell from the roof. Locals say that the pipe fell right on Sheikh Irfan and Khokon. Both of them fell on the road in a bloody state. Locals started running at the suddenness of the incident. The two were quickly rescued and taken to Howrah District Hospital. But the doctors said that both of them died in their sleep.

After receiving the news of the incident, the Howrah police station went to the hospital and the spot. Both the bodies have been taken for autopsy. How did the pipe fall from above? Was the work not done following any precautions? Where is the safety of the people? That question has arisen. The police have started an investigation into the incident. Howrah Police Commissioner Akash Maghria reached the spot. He said, "The investigation into the incident is underway. If there is any negligence in this regard, strict action will be taken."

Devastating fire breaks out at oil godown in Nandakumar, followed by explosions

MI News Service, Purba Medinipur: Devastating fire in Nandakumar oil godown. The godown is burning like a fire. There are fears that the fire may spread to nearby houses. The area is covered in black smoke. Multiple fire engines are at the scene. Due to the dense population, there is intense panic in the area. Police personnel are evacuating locals. It is unclear how the fire started.

There is an oil godown next to the state highway in Nandakumar in East Midnapore. The fire broke out in the Na-

dag oil godown at around 4 pm. It took a devastating turn in an instant. Locals said that the sound of oil drums exploding inside was heard. The police and fire brigade were informed. A large police force from Nandakumar police station is at the scene.

Firefighters have started working in a warlike manner. But even after an hour, the fire could not be brought under control. According to sources, more fire engines are on their way to the spot from Haldia. No casualties or injuries have

been reported yet. Members of the houses next to the oil godown are being quickly evacuated. There is a fear that the fire may spread to nearby houses.

There is confusion about how the fire started. The initial efforts of the firefighters are to 'arrest' the fire. Otherwise, there is a danger of danger. The area is densely populated. Moreover, since the godown is next to the state highway, traffic is also being controlled. The incident has spread widespread excitement in the area.

Basanti Quran Qirat Competition

Nurul Islam Khan South 24 Parganas Basanti Chunakhal Education and Welfare Foundation organized a two-day Qiraat competition. Basically, the organization's head Maulana Anwar Hossain Qashemi explained their goal as they prioritized the promotion of pure Quran recitation.

He said that along with educating the students, they also focus on religious practices. Here, a competition is held every year on how much the quality of their religious education has improved. In addition to our school students, countless students from outside participated in this competition.



The two-day All Bengal Musabakatul and Quran Qirat competition organized by Basanti-Chunakhal Education and Welfare Foundation ended on Sunday. On the last day, they received the first prize of twenty thousand taka, a beautiful trophy and certificate. The second

prize was a beautiful trophy and certificate along with fifteen thousand taka. The third prize was a beautiful trophy and certificate along with ten thousand taka. The premises of Basanti's Chunakhal Madrasa Arabia Zakaria became a festive atmosphere.

Budget Focuses on Growth with Stability, Needs Strong Execution on Ground

India's Union Budget presents a clear roadmap for sustained economic growth while maintaining fiscal discipline, but its real success will depend on how effectively policies translate into ground-level relief for businesses and citizens. This was stated by Chartered Accountant Anup Kumar Luharuka in an interaction with Morning India, while sharing his overall assessment of the Budget.

MI News Service, Kolkata: According to Luharuka, the Budget reflects a shift from short-term populism to long-term nation-building, with emphasis on infrastructure, manufacturing, services, MSMEs and technology-driven governance.

"The intent of the Budget is growth with stability. The government has tried to balance ambition with inclusion, which is a positive sign for the economy," he said.

CA Luharuka noted that incentives for domestic manufacturing, duty exemptions on critical inputs, support for bonded warehouses and export-oriented units indicate a serious push towards self-reliance and global competitiveness.

Special focus on MSMEs through liquidity support, credit guarantees and digital platforms like TReDS will help small businesses improve cash flow and reduce dependence on informal borrowing. However, he cautioned that procedural simplicity will be key to ensure that benefits actually reach smaller traders.



The renewed emphasis on the services sector, including healthcare, tourism, education, IT and data centres, is expected to generate large-scale employment, especially for the youth.

"The services sector remains India's growth engine. Policies supporting IT, digital infrastructure and skill development are aligned with future job creation," Luharuka observed.

Large allocations towards infrastructure, logistics corridors, waterways, urban development and energy security underline the government's long-term vi-

sion. These investments will not only support growth but also improve ease of doing business and regional connectivity.

He also welcomed measures aimed at renewable energy, battery storage, critical minerals and nuclear power, calling them essential for India's economic and strategic independence.

On fiscal matters, Luharuka said the government's commitment to gradually reducing the fiscal deficit while increasing capital expenditure reflects financial maturity. In the Revised Estimates (RE) for 2025-26, the fiscal deficit has been maintained at 4.4 per cent of GDP, in line with the Budget Estimates (BE), signalling adherence to fiscal discipline despite developmental priorities.

Further, in line with the new fiscal prudence path of debt consolidation, the fiscal deficit for BE 2026-27 has been projected at 4.3 per cent of GDP, underscoring the government's intent to steadily strengthen macroeconomic stability while continuing growth-oriented spending.

Yuva Sathi Al-
lowance to Begin
from April 1, An-
nounces Mamata

From PG 1
counters, and applicants will be required to register in person by standing in queue. The Yuva Sathi scheme was announced during the interim budget presented in the state Assembly on February 5 by Minister of State for Finance Chandrima Bhattacharya. Political observers view the budget as welfare-oriented, particularly in the run-up to elections. The Mamata Banerjee government has already implemented several welfare schemes, including Lakshmir Bhandar and Kanyashree, aimed at women's empowerment. The recent increase of ₹500 in the Lakshmir Bhandar allowance was also announced in the budget.

SC adjourns hearing in I-
PAC raids case till Feb 18

From PG 1
TMC leaders, confronted the ED officials and allegedly took away documents from the premises. The Chief minister has accused the central agency of overreach. The West Bengal Police has also registered an FIR against ED officers and the ruling Trinamool Congress denied the ED's allegation of obstruction. It has further alleged that the ED action against I-PAC, the election consultant of the party, was aimed at accessing confidential election-strategy material.

Abhishek Backs
No-Confidence Move Against
Speaker, Seeks INDIA Bloc
Unity First

From PG 1
in the ideologies of Mahatma Gandhi, Subhash Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda, and we have immense respect for the Chair and the institutions they envisioned. Our approach has always been constructive and calibrated," he noted, adding that the Speaker should be given an opportunity to address the Opposition's concerns before escalation. However, Abhishek made it clear that patience has limits. "If our issues are not addressed within three days, there is no ambiguity — we will move a no-confidence motion against the Speaker," he asserted. Abhishek said the party had already communicated its position to the Congress and other Opposition partners.

Tharoor slams 'under-
whelming' budget

From PG 1
reminded me of the garage mechanic who said, 'I couldn't fix your brakes, so I made the horn louder.' Looking at the Budget this year, I am saddened to observe that though the horn has been muted, that there hasn't been enough movement: for this Budget too appears to be a squandered opportunity, equivalent to rearranging the airbags on a crashing car, while assuring the passengers that the chassis is sturdy and they will feel better afterwards," Tharoor said. "This Budget is praised for prudence, but prudence without vision or fairness is hollow," he said. "It ignores unemployment, rising living costs, and inequality, offering little to address the real struggles and aspirations of the aam aadmi," the Congress leader said. The government speaks endlessly of welfare, but its spending tells a very different story as behind flashy announcements lie chronic under-utilisation and administrative failure, he claimed. "Media reports show that of over Rs. 5 lakh crore budgeted for 53 major welfare and infrastructure schemes last year, barely 41% was spent in the first nine months of the fiscal year. Take the Jal Jeevan Mission - allocated Rs. 67,000 crore, it managed to spend an astonishingly low Rs. 31 crore in nine months. The much-touted PM Schools for Rising India scheme spent only Rs. 473 crore out of Rs. 7,500 crore.

Mamata Reviews Madhyamik Exam
Process, Offers Support if Needed

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Madhyamik examinations are underway across West Bengal, and Tuesday marked the Physical Science paper. On the occasion, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee visited United Missionary Girls' School in Kolkata before the examination began. During her visit, the Chief Minister interacted with school teachers and staff, and also spoke to guardians waiting outside the school premises on Ashutosh Mukherjee Road. Mamata Banerjee enquired whether the examination process was being conducted smoothly and asked if any assistance was required. She assured teachers and guardians of the state government's support and urged them to inform authorities immediately in case of any difficulties. Several guardians and teachers expressed happiness after interacting with the Chief Minister. Meanwhile, the Madhyamik examinations have so far remained largely peaceful and incident-free. However, reports of examination cancellations have emerged on Tuesday. According to the West Bengal Board of Second-



WB CM Mamata Banerjee visited United Missionary Girls' School in Kolkata ahead of the examinations.

ary Education, the examinations of 38 to 39 candidates have been cancelled for violating examination rules. Board President Ramanuj Gangopadhyay confirmed that the cancellations were due to candidates carrying mobile

phones into examination centres. Speaking during an inspection of several examination centres in Bankura district on the sixth day of the Madhyamik exams, Gangopadhyay said strict measures are in place to prevent malprac-

tice. Despite enhanced vigilance, violations leave authorities with no option but to cancel examinations, he added. The board continues to monitor all centres closely to ensure fair conduct of the examinations.

Abhishek Flags
Farmers' Loss in
India-US Trade Deal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Union Budget while speaking in the Lok Sabha, alleging that it has failed common citizens and farmers alike. He claimed that the budget has deprived every section of society, particularly the farming community, and accused the Centre of compromising Indian farmers' interests through its trade agreement with the United States. During his lengthy speech, Banerjee referred to the India-US trade deal and argued that the agreement has further cornered Indian farmers. He cited a recent statement made by the US Agriculture Secretary following the deal. According to Banerjee, the Secretary had openly stated that American farmers would now be able to export more agricultural products to India, and had thanked US President Donald Trump for the agreement. Banerjee pointed out that the US Agriculture Secretary had shared the message on social media platform X, saying the deal would benefit American farmers, bring more money into rural America and reduce the US agricultural trade deficit with India. Questioning the Indian government's silence, Banerjee asked why New Delhi did not respond or reject the statement. "Farmers are dying every day in India. Promises are repeatedly made, but after this deal, American farmers will benefit while Indian farmers will suffer.

Fresh violence in Manipur,
curfew imposed, internet
services suspended

From PG 1
armed miscreants from communicating and organising more violence and arson. As a result of fresh violence and arson many residents were forced to flee from their homes in the hill district overnight. Fearing further violence, many villagers fled to neighbouring Kangpokpi district, the official said. District police officials later visited affected villages and assured residents that steps were being taken to restore peace and normalcy. Meanwhile, the Kongsaram Village Authority has condemned the unabated violent incidents and appealed to the state and central governments for immediate deployment of additional security forces, relief for affected families and firm action to restore law and order. Authorities also moved to counter rumours circulating on social media. Police also dismissed claims that residents of Konshakhul had fled to Kanto Sabal following the Litan incident, saying no mass displacement had occurred.



Kolkata Police Commissioner Supratim Sarkar briefed the media near the Cyber Police Station at Lalbazar following a presentation by the DC Cyber, the inauguration of a newsletter, and the launch of the Cyber Helpline at the Cyber PS premises, in Kolkata.

Health Dept Opens Integrated Control
Room to Streamline Hosp Referrals

MI News Service, Kolkata: In an effort to curb the recurring hardship faced by patients referred from district hospitals to city-based medical facilities due to the unavailability of beds, the Health Department has launched a new Integrated Control Room to streamline the referral and admission process. The control room became operational from Monday, February 9, and is aimed at ensuring that critically ill patients are not forced to move from one hospital to another in search of vacant beds. Such incidents, where patients are referred to city hospitals only to be turned away due to bed shortages, have been a persistent problem across the state. The Integrated Control Room will function from the Health Bhavan and will be manned by a

team of 12 officials, whose names have been officially released by the Health Department. The team includes Dr Debjani Banerjee, Dr Sunetra Kabiraj Roy, Dr Tausif Ravi, Dr Suman Dutta, Dr Tanuja Kabir, Dr Susmita Chakraborty, Dr Jayashree Pathak, Dilip Kumar Giri Goswami, Jayati Banerjee, Ruchira Banerjee, Tuhin Roy and Pritam Das. The control room will operate six days a week, from Monday to Saturday, in two shifts. The first shift will run from 9 am to 2 pm, while the second shift will operate from 2 pm to 7 pm. The shift-based system has been introduced to ensure uninterrupted monitoring and timely intervention so that people are not inconvenienced while seeking treatment at government hospitals.

