



As previously announced, Dinesh Trivedi has become India's High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Ministry of External Affairs issues statement.

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Abhishek's big pitch: "Vote TMC, choose smiles over tears"

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KOLKATA

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Morning India

PM Modi addresses rallies, visits temples, takes part in road show on final day of electioneering

MI News Service, Kolkata : Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a very busy schedule on the final day of electioneering of the second phase of polling in West Bengal addressed two hugely attended rallies in North 24 Parganas and Hooghly districts and participated in a jam-packed road show in north Kolkata on Sunday to galvanise support for BJP candidates for the April 29 assembly elections.

Besides holding the day's first public meeting at the headquarters of the Matua Mahasangha at Thakurnagar, the Prime minister visited the community's temple housing the shrines of the sect's founders, Hari Chand and Guru Chand Thakur.

In his address though he did not clearly mention anything about the deletion of names of some members of the Matua community in the state's SIR list, he had however, given 'Modi's guarantee' to them for including names of every Matua refugee in the forthcoming CAA list, amid huge applause from the audience

In this way he addressed the perceived concerns among the Matua community, where the BJP has made significant gains on all previous elections in recent years.

After travelling to Hooghly district to hold another rally in the semi-agrarian and semi-urban belt of Haripal in the afternoon, the Prime minister reached Kolkata and visited the revered Kali temple in north Kolkata's Thanthania before moving further north in the city for a hugely attended road

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TMC Supremo Mamata Banerjee during her final Road show as part of election campaign from Jadavpur in kolkata on Monday.

Mamata Banerjee holds 'Padayatra' on the last day of electioneering

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday held a massive seven-kilometre-long padayatra from Jadavpur on the southern outskirts of the city on the last day of her month long electioneering in the state.

The yatra covers four key constituencies in South Kolkata of Tollygunge, Jadavpur, Ballygunge and her own Bhabanipur from where the Chief minister is seeking re-election in a keenly contested fight against opposition leader in the state Assembly Suwendu Adhikari of BJP.

This election is seen in the country's political circles as a significant survival battle for the ruling TMC, facing tough competition from the primary opposition BJP.

The ruling party is relying heavily on welfare schemes targeting women and youth, to secure votes in diverse constituencies with mixed demographics ,while the opposition BJP

claimed they would secure a majority and form the new government, making this one of the most fiercely contested elections in the country.

Starting her Padayatra from near the famous Jadavpur University, as she does in every elections on the final day of campaigning, Mamata Banerjee, flanked by all MLAs and party councillors besides a sea of supporters walked in most of the distance upto Hazara Crossing. But in some areas she also rode on two wheelers to complete her programme on time as per the EC directive.

Thousands of people stood on both sides of her journey besides in their road side houses to have a glimpse of the Chief minister and waived to her. She also returned their gestures with folded hands until she reached at the concluding point where she also addressed the people for the last time today.

Meanwhile, very few

seats in the state's 2026 assembly election, carry the symbolic weight as that of Bhabanipur.

The Bhabanipur constituency which is part of south Kolkata Lok Sabha seat, is Chief minister Mamata Banerjee's political home turf and is now most closely tied to her personal and electoral journey.

Mamata Banerjee has a six-decade long association with Bhabanipur. She grew up there, studied and even worked part-time at a milk booth near her residence at Kalighat area in her early years.

She has contested twice from Bhabanipur, from where she has been elected five times.

That legacy is now under direct challenge, with BJP leader and Mamata Banerjee's closest confidant-turned-foe, Suwendu Adhikari taking her on. Bhabanipur has thus become one of the prestige battles of the election, a contest being read as a measure of Mamata

Banerjee's personal hold over urban Bengal and of the BJP's ability to turn symbolic advances into electoral breakthroughs.

This is also the second direct contest between the two leaders. In 2021, Suwendu Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee in Nandigram. However, later she returned to the assembly by winning the Bhabanipur by-election by over 58,000 votes, enabling her to continue as Chief minister for a third consecutive term.

Known for years as "Mini India," Bhabanipur is one of Kolkata's most socially layered constituencies. Around 76% of the electorate is Hindu. Of this, about 42% are Bengali-speaking and 34% non-Bengali-speaking. Minority voters, mostly Muslims, make up around

middle-class residents remain the dominant social bloc, but the constituency also includes sizeable Gujarati, Punjabi, Sikh, Marwari

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'Mood of Bengal suggests BJP victory in polls': PM Modi

MI News Service, Kolkata : Asserting that he would return to West Bengal for the BJP's oath-taking ceremony after results are announced on May 4, Prime Minister Narendra Modi once again exuded confidence on Monday and said that the BJP is going to form the next government in the state after this crucial assembly polls

Addressing his last poll rally at Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district, on the outskirts of the city on the final day of campaigning for the second and last phase of the April 29 assembly elections, only hours before the formal closure of electioneering, PM Modi launched a sharp attack on the ruling TMC, accusing it of presiding over 'syndicate raj', political violence and economic decline.

"The mood that I have sensed in West Bengal, I can say with confidence that I shall come again during the oath-taking ceremony of the BJP government after May 4," the Prime minister said, as usual drawing loud cheers from the crowd.

Invoking the historical significance of Barrackpore, the Prime minister said the land had played a key role in India's first war



PM Narendra Modi addressing in a campaign rally for BJP candidates at Barrackpur on Monday.

of Independence in 1857 and was now preparing the ground for political change in West Bengal.

PM Modi said West Bengal's progress was essential for India's overall development and stressed that the rise of the eastern region was crucial for the country's future.

"My destiny and responsibility are to serve, secure and save West Bengal," he said.

Drawing parallels with recent BJP gains in neigh-

bouring states, PM Modi said, "After Odisha and Bihar, the lotus will bloom in West Bengal too this time."

He alleged that the TMC had betrayed its founding slogan of 'Maa, Maati, Maanush' and had no vision for the state's development. "As result they do not utter the same slogan now as this has lost its significance in the present day political scenario of this state", he said". "TMC

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Abhishek Banerjee promises jobs and development in Haringhata, targets BJP at campaign rally



MI News Service, Nadia : In Nadia's Haringhata , Abhishek Banerjee on Monday highlighted employment generation and future investment prospects while addressing an open rally at Bara Jaguli under the Haringhata block.

Speaking in support of Trinamool Congress candidate Dr. Rajib Biswas, whom he described as a close associate, Banerjee claimed that companies like Flipkart have already created around 5,000 jobs in the area, and that Reliance Industries has recently announced plans to invest further, which could generate more employment opportunities.

At the start of his

speech, Banerjee remarked that he usually remains in his own constituency on the final day of campaigning, but made an exception for Haringhata due to his association with Dr. Biswas. He emphasized that his visit was not merely to secure a win for the candidate or the party, but to counter what he described as attempts by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to obstruct development initiatives undertaken by the Trinamool Congress.

He urged voters to ensure a lead of at least 30 thousand votes for Dr. Biswas and promised that, if elected, steps would be

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Amit Shah promises UCC, end of 'goonda raj' if BJP voted to power in Bengal

MI News Service, Behala : Concluding his fortnight long high-pitch election campaign in West Bengal on the last day of electioneering, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said "there is a strong wave in favour of the BJP and once voted to power, it would "push back all village infiltrators"

He also said that central forces would remain deployed in West Bengal for at least seven more days after the declaration of results on MAY 4

Addressing a massive gathering while leading a road show in Behala on the southern outskirts of the city, where voting will take place in the second and final phase on April 29, Amit Shah said "My brothers and sisters in Bengal, go and vote on April 29, do not worry about the goons. The Election Commission has made extensive security arrangements, and I am telling you that even though the BJP will come to power, central forces will remain here for seven days".

The road show was held on the final day of campaigning in support of BJP candidates for Behala Purba and Behala Paschim,



Road Show of Union Minister for Home Amit Shah at Behala for BJP candidates on Monday.

turning the south Kolkata neighbourhood into a sea of saffron.

Standing atop an open-hood vehicle, Shah waved at supporters and showered flower petals on crowds lining both sides of the road.

Thousands of BJP workers and supporters, carrying party flags and orange-green balloons, thronged the route, raising slogans of "Jai Shri Ram" and "Bharat Mata ki Jai".

Later, Shah took part in another colourful road show at Chandannagar in Hooghly district, drawing huge crowds.

Speaking on both the occasion, the Home Minister said there is a strong

wave in favour of the BJP and once voted to power, it would "push back all village infiltrators"

He also alleged large-scale corruption in social welfare schemes by the TMC government, and asserted that those involved would not be spared.

Shah said it was essential to bring the BJP to power in West Bengal to transform the State into a "sonar Bangla (golden Bengal)".

Stepping up campaign heat on the TMC government, Home Minister Shah said if the BJP is voted to power in West Bengal, it would implement Uniform Civil Code (UCC), and end

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Avishek Banerjee meets Mitali Bag at Arambag hospital on Monday. (Story is on page 3)

Bus Campaign Buzz: TMC's Samim Ahamed Turns Co-Passenger

Byline Mousam Parveen (Mahi)

In a departure from conventional, high-decibel electioneering, Trinamool Congress candidate Samim Ahamed adopted an unconventional grassroots approach in Magrahat West—boarding a crowded public bus and interacting directly with daily commuters in a bid to gauge on-ground sentiment ahead of the crucial phase of polling. The incident unfolded along the busy Deula-Ghatakpur route, a lifeline for thousands of daily passengers. Commuters were taken by surprise when Samim Ahamed, rather than leading a rally or roadshow, appeared among them as an ordinary passenger. Greeting fellow passengers with a simple "How is everyone doing?", he engaged in candid conversations, listened to grievances, and sought feedback on everyday issues ranging from transport conditions to local development needs. Eyewitnesses described a spontaneous and warm response, with several passengers clicking selfies and interacting freely—blurring the lines between candidate and commuter. In an election season dominated by large-scale rallies and aggressive campaigning, Samim Ahamed's low-key outreach has drawn attention for its emphasis on direct public connect. Sources within the campaign indicated that the visit was aimed at first-hand assessment of commuter experiences and infrastructure gaps, allowing the candidate to better understand the practical challenges faced by residents in the constituency. The exercise also reflects a broader attempt by the ruling party to reinforce its grassroots engagement narrative. The devel-



opment comes against a charged political backdrop in the Diamond Harbour region, where the Election Commission recently suspended multiple senior police officials—including the Additional Superintendent of Police, the SDPO, and officers-in-charge of several police stations—citing alleged lapses in duty. The move had triggered political reactions, with TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee dismissing its impact and asserting that "administrative reshuffles cannot halt political momentum." Echoing that sentiment, Samim Ahamed expressed confidence in the party's electoral prospects, stating that voters would back the Trinamool Congress on the strength of its development record. "The imprint of development is visible across Diamond Harbour. The same momentum will extend to every corner of Magrahat West," he said, projecting a decisive mandate in favour of the ruling party. As campaigning intensifies, such unconventional outreach efforts signal a shift in strategy—where retail politics and direct voter engagement are being leveraged alongside traditional mass mobilization in one of Bengal's closely watched constituencies.

Trinamool-BJP clash
over fishing net fire!

MI News Service, Purba Medinipur: Although the first phase of voting was completed without any problems, there was tension in Nandigram of Purba Medinipur district. Minor unrest continued between the Trinamool Congress and the BJP. It flared up on Sunday night. The violence continued till Monday. A Trinamool supporter's brother was accused of setting fire to a BJP worker's fishing net. Not only that, serious allegations like vandalism of houses and poisoning of ponds have also been made. Although the Trinamool candidate from Nandigram claims that it has nothing to do with politics.

What exactly happened? It is known that an atmosphere of suppressed tension was created in Nandigram from the night after the voting on the 23rd. There was a scuffle between Trinamool and BJP supporters. Meanwhile, the incident took place in the Gopalchak Banibitan booth area of Boyal-2 Du Gram Panchayat. A fisherman's family there is an active member of the BJP. Allegedly, due to political jealousy, the brother of a Trinamool Congress supporter set fire to their fishing net. The entire net was burnt to ashes.



Shankar Khalua, a member of the victim's family, alleged that his brother Sudarshan Khalua was a Trinamool supporter and used to threaten him, and that he had previously been involved in crimes like vandalizing houses and poisoning ponds. However Trinamool Congress candidate from Nandigram, Pavitra Kar, said that it is a completely family matter and has nothing to do with politics.

A convocation
ceremony was held
to inspire the new
generation of doctors

MI News Service, Kolkata: In order to inspire the new generation of doctors and boost their confidence in their professional journey a convocation ceremony was recently organized in Kolkata. In the event 50 doctors who graduated from Kyrgyzstan and successfully cleared the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) had been felicitated. At the event, successful doctors shared their experiences of studying abroad with aspiring students, while distinguished guests motivated them for their future journey.



Congress candidate at Maniktola Assembly Constituency Sugata Roy Chaudhury during his campaign at Maniktola in Kolkata.

Clashes during Ravi Kishan campaign! multiple reshuffles in Howrah Police

MI News Service, Howrah: During the roadshow of BJP MP Ravi Kishan, a massive clash took place between Trinamool and BJP supporters at Bamangachi in Lilua on Sunday.

Due to this incident, a major reshuffle was made in the Howrah police administration. The Election Commission removed Lilua police station OC Kalyan Khamurai and SI (UB) Suman Roy. Suman has been transferred to the post of OC of Nazirganj police station in Sankrail. On the other hand, Sujoy Tung has been brought as the OC of Lilua police station. In addition, the IC of Belur police station has also



Tejashwi Yadav joins the mega roadshow of Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday. Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim was also present at the roadshow along with other TMC leaders.

Trinamool leader's husband body
recovered from Bhagirathi!

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Trinamool leader's husband dies suddenly after the first phase of voting! Murshidabad's Lalgola is in a state of shock after his body was recovered from the Bhagirathi Trinamool leader's husband i river. The body was recovered from the Bhagirathi river in Baikunthapur of Raghunathganj police station on Monday morning. It is learnt that the man had been missing since Sunday afternoon.

According to local sources, on Monday around 12 noon, a few people were bathing at Baikunthpur Ghat in Raghunathganj. At that time, a person saw the body of an unidentified person floating in the Bhagirathi and brought it to the bank. After that, the Raghunathganj police station was informed. Later, the police came and recovered the body. Within a short while, the Raghunathganj police station confirmed the identity of the deceased. It is known that the name of the deceased is Nazir



Sheikh (49). His home is Fakirpara of Lalgola police station. Nazir's wife Hasen Banu Bibi is currently the Lalgola Block Women's Trinamool Congress President.

