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Kalyan Banerjee launches sharp attack on FM over Bengal law and order

Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee launched a sharp attack on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday after she raised questions over the law and order situation in West Bengal in Parliament. The senior TMC leader alleged that Sitharaman was “jealous” of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and questioned the Union minister’s political stature and administrative competence. His remarks drew a strong counter-response from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

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Mamata Condemns Purulia Migrant’s Killing in Pune, Calls for Immediate Arrests

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday expressed deep shock and anger over the killing of a migrant worker from Purulia in Maharashtra’s Pune district, describing the incident as a “hate crime” and blaming an atmosphere of xenophobia for such attacks.

The victim, Sukhen Mahato (24), a resident of Bandwan in Purulia district, was working as a migrant labourer in Pune when he was allegedly murdered. Mahato was the sole earning member of his family. The incident has triggered widespread outrage in West Bengal, with political leaders condemning the killing and demanding strict action against those responsible.

In a strongly worded post on X, Banerjee said she was “shaken, enraged and sickened beyond words” by the brutal murder. She alleged that Mahato was targeted because of his language and identity. “This is nothing short of a hate crime. A young man was hunted, tortured and murdered for his language,



West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. File Photo

his identity, his roots,” the Chief Minister wrote. She further claimed that such incidents were the result of a climate where xenophobia is being normalised and used as a political weapon.

Demanding immediate arrests, Banerjee called for exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. She said

no effort would be spared to ensure justice for the victim’s family. “To Sukhen’s family, I say that Bengal stands with you in this hour of unimaginable grief,” she added.

The Chief Minister’s statement comes amid growing concern over the safety of migrant workers from West Bengal in other states. Several political parties and rights groups have raised alarms over alleged targeted attacks on Bengali-speaking migrant labourers in recent months.

According to family members, Mahato had gone to Pune in search of work to support his household. His sudden death has left his family devastated. The West Bengal government is reportedly in touch with Maharashtra authorities to gather details of the case and to ensure legal assistance for the bereaved family.

Meanwhile, police in Pune have launched an investigation into the murder. Officials said efforts are underway to identify and arrest those involved in the crime. The body has been sent for post-mortem examination, and further details are awaited.

The incident has once again sparked a political debate over the safety of migrant workers and allegations of discrimination based on language and identity, with the issue expected to resonate strongly in the ongoing political discourse in West Bengal.

Abhishek Hits Back at FM over GST, Says FM ‘Disconnected from Poor’

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday launched a sharp counterattack on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, accusing her of living in “New India” disconnected from the realities of the poor, after she rejected his Lok Sabha speech on GST as factually incorrect.

A day after Sitharaman alleged that the Trinamool Congress MP had “twisted facts” during the debate, Banerjee took to social media to respond point by point, listing items that attract Goods and Services Tax despite being part of everyday necessities. He thanked the Finance Minister for listening to his speech, but remarked that he wished she would listen just as carefully to the people of Bengal seeking their pending MGNREGA, PMAY, PMGSY and Jal Jeevan Mission dues.

Clarifying his remarks, Banerjee said Sitharaman was technically correct in stating that there is no GST on fresh liquid milk. However, he argued that many poor families cannot afford fresh milk and rely on powdered milk for infants, which attracts 5 per cent GST. “Zero tax on what they can’t buy, 5 per cent tax on what they are forced to buy,” he wrote.



Abhishek Banerjee. File Photo

On education, Banerjee acknowledged that textbooks are GST-free, but pointed out that essential learning materials are taxed. Graph paper used by students, laboratory notebooks for science practicals and crayons for drawing classes all attract 12 per cent GST, he said, questioning how this eases the burden on families. “She’s correct again, textbooks have no GST. But the graph paper a student uses for his/her math assignment? 12% GST. The laboratory notebook for the science practical? 12% GST. The crayons for the drawing class? 12% GST.”

Addressing healthcare, Banerjee noted that while consultations and treat-

ment are exempt from GST, life-saving items are not. Oxygen cylinders used during the COVID-19 pandemic carry 12 per cent GST, insulin injections for diabetic patients are taxed at 5 per cent, and anaesthesia used in surgeries attracts 12 per cent GST.

Banerjee wrote, ‘On healthcare, she’s technically accurate as always; consultation and treatment are GST-free. But the oxygen cylinder that keeps a COVID patient alive? 12% GST. The insulin injection that prevents a diabetic from dying? 5% GST. The anaesthesia for the surgery? 12% GST.’

He also responded to Sitharaman’s assertion that funeral services are GST-free by highlighting that agarbatti used in last rites is taxed at 5 per cent. “Even grief has a price tag in ‘New India’,” he remarked.

Banerjee said this gap between what is written in the GST Act and what appears on a poor family’s grocery bill was precisely the issue he raised in Parliament. Until that difference is understood, he said, policymakers would remain disconnected from ground realities.

Banerjee added, ‘This, Honourable Finance Minister, is EXACTLY the problem I was highlighting. Until you understand the difference between what’s written in the GST Act and what’s written on a poor family’s grocery bill, you’ll keep living in your India while we live in ours. Thank you for proving my point better than I ever could.’

Along with his post, Banerjee shared a GST rate list for easier understanding, citing 5 per cent tax on milk powder and medicines, 18 per cent on baby nappies and broadband services, 12 per cent on pencils, crayons and other educational materials, and 5 per cent on agarbatti. He also flagged taxes of ₹19.9 per litre on petrol and ₹15.8 per litre on diesel.

India clears Rs 3.25 lakh Cr deal to buy 114 RAFALE JETS

MI News Service, New Delhi: India’s Defence Acquisition Council on Thursday cleared an initial proposal to buy 114 Rafale fighter jets from France’s Dassault Aviation for 3.25 trillion rupees (\$280.4 billion), local media reported.

The air force’s fighter squadron strength has shrunk to 29 in recent months, well below the approved number of 42. Its workhorse MiG-21 was retired in September and other early variants of the MiG-29, the Anglo-French Jaguar and the French Mirage 2000, are also set to fly off into the sunset in the coming years.

New Delhi has long relied on importing machinery and weapons for its armed forces, but a recent push by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has helped boost indigenous manufacturing.

For the Indian Air Force, the era of domestic manufacturing began in the 1980s but was fruitless only in the last decade when the Tejas fighter jet was introduced to replace Soviet-era MiG-21s.

Hindustan Aeronautics has nearly 180 of the advanced Mk-1A variants on order domestically, but has yet to begin deliveries due to engine supply chain issues at GE Aerospace.

Heightened tensions with its neighbours have required India’s military to modernise.

The proposal paves the way for commercial and technical details of the deal to be discussed between the two countries, after a visit by French President Emmanuel Macron to India.

ROLLS-ROYCE mulls expansion across India’s air, land & sea domains

MI News Service, London/New Delhi: British defence giant Rolls-Royce on Thursday announced a mega plan to scale-up its business in India across vital sectors of defence and energy, including co-development of a next-generation combat jet engine.

The announcement came a day after the company’s CEO Tufan Erginbilgic met Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Under the ambitious initiative, Rolls Royce is looking at more than doubling the size of its workforce to approximately 10,000 people in India and a 10-fold increase in local supply chain sourcing with a long-term goal to build on its decades-old presence in the country.

“As we grow our participation in programmes across India’s defence, aviation and energy sectors, we will expand our ecosystem in India, as we have done

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Sporadic violence mark BANGLA ELECTION BANGLADESH POLL: close race on between BNP, Jamaat

MI News Service, Dhaka: Election authorities are counting the votes cast in Thursday’s general elections, the first held in Bangladesh since 2024 when the government of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was ousted in a popular uprising.

Voter turnout was recorded at 47.9% across 36,000 polling stations ahead of closing time, said Akhtar Ahmed, senior secretary of the Bangladesh Election Commission.

Final voter turnout figures will come after all election centers submit their papers.

The day of the election was largely peaceful, with reports of one death and two small Molotov cocktail attacks reported in Chaudhagram, eastern Bangladesh and another at a polling station in Gopalganj Sadar.

The death was of a man in Bhairab, Kishoreganj, according to daily Prothom Alo.

A few injuries were also reported.

More than 127.6 million people were eligible to vote in the election as well as a referendum on constitutional reforms.

Amid heavy security with some one million security personnel deployed, voting began at 7.30 am (0130GMT) and closed nine hours later at 4.30 pm (1030GMT).

Long queues of people were seen outside polling stations.

Results are likely to trickle in by late Thursday local time as people elect 300 members of parliament across the nation.

A total of 51 political parties and 2,034 candidates are competing for parliamentary seats, including 275 independent contenders.

In addition to the 300 general seats where candidates are elected directly by the public, parliament includes 50 reserved seats for women, bringing the total size of the house to 350 members.

A Bangladesh Nationalist



BSF personnel stand guard amid high alert following Bangladesh’s 13th Parliamentary elections at Fulbari ICP, Indo-Bangladesh border, in Jalpaiguri on Thursday.

Party-led alliance and a Jamaat-e-Islami-led alliance were the two main contenders after the Awami League party of ousted Prime Minister Hasina was barred from the polls.

Leaders of all the major political parties, including Tarique Rahman of the BNP and Shafiqur

dreams.”

Some 394 international observers and about 197 foreign journalists are covering the election, according to the Bangladesh Election Commission.

While opinion polls suggest Tarique Rahman is a frontrunner for the prime minister, the Jamaat-led alliance, which includes the National Citizen Party (NCP), formed by student leaders behind the 2024 uprising, could spring a surprise.

Parliament comprises 350 lawmakers, 300 of whom are elected directly from single-member constituencies, while an additional 50 seats are reserved for women. Elections were held for 299 seats due to the death of a candidate.

A referendum on political reforms, including prime ministerial term limits, stronger checks on executive power and other safeguards preventing parliamentary power consolidation, was also held.

Govt tightens rules on AI-generated, deep fake content

MI News Service, New Delhi: The government brought in stricter obligations for online platforms on handling AI-generated and synthetic content, including deepfakes, saying platforms such as X and Instagram must take down within three hours any such content flagged by a competent authority or courts.

The government notified amendments to the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, that formally define AI-generated and synthetic content. The new rules will come into force from February 20, 2026.

The amendments define “audio, visual or audio-visual information” and “synthetically-generated information”, covering AI-created or altered content that appears real or authentic. Routine editing, accessibility improvements, and good-faith educational or design work are excluded from this definition.

Key changes include treating synthetic content as ‘information’. AI-generated content will be treated on par with other information for determining unlawful acts under IT rules. Platforms must act on government or court orders within three hours, reduced from 36 hours, according to a gazette notification issued by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). User grievance redressal timelines have also been shortened.

The rules require mandatory labelling of AI content. Platforms enabling creation or sharing of synthetic content must ensure such content is clearly and prominently labelled and embedded with permanent metadata or identifiers, where technically feasible, it said. Calling for ban on illegal AI content, it said platforms must deploy automated tools to prevent AI content that is illegal, deceptive, sexually exploitative, non-consensual, or related to false documents, child abuse material, explosives, or impersonation. Intermediaries cannot allow removal or suppression of AI labels or metadata once applied, it said.

India to get same terms as Bangladesh on textiles: PIYUSH GOYAL



Piyush Goyal. File Photo

MI News Service, New Delhi: India will receive concessional duty access for garments made using American yarn and cotton under its trade agreement with the United States, similar to benefits currently available to Bangladesh, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday.

Under existing arrangements, the US has reduced reciprocal tariffs on Bangladeshi goods to 19 per cent, with garments attracting zero duty only if produced using US cotton and man-made fibres. Otherwise, Bangladeshi garments face a combined levy of 31 per cent. Goyal said India will receive comparable treatment in the final agreement.

“Bangladesh ko jo mila hai, wo Bharat ko bhi milne wala hai final agreement me (Whatever Bangladesh has got, India will also get the same in the final agreement,” he told reporters.

Explaining the mechanism, Goyal said Indian companies that procure yarn and cotton from the US, manufacture garments, and re-export them to the American market will be eligible for duty-free access, as is the case for Bangladeshi exporters. He added that such provisions already exist in the US-Bangladesh

agreement and “it will be in our agreement also”.

The minister stressed that the arrangement would not harm Indian cotton farmers, noting that US cotton exports are limited to about USD 5 million, while India’s target is USD 50 billion.

Goyal also said that farmer interests have been safeguarded in the broader trade negotiations, with around 90–95 per cent of Indian agricultural products excluded from the deal. He added that Indian textile and apparel exporters are expected to benefit from zero-tariff access when using US cotton once the agreement is signed.

India and the US have finalised the framework for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement, which is likely to be implemented in March.

The comments come amid political criticism, with Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi alleging that the interim deal amounted to a “wholesale surrender” that compromised India’s energy security and farmers’ interests.

Separately, addressing a MedTech, innovation and startup event, Goyal said India’s free trade agreements would provide significant market access at concessional duties for the domestic medical devices industry. He noted that some Indian medical devices would receive duty concessions under certain FTAs.

“We are opening developed markets through the nine FTAs, which cover 38 countries with rich people and high per capita incomes,” he said.

Goyal suggested exploring locations in states such as Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh to develop a medtech zone similar to the Andhra Pradesh MedTech Zone, adding that the National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation could consider reserving 50–100 acres for medical device units.

COUNTERING CHINA: USA mulls defence push in BANGLADESH

MI News Service, Washington/Dhaka: The United States is concerned about China’s expanding presence in South Asia and is planning to offer Bangladesh’s next government US and allied defence systems as alternatives to Chinese hardware, Washington’s ambassador to Dhaka told.

Bangladesh votes in a general election on Thursday after a Gen Z-led uprising toppled India-allied premier Sheikh Hasina in August 2024. She has since taken refuge in New Delhi, allowing China to deepen its influence in Bangladesh as India’s presence wanes.

China recently signed a defence agreement with Bangladesh to build a drone factory near the India border, worrying foreign diplomats.

Bangladesh is also in talks with Pakistan to buy JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, a multi-role combat aircraft jointly developed with China.

“The United States is concerned about growing Chinese influence in South Asia and is committed to working closely with the Bangladeshi government to clearly communicate the risks of certain types of engagement with China,” US Ambassador Brent T. Christensen said in an interview on Tuesday.

“The US offers a range of options to help Bangladesh meet its military capability needs, including US systems and those from allied partners, to provide alternatives to Chinese systems,” he said without offering further details.

The Chinese foreign ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Christensen also said that President Donald Trump’s administration would “like to see a good relationship between Bangladesh and India to support stability in the region”.

New Delhi-Dhaka relations have nosedived since Hasina fled, badly affecting visa services and cricket ties between the two neighbours.

Christensen said many US businesses were looking at potentially investing in Bangladesh but would want

the next government to show early and clear signs that it is “open for business”.

“Commercial diplomacy is one of our top priorities, and we look forward to working with the new government to build on progress made with the interim government, particularly in strengthening commercial, economic, and security ties,” he said.

Energy producer Chevron has been in Bangladesh for decades but not many other US companies are visible in the densely populated country of 175 million people, as high taxes and difficulties repatriating profits have created some hurdles.

There are no Starbucks or McDonald’s outlets in Bangladesh.

The envoy said Washington would work with “whichever government is elected by the Bangladeshi people”. The race is between two coalitions led by former allies, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Islamist Jamaat-e-Islami, with opinion polls suggesting the BNP holds an advantage.

Regarding the 1.2 million Rohingya refugees sheltered in Bangladesh, the ambassador said the United States remained the largest contributor to humanitarian operations.

“The US remains the largest contributor to the Rohingya refugee response and continues robust health programming in Bangladesh,” he said, noting a recent \$2 billion worldwide funding framework signed with the United Nations to improve the effectiveness of such assistance, including in Bangladesh.

He urged other international donors to take on a greater share of the burden.

“The US cannot sustain the bulk of the effort alone. International partners need to increase their support for the Rohingya response,” he said.

In recent years, the UN refugee agency has been struggling to raise sufficient funds to support the Rohingya community, leading to cuts in their rations and the closure of some schools for them.

The Gut is Not a Trend It is the Truth



Priyanka Shah
Clinical Nutritionist

Every few months, a new detox trend steals the spotlight—green juices, miracle powders, extreme fasts. Yet in clinics, the concerns remain unchanged: bloating, fatigue, weight gain, hormonal imbalance and low immunity. The common denominator is not lack of discipline. It is a neglected gut.

The gut is far more than a digestive organ. It is the control centre for immunity, hormones, metabolism and energy. When digestion is compromised, no diet works fully. When the gut is supported, even simple food becomes therapeutic.

A true gut reset is not about starving or restriction. It is about restoring digestive strength. An optimal gut digests efficiently, stays calm after meals, supports steady energy and reduces cravings naturally.

Modern lifestyles—irregular eating, processed foods, stress and poor sleep—disrupt this balance. Symptoms are treated individually, while digestion is ignored.

After 18 years of practice, one truth stands firm: when digestion heals, the body cooperates.

This is not a trend. It is biology.



