

Massive Explosion at Thermal Power Plant in Chhattisgarh! At Least 9 Dead, Many Injured.

Nation ● Pg 5



TMC Alleges EC Orders Vehicle Searches of Abhishek Ahead of Polls, Calls It Political Bias

City ● Pg 3



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Morning India

19 States, Centre unite to counter me, says Mamata

MI News Service, Pingla: TMC supremo Mamata Banerjee alleged on Tuesday that the word "logical discrepancy" under the SIR exercise is not an officially recognised term under the Election Commission framework and was selectively applied in West Bengal, unlike Bihar, to benefit the BJP.

Addressing a public rally at Pingla in Paschim Medinipur district, she said she has never seen a "dirty party" like the BJP.

Urging people to vote against the BJP, the Chief minister said "The BJP has snatched everything from you... Voting against it would be your only way to take revenge."

The BJP is holding rallies at places that have direct railway connectivity with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar so that they can bring in people from those states to fill up the venues, she alleged.

Elections to the 294-member Bengal assembly will be held in two phases on April 23 and 29, and the votes will be counted on May 4.

The Chief Minister also claimed that 19 States and the Centre have joined hands and come together to counter her, and that she is single-handedly fighting for the common people. Incidentally, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance has Governments in 19 States of the country.

Addressing the largely attended rally, the TMC supremo asserted that the BJP won't be able to win the Bengal elections using forces from Delhi.

"This time the Trinamool Congress will secure over 226 seats in the Assembly elections," she said.



Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee speaks at a rally in support of her party's candidate in Howrah on Tuesday.

Mamata Banerjee also alleged that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme is being telecast to influence young minds. "They (BJP) are distributing money... They have transferred everyone

including large number of bureaucrats and policemen to other states so that nobody can catch them. Money, drugs, arms and voters are being smuggled into West Bengal. ● Continued to Pg 3

Amit Shah participates in road show in Kaliaganj

MI News Service, Kaliaganj: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday participated in a colourful road show at Kaliaganj in Uttar Dinajpur district in support of BJP candidates for the upcoming assembly polls.

Shah, accompanied by BJP candidate for Kaliaganj, Utpal Maharaj, and other state leaders, waved at scores of people from atop a flower-decked truck as thousands of party supporters lining the roads cheered and raised slogans amid the beating of 'dhaak' (traditional drums).

Under the scorching sun, the road show began from Parvati Sundari High School Ground in the town, a BJP stronghold, and covered a distance of over 3 km.

As the BJP in West Bengal has launched high-pitch campaigns ahead of the first phase of the Assembly elections on 23rd April, several rallies, roadshows are being held, and developmental promises are given by both Prime minister Narendra Modi and Union Home minister Amit Shah while criss-crossing the entire state, dominating the political landscape.

In equal and if not more intensified programmes to establish closer links with the common people the top BJP leaders are all intensifying efforts to sway voters in the state's 16 districts where polling will take place.

Amit Shah is on a busy schedule today in North Bengal as he led a jam-packed colourful roadshow at Kaliaganj which was followed by a public meeting at Gochiar Gangarampur Ground in South Dinajpur.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah in a roadshow in Kaliaganj on Tuesday. His next two stops were at Manikchak and Gazole in Malda North.

In every meeting he asserted that the people of West Bengal will start getting the benefits of a 'double-engine' government of the BJP once they come into power after the assembly elections with a possible landslide victory.

Addressing an election rally at Gangarampur in South Dinajpur district this afternoon Shah urged the people not to get afraid this time while casting their votes and alleged that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was trying to terrorise the state's majority community.

He said EC has sent adequate central forces to the state and some more would be coming soon to ensure an absolute free, fair and more importantly a peaceful elections unlike the previous occasions. "TMC goons should stay home on poll day, else they will be sent to jail after May 4," he added. Shah said once the BJP government is formed, Mamata Banerjee's syndicate will be removed without a trace. "The syndicate rule is the way through which Mamata Banerjee and her nephew, whom she wants to make the next Chief minister, suck the blood of common people. It is the time to hold them accountable for their apathy towards the plight of the people", he said.

The Home minister said the "youth in Bengal had to migrate to other states in large number; the farmers and tea garden workers did not get the right price for their produce. Out of sheer arrogance, Mamata Banerjee says that she will not allow the farm produced in Bengal to be exported to Odisha and Jharkhand, as a result of which farmers do not get even Rs. 2 per kilo rate of potato while they should be sold at Rs. 20".

He added that "It is my promise that once the BJP government

● Continued to Pg 3

'শ্রদ্ধা, শ্রদ্ধা, শ্রদ্ধা হৈ বৈশাখ...'

শ্রদ্ধা গর্ভবর্ষ

১৪৩৩

Let every life be embraced with the radiant glow of Nababarsha's holy light.
May the people of Bengal feel the bond of Peace and Harmony.
Greetings to all

Government of West Bengal

ICA - D611(24)/2026

On the occasion of

BANGLA DIBAS

Greetings to all the residents of the State

May the State's traditional culture flourish and the bond amongst its people be strengthened.

Government of West Bengal

ICA - D611(24)/2026

We Will Offer Ice Cream to Those Threatening Burnol and Boroline, Showing the Difference Between Them and Us: Mamata

MI News Service, Kharagpur : State Chief Minister and Trinamool supremo Mamata Banerjee addressed a political rally in support of two Trinamool Congress candidates, Trinamool Manas Ranjan Bhuyan from Sabang Assembly and Ajit Maiti, Trinamool candidate from Pingla Assembly at Pingla in West Medinipur district at the Kanchdiha Stack Yard Ground in West Medinipur district. Addressing the crowd present in the public meeting, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee called for development work, social projects and supporting Trinamool



Congress in the upcoming elections in the state.

Along with criticizing the opposition parties, he said

that it is necessary for Trinamool candidates to win

to maintain the trend of development of the state. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee targeted the BJP and said that it is gathering crowd in the elections by bringing outsiders to Bengal. The Chief Minister took a jibe at Burnol and Boroline and said that those who are threatening Burnol and Boroline, we will give them ice cream in the summer season, among them and This is the difference between us. There was enthusiasm among Trinamool workers and supporters in the public meeting of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.

TMC MP and Actor Deepak Adhikari Holds Roadshow in Support of Trinamool Candidate Pradeep Sarkar

MI News Service, Kharagpur : In talbagicha Kharagpur Sadar area under Paschim Medinipur district, Trinamool MP and actress Dav Adhikari Ghatal MP held a road show in support of Trinamool candidate Pradeep Sarkar of Kharagpur. The road show started from the talbagicha post more area of Kharagpur market and ended in talbagicha area. During this, a crowd gathered to see Dav Adhikari. People Engaged were seen busy capturing Dav Adhikari's picture in their mobile phones. During this, slogans of Jai Bangla were also raised. MP and actress



Dav Adhikari accepted the greetings of the villagers by shaking hands. MP Dav

Roy appealed to the villagers to vote in favor of Trinamool.

TMC MP Shatabdi Roy Holds Roadshow in Support of Trinamool Candidate Dulal Murmu



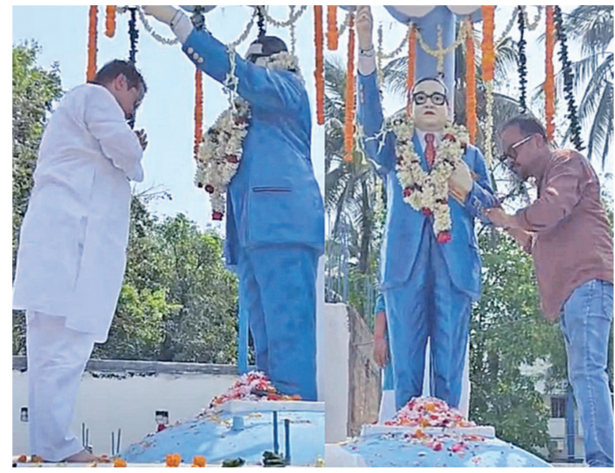
MI News Service, Kharagpur : In Nayagram area under Jhargram district, Trinamool MP and actress Shatabdi Roy held a road show in support of Trinamool candidate Dulal Murmu of Nayagram. The road started from the check post area of Gopiballabhpur market and ended in Kapasiya area. During this, a crowd gathered to see Shatabdi Roy. People Engaged were seen busy capturing Shatabdi Roy's picture in their mobile phones. During this, slogans of Jai Bangla were also raised. MP and actress Shatabdi Roy accepted the greetings of the villagers by shaking hands. MP Shatabdi Roy appealed to the villagers to vote in favor of Trinamool.

Ambedkar Jayanti Must Inspire a Revolution, Not Just Celebration: Suresh Mishra

MI News Service, Hooghly: The 135th birth anniversary of B.R. Ambedkar was observed across the country with deep respect and pride. From cities to streets, neighbourhoods, and crossroads, people were seen offering floral tributes to the statues of Babasaheb Ambedkar.

As in previous years, Champdani Municipality Chairman Suresh Mishra garlanded Ambedkar's statue. Trinamool Congress candidate from Champdani Assembly, Arindam Guin, also paid tribute, accompanied by councillors and leaders including Suraj Gupta, Jitendra Singh, Santosh Tiwari, Bikram Gupta, Ramesh Saw, and youth leaders Rahul Roy and Vishal Jaiswal, among others.

Speaking on the occasion, Arindam Guin highlighted key aspects of Ambedkar's legacy. Meanwhile, Suresh Mishra emphasised that Ambedkar Jayanti should not be merely a celebration, but a revolution that lights the future of the younger generation.



He said the day is not just a festival, but an opportunity for self-reflection. Across India, an atmosphere of reverence and pride prevails, with people paying tribute and recalling Ambedkar's ideas. Similar enthusiasm was seen in Champdani Municipality. However, he raised a key question: are we truly living Babasaheb's dreams, or have we reduced them to an annual ritual?

Mishra stressed that Ambedkar was not just an individual but an ideology

and a movement. His struggle was for the entire society, and he firmly believed that true progress is possible only through education. His message—"Educate, Organise, Agitate"—remains a guiding principle, though today it risks being reduced to mere formality. He noted that while celebrations involve speeches and ceremonies, society must reflect on whether it is following Ambedkar's path. Issues like children deprived of education due to financial hardship and lack of

awareness among parents must be addressed.

Calling for self-introspection, Mishra said that if educated individuals dedicate even a few hours to teaching children in their neighbourhoods, it could bring significant social change. In Champdani, he said, if every educated youth contributes, no child will remain uneducated.

He emphasised that parents must also be made aware that education is not just a means of livelihood, but a pathway to a better life. Individual efforts, he added, can transform entire communities.

Reiterating Ambedkar's vision of an equal and educated society, Mishra urged people to move beyond symbolic gestures and take concrete steps to realise his ideals.

He concluded that true tribute lies in action. Only by adopting Ambedkar's principles in daily life can Ambedkar Jayanti become not just a celebration, but a meaningful revolution shaping the future of generations.

Elderly Voters Cast Their Votes Ahead of Elections



MI News Service, Kharagpur : Elections will be held at 152 centers in the state on April 23, but before that the special voting process started in Kharagpur. Ahead of the first phase of voting on Tuesday, April 14, home voting was started for voters aged 85 years and above and voters with special needs in 48 number booths in Ward No. 8 of Nimeriapatna area of Kharida, Kharagpur. On Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock the polling personnel reached the voters' homes amidst tight security and started taking votes.

This special initiative has been taken keeping in mind that elderly and spe-

cial needs voters do not have to go to the polling booth. Under this arrangement of the Election Commission, almost all the things needed at the polling station are being delivered to the voter's home. Ballot papers, necessary document verification, confidential voting - everything at home due to which even the elderly voters are showing enthusiasm. Police forces along with polling personnel have been deployed in the area since morning to ensure smooth completion of the entire process. This process of going door to door before voting is considered especially important in Kharagpur.

Names of 900 voters in the area excluded! Villagers protests with posters calling for vote boycott

MI News Service, Birbhum: Names of 900 voters in Islampur area of Dubrajpur constituency have been deleted from the voter list! In protest, villagers have given a call for vote boycott. Villagers have hung banners. It reads - 'Voters first, votes later'.

There is a fear among the villagers of being deprived of democratic rights, hence the warning to boycott the election. The protest was initiated by a local organization, Islampur Young Welfare Association. Sheikh Alauddin, president of the organization, alleged that in many cases, voter's names were omitted despite there being no mistake. In his words, "Such incidents have happened in my own family. In the case of my sister, her husband's name was written instead of her father's name. Due to that wrong information, her name was omitted from the voter list. Where

is our fault in this?" Meanwhile, the long-standing anger in Bhavanipur village of Rampurhat assembly constituency has now come to the fore. The villagers complain that the main problem of the village is the dilapidated road! It becomes almost impossible to travel on this road during the monsoon. The village does not have its own polling station. In addition, there is no end to the problems even when going to vote. The villagers have decided that no political party will be allowed to enter the village until the problem is resolved. Accordingly, ropes have been tied and banners have been hung at the entrance of the village. It is worth noting that about 30 tribal families live in Bhavanipur village. They claim that despite being informed about the problem repeatedly, they have only received assurances! In reality, there has been no development.

In the midst of the election frenzy, prices skyrocket

MI News Service, Balurghat: As the voting day nears, all the party workers are now busy campaigning. So that the workers do not get tired at the end of this long campaign, all the parties have to arrange for their 'entertainment'. Picnics are being organized in many places after the campaign. In this case, meat is a big tool. Many candidates are arranging meat-riced or fried rice, chili chicken in packets at night. The price of feeding meat to the party workers has come up. For this reason the price of meat is increasing. As a result, ordinary buyers are facing problems. If the election season is not over, there will be no special relief in the price of meat. Basically, the demand for broiler chicken is the highest. The price of chicken meat is increasing more and more every day. A few months ago, the price of chopped chicken meat in the Balurghat market was 170-180 rupees per kilo. Currently, that price is about to touch 300 rupees.

Youth found hanging in Kalyani after argument with mother

MI News Service, Nadia : A minor argument with his mother over stepping out of the house reportedly ended in tragedy, as a 19-year-old youth was found hanging in his room on Tuesday morning at Madanpur Teghari area under Chakdaha Police Station in Nadia district.

According to police sources, the deceased has been identified as Sudip Biswas (19), who worked as a carpenter. The body has been recovered and sent for post-mortem examination. The bereaved family is in deep shock.

Family members stated that Sudip had been unwell for the past few days. Despite his condition, he expressed his intention to go on Monday night, which his mother opposed. This led to a brief argument between them, after which Sudip went into his room.

On Tuesday morning, when his mother went to call him as usual, she received no response. Growing suspicious, she went to the back of the house and looked through the window, only to find him hanging from the ceiling. She immediately raised an alarm, drawing neighbours and other family members to the spot.

Police from Chakdaha Police Station arrived shortly after being informed and recovered the body. It has been sent to a hospital in Kalyani for post-mortem. An investigation into the incident is currently underway.

The incident has cast a pall of gloom over the locality, with family members struggling to come to terms with the tragic outcome of what appeared to be a minor dispute.

Fake Currency Seized at Palpara Sardanga, Grocery Shop Owner Arrested

MI News Service, Nadia : In a significant crackdown ahead of the upcoming elections, police arrested a grocery shop owner from Palpara Sardanga crossing under Chakdaha Police Station limits in Nadia district for allegedly possessing counterfeit currency.

Acting on a specific tip-off, a joint team of the Ranaghat Police District Crime Cell and Chakdaha Police conducted a late-night raid on Sunday at the accused's shop. During the search operation, fake currency notes worth approximately Rs 20 thousand were recovered. The seized notes reportedly include denominations of Rs.500, Rs. 200, and 100.

The accused, identified as a local grocery trader, was



taken into custody immediately following the recovery.