Nadim Hasan Sheikh, son of the deceased Nazir Sheikh, said, "When we could not find our father, we started watching CCTV footage of the area. Our father was last seen on CCTV cameras in our neighboring neighborhood. We do not know where

he went after that. I think our father was murdered."

However Ruma Banerjee, convener of Lalgola Block Trinamool Congress Core Committee, said, "we are not sure whether it was murder, suicide or accidental death." The police recovered Nazir's body and sent it to Jangipur Subdistrict Hospital for autopsy. The police have registered a case of unnatural death and started investigating the incident.

South 24 Parganas under the ECs
watch! 246 people arrested

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the second phase of voting Election Commission is taking several measures to ensure free and peaceful polling. It is learnt that police raids have started in various areas of South 24 Parganas. 246 people with old criminal records have been arrested. Several people have been arrested from multiple areas of the Kolkata Police. In addition to these 246 people, if we count the number of arrests made by the Kolkata Police in the last few hours, about three hundred miscreants have been arrested. In this case, the Com-

mission's argument is that such steps have been taken to conduct peaceful elections.

It is worth noting that the police have recovered a huge number of bombs from different areas of Bhangarh ahead of the elections. In the last three days, nearly a hundred bombs have been recovered. An NIA investigation has been ordered into the incident. Three people have been arrested. A team of the central investigation agency NIA reached Bhangarh on Monday morning for investigation. They inspected the bomb recovery work in differ-

ent areas. They also collected detailed information from the Kolkata Police about who was involved in the incident. Panic has increased in various areas as the central investigation agency has started an investigation into the bomb recovery.

However, a strong political storm has started surrounding such an order. The ruling party claims that the NIA is harassing the common people by visiting different areas of Bhangarh. It is also claimed that such a step is to give an advantage to the opposition in the elections.

Lightning strikes house in
Shitalkuchi, 2 cattle die

MI News Service, Cooch Behar: A house caught fire after being struck by lightning. Everything was burnt to ashes in the fire. This tragic incident took place in Khareja Dhapherchatra area of Gosairhat Gram Panchayat in Shitalkuchi block of Cooch Behar district. The family members are mentally devastated by the incident. The local administration has also assured administrative help. The Meteorological Department had earlier warned that there is a possibility of rain with thunder in several districts besides Cooch Behar. Accordingly, gusty winds and rain started in various parts of Cooch Behar district from Saturday evening. At night, trees fell in the area adjacent to Rajbari Stadium in Cooch Behar city, disrupting traffic, but no major accident occurred.

But on Sunday night, a tragic incident took place in Shitalkuchi. A lightning strike in the Kharizha Dhapherchatra area set fire to the house of local resident Kapil Mian.

In that fire, a house was completely destroyed. In addition to the furniture in the house, the crops in the house were also burnt and two cows in the house were also burnt to death.

The owner of the house, Kapil Mian, said, "On Sunday night, we all went to bed after the dinner. Suddenly, we were woken up by a noise and my daughter-in-law started screaming that there was a fire. Then I also saw smoke in the house. Then we all broke the door of the house and came out and were able to bring out some things from the house. Then, even though the people of the house and the villagers tried to put out the fire with water, the intensity of the fire was so much that one house was completely burnt to ashes. Even two of the six cows in the house were burnt to death in the fire."

Meanwhile, Shitalkuchi Panchayat Samiti President Madan Barman reached the spot on Monday morning to inquire about the affected family.



office near Arvind School on B Road and they started chanting 'Jai Bangla' slogans after seeing the BJP procession. In response, 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans were shouted from the

BJP procession. After that, first an argument broke out between the two sides, and then a massive scuffle broke out. To control the situation, the central forces jawans and

Road Safety and Road
Accident Awareness: A
Doctor's Perspective

MI News Service, Kolkata: Road traffic accidents are a significant public health issue in India, resulting in many injuries and fatalities that could be prevented through basic safety measures. Dr. Anindansu Basu, an orthopaedic surgeon, emphasizes the severe consequences he observes daily in emergency rooms, highlighting the range of injuries, from fractures to life-threatening conditions, often leading to long-term disability or death. He advocates for a collective responsibility in promoting road safety beyond merely following traffic rules.

Indian Embassy Showcases
Exhibit of 'Human Cost of
Terrorism' in US

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Indian Embassy hosted the exhibition to commemorate the victims of the Pahalgam attack and highlight the devastating impact of cross-border terrorism targeting India, particularly by Pakistan-backed terror groups. The exhibition was inaugurated by India's Ambassador to the U.S., Vinay Mohan Kwatra.

West Bengal borrowers
show strong shift
toward formal credit and
enterprise-led borrowing:
MFIN-NCAER Study

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal emerges as an important microfinance market in the NCAER study prepared for MFIN, with borrowers showing a clear shift toward formal credit and productive use of loans. The report highlights that regulated microfinance continues to support small businesses, livelihood activity and household financial resilience across the state. The study shows that 78.0% of borrowers in West Bengal contribute to household income, reflecting the active economic role of women borrowers and their families.

Delivery boy meets with an
accident

MI News Service, East Bardhaman: A delivery boy met with an accident near Curzon Gate in Burdwan on Monday afternoon. According to local sources, a central force vehicle allegedly hit his scooter. Although the central force has not commented on the matter, it is alleged that the vehicle left the injured scooter driver behind. Tension has spread in the area over the incident.

Rhino 'Bhim' dies at Bengal
Safari Park



MI News Service, Siliguri: The only rhino at Bengal Safari Park in Siliguri, 'Bhim', has died, leaving the park staff in deep mourning. Officials said the animal died due to age-related health complications.

'Bhim' had a notable history, having strayed from Baikunthapur forest in Jalpaiguri following a territorial conflict. He was later rescued from the Svoke area by the forest department and brought to Bengal Safari Park, where he was renamed 'Bhim'. Over time, he became a major attraction for visitors and led to the introduction of a dedicated rhino safari.

The rhino had reportedly made several attempts to break out of its enclosure, and efforts were also made to find a companion for it, but they were unsuccessful. The park authorities have confirmed that a post-mortem was conducted as per protocol, and the report has been sent to higher authorities. Park authorities have cited age-related physical ailments as the reason for his death, although some animal welfare enthusiasts have raised questions regarding the sudden loss.

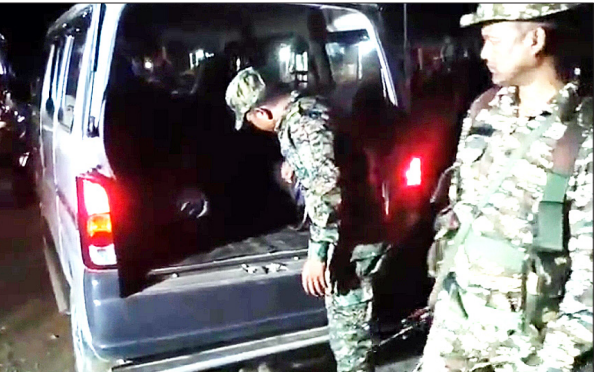


TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee introducing his party candidate Asima Patra in an election campaign at Dhaniakhali on Monday.

Security Remains Tight in Border
Areas of Bengal and Odisha

MI News Service, Kharagpur:

Even after the completion of the election process, security arrangements remain extremely strict in the areas bordering Bengal and Odisha in West Medinipur and Jhargram districts. The administration is maintaining constant vigilance to prevent any untoward incident. It is learnt that deployment of police and central security forces has been further increased in sensitive border areas such as Sonakonia under Dantan Police Station in West Medinipur district, and Nudishol and Hathibari under Gopiballavpur Police Station in Jhargram district. Continuous naka checking drives are being conducted in these border regions. Vehicles passing through the area are being thoroughly inspected, and suspicious activities are being closely monitored. The administration believes that anti-social elements may remain active even after the elections, and therefore



extensive security measures have already been put in place to deal with any situation. Police and central force personnel are conducting round-the-clock patrols to ensure complete control over law and order in the region. According to local residents, the active presence of security forces has created an atmosphere of peace and safety in the area. Officials have also made it clear

that such strict measures will continue until the counting of votes is completed. Notably, vote counting is scheduled to take place on May 4. Keeping this in mind, the administration is not in the mood to take any chances and remains fully alert regarding security arrangements so that the situation remains normal during and after the declaration of election results.

Hundreds of Buses Requisitioned
for Second Phase of Elections



MI News Service, Kharagpur:

Even before the difficulties caused by the first phase of elections have completely ended in West Medinipur district, the second phase of polling has once again created a transport crisis for the general public. With a large number of passenger buses being requisitioned for election duty, commuters are expected to face severe inconvenience in the coming days. According to

administrative sources, around 650 passenger buses from Medinipur have been sent to Barasat and Hooghly districts for election-related work. As per the Election Commission's directives, these buses will mainly be used to transport polling personnel and security forces to their designated booths. It may be noted that during the first phase of polling as well, daily passengers faced considerable trouble due

to a shortage of buses. Now, with the second phase approaching, people are increasingly worried that the same situation will arise again. According to bus owners and district administration officials, the number of buses on the roads will remain extremely low from one day before polling until the day after voting. The worst impact is expected to be felt by people travelling in rural areas. Passengers heading outside the city may face serious difficulties because of limited transport options. In particular, those travelling for medical treatment or urgent work may have to depend on small private vehicles or expensive alternatives. Local residents said that in every phase of the elections, removal of such a large number of buses disrupts normal life. In the absence of alternative arrangements, reaching destinations over the next few days may become a major challenge for many people.

Herd of Elephants Reaches Sankrail in
Jhargram, Panic Among Villagers



MI News Service, Kharagpur:

Panic has gripped the Sankrail area of Jhargram district after the arrival of a large herd of elephants in the region. According to reports, the herd emerged from the Kalaikunda forest and moved through Handibhanga village towards areas near the banks of the Subarnarekha River. The movement of the elephants has

created fear among local villagers. Residents said they are worried that the herd may enter nearby villages at any time in search of food, causing damage to crops as well as houses. Earlier incidents of elephant rampage in such areas have already been reported in the past, which has further increased the concern among the people. Meanwhile, the Forest Depart-

ment has gone on full alert. Forest personnel are continuously monitoring the movement of the elephants and patrols in the area have been intensified. At the same time, announcements are being made through loudspeakers advising villagers to remain cautious and avoid going outdoors at night. Forest officials said the situation is being closely monitored, and plans are being made to safely drive the herd back towards the forest.

Authorities have appealed to residents not to attempt to go near the elephants under any circumstances and to follow official instructions.

For now, vigilance has been increased across the entire area, and Forest Department teams are prepared to deal with any emergency situation.

DG/CISF & DG/BSF interact with injured CISF
personnel, appreciate bravery

MI News Service, Kolkata:

Praveer Ranjan, DG/CISF, along with Praveen Kumar, DG/BSF, and Sudhir Kumar, ADG/North, visited the hospital to check on the health of CT/GD Yogesh of the Special Security Group of CISF. Ct. Yogesh suffered a bullet injury while securing a Y category protectee in West Bengal. The DG appreciated his courage, dedication and professionalism in the line of duty and wished him a speedy recovery.

The injury occurred during an attack on the residence of the protectee using country-made weapons. During the incident, he sustained a bullet injury to his left calf while ensuring the safety of the protectee.



Amit Shah promises

● **From PG 1** “goonda raj” and “syndicate raj” in the state. He also alleged that successive Congress governments and TMC under Mamata Banerjee had adopted a soft approach towards terrorism. “During the rule of the Congress and Mamata Banerjee governments, terrorists were being fed biryani. After Narendra Modi became prime minister, India answered terror attacks with surgical strikes and air strikes,” Shah said.

Accusing Mamata Banerjee of allowing infiltration into the state, Shah further alleged that illegal migrants had been accommodated in the state for political reasons. “These infiltrators are a threat to national security. After May 5, we will identify them one by one and take action,” he said.

Shah said criminals had created a sense of fear in several parts of the state through bomb attacks and political intimidation, and alleged that the ruling dispensation had failed to act against them. Referring to incidents in Sandeshkhali, RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, a law college in south Kolkata and a medical college in Durgapur, Shah said such episodes reflected a deteriorating law and order situation in the state. Mamata Banerjee is protesting against me for saying I will set right the goons by hanging them upside down. What should be done then? Should we embrace them?”

Shah said. “There will be an end to ‘goonda raj’ and ‘syndicate raj’ in Bengal if the BJP forms the government. Do not be afraid to come out and vote. The EC has made adequate security arrangements, and nobody will be able to prevent you from casting your vote,” he said.

The Home minister also took a swipe at the Chief minister for saying that women should not be coming out of homes after 7 pm. “You vote BJP to power, and I promise you that after May 5, even a small child will be able to come out of her house at 2 in the night without any fear,” he said. Shah said If BJP is voted to power in Bengal, it would set up a special squad to curb cattle smuggling.

Mamata Banerjee holds

● **From PG 1** and Bihari populations. Old mansions, slum clusters, temple roads, business districts and new high-rises together shape the constituency’s complex political mood. Bhabanipur comprises eight wards of the Kolkata Municipal Corporation – 63, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 77 and 82.

Since the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP has steadily emerged as a significant force here.

In 2024, the Trinamool Congress even trailed in Ward 73, where both Mamata Banerjee and party National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee are registered voters, a telling sign of how far the contest has tightened.

‘Mood of Bengal suggests BJP victory in polls’: PM Modi

● **From PG 1** has now lost its vision for West Bengal’s development,” PM Modi added. Claiming that industries were shutting down while criminal networks flourished, PM Modi said, “On one hand, mills are closing down and on the other, crude bomb factories are coming up as household industries, employing goons, and the TMC’s syndicate is expanding.” He urged voters to defeat what he called the “syndicate raj”.

The Prime minister also accused the ruling party of resorting to abuse and intimidation of one and all particularly the women, instead of governance. “TMC’s only strategy seems to be hurling abuses, issuing threats and spreading falsehoods. They have targeted me, constitutional institutions and even the armed forces with their derogatory remarks,” he alleged Also highlighting his long association with the state and expressing confidence in a BJP victory after the results on May 4, , the Prime Minister said Bengal has played a deeply personal role in his life and spiritual journey. “The attachment I have had towards Bengal has been a devotion to Shakti. This has been the energy centre of my personal spiritual journey. It has been inspired by Bengal’s great personalities and the immense love of the people, the Janata Janardan. The experiences I have had on this land of Bengal, I consider a great blessing upon myself.” PM Modi said.