Posta Market remains closed as part of a nationwide general strike and an industrial strike in West Bengal called by central trade unions on Thursday.

Humanitarian Initiative by Medinipur Traffic Police: Four Candidates Allowed to Appear for Examination After Forgetting Admit Cards

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : The humanitarian approach of the traffic police of West Medinipur district secured the future of four higher secondary candidates and brought them to the examination center on time. Let it be known that the higher secondary examinations in the state have started from Thursday, February 12. On the very first day of the examination, a unique example of humanity was seen in Medinipur city, where with the help of the traffic police, those candidates who forgot their admit card got the opportunity to take the examination. It was told that the four candidates of Bhadutala Vivekananda High School had reached their scheduled examination centre, Kuikota. Shankari Vidyani Ketan of Medinipur city, on time. But while entering the examination center he realized that he had forgotten to bring his admit card. It was impossible to get admission without the admit card, due to which the candidates, seeing their future in darkness, started crying



bitterly outside the examination centre. As soon as this matter came to the notice of Traffic OC Pradeep Mandal posted on duty there, he immediately took command. Without wasting any time, four bikes were arranged and under his guidance the four candidates were taken to their home in Kardana village of Bhadutala. From there, after taking the admit card, he was taken back to the examination center safely and as soon as possible. During this, ward number two councilor Mithali Banerjee was also present on the spot. They consoled the candidates,

provided mental support and handled the situation by talking to the parents. Thanks to this humanitarian initiative of the police, the candidates were able to wipe their tears and enter the examination hall on time. The examinees said that they will never forget this kind behavior of the police. Local residents also believe that if the police had not shown such promptness, then one year of these children would have been wasted. This commendable work of the traffic police has further strengthened public confidence in the police in the society.

Kerala Tourism launches 'Travel Now, Post Later' campaign



MI News Service, Kolkata : Kerala Tourism has launched a nationwide campaign titled "Travel Now, Post Later", promoting mindful travel and encouraging travellers to experience destinations fully before sharing moments online. The initiative, positioned as a global movement, highlights presence-led travel experi-

ences and is being promoted across official digital platforms along with a dedicated microsite. Tourism Minister P. A. Mohamed Riyas said Kerala has witnessed a strong post-pandemic surge in tourist arrivals. He expressed confidence that the upcoming inbound season would sustain the growth momentum.

Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha celebrated Neelkanth Divas at Ananda Nagar

MI News Service, Kolkata: When temptations of wealth and power failed, and even after attempts such as propaganda and slander, intimidation, organized attacks and killings of mission workers, and imprisonment through false cases could not stop the progress of Ananda Marga, it was decided that only by removing the founder of Ananda Marga from the world could the movement be destroyed. With this intention, on February 12, 1973, the imprisoned Anandamurti Ji was poisoned under the pretext of medicine through Dr. Rahmatullah of Patna Bankipur Central Jail. The poison caused a severe reaction in his body, but the perpetrators' objective was not achieved. In protest against this heinous incident and demanding a judicial inquiry commission, a widespread movement took place around the world. Anandamurti Ji personally wrote



to the then Governor and Chief Minister of Bihar and the President of India requesting the appointment of an inquiry commission, but no one responded. When nothing happened, he began a hunger strike inside the jail on April 1, 1973, in protest against the poisoning. The fast continued for five years, four months, and two days, until his release. Eventually, the Patna High Court ruled that all charges against him were false, and he and his four disciples were released unconditionally. On August 2, 1978, after coming out of jail, he

ended his long fast. In the history of Ananda Marga, February 12 is observed as "Neelkantha Day." Every year on this day in Anandanagar, at the northern foothills of the ancient Belamu Hill, at the Kaoshiki Anandanagar "Madhumurchana" Margaguru residence, a six-hour continuous chanting of "Baba Nam Kevalam," collective meditation, offering rituals, self-study, discussions on the significance of Neelkantha Day, and Narayan Seva are organized from morning to afternoon.

State Moves to Form Task Force for Stricter Monitoring of Out-of-State Vehicles in 'Chicken's Neck' Corridor

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state government is moving towards forming a special task force to strengthen the monitoring of vehicles from other states passing through the strategically important 'Chicken's Neck' corridor in North Bengal. According to sources in the Transport Department, a final decision is likely to be announced soon. The corridor serves as a crucial route for the movement of goods and vehicles to the northeastern states. At present, check posts at Barobisha on the Assam border and Boxirhat in Cooch Behar primarily focus on overloading and traffic violations. However, officials believe that gaps in pollution control and GST-related monitoring have raised concerns over environmental pollution and potential revenue loss. In this backdrop, the state



government is planning to set up a special task force to make the monitoring system more effective. The proposed task force is expected to include officials from

the Transport Department, along with representatives from the state police and central border security forces. Sources said preliminary communication has already begun with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. State Transport Minister Snehasis Chakraborty said, "It is our responsibility to ensure that all vehicles operate in compliance with existing rules. Many trucks transport boulders from Bhutan to the Bangladesh border. We want to bring such vehicles under stricter monitoring to ensure they are transporting goods as per regulations and paying applicable taxes." Ankur Chakraborty, North Bengal in-charge of the West Bengal Motor Vehicles Officers' Association, said enhanced monitoring would help reduce accident rates and strengthen the Chief Minis-

ter's 'Safe Drive, Save Life' initiative. He added that central agencies should also become more proactive and improve coordination with the state authorities. Meanwhile, local traders' organisations have urged the state government to form the task force at the earliest, even without waiting for a central initiative. According to them, northeastern states rely heavily on West Bengal's geographical infrastructure for trade, but the state does not receive adequate tax revenue, resulting in financial losses. Transport Department sources said the proposal for the task force is being developed based on expert opinions, with a focus on three key areas—security, environmental protection, and revenue safeguarding. An official announcement is expected soon.

Panic Spreads from Village to City Due to Rumours, Police Warn of Strict Legal Action

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : These days, a new trend is going on in Kharagpur, West Medinipur and Jhargram districts of spreading rumors of terror from village to city. In which some mischievous people are involved, who are spreading terror on social media by using AI to attribute the same video to different places. Due to these false rumours, there is an atmosphere of panic among the rural people as well as the common urbanites. There is confusion among the people by uploading false videos of theft, snatching and terror on social media. While these videos actually have nothing to do with anything, old videos are being uploaded on social media by giving names of different places through AI. While the police administration is continuously running awareness campaigns to reduce the panic of the people,



to boost the morale of the people, policemen are also deployed for patrolling and guarding the area. SDPO of Kharagpur, Dheeraj Thakur. Through the press meet, he gave a strong warning to those doing such activities and spreading rumors that these people are under the radar of the police, they will be arrested soon and strict legal action will be taken. On the other hand, he has appealed to the people not to be afraid, stay away from fed videos on social media, and Never trust them. The responsibility of his safety rests on the shoulders of the police. Whenever you get any information about someone spreading such rumours, immediately inform the police.

Hooghly District Magistrate Reviews Development Schemes, Stresses Timely Delivery

MI News Service, Hooghly: The District Magistrate of Hooghly, Khurshid Ali Qadri, IAS, recently chaired a comprehensive administrative review meeting to assess the progress and implementation of various government development schemes and ensure their timely delivery. The meeting was held on February 12, 2026, at 3:00 pm at the Circuit House, Hooghly. It was attended by senior district officials, including Additional District Magistrates, all Sub-Divisional Officers, and Block Development Officers of the district. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the implementation and progress of key flagship schemes of the state government, such as Amader Para Amader Samadhan, Pathashree, Banglar Bari, various scholarship programmes, and the status of applications and grievance redressal under the Chief Minister's CMRO portal. Performance across several development indicators was



also reviewed to assess ground-level execution and identify areas requiring expedited action. The District Magistrate emphasised the importance of completing all ongoing projects within stipulated timelines, while strictly adhering to government guidelines and maintaining procedural transparency. He instructed officials to ensure effective coordination, close monitoring, and proactive problem-solving to prevent delays in implementation. Highlighting the need for strict vigilance over development parameters, Qadri stressed that administrative efficiency is crucial to ensure that the benefits

of welfare schemes reach the intended beneficiaries without bottlenecks. Such review meetings, he noted, play a vital role in reinforcing administrative accountability and strengthening public service delivery. Continuous monitoring, coordinated efforts across administrative levels, and adherence to timelines are essential for translating government initiatives into tangible benefits for citizens. The meeting conveyed a clear message that development must not only be planned but also implemented efficiently, transparently, and equitably across all levels of administration.

CEDA Announces 'Electra 2026' with Digital Upgrades in Kolkata



MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : The Calcutta Electric Dealers Association (CEDA) has announced the 8th edition of Electra 2026, which will be held from February 19 to 21 at Cutchi Jain Bhawan on Ezra Street. The announcement was made during a press conference at the Press Club, Kolkata. Established in 1986, CEDA represents over 1,600 members engaged in the electrical trade. The upcoming expo will feature more than 46 stalls spread across two floors, bringing together manufacturers, distributors, and industry professionals at one of Kolkata's key wholesale electrical hubs. The event is sponsored by LITES as the Gold Sponsor and True Power Ltd. as the Silver Sponsor. Organisers said the exhibition will serve as a platform for networking, business expansion, and showcasing innovation in the electrical sector. On the digital front,

ships through such initiatives. Honorary Secretary Gagan Deep Mundhra played a key role in spearheading the initiative. Former president Chandresh Meghani was also present at the press meet, reaffirming the association's longstanding legacy. The exhibition will remain open daily from 11 AM to 7 PM, and entry will be free for trade visitors. As conveyed by the past Secretary and present Convenor of Media sub committee, Mr. SANJAY KUMAR SINGH of Calcutta Electric Dealer Association.

Two arrested on charges of illegal sand smuggling, two trucks seized

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : In the Nayagram area of Mohanpur under West Medinipur district, the police conducted a naka checking operation and seized two tractors loaded with illegal sand and arrested two smugglers. It is known that the police had received secret information from an informer that two tractors loaded with sand from Odisha were going to pass through the area. After receiving the information, the police swung into action. While conducting a naka checking operation in the area, Uttam Kumar Das seized two tractors. And two sand smugglers named Amitabh Das were arrested. A case has been registered against the accused under specific sections. It is known that a few days ago, the administration had conducted eighty raids in Keshiyadi and Dantan areas adjacent to the Subarnarekha river. Many dumpers and tractors were seized and a fine of several lakh rupees was imposed on them. Police say that the police is continuously running a campaign against illegal sand business.



DBT glitch leaves Bhatkunda Students without ₹10,000 digital aid

MI News Service, East Burdwan: Nearly 20 students of Bhatkunda High School in Ausgram-II block have allegedly been deprived of financial assistance under the state government's flagship 'Taruner Swapna' scheme, triggering anxiety among parents and sparking a political blame game. The scheme, aimed at strengthening digital access in higher secondary education, provides ₹10,000 each to Class XI and XII students to purchase smartphones or tablets.

Identified on Facebook, Youth Accused of Kidnapping 17-Year-Old Minor Girl Arrested

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : Police of Dantan has arrested a youth for first identifying her on social media and then kidnapping a 17 year old minor girl. The name of the arrested accused is Shafizul Malik, (21 years). He is a resident of Medinipur city. According to police sources, last Monday the minor girl had left home on a bicycle in the name of going for tuition. After that she went missing. According to the police, both of them were talking and communicating through social media for the last 6 months. Based on the complaint of the family, the police of Dantan police station tracked the mobile tower location and recovered the minor girl from Medinipur and arrested Shafizul. The police registered a case against the accused under specific sections for luring and kidnapping a minor and started investigating the case.

Sohini Stands Among Surabharati's Laureates



MI News Service, Kolkata : The 54th Annual Convocation Ceremony of Surabharati Sangeet Parishad, held at the historic Jorasanko Thakurbari, turned into a moment of special pride for Sohini Chatterjee, who was awarded the prestigious Gold Medal for securing first position in the postgraduate examination in Rabindra Nritya. Sohini was warmly felicitated on stage and received high praise from the dignitaries present for her brilliance, dedication, and disciplined pursuit of the art form. Her achievement was acknowledged as a reflection of both personal excellence and deep com-

mitment to the tradition of Rabindra Nritya. Eminent personalities including Jaydeep Ghosh, Ratan Das, Sushanta Chakraborty, Biswajit Sarkar, Aloka Kanungo, Subrata Gangopadhyay, Chandan Das, Snigdha Bagchi, Tanushree Chatterjee, Shreya Chatterjee, and the Registrar of the Parishad, Umashankar Panja, extended their congratulations to Sohini along with other degree recipients. However, Sohini's exceptional cultural distinction and the appreciation she received made her one of the most celebrated achievers of the ceremony.



As the Higher Secondary examinations began, students and their guardians were seen outside Saraswati Vidyalaya, an examination centre in Kolkata, ahead of the exam on Thursday.



Higher Secondary examinees make last-minute preparations outside Saraswati Balika Vidyalaya before entering the examination centre on Thursday.

Indica Festival 2026 to Begin in Kolkata with a Message of Borderless Humanity



MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata will play host to Indica Festival 2026, a two-day cultural and intellectual celebration built around the theme "The Vision in Continuum: A Saga of Borderless Humanity." The festival seeks to showcase India's civilisational wisdom, cultural heritage, and human values on a global platform.

Organised by the Indus Band Foundation with support from the Bhaktivedanta Research Center, the main events will be held on February 21 and 22 at Allen Park, Park Street. The official launch of the programme took place on Thursday at the Kolkata Press Club.

During the launch, the Manavata Samman Global 2026 and the A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada Award were conferred on renowned santoor maestro and Padma Shri awardee Pandit Tarun Bhattacharya for his lifetime contribution to Indian classical music. Eminent tabla artist and composer Pandit Tanmoy Bose was also felicitated for his artistic achievements.

Festival Founder-President Somali Panda said the initiative is not just a cultural event but a long-term intellectual movement rooted in Indian knowledge systems, spirituality, and artistic traditions. Sumanta Rudra, Dean of the Bhaktivedanta Research Center, noted that the festival aims to bridge cultural practice and academic inquiry.

The festival will feature music, dance, poetry, discussions, visual art, handicrafts, and exhibitions, promoting empathy, unity, and human connection through culture.

NSG, Kolkata Police Hold Anti-Terror Drill on Tourist Cruise in Ganga

MI News Service, Kolkata: Panic-like conditions were simulated recently after gunshot sounds were heard midstream on the river Ganga, triggering an alert at Lalbazar control room that a terrorist attack had taken place on a tourist cruise. The information suggested that several passengers aboard the vessel had been taken hostage, raising concerns over their safety.

Following the alert, Kolkata Police swung into action. The Port Division and Combat Battalion were immediately informed, and commandos were rushed to the spot. The National Security Guard (NSG) also reached the location promptly. Using water police vessels, teams from Kolkata Police and the NSG approached the cruise anchored mid-river.

The incident, however, turned out to be a high-level security drill conducted jointly by the NSG and Kolkata Police commandos. Earlier, similar anti-terror mock drills had been carried out at metro stations, shopping malls and the Victoria Memorial. This time, the exercise focused on handling a terror attack on a tourist cruise in the middle of the river. During the drill, an NSG team posed as terrorists, boarded the cruise using boats, fired blank rounds and took passengers hostage. Commandos then surrounded the vessel, boarded it tactically, engaged the "terrorists" in a simulated gunfight and successfully neutralised them. The hostages were rescued safely.

Police said hospitals and other emergency departments were also put on alert as part of the coordinated exercise to test preparedness

Kalyan Banerjee launches sharp attack on FM over Bengal law and order

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee launched a sharp attack on Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday after she raised questions over the law and order situation in West Bengal in Parliament. The senior TMC leader alleged that Sitharaman was "jealous" of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and questioned the Union minister's political stature and administrative competence. His remarks drew a strong counter-response from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Addressing the media, Banerjee accused the Union Finance Minister of harbouring long-standing resentment towards the West Bengal Chief Minister. "Nirmala Sitharaman is extremely jealous of Mamata Banerjee. This is not something I

have noticed today; I have been observing it for the last seven to eight years," the TMC MP said. He went on to claim that Sitharaman lacked mass leadership credentials, stating that she would never be able to become the Prime Minister, a Chief Minister, or even a state-level leader. Banerjee further remarked that Sitharaman had been accommodated in the Rajya Sabha without a popular mandate.

Questioning her suitability as Finance Minister, Banerjee alleged that Sitharaman did not possess the required experience or capability to handle economic matters. "I do not know on what grounds she is called the Finance Minister. Otherwise, she does not have the capacity to manage economic affairs, nor does she have the experience to speak on such issues," he said, also describing



her as having a "quarrelsome temperament."

Reacting sharply to Banerjee's comments, BJP leader Jagannath Chattopadhyay dismissed the remarks as politically motivated and personal. "Before commenting on Kalyan Banerjee's statement, I would like to know whether he had a bottle in his hand. Everyone remembers what he did inside Parliament with a bottle," Chattopadhyay said, referring to a previous controversy involving the TMC MP. He further alleged that Banerjee was at-

tempting to draw attention from his party leadership, including the Chief Minister and the party's youth leadership, to regain a former position within the Trinamool Congress.

