Mamata Slams Midnight Release of Supplementary Voter List, Alleges Political Conspiracy

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday strongly criticised the Election Commission over the late-night publication of a supplementary voter list, questioning both the timing and transparency of the move. Speaking at Kolkata airport before departing for her North Bengal tour, she alleged that the decision was politically motivated and hinted at a larger conspiracy behind the process. The controversy stems from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which had already drawn sharp objections from the Chief Minister. She had earlier raised concerns over why such a revision was initiated so close to the elections, warning that it could lead to the wrongful exclusion of genuine voters. Banerjee had repeatedly voiced her opposition, terming the exercise as a "deep-rooted political conspiracy" aimed at influencing the electoral process.

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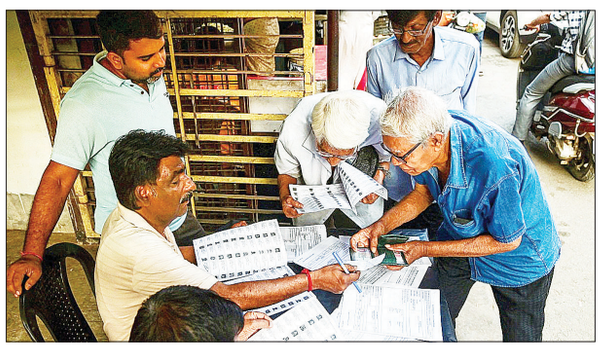
No clarity on number of voters deleted even after EC publishes first supplementary list

MI News Service, Kolkata: As the eagerly-awaited booth-wise first supplementary voters' list of West Bengal was published on the Election Commission's website around midnight last night after hours of wait, the Commission is yet to disclose the number of voters whose names have either been included or deleted following the SIR adjudication process in the poll-bound state creating more confusion than answers.



Around 60 lakh names were marked as "under adjudication" in the final voters' list published on February 28. Following that, 705 judicial officers were engaged by the Calcutta High Court to determine whether these names would be kept or deleted from the electoral rolls, in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

Barely four minutes before midnight on Monday, the Election Commission published the first supplementary voters' list after SIR adjudications in poll-bound West Bengal. However, the suspense over deleted names continued as the poll panel did not specify how many voters were dropped and how many were included in the rolls.

According to the EC, so far 29 lakh cases have been adjudicated by judicial officers, deputed by the Supreme Court, out of over 60 lakh pending cases. An EC source said, electors can check whether their names are there in the supplementary list or not by giving his or her Assembly constituency, booth number and other details on the ECI website or ECInet application.

Speaking to reporters ahead of the list's publication, West Bengal Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal, however, said he himself did not know how many names had been approved or rejected at this moment

Agarwal said those left out of the supplementary list can challenge the decision in any of the 19 appellate tribunals which have been set up by the Calcutta High Court. However, the date for voters to challenge the decision or when the tribunals will function is not yet known.

"The state government will first provide enough space for the tribunals and then the Calcutta High Court will give the go ahead on the arrangements," the CEO said adding "Only then the tribunals will start working in all 23 districts."

Agarwal said that all names have so far been adjudicated from districts that had a lower number of pending cases such as Kalimpong, Jhargram, Purulia and Bankura. He added that the judicial officers who were engaged in those districts have now been transferred to other areas that have a larger number of adjudication cases.

West Bengal is among the 12 states and Union Territories where the special intensive revision of electoral roll is underway.

On February 28, the Election Commission published the final electoral roll for West Bengal. At the time, the names of 5.46 lakh persons were deleted from the voter list, while 60,06,675 "doubtful and pending" cases were marked as "under adjudication" in the electoral rolls.

On February 20, the Supreme Court ordered that judicial officers of the rank of district judge or additional district judge be appointed to help complete the revision exercise in the state amid a tussle between the Trinamool Congress government and the Election Commission.

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Mamata charges EC with rubber stamp controversy, saying 'the cat is out of bag'

MI News Service, Kolkata: A day after a row erupted over the purported BJP rubber stamp on a communication of the Election Commission, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday alleged that it has now been proven beyond doubt which party is controlling the poll watchdog from the backseat.

"It is now clear from this BJP rubber stamp on EC notification who is running the commission from behind. The cat is out of the bag," Mamata Banerjee told reporters at the Kolkata airport as she headed to Bagdogra in north Bengal, where she is scheduled to kick start her election campaigns.

A controversy erupted on Monday after a letter from the EC was found carrying the seal of the BJP Kerala unit. In order to back her claims, the CM held up a newspaper report on the row.

This is not a clerical mistake, it's a political conspiracy," Mamata Banerjee added, refuting the EC's reported response that it was a human error.

Alleging that the development put a serious question mark on the poll panel's impartiality in conducting the elections, Mamata Banerjee urged all parties to unite and fight the "EC-backed attempt to impose one-party rule in India".

"It doesn't matter if opposition parties belong to the Right or Left ideologies. I request them to come together and protest the EC-backed one-party rule, save democracy in the country and ensure free and fair polls," she said.

Meanwhile, with the campaign for the West Bengal Assembly elections gathering pace, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee begins her statewide outreach from Tuesday. Her first stop will be Chalsa, where she will visit a church and interact with local and marginalised communities.

From Wednesday, she will launch full-scale election rallies starting from Maynaguri. Over the next month, she is expected to travel across North Bengal, South Bengal, and central regions, covering the state extensively as part of her campaign for a fourth consecutive term.

At the same time, TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee also kicked off his campaign from Tuesday. He began from South 24 Parganas, his home district, addressing a rally at Patharpratima in support of the party candidate.

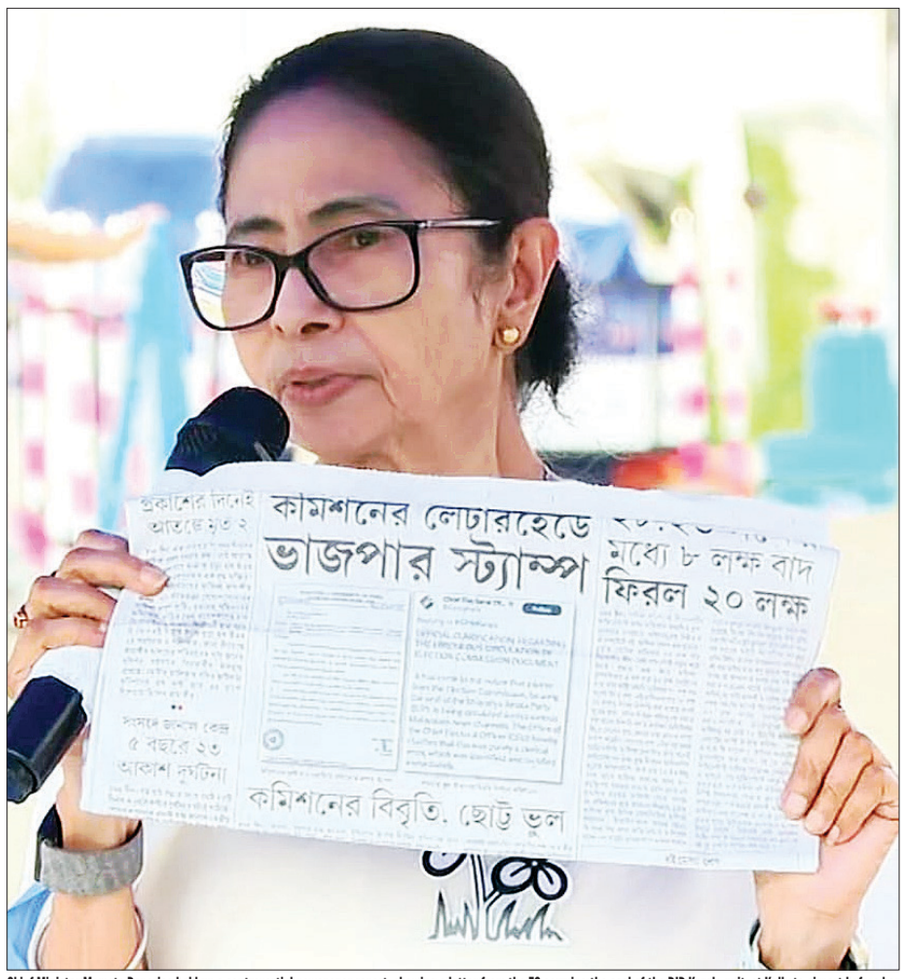
Traditionally, Mamata Banerjee prefers to begin her campaign from North Bengal, despite the region not always delivering strong electoral results for her party. Still, she remains optimistic and continues to prioritise outreach in the region.

According to sources, she will land at a helipad in the Dooars region and later visit a private hotel in Meteli. In the evening, she is scheduled to visit a Catholic church and meet religious leaders and locals. Local TMC leaders said the visit reflects her outreach to people of all communities.

Meanwhile, the political battle is not just against the BJP but also involves tensions with the Election Commission of India. The ongoing differences between the Chief Minister and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar have already reached the Supreme Court.

The first phase of polling in West Bengal will be held on April 23, covering 152 constituencies across North Bengal and Junglemahal regions.

Abhishek Banerjee will continue his campaign in Nandigram and other constituencies in Medinipur before moving to North Bengal. Throughout the month, he is expected to campaign extensively across the state.



Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee held up a controvertial newspaper report showing a letter from the EC carrying the seal of the BJP Kerala unit, at Kolkata airport before her departure for North Bengal for election campaign on Tuesday. This is not a clerical mistake, it's a political conspiracy. The cat is out of the bag ", the Chief minister said.

Govt making efforts to procure gas, crude oil from all sources: PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said the government is trying to procure enough gas and crude oil from all available sources, and efforts will continue in the coming days as the war in West Asia has created a serious energy crisis globally.

In a statement in the Rajya Sabha, PM Modi said the war in West Asia is a cause of grave concern, and India wants peace in the region through 'dialogue and diplomacy'.

India's aim is immediate de-escalation of the war and opening of Strait of Hormuz, he said, adding the country's attempt is to encourage all sections to peacefully resolve all issues.

"My government is trying to procure gas and crude oil from all available sources, and this all out efforts will continue in the coming days as the war in the Middle East has no signs of abetting and created a serious energy crisis across theglobe ,"the Prime minister said in his statement .

"If the crisis persists for a longer period, serious consequences are imminent", the Prime minister said.

Commenting on India's efforts for energy security, he said in the past 11 years, 53 lakh MT strategic oil reserves have been created; work on 65 lakh MT additional capacity is on. Besides, the government has started a Rs 70,000-crore project to manufacture ships, he added.

"At present India has sufficient crude oil and that the government is leaving no stone unturned to meet the country's energy and gas needs". PM Modi added that the government is trying to procure gas and crude oil from all possible sources, and these efforts will continue in the coming days

He further said that the conflict has impacted the routine supply of petrol, diesel, gas and fertilisers.

On the ongoing conflict, which has entered the 24th day on Tuesday, involving Iran and the US-Israel, the Prime Minister told the members in the Rajya Sabha, "It has been more than 3 weeks since the war in West Asia started. The war has caused a serious energy crisis in the world. For India, too, this situation is concerning. The war has impacted our trade routes. With this, the routine supply of petrol, diesel, gas and fertilisers has been affected."

He, however, added that the government is making all out efforts to ensure the adequate availability of fertilisers for the upcoming sowing season. Furthermore, PM Modi said that around 1 crore Indians live and work in the Gulf nations. That is an added concern for us, he pointed out.

About 1 crore Indians live and work in the Gulf countries. Safeguarding their life and livelihoods is a matter of great concern for India. Several ships are stuck in the Strait of Hormuz. Indian crew members are stuck on those ships in large numbers. This too is a cause of major concern for India. In such a difficult situation, it is important that India's Upper House sends out a united voice of peace and dialogue."

He added that he has spoken twice to the Heads of State of most of the West Asian countries, stating that India is in continuous communication with all the Gulf countries. PM Modi added that New Delhi is also in communication with Iran, Israel and the US.

Reiterating India's position to achieve peace through dialogue and diplomacy, he said, "Our goal is the reinstatement of peace in the region through dialogue and diplomacy. We have also spoken to them about de-escalation and the opening of Strait of Hormuz."

Calling the attacks on commercial ships and obstruction in an international sea route like the Strait of Hormuz "unacceptable", he said that India has opposed attacks on civilians, civil infrastructure, and infrastructure related to energy and transport.

The Prime minister further stated, "India is making continuous efforts for the safe passage of Indian ships even in these times of war. For a solution to this crisis, India has suggested dialogue. Threat on anyone's life in this war is not in the interest of humankind. So, India's efforts have been to encourage all parties for peaceful solutions. We must all remain united at this critical juncture".

Senior Naxalite leader Papa Rao and his team surrender in Chhattisgarh

MI News Service, Raipur: The laying down of arms and surrender to the authorities by the last remaining senior Maoist commander Papa Rao and several of his team members on Tuesday, marked a significant milestone in Chhattisgarh's fight against Left Wing Extremism.

With Rao and his team members laying down arms, it can be stated "technically and clearly" that no

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From bowling to ballots: TMC's Shib Shankar Paul debuts on political pitch

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former Bengal seamer Shib Shankar Paul, better known as 'Maco' in domestic cricket circles, said he hopes to carry the same fearlessness in his maiden electoral contest from Tufanganj in North Bengal as a TMC nominee, as he once showed against legendary Sachin Tendulkar.

The 44-year-old candidate is keen to help young athletes across districts overcome challenges, such as finding a suitable accommodation in Kolkata, to fulfil their dreams, if he wrests the seat from the BJP.

Fielded by the TMC in a seat the party lost to BJP's Malati Rava Roy in 2021 by over 31,000 votes, Paul faces a challenging electoral landscape.

Despite a strong BJP organisation, the TMC nominee believes that his personal connection with the constituency, coupled with his reputation for discipline and hard work, will help the ruling party to clinch a victory.

Notwithstanding the electoral hurdles, Paul is undeterred. "I've bowled long spells against the best in cricket; now I want to bowl for my people, help them fight challenges they face in sports, education, and daily life," he said.

The former pacer, who spent much of his professional life in Kolkata but remains deeply connected to Tufanganj, said his entry into politics is motivated by a desire to serve people.

"There is only one reason for entering politics: I want to serve people. I want to use this platform to reach out to more people and help them," he said.

Paul is hopeful that his message of service, courage, and youth empowerment will strike a chord with voters.

"I want to serve people with a difference and help young athletes pursue their dreams. The dual focus of my political debut is fearless leadership and tangible support for the next generation of sportspersons," he added.

Central to Paul's political messaging is his commitment to supporting young athletes, particularly those from smaller towns who migrate to Kolkata in pursuit of sporting opportunities.

"Be it cricket or football, many

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BJP workers from Balagarh protested against their party's candidate in front of BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya in Kolkata.

TMC candidate Kajal Sheikh name missing in SIR supplementary list

MI News Service, Birbhum: A new political debate has arisen in Birbhum district over the voter list of Nanoor. It is learnt that the name of Zilla Parishad President and Trinamool candidate for Hassan assembly constituency Kajal Sheikh cannot be found in the additional voter list. At the same time, the name of her mother Sadeka Bibi has also disappeared from the list. This incident has spread excitement across the district.

The election for that seat will be held on April 23, i.e. in the first phase. The last date for filing nominations is April 9. If his name does not appear in the list before the nomination is filed, then speculation has started about how he will contest. However, Kajal Sheikh hopes that his name will be in the next additional voter list.

Kajal Sheikh, the president of Birbhum Zilla Parishad, has been in Bengal for years. He grew up in this land. Despite this, Kajal Sheikh was called for the SIR hearing. Kajal's 90-plus mother was also not exempted. She was also summoned for the hearing. They had submitted all the documents. But when the final voter list was published on February 28, it was seen that their names were on the pending list. It was thought that their names would be on the additional voter list. But when the additional voter list was published on Monday, it was seen that the names of Kajal Sheikh and her mother were not there.

It is worth to mention that Trinamool has nominated Kajal Sheikh for Hassan assembly constituency. The election for that constituency will be held on April 23, i.e. in the first phase. The last date for filing nomination papers is April 9. As a result, discussions have started on what will happen if the name does not appear in the voter list before that. If the name does not appear before the nomination is filed, then Trinamool will have to change the candidate. Although Kajal is hopeful that his name will be included in the next list.

Overall, the complexity surrounding the voter list has now become a major issue in the political arena of Birbhum ahead of the elections.

Cheti Chath is celebrated in Kankinara of North 24 Parganas district with great fanfare. Former chairman and current councillor Gopal Raut makes all the arrangements for the devotees who visit Darya Ghat every year. Pic: Sajid Parvez.

Shop fire sparks political war of words in Sandeshkhali

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: Fresh tensions gripped Sandeshkhali on Tuesday after a small trader's shop was reduced to ashes in a late-night fire, triggering sharp political accusations and counter-allegations in the run-up to the 2026 Assembly elections.The incident took place near a ferry point under booth number 103, where the shop—run by the family of Niranjan Mandal—was allegedly set ablaze under the cover of darkness on Monday night. The fire destroyed the structure entirely, dealing a severe financial blow to the family, who claim the shop was their sole source of livelihood. Niranjan Mandal alleged that his family had previously faced political violence during the 2021 Assembly elections, when their house was vandalized.

Anirban's Golden Jubilee at Old Age Home

In a heartwarming and unconventional celebration, Anirban Samanta, a resident of Bagnan in Howrah, chose to mark his 50th birthday at an old age home, not out of compulsion but as a gesture of compassion and community bonding; from early morning, festivities unfolded at New Gitarani Briddhashram and Handicapped Home in Thakurpukur's Majhipara, where cake-cutting ceremonies were accompanied by a series of healthcare initiatives conducted in collaboration with Calcutta Medical Research Institute, including bone density and other essential health check-ups for the residents; the occasion also featured a special feast prepared for the inmates, adding to the celebratory spirit; in a gesture of appreciation for public service, helmets and floral bouquets were presented to several police personnel from Haridevpur and Thakurpukur police stations, including Mithun Mondal, Mohsin Ali, Debashis Mondal, Razzab Ali, Manasaram Banerjee and Bappa; the home's chief officials, Mala Sen and Aban Mukherjee, felicitated Anirban Samanta with saplings and bouquets, recognizing his contributions as an internationally acclaimed social worker; not to be outdone, the birthday celebrant Anirban returned the gesture by distributing food items among the residents and seeking blessings from the elderly, turning his milestone birthday into a day of giving and shared joy.

Heavy rains destroy potato fields, farmer takes own life

MI News Service, Malda: In a tragic incident highlighting the mounting distress among farmers, 63-year-old Bipati Rajbangshi, a potato cultivator from Telipukur in Old Malda block, committed suicide late Monday night after heavy rains destroyed his crop and left him under crushing debt. Bipati had cultivated five bighas of potato land, borrowing heavily to finance seeds, fertilizer, and cultivation costs. While he owned one bigha of land, he had taken the remaining four bighas under contract, relying on a loan from a moneylender at high interest.

Traditional Wall Art Returns to Poll Campaigning in Shantipur

MI News Service, Nadia : Amid the growing dominance of flex banners and digital outreach in modern political campaigns, a traditional medium is witnessing a revival in parts of West Bengal. In Shantipur Municipality's Ward No. 20, Trinamool Congress has introduced a wall-based campaign that combines artistic illustrations with political messaging.