“This is my last rally in this election, and wherever I have gone in West Bengal, I have seen the mood of the

Mamata accuses BJP of ‘bringing Rs 300 cr through Odisha border’

MI News Service, Kolkata: Alleging a “cash-for-votes” operation by the BJP, Trinamool Congress chairperson Mamata Banerjee has claimed that as much as “Rs 300 crore” had been brought into Bhowanipore from Odisha in a private vehicle and was being distributed in slum areas in the South Kolkata constituency.

Addressing a series of meetings across the Constituency, she also urged voters to carefully verify their VVPAT slips after casting ballots, warning that any malfunctioning machine should be immediately flagged and not used for voting. She warned voters against inducements, alleging that money was being distributed in exchange for votes, and cautioned against supporting independent candidates or “outsiders”. Calling the election a “festival of democracy”, she urged voters to carry their voter slips, remain vigilant, and not fall for provocations while maintaining peace.

Mamata Banerjee’s day long hectic campaign on the final day of electioneering for the second phase of poll on April 29, covered multi-



ple locations in the Bhowanipur Assembly Constituency. It began with a march from Lansdowne to Kalighat Fire Station, followed by public meetings at Camac Street opposite Vardaan Market, the Ganga Prasad Mukherjee Road–Paddapukur Road crossing, Mansatala crossing, and Kalighat where Mamta Banerjee alleged that the BJP was attempting to influence the election process through the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the deployment of huge number of central forces. She claimed that police officials currently posted in the area had been “cherry-picked” after large-scale

reshuffles, and accused them of inaction against BJP workers while targeting Trinamool Congress supporters. She also questioned whether naka-checking was being conducted effectively despite the alleged movement of large sums of cash into the Constituency.

The Trinamool Chief also repeatedly cautioned voters against attempts to “capture EVMs”, alleging that central forces could be used to intimidate voters. She called upon women in particular to remain calm in the face of provocation and to ensure round the clock vigil around all polling stations. Voters, she said,

Abhishek’s big pitch: “Vote TMC, choose smiles over tears”

MI News Service, Kolkata: Abhishek Banerjee mounted a strong show of support for Rijib Biswas at a high –voltage campaign rally in Haringhata, farming the contest as a decisive choice between governance and uncertainty ahead of the West Bengal Assembly election.

Addressing a large gathering at Gate No. 4 Playground on the final day of second – phase campaign, the TMC national general secretary underscored Rajib Biswas’s personal and professional sacrifice, portraying him as a committed grass-roots leader. “He could have earned lakhs of rupees every month through his medical practice. Yet, he has given up everything to serve the people as a full –time worker,” Abhishek Banerjee said, urging voters to rally behind the party’s “Twin flowers” symbol. Abhishek Banerjee sharpened his attack on the BJP, warning adverse consequences if the party were to secure victory. “If the BJP wins, there will be distress among the people; if TMC wins, there will be relief and progress,” he asserted, calling on the electorate to deliver a “resounding mandate” that would decisively reject the opposition. Highlighting his personal equation with the candidate, Abhishek Banerjee described “Family mem-



ber,” explaining his presence in Haringhata despite his usual practice of concluding campaign activities within his own Lok Sabha constituency, Diamond Harbour. “Had I not been here today, the campaign would have felt incomplete,” he remarked. Positing Rajib Biswas as a “son of the soil” who rose through the ranks of student and youth politics, Abhishek Banerjee emphasized his administrative and organizational credentials. He cited Rajib Biswas’s role in managing key responsibilities under the “Sebashray” initiative launched in 2024, which organized medical and welfare camps across multiple constituencies. In a forward –looking pitch, Abhishek Banerjee also announced that a “Sebashray” camp would be organized in Harighata following a TMC victory, tentatively scheduled between December 2026 and January 2027. He assured continued support and intervention for local development. With campaigning for the second phase drawing to close, Abhishek Banerjee’s rally sought to consolidate support in Nadia district, turning the spotlight on candidate credibility, welfare commitments, and a sharply polarized political narrative as the state heads toward a crucial electoral test.

Bengal poll row deepens over ‘observer –BJP’ meeting allegation

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh political flashpoint has erupted in poll –bound West Bengal, with the TMC moving the Calcutta High Court over allegations of a clandestine meeting between a BJP candidate and an Election Commission –appointed police observer –an blame that has sharply escalated the war of words between the ruling party and the opposition.



CPIM’s Ballygunge candidate Afrin Begum energizes supporters at Monday evening rally in Park Street’s Mallick Bazar.

should not cast ballots on malfunctioning machines and must return to vote again if required.

She asserted that her party had already crossed 100 seats in the first phase and would cross double century on Wednesday, claiming this had made the BJP “afraid”.

She alleged that central agencies were being used to influence the electoral outcome and reiterated her opposition to the possible implementation of the NRC. Highlighting her government’s record, she described Bengal as a “mini-India” where people of all communities live together peacefully. She cited development initiatives including the construction and renovation of religious sites across communities, expansion of healthcare facilities through linkages with SSKM Hospital, and the elevation of Bhawanipur Education Society College to a university with state support. She also pointed to welfare measures for traders and gig workers, and said the state had not increased taxes even as central levies had risen.

Pre –poll crackdown: 1,095 arrested in 24 hours across Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a sweeping pre-poll crackdown aimed at tightening law and order ahead of the second phase of voting, West Bengal Police have arrested 1,095 individuals in a single day under the ongoing ‘Confidence Building Measures’ (CBM) drive, marking one of the most extensive operations in recent weeks. According to official data, a total of 1,543 alleged troublemakers have been taken into custody across the state in the past 36 hours, as the administration moves to pre-empt any outbreak of election-related violence.

PM Modi addresses rallies, visits temples, takes part in road show on final day of electioneering

● **From PG 1** show from B K Pal Avenue to the Khanna Crossing, traversing the arterial thoroughfares in the northern parts of the city. While he exchanged greetings with thousands of people participating in the Road show with folded hands, many women and young girls were seen throwing flower petals to the Prime minister both from the road side as well as from their verandas and widows on the way as a goodwill gesture shouting ‘Modi-Modi’ all along. As a result of this massive roadshow of PM Modi in the city, movement of traffic was severely disrupted for several hours in the evening in several areas of the northern part of the city. Polling in the first phase, held on April 23 across 152 constituencies, recorded a voter turnout of over 93 per cent.

The remaining 142 seats will go to polls in the second phase on April 29, with the Election Commission ensuring tight security, including the deployment of more than 1.75 lakh central forces in all the seven districts including Kolkata. PM Modi has undertaken several visits to the state in recent weeks, addressing multiple rallies across West Bengal, while Union Home Minister Amit Shah has also been actively overseeing the party’s campaign on the ground. Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee and her nephew cum the party’s General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee also held a number of rallies in different parts of south Bengal throughout the day on Sunday including at Bhabanipur and at Magrahat in south 24 Parganas district.

Both them also led massive road shows in Bhabanipur and Falta, also in South 24 Parganas district. CPI-I (M), Congress and ISF in their last ditch attempts to woo voters also held series of rallies and road shows across the state today. Meanwhile, after a hectic day yesterday, Prime Minister Modi



Glimpses from UP CM Yogi Adityanath’s high-energy rally in Dum Dum.

Bengal Poll Violence: Fresh Flashpoint in Goghat

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tensions flared sharply in poll-bound West Bengal’s Hooghly district on Monday after Trinamool Congress MP Mitali Bag alleged a violent attack on her convoy in Goghat, triggering a fresh Political flashpoint just ahead of the crucial second phase of Assembly elections.

According to the MP from Arambagh, the incident occurred while she was en route to attend a public meeting addressed by TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee. Bag alleged that a group of armed miscreants intercepted her vehicle near the Goghat area—close to a location associated with BJP candidate Prashant Digar—and launched a coordinated assault using sticks, rods and bricks. Her vehicle was extensively vandalized, and she sustained injuries after being struck by projectiles. In a dramatic turn, Bag went live on social media during and after the alleged attack, visibly distressed and accusing the assailants of attempting to kill her. “Glass shards are embedded all over my body... Is this how a woman is treated?” she said, directly questioning the Election Commission’s role and response. She further alleged selective action by authorities, claiming that Trinamool leaders were being targeted while such inci-

dents went unchecked. The injured MP was rushed to Arambagh Medical College, where she is currently undergoing treatment. The incident drew an immediate and forceful response from Abhishek Banerjee, who visited the hospital following his scheduled rally. Emerging from the facility, Abhishek Banerjee adopted a combative stance, asserting that those responsible would be identified and held accountable. “I know who is behind this attack. CCTV footage will reveal everything. Whether we win or lose here, there will be a full reckoning after May 4,” he warned, signalling potential political and legal consequences. The BJP, however, categorically denied the allegations and countered with claims of its own. Former district president Biman Ghosh alleged that BJP workers were, in fact, attacked by Trinamool Supporter,with at least 20 individuals hospitalized. He dismissed the MP’s claims as “fabricated,” accusing her of staging the episode to deflect attention. With both sides trading serious Blame and counter-allegations, Goghat has effectively turned into a Political tinderbox. The incident has further heightened concerns over law and order and the conduct of free and fair elections in the region, as the state braces for the next phase of polling.

Abhishek Banerjee promises

● **From PG 1** taken to provide piped drinking water in the arsenic-affected region. He also assured housing with pucca roofs for residents and the organization of “Sebashram camps” in the area. Banerjee criticized the central government over funding issues related to the Jal Jeevan Mission, alleging that the Centre has not released its 50% share. He stated that the state government would proceed with the project using its own funds if necessary.

Taking aim at local BJP MLA Asim Sarkar, Banerjee claimed that despite BJP’s electoral success in Haringhata, development work has been carried out by the Trinamool Congress. He also cited state welfare schemes, stating that around 15 thousand youths have received financial assistance of Rs 1,500 each, and questioned whether BJP had delivered comparable benefits. Referring to earlier promises of Rs.15 lakh in bank accounts, he asked whether any such commitments had been fulfilled.

Addressing concerns of the Matua community in the region, Banerjee alleged that names of many voters have been removed from electoral rolls despite having valid documents. He assured support to those affected and criticized the BJP over the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act, claiming that promises of granting citizenship remain unfulfilled.

He further challenged BJP leaders, including Amit Shah, to engage in direct political contest in the state, asserting confidence in the Trinamool Congress’s development record. Banerjee also dismissed BJP’s promise of providing Rs 3 thousand monthly assistance to women, arguing that such schemes have not been effectively implemented in 16 BJP-ruled states, and contrasted it with welfare initiatives under Mamata Banerjee.

The rally underscored Haringhata’s political significance, particularly due to its sizeable Matua population, as campaigning intensifies ahead of the elections.

embarked on a two-day visit to Sikkim on Monday to attend the concluding ceremony of the state’s 50th year of statehood celebrations and roll out a comprehensive development package exceeding Rs 4,000 crore, aimed at strengthening infrastructure and promoting inclusive growth.

According to official sources, the Prime Minister arrived in Gangtok on April 27 afternoon. On April 28 morning, he is scheduled to visit the Orchidarium, where the Swarnajayanti Maitri Manjari Park — conceived as a world-class Orchid Experience Centre — will highlight the state’s rich biodiversity and floral wealth. Later in the day, at around 10 am, PM Modi will participate in the closing ceremony at Paljor Stadium, where he will inaugurate, dedicate and lay foundation stones for projects spanning connectivity, healthcare, education, power, tourism, urban development, environment and agriculture. He will also address a public gathering. “These initiatives are aimed at accelerating holistic and inclusive development in Sikkim,” officials said, underlining the Centre’s continued emphasis on the Northeast as a priority region for investment and growth. In healthcare, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for a 100-bed Ayurveda hospital in Yangang in Namchi district and inaugurate a 30-bed Integrated Sowa Rigpa hospital at NIT Deorali, expanding access to traditional systems of medicine.

The education sector will see multiple inaugurations, including the permanent campus of Sikkim University at Yangang, facilities at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose University of Excellence, Helen Chopra Medical College, and Dentam Professional College. Model residential schools, a new degree college in Mangan district, and IT-enabled infrastructure across 160 schools will also be

launched. To enhance connectivity, the Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone for two steel arch bridges over the Teesta river linking key districts, and inaugurate the upgraded road from Birdhang to Namchi, expected to ease travel and improve movement of goods.

In the power sector, an upgraded transmission and distribution network in Gangtok will be unveiled to ensure reliable electricity supply. Urban development initiatives include the inauguration of the Jan Seva Sachivalaya in Lumsee and the Civil Service Officers Institute in Gangtok, alongside housing projects for economically weaker sections and government personnel.

Environmental initiatives will include the foundation stone for a sewerage system upgrade in Singtam and the launch of a river pollution abatement project for the Rani Chu river system, aimed at improving sanitation and preserving local ecosystems. Tourism and pilgrimage infrastructure will also receive a boost with projects such as the redevelopment of the Ridge precinct in Gangtok, eco-tourism facilities in Soreng, and infrastructure linked to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Plans also include a Yatri Niwas in Namchi and an eco-pilgrimage complex in Gyalshing district.

Additionally, tomorrow, PM Modi will inaugurate the Sikkim IFFCO Processing Plant to strengthen agro-processing and farmer incomes, and indoor cricket facilities in Pakyong district to encourage youth participation in sports. The visit coincides with a landmark year for Sikkim, which became India’s 22nd state in 1975. Officials said the Prime Minister’s presence at the concluding ceremony reflects the government’s “continued commitment to the rapid and sustainable development of Sikkim and he Northeast region.”

Camac street turns photo hub for Didi supporters

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a striking display of grass-roots mobilisation, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee drew enthusiastic crowds at the Saraswati Niketan Complex near Camac Street (Vardhan Market) in the Bhawanipur Assembly constituency, where supporters lined up to capture photographs with the Trinamool Congress supremo—turning the interaction into a symbolic show of political endorsement.

Eyewitnesses described a steady stream of voters eager to document their presence alongside the Chief Minister, underscoring both personal connect and public affirma-



tion of support at a crucial juncture in the ongoing Assembly elections. The atmosphere remained charged yet celebratory, with the photo-moment emerging as a subtle but powerful expres-

sion of allegiance. Senior party leaders, including Kolkata Mayor Farhad Hakim and Ward Councillor Susmita Bhattacharya, were present at the venue, observing the proceedings and

engaging with local residents. Their presence further reinforced the organizational strength of the ruling party in one of its most closely watched constituencies. The episode reflects the Trinamool Congress’s emphasis on direct voter outreach and personalised campaigning, as Mamata Banerjee continues to consolidate her base in Bhawanipur —a seat long regarded as her political stronghold. With polling momentum building, such public interactions are being viewed as key indicators of on-ground sentiment and electoral mobilization.

