

**Boat carrying pilgrims overturns in Uttar Pradesh's Yamuna; at least 10 dead, many missing**



**"How many jobs?" Abhishek Banerjee direct hit on opposition party ahead of polls**



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# Morning India

## A day of Mamata Banerjee's rallies in Bengal

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** A sea of supporters who have been waiting patiently for hours, started chanting slogans as West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee's chopper raising a massive dust and heat lands at a helipad adjacent to the venue of her next election rally.

On the ground, the election heat beats the mercury and 'Joy Bangla' chants rent the air, invoking Bengali pride to garner support for a Chief minister who this time portrays herself as 'Banglar nijer meye' ('Bengal's own daughter').

The chants soon turn into frenzied slogans for Mamata Banerjee and her nephew cum TMC's second in command Abhishek Banerjee, who is also the party's National General Secretary.

As the sound of Mamata Banerjee's chopper draws closer, blue and white party caps are distributed among the supporters. Women with drums and bells announce the arrival of their undisputed supreme leader. In the background, the 'Fighter Didi' track - a song asserting that the Chief minister is fighting for everyone - plays out and women dance.

Notably, the 'Khela Hobe' (Game on) tune that dominated the previous election cycles, is conspicuously absent this time.

The moment Mamata Banerjee steps onto the dias, she takes complete command of the platform. Taking the mike in her hand, she introduces all the candidates in that district standing alongside her, to the crowd. Then she begins her speech amid 'Joy Bangla' chants, which was being echoed by her supporters also.

In her usually over half an hour long speech, Mamata Banerjee adds a few Hindi words occasionally in her predominantly Bengali speech, likely with the national media in mind.

Beyond the usual political discourse, a mention of fish drops midway. She reiterates a claim that the Trinamool Congress



Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee introduces her party candidates in an election campaign in Barasat on Friday.

has long sought to weaponise against the BJP, that if the BJP comes to power in Bengal, it would ban the sale of fish, a cultural staple for the Bengalis.

There are references to Rabindranath Tagore, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and Nazrul Islam. She recites their poetry. Then she would go on to chant the Chandipada, dedicated to Durga, invokes Kali, and also

recites hymns in praise of Shiva. In her speech, she must also highlight schemes such as 'Lakshmi Bhandar' and asks the women in the audience to raise their hands if they have benefited from the scheme.

A woman supporter says that she saves the money that she gets as a beneficiary. "Didi is everything to us. I am saving the money I receive from Lakshmi

Bhandar for my daughter. If my husband gives me even Rs 500, he asks how it was spent; Didi, however, asks nothing," she says. "Didi looks after us; she has increased the financial aid under 'Lakshmi Bhandar'. My son also receives an unemployment allowance of Rs1500 each per month. What more could one possibly ask for?" asks another. Women constitute the core

of Mamata Banerjee's strength -- a force that has been evident across several past elections and remains clearly visible today. While her popularity among women voters had dipped following the RG Kar rape and murder incident last year, the impact of her schemes is visible. Trying to win back the lost support, she has showered them with many other benefits

from the government's limited coffers.

Then comes the allegations against the central government, particularly the BJP and occasionally the Congress and the Left parties in her speech. But that's again staple in a political rally.

As her speech draws to a close, the women who had come with drums are invited onto the

stage. She takes a bell from one of them and starts playing, while trying to match her feet with the drummers.

She ends the rally with the 'Joy Bangla' slogan and made the gathering to make promise that they would certainly vote for the TMC this time as she herself considers as the party candidate for all the 294 Assembly seats in Bengal.

**BJP brought people from outside for Assam polls : alleges Mamata**

**MI News Service, Tentulia:** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Friday claimed that the BJP had brought people from outside for the Thursday's elections in Assam as it was not confident of victory with the votes of its own supporters in this important North-Eastern state.

Addressing an election rally here in the bordering North 24 Parganas district, she alleged that no agency in the country was neutral under the BJP government at the Centre as "the saffron party has bought them all".

"Trainloads of 50,000 people were brought to Assam from Uttar Pradesh for yesterday's voting," she alleged.

"Even a snake can be trusted, but not the BJP," she added, as acrimony between the TMC and the BJP gained temperature ahead of the two-phase assembly polls in West Bengal later this month.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has announced the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s election manifesto for the West Bengal Assembly election in Kolkata with 15 promises like crackdown on "infiltration", white paper "exposing TMC's corruption" and one crore new jobs. However, the latest booth-level data comparison shows that Muslim voters account for more than a third of the 90 lakh names removed from the electoral rolls during the course of the special intensive revision (SIR) process, disproportionately higher than their share of the State's population.

## SC to consider plea against freezing of electoral rolls



People, whose names have reportedly been left out in the post-SIR electoral rolls, gather to apply for inclusion of their names, in Balurghat.

**MI News Service, New Delhi:** In a major development the Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear on April 13 a fresh plea along with pending ones challenging the freezing of electoral rolls by the Election Commission ahead of the upcoming assembly polls in West Bengal.

The poll panel has frozen and finalised the electoral rolls of West Bengal on April 9 for the 132 assembly seats which are going to polls in the first stage on April 23.

The freezing of electoral rolls means that no new person, who has been deleted, can be added to the voters list for this assembly polls.

Assembly elections in West Bengal will be held in two phases on April 23 and 29 and votes will be counted for all polls on May 4.

A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and Vipul M Pancholi was urged by a lawyer to take up the plea against freezing on an urgent basis.

The lawyer said many appeals against deletions from the electoral rolls are still pending and the poll panel has frozen the rolls on April 9. "We will consider the petition on April 13," the CJ said.

Senior advocate D S Naidu, appearing for the poll panel, said the freezing date was April 9 and after that none will be considered. "Right to vote remains, these appellants are similarly situated like others whose appeals were allowed," Naidu said.

"What was the architecture ...

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## Final SIR rolls dwindle BJP's hold over Matuas

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Deletion of lakhs of names of members of the Matua community in Nadia and North 24 Parganas districts from the final list of electoral rolls, might dwindle the BJP's massive support base in this refugee Hindu belt that has been at the heart of the party's expansion in Bengal since 2019.

The refugee community of the Matuas had backed the BJP in the state for the past several years on the basis of a single promise -- back the party, and the long uncertainty over their citizenship will be resolved.

But the final electoral rolls following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), which was published on Thursday night, have turned that promise into the saffron party's biggest vulnerability. What has shaken the party is not just the scale of the deletions, but the places which were most affected.

It was Bongaon, Bagdah, Gaighata, Swarnnagar, Ranaghat and Krishnanagar

where the BJP had built an apparently durable social base around the promise of nationality under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). But following the publication of the final list the political conversation in these areas has suddenly changed sharply.

Till last month, the BJP was asking Matua voters to back it in the hope that the CAA would finally settle decades of their uncertainty over identity and belonging since they came to India as refugees from Bangladesh several decades ago in search of new life.

Now, many of the same voters are looking for answers, asking why after years of supporting the BJP on the promise of citizenship in several past elections, they were being "forced to prove that they actually belong here".

"After voting on the promise of citizenship for years, I have now lost my voting rights. If my name is not on the voter list, what is the guarantee that tomorrow I will



Hapless Matuas after the final electoral rolls following the SIR, published on Thursday night.

not be told I do not belong here and forced to leave?" ask Ashok Mondal of Gaighata.

As a result, the first signs of BJP's voter base erosion is already visible with nearly 50 Matua families in Boyra village of Bagdah in North 24 Parganas moving to the TMC from the BJP after finding their names missing from the rolls.

"We voted for the BJP because

they said they would end all this. Instead, we have lost our voting rights too," said one villager who recently joined the TMC.

The Matua vote is spread across nearly 55 assembly constituencies in Nadia, North 24 Parganas and parts of north Bengal, and members of the community has often determined electoral outcomes in south Bengal alone.

BJP insiders privately admit that Matua and refugee-dominated seats contributed more than half of their tally of 77 seats in the 2021 polls. That is why the final electoral rolls have left the BJP at unease.

"If the Matua vote is disrupted, we will suffer because this is our core social base. Our challenge now is to hold on to the voters who remain on the rolls and convince the others that their names will be restored," a BJP leader from Bongaon said.

North 24 Parganas, which has the largest concentration of the Matua community, lost more than 12.3 lakh names in the voter list revision with the heaviest blow coming in the Bongaon subdivision.

Total deletions stand around 55,000 in Bagda, while Bongaon North and Bongaon South together saw nearly 75,000 names disappear from the rolls. Around 39,000 names were deleted in Gaighata, and around 18,000 in

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## Assam and Puducherry record highest-ever voter turnout

**MI News Service, Guwahati / Kolkata:** Assam and Puducherry registered their highest-ever voter turnout in Assembly elections as polling across three regions concluded peacefully on Thursday, the Election Commission of India (ECI) said.

According to provisional data, Assam recorded a turnout of 85.38%, surpassing its previous high of 84.67% in 2016, while Puducherry achieved a record 89.83%, exceeding its earlier peak of 86.19% in 2011. Kerala also witnessed strong participation, with voter turnout estimated at 78.03%.

Polling was held for 296 Assembly constituencies across Assam, Kerala and Puducherry, with a combined electorate of over 5.31 crore voters. Simultaneously, by-elections were conducted in four Assembly constituencies across Karnataka, Nagaland, and Tripura.

ECI said that voting in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry began at 7 a.m. and remained largely peaceful, with only minor incidents reported. Over 63,000 polling stations were set up, and more than 2.5 lakh polling personnel were deployed to ensure smooth conduct.

For the first time, 100% of polling stations in these elections were monitored through live web-casting. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, along with Election Commissioners Dr. S.S. Sandhu and Dr. Vivek Joshi, closely monitored the process.

Mock polls were conducted before voting com-

menced in the presence of over 1.8 lakh polling agents representing 1,899 candidates, ensuring transparency in the process.

The elections featured several new voter-centric initiatives aimed at improving accessibility and transparency. These included colour photographs of candidates on EVM ballot units, redesigned Voter Information Slips for better readability, and Mobile Deposit Facilities at polling stations.



Special arrangements were also made for Persons with Disabilities (PwD), including wheelchairs, volunteer assistance, and transport facilities to polling booths. Additionally, the number of voters per polling station was capped at 1,200 to reduce crowding.

As part of the International Election Visitors' Programme, 38 delegates from 22 countries observed the polling process, highlighting India's continued engagement with global electoral best practices.

ECI noted that turnout figures are provisional

and do not yet include service voters and postal ballots. Final figures will be released later through official Election Commission records.

Meanwhile ignoring intermittent rains and overcast skies, people across Assam turned out in large numbers on Thursday to vote in the 126 member assembly elections, with enthusiasm remaining clearly visible from first-time voters to octogenarians.

Heavy showers lashed parts of the state early in the morning and light rain was witnessed in Guwahati and its neighbouring districts as the voting began.

However, the weather failed to dampen the people's spirit and resolve, with long queues being formed outside almost all polling stations across Jorhat, Kamrup, Kokrajhar and Lakhimpur districts hours before the polling began in a peaceful and orderly manner.

The election for the 126-member Assam assembly has the BJP-led NDA aiming for a third consecutive term, while the Congress is seeking a return to power after being voted out in 2016.

Though there was report of any major violence or disruptions in polling from anywhere in this Northeastern state, one poll official was found dead in Sonitpur district of north Assam during the assembly elections today.

Deben Horo (45) was deputed as the second polling officer in the Naduar constituency, was found dead in the morning, they said.

## High Stakes: One Man Steering Campaign in 3 Battlegrounds

**Mousom Gazi**

**South 24 Pgs:** In a demanding electoral assignment that underscores both organisational trust and political strategy, Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Shamim Ahmed is spearheading an intensive, multi-constituency campaign effort ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections. Fielded as the party's candidate from Magrahat West, Ahmed has simultaneously been entrusted with the role of 'observer for Diamond Harbour and Maheshdala Assembly constituencies, placing the onus of coordinating and energising campaigns across three politically significant segments squarely on his shoulders. Party insiders describe his campaign schedule as "relentless and meticulously structured."

Beginning early each day in Magrahat West, Ahmed focuses on grassroots mobilisation—conducting booth-level reviews, padyatras, and organisational meetings, while engaging directly with voters to consolidate support and reinforce the party's local network. As the day progresses, he shifts his attention to Diamond Harbour and Maheshdala, where he joins campaign efforts along-



TMC leader Shamim Ahmed in an election campaign.

side party candidates Panna Lal Halder and Subhasis Das. His presence at rallies, public meetings, and door-to-door outreach initiatives is seen by the party as a force multiplier, aimed at strengthening coordination and maintaining campaign momentum across constituencies. TMC leadership maintains that Ahmed's involvement has injected "renewed energy" into the organisational structure, particularly in booth management, cadre coordination, and strategic plan-

ning—key elements in a tightly contested electoral environment. Addressing the scale of his responsibilities, Ahmed asserted that disciplined time management enabled him to balance his dual role. "After completing my responsibilities in my own constituency, I devote equal attention to the other two segments. Continuous engagement with party workers and understanding ground feedback remain my priorities," he said. However, the arrangement has also drawn political



Shamim Ahmed offered puja at a temple with Trinamool candidate Pannalal Halder from Diamond Harbour before the campaign.

scrutiny. While some view the move as a calculated strategy reflecting the party's confidence in Ahmed's organisational capabilities, opposition voices have questioned whether it signals a shortage of strong local leadership within the ruling party's ranks. With campaigning intensifying across South 24 Parganas, Ahmed's ability to synchronise efforts across three constituencies is emerging as a critical factor—both as a test of organisational depth and as a potential determinant in the region's electoral outcome.

## Scorching Campaign Trail, Candidates Turn to Smart Diets and Fitness to Stay Battle-Ready

**MI News Service, Nadia :** As the election heat intensifies across the state, candidates are grappling not just with political pressure but also with soaring temperatures. Packed schedules ranging from door-to-door campaigns and public rallies to worker meetings leave little room for rest, making physical endurance a critical factor in this high-stakes contest.

Under the relentless sun, candidates are pushing their limits daily, often enduring long hours without proper breaks. Fatigue, dehydration and irregular meals have emerged as common challenges. In response, many are consciously reworking their food habits and daily routines to maintain stamina and focus.

Trinamool Congress candidate from Karimpur, Soham Chakraborty, is among those attempting to strike a balance between a demanding campaign and personal health. He begins his day with light, heat-friendly food such as puffed rice and curd-choices that help keep the body cool while providing sustained energy.

However, the intensity of campaigning often disrupts routine meal timings. Lunch breaks are frequently skipped or de-



layed due to back-to-back engagements. When time permits, Chakraborty prefers simple home-cooked Bengali meals—rice, lentils, fried vegetables, jackfruit with prawns, and occasionally fish or meat-avoiding heavy, oily food that could slow him down.

This approach is not unique. Across party lines, candidates are increasingly prioritising hydration, opting for lighter meals

and taking short breaks whenever possible. The emphasis is clear: staying physically fit is no longer optional but essential in a prolonged and gruelling campaign season.

In a contest where strategy and outreach dominate headlines, the quieter battle for physical resilience is playing out behind the scenes—one that could well influence performance on the ground.

## TMC Candidate's Nomination Cancelled by Commission; Abhinav Calls It 'Unfortunate', Somnath Dutta Steps In

**MI News Service, Nadia :** In a significant development ahead of the elections, the nomination of Trinamool Congress (TMC) candidate Abhinav Bhattacharya from the Krishnanagar North Assembly constituency has been cancelled by the Election Commission, citing legal complications.

According to administrative sources, the Returning Officer rejected Bhattacharya's nomination under Section 9A of the Representation of the People Act due to his alleged business links with the state government. The law disqualifies individuals who are directly involved in government contracts or have financial interests tied to government work from contesting elections.

Just days earlier, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had formally introduced Bhattacharya as the party's candidate at a public rally in Shantipur, where she had also praised him highly.

Explaining the decision, officials noted that Bhattacharya's association with government-related contracts at the time of



filing his nomination violated electoral norms.

Reacting to the development, Bhattacharya termed the incident "very unfortunate" but stated that he would abide by the party's directives.

Anticipating such a situation, the ruling party had already kept a backup plan in place. Somnath Dutta, whose nomination had been filed earlier as an alternative candidate, is now expected to contest from the Krishnanagar North constituency on a TMC ticket.

## Kolkata Police envisages night patrolling

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nand directed senior officers to ensure strict vigil and conduct night patrols from 10 pm to 2 am ahead of the Assembly elections. In a meeting with senior officers, including joint commissioners and deputy commissioners, Nand instructed them to carry out area inspections during the night and supervise election-related incidents closely. "Senior officers must be present during pickets and monitoring operations, and coordinate with central forces when required," he said. Bengal votes in two phases on April 23 and April 29.



Behala West TMC candidate Ratna Chatterjee did a vigorous campaign at Ward number 130 along with Ward Councillor Abhijit Mukherjee in Kolkata on Friday.

## VANDE MATARAM EXHIBITION: Victoria Memorial honours BANKIM CHANDRA CHATTERJEE

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** Victoria Memorial Hall is commemorating 150 years of Vande Mataram along with the 132nd death anniversary of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay through an exhibition of rare memorabilia reflecting his life, thought and legacy. Composed by Bankim, Vande Mataram voiced national aspirations and became a rallying cry that inspired generations of freedom fighters with courage, unity and patriotism.