SC agrees to hear plea against Assam CM over 'shooting' video

From PG 1
The video of Sarma purportedly taking aim with a rifle and firing at two people, one wearing a skull cap and the other with a beard, was shared by the Assam BJP on its official X handle on February 7. The controversial post sparked widespread outrage and political condemnation. It was, however, deleted by the BJP after it drew accusations of inciting violence and communal hatred.

West Bengal Assembly Poll
Dates Likely by March 2

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the completion of the SIR process, the announcement of Assembly election dates in West Bengal now appears to be only a matter of time. Sources indicate that the State Election Commission is fully prepared to conduct the polls in a reduced number of phases. According to the latest information, the election schedule for West Bengal could be announced as early as March 2. If sources are to be believed, the upcoming Assembly elections may be held in three phases. It is learnt that North Bengal's eight districts could go to polls in a single phase, while South Bengal may witness voting in two phases. However, the final decision will depend largely on the approval of the Election Commission of India (ECI). In South Bengal, polling may be conducted simultaneously in Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Hooghly and Nadia. Another combined phase may include Murshidabad, Birbhum, Purba and Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura, Purulia,

East and West Midnapore, and Jhargram. Meanwhile, the Election Commission is expected to keep a special vigil on five sensitive districts that have a history of election-related unrest. These include Murshidabad, Malda, Birbhum and Cooch Behar, where heightened security arrangements are likely to be in place. Additionally, South 24 Parganas has also been identified as a district requiring special monitoring during the polling process. Earlier, the State Election Commission had formally approached the Election Commission of India, requesting a reduction in the number of polling phases. Whether the elections are ultimately conducted in three phases will now largely depend on the ECI's assessment and approval. Ensuring a peaceful and fair election will require adequate security coverage across the state. Officials have indicated that a reduction in polling phases will only be possible if sufficient central forces are made available.

MCCI Hosts Session on Modern Leadership in a Changing World

MI News Service, Kolkata: A special session titled "Beyond the Playbook: Modern Leadership for a Changing World" was organised by The Merchants' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI) on Tuesday in Kolkata. The session featured Roopa Kudva, business leader, start-up investor and former CEO of CRISIL, in conversation with Souvik Das, Associate Partner and Global Solutioning Leader for Digital Product Design and Engineering at IBM Consulting. During the interaction, Kudva said leadership is a deeply personal journey and not guided by a fixed set of rules. She explained that true leadership involves discovering what kind of leader one wants to become and consciously crafting that path. Key discussions included



Roopa Kudva, Business Leader, Start-Up Investor, Ex-CEO Crisil sharing her thoughts at MCCI Special Session on "Beyond the Playbook : Modern Leadership for a Changing World" in Kolkata on Tuesday.

leadership in the age of artificial intelligence, where leaders must evolve into AI strategists, ethical guardians and influencers, while human qualities such as empathy and moral judgement become more critical. Barriers faced by women in leadership, including self-belief and the 'likability factor', were highlighted, with emphasis on the need for sponsorship beyond mentorship. Managing a multigenerational workforce, particularly Gen Z's focus on skills, purpose and work environment, was also discussed. Kudva shared her fond connection with Kolkata. Earlier, MCCI Chairperson Mamta Binani spoke on evolving leadership styles. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Priyanka Chatterjee.

Impeachment against CEC a
Last Resort, Says Abhishek

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday clarified the party's position on the impeachment issue, stating that initiating impeachment proceedings against the Chief Election Commissioner was never the party's original plan and is being considered only as a last resort.

Addressing the media, Abhishek Banerjee said that while party chairperson Mamata Banerjee has publicly spoken about the possibility of impeachment, the Trinamool Congress exhausted all democratic and constitutional options before reaching this stage. He stressed that the party believes in dialogue, restraint and institutional processes, and impeachment or a no-confidence motion is always the final step in any political or parliamentary strategy. Abhishek revealed that the party could have moved for impeachment nearly three months ago, as suggested by the Congress at the time, but chose not to. Instead, the Trinamool Congress opted for sustained engagement with the Election Commission. "We held meetings, organised protests, and our Chief Minister wrote six letters. Party delegations met the Chief Electoral Officer and the Chief Election Com-

missioner," he said. According to Abhishek, over the last three months, the party sent between 100 and 150 letters seeking clarification and redressal on issues related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process. However, he claimed that none of these communications received any response from the authorities concerned. "When all avenues are closed, impeachment becomes the only option left," he added. The Trinamool leader also confirmed that the party has already initiated discussions with like-minded Opposition parties on the issue. He reiterated that any step towards impeachment or a no-confidence motion must be taken collectively to maintain democratic credibility. On the possibility of a no-confidence motion against the Speaker, Abhishek said the Trinamool Congress has no hesitation in extending support. All 28 Trinamool MPs are ready to sign, he said, but added that the party expects a joint statement from INDIA bloc partners before moving ahead. Concluding his remarks, Abhishek Banerjee said the Trinamool Congress continues to uphold the values of tolerance and restraint, drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi, Subhas Chandra Bose and Swami Vivekananda.

Improved global fight against wildlife
trafficking with new technologies

From PG 1
protections differ. For example, trade of African grey parrots (*Psittacus erithacus*) is strictly regulated. There are different, often less stringent protections for similar-looking species, such as the Timneh parrot (*Psittacus timneh*) and the brown-necked parrot (*Poicephalus fuscicollis*). Enforcement efforts don't always happen in offices and labs. One company aims to provide small, handheld kits that can detect up to five species in about 20 or 30 minutes without needing traditional lab equipment. The kits show their results on a simple strip that changes color when the DNA of a particular species

appears in a sample. Conceptually, it's similar to a pregnancy test, which changes colour when a hormone is detected. Handheld scanners use software to quickly identify timber species by examining the internal cellular structure of the wood. This can help to distinguish protected hardwoods from legal alternatives in regions where illegal logging is widespread, such as South America, Southeast Asia and Africa. Additionally, the enforcement officers have to navigate vast legal complexity. New tools seek to compile laws from multiple countries, helping inspectors understand regulations across export, transit and destination nations.

India-Pakistan T20 World Cup match
is on, after Pak govt withdraws boycott

From PG 1
boycott of India match on next Sunday in Colombo was announced after a string of high-profile meetings involving the International Cricket Council (ICC), the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and a few other officials. The U-turn didn't surprise anyone, but rather, put another dent in Pakistan's reputation on the global cricketing cir-

cuit. With the saga is now over, the timeline of events in the 'boycott' row is as follows. In the last week of January following ICC's refusal to move Bangladesh's group matches out of India despite security concerns, the PCB signalled its displeasure and its Chairman Mohsin Naqvi hinted that Pakistan might take "drastic steps" in solidarity with the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB).

Cong submits no-confidence motion
notice against LS Speaker Om Birla

From PG 1
have signed the notice for moving a resolution to remove Birla from office. The no-confidence motion against the Lok Sabha submitted by Congress, states, "Notice of a resolution for the removal of Om Birla from the office of Speaker Lok Sabha, in terms of the provisions of Article 94(c) of the Constitution of India, has been given because of the blatantly partisan manner in which he has been conducting the business of the Lok Sabha. On several occasions, Leaders of Opposition Parties have just not been allowed to speak, which is their basic democratic right in Parliament." Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs are said to wait before signing the no-confidence motion resolution against Birla, as their leader Abhishek Banerjee suggested that the Opposition should first write a letter in the form of a protest to the Speaker with the signature of all MPs. Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi was not allowed to speak in the House during the discussion on the motion of Thanks to the President's Address during the ongoing Budget Session. The opposition leader was citing Army Chief General MM Naravane's "unpublished memoir" to discuss India's 2020 standoff against China, which attracted opposition from the Speaker and the ruling party members present in Parliament. The Speaker then passed a ruling, asking Rahul Gandhi not cite unpublished literature, citing parliamentary rules and ethics. He further denied permission to proceed with the reading. The Lok Sabha witnessed multiple adjournments as the Opposition demanded that Rahul Gandhi as LoP be allowed to quote from Naravane's unpublished memoir. He moved a magazine article after authenticating it and sought the Speaker's permission to quote from it.

Name Change
I, Bharati Sardar (Old Name) W/o Bibek Sardar Residing at Puratan Bongaon, Purana Bongaon, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743235, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bharati Sardar Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 78/2026 Dated 10-02-2026. Bharati Sardar (Old Name) and Bharati Sardar Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rekha, spouse of No. 9212081P Rank Ex SEP Name Late Sanjit Kumar Chakraborty resident of Vill.-Narenga, P.O.- Bagnanpara, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin-712501 have change my Name from Rekha to Rekha Chakraborty vide Affidavit dated 09-02-2026 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Kalna, Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, Prasanta Bhattacharjee, S/o, Late Sundar Gopal Bhattacharjee, R/o.- 2No. Ichlabad, P.O.-Sripally, P.S.-Burdwan Sadar, P.S.-Burdwan, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman-713103, WB, that my wife & surname have been recorded in my HS Admit Card & Certificate as Prasanta Kumar Bhattacharjee, S/o, Sundar Gopal Bhattacharjee, vide Affidavit Sl. No. 896/81, dt. 05.02.26, before the Court of Executive Magistrate, Purba Bardhaman. That, Prasanta Bhattacharjee @ Prasanta Kumar Bhattacharjee, S/o, Late Sundar Gopal Bhattacharjee @ Sundar Gopal Bhattacharjee, i.e. myself & my father both are same one identical person.

Name Change
I, Meghashri Ravishkumar Patel W/O Ravishkumar Kamleshkumar Patel Residing at Ratanpur near jogomaya School, Singur, Dist.-Hooghly, Pin-712409, Wb in my driving licence no.MP10N-2010 010503 my name is Megha Padidar D/o Pandari nath(Before marriage) i shall henceforth be known as Meghashri Ravishkumar Patel Aadhar card no.8371 9159 8269 declared before the Ld.1st class judicial magistrate at Alipore court.date-10.02.2026.Affidavit no 2956.That Meghashri Ravishkumar Patel and Megha Padidar both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I Swapanneel Biswas, my father Alope Biswas S/o late Chittaranjan Biswas r/a- A/591, Canal South Road, Santoshpur, Kolkata - 700075, have changed his name and shall henceforth be known as Alope Kumar Biswas as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Court (West Bengal) vide Affidavit sl.no. A260/2026 dated 10/02/2026. Alope Biswas and Alope Kumar Biswas both are same and identical person.

Name Correction
I, Mst Henaful Khatun W/O. Tofajul Hoque of Vill. Ratanpur Najrul Colony, P.O. Samsi, P.S. Ratua, Dist. Malda declare before the Executive Magistrate, Chanchal Court vide affidavit no.17143 dt. 18/9/25 that my actual name is Mst Henaful Khatun vide Pan Card no. LSSPK4435L. But my name is incorrectly recorded as Mst Hanaful Khatun in my Aadhar card vide no. 54702447 3659. That Mst Henaful Khatun & Mst Hanaful Khatun is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jasmin Khatun, (old name) D/O-Md. Enamul Haque, residing at Flat-6B, 6th Floor, Heritage Regency, 1001/B, Karaya Road, Kolkata-700017. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jesmin Khatun (new name) as declared before the Ld.1st class Jm. at Kolkata vide Affidavit No. 462 dt- 05/02/2026 Jasmin Khatun (old name) & Jesmin Khatun (new name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Tapash Paul S/o Late Nripendra Chandra Paul R/A - 22/1B/1, Ithimpur Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700032 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tapash Chandra Paul as declared before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Bankshall Court, Kolkata (WB) vide Affidavit No. 654 dated 10.12.2025. Tapash Paul and Tapash Chandra Paul both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Nandini Bhattacharjee wife of Shantanu Dasgupta, R/A - 12, West Road, Santoshpur, P.S.-Survey Park, Kolkata - 700075, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nandini Dasgupta as declared before the Notary Public at Alipore Judges Court, Kol - 27 (WB) vide Affidavit Sl. No. 62 dated 02.02.2026. Nandini Dasgupta and Nandini Bhattacharjee both are same and one identical person.