Police have initiated a detailed investigation to trace the source of the counterfeit notes. Officials are probing whether the accused is linked to a larger racket and if other individuals are involved in the circulation of fake currency in

the area. The accused is scheduled to be produced before the Kalyani Sub-Divisional Court on Monday.

The incident has triggered concern among local residents, especially in the run-up to the elections, with authorities stepping up vigilance to curb illegal activities.

NIA makes sensational claim in Mothabari case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has revealed one explosive piece of information after another while investigating the Mothabari case. In the report submitted to the special NIA court in Kolkata, the investigators have claimed that the entire incident was pre-planned and well-organised. According to the NIA, on the day of the incident, a crowd was deliberately formed in front of the Block Development Office and all exits were blocked.

Nadia Administration Reaffirms Zero-Tolerance Policy for Poll Violations Ahead of WBLA 2026

MI News Service, Nadia : Strengthening its commitment to ensuring free, fair, and peaceful elections, the district administration of Nadia district on Tuesday briefed the media, reiterating a strict zero-tolerance approach toward any form of electoral malpractice in the run-up to the WBLA 2026 polls.

At a high-level coordination meeting, officials emphasized six key principles that will guide election management across the district: no violence, no intimidation, no inducement, no chappa voting (bogus voting), no booth jamming, and no source jamming. These measures aim to uphold the integrity of the democratic process and ensure a level playing field for all stakeholders.

The meeting witnessed the presence of top administrative and law enforcement officials, including the District Election Officer (DEO) and District Magistrate, Superintendents of Police from Krishnanagar and Ranaghat, the Addi-



tional District Magistrate (Election), CAPF force coordinators, District Information and Cultural Officer (DICO), and other election-related officers.

Officials confirmed that a total of 87 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) have already reached the district, significantly boosting security arrangements. Area domination, route marches, and confidence-building measures are expected to be intensified in the coming days.

The administration underlined that strict moni-

toring mechanisms are in place, and any violation of election norms will invite immediate and stringent action. The briefing aligns with directives issued by the Chief Electoral Officer West Bengal to maintain transparency and law and order during the electoral process.

With preparations gaining momentum, the Nadia administration signalled its readiness to conduct a peaceful and credible election, reinforcing public confidence ahead of the crucial Assembly polls.

Asaduddin Owaisi criticises Mamata Banerjee for treating "Muslims like cattle"

MI News Service, Kolkata: After severing his electoral ties with the Aam Janata Unnayan Party after its founder Humayun Kabir was seen in recent viral video asking for money from the BJP to sway the muslim votes in Bengal from the TMC, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi told a national television channel on Tuesday that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is the one who in fact helped the BJP grow and she is also the one who goes for a use and throw policy with the Muslims.

But it was AIMIM chief Owaisi, who has often been accused of playing the B Team of the BJP by splitting the Muslim vote, and has faced similar allegations in Bengal, where he till last week was backing Trinamool rebel Humayun Kabir. "We did not absolve ourselves of our 'sins' by merely waiting around to secure a Rajya Sabha seat in Bihar through an alliance with the RJD. The actual stain lay on the other side. It is the TMC which is strengthening the BJP's position in Bengal;



back in 1977, the BJP had only four MLAs," Owaisi told the TV channel in an exclusive interview.

"People are hurling abuses at us, asking, 'Why are you contesting?' Yet, let someone explain: Where were they when 800,000 Muslims were deported to East Pakistan? Now, they are abusing us for choosing to contest," he said.

"Did the Trinamool Congress not facilitate the BJP's first parliamentary victory in 1998 and 1999? Subsequently, Mamata

Banerjee became the Railway Minister, only to break away later using George Fernandes as a pretext. She then rejoined the cabinet as a Minister Without Portfolio -- and did so precisely when the entire nation was pointing fingers at the Gujarat genocide. And now, she is pointing fingers at me," he added.

He also questioned what the Chief Minister has done for the Muslims.

"Why do you (Mamata Banerjee) not establish SEZs? You treat Muslims like cattle- like cows and

buffaloes - milking them for their votes and then casting them aside," he added.

Regarding his association with Humayun Kabir, Owaisi sounded bitter as well.

"My association with him has ended... Now Humayun claims that he stands with the Trinamool Congress. One could say he has left me in a state akin to that of Laila," he added.

Last week, Owaisi had ended his alliance with the Aam Janata Unnayan Party after a 'sting video' in which party chief Humayun Kabir is purportedly heard talking about his links with senior BJP leaders.

Kabir had dismissed the video as AI-generated. Owaisi now said he would contest independently and not have alliance with any party in the future.

The party plans to contest nine seats in Bengal in Malda, Murshidabad, Birbhum and Asansol. In 2021, they had contested six seats and bagged less than 5 per cent of the vote share.

Roofs of Several Houses Blown Off as Shamik's Helicopter Lands in Goalpokhar

MI News Service, Uttar Dinajpur: A strange scene was seen in Goalpokhar in Uttar Dinajpur on Tuesday afternoon. When the chopper of BJP's state president Shamik Bhattacharya landed, the tin roofs of several houses in the area were blown away in a strong whirlwind due to the fan wind. The incident has created a panic in the area. On Tuesday, a public meeting was organized at the Sahapur football ground in support of BJP candidate for Goalpokhar assembly, Sarajit Biswas. A temporary helipad was built right next to the ground. The leaders were supposed to land there. When the chopper carrying Shamik Bhattacharya started landing at noon, disaster struck. The intense pressure of the helicopter's wings caused an untimely Kalvaishakhi to start on the surrounding houses. In the blink of an eye, the tin roofs of several houses started flying in the sky like kites. The incident triggered a widespread panic in the area. There was a commotion among the local residents over this incident. The victims say they never dreamed that something like this could happen. Sujan Hansda and Fulmani Hansarda, the victims, have already raised a demand for compensation.

Mamata spotted wearing 3 fitness trackers

MI News Service, Kolkata: A photo of West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee turned heads on social media after her close followers noticed something unusual, as she appeared to be wearing not one, but three fitness tracking devices at the same time.

The conversation was brought up on X by tech and fitness coach Abhishek Singhal, who pointed out, "This photo of Mamata Banerjee went viral because she's wearing a Whoop, Apple Watch, and Oura Ring. All three. At the same time."

Sharing his own experience, he added, "I've been running this setup for over a year. I'm a data scientist. I coach fitness using this data. And I have opinions. Here's everything I've learnt," turning it into a broader discussion around wearable tech and health tracking.

The image showed Mamata Banerjee holding a child wearing her signature white saree, which received attention not just for the moment itself, but for the subtle detail of multiple wearables on her wrist and hand.

Now, in a detailed thread, Singhal explained how he personally used the same setup and why, arguing that each device excelled in a specific area rather than overlapping.

Starting with the Apple Watch, he explained how it excelled in workouts, tracking heart rate zones, calories, VO2 max, and GPS, but "for deep health tracking like sleep and recovery?" It doesn't come close to Oura or Whoop and that's fine. That's not its job.

Singhal said that he doesn't wear the Apple Watch all the time like the other two. "I put it on for workouts (especially badminton, where I want heart rate zones and session tracking) and when I'm going out," he said.

On the other hand, the Oura Ring dives deep into metrics like sleep



Mamata pays tribute to B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

stages (REM, deep, light), HRV, resting heart rate, body temperature, and even provides a daily readiness score. He specifically highlighted its Resilience Metric, which tracked how the body balanced stress and recovery over a 14-day period, focusing on trends rather than single nights.

He added that Oura's finger-based sensor system, including an 18-path sensor array, allowed for more accurate readings, backed by studies comparing it to medical-grade sleep tracking. For Whoop, he emphasised its strain-recovery loop as a game-changer. "Every morning you wake up to a Recovery Score (0-100%)" The data decides, not the ego," he wrote, explaining how it helped tailor workouts based on actual physical readiness rather than guesswork.

He also praised his Sleep Coach, which calculated how much sleep a person actually needed based on strain, sleep debt, and patterns. This is the device

that is required to be on the wrist 24/7.

In another thread, Singhal also explained how he used all three fitness trackers in his daily training sessions, mentioning that when a client's fat loss stalled, most coaches would simply cut more calories. He, on the other hand, resorted to checking their data first.

When HRV trended down for a week, he believed that recovery was compromised. Instead, he would reduce training volume instead of cutting food. If a client was sleeping below 6.5 hours for 5+ days, that's where he was able to track that the plateau was hiding. With that information, he was able to change his client's diet and exercise plan, ensuring they didn't overtrain without knowing it.

Now, if you are thinking whether you should buy all three, he suggested beginners stick to basics like tracking steps, diet, and sleep, while serious users should choose just one device

based on their priority - sleep, training, or all-round use.

Only those deeply invested in data-driven fitness may benefit from multiple devices - but even then, fundamentals like protein intake, steps, and sleep - matter more than any gadget.

Meanwhile, the war of words between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP intensified unabated, with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee countering Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remark that all the candidates contesting the Assembly polls on his party ticket were "Modi".

Speaking at her public rallies in different districts, Mamata Banerjee said if Modi wanted to be the face of the party in the West Bengal election, he should first resign as Prime Minister. "Modiji is saying he is the candidate for all the 294 seats. You must resign as Prime Minister and tell the people

Mamata pay tributes to B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday paid rich tributes to Father of the Indian constitution (12) B.R. Ambedkar on his birth anniversary.

In a message through her social media platform X, Mamata Banerjee wrote "It is our pride that it was the Bengal Legislature that paved the way for Babasaheb's entry into the Constituent Assembly, where his visionary leadership shaped our nation's future."

"Today, his legacy is more relevant than ever. As we stand at crossroads where the fundamental values of our democracy—secularism, federalism, and social justice—require constant vigil, his life's work remains our ultimate guiding light," the Chief minister wrote.

In a lengthy message to mark Ambedkar's birth anniversary today Mamata Banerjee said "Solemnly remembering Father of the constitution of India (12) B.R. Ambedkar, on his birth anniversary. It is our pride that it was the Bengal Legislature that paved the way for Babasaheb's entry into the Constituent Assembly, where his visionary leadership shaped our nation's future. Today, his legacy is more relevant than ever. As we stand at crossroads where the fundamental values of our democracy—secularism, federalism, and social justice—require constant vigil, his life's work remains our ultimate guiding light. His vision drives our commitment to an inclusive society where every citizen, regardless of caste or creed, can live with dignity and hope. We will not allow the rights of our people to be undermined. Nor will we allow the federal structure and the plural and secular fabric of our nation to be weakened. On this auspicious day, let us rededicate ourselves to protecting the democratic soul of India."

Later in the in another message Mamata Banerjee wished a Happy Baisakhi! to all.

In her message she said "Wishing everybody a joyous harvest festival, filled with love, prosperity and happiness."

Ambedkar's 135th Birth Anniversary Observed

MI News Service, Kolkata: The 135th birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar was observed with dignity at AayakarBhawan Association Room in Kolkata. Officials and staff paid



floral tributes to his portrait. Among those present were SudipMajumdar, General Secretary of ITSEWA, West Bengal Unit, and Vice-President AnupamMajumdar. Speakers highlighted Ambedkar's role as the architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice, equality, and human rights. They noted that his ideals remain relevant today and continue to inspire younger generations. The gathering reaffirmed a collective commitment to uphold his principles in building a just and equitable society.

TMC Launches Strong Attack on ED After Arrest of IPAC Co-Founder

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested VineeshChandel, co-founder and director of IPAC, in connection with the ongoing coil scam investigation. The arrest, made on Monday evening, has triggered a sharp political reaction from the Trinamool Congress (TMC), which strongly criticised the central agency on Tuesday.

Senior TMC leader Chandrima Bhattacharya alleged that central agencies are being misused to malign West Bengal during the election period. She claimed that the timing of the arrest raises serious questions about intent and neutrality, and accused the ED of acting in a biased manner during the poll season.

TMC Rajya Sabha MP Derek O'Brien also launched a sharp attack on the ED, stating that the agency has "crossed all limits" by carrying out such actions just days before the elections. He demanded the unconditional release of VineeshChandel and called for the withdrawal of central investigative agencies from election-related duties, alleging that they are being used as political tools.

O'Brien further argued that the timing of parliamentary sessions and enforcement actions just before elections is "strange and questionable." He alleged that such moves are designed to influence the electoral environment, as political competition intensifies ahead of polling. He also claimed that the opposition is resorting to misuse of central agencies due to fear of electoral defeat. Chandrima Bhattacharya added that the perception of investigative agencies among the public is changing, suggesting that they are no longer seen as neutral institutions. She alleged that thousands of cases are registered, but only a small number result in convictions, raising questions about selective targeting. She also described the system as being used for harassment rather than justice.

ISF Cracks After Naushad Rally Hundreds Join TMC in Magrahat West

MI News Service, South 24 Pgs: A significant political setback has hit the Indian Secular Front (ISF) in the run-up to the West Bengal Assembly elections, with a major Organizational split surfacing immediately after a rally addressed by party chairman Naushad Siddiqui in the Netra region.

In a dramatic turn of events, more than a hundred ISF activists and supporters have reportedly defected, triggering fresh concerns over the party's internal cohesion in the minority-dominated Magrahat West constituency. The exodus unfolded swiftly following Siddiqui's meeting, exposing what political observers describe as deep-rooted fissures within the ISF's grassroots structure.

Sensing an opportunity, the ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) moved decisively. Under the leadership of Diamond Harbour Coordinator and Magrahat West candidate Shamim Ahmed, the party orchestrated a large-scale induction drive, formally welcoming hundreds of former ISF workers into its fold. The move is being seen as a calculated organisational push aimed at consolidating TMC's position in a politically sensitive seat. Shamim Ahmed—who is simultaneously managing electoral responsibilities and broader organisational duties as a representative of MP Abhishek Banerjee—has intensified efforts beyond



conventional campaigning. While door-to-door outreach and public engagement continue, sources indicate that Ahmed's primary focus remains on the party's grassroots machinery through strategic inclusions and cadre expansion. TMC insiders suggest that this dual-track strategy—campaigning alongside organisational consolidation—has become central to the party's blueprint in Diamond Harbour and adjoining constituencies. Ahmed's proactive outreach to opposition ranks, particularly within ISF, reflects a broader attempt to weaken rival formations while reinforcing TMC's booth-level strength. The developments have also reignited discussions around what party leaders describe as Abhishek Banerjee's "silent revolution" in the region—marked not only by develop-

ment initiatives but also by systematic organisational expansion. Ahmed's recent manoeuvres are being positioned as an extension of that model, focusing on quiet but impactful political realignments. With elections fast approaching, the sudden erosion of ISF's support base in Magrahat West could have far-reaching electoral implications. Political analysts believe that the scale and timing of the defections may significantly tilt the balance in favour of the TMC, while raising serious questions about ISF's preparedness to withstand electoral pressure in key minority belts. As the campaign intensifies, Magrahat West is now emerging as a crucial battleground where organisational strength, rather than rhetoric alone, may ultimately determine the outcome

Lalbaz Directs Swift Action on Pending Warrants

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the announcement of the West Bengal Assembly Election 2026 schedule, the Election Commission has significantly intensified its monitoring mechanisms across the state. Reflecting this strict approach, Kolkata Police headquarters at Lalbaz has issued firm instructions to all police stations in the city regarding pending arrest warrants and enforcement actions. According to the directive, all police stations have been instructed to take immediate steps in cases where arrest warrants are still pending execution. Stations must either arrest the accused without delay or submit a detailed report explaining the action taken so far. Senior officials have asked for a comprehensive status report to be sent to headquarters.

19 States, Centre unite to counter me, says Mamata

Continued from Pg 1: Voters are being brought in trains and buses from Bihar to cast their votes. "A total of 19 States and the Central Government have come together against me... I am enough for them. I will continue my fight for the common people because I do not think I am alone. I have the blessings of the people," she said.