West Bengal Governor R. N. Ravi, also Chairman of the Memorial's Board of Trustees, inaugurated the exhibition at the Great Indian Reformers Gallery. Among the key exhibits is a writing desk used by Bankim, symbolising intellectual resistance and creative nationalism.

A highlight is the inclusion of creative works by students with disabilities and underprivileged backgrounds, developed through workshops conducted by the Memorial. These depict the context of Vande Mataram and its evolution into a unifying force during the freedom movement.

Sayan Bhattacharya, Secretary and Curator, said the desk symbolises India's intellectual and cultural awakening, adding the Memorial considers it a privilege to curate the exhibition. The opening was followed by a cultural presentation titled 'Bankim Chandra o Tann Swadesh Chetana' by Samskar Bharati Paschimanga, featuring a rendition of Vande Mataram and dance performances set to patriotic compositions.

## Young Karate Talent from Montfort's Set to Shine at Global Stage in Bangkok

**MI News Service, Kolkata :** A rising young star from St. Montfort's Senior Secondary School is all set to make his mark on the international stage. Debayan Sarkar, a 12+ year-old student and son of Sunil Kr. Sarkar, has been selected to represent his school at the prestigious 8th World Global Meet 2026, scheduled to be held in Bangkok on 7th June 2026.

Despite joining karate just a few months ago, Debayan has already reached the yellow belt level, showcasing remarkable dedication and rapid progress. Training under the esteemed Monimala Halder, she is preparing with great intensity and determination. Confident and focused, the young athlete has boldly expressed his ambition to return home as a gold medalist, making his parents and school immensely proud.

The World Global Meet 2026 is



expected to witness participation from numerous countries, bringing together talented martial artists and cultural ambassadors from across

the globe. The event will also be graced by an impressive lineup of international dignitaries, including:

HRH Prince Dr.M.A.Ali -(India)  
Shahid Mahmood -(United Kingdom)

Dr. P. Jurapas -(Thailand)  
Tony Taylor -(USA)  
Pervaiz Iqbal -(HRH Princess Mufida Rayya Mubarak -(Indonesia)  
Jun Shindo -(Japan)  
King Sany Wijaya Natakusumah -(Indonesia)

With such a grand international platform and inspiring personalities in attendance, the stage is set for young talents like Debayan to shine.

As the countdown begins, all eyes are on this promising young martial artist who carries not just his school's hopes, but also the spirit of determination and excellence onto the global arena.



Trinamool Supremo Mamata Banerjee in a public meeting at Barasat Kachari Maidan in support of candidates Sabyasachi Dutta, Rathin Ghosh, and Anisur Rahman from Barasat, Madhyamgram, and Deganga Assembly constituencies respectively on Friday.

## Names of Hindus most cut from SIR in West Bengal Out of 90 lakh voters removed 63% are Hindus, 34% are Muslims

**MI News Service, Kolkata :** Muslims account for only 27% of the state's population, so their 34% delisting rate under SIR is quite high; Matua-dominated border constituencies have seen a higher rate of removal of Hindu names. More than a third of the 9 million voters removed from West Bengal's voter list during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process are Muslim voters, far more than their share in the state's population.

A comparison of booth-level data before and after Special Intensive Revision shows that 57.47 lakh, or 63%, of the removed voters are Hindus, while 31.1 lakh, or 34%, are Muslims. This figure is significant because as per the last census in 2011, Muslims accounted for only 27% of the state's population.

However, overall, most names have been removed. Except for the Bharatiya Janata Party, all political parties in West

Bengal opposed the Special Intensive Revision. However, the Bharatiya Janata Party insisted that the process was a successful attempt to clear the voter list and remove "illegal infiltrators" from Bangladesh.

More names were removed from Matua-Bahul seats

The voter list data shows that the rate of removal of Hindu names is higher in some border seats where majority of the voters are Matua. These Matua are a group of Hindu Namshudras, a Dalit community, who have come from Bangladesh in large numbers and the BJP is promising them citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Notably, 50,230 voters were removed from Bagda Assembly seat in North 24 Parganas district, of which 46,826 are Hindus and 3,264 are Muslims. 42,164 voters have been removed



from the Bongaon North Assembly seat in the same district, including 37,101 Hindus and 4,310 Muslims.

In Kolkata's hot seat Bhawanipur assembly, 50,987 names were cut, of which 37,227 are Hindus and 12,084 are Muslims. In some districts of the Jangalmahal area, where the Muslim population is less, about 90% of the names have been cut. In Jhargram, about 94% of the voters excluded from the voter list are Hindus. 91% names have been cut in Bankura and 88% in Purulia too.

During the verdict, the names of Muslims were also deleted

While the names of 63 lakh voters were removed from the draft roll published by the Election Commission of India on 28 February, the names of another 60 lakh voters came under scrutiny by judicial authorities. Of these, the names of 27 lakh voters were deleted on April 6, taking the total number of those whose names were deleted to over 90 lakh. Most of those killed during the verdict were in Muslim-majority districts. Murshidabad, the district

with the highest Muslim percentage in the state, has the highest number of voter names deleted. Here more than 4.55 lakh names have been removed out of 11.01 lakh names, which have undergone judicial review. 3.25 lakh names of voters in North 24 Parganas were deleted during the verdict, followed by 2.39 lakh names in Malda, another Muslim-majority district.

If the names of voters were deleted during the verdict, constituencies like Bhawanipur and Nandiagram had more names of Muslim voters deleted than Hindus.

With just two weeks left for polling, the number of voters in West Bengal stands at 6.75 crore, which is significantly lower than the 7.66 crore voters on the rolls before the SIR began in October 2025 and the 7.34 crore voters eligible to vote in the last assembly elections in 2021.

## BIKASH NARAYAN CHOWDHURY & MAFIN CHAKRABORTY joins BJP

**MI News Service, Kolkata:** The TMC veteran Bikash Narayan Chowdhury joined BJP on Friday at the Bengal BJP Headquarters (HQ) at Salt Lake. State BJP top brass Suvendu Adhikary along with BJP leader Sashi Agnihotri welcomed him at the party at the formal press conference.

Bikash was with the TMC since its birth and was the witness of several waxes and wane of the party. Bikash conveyed his ire about the series of unforced errors from TMC and wished that BJP can



give good governance if voted to power.

In the mean time, known Tollywood face Mafin Chakraborty also formally joined BJP at the same press brief. Mafin

sited intense mismanagement in the Tollywood industry engineered by 'Biswas Brothers'. She conveyed that she would like to contribute to the party to the best of her abilities.

## Kharagpur Assembly: Home Minister Amit Shah did a road show in support of BJP candidates

**MI News Service, Kharagpur :** Country's Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah conducted a road show in support of BJP candidates in Kharagpur city. During the road show, Kharagpur Sadar's BJP candidate Dilip Ghosh, Medinipur's BJP candidate Shankar Guchhait were also present. The road show rally started from Atulmani School area of Malincha in Kharagpur city and ended at Ghari Mod area in Kharagpur. A crowd of people gathered during this. Amit Shah Slogans of Zindabad, BJP Zindabad and Jai Shri Ram were raised. Home Minister Amit Shah greeted the people sometimes by throwing flowers towards them and sometimes by shaking hands. A huge crowd gathered



during the road show. During the road show of Home Minister Amit Shah, security was very tight in the surrounding areas including Kharagpur city.

## GAUTAM DEB unveils 9-pt manifesto for Siliguri

**MI News Service, Siliguri:** Veteran Trinamool Congress leader Gautam Deb, the candidate from the Siliguri Assembly seat, released a nine-point "prati-gya" (pledge), while underscoring that all the promises would be met once he is elected.

"The state committee of our party has endorsed the pledges and is committed to meet all nine points. We have sincerely worked for a comprehensive development of the city and have mentioned details about the infrastructure, beautification and social security works which we intend to carry out for the residents," Deb said.

The nine pledges — which were released as a short manifesto — include major infrastructural development plans like construction of an elevated bridge from Sevoke Road to Surya Sen Park parallel to Hill Cart Road, upgrading the Kanchenjunga Stadium to develop it into a sports arena of international standards, a cricket stadium named after Richa Ghosh, Siliguri resident and member of Indian women's cricket team that won the ICC Women's World Cup, a new complex of Siliguri court and renovation of a market complex at Babupara.

The manifesto also highlighted plans to provide land rights to people residing on government land, discuss ownership rights for shopkeepers at Bidhan Market, the largest retail hub in the city, and construct housing complexes in colony areas.

It also mentions that beautification and preservation of the Mahananda river would be carried out under the city river management programme and a new bus terminus would be built at Darjeeling More, the principal entry point to the city.

The party manifesto published by chief minister and Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee says that Siliguri would be one of the



25 model cities that they plan to build with state-of-the-art urban infrastructure.

The manifesto also mentions that an MSME export hub would be set up in Siliguri and three other cities in the state, and the Kanchenjunga Stadium would be upgraded to international standards.

Political observers pointed out that Deb releasing a specific manifesto for Siliguri, the largest urban hub in north Bengal, hints that the party is desperate to win the seat this time.

Trinamool won the seat in 2011, while CPM and BJP won in 2016 and 2021, respectively.

"He is a seasoned politician and has thus come up with more specific commitments to consolidate support. The pledges cover some of the longstanding demands of Siliguri residents, like mitigation of traffic congestion and improvement of sports infrastructure. It would be interesting to see whether the BJP comes up with similar assurances," said an observer.

Raju Bista, the BJP MP of Darjeeling, was critical of Trinamool.

"Trinamool has been in power for the past 15 years...but they have done little for the city," he said.

**Overnight political shifted: 100 join BJP ahead of 2026 polls**

MI News Service, Kolkata /Jalpaiguri: With the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections drawing closer, political temperatures are rising sharply across the state, with fresh claims of defections adding a new dimension to the contest. In Jalpaiguri district, the BJP has asserted a significant boost to its grassroots strength following an alleged overnight shift of support from the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).

According to BJP sources, nearly 100 members from around 15 families in the Matiali-Batabari II Gram Panchayat area under Meteli block formally joined the party during a late-night induction programme on Thursday. The event, led by local BJP Leader Dayal Roy, was attended by district committee member Majnuul Haque and several other party functionaries. Welcoming the new entrants, Haque claimed that public confidence in the TMC is "rapidly eroding" due to allegations of corruption and a perceived lack of development. "People are increasingly looking at the BJP as a credible alternative. This trend will only accelerate in the coming days," he said, projecting further political realignments in the area. Local political observers believe that such defections, if sustained, could alter the micro-level electoral arithmetic in parts of North Bengal, where contests have historically been closely fought. However, the Trinamool Congress has not yet issued an official response to the latest claims. The development comes amid heightened political rhetoric across the state. Senior BJP leader Dilip Ghosh, while addressing a gathering in Kharagpur on Thursday night, triggered controversy with sharp remarks on voter list revisions and alleged irregularities. His comments, suggesting large-scale deletion of "fake voters," have drawn strong criticism from the ruling camp, further intensifying the war of words ahead of the polls. While the BJP projects a narrative of growing public support and organisational expansion, the TMC is expected to counter these claims as the campaign gathers momentum. With both sides stepping up mobilisation, the battle for Bengal appears set to enter a more volatile and decisive phase in the days ahead.

**Ration scam crackdown: ED raids 15 locations across Bengal**

MI News Service, Kolkata : In a major escalation ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday carried out coordinated search operations at 15 locations across the state in connection with the alleged ration scam and suspected smuggling of subsidised wheat to Bangladesh.

The raids, which began early in the morning, span multiple districts including Kolkata, Howrah, North 24 Parganas (Habra and Bangaon), and Murshidabad. According to agency sources, key commercial hubs in Kolkata such as Poddar Court and Minto Park are also under the scanner, with central armed forces deployed to secure the search operations. Investigators are focusing on a network of exporters and business entities allegedly linked to the diversion of government-supplied wheat meant for the public distribution system (PDS). Sources indicate that more than a dozen exporters are under surveillance, with several offices being searched simultaneously. At Poddar Court, officials are examining multiple offices operating from a single address, reportedly linked to a food products company. The ED suspects these entities may have played a role in routing or laundering proceeds from the alleged scam.

**"How many jobs?" Abhishek direct hit on opposition party ahead of polls**

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee on Friday mounted a fierce political attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, questioning the Centre's performance on employment and accusing it of undermining democratic processes in West Bengal.

Addressing the media, Abhishek Banerjee raised pointed questions over the BJP-led government's track record, asking, "How many jobs has the BJP provided in the last 12 years? How many of its promises have actually been fulfilled?" He described the Centre's claims as a "new juma," intensifying the political rhetoric ahead of the upcoming electoral battle. Abhishek Banerjee also sharply criticised the ongoing controversy surrounding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bengal. Alleging large-scale irregularities, he claimed that over 90 lakh names had been omitted from voter lists across different stages of revision. According to him, 58 lakh names were excluded in the initial February list, followed by another 6 lakh, and 27 lakh from the under-adjudication category. Calling the process a "farce," Banerjee said he had expected the Union Home Minister to begin his address in Bengal with an apology. "Given the way the Election Commission and the BJP have handled SIR in Bengal, the Home Minister should have first apologised to the people before speaking," he said. He further linked the SIR ex-



Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee held a press conference at Trinamool Bhavan, Kolkata on Friday.

ercise to a broader political strategy, referring to Amit Shah's remarks on "detect, delete, and deport." Banerjee alleged that the revision process represents the first step in that sequence, aimed at disenfranchising voters. In a strongly worded attack, the TMC leader accused the BJP of fostering hostility towards Bengali identity in states it governs. He claimed that linguistic and cultural discrimination against Bengalis has intensified, citing controversial remarks from political leaders in BJP-ruled regions. Abhishek Banerjee also took exception to what he described as the BJP's portrayal of Bengal through the lens of illegal immigration. "If BJP comes to power in Bengal, governance will be controlled from Delhi and Gujarat," he alleged, adding that such narratives effectively equate Kolkata with Bangladesh. Raising rhetorical questions, he said, "If Bengal is being viewed as Bangladesh, then what is Sheikh Hasina doing in Delhi? What is her status?" He also questioned the Centre's response to alleged atrocities against Hindus in Bangladesh, accusing it of selective outrage. Turning the spotlight on corruption, Banerjee accused the BJP of political hypocrisy, alleging that individuals facing multiple corruption cases are being accommodated within its ranks. "Will you fight corruption alongside those against whom there is public evidence? This only makes people laugh," he remarked. The remarks signal a further escalation in the war of words between the TMC and BJP, as both sides intensify their campaigns in the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly elections.

**129th Birth Anniversary of Former Chief Minister Prafulla Chandra Sen at West Bengal Legislative Assembly**



MI News Service, Kolkata: In the lobby of the Legislative Assembly on Friday, the late Prafulla Chandra Sen—former Chief Minister of West Bengal and one of the founding members of the Janata Party (affectionately known as the "Gandhi of Arambagh")—was remembered with deep reverence on the occasion of his birth anniversary. Present at this ceremony were the Honorable Soumendranath Das, Principal Secretary of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, along with various Assembly authorities and officials. Also in attendance were representatives from the JD(U), led by Mohammad Nurul Huda—the All-India General Secretary of the Youth JD(U)—who was accompanied by Taharum Begum, Anif Chowdhury, Soma Nandi, Bipul Roy, Krishna Mandal, and others. Mohammad Nurul Huda remarked that Prafulla Chandra Sen—the "Gandhi of Arambagh"—stood as a shining symbol of nationalism, integrity, and dedication.

**Mothabari case: NIA files 12 FIRs, tightens grip on probe**

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant development in the high-profile Mothabari incident in West Bengal's Malda district, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) has officially taken over the probe following directions from the Supreme Court of India and has begun a series of decisive legal actions.

As part of its initial steps, the NIA has registered 12 separate FIRs related to the alleged detention and assault of judicial officers. Copies of these FIRs have been submitted before the designated NIA court in Kolkata and were placed before Special NIA Judge Sukumar Roy on Thursday. This marks the agency's first major procedural move since assuming control of the case.

According to NIA sources, the accused have been charged under several stringent provisions of the Indian Penal Code, including attempt to murder, wrongful confinement, and assault on public servants. These charges reflect the seriousness of the allegations and indicate that the agency is pursuing the case with a strong legal approach. Simultaneously, the NIA has approached the court seeking the transfer of all case-related documents and custody of the accused from the state police. Officials have confirmed that 47 individuals have been arrested so far, and the agency is now working to bring them under its direct interrogation to further strengthen the investigation. Earlier this week, the NIA submitted a detailed 25-page status report to the Supreme Court, outlining the sequence of events and the scale of the incident. The report includes statements from the affected judicial officers as well as testimonies from 22 Booth Level Officers present in the Mothabari area at the time. Preliminary findings reportedly highlight the severity of the situation and raise concerns about possible administrative lapses. Prior to the NIA takeover, the Criminal Investigation Department had arrested Mofakkerul Islam, identified as the prime accused. The NIA is now preparing to take him into custody for further questioning, although his legal counsel has stated that no formal transfer order has yet been received.

**"Did you receive 15 lakhs? They returned once again with bag of lies"—Mamata alleges falsehoods against BJP**

MI News Service, Barasat: On Friday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah released the election manifesto while in Bengal. Mamata Banerjee launched a counter-attack, leveling accusations of outright falsehoods against it. Speaking at a public rally at Kachari Maidan in Barasat, Mamata stated, "Before the elections, they promised that 15 lakh rupees would be deposited into everyone's bank accounts—did you receive it? Now they have arrived with a sack full of lies—with a barrage of falsehoods." Taking a jibe at Amit Shah, Mamata remarked, "Like cuckoos, these people appear only during the elections; they tell lies, and then—whoosh—they fly away."