Name Correction
I, Mehedi Hasan S/O. Shish Mohammad of Vill & P.O. Boldipajur, P.S. Ratua, Dist. Malda declare before the Executive Magistrate, Chanchal Court vide affidavit no. 8066 dt. 09/2/26 that my mother's actual name is Rahima vide her Voter Card no. CH1508028 and my father's actual name is Shish Mohammad. But in my Passport my mother's name is incorrectly recorded as Rohima Bibi and my father's name as Shis Mohammad. That Rahima & Rohima Bibi and Shish Mohammad & Shis Mohammad are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Prabir Kumar Nayek, S/o.- Lt. Ranjit Kumar Nayek, R/o.-Vill.-Durlabhganj (CT), P.O.- Satbarkua, P.S.- Garhbeta, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur-712153, WB, that my wife's actual name& surname has been wrongly recorded in my son's (Prathan Nayek) school documents as Seema Nayek, my wife's Madhyamik Pass Certificate as Seema Ghosh in place of Seema Ghosh Nayek (Aadhar, Voter & PAN Card) vide Affidavit No. 4399, dt. 09.02.2026, in the Court of Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Dist.-Paschim Medinipur. That, Seema Ghosh Nayek, Seema Nayek & Seema Ghosh all are same identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Helalur Rahaman (Old Name) S/o Late Abul Hossain Molla Residing at Vill - Gilabaria, Muslimpara, P.o - Deganga, P.s.- Deganga, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743423, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Helalur Rahaman (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-02-2026. Md Helalur Rahaman (Old Name) and Helalur Rahaman (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kohinoor Khatun Bibi W/o. Ziaur Rahman Sarkar, do hereby declare that in my son's birth certificate (Regn. No. DH 2808/2011, dated 29/08/2011), where my son's/parents name has been recorded as Rijuan Rahaman S/o. Jiyaur Rahaman as Father & Koolinoor Bibi as Mother, instead ofhis/our actual name Rijuan Rahaman Sarkar S/o. Ziaur Rahaman Sarkar as Father & Koolinoor Khatun Bibi as Mother. That my son/parents Rijuan Rahaman Sarkar S/o. Ziaur Rahaman Sarkar as Father & Koolinoor Khatun Bibi as Mother and Rijuan Rahaman S/o. Jiyaur Rahaman as Father & Koolinoor Bibi as Mother all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 4568, dated 02/02/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Abdul Moyaen S/o. Late Abdul Kayum, R/o. Gabana, Rajgama, Pandua, Hooghly-712134, W.B., do hereby declare that in my W.B.S.E. Secondary Education all documents where my father's name has been recorded as Abdul Kayoum instead of his original & correct name Abdul Kayum. That my father Abdul Kayum & Abdul Kayoum both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 5601 dated 10/02 /2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Sarita Devi Shaw, W/o Sanjay Shaw, residing at 153 Ramnagar Goswami Road, Anakha, Kanchrapara, North 24 Parganas, W. B.-743145, Aadhaar No. 9865 5483 0341, hereby declare that my name appears as "Sarita Devi Shaw" in Aadhaar, Voter ID & PAN Card and as "Sarita Shaw" in my son Kunal Shaw's Birth Certificate No. 123884 (Regn. No. 410). Both the names refer to one and the same person i.e. myself, as affirmed vide affidavit sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class, Barrackpore, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal on 06/02/2026.

Name Change
I, Subhradip Das, S/o Saktipada Das, resident of B-10/297, Kalyani, Nadia, W. B.-741235, declare that my name is recorded as Subhradip Das in my Voter ID & PAN Card, whereas my name is recorded as Subhra Dip Das in my Driving Licence No. KA01 20060019932. I further declare that Subhradip Das and Subhra Dip Das are one and the same person. Also, Saktipada Das and Shaktipada Das (father's name) refer to one and the same person. This declaration is made as per affidavit sworn on 09.02.2026 before the Court of the ACJM-II (1st Class), Kalyani, Nadia, WB.

Name Change
I, Anju Bhattacharjee, W/o.- Sunil Kumar Bhattacharjee, R/O.- 4/44A, Netaji Nagar, Gr. Flr, Room No. 3, N.S.C. Bose Road, National Pharmacy, Netaji Nagar, VTC, Regent Park, P.O.- Regent Park, Sub Dist. Kol-40, Pre. Add: 195 Khosbas Mahalla Colony, (Paschim), Chakdah, Nadia-741222, that my name has been wrongly recorded in Aadhar Card & Pan Card as Anju Bhattacharya & Voter Id Card as Anju Bhattacharya vide Affidavit No.- 681 dt. 09.02.2026, Before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate, at Kolkata. That, Anju Bhattacharjee@Anju Bhattacharya @Anju Bhattacharya all are same identical person

NAME CHANGE
I, Madhurima Saha, W/o Subhradip Das, resident of B-10/297, Kalyani, P.O. & P.S. Kalyani, Dist. Nadia, W.B., do hereby declare that my father's correct name is KSHITISH SAHA as recorded in my PAN Card No. DMXP59161J. In my Birth Certificate and Passport No. N6899485, my father's name has been wrongly recorded as KATIA SAHA. Both the names refer to one and the same person, as affirmed by an Affidavit sworn before the A.C.J.M.-II (1st Class) Court at Kalyani, Nadia, on 09.02.2026. Henceforth, KSHITISH SAHA shall be treated as the correct name for all purposes.

NAME CHANGE
I, MACHURA BIBI (Old Name), W/o- FURKAN HOSSAIN, R/O.-Vill.- & Post- Gachha, P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MACHUMA BIBI (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Basirhat Court, Affidavit No. 527 dt. 10-02-26. MACHURA BIBI (Old Name) and MACHUMA BIBI (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, KAMARUZZAMAN MONDAL, S/o- ABDUL KHALEK MONDAL, do hereby declare that in my Birth Certificate (vide Regd. No. 1981 dt. 31.12.93) my name has been recorded as KAMARUZZAMAN, S/o- KHALAK MONDAL, vide affidavit no. 32891 before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate I affirm that KAMARUZZAMAN MONDAL, S/o- ABDUL KHALEK MONDAL and KAMARUZZAMAN, S/o- KHALAK MONDAL is the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOHAMMAD GOLAM GAZI (Old Name), S/o- LT SANTOSH GAZI, R/O.- Vill.- Patilachandra, P.O.- Paschim Madhyampur, P.S.-Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs., PIN-743429. Have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD GOLAM GAZI (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Affidavit No.- 1682 dt- 27-01-2026. Basirhat Court. MOHAMMAD GOLAM GAZI (Old Name) and MD GOLAM GAZI (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, ABIDA SULTANA W/o- AMIRUL ISLAM Residing at, Vill - Tejhati, Post - Tejhati, Ps- Nalhati, Dist- Birbhum, Pin- 731220, West Bengal. That my Son's (Old Name) AYAN ISLAM Do hereby declare that I have Changed my Son's name from AYAN ISLAM To AAYAN ISLAM (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) AAYAN ISLAM in all purpose Vide an affidavit No 1230 Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, AAYAN ISLAM and AYAN ISLAM both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MINARUL SARDAR S/o- TUFAL SARDER Residing at, Vill - Mrigi, Post - Mrigi, Ps-Tejhata, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741165, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MINARUL SARDAR To MINARUL SARDER (New name) and hence forth I Shall be Known as (New Name) MINARUL SARDER in all purpose Vide an affidavit Sworn before the notary public at Berhampore Murshidabad On 20 January 2026, MINARUL SARDER and MINARUL SARDAR both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Salma Bibi (Old Name) W/o Md Abbasuddin Gain Residing at Vill - Gangait Gainpara, P.o - Pithapur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Chhalema Gain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-02-2026. Salma Bibi (Old Name) and Chhalema Gain (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Abbasuddin Gain Mohammad (Old Name) S/o Ear Mohammad Gain Residing at Vill - Gangait Gainpara, P.o - Pithapur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Abbasuddin Gain (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 09-02-2026. Abbasuddin Gain Mohammad (Old Name) and Md Abbasuddin Gain (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anchurul Mondal (Old Name) S/o Hosien Mondal Residing at Kulgachi, Daluabari, P.o - Daluabari, District - Nadia, Pin - 741504, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anchharul Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 79/2026 Dated 10-02-2026. Anchurul Mondal (Old Name) and Anchharul Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sacheda Bibi (Old Name) W/o Late Rahamatulla Molla Residing at Vill+P.o - Barachupria, Ps - Hanskhal, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jahida Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 76/2026 Dated 10-02-2026. Sacheda Bibi (Old Name) and Jahida Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Najira Khatun Laskar (Old Name) D/o Shafige Laskar Residing at Vtc - Ganespur, P.o - Mallickpore, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700145, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Najira Khatun (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 77/2026 Dated 10-02-2026. Najira Khatun Laskar (Old Name) and Najira Khatun (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Neha Subrata Das W/o Subrata Das D/O Ramnath Gupta Residing at 2, East point Avenue, Naskarhat, Kolkata-700039. Shall henceforth be known as Neha Gupta in My declared before the Ld.1st class judicial magistrate at Alipore court. date-10.02.2026. Affidavit no 2957. That Neha Subrata Das and Neha Gupta both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Chandan Kumar Banerjee, Chandan Banerjee (Old Name) S/o Late Subodh Chandra Banerjee Residing at Destiny Tower, Flat No. 4/A, Phe-1, 25 Chinar Park, P.o - Hatiara, P.s - Baguiati, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700157, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Chandan Kumar Bandyopadhyay (New Name) as declared before the Executive Magistrate (1st Class) at Howrah vide affidavit no 1725 Dated 29-01-2026. Chandan Kumar Banerjee, Chandan Banerjee (Old Name) and Chandan Bandyopadhyay (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Roki Mollah (Old Name) S/o Helalur Rahaman Residing at Vill - Gilabaria, Muslimpara, P.o - Deganga, P.s.- Deganga, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743423, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Roki Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-02-2026, Md Roki Mollah (Old Name) and Md Roki Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, ILA MANDAL (Old Name), W/o PHANI BHUSAN MANDAL, residing at Durga Charan Rakshit Road, Bose Para, P.O. + P.S. Chandernagore, Dist. Hooghly, Pin- 712136 as declare before the First Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore Court vide affidavit no. 767, Dated 21.01.2026. ILA MANDAL (Old Name) and ILA MANDAL (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Swapan Mukherjee (Old Name), Son Of Ashutosh Mukherjee, Residing at 8, Raja Gopendra Street, Hatkhola, Kolkata-700005, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Swapan Kumar Mukherjee (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Swapan Mukherjee And Swapan Kumar Mukherjee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sharwan Bajaj (Old Name), Son Of Sita Ram Bajaj Residing At Space Town, Block-4, Flat-5m, Vip Road, Teghoria, Kolkata-700052, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sharwan Kumar Bajaj (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Sharwan Bajaj And Sharwan Kumar Bajaj Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Mahmood Alam (Old Name), Son Of Late Khodir Box, Residing At 9d, Flat 4d, Sandel Street, Kolkata 700016, Park Street, P.O. & P.S. - Park Street, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mahmood Alam (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/02/2026. Shaikh Mahmood Alam (Old Name) And Mahmood Alam (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Bijoy Kumar Giri And Bijay Kumar Giri (Old Names), Son Of Late Kangali Giri, Residing At Vill - Kunarda, P.O. - Kumarda, P.S. - Mohanpur, Dist - West Medinipur, Pin- 721457, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bijay Giri (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Bijoy Kumar Giri And Bijay Giri (New Name) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sumita Das (Old Name), Wife Of Privotsud Das, Residing At 173a, 173a Block, Jadavpur, P.S. Jadavpur, P.O. Baghajatin, Kolkata- 700032, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sumita Talukdar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Sumita Das (Old Name) And Sumita Talukdar (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Bilwamangal Das (Old Name) Son Of Tapan Das, Residing At South Chak Para, Ps - Lilhah, Dist- Howrah, Pin- 711204, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bilwa Mangal Das (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 09/02/2026. Bilwamangal Das (Old Name) And Bilwa Mangal Das (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) ABEDAN BEWA W/O RUHUL SK Residing at, Vill - Asruddin Mandalpara, Post - Sultanganj, Ps- Kaliachak, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732201, West Bengal, Shall henceforth be Known as ABEDAN BIBI (New name) as declared before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad Vide Affidavit no 1228 Date 20 January 2026, ABEDAN BEWA and ABEDAN BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MOHIBUL SEKH S/o ZAMALUDDIN SK Residing at, Vill - Rameshwarpur, Post - Kumarshanda, Ps- Kandi, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742136, West Bengal, Shall henceforth be Known as MAHI DUL SK (New name) as declared before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad Vide Affidavit no 1225 Date 20 January 2026, MOHIBUL SEKH and MAHIDUL SK both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) TOHOMIN BIBI W/o FAZLUR RAHAMAN Residing at, Vill - Natungram, Post - Lalga, Ps- Lalga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742148, West Bengal, Shall henceforth be Known as TAHAMINA BIBI (New name) as declared before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad Vide Affidavit no 1280 Date 20 January 2026, TAHAMINA BIBI and TOHOMIN BIBI both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) FAJLU RAHAMAN S/O TORAB ALI Residing at, Vill - Natungram, Post - Lalga, Ps- Lalga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742148, West Bengal, Shall henceforth be Known as FAZLUR RAHAMAN (New name) as declared before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad Vide Affidavit no 1220 Date 20 January 2026, FAJLU RAHAMAN and FAZLUR RAHAMAN both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) ROHASEN SAIKH S/O MEHER Residing at, Vill - Majhpahra, Post - Tartipur, Ps- Hariharpara, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742166, West Bengal, Shall henceforth be Known as RAHASEN MANDAL (New name) as declared before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad Vide Affidavit no 1215 Date 20 January 2026, ROHASEN SAIKH and RAHASEN MANDAL both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, GURUDAS BISWAS, S/o- LT MANOHAR BISWAS, residing at Vill.- Pakhuria, P.O.-Kuman Ramnagar, P.S.- Hanskhal, Dist.-Nadia, PIN-741502, W.B., do hereby declare that my nick name is SANJIT BISWAS. In 2002 Voter List, Part No.10, SL No.- 288, my nick name has been recorded as SANJIT BISWAS. S/o- LT MANOHAR BISWAS. On 06.02.2026 vide an affidavit before Judicial Magistrate (1st Class), Ranaghat, I affirm that GURUDAS BISWAS, S/o- LT MANOHAR BISWAS & SANJIT BISWAS, S/o- LT MANOHAR BISWAS is the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Avila Bibi (old name) daughter of Aachhara Mandal & wife of Iunuchh Ali Mandal, residing at Vill- Jampur, P.O.- Amta, P.S.- Haroa, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743445, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Avila Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/02/2026. Avila Bibi (new name) and Avila Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sabnam Khalid (old name), wife of Md Khalid, residing at 5 West Row, Circus Avenue, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shabnam Khalid (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 30/01/2026. Shabnam Khalid (new name) and Sabnam Khalid (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shafi Ahmad (Old Name) As Per DI No. Wb-012001311510. Son Of Mo-hammed Fazal Haque, Residing At 4th-Fr, Fl-4e, 24/B Radhanath Chowdhury Road, Po-Tangra, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Shafi Ahmed (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 09/02/2026. Shafi Ahmad And Mohammed Shafi Ahmed Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sk Abdul Rahaman (Old Name), Son Of Sk Janur Ali, Residing At Vill-Jagannathpur, Po & Ps-Jangipara, Hooghly-712404, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sekh Abdul Rahaman (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Sk Abdul Rahaman And Sekh Abdul Rahaman Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Chandan Mandal (Old Name), Son Of Khokon Mandal, Residing At Panbura, Ranaghat, Nadia-74201, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Chandan Mondal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Chandan Mandal And Chandan Mondal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Surajit Shamsunder Shee (Old Name), Son Of Shamsunder Pannal Shee Residing At Uttar Patul Madhya Parapo-Ilahipur Chanditola, Hooghly-712707, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Surajit Shee (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2026. Surajit Shamsunder Shee And Surajit Shee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Motilal Santra (old name) son of Narendra Nath Santra, residing at Vill- Kusumda, P.O.- Mundamari, PS - Pingla, Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721140, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Matilal Santra (new name), as declared before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/02/2026. Matilal Santra (new name) and Motilal Santra (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Rakibuddin (old name) son of Sekh Rafikul, residing at Bishalakshimpur, Kakdwip, Sundarban, Pin-743347, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sekh Rakibuddin (new name), as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kakdwip, South 24 Pgs, vide an affidavit dated 19/01/2026. Sekh Rakibuddin (new name) and Sk Rakibuddin (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ajizul Sekh (old name) son of Sk Abdul Ajid, residing at Sonar Gang (ghodagachhi Tala), Namajgram Tala, Masjid, Hooghly- 712149, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Ajizul (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 09/02/2026. Sk Ajizul (new name) and Ajizul Sekh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kamal Musaddi (Old Name), Son Of Gulab Chand Musaddi, Residing At Vip Lake View, Flat-A/401, Fa-13, Deshbandhu Nagar, P. S-Baguiati, North 24 Parganas-700059, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Kamal Kishore Musaddi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2026. Mohammad Jawaid Alam And Md Jawaid Alam Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Manish Chamaria (Old Name), Son Of Mahabir Prasad Chamaria, Residing At Be-218, Sector-1, Salt Lake, Kolkata-700064, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Manish Kumar Chamaria (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2026. Manish Chamaria And Manish Kumar Chamaria Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