The initiative has been undertaken under the leadership of councillor Shubhajit De. Around 40-45 walls in the ward have been used for this purpose, where artists are creating cartoon-based visuals along with rhymed slogans. The campaign is being carried out in support of party candidate Brajakishore Goswami.

According to those involved, wall writing requires specific artistic skill and is distinct from conventional painting. The use of cartoons and satire allows political messages to be communicated in a more engaging and accessible manner, while maintaining linguistic decorum.

The content of the artwork reflects a mix of political themes. These include criticism of rising prices of essential commodities and other public concerns, as well as highlighting welfare initiatives introduced by the state government. Visual representations of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee are also being featured as part of the campaign narrative.

The organisers state that, beyond political messaging, the initiative also aims to promote social harmony through creative expression. Additionally, the reduced use of flex materials is seen as a step that may help limit environmental and visual pollution.

This approach indicates that traditional wall art continues to hold relevance as a communication tool, even in an increasingly digital campaign environment.

Adhir stresses Electoral transparency ahead of assembly election

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Former Pradesh Congress President Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury has called for the postponement of the upcoming West Bengal Assembly elections, insisting that polling should not be conducted until the voter list is fully finalized. He raised serious concerns over electoral transparency and the rights of voters, particularly in relation to the ongoing supplementary voter list process.

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury pointed out that although the election schedule has already been announced, the preparation of the electoral roll remains incomplete. According to his claims, nearly 60 lakh voters are currently under consideration, but only about 29 lakh names have been included in the first supplementary list released so far. He warned that moving ahead with elections under such circumstances could undermine the credibility of the democratic process and potentially disenfranchise a large number of eligible voters. Explaining his stance, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury stated that every eligible citizen must have their name properly registered before voting takes place. He emphasized that elections conducted with an incomplete voter list would raise serious constitutional and ethical questions. "The principle is straightforward—no voter should be left out. Elections must be deferred until the voter list is complete and accurate," he asserted. He also criticized the administrative handling of the voter registration process, suggesting that delays and gaps in preparation reflect poorly on the system. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury expressed concern that such lapses could lead to confusion, disputes, and a loss of public trust in the electoral framework. He urged authorities to strictly follow established procedures and ensure that no eligible voter is excluded due to oversight or delay.

Little Thespian's 15th National Theatre Festival Jashn-E-Azhar

Present on the inaugural ceremony were Shri Bishambhar Newar (Senior Editor, Chhapte Chhapte), Shri Ajay Roy (Renowned Musician), Shri Kallol Bhattacharya (Theatre Director, Ebong Amara), Shri Jayant Deshmukh (theatre director, Ekrang, Mumbai) and Shri Murari Raychoudhury (renowned Music Composer)

Philips Introduces OneChef, Redefining Smart All-in-One Cooking for Indian Homes

MI News Service, Kolkata : Philips launched the OneChef smart cooking appliance in Mumbai at an event curated by Ranveer Brar. With 33 cooking functions and AmbiHeat™ technology, it simplifies complex Indian cooking while preserving taste. Priced at 19,995, OneChef is available from March 19 across leading retail stores and e-commerce platforms like Amazon and Flipkart.

Brahmachari Riten Bhai passes away

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: Chief priest, advisor, president and managing trustee of Ramkrishna adyapitth, Dakshineswar Brahmachari Riten Bhai passed away at a private hospital in Kolkata on Tuesday morning. The sad demise of Brahmachari Riten Bhai have caused tremendous shock among the devotees of adyapitth, Dakshineswar. It is worth to mention that Brahmachari Riten Bhai was born on 16 th march, 1937. He came to adyapitth and became a monk in the year 1961.

Abhishek Banerjee's election meeting in Daspur, enthusiasm among Trinamool workers

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Trinamool commander Abhishek Banerjee will address an election meeting on Wednesday in Jagannathpur area of Daspur police station in West Medinipur district. A lot of enthusiasm was seen among the Trinamool workers regarding Abhishek Banerjee's meeting. It is known that Abhishek Banerjee will address the election meeting in support of Trinamool candidate Ashish Hudait from Daspur Assembly. Ghatal before Abhishek Banerjee's meeting. The departmental police administration and top Trinamool leaders took stock of the security at the meeting venue.

From Unpaid Wages to Empty Plates: Reports Expose Structural Crisis in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: As West Bengal moves towards the upcoming Assembly elections, civil society organizations across the state raise a fundamental and urgent question: what are we voting for, and what are we being made to forget? A recent field studies conducted in the tea garden regions of North Bengal and in the Jangalmahal region by the PBCMS - RTFC&W Campaign reveal a deeply disturbing and undeniable reality. These are not isolated crises but structural failures. The tea garden study was conducted in 6 sick and abandoned gardens amongst 168 families. It reveals that in tea gardens, workers are trapped in a system where employment exists without wages, or wages exist only in name. A significant proportion of workers have not been paid for months, even in gardens that continue to operate. More than half of the workers reported wage arrears extending beyond six months. Over 83 percent of households reported running out of food in the last month due to lack of money, and more than 85 percent reported that at least one family member had to remain without food for an entire day. The consequences are visible in the bodies of workers themselves, with nearly 37 percent falling below the normal BMI range, indicating widespread undernutrition.

Container laden with fish crashes, driver injured, traffic disrupted

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A container laden with fish met with an accident in Shishtala area under Belda police station on Kharagpur-Baleshwar National Highway No. 16 in West Medinipur district. It is known that a container laden with fish was going from Odisha to Kolkata. At that time the divider was installed for the construction of the National Highway. The container lost control while making a sudden turn while in motion. After this the container went off the road and collided with a truck in front. The driver of the container was seriously injured in the accident. On receiving the information, Belda Police and National Highway Authority reached the spot. The injured driver was taken to Belda Super Specialty Hospital for treatment. After the accident, traffic was disrupted in the area for some time. Police seized the accident container. Police started investigation into the incident.

Shortage of LPG Sparks Road Blockade in Jhargram Despite Advance Bookings

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Troubled by the shortage and shortage of cooking gas in Jhargram, people blocked the road. The people blocking the road say that despite online gas booking, they are not getting the gas. Troubled people protested by blocking the state highway. Due to which the Jhargram - Bankura state highway was blocked for some time. The consumer basically complained against the gas agency and blocked the road. It is known that Jhargram Expressing anger against a gas agency, customers have come out on the streets. They claim that despite the gas being booked, the agency is not delivering the gas. For the last two days, long queues were seen in the office of the Gas Agency located in Jhargram since morning, after the road was blocked, Central Army soldiers were also seen leaving their voting duty and manning the gas line. There is an outcry among the customers.

More than twelve kilos of ganja recovered from Kharagpur railway station, one arrested

MI News Service, Kharagpur : The Railway Government Police arrested a young man with twelve kilos of ganja on platform number two of Kharagpur Railway Station. The name of the arrested accused is Ashish Kumar. He is a resident of Rohtas area of Bihar state. It is known that the Railway Government Police had received secret information from an informer that a young man was present at Kharagpur Railway Station with 12 kg 950 grams of ganja from Sore in Odisha state. He was coming from Kharagpur to Jharkhand.

He is planning to go to Tatanagar in the state. After receiving the information, the Railway Government Police came into action. A young man was seen roaming in a suspicious state on the platform number 2 of Kharagpur Railway Station. On being interrogated, his words were found to be suspicious. He had a bag and a suitcase. Railway Government Policemen searched both the bags. During the search, a huge amount of ganja was recovered from the suitcase and the bag. The Railway Government Police arrested the accused youth. Police investigated the incident.

While investigating, the accused youth is being interrogated strictly.

Workshop at Kalyani University stresses accuracy and responsibility in journalism

MI News Service, Nadia : A ten-day journalism workshop at Kalyani University concluded on Monday, with speakers underlining the importance of accuracy, ethics and social responsibility in reporting.

The workshop, organised by the Department of Bengali, began on March 13 and was aimed at introducing students to journalism as a potential career option. There was a brief break during the programme on account of Eid holidays.

Inaugurating the workshop, Vice-Chancellor Kallol Paul said that journalists must go beyond the pursuit of "breaking news" and instead focus on producing meaningful and verified reports. He cautioned that misinformation can have serious consequences for society.

Among those present at the inaugural session was Soumi Das, professor at West Bengal State University and chairperson of the South-Eastern region of the West Bengal School Service Commission. She emphasised that journalists have a duty to present factual accounts on issues ranging from conflict and social tensions to crime and international developments.

Journalist and filmmaker Ritabrata Bhattacharya said the course is gradually emerging as a significant platform for professional training, helping aspiring journalists gain practical exposure.

Course director Sukhen Biswas noted that the workshop focused on training participants in news gathering, verification and presentation. Students from Assam and Tripura, in addition to West Bengal, took part in the programme.

The workshop included sessions by professionals from radio, television and print media, as well as academics from media studies departments. Participants were trained in live reporting, anchoring, news reading, report writing and digital media practices. A total of 95 students attended the workshop.

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Mamata Slams Midnight Release of Supplementary Voter List, Alleges Political Conspiracy

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday strongly criticised the Election Commission over the late-night publication of a supplementary voter list, questioning both the timing and transparency of the move. Speaking at Kolkata airport before departing for her North Bengal tour, she alleged that the decision was politically motivated and hinted at a larger conspiracy behind the process.

The controversy stems from the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which had already drawn sharp objections from the Chief Minister. She had earlier raised concerns over why such a revision was initiated so close to the elections, warning that it could lead to the wrongful exclusion of genuine voters. Banerjee had repeatedly voiced her opposition, terming the exercise as a "deep-rooted political conspiracy" aimed at influencing the electoral process.

In her protest against the revision, the Chief Minister had written multiple letters to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and even travelled to Delhi to raise the issue. She also approached the Supreme Court, seeking intervention in the matter. According to Banerjee, her legal efforts ensured that at least some names were reinstated in the voter rolls.

The Election Commission had published the final voter list on February 28, which reportedly included around 60 lakh names under review. As per prior announcement, a supplementary list was released late on Monday night. While full details are yet to be disclosed, sources suggest that approximately 28 lakh names from the pending list have now been addressed.

Expressing her displeasure, Banerjee questioned why the list was released at midnight and why it had not yet been

displayed at designated public locations. She argued that such lack of transparency raises serious doubts about the credibility of the process.

She also questioned the timing of the release of the supplementary voter list under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which was published late on Monday night. Banerjee criticised the lack of transparency, pointing out that the list has not yet been displayed at booth or block levels for public access. "If everything is transparent, why release the list at midnight? What is there to hide?" she asked, hinting at possible manipulation.

The Chief Minister alleged that the secrecy surrounding the process was aimed at favouring a particular political party. She warned that such actions undermine the credibility of the electoral process and erode public trust in democratic institutions.

Calling for unity, Banerjee urged political parties to rise above ideological differences and come together to defend democracy and the Constitution. "Forget who is left or right. Stand together against this conspiracy," she said. She clarified that she was not seeking support for her party, but appealing in the larger interest of the nation.

Banerjee further described the Commission's actions as "authoritarian" and called upon all parties to speak out against what she termed as increasing central control over independent institutions.

The Chief Minister further alleged that the Commission was acting under pressure from the central government. She maintained that without her intervention in the Supreme Court, many more voters could have been unfairly harassed or removed from the rolls.

Accusing the Commission of functioning "through the backdoor," Banerjee challenged it to act openly. She said the delay in publishing and displaying the voter list raised doubts and suggested that the truth would emerge once the full details were examined. She further claimed that the ongoing SIR process could ultimately harm the BJP politically.

The issue has added to the already charged political atmosphere in the state ahead of the elections, with debates intensifying over electoral fairness and administrative accountability.

Mamata Questions EC Over Mass Transfers, Alleges Political Bias Ahead of Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has once again launched a sharp attack on the Election Commission, raising serious questions over the large-scale transfer of officials ahead of the Assembly elections. She also took an indirect swipe at BJP leader SuvenduAdhikari while addressing the media, alleging that certain administrative decisions were politically influenced.

Speaking to reporters, Banerjee questioned the authority under which the Commission was functioning. Referring to the transfer of a Block Development Officer (BDO) from Nandigram to Bhabanipur, she alleged that the move was made to benefit "a traitor's close associate," without naming anyone directly. The remarks come amid heightened political tension, as SuvenduAdhikari is contesting from both Nandigram and Bhabanipur constituencies, intensifying the electoral battle.

The Chief Minister expressed concern over the sudden transfer of 73 Returning Officers across the state. She pointed out that this follows earlier reshuffles involving key administrative positions, including the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, Director General of Police, Commissioner of Police, and several IAS and IPS officers, many of whom have been sent outside the state.

According to reports, Returning Officers across multiple districts—from Kolkata to Cooch Behar, including North and South 24 Parganas, East and West Midnapore, Burdwan, and Murshidabad—have been replaced. These officials play a crucial role in managing the electoral process, from handling nominations to overseeing polling.

Banerjee questioned the timing and scale of these transfers, noting that such extensive changes have been carried out without any specific allegations of misconduct or violation of the model code of conduct. She had earlier written to Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar raising similar concerns.

Highlighting the broader impact, Banerjee said that several senior bureaucrats from essential departments have been deputed as election observers outside the state. She argued that this could disrupt key public services, including food distribution, rural development, and infrastructure maintenance.

The Chief Minister also criticised the Centre, alleging interference in the Commission's functioning, and questioned whether officials from other states would be familiar with Bengal's administrative and social landscape.

Food Safety Drive Launched for Kolkata Street Vendors

MI News Service, Kolkata: Doctors' Choice, in collaboration with Bharat Chamber of Commerce, has launched a Food Safety & Hygiene Initiative aimed at improving standards among Kolkata's street food vendors. The initiative, supported by the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC), seeks to promote safer food practices and strengthen the city's vibrant street food ecosystem through a coordinated effort involving industry, civic bodies and experts.

The programme was formally introduced on March 24, 2026, in the presence of key dignitaries, including Dr Tapan Kr Safui of KMC, Ward CorporatorDebabrataMajumdar, and food historian HaripadaBhowmik, among others. During the event, the initiative's logo, mascot and hygiene apron were unveiled, symbolising responsibility and trust in food safety practices. A branded awareness tableau was also flagged off, marking the beginning of a citywide outreach drive.

The initiative aims to elevate Kolkata's street food culture while aligning it with established food safety standards. Training workshops will be conducted in major food hubs such as Dacres Lane, Park Street, Sector V and Zakaria Street. Experts will guide vendors on safe food handling, hygiene practices, waste management and compliance, ensuring improved public health and sustainable business practices.

MCCI organises Special Session on 'Healthy Heart'

Dr. P K Hazra, Director & Head Cardiology Specialist, Manipal Hospitals addressing during a MCCI Special Session on Healthy Heart- How to save it in case of crisis with CPR support system, at MCCI in Kolkata on Tuesday.

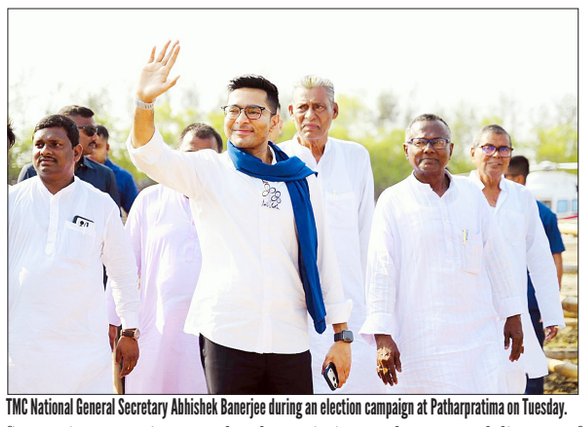
MI News Service, Kolkata: Merchant's Chamber of Commerce & Industry and a private hospital organised a Special Session in Kolkata on 'Healthy Heart – How to save it in case of crisis, with CPR support system' at MCCI Conference Hall, on Tuesday. Addressing the session Dr. P. K. Hazra said that he had many first time medical achievements in Eastern India such as first knifeless heart valve replacement. He suggested that obese persons should try to lose weight as they require more pressure during CPR. For healthy heart, diabetic patients should be careful and cholesterol is a major reason for heart attack. Any severe pain below neck can be serious problem with heart. Healthy life style and exercise can reduce the chance of heart attack. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation or CPR is an emergency, lifesaving procedure performed when the heart stops beating due to cardiac arrest.

TMC candidate from Ballygunge Assembly constituency, Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, paints wall graffiti in support of Mamata Banerjee at Bhawanipore, in Kolkata.

Abhishek Launches Campaign in Patharpratima, Sets 40,000-Vote Victory Target

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the Assembly election campaign gaining momentum in West Bengal, Trinamool Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Tuesday kickstarted his poll outreach from Patharpratima. Addressing a public rally, he laid out five key promises for voters and set an ambitious target for party workers, urging them to ensure a victory margin of over 40,000 votes—nearly double the margin achieved in the last election.

The state is gearing up for Assembly polls scheduled towards the end of April, with all major political parties intensifying their campaigns. Candidates have been reaching out to voters at the grassroots level, while senior leaders are actively participating in rallies and public meetings to consolidate support.



TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee during an election campaign at Patharpratima on Tuesday.

At the rally, Banerjee outlined five major commitments that he said would be prioritised if the Trinamool Congress returns to power for a fourth consecutive term. These include the continuation of the LakshmirBhandar scheme, provision of permanent housing under government initiatives, doorstep delivery of healthcare services across every block and town in the constituency, supply of piped drinking water to all households irrespective of central funding, and expansion of old-age pension benefits.

He also announced that a ₹30,000 crore agricultural budget would be introduced if the party retains power, highlighting the government's focus on rural development and farmer welfare.

Taking a direct approach, Banerjee set a clear electoral benchmark for party workers in Patharpratima. In the previous election, the Trinamool candidate had won by a margin of 22,134 votes. This time, Banerjee called for a significantly higher margin of over 40,000 votes and urged supporters to ensure that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) does not cross the 50,000-vote mark.

He also criticised the BJP during his speech, reiterating that the Trinamool Congress has consistently stood by the people and will continue to do so. The rally marked a strong start to the party's campaign in the region.

47th All India Major Ports Hockey Championship 2026 Kicks Off

MI News Service, Kolkata: Kolkata witnessed the grand inauguration of the 47th All India Major Ports Hockey Championship 2026 at the SAI Astroturf Complex, hosted by Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMP Kolkata). The tournament, scheduled from March 24 to March 27, 2026, has brought together teams from major ports across the country, including Mumbai, Chennai, Paradip, Visakhapatnam and V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin).

The opening ceremony commenced at 8:45 a.m. and was inaugurated by SMP Kolkata Chairperson Rathendra Raman. Addressing the gathering, he extended a warm welcome to all participating teams and conveyed his best wishes. He highlighted the importance of sports in promoting discipline, teamwork and unity, adding that such tournaments serve as a valuable platform for players to showcase their talent while strengthening inter-port camaraderie. The ceremony was attended by senior officials, dignitaries and employees of SMP Kolkata.

The tournament got off to an exciting start with a series of high-scoring matches. In the opening match, hosts SMP Kolkata secured a 7–4 victory over Chennai Port Authority. In the second match, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (Tuticorin) defeated Paradip Port Authority 6–3. Continuing their dominant form, SMP Kolkata registered an emphatic 9–2 win against Visakhapatnam Port Authority in the third match.

The championship will continue over the coming days, with the semi-finals and final scheduled to be held on March 27 at the same venue.

The event underscores the commitment of major ports in India towards promoting sportsmanship, unity and excellence through competitive sporting events.