The political exchange follows Sitharaman's remarks in Parliament a day earlier, where she questioned the law and order situation in West Bengal. She referred to the alleged rape of a student at Durgapur Medical College and criticised the state government. Sitharaman also cited the death of Tamanna Khatun in a bomb explosion in Kaliganj, Nadia district, remarking, "Bombs function in Bengal, but the law does not." Banerjee's attack was a direct response to these comments, further escalating the war of words between the two parties.

Swasthya Sathi Expanded: Four Surgeries Now Allowed in Pvt Hospitals

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major relief for marginal and economically weaker sections of West Bengal, the state Health Department has expanded the scope of the SwasthyaSathi health insurance scheme to allow four key surgeries to be performed at empanelled private hospitals. As per a newly issued guideline, hernia, hydrocele, fissurectomy and arthroscopic surgeries can now be conducted in private healthcare facilities under the SwasthyaSathi scheme.

Earlier, these four procedures were not permitted in private hospitals under the scheme. The Health Department had maintained that adequate and advanced facilities were available in government hospitals for such surgeries. However, following a review of

ground realities, the department has now decided to extend limited permission to private hospitals.

According to the revised guidelines, hernia, hydrocele and fissurectomy surgeries may be carried out at private hospitals only if a government hospital is unable to perform the procedure and the treating government doctor certifies the same in writing. In the case of arthroscopic surgery, the benefit under SwasthyaSathi will be available at private hospitals only for accident-related injuries that require urgent intervention. Elective or "cold OT" arthroscopic procedures, which can be scheduled later, will not be permitted at private hospitals under the scheme.

A senior Health Department official said the partial relaxation in the "gatekeeping" system has

been introduced keeping patients' convenience in mind. "The decision was taken to reduce hardship faced by common people who are forced to wait for long periods for surgery dates in government hospitals," the official said.

Sources in the department said that long-term monitoring revealed significant delays in securing surgery dates for these procedures at several government hospitals. In many cases, patients were either given extremely long waiting periods or were unable to receive confirmed dates, leading to prolonged suffering.

The department has also observed that in some instances, a section of government doctors allegedly referred patients to private hospitals citing various reasons, where the same doctors

later performed the surgeries privately. To address this issue, the Health Department has clearly defined eligibility criteria for surgeons in the new guidelines.

Under the revised rules, only surgeons who are exclusively attached to private hospitals will be allowed to perform these surgeries under the SwasthyaSathi scheme. Government doctors associated with private hospitals will not be permitted to carry out these procedures in private facilities under the scheme.

Officials said the move aims to strike a balance between easing patient access to timely treatment and preventing misuse of public healthcare resources, while maintaining transparency and accountability within the SwasthyaSathi framework.

EC to Review Poll Preparedness, SIR Progress in Virtual Meet with WB Officials

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Election Commission of India (ECI) will hold a virtual meeting on Friday with the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal and district-level election officials to review the state's poll preparedness. According to Commission sources, the meeting will focus on election readiness at the grassroots level, the final phase of hearings under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, and issues related to document verification.

Election Commission officials will interact virtually with West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Kumar Agarwal and District Election Officers (DEOs) to assess how prepared the districts

are in the event that the Assembly election schedule is announced soon after the conclusion of the SIR process. Discussions are also expected on the verification of certificates submitted during the SIR exercise.

Speculation has intensified over the announcement of the West Bengal Assembly election schedule and the number of phases in which polling will be conducted. The full bench of the Election Commission is scheduled to visit the state on March 1 and 2. Sources indicate that the election schedule may be announced after Dol and Shab-e-Barat. There is speculation that polling could be held in four phases, with the Commission

aiming to complete the election process within April.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has provided voters with one final opportunity to address discrepancies in their details. Unmapped voters will be subjected to field inquiries, and a prescribed format has been introduced for verification. If the form is signed by five valid voters along with the Booth Level Officer (BLO), supervisor, and Electoral Registration Officer (ERO), the voter's name will be included in the final electoral roll.

Earlier, the Supreme Court had directed the Election Commission to make public all discrepancies identified during the SIR correction process. The court

also ordered that revised lists be displayed publicly and that receipts be issued for documents collected during hearings.

The Commission initially stated that 1.36 crore voters were identified with data inconsistencies, a figure later revised to 94 lakh. Notices were subsequently issued for hearings, triggering protests from several political parties, including the Trinamool Congress (TMC). Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and TMC MP Abhishek Banerjee questioned the basis of the hearings and approached the Supreme Court over the issue of unmapped voters, following which the court directed greater transparency.

Bratya slams BJP for attempting to drag TMC into every politics

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Education Minister Bratya Basu on Thursday dismissed the BJP's allegations linking the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to Jamaat-e-Islami amid reports of sporadic violence during Bangladesh's 13th Jatiya Sangsad elections. Reacting sharply to the BJP's remarks, Basu termed the comparison "absurd" and said the party was attempting to drag TMC into every political development, even beyond India's borders.

Speaking to reporters at Trinamool Bhavan, Basu said it was inappropriate to comment on the internal affairs of another country. However, he added sarcastically that if the BJP continued with such logic, it would soon start blaming the Trinamool Congress for unrelated global events as well. "If the BJP can find TMC's hand in Jamaat's actions in Bangladesh, then tomorrow they may even say that TMC is behind the kidnapping of Venezuela's



President Nicolas Maduro," he remarked.

The BJP had alleged that Jamaat-e-Islami was conducting the Bangladesh elections in a manner similar to what it claims is TMC's "style" of booth capturing and ballot snatching in West Bengal. The allegations surfaced after reports of crude bomb explosions in parts of Gopalganj and Munshiganj, along with claims by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) that its polling agents were intimidated and forced out of booths.

Bratya Basu also took the opportunity to launch a broader attack on the BJP, accusing

it of harbouring hostility towards Bengal and Bengalis. Referring to recent incidents involving Bengali migrant workers in BJP-ruled states, Basu alleged that the ruling party at the Centre showed little concern for the lives of poor migrant labourers, particularly those from marginalised communities.

Citing the recent killing of a migrant worker from Purulia in Pune, allegedly for speaking in Bengali, Basu said such incidents exposed the BJP's "deep-rooted bias" against Bengal. "You have declared a war against Bengal and Bengalis," he alleged, adding that the BJP's attitude stemmed from historical resentment against Bengal's cultural and intellectual legacy.

The minister's remarks come amid heightened political sparring between the TMC and the BJP, with international developments also being drawn into domestic political debates.



Trade unions across the country observed a nationwide strike to protest four labour laws, with demonstrations held by unions including the Union Bank Staff Association, in Kolkata on Thursday.

State-wide Trade Union Strike in Bengal Sees Partial Impact

MI News Service, Kolkata: A state-wide industrial strike called by a joint forum of central trade unions in West Bengal on Thursday drew a partial response, with slight disruptions reported in certain industrial areas, while essential services largely remained unaffected.

Trade unions across the country observed a nationwide strike on Thursday to protest four labour laws, alleging they weaken workers' rights and favour employers.

In Kolkata, unions held demonstrations, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the reforms.

The strike was part of a nationwide call given by the joint forum to press for the repeal of the new labour codes and to raise several other demands. Trade union members belonging to organisations such as CITU,AITUC and UTUC held demonstrations outside factories

in key industrial hubs including Durgapur and Haldia. The unions have also issued a "Save Bengal" call in the poll-bound state.

Banking services were affected in several public and private sector banks across West Bengal, trade union leaders claimed. However, the State Bank of India reported that its operations continued normally. Bank Employees Federation of India general secretary Debasish Basu Chaudhury described the strike as "successful" in the banking sector, stating that services in most banks were disrupted, though SBI employees did not directly join the strike.

Kolkata Port authorities, meanwhile, said cargo handling and port operations, including loading and unloading activities, continued as usual. The jute industry witnessed partial disruption in some units.

ROLLS-ROYCE mulls expansion across India's air, land & sea domains

● Continued from Pg 1:

successfully in other countries," Erginbilgic said.

The leading aero-engine maker has already been working on making India its third "home market" outside of the UK in line with a plan to unlock the full potential of opportunities across an array of domains, including jet engine, naval propulsion, land systems and advanced engineering.

"Our ambitions for India are built on the strong foundations of our decades-long presence in the country, our growing footprint, our deep industry partnerships, and our competitively advantaged technologies," the Rolls-Royce CEO

said.

"We are determined to partner India on its 'Atmanirbhar' journey, by developing indigenous propulsion capabilities, providing sustained power to critical infrastructure and industry, and expanding local manufacturing for global supply chains," he said.

Among the major defence projects, Rolls-Royce has been eyeing to develop a next-generation aero engine in India as a priority to power the combat jets that New Delhi will produce under the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) programme.

More than 1,400 Rolls-Royce engines are currently power-

ing various defence platforms such as the Jaguar combat aircraft and Hawk trainers of the Indian Air Force and Navy, the Arjun Main Battle Tanks of the Army, and a variety of vessels and submarines of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard, including the prestigious anti-submarine warfare shallow water crafts and the P17 Alpha frigates.

The company on Thursday announced its intention to scale-up its business in India to support future programmes and partnerships across defence, civil aviation and energy.

Rolls-Royce said its ambition is to make India a strategic home market, supporting the

country's Viksit Bharat vision for national security and deterrence, energy resilience, infrastructure development and air connectivity.

"Rolls-Royce is currently exploring opportunities in India that include the potential co-development of a next-generation combat jet engine; as well as partnerships to localise and manufacture engines for the Indian Army, Navy and Coast Guard and potentially power solutions for critical infrastructure and industry," it said.

"These initiatives could more than double the size of the workforce that supports Rolls-Royce and its partners, to

approximately 10,000 people in India," the company said in a statement.

It said Rolls-Royce believes the opportunities it is looking to secure could lead to a 10-fold increase in the company's supply chain sourcing from India, a move which it noted would nurture and benefit many small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

In his meeting with Modi, Erginbilgic, discussed the company's plan to be part of 'Viksit Bharat' (developed India) and how its advanced technologies can support India's growth plans and Atmanirbhar journey in critical sectors of the economy, the British firm said

in a readout.

"We believe our unique portfolio of advanced capabilities can help us grow our presence and partnerships further, to power, protect and connect India for decades to come," Erginbilgic said.

Sashi Mukundan, the executive vice president of Rolls-Royce India, accompanied Erginbilgic in the meeting with the prime minister.

At present, more than 4,000 people are working across the Rolls-Royce ecosystem in India, including 2,800 engineers who contribute to global programmes across its businesses.

The company's long-standing industrial footprint includes its

manufacturing joint ventures with HAL and Force Motors as well as sourcing partnerships with over 100 different vendors, including Tata, Bharat Forge, Godrej, Azad Engineering and many small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Rolls-Royce recently inaugurated its newly expanded Global Capability and Innovation Centre in Bengaluru, which houses digital capabilities, enterprise services, and engineering teams supporting its civil aerospace and defence divisions.

The centre serves global corporate functions while advancing digital and engineering expertise, according to the company.

Name Change
I, Devashis Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) S/o Abhash Mukherjee Residing at 29E/1A, Flat C-203, Birpara Lane, Ghugudanga, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700030 West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Devashis Mukherjee (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Devashis Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) and Devashis Mukherjee (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Lalita Mandal (Old Name) W/o Late Prabudhan Mondal Residing at Vill - Anthony Para, Begopara, P.O - Dayabari, P.S - Ranaghat, District - Nadia, Pin - 741256, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Lalita Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Lalita Mandal (Old Name) and Lalita Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ronti Mandal (Old Name) S/o Late Prabudhan Mondal Residing at Vill - Anthony Para, Begopara, P.O - Dayabari, P.S - Ranaghat, District - Nadia, Pin - 741256, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ronti Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Ronti Mandal (Old Name) and Ronti Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pradip Das (Old Name) S/o Late Sudhir Kumar Das Residing at Vill - Hatishal, P.O - Jharkali, P.S - Panakura, District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721644, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Das (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Tamluk, Purba Medinipur vide affidavit No 9330 Dated 30-07-2025. Pradip Das (Old Name) and Pradip Kumar Das (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nijamuddin Mistry S/O Palan Mistry Dob. 13.04.1988 R/O Deuli Sultanpur, Ghorahata Mukundapur, Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, 743503 Do Here By Declare That My Name Shall Be Known As Nijamuddin Mistry Instead Of Nijamuddin Mistri & Myfather's Name Shall Be Known As Palan Mistryinstead Of Palan Mistri. Vide Affidavit No. 4063dated 13/01/2026 Before Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Atalipore, South 24 Parganas, That Nijamuddin Mistry & Nijamuddin Mistri Is Thesame And One Identical Person. Palan Mistry & Palan Mistri Is The Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mohammad Golam Mostofa Siddique, S/o.- Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique, R/o.-Vill.- P.O.-Furfura, P.S.-Jangipara,Dist.-Hooghly-712706, WB, that my & father's actual & correct name has been wrongly recorded in my Voter Card, Aadhar Card as Hafej Mahamostofa Siddique, S/o.- Jufikar Ali Siddiqi & some other docs, my father's name Mya Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique & Haji Moulana Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique (vide Voter I Card & Aadhar Card), vide Affidavit No. 3091, dtd. 03.01.2026, in the Court of Ld. 1st Class, Judicial Magistrate at Alipore. That, Mohammad Golam Mostofa Siddique(Hafej Mahamostofa Siddique, S/o.- Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique, S/o.- Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique, S/o.- Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique & Haji Moulana Mohammad Jufikar Ali Siddique all are same identical person.

Name Change
I, Saba Begum W/O Firojuddin Ansari Residing at Vill-Bankra New Mondal para, P.O-Bankra, PS-Domjur, District-Howrah, Pin-711403, WB. My Son's birth certificate Shadab Alam Son's name wrongly recorded as is Darshil Alam my name is wrongly recorded as is Saba Firoj i declare that vide an affidavit before the Ld.1st class judicial magistrate at Alipore. Date- 22.01.2026. Affidavit No.2642. Saba Firoj and Saba Begum both are the same and one identical person also Shadab Alam and Darshil Alam both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Samir Kumar Chakraborty, S/o.- Debendra Nath Chakraborty, R/o-K C Roy Road, North Dum Dum(M), 24 Pgs.- 700049, WB, that, my actual name has been wrongly recorded in my daughter's (Debolina Roy) Passport No. **N1641876** as Samir Chakraborty, in place of Samir Kumar Chakraborty, (in Aadhar Card), vide Affidavit No. 4545, dtd. 09.02.2026, before the Notary Public at Bidhanagar, Dist. 24 Pgs.(N). That, Samir Kumar Chakraborty & Samir Chakraborty both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Firdaus Sujat Ali, S/O- Sk Sujat Ali, residing at Vill. Bele Sijberia, P.O.- Uluberia, P.S.- Uluberia, Dist.-Howrah, Pin- 711316 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shaikh Firdaus Ali as declared before the court of LD S.D.E.M., Uluberia at Howrah vide affidavit no. 2786, dated 30/10/2024 Firdaus Sujat Ali and Shaikh Firdaus Ali are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Smt. Shilpi Chattopadhyay of Shyam Vihar, Phase-1, Block-5, Flat-3C, RFF-2, Raghunathpur, Kolkata-59, hereby declare that my daughter's name has been changed from Iman Sil to Ahiri Chattopadhyay vide affidavit No. 528 dated 09.01.2026 before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Barasat Court. Both names refer to one and the same person.

Name Change
I, Santosh Devi And Santosh Poddar (Old Names), Wife Of Vijay Kumar Poddar, Residing At B204, Loharuka Green Oasis, Block-B, Kaikhali Main Road, Dist - 24 Parganas North, Pin- 700136, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Santosh Devi Poddar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2026. Santosh Devi And Santosh Poddar (Old Names) And Santosh Devi Poddar (New Name) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nurjahan Khatun, W/o- Amirul Mondal, D/o- Mujibar Mondal, residing at Vill. & P.O.- Ghoragachha, P.S.- Kalyani, Dist.- Nadia, PIN-741245, West Bengal, do hereby declare that in my son's name has been recorded as Mujibar Rahman in my Birth Certificate (Regd. No. 30 dtd. 30.10.2004). On 12.02.2026 vide an affidavit (no. 108) before 1st Class A.C.J.M., Kalyani, Nadia, I affirm that Mujibar Mondal & Mujibar Rahman is the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Uma Debnath Bhownick, W/o- Subhash Bhownick, residing at Vill.- Birpara, P.O.- Nagarukhra, P.S.-Hringhata, Dist.- Nadia, W.B., do hereby declare that in my son's name (Subhra Bhownick) Birth Certificate (Regd. no. WB-BR-2015/2020/1/5516 dtd. 01.06.2015) my name has been recorded as Uma Bhownick. On 10.02.2026 vide an affidavit (No. 89) before 1st Class A.C.J.M 2 Kalyani, Nadia, I affirm that Uma Debnath Bhownick and Uma Bhownick is the same & one identical lady.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUSMITA SARKAR ROY, W/O-Koushik Sarkar, residing at Vill. Lalpur, Near Nabaran Samity Play Ground, P.O. & P.S. Chakdhara, Dist. Nadia, W. Pin-741222, do hereby declare that in my son SUVAJAN SARKAR's birth certificate (Regd. No. 10266/2010, dated 07/01/2011) my name has been recorded as SUSMITA SARKAR. On 13/10/25 through affidavit no 03 submitted before the Court of 1st Class A.C.J.M II, Kalyani, I affirm that SUSMITA SARKAR ROY & SUSMITA SARKAR is the same and one identical lady.