The TMC chief took a swipe at PM Modi, asking whether he wanted to become the chief minister of West Bengal, in response to his remark that he was the candidate in all the 294 seats in the state.

Mamata Banerjee said PM Modi's statement that he was the candidate in all 294 Assembly seats mirrored her own oft-repeated assertion during election campaigns since 2021.

The PM, while addressing a rally in Siliguri on Sunday, said he was the "BJP's candidate across all constituencies" in West Bengal. "If Modiji says he is the candidate in 294 seats, then he should resign as prime minister and say he wants to be the chief minister of West Bengal. Let him seek votes for all the constituencies," she said. "First, decide whether you want to be the Prime minister of the country or the Chief minister of West Bengal. You are an outsider here. Handle Delhi first, then think about West Bengal," she said.

TMC Alleges EC Orders Vehicle Searches of Abhishek Ahead of Polls, Calls It Political Bias



Trinamool Congress National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee during an election campaign in Coochbehar on Tuesday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh political controversy has erupted in West Bengal ahead of the elections after the Trinamool Congress (TMC) alleged that the Election Commission has issued instructions to conduct vehicle checks of party leaders, including TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee and his wife Rujira Banerjee.

The allegation was made after the party shared a purported screenshot of a WhatsApp message, claiming it contained directives from the poll body regarding intensified surveillance of TMC leaders' vehicles. According to the party, the message specifies that except for Chief Minister

Mamata Banerjee, all other ministers and senior leaders' vehicles should be checked, explicitly naming Abhishek Banerjee and Rujira Banerjee.

The TMC has strongly objected to the alleged instructions, calling them politically motivated and accusing the Election Commission of acting under pressure. The party claims that the directive is part of a larger strategy to target its leaders and disrupt campaign activities ahead of the crucial Assembly elections in the state.

According to the screenshot shared by the party, the message also mentions concerns about alleged misuse of funds under the guise of health-related

campaigns. Based on these claims, instructions were reportedly issued to ensure strict checking of vehicles linked to TMC leaders and their family members. The message allegedly stresses that no exceptions should be made in the case of Abhishek Banerjee and Rujira Banerjee.

The TMC further alleged that even routine campaign and public outreach programmes of the party are being subjected to heightened scrutiny. It described the move as an attempt to hinder election-related activities and create unnecessary obstacles for party functionaries on the ground.

In its statement, the party accused the Election Commission of functioning in a biased manner and alleged that the actions were aimed at benefiting the ruling opposition. It also claimed that the poll authority is targeting TMC leaders selectively while ignoring similar scrutiny of other political parties.

With the election schedule already underway, the development has added to the growing political tension in the state. The allegations have triggered a fresh round of political exchanges between the ruling party and the opposition, further intensifying the charged pre-election atmosphere in West Bengal.



TMC leader Subrata Bakshi pays tribute at the statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar on Red Road on the occasion of his 136th birth anniversary on Tuesday.

Amit Shah participates in road show in Kaliaganj

Continued from Pg 1: is formed, we will ensure from the very first day that goods produced here are sold across the nation. We will also set up a project to produce better seeds so that they do not need to bring seeds from outside Bengal."

One again coming down heavily of the TMC and its leaders, Shah said "the Bengal chief minister should be ashamed of herself that she, despite being a woman, is not being able to secure the dignity of women." In this connection he referred to several cases of atrocities against women in the state during the past few years including the cases like one in R G Kar hospital.

Also referring to the gory cases of Durgapur Medical College, and South Kolkata Law College, Shah said it had made Bengal hang its head in shame, and the unabated exploitation of women by TMC goons never bothered Mamata Banerjee. "The culprits who outraged the modesty of women under Mamata Banerjee's shelter will be sent behind bars once the BJP government is formed, he said.

Shah also pointed out that a number of Super Specialty hospitals in the state has neither doctors nor nurses; the goons of the TMC collect tax from the patients."

Continuing his tirade the Home minister alleged that the ruling party now siphon off 1 kilo of rice out of the 5 kilos sent by Modi Ji for the poor. They should be ashamed of them. "But I assure you that once a BJP government is formed, we will introduce the system of verification through thumb impression and stop pilferage of rice. We have decided to provide GI tags to the products like Balucharry Sares and the potteries of Panchmura and remove middlemen from their trades. Mamata Banerjee says that women should not venture out after 7 pm. She has to go and see in Assam where there is BJP rule and where women visit marriage functions at 1 am on a scooter wearing 10 tolas of gold without a small of security threat"

He said a BJP government will provide women security for 24 hours a day.

"The BJP government will bring a regime of trust and not fear," he said adding "The TMC goons killed more than 300 BJP karyakartas. Once the BJP government is formed, we will get even with the goons who have troubled our karyakartas."

"I warn these goons to sit at home on the 23rd and 29th of April on the days of polling or else they will not be spared. People of Bengal should vote without fear because the Election Commission has deployed paramilitary forces to ensure that Mamata Banerjee's goons cannot cause disturbance in the poll process."

Turning his attention towards the issue of infiltration, Shah said "Mamata Banerjee cannot depend on infiltrators. They will deport all the infiltrators one by one. India is not a Dharamshala but our land. Mamata Banerjee has driven out seven thousand industries, and we have decided to build four industrial estates where hundreds of crores worth of investments will come."

He said "We have also decided to introduce UCC in Bengal, and no one will be allowed to indulge in

polygamy. We will pay government employees as per the 7th pay commission, and women will be given Rs.3,000 every month. Bus rides will be made free for women. Pregnant women will be given Rs.21,000 and six nutrition kits. Jobless youths will be given Rs.3,000 unemployment allowance per month. We will provide free medical care up to Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 15,000 for the youth preparing for competitive exams. We will buy all the paddy produced by the farmers of West Bengal at Rs.3100 per quintal. We will increase widow, senior citizen, and disability pensions by double. Make tea garden laborers the owners of land and open the closed juice mills"

He said the TMC government was involved in the cash-for-quarry scam, teachers' appointment scam, SSC scam, Nagar Palika scam, PDS scam, cow smuggling scam, MGNREGA, and PM Awas scam, and crores of rupees were gobbled up. But I want to tell them that we will set up an inquiry commission and send them behind bars after the inquiry."



Business account books and decorative items for shops are being sold at Burrabazar on the eve of the Bengali New Year, as traders prepare for the new financial beginning on Tuesday.

Mamata Launches Fierce Attack on BJP, Alleges Targeting of TMC Booth Agents

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee addressed a massive public rally at KachdahaStackyard ground in Pingla, West Medinipur, campaigning in support of TMC candidates ManasBhunia from Sabang and AjitMaitty from Pingla. The rally witnessed strong political attacks from the Chief Minister as she intensified her criticism of the BJP ahead of the elections.

Speaking at the gathering, Mamata Banerjee said she has been in politics for a long time, serving as both a Member of Parliament and a Union Minister, but has never seen "such dirty political games" as those being played by the BJP. She alleged that there are instructions to arrest Trinamool booth agents to prevent them from sitting at polling stations during the elections.

"They think they will play dirty

games? We will play a stronger game and defeat them," she said, asserting that the party is prepared to counter any attempts to disrupt the electoral process. The Chief Minister also claimed that she has already approached the Supreme Court on issues related to voter lists and said she remains active both legally and on the ground. She assured supporters that names removed from electoral rolls would eventually be restored, stating, "If not today, then tomorrow, we will ensure justice."

Without naming individuals directly at all times, Mamata Banerjee also took a sharp dig at political opponents from Uttar Pradesh, referring to controversial statements about bulldozer politics in Bengal. She remarked that while some leaders talk about bulldozers in Bengal, "Noida itself is burning," intensifying her criticism of rival parties.

She further alleged that a parallel system is being created to ensure TMC booth agents are either detained or removed from polling duties, but insisted that alternative arrangements are being made so that every booth has representation. According to her, women representatives and party workers will continue to act as agents despite any pressure.

Meanwhile, TMC leadership sources claimed that several of their leaders are being harassed under the pretext of election-related checks. The party has alleged that such actions are undemocratic and politically motivated, and has indicated that it will approach the Election Commission over the issue. With the campaign intensifying, the political battle in Bengal continues to heat up as parties trade sharp accusations ahead of polling.



Alpana drawings were created on the streets by the Bhasha O Chetana Samiti on the eve of its 28th year All-Day Bengali New Year Festival, in front of the Academy of Fine Arts in Kolkata on Tuesday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

EC Orders Immediate Transfer of Beldanga ICAhead of Phase 1 Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant administrative reshuffle ahead of the upcoming elections, the Officer-in-Charge (IC) of Beldanga police station in Murshidabad has been transferred with immediate effect. The decision comes shortly after the transfer of the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) of Beldanga, marking another major change in the district's policing setup.

According to official sources, the Election Commission directed that Ashutosh Roy, currently posted at Howrah Police Station, will take charge as the new IC of Beldanga. A formal notification has been issued by the state police, and he has been instructed to assume charge immediately. This development follows the earlier appointment of AnandjitHor as SDPO of Beldanga by the Commission.

The reshuffle comes in the backdrop of heightened electoral monitoring in West Bengal, as the Election Commission intensifies preparations for the first phase of polling. The Chief Electoral Officer of the state recently visited

Beldanga, after which the changes in local police leadership were implemented. Meanwhile, the Election Commission of India held an urgent high-level review meeting with the Chief Electoral Officer of West Bengal to assess the law and order situation across the state. The meeting focused on the deployment of central forces at polling booths, especially in sensitive and vulnerable areas. Officials discussed whether additional central forces would be required for the first phase of polling and reviewed the deployment strategy for maintaining peace and security. The state CEO, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, is expected to participate virtually in the discussions, according to sources. The Commission has also issued strict instructions for conducting route marches in sensitive areas. District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police have been directed to carry out these marches within the next two to three days, particularly in regions where incidents of violence or unrest were reported during previous elections.

NAME CHANGE

I, ALI HUSSAIN LASKAR, S/O - ECHAK LASKAR, R/O - Tajpur, Fatepur, P.O. Jaynagar Majilpur, South 24 Pgs., do hereby declare that my father CHAK LASKAR, NURECHAK NASKAR, S/O - LATE NUR ISLAM LASKAR, shall henceforth be known as ECHAK LASKAR, S/O - LATE NUR ISLAM LASKAR as declared before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Baripur, vide an affidavit dated 27/01/2026. ECHAK LASKAR, NURECHAK NASKAR & CHAK LASKAR all are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mihir Shah (Old Name), S/o - Kishore Barbhaya, residing at 4, Ashu Biswas Road, Bhowanipore, Kol-700025, WB, do hereby declare that, I have changed my name from Mihir Shah to Barbhaya, my New name is Mihir Barbhaya, shall be known as now, in my Policy No. 436903525 dtd. 28/02/2006, in the name of Mihir Shah (Old Name) & Mihir Barbhaya are same person. My Aadhar No. 7421 8058 8770 are my Pan No. BCXBP1991H in the name of Mihir Barbhaya, Mihir Shah and Mihir Barbhaya both are same and identical person.

Name Change

I, Gauri Karmakar (Old Name), Wife of Dilip Kumar Karmakar, Residing At 100/2, Kailash Das Road, Naihati, Dist - 24 Parganas North, Pin - 743166, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gauri Karmakar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Gauri Karmakar (Old Name) And Gauri Karmakar (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Dilip Karmakar (Old Name), Son Of Late Nanipogal Karmakar, Residing At 100/2, Kailash Das Road, Naihati, Dist - 24 Parganas North, Pin - 743166, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Dilip Kumar Karmakar (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Dilip Karmakar (Old Name) And Dilip Kumar Karmakar (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Ureka Kumar Rakesh (Old Name), Wife Of Rakesh Kumar, Residing At 45, Krishna Mohan Mitra Lane, Salkia, P.S.-Golabari, Dist - Howrah, Pin- 711106, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ureka Sharma (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Ureka Kumar Rakesh (Old Name) And Ureka Sharma (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Kumar Rakesh (Old Name), Son Of Nayyal Kishor Sharma, Residing At Narayan Vilia, Gr-2, 45, Krishna Mohan Mitra Lane, Salkia, P.S.- Golabari, Dist - Howrah, Pin- 711106, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kumar Rakesh (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Kumar Rakesh (Old Name) And Kumar Rakesh (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Varma Mohan Krishna (Old Name), Son Of Late Kali Charan Verma, Residing At 19, Hanspurk 1st Lane, Barabazar, Kolkata- 700007, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mohan Verma (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Alipore On 13/04/2026. Varma Mohan Krishna (Old Name) And Mohan Verma (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rekha Verma (Old Name), Daughter Of Ramsirmani Seth @ Shyamprati Seth And Wife Of Mohan Verma, Residing At 19, Hanspurk 1st Lane, Barabazar, Kolkata- 700007, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Rekha Verma (New Name) As Declared Before The Notary Public At Alipore On 13/04/2026. Rekha Verma (Old Name) And Rekha Verma (New Name). Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

9. Rajni Ray Nee Ram. Daughter of Bishwanath Ram. Resident of 22/31, D. H. Road, P.O - PS - Behala, Kolkata- 34 vide an affidavit (No - 29562) Sworn before the Judicial Magistrate (1st class) Alipore Court on Dated 27/03/2026 My father Bishwanath Ram and Bishwanath Ram both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, PARVEEN RAHMAN, wife of Md. Sultan residing at 3rd floor, 26. Sir Syed Ahmed Road, road, Post Office; Entally, Police station Baniapukur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin Code No. 700014, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that by an affidavit (No. 693) dated 09.04.2026 before the 1st class Metropolitan Magistrate at Calcutta that PARVEEN RAHMAN and PARVEEN SULTAN is the same and one identical person.