Mamata alleged, "The 'double-engine' government is perpetrating atrocities against the youth in Rajasthan, Delhi, and Assam. Have they no shame? Now they come to the soil of Bengal claiming they will build a 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Ben-

gal). The people should tear out their tongues through the power of democracy." Levelling further accusations against the BJP, Mamata added, "They rose to power by inciting riots. They are not carrying a grandmother's bag of tales, but rather a barrage of lies."

On this day, the Chief Minister raised her voice in protest against the exclusion of names from the SIR (Summary Revision of Electoral Rolls). She stated, "The names of 90 lakh voters have been dropped from the SIR. Of these, 60 lakh are Hindus, and the remaining 30 lakh are Muslim voters. The BJP is obsessed with stripping people of their voting rights. They excluded 19 lakh names in Assam through the NRC process. Now, they are attempting the same thing in Bengal. Understand the math clearly: a double standard—rights for you, exclusion for me—cannot be allowed to prevail." Standing in Barasat today, Mamata Ba-



Trinamool Congress Chief Mamata Banerjee Campaigns in Barasat to Rally Voter Support

nerjee issued a stern warning. Simultaneously, she once again urged the public to remain vigilant against potential tampering with Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Mamata also offered a sharp retort regarding the remarks

Modi made yesterday in Haldia concerning fish production. Drawing attention to the incident at the Brigade Parade Ground where a hawkker selling chicken patties was assaulted, Mamata declared today, "I will exact retribution for everything after the elections. Not an eye for an eye—not murder for murder—but I will take legal action." In a sarcastic tone, Mamata added, "When young boys misbehave, mothers and sisters typically scold them or give them an ear-twisting. But if these 'old boys'—these overgrown children—go so far as to arbitrarily strike off the names of so many people, or attempt to force an election outcome by weaponizing agencies like the ED and CBI, then you must deliver the 'slap of democracy' to exact your retribution." Without explicitly naming them, Mamata launched a scathing attack on Modi and Shah, derisively labeling them 'Kanababu' (the one-eyed man).

**Big pre-poll move: EC bars 149 cops from Election duty**

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major administrative move ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections, the Election Commission of India has removed 149 police officers from their current postings and barred them from participating in any election-related duties. The decision marks a significant escalation in efforts to ensure a free and fair electoral process in the state. According to an official notification issued on Thursday, the action affects 81 inspectors and 68 sub-inspectors. The Commission has directed all transferred officers to report to their new assignments by 5 PM on Friday.

Additionally, each of them has been instructed to submit a formal bond declaring that they will not engage in any election-related responsibilities during the ongoing poll process. This reshuffle is part of a broader set of administrative changes initiated by the Commission following the announcement of election dates. The objective, officials say, is to maintain neutrality and prevent any undue influence on the electoral process. Earlier, several top-level officials—including the Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, and Director General of Police—were also reassigned. In addition, multiple district magistrates, police superintendents, and police commissioners have been transferred, while some senior officials have been deputed as election observers outside West Bengal. The Commission had previously issued a similar directive on March 19, ordering the transfer of around 150 inspectors and sub-inspectors. Among them were 49 sub-inspectors who were specifically directed to be moved outside their home districts, reinforcing the Commission's push for impartiality in sensitive regions. With polling scheduled in two phases—April 23 and April 29—and the nomination process already completed, the timing of this administrative overhaul is critical.

**Mamata's road show in Midnapore city**



Trinamool Congress Supremo Mamata Banerjee Leads Roadshow in Medinipur city to Boost TMC Candidates on Friday.

MI News Service, Kharagpur: State Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee conducted a road show in support of Trinamool candidate Sujoy Hazra of Medinipur Assembly in Medinipur city. It is known that the road show started from the college grounds of Medinipur city and ended at the Jagannath

Temple area of Natooon Bazaar. During this, the Chief Minister walked on foot. Along with her, Trinamool candidate Sujoy Hazra and Medinipur MP June Malliya were also present. People on the road. They were standing on both sides. Slogans of Mamata Banerjee and Joy Bangla echoed

in the crowd. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was seen greeting people by waving her hands. At some places, people also greeted Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with flowers. Security was very tight in Medinipur city and the surrounding areas during the Chief Minister's road show.

**Rs 18.5 CR assets attached: ED tightness noose in South Point scam**

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major development in the South Point School embezzlement case, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached assets worth ₹18.5 crore belonging to Krishna Damani, a key accused and former member of the institution's board of trustees. The action was carried out by the agency's Kolkata Zonal Office under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), signaling a deepening probe into alleged financial irregularities within the South Point Education Society.

According to an official statement issued on Friday, preliminary investigations suggest that Damani was involved in siphoning off at least ₹20 crore from the institution through systematic financial manipulation. The ED has alleged that he strategically placed individuals associated with his own organization within the school's workforce. Additionally, employee records were allegedly inflated to divert funds fraudulently. The agency further stated that the proceeds of crime were routed through bank accounts linked to entities controlled by Damani and his



close associates, indicating the existence of a structured money-laundering network. These findings have significantly widened the scope of the investigation, pointing toward organized financial misconduct rather than isolated acts of embezzlement. The ED's action follows a First Information Report (FIR) registered by Kolkata Police, which led to Damani's arrest by Hare Street Police Station in February 2024. The case originated from a complaint filed by the school authorities, accusing him of misappropriating substantial funds over an extended period. Initial investigations had uncovered irregularities amounting to nearly ₹10 crore between April 2020 and June 2023. However, the ED now believes that the total scale of the fraud could be significantly higher, based on ongoing financial analysis and evidence collection. This case has sent shockwaves across the education sector, raising serious concerns about financial governance and oversight in reputed institutions. Authorities have indicated that further investigation is underway, with efforts focused on identifying additional assets and uncovering the full extent of the alleged financial wrongdoing in the coming weeks.

**SC to consider plea against freezing of electoral rolls**

Continued from Pg 1: we are thinking. There is a cut-off line with respect to an election, and underlying is a constitutional right to be on the electoral roll and to vote in further elections. That is much higher and permanent," Justice Bagchi said. The CJ said that no person should be deprived of voting permanently.

On April 6, the bench noted that around 60 lakh claims and objections of those removed from voters' lists in the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in poll-bound West Bengal have been decided.

It had asked the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to constitute a three-member panel of former senior judges to frame

uniform procedures for 19 tribunals for deciding appeals against deletions from the electoral rolls.

Earlier on Monday, the Supreme Court was told that about 45 per cent of nearly 40 lakh cases examined during the SIR of electoral rolls in West Bengal have resulted in exclusion after adjudication by judicial officers, even as the court refused to extend the freezing of the voter list ahead of elections.

The Apex court was informed by the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Sujoy Paul, that 59.15 lakh cases had been decided out of 60.06 lakh, leaving around 26,000 pending, with the process set to conclude the same day. Senior Advocate Shyam Divan

said data of about 40 lakh cases shows an inclusion rate of 55 per cent (around 24 lakh), while roughly 45 per cent—about 20 lakh—were excluded. He added that around seven lakh appeals have been filed, with several lakh more expected, even as appellate tribunals are yet to be fully operational. Divan urged publication of a supplementary roll after appeals. Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal sought interim protection for those wrongly excluded, but the court declined both requests and refused to set any deadline for appellate tribunals. Justice Bagchi said the rolls must be frozen ahead of elections, cautioning that timelines for tribunals handling lakhs of appeals could create "chaos".

A plea by Senior Advocate Kalyan Bandopadhyay to allow those cleared by April 21 to vote was declined. The court also directed that receipts be issued for physical appeals by district magistrates and sub-divisional officers. On honorarium, it asked the Chief Justice to collect bank details of former judges heading tribunals and ensure timely payment. The next hearing is scheduled on April 13. Meanwhile, the court was told that an 88-year-old grandson of painter Nandalal Bose was excluded from the rolls. Senior Advocate Jaideep Gupta raised the issue, after which the tribunal was asked to decide it expeditiously and his name was subsequently reinstated.

The court noted that 19 appellate tribunals, comprising former chief justices and judges, were set up and left procedural aspects to them. It directed the Chief Justice of the High Court to form a three-member panel of former senior judges to ensure uniform procedure.

The Bench flagged issues, including delays in real-time e-signature uploads and improper document uploads, noting all eight lakh objections in Malda had been cleared. It directed the portal be kept open till April 7 for e-signatures. It said grievances, such as the absence of reasons for rejection, can be raised before tribunals, which will examine records independently. A plea by Senior Advocate

**Final SIR rolls dwindle BJP's hold over Matuas**

Continued from Pg 1: Swarnanagar.

In Nadia, where Matua influence stretches across Ranaghat, Krishnaganj and parts of Chakdaha, nearly 78 per cent of those placed under adjudication were struck off — the highest rate in the state.

Researchers studying SIR data say the highest rates of "unmapped" voters were found in constituencies reserved for the Scheduled Caste, such as Gaighata and Bagdah, affecting mostly Matuas and Namasudras.

That has left the BJP in an awkward position in the very areas where it had argued that

Hindu refugees need not worry about documents since the CAA would protect them.

Before the election, the party opened CAA helpdesks in parts of Bengal and urged refugee Hindus to apply first and verify later. The message was that even those without formal documents would eventually receive citizenship.

But after the final poll rolls were published, many of those families are again standing in queues with old voter slips, Aadhaar cards, ration cards and school certificates, trying to establish their identity. Bongaon MP and Union min-

ister Shantanu Thakur, however, still insisted that there was no reason for people to panic and action would soon be taken to ensure their Indian citizenship. "No Hindu refugee will have to go anywhere. Nobody will be pushed to Bangladesh. We are helping everyone file appeals. Everybody will get citizenship and will have their names restored to the voter rolls," he said.

The BJP has deployed workers in the Matua-dominated areas to help people file Form 6 applications and online appeals. Yet the reassurance has not fully worked. "There is anger, confu-

sion and helplessness. People thought the citizenship question had been settled. Instead, they are once again standing in lines with papers in their hands," said Mahitosh Baidya of the All India Matua Mahasangha. He said citizenship certificates issued so far in the Matua areas account for less than one per cent of an estimated one crore applicants.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has sought to turn that anger into a political counter-attack, arguing that even Hindu refugees who voted for the BJP are no longer safe from name deletion.

Rajya Sabha MP Mamata Bala Thakur, who heads the TMC-backed faction of the Matua Mahasangha, said, "Matuas voted for the BJP, believing it would give them citizenship. Now, even their voting rights are being snatched away. People are terrified that after their names vanish from the rolls, tomorrow they may be branded foreigners." For years, the BJP told Bengal's refugee Hindus that citizenship was only a vote away. After the final SIR rolls, many in the Matua heartland are asking, if their names on the voter list are no longer secure, what exactly did that vote guarantee?

**SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE**

**ICICI Bank** Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd, 4/10, Mytree Tower, Bommanhalli Hosur Main Road Bangalore - 560068

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.	Abhimanyu Kumar Shaw/ Radhika Devi/ TBENG0006830445	Schedule Property All That Piece And Parcel of The Middle Portion of The Sl. No.01, 1st Main Road, Ramachandrapura, Bangalore - 560021, Southern Side of The Sy. No.52, Re-Survey No.65/3 And 65/9, Situated At Ketharamanahalli Village, Bandi Reddyapalya, Yashwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Now Comes Under The Limits of BBMP Old Ward No.25, New Ward No.96. Measuring- East To West: 50-0 Feet North To South: 20-0 Feet In All Measuring: 1000 Square Feet And Bounded On The:- East By: Remaining Eastern Side Measuring 11 X 20 Feet West By: Remaining Western Side Measuring 50 X 20 Feet North By: Road South By: Property Belongs To V.D. Rangappa./ Date of Symbolic Possession On/ 07/04/2026.	29.04.2025 Rs 91,75,663.00/-	Bangalore

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: April 11, 2026  
Place: Kasaba (Kolkata)

Sincerely Authorised Officer  
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Name Change

I, Padam Chand Jain (Old Name) S/o Late Vimal Chand Nahata Residing at 5, Saiko Mukherjee Road, 4th Floor, Flat - 4B, District - Howrah, Pin - 711101, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Padam Chand Nahata (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 31-03-2026. Padam Chand Jain (Old Name) and Padam Chand Nahata (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name

I, Koushik Banerjee, son of Gyanchandra Banerjee, residing at Vill. Bhimpur, P.O. & P.S. Tarakeswar, Dist. Hooghly 712410, declare that Koushik Banerjee as per my Aadhaar Card, Voter Card, Birth Certificate, PAN Card and 'Koushik Bandyopadhyay' refer to the same, one and identical person as per my all School records and Certificates vide Affidavit dated 02/04/2026 before First Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly.

Name Change

I, Sima Ayesha Bibi W/o. Sk Asgar Ali & D/o. Vijay Singh, R/o. Itagarh, Mohipalpur, Balagarh, Hooghly-712146, W.B. do hereby declare that After accepting Islam & after marriage on & from 2002, I have been known everywhere as Sima Ayesha Bibi, I, Sima Ayesha Bibi, Km Seema Devi, Km Seema & Seema Ayesha Bibi & my father Vijay Singh, Vijaya Singh & Vijayi, all are the same and one identical person vide an affidavit no. 10812 dtd. 10/04/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly, South West in the 2003/2026, Chhikramau Assembly, Part No. 20, Sl. No. 804, U.P., where my mother's name has been recorded as Maheshwari W/o. Vijayi.

NAME CHANGE

I, SONABHANBIBI, W/o-Janab Ali Tarafdar, Vill & P.O. Ghoragachha, P.S. Kalyani, Nadia-741245, do hereby declare that my name has been recorded as সোনাবনবি হাজারি, সানি-জনাব আলি তরফদার in the Voter List of 2002 (82 Chakdaha, Part No-157, Serial No-62). On 31/01/2026 through affidavit no. 148 submitted before the Court of 1st class A.C.J.M, 2nd court, Kalyani, I affirm that Sonabhan Bibi, W/o-Janab Ali Tarafdar & সোনাবনবি হাজারি, সানি-জনাব আলি তরফদার is the same & one identical person

NAME CHANGE

I, Manjia Bibi (DOB-01.01.1974) W/o.- Sk Mehebube Ali, R/o.- Kakudiapada, P.O.- Benirampur, P.S.- Nemoal, Dist.- Cuttack, Odisha, that, my name has been wrongly recorded in my husband service record as Manjia Bibi in place of Manjia Bibi (Aadhar Card-7564 6767 2999) , vide an Affidavit No.1693, dtd. 03.03.2026, in the Court of the Executive Magistrate/Notary: Salpur; Cuttack, That, Manjia Bibi & Manjia Bibi both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, YUBARAJ DAS(OLD NAME), SON OF JOGESH DAS RESIDING AT ERULI, P.O.-ERULI RANAGHAT, NADIA-741253, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS YUBARAJ DAS(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 10/04/2026. YUBARAJ DAS AND YUBARAJ DAS BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, Md Rafique Uddin Khan, S/o.- Saiful Alam Khan, R/o.- Vill.- Sarisha Hat, P.O.- Sarisha, P.S.- Diamond Harbour, Dist.- 24 Pgs.(S), 743366, my wife & mother's actual (Samima Bibi & Rabeya Khatun) name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhar as Mohammed Rafiqueuddin Khan, Samima Akhtar, Rabia Bibi in place of Md Rafique Uddin Khan, Samima Bibi & Rabeya Khatun (all are Aadhar & Voter Card), vide an Affidavit No. 10494, dtd. 15/09/25, in the Court of Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Diamond Harbour, 24 Pgs.(S), That, Md Rafique Uddin Khan @Mohammed Rafiqueuddin Khan, Samima Bibi@ Samima Akhtar & Rabeya Khatun @Rabia Bibi, all are same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, Aastha Kabra, D/o Manoj Kumar Kabra, residing at 89/371, Shubham Apartment Vivekananda Road, Banpur Park, Rishra, Near Stepping Stone School, Rishra, VTC Konnagar (P), P.O.- Rishra, Dist.- Hooghly, Pin- 712248 declare that in my passport no. U5532167, in my Aadhar Card no. 283590319353 and also in my birth Certificate bearing Registration number 976/2007 by Rishra Municipality as registered on 12.09.2007, my father's name has been recorded erroneously as Manoj Kabra instead of his actual name Manoj Kumar Kabra as mentioned in my PAN Card being No. QMHPK9116C, my Admit card of Central Board of Secondary Education Class X Exam being No. AV101534 & XII Exam being No. AV841534 and his Aadhar Card being No. 677918901713. That Manoj Kabra and Manoj Kumar Kabra both are same and one identical person vide affidavit No. 9439 dated 08.04.2026 before Ld. Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Serampore, Hooghly.

NAME CHANGE

My actual name is G. M. ABDUL AZIZ which is recorded in my Aadhar Card (6624 0916 0987). But in my Old Voter ID Card (no. HVD2998979) my name has been wrongly recorded as ABDUL AZIZ MOLLA, S/o.- ABDUL OYAHED MOLLA. On 30.03.26 vide an affidavit (no. 27881/26) before Basirhat Executive Magistrate Court I affirm that G. M. ABDUL AZIZ, S/o.- MD ABDUL WAHED or ABDUL AZIZ MOLLA, S/o.- ABDUL OYAHED MOLLA is the same & one identical person.