RG Kar Case: Akhtar Ali Surrenders in Court

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former Deputy Superintendent of RG Kar Hospital, Akhtar Ali, surrendered before a city court on Tuesday after the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) failed to trace him at his residence a day earlier. Speaking briefly to the media after the court proceedings, Akhtar claimed innocence, stating that he had committed a mistake “unintentionally” and denied any deliberate wrongdoing.

The CBI informed the court that Akhtar Ali had violated earlier court directions by failing to appear despite summons. Seeking judicial custody, the agency's counsel argued that non-compliance with court orders warranted strict action. The CBI also opposed his bail plea, citing the seriousness of the corruption allegations linked to the RG Kar case. During the hearing, counsel for co-accused Sandip Ghosh, senior advocate Sanjay Dasgupta, contended that Akhtar Ali was not the sole accused in the case and had been associated with RG Kar Hospital even before 2021. He argued that while Akhtar later projected himself as a whistleblower, the CBI initially named both individuals as accused. Dasgupta requested the court to examine the charge sheet to verify the sequence of events. Akhtar Ali's counsel sought relief on medical grounds, submitting medical documents in support of his absence during previous hearings. However, the judge observed discrepancies across the medical reports and questioned the timeline of hospital admission and discharge.

Name Change
I, Rajesh Kr Yadav (Old Name) As Per DI No Wb0119990453711. Son Of Lakshmi Ray, Residing At 115, Duttabad Road, Bidhanagar (M), North 24 Parganas, Kolkata-700064, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rajesh Ray (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 02/02/2026. Rajesh Kr Yadav And Rajesh Ray Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Saheli Khatun (old name) S/D/O- Abul Hosen Molla, resident of Vill- Hosenpur Po- Nurpur, Ps-Minakhan Dist- North 24 Parganas, pin -743456, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saheli Kanun Mumun (new name), as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/02/2026. Saheli Kanun Mumun (new name) and Saheli Khatun (old name) both are same and one identical person.

WEST BENGAL AFFIDAVIT
In the Court of Ld. 01st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore

KAHKASHA KHATOON ALIAS KIRAN, daughter of Late Dina Nath Prasad (Father), Prem Lata Devi (Mother), aged about 35 years, residing at KHN-2, G.P. Pathpara, P.O. Shyamnagar, P.S. Badesubepur, Dist. (N) 24 Pgs-743127, WB. and presently residing at 198, A.J.C. Bose Road, P.O. Circus Avenue, P.S. Beniapur, Kolkata-700017, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare as follows:
1. That I am Citizen of India by Birth.
2. My date of birth is 06/11/1988.
3. That my Aadhaar Card No. 2467 6378 3752, Voter Card No. XQA 2689347.
4. That the preaching of Islam has impressed me and I have decided to embrace Islam religion.

That from the very beginning of my childhood I was fascinated with ISLAM religion and its ideal and institution as such I desire to adopt ISLAM Religion after giving up my religion of birth. That henceforth I have adopted ISLAM religion in the year of 2012 after reciting / pronouncing the "KALMA E SHAHADAH" (ASH-HADU AL-LAAH ILAAHA ILA-LAAHU WA-ASH-HADU ANNA MUHAMMADAN "AB-DUHU WA RASOOLUHU", after well knowing its meaning also, i.e. I bear witness that there is none worthy of worship except Allah, and I bear witness that Muhammad (P.B.U.H) is the servant and the Messenger. That my family members or any of my relatives shall have no rights to raise any claim or objection in connection with the said embracing of ISLAM religion.

That I have renounced Hindu religion of Hinduism, have embraced Islam, and gave up my old name and have taken up the new Muslim name of KAHKASHA KHATOON. That KAHKASHA KHATOON & KIRAN, daughter of Late Dina Nath Prasad, both are identically refers to me as the only one and same person and not two different persons. That KAHKASHA KHATOON and KIRAN both are my names.

That I have attained the age of majority as per Laws I have freedom to take my own decision, practice, and follow any religion of my choice.

Indian Coast Guard Assam Rifles Joint Bike Rally



MI News Service, Kolkata: 1. In the run-up to the 50th Raising Day of the Indian Coast Guard, a joint bike rally titled “Samudra se Parvat Tak” was flagged off on 27 January 2026 from Haldia, West Bengal, symbolising the seamless connect between India's maritime frontiers and its mountainous borders. 2. The rally commenced with 10 motorcycles and 20 riders of the Indian Coast Guard, undertaking an ambitious outreach journey aimed at fostering national integration, spreading awareness about the roles of the Armed Forces, and engaging with youth and local communities across the eastern and north-eastern regions of the country. 3. After flag-off, the rally halted at Murshidabad, and on 29 January, the riders interacted with students of a Government School at Malda, inspiring young minds and spreading awareness about discipline, service, and national pride. The rally proceeded to the Siliguri, from where it was seen off by the Indian Army on 30 January, marking strong inter-service camaraderie. 4. On 31 January, the rally was seen off at Bongaigaon by Shri Ranjeet Kumar Dass, Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development, followed by meaningful interaction with local residents at a tea garden en route. The riders crossed the iconic Coronation Bridge, further symbolising the journey from the plains to the hills. 5. The rally was flagged in at Shillong by the Director General, Assam Rifles, where 10 riders from Assam Rifles joined the expedition, transforming it into a full-fledged

Study explains significance of sleep, intricacy of brain

Los Angeles : A team of Arts and sciences scholars developed a theory that could explain both the significance of sleep and the intricacy of the brain.

According to a new study published in Nature Neuroscience, they tracked the brain activity of sleeping rats to show that the brain has to reset its operating system regularly.

Sleep is a basic requirement, much like food and drink. "You'll die without it," warned Keith Hengen, an assistant professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis.

But what does sleep accomplish? For years, academics could only state that sleep reduces tiredness, which is hardly a satisfactory explanation for a core human need.

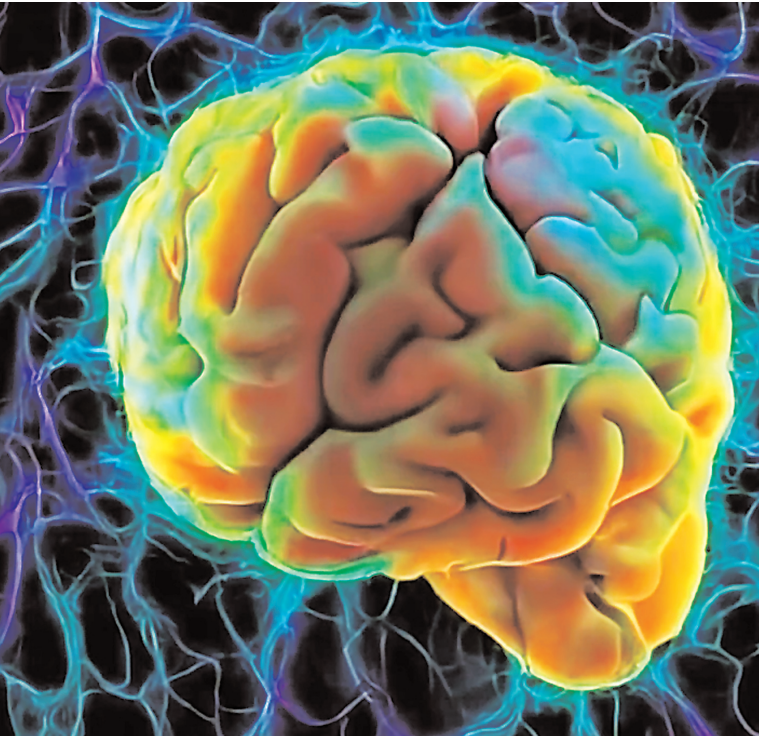
"The brain is like a biological computer," Hengen said. "Memory and experience during waking change the code bit by bit, slowly pulling the larger system away from an ideal state. The central purpose of sleep is to restore an optimal computational state."