Name Change

Abdul Mohit Gharami Father - Abdul Gaffar Gharami Address - Vill - Ghogharash PO - Zafarpur PS - Matia District - 24 Pgs (N) Pin - 743428 My name is mistakenly written as Abdul Mohit Gharami in my Aadhar Card No. - 731739812128 and Pan Card No. - HVPDP1969K and Voter Card No. - EBDV3721867 Md Abdul Mohit Gharami and School Certificate as Md Abdul Mohit Gharami. Apart from this, my father's name is mistakenly written as Abdul Gaffar Gharami in my mentioned documents and Md Abdul Gaffar Gharami school list (95 Basistha Vidyan Sabha Part No. - 82 Serial No. - 396) My father's name is mistakenly written as Abdul Gaffar Gharami. On 09/01/2026, Ld Judicial Magistrate 1st Class Basarat Court Affidavit stated that I, Abdul Mohit Gharami, Abdul Mohit Gharami, Md Abdul Mohit Gharami and Md Abdul Mohit Gharami and my father - Abdul Gaffar Gharami, Abdul Gaffar Gharami, Md Abdul Gaffar Gharami and Abdul Gaffar Gharami are known as one and the same person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDAR RAHAMAN, S/O - SUKU ALI MONDAL, residing at Biswaspara, Chandigarh, P.O. - Korabandi, Dist - North 24 Pgs., W.B., PIN- 700130, do hereby declare that my name is recorded as RAHAMAN MONDAL, S/O - SUKURALI in 2002. I, SON OF LATE MUNSHI ABUL FAZAL, RESIDING AT FURURIA, PO-FURURIA, PS-JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY- 712706, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SK EMAMUL (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. MUNSHI QUTUBUDDIN (OLD NAME) AND MUNSI MD KUTUBUDDIN (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, PORITOSH MONDAL (old name), S/O, GOPAL MONDAL, RESIDING AT 17/11H/23, ULTADANGA MAIN ROAD, PS-ULTADANGA, KOLKATA-700067 HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS PARITOSH MONDAL (new name) AS DECLARED BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA VIDE AFFIDAVIT. PORITOSH MONDAL AND PARITOSH MONDAL BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, HARUN ALI RASHID MALLA (OLD NAME), SON OF ABDUR RAJJAK MALLA, RESIDING AT VILL-NARAYANPUR, PO-B NARAYANPUR BHANGORE, KOLKATA-743502, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS HARUN AL RASID MOLLAN (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 10/04/2026. HARUN AL RASHID MALLA (OLD NAME) AND HARUN AL RASID MOLLAN (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, PARTHA SARTHI NATH (OLD NAME), SON OF MRINAL KANTI NATH, RESIDING AT KAMARATHUBA, SACHIN KAR GUPTA, HATTHUBA, HABRA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS- 743263, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS PARTHA SARATHI NATH (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. PARTHA SARTHI NATH AND PARTHA SARATHI NATH BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABUL HASEM KHAN (OLD NAME), SON OF MOSELM SEKH, RESIDING AT CHAK ENAYET NAGAR BEG PARS, PO - CHAK ENAYET NAGAR, PS - BISHNUPUR, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS - 743503, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS ABU HOSSEN SEKH (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. ABUL HASEM KHAN AND ABU HOSSEN SEKH BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, Anika Verma (old name) W/O Amit Verma, and D/O Bal Krishna Bagoria, Resident of Durga Residence Flat No-E/4, Block-A, 4th Floor, E/2, Hatara Road, Jyngra, P.O. - Desh Bandhu Nagar, P.S. - Baguati, Dist - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700059, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Anika Bagoria (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Anika Bagoria (new name) and Anika Verma (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAFIKA BAGAME (OLD NAME), WIFE OF MD RAFIK MALLA, RESIDING AT PASCHIM KUMIRMORA, MALLICKPARA, PS-CHANDITALA, HOOGHLY- 712704, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS RAFIKA BEGUM (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE LD 1ST CLASS JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT SREERAMPURE ON 12/04/2026. RAFIKA BAGAME AND RAFIKA BEGUM BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, ROFIK MOLLA (OLD NAME), SON OF MD AMIN MOLLA, RESIDING AT PASCHIM KUMIRMORA, MALLICKPARA, PS-CHANDITALA, HOOGHLY- 712704, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MD RAFIK MOLLA (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE LD 1ST CLASS JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT SREERAMPURE ON 12/04/2026. ROFIK MOLLA AND MD RAFIK MOLLA BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, SK YAR MAHAMMAD (OLD NAME), SON OF LATE SK SAFAR ALI, RESIDING AT VILL-183, HATPUKUR PURBAPARA, PO - JANAI, PS - CHANDITALA, HOOGHLY- 712304, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SK IYAR MAHAMMAD (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 10/04/2026. SK YAR MAHAMMAD (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, HabaI Mahammad, S/O, OI Mahammad, R/O, Shatus, Rajhat, Polba, Hooghly-712123, W.B., do hereby declare that, I, HabaI Mahammad, S/O, OI Mahammad (হাভেল মহম্মদ সৈয়দ) ismail sekh S/O, AI Mohd. Sekh (ইসমাইল সৈয়দ) and Sekh ismail S/O. OI Mohd (সৈয়দ ইমামুল হক) are all the same and one identical person. vide an affidavit no. 10894 dtd. 13/04/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadra, Hooghly Court, those names has been recorded in the 2002 Voter List, 190 Polba Assembly, Part No. 114, Sl. No. 301, Hooghly, and also in my all documents.

NAME CHANGE

I, SOMA MUKHERJEE, W/O - UTPAL MUKHERJEE, do hereby declare that in my son UDIT MUKHERJEE's birth certificate (Regd. No. 1071, dated 15-11-95 issued by Baduria Municipality) register book mother's name has been recorded as SOMA, On 07-04-2026 through affidavit no. 11774 submitted before the Court of 1st class Judicial Magistrate, Basarat. I affirm that SOMA MUKHERJEE & SOMA is the same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, ABDAR RAHAMAN, S/O - SUKU ALI MONDAL, residing at Biswaspara, Chandigarh, P.O. - Korabandi, Dist - North 24 Pgs., W.B., PIN- 700130, do hereby declare that my name is recorded as RAHAMAN MONDAL, S/O - SUKURALI in 2002. I, SON OF LATE MUNSHI ABUL FAZAL, RESIDING AT FURURIA, PO-FURURIA, PS-JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY- 712706, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SK EMAMUL (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. MUNSHI QUTUBUDDIN (OLD NAME) AND MUNSI MD KUTUBUDDIN (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, Ajhar Malik (Old Name) S/o Asraf Malik Residing at Pakhiura Purbapara, Po - Kumari Ramnagar, Ps - Hanskhali, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajhar Malik (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit no 86/2026 Dated 13-04-2026. Ajhar Malik (Old Name) and Ajhar Malik (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Buddheshwar Ghosh (Old Name) S/o Late Jiten Ghosh Residing at Ulashi, Madhyapara, District - Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Buddhishwar Ghosh (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 85/2026 Dated 13-04-2026. Buddheshwar Ghosh (Old Name) and Buddhishwar Ghosh (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Buddhishwar Ghosh S/o Late Jiten Ghosh Residing at Ulashi, Madhyapara, District - Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal, India, that my deceased father who previously known as Jiten, Jirendra Nath Ghosh (Old Name) shall henceforth be known as Jiten Ghosh (New Name) as declared before the Notary public Kolkata vide affidavit no 84/2026 Dated 13-04-2026. I declare that my deceased father Jiten, Jirendra Nath Ghosh (Old Name) and Jiten Ghosh (New Name) is same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ajiit Banerjee (Old Name), S/o Kanai Banerjee, residing at 21, Mahadeb Ghosh Road, Ariadaha, District - North 24 Parganas, PIN - 700057, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajiit Kumar Banerjee (New Name), as declared before the Notary Public, Kolkata, vide affidavit no 10 dated 10-04-2026. Ajiit Banerjee (Old Name) and Ajiit Kumar Banerjee (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sushil Kumar Majumder (Old Name) S/o Satish Majumder Residing at Dhimeda Molla, Dheimedan Malia, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700145, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sushil Kumar Majumder (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-04-2026. Sushil Kumar Majumder (Old Name) and Sushil Majumder (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Nur Alam Bagani (Old Name) S/o Adul Ali Bagani Residing at Dakshin Kurnakhali, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700103, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nur Alam Bagani (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 10-04-2026. Nur Alam Bagani (Old Name) and Nur Alam Bagani (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SURESH GANAGALLA (OLD NAME), SON OF TULSI DASU GANAGALLA, RESIDING AT T-31-AI UNIT NO 2, GOLEKHOLI TRAFFIC, PO-KHARAGPUR, PS-KHARAGPUR (N) PASCHIM MEDINIPUR-721301, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SURESH (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE LD 1ST CLASS JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT KHARAGPUR ON 27/03/2026. SURESH GANAGALLA AND SURESH BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON AND MY FATHER NAME MENTIONED AS TULSI DASU GANAGALLA, AND GANAGALLA TULSI DASU, IS SAME AND IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, SAUMITRA MANNA (OLD NAME), SON OF BHADRESHWAR MANNA, RESIDING AT KAPASHIRIA DATERPARA, PO-BORA, PS-CHANDITALA-712306, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SAUMITRA MANNA (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. SAUMITRA MANNA (OLD NAME) AND SAUMITRA MANNA (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, SERINA BEGUM ABDULMAJID SHAIKH (OLD NAME), WIFE OF SK ABDUL MAJED, D/O SK AMIR HOSSAIN, RESIDING AT VILL-KHURJIA, PO-PS-HARIPAL-712403, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SERINA BIBI (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. SERINA BEGUM ABDULMAJID SHAIKH (OLD NAME) AND SERINA BIBI (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, MUNSHI QUTUBUDDIN (OLD NAME), SON OF LATE MUNSHI ABUL FAZAL, RESIDING AT FURURIA, PO-FURURIA, PS-JANGIPARA, HOOGHLY- 712706, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MUNSI MD KUTUBUDDIN (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. MUNSHI QUTUBUDDIN (OLD NAME) AND MUNSI MD KUTUBUDDIN (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, Pobitra Mondal (old name) S/O Late Sankar Mondal, Resident of 338, Madurdaha, Kolkata- 700107, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pabitra Mondal (new name), as declared Before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Pabitra Mondal (new name) and Pobitra Mondal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHEKH EMAMUL (OLD NAME), SON OF SK SAMET, RESIDING AT VILL-JANKAPUR, PS- DANTAN, West Medinipur, 721435, West Bengal, INDIA, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SK EMAMUL (NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 13/04/2026. SHEKH EMAMUL (OLD NAME) AND SK EMAMUL (NEW NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, Nazma Firdousi (old name) W/O Hafizuddin Ahmed, Resident of Vill & P.O. - Khajrudaha, Musalman Para, PS - Gurap, Dist - Hooghly, Pin- 712149, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nazma Firdousi Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Nazma Firdousi Ahmed (old name) and Nazma Firdousi (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Hafizuddin Ahmed (old name) S/O Mohtuddin Ahmed, Resident of Vill & P.O. - Khajrudaha, Musalman Para, PS - Gurap, Dist - Hooghly, Pin- 712149, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Hafizuddin Ahmed (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Hafizuddin Ahmed (old name) and Hafizuddin Ahmed (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mohammad Hasan Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Md Sayed Ali Mondal, Residing At Kankhuli Mondal Para, PS-Rabindranagar, Diamond Harbour-700066, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Hasan Mondal (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Mohammad Hasan Mondal And Md Hasan Mondal Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Noor Islam Mistry (Old Name), Son Of Azizul Rahman Mistry, Residing At S-8/A, Marry Road, Bartala, Kolkata-700018, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Noor Islam Mistry (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Noor Islam Mistry And Noor Alam Mistry Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Raufun Nisa (Old Name), Wife Of Noor Alam Mistry, Residing At S-8/A, Marry Road, Bartala, Kolkata- 700018, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Refin Bibi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Raufun Nisa And Refin Bibi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Ajanta Mukherjee (Old Name), Wife Of Soumya Banerjee, Residing At Vill-Janai, Po-Janai, Ps - Chanditala, Hooghly-712304, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Ajanta Banerjee (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Ajanta Mukherjee And Ajanta Banerjee Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Rahamat Ali Shekh (Old Name), Son Of Sakayati Ali Shekh, Residing At Vill-Nawabpur Gabtala, PO - Nawabpur, PS- Chanditala, Hooghly- 712701, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sakayati Ali Shekh (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 10/04/2026. Sakayati Ali Shekh (old name) and Sakayati Ali Shekh (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Jahanara Sekh (Old Name), Son Of Sk Rahamat Ali, Residing At Vill - Nawabpur Gabtala, PO - Nawabpur, PS - Chanditala, Hooghly- 712701, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Jahanara Begum (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Jahanara Sekh And Jahanara Begum Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

I, Pranab Kumar Dey (old name) son of Late Kanti Lal Dey, residing at Vill: Box-izabart Dakshinpara, PO - Midnapore, Dist: West Midnapore, Pin: 721101, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pranab Kumar Dey (new name) as declared before the Notary Public City Civil Court at Kolkata, vide affidavit SL No. 20, dated 13/04/2026. Pranab Kumar Dey (old name) and Pranab Kumar Dey (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Ahsan Lal Molla (old name) son of Abdul Halim Molla, residing at Vill: Ayajpurgar, PO - Bahiri, PS - Bolpur, Birbhum - 731240, West Bengal, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Molla Ahsan Kamal (new name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit SL No. 26, dated 13/02/2026. Ahsan Lal Molla (old name) and Molla Ahsan Kamal (new name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Debashree Maji (Old Name) W/O Debraj Maji Residing at Vill - Palsa, Po - Hatgobindpur, PS - Memari, District - Purbia Bardhaman, Pin - 713407, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Debashree Maji (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-04-2026. Debashree Maji (Old Name) and Debashree Maji (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Joy Dev Maji (Old Name) S/O Narayan Chandra Maji Residing at Vill - Palsa, Po - Hatgobindpur, PS - Memari, District - Purbia Bardhaman, Pin- 713407, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Joydev Maji (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 13-04-2026. Joy Dev Maji (Old Name) and Joydev Maji (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Aakashchir Molla (old name) S/O Abdul Ohab Molla, Resident of Vill & P.O. - Ramchandrapur, P.S. - Baduria, Dist. - North 24 Pgs. Pin- 743247, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Akhchir Molla (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Akhchir Molla (new name) and Aakashchir Molla (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mostakin Molla (old name) son of Manan Molla, Resident of Ankurhati (CT), P.O. Salarp, PS. Domjur, Dist - Howrah, Pin- 711409, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Mostakin Molla (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Mostakin Molla (old name) and Mostakin Molla (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Beauty Rani (old name) wife of Sheikh Saha Alam, daughter of Golam Murtaja Mondal, Resident of V-27/55, Satghara Lane, PO - Baduria, PS - Nadiali, Kolkata - 700044, South 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Bilkis Begum (new name), as declared Before The Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, vide an affidavit no. 32766, dated 08/04/2026. Bilkis Begum (new name) and Beauty Rani (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, MD TALAL SISH S/O MD GOLAM ABBAS, declare that my son md name MOHAMMAD IZHAAN AMIR (son old name). Resident of BL-A, 1ST FLOOR, FLAT-105, ADIL APARTMENT, 182/2, ANDUL ROAD, HOWRAH- 711109, West Bengal, India, I have changed my son name and he shall henceforth be known as MD IZHAAN AMIR (son new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. MD IZHAAN AMIR and MOHAMMAD IZHAAN AMIR both are same and one identical person (my son).

Name Change

I, MOHAMMAD TALAL SISH (old name) S/O MD GOLAM ABBAS, Resident of BL-A, 1ST FLOOR, FLAT-105, ADIL APARTMENT, 182/2, ANDUL ROAD, HOWRAH- 711109, West Bengal, India, I have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as MD TALAL SISH (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. MD TALAL SISH (new name) and MOHAMMAD TALAL SISH (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Kalpana Paul (old name) Wife of Sudhir Pal, and daughter of Ajit Kumar Paul, Resident of 2 No, Mahadanga Colony, Basak Bagari, P.O. P.S. - Chandannagar, Pin- 712136, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Kalpana Pal (new name), as declared Before The Judicial Magistrate Chandannagar Hooghly vide an affidavit dated 10/04/2026. Kalpana Paul (new name) and Kalpana Pal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Roshan Ara (old name) wife of Rizwan Khan, Resident of 21/1C, Taltala Bazar, PS - Taltala, Entally, Kolkata - 700014, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Roushan Khatoun (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Roushan Khatoun (new name) and Roshan Ara (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sk Mohammad Imran (old name) son of Sk Md Selim, Resident of 4, Nawab Abdul Latif Street, Park Street, Circus Avenue, Kolkata- 700016, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sk Md Imran (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 13/04/2026. Sk Md Imran (new name) and Sk Mohammad Imran (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Tanuja Bibi (Old Name), Wife Of Alimuddin Selk, Residing At Kasbagola Egra, East Medinipur - 721447, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tanuja Bibi (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/04/2026. Tanuja Bibi And Tanuja Bibi Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change

'Indian democracy will be stronger if women quota implemented in 2029': PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday that Indian democracy will become stronger and vibrant if elections to the Lok Sabha and various assemblies in 2029 are held with the women's reservation fully in place.

In an open letter to the women of the country, PM Modi also said that with women excelling in almost every field, it is only fitting that there is an increase in the participation of women in legislative bodies not only at the Centre, but across the country.

He said the amendments to the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam' should be passed in the three-day special sittings of Parliament, beginning April 16, and any further delay will be unfortunate and a gross injustice to the women of India.

"Our democracy will become stronger and more vibrant if the 2029 Lok Sabha elections and vari-

ous Assembly elections that year are held with women's reservation fully in place," he said in the letter posted on his personal handle of X.

The Prime minister further stated that the daughters of India cannot be asked to wait endlessly for what is rightfully theirs. "When the voice of women becomes stronger in our legislatures, the voice of democracy itself becomes stronger," he said.