Senior Naxalite leader Papa Rao and his team surrender

● Continued from Pg 1: Naxal operative of that rank or even lower in the group remains active within the state, a senior minister of the Chhattisgarh government informed at Kawardha, the headquarters of Kabirdham district of the Maoist affected state.

Senior Maoist leader Rao had been the mastermind of various deadly attacks on security forces in south Bastar district of the state in the past two decades. He had also masterminded the Tadmetla attack (in the then Dantewada district, now in Sukma) in 2010, wherein 76 security forces were killed.

Rao, who is active in the Dandakaranaya Special Zonal Committee (DKSZC) of Maoists, surrendered along with more than a dozen team members in the Bastar region, said the minister who also holds the Home portfolio.

With today's surrender, no Naxal operative of that senior rank is remain active in Chhattisgarh, and the state is now literally free of armed Naxalism before the stipulated deadline of March 31, 2026, as announced by Union Home minister Amit Shah last year, he said.

"After Rao's rehabilitation, as promised by the government , Naxal presence within Chhattisgarh will effectively come to an end. Chhattisgarh will be free from armed Naxalism before this month end ," the minister stated

Abhishek Raises Alarm Over Judicial Independence Amid EC-BJP Row

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh political controversy has erupted over a seven-year-old Election Commission letter that allegedly carried a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) symbol beneath it, triggering sharp reactions from opposition leaders ahead of the upcoming Assembly elections. The issue has now taken a serious turn, with Trinamool Congress (TMC) National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee questioning the independence of both the Election Commission and the judiciary.

Fresh questions have been raised over the neutrality of the Election Commission. The Trinamool Congress has once again targeted the poll body led by Gyanesh Kumar over a controversial old document. The ruling party in the state, along with Abhishek Banerjee, shared a letter on social media alleging that the Election Commission is no longer functioning as an independent constitutional body, but is instead acting as a "B-team" of the Bharatiya Janata Party.

The controversy began when a letter dated March 19, 2019, issued by the Election Commission to Chief Electoral Officers across states and Union Territories, resurfaced on social media. The situation escalated after TMC MP Mahua-Moitra shared the document online, highlighting that a BJP "lotus" symbol appeared beneath the official communication. Although the post was later deleted and re-uploaded, the presence of the symbol sparked widespread debate over the neutrality of the poll body.

According to Election Commission sources, the issue pertains to an old incident in Kerala, where an official was reportedly suspended over the matter. However, the resurfacing of the letter has reignited concerns about institutional impartiality, especially in the context of imminent elections in several states, including West Bengal.

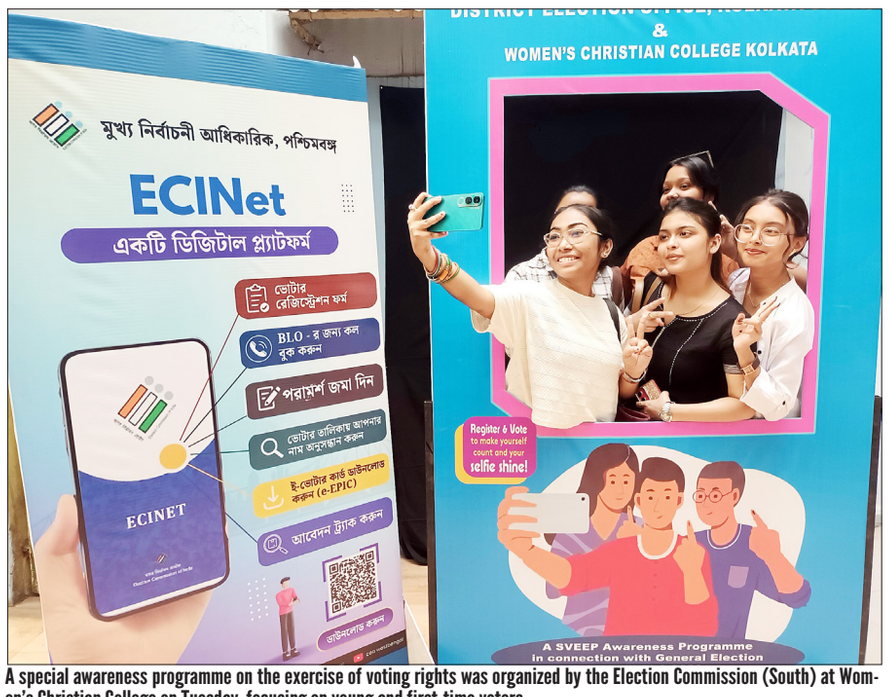
Reacting strongly to the development, Abhishek Banerjee took to social media platform X to criticise both the BJP and the Election Commission. Sharing the controversial letter, the Diamond Harbour MP alleged that such incidents reflect a systematic weakening of democratic institutions. He further claimed that recent decisions have increased political influence over the judiciary.

Crowd rush in the meeting of Abhishek Banerjee at Patharpratima on Tuesday.

Banerjee raised serious concerns about the removal of the Chief Justice of India from the panel responsible for selecting the Chief Election Commissioner, arguing that such steps undermine judicial authority. He warned that if this trend continues, even Supreme Court verdicts may begin to reflect political bias.

In his statement, Banerjee accused those entrusted with safeguarding the Constitution of compromising its core principles for narrow political gains. He described the situation as a "grave betrayal" of both duty and democracy, and termed it a deeply worrying decline in India's institutional framework.

The controversy has intensified political tensions, with opposition parties questioning the Election Commission's credibility. While the Commission has acknowledged the past error and taken action, critics argue that such lapses raise serious concerns—particularly at a time when electoral transparency and institutional integrity are under close scrutiny.



A special awareness programme on the exercise of voting rights was organized by the Election Commission (South) at Women's Christian College on Tuesday, focusing on young and first-time voters.

No clarity on number of voters deleted even after EC publishes first supplementary list

● Continued from Pg 1:

Four days later, the court also allowed about 400 judges from Odisha and Jharkhand to be deployed to decide on the claims and objections raised during the process.

On March 10, the Supreme Court directed the formation of an appellate tribunal composed of former Calcutta High Court Chief justices and judges to hear appeals against exclusions from the voter list in West Bengal.

T S Sivagnanam, former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, has been appointed as the appellate authority for the high-stakes districts of Kolkata and North 24 Parganas.

A person whose claim for inclusion in the electoral roll had been rejected by a judicial officer can approach the appellate tribunal, it said. The Supreme Court passed the order after concerns were raised about the lack of an independent appellate mechanism to deal with appeals against the rejection of their claims by judicial officers.

The special intensive revision in West Bengal comes ahead of the Assembly elections in the state, which will be held in two phases on April 23 and April 29. The results will be announced on May 4.

Meanwhile, the EC official said preparations are simultaneously underway to display the updated voter list across nearly 80,000 polling booths in the state by Monday night itself..

Ahead of the release of the supplementary list, Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court Sujoy Pal also convened an emergency meeting on Sunday to ensure law and order and to safeguard judges and judicial officers involved in the SIR process. Chief Secretary Dushyant Narial also met with Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Manoj Agarwal and Special Observer Subrata Gupta.

The CEO separately, held another round of discussions with senior police officials. While details of these meetings have not been disclosed yet, it is believed that the focus was on maintaining security and public order in the state ahead of the supplementary list's publication

A high alert has also been sounded in all the 23 districts in the state.

In a directive to the DMs, the Home and Hill Affairs Department told them to "maintain strict surveillance in sensitive areas, deploy adequate police forces to manage expected crowds at local administrative offices, and ensure law and order is maintained through close coordination with police commissioners and superintendents".

The supplementary list is expected to ensure clarity about the status of a large number of adjudicated voters.

The delay in finalising the list has drawn sharp criticism from Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, who alleged that eligible voters were facing unnecessary harassment.

However, senior Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury exhorted people to come out on the streets if their names were "unjustly not included" in the electoral roll.

From bowling to ballots: TMC's Shib Shankar Paul debuts on political pitch

● Continued from Pg 1:

sportspersons from small towns have succeeded. I will ensure young sportspersons get all facilities – from better gyms to improved sports complexes and better accommodation," he said.

Financial and infrastructural hurdles often shatter the dreams of talented athletes, Paul said, adding that he wants to address the challenges systematically.

"I would like to request Didi (Mamata Banerjee) and Abhishek Banerjee to help set up a north Bengal hostel in Kolkata. Many boys and girls cannot afford to stay in the state's capital and have quit sports midway. A hostel will help them find accommodation at a low cost and pursue their dreams," he added.

Paul's campaign, which began on March 19 with prayers at a local temple, reflects an effort to link his professional achievements with his roots.

Having played in Bengal teams that reached consecutive Ranji Trophy finals in 2005-06 and 2006-07, Paul built a reputation as a dependable workhorse, capable of bowling long spells under pressure. Over his first-class career, he took more than 100 wickets, often operating in situations requiring patience and strategic thinking.

His focus is on creating tangible benefits for the Tufanganj people while leveraging his experience in sports to inspire youth engagement.

For him, politics is less about party rivalry and more about delivering results, particularly for the youth and sports communities in north Bengal.

For Paul, the lessons learned on the cricket field – perseverance, resilience, and the ability to deliver under pressure – are directly relevant to his political journey.

"Politics is new for one who is contesting elections for the first time. Politicians gain experience over time. When I started playing cricket, it was new for me. I had played club cricket, struggled there, and gained experience. It is the same here," he said.

Paul also draws inspiration from the guidance and support of senior TMC leaders. His former Bengal captain, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, who had also served as a minister of state for sports, is also expected to help him garner support among sports enthusiasts and younger voters.

Political observers note that while the TMC candidate's personal connect and sporting background may work in his favour, the electoral arithmetic in Tufanganj remains complex due to the BJP's strong organisation and the Left's involvement.

Nevertheless, Paul remains confident that the discipline, focus, and fearlessness honed on the cricket field will help him navigate the challenges of political life.

"I was never afraid while bowling to Sachin Tendulkar, and now, I am not scared of fighting the election. I always stepped onto the field to win," Paul said replying to a query before embarking on his election campaign in Cooch Behar district on Tuesday .

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Indian Railways Approves Kosamba Rail Over Rail Flyover in Gujarat and Bhagalpur Bypass in Biharto Strengthen Rail Connectivity and Capacity

• Projects Worth ₹647.58 Crore to Ensure Uninterrupted andSafe Movement of Trains on Critical Routes

MI News Service, Delhi, Mar 24, 2026 : The Ministry of Railways has approved two important rail infrastructure projects in Western Railwayand Eastern Railway aimed at enhancing connectivity, easing congestion and improving operationalefficiency. The projects include construction of a Rail Over Rail (RoR) flyover at Kosamba forconnectivity to the Kosamba–Umrapada Gauge Conversion section in Gujarat and development of anew rail bypass at Bhagalpur in Bihar. The total sanctioned cost of the two projects is ₹647.58 crore.

Sanction of Rail-over-Rail Flyover at Kosamba – Umrapada GC Section (9.20 km), WesternRailway

Indian Railways has approved the construction of a Rail-over-Rail (RoR) Flyover to provide seamlessconnectivity to the Kosamba – Umrapada Gauge Conversion (GC) section (9.20 km) at a total estimatedcompletion cost of ₹344.38 crore. The Kosamba–Umrapada section lies on the eastern side of theMumbai–Vadodara main line and its gauge conversion is currently underway.

Due to the presence of the Dedicated Freight Corridor alignment, direct connectivity of the gaugeconverted line with the main line is not feasible through a surface crossing. The approved Rail Over Railflyover will eliminate surface crossings and enable seamless integration of the Gauge Conversionsection with the Mumbai–Vadodara main line. This will ensure uninterrupted and safe movement oftrains on these critical routes and help fully realize the benefits of the gauge conversion project.

Sanction of Bhagalpur Bypass (13.38 km), Eastern Railway

The Ministry has also approved the construction of the Bhagalpur Bypass (13.38 km) in Eastern Railwayat an estimated cost of ₹303.20 crore. The bypass will connect Gonudham Halt on the Barahat-Bhagalpur section with Sabour on the Bhagalpur-Sahibganj section, thereby easing congestion atBhagalpur junction.

At present, the Barahat–Bhagalpur section is operating at more than 125 percent capacity utilisation,leading to severe congestion. Trains moving between the Barahat–Bhagalpur and Bhagalpur–Sahibganjsections require engine reversal at Bhagalpur, resulting in detention and operational inefficiencies. Theapproved bypass will significantly improve operational fluidity and punctuality.

These infrastructure works will strengthen rail connectivity in Gujarat and Bihar, enhance safety, reducecongestion, and improve overall efficiency of train operations. The Ministry of Railways continues toprioritise capacity augmentation and network decongestion to meet the growing passenger and freighttransportation demands of the country.

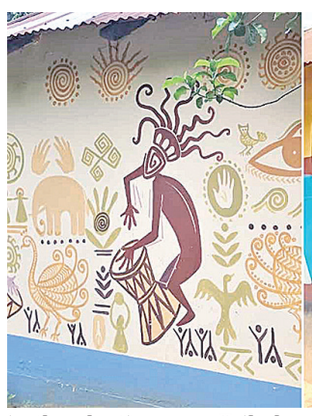
RAILWAY REFORMS

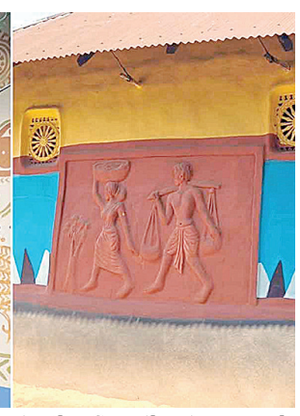
Reforms
• **5 Reform in Salt Transportation**
• **6 Reform in Automobile Transportation**
• **7 Improving quality of construction**
• **8 Cancellation of tickets & Refund Rules**
• **9 Change of Train Boarding Point**

Reform 5
Reform in Salt Transportation
Introduction
• India is one of the largest producer and exporter of salt globally
• Major producers - Tamil Nadu, Gujarat and Rajasthan
• Total production of salt in India : - 35 million tons
• Transportation by Railway : ~ 9.2 million tons per annum
• Modal share of Railways in:
• Transportation of industrial salt - 25%
• Transportation of Salt for human consumption -65%
• 62% of the rail traffic is for distance of 1,000 - 2,500 km
Key issues and solutions
• Wagon design not ideal for salt transportation
• Salt causing corrosion of wagons
• Issues related to Loading and Unloading
• Multiple handling > consequent losses
• Loading in open wagons with tarpaulin lining and covers
Solutions
• Shift towards containerization in special containers with non-corrosive feature
• Mechanized loading and unloading
• Containerized transport will facilitate seamless multimodal trasportaion.
• Containers can be placed in production and consumption points for loading and uploading
Reform 6
Reform in Automobile Transportation
Automobile Sector
• Size of Indian Auto market :
• Total : 31 million units annually
• Passenger vehicles : 5 million units
• Rail co-efficient in passenger vehicles -24%
• Major originating points:
• Mahesana (Gujarat)
• Chinchwad and Bidadi (Pune)
• Penukonda (Andhra Pradesh)
• Melpakkam (Tamil Nadu)
• Walajabad (Tamil Nadu)
• Farakhanagar (Gurugram)
Issues faced & Steps taken
• Wagon design with limited carrying capacity
• Chances of damage to vehicles during transportation
Steps taken
• Introduction of specialized wagons for auto carriers
• Single stack
• Double stack
Single and double deck containers
Single stack
Double stack
Reforms
• Freedom to the auto industry
• Design of high capacity double stack wagons
• Deployment of new wagons
• Utilizing the full available Schedule of Dimensions (SODs) of Railways for enhancing carrying capacity
Reform 7
Improving Quality of Construction
7 changes in selection process
• Eligibility Criteria Strengthened:
• Single work threshold raised from 35% to 50% of tender cost.
• Introduction of 20% "similar nature of work" clause in EPC
• contracts to ensure rail specific expertise.
• Fixed Bid Security (2%) : Ensures only serious bidders
• Bid Capacity will be calculated for all projects above ₹10 Cr
• Strict ban on corrupt, fraudulent, anti-competitive practices; strong punitive measures
• Mandatory Work Plan :
• Detailed execution plan required before project start
• Enables better monitoring and timely execution.
• Reduced Sub-Contracting :
Contractor must carry out works for 60% of total price directly under its own supervision and Subcontracting is allowed to 40% only (earlier 70%)
• Additional Performance Guarantee (5%) :
• Applied when bids are significantly lower than the estimated cost
• Deterring non-serious bidders and safeguarding project quality.
Benefits
• Transparency & Integrity : Ethics and punitive provisions safeguard fairness in procurement & execution.
• Quality Assurance : Stronger eligibility and reduced subcontracting improve
execution standards.
• Timely Delivery : Additional Performance Guarantee, Fixed Bid Security and
bid capacity checks to prevent delay from under-resourced contractors.
• Stronger infrastructure delivery framework.
Reform 8
Cancellation of tickets & Refund Rules
Reforms in ticketing
• Agents and touts tend to hoard tickets
• To overcome this problem Changes introduced in Tatkal booking:
• Introduced Aadhaar-based OTP
• Booking restricted for first 30 minutes
• Anti-bot solutions deployed to filter non-genuine users
• 3 Crore suspicious user IDs deactivated
Cancellation of tickets & Refund Rules
Background:
• Charting advanced from 4 hours to new 9-18 hours now
• This enables passengers to plan their travel efficiently
Modification in rules to take care of change in charting times
• 48/12/4 hrs changed to 72/24/8 hrs
Travel Class upgradation
• Travel class upgradation allowed up to 30 minutes before
departure for counter tickets
• Previously, passenger could upgrade travel class only before charting
• This will provide more options for comfortable travel to passengers right till the last moment
Reform 9
Change of Train Boarding Point
Change of Train Boarding Point
• Freedom to passenger to change their boarding point 30 minutes before scheduled departure of the train
• Specially useful in major cities with multiple stations, where a passenger can opt to board from any of those stations
• Currently, change of boarding point is allowed before preparation of chart
Benefits
• Enables last-minute changes in travel plans
• Passengers can board from convenient stations
• Better onboard management and seat utilization.

Culture wins in the election season too

MI News Service, Birbhum: Voting means a battle of colors across the walls. The face of the village is covered in various symbols, slogans and political messages. But that familiar picture is a completely opposite scene. Even though the vote comes, politics is not on the walls. Culture triumphs at Sonajhuri in Santiniketan. Wall writing is banned in several tribal villages. The colors of tradition are alive.





Not the color of politics. The stories of culture are blooming on the walls. Villages united to protect culture. Wall writings of all closed political parties. Not posters and banners in the election war. Tribal villages are decorated with art. There is democracy. But there is no trace of politics on the walls. Politics does not occupy the walls of tribal villages in the Sonajhuri area adjacent to Santiniketan. Rather, the own language of art and culture, imbued with the smell of soil, survives. In several villages including Ballabhpurdanga, Sarkardanga, Kheladanga, Sarpukurdanga, the walls of mud houses are like living canvases.

For generations, these murals are not just decorations, but part of their identity, history, and philosophy of life. Therefore, in the midst of the assembly elections, the villagers are reluctant to let the wall become a carrier of political messages.

According to villagers, votes come, but the identity of the village walls will not change. The votes may come and go, but if our culture is lost once, there will be no political symbols on the walls. There is history, a canvas of art.