Co-authors of the paper include Ralf Wessel, a professor of physics; Yifan Xu, a graduate student in biology studying neuroscience; and Aidan Schneider, a graduate student in the Computational & Systems Biology program, all in Arts & Sciences.

Wessel said physicists have been thinking about criticality for more than 30 years, but they never dreamed the work would have implications for sleep. In the world of physics, criticality describes a complex system that exists at the tipping point between order and chaos. "At one extreme, everything is completely regular. At the other extreme, everything is random," Wessel said.

Criticality maximizes the encoding and processing of information, making it an attractive candidate for a general principle of neurobiology. In a 2019 study, Hengen and Wessel established that the brain actively works to maintain criticality.

In the new paper, the team pro-



vides the first direct evidence that sleep restores the computational power of the brain. It's a radical departure from the long-held assumption that sleep must somehow replenish mysterious and unknown chemicals depleted during waking hours.

After their 2019 paper, Hengen and Wessel theorized that learning, thinking and being awake must push the brain away from criticality and that sleep is perfectly positioned to reset the system. "We realized this would be a really cool and intuitive explanation for the core purpose of sleep," Hengen said. "Sleep is a systems-level solution to a systems-level problem."

Brain cascades

To test their theory on the role of criticality in sleep, the researchers tracked the spiking of many neurons in the brains of young rats as they went about their normal sleeping and wak-

ing routines.

"You can follow these little cascades of activity through the neural network," Hengen said. These cascades, also called neural avalanches, reflect how information flows through the brain, he said.

"At criticality, avalanches of all sizes and durations can occur. Away from criticality, the system becomes biased toward only small avalanches or only large avalanches. This is analogous to writing a book and only being able to use short or long words."

As predicted, avalanches of all sizes occurred in the rats that had just woken up from restorative sleep. Across the course of waking, the cascades started to shift toward smaller and smaller sizes.

The researchers found they could predict when rats were about to go to

sleep or wake up by tracking the distribution of avalanches. When cascade sizes were reduced to a certain point, sleep wasn't far away.

"The results suggest that every waking moment pushes relevant brain circuits away from criticality, and sleep helps the brain reset," Hengen said.

When physicists first developed the concept of criticality in the late 1980s, they were looking at piles of sand on a checkerboard-like grid, a scenario seemingly far removed from brains. But those sand piles provided an important insight, Wessel said.

If thousands of grains are dropped on the grid following simple rules, the piles quickly reach a critical state where interesting things start happening.

Avalanches both large and small can start without warning, and piles in one square start spilling into the others. "The whole system organizes itself into something extremely complex," he said. The neural avalanches taking place in the brain are much like the avalanches of sand on a grid, Wessel said. In each case, the cascades are the hallmark of a system that has reached its most complex state.

According to Hengen, every neuron is like an individual grain of sand following very basic rules. Neurons are essentially on/off switches that decide whether or not to fire based on straightforward inputs.

If billions of neurons can reach criticality -- the sweet spot between too much order and too much chaos -- they can work together to form something complex and wondrous.

"Criticality maximizes a bunch of features that sound very desirable for a brain," Hengen said.

The new study was a multidisciplinary effort. Hengen, Xu and Schneider designed the experiments and provided the data, while Wessel joined the team to implement the mathematical equations necessary to understand sleep in the framework of criticality.

Blood transfusion requirements are decreased with iron infusion prior to bowel surgery

Researchers from UCL conducted a meta-analysis of five randomised controlled trials in this study



CALIFORNIA : According to an analysis undertaken by experts from UCL and the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital, a change in clinical practice would have clear benefits for patients undergoing major bowel surgery.

The study, published in The British Journal of Surgery, shows that administering iron intravenously before colorectal surgery improves patient outcomes by 33 per cent, lowering the need for blood transfusions. Anaemia is a common issue in individuals undergoing colon surgery due to gastrointestinal bleeding and blood loss during the procedure. Anaemia is also linked to fatigue and illness following surgery, as well as a longer recovery and other consequences.

Blood transfusion is utilised when blood levels are low, but there is worry that colorectal cancer patients who have had a blood transfusion may have a higher likelihood of problems and cancer recurrence. Anaemia is frequently treated with iron, with a full course of medication administered intravenously in 15-30 minutes. To yet, intravenous iron infusion has been utilised rarely, with the question of whether treating patients before major surgery will lessen the need for blood transfusions remaining unanswered. Researchers from UCL conducted a meta-analysis of five randomised controlled trials in this study, concentrating on a subset of patients from those trials who had undergone colon surgery. The analysis showed that patients who had received iron infusion were 33 per cent less likely to require a blood transfusion during or after surgery. Patients were divided into two groups in these trials: a control group and a group that got iron intravenously prior to surgery. Professor Toby Richards, senior author of the study from UCL Division of Surgery & Interventional Sciences, said, "This is the first time that clinical trials have shown a patient benefit from treatment with an iron infusion before surgery, which has the potential to treat anaemia and reduce the need for blood transfusion. Previous studies had not shown this benefit for all patients undergoing surgery in the NHS, but this analysis identifies a subset of patients undergoing bowel surgery who will see a benefit." Professor Neil Smart, colorectal surgeon from the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital and co-lead of the study, said, "With over 20,000 major colorectal cancer resections per year in the UK, the findings of this study have the potential to improve outcomes for the second most common cause of cancer mortality. In the past, surgeons were uncertain whether the benefits of iron infusion could be realised in the short time frames of cancer care and consequently the uptake of this treatment was limited. Our findings show that improved outcomes can be achieved if iron infusion is given in the period between cancer diagnosis and surgery." As well as reducing the risk for patients, fewer blood transfusions would be good news at a time when there are blood supply shortages in the UK. Sue Pavord, Vice President of the British Society for Haematology, said, "The recent shortage of blood supply in the UK means it is more important than ever to focus on ways to avoid blood transfusions and their associated risks."

Study finds Y-chromosome impact genetic basis of digestive problems

CALIFORNIA : The entire sequencing of the human Y chromosome is a huge milestone in human genetics, opening up new paths for research into digestive ailments.

This milestone, combined with advances in third-generation sequencing technologies, is poised to transform our understanding of the genetic basis of digestive problems and pave the way for more personalised and successful treatment regimens.

Because of its complicated repeating pattern, the Y chromosome, the smallest of the human chromosomes, has long been shrouded in mystery.

Recent advances in sequencing technologies, on the other hand, have enabled researchers to uncover the precise features of this genetic area, revealing insight into its involvement in sex determination and its potential impact on many disorders, particularly those affecting the digestive system. The study was published in eGastroenterology.

Completing the Y chromosome sequence provides a comprehensive reference for identifying genetic variations that may contribute to digestive diseases.

This information is crucial for understanding the "missing heritability" prob-

lem, where the proportion of disease risk attributable to known genetic factors falls short of what is expected based on heritability estimates.

With their ability to generate long, continuous DNA reads, third-generation sequencing technologies play a pivotal role in deciphering the complex genomic landscapes of digestive diseases.

These technologies enable the detection of structural variations, such as copy number variations and inversions, which were previously inaccessible using older sequencing methods. These structural variations may play a significant role in disease susceptibility and progression.

The combined power of complete Y chromosome sequencing and third-generation sequencing technologies holds immense promise for advancing digestive disease research. By identifying novel genetic variants and elucidating their functional roles, researchers can better understand the mechanisms underlying digestive disorders and develop more targeted and effective therapies. In addition to unraveling the genetic basis of digestive diseases, completing the Y chromosome sequence also opens up new opportunities for investigating sex-specific genetic effects.

Anti-rheumatic medicines may be able to prevent thyroid illness

MONTREAL : According to a new observational study, anti-rheumatic medicines used to treat rheumatoid arthritis may help reduce the development of autoimmune thyroid disease.

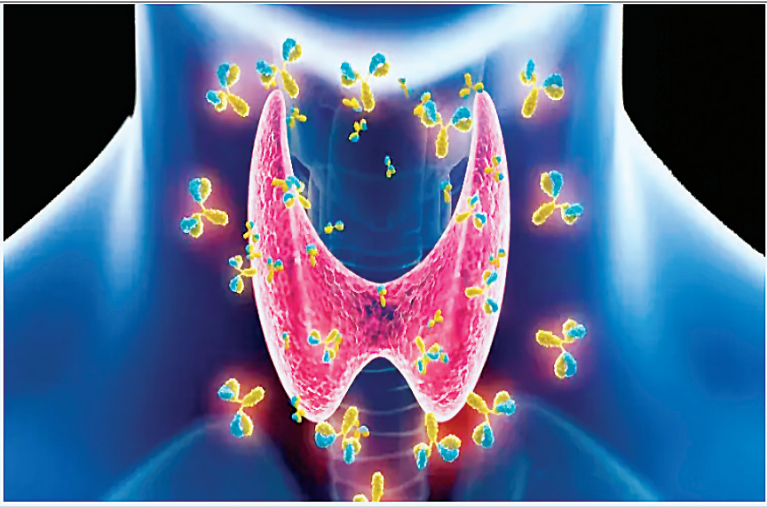
The study was published in the Journal of Internal Medicine.

Patients with rheumatoid arthritis are more likely to develop autoimmune thyroid illnesses such as Hashimoto's disease and Graves' disease. While immunomodulatory medicines that influence the immune system are commonly used to treat RA patients, they are rarely utilised to treat autoimmune thyroid problems. Instead, thyroid hormone is used to compensate for the abnormalities in normal thyroid function that occur with autoimmune thyroid disease. The current study sought to determine whether immunomodulatory medicines that lower inflammation in the joints of RA patients could also lessen the chance of these patients acquiring autoimmune thyroid illness. Previous research in mice suggests that DMARDs, a type of immune-modulatory medicine used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, can lower thyroid gland inflammation. According to the research team, knowledge of whether

this impact also extends to humans is limited.

The researchers analysed data from over 13,000 patients with rheumatoid

ered that the chance of acquiring an autoimmune thyroid illness in RA patients was lower after the disease's commencement than before diagnosis.



arthritis and their treatments between 2006 and 2018, as well as data from over 63,000 people in a matched control group who did not have rheumatoid arthritis. The researchers discov-

Patients with rheumatoid arthritis who were treated with immunomodulatory medications, or 'biological DMARDs,' had the greatest reduction in the incidence of autoimmune thy-

roid illness. The probability of autoimmune thyroid illness in these patients was 46% lower than in the control group without rheumatoid arthritis.

"These results support the hypothesis that certain types of immunomodulatory drugs could have a preventive effect on autoimmune thyroid disease," said Kristin Waldenlind, researcher at the Department of Medicine, Solna, Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Karolinska Institutet, specialist in rheumatology at Karolinska University Hospital and first author of the study. She continues:

He added, "Our results do not prove that it is the treatment with immunomodulatory drugs that led to the reduced risk of autoimmune thyroid disease, but provide support for this hypothesis. The results, if they can be replicated in further studies, open up the possibility of studying more directly in clinical trials whether the immunomodulatory drugs currently used for rheumatoid arthritis could also be used for the early treatment of autoimmune thyroid disease, i.e. for new areas of use of these drugs, known as drug repurposing."

People suffering from work addiction feel ill even when they are working: Study

WASHINGTON : Workaholics' moods are generally worse than those of other people, even while they are engaged in the thing that they are most passionate about; their work. Workaholism is similar to other addictions such as gambling or alcoholism. This is what emerges from a study published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology, conducted by Cristian Balducci, a professor at the Department for Life Quality Studies at the University of Bologna (Rimini Campus), in collaboration with Dr. Luca Menghini from the University of Trento and Prof. Paola Spagnoli from the University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli'.

Professor Balducci explains: "The negative mood observed in workaholics may indicate elevated daily stress levels and that could be the cause of the higher risk for these individuals to develop burnout and cardiovascular problems. Furthermore, considering that workaholics often hold positions of responsibility, their negative mood could readily influence that of colleagues and co-workers. This poses a risk that organizations

should seriously consider, intervening to discourage behaviors that contribute to workaholism."

WORK ADDICTION

Work addiction has been a well-known phenomenon for a long time: people suffering from it tend to work excessively and compulsively. This is a true obsession that negatively affects health, psychological well-being, and relations with family and friends.