"I seek your blessings and the blessings of crores of women across the length and breadth of India for the upcoming Parliament sitting and for the passage of the constitutional amendment. I urge you all to write to your local MPs and encourage them as they participate in this historic Parliament sitting," PM Modi said.

In September 2023, Parliament passed the 'Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam', commonly known as the Women's Reservation Act, marking a significant step towards enhancing

women's representation in all legislative bodies in the country.

The Act provided for the reservation of one-third of seats for women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies. The amendments to the Women's Reservation Act, when passed, will ensure an increase in the number of Lok Sabha seats to 816, of which 273 will exclusively be reserved for women.

The provision to provide 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies was brought by amending the Constitution in 2023.

Under the current law, the reservation for women would not have been enforceable before 2034, as it was tied to the completion of the delimitation exercise post 2027 Census.

To implement it from the 2029 Lok Sabha elections, changes were needed in the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam; hence, the government is

holding special three day sitting of Parliament to pass the amendments to the law.

Meanwhile, the Congress has lashed out at the Centre for not having shared with MPs the Constitution amendment bill or bills that would be brought in the special sitting of Parliament this week, saying this makes a "complete mockery of democracy" and reveals the "bulldozer mentality" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress General Secretary in-charge Communications Jairam Ramesh said on Tuesday that the 'special session' of Parliament will begin on April 16, when the election campaign in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal will be at its peak.

The Modi government has rejected the Opposition's perfectly reasonable and legitimate requests to convene an all-Party meeting after the elections are completed, fifteen days from today, he said on X.



Amidst election campaigning on Tuesday in Ward No. 111 of Tollygunge, Aroop Biswas—Trinamool Congress candidate for the Tollygunge Assembly constituency—played a game of carrom. He was accompanied by Borough Chairman Tarkeshwar Chakraborty and local municipal representative Sandeep Das.

Massive Explosion at Thermal Power Plant in Chhattisgarh! At Least 9 Dead, Many Injured.

MI News Service, Raipur: A massive explosion has rocked a thermal power plant in Chhattisgarh. So far, reports indicate that nine people have died in the accident. The number of injured is substantial. The incident has sparked widespread panic and alarm across the region. However, the exact cause of the explosion remains unclear.

Preliminary reports suggest that the sudden explosion occurred around 2:00 PM on Tuesday at the Vedanta Thermal Power Plant, located in the Shakti district of Chhattisgarh. The entire area was shaken by a deafening blast, immediately triggering a chaotic situation. It has been reported that at least 40 workers were on duty



inside the plant at the time of the incident. Following the explosion, pandemonium ensued as everyone scrambled simultaneously to flee the facility in a desperate bid to save their lives; this chaotic rush led to a stampede-like situation. As of now, nine fatalities have been

confirmed; however, it is feared that the death toll may rise further.

Immediately following the explosion, locals rushed to the scene. The entire sky was engulfed in black smoke. Upon receiving the report, police and fire services arrived at the site, and rescue operations commenced. Although the exact cause of the explosion remains unknown, sources indicate that it occurred within a boiler tube at the thermal power plant. The injured have already been rescued and admitted to a hospital, where they are currently undergoing treatment. However, it is feared that some workers remain trapped inside the power plant. Rescue operations are continuing with wartime urgency.

'48 hours to session, no bill in sight': says Derek O'Brien

MI News Service, New Delhi: Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha Leader Derek O'Brien has accused the Centre of "mocking Parliament", and said that lawmakers were yet to be given the draft of the legislations for women's reservation and delimitation.

In a post on X, O'Brien targeted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, saying, "Narendra and Amit continue to mock Parliament. And how!"

Parliament is scheduled to meet in the next 48 hours and "no one has even seen a copy of the proposed Constitutional Amendment," O'Brien said. He added, "This is what dictatorship looks like."

He alleged that this reflects a disregard for parliamentary processes and termed the situation as resembling a "dictatorship".

With a special session of Parliament set to begin on April 16, the Opposition parties including the Congress and the TMC on Tuesday lashed out at the Central government for allegedly not having shared with the MPs the Constitution amendment bill(s) that



would be brought in the special sitting, saying this makes a "complete mockery of democracy" and reveals the "bulldozer mentality" of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Congress MP and General Secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh criticised the Centre for scheduling the session at a time when election campaigning in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal is at its peak. He said the government had rejected the Opposition's request to

hold an all-party meeting after the elections, which he described as a "reasonable and legitimate" demand.

The Congress leader further pointed out that, as of now, Members of Parliament (MPs) have not been provided with copies of the Constitution Amendment Bill(s) that are expected to be debated and voted upon during the session. "Till this morning, the Modi Govt has NOT shared with MPs the Constitution Amendment Bill(s) they are supposed to be debating and voting upon. This makes a complete mockery of democracy and reveals the bulldozer mentality of the PM - who once claimed he was non-biological and now says he is a non-grihashti," he added.

Congress' whip in the Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, also slammed the government over the special session being "rushed", right at the peak of election campaigning in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Earlier, Lok Sabha leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi had also weighed in on the issue, highlighting concerns raised by Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. Quoting her editorial piece published in a national daily, he said that any delimitation linked to an increase in the strength of the Lok Sabha must be politically equitable, not just based on numbers.

Rahul Gandhi said Sonia Gandhi has flagged concerns about the risks and possible inequities that could arise from a hurried delimitation process, especially in the context of women's reservation.

IMA Issues Notice to Cardiologist Over Controversial 'Discount for Jai Shri Ram' Social Media Post

MI News Service, Kolkata: A Kolkata-based cardiologist has come under fire after a controversial social media post offering a discount on consultation fees triggered widespread backlash and disciplinary action from medical authorities.

In his now-viral post, the doctor reportedly announced that patients visiting his chamber would receive a ₹500 discount if they say "Jai Shri Ram" before consultation. The post also claimed the initiative was aimed at bringing healthcare closer to people under the "blessings of Lord Ram", sparking immediate outrage across social media platforms.

The incident has drawn strong criticism from medical professionals and organisations, with many questioning how a doctor can link healthcare services with religious or political slogans. The controversy has now been taken up seriously by the Indian Medical Association, the country's largest non-political doctors' body.

The association stated that while every citizen has the right to hold personal political or religious beliefs, discrimination in medical treatment based on religion or political identity is against medical ethics and professional conduct. Following the post, the IMA has issued a formal notice to the doctor, seeking a written explanation within three days. The body has warned that further action may be taken as per its constitution if the response is unsatisfactory.

The issue has also sparked political reactions. Former TMC MP Santanu Sen criticised the post, stating that the medical profession demands equal treatment for all patients irrespective of religion or ideology, and strongly opposed any attempt to mix healthcare with political slogans.

Meanwhile, the doctor has defended his post, stating that "Jai Shri Ram" is being used as a political slogan and arguing that he, as a citizen, has the right to express his views beyond his professional role. He also cited examples of doctors entering politics to justify his stance.

The controversy continues to fuel debate online, with many calling for stricter guidelines on professional conduct for medical practitioners on social media.

WB HS Results Likely After Polls, Expected in Early May

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Council of Higher Secondary Education has indicated that the Higher Secondary (HS) examination results will not be announced before the upcoming elections. According to sources, the results are now likely to be declared in the early part of the second week of May, bringing a slight delay compared to previous years.

This year marks a significant shift in the examination system, as the Council has introduced a semester-based pattern for Higher Secondary education. Under this new structure, students will receive results twice in an academic year instead of a single annual outcome. The move is expected to ease the pressure of one-time examinations and offer a more balanced evaluation system for students.

As per the current plan, the Madhyamik (secondary) examination results will be declared first, followed by the Higher Secondary results shortly thereafter. Officials suggest that if the Madhyamik results are announced around May 7 or 8, the Higher Secondary results could be released within two to three days after that.

At present, the evaluation of answer scripts is underway at a rapid pace. However, the ongoing election process has significantly impacted the timeline. A large number of teachers and government officials, who are usually involved in the evaluation and result processing work, have been assigned election duties. This has led to unavoidable delays in completing the assessment and finalising the results.

Despite these challenges, the Council is making efforts to ensure that the results are published as soon as possible without compromising accuracy. The au-

thorities are reportedly working in a mission mode to complete all pending evaluation tasks within the revised schedule.

The introduction of the semester system is being seen as a major reform in the state's education framework. It is expected to bring long-term benefits by reducing academic stress and allowing students to improve performance over multiple assessments. Education experts believe this system will align West Bengal with modern educational practices followed in other parts of the country.

Students across the state are now eagerly waiting for their results, as the revised timeline suggests only a short delay. The upcoming announcements are crucial for those planning their higher education and career paths, making this period one of anticipation and anxiety for thousands of candidates.

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Amit Shah Targets "HumayunKabir Sting", Says 'No Babri Mosque in Bengal'

MI News Service, Kolkata: A political storm has erupted in West Bengal following the circulation of a controversial sting operation video allegedly involving HumayunKabir. The footage, which captures a conversation between Kabir and another individual, has triggered intense debate ahead of the elections. Claims have surfaced suggesting that the conversation hints at links with BJP leaders, further fuelling political tensions in the state.

Amid the escalating controversy, Union Home Minister Amit Shah has directly entered the fray. Speaking during his campaign in Bengal, Shah launched a sharp attack, branding HumayunKabir as an "agent" of Mamata Banerjee. He alleged that the sting video is a "scripted attempt" aimed at defaming the BJP and misleading voters ahead of the crucial polls.

Shah's remarks have significantly intensified the political

discourse. "HumayunKabir is actually Didi's agent," he asserted, accusing the ruling party of orchestrating the controversy to tarnish the BJP's image. According to the Home Minister, the timing of the video's release indicates a deliberate strategy to influence public perception during the election season.

However, the most contentious aspect of Shah's speech revolved around his remarks on the Babri Masjid issue. In a strong statement, he declared that Bengal is heading for political change and that a BJP government will soon be formed in the state. He further added, "Let me make it clear—Babri Masjid cannot be built in Bengal under any circumstances," a comment that has sparked widespread reactions across political circles.

The sting operation has reportedly put HumayunKabir on the defensive just ahead of the Assembly elections. It is import-

ant to note that the authenticity of the video has not been independently verified. In the footage, Kabir is allegedly heard discussing financial dealings and connections with BJP leaders, even mentioning large sums of money and possible political arrangements. There are also claims that senior BJP leaders encouraged him to travel to Delhi, though these assertions remain unverified.

Kabir has categorically denied the authenticity of the video, dismissing it as fabricated. Meanwhile, the Trinamool Congress has projected the sting as evidence of a "secret nexus" involving the BJP.

With elections around the corner, the clash between allegations and counter-allegations has added a new dimension to Bengal's political landscape, turning the "sting versus counterattack" narrative into a major talking point among voters.

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Nitish Kumar resigns as Bihar CM, For the first time in Bihar—a BJP Chief Minister!



MI News Service, Patna: Bihar outgoing Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Tuesday recommended dissolution of his cabinet before meeting Governor Syed Ata Hasnain to submit his resignation from the CM post, state minister Ram Kripal Yadav said.

Kumar, the state's longest-serving Chief Minister, informed his cabinet colleagues about his decision to dissolve the council of ministers, a constitutional requirement before tendering his resignation as the CM to the Governor, Yadav told reporters here after a cabinet meeting.

"It was a very emotional moment for all of us. The Chief minister informed us about his decision for dissolution of the cabinet. He will submit his resignation as CM to the Governor

later in the day," Yadav said in the morning.

Kumar ultimately met the Governor and submitted his resignation late in the afternoon to make way for the first-ever BJP-led government in Bihar, a party leader said.

The BJP, which is the single largest party in the 243-member assembly with 89 MLAs, will elect its legislature party leader at its office by tonight.

Nitish held a cabinet meeting on Tuesday morning. Immediately thereafter, he proceeded to Lok Bhawan and submitted his resignation letter to the Governor. Shortly after, the name of Bihar's next Chief Minister was also announced. Samrat Choudhary is set to become the next Chief Minister of Bihar. In the previous cabinet, he served as

Nitish's 'deputy.' This marks the first time that a member of the BJP has become the Chief Minister of Bihar.

Nitish has been in poor health for the past few years. Consequently, within six months of taking the oath as Chief Minister, he expressed his desire to step down from that responsibility. He stated that he wished to move to the Rajya Sabha. On March 5, Nitish himself first announced his plans for his future political career via social media. On April 10, he took the oath as a Member of the Rajya Sabha.

The JDU leadership asserts that, whether or not Nitish continues to hold the post of Chief Minister, he remains steadfastly committed to the progress of Bihar. Sanjay Kumar Jha—the JDU's Execu-

tive President and a Member of Parliament in the Rajya Sabha—stated, "In the context of Bihar, we contested the last Assembly elections under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, with the support of the NDA. The new government will uphold Nitish-ji's policies and function under his guidance. Even if he does not serve as Chief Minister, his focus will remain firmly on Bihar; he will travel to Delhi only for the parliamentary sessions."

Speculation began regarding who would succeed Nitish following his resignation. It had become all but certain that the Chief Minister would be selected from the BJP—the largest constituent of Bihar's ruling alliance. Samrat emerged as the frontrunner in the race for the top post. Ultimately, his name received the final seal of approval. He is expected to take the oath as Chief Minister on Wednesday. Nitish Kumar's son, Nishant Kumar, may be appointed as the Deputy Chief Minister. Nitish began his political career as a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. This was followed by stints as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha and as a Union Minister. In the subsequent phase of his career—spanning two long decades—he served as the Chief Minister while remaining a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly. On Tuesday, Nitish resigned from that office.

EC's 'Burnol' Remark Sparks Row; Mamata Hits Out Ahead of Polls



MI News Service, Kolkata: A political controversy erupted ahead of the elections after an unusual social media post by the Election Commission of India drew sharp criticism, with Mamata Banerjee launching a strong attack from a rally in Tamluk on Tuesday.

Traditionally known for issuing formal and restrained advisories before polls, the Commission's recent post stood out for its striking language. While urging voters to come out fearlessly to cast their ballots, it also warned miscreants and those with criminal backgrounds to "keep Burnol and Boroline ready," suggesting consequences that would leave a lasting impact. The message further stated that strict legal action would be taken against anyone attempting to disrupt the electoral process.

The post quickly triggered reactions from the All India Trinamool Congress, which termed the language inappropriate. Addressing a public meeting in Tamluk, Banerjee questioned the intent behind the Commission's wording. "What does it mean to say you will burn in such heat? Does it imply

officers will be targeted if they do not support a particular party?" she asked, alleging bias.

She also raised serious allegations about voter intimidation, claiming that an elderly woman in Raiganj had died after being pressured to cast her postal ballot in favour of the BJP. "Why should anyone be forced? Are people bonded labourers?" she said.

The Chief Minister further accused BJP-ruled states of targeting migrant workers from Bengal. She alleged incidents of harassment and violence in states like Odisha, Rajasthan, and Delhi, questioning the lack of action in those cases. "You attack Bengalis in your states and then come here asking for votes," she remarked.

Without naming him, Banerjee also took a swipe at BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, referring to past political developments and alleging a nexus during earlier regimes.

"Within just nine months, we had built nine bridges. During the farmers' movement, we were stopped at Kolaghat when the CPM was in power, and the person

who is now a senior BJP leader also had a role in it. Jagai, Madhai, Gadai—there was a clear understanding among all of them," she stated. She reiterated her government's development initiatives in Tamluk, highlighting infrastructure, education, and cultural projects. On employment, Banerjee accused the Centre of failing to deliver on job promises, claiming that opportunities in sectors like railways and defence had shrunk. She contrasted this with her government's record, asserting that unemployment in Bengal had been reduced significantly.

"They have sold LIC. They have sold the country. They have promised to provide 20 million jobs a year—have they given even one? In Bengal, we have reduced unemployment by 40 per cent, while in Delhi it has increased by 40 per cent," Mamata Banerjee said.