NAME CHANGE
[DAS ARUN RANJAN(OLD NAME) SON OF LOKANATH DAS RESIDING AT TOWER NO-12,5TH FLOOR,FLAT NO-A,GENEXX AVENUE,JOKA,D H ROAD,PO-JOKA, PS-HARIDDEBPUR, KOLKATA- 700104,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS ARUN RANJAN DAS(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 27/04/2026.DAS ARUN RANJAN AND ARUN RANJAN DAS BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
[AKHBAR HOSSAIN(OLD NAME), SON OF ABUL HOSSAIN, RESIDING AT 18/2/B, BALU HAKKAK LANE, CIRCUS AVENUE, KOLKATA- 700017, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS AKBAR HOSSAIN(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 27/04/2026.AKBAR HOSSAIN AND AKBAR HOSSAIN BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON

NAME CHANGE
I, Swapan Chakraborty (old name) S/o Nirmal Chakraborty, residing at SRINAGAR, 3 NO GATE, MADHYAMGRAM, NORTH 24 PGS-700129, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Swapan Kumar Chakraborty (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/04/2026. Swapan Kumar Chakraborty (new name) and Swapan Chakraborty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I,SAUMENDRAL NANDALAL NANDI (OLD NAME), SON OF NANDALAL NANDI, RESIDING AT 327A,JODHPUR PARK, 2ND FLR PO-JODHPUR PARK,PS-LAKE, KOLKATA-700068,WEST BENGAL,HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS SAUMENDRA LAL NANDI(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/04/2026. SAUMENDRAL NANDALAL NANDI AND SAUMENDRA LAL NANDI BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
[KONIKA DAS(OLD NAME),WIFE OF ASHISH KUMAR DAS, RESIDING AT 436, GHOSH PARA ROAD,PO - ICHAPUR NAWABGANJ, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-743144,WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS KANIKA DAS(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 24/04/2026.KONIKA DAS AND KANIKA DAS BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sarla Sethi (Old Name) W/o Vinod Kumar Sethi Residing at 2-4-11B, 49A Mannohan Banerjee Road, New Alipore, Buroshibitala, Sahapur, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700038, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sarla Devi Sethi. (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public Kolkata vide affidavit Dated 27-04-2026. Sarla Sethi (Old Name) and Sarla Devi Sethi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
1, MIRZA REZAUL, S/o Late Ayeel Haque Mirja, aged about 47 years, resident of Vill-Nandanpur, P.O.- Uchhalan, P.S. Madhabnithi, Dist. Purba Bardhaman, PIN 713427, declare by a affidavit before the Judicial Magistrate 1 Class, Purba Bardhaman dated 24/04/2026 that Mirza Rezaul, S/o Ayeel Haque Mirja as mentioned in Voter Card being No. HXN2015931 and Aadhaar Card being No. 5678 1374 0499 as Mirza Rezaul, S/o Mirja Aiel Hak but mentioned as Rejaul Badsha, S/o Md Iyael Hoque Mirza in Admit Card of M.P. being Registration No. R111-06746 of 92-93 Roll-2921 No. 0042 are same and one identical person i.e. myself and henceforth I shall be known as Mirza Rejaul S/o Ayeel Haque for all purposes.

Name Change
I,Shampa Das W/O Badal Das. Residing at Vill- Haripur Jelepura North, Po-Kakdwip, P.S - Harwood Point Coastal, District - South 24 Parganas. My name is Sampa Das in the passport of my daughter Barsha Das (whose number is - U6276130). I have come to be known as Shampa Das as per the affidavit of Kakdwip First Class Judicial Magistrate Court dated 17/04/2026. From today onwards Shampa Das and Sampa Das,W/O Badal Das are one and the same person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MARJINA BIBI, W/O:- Late Md Momin Ali, R/O:- Vill- Purba Ichapur, P.O.- Kadambagachi, PS- Duttapukur, Dist- N 24 Pgs, Pin- 700125 WB do hereby solemnly affirm and declare vide affidavit no. 5536 dt. 01/04/26 sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Barasat Court, N 24 Pgs, that my husband's actual name is MD MOMIN ALI which is inadvertently recorded as MAMIN ALI in my Voter ID Card vide no. IN2139830 and also my age is written as 61 yrs (DOB- 01/01/1963) instead of my actual age 70 yrs (DOB- 01/01/1956). MAMIN ALI and MD MOMIN ALI both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, MARJINA BIBI, W/O:- Late Md Momin Ali, R/O:- Vill- Purba Ichapur, P.O.- Kadambagachi, PS- Duttapukur, Dist- N 24 Pgs, Pin- 700125 WB do hereby solemnly affirm and declare vide affidavit no. 5534 dt. 01/04/26 sworn before the Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class, Barasat Court, N 24 Pgs, that my husband's actual name is MD MOMIN ALI which is inadvertently recorded as MAMIN ALI in my Passport vide no. C327254 and also my DOB is written as 01/01/1963 instead of my actual DOB 01/01/1956. MAMIN ALI and MD MOMIN ALI both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, PRITOM NAG S/O Prodyut Kumar Nag R/A - 8/13, Bjoyogya P.S., Gufingr, Kolkata - 700032 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as PRITAM NAG as declared before the Learned Judicial Magistrate Court First Class at Alipore (WB) vide Affidavit No. - 39305 dated 22.04.2026. PRITOM NAG and PRITAM NAG both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I,Shaik Ibrar Ahmed, Son Of Sk Jamu & Latifun Nesa, Residing At 51,Bright Street, Po-Circus Avenue,Ps - Karaya,Kolkata - 700017, West Bengal, Do Hereby Notified That My Father Sk Nooruzzama & Sk Jamu (Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Sk Nooruzzaman (As Per Death Certificate No Mb003/1995/000772, Old Registration 645Dated 07/01/1995) Vide An Affidavit No 30926 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 01/04/2026.Sk Nooruzzama & Sk Jamu And Sk Nooruzzaman All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Soharab Hossain Khan (old name) S/o Arsed Ali Khan, residing at Ayma Damodarpur, Uttarbil, Paschim Medinipur, Garbeta-I, Pin- 721127, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Sohrab Hossain Khan (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/04/2026. Soharab Hossain Khan (new name) and Soharab Hossain Khan (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Manwara Begum (old name) W/o Mansur Ali Khan, residing at Mohanpur, Uttarbil, Paschim Medinipur, Garbeta-I, Pin- 721127, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Manoyara Begam (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/04/2026. Manoyara Begam (new name) and Manwara Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person

Name Change
I, Bimlesh Kr Tripathi @ Bimlesh Tripathi S/O Kashinath Tripathi R/O 43/1, Thakur Das Ghosh Street, Po Liluah, Ps Belur, Howrah, Pin Code 711204, Wb Shall Henceforth Be Known As Bimlesh Kumar Tripathi Vide An Affidavit Being Number 88ab 5771/04 Sworn Before The Notary Public Kolkata On 27th April 2026 At Bankshall Court Kolkata. That Bimlesh Kr Tripathi, Bimlesh Tripathi And Bimlesh Kumar Tripathi All Are Same And One Identical Person Not 3 Different Person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Ali Sardar (Old Name), Son Of Late Iyabuk Sardar, Residing At Purba Potta, Po- Gobinda Pur, North 24 Pgs- 743273, West Bengal- Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Mohammad Ali (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/04/2026. Mohammad Ali Sardar And Mohammad Ali Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Faiz Ansari (Old Name), Son Of Mohammed Alaudin Red, residing At 1/1 Bed Ford Lane, Po & Ps - Park Street, Kolkata - 700016, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Faiz Ansari (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Sealdah On 24/04/2026. Mohammed Faiz Ansari And Md Faiz Ansari Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Saurabh (Old Name), Son Of Ajay Kumar, Residing At 121,3rd Floor, Arjun Park, Dhulia, Near-Old Age Home, Mukundapur, Kolkata- 700099, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Saurabh Shukla (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/04/2026. Saurabh And Saurabh Shukla Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Payal Chakraborty (Old Name) Wife Of Late Samarjit Chakraborty, Residing At No 1, Bijay Nagar, P.O. & P.S - Naihati, North 24 Parganas - 743165, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Payal Chakraborty (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/04/2026. Payal Chakraborty And Payal Chakraborty Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Subrata Kumar Raha (Old Name), Son Of Late Shilpabada Raha, Residing At 8 No, Bijaynagar, Naihati, North 24 Parganas - 743165, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Subrata Raha (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/04/2026. Subrata Kumar Raha And Subrata Raha Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Musoumi Karmakar (Old Name) Wife Of Bipul Karmakar, Residing At 1 No Kailashat Road, Po-Guriyhati, Coochbehar- 736101, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Musoumi Das Karmakar (New Name) Vide An Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/04/2026. Musoumi Karmakar And Musoumi Das Karmakar Both Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sabir Ali, S/o: Abdul Rashid (Old Name), R/o:- S.S., Path Bansbagan, Titagarh, P.O. & P.S.- Titagarh, Dist.- 24 Pgs. (N)-700119, WB, I have change my & father's name & shall henceforth be known as Mustafa, S/o:- Sk Rashid (New Name) vide an Affidavit SI.No. 27, dt. 24.03.2026, in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st class at Barrackpore. That, Sabir Ali, S/o: Abdul Rashid (Old Name) & Mustafa, S/o:- Sk Rashid (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, PRANAY NANDY(OLD NAME), SON OF PRABIR KUMAR NANDY, RESIDING AT MONOHARPUR PALPARA DANKUNI, HOOGHLY-712311, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS PRONAY NANDY(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 27/04/2026. PRANAY NANDY AND PRONAY NANDY BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, IYAKUB ALI(OLD NAME), SON OF AMJAD ALI MALLICK, RESIDING AT VILL- PURBA MALLICKPUR, PO- ILAHPUR, PS-HARIPAL, HOOGHLY- 712706, WEST BENGAL, HAVE CHANGED MY NAME AND SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS YAKUB ALI MALLICK(NEW NAME) VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 27/04/2026. IYAKUB ALI AND YAKUB ALI MALLICK BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Isha Khan backs Mukherjee in 116 Bidhannagar Constituency

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant political development ahead of the upcoming Bidhannagar Assembly elections, senior Congress leaders led by MP Isha Khan Choudhury, along with DCC President Tapas Majumder, have announced their unified support for strengthening the Congress presence in the 116 Bidhannagar Bidhansabha constituency. The Congress party has officially backed Ranajit Mukherjee as a key candidate for the 116 Bidhannagar seat.

Change of Name
I, Pravat Kumar Mukherjee son of Lt. Manikil Mukherjee, residing at 9E, Block I, Gangetika Apartment, 424, Lichutala, Chandernagore, P.O. & P.S., Chandernagore, Dist. Hooghly-712136, declare that Pravat Kumar Mukherjee as per my Aadhaar Card, Voter Card, PAN Card and 'Pravat Kr. Mukherjee' refer to the same, one and identical person as per my daughter namely Tanisha Mukherjee's Birth Certificate vide Affidavit dated 18.03.2026 before First Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly.

Change of Name
I, Pravat Kumar Mukherjee son of Lt. Manikil Mukherjee, residing at 9E, Block I, Gangetika Apartment, 424, Lichutala, Chandernagore, P.O. & P.S., Chandernagore, Dist. Hooghly-712136, declare that Pravat Kumar Mukherjee as per my Aadhaar Card, Voter Card, PAN Card and 'Pravat Kr. Mukherjee' refer to the same, one and identical person as per my daughter namely Rishita Mukherjee's Birth Certificate vide Affidavit dated 18.03.2026 before First Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly.

Name Change
I, Pradip Kumar Agarwal (old name) S/o Badri Prasad Agarwal, residing at C-J-113 Salt Lake Sector-II, Bidhan Nagar, North 24 parganas, Pin- 700091, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Pradip Agarwal (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/04/2026. Pradip Agarwal (new name) and Pradip Agarwal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sekh Aspari Begum (old name) W/o Sk Mukhtar Ahmad, residing at Mohariy Road, No 1 Moukhali, P.O. GIP Colony, P.S- Jagacha, Howrah, Pin- 711111, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Afsari Begum (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit dated 24/04/2026. Afsari Begum (new name) and Sekh Aspari Begum (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gulshanara Bibi (old name) W/o Abdur Rahman Molla, residing at Vill - 20th Barunia, P.O.- B.chaltaberia, P.S- Kashipur, South 24 Parganas, Pin- 743502, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Nabina Bibi (new name), as declared before the notary public at Kolkata, vide an affidavit 1st class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 20/10/2025 (SL no-11218). That is my good and real and actual name NABINA BIBI which is recorded in my all relevant papers i.e. Aadhar Card being no 5233 7529 3015. Therefore I declare that, Nabina Bibi (new name) and Gulshanara Bibi (old name) both are the same myself and one identical person

Name Change
I, Alimoddin Gazi (Old Name) S/O Late Matabbag Gazi Residing at Vill & P.O.- Nurpur P.S.-Manikhan, Dist - North 24 Parganas Pin-743456 , India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Abu Taher Gazi (New Name) as declared Before the TST Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore dated 07-11-2025. Alimoddin Gazi (Old Name) and Abu Taher Gazi (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Syed Nousad Ali (Old Name), Son Of Late Syed Mohammad Kizar, Residing At Doltala, Puratan Bazar, Baruiপুর, P.S- Baruiপুর, Dist - 24 Parganas South, Pin- 700144, West Bengal, India, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Syed Nausad Ali (New Name), As Declared Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 27/04/2026. Syed Nousad Ali (Old Name) And Syed Nausad Ali (New Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, SUPRIYA DEB W/o Tapan Kumar Deb, residing at Flat-9C, Pure air co-operative housing, AB-159, Street no.101, New Town AA-1A, Kolkata-700156, have changed my surname and shall henceforth be known as SUPRIYAPALCHAUDHURI as declared before the Ld First Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipur Court, Calcutta, West Bengal vide Affidavit no. 14219, Dated 20th May, 2016 that SUPRIYA DEB and SUPRIYA PALCHAUDHURI both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaik Ibrar Ahmed, Son Of Sk Jamu & Latifun Nesa, Residing At 51, Bright Street, Po - Circus Avenue, Ps Karaya, Kolkata - 700017, West Bengal, Do Hereby Notified That My Mother Latifun Nesa(Old Name) Shall Henceforth Be Known As Latifun Niesha (As Per Death Certificate No Mb003/2006/000131, Old Registration 143, Dated 15/03/2006) Vide An Affidavit No 30926 Sworn Before The Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 01/04/2026. Latifun Niesha And Latifun Nesa All Are The Same And One Identical Person.