Several studies indicate that workaholics commonly experience a sense of unwellness, often accompanied by negative emotions such as hostility, anxiety, and guilt when they are unable to work as extensively as they wish. On the other hand, there are conflicting assumptions about the feelings that emerge in these people while they are at work. Some studies suggest that workaholics experience feelings of well-being and satisfaction during the workday, yet other research indicates that these positive emotions quickly transition to a prevailing dysphoric state characterized by irritation and depression.

WORKAHOLISM AND EMOTIONAL FLATNESS

To shed light on this aspect, scholars involved 139 full-time workers in the study, mostly employed in back-office activi-



ties. A psychological test was first used to assess the participants' level of work dependency. Afterward, the scholars analyzed the mood of the workers and their perception of workload using a technique known as "experience sampling method". This was done using an app installed on the participants'

phones, which allowed them to send short questionnaires, approximately every 90 minutes, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., over the course of three working days (Monday, Wednesday and Friday).

"The collected data show that the most workaholic workers have on average a worse mood than the others", says Prof. Balducci. "So, it does not appear to be true that people who are addicted to work derive more pleasure from their

work activity; quite the opposite, the results seem to confirm that, as in other forms of behavioural and substance addiction, the initial

"This element," suggests Luca Menghini, researcher at the University of Trento and first author of the study, "could stem from the workaholic's inability to moderate work investment, resulting in a significant decrease in disconnection and recovery experiences, and the parallel consolidation of a negative affective tone."

euphoria gives way to a negative emotional state that pervades the person even while at work." The results also demonstrate that, unlike other workers, workaholics, on average, consistently maintain a more negative mood throughout the day, with no significant variations attributed to the passage of time or fluctuations in workload. A

diminished reactivity of mood to external stimuli implies a notable emotional flattening, a well-recognized phenomenon in other types of addictions.

"This element," suggests Luca Menghini, researcher at the University of Trento and first author of the study, "could stem from the workaholic's inability to moderate work investment, resulting in a significant decrease in disconnection and recovery experiences, and the parallel consolidation of a negative affective tone."

WOMEN AND WORKAHOLISM

Another interesting result that emerged from the study is that of gender differences. The relationship between work addiction and bad mood was in fact more pronounced in women than in men, indicating a greater vulnerability of women to workaholism.

Scholars suggest that this phenomenon may depend on an increased role conflict experienced by workaholic women, caught between the internal tendency to over-invest in their work and the external pressures stemming from gender expectations still deeply rooted in our culture.

DANGERS AND COUNTERMEASURES

SURES

These results warn of the dangers of workaholism. Work addiction can lead to significant negative repercussions not only on relationships with family and friends, but also on physical and psychological well-being. The so-called "overwork illnesses" can aggravate to the point of leading to death from overwork - a phenomenon with a not inconsiderable case history today. "Organisations must send clear signals to workers on this issue and avoid encouraging a climate where working outside working hours and at weekends is considered the norm," Prof. Balducci concludes. "On the contrary, it is necessary to foster an environment that discourages excessive and dysfunctional investment in work, promoting disconnection policies, specific training activities and counselling interventions." The study was published on the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology with the title "Uncovering the Main and Interacting Impact of Workaholism on Momentary Hedonic Tone at Work: An Experience Sampling Approach."

Digital awareness campaign held at Sahibganj and Jamalpur station to promote Railone App



MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Malda: Under the guidance of Manish Kumar Gupta, Divisional Railway Manager, Malda Division continues its multifaceted efforts in alignment with the Digital India Mission and the Indian Railways' vision to enhance digital passenger services through wider promotion of the RailOne App.

On Tuesday, under the supervision of Kartik Singh, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Malda, a RailOne App Digital Awareness Campaign was conducted at *Jamalpur and Sahibganj Railway Stations*—through live demonstrations at Jamalpur and an impactful Nukkad Natak performance at Sahibganj.

At Sahibganj Railway Station, students of Sahibganj Eastern Railway High School, along with their teachers, participated enthusiastically in a street play that creatively highlighted the importance of digital adoption. Their performance effectively showcased the user-friendly features of

the RailOne App in a simple, relatable manner.

At Jamalpur Railway Station, staff of the Commercial Department actively engaged with passengers, demonstrating the app's features and encouraging them to embrace digital ticketing and services.

Passengers were sensitised about the convenience and efficiency of using the RailOne App as a one-stop digital platform for multiple railway services.

Key features highlighted during the campaign included:

- Booking of both reserved and unreserved tickets on a single platform
- Live train tracking, PNR status updates, and coach position information
- Digital platform ticket booking facility
- 3% discount on unreserved tickets through digital payments
- 3% bonus on R-Wallet recharge
- Passenger services including Rail Madad, refund requests, and journey feedback

This initiative aims to promote safe, smart and convenient digital practices while encouraging passengers to adopt commuter-friendly digital services offered by Indian Railways.

Malda Division will continue to organise similar awareness programmes at stations, educational institutions, and public locations across the division to strengthen digital literacy and passenger empowerment.

Mechanised cleaning drive across Asansol division

MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Asansol: Asansol Division of Eastern Railway has intensified mechanised cleaning across Asansol, Pandaveswar, Vidyasagar and Raniganj stations to ensure a clean, hygienic and passenger-friendly environment. Modern mechanised equipment is being deployed for systematic cleaning of tracks, platforms and station premises, strengthening sanitation and improving overall passenger convenience.

Passengers are requested to maintain cleanliness in station areas and onboard trains and to refrain from spitting, which creates unhygienic conditions and health risks. As per Railway rules, spitting at stations is a punishable offence, and passengers are advised to strictly follow cleanliness and hygiene norms. Public cooperation and responsible behaviour are essential for maintaining a clean railway environment.

To promote effective waste management, dual-colour Blue and Green dustbins have

been provided at stations. Bio-degradable waste such as food and organic matter should be disposed of in Green dustbins, while plastic and other non-biodegradable waste must be placed in Blue dustbins. Proper use of these dustbins will help maintain cleanliness and support environmental protection.

Passengers are sincerely requested to support these cleanliness efforts by avoiding littering and spitting, using the designated dustbins, and showing respect for the dedicated frontline sanitation staff who work continuously to keep stations and trains clean.

Cleaning staff perform their duties with great sincerity and dedication; however, when areas are littered again, they are required to clean repeatedly, which causes them distress. By adopting clean habits and responsible behaviour, passengers can help maintain the morale of these hardworking staff and contribute to a cleaner, safer and more pleasant railway environment for all.

Factual position about halt in construction at Bamangachhi or Benaras Bridge site



MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Howrah: In reference to few recent news story regarding the alleged halt in construction at the Bamangachhi or Benaras Bridge site, Eastern Railway's Howrah Division wishes to place the factual position on record.

The Benaras Bridge, constructed in 1904, and Chandmari Bridge, constructed in 1933, and both the bridges have significantly surpassed their intended service life and have remained under continuous technical observation due to visible deterioration and weakening of critical structural elements.

The rebuilding of both bridges is being undertaken entirely through Railway funds. The sanctioned cost for the Benaras Bridge project is Rs 70.69 crore and the sanctioned cost for the Chandmari Bridge project is Rs 173.94 crore. The Railway has already completed the full construction of the main bridge portions located within Railway land for both projects.

The remaining works, which involve construction of

the road approaches situated outside Railway boundaries, require formal administrative approval for road traffic regulation from the State authorities. These approvals are still awaited. Railways has formally approached the State administration through written communications issued on 18 April 2025, 25 June 2025, 10 October 2025 and 14 November 2025. Several meetings have also been held with the concerned departments to convey the urgency and public safety significance of completing the approaches at the earliest. The required permissions for undertaking the remaining work have not yet been issued.

Given the age and deteriorated condition of the existing bridges, timely completion is essential to ensure the safety of road users and the safe functioning of rail operations. Any prolonged delay in completing the approaches may, over time, also affect operational flexibility for suburban services and important mail and express trains operating from Howrah station.

Eastern Railway remains fully prepared to complete the balance work immediately upon receipt of the required permissions from the State authorities in the larger interest of public safety and uninterrupted connectivity.

Continuation of special trains

MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Kolkata: With a view to clear the extra rush of passengers, it has been decided to continue the running of Special Trains as per the given schedule:-

Train No. 06081 Thiruvananthapuram North - Sant-ragachi Special Extended Period 27.02.2026 to 06.03.2026.

Train No. 06082 Sant-ragachi - Thiruvananthapuram North Special Extended Period 02.03.2026 to 09.03.2026.

One pair Sealdah - Bangaon - Sealdah local to be short terminated at / short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment

MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Kolkata: In connection with pit repair work at Narkeldanga Carshed in Sealdah Division for 02 days (from 22:00 hrs of 11.02.2026 to 22:00 hrs of 13.02.2026), 33858 Bangaon - Sealdah local will be short terminated at Dum Dum Cantonment on 11.02.2026 & 12.02.2026 and 33815 Sealdah - Bangaon local will be short originated from Dum Dum Cantonment on 12.02.2026 & 13.02.2026.

Cancellation of one pair Madhupur - Giridih - Madhupur passenger

MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Kolkata: In connection with Bridge maintenance work between Jagdishpur & Maheshmunda stations, 53517/53518 Madhupur - Giridih - Madhupur passenger will remain cancelled on 12.02.2026.

Israeli attacks across Gaza kill seven Palestinians

MI News Service, Gaza: Israeli attacks in central Gaza have killed three Palestinians. At least four Palestinians were earlier killed in an Israeli air attack on a residential building in western Gaza City.

Raids, arrests and attacks by Israeli forces and settlers continue across the occupied West Bank.

United States President Donald Trump opposes Israel's annexation of the West Bank as global criticism of the move grows.

The sixth batch of returnees, comprising 40 people, arrived in the Gaza Strip via Rafah crossing.

Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has killed at least 72,037 people and wounded 171,666 since October 2023. An estimated 1,139 people were killed in Israel during the October 7, 2023 attacks, and about 250 were taken captive.

Eight Muslim countries slam Israel's 'illegal' West Bank annexation push

MI News Service, Gaza: Eight Muslim-majority countries have denounced Israel for trying to impose "unlawful Israeli sovereignty" in the occupied West Bank, after it approved controversial new measures expanding its control and making it easier for Israeli settlers to buy land.

Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye and the United Arab Emirates condemned Israel's move "in the strongest terms" on Monday, according to a Saudi Foreign Ministry statement.

Israel's new measures, greenlighted Sunday by its security cabinet, have major implications on property rights and Israeli security procedures in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The Times of Israel, citing a joint statement by Israel's far-right Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and Defence Minister Israel Katz, said the new rules would allow Jewish Israelis to buy private real estate in the territory and open up previously confidential land registries to the public.

The measures will also allow Israeli authorities to take charge of managing some religious sites and increase Israeli supervision and enforcement in areas run by the Palestinian Authority (PA), according to Israeli media reports.

Smotrich said the move was aimed at "deepening our roots in all regions of the Land of Israel and burying the idea of a Palestinian state".

Allahabad High Court grants relief to Sambhal police officers in Muslim man firing case

MI News Service, Allahabad: The Allahabad High Court has provided interim relief to former Sambhal Circle Officer Anuj Kumar Chaudhary (now ASP in Firozabad) and several other police personnel by staying the registration of an FIR against them.

Justice Samit Gopal passed the order on February 10, 2026, while hearing Chaudhary's petition challenging a January 9 directive from Sambhal Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) Vibhanshu Sudheer.

The CJM had ordered the FIR under Section 173(4) of BNSS (equivalent to old CrPC provisions) based on a complaint by Muhammad Yameen. Yameen alleged that on November 24, 2024, his 24-year-old son Mohammad Alam was seriously injured in police firing near Jama Masjid in Mohalla Kot, Sambhal.

Alam, who was selling rusks and biscuits from a cart, was re-



Anuj Kumar Chaudhary

portedly hit by multiple bullets (two in the back and one in the hand), requiring multiple surgeries.

The complaint named then-Kotwali in-charge Anuj Kumar Tomar, Chaudhary, and 10-22 unidentified policemen, claiming deliberate firing with intent to kill during the violence sparked by a mosque survey.

In his 11-page order, CJM Sudheer held that police could not claim protection for "official duties" in cases of criminal acts like firing on civilians, citing Supreme Court precedents. He found a prima facie cognizable

offence and stressed the need for investigation to uncover the truth.

The high court stayed the CJM's order after detailed arguments from Chaudhary's lawyers, posting the matter for further hearing on February 24, 2026.

Notably, CJM Sudheer was transferred to Sultanpur as Civil Judge (Senior Division) on January 21, shortly after his order. This move drew sharp criticism from opposition parties as an attack on judicial independence.