Name Change
I, Reshmi Banerjee, W/o. Bhabani Prasad Das, residing at Kazidanga Madhya Pally, P.O. Debanandapur, Hooghly-712123, W.B., have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Reshmi Das as declared before the First Class Judicial Magistrate, 3rd Court, Hooghly, Sadar, vide affidavit no. 7818, dated 16/03/2026. Reshmi Banerjee & Reshmi Das (Ghosh) & Reshmi Das all are same & identical person.

Name Change
I, Jyoti Kumari Shaw D/o. Shankar Shaw, R/o. Chak Bansberia Mandir Tala, Bansberia, Mogra, Hooghly-712502, W.B., do hereby declare that in my Panjab National Bank, Bansberia Branch, Savings Bank Account (XXXX3150), where my name has been recorded as Jyoti Shaw instead of my correct & actual name is Jyoti Kumari Shaw. I, Jyoti Kumari Shaw & Jyoti Shaw D/o. Shankar Shaw, both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 8035, dated 24/03/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Nazma Khatun (Old Name), Wife Of Mofassel Haque Laskar, Residing At Vill & P.O. - Uttar Kusum, P.S.- Usthi, Dist-24 Parganas South, Pin - 743375, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Najma Khatun (New Name), As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/03/2026. Nazma Khatun (Old Name) And Najma Khatun (New Name), Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
"I, Kajal Kumar Shaw, son of Late Sisir Kumar Shaw, residing at 34/3/1, Sarat Chatterjee Road,Police Station – Chatterjeehat, Howrah – 711104.On 16.03.2026, before the First Class Executive Magistrate, Howrah Court (Affidavit No. 3325), I declare that 'Kajal Kumar Shaw' and 'Kajal Shaw' refer to one and the same person, and I am known by both names."

Name Change
I, Amina Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Iliyas Sekh, Residing At Vill - Beniabow, P.O.- Benebow, P.S.- Sonarpur, Dist - 24 Parganas (South), Pin-743613, West Bengal,India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Amina Sekh (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/03/2026. Amina Bibi (Old Name) And Amina Sekh (New Name) Both Are The Same And One Identical Person Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Prabal Mukhpadhyay, S/O- Late Pranab Mukherjee residing at Block-A3, Flat No.- 102, Indraprastha Apartment, VIP Road, Kaikhali, Kol-700052 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Prabal Mukhopadhyay as declared before the Notary Public Sealdah vide affidavit no. 006338 dated 17/03/2026 Prabal Mukhpadhyay and Prabal Mukhopadhyay both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Debashish Bose, S/O- Nikhil Ranjan Bose, residing at 31, N.N. Mukherjee Road, Subhas Nagar, P.O.- Rabindra Nagar, Dist.- 24 PGS (N), Pin- 700065 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debasish Bose as declared before the Notary Public Sealdah vide affidavit no. 006336 dated 18/03/2026 Debashish Bose and Debasish Bose both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I,DEEPAK KUMAR DOSHI(OLD NAME),SON OF LATE HANSRAJ DOSHI,RESIDING AT BLOCK-C,9TH FLOOR,14,WATKINS LANE,P.S-GOLABARI,HOWRAH-711101,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS DEEPAK DOSHI(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/03/2026.DEEPAK KUMAR DOSHI AND DEEPAK DOSHI BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I,MOBIN KHAN(OLD NAME),SON OF MD MAJID, RESIDING AT 32 BECK BAGAN ROW, PS-KARAYA, KOLKATA-700017,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MD MOBIN(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/03/2026.MOBIN KHAN AND MD MOBIN BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, Pulak Tewari(old name), son of Debabrata Tewari, residing at Pushpanjali, 358, Kendua main Road, Garia, Kolkata 700084, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pulak Kumar Tewari (new name) vide an affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 24/03/2026. Pulak Tewari and Pulak Kumar Tewari both are the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I,RUPALI MALLICK SARKAR(OLD NAME),WIFE OF PRATAP CHANDRA MALLICK,RESIDING AT FULORHAT KHALPAR, SONARPUR, SOUTH 24 PGS-700150,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS RUPALI MALLICK(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 19/03/2026. RUPALI MALLICK SARKAR AND RUPALI MALLICK BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I,AMITAVA BHATTAHARJEE(OLD NAME),SON OF LATE DEBENDRA KUMAR BHATTACHARJEE, RESIDING AT 11/1/8 KALIKINKAR ROAD, PASCHIM BARISHA,PS- THAKURPUKUR KOLKATA-700008, WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS AMITAVA BHATTACHARJEE (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/03/2026.AMITAVA BHATTAHARJEE AND AMITAVA BHATTACHARJEE BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I,MANOJ TIWARI(OLD NAME),SON OF LATE SHRI NATH TIWARI,RESIDING AT 201/B,M.G.ROAD,BURRABAZAR,KOLKATA-700007,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MANOJ KUMAR TIWARI(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/03/2026.MANOJ TIWARI AND MANOJ KUMAR TIWARI BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kiran Chhlani (old name), W/o Surendra Chhalani, residing at HOUSE NO- 246, SECTOR- 31, AMARNAGAR FARIDABAD, HARYANA- 121003, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kiran Chhalani (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 23/03/2026. Kiran Chhalani (new name) and Kiran Chhlani (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Saima Bibi (Old Name) W/o Ahsan Habib Sanfui Residing at Khariberia, P.o - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743503, West Bengal India Have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sayma Bibi (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 24-03-2026. Saima Bibi (Old Name) and Sayma Bibi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ahsan Habib (Old Name) S/o Ahamad Ali Sanfui Residing at Khariberia, P.o - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743503, West Bengal India Have Changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ahsan Habib Sanfui (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit Date 24-03-2026. Ahsan Habib (Old Name) and Ahsan Habib Sanfui (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sujit Jaiswal (Old Name) S/o Chhedi Lal Jaiswal Residing at 47, Guru Prasad Chowdhury Lane, P.o - Beadon Street, P.s - Amherst Street, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700006, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sujit Kumar Jaiswal (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 24-03-2026. Sujit Jaiswal (Old Name) and Sujit Kumar Jaiswal (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Nikita Jhunjhunwala (Old Name) D/o Sushil Kumar Jhunjhunwala W/o Sumesh Agarwala Residing at BL-T-2, 12-FR FL-12L, 403/1, Dakshindari Road, P.o - Sreebhumi, P.s - Lake Town, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700048, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nikita Agarwala (New Name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kolkata vide affidavit no 7157 Dated 20-03-2026. Nikita Jhunjhunwala (Old Name) and Nikita Agarwala (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Mahamuda Begum (old name), W/o Mirza Ali Asgar, residing at PASCHIM PARA SABALSINGPUR, P.S KHANAKUL, HOOGHLY RURAL, P.S.- KHANAKUL, PIN- 712417, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mahabuda Begam (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 23/03/2026. Mahabuda Begam (new name) and Mahamuda Begum (old name) both are same and identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sk Abdur Rashid (old name), S/o Md ismail, residing at PASCHIM PARA SABALSINGPUR, P.S KHANAKUL, HOOGHLY RURAL, P.S.- KHANAKUL, PIN- 712417, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sekh Abdul Rasid (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 23/03/2026. Sekh Abdul Rasid (new name) and Sk Abdur Rashid (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Hemanta Ku Pramanik (old name) S/O Santosh Chandra Pramanik, resident of Vill-Baneswarpur, P.O.- Hasimnagar, P.S.- Falta, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743513, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hemanta Pramanik (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/03/2026. Hemanta Pramanik (new name) Hemanta Ku Pramanik (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Yasmin Bibi (old name) W/O Sk Rahamat Ali, resident of B/28/H/35, D.P.S Road, P.O.- Tollygunge, P.S.- Charu Market, Kolkata-700033, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Yesmin Bibi (new name), as declared Before The The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/03/2026. Yesmin Bibi (new name) Yasmin Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Resma Khatun (old name), W/o Sk Riyajul Ali, residing at Gopalpur, Dhiramnagar, Gopalpur, Paschim Medinipur, Pin- 721212, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Resma Bibi (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 24/03/2026. Resma Bibi (new name) and Resma Khatun (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Riajul Ali (old name), S/o Sk Naser Ali, residing at Gopalpur, Dhiramnagar, Gopalpur, Paschim Medinipur, Pin-721212, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Riyajul Ali (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 24/03/2026. Sk Riyajul Ali (new name) and Sk Riajul Ali (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashraf Ali (old name), S/o Mahammad Sharif, residing at 481, G.T. Road (South), Howrah (MC), Howrah Sadar, Howrah-711102, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Asraf Ali (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 20/03/2026. Asraf Ali (new name) and Ashraf Ali (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Azmira Bibi (old name), W/o Siraj Mallick, residing at Chhoto Bamunia P.O-Lakshmipur, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743234, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajmira Bibi (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 20/03/2026. Ajmira Bibi (new name) and Azmira Bibi (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Sirajul Mallick (old name), S/o Lutfar Rahaman Mallick, residing at Chhoto Bamunia P.O-Lakshmipur, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743234, West Bengal, INDIA, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Siraj Mallick (new name) as declared before the Notary public at Kolkata dated 20/03/2026. Siraj Mallick (new name) and Sirajul Mallick (old name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Ananya Banerjee (Old Name), Wife Of Sanjib Chakraborty, Residing At 1/2303 Gayeshpur, Po Gayeshpur, Nadia-741234, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Ananya Chakraborty (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Kalyani On 23/02/2026. Ananya Banerjee And Ananya Chakraborty Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

BPCL assures supply of petrol, diesel & LPG in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has assured people of West Bengal that sufficient petrol, diesel, CNG, and domestic LPG would be available across the state through its vast network. According to BPCL sources, all BPCL fuel stations and domestic LPG distributorships, across its network in West Bengal are operating smoothly and are fully equipped to meet the energy needs of consumers. BPCL further assured that there is no cause for concern or panic buying. BPCL supply chain operations remain robust and efficient, ensuring uninterrupted supplies.

NAME CHANGE
I, NUR SALAM GAZI, S/o.- Majidul Haque Gazi, R/o.- Vill & P.O.- Bonhooghly, Mirpara, P.S.- Narenderapur, Dist.- 24 Pgs,.(S), Kol-103, WB, that my & father's actual name has been wrongly recorded in my R.C. Book as SAHALAM GAZI, S/o.- M Gazi in place of NUR SALAM GAZI & S/o.- Majidul Haque Gazi, vide an Affidavit No. 27209, dtd. 18.03.2026, in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Alipore. That, NUR SALAM GAZI @SAHALAM GAZI, S/o.- Majidul Haque Gazi@ M Gazi both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Alok Kr Ghosh (Old Name), S/O Nibaran Ghosh R/O, 30h, East Road, Santosh Pur, Kolkata- 700075, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Aloke Kumar Ghosh(New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/03/2026, That Alok Kr Ghosh And Aloke Kumar Ghosh All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sarina Bibi (old name) W/O Golam Kibriya Sekh, resident of Vill- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayet Nagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Serina Bibi (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/03/2026. Serina Bibi (new name) Sarina Bibi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

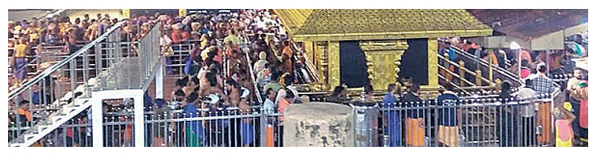
Name Change
I, Saifuddin Sk (old name) S/O Golam Kibriya Sekh, resident of Vill- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayet Nagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Saifuddin Sekh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/03/2026. Saifuddin Sekh (new name) Saifuddin Sk (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Golam Kibria Sk (old name) S/O Abdul Sattar Sekh, resident of Vill- Enayetnagar, P.O.- Chak Enayet Nagar, P.S.- Bishnupur, Dist.- South 24 Pgs, Pin- 743503, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Golam Kibriya Sekh (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/03/2026. Golam Kibriya Sekh (new name) Golam Kibria Sk (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Over 7,900 public grievances received with respect to J&K govt: Centre

MI News Service, New Delhi: More than 7,900 public grievances were received with respect to the government of Jammu and Kashmir in 2025, the Rajya Sabha was informed. These grievances were received on the online Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) and forwarded to the Jammu and Kashmir government. Of the total of 7,936 grievances received during the last year (excluding 7,340 brought forward ones), 5,598 were pending and 9,678 were closed, Union Minister of State for Personnel Jitendra Singh said in a written reply.

Sabarimala gold theft case: SIT moves Kerala HC to cancel Tantri's bail



MI News Service, Kochi: The Special Investigation Team (SIT) on Tuesday approached the Kerala High Court seeking cancellation of bail granted to tantri Kantarar Rajeevar in the second case linked to the alleged Sabarimala gold theft. This development intensifying legal scrutiny over the high-profile probe. The court has decided to consider both petitions together, including an earlier appeal in the Dwarapalaka plank case.

It is worth to mention that the first appeal pertains to the Dwarapalaka plank case, where bail was granted on the 41st day of custody.

The SIT has challenged this decision, arguing that the lower court failed to properly assess crucial evidence before concluding that there was no material to deny bail.

According to the SIT, the tantri played a significant role in the alleged conspiracy and cannot be treated as a peripheral figure.

Investigators claim there is substantial digital and testimonial evidence linking Rajeevar with the prime accused, Unnikrishnan Potti.

The SIT further contends that Rajeevar's knowledge of procedures related to handling and repairing sacred objects from Sabarimala points to his deeper involvement.

His alleged role in facilitating the movement and maintenance of temple valuables is being cited as part of a broader criminal conspiracy.

While the High Court was already seized of the appeal in the Dwarapalaka plank case, the SIT has now filed a fresh plea in the related Kattilappali case, seeking cancellation of bail in that matter as well.

The move signals the agency's determination to pursue a consolidated legal strategy in what it considers inter-connected offences.

Bongaon Hospital achieved milestone by conducting complex surgery

MI News Service, Bongaon: The teenager was practically hanging with his ear cut off in a bike accident. Blood was pouring out of his ear. The complex surgery was done at a government hospital. The doctors at the hospital were praised for the severed ear. This incident happened at the Bangaon Sub Divisional Hospital, not a super specialty hospital in Kolkata.

According to local sources, on Monday night, 14-year-old Anupam Das, a resident of Bangaon Chandpara, was seriously injured in an accident. One of his ears was almost severed in the bike accident. It is reported that a piece of the ear was attached to the body. The bloodied teenager was rescued by his family members and taken to Bangaon Sub Divisional Hospital.

In the hospital teenager's bleeding was stopped with medicine. The doctors were also informed. After primary treatment, he underwent surgery on Tuesday morning. The surgery began this morning with specialist doctors and nurses. The surgery lasted for a long time.

According to hospital sources, the surgery was successful. The teenager is currently under observation in the hospital. Family members breathed a sigh of relief after the successful surgery. They said, "I never thought that my son would be fine after the surgery at Bangaon Hospital. The doctors did it. We are proud."

In this regard, the superintendent of Bangaon Sub Divisional Hospital said, "The teenager was admitted to Bangaon Sub Divisional Hospital yesterday. We are trying to achieve success in such a complex surgery. This time too, it was successful. Our doctors here are very skilled. In the future, we will also provide treatment at Bangaon Hospital without referring the patient."

A Culture of Cleanliness Builds a Healthy and Pleasant Travel Environment

MI News Service, 24 March 2026, Kolkata: A clean and hygienic environment is something we all enjoy, but it is also a responsibility shared by each one of us. Even small acts of negligence can lead to unclean surroundings at home, in society or within railway premises. Therefore, cleanliness is not just the responsibility of the authorities but a reflection of our collective awareness and civic sense.

Eastern Railway has been consistently making dedicated efforts to keep railway stations and premises free from litter through various initiatives and awareness campaigns. Separate dustbins for biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste have been provided at stations to ensure effective and environmentally friendly waste management.

As part of this ongoing initiative, a special cleanliness drive was conducted today at Tollygunge Railway Station under the supervision of the Public Relations Department of Eastern Railway, Health Inspectors and the Railway Protection Force.

During the campaign, awareness was created among passengers through direct interaction, encouraging them to dispose of waste such as tea cups, biscuit packets and other food-related items in designated dustbins after use. Special emphasis was laid on proper disposal of used tea cups and similar items within the station premises.

Additionally, discussions were held with shopkeepers at the station, advising them to maintain separate dustbins at their outlets so that passengers can conveniently dispose of waste in an appropriate manner.

It is noteworthy that railway staff associated with cleanliness work tirelessly round the clock to maintain hygiene and cleanliness at stations. Active cooperation from passengers is essential to make these efforts successful.

Eastern Railway appeals to all passengers to use designated dustbins for waste disposal and to contribute towards maintaining a clean railway environment.The Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, Shibram Majhi, stated that a clean, beautiful and healthy railway environment can only be achieved through the collective cooperation of passengers.

State Raises Vehicle Hire Rates by 10% for Election Duty

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the upcoming elections, the state government has announced a 10 percent increase in vehicle hire charges compared to the previous poll cycle. The decision was formalized through an official notification, which also confirmed a similar 10 percent hike in allowances for drivers and helpers engaged in election-related duties. A wide range of passenger vehicles, including buses and smaller transport units, are requisitioned during elections to facilitate the movement of polling personnel and materials. The revised rates specify how much vehicle owners will be compensated for providing their vehicles for this purpose. Additionally, the daily allowance for drivers and helpers has now been fixed at ₹280. Under the new rate structure, the daily rent for a standard bus has been increased from ₹2,530 to ₹2,780. Similarly, the fare for minibuses has gone up from ₹2,090 to ₹2,300 per day. Smaller passenger vehicles, capable of carrying up to seven passengers along with the driver, will now receive ₹980 per day, up from the previous ₹890. The government has also introduced revised rates for maxi cabs, which will be used in both small and large categories. The fare for small maxi cabs has been increased from ₹1,310 to ₹1,440, while larger maxi cabs will now be paid ₹1,720 per day, compared to the earlier ₹1,560. In addition to passenger vehicles, a variety of heavy vehicles will also be deployed for election work. These include school buses, pool cars, trucks, tractors, auto-rickshaws, and electric autos. The daily rent for auto-rickshaws has been set at ₹550, while e-rickshaws will receive ₹850. In total, 19 different types of vehicles are being requisitioned to ensure smooth transportation for election personnel.