Name Change

I, MD FAIZ AKRAM, S/o Md Muslim Ansari, residing at Plassey, Mira Nadia, Pin-741156, WB declare that in my birth certificate vide Reg. no. B/2025/1266855 (Old Reg. no. m-2/30/2017) my mother's name has been recorded as JULEKHA BIBI BEGAM in place of her actual name JULEKHA BIBI ANSARI as mentioned in Aadhaar Card and PAN Card. That JULEKHA BIBI ANSARI and JULEKHA BIBI BEGAM both are same and one identical person vide affidavit no. 2085 dated 16.01.2026 before Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Alipur.

Name Change

I, Sk Asik Billa (Old Name) S/o Sk Ruhul Kudus Residing at Vill - Tona (Munsipara) Po - Machibhanga Ps - Polerhat District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Ashik Billa (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-04-2026. Sk Asik Billa (Old Name) and Sk Ashik Billa (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Regulation Of Trains For Track Maintenance Work In Howrah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Apr.26 : Due to Track maintenance work at Bandel station limit in Howrah Division, 360 minutes (from 11:20 hrs. to 17:20 hrs.) Traffic Block has been planned on 12.04.2026 with following train regulations:

- Cancellation of Trains:
• From Howrah: 37657, 37611, 37835
• From Barddhaman: 37834
• From Bandel: 37749, 37751, 37753, 37542
• From Katwa: 37746, 37748, 37752
• From Pundooah: 37614
• From Memari: 37658
• From Naihati: 37541

Moreover, 53001 Howrah - Azimganj passenger will leave Howrah at 16:35 hrs. instead of 16:05 hrs. and 37917 Howrah - Katwa local will be controlled enroute for 20 minutes.

Inflation fears: RBI likely to hold rates in Apr

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Reserve Bank is likely to keep the benchmark policy repo rate unchanged at 5.25 per cent in the April monetary policy review meeting, as the West Asia crisis is likely to push up inflation, according to economists. The continuing geopolitical tensions in West Asia, volatility in commodity prices and sharp currency movement that have seen the rupee hit record lows have complicated the policy outlook, and its projections on growth, inflation and also the stance of policy will be keenly watched, the poll of over a dozen economists said. "Given the uncertainty around crude oil prices and geopolitical developments, the RBI is likely to remain on pause in the April policy and closely monitor incoming inflation data before taking any further action," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist at ICRA.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Rejaul Haque (Old Name) S/o Late Md. Dawood Ali Mondal Residing at Kulberia, Bamangachi, Dutta-pukur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743248, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Rejaul Haque (New Name) as declared before the Notary public kolkata vide affidavit no 65/2026 Dated 10-04-2026. Mohammad Rejaul Haque (Old Name) and Md Rejaul Haque (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Md Rejaul Haque S/o Late Md. Dawood Ali Mondal Residing at Kulberia, Bamangachi, Duttapukur, District-North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743248, West Bengal India, that my minor son who previously known as Mohammad Reedwanul Haque (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Md Reedwanul Haque (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 64/2026 dated 10-04-2026. I declare that my minor son Mohammad Reedwanul Haque (Old Name) and Md Reedwanul Haque (New Name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Jhuma Dutta Mondal (Old Name) W/o Anup Mondal Residing at B-1/51, Kalyani, Near 2no Bazar, District - Nadia, Pin - 741235, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Jhuma Dutta (New Name) as declared before the Notary public kolkata vide affidavit no 63/2026 Dated 10-04-2026. Jhuma Dutta Mondal (Old Name) and Jhuma Dutta (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Dilip Konar (Old Name) S/o Nakul Chandra Konar Residing at Durgapur, Durgapur (M Corp), Durgapur Sagarbanga Colony, District - Barddhaman, Pin - 713211, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Kumar Konar (New Name) as declared before the Notary public kolkata vide affidavit no 65/2026 Dated 09-04-2026. Dilip Konar (Old Name) and Dilip Kumar Konar (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Tapash Samanta, Tapas Kumar Samanta (Old Name) S/o Gangadhar Samanta Residing at Bargoda, District - Purba Medinipur, Pin - 721651, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Tapas Samanta (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 66/2026 Dated 10-04-2026. Tapash Samanta, Tapas Kumar Samanta (Old Name) and Tapas Samanta (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sorifa Bibi (Old Name) W/o Sk Ashik Billa Residing at Vill - Tona (Munsipara), Po - Machibhanga, Ps - Polerhat, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Ashik Billa (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-04-2026. Sorifa Bibi (Old Name) and Sorifa Khatun (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Asik Billa (Old Name) S/o Sk Ruhul Kudus Residing at Vill - Tona (Munsipara) Po - Machibhanga Ps - Polerhat District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700135, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Ashik Billa (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-04-2026. Sk Asik Billa (Old Name) and Sk Ashik Billa (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

A Greener Journey for Your Festive Travels: Eastern Railway Launches Month-long 'Swachhata' Extravaganza

MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Apr.26 : With the vibrant spirit of Poila Baisakh still in the air and the cherished festival of Jamai Sasthi just around the corner, the scent of celebrations is everywhere. This is the season of reunions, where families pack their bags to visit relatives or head out for a refreshing short trip. As you prepare to board your trains for those heartfelt visits to your in-laws or a seaside getaway, Eastern Railway wants to ensure your journey is as pristine as your festive attire. To make your travel experience more hygienic and pleasant, the Hon'ble Patron General Manager of Eastern Railway, Shri Milind Deouskar, has directed the launch of a massive, month-long Swachhata Awareness Campaign running from 15th April to 14th May, 2026. Highlighting the importance of this mission, Shri Milind Deouskar stated: "Our objective is to integrate cleanliness into the very fabric of the passenger experience, ensuring that every traveler feels a sense of pride and comfort while journeying with Eastern Railway during this festive season."



Cleanliness in every mile, travel with a festive smile!

This mega-drive will span across Railway Colonies, Railway Schools, Railway Offices, Railway Hospitals and Health Units, important Railway Stations, and Railway tracks. In this comprehensive program the Public Relations Department of Eastern Railway is fully involved alongside the Environment and Housekeeping Management (EnHM) departments from

all divisions and the Bharat Scouts and Guides, where each and every person has an equal contribution toward the mission's success. A detailed activity calendar has been prepared in advance to ensure the entire campaign period is filled with impactful action. The awareness drive will be concentrated in high-footfall areas using public address systems, posters, and interpersonal communication for maximum outreach. To engage the public effectively, the campaign will feature a variety of creative activities including Slogan Writing, Painting and Poster Making, Cartoon Making, Nukkad Natak or Street Plays, Door-to-Door Awareness Campaigns, Passenger Awareness Drives at stations, and a modern twist with the inclusion of Reels and Short Videos on Swachhata, with a spe-

cial emphasis placed on involving the energy of youth and school children. The campaign will have a significant presence across several key locations. In the Asansol Division, the drive will cover Durgapur, Andal, Raniganj, Asansol, Madhupur, and Jasidih. Within the Howrah Division, activities will be held at Howrah, Seoraphuli, Bandel, Barddhaman, Katwa, Ranpurhat, Bolpur Shantiniketan, and Azimganj. The Sealdah Division will see participation from Sealdah, Dum Dum Junction, Barasat, Barrackpore, Naihati, Dakshineswar, Park Circus, Komagata Maru Budge Budge, and Ballygunge. Furthermore, the Malda Division will include Malda Town, Sahibganj, and Bhagalpur, while the Liluah area will focus on Liluah and Belur.

Performance Highlights of Signal and Telecom Department, Khurda Road Division for 2025-26

MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Apr.26 : Khurda Road Division Registered Significant Safety and Modernization Achievements in for the financial year 2025-26, reaffirming its commitment to enhancing safety, reliability, and passenger amenities across the division. by upgrading the Signal and Telecom Department

18 level crossing gates, ensuring trains can pass only when gates are properly closed and locked against road traffic. Additionally, 34 gates were equipped with sliding boom barriers, while 25 gates were fitted with electrically operated lifting barriers, thereby enhancing safety as well as road user mobility.

During the year, new interlocking systems were successfully commissioned at Meramandali, Baitarani Road, Korai, and Tapanga stations. Modern interlocking systems play a vital role in ensuring safe and efficient train operations and further supports smooth handling of increased train traffic.

As part of ongoing modernization efforts, Automatic block signalling (auto section working) was commissioned in the Cuttack-Paradeep section, maximizing the usage of existing track capacity without major physical expansion and enables operation of multiple trains within the same section with reduced headway, thereby enhancing line capacity. Passenger amenities were also upgraded with

the commissioning of CCTV surveillance systems at Talcher station to enhance security. Further, Automatic Announcement Systems were installed at Kendujhargarh and Bhubaneswar New stations for improved dissemination of passenger information. Notably, sustained efforts towards system reliability and asset improvement have led to a significant reduction of approximately 30% in signal failures, reflecting strengthened maintenance practices and technological up gradation. These achievements underscore the Khurda Road division's continued focus on adopting advanced technologies, ensuring safe and efficient train operations, and delivering improved services to passengers.

Regulation Of Trains For Development Work Over East Central Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata, 10 Apr.26 : Due to Pre Non-Interlocking / Non-Interlocking work at different stations in Danapur Division over East Central Railway in connection with Automatic Block Signalling work upto 11.04.2026, following trains will be regulated as under:

- Diversion of trains:
• 13322 Patna - Dhanbad Express (journey commencing on 11.04.2026) will be diverted via Bakhtiyarpur - Bihar Sharif - Sheikhpura - Kiul skipping stoppages at Barh, Mokama, Hathidah and Barhiya stations.
• 63209 Deoghar - Patna MEMU (journey commencing on 11.04.2026) will be diverted via Luckeesarai - Sheikhpura - Bihar Sharif - Bakhtiyarpur skipping stoppages at Mankatha, Dumri Halt, Barhiya, Rampur Dumra, Hatidah, Tall Jn, Mokama, Mor, Purnakh, Barh and Athmal Gola stations.
• Rescheduling of trains:
• 18420 Jaynagar - Puri Express (journey commencing on 11.04.2026) will be rescheduled by 03 hours.
• 15658 Kamakhya - Delhi Brahmaputra Mail (journey commencing on 10.04.2026) will be rescheduled by 02 hours.



- Controlling of trains:
• 13208 Patna - Jasidih Express (journey commencing on 10.04.2026) will be controlled enroute by 105 minutes.
• 63210 Patna - Deoghar MEMU (journey commencing on 10.04.2026) will be controlled enroute by 35 minutes.
• 22843 Bilaspur - Buxar Superfast Express (journey commencing on 10.04.2026) will be controlled enroute by 95 minutes.
• 13208 Patna - Jasidih Express (journey commencing on 11.04.2026) will be controlled enroute by 60 minutes.
• 22198 VGL Jhansi - Kolkata Express (journey commencing on 10.04.2026) will be controlled enroute by 125 minutes.

Ai announces fuel surcharge hike on domestic, global routes

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Air India group will impose fresh fuel surcharges on domestic and international flights from April 8, citing a steep rise in global jet fuel prices that has significantly increased operating costs.



The airline on Tuesday said the surcharge will range from Rs 299 to Rs 899 for domestic flights and USD 24 to USD 280 for international routes, with some sectors excluded. The revised charges will also apply to flights operated by its low-cost arm, Air India Express.

Further, in the absence of any mitigation on international ATF prices, the Air India group will be implementing more significant changes to fuel surcharges.

Revisions to fuel surcharge on flights to and from Bangladesh and Far East destinations such as Japan, Hong Kong, and South Korea, will be advised in due course subject to the requisite regulatory approvals, it said. Following the government's decision to cap domestic Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price hike at 25 per cent, Air India group has adopted this calibrated approach, transitioning from a flat domestic surcharge to a distance-based grid, the airline said.

The other domestic carrier IndiGo has already revised an upward revision in fuel surcharge. Citing latest International Air Transport Association (IATA) data, the airline said the global average jet fuel price rose to USD 195.19 per

barrel for the week ending March 27, up from USD 99.40 at the end of February, recording a surge of close to 100 per cent.

ATF accounts for almost 40-45 per cent of an airline's total cost. ATF, produced by refining crude oil, has seen simultaneous increases in both its crude oil component as well as the refinery margin, known as 'crack spread', with the latter having nearly tripled within three weeks.

It increased from USD 27.83 per barrel for the week ending February 27 to USD 81.44 for the week ending March 27, Air India said, adding this steep rise compounds the impact of rising crude oil prices, creating one of the most challenging fuel cost environments that airlines globally have faced in recent years.

The fuel surcharges on international routes do not compensate for the exponential increase in jet fuel prices for international flights. Air India continues to absorb a significant portion of this increased cost, the company said.

CBSE mandates 3 languages for classes VI to X

MI News Service, New Delhi: Children enrolled in Class VI in 2026-27 in schools affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will be the first batch required to study three languages in Classes IX and X, under a modified policy enforced by the board.

The board will make R3 (third language) compulsory from Class VI from 2026-27, ensuring each learner studies at least two Indian languages, with the cohort continuing it up to Class X. The policy will apply to students appearing in the Class X boards in 2030-31.

Those who fail the third language in Class VIII but are promoted to Class IX will be examined by schools at the end of Class IX in the same syllabus and textbooks as prescribed for Class VIII. Those still unable to clear it may get another chance in Class X.

No student shall be eligible to appear in the Secondary School Examination of the Board at the end of Class X unless she/he has passed in the third language.

According to the recommendations of NCFSE-2023, two of the three must be native Indian lan-

Iran war fails to impact Indian pig iron prices

MI News Service, Kolkata: Despite rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly between Iran and the U.S., India's pig iron prices have remained largely stable. Prices declined slightly by USD 8 to USD 405 per tonne as of March 20, 2026, ending a two-month upward trend.

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), NMDC, and several private mini blast furnaces continue steady production, ensuring adequate supply in the market. Weak demand for steel in key global markets including China and Europe has also kept international prices soft, offsetting potential price pressure arising from geopolitical tensions. In addition, stable coking coal prices from Australia—India's primary supplier—have further supported price stability.

Adequate inventories at steel plants and foundries have helped prevent panic buying and sudden price spikes. Moreover, export demand remains limited, while most freight routes used by Indian suppliers avoid sensitive conflict zones such as the Strait of Hormuz, minimizing the impact of rising freight and insurance costs.

Industry experts attribute this stability to India's diversified sourcing and strong domestic production capacity. India has limited dependence on imports from Iran and primarily sources pig iron and raw materials from countries such as Russia, South Africa, and Brazil. Major domestic producers like

foundries also maintain flexibility by using alternative raw materials such as scrap, Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), and sponge iron, allowing them to manage fluctuations in pig iron supply and pricing. A production surplus in 2025 had already led to inventory build-up and an 11 percent year-on-year decline in prices, which continues to cushion the market.

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: L65190G1994PLC021012, 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.

Table with 5 columns: 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. Row 1: (Borrower) Sneha Enterprise & (Co Applicant) Kamrul Islam & (Guarantor) Kamrul Islam & Waheda Banu & (Mortgagor) Kamrul Islam / Represented By Proprietor Kamrul Islam Katlamari, Pukhuriya Jame Masjid West Bengal Malda - 732102 / 047205501055, L.R. Khatian No. 142, Dag No. 1321, J.I. No. 76, P.S. Ratua At Present Pukhuriya, Mouza Laskarpur, A.D.S.R.O. Ratua, District Malda, West Bengal, Owned By Kamrul Islam, (Admeasuring An Area of 2,333 Decimal North: Heir of Umed Ali South: Heir of Umed Ali East: Abdul Motin West 20 Ft. Wide Pucca Road/ Date of Symbolic : 08/04/2026, 17/11/2025, 20,61,218,28/-, Malda

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(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: April 11, 2026 Place: Malda Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

# HC Greenlights Hazra protest, sets strict conditions

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant ruling, the Calcutta High Court on Friday allowed the Sangrami Joutha Mancha to hold its proposed protest meeting at Hazra intersection on April 12, overturning the earlier refusal by the police. However, the court imposed a series of strict conditions to ensure that public order and normal life are not disrupted.

The order was passed by Justice Saugata Bhattacharya, who questioned the state's justification for denying permission. The court observed that Hazra More was not under prohibitory restrictions such as Section 144 (BNS 163), and asked why the organisation alone was being prevented from assembling if similar gatherings were otherwise permitted in the area. Granting conditional approval, the court

specified that the meeting can take place only between 12 noon and 3 PM, with participation limited to a maximum of 1,000 people. It also clearly prohibited any form of procession and directed organisers to ensure that traffic movement remains unaffected. Additionally, strict compliance with noise pollution norms has been made mandatory. The bench emphasised the importance of maintaining a balance between fundamental rights and public convenience. It noted that while the right to peaceful assembly is a core democratic freedom, it should not lead to inconvenience or disruption for the general public. The ruling reflects the judiciary's effort to uphold constitutional rights while safeguarding civic order. The Sangrami Joutha Mancha, a platform representing agitat-

ing government employees, has been demanding the immediate clearance of pending dearness allowance (DA) dues. The group insists that payments should align with the All India Consumer Price Index and comply with directives issued by the Supreme Court of India. The forum has also raised concerns about the alleged lack of action following a recent attack on a government employee engaged in election duty, despite the matter being reported to the Election Commission. After police denied permission for the April 12 protest, the organisation approached the High Court seeking relief. With this ruling, the path has been cleared for the gathering, albeit under tight regulatory conditions, amid heightened political and administrative sensitivity in the state ahead of elections.