She added, "They say whisper things and speak nothing but lies. From morning till night, they mislead people. They are like raiders, trying to create fear. I have the circular in my hand—they say people will burn in the heat on polling

day. Why? People will stand in queues to vote. If machines malfunction, people will have to wait. That is not booth jamming, it is the democratic right of the people."

Reaffirming her stance, Banerjee said attempts to create fear around voting would not succeed, emphasizing that standing in queues or delays due to technical issues were part of a democratic process, not disruptions.

From the Tamluk rally, Mamata Banerjee also highlighted the development work carried out by the Trinamool government. She said, "We have built Matangini Hazra Women's College. A separate building has been constructed for the police. We have established a medical college here. A cultural complex has also been set up in the name of Matangini Hazra, and a gallery has been built in Pichaboni. The soil of Tamluk is the soil of freedom. The house of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar has been renovated. All of them belong to this district. That is why I feel blessed to have built Jagannath Dham here, as it is your historic pilgrimage site."

Study gives more insight into risk of obstetric anal sphincter injury



WASHINGTON [US] : When a first-time mother needs medical assistance during childbirth, the chance of obstetric anal sphincter injury--a serious kind of perineal trauma between the vulva and anus--is more than halved when a lateral episiotomy (angled incision) is made in the tissue between the vaginal and anal opening.

Researchers from Stockholm's Danderyd Hospital and Karolinska Institutet conducted a randomised clinical trial, the findings of which were reported in The BMJ.

Anal incontinence and trouble holding onto gas and excrement

can result from obstetric anal sphincter injury (OASI), which affects the anal sphincter muscles. In addition, it can lower quality of life and lead to sexual issues. In Sweden, around 5% of all first-time women who give birth vaginally suffer from this severe type of perineal damage.

"Women giving birth for the first time and requiring instrumental birth are at the highest risk of sustaining OASI," said Sophia Brismar Wendel, associate professor in obstetrics and gynaecology at the Department of Clinical Sciences, Danderyd Hospital, Karolinska Institutet and senior consultant at the

Department of Women's Health, Danderyd Hospital. "Therefore, we wanted to assess if such injury could be prevented in this group with a lateral episiotomy (angled cut in the perineum) when the baby's head is crowning."

Participants were recruited to the EVA (Episiotomy in Vacuum Assisted delivery) trial at eight Swedish hospitals between 2017 and 2023. Over 6 100 pregnant women expecting their first child agreed to take part if the delivery required vacuum assistance. A total of 702 women with a vacuum assisted delivery were randomly assigned to receive a later-

al episiotomy or no episiotomy.

The lateral episiotomy reduced the risk of OASI by an average of 53 per cent. Among the women assigned to the procedure, 6.1 per cent sustained an OASI, compared to 13.1 per cent in the comparison group. Moreover, the procedure did not increase the risk of severe blood loss, negative birth experience, prolonged hospitalisation or additional complications. However, the risk of wound complications such as wound infection and wound dehiscence was increased in the episiotomy group. "Episiotomy as a medical intervention is controversial as it has historically also been used for normal births, sometimes without the woman's consent," said Sophia Brismar Wendel. "The use of episiotomy is highly variable in different countries, and in Sweden we've practised restrictive use given the lack of evidence. However, these results may impact obstetric care both in Sweden and elsewhere." The trial is also gathering data on the women's self-reported symptoms at one and five years after childbirth. The results from the one-year follow-up will soon be analysed, which might give some answers about any differences in symptoms, such as anal incontinence and sexual function.

"This may help doctors and pregnant women in shared informed decision-making regarding the use of a prophylactic lateral episiotomy," said Sophia Brismar Wendel.

Researchers discover new approach against fatty liver

WASHINGTON [US]: The failure of the liver as a crucial organ is becoming more common due to fatty liver disease, often known as steatotic liver disease or SLD for short. Researchers have now found that a saturated fatty acid in blood vessels causes the synthesis of the signalling molecule SEMA3A, which shuts the blood vessel 'windows.'

This makes it more difficult for fat to go from the liver to the adipose tissue. The researchers write in the journal Nature Cardiovascular Research that when SEMA3A is suppressed, the windows open again and the amount of fat in the liver decreases.

Team of researchers Heinrich Heine University Dusseldorf (HHU)'s Institute of Metabolic Physiology, working with the German Diabetes Centre (DDZ) and other partners

In particular, 'metabolic dysfunction-associated SLD' (MASLD for short) can develop due to adverse lifestyle factors such as a high-energy diet and little exercise. It already affects around a third of all people worldwide. Initially, MASLD has no pathological effects, but it can develop into inflammation of the liver. In the long term, this may lead to liver cirrhosis, liver failure or even liver cancer. There is no substitute procedure that can take over the function of the liver in the long term, such as dialysis for kidney failure. Those affected are at high risk and may only be cured by a liver transplant. In addition, people with MASLD have an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes mellitus or dying from cardiovascular diseases. Obesity favours MASLD, but not all obese people are affected. And conversely, slim people can also develop the disease.

The molecular causes of the development of MASLD are not fully understood. A team of researchers from HHU, the DDZ (Leibniz Centre for Diabetes Research at HHU), Dusseldorf University Hospital (UKD) and Forschungszentrum Julich (FZJ) have now discovered an important aspect that explains how MASLD develops.

The leading role is played by windows (Latin: fenestrae) in the endothelial cells of blood vessel, through which substances are exchanged between liver cells and blood. The liver uses these tiny windows to release excess fat particles into the adipose



tissue via the bloodstream. The researchers discovered that these windows are closed by a mechanism in which the signalling molecule SEMA3A (semaphorin-3A) plays the central part. This molecule is produced in blood vessels when they are overexposed to the saturated fatty acid 'palmitic acid'.

Sydney Balkenhol from the Institute of Metabolic Physiology at HHU and the DDZ, first author of the study now published in Nature Cardiovascular Research, points to a discovery made by the team using scanning electron microscopy: The "windows" in the smallest blood vessels of the liver were also closed in mice with fatty liver and type 2 diabetes mellitus.

Dr Daniel Eberhard, the other first author, adds: "We were also able to reverse the effect. By inhibiting the signalling molecule, we could defat the liver and thus improve its function again."

Corresponding author Dr Eckhard Lammert, Professor and Head of the Institute of Metabolic Physiology at HHU and the Institute of Vascular and Islet Cell Biology at the DDZ, hopes that the discoveries will also lead to a therapeutic approach for humans in the long term: "It may be possible to use the SEMA3A signalling molecule we identified to prevent MASLD and its consequences at an early stage. However, we first need to investigate the processes in humans in detail."

Do you know lung cancer screening significantly improves long-term survival?

New York : A comprehensive international study that was published in Radiology found that employing low-dose computed tomography (CT) screening to identify early-stage lung cancer greatly increases the disease's cure rate over a 20-year span.

According to the findings, those who receive a CT screening-based diagnosis of lung cancer have an approximate 81 percent 20-year survival rate, or cure rate. Of the 1,257 individuals who received a lung cancer diagnosis, 81% had stage I illness, and 87% of them had an 87 percent long-term survival rate. Ninety-five percent of cases were diagnosed in the initial stage I ($\leq 10\text{mm}$).

In the United States, the average five-year survival rate for all lung cancer patients is 25.4 percent because only 21 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at an early stage. More than half of the people with lung cancer die within one year of their diagnosis, making it the leading cause of cancer deaths. By the time symptoms appear, it is often too late.

The findings are the latest to demonstrate the importance of routine early screening in detecting cancers when they are small enough to be cured. Unfortunately, fewer than 6 percent of the people who are eligible for screening are currently getting it. "While screening doesn't prevent cancers from occurring, it is the major tool to identify lung cancers in their earliest stage when they can be cured," said the study's lead author, Claudia Henschke, PhD, MD, Professor of



Diagnostic, Molecular and Interventional Radiology and Director of the Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program (ELCAP) at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York. "Ultimately, anyone interested in being screened needs to know that if they are unfortunate enough to develop lung cancer, it can be cured if found early."

While treatments of more advanced cancers with targeted therapy and immunotherapy have come a long way, the best tool against lung cancer deaths is early diagnosis through low-dose CT screening before symptoms occur, according to the study authors. "Symptoms occur mainly in late-stage lung cancer," said co-author Rowena Yip, PhD, MPH, Senior Biostatistician of ELCAP. "Thus, the best way to find early-stage lung cancer is by enrolling in an annual screening program."

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends annual lung cancer screening with low-

dose CT in adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a 20-pack-year smoking history, which equals at least a pack a day for 20 years, and who currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years.

Dr. Henschke and colleagues have been studying the effectiveness of cancer detection with low-dose CT screening for years. The efforts of the researchers to advance CT screening for early lung disease led to the creation of the International Early Lung Cancer Action Program (I-ELCAP). Started in 1992, this multi-institution, multinational research program has enrolled more than 89,000 participants from over 80 institutions.

In 2006, the researchers identified a 10-year survival rate of 80 percent for the patients whose cancer was identified by CT screening. For this study, they looked at 20-year survival rates.

"What we present here is the 20-year follow-up on participants in our screening program who were diagnosed with lung cancer under annual screening and subsequently treated," Dr. Henschke said. "The key finding is that even after this long a time interval they are not dying of their lung cancer. And even if new lung cancers were found over time, as long as they continued with annual screening, they could be cured." "Ultimately, the critical clinically relevant information for people interested in screening relates to understanding their chance of being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Study finds cell-based therapy to fight cancer

Pennsylvania [US] : Wistar researchers successfully evaluated a simple intervention that could unlock higher anti-tumour potential in T-cell therapies, a strategy known as "cell-based therapy," which uses specifically tailored T cells to combat cancer.

Dr. Hildegund C.J. Ertl, a professor in The Wistar Institute's Vaccine & Immunotherapy Centre, led the team that demonstrated an exciting concept: that the common cholesterol drug fenofibrate can boost T cells' ability to destroy human tumours, as described in their new paper. "Treatment with the PPAR agonist fenofibrate improves the efficacy of CD8+ T cell therapy for melanoma."

CD8+ T cells work very well in fighting liquid tumours, but for solid tumors like melanoma, the cell-based therapy approach can stall due to the physical structure of the cancer.

The T cells infiltrate the tumor, but the cancer adapts and saps the T cells' energy by hijacking the form of metabolism that the T cells use: glycolysis, which turns sugar into energy. Without energy, the T cells first lose functions and then die, and the cancer continues to grow.

But Dr. Ertl's team has been able to circumvent this problem by forcing T cells to use a different energy source than glucose. They used fenofibrate because, as a cholesterol-lowering compound, the drug is a PPARa agonist.

When PPARa is upregulated, cellular metabolism is switched from glycolysis to fatty acid oxidation, or FAO.

This mechanism works to improve cholesterol levels in

human patients, but for Dr. Ertl's purposes, the fenofibrate-induced switch to FAO provided T cells with a form of energy that cancer couldn't exploit -- which is how Dr. Ertl proved that fenofibrate has been able to boost the killing power of T cells deployed against cancerous cell lines.

In this paper, the authors wanted to see whether this kind of cancer-killing improvement would have similar effects when deployed against not just cancer cell lines but solid human tumor fragments -- a more challenging proposition.

The group treated T cells with fenofibrate, and the hypothesis held: Dr. Ertl's team watched the T cells treated with fenofibrate survive longer and kill more cancer in preclinical models with human solid tumor masses than the T cells that didn't receive the treatment.

"Treating T cells with fenofibrate before using them as a cancer treatment flips a switch of sorts in their metabolism," said Dr. Hildegund Ertl.

"Once that switch is flipped, T cells can destroy the cancer much more effectively. And we've confirmed that this holds for larger human tumor masses."

As a result of these findings, Dr. Ertl and her team think this intervention shows great promise for future anti-tumor therapies. "Melanoma is the most dangerous form of skin cancer. Anything we can do to chip away at the cancer and destroy more of it -- even a simple pre-treatment step like this one -- can make a world of difference."



Study sheds more light on ability of cancer drug to lower blood sugar

OKLAHOMA [US] : The efficacy of a medication to prevent liver fat accumulation--a condition that frequently coexists with obesity and can result in dangerous fatty liver disease--has been further explored by researchers at the University of Oklahoma.

Their research, which highlights the intricacy of metabolic illnesses, is published in The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), the organization's peer-reviewed magazine.

The publication builds on a previous discovery made by Tiangang Li, PhD, and a team of researchers at OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center: A drug developed to suppress cancerous tumours can also improve insulin sensitivity and lower blood glucose (sugar) levels. The drug, known as MLN4924, works by preventing the degradation of a specific protein needed for all cells to respond to insulin. After the finding, Li earned a grant from the National Institutes of Health to continue his research.

In the recently published study, conducted in mice, his research team eliminated a gene in the liver called Cul 3. When Cul 3 is present in the body, the drug inhibits it to prevent the degradation of the protein. Eliminating the gene provided a fuller understanding of what would happen when mice become obese on a high-fat diet.

His discovery was both anticipated and surprising. Without the gene, the mice eating a high-fat diet did not accumulate fat in their livers, despite being obese. However, the lack of fat build-up in the liver instead prompted fat to enter the bloodstream and into other tissues like muscle, where it's

not supposed to be stored. As a result, the muscle -- the largest organ in the body -- had a poorer response to insulin, and the mice developed high blood sugar.

"By eliminating the gene, we aggressively prevented fat accumulation in the liver, but this actually worsened insulin resistance in the muscle, which tells us that fat metabolism in these organs is interconnected," Li said.

"These findings suggest that, in addition to lowering liver fat, the simultaneous reduction of obesity and improvement of insulin sensitivity are important for treating fatty liver disease. That's because these improvements outside the liver are critical for preventing the fat that enters the liver from also building up in other tissues."

The research also illustrates why treating chronic conditions like Type 2 diabetes and fatty liver disease is never simple -- an improvement in one area may trigger negative effects in another. Even so, the study was extremely helpful for understanding the process by which fatty liver disease occurs and what the drug is doing in the context of that disease, said study co-author Jed Friedman, Ph.D., director of OU Health Harold Hamm Diabetes Center and a professor in the OU College of Medicine.

"We have some promising ideas going forward to target potential pathways to lower liver fat accumulation while also improving insulin sensitivity," Friedman said. "Drug repurposing like we're doing in this study is exciting because so much is already known about the drug and its safety. We believe it holds a lot of possibility."

Senescent immune cells promote lung tumor growth

Minnesota: Macrophages are white blood cells that serve as the body's first line of defence against infection. Macrophages can launch a reaction against tumours in addition to destroying dangerous germs. However, macrophages, like other cells, can reach a state known as senescence, which is associated with ageing, disease, and a variety of physiological issues. When cells become senescent, they stop dividing, but they do not die and are not always eliminated from the body.

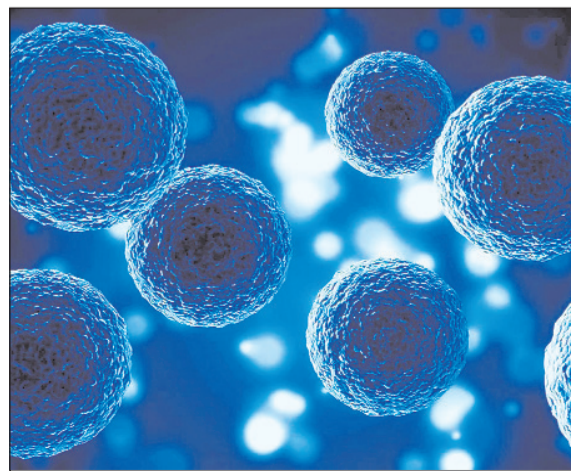
They can linger and accumulate in tissues and may secrete molecules that are harmful. This is why senescent cells have been called "zombie cells." The reason why healthy cells become senescent is not well understood. In a new Cancer Cell study, researchers discovered

senescent macrophages in the lung that not only lingered but also promoted tumor growth.