Checkmate to Greatness: Eastern Railway's Aronyak Ghosh Crowned India's Newest Chess Grandmaster

Kolkata, April 27, 2026: Amidst the administrative hum of the Eastern Railway Headquarters at Fairlie Place, a historic milestone has been reached. Eastern Railway is moved beyond words and filled with immense pride to announce that Shri Aronyak Ghosh, an Eastern Railway Employee has officially ascended to the pinnacle of the chess world by earning the prestigious title of Grandmaster. With this monumental achievement, Aronyak enters an elite league as the 95th Grandmaster of India and the 12th from the storied land of West Bengal, etching his name forever into the annals of sporting history.

His journey to this moment has been a masterclass in perseverance and strategy. Aronyak has proven that true talent knows no boundaries, from the intense focus required to qualify for Round 2 of the FIDE World Cup 2025 in Goa to his sheer dominance as the Champion of the All India Railway Individual Chess Championship 2024 in Jabalpur. His rise is further highlighted by clinching the bronze at the 60th National Senior Chess Championship and reaching a formidable peak FIDE rating of 2555. Currently



ranked 31st in India and 401st globally, he has transitioned from a dedicated employee to a global symbol of excellence.

On this proud occasion, Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager, Eastern Railway, congratulated Shri Ghosh for his outstanding achievement and lauded his unwavering commitment. He stated that such accomplishments bring immense pride to Eastern Railway and serve as a profound inspiration for others to pursue their passions with dedication. Sharing in this emotional milestone, Shri Shibram

Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer, noted that Aronyak's achievement is a story of silent hard work and loud success, bringing a unique spotlight to the Railway family.

Eastern Railway salutes Shri Aronyak Ghosh—the employee who thought like a king and played like a legend. We wish him endless success as he continues to represent the Indian Tricolour and the Railway insignia on the world stage, proving that with vision, any dream can be measured and mastered within 64 squares.

Safety First : Eastern Railway's New "Digital Guardian" Makes Train Travel Safer Than Ever

Kolkata, April 27, 2026 : Under the visionary leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, a massive leap in passenger safety has been achieved. The high-tech Kavach 4.0 system is now fully operational across a 260 km stretch from Howrah to Chota ambana through the Bardhaman route. Think of Kavach, which translates to "Shield," as a digital guardian or an electronic brain that watches over your train every second of your journey. This home-grown Indian technology is designed to ensure that human error never leads to a tragedy, providing a high-tech safety net for every passenger on board.

For those traveling on this route, Kavach acts as a constant protector by monitoring the train's every move. If a train is going too fast or accidentally misses a stop signal, the system takes over and automatically applies the brakes even if the driver doesn't. It is specifically designed to prevent the most serious types of accidents, including head-on or rear-end collisions. Furthermore, the system is a game-changer during heavy rain or thick fog when visibility is poor, as it provides the driver with real-time signals right inside the engine cabin. It even takes care of external safety by automatically

blowing the train's whistle when approaching level crossings to warn people nearby and features an SOS button to alert all surrounding trains in case of an emergency.

This 260 km section is a vital part of the busy Howrah-New Delhi route, and with the system already installed in 120 locomotives, Eastern Railway is ensuring that your travel is not just safer, but also much smoother. By constantly supervising speed limits, Kavach helps trains maintain a steady and safe pace, which reduces the jerky stops and starts often caused by manual checks. This milestone marks a new era where "Made in India" technology protects millions of lives, ensuring that your journey is secured by the highest international safety standards.

Reflecting on this major achievement, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated that the passengers remain the heart of every initiative taken by the railway. He emphasized that with the rollout of Kavach 4.0, Eastern Railway is bringing world-class security to the tracks and a mission towards Zero Collision, acting as a silent hero that works tirelessly behind the scenes so that travelers can sit back, relax, and enjoy a completely worry-free journey with their families.

Middle-East war pushing 30 lakhs Indians into poverty: UNDP

MI News Service, New York: The ongoing conflict and military escalation in West Asia could push up to 2.5 million people in India into poverty and dent the country's human development progress, according to a new United Nations assessment that flags wide-ranging economic and social disruptions across the Asia-Pacific region.

The United Nations Development Programme, in a report titled 'Military Escalation In The Middle East: Human Development Impacts Across Asia And The Pacific', noted that the conflict is "widening human development pressures across Asia and the Pacific. Through higher fuel, freight, and input costs, the shock is diminishing household purchasing power, raising food insecurity, straining public budgets, and weakening livelihoods." The preliminary assessment, issued Tuesday, estimates that globally 8.8 million people are at risk of falling into poverty and the West Asia military escalation could cost Asia-Pacific up to USD 299 billion.

In India, poverty levels could rise sharply—from around 400,000 people to 2.5 million—while South Asia is expected to bear the largest burden globally. The report estimates that the number of people pushed into poverty worldwide could increase from approximately 1.9 million to nearly 8.8 million across scenarios,

with South Asia accounting for between 1.7 million and over 8 million. China, in comparison, is projected to see a relatively moderate increase—from around 115,000 to over 620,000—due to smaller proportional changes across its large population base.

Under a severe scenario involving a 28-day conflict and prolonged adjustment period, India's poverty rate could rise from 23.9 per cent to 24.2 per cent, pushing 2,464,698 additional people below the poverty line. The total number of people living in poverty in the country is projected to increase to 354,033,698 from 351,569,000.

The report also highlights potential setbacks to human development gains. "India is projected to experience a loss of approximately 0.03–0.12 years of HDI progress, followed by Nepal at around 0.02–0.09 years and Viet Nam at 0.02–0.07 years, while for China, the estimated effects on HDI remain limited in magnitude, ranging roughly 0.01–0.05 years," it said. Iran could see a decline equivalent to one to one-and-a-half years of human development progress. India's heavy dependence on West Asia for energy and inputs heightens its vulnerability. The report notes that the country imports over 90 per cent of its oil, with more than 40 per cent of crude and 90 per cent of LPG coming from the region. Additionally, over 45

per cent of fertiliser imports originate from West Asia, while 85 per cent of domestic urea production depends on imported regasified LNG.

Rising LNG prices are already influencing energy choices, with India and several other Asian economies increasing reliance on coal-fired power. Trade disruptions are also significant, with UNDP analysis showing impacts in 25 of 36 countries due to freight surcharges, war-risk insurance, route diversions, and shipment delays. West Asia accounts for 14 per cent of India's exports and 20.9 per cent of imports, including about USD 48 billion in non-oil exports such as basmati rice, tea, gems and jewellery, and apparel.

Food security risks are also mounting. The report warned that "For several countries, including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Philippines, food security pressures could also be compounded by remittance losses, as reduced Gulf economic activity weakens household incomes and purchasing power." It added, "In India, the timing is especially sensitive: any prolonged disruption would coincide with the preparations for the Kharif (the monsoon cropping season), which begins in June. Urea stocks stood at 6.114 million tons, providing a near-term buffer but not fully insulating the sector if disruptions persist into the planting season."

Cal HC urges EC to dispose of TMC complaint over police observer's meeting with BJP nominee

MI News Service, Kolkata : With barely two days remaining for the second phase of Assembly election in West Bengal on Wednesday, the Calcutta High Court on Monday requested the Election Commission to address the TMC's complaint that a police observer in South 24 Parganas district for the assembly polls met a BJP candidate in violation of norms.

The TMC prayed for the removal of the said officer from the role of police observer in four assembly constituencies -- Magrahat Purbha, Magrahat Paschim, Diamond Harbour and Falta.

The EC stated before the court that the observer met the candidate in an official capacity at the designated conference room for meetings at a state government-owned tourist lodge in Diamond Harbour, and there was nothing confidential about it as alleged by the petitioner.

Justice Krishna Rao, after hearing the parties in the matter last week, "requested" the Election Commission of India to dispose of the complaint filed by the TMC and to communicate the order to the petitioner.

The TMC alleged in the petition that during his stay at the tourist lodge, the officer held a private and unofficial meeting with the candidate fielded by the BJP from the Magrahat Paschim assembly constituency.

Senior advocate D S Naidu, representing the Election Commission, stated before the court that sub-clause 3 of Clause 3 of the Observer's Handbook provides that for all purposes, a police observer would act as the eyes and ears of the ECI during the period of election and provide direct input to the commission.

He stated before the court that a police observer has to meet the public as well as the candidates and to submit a report to the Commission.

Naidu further submitted that the TMC's allegation that the police observer in question met with the BJP candidate in a personal manner is baseless, as he met the said candidate in an official capacity along with others.

TMC alleged that Diamond Harbour's police observer Purushottam Das stayed at a private hotel instead of his designated accommodation and held undocumented meetings with BJP candidates Gour Ghosh (Magrahat West) and Dipak Halder (Diamond Harbour).

Youth's aspirations dominate poll discourse in TMC citadel Katwa

MI News Service, Katwa : Like some other intensely focused constituencies in the second phase of elections on Wednesday, this busy district headquarters town of Purba Bardhaman district of South Bengal has also emerged as a keenly watched assembly constituency in the wake of a direct fight between the TMC and BJP as agrarian distress and youth's aspirations drive the poll discourse in this predominantly rural seat.

Katwa, an unreserved seat, is one of the seven assembly segments under the Bardhaman Purba Lok Sabha constituency. It has a predominantly rural character, with around 65.40 per cent of voters residing in villages and 34.60 per cent in urban centres. The electorate is socially mixed, with Scheduled Castes accounting for about 27.41 per cent and Muslims around 21.80 per cent of the population.

Historically, the constituency was considered a Left bastion. The CPI won the seat twice, while the CPI(M) secured it six times. The Congress also had a significant presence, particularly under veteran leader Rabindranath Chatterjee, who won the seat in 1996 and went on to retain it consecutively.

Chatterjee later joined the TMC in 2016 and has continued his winning streak, securing victories in both the 2016 and 2021 assembly elections as a TMC candidate. The 2016 election witnessed a close contest, with Chatterjee

defeating Congress candidate Shyama Majumdar by only 911 votes. In 2021, Majumdar, then contesting on a BJP ticket, lost to Chatterjee by 9,155 votes.

But the BJP has gradually increased its footprint in the constituency. In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the party led in the assembly segment by 1,859 votes. However, in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the TMC regained the advantage, leading by 12,415 votes in the segment.

In this election, Rabindranath Chatterjee is pitted against BJP's Krishna Ghosh and CPI(M) candidate Sanjib Das but the contest is likely to be two-cornered. The total number of voters stood at 2,67,738 in the 2021 assembly elections, which rose to 2,75,698 in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. Voter turnout has remained consistently high, recorded at 84 per cent in 2016, 82.55 per cent in 2019, 84.13 per cent in 2021, and 80.45 per cent in 2024.

Katwa town, after which the constituency is named, holds historical and cultural significance. Located near the confluence of the Ajay and Hooghly rivers, it was strategically important during the Mughal and Nawab periods and served as a gateway to capital Murshidabad.

Agriculture remains the backbone of the local economy, supported by fertile alluvial soil. Paddy, jute and seasonal vegetables are the primary crops, while small-scale

industries and trade supplement livelihoods. Historically, riverine trade, including salt trade, played an important role in the area's economy.

Chatterjee said with the setting up of new engineering and medical colleges and improvement in connectivity, the TMC government is fulfilling people's dreams despite "non-cooperation from the BJP government at the Centre".

Countering Chatterjee, BJP's Ghosh said, "The SSC recruitment scam, loss of jobs and the uncertainty over holding Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) exams have caused deep resentment against the TMC among the educated youth in the constituency."

She said "crumbling civic amenities" in the area, clogged drains, piling up of garbage and potholed roads cannot be compensated by painting government buildings in blue and white and setting up trident lamps in parts of the town.

Das, on the other hand, said that people are gravitating towards the Left after "seeing through the TMC which has become synonymous with cut money, extortion, muscle-flexing and syndicate culture".

"People were always with the Left, which was not reflected in EVMs as the TMC goons unleashed a reign of terror in the last few elections. And people here don't support aggressive Hindutva promoted by the BJP.

Dinesh Trivedi becomes India's Ambassador to Bangladesh; Ministry of External Affairs issues statement



MI News Service, New Delhi: Former Union Minister Dinesh Trivedi—a familiar face in Bengali politics—is set to become India's Ambassador to Bangladesh. This decision had been anticipated for some time. On Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement formally appointing the former Member of Parliament to the post. It was also announced that he would assume charge of the mission in Dhaka very shortly. Dinesh Trivedi is set to take over this responsibility from Pranay Verma.

Earlier, the name of Arif Mohammed Khan—the former Governor of Bihar—had been floated as a potential candidate for the role of India's new Ambassador to Bangladesh. However, the Centre ultimately selected Dinesh Trivedi, the former MP from Barrackpore. During the tenure of Muhammad Yunus, India-Bangladesh relations had deteriorated due to the rise of radicalism in the

region along the Padma River. Under the newly elected government led by Tarique Rahman, those relations are now gradually improving. In this context, observers consider it significant that New Delhi has chosen a politician who is a native Bengali speaker and well-versed in Bengali culture to serve as its envoy.

During the UPA era, Dinesh Trivedi served as the Union Minister for Railways as a member of the Trinamool Congress. He also held the portfolio of Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare. However, in 2019, while contesting as the Trinamool candidate from Barrackpore, he was defeated by the BJP's Arjun Singh. Subsequently, the Trinamool nominated him to the Rajya Sabha. On February 12, 2021, Dinesh Trivedi resigned from the Trinamool Congress. On March 6 of the same year, he joined the BJP. Now, the Central Government has entrusted him with a significant responsibility.

PM to Flag-off Banaras-Pune (Hadapsar) and Ayodhya-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) Amrit Bharat Express Trains

MI News Service, New Delhi: Indian Railways is set to enhance regional connectivity with the introduction of two new weekly AmritBharat Express trains linking Uttar Pradesh with Maharashtra via Madhya Pradesh. Traversing keycultural and economic corridors, these trains will strengthen ties between major population centreswhile also facilitating smoother movement of pilgrims and working class alike. Designed for thecommon man, the Amrit Bharat Express offers a blend of comfort, convenience, and affordability,marking another step towards inclusive and accessible rail travel in the country. Prime MinisterNarendra Modi will flag off two new Amrit Bharat Express trains: Banaras-Hadapsar (Pune) andAyodhya-Mumbai (Lokmanya Tilak Terminus) on 28 April 2026.

Introduced for low- and middle-income families, Amrit Bharat trains are fully non-AC, modernservices designed with a strong focus on safety and passenger convenience. With a composition ofGeneral and Sleeper class coaches, along with pantry and Divyangjan-friendly facilities, these trainsincorporate several upgraded features. Passengers benefit from improved aesthetics of seats and berthinspired by Vande Bharat Sleeper, enhanced ride quality through jerk-free semi-automatic couplers, andhigher safety standards with crashworthy coach design.