# Boat carrying pilgrims overturns in Uttar Pradesh's Yamuna; at least 10 dead, many missing



MI News Service, Brindaban: Boat Capsizes in Uttar Pradesh's Yamuna River. On Friday afternoon, a boat packed with devotees overturned. Reports indicate that at least 10 people have died so far. The deceased have been identified as six women and four men. Many others remain missing. It is feared that the death toll may rise. Rescue operations are currently being conducted by teams from the NDRF and the local administration.

According to police sources, a group of approximately 150 devotees from Ludhiana, Punjab, had arrived in Vrindavan. On Friday, a number of these devotees took a boat to visit a local temple. During the journey, the boat collided with a bridge near KC Ghat, located within the jurisdiction of the Mant Police Station. Preliminary assessments suggest that the accident occurred because the boat crew lost control due to strong currents in the river.

Upon receiving the news, the police arrived at the scene, followed

by a team from the NDRF. Rescue operations commenced immediately, and divers were deployed. Fifteen individuals have been rescued alive and admitted to a hospital in Vrindavan, where they are currently undergoing treatment. Meanwhile, ten people have lost their lives, and many remain missing. A search operation is currently underway in the

river. District Magistrate CP Singh stated, "A tragic accident occurred in the Yamuna River on Friday. Due to strong currents, the boat collided with a pontoon bridge. A search operation is ongoing to locate the missing devotees."

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has expressed his condolences regarding this tragic accident.

In a social media post, he wrote, "This is an extremely tragic and heartbreaking incident. My deepest condolences go out to the bereaved families. Concerned officials have been directed to immediately visit the site, oversee rescue and relief operations, and ensure that the injured receive proper medical treatment."

# Centre watches global markets, LPG relief still distant

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid escalating geopolitical tensions in West Asia and fresh restrictions on shipping through the strategically critical Strait of Hormuz, domestic LPG and fuel prices in India remain unchanged, offering temporary stability but little immediate relief to consumers.

An oil tanker from Iran docking in Mumbai has raised expectations of a potential easing in fuel costs. However, officials have made it clear that no immediate price revision is on the horizon, as global uncertainties continue to weigh on energy markets. On Friday, the price of a 14.2 kg domestic LPG cylinder in Kolkata stood at ₹399, while a 19 kg commercial cylinder was priced at ₹2,208.50. Similar trends were observed across major metros, with domestic cylinder rates remaining static but commercial LPG wit-

nessing a marginal increase. In New Delhi, domestic LPG is priced at ₹913 and commercial at ₹2,078.50, while Mumbai recorded ₹912.50 and ₹2,031 respectively. Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad also reported stable domestic prices alongside a slight uptick in commercial cylinder rates. The Centre has sought to allay concerns, asserting that there is no shortage of LPG, petrol, or diesel in the country despite volatility in global supply chains. The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas maintained that India's fuel distribution network remains "robust and resilient," capable of withstanding external shocks. Officials emphasised that digitisation of the LPG supply chain\*\* has significantly improved transparency and efficiency. Currently, nearly 95% of LPG bookings are made online, while over 91% of deliv-

eries are tracked through the Delivery Authentication Code (DAC) system, reducing leakages and curbing diversion. At the same time, the government has intensified its crackdown on black marketing. According to official data, around 4,000 enforcement raids are conducted daily, leading to the seizure of approximately 1,000 cylinders. Authorities have reiterated a zero-tolerance approach towards irregularities in distribution. While the arrival of Iranian crude has sparked speculation, experts caution that retail price reductions depend on a broader stabilisation of global oil markets, particularly the situation in the Strait of Hormuz—a key artery for global energy supplies. For now, consumers can expect price stability but no immediate reduction, as the Centre continues to monitor international developments closely.



Shovon Deb Chattopadhyay, TMC candidate of Ballygunge Assembly Constituency in a public meeting at 68 no ward in Kolkata on Friday.

# ODISHA gov't begins self-defence prog for women

MI News Service, Cuttack: Deputy Chief Minister Pravatī Parida launched a self-defence training programme for 5,000 women self help group (SHG) members in its pilot phase at Mission Shakti Bhavan here, in the presence of National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar.

Parida said empowering women must go beyond financial independence and ensure their safety, dignity and confidence. "This self-defence training programme will equip our SHG women with the strength and skills to move fearlessly, take independent decisions and actively participate in economic activities," she said.

Rahatkar highlighted the need for institutional support to strengthen women's safety and capacity building. She said such initiatives play a vital role in making women self-reliant and confident, while enabling them

to contribute meaningfully to society and the economy.

The programme, implemented by the Mission Shakti department in partnership with the NCW, aims to provide self-defence and personal safety training to SHG members. In the pilot phase, it will cover 5,000 women across five districts—Korhda, Cuttack, Puri, Keonjhar and Ganjam.

Officials said the initiative is aimed at enhancing women's mobility, ensuring safer participation in market linkages and strengthening the foundation of women-led development in the state.

The event was attended by Odisha State Commission for Women chairperson Shobhna Mohanty, Mission Shakti commissioner-cum-secretary Mansi Nimbhal, additional secretary Shailendra Kumar Jena and other senior officials and stakeholders.

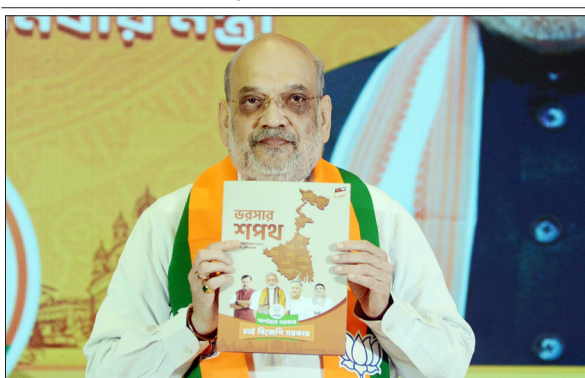
# Vande Bharat Trains Driving Demand for New Era of Fast, Comfortable & Modern Rail Travel Across the Country

MI News Service, 10 April, 2026 New Delhi: Indian Railways has witnessed a remarkable surge in passenger patronage on the Vande Bharat Express network, with approximately 3.98 crore passengers travelling in FY 2025-26 alone, marking a robust year-on-year growth of nearly 34 percent from 2.97 crore passengers in FY 2024-25. This sharp rise highlights the growing preference for fast, comfortable, and modern rail travel among passengers across the country. Since its inception, the Vande Bharat Express has served over 9.1 crore passengers through 1 lakh trips, reflecting widespread public trust and sustained demand.



passengers across 119 trips, achieving an occupancy rate of over 100 percent, indicating strong demand and increasing passenger confidence in premium overnight rail travel.

The Vande Bharat Express stands as a testament to Indian Railways' commitment to innovation, passenger-centric service, and indigenous manufacturing. With continued expansion connecting metros, pilgrimage destinations, heritage cities, and emerging economic hubs, along with the addition of the Sleeper variant, Indian Railways is steadily advancing towards providing faster, safer, and more comfortable journeys, with the Vande Bharat Express leading the transformation of modern rail travel in India.



Minister of Home Affairs, Amit Shah, BIP State president Samik Bhattacharya, LoP Suwendu Adhikari during BIP manifesto release program ahead of West Bengal Assembly election in Kolkata on Friday

Indian Railways continues to redefine passenger travel with the Vande Bharat Express. India's first indigenously designed and manufactured semi-high-speed train. Launched on the New Delhi-Varanasi route in February 2019, the service has evolved into a nationwide network symbolising speed, comfort, and self-reliance under the Make in India initiative.

The New Delhi-Varanasi route remains the busiest, having recorded over 73 lakh passengers so far. The New Delhi-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra route has served approximately 56 lakh passen-

gers, underlining its importance for pilgrimage travel. In southern India, the Secunderabad-Visakhapatnam route has served more than 48 lakh passengers, while the Puratli Thalaivar Dr. MGR Central (Chennai)-Mysuru route has catered to over 36 lakh passengers, reflecting strong regional demand. These services have also emerged as vital enablers of tourism, improving access to key religious, cultural, and coastal destinations while boosting local economies and visitor footfall.

Further strengthening long-distance connectivity, Indian Railways introduced the Vande Bharat Sleeperservice in January 2026. In just the first three months of operation, the service carried 1.21 lakh

passengers across 119 trips, achieving an occupancy rate of over 100 percent, indicating strong demand and increasing passenger confidence in premium overnight rail travel.

The Vande Bharat Express stands as a testament to Indian Railways' commitment to innovation, passenger-centric service, and indigenous manufacturing. With continued expansion connecting metros, pilgrimage destinations, heritage cities, and emerging economic hubs, along with the addition of the Sleeper variant, Indian Railways is steadily advancing towards providing faster, safer, and more comfortable journeys, with the Vande Bharat Express leading the transformation of modern rail travel in India.

# All-round arms 'Atmanirbhar' imperative: AIR MARSHAL

MI News Service, New Delhi / Bengaluru: Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit said atmanirbharta (self-reliance) in defence was not just about making weapons in India but also ensuring technological sovereignty.

"Atmanirbharta in defence is not just about making weapons in India. It is about controlling architectures

— software, encryption, data standards and upgrade cycles. Without that control, we are dependent on others at the worst possible time," he said.

He flagged the concerns with an aim to prevent foreign dependency, especially during critical moments, by securing control over algorithms, data and chips that drive modern platforms.

warfare preparedness, saying India needs to effectively address these pressing issues to prepare for modern warfare.

"Despite the Narendra Modi government's ambitious project of self-reliance in the defence sector, India is still dependent on imported military inventory. If critical components are imported and assembled in India, then India cannot be atmanirbhar (self-reliant) in the defence sector," a retired lieutenant general told.

India, he said, does not have enough indigenous capability to produce artillery guns, sonar systems, light combat helicopters and radars but the government has been claiming to make India a defence manufacturing hub for the world. "In the absence of enough indigenous capability, how can India achieve self-reliance in the defence sector? We need to first build up indigenous capability and develop new technologies to boost domestic manufacturing in the defence sector," he said. Air Marshal Dixit said India's environment gave thrust to multi-domain operations (MDOs) as the country faces threats that do not respect domain boundaries. He flagged the shifting landscape of global security, pointing out that the distinction between wartime and peacetime was fading as nations face constant contestation across multiple domains. "India's environment makes this transformation urgent — not aspirational."

# EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender No.: LRC-3\_CT\_V-WRAP-PT-III, dated 09.04.2026. e-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (LHB), Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 from tenderers having financial & technical capabilities for the following work: **Name of Work:** "Supply & Apply of Vinyl Wrapping on Coach exteriors except End Panels of Duronto Coaches (LHB), Humsafar coaches (LHB), LHB (Rajdhani), Satabdi & Jan Satabdi Colour) coaches, Vande Bharat & Amrit Bharat coaches with anti-Graffiti Measures". **Approx. Cost of Works:** ₹ 3.64, 10,167/- **Earnest Money:** ₹ 7.28,200/- **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 30.04.2026 at 14.00 hrs. **Website where complete details of Tender is available:** www.reps.gov.in Tenderers are advised to check IREPS portal frequently to find, if any, Corrigendum is published after publication of Tender Notice.

(MISC-09/2026-27)  
Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.indianrailways.gov.in / www.reps.gov.in  
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

The remarks come at a time when India has cleared a proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets from France for the Indian Air Force (IAF) and six P-8I long-range maritime reconnaissance aircraft from the US for the navy.

As many as 114 Rafales, manufactured by the French firm Dassault Aviation, will be procured under a government-to-government framework, with 90 to be manufactured in India and the rest likely to be procured in fly-away condition.

Sources said the French government was reluctant to provide India with the source code for the Rafale fighter jets' electronic systems, which would have allowed India to modernise them independently, limiting the aircraft's full operational effectiveness.

After Operation Sindoor, military veterans have flagged delayed equipment procurement, over-dependence on imports for critical defence technology, inadequate air-defence systems and drone

warfare preparedness, saying India needs to effectively address these pressing issues to prepare for modern warfare.

"Despite the Narendra Modi government's ambitious project of self-reliance in the defence sector, India is still dependent on imported military inventory. If critical components are imported and assembled in India, then India cannot be atmanirbhar (self-reliant) in the defence sector," a retired lieutenant general told.

India, he said, does not have enough indigenous capability to produce artillery guns, sonar systems, light combat helicopters and radars but the government has been claiming to make India a defence manufacturing hub for the world. "In the absence of enough indigenous capability, how can India achieve self-reliance in the defence sector? We need to first build up indigenous capability and develop new technologies to boost domestic manufacturing in the defence sector," he said. Air Marshal Dixit said India's environment gave thrust to multi-domain operations (MDOs) as the country faces threats that do not respect domain boundaries. He flagged the shifting landscape of global security, pointing out that the distinction between wartime and peacetime was fading as nations face constant contestation across multiple domains. "India's environment makes this transformation urgent — not aspirational."

# SC flags inclusivity in Sabarimala hearing

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court observed that traditional practices cannot be expected to divide the Hindu religion, pointing to the need for inclusivity while hearing the Centre's arguments in favour of appeals seeking the continuation of the ban on women of childbearing age from entering the Sabarimala temple in Kerala. The Centre told the nine-judge constitution bench that courts should not interfere with traditional practices such as those followed by the temple. "Everybody must have access to every temple and mutt. But if you say it is a practice and it is a matter of belief, that I will exclude others and only my sects, my denominations will be allowed in the temple and nobody else, that is not good for Hinduism."

# Kultali Development Block

Tenders are here by invited by the undersigned for different works vide NIT-02/Elec./Kul/2026, Dt-09/04/2026. Last date of submission-16/04/2026 up to 6.50 P.M. For More details please visit www.wbtenders.gov.in & Kultali Development Block Office.

Sd/-  
Block Development Officer  
Kultali Development Block &  
Assistant Returning Officer  
129-Kultali (SC) AC, GEWBLA 2026, South 24 PGS

**NOTICE**  
My clients (1) SMT. RINA DAS, of 53 E. Bhagirathi Lane 11 P.O. & P.S. Shrirampur, District Hooghly, Pin 712202, (2) SMT. GEETA MANNA, of 1/125, Bazar Para, Ghosh Para Road, P.O. -Halisahar, P.S. Bipur, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin-743134 (3) SMT. MEGHA SENGUPTA, of B.M. 1 Sanchayoni, Saitabzar Road, P.O. Burdwan, P.S. Burdwan (Sadar), District Burdwan, Pin 713101, appointed **NEPAL CHANDRA SEN**, of Jadu Ghosh Lane, P.O. & P.S. - Chandernagore, District-Hooghly, Pin-712136 as their ATTORNEY in respect of the property mentioned therein, vide GPA Deed No. 3279/2025, 3281/2025, 3280/2025 respectively, registered at the office of ADSR Chandannagar, Hooghly. Now on 24.03.2026 my clients have been REVOKED the General Power of Attorney (Deed No. 3279/2025, 3281/2025, 3280/2025) by executing Revocation of General Power of Attorney vide Deed No. 0018/2026, 0019/2026, 0020/2026, respectively, registered at the office of ADSR Chandannagar, Hooghly. **NEPAL CHANDRA SEN** is no longer the Attorney for my clients namely (1) SMT. RINA DAS, (2) SMT. GEETA MANNA, (3) SMT. MEGHA SENGUPTA in respect of my clients property. **Subhashis Debsarma (Advocate)**, Dist. Judges' Court, Hooghly

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)**  
**Attention! Diagnostic Centers/Hospitals**  
Notification No.: HG/MED/Tie-Up/ENT INV/2026  
Chief Medical Superintendent, Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah is inviting applications for **Expression of Interest (EOI)** from interested diagnostic centers/hospitals for extending investigative facilities on **ENT investigations** to railway patients of Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah for **02 (two) years**. **Last Date and time of receipt of application is on 30.04.2026 up to 14.00 hrs.** The details are available in Eastern Railway Website: [www.er.indianrailways.gov.in](http://www.er.indianrailways.gov.in) under Division-Howrah-Department-Medical.  
Chief Medical Superintendent, Howrah  
**EASTERN RAILWAY**  
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

**SBI Basirhat Branch (00030) NOTICE**  
It is inform the Public at large that Registered Deed No. 2450/1994 recorded at ADSR Cossipur Dumdund and Deed No. 2359/1992 recorded at DSR Barasat in the name of Arun Kumar Roy Chowdhury was not found from the State Bank of India, Basirhat Branch (00030), Hinda Road, New Market, Dist- North 24 Parganas, PIN 743411 subsequently it was thoroughly searched in the Office and Customer/Borrower - Arun Kumar Roy Chowdhury also searched his custody but till date the said Deeds are not traceable. In this connection a General Diary was lodged in the Basirhat Police Station and it was registered as GDE No. 650 dated 07.04.2026. Any person, agent, representative of any institution, if found the said Deeds then immediately deposit the said Deeds to the Undersigned or to the State Bank of India, Basirhat Branch (00030), Hinda Road, New Market, Dist- North 24 Parganas, PIN 743411.  
Date: 11.04.2026, Place: Kolkata (ARINDAM INDU) SBI, Advocate, Mobile: 9239248072