Initial replacement Aditya Singh was reverted within 48 hours amid outcry, and Deepak Kumar Jaiswal (former CJM Kaushambi) eventually took charge.

Police have separately charged Alam with involvement in the November 2024 riots, a claim his father contests and seeks time to respond to in court.

Iran shuts down private businesses after protests

MI News Service, Tehran: Iranian authorities have shut down a number of privately owned businesses in the wake of deadly nationwide protests last month, even as the country's cratering economy is hitting people and businesses hard and its government pursues a fraught diplomatic path with the United States.

Neither police nor judicial authorities have elaborated on why the businesses, most of them popular gathering spots in central and northern Tehran for young Iranians, have been shut down. But many of the businesses had either observed strikes or expressed support online in the form of Instagram sto-

ries for the nationwide protests that started at the end of December. Dozens of small and medium-sized businesses - including restaurants, cafes and roasteries, art galleries and ice cream shops - have been closed over recent days by a police authority tasked with overseeing public spaces. Notices posted on the social media pages of the closed businesses said their content was found to be in "violation of the country's rules and not adhering to police regulations". On Monday, the Fars news agency, which is affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, released an image of a confession letter allegedly signed by private businessman Mohammad Ali Saedinia.

First Trial of Stainless Steel Containers for Salt Loading in Bhimasar-Gandhidham Section



Salt Loading in Bhimasar-Gandhidham Section

MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, New Delhi: Indian Railways has taken a new step towards improving freight transportation. Under the Ahmedabad Division, for the first time, a successful trial was conducted using stainless steel containers for the transportation of salt in the Bhimasar-Gandhidham section. This initiative reflects Indian Railways' continuous adoption of new technology to make freight movement safer, faster, and more efficient.

Container Design and Features

These containers have been specially designed for the transportation of salt and other corrosive bulk materials. As they are made of stainless steel, the problem of corrosion is significantly reduced. This enhances the durability of the containers and ensures the safety of the cargo inside. In addition, cleaning and maintenance of these containers require less effort and lower expenditure.

To enable faster loading, the containers are provided with two large openings of size 7 x 4 feet on the top. Through these openings, salt can be directly loaded using a silo system or poured from the top with the help of a Po-claim machine. This makes the loading process quicker and more convenient. **Loading and Unloading Experience**

During the trial, it was observed that salt could be loaded into one container in less than 15 minutes. This method proved to be significantly faster compared to conventional practices. Unloading was found to be equally efficient. Using a hydraulic tipper truck, the container was tilted, and the entire salt was discharged in less than 5 minutes. The side doors provided in the container allow the salt to flow out automatically, leaving no residue behind and eliminating the need for cleaning.

Weight, Wagon and Rake Capacity

The tare weight of one stainless steel container is approximately 3 tonnes. Two containers can be placed on one wagon, enabling the transportation of up to 68.4 tonnes of salt per wagon. This capacity is comparable to conventional wagons. A full rake of 48 wagons can carry approximately 3,300 tonnes of salt. This enables large-scale transportation of salt in a timely and efficient manner.

Advantages Over Conventional Method

The use of these containers eliminates the requirement of manual wagon cleaning. There is also no need for tarpaulin covering or any coating. Faster loading and unloading reduce wagon turnaround time, enabling quicker operations and improved efficiency.

Moreover, since the containers are enclosed, the possibility of moisture ingress, contamination, or adulteration in salt is significantly reduced. This ensures better cargo quality for customers and further strengthens the reliability of Indian Railways. This initiative opens new opportunities for the future transportation of other corrosive and bulk commodities.

Overall, this trial marks a major achievement for Indian Railways. It will also strengthen Indian Railways' progress towards a modern, safe, and reliable logistics system.

CRS Inspects Newly Laid Second Line Between Manabar-Jarati Stations



MI News Service, 10 Feb, 2026, Bhubaneswar: Brijesh Kumar Mishra, Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS), South Eastern Circle, conducted a detailed statutory inspection of the newly constructed second railway line between Manabar and Jarati stations on 09 February 2026. The inspected section, spanning about 10 km, forms part of the Kottavalasa-Kirandul Doubling Project under Waltair Division of East Coast Railway.

The newly laid second line is equipped with 60 kg rails and includes two major bridges all constructed

in conformity with 25 tonne axle load standards. The infrastructure has been designed to support higher speeds, heavier axle loads, and improved safety standards in line with Indian Railways' modernisation goals. Comprehensive statutory inspection, including detailed examination of track, bridges, signalling arrangements and other safety parameters, was carried out. Speed trials were conducted successfully without any adverse observations, following which the section has been authorized for full fledged commissioning.

The successful completion and clearance of this section stand as a testimony to the coordinated efforts of the Civil Engineering, Construction, Signal & Telecom, and Electrical departments, working in close collaboration with the Operations and Traffic Planning teams of Waltair Division.

Commissioning of this second line will significantly enhance sectional capacity, facilitate smoother and faster movement of passenger and freight trains, reduce detention and congestion, and improve overall operational flexibility. The doubling will also play a vital role in meeting the growing transportation demands of the region, particularly mineral and industrial traffic, while ensuring safer and more reliable train operations on the Kottavalasa-Kirandul section.

During the inspection, the CRS was accompanied by Shri Lalit Bohra, Divisional Railway Manager, along with senior officers from the Construction and Railway departments and Divisional officers.

Bangladesh Announces ₹29 Lakh Ex-Gratia for Dipu Das' Family Two Months After Lynching

MI News Service, Dhaka: The Bangladesh government has announced an ex-gratia compensation equivalent to ₹29 lakh for the family of Dipu Das, nearly two months after he was lynched in a shocking incident that triggered outrage across the country.



Dipu Das

According to official sources, the compensation was approved following sustained public pressure and civil society demands for accountability and justice. The government reiterated its commitment to ensuring support for the victim's family while legal proceedings against the accused continue. Authorities have stated that the case is being monitored closely to ensure a fair and speedy trial.

Dipu Das was allegedly lynched in [location], an incident that sparked widespread condemnation and renewed debates in Bangladesh over mob violence and minority safety. Human rights groups welcomed the compensation but stressed that financial relief cannot substitute justice, urging the government to ensure strict punishment for those responsible.

The announcement has also reignited discussions in India, with activists and opposition voices urging the BJP-led gov-

ernment to learn from Bangladesh's response to mob violence. They pointed out that while Bangladesh has publicly acknowledged state responsibility by compensating the victim's family, many lynching cases in India continue to see delayed justice, inadequate compensation, or official silence.

Critics argue that ex-gratia payments, though not a solution, send an important signal of state accountability and empathy toward victims' families. They have called on Indian authorities to adopt a more proactive and humane approach in cases of mob lynching, irrespective of the victim's identity.

Meanwhile, the family of Dipu Das has said the compensation will help them cope with immediate financial hardships but emphasized that their primary demand remains justice and the punishment of all those involved in the killing.

Somalia, Saudi Arabia sign agreement on military cooperation

MI News Service, Mogadishu: Somalia has signed a "military cooperation" agreement with Saudi Arabia, weeks after inking a similar deal with Qatar, as Mogadishu seeks regional support against Israel's recognition of the breakaway region of Somaliland.

The memorandum of understanding was signed on Monday between Somali Minister of Defence Ahmed Moallim Fiqi and his Saudi counterpart, Prince Khalid bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, in Riyadh.

The agreement "aims to strengthen the frameworks of defense and military cooperation between the two countries, and includes multiple areas of common interest, serving the strategic interests of both parties", Somalia's Ministry of Defence said.

Prince Khalid confirmed the agreement in a post on X.

But neither country provided further details.

Last month, Somalia signed a defence pact with Qatar, aimed at "strengthening military ties and security collaboration", according to the Somali state news agency.

The pact with Qatar "focuses on military training, the exchange of expertise, the development of defence capabilities, and enhanced security cooperation, in support of efforts to promote regional security and stability", it said.

Doha said the agreement was "aimed at strengthening areas of joint cooperation in a way that serves mutual interests and enhances defense partnerships".

The diplomatic offensive by Somalia comes amid growing tensions in the Horn of Africa region following Israel's world-first recognition of Somaliland in December. Mogadishu has warned that Israel plans to set up a military base in the breakaway region, which could be used to launch attacks on neighbouring countries.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud told Al Jazeera last week that Mogadishu "will never allow" the establishment of an Israeli base in Somaliland and will "confront" any such move.

"We will fight in our capacity. Of course, we will defend ourselves," he said. "And that means that we will confront any Israeli forces coming in, because we are against that and we will never allow that."

A Somaliland official told Israel's Channel 12 in January that an Israeli military base is "on the table", though terms were still being negotiated.

Separately, Somalia also can-

celled all agreements with the United Arab Emirates last month - including port operations, security and defence deals - citing "harmful actions" that undermine its "national unity and political independence".

The move came amid reports that the UAE had facilitated Israel's recognition of Somaliland's independence.

The Gulf state, which normalised ties with Israel in 2020 under the Abraham Accords, has cultivated deep economic and security ties with Somaliland. These include a 30-year concession at the strategic Berbera port held by the UAE company DP World.

The UAE declined to sign a joint Arab-Islamic statement condemning Israel's recognition of Somaliland, but it released a joint statement with the African Union in January pledging "support for Somalia's sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and stability".

Somalia's break with the UAE coincided with a deterioration in Saudi Arabian-Emirati relations.

Tensions erupted in December when Saudi forces bombed what Riyadh described as a UAE weapons shipment to the separatist Southern Transitional Council in Yemen. Saudi Arabia also backed a call by Yemen's internationally recognised government for Emirati forces in the country to withdraw.

The UAE denied the allegations.

Separately, Abu Dhabi has also been accused of supporting the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in Sudan, which has been battling the Sudanese Armed Forces for nearly three years.

Saudi Arabia, an ally of Khartoum, condemned the RSF on Saturday over attacks in Sudan's Kordofan region, which have killed dozens of people, including women and children.

Riyadh also denounced "foreign interference" by unspecified parties in Sudan, saying the "continued influx of illegal weapons, mercenaries and foreign fighters" was prolonging the continuation of the nearly three-year-old war.

It did not name the parties.

Sudan, meanwhile, filed a case against the UAE at the International Court of Justice last year, accusing it of "complicity in genocide" allegedly committed by the RSF against the Masalit community in West Darfur state.

The UAE slammed the move as "nothing more than a cynical publicity stunt" and said it would seek the "immediate dismissal" of the case.

US judge blocks Trump administration's effort to deport Rumeysa Ozturk

MI News Service, Washington: A judge in the United States has blocked the deportation of Rumeysa Ozturk, a Turkish Tufts University student who was arrested last year as part of a crackdown on pro-Palestinian activists, according to her lawyers.

Ozturk's lawyers detailed the decision in a letter filed at the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday.

They said the immigration judge concluded on January 29 that the US Department of Homeland Security had not met its burden of proving she was removable and terminated the proceedings against her.

Ozturk, a PhD student studying children's relationship to social media, was arrested last March while walking down a street as the administration of US President Donald Trump began targeting foreign-born students and activists involved in pro-Palestinian advocacy.

Video showed masked agents handcuffing her and putting her into an unmarked vehicle.

The sole basis authorities provided for revoking her visa was an editorial she co-authored in Tufts' student newspaper a year earlier, criticising her university's response to Israel's genocidal war on Gaza.

T20 WC: 'TO BE HONEST, IT WAS A FAIRLY FLAT WICKET,' SAYS SANTNER AFTER NZ DEMOLISH UAE BY 10-WICKET

CHENNAI : New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner praised the United Arab Emirates' batting effort and highlighted smart execution as the key to his side's 10-wicket victory in their clash in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday.

Tim Seifert and Finn Allen produced a world record opening partnership of 175 runs as New Zealand thrashed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 10 wickets in a Group C match.

The openers from New Zealand took the flimsy bowling of their UAE counterparts apart and won convincingly to make it two out of two at Chennai for New Zealand, while the UAE were left without a win and frustrated.

"Credit to the UAE - they batted pretty well. They adjusted to the conditions quickly and put up a competitive score. To be honest, it was a fairly flat wicket," Santner said after the match.

"Yes, I did mention at the toss



that we might have looked to bat first. Once we understood the conditions, it was clear that the wicket was better than the one we played on the other day. The opposition played some good shots and used the pace well. Once we started bowling a bit fuller and mixing

our pace, things improved. I thought the seamers were outstanding at the death," he said.

Santner also highlighted the strategic use of ground size. He praised the opening partnership for balancing power and rotation.