The trains are equipped with CCTV surveillance, emergency talk-back systems, aerol-based firesuppression, and fully sealed gangways. Additional passenger-centric amenities include improvedtoilets, better lighting, mobile charging points with USB Type-A and Type-C ports, ergonomic ladders,and a non-AC pantry with enhanced heating capacity, ensuring a safer, smoother, and more convenienttravel experience. Both trains use push-pull technology with locomotives on both ends for improvedspeed and performance.

The Banaras-Hadapsar (Pune) service will facilitate easier access to Kashi Vishwanath Dham, while theAyodhya-Mumbai service will improve connectivity to the Shri Ram Mandir Teerth Kshetra,strengthening links between key religious destinations. The trains are expected to particularly benefitdaily passengers, migrant workers, and pilgrims travelling between Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra,providing direct connectivity and eliminating the need to change trains.

Banaras-Hadapsar (Pune) Amrit Bharat Express

Banaras, the starting point of this route, stands among the world's oldest living cities, a timeless centreof faith, culture, and tradition. Revered as Kashi, it draws millions of pilgrims to the sacred KashiVishwanath Dham and the serene Ganga

Ghats, where spirituality flows as deeply as the river itself. Beyond its religious significance, the city is also the vibrant heart of the Banarasi silk industry,sustaining the livelihoods of countless weavers and artisans.

Often regarded as the spiritual and cultural capital of India, and situated in the country's most populousstate, Kashi is not just a destination but a gateway where aspirations of both spiritual fulfilment andeconomic opportunity converge. With enhanced rail connectivity, Indian Railways is set to play apivotal role in this journey, bringing people, faith, and prosperity closer together. A direct, affordablelink to Pune opens new markets for local traders while easing the commute for the large migrantworkforce.

Hadapsar, the terminus of this route, lies within Pune, a city known as the education hub, culturalcapital, and arts capital. Nestled along the scenic stretches of the Western Ghats, Pune blends naturalbeauty with a rich historical legacy. From its pivotal role in India's freedom movement to its legacy as astronghold of resistance during periods of Mughal expansion, the city has long stood at the forefront ofresilience and cultural pride. It is also home to premier defence establishments, including the renownedKhadakwasla, giving it the stature of a key defence hub.

Today, this heritage-rich city has evolved into a thriving economic powerhouse. It hosts major IT parksand SEZs, making it a natural destination for aspirational youth and job-seeking migrants from UttarPradesh and Madhya Pradesh, seamlessly connecting tradition with opportunity.

As the train pulls out of Banaras and begins its westward journey, one of its early stops is Prayagraj,home to the Triveni Sangam and the Kumbh Mela, and also a leading education hub with institutionslike the University of Allahabad. The link to Pune, a major IT and manufacturing destination, directly-benefits the city's student and professional population seeking opportunities in Maharashtra.

Maneuvering ahead into the Bundelkhand heartland, the train arrives at Jhansi, the gateway to one ofIndia's most storied tourism circuits, encompassing Orchha and Khajuraho. Better connectivitysupports local tourism and eases the movement of the region's agricultural and stone products tomarkets further south.

Crossing into Madhya Pradesh, the journey continues to Bhopal (Rani Kamlapati), the state'sadministrative capital with a growing IT and pharma presence, particularly around the Mandideepindustrial corridor. A daily direct service to Pune benefits businesses, students, and governmentemployees travelling between the two cities.

The train then passes through

Itarsi and Narmadapuram, which together form one of MP's mostproductive agricultural belts, yielding wheat, soybean, and pulses. Their inclusion on the route givesfarmers and traders faster, cheaper access to Maharashtra's wholesale markets, reducing logistics costssignificantly.

Further along, as the landscape shifts and the train descends towards the Deccan plateau, Jalgaon,known as the Banana Capital of India and one of the country's largest producers of banana and cotton,comes into the picture. A direct route to Pune gives its agricultural traders more efficient market access,while Bhusaval, a major railway junction and home to a large thermal power plant, gains improvedpassenger connectivity for its sizable workforce.

The journey then brings travellers to Manmad and Kopargan, which together serve as the primary railgateway to Shirdi, the shrine of Sai Baba that draws lakhs of devotees from across North India everyyear. This train offers pilgrims from UP and MP a far more direct and affordable path to Shirdi, giving atangible boost to the local religious tourism economy.

And as the train makes its final approach into Maharashtra's cultural and economic heartland, Hadapsar,the terminus, is Pune's fastest-growing suburb, housing major IT parks and SEZs, making it the naturalrend-point for job-seeking migrants from UP and MP.

The inaugural run of Banaras-Hadapsar (Pune) Amrit Bharat Express will start from Banaras in theeveing and will terminate at Hadapsar (Pune) late at night on the following day, completing thejourney in approximately 30 hours. The train will make 18 stops, including Gyanpur Road, Prayagraj,Fatehpur, Govindpur, Orai, Virangana Lakshmbai

Jhansi, Bina, Rani Kamlapati, Narmadapuram,Itarsi, Harda, Khandwa, Bhusaval, Jalgaon, Manmad, Kopargan, Ahilyanagar, Daund, and Hadapsar.

Ayodhya-Mumbai (LTT) Amrit Bharat Express

Ayodhya has transformed itself into one of the country's fastest-growing pilgrimage and tourismdestinations, drawing tens of millions of devotees annually from every corner of the nation. The citysits at the heart of a massive infrastructure push, with new airports, expressways, and hotels reshapingits landscape almost overnight. Yet for the vast majority of its visitors, the faithful who travel not inaeroplanes but in sleeper coaches,

not to five-star hotels but to dharashalas, this new Amrit Bharatservice offers an affordable, direct train connection to the city of dreams, Mumbai.

Mumbai, India's financial capital, and home to many migrants from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar across thecountry. For this community, the connection to home is not sentimental alone, it is economic.Remittances flow back to villages in Ayodhya, Sultanpur, and Pratapgarh every month, sustainingfamilies and funding futures. Yet the journey back for festivals, weddings, emergencies, or simply thepull of belonging has long been expensive, exhausting, and uncertain.

Vigilant Ticket Checking Team of Sealdah Division Unmasks Impostor at Berhampur Station

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a display of sharp professional acumen and swift coordination, Ticket Checking staff at Berhampur base successfully apprehended a fraudster posing as a Trainee Ticket Examiner on April 26, 2026.

At approximately 14:55 hrs, while conducting routine ticket checks on Foot Over Bridge at Berhampur stn. for passengers of train no 31774, on-duty Checking staff noticed suspicious behaviour from an individual. When asked to produce his ticket or authority, the person tried to evade the check by claiming to be railway checking staff.

However, when the Commercial Inspector/ Berhampur Court insisted on verifying his staff identity and service details, the suspect produced a series of unethical documents and fraud-



ulent papers that were immediately identified as fakes.

Detecting the inconsistency, alerted the RPF Squad and they intercepted the suspect for a detailed inquiry. During the primary interrogation, the apprehend-

ed individual confessed that he was not a legitimate railway employee. His statement revealed a much larger racket behind this, where he claimed to be part of a group that underwent fake "training" in Kolkata. According to the suspect, after this fraudulent training, individuals were deployed at various stations as "Trainee TTEs" to extort money from passengers. He further indicated that several others have been similarly trained and posted across different locations.

Divisional authorities have taken the matter seriously, noting that the alertness of the Berhampur Court checking staff team has likely uncovered a significant recruitment scam. Suspect was handed over to the Government Railway Police (GRP) for further legal proceedings.

Halisahar Shootout Ahead of Second Phase of Voting; Trinamool Worker Shot



MI News Service, Kolkata: Political tensions have flared up in Halisahar following an incident in which indiscriminate shots were fired at a Trinamool worker on the evening of the final day of election campaigning. The Trinamool Congress has directly accused the BJP of orchestrating this attack. Prasenjit Moulik—alias 'Raja'—sustained critical injuries in the shootout and has been admitted to the Kalyani JNM Hospital in a grave condition. This incident has sparked intense tension ahead of the second phase of voting. Upon receiving the report, a large police contingent rushed to the scene. The motive behind the incident remains unclear; however, an investigation has already been initiated, and an intensive manhunt for the perpetrators is underway.

Raja is a Trinamool activist and a resident of Khasbati North Road. According to local sources, he was standing by the roadside on Misri

Pukur Road in Ward No. 9 of Halisahar this evening. At that moment, several masked miscreants arrived on a motorcycle and opened fire on him. It is alleged that a total of three rounds were fired. Reports indicate that one bullet struck Raja in the abdomen, while the remaining two reportedly hit the mobile phone he was carrying in his pocket. This fortunate turn of events allowed him to narrowly escape a grave danger. Immediately thereafter, the Trinamool activist collapsed to the ground, bleeding profusely. Locals rushed to his aid and transported him to the Kalyani JNM Hospital. According to hospital sources, preparations for his surgery are currently underway.

Political acrimony has intensified immediately following the incident. Subodh Adhikari, the Trinamool candidate for Bijpur, asserted, "This is the BJP's culture. Driven by the fear of defeat, they orchestrated this

attack using miscreants." However, dismissing these allegations, BJP candidate Sudipta Das retorted, "The miscreants in this area are sheltered by the Trinamool. The specific motive behind the incident remains unknown; it could even stem from internal conflicts within the Trinamool itself." The police have confirmed that an investigation into the incident has been initiated, and a search operation is currently underway to apprehend the attackers.

The second phase of the state elections is scheduled for next Wednesday. Much like the first phase, the Election Commission is determined to ensure a free and peaceful election during this second phase as well. Yet, even before the polls, various areas are witnessing intermittent flare-ups of tension. Consequently, questions are being raised regarding the security situation within the state.

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Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091.
CIN No: L65190G/1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Suparna Nath/ Rajrishi Nath/ 236, 3rd Floor Flat T3 Sarkar Hatone, Mahamaya Apartments District South 24 Parganas West Bengal Kolkata- 700061/ LBCAL00006098396	Mahamaya Apartment, Flat No. T-3, Third Floor, North East Side, K.M.C. Premises No. 236, Sarkarhat Lane, Dag No. 453/635, Khaikhan No. 68, R.S. No. 61, Touzi No. 351, J.L. No. 16, Mouza Dakshin Behala, Police Station Thakurpukur, Ward No. 126, A.D.S.R. Office Behala, S.R. Office Alipore, District South 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700061, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of 830 Square Feet Super Built Up Area Together With Undivided Proportionate Share of Land. North: House of K. D. Dutta Chowdhury, South: House of Siren Sur & Play Ground, East: Sarkarhat Lane West: House of S. Paul & S.P. Nandy/ Date of Symbolic 23/04/2026	November 28, 2025 Rs. 13,13,558.20/-	Kolkata

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

Date: April 28, 2026 Place: Kolkata

Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091.
CIN No: L65190G/1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

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Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	(Borrower) Amina Fuels & (Guarantor) Hazi Sk Md Khoz Ali & (Mortgagor) Sekh Aminur Rahman / Represented By Proprietor Sekh Aminur Rahman Srirampur Debra West Bengal Paschim Medinipur - 721139 / 738205000506	Property-1) Dag No 708, J.L. No 165, Hal Satwa No 429, Mouza Srirampur, Thana Debra, B.L. & L.R.O. Debra, D.S.R.O. Balichak, District East Midnapore, West Bengal (20 Decimal) Bounded By North, by: Pucca Road South, by: Dag No 709 East, by: Seller's Own West, by: Buyer's Own & Property-2) Dag No 709, J.L. No 165, Hal Satwa No 429, Mouza Srirampur, Thana Debra, B.L. & L.R.O. Debra, D.S.R.O. Balichak, District East Midnapore, West Bengal (40 Decimal) Bounded By North, by: Dag No 708 South, by: Land of Other Dag East, by: Seller's Own West, by: Heirs of Arjun Ghosh / Date of Symbolic : 22/04/2026	06/11/2025 Rs. 1,25,96,577.79/-	West Bengal

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

Date: April 28, 2026 Place: West Bengal

Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal- 700091.
CIN No: L65190G/1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	Sumit Debnath/ Suranjana Debnath/ Niva Park, Phase 4, Flat No 2B4, 3rd Floor, Brahmapur West Bengal Kolkata 700096/ LBCAL00006804905/ LBCAL00001966251	"Panchali Enclave" Flat No. 5, 1st Floor, C.S. Dag No. 217, R.S. Dag No. 217/679, C.S. Khatian No. 6, R.S. Khatian No. 642, J.L. No. 60, Touzi No. 14, Mouza Paschim Nischindapur, Pargana Mogura, Police Station And D.S.R. Office Sonarpur, Raipur Sonarpur Municipality, Ward No. 34, District South 24 Parganas, Kolkata- 700154, West Bengal. Admeasuring An Area of Super Built Up Area 720 Square Feet More or Less Together With Proportionate Undivided Share of Land Underneath And All Common Facilities Amenities Attached To Said Building Premises, North Dag No. 215 South Common Passage East Border of Borai Mouza West Dag No. 217/678/ Date of Symbolic 22/04/2026	24-11-2025 Rs. 11,80,075.14/-	Kolkata
2.	Debashish Majhi/ Tonu Majhi/ C/o Suren Majhi 223/B Ganguly Bagan, Naktala Flat No 301, Tiya Bagan, West Bengal Kolkata- 700047/ LBCAL00005501879/ LBCAL00005501886	"Pritish Apartment", Flat No. 301, 3rd Floor (Top Floor), North-West Side, K.M.C. Premises No. 16/1H/1, Raipur Mondal Para Road (Having Malling 223/B, Ganguly Bagan), C.S. Plot No. 1058(P), L.O.P Nos. 223A & 223B, Mouza Raipur, J.L. No. 33, Ward No. 99, P.S. Patuli (Now Netaji Nagar), Jurisdiction- South 24 Paraganas, Kolkata- 700047, West Bengal (Admeasuring An Area of 450 Sq. Ft. Super Built-up Area More or Less Along With Interest In The Land North:17 Feet Wide Raipur Mondal Para Road South: 16/1/1, Raipur Mondal Para East:16/1H, Raipur Mondal Para West: 13'- 3" Feet Wide Raipur Mondal Para Road/ Date of Symbolic 22/04/2026	November 28, 2025 Rs. 9,50,644.56/-	Kolkata

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

Date: April 28, 2026 Place: Kolkata

Sincerely Authorised Officer, For ICICI Bank Ltd.

FORM-B

NOTICE AS TO NAME OF CANDIDATE SET UP BY THE POLITICAL PARTY [SEE PARAGRAPHS 13(B), (C) AND (E) AND 13A OF THE ELECTION SYMBOLS (RESERVATION AND ALLOTMENT) ORDER 1968]

To

The Returning Officer for the _____ Assembly constituency.