"Conceptually, the idea that a macrophage can become senescent and be tumor-promoting is unexpected," says Darren Baker, Ph.D., a Mayo Clinic senescent cell biologist and senior author of the study. "This finding brings us one step closer to better understanding how tumors and cancer form at the cellular level."

Dr. Baker and his colleagues found that senescent macrophages appear to block the immune system from being able to respond to and eliminate the abnormal growth of cells. This leads to a tumor.

"Through different experiments and analyses, we could distinguish those



senescent macrophages from the other macrophages. We found that if we eliminate them, through genetic or pharmacological approaches, we delay tumor formation," says lead author Luis Prieto,

Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow and recent graduate of the Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. The researchers reasoned that precancerous cells communicated with the surrounding cells, including

macrophages, and triggered the macrophages to become senescent. In turn, the senescent cells then appeared to alter the surrounding area in a way that promoted tumor growth.

Single-cell sequencing points in a new direction

Initially, the researchers thought removing the senescent cells would result in more adenomas, the type of lung tumor studied. But the results of their early experiments showed otherwise.

"It was very challenging, because every time we would do an experiment, it was just the opposite of what we'd expect," Dr. Prieto says. "If one removes tumor suppressors regulating senescent cells, one would expect to have more tumors, but it actually just happened to have the opposite results. There were

fewer tumors in the absence of those tumor suppressors."

The researchers worked with study co-author Hu Li, Ph.D., an individualized medicine researcher at Mayo Clinic, and conducted single-cell RNA sequencing in his lab. This work helped them identify lung macrophages as a key cell type driving tumor growth. Now, they believe the macrophages are responding to the precancerous cells as they begin to cause tumors.

"We had to rethink our initial ideas as we learned a lot more about what cells can do. Then, it started to make a lot more sense about how senescent macrophage cells can influence other cells, the environment and the immune system in this case," Dr. Baker says.

India sends 13 tonnes of BCG vaccines to Afghanistan to boost child immunisation

MI News Service, Delhi: India on Tuesday said that it has delivered 13 tonnes of Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccines along with related dry material to support Afghanistan's child immunisation efforts against tuberculosis, according to the Ministry of External Affairs.

In a post on X, MEA spokesperson Randhir-Jaiswal said, "India delivers 13 tons of BCG vaccines and related dry material to @MoPH_afg to augment Afghanistan's child immunisation programme against tuberculosis."

The consignment was sent to Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health to augment the country's child immunisation programme against tuberculosis.

India has been known to consistently provide humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, including medical supplies and vaccines, as part of its ongoing support to the Afghan people, even after the earthquake in



Afghanistan on April 3. Earlier on April 5, the Ministry of External Affairs said that India had delivered humanitarian assistance to support flood and earthquake-hit Afghanistan.

In a post on X, MEA Spokesperson Randhir-Jaiswal said at that time that India delivered humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) materials, including kitchen sets, hygiene kits, plastic sheets, tarpaulins, sleeping bags, and more.

"India stands in solidarity with the people of Afghanistan and remains committed to extending hu-

manitarian assistance and support during this challenging time," he said.

According to the National Disaster Management Authority, heavy rains and floods had destroyed 131 houses and partially damaged 650 others. More than 3,000 jerbis of agricultural land have also been affected.

Meanwhile, the Afghanistan government has sharply criticized the United Nations' sanctions regime following the latest update to listings targeting senior leaders, calling the measures "unreasonable and ineffective."

Speaking in response to the move, spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said the continued use of sanctions reflects a failure of policy and analysis. He argued that repeating such measures "lacks logic" and suggests that international bodies have not properly assessed their impact.

Mujahid said the move ultimately harms ordinary Afghans rather than decision-makers, warning that restrictions placed on individuals extend to government institutions and broader society.

The comments came after the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) announced updates to its sanctions list as part of ongoing enforcement efforts. The council's 1988 Sanctions Committee confirmed revisions to identifying details for four senior Taliban officials: Mohammad Hassan Akhund, Abdul Ghani Baradar, Amir Khan Muttaqi, and Hedayatullah Badri.

EAM Jaishankar discusses West Asia conflict with Australian counterpart

MI News Service, Delhi: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday discussed the evolving security situation in West Asia during a conversation with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong.

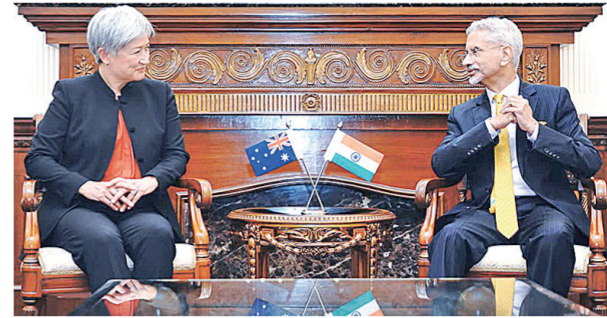
In a post on X, he said that the two leaders exchanged views on the conflict in West Asia.

Appreciated the exchange of views today with @SenatorWong of Australia on the West Asia conflict."

Earlier today, EAM also spoke to Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar and discussed several aspects of the situation in West Asia with him.

Sa'ar said that Iran's harm to freedom of navigation through economic terrorism in the Strait of Hormuz requires action that will ensure the freedom of navigation for all countries, including India.

In a post on X, Sa'ar said, "A good conversation, as always, with my friend, India's Minister of External



Affairs S Jaishankar. We discussed Iran, the Strait of Hormuz, and Lebanon. I said that the firm American stance in the negotiations on conditions that would prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons (no enrichment in Iran, removal of enriched material from Iran) is critical for the entire international community," he said.

"I also said that Iran's harm to freedom of navigation through economic terrorism in the Strait of Hormuz requires action that will ensure the freedom of navigation for all countries, including India

and our friends in the Gulf," he added. The call comes after Jaishankar concluded his official visit to the UAE.

Speaking on the primary focus of his high-level discussions, the External Affairs Minister stated, "...I met with Sheikh Mohammed, the President of the UAE. I brought with me a message from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and our conversation focused on our strategic relationship and its various initiatives, such as energy, economic trade, and the energy and trade relationship. The UAE is a major partner for us, so we discussed that."

Stands in full solidarity with our Gulf partners against Iran's indiscriminate: European Council President

MI News Service, Abu Dhabi: President of the European Council, Antonio Costa, arrived in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday ahead of his two-day visit to UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar.

Costa said that he came with a message of "full solidarity in the face of Iran's indiscriminate, unjustifiable, and unlawful attacks."

In a post on X, he said, "I am in Abu Dhabi ahead of a two-day tour of the UAE, KSA (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), and Qatar, today and tomorrow. I come with three messages for our Gulf partners: We stand in full solidarity in the face of Iran's indiscriminate, unjustifiable, and unlawful attacks; We are a reliable partner for the Gulf countries and are ready to contribute; By working together, we can support a comprehensive strategy for lasting peace in the Middle East through negotiation and diplomacy."

US blockade on Iranian ports will only exacerbate tensions, undermine fragile ceasefire: China

MI News Service, Beijing: China on Tuesday sharply criticised the United States over its recent military actions, warning that they could further destabilise an already fragile ceasefire in the West Asian region, as reported by Al Jazeera.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said the US move to blockade vessels at the Strait of Hormuz would "exacerbate tensions" rather than ease them.

According to Al Jazeera, he said, the US "increased military operations and took a targeted blockade action, which will only exacerbate tensions and undermine the already fragile ceasefire agreement."

Meanwhile, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forth a four-point proposal on promoting peace and stability in West Asia, Xinhua reported.

The proposal, as per the Chinese state news agency, includes adherence to the principle of peaceful coexistence, national sovereignty, international rule of law, and the coordination of development and security.

Xi talked about the proposal in a meeting with Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in Beijing.

Earlier, a Malawi-flagged, Chinese-owned vessel reportedly passed through the Strait of Hormuz despite an ongoing US blockade targeting Iranian-linked shipping, according to MarineTraffic data cited by CNN.

The vessel, identified as Rich Starry, is owned by Full Star Shipping Ltd, linked to Shanghai Xuan-run Shipping Co Ltd, and



has been under US sanctions since 2023 over alleged ties to Iran. The ship previously sailed under the Hong Kong flag until April 2023, as reported by CNN, citing MarineTraffic data.

According to MarineTraffic, the tanker initially attempted to transit the Strait around noon UTC on Monday but briefly turned back near Iran's Qeshm Island before making a second attempt in the evening. By early Tuesday UTC, it appeared to have successfully passed through the waterway.

CNN had reported that the United States Navy is maintaining a presence of at least 15 ships in the West Asian region, including the aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln and 11 destroyers, which could potentially take part in a maritime blockade of Iran's ports, according to a US official, following orders from President Donald Trump.

However, it remains unclear which specific vessels are positioned or designated for participation in the blockade, as earlier assessments indicate that the naval assets are widely dispersed across the US Central Command's area of operations.

The US president imposed a naval blockade on Iranian ports, following marathon talks in Pakistan over the weekend that failed to yield any agreement.

Coming days will show how effective US blockade of Hormuz is," says Foreign Affairs Expert Robinder Sachdev

MI News Service, Delhi: Robinder Sachdev, Foreign Affairs Expert on Tuesday said that the probability of further talks between the US and Iran is dismal.

Sachdev, in a conversation, said that it also remains to be seen how the US blockade of Iran's blockade of the Strait of Hormuz turns out.

Point is that it seems that getting back to a full scale bombardment war will not be easy for Trump because the economy, the home economy, the world economy and despite all the battering they're doing of Iran, they're seeing that Iran is surviving. Plus in the next 10 days we will also see how effective this blockade of a blockade is. So I think there is still time in the next week or so for some developments,"

he said. He said that full scale of bombardment by the US does not seem viable for US President Donald Trump now because of the dent it leaves on the economy.

"The possibility of further talks is there but the probability is low. Yes, it seems that after Vance came back to the United States there is some communication from the Iranians and the Americans again and Trump has also been saying it that talks for a deal are still on or Vance has been saying that Iranians want to talk to us desperately," he said.

Sachdev then said that possibly there would be some messages that would be exchanged between both the parties.

"So that indicates in the remaining

Tibetan youth urged to uphold identity, culture at Australian tournament

MI News Service, New South Wales: Calling on Tibetan youth to stay committed to the Tibetan cause, Representative of the Central Tibetan Administration Karma Singey stressed the need to preserve their language, identity, and cultural traditions, while also acknowledging the support of parents and teachers.

The Central Tibetan Administration reported that the remarks were made during the 14th Australian Tibetan Youth Unity Cup Tournament and the 3rd Inter-Tibetan Weekend Language School Cultural Meet, held in Newcastle, New South Wales, from April 9 to 12, 2026. The event brought together more than 160 Tibetan youth and community members from across Australia.

According to the Central Tibetan Administration, the event was organised in honour of the 90th birth anniversary of Dalai Lama and the "Year of Compassion," aiming to strengthen unity



among Tibetan youth through friendship, cultural pride, and community bonding.

The Central Tibetan Administration stated that a total of 21 teams from Tibetan communities in New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and the Australian Capital Territory participated, including five football teams and sixteen basketball teams. Sydney Hustle Team won the football championship, while Sydney Cholsam and the Newcastle Chigdril girls' team secured the basketball trophies, as per the CTA.

The Central Tibetan Administration further noted that the 3rd Inter-Tibetan

Weekend Language School Cultural Meet, held on April 11, provided a platform for students to showcase their talents and develop skills in Tibetan songs and dances. As reported by the CTA, the event was attended by several dignitaries, including former Chief Justice Commissioner Sonam Norbu Dagpo and Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile member Dhondup Tashi.

CTA added that the Newcastle Tibetan community hosted this year's Tibetan Unity Cup tournament and the Inter-Tibetan Weekend School cultural event, fostering unity and cultural pride among Tibetan youth.

Iran demands reparations from 5 Arab states over alleged role in 'US-Israeli aggression': Iran Media



MI News Service, Tehran: Iran has called for compensation from five Arab countries, accusing them of enabling "US-Israeli aggression" by allowing their territories to be used for attacks against the country, the Iranian state media, Press TV, reported.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Security Council President Jamal Fares Alrowaie, Iran's Ambassador and Permanent Representative Amir-Saeid Iravani rejected compensation demands made by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Jordan.

The letter stated that under the current circumstances, these countries "cannot lawfully invoke Article 51 of the UN Charter (the right to self-defence) vis-a-vis Iran as they facilitated the US-Israel aggression."

Tehran asserted that it is "the victim of aggression" and is exercising its inherent right of self-defence, the envoy wrote in the letter.

According to the letter, in some cases, "unlawful armed attacks against civilian targets inside Iran have

been carried out directly by those states."

Iran's mission called on the five countries to immediately halt "internationally wrongful acts" by allowing their territories to be used for attacks and, in certain instances, participating directly in such actions, as reported by Press TV.

It further argued that these actions constitute breaches of international obligations, engaging the states' responsibility under international law.

Iravani reiterated that the countries should make "full reparation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, including compensation for all material and moral damage sustained as a result of their internationally wrongful acts."

In a letter sent on Monday, Iravani denounced Washington's move as an "illegal act of aggression" that threatens regional and international peace and security.

"The imposition of a naval blockade is a gross violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Iravani wrote, adding that the measure was publicly announced by US Central Command

and all its consequences, including its effects on regional and international peace and security.

Calling for urgent international intervention, the Iranian envoy urged the UN Security Council to condemn the blockade and take steps to halt escalation, saying the situation poses a serious threat to stability in an already volatile region.

Indians are kind, honest; leaders of both nations have had successful talks," says Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi



MI News Service, Ayodhya: Abdul Majid Hakeem Ilahi, Representative of Iran's Supreme Leader in India, lauded India for its support.

Ilahi stated on the sidelines of Yad-E-Shohada Programme organised at Imambara Jawahar Ali Khan with the participation from the Shia Community.

He said, "I'm very thankful to all my dear brothers and sisters in India. I am affected by their emotions, their feelings. And never, ever I was expecting such emotions, such feelings towards oppressed people, towards justice, towards humanity and dignity. Wherever you go in India, you will find the kindness from the people, honesty from the people, dignity from the people, and humanity and loyalty. I can say I cannot get such emotion and such virtues in any other nation. And I'm thankful to all of them," he said.

Ilahi said that India and Iran have been bound by civilizational ties, and the

relations are good even now.

"Yes, the relationship between Iran and India is very, very good. And as you know, the relationship between Iran and India and also friendship between Iran and India, rooted to more than 5,000 years by civilization, cultural education and humanity, economy. At the moment also the relationship between Iran and India is very good, very strong," he said.

Ilahi further said that India and Iranian leadership have had successful conversations.

"As you know, the Prime Minister of India called the President of Iran sometimes, I don't know, three times or more, I don't know. And it was very successful conversation between both sides. And also the Minister of Foreign Affairs of India also. We had several successful conversations with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iran. And the relationship is very good, and we hope that it will be more strong and be expanded in different more fields also," he said.

This diplomatic backdrop coincides with significant maritime movements, as the Indian-flagged liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) tanker Jag Vikram became the ninth Indian vessel to navigate the conflict-ridden Strait. Currently being escorted toward Indian shores, the vessel is scheduled to arrive at an Indian port on Tuesday, marking the first successful passage of an Indian ship through the strategic waterway following a temporary ceasefire between the United States and Iran.

Unannounced gas cuts leave Karachi residents struggling, spark political outcry

MI News Service, Karachi: Residents across Karachi are facing hardship due to unannounced gas outages that have disrupted daily life, particularly during peak meal preparation hours, triggering public anger and political criticism, as reported by Dawn.