"With a bigger side of the

ground in play, it felt like the right option at the time. Rachin bowled extremely well as well -- there was a little bit there for him. The plan was to use the bigger boundary smartly, especially since one side was quite short. It was the same idea with the bat -- target the short side when it's on, but also be happy running hard to the longer boundary. That balance was important."

Seifert and Allen batted with an intensity that was impossible to stop right from the beginning. New Zealand sped through the Power-play, scoring 78 runs in six overs, ruthlessly putting the UAE's fast bowlers to the sword. Overs of 20 and 22 runs were soul-destroying and eliminated any chance that the UAE had of getting back into the contest.

Both openers reached their half-centuries in no time at all, and the first 100-run partnership occurred quickly, as the ball continued to sail over the boundary time after time after time. Finn

Allen was the more "subdued" of the two batters as he finished his innings with 84 runs from 50 balls, while Tim Seifert was a bull in a china shop, scoring 89 runs from only 42 balls.

"It's always nice to watch when the top-order bats like that. They struck the ball really well but also chose their options smartly - hitting straight, taking on the short side when available, and rotating strike to the big side. When they get going together, it makes things very comfortable for us." He also mentioned that New Zealand was already preparing for a key match against South Africa in Ahmedabad, where earning points would be essential. "Ahmedabad looks like it'll be a good wicket. We know how strong South Africa are, so it's a massive game for us. Picking up points there would be huge, and we're really looking forward to it."

New Zealand will next face South Africa in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

T20 WC: Glad India-Pakistan game is back on, team trying to stay away from politics, says ten Doeschate

NEW DELHI : India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate welcomed the confirmation that India-Pakistan will face each other in Colombo on Sunday, saying his team was glad the fixture was back on schedule and were trying to stay clear of political discussions around it.

On Monday night, the uncertainty surrounding the India-Pakistan T20 World Cup clash eased after Pakistan confirmed they would play the fixture at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Sunday, ending weeks of speculation over a possible boycott.

The cloud over the marquee clash lingered since Pakistan announced they would not take part in solidarity with Bangladesh, who withdrew from the tournament after pacer Mustafizur Rahman was evicted from IPL 2026 squad of Kolkata Knight Riders by the BCCI. Bangladesh's stance of not traveling to India ultimately led to their forfeiture of a place in the competition. Pakistan had maintained they would continue their protest, but following negotiations involving officials from Sri Lanka, UAE, Bangladesh and the International Cricket Council (ICC), the team agreed to take part in the marquee fixture.

"First of all, it's great that the game is back on. We kind of never changed our preparation. We were under the impression that something would transpire and happen. It's no big change for us - the way we are going about the things.

'Fit & motivated' India eye strong start to FIH Men's Pro League campaign in Rourkela

NEW DELHI : The Indian men's hockey team will open its FIH Men's Pro League 2025-26 campaign at home during the Rourkela leg, scheduled from February 10 to 15 at the Birs

Munda Hockey Stadium, where the hosts will take on Belgium and Argentina in what promises to be a high-intensity start to the season. After finishing eighth in the previous edition, India will aim to begin the new campaign on a strong note and build early winning momentum in front of the home crowd. The squad, featuring a balanced mix of experienced internationals and emerg

ing young talent, will look to capitalise on familiar conditions as they take on two of the world's top-ranked teams. While India are yet to open their campaign, both Argentina and Belgium arrive in Rourkela after a solid start to the season. Argentina currently sit second in the standings with 11 points, having played four matches, in which they recorded three regulation-time wins and one shootout victory. Belgium, meanwhile, are placed third with 10 points, also from four matches, having secured three regulation-time wins and one shootout

defeat. India will begin their campaign against Belgium on February 11, followed by a clash against Argentina on 12th February.

The hosts will once again face Belgium on 14th February before concluding the leg against Argentina on February 15. Historically, Belgium have enjoyed the upper hand in head-to-head encounters against India in recent years. Since 2013, the two sides have met 35 times, with Belgium winning 22 matches, India winning 11, and two matches ending in draws.

MSLTA continues to raise the bar for Indian tennis with hosting of Mumbai Open WTA 125K series

MUMBAI : The Maharashtra State Lawn Tennis Association (MSLTA) once again showcased its world-class management and long-term vision for Indian tennis with the successful hosting of the fifth edition of the L&T Mumbai Open 2026. The WTA 125 tournament, conducted to global standards and played in front of packed stands, underlined MSLTA's sustained commitment to elevating the quality of tennis experience for players and fans in India. The week-long tournament brought together top international athletes and some of India's most promising players, delivering high-quality tennis and a vibrant atmosphere throughout the competition. The strong spectator turnout during the finals reflected the growing popularity of the event, while international players praised the facilities, court conditions, and hospitality provided by MSLTA. Thailand's Mananchaya Sawangkaew emerged as the singles champion, improving on her runner-up finish from the previous edition. Speaking after her title win, Sawangkaew lauded the tournament organisers and the services provided by MSLTA. "The hospitality here has been excellent. MSLTA makes sure everything is taken care of, from practice courts to travel and accommodation. Especially the people here are so nice and welcoming; I am definitely coming here again next year to play the L&T Mumbai Open," she said. The L&T Mumbai Open is a key pillar of MSLTA's broader strategy to provide international exposure to Indian players. Every year, MSLTA takes the lead in hosting international tournaments, including the ATP Challenger and the WTA 125 Challenger (the only one in India) with an outlay of approximately Rs 3.5 crores. These tournaments attract top-ranked international players, offering Indian talent the opportunity to compete at a high level at home and earn valuable ATP and WTA points. In addition to marquee events in Mumbai, MSLTA funds a strong calendar of international tournaments across Maharashtra. The association currently hosts six ITF events for men and women, one ITF Junior J100, and ATF Tour events across multiple districts, with an outlay of Rs 2 crores. This ensures that players from the state can experience world-class competition without leaving their home state, while

also creating valuable professional opportunities for young officials and tournament staff. MSLTA also continues to play a proactive role in supporting Indian players through the strategic allocation of wild cards at international tournaments. By providing Indian players with direct entry into main draws and qualifying events, the association helps them gain crucial ranking points and compete against higher-ranked opponents. At the national level, MSLTA funds a robust domestic circuit by providing financial assistance to district associations and affiliated clubs. Maharashtra remains home to three of India's most prestigious junior national tournaments, hosted annually in Mumbai, Kolhapur, and Chhatrapati Sambhaji Nagar. Through its extensive network of affiliated clubs and gymkhanas, MSLTA conducts AITA-recognised Championship Series, Super Series, National Series, and men's and women's tournaments, ensuring a continuous calendar of competitive opportunities for players across the state. Grassroots development remains central to MSLTA's philosophy. The association conducts more than 20 Maharashtra State Ranking Tournaments exclusively for under-10 players every year across major A, B, and C cities, making it one of the most active state associations in grassroots tennis. A structured Under-10 circuit, supported by regular ranking updates and specialised camps, allows young players to be monitored physically and mentally by experts while being introduced to key aspects such as nutrition, fitness, and mental toughness at an early age. On the occasion, MSLTA President Prashant Sutar said, "The successful hosting of the L&T Mumbai Open once again reflects MSLTA's commitment to building a sustainable and competitive tennis ecosystem. Over the years, we have focused on creating world-class platforms for players at every level, and we will continue to invest in international tournaments and long-term initiatives. With the consistent success of the Mumbai Open, our ambition now is to take the next step and bring a WTA 250 tournament to Mumbai, which would further strengthen our presence on the global tennis calendar and provide greater opportunities for our players at home.



IBA grants full membership to Indian Amateur Boxing Federation



NEW DELHI : The Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) has been granted full membership of the International Boxing Association (IBA).

The landmark decision was taken during the IBA Board Meeting held on February 6, 2026, and was formally communicated through an official letter issued from Lausanne, Switzerland, on February 9.

Congratulating IABF on this achievement, IBA president Umar Kremlev addressed a letter to IABF chief Rakesh Mishra appreciating the federation's commitment to the sport of boxing, its transparent governance, and its adherence to international standards. These factors, he stated, were instrumental in granting IABF full membership.

"It is with great pleasure that I extend my sincere congratulations to Indian Amateur Boxing Federation (IABF) for successfully gaining full membership with the International Boxing Association (IBA) upon the decision taken by the IBA Board of Directors on 6 February 2026. Your commitment to the sport of boxing and the standards upheld by your

Federation have earned you a well-deserved place in the IBA family.

"We are thrilled to have your National Federation on board and look forward to the positive contributions and collaboration that will undoubtedly enrich our shared commitment to the development of boxing worldwide," the letter read.

Welcoming IABF into the global boxing fraternity, Kremlev expressed confidence that the federation's active participation would contribute meaningfully to the growth and development of boxing worldwide. He emphasised that India's inclusion would bring new energy and direction to the global boxing movement.

With full membership status, IABF has now been formally invited to participate in upcoming international tournaments and events organised under the aegis of IBA.

The association expressed hope that the participation of Indian boxers would further strengthen the global boxing community and pave the way for long-term, constructive cooperation between the two organisations.

Reacting to the development, IABF

president Mishra described the recognition as a golden opportunity for Indian boxing. He stated that full IBA membership would provide Indian boxers with enhanced access to international competitions, advanced training methodologies, technical support, and invaluable global exposure.

On this occasion, IABF secretary general Rakesh Thakran expressed gratitude to the IBA Board and member nations and emphasised that the recognition aligns with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to provide Indian athletes with greater opportunities at the Olympic level.

He further stated that IABF would now focus on grassroots talent identification and structured training programs to prepare competitive boxers for upcoming Olympic Games. This membership, he added, also presents an important opportunity to address and improve the challenges Indian boxing has faced in recent years. Congratulating all state-level boxing associations across the country, Thakran emphasised that this success is the result of collective efforts. He called upon all stakeholders—players, coaches, referees, technical officials, and administrators—to actively contribute to this new era of Indian boxing.

He also highlighted the importance of working under the guidance of Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya to ensure holistic development and stronger international representation for Indian boxers, particularly at the Olympic Games.

Netherlands become associate team with most match wins in T20 WC



NEW DELHI : The Netherlands, after beating Namibia in the Group C match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup became the associate team with the most number of wins in the T20 spectacle.

The Netherlands' win/loss ratio of 0.647 is the best among the 15 associate teams to have featured in the tournament till date. Scotland have the second most wins as an associate nation, followed by Namibia (5) and Ireland (3).

An all-round performance by Bas De Leede guided the Netherlands to a seven-wicket win over Namibia on Tuesday. After chipping in with two wickets to restrict Namibia to 156/8, De Leede led the Dutch chase with an unbeaten 72 off 48 balls. It was the first

win for the Netherlands at the T20 World Cup 2026.

It was also Netherlands' biggest win in terms of wickets in the T20 World Cup.

Netherlands captain Scott Edwards won the toss and chose to field against Namibia on Tuesday and made the most of it with a clinical performance with the ball. With Aryan Dutt giving the Netherlands the breakthrough, they kept a check on scoring in powerplay, conceding only 40 runs in the first six overs. A 50-run partnership for the second wicket between Jan Frylinck (30) and Jan Nicol Loftie-Eaton (42) helped Namibia steady the ship.

Despite losing Logan Van beek,

Namibia took the attack to the Dutch bowlers. With Gerhard Erasmus and Loftie-Eaton at the crease, Namibia stepped on the accelerator after the halfway mark, scoring 29 runs in two overs.

Loftie-Eaton impressed with a breezy innings of 42 off 38 balls, while the experienced JJ Smit chipped in with 22. Though they lost quick wickets in the second half, a smattering of big hits kept the Namibian score ticking, and they pushed past 150.

While Dutt provided the breakthrough, Van Beek and Bas De Leede were the most successful bowlers for the Netherlands on Tuesday, claiming two wickets each. In response, the Netherlands made a strong start, scoring 50 in the powerplay, but they lost two big wickets in the first six overs. While Bernard Scholtz dismissed Max O'Dowd, Michael Levitt fell in the final over of the powerplay as he looked to press the advantage. The big-hitting Levitt hit three sixes and a four but miscued a shot off Ruben Trumpelmann to depart for a15-ball 28. Bas De Leede and Colin Ackermann (32) took on the reins and guided their team to relative safety with a 70-run stand.

De Leede, who struck a six to bring up the 100 for the Netherlands in the 13th over, carried the team past the finish line with a superb half-century. He made batting look easy on a tricky pitch, slamming five fours and four sixes as the Netherlands finished at 159/3 in 18 overs.