Name Change
I, Md Maniruz Zaman S/o. Asrafujjahan Mondal, R/o. Sangrampur, Basirhat, North 24 Parganas-744322, do hereby declare that in my son's Birth Certificate (Regn. No. B/2022/129407, D.O.B. 23/06/2022) & also his Aadhaar Card (XXXX XXXX 5476) where my son's name has been recorded as Ishan Zaman S/o. Md Maniruz Zaman instead of his correct & actual name is Ishan Mondal S/o. Md Maniruz Zaman Mondal. That my son Ishan Mondal S/o. Md Maniruz Zaman Mondal & Ishan Zaman S/o. Md Maniruz Zaman both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 6139/26, dated 29/01/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, North 24 Parganas Court.

Name Change
I, Md Hanif Mondal (old name) S/o. Late Abdul Hafiz Mallick, R/o. Ankapara, Chittrashali, Haripal, Hooghly-712407, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Hanif Mondal to Mahammad Hanif Mallick (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mahammad Hanif Mallick in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 400 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 12/02/2026. I, Mahammad Hanif Mallick & Md Hanif Mondal S/o. Late Abdul Hafiz Mallick, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Incharul Mondal (Old Name) S/o Hossain 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 Anchbarul Mondal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 79/2026 Dated 10-02-2026. Incharul Mondal (Old Name) and Anchharul Mondal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Hasanur Rahman (Old Name) S/o Mohammed Ibrahim Molla Residing at Vill - Natapukur, P.O - Pithpukur, P.S - Kolerhat, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have Changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Md Hasanur Rahman (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Mohammed Hasanur Rahman (Old Name) and Md Hasanur Rahman (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jasimuddin Molla S/o Late Subidar Rasid Molla Residing at Vill - Uttar Chumakhali, P.O.- Chumakhali, P.S.-Basanti, District- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743611, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Jasimuddin Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Josim Uddin Molla (Old Name) and Jasimuddin Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Josim Uddin Molla (Old Name) S/o Late Subidar Rasid Molla Residing at Vill - Uttar Chumakhali, P.O.- Chumakhali, P.S.- Basanti, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743611, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be Known as Jasimuddin Molla (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 12-02-2026. Josim Uddin Molla (Old Name) and Jasimuddin Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sk Rafikul Islam (Old Name),son of Sk Raosan Ali ,residing at Isabpur, P.O - Dihiram Nagar, west Medinipur 721212 ,West Bengal , have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Rafikul Islam (New Name) vide an affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 11/02/2026. Sk Rafikul Islam and Sk Rafikul Islam both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, David Nallathambi (Old Name) DI No Wb01 19890114040, Son Of D K Karuppan, Residing At A22 Mangolia Oxygen Bishnupur Road, Rajarhat, North 24 Parganas- 700135, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As D Nallathambi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore. On 11/02/2026, David Nallathambi And D Nallathambi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Rajendra Prasad Chouhan And Rajendra Prasad Chowhan (Old Names) Son Of Late Murali Prasad, Residing At 5/2H/14, Bhukailas Road, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rajendra Prasad (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Rajendra Prasad Chouhan And Rajendra Prasad Chowhan (Old Names) And Rajendra Prasad (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sanjay Kumar Chouhan And Sanjoy Kr Chowhan (Old Names) Son Of Rajendra Prasad, Residing At 5/2H/14, Bhukailas Road, P.S.- Ekbalpore, Kolkata- 700023, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sanjay Kumar Chowhan (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata. On 12/02/2026, Sanjay Kumar Chouhan And Sanjoy Kr Chowhan (Old Names) And Sanjay Kumar Chowhan (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Pulin Bihari Manna (Old Name) Son Of Late Bipin Manna, Residing At Vill - Rasiknagar, P.O.- Panchhari, P.S.- Bhupatiganj, Dist - East Medinipur, Pin - 721458, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pulin Manna (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Pulin Bihari Manna (Old Name) And Pulin Manna (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Dilara Begum (Old Name), Daughter Of Abu Hossain, Residing At 22/18, Bhariati Road, B- Zone, Durgapur (M.Corp), Durgapur Steel Town East, Dist- Bardhaman, Pin - 713205, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Dil Rausanara Begum (New Name), As Declared Before The Notary Public At Alipore. On 29/01/2026, Dilara Begum (Old Name) And Dil Rausanara Begum (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sekh Noor Islam Son Of Nabab Hossain, Residing At Chatta Kalikapur, P.O.- Chatta Kalikapur, P.S.-Kaliata Ashuti, Dist- 24 Parganas South, Pin-700140, West Bengal, India, In My Birth Certificate My Name Is Wronly Recorded Noor Islam Instead Of Sekh Noor Islam And Mother's Name Saiyeda Begum Wronly Entere Instead Of Hafija Sekh.Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore vide Affidavit No.17330 On 03/02/2026. Sekh Noor Islam And Noor Islam Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Hafija Sekh Wife Of Sekh Nabab Hossain, Residing At Chatta Kalikapur, P.O.- Chatta Kalikapur, P.S.-Rabindra Nagar, Dist- 24 Parganas South, Pin-700140, West Bengal, India, That My Son'S Name Is Sekh Noor Islam & Noor Islam, In My Son'S Birth Certificate My Name Wronly Recorded Saiyeda Begum Instead Of Hafija Sekh. Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore vide Affidavit No.17256 On 03/02/2026. That Hafija Sekh Wife Of Sekh Nabab Hossain And Saiyeda Begum Wife Of Sekh Nabab Hossain Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I,ABDUS SUKUR SEKH (OLD NAME), SON OF ALTAFOR SEKH,RESIDING AT 29 SPECIAL COMPOSITE GROUP, NSG, CHANDAKANATH, BERTH, KOLKATA-743502, WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS ABDUS SUKUR SEKH (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT RAMPURHA,BIRBHUM ON 05/02/2026.ABDUS SUKUR SEKH AND ABDUS SUKUR SEKH BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sajal Dutta Son Of Late Ajit Dutta, Residing At Z-4/100, River Side Road, P.O.- Badartala, P.S.- Nadial, Kolkata- 700044, West Bengal, India, That In The Land Deed Of Garden Reach Vide Deed No.8345 And Khatian No.39, In The Year 2020 My Name Recorded As Sajal Kumar Dutta Instead Of Sajal Dutta. Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore vide Affidavit No. 80427 On 30/12/2025. That Sajal Dutta And Sajal Kumar Dutta Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sayantan Dutta Son Of Late Sanat Dutta Residing At Z-4/100, River Side Road, P.O.- Badartala, P.S.- Nadial, Kolkata- 700044, West Bengal, India, That In The Land Deed Of Garden Reach Vide Deed No.8345 And L.R. Khatian No.41, In The Year 2020 My Father's Name Recorded As Sanat Kumar Dutta Instead Of Sanat Dutta. Declared Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore vide Affidavit No 80426 On 30/12/2025. That Sanat Kumar Dutta Son Of Late Ajit Dutta And Sanat Dutta Son Of Late Ajit Dutta.Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Uniting the Twin Banks: New Nashipur Passenger Halt Sanctioned to Bridge the Divide Between Azimganj & Nashipur
MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : In a transformative step for the historical district of Murshidabad, the Railway Board has approved for a new passenger halt at Nashipur, a decision poised to resolve a long-standing geographical and administrative paradox. Despite being part of the same district, the areas of Azimganj and Nashipur have remained functionally isolated, separated by the Bhagirathi River. For the local populace, this halt is not merely a station; it is the final link in a chain that unites two halves of a fractured district. This unification now made possible by the initiatives of Ministry of Railways by making provision for the Nashipur Halt.

Ending the Logistical Nightmare
The primary triumph of this proposal is the direct synchronisation of the Howrah and Sealdah Divisions. Passengers from the Howrah side heading toward Nashipur or Murshidabad faced an exhausting journey: This move by the Ministry of Railways effectively dissolves these barriers. Residents of Nashipur will now be directly connected to the Howrah network,

while Howrah Division passengers can access the heart of Murshidabad without the arduous "Kolkata detour."

A Lifeline Across the Ganga
While Azimganj and Nashipur are neighbors within Murshidabad, their dependence on slow-moving ferries and boats has historically made a few kilometers feel like an odyssey. The new halt station, situated on the Krishnanagar (KNJ) - Lalgola (LGL) section, converts a time-consuming water crossing into a swift rail journey. Both banks are highly productive agricultural zones. The station will facilitate the rapid exchange of produce, allowing farmers to access markets on either side with

minimal overhead and zero reliance on unpredictable river transport.

The "Golden Hour" is often lost for those in Azimganj trying to reach the Medical Colleges in Murshidabad and Baharampore. This rail link provides a reliable, all-weather path to life-saving medical facilities.

Strategic Integration
The halt, located between Murshidabad and Jagann, will also benefit Express trains utilties the Nashipur Bridge. By providing a stoppage here, the Railways ensures that local passengers no longer have to travel to distant hubs to catch North Bengal-bound trains. The approval of Railway



Board, Ministry of Railways for the new halt station at Nashipur underscores the strategic importance of this project—not just as a convenience, but as a vital economic artery for West Bengal.

Ultimately, the sanctioning of the Nashipur passenger halt represents far more than a mere technical adjustment to the Eastern Railway map; it is a profound act of regional integration. By dissolving the rigid boundaries between the Howrah and Sealdah Divisions, the Railway Board has finally synchronized the pulses of two regions that, despite their shared history and district, have been kept apart by the Bhagirathi River. This station will stand as a testament to progress, replacing the slow, arduous ferry crossings with a high-speed corridor that safeguards health, boosts agricultural commerce, and restores dignity to the daily commute. For the people of Murshidabad, the long-awaited bridge between Azimganj and Nashipur is no longer just a structural marvel, but a lived reality that brings their homes, their markets, and their lives closer together than ever before.

Name Change
I, Munsi Saidulla, Residing At Rampara, Badshapara, Po-Dakshindih, Ps- Jangipara, Hooghly- 712706, West Bengal, Do Herby Notified That My Father Anamatulla Moha (Old Name), Have Changed His Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Anam (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At At Chinsurah On 26/12/2025. Anamatulla Moha And Md Anam Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Khobir Ali Sk(Old Name),Son Of Late Sekh Allarakha,Residing At Vill - Dargamaleshpur, P.O - Illahipur, Ps-Haripal,Hooghly-712707,West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sekh Abdul Khabir(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Serampore Court On 22/01/2026. Khobir Ali Sk And Sekh Abdul Khabir Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Rokeya Begum (Old Name), Wife Of Abdul Rahman Molla, Residing At Vill-Charapanchla, Po & Ps-Panchia, Howrah Rural- 711322,West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Rokeya Begum Molla (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Rokeya Begum And Rokeya Begum Molla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Pali Rani Halder (Old Name),Wife Of Niranjan Kumar Halder,Residing At 98/2a, Mahatma Gandhi Road,Po-Haridevpur,Ps-Haridevpur,Kolkata-700082, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pali Halder (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Pali Rani Halder And Pali Halder Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Joya Ali (old name) daughter of Sanwar Ali, residing at 13/1/10, Mayur Bhari Road, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afroz Jahan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Afroz Jahan (new name) and Afroz Jahan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jyotsna Samanta (Old Name), Wife Of Arunava Samanta, Residing At B-6/154, Kalyani, Nadia- 741235, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jyotsna Mondal Samanta (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Jyotsna Samanta And Jyotsna Mondal Samanta Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Usha Gopal Das Mahtani (Old Name), Daughter In Law Of Hariram Lalchand Mathani, Wife Of Gopaladas Mathani, Residing At 6 Sarat Bose Road 4a, Lansdowne Heights, Ballygunge, Kolkata-700020, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Usha Gopaladas Mahtani(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/02/2026. Usha Gopal Das Mahtani And Usha Gopaladas Mahtani Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Pankaj Baid (Old Name), Son Of Parakash Chand, Residing At 1/La, Umakanta Sen Lane Block-1, Flat-8a, Po- Ghugudanga, Ps-Chitpur, Kolkata- 700030, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Pankaj Baid (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Pankaj Baid And Pankaj Kumar Baid Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Arun Charan Das (old name) son of Bhola Das, residing at 67/1, New Park, Kayastha Para Main Road, Hattu, Kolkata- 700078, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Arun Das (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Arun Das (new name) and Arun Charan Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Badal Poddar (Old Name), Son Of Late Phani Bhuvan Poddar, Residing At 29, Nabanagar, Jadavpur, Jadavpur University, S.O. Ps-Jadavpur, Kolkata- 700032, West Bengal,Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Badal Kumar Poddar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/02/2026. Badal Poddar And Badal Kumar Poddar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Habibur Sardar (Old Name), Son Of Nachr Ali Sardar, Residing At Krishnanagar, Basanti, South 24 Pgs- 743312, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Habibur Rahman Sardar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 12/02/2026. Habibur Sardar And Habibur Rahman Sardar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sharbari Begum, W/O Ilyas Md, D/O Late Md. Samsul (Father Death Certificate No 20803), Residing At 24/1/48 Chatu Babu Lane, Entally, Kolkata- 700014, West Bengal,Do Herby Notified That My Father Md. Shamsuddin (As Per My Aadhar No 7013 3366 3523 And Pan Gchpb8943q) And Md. Shamsul(As Per His Voter Card No Wb/21/154/150431) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md. Samsul Vide An Affidavit No 6345 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 11/02/2026.Md. Shamsuddin And Md. Shamsul And Md. Samsul Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Afroz Jahan (old name) wife of Sanwar Ali, residing at 13/1/10, Mayur Bhari Road, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afroz Jahan (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Madhumita Majumder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Afroz Jahan (old name) wife of Sanwar Ali, residing at 13/1/10, Mayur Bhari Road, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afroz Jahan (new name) and Afroz Jahan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Muktar Ali Munsi,Residing At Vill-7 Dangamaheshpur, Po-Ilahipur,Ps-Haripal,Hooghly-712707,West Bengal,Do Herby Notified That My Father Kah Ahed Munsi Sekh(Old Name),Have Changed His Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ahed Munsi(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore. On 22/01/2026,Kah Ahed Munsi Sekh And Ahed Munsi And Abdul Ahed Munsi Ali Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shila Majumdar (old name) wife of Nimai Majumdar, residing at Netaji Pally, Chaturia, P.O.- Nopara, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700125, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shila Majumder (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/02/2026. Shila Majumder (old name) and Shila Majumdar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jhyanasa Bala (Old Name), Wife Of Late Khagendranath Bala, Residing At Kholaghat Purbapara, Champahatu, Baruiipur Purbapara, Bansra, South 24 Parganas- 743363,West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jyotsna Bala (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 10/02/2026. Jhyanasa Bala And Jyotsna Bala Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Shahnwaz (old name) son of Md Shamsuzzama, residing at 47 R, G.J.Khan Road, City Kolkata, Pin-700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Shahnwaz (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Md Shahnwaz (new name) and Md Shahnwaz (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Mazhar Alam (old name) son of Late Md Badizzama, residing at 26, Topsis Road, Bela Complex, Pin- 700039, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Mazhar Alam (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Md Mazhar Alam (new name) and Mohammad Mazhar Alam (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dipak Das (old name) son of Late Debendra Ranjan Das, residing at Purbachal, Dankuni, Hooghly Rural, Pin- 712311, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dipak Kumar Das (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit No. 27, dated 11/02/2026. Dipak Kumar Das (new name) and Dipak Das (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Madhumita Majumder (old name) D/O Anjan Majumder, resident of Muragacha Hospital Para, P.O.- Jugberia, P.S.- Ghola, North 24 Parganas, Pin-700110, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Madhumita De Rosa (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 12/02/2026. Madhumita Majumder (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pradip Maity & Pradip Maity (old names) son of Sukumar Maity, residing at Vill & P.O.- Barbasudevpur, P.S.- Susta Hata S.D- Haldia, Tamluk, East Medinipur, Pin- 721645, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Kumar Maity (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/02/2026. Pradip Kumar Maity (new name) and Pradip Maity & Pradip Maity (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Prasenjit Maity (old name) son of Pradip Kumar Maity, residing at Vill & P.O.- Barbasudevpur, P.S.- Susta Hata S.D- Haldia, Tamluk, East Medinipur, Pin- 721645, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prasenjit Maity (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/02/2026. Prasenjit Maity (new name) and Prasenjit Maity (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shila Majumdar (old name) wife of Nimai Majumdar, residing at Netaji Pally, Chaturia, P.O.- Nopara, North 24 Pgs, Pin- 700125, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shila Majumder (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 11/02/2026. Shila Majumder (old name) and Shila Majumdar (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Nag (old name) S/O Akhil Chandra Nag, resident of Prithinagar Road No-3,Maa Durga Medical Hall, Payradanga, Nadia 741247, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ashok Kumar Nag (new name), as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Ranaghat, vide an affidavit SL No.8299, dated 11/02/2026. Ashok Nag (old name) and Ashok Nag (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kamal Manna (old name), son of Late Nityananda Manna, residing at 373/A Vivekananda College Road, Po-Thakurpukur, Ps- Haridevpur, Kolkata- 700063, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kamal Kanti Manna (new name) vide an affidavit No 25 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 02/01/2026. Kamal Manna and Kamal Kanti Manna both are the same and one identical person.