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No.: NIT/02/26/16, Dated : 23.03.2026. Principal Chief Materials Manager, 17, Netaji Subhash Road, 2nd Floor, Fairlie Place, Kolkata-700001, Eastern Railway invites e-Tenders for supply of the following items: **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description; EMD: (1); 15255005D;** EOT CRANE Capacity 5T as per Specification no. ANNEXURE/EOTC/5T/KPA.; Rs. 141400. **Tender Opening Date:** 13.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(2); 08251235;** Finishing Varnish TVA-1410; Rs. 116040. **Tender Opening Date:** 15.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(3); 15265006;** Supply, Installation and Commissioning EOT Crane, 25T along with 73 Meter Shrouded type DSL etc.; Rs. 284090. **Tender Opening Date:** 13.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(4); 15255008D;** Electric Overhead Travailing Crane 40 Ton along with SDL 80 Meter; Rs. 258040. **Tender Opening Date:** 09.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(5); 11261425;** Set of Prevailing Torque type Hex. Nut; Rs.128250. **Tender Opening Date:** 11.05.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(6); 10252187;** Maintenance Kit for various Pneumatic; Rs.283540. **Tender Opening Date:** 13.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(7); 10252427A;** Set of Axle box complete without Roller Bearing; Rs. 479730. **Tender Opening Date:** 14.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(8); 11251431;** Set of Lavatory PAN etc.; Rs. 271740. **(9); 10262252;** Crew Fan for WAP-7 WAG-9; Rs. 115780. **Tender Opening Date:** 13.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. [For Sl. No. 8 & 9]. **(10); 15255041B;** Supply, Installation & Commissioning of EOT Crane Capacity 10 Ton etc.; Rs. 172000. **Tender Opening Date:** 27.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(11); 20265006;** Smoke Detector and Fire Alarm System for MEMU Coaches; Rs. 170030. **Tender Opening Date:** 14.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(12); 15255157A;** Supply, Installation & Commissioning of 25T EOT Crane etc.; Rs. 135400. **Tender Opening Date:** 22.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(13); 15255135A;** Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane 30 Ton etc.; Rs. 154000. **Tender Opening Date:** 17.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(14); 22265160;** Salmeterol 25 mcg + Fluticasone 250 mcg; Rs. 119600. **Tender Opening Date:** 20.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(15); SpscIPSCSleeper26-28;** Procurement of Special type PSC Sleepers; Rs. 2000000. **Tender Opening Date:** 27.03.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(16); 1226F-S_Switch_4866;** Running Contract for procurement of F/S Switch 52 Kg of 6400 mm [OR] for 1 in 8.5 Turnout BG [1673 mm] for 52KG rail on PSC sleepers to RDSO drawing No. T-4866; Rs. 859750. **Tender Opening Date:** 17.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(17); 22251625B;** Tab/Cap Ruxolitinib 20 mg [Product should be available in the Manufacturing firm's approved product list of Railway Board] Item Code No.: M251024 AI 25-26; Rs. 0. **Tender Opening Date:** 13.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(18); HVN_T-8992_2026;** Running Contract for Procurement of HVN Liners Confirming to Drawing No. RT-8992; Rs. 654900. **Tender Opening Date:** 30.03.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(19); 1226-TWS-9775;** 6400mm Curved Thick Web Switch with Thick-Web Tongue Rails and Anti Creep Device for 1 in 8.5 turnout BG (1673mm) for 60 kg (UIC)/60E1A1 Rail on PSC sleepers complete with all fittings for 1 in 8.5, BG 60 Kg. turnout of fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers i.e. all fittings for switch portion as per sub assembly No.T-9775 Alt-03; Rs. 2000000. **Tender Opening Date:** 30.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(20); 12261030;** Running Contract for Manufacturing and supply of Elastic Rail Clip MK-V to RDSO Drg. No. T-5919; Rs. 5000000. **(21); 12261039;** Combination Metal Liners for 52 kg UIC rails on 60 kg PSC Sleepers conforming to RDSO Drg. No. T3741 & T-3742; Rs. 550720. **Tender Opening Date:** 10.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. [For Sl. No. 20 & 21]. **(22); 14261159;** Underground Railway Jelly Filled Telecom 6 Quad Cable 0.9 mm dia for Signalling and Telecom Installation Confirming to Specification No.IRS-TC-30/2005 Ver.1 with AMNDT.5; Rs. 5000000. **Tender Opening Date:** 15.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(23); 1226- NCRGRSP-8779;** Manufacture and supply of 6 mm thick Nylon Cord Reinforced Grooved Rubber Sole Plates for 60 Kg 1 in 12 complete turnout for fan shaped layout on PSC Sleepers as per RDSO's standard Layout drawing No.T-8779, Alt. - 03; Rs. 305860. **Tender Opening Date:** 17.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(24); 14261109;** PVC-Insulated Armoured, Underground, Unscreened Railway signaling cable (Heavy Duty) with high conductivity copper conductor of size 12 Core x 1.5 sq mm as per Specn. No.IRS:S-63/2014(Rev.4.0); Rs. 5000000. **Tender Opening Date:** 15.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **(25); 22265178;** INJ PEMBROLIZUMAB 100 MG [Product should be available in the Manufacturing firms approved product list of Railway Board] ITEM CODE M261946 , AI 26-27; Rs. 0. **Tender Opening Date:** 03.04.2026, **Time:** 13.30 hrs. **Tender Cost:** Rs. 0.00 [For Sl. No. 1 to 25]. **NOTE:** All above mentioned tenders are e-tenders and all tenderers are requested to submit their bids on-line through the IREPS website at **https://www.ireps.gov.in,** For more details regarding the above mentioned tenders and other supply tenders please visit IREPS website.

STORES-77/2025-26

Tender Notices are also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

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Indian Railways Announces Five New Reforms Under 'Reform Express'; Cargo, Construction, and Passenger Convenience in Focus

MI News Service, 24 March 2026, New Delhi: Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology,Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, today announced that in line with Indian Railways' resolve to undertake reformsduring 2026, five new reforms have been approved. With the approval of these new reforms, the totalnumber of reforms for the year 2026 has reached nine.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that under the ongoing "Reform Express" initiative, four reforms hadalready been announced and five new reforms were being introduced. Out of the five new reforms, twoare related to cargo, one to construction, and two to passenger convenience.

Reform in Salt Transportation

Speaking on reform number five, which focuses on salt transportation, Vaishnaw said India is oneof the largest producers and exporters of salt in the world. The three major producing states are TamilNadu, Gujarat, and Rajasthan. Out of nearly 35 million tonnes of salt produced annually in India, about9.2 million tonnes per annum are transported by railways, reflecting a significant untapped opportunity.

The Union Minister noted that the modal share of railways in salt transportation varies by use -approximately 25 per cent for industrial salt and around 65 per cent for salt meant for humanconsumption. He added that 62 per cent of all rail-based salt traffic covers distances of 1,000 to 2,500kilometres, making it a segment well-suited for rail movement.

He said detailed consultations were held with salt producers and transporters to understand thechallenges. The study identified key issues, including unsuitable wagon design, corrosion of wagonscaused by salt, water seepage in open wagons despite tarpaulin covers, and multiple handling stagesleading to higher costs and losses.

To address these issues, a stainless steel, top-loading and side-discharge container system has now beensuccessfully developed. The container is made of stainless steel to prevent corrosion, and is equippedwith top-loading flaps and a hydraulic side-discharge mechanism, allowing easy unloading into trucks atthe destination.

The Union Minister explained that containers can be placed at salt production sites for direct loading.These containers can then be lifted and loaded onto container trains. At the destination, containers canbe unloaded and placed at warehouses or godowns, with unloading done as per requirement. He said thissystem provides greater flexibility, supports seamless multimodal movement, reduces handling losses,and has been well received by the industry.

Reform in Automobile Transportation

The Indian automobile market produces approximately 31 million units annually, of which passengervehicles account for around 5 million units. The rail co-efficient in passenger vehicle transport stands atabout 24 per cent, indicating that a large share of automobile movement still happens by road.

He said feedback from the industry highlighted key design and operational constraints. The majorautomobile production hubs served by railways include Mahesana in Gujarat; Chinchwad and Bidadi inMaharashtra and Karnataka; Penukonda in Andhra Pradesh; Melpakkam and Walajabad in Tamil Nadu;and Farakhanagar in Gurugram, Haryana. He stated that earlier initiatives included converting existingpassenger coaches into automobile carrier wagons and introducing new solutions. However, furtherconsultations revealed that the primary issue lay in the design of automobile carrier wagons.

The Union Minister said that the existing wagon designs were either suited for single-stack or double-stack configurations, limiting flexibility. He added that many routes face restrictions due to tunnels andbridges, where the Schedule of Dimensions (SOD) constraints prevent movement of certain wagon types.

To address this, Vaishnaw said the Railways has introduced a reform allowing special wagondesigns while giving flexibility to the industry. Manufacturers can now design wagons based on specificorigin-destination routes with high-capacity.

Referring to the impact of the earlier bulk cement policy reform, he said that changes implemented ledto an immediate increase in loading — bulk cement tonnage transported by rail rose sharply fromapproximately 37,000 tonnes in September 2025 to nearly 95,000 tonnes by January 2026. He expressedsimilar expectations that the reforms in salt and automobile transportation will significantly improve railfreight share in those sectors.

Improving Quality of Construction

Ashwini Vaishnaw said the next reform focuses on improving construction quality in railwayprojects, introducing seven major changes. The Union Minister said the first change relates to eligibility criteria. The threshold for assessingcontractor capability through a single project has been increased from 35 per cent to 50 per cent of theproject value. This ensures that only firms with proven capacity to execute large projects can bid forsimilar works. Additionally, at least 20 per cent of prior experience must be in railway-related work,recognising that different sectors such as highways, ports, and airports have distinct complexities.Within-railway works, complexity levels have been defined, signalling being the most complex-,followed by overhead electrical and track works and relevant experience will be required accordingly.

The second change fixes bid security at 2 per cent of the project value. This is aimed at discouragingfrivolous bids and ensuring only serious participants enter the tendering process.

The third change introduces mandatory assessment of bid capacity for all projects above ₹10 crore,while the fourth enforces strict punitive provisions banning corrupt, fraudulent, and anti-competitivepractices.

The fifth change mandates a detailed work plan before the start of any project, enabling improvedmonitoring and ensuring timely execution.

The sixth change reduces the permissible subcontracting limit from 70 per cent to 40 per cent.Contractors will now have to directly execute at least 60 per cent of the work under their ownsupervision, which will ensure accountability and reduce the practice of passing on contracts aftersecuring bids.

The seventh change addresses predatory bidding. He said that if a bid is more than 5 per cent below theestimated project cost, the bidder will be required to provide an additional 5 per cent performanceguarantee. This is aimed at discouraging unrealistic bids that later lead to disputes, arbitration, andproject delays.

These changes collectively strengthen the railway project execution framework by enhancingtransparency and integrity through strict ethical and punitive measures, ensuring quality assurance viastricter eligibility norms and reduced subcontracting, and promoting timely delivery with mechanismslike fixed bid security, bid capacity assessment, and additional performance guarantees. Together, thesesteps aim to build a more accountable, efficient, and robust infrastructure development system.

Ticket cancellation and refund

The Union Minister said reform number eight focuses on passenger convenience, with measures to curbmisuse of ticketing systems and improve access for genuine travellers.

He said ticket black marketing and misuse of the Tatkal system had been a major concern. To addressthis, the Railways introduced technology to detect bots and fraudulent software. Further technologicalinterventions curtailed the ability of agents and touts to book tickets immediately after the Tatkalwindow opens, alongside the introduction of Aadhaar-based OTP verification. A detailed data analysisled to the identification and removal of nearly 3 crore fake accounts from the IRCTC system, resultingin a significant improvement in ticket availability.

To address this, the earlier cancellation time windows of 48, 12, and 4 hours before departure have beenrevised to 72, 24, and 8 hours, aligned with the advance preparation of reservation charts which nowhappens 9-18 hours before departure instead of 4 hours. This will be done at no extra cost frompassengers. Advance reservation charts improves passenger convenience by reducing uncertainty,enabling better planning for waitlisted travelers, and supporting passengers from remote locations. Earlychart ing allows alternative travel arrangements, optimizes vacant berth utilization, and booststransparency. These changes are aimed at removing incentives for last-minute speculative bookings andensuring tickets are available to genuine passengers.

The Union Minister also announced that soon counter tickets can now be cancelled from any railwaystation across the country, removing the earlier restriction of cancellation only at the originating station. He said the requirement of filing a Ticket Deposit Receipt (TDR) for e-tickets has been removed, andrefunds will now be processed automatically upon cancellation. In another passenger measure,passengers can now upgrade their travel class up to 30 minutes before departure, whereas earlierchanges were restricted to before chart preparation.

He said these reforms are expected to further improve transparency, reduce misuse, and enhancepassenger experience in railway ticketing.

Change of Train Boarding Point

The Union Minister said reform number nine enables passengers to change their boarding stationdigitally up to 30 minutes before departure of the train from its origin station. He explained that earlier,passengers could change the boarding point only before chart preparation. Under the new provision, if apassenger is unable to board from the original station, they can select the next convenient station andboard the train without losing their confirmed seat.

Update on Previous Reforms

Previous reforms have included Reforms for Better On-Board Services, expansion of Gati Shakti CargoTerminals with better facilities to meet freight targets, the RailTech Policy and Portal, and digitisation ofthe Railway Claims Tribunal (e-RCT) for faster, paperless claims disposal.

The Union Minister said on-board cleaning services for general and unreserved coaches have been takenup as a mission. A total of 86 trains have been identified across zonal railways. Expression of Interest forempanelment has already been floated by 5 Zonal Railways. On cargo reforms, he said changes in theGati Shakti Cargo Terminal policy have been notified and new applications are being processed underthe revised framework.

Referring to the recently launched Rail Tech policy, he said 123 proposals were received within amonth, of which 94 have been shortlisted for the next stage.

These reforms are aimed at improving operational efficiency, enhancing passenger convenience, andencouraging innovation in the railway sector, the Union Minister concluded.

Railways to run three special trains during summer season

MI News Service, 24 March 2026, Kolkata: To clear the extra rush of passengers during ensuing summer, Railway has decided to run following special trains:

05060 Lalkuan – Kolkata Special will leave Lalkuan at 13:35 hrs. on every Thursday between 02.04.2026 & 25.06.2026 (13 trips) to reach Kolkata at 23:55 hrs. on the next day and 05059 Kolkata – Lalkuan Special will leave Kolkata at 05:00 hrs. on every Saturday between 04.04.2026 & 27.06.2026 (13 trips) to reach Lalkuan at 15:45 hrs. on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Barddhaman, Durgapur, Asansol, Chittaranjan, Madhupur & Jasidih stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction in both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class and Air-Conditioned accommodations.

05932 Dibrugarh – Kolkata Special will leave Dibrugarh at 17:00 hrs. on every Saturday between 04.04.2026 & 30.05.2026 (09 trips) to reach Kolkata at 00:30 hrs on the third day and 05931 Kolkata - Dibrugarh Special will leave Kolkata at 02:30 hrs. on every Monday between 06.04.2026 & 01.06.2026 (09 trips) to reach Dibrugarh at 06:30 hrs on the next day. The train will stop at Naihati, Bandel, Nabadwip Dham, Katwa, Azimganj, Jangipur Road, New Farakka and Malda Town stations over Eastern Railway jurisdiction on both directions enroute. The train will have General Second Class, Sleeper Class and Air-Conditioned accommodations.

The booking of 05059 Kolkata – Lalkuan Special will be available on & from 25.03.2026 through PRS & Internet and the date of booking of 05931 Kolkata - Dibrugarh Special will be notified shortly.

Moreover, Railway has decided to continue the service of 02024/02023 Patna – Howrah – Patna special with existing timings and stoppages to clear the extra rush of passengrs during Summer season. 02024 Patna – Howrah special will run on every Sunday between 05.04.2026 & 28.06.2026 (13 trips) and 02023 Howrah – Patna special will run on every Sunday between 05.04.2026 & 28.06.2026 (13 trips).

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আমার মক্কেল ১) শিবানী বক্সী, স্বামী-নির্মল বক্সী; এবং ২) সবিতা মজুমদার, স্বামী-চন্দ্রশেখর মজুমদার, উভয়ের-সাং-৩৪/এ ওয়াটগঞ্জ স্ট্রীট, পোঃও থানা- ওয়াটগঞ্জ, কোলকাতা-২৩ গত ইংরাজী ৩০/০৪/১২ তারিখে হরিনঘাটা A.D.S.R- অফিসের ৪নং বহির ২১ নং আমমোক্তার দলিলের লিখিতং দ্বয় নদীয়া জেলার হরিনঘাটা থানার সুবর্ণপুর নিবাসী গৌতম প্রসাদ দে মহাশয়কে আমমোক্তার নিযুক্ত করিয়াছি উক্ত আমমোক্তার ভুক্ত সম্পত্তি হইতেছে-মৌজা- ৪৩ নং লাউপালা, L.R. খতিয়ান নং-২২১, ৫৬৬, ৬৩৮, দাগ নং-৩৩৬, ৩৩৯, জমির পরিমান - ৩০.৫ শতক এবং ১৯.৭৫ শতক। উক্ত সম্পত্তিতে কাহারো কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে আগামী ১ মাস সময়ের মধ্যে নিম্ন ঠিকানায় যোগাযোগ করিবেন।

DEBNARAYAN DAS CHOWDHURY
Advocate
Kalyani Court
Enrolment No. WB-735/1992

JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH
1300, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107, Tel.: 033-24428270
(N.IT no. JBNSTS/9-1/2025-26/52 Date. 25/03/2026)
Sealed tenders are invited by the Director on behalf of JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH, Kolkata from reliable & resourceful agencies for enlistment of caterers for supplying Food during different programmes for students and teachers.
For details, please visit our **website:www.jbnsts.ac.in**
Last date of submitting quotation: **March 31, 2026 up to 12.00 noon (IST)**
Opening of quotations: **April 01, 2026 at 03.00 pm (IST)**

JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH
1300, Rajdanga Main Road, Kolkata-700107, Tel.: 033-24428270
(N.IT no. JBNSTS/9-1/2025-26/53 Date. 25/03/2026)
Sealed tenders are invited by the Director on behalf of JAGADIS BOSE NATIONAL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH, Kolkata from reliable & resourceful agencies for enlistment of Suppliers / Vendors for supplying School Bag, Laptop Bag & Backpack during different programmes for students and teachers.
For details, please visit our website:**www.jbnsts.ac.in**
Last date of submitting quotation: **March 31, 2026 up to 12.00 noon (IST)**
Opening of quotations: **April 01, 2026 at 03.00 pm (IST)**

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I Form No. 14 [See Regulation 33 (2)]
Govt. of India, Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services
4th Floor, Bhikhubhai Chambers, 18, Gandhikunj Society, Nr. Kochrab Ashram, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad-380 006
(Established u/s. 3 of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks & Financial Institutions Act, 1993, for the area comprising Districts of Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, Mehsana, Patan, Sabarkantha (Himmatnagar), Banaskantha (Palanpur) of Gujarat State w.e.f. 1st June, 2007)
(See Section 25 to 29 of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act,1993 read with Rule 2 of Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act-1961)

R.C. No. 07/2026	O.A. No. 51/2013
Indian Overseas Bank	Certificate Holder
V/S.	
Mapple Fine Dine Pvt Ltd & Ors.	Certificate Debtor

To, Demand Notice

CD No. 1	MAPPLE FINE DINE PVT LTD A Private Limited Company Incorporated under the companies Act, 1956
CD No. 2	Mr. Sushil Kantilal Saraiya
CD No. 3	Ms. Poonam Sushil Saraiya Defendants no. 1 to 3, having address at Neelkamal Building, 41, Eligine Road Kolkata 700 020 **also at** 71, Canning Street, Room no. A-312, 3rd Floor, Kolkata-700 001.
CD No. 4	Mr. Gaurav Arvind Kumar Rajpopat B-603, Regency Tower, Opp. Management Enclave, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad-380 015.