# 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 Demanded Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	(Borrower) Suchitra Enterprise & (Guarantor) Sanjay Paul & Subal Pal & (Mortgagor) Subal Pal / Represented by Proprietor Sanjay Kumar Paul 669 358 581 English Bazar, S M Pally Manasakomana Lake West Bengal, Kolkata- 7132101 / 047205501073	Dag No. 223, Khatian No. 51, J.L. No. 106, Mouza Khairhat, Thana, Sub Registry Office & District Matla, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 4 Decimal Bounded By: On The North By: Shanta Ghosh on The South By: Municipality Road on The East By: Others on The West By: Nitesh Chandra Sankar) Date of Symbolic: 08/04/2026	26/05/2025 Rs. 17,97,114.17/-	Malda

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(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: April 11, 2026  
Place: Malda  
Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

# ALCHEMIST ASSET RECONSTRUCTION COMPANY LIMITED

CIN No. U74999DL2002PLC17052  
A-270, 1st & 2nd Floor, Defence Colony, New Delhi - 110 024, India  
Email: admin@alchemistarc.com, Website: www.alchemistarc.com

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

**DETAILS OF BORROWERS / ACCOUNTS**

Sr. No.	Loan Account No.	Name of Borrower(s) / Co-Borrower(s) / Guarantor(s)	Amount Due (₹)	Date of 13(2) Notice	Description of Secured Asset	Due Date
1	PR01208356	GOPAL CH BISWAS GOPAL CH BISWAS CHITRA BISWAS RUPAK BISWAS TAPATI KARMAKAR ALOKE KR BISWAS	16,23,890	11-MARCH-2026	Mouza- Swastayagachhi, J.L. No.14, Touzi No-87, Sabek. Khatian No-4256, Sabek Dag No-663, P.O.- Polehat, P.S.- Kashipur, Under 1 No Polehat Gram Panchayat, Dist. Kashipur, Pin-700135. Boundaries: East - Panchanan Biswas, West - Sankar Biswas, North - Pond, South - Road.	7th November 2025
2	PR01041104	PAGAL STORES SACHIN MAJUMDER RUNU MAJUMDER	4,51,874	9-MARCH-2026	1, Ananda Nagar, Dag No. 1679, Mouza Pachim Barisha, P. S.ThakurpukurLokenath Mandir, Kolkata West Bengal - 700061	30th September 2025

The amounts mentioned above are due as on the respective dates indicated against each account, together with further interest, penal charges, costs, and expenses thereon till the date of realization.  
The borrower(s)/guarantor(s) are hereby cautioned not to deal with or dispose of, by way of sale, lease, mortgage, charge, or otherwise, the secured asset(s) described above without the prior written consent of the Secured Creditor.  
This publication is made in compliance with the provisions of the SARFAESI Act, 2002, for the information of the borrower(s), guarantor(s), and the general public.  
In case of any queries, please contact the undersigned at the following contact details: Phone: 011-46562584  
Email: admin@alchemistarc.com, ashutosh@alchemistarc.com  
Date: 11.04.2026  
Place: WEST BENGAL  
Sd/- Authorised Officer  
Alchemist Asset Reconstruction Company Limited  
(acting in its capacity as Trustee of Alchemist XLVII Trust) Secured Creditor

## Kidney stone risk is lowered by a class of diabetes medications: Study

LOS ANGELES [US]: Kidney stones are becoming increasingly common around the world. Type 2 diabetes is related to an increased risk of kidney stones; however, various forms of treatment for this condition may potentially reduce the risk of kidney stones.

Researchers at Mass General Brigham discovered that using sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors was associated with a decreased chance of acquiring kidney stones.

The findings were published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

The study included data from three nationwide databases of patients with type 2 diabetes who were seen in routine clinical practice. The team analyzed information from 716,406 adults with type 2 diabetes who had started taking an SGLT2 inhibitor or two other classes of diabetes medications known as GLP1 receptor agonists or dipeptidyl peptidase 4 (DPP4) inhibitors.

Patients who began taking SGLT2 inhibitors had a 30 per cent lower risk of developing kidney stones than those taking GLP1 agonists and about a 25 per cent lower risk than those taking DPP4 inhibitors.

Researchers from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital, founding members of the Mass General Brigham healthcare system, worked together to conduct the analysis.

The findings were consistent across sex, race/ethnicity, history of chronic kidney disease and obesity.

"Our findings could help inform clinical decision-making for patients with diabetes who are at risk for developing kidney stones," said corresponding author Julie Paik, MD, ScD, MPH, of the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics and the Division of Renal (Kidney) Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital.



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

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

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

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

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



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

The researchers compared rates of subsequent revascularization between patients whose initial evaluation was coronary CTA versus stress testing or clinical judgement (no testing). The "CT first" strategy was associated with subsequent revascularization in 62% of patients compared to 34% for the combination of other modalities or

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

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

does not apply to all, as some patient factors may reduce the accuracy and utility of coronary CTA.

"While care must be individualized, for patients with unknown or unestablished coronary artery disease, the transition to a 'CT first' strategy should be a high priority for cardiovascular care providers," Scherer said. "The non-invasive approach has a lower risk and cost than a diagnostic heart catheterization and, for the CT approach—but not stress testing—provides information on the absence, presence and extent of coronary atherosclerosis and whether or not there are high risk plaques as well as vessel blockages, which helps streamline patient management and risk reduction."

Since coronary CTA is less expensive than both nuclear myocardial perfusion imaging and ICA, there is a direct cost saving to patients and third-party payers with the CT first approach, according to Scherer. From the perspective of a health system, the most financially efficient evaluation approach becomes more important during the transition to a value-oriented health care system.

According to the authors, the study demonstrates "real world" credence to the randomized trials showing similar benefits to a "CT first" strategy and should promote increased adoption of this strategy for the evaluation of patients with chest pain and an unestablished history of coronary artery disease.

"Cardiac catheterization labs are a capital and human resource intensive care environment. Using them for their maximum potential of treating disease, rather than diagnosing it, bring the highest yield for these resources to the health care system," Scherer said.

## This oil can be natural treatment for dry eye conditions

AUCKLAND [NEW ZEALAND]: Following a successful pilot study, researchers at the University of Auckland are conducting a clinical trial of castor oil as a potentially safe and natural treatment for dry eye conditions.

It is estimated that dry-eye illness affects approximately 58 per cent of the population aged 50 and up in Australia.

Some risk factors for developing dry eye disease include advanced age, menopause, increased screen time, and contact lens wear.

Blepharitis is the leading cause of dry eye illness, accounting for more than 80 per cent of cases. It is a chronic disease with no known cure.

"Currently, patients are left grappling with symptoms of dryness, grittiness and, in some cases, watery eyes that feel uncomfortable impacting on their quality of life and work productivity," says doctoral candidate and lead clinical investigator Catherine Jennings.

Current treatments, such as antibacterials and anti-inflam-



matories, are generally unsuitable for long-term use, due to significant side effects and the potential for antimicrobial resistance.

"Often patients are left feeling helpless when attempting to manage a chronic condition," Jennings said. The current trial is of a product containing cold-pressed castor oil enhanced with manuka and kanuka oils applied using a rollerball attached to a small glass bottle.

"The previous pilot study, conducted by our research team, was unique in its use of castor oil in such an application on the eye-

lids, with the product not known to be used anywhere else in the world for treating blepharitis," said Jennings. Castor oil comes from a flowering tropical or subtropical shrub from the species *Ricinus communis*. It has been used therapeutically for millennia, including more recently in eye cosmetics and eye makeup removers. In the pilot study, 26 patients with blepharitis were treated with cold-pressed castor oil over four weeks. They had measurable improvements in symptoms, such as reduced redness of the lid margin, decreased thickening of the eyelid, and a

decline in bacterial profusion, as well as reduced eyelash crusting.

Building on the success of the pilot study, the research team is now engaged in a more extensive double-blinded, randomised and placebo-controlled study. They are aiming to recruit 92 participants and generate robust scientific evidence for clinicians.

The ultimate goal is to sustainably improve the quality of life for this large group of patients using a natural, safe and effective product, principal investigator Professor Jennifer Craig said.

"Castor oil has been proposed as a natural product that could offer a safe, effective and easy-to-use alternative to existing therapies," Craig said.

"My hope is this study will produce evidence-based guidance for clinicians about offering castor oil as a possible management option for patients suffering from blepharitis, so they continue to enjoy a great quality of life, read the books they love, be productive in their work environment and enjoy other visual hobbies."

## STUDY IDENTIFIES BRAIN AREAS THAT INFLUENCE POLITICAL INTENSITY



ILLINOIS: A person's level of political engagement can be influenced by a variety of factors, including education and environment. A new study led by Northwestern University and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab, has for the first time revealed which brain networks control political passion.

The study analyzed Vietnam War veterans with and without brain injuries. By comparing people who had very localized brain lesions with those who didn't, the study team was able to identify the brain structures that can modify the intensity of political feelings.

Damage to the prefrontal cortex, a region responsible for cognitive control and reasoning, led to an increase in the intensity of political feelings. Conversely, damage to the amygdala, a brain structure involved in emotional processing, decreased political intensity in participants. These findings held true even after accounting for factors like age, education, party affiliation, personality traits and other neuropsychiatric symptoms.

"While most people have not sustained brain injuries akin to those experienced by the veterans in the study, our findings tell us what neural circuits are at play for the population at large," said senior author Jordan Grafman, professor of physical medicine and rehabilitation at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and director of brain injury research at Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

"We didn't find brain networks tied to liberal or conservative ideology, but we identified circuits that influence the intensity of political engagement across the political spectrum," Grafman added. "This suggests that factors like emotion shape how pre-existing political beliefs are expressed, rather than determining ideology itself."

Recognizing these brain mechanisms can help guide people in productive political engagement. For instance, one strategy would be to engage with others while reducing emotional attachment, or to take the position of an adversary in a discussion. Another approach would be to collaborate on a project both sides support.

The findings also have clinical implications. Currently, neuropsychiatric assessments rarely include questions about shifts in political behavior, but Grafman suggests they should. "Like other aspects of social behavior, assessments should consider asking whether a patient has experienced changes in their political attitudes since their brain injury," he said.

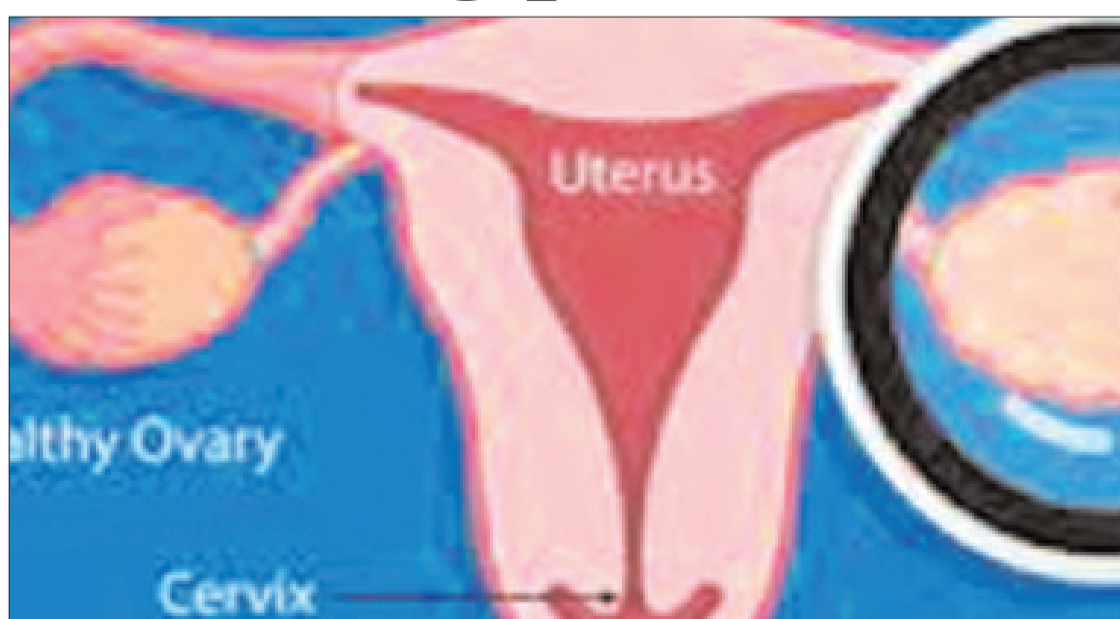
## Polycystic ovary syndrome linked to memory, thinking problems: Research

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

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

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

The study involved 907 female participants who were 18 to 30 years old at the start of the study. They were followed for 30 years, at which time they completed tests to



measure memory, verbal abilities, processing speed and attention.

At the time of testing, 66 participants had polycystic ovary syndrome. In a test measuring attention, participants looked at a list of words in different colors and were asked to state the color of the ink rather than read the actual word. For example, the word "blue" could be displayed in red, so the correct response would be red.

Researchers found for this test, people with polycystic ovary syndrome had an average score that

was approximately 11% lower compared to people without the condition. After adjusting for age, race and education, researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower scores on three of the five tests that were given, specifically in areas of memory, attention and verbal abilities, when compared to those without this condition. At years 25 and 30 of the study, a smaller group of 291 participants had brain scans. Of those, 25 had polycystic ovary syndrome. With the scans, researchers looked at the

integrity of the white matter pathways in the brain by looking at movement of water molecules in the brain tissue.

Researchers found that people with polycystic ovary syndrome had lower white matter integrity, which may indicate early evidence of brain aging.

"Additional research is needed to confirm these findings and to determine how this change occurs, including looking at changes that people can make to reduce their chances of thinking and memory

problems," Huddleston said. "Making changes like incorporating more cardiovascular exercise and improving mental health may serve to also improve brain aging for this population."

A limitation of the study was that polycystic ovary syndrome diagnosis was not made by a doctor but was based on androgen levels and self-reported symptoms, so participants may not have remembered all the information accurately.

The study was funded by the University of California, San Francisco.

Learn more about brain health at [BrainandLife.org](http://BrainandLife.org), home of the American Academy of Neurology's free patient and caregiver magazine focused on the intersection of neurologic disease and brain health.

When posting to social media channels about this research, we encourage you to use the hashtags #Neurology and #AANscience.

The American Academy of Neurology is the world's largest association of neurologists and neuroscience professionals, with over 40,000 members. The AAN is dedicated to promoting the highest quality patient-centered neurologic care. A neurologist is a doctor with specialized training in diagnosing, treating and managing disorders of the brain and nervous system such as Alzheimer's disease, stroke, migraine, multiple sclerosis, concussion, Parkinson's disease and epilepsy.

# Pakistan defence minister labels Israel 'evil and a curse for humanity' during fragile US-Iran ceasefire talks

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif has strongly condemned Israel, describing it as "evil and a curse for humanity" while accusing the country of committing genocide in Lebanon.

His remarks, posted on X (formerly Twitter) on Thursday, came as US-Iran ceasefire talks—mediated by Pakistan—were set to begin in Islamabad.

In the post, Asif stated: "Israel is evil and a curse for humanity. While peace talks are underway in Islamabad, genocide is being committed in Lebanon. Innocent citizens are being killed by Israel—first Gaza, then Iran and now Lebanon. Bloodletting continues unabated."

He further labeled Israel a "cancerous state" implanted on Palestinian land, claiming its existence has sown destruction and instability across the region. Asif added a harsh personal note, hoping those who created the state "to get rid of European Jews" would "burn in hell."



The statement follows Israel's recent large-scale airstrikes on Lebanon, which reportedly killed over 300 people and injured more than 1,150 in a single day of intense bombardment shortly after a US-Iran ceasefire announcement. These attacks have drawn widespread international criticism and raised concerns about the fragile truce.

Pakistan, acting as mediator, has maintained that the 15-day ceasefire—based on Israel's 10-

point proposal—includes Lebanon, a position disputed by Israel and the US.

Pakistan has historically supported the Palestinian cause and Lebanese resistance against what it views as Israeli occupation and expansionism. Asif's comments reflect Islamabad's firm stance rejecting Israel's legitimacy and calling for an immediate halt to its military actions.

The timing of Asif's remarks has sparked diplomatic tension.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office denounced the statement as a "call for Israel's annihilation," while questions have arisen about Pakistan's neutrality as a mediator in the US-Iran talks scheduled in Islamabad. Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif has emphasized commitment to diplomacy and adherence to the ceasefire.

This latest escalation stems from broader regional conflict that began with Israel's actions against Iran on February 28, followed by intensified operations in Lebanon despite a prior 2024 ceasefire understanding with Hezbollah. Critics argue the continued violence undermines ongoing peace efforts.

Asif's strong words underscore Pakistan's principled position in solidarity with affected populations and its demand for ending what it calls a reign of terror. The situation remains fluid, with the success of upcoming negotiations in Islamabad hanging in the balance amid persistent hostilities.

# Iran suspends US talks over Israeli strikes in Lebanon

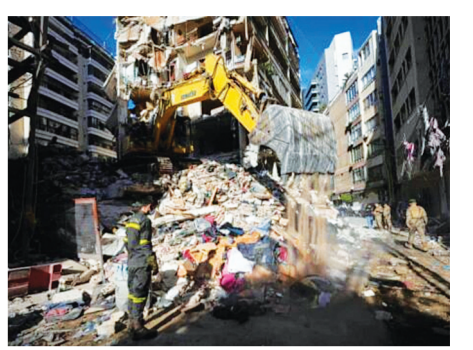
**MI News Service, Tehran:** Iran has suspended talks with the United States (US) on Friday, April 10, as Israeli strikes on Lebanon intensify, placing the fragile two-week ceasefire under growing pressure and raising concerns of wider regional instability.