Indian Railways Approves Infrastructure Projects in Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Madhya Pradesh

MI News Service, 12 Feb 2026, New Delhi: Strengthening India's rail network and regional connectivity, Indian Railways has approved a series of key projects, including third-line construction, line doubling, and bypass alignments. These initiatives aim to enhance operational efficiency, improve safety, reduce travel time, and extend benefits to commonman, while supporting economic growth and seamless mobility across strategic corridors.

1. Third Line Between Aunihar – Varanasi City (31.36 km), Uttar Pradesh: ₹497.07 Crore

Indian Railways has sanctioned the construction of a dedicated third line between Aunihar and Varanasi City under North Eastern Railway. This busy section currently handles high volumes of passenger and freight traffic, including essential commodities such as cement, coal, food grains, iron, steel, and industrial materials. The addition of a third line will enable 7.13 more trains in each direction daily and accommodate freight growth of 1.99 MTPA, enhancing overall network fluidity. Upon completion, current line capacity, now at 87.93% will increase to over 102%, significantly reducing congestion, improving punctuality, and supporting

smoother travel for millions of passengers. This upgrade will also play a key role in boosting logistics efficiency for local industries and strengthening trade corridors in eastern Uttar Pradesh and adjoining regions.

2. Doubling of Ringas – Sikar (50.06 km), Rajasthan: ₹470.34 Crore

The doubling of the Ringas-Sikar section in Rajasthan under North Western Railway marks a major capacity boost on this important regional route. With an anticipated five additional trains per direction each day and freight traffic increase of 2.36 MTPA, this project will improve reliability and line speeds for both passenger and freight services. Enhanced operational efficiency will further improve connectivity across Rajasthan's industrial and pilgrimage zones, including access to sites such as Khatu Shyamji and Salasar Bajaj. Current utilization of 77% capacity is expected to rise to 210% by 2029-30, allowing the network to handle future traffic growth seamlessly. For local commuters and businesses, this doubling project means reduced delays, punctual services, and improved goods movement that will directly support economic activity and employment opportunities in the region.

3. Ujjain Bypass Line Connecting Naikheri – Chintaman Ganesh (8.60 km), Madhya Pradesh: ₹189.04 Crore

The Ujjain bypass line project under Western Railway will provide a strategic diversion that removes the need for train reversals at Ujjain Junction, substantially improving sectional capacity and operational efficiency. This corridor, which facilitates major religious and tourist traffic, especially in view of the upcoming Simhashta Kumbh Mela in 2028 will enhance seamless train movements for lakhs of devotees who visit Mahakaleswar Jyotirlinga and other revered sites. The absence of reversals will reduce delays and improve timetable reliability, particularly during peak festival seasons. This project also ensures smoother handling of daily passengers and freight services, meeting both current demands and future growth. Locals, commuters, and pilgrims alike will benefit from faster transit and better service resilience.

These projects exemplify the Indian Railways' commitment to inclusive and sustainable transport development, bridging connectivity gaps, improving service reliability, and driving India's railway towards a modern, efficient, and citizen-centric future.

Railways All Set to Enhance Connectivity with New Passenger Halt at Jangalpara of Howrah-Goghat section

MI News Service, 12 Feb 2026, Kolkata: In a significant move to bolster local connectivity and address long-standing commuter recruitment, the Ministry of Railways has approved the proposal for a new passenger halt at Jangalpara (formerly known as Rasulpur). Situated on the busy Howrah-Goghat section of the Howrah Division, this new stop is poised to bridge a critical gap for thousands of daily travelers.

Strategically Positioned for Local Ease

The proposed Jangalpara halt will be located between the existing Talpur and Takipur stations over Tarakeswar-Goghat stretch. The inter distance from the proposed halt station to Talpur is 2.31 km and from Takipur station it is 2.78 kms. Engineering surveys confirm the station is ideally placed to serve the surrounding rural belt.

By shortening the distance of railway access for the inhabitants between Talpur and Takipur stations, the Eastern Railways aim to bring rail connectivity directly to the doorstep of the Jangalpara community, reducing the dependency on expensive and time-taking road transport.

Addressing Past Commuter Hardships

For years, residents of the Jangalpara and Rasulpur areas faced a gruelling daily "commuter's dilemma." Locals were forced to travel several kilometres via narrow, often congested village roads just to reach a boarding point.

During the monsoon season, these transit routes often became treacherous, leading to missed trains, lost wages for daily labourers, and significant delays for students. The lack of a local halt also led to overcrowding at neighbouring sta-

tions.

A Bridge to Better Opportunities

The endorsement of the proposal by the Railway Board, Ministry of Railways underscores the project's importance. Beyond just a platform, this halt serves as a metaphorical bridge towards prosperity. It eliminates the need for passengers to walk along the tracks or use unauthorized shortcuts to reach distant stations. Local farmers and small-scale vendors will now have direct access to the markets in Howrah and Kolkata. The halt will be developed with essential amenities, ensuring a dignified and comfortable waiting experience for all.

The Eastern Railway remains committed to "Ease of Travel," and the Jangalpara halt stands as a testament to the department's responsiveness to public demand and regional development.

Indian Railways Sanctions Road Over Bridge to Decongest High-Traffic Level Crossing in West Bengal

MI News Service, 12 Feb 2026, New Delhi: Reinforcing India's transport infrastructure agenda, Indian Railways has approved Road Over Bridge (ROB) project and new halts focused to extend rail accessibility to underserved communities.

1. Replacement of Level Crossing No. 101 with Road Over Bridge (Katihar Division, West Bengal): ₹176.99 Crore

In response to severe traffic congestion and space constraints at Level Crossing No. 101 between Malahar Halt and Samsi on the Katihar Division, Northeast Frontier Railway will construct a road over bridge. With approximately 4,21,001 Traffic Vehicle Units recorded in a recent census, the existing level crossing has long posed safety and congestion challenges. The new ROB, including an additional light ROB at diversion will eliminate traffic bottlenecks, reduce road-rail conflicts, and significantly improve safety for motorists, pedestrians, and emergency services. Fully funded at 100% by Indian Railways, this vital infrastructure improvement will deliver uninterrupted connectivity to residents and traders in the area, easing daily commutes and reducing travel time.

2. New Passenger Halt at Chandipur, West Bengal

The proposed passenger halt at Chandipur between Kalikahali and Lavan Satyagraha Smarak stations on the Panskura-Digha line in South Eastern Railway's Kharagpur Division has been approved. This halt will improve local accessibility, particularly benefiting residents, students, and daily commuters along the coastal and semi-ur-

ban belt. The station will also support tourism flows to the popular Digha beach area, stimulating economic growth in local markets and making daily rail travel more convenient for families and workers.

3. New Passenger Halt Near Sidhu Kanho University (Between Purulia and Gourinathdham), West Bengal

A passenger halt station near Sidhu Kanho University on the Purulia-Gourinathdham section of Adra Division has been approved. Located between Purulia and Gourinathdham stations, this halt will directly benefit students, faculty, and local residents by ensuring easier and safer rail access to the university and adjoining communities. The new halt will reduce travel time and support education-linked mobility in the region, especially for economically vulnerable populations.

4. New Passenger Halt at Sidhi Jamra (Between Radhagagan and Pundag), West Bengal

Indian Railways has approved the passenger halt at Sidhi Jamra on the Radhagagan-Pundag section in the Adra Division following local demand, expanding rail accessibility in rural West Bengal. Positioned just ashore distance from both regional nodes, this halt will promote daily commuting, ease regional movement, and link residents and social opportunities in nearby towns. The halt is expected to facilitate convenient travel for students, workers, and families.

5. New Passenger Halt at Nashipur (Between Murshidabad and Jharganj), West Bengal

Approved in response to local demand, the Nashipur halt on

the Bhadrpur-Lalgola section of Eastern Railway will connect communities between Murshidabad and Jharganj. The new halt will provide a reliable and convenient boarding point for rural commuters, daily wage workers, traders, and students, reducing dependence on road transport and facilitating efficient last-mile connectivity.

6. New Passenger Halt at Jangalpara (Earlier Rasulpur), West Bengal

The halt at Jangalpara on the Howrah-Goghat section in Howrah Division was approved following local demand, delivering improved rail access between Talpur and Takipur halts. This addition will serve local commuters, school-going students, and workers, supporting daily travel needs and strengthening suburban transport linkages that contribute to enhanced quality of life and regional economic participation.

7. New Passenger Halt at Rangmati (Between Torang and Suisa), Jharkhand

The new halt at Rangmati on the Muri-Gonda section in the Ranchi Division will improve connectivity for residents of adjacent hamlets and rural communities, providing direct rail access to local marketplaces and educational institutions. With rail mobility now closer to homes, citizens will enjoy reduced travel costs and better integration with regional transport networks.

Together, these approvals mark a decisive step toward expanding safe, inclusive, and accessible rail connectivity, ensuring that the benefits of railway infrastructure reach every citizen.

GM Eastern Railway conducted inspection across key sections of Howrah, Asansol & Malda Division

MI News Service, 12 Feb 2026, Kolkata: Milind Deoskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, today conducted a comprehensive high-level inspection across several key sections of the Howrah Division, Asansol Division & Malda Division. The day-long inspection window-trailing (WT) started from Rampurhat to Dumka. He also conducted station-wise inspection focused on reviewing ongoing infrastructure projects, enhancing operational safety, and auditing the progress of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Accompanied by Principal Heads of various departments, Divisional Railway Managers, senior divisional officers, the General Manager's tour covered critical rail arterial routes connecting West Bengal and Jharkhand.

Key Station Inspections and Safety Directives

1. Dumka Station, Focus on Crew Welfare and Operational Safety

Shri Deoskar conducted a detailed inspection of the Dumka Railway Station, including the Running Room and the Crew Booking Lobby. He also interacted with crews.

He emphasised that passenger safety rests in the hands of the locomotive pilots and guards, he instructed officials to ensure the highest standards of hygiene and rest facilities in the Running Room. He noted that a well-rested crew is vital for accident-free operations.

2. Deoghar Station & Jasidih Bypass, Strengthening Connectivity

The General Manager reviewed the Deoghar Railway Station, the Pit Line, and ongoing doubling work. A significant portion of the visit was dedicated to the Jasidih (JSME) Bypass Line inspection.

Deoskar highlighted the Jasidih Bypass as a strategic priority. This line is crucial for streamlining traffic and reducing bottlenecks, as it allows trains to bypass the congested Jasidih Junction. He directed the engineering team to expedite the doubling work to meet upcoming



deadlines.

3. Banka Station, Amrit Bharat Redevelopment Audit

At Banka Railway Station, which is being transformed under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, the GM inspected the Area Booking System (ABS) and the redevelopment progress.

GM reviewed the modernization works under the Amrit Bharat initiative, focusing on improved passenger amenities and station aesthetics. He instructed staff to maintain seamless coordination to prevent delays in freight and passenger movement during the construction phase.

4. Bhagalpur (BGP) Station, Yard Remodelling and Future Capacity

At Bhagalpur Railway Station, a major hub for the region, Mr. Deoskar the Eastern Railway General Manager inspected the Crew Lobby, Running Room, and the ongoing Yard Remodelling work.

He scrutinized the proposed Holding Area at Bhagalpur. He mandated that the yard remodelling must prioritize flexibility in train movements to accommodate future increases in frequency. He held a press conference at Bhagalpur to outline strategic infrastructure upgrades and passenger amenity enhancements.

5. Godda Station, Amrit

Bharat Progress and Coaching Facilities

The tour concluded with an inspection of Godda Railway Station, another key station selected for the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. He reviewed the on-going Coaching Depot work and the station's modernization at Godda.

General Manager, ER inspected safety related items, station building at Hansdiha Station. He also inspected Sanjha halt station over Malda division.

Deoskar emphasized that the development of the Coaching Depot is essential for the maintenance of primary rakes starting from Godda. Regarding the Amrit Bharat works, he instructed that the quality of passenger waiting areas and facade improvements must reflect a world-class travel experience.

Throughout the tour, Shri Milind Deoskar, General Manager/Eastern Railway reiterated that "Safety is non-negotiable." He concluded the inspection by appreciating the field staff's dedication and urged all departments to maintain a proactive approach toward infrastructure maintenance and passenger comfort. His visit reflects Eastern Railway's commitment to continuous improvement and modernization of railway infrastructure.

Railway board directs expeditious implementation of newly announced Dankuni-Surat dedicated freight corridor

MI News Service, 12 Feb 2026, New Delhi: Indian Railways has initiated fast-track action for the expeditious implementation of the newly announced Dankuni-Surat Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), as announced in the Union Budget 2026.

The Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw has directed officials for the time-bound execution of this strategically significant freight corridor.

The proposed new Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC), around 2,100 km long, will run from Dankuni to Surat, passing through West Bengal, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat. This corridor will greatly improve freight movement between eastern and western India, make logistics faster and more efficient, reduce travel time for goods trains, and ease congestion on existing Indian Railways routes.

Corridor Corporation of India Limited (DFC-CIL) officials have been asked to immediately formalize optimum technical standards incorporating the latest advancements in freight logistics. Key features under consideration include high-capacity electrification systems, no level crossings (nil LCs) and advanced signalling systems such as Kavach, to ensure enhanced safety and higher throughput.

The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Dankuni-Surat corridor will be updated with the latest cost estimates and revised timelines. The updated DPR will ensure better planning, budgeting and timely execution of the corridor. The corridor will be divided into suitable areas to enable early and simultaneous implementation. Dedicated core teams for each area will be finalized and stationed in the field to closely monitor progress.

Railway board has directed that all pre-construction activities be comprehensively identified and fast-tracked, with simultaneous initiation of preparation of contract documents to avoid any delay in project rollout.

An assessment of optimum manpower re-

quirements for the corridor is also underway. The Railway Board will be apprised on a weekly basis regarding action taken, progress achieved, and assistance required to ensure seamless and expeditious implementation.

LOST & FOUND
I, Sri Birendranath Ghosh S/o Late Bhuvanmohan Ghosh residing at 22/2, Kumarpara Road, P.O.-Liluah, PS- Liluah, Dist Howrah declare hereby that Original Deed no. 4885 registered in Book 1 on 17/09/1991 and Deed No.5667 registered on the year 1990 have been lost since 18.02.14 whose G.D No. 1332 PS-Liluah, Dist-Howrah.

SIDDHA-I GRAM PANCHAYAT
Notice Inviting E-Tender Pradhan, on behalf of SIDDHA-I GRAM PANCHAYAT, invites (On line) vide NIT No. SIDDHA-I/NIT-13/15th FC/TIED/2025-26, SIDDHA-I/NIT-14/15th FC/TIED/2025-26 dtd. 11.02.26 & Offline tender NIT No. 11/CFCG-UNTIED/2025-26, 12/CFCG-TIED/2025-26 dtd. 10.02.2026 and Bid Submission date end : 19.02.2026 up to 2:00 PM. For details visit website- <https://wbtdenders.gov.in> and other details may be seen during Office hours.