In view of the Recovery Certificate issued in **O.A./M.A./Misc. I.A. /Exe. Pet./ No. 51/2013** passed by the Hon'ble Presiding Officer, **DRT-I, Ahmedabad** an amount of **Rs. 32,00,808.00/- (Rupees Thirty Two Lakhs Eight Hundred Eight Only)**is due against you.
You are hereby called upon to deposit the above/below sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.
In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:
(a) Such interest & Cost as is payable in terms of Recovery Certificate.
(b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.
Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, this 17th Day of Feb, 2026. Seal **Sd/- (Love Kumar)**
Next Date: 25.03.2026. Recovery Officer-I DRT-I, Ahmedabad

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Pursuant to Rule 17 of the Limited Liability Partnership Rules, 2009) Notice is hereby given that Berdant Agri LLP, having LLPIN: AAD-4822, has changed its Registered Office address with effect from the date approved by the partners and subject to filing with the Registrar of Companies.Existing Registered Office Address: 47A, Zakaria Street, R No. 39, 4th Floor, Kolkata,West Bengal-700073. New Registered Office Address: House No. 83, Fairway Golf Resort, Sector-24, New Raipur, Raipur, Chhattisgarh-492001. All concerned persons, authorities, clients, suppliers, bankers and other stakeholders are hereby requested to note the above change of address for all future correspondence and communications.
For Berdant Agri LLP
LLPIN: AAD-4822
Sd/-
Designated Partner
Place: Kolkata
Date : 24.03.2026

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আমার মক্কেল বিকাশ জালুই, পিতা-শ্রীকান্ত জালুই, ২০২৫ সালে A.D.S.R. ডোমজুড় অফিসে রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত ৫১৪৭ নং দলিল দ্বারা চেনমারফৎ ৫৪৫০/২৪, ২০৪১/২৫, (A.D.S.R. ডোমজুড়, হাওড়া) ৫৮৮২/২৫ নং (D.S.R.-I হাওড়া) আমমোক্তার (ভীম চন্দ্র পাড়ুই) দলিল দ্বারা মৌজা-রাঘবপুর, হাল-১৪৩ নং খতিয়ানে, সাবেক ও হাল-১০৭৯, ১০৮০, ১০৮১ নং দাগে মোট ৪.৩২২ শতক সম্পত্তি ক্রয় করিয়া নাম পরিবর্তনের আবেদন করেন। উক্ত বিষয়ে কাহারও কোন আপত্তি থাকিলে বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১ মাসের মধ্যে ডোমজুড় B.L.&.L.R.O., অফিসে যোগাযোগ করুন।

সুমিত কুমার চক্রবর্তী, অ্যাডভোকেট

Lost and Found

I, Sudhannya Kundu, S/O Lt. Abani Mohan kundu.Residing at Vill- Fulia Buincha, p.o.- Buincha, Nadia. On 21/3/26 at 10 p.m. I have lost original sale Deed No-2106/1985, Mouza- Buincha, J.L.No-70,Dag No - 1161, Khatian No- 790/1 Under the Jurisdiction of nabla gram panchayat of Santipur Block. If found any one Contact- 9396748882

DRAFT NOTICE
In the City Civil Court at Calcutta
Before the Ld. 5th Judge
Title Suit No. 2216 of 2022

ICICI BANK LIMITED
3A, GURUSADAY ROAD,
KOLKATA - 700 019. ...Plaintiff
-VS-
SK ABDUL ALAM S/O SEKH BAHARUDDIN, GHURACHAK, KISMAT ANGUA, NEAR MASJID, PASCHIM MIDNAPUR, PIN 721 150. ....Defendant/s

SK ABDUL ALAM
S/O. SEKI BAHARUDDIN,
GHURACHAK, KISMAT ANGUA,
NEAR MASJID, PASCHIM
MIDNAPUR, PIN 721 150.

WHEREAS the abovenamed Plaintiff has filed the Title Suit No. 2216 of 2022 on 28/09/2022 before the Ld. court. You are hereby summoned to appear in person or through Ld. Advocate before the Ld. 5th Bench, City Civil Court, Calcutta on 02-06-2026 at 10:30 a.m. either in person or through agent and may file statement if any. In default the application will be heard and determined ex-parte in accordance with law.
Dated-18-03-2026.

By Order
Chief Administrative Officer
City Civil Court at Calcutta

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
Branch Office: ICICI BANK LTD, BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091.
CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.
Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Mijanur Mollah/ Nowsar Molla/ Hasanur Molla/ Naduria,P.O. Srikrishnapur, Thana Ashoknagar, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal Suna- 743711/ TBCAL00006961486/ LBCAL00006973763/ LBCAL00006974010/ LBCAL00006974599	R.S. And L.R. Dag No. 430, Nij Khatian No. 226, Hal Krishi Khatian No. 63, L.R. Khatian No. 485, J.l. No. 2, Re. Sa. No. 2, Touzi No. 2296, Hal 14, Mouza Naduriya, P.S. Ashoknagar, Shrikrishnapur Gram Panchayet, A.D.S.R. Office Guma, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal., Owned By Mijanur Mollah, Nowsar Molla And Hasanur Molla (Admeasuring An Area of 4 Satak North:20 Feet Wide Pucca Road South: Land of Abu Bakkar Mondal East: Land of Noor Mohammed Mondal West: Land of Ajit Mondal/ Date of Symbolic 19/03/2026	October 24, 2025 Rs. 44,63,293.00/-	North 24 Parganas
2.	Sumit Saha/ Sudarshan Saha/ Uludanga 1 No Kaloni, Maslandapur Habra North, 24 Parganas Salua Uludanga F.P School, District. North 24 Parganas West Bengal Habra- 743289/ LBCAL00004981952	Dag No. 3, Touzi No. 2026, J.L. No. 158, Public Nickname Village Salua Ultodanga, Mouza Uludanga Village, P.S. & Sub Registry Office Habra, Collector Bahadur 24 Parganas, Pargana Ukhra, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 8 1/4 Satak North: Own Property South: Sridam Saha & Indu BalaEast: Government Road West: Own Property/ Date of Symbolic 19/03/2026	June 27, 2025 Rs. 21,74,612.87/-	Kolkata/ Ahmed-abad
3.	Firoj Ahamed/ Rokiya Khatun/ Parganas, P.O. Chakla, Thana Deganga, Near Burir Hat Bazar, Sirajpur District. North 24 Parganas West Bengal Devalaya- 743424/ TBCAL00006925039/ TBCAL00006925038/ LBCAL00006974672	R.S. Cum L.R. Dag No. 105, L.R. Khatian No. 461(Old), 1325(New), J.L. No. 53, Touzi No. 11, Mouza. Sirajpur, Mahakuma Barasat, Gram- Panchayat Chakla, P.S. & A.D.S.R. Office Deganga, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 12.50 Satak North: Emdat Hossain South: Pakka Road East: Abdul RajjakWest: Eunuch Ali/ Date of Symbolic 19/03/2026	November 03,2025 Rs. 33,89,271.00/-	Deganga
4.	Malay Halder/ Mousam Halder/ GopalpurPo Gopalpur, P.S. Haroa District - North 24 Parganas West Bengal Basirhat- 743445/ TBCAL00007003928/ LBCAL00007009727/ LBCAL00007009740	R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 1110, Sabek Khatian No. 584, Hal No. 812, Present L.R. No. 799/1, Touzi No. 586, J.L. No. 80, Hal No. 23, Mouza Gopalpur, Police Station Haroa, A.D.S.R. Office Deganga, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area Of Land Measuring 4 Satak And A Pucca House Measuring 220 Sq. Ft. On This Land. North Jibananda Halder South Shouvan Halder East Dinabandhu Bhattacharya West 12` Feet Wide Pucca Road/ Date Of Symbolic 19/03/2026	September 26, 2025 Rs. 33,02,750.00/-	Basirhat
5.	Md Mostafa Ahomed/ Aklima Bibi/ Vill Sohai Kumarpur Thana Deganga West Bengal North 24 Parganas-743423/ TBCAL00006981547/ TBCAL00006981554/ LBCAL00007073287	Dag No. 1247, Khatian No. 252, L.R. Kri. Khatian No. 118, Re. Sa. No. 215, Touzi No. 146, J.L. No. 17, Mouza Sohai, Pargana Anwarpur, Sub Registri Deganga, Collector Bahadur North 24 Parganas, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area of 11 1/2 Satak Out of 23 Satak./ Date of Symbolic 19/03/2026	June 21,2025 Rs. 16,36,810.12/-	North 24 Parganas

The above-mentioned borrowers(s)/guarantors(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

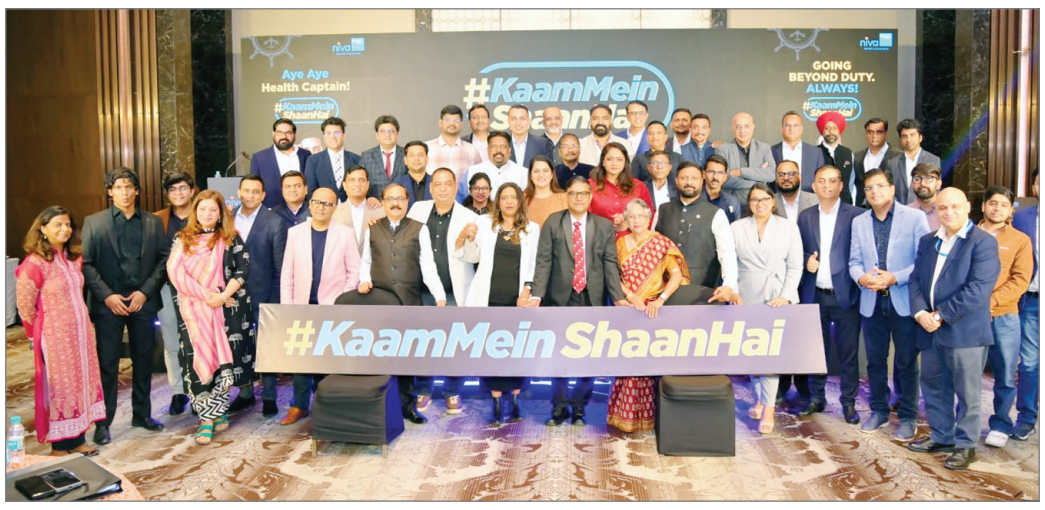
Date: March 25, 2026
Place: North 24 Parganas & Kolkata & Basirhat & Deganga

Sincerely Authorised Officer
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Niva Bupa Shines Spotlight on India's Unsung Heroes of Protection with Industry-First Coffee Table Book

Initiative honours 40 advisors whose dedication has helped protect families during medical emergencies and highlights the need to expand India's advisor ecosystem.

PATNA : In a first-of-its-kind initiative for the Indian health insurance sector, Niva Bupa Health Insurance has launched a Coffee Table Book celebrating the inspiring journeys of its advisors-the unsung heroes who play a critical role in protecting families' health and financial well-being. The book brings to life powerful and deeply personal stories of 40 advisors, capturing moments where they went beyond selling policies to support families during medical emergencies, assist with complex documentation, and ensure a seamless claims experience during some of life's most critical situations. By spotlighting these stories, the initiative seeks not only to recognise their contribution but also to inspire many more individuals to take up insurance advisory as a meaningful and impactful career.



This initiative comes at a time when India's health insurance ecosystem is witnessing strong growth but continues to face a significant protection gap. As per IRDAI's Annual Report FY 2024-25, overall insurance penetration stood at 3.7% of GDP, significantly lower than the global average of 7.3%. In the non-life segment, penetration remains at just 1% compared to the global average of 4.3%.

Individual agents continue to be the backbone of the industry and will play a pivotal role in bridging this gap. They contribute 31% of the total health insurance premium and account for 72% of individual health insurance premiums. However, to realise the national vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047', there is a pressing need to significantly expand and strengthen the advisor ecosystem. As highlighted by former IRDAI Chairman Debashish Panda, India requires nearly three times the current number of distributors to adequately serve its population.

Commenting on the initiative, Nimish Agrawal, Director - Digital Business & CMO, Niva Bupa Health Insurance, said: "Advisors serve as the vital link between insurers and customers by building trust, offering personalised advice, and simplifying complex products. In a country where a large section of the population remains underinsured, their role becomes even more critical. Expanding the advisor base is not just a growth imperative but a national necessity to drive financial inclusion and ensure protection reaches every corner of India.

At the same time, the industry faces key challenges-high attrition, a low active advisor base, and a shortage of specialised health insurance advisors who can support customers during hospitalisation and claims. Through our 'Kaam Mein Shaan Hai' campaign, we aim to address these challenges. The Coffee Table Book is an integral part of this effort-it is both a tribute to our advisors and a platform to inspire others to join this profession with pride and purpose."

The Coffee Table Book builds on Niva Bupa's 'Kaam Mein Shaan Hai' campaign, which celebrates the dignity, purpose, and societal value of insurance advisors by positioning them as trusted enablers of protection rather than mere policy sellers.

As part of the campaign's next phase, the company also introduced the Niva Bupa Insurance Academy-a comprehensive learning and development initiative aimed at transforming advisors into 'Health Captains'. The Academy plans to train over 10 lakh advisors, equipping them with advanced product knowledge, customer engagement capabilities, and digital skills to better serve customers across their insurance journey. A strong focus is placed on enabling advisors to guide customers during the "moment of truth"-the claims experience-ensuring trust, confidence, and seamless support when it matters most.

The Coffee Table Book marks the next chapter in this journey. As its first edition, it features 40 outstanding advisors, with future editions set to showcase many more inspiring stories from across the country.

By recognising these real-life heroes and amplifying their stories, Niva Bupa aims to elevate the perception of insurance advisory as a profession-encouraging more individuals to join the ecosystem and contribute towards a larger national goal: ensuring every Indian has access to health protection by 2047.

About Niva Bupa: Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company Limited is a Public Listed Company on Stock exchange(s). The company's purpose is to give every Indian the confidence to access the best healthcare. It intends to play the role of an enabler in the lives of its customers and help them live life without constraints. This is reflected in its brand philosophy - 'Zindagi Ko Claim Kar Le'.

As of December 31, 2025, Niva Bupa had over 210 physical branches across India. It additionally offers health insurance through its ecosystem partners including 2.2 Lakh agents, 575+ brokers, and over 115 Banca & Other Corporate Agency Partners. The company currently covers 24.5 million lives and has 10,507 hospitals empanelled in its hospital network.

Niva Bupa has consistently maintained 90%+ claim settlement ratio over the last 4 financial years, having ended Q3FY26 with claim settlement ratio of 94.1%. With an employee base of over 10,100 people, the company is a certified Great Place to Work six times in a row.

RG Stones Urology & Laparoscopy Hospital, Kolkata, Successfully Manages Complex PUJ Obstruction in Horseshoe Kidney with Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery

KOLKATA: In a rare surgical triumph, RG Stone Urology & Laparoscopy Hospital, Kolkata, has successfully treated complex PUJ obstruction in a horseshoe kidney of 23 year old, a congenital fusion, using cutting-edge minimally invasive laparoscopy. The life-changing procedure, led by Dr. Zeeshan Rahman, spared a critical crossing blood vessel, relieved severe hydronephrosis, and sent the patient home pain-free in just 3 days.

The patient came with persistent pain in the left flank region. A Non-Contrast CT (NCCT KUB) scan revealed gross hydronephrosis in the left moiety of a horseshoe kidney, a congenital condition characterized by fused kidneys and altered anatomy. Further evaluation identified a crossing blood vessel contributing to the obstruction, making the case particularly challenging.

Dr. Zeeshan Rahman, Consultant - Urology, RG Kolkata, said, "Managing PUJ obstruction in a horseshoe kidney is inherently complex due to altered anatomy and associated vascular variations. In this case, preserving the crossing vessel while relieving the obstruction was crucial. With advanced laparoscopic techniques, we were able to achieve both objectives effectively, ensuring optimal patient outcomes and faster recovery." He further added, "Given the anatomical complexity, the surgical team performed a laparoscopic pyeloplasty with DJ stenting under general anesthesia. The presence of crossing vessels required meticulous surgical planning and execution to relieve the obstruction while preserving vital vascular structures". The surgery was successfully completed, achieving effective relief of obstruction while preserving the crossing vessel, a critical factor in maintaining renal function and avoiding complications.The patient showed a smooth recovery and was discharged on the third postoperative day, highlighting the benefits of minimally invasive surgery in complex urological cases.

This feat underscores RG Stone Kolkata's expertise in tackling urology's toughest challenges, minimizing recovery time and complications versus traditional surgery.

RG Hospitals is a leading healthcare provider in India, renowned for its expertise in urology, nephrology, minimally invasive surgery, gynaecology, and critical care. Established in 1986 with a single lithotripsy clinic, the group has expanded to a network of 17 advanced centres across the country, delivering world-class medical care to diverse communities. With over 40 years of clinical excellence, RG Hospitals has successfully performed more than 750,000 procedures, combining cutting-edge technology with compassionate patient care. The hospital offers comprehensive treatment options in renal sciences, robotic surgery, endourology, and kidney transplantation, supported by state-of-the-art infrastructure and specialized multidisciplinary teams.

PhysicsWallah Dominates IIT JAM 2026 Student Bags AIR 1 in Biotechnology with 14 Others Securing Top 10 Ranks

NEW DELHI : Education company, PhysicsWallah (PW), announced that 14 students secured ranks under AIR 10 in subjects such as Biotechnology, Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics as per the recently released IIT Joint Admission Test 2026 (JAM) results. Sakshi Nijwala (AIR 1 in Biotechnology), Jatin Yadav (AIR 2 in Physics), Rit Vipinbhai Patel (AIR 2 in Biotechnology) & Soumo Pal (AIR 3 in Chemistry) were some of the top-performing students. Alakh Pandey, Educator, Founder & CEO, PhysicsWallah, said, "We are so happy to see our students do well in IIT JAM 2026. It's a tough exam, but passing it gives them a chance to study for their Master's at institutions such as the IITs and IISc. They worked incredibly hard and never gave up, and that's exactly how they turned their big dreams into real success."

The IIT JAM (Joint Admission Test for Masters) is an entrance exam held every year for students who want to pursue high-level science in India. It is the primary gateway for getting into MSc, Joint MSc-PhD, and other postgraduate degrees at the IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology) and IISc (Indian Institute of Science). The exam is conducted in a Computer-Based Test (CBT) format across seven subjects, which are Biotechnology, Chemistry, Economics, Geology, Mathematical Statistics, Mathematics, and Physics. This year, the exam was organised by IIT Bombay. According to the official website of IIT JAM, the exam was conducted in approximately 100 cities across India, providing students the opportunity to gain direct admission to around 3000 seats in various postgraduate programmes at IITs. Currently, 89 postgraduate programs are offered across 22 IITs for the academic year 2026-27.

Industry leaders stress trust innovation as key to building enduring institutions

KOLKATA : Industry leaders on Tuesday emphasised that trust, innovation and empowered organisational structures are critical for building resilient and future-ready institutions, as businesses navigate rapid technological change and evolving consumer expectations.

Speaking at the annual regional meeting and conference of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Eastern region, themed 'Vision with Velocity', corporate leaders said institutions must balance scale with agility while remaining anchored in strong values.

ITC chairman Sanjeev Puri said long-term institutional success rests on three pillars -- vision, values and vitality.

"Reshaping the narrative of a legacy institution comes down to vision, values and vitality," Puri said, adding that businesses must move beyond simple diversification to build multiple drivers of growth aligned with market opportunities and institutional strengths.

He stressed that large organisations should function like "multiple startups within a larger institution", where empowered teams with clear accountability and access to technology and resources can drive innovation and agility.

CII director-general Chandrajit Banerjee said institutions must remain anchored in trust and a "country-first" mindset while continuously evolving to address emerging challenges.