According to The Jerusalem Post, discussions have been put on hold until a ceasefire between Israel and Lebanon is secured. The truce, brokered by Pakistan, entered its third day but remains contested. Tehran insists the arrangement extends to Lebanon, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there is "no ceasefire in Lebanon."

Israeli strikes were reported across southern Lebanon on Friday, further straining the already fragile truce and deepening uncertainty over its continuation.

The Israeli military has released new data outlining the scale of its aerial campaign in Iran, according to media reports on Friday. It said the Israeli Air Force carried out more than 1,000 strike missions inside Iran, deploying over 18,000 bombs against targets across the country.

US military bases across the Gulf have sustained significant damage following Iranian retaliatory strikes, reducing their operational capacity and raising concerns over their strategic effectiveness, according to Middle East Eye (MEE). Reports indicate that several installations are now only partially functional, although the extent of the damage has not been independently verified. Analysts cited by the publication said



the developments have exposed vulnerabilities in the US military presence in the region.

Access to affected bases remains restricted, with limited images or official details released, fuelling speculation over the scale of the impact. Some experts suggest that facilities once seen as key deterrents are increasingly viewed as potential targets.

The report also noted concerns over major installations, including the US Fifth Fleet headquarters in Bahrain, with questions raised about their long-term viability under current conditions. In a post on X, Israeli military spokesman Avichay Adrae said Hezbollah is making "extensive military use" of ambulances.

He added that Israel would act in accordance with international law against any such activity, including the alleged use of medical facilities and vehicles. The Israeli military has not provided evidence to support the claim.

## Israeli rabbi who called to flatten Gaza chosen for torchlighting



**MI News Service, Tel Aviv:** An Israeli rabbinical judge, Rabbi Avraham Zerbiv, who has been associated with calls to "flatten Gaza", has been selected to light a torch at Israel's 78th Independence Day ceremony on Tuesday, April 21, at Mount Herzl. Zerbiv, a 54-year-old judge at the Tel Aviv Rabbinical Court, is also an active reservist in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). During operations in Gaza following the October 7 attacks, he worked as a D9 armoured bulldozer operator, drawing attention through videos shared online.

According to Israeli media reports, including The Times of Israel and Ynet, he became known among troops for encouraging soldiers during deployments. Avraham Zerbiv, a judge based in the occupied West Bank settlement of Ariel, was found to have breached judicial ethics rules over statements and

media appearances in which he advocated the destruction of Gaza.

The selection was announced by Culture and Sports Minister Miri Regev following recommendations from a public advisory committee. Regev said the honour recognises individuals who contribute through both civic duty and religious life, adding that such figures help shape Israeli society.

In a post on X, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich praised Zerbiv, describing him as a "true Torah scholar" and commending his continued reserve service, adding that he "lifts the spirits of our fighters and instils strength and hope".

The decision has drawn criticism due to his association with demolition work in Gaza and remarks attributed to him during the conflict. Zerbiv told reporters in an interview that the recognition reflects the broader efforts of personnel in the field rather than his individual role. He added that such operations were intended to reduce risks to soldiers.

Torchlighting at Independence Day is considered a significant national honour in Israel, awarded to individuals seen as making notable contributions to public life.

## Calls For President Trump's Impeachment Gets Stronger



**MI News Service, Washington:** The House Democratic leadership has called for lawmakers to return to Washington immediately to hold a vote to end the Iran war. The statement, signed by Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York and other top House Democratic lawmakers, said President Trump is "completely unhelped" and that a vote is necessary to stop the president before he "plunges the country into World War III", reported the Wall Street Journal.

The House is currently out of session until Monday. A bipartisan War Powers Resolution opposing the war in Iran previously failed by a 212-219 vote in the House in March, as lawmakers largely voted along party lines.

The reticence expressed by Democrats about removing President Donald Trump from office—even after he ousted Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and attacked Iran without seeking congressional approval—quickly fell away after his latest threat to Iran. "This is a threat of genocide and merits removal from office. The President's mental faculties are collapsing and cannot be trusted," Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez,

D-N.Y., posted to X on Tuesday. "To every individual in the President's chain of command: You have a duty to refuse illegal orders. That includes carrying out this threat."

The chance of Trump being removed from office is low, and his Cabinet members—who would have to play an active role in invoking the 25th Amendment—routinely praise him.

According to CNBC, talk of removal began even before the Tuesday Truth Social post, after Trump started the clock on Iran with an Easter Sunday post threatening to attack Iranian bridges and power plants if the country did not soon make a deal.

Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, said in a statement late Tuesday that Trump should be removed from office one way or another. "If the Cabinet is not willing to invoke the 25th Amendment and restore sanity, Republicans must reconvene Congress to end this war," Pelosi said.

Even his close supporters like Wisconsin Republican Sen. Ron Johnson broke with Trump on his threats to bomb Iran's civilian infrastructure, saying in a podcast Monday, "I hope and pray" he is "using this as bluster." "I do not want to see us

start blowing up civilian infrastructure... We are not at war with the Iranian people. We are trying to liberate them," Johnson, a Trump ally who rarely breaks with the president, said in the "John Solomon Reports" podcast, reports ABC News.

But in reality, as per CNBC reports neither impeachment nor the use of the 25th Amendment is likely at the moment, with Republicans in control of both chambers and no open revolt within the Trump administration over the Iran war.

Section 4 of the 25th Amendment has never been invoked and would require buy-in from Vice President JD Vance, the Cabinet and eventually two-thirds of Congress if Trump argued he is not incapacitated.

Vance, who would assume the role of president if the 25th Amendment were invoked, on Tuesday lauded Trump from a stage in Budapest where he spoke in support of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

Even a Jewish leader in the US has decried President Trump's threat to destroy "a whole civilization" as his deadline for Iran nears. "We know what it means when leaders call for communities and populations to be wiped out," Amy Spitalnick, CEO of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, says in a statement. "Any suggestion that this advances Jewish or Israeli safety is simply an exploitation of our community to advance horrific war crimes and the President's broader extreme anti-democratic agenda," reports Times of Israel.

## Britain announces new legal measures against harmful online pornography

**MI News Service, London:** The British government on Friday announced new legal measures to crack down on harmful online pornography, including criminalizing the possession or publication of pornographic content depicting incest and adults pretending to be children. The measures were tabled as amendments to the Crime and Policing Bill. The government said the new offenses form part of its broader effort to tackle abusive online content, protect children, and reduce violence against women and girls. Under the proposed amendments, publishing such content could carry a maximum prison sentence of five years.

**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 (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Arka Samajdar/ Banani Samajdar/ Banani Samajdar/ Bachurdoba, P.O. And P.S. Jhargram West Midnapore Ward No. 6 West Bengal Jhargram- 721507/ TBMD00006548118	Rivi: Dag No. 298, Hal Dag No. 379, Revisional Khatian No. 148, Hal Settlement Khatian No. 1288, J.L. No. 394, Touzi No. 859, Mouza Bachurdoba, P.O. And P.S. Jhargram, Ward No. 6, B.L. And L.R.O. Jhargram, District Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of 6 Decimals North: Rama Sengupta South: Anup Mahato East: 12 Feet Wide Moram Road West: 20 Feet Wide Pitch Road/ Date of Symbolic 08/04/2026	November 26, 2025 Rs. 15,86,021.00/-	Jhargram
2.	Arbab Samajdar/ Banani Samajdar/ Arka Samajdar/ Bachurdoba, P.O. And P.S. Jhargram Ward No. 6 West Midnapore West Bengal Midnapore- 721507/ LBMD00006090011	Rivi: Dag No. 298, Hal Dag No. 379, Revisional Khatian No. 148, Hal Settlement Khatian No. 1288, J.L. No. 394, Touzi No. 859, Mouza Bachurdoba, P.O. And P.S. Jhargram, Ward No. 6, B.L. And L.R.O. Jhargram, District Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of 6 Decimals North: Rama Sengupta South: Anup Mahato East: 12 Feet Wide Moram Road West: 20 Feet Wide Pitch Road/ Date of Symbolic 08/04/2026	November 26, 2025 Rs. 19,57,789.00/-	Jhargram/ Bangalore
3.	Nandalal Mahata/ Chandana Mahata/ Vill Bhologara P.O. Purnanani, P.S. Lalgarh, District Jhargram West Bengal Lalgarh- 721516/ TBMD00006276579/ TBMD00007368173/ LBMD00007379725/ LBHOW00007457574	Old Holding No. 418 (507/370), New Holding No. 452/418, R.S. Khatian No. 308, L.R. Khatian No. 1083, R.S. Plot No. 1572, L.R. Plot No. 3183, J.L. No. 395, Mouza Jangalkhos, Police Station Jhargram, Jhargram Municipality, Ward No. 17, B.L. & L.R.O. Jhargram, District Jhargram, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of 6 Decimals Measuring 4.95 Decimals Along With Two Storied Pucca Building (Ground Floor 857.45 Sq. Ft. And First Floor 857.45 Sq. Ft.) Total Area 1714.90 Sq. Ft.) North: 08 Ft. Wide Approach Road And Rest Land of R.S. Plot No. 1572. South: Rest Land of R.S. Plot No. 1572. East: Rest Land of R.S. Plot No. 1572. West: Rest Land of R.S. Plot No. 1572/ Date of Symbolic 08/04/2026	December 30, 2025 Rs. 54,93,978.00/-	Jhargram

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(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: April 11, 2026 Place: Jhargram Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

## Pakistan prepares for U.S.-Iran talks amid heightened security

**MI News Service, Islamabad:** Pakistan has stepped up security and logistical preparations as delegations from the United States and Iran are expected to arrive in Islamabad for high-stakes talks aimed at easing tensions in the Middle East following a recently announced two-week ceasefire. Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said on Thursday that a comprehensive plan has been prepared to ensure foolproof security for all visiting foreign delegates.

The negotiations are expected to bring together senior officials from both countries as part of diplomatic efforts to reach a longer-term settlement after weeks of escalating conflict.

According to Iran's Students' News Agency, Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf will lead the Tehran delegation for talks with U.S. Vice President JD Vance in Islamabad. The White House confirmed that the U.S. team will include senior envoys Steve Witkoff and Jared Kushner, with the first round of negotiations expected on Saturday.

Analysts said Pakistan-facilitated talks face cautious optimism, saying that both sides have suffered heavy military, political, and economic losses, creating pressure for a negotiated settlement.

Authorities in Islamabad have introduced sweeping security measures ahead of the talks. Local holidays have been declared in the twin cities of Islamabad and Rawalpindi to facilitate arrangements. Police, paramilitary troops, and other security agencies are deployed under the Blue Book VIP protocol, with separate routes designated for the movement of foreign delegations.

Islamabad Police issued a traffic advisory warning commuters of diversions on the Express Highway. Rescue services and hospitals have been placed on high alert. Serena Hotel, a five-star property in the Red Zone, has been reserved exclusively for the delegations, while several entry points to the capital will remain sealed during their stay.

Despite the ceasefire, several contentious issues are expected to dominate the negotiations.

## IDF strikes southern Lebanon school it says was site of Hezbollah rocket launch

**MI News Service, Jerusalem:** Hezbollah operatives launched rockets from a school in southern Lebanon a short while ago, the IDF says, attaching footage of the incident. The IDF says that in

the drone video from the southern Lebanese village of Shihabiyah (Tayr Zibna), "the thermal signature of the launcher can be clearly seen, as well as its transfer in real time into the school grounds." Hezbollah's

launching of rockets from the school "constitutes a violation of international law," the IDF says.

The military adds that it struck the facility "to remove the threat to the State of Israel."

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CIN No: L65190GJ1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

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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 (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Alok Kundu/ Murni Bhowmikdabgram Industrial Eaststate. Satellite Town Ship Bhaktinagar West Bengal Siliguri - 734005/ LBSGI00006024051/ LBSGI00006082726	Plot No. 19B/1, Under The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. Part of Dabgram Industrial Estate. Sheet No. 18, J.L. No. 2, P.S. Bhakti Nagar (out Post NJP), Under Fulbari Gram Panchayat-1, P.O. Satellite Town Ship, Mouza Dabgram, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. Admeasuring an Area of Area About 10 Katha. North: Plot No. 19A of Dabgram I.E. South: Plot No 19B/2 of Dabgram I.E. East: Plot No.20B of Dabgram I.e. West: Road of Dabgram I.E./ Date of Symbolic 07/04/2026	November 26,2025/ Rs. 66,44,614.62/-	Siliguri
2.	Narayan Das/ Papia Das/ Mirpur Khargpur-I Paschim Medinipur West Bengal Khargpur- 721301/ LBMD00005111160	R.S. Dag No 87, Corresponding To L.R. Dag No 95, R.S Khatian No. 260 Corresponding To L.R. Khatian No 510/2, J.L. No 240, P.S and Subregistry Office-Khargpur, Mouza-Mirpur, District Midnapur, West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area Of 1096 Square Feet North: Datar Deyota Prostabito 5 Feet Road South: 86 Dag Land Bharat Singh East: G.V.R. Murti West: R. Bablu/ Date of Symbolic 07/04/2026	December 26,2025/ Rs. 11,88,389.00/-	Khargpur
3.	Paramita Majumdar/ Debasis Ghosal/ Ce/ Sonar Bhumi. 308-block-1 Kusumba Road, P.O. And P.S. Narendrapur, Rajpur Sonarpur M, District South 24 Parganas West Bengal Kolkata - 700135/ TBHOW00006779026	"Madhuban-2", Flat No. T-7 (North East Corner), 3rd Floor, R.S. Dag Nos. 164, 162 & 165, R.S. Khatin Nos. 74, 55 & 75, L.R. Dag Nos. 1048 & 1049, L.R. Khatian No. 255, J.L. No. 6, Mouza Khordabaha, Panchanantala Road, Choto Bazar, Post office Barabaha, P.S. Uttarpara, Nabagram Gram Panchayat, A.D.S.R. Office Uttarpara, District Hooghly, West Bengal. Owned By Debasis Ghosal And Paramita Majumdar (Admeasuring An Area of 1043 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area (covered Area About 802 Sq. Ft.) Together With Common Cycle / Motor Cycle Garage Being Cement Floor About 12 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area, Total Salable Area About (1043+12)=1055 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area Together With Undivided Proportionate Share In The Lands Of The Said Building Thereon North: open Space South: Flat No. T-6 East: open Space West: Flat No. T-8/ Date of Symbolic 07/04/2026	December 30,2025/ Rs. 19,02,086.00/-	Uttarpara
4.	Nani Gopal Dhar/ Krishna Gopal Dhar/ Sangita Roy/ Mali Basak/ Ashwani Kumar Dutta Sarani, Ashok Nagar (east), Near Chalanitika Kali Mandir, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, P.S. Bhaktinagar, Ward No. 33, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal Siliguri- 734005/ LBSGI00004572091	All That Piece And Parcel of Land Along With Duplex Building Part of R.S. Plot No. 480, L.R. Plot No. 347, R.S. Sheet No. 15, L.R. Sheet No. 171, R.S. Khatian No. 296/14, L.R. Khatian No. 254, Mouza Dabgram, P.S. Bhaktinagar, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area of All That Piece and Parcel of Land Measuring 3 Katha 13 Chhatok Along With 1427 Sq. Ft. Duplex Building Constructed on The Land. North: 16 Ft. Wide Road South: 60 Ft Wide State Highway East: Land & House of Mirtunjay Pandit West: Land of Dipti Saha/ Date of symbolic 07/04/2026	December 30,2025/ Rs. 1,29,68,281.92/-	Siliguri
5.	Nani Gopal Dhar./ Krishna Gopal Dhar/ Sangita Roy/ Mali Basak/ Ashwani Kumar Dutta Sarani, Ashok Nagar (east), Near Chalanitika Kali Mandir, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, P.S. Bhaktinagar, Ward No. 33, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal Siliguri- 734005/ LBSGI00005127635	Dag No. 478 And 480, Hal Khatian No. 296/14, J.L. No. 2, Mouza Dabgram, Pargana Baikunthapur, Police Station Bhaktinagar, A.D.S.R. office Rajganj, B.L. And L.R.O. Rajganj, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. (admeasuring An Area of Land of 1 Katha 12 Chattack North:16 Ft. Wide Road South: Siliguri, Jalpaiguri P.W.D. Road East: Mala Roy West: Sabita Saha/ Date of Symbolic 07/04/2026	December 30,2025/ Rs. 88,83,047.16/-	Siliguri
6.	Nani Gopal Dhar/ Krishna Gopal Dhar/ Sangita Roy/ Mali Basak/ Ashwani Kumar Dutta Sarani, Ashok Nagar (east), Near Chalanitika Kali Mandir, P.O. Siliguri Bazar, P.S. Bhaktinagar, Ward No. 33, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal Siliguri- 734005/ LBSGI00005127574/ LBSGI00004796934/ LBSGI00005127621/ LBSGI00004520842	All That Part And Parcel of Land Alongwith 2 Storied Building Part of Plot 456, Sheet No. 15, Khatian No. 296/14, Holding No. 679/N, Mouza Dabgram, Pargana Baikunthapur, P.S. NJP Outpost Under Bhaktinagar P.S., Ward No. XXXII, Siliguri Municipal Corporation, District Jalpaiguri, West Bengal. (Admeasuring An Area of All That Part And Parcel of Land Measuring 4 Katha Alongwith 2 Storied Building Measuring More or Less 1700 Sq. Ft. In The Ground Floor And 1700 Sq. Ft. In The First Floor Which In Total Measures 3400 Sq. Ft. North:12 Feet Wide Road; South: 1g Office; East:Land & House of Meghla Sarkar; West: Land & House of Nibir Barman/ Date of symbolic 07/04/2026	December 30,2025/ Rs. 3,21,34,037.67/-	Siliguri

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(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: April 11, 2026 Place: Siliguri & Khargpur & Uttarpara Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

# IPL 2026: When and where to watch CSK vs DC, know all details

**CHENNAI** : Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will clash with Delhi Capitals (DC) in Match 18 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 to be played at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Saturday as they look to end the quest for their first win in this season.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have had a poor start to their campaign this season, with the five-time champions still searching for their first win after losing all three matches so far. Their run began with a defeat to the Rajasthan Royals, followed by another setback against the Punjab Kings. In their latest outing, they were comfortably beaten by the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB). With pressure mounting, CSK will be eager to bounce back and finally get off the mark in front of their home fans.