Sd/- Pradhan
Siddha-I Gram Panchayat,
Kolkata, Purba Medinipur

TENDER NOTICE
Niet No: 15/DOM/GGP/15th FC 2025-26, Publishing & Bid Submission Start Date: 12/02/2026 from 05.00 PM. Bid Submission Closing Date: 20/02/2026 upto 12.00 PM. Bid Opening Date: 23/02/2026 after 12.00 PM. Details See In: www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/- Pradhan
Garaimari Gram Panchayat

Notice Inviting e-Tender
NIT NO-JOY2/23 of 2025-26 Dt.-05.02.2026. It is here invited by the BDO/EO, Joynagar-II for e-tender of 01 no. of Work vide Tender Id: 2026_ZPHD_1002652_1 and last date of bid submission is 24.02.2026. For details visit website <https://wbtenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
BDO/EO
Joynagar-II Dev. Block/PS Nimpith, South 24 Parganas

e-Tender Notice
Pradhan, Pantihali Gram Panchayat under Jagatballyapur Dev. Block, Howrah invites e-Tender vide NIT No. – Pant/304, 305, 306, 307, 308/2025, Dated 11/02/2026. Last Date of Submission of this Bid through online 20/02/2026 upto 3.00 PM. For more information visit <https://www.wbtenders.gov.in>

Dehibatpur Gram Panchayat
Dehibatpur, Alati, Pursurah, Hooghly
Notice Inviting e-Tender
e-NIT vide NIT No: 07/DGP/25-26 (SI no. 1-9), Fund : 15th FC, Dated- 12/02/2026 are invited by the Pradhan Dehibatpur Gram Panchayat, from reliable and bonafied Tenderer for work. Online EMD & Tender fees through ICICI Bank Payment Gateway in e-procurement portal for deposit from 12/02/2026 to 23/02/2026, Bid submission closing online on 23/02/2026 at 17:00 Hrs. Date of Bid Opening 26.02.2026 (11:30 O'Clock). For details contact the above office or visit <https://wbtdenders.gov.in>

Sd/-
Pradhan
Dehibatpur Gram Panchayat

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HOWRAH-KHATIPURA-HOWRAH SPECIAL TRAIN

To clear extra rush of passengers during ensuing Holi Festival, 03007/03008 Howrah - Khatipura - Howrah Special train will run as per following abstract timings, stoppages, dates of run and composition:-

Howrah - Khatipura (03007)		(03008)		Khatipura - Howrah	
Day	Arr.	Dep.	Stations	Arr.	Dep.
Wednesday	--	23.55	Howrah	05.15	--
			Asansol	00.50	00.55
Thursday	03.00	03.05	Jasidih	23.02	23.04
	04.58	05.00	Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn.	14.00	14.10
Friday	11.30	--	Khatipura	--	17.00

The above Special Trains will also stop at Bardhaman, Durgapur, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jhajha, Kiul Jn., Sheikhpura, Nawadah, Tilaiya, Gaya, Anugraha Narayan Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Subedarganj, Govindpuri, Etawah Jn., Bah, Fatehabad, Agra Cantt Jn., Bharatpur Jn., Bandikui Jn. and Dausa stations enroute in both directions.
● Day / Date of Run : From Howrah : 03007 on 25.02.2026 & 11.03.2026 (Wednesday) = 2 Trips. From Khatipura : 03008 on 27.02.2026 & 13.03.2026 (Friday) = 2 Trips. ● Composition: AC 3-Tier - 04, Sleeper Class - 10, General 2nd Class (GS) - 06, SLRD - 02 = 22 Coaches. ● Category : Mail/Express.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager
EASTERN RAILWAY

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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. : 222-S/1/W-II, Dated: 10.02.2026. Following E-tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata - 700 014 for the following works: **Tender No.: TR-182-25-26, Name of the Work:** Improvement of Kolkata yard by casual renewal of rails, fittings, sleepers, TTR, deep screening, packing, SKV welding, rail painting, muck removal, repairing of washing pit line and other ancillary works under Senior Section Engineer (P. Way)/ Chitpur in the jurisdiction of under Assistant Engineer/Ballygunge under Divisional Engineer(HQ)/Sealdah. **Tender value:** Rs. 81,98,050.85. **EMD:** Rs. 1,64,000/- **Completion period** for the work: 12 (Twelve) months. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** 10.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender:** 10.03.2026 at 15.30 hrs. The Tender Documents and other details are available at website www.ireps.gov.in. The bidding is to be submitted through the e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022, cost of e-Tender Form is Nil.

SDAH-390/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No.: ELD-300-WC-34-2025-26, Dated 09.02.2026. E-Tender is invited by the Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer(TRD, Sealdah, Eastern Railway, Control Building, 1st Floor, DRM Office, Kaiser Street, Kolkata - 700 014 for the following work: **Tender No. ELD-300-WC-34-2025-26, Name of Work:** 25 KV OHE and Allied Electrical Works in connection with "Re-girding of Br.No.7, Br.No. 14CCR, Br.No.20, Br.No. 17 and Br.No.1CP under jurisdiction of SSE/ Tr-D/ Narkeldanga Coaching Yard of Sealdah Division". **Tender value:** Rs. 89,74,799.80. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,79,500/- **Cost of Tender document:** Nil. **Completion period:** 12 (Twelve) months from the date of issue of letter of Acceptance. **Date of closing:** 10.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Details of tender notice and corrigendum issued from time to time are available at website www.ireps.gov.in

SDAH-392/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.easternrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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CHITTARANJAN LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No.: AEE-WP-PH42 Wiring, Name of work : Up gradation of CPH Building and subordinate offices of shop floor at CLW/CRI. **Tender No.:** AEE-WP-PH42 Wiring. **Tender Type:** Open. **Bidding Style:** Single Rate for Tender. **Cost of Tender Document (Form):** ₹0.00. **Earnest Money** to be deposited: ₹1950.00. **Approximate Value of the Work (Tender Value):** ₹5976864.00 (including all Taxes). **Completion Period of the Work:** 12 Months. **Contract type:** Works. **Contract Category:** Expenditure. **Expenditure Type:** Capital Works. **Closing Date for Tender/Time:** 05.03.2026 at 11:00 hrs. **Tender Validity Period:** 60 (sixty) days. Complete Details of Tender can be seen in the Railways Websites www.ireps.gov.in. **AEE/WS-Pig-PR2/298** for Dy.CEE/ERS/CLW/CRI. **Like us on:** www.facebook.com/clw/railways

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. S/G.Tender/SDTE/SDAH/597 dated 11.02.2026. Sr. DSTE, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd Floor, Control Building, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 invites e-tender for the following work: **e-Tender No.: SDSTE/SIG/IT/47/25-26/RRSK. Name of work with its location:** Replacement of TLBI with SSBPAC(D) over Sealdah division. **Tender Value:** Rs. 1,91,57,585.06. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited:** Rs. 2,45,800/- **Cost of Tender document:** Nil. **Completion period of the work:** 9 months. **Tender submission start date:** 24.02.2026. **Tender submission end date:** 10.03.2026 upto 14.00 hrs. **Tender bid opening date:** 10.03.2026 at 14.30 hrs. **Details may be available:** www.ireps.gov.in. **Technical Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or "V" whichever is less; where V = Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-B of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted:** As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar nature of work:** Supply, installation & Commissioning of Data Logger or RTUs or Any Signal Interlocking Works involving EI or RRI or PI or IBS or IBI or LC Gate Interlocking or Yard Modification or UFSBI or RCT Circuit (AFTC or DC TC) or Axle Counter (SSDAC or MSDAC or HA-SSDAC) or Automatic Signalling Note: The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self-attested/digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page).

SDAH-394/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.easternrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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Metro Railway, Kolkata

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Signal, Metro Railway, Kolkata for & On behalf of The President of India invites e-Tenders against Open Tender due to open on 05.03.2026 at 15.00 hrs. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. **Name of work:** Rehabilitation of VRLA type batteries of various UPS from domestic sector V to Phobagan including OCC and DCC in Green Line (Phase-I) of Metro Railway, Kolkata along with some allied works in Green Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata under SSE/SIG/CPD/C. **Tender Value (Rs.) :** ₹ 51,66,308.53, **Earnest Money (Rs.) :** ₹ 1,03,300, **Completion Period :** 12 Months. The Tender can be viewed at website: <https://www.ireps.gov.in> The tenderer/bidders must have Class-II Digital Signature Certificate & must be registered on IREPS Portal. Only registered tenderer bidders can participate on e-tendering. All relevant paper must be uploaded at the time of participating in e-tender.

Open Tender Notice No.: S&T/Work/11-2026
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ALCHEMIST ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

CIN No. U74999DL2002PLC117052
A-270, 1st & 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024, India
Email: admin@alchemistarc.com, Website: www.alchemistarc.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002)
Notice is hereby given that Alchemist Asset Reconstruction Company Limited (the Secured Creditor / ARC), having acquired the below-mentioned loan accounts from SBFC Finance Limited under an Assignment of Debt dated 30.09.2025, has issued Demand Notice(s) under Section 13(2) of the SARFESI Act, 2002 to the respective borrower(s)/co-borrower(s)/guarantor(s), calling upon them to discharge in full their liabilities to the Secured Creditor within 60 (Sixty) days from the date of receipt of the said notice(s).
In the event of failure to repay the said dues within the stipulated period, the Secured Creditor shall be entitled to exercise all or any of the rights under Section 13(4) of the Act, including taking possession of the secured assets, without any further notice.

DETAILS OF BOR

Department of Posts (DoP) and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) Sign MoU to Advance Financial Inclusion through Mutual Fund Distribution

Ranchi : In a landmark step towards realizing the vision of Antyodaya - uplifting the last person in the queue - and building a Viksit Bharat by 2047, the Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, and the National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), India's largest real-time financial ecosystem, today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to partner on the NSE MF Invest Platform. This collaboration aims to transform the modest savings of millions of rural and small-town Indians into lasting wealth by channelling "stranded savings" into productive mutual fund investments.

The MoU was signed by Ms. Manisha Bansal Badal, General Manager (Citizen Centric Services & Rural Business), Department of Posts, and ShriSriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer (CBDO), NSE, in the august presence of Shri Ashishkumar



Chauhan, Managing Director & CEO, NSE.

This strategic partnership leverages India Post's unparalleled network of over 1.64 lakh post offices (more than 80% in

rural areas) and its deep-rooted trust among communities, combined with NSE's cutting-edge, zero-cost NSE MF Invest platform. The initiative seeks to bridge the gap in mutual fund penetration,

which remains low at approximately 10% of Indian households, predominantly urban, despite the industry's robust growth-with Assets Under Management (AUM) surpassing ₹81 lakh crore and

strong SIP inflows. India Post's vast reach and trustworthiness position it ideally to empower crores of mothers, farmers, daily-wage workers, and young dreamers to access better long-term growth through mutual funds. This will drive inclusive growth, boost domestic investment, and reduce dependence on low-yield options.

NSE's Key Contributions to the Partnership

Complete End-to-End Solution: NSE MF Invest provides a turnkey, fully integrated platform covering the entire investor lifecycle-from KYC: Mobile/Aadhaar-based e-KYC at post offices or via India Post system/App powered by NSE MF Invest, through onboarding, transactions, back-office integration. The 2,500 Leader Initiative: NSE has committed to fully fund the NISM Certification and EUN registration for 2,500 India Post personnel. This creates a certified vanguard of wealth experts in rural India.

Secure your child's future with ICICI PruSmartKid 360

Jamshedpur : ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI PruSmartKid 360, a long-term saving product which allows customers to plan for their child's future financial needs, with guaranteed benefits.

ICICI PruSmartKid360, gives MoneyBack or pre-decided payouts as per the child's future milestones such as school or higher education or early adulthood goals. Notably, customers can choose a fixed amount or increasing amount as payouts.

Commenting on the launch, Vikas Gupta, Chief Product Officer, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, said, "ICICI PruSmartKid 360 has been designed to cater to the parents need to financially secure their child's future. In addition to the MoneyBack benefits, the product provides a guaranteed maturity benefit in the form of a lump-sum payout, at the end of the policy tenure, which can support the child's transition into adulthood.

A key feature of the product is the inbuilt waiver of premium and continuity of benefits, which safeguards the child's future in the event of the life assured's unfortunate demise. Under this feature, all future premiums are waived, life cover amount is paid out to the nominee and other chosen policy benefits continue which can ensure the child's goals are not disrupted.

In addition to the core benefits, ICICI PruSmartKid 360 offers optional features such as Family Income Benefit, which provides regular income, supporting the family in case of the life assured's untimely demise."

AI could add \$550 billion to India's economy by 2035: Report



New Delhi : Artificial intelligence could contribute nearly \$550 billion to India's economy by 2035, across five priority sectors including agriculture, education, energy, healthcare and manufacturing, a report said on Thursday. The report from Vietnam Times cited PwC India's flagship study adding that it was rounded in economic modelling and real-world pilots. AI Edge for Viksit Bharat study from PwC India was tabled at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos 2026 and led to India's artificial intelligence ambitions taking a structured and globally resonant form, it said. The Davos platform amplified the message that India's AI strategy is being shaped with goals beyond efficiency and growth and considers inclusion, governance, and institutional readiness. The study positioned India as a potential global benchmark on how emerging economies should deploy AI at scale while embedding it into public systems and everyday economic activity. The report highlighted a proprietary 3A2I framework -- Access, Acceptance, Assimilation, Implementation and Institutionalisation -- as a system level playbook to scale AI. 'Access' focuses on ensuring the availability of data, digital infrastructure, and skilled talent while 'acceptance' stresses on public confidence for widespread adoption. Assimilation addresses the integration of AI into real workflows regularly beyond pilots. "Once these foundations are established, the framework advances toward large-scale Implementation and long-term Institutionalisation," the report said. Sector pilots demonstrated double digit efficiency gains in agriculture due to AI-enabled crop advisories and improved disease detection in healthcare. PwC said that India can expect operational excellence, sustainability, good governance, resilience, and financial discipline from AI deployed at scale. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has recently pointed to AI-enabled platforms such as MAITRI for industrial investments, where automation and data-driven processes are enhancing ease of doing business. "In the energy sector, smart metering systems using AI have flagged power theft cases with high accuracy, improving financial discipline while in healthcare, AI-driven tuberculosis detection tools have significantly improved notification rates, strengthening disease surveillance," the report said. Sanjeev Krishnan, Chairperson of PwC in India highlighted that AI offers India the ability to reimagine growth beyond traditional GDP metrics, aligning innovation with a people-first development lens, the report cited.

Shorter 6 month all oral TB regimens found cost effective in India

New Delhi : Shorter, six month and all oral treatment regimens for multidrug resistant and rifampicin resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR TB) are cost effective and deliver better health outcomes than longer regimens, an ICMR study said on Thursday.

With shorter regimen, "for each additional Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) gained, the health system spends Rs 379 less per patient compared to the standard regimen, indicating better health outcomes at lower costs," said the study, according to a Ministry of Health and Family Welfare statement.

The study compared cost-effectiveness of bedaquiline-based regimens-BPaL (bedaquiline, pretomanid and linezolid) with the existing bedaquiline-containing shorter (9-11 months) and longer (18-20 months) treatment regimens used under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP).

It also compared BPaLM (with moxifloxacin) with existing regimen and found the former highly cost effective, costing only Rs 37 more per patient per additional QALY gained compared with the standard regimen.

Both regimens were associated with lower or comparable overall healthcare costs, including medicines, hospital visits, and follow-up care.

Multidrug resistant and rifampicin resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR TB) poses significant treatment challenges due to prolonged treatment duration, adverse effects, and higher costs.

Shorter all-oral regimens can improve treatment adherence, reduce patient morbidity, and enable faster return to normal life, while also lowering the burden on the health system, said the findings.

"The findings provide important economic evidence to support the use of shorter, all-oral regimens for MDR or RR-TB management in India. By reducing treatment duration from 9-18 months or longer to six months, these regimens align with national priorities to optimise resource utilisation and accelerate progress towards TB elimination," the statement said.

Current options for treating tuberculosis (TB) that are resistant to rifampicin (RR-TB) are limited and available regimens are often lengthy and poorly tolerated.

Delhi's Intermediate Reference Laboratory, Tuberculosis Centre, recently received its first certification from the Central Tuberculosis Division (CTD) to conduct Drug Susceptibility Testing (DST) for bedaquiline (BDQ) and Pretomanid (Pa), used globally for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis.

'India must push for big leap in technology to bolster diplomatic clout'

New Delhi : India needs to adapt the US model to develop new technologies in rare earth processing, advanced biologics, AI, and affordable satellite launch services, which will enable the country to create strategic dependencies that it can leverage diplomatically, according to an article.

The USA's control over advanced technology in defence and IT, and its strong financial system, enable President Donald Trump to have his way in the conduct of diplomatic relations with other countries, the article in India Narrative observed.

"In essence, the US ascent teaches that dominance flows from engineered inevitability. India must internalise this without moral compromise: pursue relentless innovation, coordinate ruthlessly toward shared goals, and create the dependencies," the article by Shrijeet Phadke stated.

Build Strategic Dependencies Target niches where India can achieve outsized control: rare-earth processing, generic pharmaceuticals + advanced biologics, open-source AI frameworks tailored for emerging markets, affordable satellite/launch services, or digital public infrastructure (e.g., expanding UPI globally), he wrote. Make the world reliant on Indian capabilities--then leverage that reliance diplomatically.

In the arena of international relations, true influence is rarely exercised through goodwill alone. Donald Trump's aggressive tariff campaigns and trade confrontations have starkly revealed a timeless diplomatic reality: powerful nations weaponise every tool at their disposal -- economic sanctions,



technological standards, financial systems, cultural narratives, and even democratic ideals -- to compel compliance and secure advantage, the article stated.

Genuine bargaining power exists only when one party possesses irreplaceable advantages. The US strategy has consistently involved capturing entire sectors through innovation, scaling them to near-monopoly levels, and embedding them so deeply into global systems that alternatives become impractical or prohibitively costly.