"Trust across stakeholders and governments allows institutions to maintain continuity even as they adapt to change," Banerjee said, adding that industry must strengthen research and development and invest more in education and healthcare to support long-term economic growth.

He also said the future of India lies beyond metros -- in states and districts -- where industry must engage more deeply and meaningfully.

Executive vice-chairperson of Apollo Hospitals Enterprise Limited, Shobhana Kamineni, said trust remains central in sectors such as healthcare, where human outcomes are directly involved.

"Trust is something we earn every day through every patient interaction and outcome," she said, adding that technology is enabling healthcare providers to expand access, standardise processes and deliver quality care beyond large cities.

However, she cautioned that technology must complement rather than replace empathy in healthcare delivery.

R Mukundan of Tata Chemicals Limited said ethical leadership and purpose-driven decision-making are essential for sustaining stakeholder confidence.

"Trust cannot be bought. It has to be earned through consistent actions and ethical choices," he said, adding that organisations must balance legacy strengths with the need for transformation to remain relevant.

RPSG Group chairman Sanjiv Goenka said growth is a natural outcome of efficient systems and processes.

"If you build efficient systems and processes, growth naturally follows. At the core of everything is trust -- the confidence of all stakeholders," Goenka said.Industry leaders at the conference also highlighted the growing importance of technology, innovation and stakeholder-centric growth strategies in building institutions that can endure and adapt in an increasingly complex global business

Hyperspectral remote sensing redefines mineral environmental monitoring IIST professor

RANCHI : Dr N Rama Rao, professor at Indian Institute of Space Technology (IIST), Kerala, on Tuesday said Hyperspectral remote sensing is redefining mineral and environmental monitoring, especially in regions like Jharkhand. Rao, addressing a workshop on Hyperspectral and LiDAR data analysis at Ranchi's Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, said the technology enables precise differentiation between ore and waste, while offering deeper insights into forest health and vegetation stress.

"The technology also plays a crucial role in improving agricultural planning in rainfed plateau areas. Through hands-on work with hyperspectral and LiDAR datasets, we aim to bridge the gap between advanced science and practical application," he said.Dr AP Krishna, professor and head of the department of remote sensing and geoinformatics, BIT Mesra and other dignitaries attended the event, which focused on the use of hyperspectral and LiDAR data in resource mapping, environmental monitoring, and geospatial analysis.

Moulana Azad Urdu University launches community radio station

HYDERABAD : Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) reached a new milestone on Tuesday with the launch of its community radio station, Radio MANUU 90.0 FM, at its Gachibowli campus in Hyderabad.

The station was inaugurated by the Director General of All India Radio, Rajeev Kumar Jain, in the presence of the University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan.

Developed by the university's Instructional Media Centre (IMC), the station aims to serve the community and residents. According to MANUU, it is envisioned as a platform to amplify local voices and address community-specific issues. Speaking at the event, Rajeev Kumar Jain highlighted the importance of community radio in reaching marginalised sections and bridging the digital divide.

He stated that community radio is a useful medium of communication for educational institutions because of its cost-effectiveness, convenience, portability,

and flexibility in content formats. Though it has a reach of 16 km, it can be maximised through social media platforms.

He informed that a total of 560 community radio stations are functioning across the country, and of these, nearly 38 per cent are run by educational institutions. Community radio is a medium that empowers people. Its growth also supports the government's vision of inclusive communication and outreach, he added.

He hoped that MANUU radio would help achieve the University's mandate of nation-building through knowledge dissemination. He said that Aakashvani has always played an important role by supporting community radios and assured that good content can also be played on Aakashvani. He also invited talented individuals to associate with Akashvani Radio Station.

Rajeev Jain further spoke about the evolution of radio in the digital era, mentioning the expansion of Akashvani's social media presence and plans to introduce "visual radio" systems across 33 locations by 2027.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan said the initiative reflects MANUU's commitment to extending education beyond classrooms and making knowledge accessible to society at large.

While highlighting the importance of the radio, he said that through this platform, we can exchange ideas and reach larger audiences beyond the campus.

Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar, in his address, said Radio MANUU is a powerful asset and an invaluable addition to our outreach programme. It opens a new pathway to connect with communities, share knowledge, and bring the University closer to the people it serves.

Rizwan Ahmad, Director, IMC, said that Radio MANUU is a massive outreach programme that will provide a platform for a diverse range of cultural programmes, including language, literature, history, heritage, nutrition, environment, and other areas. He informed that many eminent persons recorded these programmes with great interest.

Over 2,100 children killed or injured since escalation in Mideast conflict: UN

UNITED NATIONS : More than 2,100 children have been killed or injured since the military escalation in the Middle East, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban said.

"Twenty-three days into the escalating conflict in the Middle East, children across the region are paying a devastating price. A further descent into a wider or protracted conflict would be catastrophic for millions more," Chaiban told reporters on Monday at the UN headquarters in New York.

The casualties included 206 children killed in Iran, 118 in Lebanon, four in Israel and one in Kuwait, he said, Xinhua news agency reported. "That is an average of approximately 87 children either killed or injured every day since the beginning of the war," Chaiban said.

Alongside the dead and wounded, there has been rapid displacement across several countries, driven by relentless bombardment and evacuation orders that have emptied communities, he said. In Iran, the UN Refugee Agency estimated that up to 3.2 million people have been displaced, including up to 864,000 children, while in Lebanon, more than 1 million people are displaced, including an estimated 370,000 children, he said. According to Chaiban, across the Middle East, around 44.8 million children were already living in conflict-affected settings before the escalation. Talking about his recent visit to Lebanon, Chaiban said what he witnessed there and what is unfolding across the region "requires the full attention and a clear, collective response." In Lebanon, more than 350 public schools were used as shelters, disrupting the education of around 100,000 students, and public services were under severe pressure, with water systems damaged and health workers killed as they tried to rescue populations, he said. While UNICEF has reached 151,000 internally-displaced persons in more than 250 shelters and in hard-to-reach areas with essential non-food items, and was providing water and sanitation support in 188 shelters, serving around 46,000 people, the scale of needs "is increasing faster than available resources,".

Fuel shortage shuts many petrol pumps in Dhaka; Stations await supply

MI News Service, Dhaka: Several fuel stations across Dhaka remained closed on Tuesday amid a shortage of petrol and octane, forcing motorists to search for fuel as supplies remain uncertain.

At a petrol pump in a busy area in Dhaka, operations were halted in the afternoon as the station awaited fresh deliveries. Staff at the facility said they had been unable to secure fuel supplies earlier in the day due to payment processing issues.

Aminul Islam, assistant manager at the fuel station, said the delay occurred because the bank was closed at the time when payment for the fuel consignment needed to be made.

Speaking to ANI, he said, "Since the bank was closed at that time, we couldn't submit the payment. As a result, no fuel delivery was made here," he said.

The station sold both petrol and octane but had run out of stock earlier in the day. Islam added that although the bank later opened and payment was completed, the fuel delivery had not been supplied so

far.

Islam said, "Once the petrol and octane arrive, we will start the fuel station."

The station staff said that they don't know the quantity of fuel expected in the next delivery.

Due to the ongoing conflict in West Asia, the fuel crisis in Bangladesh has taken on a severe form, especially at various fuel stations, where there are long queues and all sorts of chaotic conditions. The amount of fuel that was supposed to be available is not being supplied, and in this regard, petrol pump owners are also expressing serious concerns.

The owners have threatened to stop supplying fuel, urging security at petrol pumps and asked the government to take decisive action to control the situation.

Under the state-owned fuel supplier Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), the oil companies are supplying an amount of fuel each day that is clearly insufficient compared to the existing demand," the Bangladesh Petrol Pump Owners' Association said in a statement posted on its Facebook page.

The post highlighted the plight of the masses and the mounting pressure on pump workers.

"With millions of motorcycle riders and users across the country, customers are being forced to stand in long queues for hours to purchase fuel. As a result, many are becoming exhausted, frustrated, and increasingly bitter. At the same time, nozzle operators and pump workers are struggling to cope with continuous duty, mounting pressure, and frequent arguments with irritated customers. They are not accustomed to such relentless work conditions", it added.

Two Indian LPG carriers safely transit Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Delhi: Two Indian LPG carriers, Jag Vasant and Pine Gas, have successfully transited through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, marking a significant movement in energy transport.

The vessels, carrying a substantial cargo of 92,612.59 MT of LPG, were seen in visuals as the Pine Gas LPG carrier crossed the critical maritime chokepoint.

Ensuring the operations of these massive carriers, the vessels have 33 and 27 Indian seafarers onboard, respectively, managing the transit through the area.

Following their successful passage, these vessels are now destined for India to bolster domestic energy supplies.

The carriers are likely to reach Indian ports between 26th and 28th March, completing their journey from the Gulf.

The Union Government on Monday announced that these two additional Indian-flagged LPG tankers have successfully navigated the conflict-prone Strait of Hormuz and are anticipated to arrive at Indian shores within the next forty-eight hours.

The vessels, identified as the Pine Gas and Jag Vasant, conducted their transit in close proximity to one another. The tankers commenced their journey from the Persian Gulf on Monday morning before traversing the strategic maritime passage.

According to the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Special Secretary Rajesh Kumar Sinha, the ships are transporting approximately 92,000 tonnes of LPG.

These tankers were part of a group of 22 Indian-flagged vessels that became stranded in the Persian Gulf following the escalation of the West Asia conflict, which nearly closed the Strait of Hormuz—the narrow waterway between Iran and Oman that connects the oil and gas-producing Gulf countries to the rest of the world.

This successful movement follows the previous arrival of the MT Shivalik and MT Nanda Devi. Those vessels carried roughly 92,712 tonnes of LPG, an amount equivalent to "roughly a day's cooking gas consumption of the country," and have already reached Indian shores safely.

Emphasising the government's commitment to maritime security, Sinha told reporters, "Ultimately, we want to secure safe passage of all our vessels that are stranded in the region."

The official further noted that until the evacuation of all remaining ships is complete, the government remains dedicated to the personnel onboard. "Till safe passage happens, the well-being and safety of our seafarers is our prime focus," Sinha added.

The safe transit of these energy carriers occurs against a backdrop of heightened regional tension, following earlier statements from Iran asserting it would not allow "enemy countries' ships" to pass through the Strait of Hormuz.

Earlier today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India has sufficient crude oil reserves and robust arrangements for continuous supply amid the ongoing West Asia conflict.

He highlighted the expansion of strategic petroleum reserves and increased refining capacity, as global trade through the Strait of Hormuz faces disruptions.

Addressing the Rajya Sabha, PM Modi said, "...In the last 11 years, strategic petroleum reserves have been developed to more than 53 lakh metric tonnes, and work is underway to expand them to over 65 lakh metric tonnes. Additionally, India's refining capacity has also been significantly increased in the last decade. I want to assure the House and the country through you that India has adequate crude oil storage and arrangements for continuous supply."

The Hormuz Strait is one of the largest routes for global trade. A significant amount of transport related to crude oil, gas, and fertilisers takes place through this region... Our endeavour is to ensure that oil and gas supplies reach India from wherever possible. The country is witnessing the results of such efforts. In the past few days, ships carrying crude oil and LPG from several countries have arrived in India. Our efforts in this direction will continue in the coming days as well," PM Modi said.

"Likely a sign of de-escalation": Former diplomat Ashok Sajjanhar on Trump's latest statement on Iran

MI News Service, Delhi: Former diplomat Ashok Sajjanhar on Tuesday suggested that US President Donald Trump's recent statements likely signal a de-escalation in tensions, noting that the initial objectives of the campaign against Iran appear to be unmet.

Speaking on the shift in rhetoric, Sajjanhar said, "It is likely a sign of de-escalation because the expectations that Trump and Israel had when they started their campaign against Iran on February 28 do not seem to have been fulfilled. Trump may have come to realise this and also seen the growing challenges he faces domestically, including concerns about the economy, opposition to the attack on Iran, and the upcoming midterm elections in November."

He further highlighted the internal and global pressures weighing on the US administration, adding, "There is increasing opposition to the conflict, rising inflation, and higher crude oil prices globally, which are directly impacting gas prices in the US."

The former diplomat's assessment follows a significant announcement by US President Donald Trump on Monday, who said he has instructed the Department of War to postpone military strikes against Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure for five days, subject to the success of the ongoing discussions.

Trump noted that the US and Iran had "very good and productive conversations" regarding a total resolution of hostilities in the Middle East, an announcement that came as the war between Israel-US and Iran entered its fourth week.

In a post on Truth Social, Trump stated, "I am pleased to report that the US of America and the country of Iran have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East."

"Based on the tenor and tone of these in-depth, detailed, and constructive conversations, which will continue throughout the week, I have instructed the Department of War to postpone any and all military strikes against Iranian power plants and energy infrastructure for a five-day period, subject to the success of the ongoing meetings and discussions," he added.

The diplomatic opening comes amid global worry over disruptions to energy supply chains due to the war, which started on February 28. Trump had earlier warned Iran of severe consequences if it fails to reopen the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz, a key global energy transit route.

In a previous post on Truth Social, Trump had stated, "If Iran doesn't FULLY OPEN, WITHOUT THREAT, the Strait of Hormuz within 48 HOURS from this exact point in time, the US of America will hit and obliterate their various power plants, starting with the biggest one first!"

Following this, Iran on Sunday issued a stringent warning to the US, threatening to target critical energy infrastructure across the region in an "irreversible manner."

The speaker of Iran's Parliament, Mohammad BagherGhalibaf, stated on X, "Immediately after the power plants and infrastructure in our country are targeted, the critical infrastructure, energy infrastructure, and oil facilities throughout the region will be considered legitimate targets and will be destroyed in an irreversible manner, and the price of oil will remain high for a long time."

The escalating conflict began on February 28 with the killing of 86-year-old Iran's former Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in joint military strikes by the US and Israel. In retaliation, Iran targeted Israel and US assets in several Gulf countries, causing disruption in the waterways and virtually closing the Strait of Hormuz.

Addressing reports regarding Islamabad as a potential host for the current US-Iran talks, Sajjanhar dismissed the notion of Pakistan acting as a neutral intermediary.

"I would not say that Islamabad is a mediator. Islamabad does not have the confidence of either side. They don't even have diplomatic relations with the US or Israel. Additionally, the issues between Pakistan and Iran are also significant. Pakistan is trying to make itself useful. Pakistan played a role in supporting US military operations in Afghanistan, providing territory for US troops and equipment," Sajjanhar said.

Reflecting on the historical nature of the relationship and the absence of traditional regional mediators, he concluded, "The US has often used Pakistan for its own interests. The traditional mediators, such as Oman and Qatar, have not been proactive because they have been at the receiving end."

Israel begins rescue operations after Iranian missile attack; conducts overnight strike at Hezbollah Intelligence Unit HQ

MI News Service, Tel Aviv: After six people were lightly injured in an Iranian missile in central Tel Aviv, the Home Front Command has begun with rescue operations along with emergency organisations, the Israeli Defence Forces said on Tuesday. Meanwhile it shared updates from the overnight strikes carried out in Lebanon on Monday, which targetted the Hezbollah broadcasting station and its intelligence unit headquarters among other targets.

Sharing the details in a post on X, it said, "Documentation from the operations of the Home Front Command forces in the impact zones in the center of the country. Rescue and salvage forces of the Home Front Command are currently operating in collaboration with emergency organizations in the areas where reports of impacts have been received in the center of the country."

The IDF urged people to avoid gatherings in the affected areas and called upon the public to continue to heed the life-saving instructions and to act accordingly as required upon receiving the alert.

According to the Times of Israel report, it was mentioned that Chanel 12 cited police who said that a munition carrying about 100 kilograms of explosives impacted central Tel Aviv. Multiple buildings and vehicles were damaged in the attack. Missile parts also impacted in Rosh Ha'ayin, east of Tel Aviv.

As tensions escalate in the region, the IDF an update on its overnight operations against Hezbollah—saying that it struck a broadcasting station operating under Hezbollah and the headquarters of the 'Radwan Force' unit

In the strikes carried out in Beirut, the headquarters of the terror organisation were targeted. In addition, the IDF struck the headquarters of Hezbollah's Intelligence Unit.

Earlier the IDF had shared that it conducted over 50 overnight military strikes on the targets of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and attacked its command centres, weapons storage facilities and aerial defence systems. Sharing the details in a post on X, the Israeli Defence Forces said that it has conducted over 3000 strikes across Iran since the start of Operation Roaring Lion.

As tensions continue to escalate in the region, Al Jazeera Breaking reported in Tuesday that explosions were heard in Baghdad. It further mentioned that the death toll rose to 14 after a US airstrike on PMF base in Iraq.

Al Jazeera Breaking cited Iranian media and said that energy infrastructure in the country was attacked.

It also noted that Bahrain said a fire broke out at a facility due to "criminal Iranian aggression".

Meanwhile, Press TV said on Tuesday that Imam Ali Hospital in the city of Andimeshk has been evacuated and is no longer in service after direct attacks by the US and Israel.

As tensions continue to rise in West Asia and the Gulf region, Al Jazeera Breaking reported that an Israeli attack has hit a petrol station in southern Lebanon, which triggered a huge explosion and fire. It added that the Israeli army had issued displacement orders to residents.

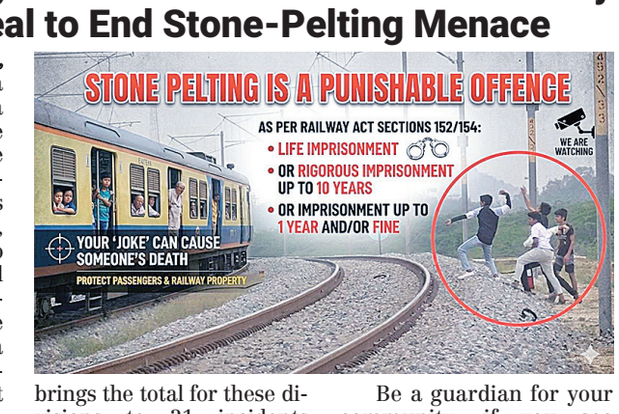
With the evolving security situation in the region, Arab News has cited Israeli Media outlet YediothAhronoth to report that Iran's Supreme Leader, Mojtaba Khamenei, was prepared to negotiate with the Americans.

Ahrnaooth cited a conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and U.S. intermediary Steve Witkoff which was approved by the highest level in Iran.

Shards of Glass, Shattered Dreams: Eastern Railway Issues Appeal to End Stone-Pelting Menace

MI News Service, Kolkata, Mar 24, 2026 : Imagine a young child sitting by a train window, eyes wide with excitement as the green fields of Bengal whistle past. Suddenly, the glass shatters. In a split second, a moment of joy turns into a nightmare of blood and shards. This isn't just a hypothetical scenario; it is the reality of stone-pelting—a mindless act that treats national property like a target and human lives like collateral damage. Our trains are more than just steel and engines; they are the lifelines of our nation, carrying dreams, families, and futures. When you pick up a stone, you aren't just hitting a train; you might be hitting your own brother, a neighbor, or a friend who is simply trying to get home.

To prevent such crimes, the Eastern Railway is continuously conducting awareness campaigns in areas adjacent to the railway tracks. The Eastern Railway has released the latest figures for stone-pelting incidents in 2026, up to the current date. While our security forces are working tirelessly, the numbers show a concerning trend across various divisions. In the Howrah division, 06 incidents were reported and 06 cases registered, resulting in 04 cases detected and 05 persons arrested. The Sealdah division saw 04 incidents and 04 cases registered, with 03 cases detected and 04 arrests. In Asansol, there were 06 incidents and 06 cases registered, though only 01 case has been detected with 02 arrests so far. Malda reported 05 incidents and 05 cases registered, with 03 detections and 03 arrests. This



brings the total for these divisions to 21 incidents reported, 21 cases registered, 11 cases detected, and 14 persons arrested. Specifically within West Bengal, the data shows 12 reported incidents, 12 registered cases, 07 detections, and 10 arrests.