Subject. General Election to **2026 WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTION** from **WEST BENGAL** from _____ (Name of the Constituency) in **WEST BENGAL** (State/Union Territory) setting up of candidate.

Sir,

In pursuance of paragraphs 13 (b), (c) and (e) and 13A of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, I hereby give notice on behalf of **AAM JANATA UNNAYAN PARTY** (party)

(I) that the person whose particulars are furnished in columns (2) to (4) below is the approved candidate of the party above named, and

(ii) the person whose particulars are mentioned in columns (5) to (7) below is the substitute candidate of the party, who will step-in on the approved candidates nomination being rejected on scrutiny or on his withdrawing from the contest, if the substitute candidate is still a contesting candidate, at the ensuing general/bye election from this constituency:

Name of the Constity uency	Name of the approved candidate	Father/mother/ husband name of approved candidate	Postal address of approved candidate	Name of the substitute candidate who will step-in (i) on the approved candidates nomination being rejected on scrutiny, or (ii) on his (approved candidate) withdrawing from the contest if, however, the nomination paper of substitute candidate is accepted on scrutiny as an independent candidate and, he is still a contesting candidate	Father /mother/ husband name of approved candidate	Posta 1 address of approved candidate
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	142 MARGHAT PASCHIM	MD. ABU SIDDIKI LAKSHAR		NIL	NIL	NIL

Two Kiev operatives killed while trying to attack Russian oil refinery: FSB

MI News Service, Moscow: Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said on Monday that two Kiev operatives were killed by crossfire while trying to explode an oil refinery facility in the Komi Republic. According to the FSB, two Russian nationals attempted to detonate explosives at the facility in Komi under orders from Ukraine's special services. "As Russian FSB officers sought to detain the individuals, they put up armed resistance and were neutralized by return fire amid a shootout. No security personnel or local residents were harmed," the agency said in a statement.

During a search of the scene, authorities seized two unmanned aerial vehicles fitted with combat payloads containing foreign-manufactured explosives, two pistols, and the suspects' mobile phones. The phones contained substantial evidence corroborating their criminal activities, the FSB added.

Mali's defense minister dies in terrorist attacks

MI News Service, Bamako: Mali's Minister of State, Minister of Defense and Veterans Affairs, Gen. Sadio Camara, died following Saturday's terrorist attacks in several parts of the country, the Malian transitional government said Sunday night. In a statement, the government said Camara's residence in Kati, a garrison town near the capital Bamako, was hit Saturday morning by a vehicle bomb driven by a suicide attacker.

Camara exchanged fire with the attackers and neutralized some of them, the statement said. He was wounded during intense fighting and later died of his injuries in hospital.

The collapse of his residence caused other casualties and destroyed a nearby mosque, killing some worshippers inside, according to the statement. The government said the late general will be given a national funeral. Several localities in Mali, including Bamako, Kati, Gao, Sevare and Kidal, were hit by coordinated attacks on Saturday. The government had earlier said the attacks left 16 civilians and military personnel wounded.

Iran's FM slams U.S. for failed Pakistan talks

MI News Service, Tehran: Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi on Monday said Washington's "excessive demands" led to the collapse of recent peace negotiations in Pakistan, Iranian state media reported.

Araghchi made the remarks after arriving in Russia for a scheduled meeting with President Vladimir Putin. According to Iranian reports, he said that although the previous round of negotiations had made progress, it ultimately failed to reach its goals because of the U.S. approach.

He also stressed that ensuring safe passage through the Strait of Hormuz is "an important global issue," as tensions between Tehran and Washington persist in the strategic waterway.

Araghchi's visit to Moscow is expected to focus on bilateral ties and regional security matters, including developments in the Middle East and the situation in the Gulf, Iranian officials said.

Araghchi arrives in Russia as US-Iran peace efforts stall

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran intensified its diplomatic push on Monday, April 27, as Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi arrived in Russia for talks with President Vladimir Putin on the 20th day of the ceasefire with United States (US), while broader peace efforts remained stalled.

Iran's official IRNA news agency reported that Araghchi landed in St Petersburg ahead of his scheduled meeting with Putin, as Tehran seeks backing from major partners amid the prolonged crisis.

Senior Russian lawmaker Alexey Pushkov said the United States was unprepared for a military confrontation with Iran and had wrongly expected rapid results through force. Pushkov said Washington underestimated Tehran's preparedness, arguing Iran had spent years developing



underground missile infrastructure and expanding its arsenal. Axios reported that Iran

sent Washington a new proposal through Pakistani mediators focused on reopening the Strait of Hor-

muz and ending hostilities. Under the reported plan, nuclear negotiations would be postponed until a later phase.

The report said such an agreement could reduce US leverage in future talks over Iran's enriched uranium stockpile and uranium enrichment programme.

Iranian media reported that Araghchi's aircraft used the call sign "Minab 168", referring to children killed in a US-Israeli strike on an elementary school in Minab on February 28.

The move was seen as a symbolic reminder of civilian losses during the conflict.

Pakistan has lifted security restrictions in Islamabad's high-security Red Zone after hopes of renewed US-Iran talks faded, according to Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, the Associated Press reported.

The area had remained

under lockdown for more than a week during mediation efforts linked to the conflict.

Pakistani officials said no immediate negotiations were expected, but Islamabad would continue facilitating communication between Tehran and Washington.

Before travelling to Russia, Araghchi held meetings in Pakistan and Oman as part of Tehran's wider diplomatic outreach.

Pakistan has remained engaged in mediation efforts, while Oman has served as a channel for indirect contacts between Tehran and Washington.

US Central Command said American forces were continuing restrictions on Iranian ports, aimed at preventing vessels from entering or leaving.

It added that 38 ships had been instructed to turn back and return to port.

UP officials demolish madrasah in Khalilabad citing lack of building approval

MI News Service, Khalilabad: In a significant administrative operation, authorities in Khalilabad, Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh, began demolishing an alleged illegal madrasa in the Meat Mandi (Moti Nagar) area on April 26, 2026, under heavy police deployment.

The action followed the dismissal of an appeal by the madrasa committee against a demolition notice, clearing all legal obstacles.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Hriday Ram Tiwari confirmed that no cases remained pending in any court. "There is no case pending in any court now in this connection, and therefore action has been

initiated," he stated. The committee's appeal had been rejected just a day earlier by higher authorities, paving the way for the bulldozer action.

According to district officials, the madrasa was constructed without any sanctioned building plan and encroached upon government land recently merged with public property.

The structure, spread over approximately 640 square metres, was built around eight years ago without proper approvals. Senior officers, including Additional District Magistrate Jai Prakash and Circle Officer Priyam Rajshankar, supervised the demolition to ensure law

and order.

The madrasa has been linked to Maulana Shamshul Huda Khan (also referred to as Shamsul Huda Khan), a cleric originally from Azamgarh who acquired British citizenship around 2013.

Khan, who reportedly lives in the UK, is accused of being involved in its construction. His family members, including his wife, son, and daughter-in-law, reside in the area.

Multiple agencies, including the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), are investigating Khan for alleged illegal foreign funding routed through an NGO called Raja Foundation and per-

sonal bank accounts. At least three FIRs have been registered against him at the local police station, covering charges of fraud, forgery, and criminal conspiracy.

Officials also allege he travelled to Pakistan and may have links with radical organisations, though these claims remain under investigation and unproven in court.

The demolition reflects the Uttar Pradesh administration's continued drive against unauthorised constructions and suspected suspicious funding in educational or religious institutions. Security was tightened in the area to prevent any untoward incidents.

42 dead in communal violence in Chad

MI News Service, Yaounde : At least 42 people were killed and 10 others injured after violence erupted in the village of Igote in the Wadi-Fira province of eastern Chad, the Chadian Press and Publishing Agency reported on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday after an altercation between two individuals over a water point escalated into clashes between two communities. Chad's Deputy Prime Minister Limane Mahamat led a delegation to the village to assess the situation.



Funeral Prayer of Maulana Lokman Sahib Concluded

Nurul Islam Khan : The funeral prayer (Namaz-e-Janaza) of Hazrat Maulana Muhammad Lokman Sahib (Rah.), a veteran Islamic scholar (Alim-e-Deen) of South 24 Parganas and a cherished disciple of the Mufli-e-Azam of Furfura Shari, Hazrat Pir Mejo Huzur (Rah.), was concluded on Monday morning. Thousands of people participated in the prayer, and the sheer size of the gathering was truly remarkable. At the time of his passing, he was 90 years old. He had passed away on Sunday. He was a highly renowned figure in the region. He served as a teacher at Netra High Madrasah for a long period of 45 years. Furthermore, for an extensive 65 years, he fulfilled the duties of the Imam at the village mosque. His contributions as a distinguished social worker were illustrious, and the people of the region held him in high esteem. Lokman Sahib was associated with numerous institutions in the fields of education and social service. He is survived by his wife, four sons, and three daughters. The burial of the deceased took place in the village of Kunde, under the jurisdiction of Kulpi Police Station. The funeral prayer was led by his grandson.

Iran offers proposal to US to reopen Strait of Hormuz without nuclear deal

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran has offered a proposal to the United States (US) to reopen the Strait of Hormuz without linking the move to a nuclear agreement, according to two regional officials cited by Associated Press on Monday, April 27.

The proposal would also require Washington to end what Tehran describes as its blockade of Iran, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are taking place behind closed doors.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi later accused the United States of derailing earlier peace efforts ahead of his meeting in Moscow with Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to Iranian state media.

He said previous negotiations were disrupted by what he described as Washington's "incorrect



approaches" and "excessive demands", despite some progress being made.

Araghchi also referred to his earlier visit to Pakistan, saying Islamabad had helped facilitate contacts between Tehran and Washington. He added that recent discussions focused on reviewing past developments and identifying conditions for future dialogue.

Iran's Parliament Speaker Mohammed

Bagher Ghalibaf criticised Washington over tensions linked to the strait.

In a post on X, Ghalibaf said the US was "bragging about holding the cards" while contrasting American economic measures, such as reserve releases and demand management, with what he described as Iran's strategic leverage over regional energy chokepoints including the Strait of Hormuz, Bab el-Mandeb and key pipeline routes.

Meanwhile, Iranian official Ebrahim Rezaei said Pakistan was not a suitable mediator for US-Iran talks, claiming Islamabad was too closely aligned with American interests.

While describing Pakistan as a friend and neighbour, Rezaei said it lacked neutrality and credibility, citing what he alleged was repeated US backtracking on commitments.

Why the White House media dinner shooting reflects more than just violence

MI News Service, Washington: A gunman armed with a shotgun, handgun and knives stormed a security checkpoint outside the White House Correspondents' Dinner on Saturday, exchanging fire with Secret Service agents and forcing President Donald Trump and dozens of senior officials to evacuate the event.

The suspect, identified by federal authorities as Cole Allen, 31, of Torrance, California, was tackled and subdued at the Washington Hilton, where roughly 2,600 guests had gathered for the annual press gala. No attendees were seriously injured.

Allen faces at least one count each of using a firearm during a crime of violence and assaulting a federal officer using a dangerous weapon, U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro announced Saturday night.

The Department of Justice said Sunday that preliminary findings suggest Trump was the intended target. Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche said

Allen appeared to be a lone gunman who traveled by train from Los Angeles to Washington, and checked into the hotel the day before the event.

A social media account believed to belong to Allen included recent posts critical of Trump and his administration's policies, the U.S. war with Iran and the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Allen's brother notified the New London Police Department in Connecticut after the incident that the suspect had sent family members an alleged manifesto before the shooting. The document reportedly laid out plans to target administration officials.

His sister separately told investigators that her brother had a tendency to make radical statements and had referenced a plan to fix what he viewed as problems in the world.

The 2026 dinner was the first such event attended by Trump during his presidency. Throughout his first term, he declined to attend, defying a tradition of sitting presidents dining at least once with



the press corps at the annual event.

The event drew senior administration officials, including Vice President JD Vance, FBI Director Kash Patel and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

In a "60 Minutes" interview with CBS the following day, Trump commended law enforcement's quick response but took jabs at the press, accusing members of the press of being "almost one in the same" as the Democratic Party.

He also became defensive when a journalist read an excerpt from the sus-

pect's writings that did not specifically mention him by name: "I am no longer willing to permit a pedophile, rapist and traitor to coat my hands with his crimes." Trump criticized the interviewer as "a disgrace" for reading the passage.

Despite the anger, Trump said he appreciated the spirit of "friendship" between his administration and the media after Saturday's attack, while adding, "I don't know how long it'll last."

Conspiracy theories spread rapidly on social media following the shooting. Many users posted "STAGED" on platforms such as X and Instagram, echoing responses to the 2024 assassination attempt against Trump in Butler, Pennsylvania.

Some claimed the shooting was staged to boost support for Trump's plan to build a new White House ballroom, citing his low approval ratings and decisions related to the ongoing Iran war.

Saturday's shooting is the latest episode in a documented surge of politically

motivated violence targeting officials across the spectrum.

Trump said he was not sure whether political violence was worsening, telling CBS, "You go back 20 years, 40 years, 100 years, 200 years, 500 years, it's always been there."

However, he placed specific blame on the opposition, singling out Democratic rhetoric as especially perilous. "I do think that the hate speech of the Democrats much more so is very dangerous," he said.

Trump survived an assassination attempt at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, when a gunman fired eight rounds from a rooftop, wounding him in the upper right ear.

The violence has not been one-sided. On June 14, 2025, Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman, a Democrat, was assassinated at her home in Brooklyn Park alongside her husband. State Senator John Hoffman and his wife were also shot and wounded in a separate early-morning attack.

Osmania University student attempts self-immolation on campus, critical



MI News Service, Hyderabad: Panic gripped the campus of Osmania University after a 19-year-old engineering student allegedly attempted self-immolation near the Renuka Yellamma temple on Monday, April 27.

The student, identified as Vinesh, is pursuing mining engineering. According to initial reports, he poured petrol on himself and set himself ablaze in the temple vicinity. Fellow students and passersby rushed to his aid before alerting authorities.

He was shifted to Gandhi Hospital, where doctors said he sustained

over 70 per cent burn injuries and remains in critical condition.

Police have begun an investigation into the incident. Preliminary findings suggest personal issues, including a possible relationship angle, may have led to the extreme step.

A purported suicide note has also been reportedly recovered, though officials are yet to confirm its contents.

The student is said to be a native of Govindapuram in Mahabubabad district.

Further details are awaited as police continue their probe.