At the same time, the article points out that India cannot copy US tactics slavishly but must adapt the core principle: create

dependencies on India. Only by making select sectors, technologies, services, or resources indispensable can India dictate terms and ascend among dominant powers.

It further states that there is a need to aggressively expand high-value services exports (IT, software, AI, fintech, biotech) while maintaining manufacturing momentum in electronics, renewables and defence. India's existing service-sector edge, particularly in AI talent and cost-competitive development, must be supercharged with massive public-private investment. Aim to capture global market share in emerging fields like AI

agents, quantum-resistant cryptography, or green hydrogen, it urged.

The article also highlights the need to transform education and research ecosystems in the country. It comes out in favour of a big overhaul in curricula to prioritise deep, original research over rote learning. Encourage interdisciplinary challenges to Western (and domestic) orthodoxies. Discourage monotonous, incremental work; reward bold, monopoly-creating breakthroughs. Establish rigorous national standards for "true innovation": outputs that generate near-irreplaceable value or widespread dependency.

IPEMA-Poultry India Showcases Strong Presence at NOVACON 2026 & 12th Kolkata

Kolkata : Poultry India marked a significant presence at NOVACON 2026 - Conference on Innovation in Poultry, held alongside the 12th Kolkata International Poultry Fair (KIPF) 2026 from February 10 to 13, 2026.

The IPEMA delegation was led by its President, Mr. Uday Singh Bayas, reaffirming the association's commitment to strengthening industry collaboration across India, particularly in the Eastern region.

Insightful Deliberations at NOVACON 2026

The interactive seminar held on February 10 featured internationally reputed speakers who shared insights on cutting-edge technologies, innovation-driven practices, biosecurity, sustainability, and forward-looking growth strategies. The conference emphasized resilience and sustainable expansion within the Indian poultry sector.

IPEMA-Poultry India's participation highlighted its proactive role in promoting knowledge exchange, technological advancement, and industry inte-

A total of 12 IPEMA member companies showcased their advanced technologies through individual stalls, while two members participated under the IPEMA pavilion, reinforcing collective industry representation.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Uday Singh Bayas thanked the dignitaries, especially Hon'ble Minister SapanDebnath, and acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Madan Mohan Maity in strengthening Poultry India's presence in Eastern India. He emphasized deeper collaboration, innovation, and unified growth strategies for the sector.

gration aligned with the evolving needs of the poultry industry. Fee

The Hon'ble Minister for Animal Resources Development, Government of West Bengal, Mr. SapanDebnath, inaugurated the 12th Kolkata International Poultry Fair by lighting the ceremonial lamp. The event was organized by the West Bengal



Poultry Federation (WBPF) in association with the Animal Resources Development

Department, Government of West Bengal, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, innovators, and stakeholders on a common platform. IPEMA-Poultry India set up an exclusive pavilion representing all mem-

ber companies, serving as a key networking hub for the Eastern India poultry sector.

The IPEMA stall was formally inaugurated in the presence of industry leaders including Mr. Madan Mohan Maity (General Secretary, WBPF), Mr. Sameer Agarwal (MD, Shalimar Hatcheries Limited), Mr.

RanpalDanda (President, Poultry Federation of India), Dr. JitendraVerma (President, WVPA India Chapter), Mr. Vasant Kumar Shetty (President, PIBBA), Mr. Santosh Ire (Secretary, VIP), Mr. Sanjeev Gupta, Vice President (PFI).

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advanced technologies through individual stalls, while two members participated under the IPEMA pavilion, reinforcing collective industry representation.

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He also invited stakeholders to participate in the 18th edition of Poultry India Expo 2026, scheduled from November 25-27, 2026, at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad.

IPEMA-Poultry India's participation at NOVACON 2026 and KIPF 2026 reflects its commitment to promoting innovation-driven poultry practices, strengthening regional and national collaboration, encouraging sustainable and biosecure production systems, and enhancing India's global competitiveness in poultry.

Israel apartheid law: Death penalty for Palestinians, life for citizens

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Israel's parliament, the Knesset, has advanced a draft law that would impose mandatory death sentences on Palestinians convicted of certain attacks, while allowing Israeli citizens found guilty of similar offences to receive life imprisonment.

The bill passed its first reading on November 10, 2025, by 39 votes to 16 in the 120-member chamber. It was introduced by the far-right Otzma Yehudit party led by National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and has the backing of members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition.

According to Israeli daily Haaretz, one clause would allow a military commander to determine that a West Bank resident who intentionally caused the death of a person in circumstances defined as terrorism "can be punished only by death," while specifying that the provision does not apply to Israeli citizens or residents.

Under the draft amendments, military courts in the occupied West Bank would be required to impose the death penalty in qualifying cases and judicial discretion would be removed in certain circumstances. In addition, sentences could be carried out within 90 days of a final ruling.

Israeli citizens accused of comparable offences are tried in civilian courts, where life imprisonment remains available and capital punishment would not be mandatory.

The legislation must pass second and third readings before becoming law. The Knesset's National Security Committee is currently reviewing the proposal.



Hebrew-language broadcaster Channel 13 reported this week that the Israel Prison Service has begun internal preparations in the event the law is enacted. According to the report, planning discussions include establishing a designated execution facility, referred to internally as the "Israeli Green Mile, drafting procedures for carrying out executions by hanging, training selected

rights experts urged Israel on Wednesday, February 4, to withdraw the proposed legislation, warning that mandatory death sentences violate international human rights law by removing judicial discretion and proportionality.

Affairs and the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, described the bill as an "unprecedented act of savagery."

Israel abolished the death penalty for ordinary criminal offences in 1954 but retained it for exceptional crimes such as genocide and treason. It has been used only twice since 1948. The last execution was carried out in 1962 against Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann.

The proposed law comes amid ongoing conflict following the Hamas-led attacks on October 7, 2023, and the subsequent war in Gaza.

Iran says distrust of West stalls nuclear talks, describing missile program as "red line"

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran on Wednesday said a "wall of distrust" created by the West is hindering nuclear talks with the United States, reaffirming its readiness for diplomacy on its nuclear program while vowing not to compromise on its defense capabilities.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, speaking at celebrations in Tehran for the 47th anniversary of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, said that a "wall of distrust" created by the West and excessive U.S. demands are impeding progress in nuclear talks with Washington.

"We believe that the region's problems can be resolved only by regional countries, not foreign states," he said, adding that Iran will never surrender to excessive demands and aggression. During the nationwide celebrations, participants marched in cities across Iran, reaffirming their allegiance to the national establishment, and condemned the "aggressive, destabilizing and criminal" policies of the United States and Israel, which they blame for regional insecurity.

The 1979 Islamic Revolution, led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, overthrew the U.S.-backed Shah Mohammad Reza



Pahlavi and transformed Iran into an Islamic republic. Also attending the Wednesday celebrations in the capital, Ali Shamkhani, senior advisor to Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, said Iran's missile capability is a red line and a non-negotiable issue.

According to a report by Iran's Nour News, Shamkhani said any military attack, even limited, will be considered the start of a war, the consequence of which will "reach a scope beyond the military dimension" and "affect the lives of people in different parts of the world."

Eastern Railway Facilitates Joyous Holi Celebrations With Special Train Services

- ER to run Six (06) Holi Special Trains.
- 20,400 berths and more than 1200 Seats to be generated.

MI News Service, Kolkata, 12 Feb.26 : Holi and Dol Yatra, the vibrant festivals of colours, are best celebrated with family and friends. During this festive period, people travel extensively to reunite with their loved ones or visit popular holiday destinations. Eastern Railway has made special arrangements to ensure passengers can celebrate the festival without disruption. In addition to its regular services, Eastern Railway has decided to run Six (06) Holi special trains in different directions, catering to the increasing demand of passengers traveling to popular destinations during this festive season as well as catering to the need of the people returning home to unify with family members on this joyous occasion. To alleviate this issue and ensure hassle-free travel for passengers, the special trains will run between Howrah & Raxaul, Sealdah & Madhubani, Kolkata & Madhubani and Howrah & Khatipura. These special trains will offer additional capacity and flexibility to accommodate the extra rush of passengers during the Holi festival period. More than 1200 seats and 20,400 berths will be generated by running these Holi festival specials.

03043 Howrah – Raxaul Holi Special will leave Howrah at 23:05 hrs on 28.02.2026, 07.03.2026 & 14.03.2026 (03 trips) to reach Raxaul at 16:15 hrs on the next day and 03044 Raxaul – Howrah Holi Special will leave Raxaul at 17:45 hrs on 01.03.2026, 08.03.2026 & 15.03.2026 (03 trips) to reach Howrah at 10:50 hrs on the next day. The special train will stop at Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Dalsingh Sarai, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Kamtaul, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi and Bairagania stations in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

03045 Howrah – Raxaul Holi Special will leave Howrah at 23:05 hrs on 01.03.2026 & 02.03.2026 (02 trip) to reach Raxaul at 16:15 hrs on the next day and 03046 Raxaul – Howrah Holi Special will leave Raxaul at 17:45 hrs on 02.03.2026 & 03.03.2026 (02 trip) to reach Howrah at 10:50 hrs on the next day. The special train will stop at Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Dalsingh Sarai, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Kamtaul, Janakpur Road, Sitamarhi and Bairagania station in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

03183 Sealdah – Madhubani Holi Special will leave Sealdah at 23:50 hrs. on

28.02.2026 & 07.03.2026 (02 trips) to reach Madhubani at 14:30 hrs. on the next day and 03184 Madhubani – Sealdah Holi Special will leave Madhubani at 15:30 hrs. on 01.03.2026 & 08.03.2026 (02 trips) to reach Sealdah at 06:25 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Sakri stations in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

03185 Kolkata – Madhubani Holi Special will leave Kolkata at 23:50 hrs. on 27.02.2026 (01 trip) to reach Madhubani at 14:30 hrs. on the next day and 03186 Madhubani – Kolkata Holi Special will leave Madhubani at 15:30 hrs. on 28.02.2026 (01 trip) to reach Kolkata at 06:25 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Sakri stations in both directions enroute. The train will have AC & Non- AC Chair Car, General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

03187 Kolkata – Madhubani Holi Special will leave Kolkata at 23:50 hrs. on 03.03.2026 (01 trip) to reach Madhubani at 14:30 hrs. on the next day and 03188 Madhubani – Kolkata Holi Special will leave Madhubani at 15:30 hrs. on 04.03.2026 (01 trip) to reach Kolkata at 06:25 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Barauni, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Sakri stations in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned accommodations.

03007 Howrah – Khatipura Holi Special will leave Howrah at 23:55 hrs. on 25.02.2026 & 11.03.2026 (02 trips) to reach Khatipura at 11:30 hrs. on the third day and 03008 Khatipura – Howrah Holi Special will leave Khatipura at 17:00 hrs. on 27.02.2026 & 13.03.2026 (02 trips) to reach Howrah at 05:15 hrs. on the third day. The train will stop at Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur, Jasidih, Jhajha, Kiul, Sheikpura, Nawadah, Tilaya, Gaya, Anugraha N Road, Dehri On Sone, Sasaram, Bhabua Road, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Jn, Subedarganj, Govindpuri, Etawah, Bah, Fatehabad, Agra Cantt Jn, Bharatpur, Bandikui Jn. and Dausa stations in both the directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class & Air-conditioned Accommodations.

The date of booking of tickets for the above special trains will be notified shortly.

Storm Nils leaves 850,000 households without power in southern France

MI News Service, Paris: Storm Nils swept across southern France, leaving about 850,000 households without electricity and prompting the highest-level weather alerts in some departments, authorities said on Thursday.

French power provider Enedis announced that 850,000 homes were without power on Thursday morning due to the storm.

Among the total, 485,000 households were in the southwestern region of Nouvelle-Aquitaine, while 318,000 were in the Occitanie region. The two regions were hardest hit by power outages and severe weather conditions.



Meteo-France, the national weather service, placed four departments under red alert and 32 under orange alert for Thursday, warning of dangerous weather conditions.

Union Home Ministry directs full recital of Vande Mataram while standing at official events



MI News Service, New Delhi: According to the new directive issued by the Union Home Ministry, the national song "Vande Mataram" consisting six stanzas must be sung while standing, at all official events in its honour. The recital now includes the previously removed four stanzas in 1937.

Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, the composed the song on November 17, 1875. The song was officially recognised in the year 1950. Issuing the directive, the Ministry stated, "The national song should be sung first and the audience must stand up whenever it is played.

At the same time, people are not required to stand during documentaries, as this leads to confusion and interferes with viewing". The guidelines directed that the song must be a part of all official events including the flag hoisting. At the state level, the National Song must be sung at the arrival and departure of President and before speeches by governors and other officials. The song will also be broadcasted on state media like Doordarshan after President addresses the nation.

The MHA further encourages mass singing at various cultural programmes organised at schools, colleges etc including everyday assemblies. Prior to the National Song, an instrument like "mridang" or trumpet must be played. During marching drill, the National Song should be sung after following seven steps. The Ministry stated, "School authorities must ensure that the National Song, National Anthem is made common in their events alongside promoting respect and honour for national flag".

SC to hear bail plea of Tasleem Ahmed in Delhi riots case

MI News Service, Delhi: A notice was issued on Wednesday after Tasleem Ahmed moved the Supreme Court against the Delhi High Court's refusal to deny him bail under the UAPA in 2020 riots case.

A division bench of justices Aravind Kumar and Prasanna B. Varale sought response from Delhi police on special leave petition filed by Ahmed challenging the Delhi High Court's September 2 2025 ruling that upheld the trial court's rejection of his third regular bail plea.

The case is expected to come up for hearing on April 6 2026 according to what is posted on the Supreme Court's website.

Tasleem Ahmed was taken into custody in June 2020 by Delhi Police's Crime Branch in connection with the violence that unfolded in North East Delhi earlier that year during protests against the controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and he has remained incarcerated ever since.

The prosecution has accused him of involvement in alleged coordinated plan behind the riots, an allegation he, his family and many



activists deny claiming that he was targeted for his involvement in the protests.

He faces charges under the IPC, the Arms Act, the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and several provisions of the UAPA.

While rejecting his bail plea, the Delhi High Court ruled that delay in trial or prolonged detention alone does not justify bail under Section 43 D(5) of the UAPA, particularly where the gravity of allegations has not been examined.

The court also noted that delays in proceedings were largely influenced to the defence. Several others, including Sharjeel Imam and Umar Khalid are also accused in the case.

The Supreme Court recently denied bail to them, while granting relief to five other co-accused.

Investigators have alleged that the violence, which resulted in 53 deaths, was premeditated and timed to coincide with the visit of then US President Donald Trump.

The case is part of a wider set of prosecutions arising from the 2020 Delhi violence, which have drawn criticism from rights groups, activists and political commentators.

They argue that the allegations are baseless and that dissent against the CAA has been criminalised and that prolonged pre-trial incarceration under the UAPA amounts to punishment without trial.

Trump says talks with Iran will continue to see whether deal can be consummated

MI News Service, Washington: "There was nothing definitive reached other than I insisted that negotiations with Iran continue to see whether or not a Deal can be consummated," Trump said. "If it can, I let the Prime Minister know that will be a preference. If it cannot, we will just have to see what the outcome will be."

"I have just finished meeting with Prime Minister Netanyahu, of Israel, and various of his Representatives," Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

"There was nothing definitive reached other than I insisted that negotiations with Iran continue to see whether or not a Deal can be consummated," Trump said. "If it can, I let the Prime Minister know that will be a preference. If it cannot, we will just have to see what the outcome will be."

He added that the two leaders discussed the progress being made in Gaza and the region in general.



Netanyahu arrived at the White House in a vehicle via the South Lawn on Wednesday morning and left without a press conference or a statement issued.

The meeting, their seventh since the start of Trump's second term, reportedly lasted roughly three hours.

Before the meeting, Netanyahu met with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and formally signed up as a member of the "Board of Peace." The initiative is controversial in Israel's parliament, Fox News reported.

Ahead of his trip to Washington, Netanyahu told reporters: "I will present to the president our concept regarding the principles of the negotiations (on Iran) -- the essential principles that are important not only to Israel but to anyone who wants peace and security in the Middle East."

Netanyahu's office has said that the prime minister wants the talks to include limits on Iran's ballistic missile program and cut Iran's ties with militant groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah.

Trump said Tuesday in an interview with Fox Business Network that "it's got to be a good deal. No nuclear weapons, no missiles."

Muslim delegations in Meerut seek night markets, retention of mosque loudspeakers ahead of Ramadan

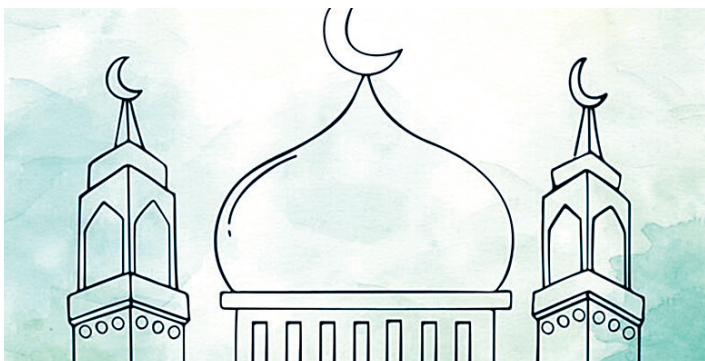
MI news Service, Meerut: Ahead of the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims delegations in Uttar Pradesh's Meerut have urged the administration to permit markets operating at night and retention of loudspeakers, especially in Muslim localities.