The Sui Southern Gas Company (SSGC) has been accused by citizens of failing to maintain its claimed supply schedule of uninterrupted gas availability from early morning (6 am) to night (10:30 pm). Over the past two weeks, residents have reported frequent and unannounced load-shedding, forcing households to seek alternative cooking arrangements, as reported by Dawn.

The disruption has led to overcrowding at restaurants and eateries, including roadside snack vendors and LPG stations across the city, with long queues forming for basic food items such as roti and naan. Many households reported significant difficulty in preparing meals, with women bearing the brunt of the shortages.

Students preparing for ongoing examinations have also been affected, with gas shortages adding to stress amid power and water supply issues in several neighbourhoods. In multiple areas, LPG stock shortages further worsened the situation, leaving residents with few alternatives.

As people struggled for alternatives, long queues formed at LPG

stations and shops as refilling took considerable time. At many shops, even LPG was not available, adding to people's difficulties.

According to Dawn, Muhammad Akhtar, a resident of Sultanabad, who was waiting at an LPG shop, said, "I waited for half an hour, only to be told that the gas would arrive late." He asked, "It's frustrating. Can't the gas utility manage their schedules properly so we can prepare ourselves?"

As the day went on, the frustration of already gas-starved people turned to anger, with many taking to social media to vent their grievances against the gas utility company, the Dawn reported.

In a statement issued on Monday, the SSGC claimed that "proper gas supply was ensured throughout the meal times, i.e. breakfast, lunch

and dinner" as line packs – the total volume of gas contained within the system – were quite healthy and gas pressures being on optimal capacity.

"Even with the shortage of RLNG, SSGC is also ensuring optimal gas supply to the power sector and the fertiliser sector for food security. Therefore, the company is trying to manage the available resources in a balanced manner so that the needs of all the sectors are met," it said.

It said it has not received any "area-wide complaints today."

Several political parties vehemently criticised the gas utility for failing to ensure an uninterrupted supply during the three meal timings.

MuttahidaQaumi Movement-Pakistan's Ali Khurshidi, who is the opposition leader in the Sindh assembly, said that the gas utility was

adding hardships to the already inflation-hit people. "It is the responsibility of the SSGC to ensure supply as per the schedule. The persistent crisis speaks volumes about the gas utility's inefficiency," he said as reported by Dawn.

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) Karachi Division Information Secretary and Spokesperson Fauzia Siddiqui strongly criticised the worsening gas load-shedding, inflated utility bills and persistent water and electricity shortages in the metropolis, terming them clear evidence of "gross incompetence and anti-people policies" of the Sindh government.

In a statement, according to Dawn, she said Karachi is the country's economic backbone and contributes nearly 65 per cent of national revenue, yet has been deprived of necessities.

"Citizens were first denied water and continue to struggle for every drop. This was followed by prolonged electricity outages, which persist, and now gas load-shedding has made daily life unbearable," she added.

Siddiqui said the ongoing crises were a reflection of the government's failure to ensure essential services in the country's largest city. "Despite generating the bulk of Pakistan's revenue, Karachi's residents are left to suffer without access to basic utilities," she noted.



Ajita wins thriller for singles title at G D Birla Memorial Inter-Club Badminton Tournament

MUMBAI : Ajita Ravindran displayed grit and resilience against an equally determined Pooja Jhalani to prevail in three games and win the Women's Singles 45+ title in the G D Birla Memorial Inter-Club Badminton Tournament, hosted by Bombay Gymkhana.

After dropping the closely contested opening game 24-26, Ajita clawed back to win the second 21-19 and, with both players fighting tooth and nail for each point in trying conditions, won the decider 21-18 to cap a well deserved victory.

In the Men's Doubles 110+ category, the duo of Bibhash Chatterjee and Shiv Thakur delivered a commanding performance to defeat top seeds Gautam Laud and Shailesh Daga in straight games, 21-12, 21-15.

In the Men's Singles 45+ category, Vikrant Karanjkar put up a dominant display to overcome top seed Sachin Bharati 21-6, 21-19, while, in the Mixed Doubles 80+ category, Hemant Duggal and Shweta Thakur registered one of the most one-sided wins of the finals, defeating Sandeep Mohan and Tejasvi Sawant Desai 21-10, 21-4.

Earlier, the top two seeds in the women's singles 45+, Priya Ambekar and Namita Mehta-Vijayakar were shown the door, losing in contrasting fashion. While top seed Priya lost 6-21, 13-21 to Pooja Jhalani, second seed Namita put up a better fight before losing in three games, 14-21, 21-15, 11-21.

Seeded teams also lost out in the Men's Doubles 110+ and the Mixed Doubles 80+. In the mixed doubles, the top seed pairing of Shailesh Daga and former international Aparna Popat were defeated by Sandeep Mohan and Tejasvi Sawant 21-14, 19-21, 21-9. There was heartbreak for the second seeds too as Shiv Thakur and Naheed Divecha were beaten by Hemant Duggal and Shweta Thakur 21-12, 21-16. There was solace for Daga, however, who won the men's doubles 110+, paired with Gautam Lad. The duo seeded first, defeated Anis Badami and Vipool Patel 21-18, 21-8 to make the title round.

Pressure mounts on Arbeloa as Madrid chases Champions League turnaround

MADRID : Real Madrid coach Alvaro Arbeloa faces the most important game of his coaching career on Wednesday when his side travels to Bayern Munich for the second leg of its Champions League quarterfinal, needing to overturn a 2-1 deficit from the first leg.

Kylian Mbappe's goal at the Santiago Bernabeu last Tuesday gave Madrid hope after Luis Diaz and Harry Kane had put Bayern 2-0 ahead, but history offers little encouragement. Madrid has lost the first leg of a European knockout tie at home seven times and has overturned the deficit away only once, in the 1970 European Cup Winners' Cup.

Bayern, meanwhile, has a strong record of protecting an advantage, progressing on 30 of the 31 occasions it has won the first leg away, with the only exception coming against Inter Milan in 2011, reports Xinhua.

Arbeloa is set to recall Jude Bellingham and Eder Militao to the starting lineup after both were limited to substitute appearances in the first leg, but midfielder Aurelien Tchouameni is suspended.

Tchouameni's absence is a significant setback given his form in a holding role this season, particularly against Bayern's attacking strength. Eduardo Camavinga struggled for consistency in recent weeks and faced criticism.

Central defender Raul Asencio is also unavailable due to illness, while left-back Ferland Mendy has been included in the squad but is unlikely to start. Madrid's 1-1 draw with Girona on Friday left the club nine points behind FC Barcelona in La Liga with seven games remaining, and the team was booted off at the Bernabeu. Arbeloa's first match in charge after replacing Xabi Alonso in January ended in a Copa del Rey defeat to second-tier Albacete. With the league title all but out of reach and the Spanish Super Cup already lost to Barcelona, the Champions League.



Chennai Super Kings' Sanju Samson plays a shot during the Indian Premier League 2026 match between Chennai Super Kings and Kolkata Knight Riders, at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Tuesday.

IPL 2026 : When and where to watch LSG vs RCB match



BENGALURU : Defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) will host Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in Match 23 of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium, with a lot at stake for both teams. RCB got into the match after a massive win over five-time cham-

pions Mumbai Indians by 57 runs, whereas LSG went down against Gujarat Titans in their own yard. Royal Challengers Bengaluru are currently third in the points table and are eyeing the top spot with a victory against LSG, who are seventh with two wins and as many losses.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru hold a clear edge in this rivalry with four wins, compared to just two victories for Lucknow Super Giants. The last time these two sides faced off in the IPL, during the 2025 season, RCB came out on top with a comfortable six-wicket win, further underlining their

dominance in recent meetings.

In the last four years, since 2022, RCB and LSG have faced each other six times in the IPL, with RCB winning 4 matches and LSG emerging victorious in two games.

Squads: Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar (captain), Virat Kohli, Tim David, Jacob Bethell, Romario Shepherd, Josh Hazlewood, Nuwan Thushara, Devdutt Padikkal, Jitesh Sharma, Krunal Pandya, Rasikh Dar, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Jordan Cox, Suyash Sharma, Venkatesh Iyer, Swapnil Singh, Jacob Duffy, Kanishk Chouhan, Abhinandan Singh, Mangesh Yadav, Phil Salt, Satvik Deswal, Vicky Ostwal, Vihaan Malhotra.

Lucknow Super Giants: Rishabh Pant (C), Aiden Markram, Himmat Singh, Matthew Breetzke, Mukul Choudhary, Akshat Raghuvanshi, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Abdul Samad, Shahbaz Ahmad, Arshin Kulkarni, Wanindu Hasaranga, Ayush Badoni, Mohammad Shami, Avesh Khan, M. Siddharth, Digvesh Singh, Akash Singh, Prince Yadav, Arjun Tendulkar, Anrich Nortje, Naman Tiwari, Mayank Yadav, Mohsin Khan.

Match details:
When: Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 PM IST
Where: M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru
Where to watch: Star Sports Network and JioStar.

Stokes denies rift with McCullum, but says he work with him in 'different way'

NEW DELHI : England captain Ben Stokes has quashed the talks of a rift with head coach Brendon McCullum, calling it a "massive overstatement", but indicated that he may work with the head coach in a "slightly different way".

England's 4-1 defeat in the Ashes in Australia was described as a systemic failure, with poor preparation and the collapse of the aggressive 'Bazball' approach leaving the side exposed.

After an ECB review, the duo have been cleared to hold onto their roles and will continue as a captain-coach pair heading into the next cycle, with a home Ashes slated for 2027.

Last month, director of cricket Rob Key said there had been no "bust-up" between the two. Stokes, McCullum and Key are all to remain in their jobs following a review of the Ashes conducted by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

In his first interview since the Ashes, Stokes told the ECB, "I'm very confident in mine and Brendon's ability to be able to work together because we've done it for such a long period of time now. But work together in a slightly different way. The main point of me and Brendon is our alignment towards winning things and making this team as good as they can be."

Stokes and McCullum joined forces in charge of the Test team in 2022 and had instant success, winning 10 of their first 11 Tests. Since then, England have had



more losses than wins - 17 to 16. "When you are in a position of leadership along with someone else, if anyone thinks that you're always going to agree on every-

thing, then it's just impossible, and that's, to me, that just not a healthy - I don't think it's a healthy environment for sport in particular where everyone just

agrees with everyone or everyone just says yes to the person up there.

"I'm very confident in mine and Brendon's ability to be able to work together, because we've done it for such a long period of time now. But work together in a slightly different way. The main point of me and Brendon is our alignment towards winning things and making this team as good as they can be," he added.

Stokes and McCullum publicly backed each other at the end of the Ashes, but by that time given differing messages to the media, fuelling suggestions of a rift. It was reported that McCullum's job was under threat after Stokes submitted a report blaming the team management for the Ashes defeat, with the reports claiming both men are believed to have pointed fingers at each other during the ECB review meeting.

"We'll always be able to end up in that same place by having these discussions, and we agree 95 per cent of the time on things, but those 5 per cent things are where we might have different views.

"We talk about it between each other, and then we end up getting to the place where we both feel that with my character and Brendon's character we put those two things together, and we'll then end up getting to where we want to get to. But being agreeing on every single thing is just impossible, so saying that we weren't aligned, I think, is a massive overstatement.

ISL 2025-26: Kerala Blasters face NorthEast United in relegation scrap



KOCHI : Kerala Blasters FC look to build on the momentum of their first win of the season when they face a struggling NorthEast United FC in Match 57 of Indian Super League (ISL) 2025-26 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi on Wednesday.

Kerala Blasters, under their new head coach Ashley Westwood, have shown signs of improvement after having a horrid start to the season; they managed a single point from their first seven matches. The Englishman has injected new energy into the squad, which has been evident in their previous two fixtures.

The Yellow Army secured their first win of the season with a 2-1 victory over Bengaluru FC away. Currently sitting 13th in the standings with four points, a victory on Wednesday would help them create some breathing space from the relegation zone.

Anticipating a highly-contested battle, the Kerala Blasters FC head coach downplayed the need for external motivation following their recent win. "The win helps morale and team spirit, but we have been working hard to stay focused," Westwood explained. "We don't have many games left, so players must perform and secure their place."

Speaking on how the team's morale was when he joined, Westwood explained, "Confidence was low, and players were feeling sorry for themselves, which is normal when results don't go your way. Without criticising the previous setup, the club was near the bottom and needed direction and clear ideas. I've brought my vision of how we should play, work together, and develop a desire to win. It's about changing the culture and working hard for the fans, management, and families, which should be the basic traits of a professional player."

NorthEast United FC travel to Kochi in search of a strong response after a 0-3 defeat at home to Sporting Club Delhi. Despite beginning the season as Durand Cup champions, the Highlanders have struggled to replicate that form in the league

so far. NorthEast United currently have six points and have slipped to tenth place in the table, winning just one match so far in the season.

Head coach Juan Pedro Benali anticipates a tactical battle and emphasised the importance of fine margins. "It won't be easy, but we are trying to bring back our fighting spirit and style of play," Benali explained. "It will be a very tactical game, and the small details will make the difference."

The Spanish tactician, who is in his third season with the club, spoke about the honour of managing NorthEast, which celebrated their foundation day this week. "It is an honour for me to be here, and I can truly say this is my home. I spoke with Mandar (Tambane) and John (Abraham), and their message was simple - to keep fighting. This is your home, and let's try to do the best we can this season, considering the circumstances."

Kerala Blasters FC hold a slight advantage over NorthEast United FC in the head-to-head record between the sides. Across their 22 previous ISL meetings, the team from Kerala have secured eight wins to the Highlanders' five, with the remaining nine matches ending in draws. The two sides last met in January 2025, playing out a goal-less draw in Kochi.

Kerala Blasters FC winger Nihal Sudheesh added, "Everyone is motivated. Players are working hard, improving, and ready to fight in every match. We need the support of the fans, and we are ready to give everything. We are going through a tough phase now, but we are fighting hard in every match. We give our 100 per cent in training and must continue with this attitude for the remaining matches." NorthEast United FC winger Redeem Tlang echoed the team's resilience following recent setbacks. "We have been in this situation before, and we believe a comeback is always possible," Tlang noted. "We are hoping to bounce back strongly."



'It's been hard, but expected': Nayar on KKR's campaign in IPL 2026

CHENNAI : Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) head coach Abhishek Nayar admitted that the ongoing Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 campaign has been a challenging one for the side, citing injuries and an underwhelming start, but asserted that the franchise's core values remain unchanged as they gear up to face five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) at MA Chidambaram Stadium on Tuesday.

"Anyone involved in the IPL, not only as a support staff but also as a player, feels the pressure. It's the best tournament in the world, the most competitive tournament in the world. IPL and tournaments like that test you in every way," Nayar said in a video released by IPL on X.

Reflecting on the team's performance so far, Nayar acknowledged that the start has been far from ideal. "Yes, it's been hard for us. The start has not been the ideal one, even from the standpoint of the support staff. But you expect that."

He pointed out that injuries have significantly hampered the team's plans. "When you come into a marquee tournament with a number of injuries and players unavailable, you know the challenges are against you. When you lose five or six players, especially bowlers, it becomes difficult to fulfil your plans." KKR prime bowler Harshit Rana was ruled out of the season due to injury. Akash Deep has also not joined the squad, while Matheesha Pathirana, who missed the early matches, has received the NOC and is likely to join the team on April 19.

Despite the setbacks, Nayar stressed that the team is not looking for excuses. "I don't want to say we are in transition. When we ended the auction, we believed we had a team that could win the championship. We still believe that." Nayar also spoke about Rinku Singh, who has taken on additional responsibility as vice-captain this season. "It's a different challenge altogether. Although it's not captaincy, it comes with responsibility. I think Rinku has taken it up really well and is slowly getting his head around it." Despite losing three out of four matches and one being abandoned due to rain, Nayar is hopeful that the players will grab the opportunity with both hands and surprise the opposition.