In contrast, the Delhi Capitals have looked like a composed and well-rounded side in IPL 2026. They kicked off their season with back-to-back victories over Lucknow Super Giants and Mumbai Indians, impressing with both their strong batting lineup

and disciplined bowling attack. However, their winning momentum was halted in their previous match, where they fell agonisingly short, losing by just one run to the Gujarat Titans. The head-to-head record between Chennai Super Kings and Delhi Capitals in T20

matches shows a clear edge for CSK. Out of 31 matches played between the two sides, Chennai Super Kings have won 19, while Delhi Capitals have secured 12 victories. There have been no tied matches or no results in their encounters. The rivalry began on May 2, 2008, with Delhi Capitals winning the first-ever fixture, and in their most recent meeting on April 5, 2025, Delhi Capitals emerged victorious.

When: Saturday, April 11, 7:30 PM IST

Where: M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai

Where to watch: The CSK vs DC match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.

**SQUADS:**

**CHENNAI SUPER KINGS** : Sanju Samson (wk), Ayush Mhatre,

Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), Urvil Patel, Matthew Short, Shivam Dube, Jamie Overton, Noor Ahmad, Khaleel Ahmed, Matt Henry, Anshul Kamboj, Akeal Hosein, Sarfaraz Khan, MS Dhoni, Dewald Brevis, Shreyas Gopal, Rahul Chahar, Spencer Johnson, Mukesh Choudhary, Aman Khan, Gurjapneet Singh, Zakary Foulkes, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Kartik Sharma, Prashant Veer  
**DELHI CAPITALS** : Axar Patel (C), KL Rahul (WK), Nitish Rana, Abhishek Porel (WK), Ajay Mandal, Ashutosh Sharma, Dushmantha Chameera, Karun Nair, Kuldeep Yadav, Madhav Tiwari, Mitchell Starc, Sameer Rizvi, T Natarajan, Tripurana Vijay, Tristan Stubbs, Vipraj Nigam, Mukesh Kumar, David Miller, Ben Duckett, Aqib Nabi, Patham Nissanka, Lungi Ngidi, Sahil Parikh, Prithvi Shaw, and Kyle Jamieson.

## IPL 2026: When and Where to watch PBKS vs SRH, know all details

**CHANDIGARH** : Unbeaten Punjab Kings (PBKS) will take on 2016 champions Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the 17th match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 to be played at the PCA New International Cricket Stadium on Saturday.

Shreyas Iyer's Punjab Kings have enjoyed a strong start to the season, remaining unbeaten in their first three matches. They secured a three-wicket win over the Gujarat Titans and followed it up with a five-wicket victory against the Chennai Super Kings. Their latest outing against the Kolkata Knight Riders, however, was abandoned due to rain. They are currently placed in second position with five points.

On the other hand, Sunrisers Hyderabad have had an inconsistent campaign so far. They began with a six-wicket loss to the Royal Challengers Bengaluru, bounced back with a convincing 65-run win over Kolkata, but head into Saturday's clash after suffering a five-wicket defeat to the Lucknow Super Giants. They are currently placed at sixth position with 2 points and a +0.275 net run rate.

In head-to-head encounters, Sunrisers Hyderabad have clearly dominated Punjab Kings over the years. Out of the 24 matches played between the two sides, SRH have won 17 games, while PBKS have managed just 7 victories. The rivalry began on April 19, 2013,

with SRH winning their first-ever meeting, and they also came out on top in the most recent clash on April 12, 2025.

When: Saturday, April 11, 3:30 PM IST

Where: PCA New International Cricket Stadium, New Chandigarh

Where to watch: The PBKS vs SRH match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.

**SQUADS:**

**PUNJAB KINGS** : Shreyas Iyer (c), Priyansh Arya, Prabhsimran Singh (wicket-keeper), Nehal Wadhwa, Shashank Singh, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Vijaykumar Vyshak, Arshdeep Singh, Yuzvendra Chahal, Harpreet Brar, Suryansh Shedge, Vishnu Vinod (wicket-keeper), Xavier Bartlett, Yash Thakur, Mitchell Owen, Harnoor Singh, Musheer Khan, Pyla Avinash, Marco Jansen, Lockie Ferguson, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Pravin Dube, Vishal Nishad.  
**SUNRISERS HYDERABAD** : Ishan Kishan (c & wk), Heinrich Klaasen, Abhishek Sharma, Travis Head, Aniket Verma, Smaran Ravichandran, Salil Arora, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Pat Cummins, Liam Livingstone, Kamindu Mendis, Kraigs Fuletra, Brydon Carse, Praful Hinge, Sakib Hussain, Onkar Tarmale, Jaydev Unadkat, Shivam Mavi, Harshal Patel, Eshan Malinga, David Payne, Harsh Dube, Amit Kumar, Zeeshan Ansari



## Golf: Khalin Joshi ends title drought with Andhra Open win



**VISAKHAPATNAM** : Khalin Joshi carded a two-under 69 to claim his seventh professional title at the Rs 1 crore Andhra Open Golf Championship here at the East Point Golf Club in Visakhapatnam.

The 33-year-old Bengaluru-based Khalin (68-68-70-69) emerged victorious by a comfortable four-stroke margin at nine-under 275. Joshi earned Rs 15 lakh and climbed from 55th to 12th on the 2026 PGTI Order of Merit with season earnings of Rs 18,13,875.

Chandigarh's Akshay Sharma (70-70-74-65), a two-time winner on the tour, posted a course-record final round of six-under 65 to surge from 13th overnight and finish runner-up at five-under 279, four shots behind the winner.

Notably, the par-5 seventh hole was adjusted to a 477-yard par-4 for the tournament, bringing the course par down to 71.

Joshi began the final round with a three-shot cushion at seven-under and closed with a two-under 69, mixing five birdies with three bogeys, to secure the title, his first in over 44 months, dating back to Coimbatore in August 2022.

His final round featured a mix of steady play and timely recoveries. An early bogey on the third was a setback, but he responded immediately with a birdie on the fourth after a quality approach from 80 yards to 10 feet. He added another

birdie on the eighth from just over the green and produced a crucial up-and-down on the 12th to stay in control.

Despite a couple of bogeys on the back nine, Joshi regained momentum with a birdie on the 15th that steadied his round. Having led since round two, he handled the pressure well down the stretch to close out the win.

Reflecting on his round, Joshi said, "I was a bit nervous out there, especially on the back nine, but I stayed patient and trusted my process. I didn't get off to the start I wanted, but I stayed committed to my approach and managed to recover well. I'm proud of how I held my nerves and closed out the round. My ball-striking was strong throughout the week - I controlled it well in the wind, drove it consistently and hit a lot of greens. I wasn't in the best of putting form, but hitting those greens made the difference."

Runner-up Akshay Sharma's course record final round of 65 was highlighted by seven birdies and a bogey. Five of his birdies came on the back nine.

Saptak Talwar (70-74-68-68), the current DP World PGTI Rankings leader and winner of the Indorama Ventures Open Golf Championship last month, finished tied third at four-under 280 alongside Dubai-based Yash Majmudar (71-69-69-71).

Talwar earned Rs 5,49,800 to extend his lead atop the rankings as his season earnings moved to Rs 75,80,000. Majmudar, who employs an unconventional one-handed chipping technique, was playing his first event of the season after earning his tour card through Qualifying School in January.

Chandigarh's Ajeetesh Sandhu, who recently led Rajasthan Regals to victory at the inaugural edition of the DP World PGTI's '72 The League', finished fifth at three-under 281.

Angad Cheema, the last winner at EPGC in 2024, finished tied sixth at two-under 282 alongside Honey Baisoya, Rashid Khan and Manjot Singh.

## IPL 2026: 'It's good to be in that position,' says Sangakkara on RR's unbeaten run

**GUWAHATI** : Rajasthan Royals head coach Kumar Sangakkara said his team is happy with their unbeaten start but knows the challenge will only get tougher in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 as they prepare for an important match against the defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) at Barsapara Stadium on Friday.

"It's nice to be in that position. You don't really plan for it. It's all to do with how well the team plays, and the team has been playing really well. They've been keeping things simple and trying to execute as well as possible. When you do that, results usually tend to go your way," he said in a video released by IPL on X.

However, the former Sri Lanka captain underlined the strong competitive nature of the tournament and said that no team can be taken lightly.

"But the beauty of the IPL is



every game is a big game. There are no weak teams. There are no teams that you can take for granted or take lightly. That is the power of the competition," he added. Sangakkara also dismissed the narrative around age, highlighting the importance of experience within the squad.

"I don't really think about age

or young or old. Experience is a vital thing in cricket. We are very lucky to have that experience. Even the younger players, including our captain, have played in the IPL for many years," he noted.

Speaking about the team's identity, Sangakkara made it clear that the Rajasthan Royals are committed to an aggressive brand of cricket. "If anyone wants to know what our identity is, it's pretty simple. We want to bat aggressively, and we want to bowl aggressively. We want to be really brave in those pressure moments," he said.

Rajasthan Royals have surged to the top of the standings after winning all three of their matches so far, with victories over Chennai Super Kings, Gujarat Titans, and Mumbai Indians, but they will face a tough challenge against RCB, who are also coming with victories against CSK and SRH in their opening matches.

## ISL 2025-26: Chennaiyin FC look to bounce back against in-form East Bengal

**CHENNAI** : Chennaiyin FC will be aiming to return to winning ways when they host East Bengal in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26, looking to build back momentum after their recent setback.

With East Bengal currently fifth in the standings, having won three of their six matches so far, the clash promises to be a stern test. The Marina Machans, however, will look to draw from their previous performances-CFC registered a commanding 3-0 victory in the league when the teams last met-and make home advantage count as they seek to climb up the table.

"For me, East Bengal are the most balanced team in the division. It's not easy to play against them because they are very strong in the middle and extremely quick on the wings. They also have one of the league's best strikers, if I'm not mistaken. It's a team that is very, very well-balanced, capable of playing possession football as well as going direct. I think they are one of the most difficult teams in the league," Chennaiyin head coach Clifford Rayes Miranda told



the media in his pre-match press conference on Friday.

"It's going to be difficult-very difficult. But we will try, we will work, and we will go out there to win. That's what we want to do, especially because this is our home."

Miranda also addressed Chennaiyin's lack of goals so far this season, outlining the tactical evolution underway and the next steps for his side in the attacking phase.

"Right now, we don't have

many goals to show for our efforts. But that's also because we haven't had enough forays into the final third, and I understand the reason why. When I came here, the team was playing more direct football, and I needed time to change the way we wanted to play. I have a different approach, which is more possession-based, what I call progressive possession-based football. We can go direct if the opponent is pressing us, but if they sit back, we keep the ball. It's about patient, con-

trolled possession," explained the CFC head coach.

"So first, I needed to shift the team towards a more positional, possession-based approach, and that took time. Now that we are getting there, the next step is to work on the other aspect: helping the players make better decisions when it comes to going forward."

Joining Miranda for the press conference was senior stalwart Mandar Rao Dessai, who started the first five games this season and was subbed in for the sixth. The fullback addressed the team's form while setting firm targets for the future.

"Yeah, I think from the very first game, the team has been doing well and trying to improve with each match. And as you said, playing in front of our home fans, we definitely want to win all our home games. Unfortunately, the last result was a defeat," Mandar said. "But going into the next game, we have trained well and have our plans in place. Now, it's about staying together as a team, going out there, and getting the three points."

## IPL 2026: Pace sensation Ashok Sharma not chasing speed record; wants to stay injury-free and play for India

**MUMBAI** : Over its 19-year existence, the Indian Premier League (IPL) has pushed to the forefront many unknown young Indian pacers who have wrestled with the speed gun and made a name for themselves. Ashok Sharma, Gujarat Titans' lightning-quick bowler, is the latest local-boy-turned-speed-demon who has caught the imagination of IPL fans, just like his peers. Sharma hopes to one day play for India, terrorizing batters in the international circuit.

From the likes of Kamran Khan in 2008 to Umran Malik in 2021-22 and Mayank Yadav a couple of seasons back. Some of them have blown the speed gun before injuries halted their progress.

The 23-year-old Ashok became the newest pace sensation to emerge on the IPL horizon when he bowled the fastest delivery of the IPL 2026 season on April 4, hitting a stunning 154.2 kph thunderbolt against

Rajasthan Royals (RR). Ashok Sharma went past South African quick Anrich Nortje's 150.9 kphs for Lucknow Super Giants, becoming only the second 150 kph-plus ball in the season.

In a media interaction on Friday, Sharma avoided answering questions on IPL speed demons that have faced away after hitting the 150 kph mark on the speed gun, beset by injuries. He said if he keeps following his process, sleeps well, and eats well, he would be able to avoid injuries.

Sharma, who says that, unlike at the domestic level, the margin of error is small in IPL, is banking on following the processes diligently and consistently and says that will keep him in good standing.

"I want to do what I have been consistently following so far such as sleeping on time and eating on time-is what I prioritize. If I have to go to the gym, I go; if I have to go to the pool, I go-these

are the things I focus on the most," Ashok Sharma said in the media interaction from the Gujarat Titans base in Ahmedabad.

Sharma said he is not gunning for the record for the fastest record in IPL history -- which is 157kmph clocked by Umran Malik while playing for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

"No, I don't have any such thoughts in my mind-that I need to break a record. I've always maintained that I simply want to perform well for the team and play for India," said Ashok Sharma.

Sharma has a great mentor in the form of former India pacer Ashish Nehra, the Gujarat Titans head coach. But Sharma said, both of his mentors have told him not to think of the speed record but rather to concentrate on following the process and honing his skills.

Sharma, who has been with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) and

Rajasthan Royals, for whom he was a bet bowler, before joining Gujarat Titans for Rs 90 lakh in the latest auction, does not depend on raw pace; he has a good back-of-hand slower delivery and a mean yorker. Sharma said these are his go-to deliveries. "My 'back-of-the-hand' slower ball is quite effective, and I tend to take the most wickets using my slower ones and my yorkers," said the pacer who hails from Rampura, around 80km from Jaipur. His father, Nathulal, is a farmer, and Ashok is following in the footsteps of his brother Akshay, who put his aspirations on hold to help his brother live his cricket dream.

Now, with success coming his way, Ashok is keeping himself grounded and says he is not getting carried away by fame. What is keeping him on the ground is the support from his family.

"As for my family, their perspective hasn't really changed at all. To them, I am the same per-



son as before, and I remain the same person now. There isn't really any difference; they treat me the same way. Regarding friends and relatives, if someone is doing well, they go, 'Wow! Amazing!' But if someone isn't doing anything at the moment, they'll say things like, 'What is he even doing?' He's not doing anything at all!-that sort of attitude. As for support-whatever support

I can provide... whatever support people ask of me-I am doing my best to provide it," said Sharma.

As of now, Ashok has only one aim: to capitalise on whatever opportunities he gets and go on to play for India.

"There have been many changes in life since the day I joined IPL. But my only goal for the future is to play for India," said Sharma.

## ISL 2025-26: Bengaluru FC begin new era under Pep Munoz with a high-stakes encounter against Kerala Blasters FC

**BENGALURU** : The floodlights of the Kanteerava Stadium are set to illuminate a narrative of deep-rooted legacy and redemption as Bengaluru FC prepare for a high-stakes showdown against Kerala Blasters in Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025-26 at the Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

This edition of the ISL's most heated rivalry carries a unique weight; in a truncated season where the teams meet only once, there is no second chance for atonement. The atmosphere is further electrified by the homecoming of Ashley Westwood, the architect of Bengaluru's early glory and two I-League titles.

However, Westwood returns not as a hero, but as the archrival's commander-in-chief, fresh from international stints with Hong Kong and Afghanistan, tasked with taking charge of the 13th-placed Kerala side.

Coming off a clinical 2-0 away win against Goa, Munoz aims to maintain Bengaluru's historical dominance at the Fortress, where they have secured seven wins in nine ISL meetings against the Blasters.

Despite the gulf in the standings, the Blues remain wary of the wounded animal.

Head Coach Pep Munoz emphasised the tactical discipline required for such an occasion, stating, "This is a massive derby, but our focus remains on taking it game by game and securing the three points. While the home crowd gives us a significant advantage, once the whistle blows at 7:30, it comes down to 11v11 and executing our potential on the pitch."

"We've worked hard in this short period to be ready to be ourselves and compete in what is ultimately a vital football match."