A meeting was held by a delegation led by Zainul Rashiduddin, Meerut's Naib Qazi with the District Magistrate Dr. V.K. Singh. The delegation urged that the permission for shops, stalls and hotels to remain open kate at night in Ramadan which is set to begin on February 18 or 19.

The delegation also stressed the need for electricity and water supply without interruption throughout the month which would make religious activities easier for Muslims.

Speaking at the meeting, Rashiduddin said, "Ramadan is a month of worship, fasting and community gatherings. For the convenience of the people, night-time markets, uninterrupted supply of water and electricity is needed."

According to Dr VK Singh there has been no special discussion on loudspeakers. He



said that all arrangements will be made according to the guidelines issued by the administration he said, "The existing laws will continue. Any administrative action is bound by laws that are already in motion."

Addressing media, he said represented the voice of Muslims impacted by the restrictions on loudspeakers. He said, "Without loudspeakers, it is challenging for us to inform the timings for starting and breaking the fast," requesting the administration to retain the orders.

Apart from this, Mufti Mohammad Junaid Qasmi of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind also met

5 int'l bodies call for immediate halt of military escalation in Sudan

MI News Service, United Nations: Five international organizations known as the "Quintet" on Wednesday called for an immediate halt of any further military escalation in Sudan, including the use of increasingly destructive means of warfare.

In a joint statement, the Quintet, consisting of the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the League of Arab States, European Union and the United Nations, expressed grave concern over the continued escalation of the conflict.

The Quintet said it is particularly alarmed by the rapidly deteriorating situation facing civilians in the Kordofan region and Blue Nile State. Reports of deadly drone strikes, tightening sieges, attacks affecting critical civilian infrastructure, forced displacement and severe constraints on humanitarian access underscore the urgency of immediate action to prevent atrocities.

The protection of civilians, civilian premises and critical national infrastructure is a fundamental obligation under international law, the Quintet said.

The Quintet emphasized the need for coordinated and effective collective efforts to de-escalate the conflict, restore conditions conducive to civilian protection, and halt the flow of weapons, fighters and other forms of support that sustain violence and contribute to the fragmentation of Sudan.

T20 WC: Hunting for first win, Canada and UAE clash with backs against the wall

NEW DELHI : When Canada and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) take the field at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Friday afternoon, the aim for both sides will be very simple -- get a win under their belt. Both teams find themselves winless in Group D, and a win will help them get off the mark in the points table.

Canada, smarting from a 57-run hammering at the hands of South Africa, occupies the bottom spot with a net run rate of -2.850. UAE, despite a spirited batting display against New Zealand that yielded their highest-ever T20 World Cup total of 173, sits one rung above them at -2.763 after the Blackcaps cantered to a 10-wicket victory.

Canada's baptism by fire against South Africa laid bare the chasm between them and the Proteas. Their pacers returned wicketless with an overall economy rate of 11.

1 in Ahmedabad. In contrast, the spinners offered some respectability, with left-arm wrist-spinner Ansh Patel, who previously played for Baroda in the Indian domestic cricket ecosystem, emerging as the solitary bright



spot by picking three wickets.

Patel's three-wicket haul -- the first such instance recorded by a Canadian bowler in T20 World Cups and his best figures in a young international career - suggested that Canada might find more joy exploiting the traditionally spin-friendly conditions in New Delhi.

With the bat, Navneet Dhaliwal's 49-ball 64 was a lone hand in a chase that never truly ignited. The experienced cam-

paigner, now Canada's leading run-scorer in World Cup history with 135 runs, will need support from the middle order if they are to post or chase competitive totals.

Meanwhile, the UAE's batting performance against New Zealand showcased both ambition and execution, with Muhammad Waseem and Alishan Sharafu's 107-run partnership making for an absolute treat. Both registered fantastic fifties - the first time two UAE batters achieved this feat in a

T20 World Cup.

the gains made from batting were squandered by the bowling unit, as Blackcaps openers Tim Seifert and Finn Allen hit them to all parts of Chepauk. UAE became only the third team in the history of the T20 World Cup to bowl an entire innings without claiming a wicket, as all bowlers, barring Haider Ali, went for more than 10 runs per over.

Such generosity cannot be repeated if they harbour ambitions of progressing beyond the group stage.

The head-to-head record favours the UAE, who won the only previous T20I encounter against Canada. Neither side has previously played at the Arun Jaitley Stadium, removing any advantage of local knowledge, though Canada had practised at the venue, albeit at night.

For Canada, the challenge will be in arresting the momentum of the UAE's big-hitting top order while hoping their own batting line-up can find the consistency that eluded them against South Africa.

For the UAE, who are also dealing with Muhammad Zohaib

being withdrawn from the squad due to player mental well-being and team welfare issues, with Haider Shah joining as a replacement, the bowling unit must discover both discipline and penetration if they are to get off the mark in Group D.

When: Friday, February 13, 3:00 PM IST

Where: Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi

Where to watch: Star Sports Network for live TV broadcast and JioHotstar for live streaming

SQUADS:

Canada: Dilpreet Bajwa (c), Ajayveer Hundal, Ansh Patel, Dillon Heyliger, Harsh Thaker, Jaskarandeep Singh, Kaleem Sana, Kanwarpal Tathgur, Navneet Dhaliwal, Nicholas Kirton, Ravinderpal Singh, Saad Bin Zafar, Shivam Sharma, Shreyas Movva, and Yuvraj Samra

UAE: Muhammad Waseem (c), Alishan Sharafu, Aryansh Sharma, Dhruv Parashar, Haider Ali, Harshit Kaushik, Junaid Siddique, Mayank Kumar, Muhammad Arfan, Muhammad Farooq, Muhammad Jawadullah, Haider Shah, Rohid Khan, Sohaib Khan, and Simranjeet Singh

AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup: India drawn with Japan, Australia, Lebanon in Group B

NEW DELHI : India will confront a challenging group in the AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026, where they have been drawn into Group B with Japan, Australia, and Lebanon during the draw held at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday.

The Young Tigresses qualified for the continental competition for the first time in 21 years, defeating Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan in the qualifiers. This achievement marks a significant advance for India's youth women's program, which has made consistent progress over recent seasons. India will start their Group B campaign against Australia, followed by matches against Asia's strong teams, Japan, and debutants Lebanon.

Japan enter as one of the top contenders. The four-time champions, runners-up in 2024, have a strong international record, having won the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup in 2014 and finished second in 2010 and 2016. Their consistent performance at both continental and global levels highlights the significant challenge India faces.

Australia earned their spot with decisive victories over Singapore and the Northern Mariana Islands following a group-stage exit in 2024. They will be eager to go further this time. Lebanon, on the other hand, made history by qualifying for the first time, after defeating Kuwait and Iran to secure their place.

Hosts China headline Group A, competing against Thailand, Vietnam, and Myanmar. Meanwhile, Group C includes a strong East Asian lineup with North Korea, South Korea, the Philippines, and Chinese Taipei.

The tournament is scheduled to be held in Suzhou, China, from May 1 to May 17, 2026. The two highest-ranked teams from each group, plus the two best third-placed teams, will advance to the quarter-finals. The semi-finalists will then secure their spots in the FIFA U17 Women's World Cup 2026 in Morocco.

AFC U17 Women's Asian Cup 2026 Draw Results:

Group A: China, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar

Group B: Japan, Australia, India, Lebanon

Group C: North Korea, South Korea, Philippines, Chinese Taipei



T20 WC: 'Italy outplayed us today,' admits Nepal captain after 10-wicket loss

MUMBAI : Nepal captain Rohit Paudel admitted his side was thoroughly outplayed after they suffered a 10-wicket defeat to Italy in their second match in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Thursday.

"I think Italy outplayed us today, and in batting, I think we missed out, especially. That was not a 123 wicket. I thought we missed out on that. And it was tough early. Earlier, it was tough to bat, but still, I think 123 was not a disgrace," he said in the post-match presentation.

Nepal were bowled out for 123 in 19.3 overs before Italy chased down the target in just 12.4 overs without losing a wicket, courtesy of an unbeaten 124-run opening stand between Justin and Anthony Mosca. This is Nepal's second ten-wicket defeat in T20Is after losing against the West Indies in the same way in 2025.

The Nepal skipper felt his side let the game slip during the middle overs despite a steady Power-play. "We were looking at around 61, 70, and we batted very poorly, and there's no way to accept that. I thought we didn't respect the conditions. It was tough in the beginning, and we played a few rash shots, and I think my wicket was the turning point."

Paudel, who had stitched together a good partnership after an early setback, believed his dismissal shifted the momentum entirely. Skipper scored 23 runs in 14 balls. He was looking in great touch from the start.

"We had a good partnership, we played well in the Power-play and then when I got out, suddenly things started changing. So I thought that was the turning wicket and we could have done better than that," he said.

Nepal had entered the contest high on confidence after an impressive performance against England in their previous match, but Paudel admitted the inconsistency was disappointing.

"I thought as a team we are growing, and to see the England highs and then suddenly not turning up in today's game, I thought that was a little disappointment. A team going like a team like us, we need to be more consistent, and today was the day to prove that, but not taking away the credit from Italy. They played really well today, and credit must go to them."

After two losses in their opening matches, Nepal will now face the West Indies in a do-or-die match on February 15 at the same ground.



T20 WC: Shanaka backs Hemantha, lauds batting unit after Sri Lanka thrash Oman

COLOMBO : Sri Lanka captain Dasun Shanaka expressed satisfaction with his side's clinical all-round performance in the 105-run win over Oman in their Group B clash of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, while also addressing the challenge of filling the void left by Wanindu Hasaranga.

Sri Lanka piled up a formidable 225/5 at the Pallekele International Cricket Stadium on the back of half-centuries from Kusal Mendis (61), Pavan Rathnayake (60) and Shanaka himself (50 off 20), before restricting Oman to 120/9.

Despite the commanding victory, Shanaka acknowledged the difficulty of replacing a proven match-winner like Hasaranga in the bowling department.

"It's very hard to replace someone like Wanindu because he is a champion bowler. But ofcourse Dushan Hemantha; he's



been in the side for a while. In the absence of Wanindu, he played a few games here and there. So the confidence is there, but you know, straightaway coming to the game, it will be a bit harder. I'm sure that he will come good in the next game," he said after the game.

Sri Lanka's bowling unit, however, delivered a disciplined performance to defend the massive total, with Dushmantha Chameera and Maheesh Theekshana picking up crucial wickets to derail Oman's chase early.

Shanaka was particularly pleased with the contributions

from his batting group, which has shown improved consistency in recent outings. Sri Lanka's top and middle order combined fluency with power, while Shanaka's explosive 20-ball fifty, the fastest by a Sri Lankan in T20Is, provided the finishing touch.

"The confidence with the batting especially. So I mean, that's one batting lead, you're not taking a hit. So it was a concern in the recent past, so I'm really happy about the way Kusal Mendis went on in the last two games. So probably that should be the role that he must do in the next game as well. And each batter chipping in at the right time is important as well." Mendis' composed 61 ensured stability through the middle overs, while Rathnayake's aggressive strokeplay set the tone early, allowing Sri Lanka to maintain momentum throughout the innings.

Football: Thomas Tuchel extends contract, will remain England's coach till Euro 2028

LONDON : England coach Thomas Tuchel has extended his stay with the team, as he has signed a new contract with the Three Lions, which will keep him in charge of England's football team till the Euro 2028.

A former German player who has previously coached top clubs like Chelsea, Bayern Munich, and Paris Saint-Germain during his decade-long coaching career, took charge of England in January last year for a brief period of 18 months and will now remain with the team till summer 2028.

Under Tuchel's leadership, England dominated the qualifications for the upcoming FIFA World Cup 2026, as they remained unbeaten and finished at the top of their group. England did not concede a single goal in the successful campaign, scoring 20, and has now been ranked in the world's top five for seven and a half years.

Tuchel felt happy extending his contract and said he has fallen in



love with his role.

"I'm very pleased. It was I in the beginning who wanted a short-term contract only for 18 months because I was not sure what was coming in international football: how fast can I adapt, and what is the job all about? But very soon, I fell in love with the job and the role, and I was from the first

day very committed and very proud," he said in a statement released by the club.

"Now, I felt in the last half-year - especially with what we're building and the spirit growing and creating a special bond between the players and having extraordinary results - it's just a pleasure to extend and try to complete the full

cycle of two tournaments," he added.

Tuchel's main challenge will be to help England win the FIFA World Cup Trophy after 60 years. England have won only one trophy so far, in 1966, and they would like to end the wait when they start their campaign in the 2026 World Cup on June 17 against

Croatia.

England Football Association CEO Mark Bullingham explained the reason behind extending the contract. He also welcomed Tuchel's decision to stay with the team till 2028.

"I am delighted Thomas has committed to stay with us through to the Euros in 2028. He was the right person for the job when he joined us for the World Cup campaign, and he has only strengthened his reputation across the qualifiers. We know the players are right behind him, and the togetherness within the group is there for all to see," the England Football Association CEO said in a statement released by the team.

"There is simply no better candidate available in world football. With his big-game experience, knowledge, and passion, he gives the squad the very best chance for success - this summer and with the once-in-a-generation EURO being hosted on these shores in two years' time," he added.

DR MANDAVIYA ANNOUNCES DATES FOR GULMARG LEG, SAYS 'PERFECT TIME FOR KHELO INDIA WINTER GAMES'

NEW DELHI : The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya, on Wednesday announced the dates for the Gulmarg leg of the Khelo India Winter Games 2026, which will be held from February 23 to 26 in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. This will be the sixth edition of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG).

The first leg of KIWG 2026, featuring ice sports, was successfully held in Ladakh from January 20 to 26, while Gulmarg will host the snow sports competitions. The Indian Army will defend its overall championship title in Jammu & Kashmir.

"The Gulmarg leg is coming at the back of the Winter Olympics, and this is the perfect time to host the Khelo India Winter Games. We had a very successful first phase in Leh (Ladakh), and

surely, we will see the same excitement in Jammu & Kashmir as athletes will once again battle with nature and challenging conditions," said Dr Mandaviya.

"Every season of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG) has seen exciting performances and rising competition. In Leh, the addition of figure skating enhanced the competitive intensity, and in Gulmarg, we are expecting some impressive times on the Kongdoori slopes," he added. Until the introduction of the Khelo India Winter Games (KIWG), winter sports in India had very limited visibility, awareness, or structured competition. Ice and snow disciplines largely remained niche pursuits with negligible public engagement and sporadic athlete participation at the international level.



The Khelo India Winter Games have fundamentally transformed India's winter sports ecosystem by creating a national competitive platform for both ice

sports and snow sports, significantly expanding participation, performance standards, and public awareness. What was once a marginal sporting segment is now

steadily evolving into a structured talent pipeline.

This transformation is already reflected in international outcomes. Indian winter athletes are beginning to register podium finishes and competitive performances abroad, signalling the emergence of a new generation of talent. Notably, Indian figure skater Tara Prasad has delivered medal-winning performances at international competitions, while the Indian women's ice hockey team won a historic bronze medal at the 2025 IIHF Women's Asia Cup, marking India's first-ever podium finish in an international ice hockey championship. The team also recorded landmark victories during the tournament, underlining the rapid progress being made in ice sports at the global level.

These achievements highlight

how Khelo India Winter Games are laying the foundational bedrock for sustained international participation, moving India beyond an earlier phase where participation in the Winter Olympics was often limited to one or no athletes. With regular domestic competition, exposure to high-pressure environments, and increasing depth across disciplines, this trajectory is expected to strengthen further in the coming years.

The timing of the Gulmarg leg of KIWG 2026 is also strategically significant, as it follows soon after the conclusion of the Winter Olympics Milano Cortina 2026, where India is represented by alpine skier Arif Khan and cross-country skier Stanzhin Lundup, helping to carry forward global momentum, enthusiasm, and competitive energy into the

domestic winter sports calendar, and ensuring continuity in athlete motivation, public interest, and national focus on winter sports development.

Gulmarg will feature four medal disciplines, namely Ski Mountaineering, Alpine Skiing, Nordic Skiing (Cross-Country), and Snowboarding, with around 400 athletes expected to compete, and Alpine Skiing drawing the highest participation.

At the conclusion of the KIWG 2025 season, the Indian Army topped the team standings with 18 medals, while Himachal Pradesh finished second, followed by Ladakh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. At the end of the KIWG 2026 Ladakh leg, Haryana led the medal tally with four gold medals, all won by its figure and ice skaters, followed by Ladakh, Maharashtra, and Telangana.