4 Of Mumbai Family Die Of Suspected Food Poisoning After Eating Biryani, Watermelon

MI News Service, Mumbai: Four members of a family, a 40-year-old husband, his 35-year-old wife, and their two daughters aged 16 and 13 have died due to suspected food poisoning in Mumbai's Pydhonie area, police said on Monday.

According to Mumbai Police, the incident dates back to the night of April 25, when a total of nine family members, including close relatives, had dinner together at around 10:30 PM. The relatives later returned to their respective homes. In the early hours of the night, between 1:00 A.M. and 1:30 AM, the four family members reportedly consumed watermelon. By early morning, around 5:30 to 6:00 AM on April 26, all four began experiencing severe symptoms, including vomiting and loose motions. They were initially attended to by a family doctor and were later referred to JJ Hospital for further treatment.

Despite medical intervention, the younger daughter died at approximately 10:15 AM, while the husband died later that night at around 10:30 PM. The wife and elder daughter also passed away during treatment. Post-mortem examinations have been conducted, but the final cause of death will be confirmed only after

histopathological reports are received. An Accidental Death (AD) case has been registered at JJ Marg Police Station.

The victims have been identified as Abdulla Dokadia (40), Nasreen Dokadia (35), and their daughters Aisha (16) and Zainab (13). According to preliminary statements, one of the family members had informed police that the family had consumed biryani before eating watermelon later in the night.

Police officials stated that the exact cause of the suspected food poisoning remains unclear and is under investigation.

In a separate but similar incident, a seven-year-old child died and 18 others were hospitalised in Jharkhand's Giridih district after allegedly consuming contaminated 'golgappa' and 'chaat' from a street vendor on Sunday. The incident occurred in Bajto village under the Muffasil police station limits, prompting an investigation by local authorities and the health department. Food poisoning is typically caused by consuming contaminated food or water and can lead to symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, nausea, and abdominal pain. Authorities continue to urge caution regarding food hygiene and safety.

Brother of pizzeria worker murdered by teens: 'We will bring them to justice'

MI News Service, Jerusalem: Nearly a week after 21-year-old Yemanu Zelka was stabbed to death outside his workplace in Petah Tikva, the young man's family speaks to reporters near the crime scene.

"On the day that all of the country was supposed to rejoice, he went to work and didn't come home," says Geteso, the older brother of the deceased, in reference to the murder occurring on Independence Day.

"These criminals knew to wait for him outside, beat him... to carry out the stabbing at the right angle, leave him there bleeding to death and flee," he continues.

Police so far have arrested eight minors, aged 12-17, on suspicion of involvement in the killing, which took place after Zelka asked a group of teens to stop spraying party foam in the pizzeria where he was working.

They left the restaurant, waited outside until Zelka finished his shift, and ambushed him once he left the building.

The attack was recorded by a security camera, which captured the gang of youths beating him, stabbing him and then running away as he lay bleeding.

"He was a truly good kid... you have no idea how much my brother helped the family, our mother, on a daily basis," the older brother says in a shaky voice, adding that Zelka was a counselor in the Bnei Akiva youth movement and had served in the army.

Zelka's sister, Yaros, tells the press that the youths who stabbed her younger brother are "extremely professional criminals," adding that "their parents are also helping them."

"This is something that should raise a lot of questions for us. God willing, we will bring them to justice — not just the kids but also the parents," she continues.



Delhi Capitals' Abishek Porel being bowled out by Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Josh Hazlewood during the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 match between Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi on Monday.

ASIAN BEACH GAMES: INDIAN WOMEN'S TEAM WINS GOLD, MEN SETTLE FOR SILVER



SANYA (CHINA) : India ended the kabaddi competitions in the Asian Beach Games with the women's team clinching a gold medal and

the men's team settling for silver for the second consecutive edition, claiming two medals in the competitions being held in Sanya,

China, on Monday
The women's team made the country proud by defeating Sri Lanka comfortably in the final to win the gold, while the men went down to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The two medals in kabaddi on Monday were India's first at this edition.
The Indian women registered a comfortable 47-31 win over Asian Beach Games champion Sri Lanka to win their sixth consecutive title. This is India's first gold in this edition of the Asian Beach Games. Earlier, the Indian women defeated Bangladesh 50-31 in the semi-finals to confirm the first medal.
"History made in Sanya, China! The Indian Women's Kabaddi team secures GOLD at the 6th Asian Beach Games, China, defeating Sri Lanka 47-31. This marks India's first medal of the

games! The hard work put in at the SAI RC Gandhinagar national coaching camp has truly paid off," SAI Gandhinagar shared in X.
Meanwhile, the men's team fell to the Islamic Republic of Iran this year, losing the summit clash 44-31. The six-member team of Brijendra Singh Choudhary, Jitendra Yadav, Yatharth Deshwal, Neeraj, Jai Bhagwan, and Bhanu Pratap Tomar trailed Iran 23-11 at the halfway stage and never recovered in the second half.
The team had lost to Pakistan in the final of the previous edition, and exacted revenge by beating the neighbours 50-27 in the semi-finals in Sanya.
Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), the Asian Beach Games is a multi-sport event focused on beach and coastal disciplines. First held in

Bali, Indonesia, in 2008, the Games showcase sports not always featured at the Asian Games.
The Asian Beach Games were last held in 2016 in Da Nang, Vietnam, and were initially scheduled to return in 2020. However, the Covid-19 pandemic led to a prolonged delay, with the event now resumed after a decade.
The 2026 edition is being staged entirely in the resort city of Sanya, and India sent a 31-member contingent.
At the 2016 edition, India won 24 medals, including two gold, four silver, and 18 bronze. The women's kabaddi team clinched gold, while the men's team settled for silver. India's other gold medal came in Varna, where Shweta More triumphed in the women's 52kg event.

TUC 2026: INDIAN MEN BLANK AUSTRALIA TO SEAL QUARTERFINAL BERTH

HORSENS : Former champions India blanked Australia 5-0 in the men's Group A clash to secure a quarterfinal berth in the Thomas & Uber Cup 2026 here on Monday. Aware that a victory against Australia will guarantee them a last eight spot, India made just one change to the team that defeated Canada, with HS Prannoy getting a match in place of Kidambi Srikanth. Lakshya Sen began the team's march with a 21-14, 21-16 win over Ephraim Stephen Sam and 21-8, 21-6 in just 26 minutes. Former Asian Champions Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty then put the result beyond doubt, beating Rizky Hidayat and Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16. Prannoy and men's doubles pairing of Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun then rounded off the scoreline with convincing victories. India had defeated Canada 4-1 in their open group tie and will next face top seeds China to decide the group winners. China had defeated Australia 5-0 and got the better of Canada 4-1 on Monday. India will net play China in their last Group A game, a tie which will determine the group topper on Thursday. India made history by winning the Thomas Cup title in 2022, defeating Indonesia in the final to secure its first title. This remarkable achievement marked India's rise as a global power in men's team badminton.
Result:
Men: India beat Australia 5-0 (Lakshya Sen bt Ephraim Stephen Sam 21-14, 21-16; Ayush Shetty bt Shrey Dhand 21-8, 21-6; Satwiksairaj Rankireddy/Chirag Shetty bt Rizky Hidayat/Jack Yu 21-14, 21-16; HS Prannoy bt Rishi Honda Boopathy 21-11, 21-17; Hariharan Amsakarunan/MR Arjun bt Andika Ramadiansyah/Sam 21-12, 21-10)

England, Sri Lanka to play ODI tri-series in Pakistan

NEW DELHI : Pakistan will tune up for the 2027 World Cup with a home tri-series with England and Sri Lanka this year, according to a report on Monday. There will be four matches, with each team facing the other once, with the top two teams playing the final.
The PCB has plans for the national team, as the results in the ICC events have not been encouraging. Pakistan have not qualified for the semis of the ODI World Cup since their 2011 defeat to India in Mohali. They crashed out in the quarterfinals of the 2015 World Cup, followed by a first-round exit in the next two, in 2019 and 2023.
"The Pakistan Cricket Board has extensive plans for the national team to prepare for the ODI World Cup in 2027 with a tri-series with England and Sri Lanka in October-November this year. The England and Wales Cricket Board have agreed to the tri-series with dates due to be finalised in the next few days. Sri Lanka will be on a Test tour to Pakistan, so the ODI tri-series will be after the Tests, said the report.



"The PCB management will sit down with white-ball head coach Mike Hesson and ODI captain Shaheen Shah Afridi to chalk out preparation plans in June," a source was quoted in the report.
Australia is also scheduled to tour Pakistan for a three-match ODI series in May-June this year. Pakistan tried six uncapped

players in their series in Bangladesh in March, which they lost 2-1. "Shaheen is determined to lead Pakistan to good results in ODIs and to prepare for the World Cup; he is ready to try out young players."
South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia are co-hosts of the 2027 World Cup.

PRANAVI FINISHES T-24TH, DIKSHA IS T-37TH IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN : The final day in Cape Town brought challenging conditions and shifting fortunes as Pranavi Urs emerged as the leading Indian performer at T-24th SA Women's Open. Diksha Dagar was T-37 and Avani Prashanth ended T-57.
Pranavi signed off with a steady 1-under 72, finishing as the top Indian at T-24 despite a closing bogey. Diksha Dagar, who had been in contention earlier, slipped on the final day with a round of 76 to end at T-37.
Avani Prashanth carded a 77 to finish T-57. The remaining Indian trio-Vani Kapoor, Tvesa Malik, and Hitaashee Bakshi-missed the cut.
At the top of the leaderboard, England's Esme Hamilton claimed her maiden Ladies European Tour title with a composed final-round 71, sealing a two-shot victory.
She held off strong challenges from Cara Gainer and Pia Babnik after an intense battle in testing weather at Royal Cape Golf Club.
Diksha began her round



steadily with five consecutive pars but dropped shots on the sixth and ninth holes. Although she recovered briefly with a birdie on the 11th, a costly double bogey on the 15th ended her hopes of a higher finish.
Pranavi started from the back nine, mixing two bogeys with a birdie. She surged brightly on her second nine with three birdies between the first and fifth holes but slipped out of the top 20 after dropping a shot on the eighth.
Avani's round featured two birdies, two bogeys, and two double bogeys.
Hamilton's victory was hard-

earned. Starting the final day tied with Babnik and narrowly ahead of Gainer, she endured an early bogey before building momentum with birdies on the fifth and sixth. A double bogey on the ninth, combined with Gainer's birdie, saw the lead tighten dramatically at the turn.
However, Hamilton showed remarkable composure on the back nine, birdieing the 11th, 14th, and 16th to regain control. She closed with a calm par on the 18th to finish at 15-under and secure the win in just her 23rd start on tour.
Gainer finished second at 13-under after a round of 72, while Babnik placed third at 12-under. A group including Anna Morgan, Brianna Navarrosa, and Emma Spitz shared fourth place at nine-under.
In the Ladies European Tour Order of Merit standings, Agathe Laisne continues to lead, followed by Casandra Alexander and Kelsey Bennett, with Hamilton's win lifting her into fourth place.

ITTF World Team C' ships: Manika, Sathiyam to spearhead India's challenge in London

LONDON : Olympians Manika Batra, Sathiyam Gnanasekaran, Manav Thakkar, and Harmeet Desai will headline a 10-member Indian squad at the ITTF World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026, set to begin at the OVO Arena Wembley in London on Tuesday.
The championships will feature separate men's and women's competitions, the Swaythling Cup and the Corbillion Cup, with each tie comprising a maximum of five singles matches. Teams need to secure three wins to clinch a tie and advance.
A total of 64 teams will compete in both categories, split into 16 groups of four. The tournament structure includes two preliminary stages before the knockout rounds.
Top-seeded sides, including the seven highest-ranked teams along with hosts England, will compete in Stage 1a, from where all eight teams will progress directly to Stage 2. While they are assured of qualification, their group-stage performances will determine seeding for the knockouts. The remaining teams, including India, will begin in Stage 1b. From this stage, 14 group winners and the six best second-placed teams will advance directly to Stage 2. The other eight second-placed teams will contest an additional playoff round for the final four knockout berths.
The knockout phase will commence from the Round of 32 and

culminate in the finals on May 10.
India's men's team, led by World No. 38 Manav Thakkar, has been placed in Group 7 of Stage 1b alongside Slovakia, Tunisia, and Guatemala. Meanwhile, the women's side, captained by world No. 49 Manika Batra, will compete in Group 6 with Ukraine, Uganda, and Rwanda.
First held as an independent competition in 2000, the World Team Championships have largely been dominated by the People's Republic of China, which has claimed most of the titles since its inception. Sweden and Singapore remain the only other nations to have broken China's dominance, winning the men's (2000) and women's (2010) titles, respectively.
With a balanced mix of experience and emerging talent, the Indian contingent will look to navigate the group stage successfully and mount a strong challenge in the knockout rounds.
India squad for World Team Table Tennis Championships:
Men's team: Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah, G Sathiyam, Harmeet Desai, Payas Jain
Women's team: Manika Batra, Yashaswini Ghorpade, Diya Chitale, Sutirtha Mukherjee, Syndrela Das
Where to watch: The World Team Table Tennis Championships 2026 will be live-streamed on the WTT website. The event will be telecast on Eurosport TV channels in India.



SAI SUSPENDS OLYMPIAN PT PAULOSE OVER SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

NEW DELHI : The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has suspended Olympian and Asian Games medallist rower PT Paulose, who served as the High Performance Director at the National Centre of Excellence in Alleppey, following the sexual harassment allegations levelled by a female rowing coach, sources told IANS.
"49-year-old Paulose has been suspended after a female assistant rowing coach filed a complaint in January this year," a Sports Authority of India (SAI) source told IANS. "Upon receiving the complaint, SAI initiated a departmental inquiry against him, which is currently underway."
The female coach filed a complaint of sexual harassment against Paulose late last year. According to the allegations, he began harassing her at the start of 2025. During this period, he sent her inappropriate messages and even entered her room. The source added that Paulose was transferred to SAI's Imphal centre earlier this month to prevent any possibility of him influencing the investigation or intimidating the complainant. "Appropriate action will be taken based on the findings of the inquiry," the source said. Paulose, who became the first Indian rower to participate in the Olympics when competed in the men's single sculls at the 2004 Games, won a bronze medal at the 2002 Busan Asian Games in the coxless four event with Jenil Krishnan, Inderpal Singh and Roshan Lal. He was appointed as the high-performance director of the Indian team by the Rowing Federation of India. Last month, Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya revealed that there are 33 sexual harassment complaints filed against personnel from the SAI over the last 10 years. Eight of these complaints of sexual harassment are against administrative staff of SAI and 25 are registered against their coaches.