A train is a beautiful thing—a symbol of progress that belongs to every Indian citizen as national property, funded by your hard-earned money. Destroying it is like damaging your own home. We urge you to think before you act because that window you are aiming at could be shielding a loved one. Many people harbor the dangerous misconception that throwing a stone at a train is just a bit of fun or that it might not even hit the target. This is entirely wrong; a stone thrown at a moving train will definitely hit and destroy property, causing structural damage and potentially lethal injuries. Observations show that these incidents occur most frequently near ground areas where children play. It is therefore vital that parents take the responsibility to teach their children that trains are not targets and that such actions carry devastating consequences.

Be a guardian for your community; if you see someone picking up a stone, stop them and educate them. Your intervention could save a life or prevent a young person from ruining their future with a criminal record. Stone pelting is not a prank; it is a serious crime under the Railways Act, 1989. According to Section 152, if any person throws a stone or any other object at a train with the intent to cause hurt or damage, they can be punished with life imprisonment or rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to ten years. Furthermore, Section 154 states that even if the act is done through rash or negligent behavior without a specific intent to kill, the offender can still face up to one year of imprisonment, a fine, or both.

Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, Sri Shibram Majhi, stated that no one should forget they are under constant CCTV surveillance. Every action taken near the tracks is recorded, and these recordings are used to identify and prosecute offenders. Let's keep our railways safe, beautiful, and stone-free by protecting the trains that carry India forward.

Bureaucratic gridlock derails cotton reform as key merger stalls in Pakistan

MI News Service, Lahore: Pakistan's efforts to revive its declining cotton sector have hit another setback as the proposed merger between the Pakistan Central Cotton Committee (PCCC) and the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council (PARC) remains stuck in bureaucratic limbo, despite receiving legal clearance earlier this month, as reported by Dawn.

According to Dawn, the Ministry of Law cleared the merger draft on March 4 and directed the Ministry of National Food Security and Research to move the summary forward for approval. However, officials have yet to act, leaving the process stalled without explanation and raising concerns among stakeholders about governance inefficiencies.

The merger, first approved in principle by the federal cabinet and Establishment Division in January 2025 with a June deadline, was designed to consolidate cotton research and improve productivity. Yet, more than a year later, the absence of formal notification has exposed persistent administrative inertia.

Khalid Mahmood Khokhar, President of KisanIttehad Pakistan, criticised the delay, blaming the bureaucracy for prioritising perks over research funding. He pointed out that while resources are available for administrative expenses, the scientific community continues to face neglect.

Financial disputes have further complicated the issue. The PCCC has historically depended on a cess collected from the textile sector, but research activities suffered a major blow after the All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (Aptma) stopped payments in 2014.

Experts argue that the industry is unwilling to fully fund research while still seeking control over institutional decisions, as highlighted by Dawn.

Muhammad Asif, Vice Chancellor of Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Agriculture University, stated that Aptma appears reluctant to bear administrative costs despite its interest in governance. Meanwhile, textile representatives have raised concerns about past misuse of funds, claiming that only a small portion of cess collections was spent on research.

Brazilian President criticises UN inaction on conflicts, blames Bolsonaro era for Brazil's environmental decline at COP-15

MI News Service, Sao Paulo: President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva delivered a strongly worded speech at COP-15, the United Nations conference on migratory species, urging renewed global commitment to multilateralism amid rising geopolitical tensions.

Addressing the presidential segment, Lula criticised the perceived inaction of the UN Security Council in resolving ongoing conflicts, warning that unilateral actions and violations of sovereignty are becoming increasingly common. Without naming specific countries, he referred to escalating global crises and stressed that "a world without rules is an insecure world."

Highlighting the historical role of the United Nations, Lula said the institution is facing a moment of "exhaustion," particularly in conflict prevention and mediation. He called for stronger in-

ternational cooperation, advocating policies of inclusion over walls and hate speech, as reported by Brasil 247.

On the environmental front, Lula contrasted his administration's policies with those of his predecessor, attributing past damage to Brazil's global image to earlier governance. He asserted that since 2023, Brazil has made significant progress, including halving deforestation in the Amazon, reducing it by over 30% in the Cerrado and cutting Pantanal fires by more than 90%.

JHARKHAND YET TO OPEN ACCOUNT AS MANIPUR DOMINATES DAY TWO OF SUB-JUNIOR SEPAK TAKRAW NATIONALS

PC JHA

RANCHI : The second day of the 28th Sub-Junior National Sepak Takraw Championship witnessed intense competition at the Thakur Vishwanath Shahdeo Indoor Stadium, with hosts Jharkhand still struggling to make an impact as they remained without a medal.

Top-performing states, led by Manipur, continued to assert dominance across categories. In the boys' team event, Manipur clinched the gold medal with an impressive display of skill and coordination, while Bihar secured silver. Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh shared the bronze medals after strong performances.

In the girls' team event, Manipur once again emerged victorious, underlining their supremacy in the sport at the junior level. Maharashtra finished with the silver medal, while Kerala and Assam claimed the bronze positions.

The day featured a series of high-energy matches in the Regu event, drawing attention from spectators and officials alike. Players exhibited remarkable agility, teamwork, and technical finesse, reflecting the growing competitiveness of Sepak Takraw across the country.

Despite home advantage, Jharkhand's campaign has yet to gain momentum, with expectations now pinned on the upcoming rounds for a potential comeback. The championship continues to highlight emerging talent and reinforce the sport's expanding footprint in India.

'NO WAY HE'S OUT OF THE PICTURE': KEY BACKS LIVINGSTONE AMID CRITICISM

LONDON : England men's cricket director Rob Key has responded to recent criticism from all-rounder Liam Livingstone, saying the player remains firmly in contention for national selection despite a disagreement over communication and team environment.

Livingstone, who has been out of the England setup since last year's ICC Champions Trophy, had criticised the team management for avoiding difficult conversations and suggested his future depended on changes behind the scenes. He also claimed that Key had told him he had 100 more important things to do during a one-on-one discussion.

Responding to the remarks, Key defended his position but chose not to go into details of their conversation.

"Look, I'm not going to go into private conversations," Key told Sky Sports. "Obviously, there's another side to that conversation as I saw it. What I did say to Liam at the end of what was a fairly tetchy phone call to say the least [was that] there's no way I see a player of Liam Livingstone's ability not being up for selection for England," he told ESPNCricinfo.

Key reiterated that the 32-year-old still has a pathway back into the side and revealed that selectors had considered recalling him earlier this year.

"There's no way a player of his ability is out of the picture," Key said, urging Livingstone to focus on performance. "If he gets back to his best and starts scoring runs, he'll absolutely be in the frame again."

The former England cricketer also pointed out that Livingstone was once seen as a leadership option during an ODI series against the West Indies in 2024.

"We thought as much of him to make him captain at one stage, when we didn't have all the senior players there. I still have a huge amount of time for Liam Livingstone, and there's no reason that someone at 32's England career should be over," Key said.

While Livingstone had described the England setup as cliquish, Key dismissed the claim but admitted that disagreements are common in a high-performance environment. He added that selection decisions will continue to be based on performance.

JAKSON Group Partners with Sourav Ganguly to Champion a Sustainable Future

NEW DELHI : JAKSON Group, one of India's leading energy and infrastructure conglomerates, today announced its strategic association with former Indian cricket captain and renowned leader, Sourav Ganguly. The partnership comes at a time when India is rapidly advancing its renewable energy ambitions and underscores JAKSON's commitment to driving the country's energy transition through innovation, scale, and sustainable solutions.

Built on a legacy of over eight decades, JAKSON Group has consistently championed trust, resilience, and forward-looking innovation. Inspired by Ganguly's transformative leadership and ability to redefine benchmarks, the company aims to further reinforce its position as a dependable partner delivering future-ready energy & infrastructure solutions with clarity and execution excellence.

As part of this association, Sourav Ganguly will represent JAKSON Group across key brand campaigns and strategic initiatives, amplifying its vision of enabling a cleaner and more sustainable energy ecosystem.

Speaking on the association, Mr. Sameer Gupta, Chairman, JAKSON Group, said, "We are delighted to welcome 'Dada' to the JAKSON family. Sourav Ganguly embodies leadership, resilience, and performance - values deeply aligned with us. This partnership reflects a shared belief in staying ahead and delivering consistently. With his credibility, we are confident this association will strengthen our brand and accelerate adoption of our sustainable solutions across India and globally.He added, "Our growth is anchored in strong leadership, supported

by Mr. Sundeep Gupta, Vice Chairman, and Mr. Bikesh Ogra, Vice Chairman & Global CEO, Jakson Green, along with the next generation driving the Group forward."

Commenting on the partnership, Mr. Sourav Ganguly said "JAKSON's vision across entire value chain of distributed power, solar energy, green molecules, and infrastructure - power, metro, civil, and water, is both timely and impactful. I am excited to associate with a brand contributing meaningfully to India's energy transition and a greener future."

Lens rejects PSG's request to reschedule Ligue 1 clash amid Champions League commitments

PARIS : French Club RC Lens have rejected a request from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) to reschedule their upcoming Ligue 1 match, saying the domestic competition should not be adjusted to suit European fixtures.

The match is scheduled for April 11 at Lens' home ground and comes in between PSG's UEFA Champions League quarter-final matches against Liverpool FC. PSG had asked for the fixture to be postponed to manage their schedule, but Lens have taken a firm stand against the move.

In a statement released on Tuesday, Lens said it would be unfair to change the calendar for one team's European commitments and raised concerns about maintaining balance in the league.

"It appears to us that a worrying sentiment is taking hold: that of a French league gradually being relegated to the status of a mere variable to accommodate the European ambitions of certain parties," the club said.

"This is a peculiar conception of sporting fairness, one that is difficult to find parallels with in other major continental competitions."

The Ligue 1 governing body is expected to take a final call soon. In the past, the league has sometimes adjusted schedules to support clubs playing in European competitions.

The match carries added importance in the title race. Lens are currently just one point behind PSG, though they have played a game more. The timing of the fixture makes it difficult for PSG, who face Liverpool just days before and after the league game.

Lens added that a postponement now would disrupt their own schedule. The club pointed out that it would leave them without matches for over two weeks, followed by a series of games in a short span.

"Changing the date of this match today would mean that Lens would be deprived of competition for 15 days, followed by matches every three days," the club stated.

"A schedule that corresponds neither to the one established at the start of the season, nor to the resources of a club that could absorb this type of new constraint without consequence."

Meanwhile, PSG advanced to the 2025/26 Champions League quarter-finals by comprehensively defeating Chelsea 8-2 on aggregate in the round of 16. They will be aiming for their second Champions League title when they face Liverpool on April 9 in the first leg of the qualifiers to be played at the Parc des Princes.

Nandini becomes RCB's official dairy partner for IPL 2026

BENGALURU : The Karnataka government-owned Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) said on Tuesday that its flagship dairy brand 'Nandini' has collaborated with the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as the official dairy partner for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season. The IPL 2026 Twenty 20 tournament is scheduled to begin on March 28.

The RCB, which enjoys a large global fan base, enters the IPL season as the defending champions after winning the IPL 2025 title. Announcing the partnership, KMF said Nandini, a widely trusted household brand in Karnataka, will collaborate with the RCB during the league season as part of its efforts to promote sports and connect with the youth.

KMF Managing Director, B. Shivaswamy, said the association marks the coming together of two prominent brands from the state.

"Nandini has always encouraged sports and youth. We are happy that two prestigious Karnataka brands -- Nandini and RCB -- have joined hands. We look forward to engaging with RCB fans and celebrating the excitement of the IPL," he added.

He said that the partnership would further strengthen Nandini's legacy of supporting sports and contribute to enhancing the sporting culture in Karnataka.

As part of the collaboration, Nandini will roll out a series of promotional campaigns and advertising activities during the IPL season.

Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said on Tuesday that elaborate security and traffic arrangements have been put in place for the upcoming cricket matches at the Chinnaswamy Stadium, scheduled to begin on March 28, with another match on April 5.

Addressing a press conference, the Bengaluru City Police Commissioner said the arrangements have been made in accordance with the committee's recommendations to ensure safety and the smooth conduct of the cricket matches.

He stressed the need for public cooperation, saying that only spectators with valid digital tickets will be allowed entry into the stadium. He warned that people without tickets will not be permitted to gather in and around the venue. "Everyone should share responsibility. Spectators must arrive on time, and only those with valid tickets will be allowed inside," he said.

Police have made parking arrangements, including paid parking facilities, that can be availed while purchasing match tickets. The public has been encouraged to use Metro services, with integrated ticketing options made available.

'God's plan': Rinku Singh named vice-captain of KKR for IPL 2026

KOLKATA : Three-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have named Rinku Singh as their vice-captain for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 season.

Rinku Singh has been a key performer for KKR with his explosive batting and sharp fielding. The 28-year-old brings leadership experience from domestic circuits and previous IPL stints.

"On behalf of everyone in the franchise, we're really delighted to announce that Rinku Singh will be the Vice-captain of the team. Rinku joined KKR in 2018 and has been a regular in the team ever since," said Venky Mysore, CEO, Kolkata Knight Riders.

KKR, led by veteran India opener Ajinkya Rahane, will open their IPL 2026 campaign against five-time champions Mumbai Indians at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on March 29.

Their first home match will be against 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata on April 2, before hosting Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants for clashes on April 6 and 9, respectively.

KKR are currently conducting trials on the sidelines of their pre-season camp to finalise replacements for injured pacers Harshit Rana. The likes of Navdeep Saini, Akash Madhwal, Simarjeet Singh, Sandeep Warrier, KM Asif, and Sunil Kumar have been attending the trials to fill the vacant spots in the KKR line-up.

Earlier, KKR replaced India pacer Akash Deep, who was ruled out of the competition due to a stress reaction in his lower back, with Vidarbha pacer Saurabh Dubey.

Dubey was signed by the 2016 champions Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) for IPL 2022, but his stint was cut short due to a back injury.

Dubey, 28, is yet to make his IPL debut and had gone unsold at the mini-auction in Abu Dhabi last year. But since he had registered for the auction, Dubey became a part of the Registered Available Player Pool (RAPP), from where any of the ten franchises can pick replacements for their injured players.

Dubey, who has played eight List A games and three T20 matches for Vidarbha, was a member of the India A team in the 2019 ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup, where current India men's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak was the side's head coach.

Dubey had also been tracked by former India pacer Subroto Banerjee, whose term as a national selector ended last year.

Indian women's team to participate in FIFA Series 2026 in Kenya

NEW DELHI : The Indian senior women's team will participate in the FIFA Series 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, during the April FIFA International Women's Match Window.

The Blue Tigresses will face hosts Kenya in the semifinal on April 11 at 20:30 IST, while Australia and Malawi will play the other semifinal earlier that day at 16:30 IST. The semifinal winners and losers will clash in the final and the third-place play-off, respectively, on April 15. Any match that ends in a draw will go straight to a penalty shootout, with no extra time. All matches will take place at the Nyayo National Stadium in Nairobi.

Among the four participants, India are the second-highest ranked side in the FIFA world rankings at 67th. Australia are ranked 15th, while Kenya and Malawi, the two African sides, are 133rd and 153rd, respectively.

Launched in 2024, the FIFA Series is an international friendly tournament that features national teams from separate confederations. The purpose of the FIFA Series is to facilitate meaningful friendly matches between national teams from different confederations that would not normally compete against one another. As per FIFA, the ultimate objective of the FIFA Series is to allow more international football interaction, making a concrete contribution to global football development.

Earlier this month, India bowed out of the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 after suffering a 1-3 defeat against Chinese Taipei in their last Group C match at the Western Sydney Stadium in Sydney, Australia. Chinese Taipei led 2-1 at half-time.

In 2022, the Indian team's World Cup dream came to a grinding halt in their own backyard when it had to pull out of the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 because of a Covid-19 outbreak in the side. However, the side came up with a magnificent performance in the qualifiers last year, for the first time qualifying for the Asian Cup on merit.

FIFA Series 2026 Kenya Match Schedule:
Semifinal 1 - 16:30 IST, April 11: Australia vs Malawi
Semifinal 2 - 20:30 IST, April 11: Kenya vs India
Third-place match - 16:30 IST, April 15
Final - 20:30 IST, April 15
Venue: Nyayo National Stadium, Nairobi, Kenya.

IPL 2026: LSG pace bowling setup 'very healthy', aligning them with team's needs the biggest challenge, says Arun

NEW DELHI : Bharat Arun shaped India's fast-bowling unit across two stints as the side's bowling coach and helped them achieve memorable Test wins, especially in overseas conditions. As the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 begins on March 28, Arun has now taken on a new challenge as the bowling coach of Lucknow Super Giants (LSG).

Drawn to join LSG by a pace bowling attack that has an exciting Indian presence, Arun feels they are good enough to represent the country. In an exclusive conversation with IANS, Arun spoke about joining LSG, the depth of Indian pace talent, his coaching style, the challenge of managing pacers who are returning from injuries, and more. Excerpts: -

Q. What was it about LSG's vision that convinced you to move on from your role in KKR after four years?

A. Well, one thing is definite: I had a much better role than I had in KKR to play here, and also the fact that, from the fast-bowling perspective, exciting Indian fast bowlers are here. We have more than half a dozen really talented Indian fast bowlers.

Anybody can play for the country as well -- so that is the kind of talent that we have. To be able to guide this talent and help them achieve their potential is a big challenge for me. I love challenges, and this is very exciting and challenging, so that's why I shifted from KKR to Lucknow.

Q. Rishabh Pant recently said

in a video for the broadcasters that bowlers 'trust you and open up to you.' In a franchise setup where you only have a few months with them, how quickly do you need to build that trust, and what's your way of doing it?

A. See, that is the biggest challenge for any coach. You can only begin coaching once you begin with that trust. You have to connect with people, so you can only coach after you connect. So, I feel my strength is that I quickly connect with people. Everyone is different - every player is different. Their mindsets, dreams, they are all different.

So, how soon I understand their mindsets helps me to connect better with them, and that connection works. Once the connection is made and coaching becomes- I wouldn't say simple, as coaching is a lot more - but you can bring a lot more to the table for a player to achieve his potential.

Q. On paper, LSG's pace attack looks strong with Shami, Nortje, Mayank, Mohsin, Avesh, Arjun, Naman, Prince, and Akash. But most of them are coming back after having injuries. How do you manage workloads when some of them have had fragile fitness in the past?

A. Well, I know that most of them are all coming from injuries, and that's why we had a pre-season camp about a month before we assembled in Lucknow, and that was to assess where they were at that point in time. Managing the fast-bowling workload is not only my job - it's also three of us together -- the physiotherapist, the strength and conditioning expert, and myself.

All of us together understand what the requirements of a bowler are, his physical state, and his conditions, and then we assign programs to them. So they have been extremely helpful to me, and I can say that probably most of them who went through injuries and were not so fit before have come back fit for this season.

Q. With Mayank Yadav returning from a long injury lay-off, what's the biggest psychological hurdle for a young fast bowler in that situation, and how do you help them overcome it based on your past coaching experience?