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Nation Pg 5



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City Pg 3

Rs. 3
KOLKATA
FRIDAY, 8 May, 2026
PG-8, YEAR-12, ISSUE-333
(RNI NO.-WBENG/2014/56803)
WEBSITE:WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Suvendu Adhikari Appeals For Calm, says "Don't Take Law Into Your Hands"

'Police probe heading in right direction to solve Rath's murder': Suvendu Adhikari

MI News Service, Kolkata: The BJP's top contender for the Chief ministerial post Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday said the killing of his Personal Assistant (PA), Chandranath Rath, was a "pre-planned murder" and alleged that the killers had carried out "recce for two to three days".

He also appealed for calm and urged the people and the party supporters not to fall into any trap of the vested interested who wanted to destabilise the state at this critical time when the new BJP government was about to take charge on Saturday. He also urged the people not to take law into their own hands.

Speaking to reporters outside the hospital where Rath was taken after the attack, Suvendu Adhikari said the incident was a "cold-blooded murder".

"The incident is heart-wrenching; we condemn the incident," he said.

Adhikari said Bengal Director General of Police Siddh Nath Gupta had assured him that the matter would be investigated thoroughly.

"The way the attack was executed clearly suggests that the assailants had done a recce beforehand," he alleged.

He said that Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar, a former West Bengal BJP president, has spoken to Rath's family.

The West Bengal Police are examining CCTV footage and have formed several teams to trace the assailants as part of its investigation into the killing of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's close aide, a senior officer said on Thursday.

The police are also probing whether contract killers were engaged in the murder of Chandranath Rath, who was shot dead in North 24 Parganas district on Wednesday night. "Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the crime spot and nearby areas, while multiple police teams have been formed to trace the assailants," the police officer said.

This brazen attack at Madhyamgram within 48 hours of the assembly poll verdict on Wednesday night, has triggered sharp political reactions and escalating tension in the area.

Union Minister Sukanta Majumdar reacted to the murder of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's personal assistant, saying that those involved in the crime will not be spared. Calling Chandranath Rath's murder a "tragic incident", Majumdar said significant progress has been made in the police investigation and everyone will be brought to justice through the legal process.

Another BJP leader Swapan Dasgupta who has won from Rashbehari constituency, has termed the killing of Suvendu Adhikari's close aide a "pre-planned political assassination".

Blaming the Trinamool Congress for the murder, Dasgupta said Rath was at the heart of Adhikari's political office and that the killing was a carefully targeted assassination.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Senior BJP leader and top contender for the Chief minister's post, Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday expressed confidence that police would solve the murder of his Executive Assistant Chandranath Rath on Wednesday night, "very soon" saying investigators were "heading in the right direction".

Adhikari reached Barasat Hospital, this morning where Rath's post-mortem examination was being conducted.

"Police are working. I spoke with the DGP; they have leads, and some people have been rounded up. I am confident the police will be able to arrest the assailants soon. CID, forensic and SIT are in action, and police are heading in the right direction," Suvendu Adhikari told reporters outside the hospital.

"Police would solve this heinous murder of Chandranath very soon as the investigators were heading in the right direction," he reiterated.

He claimed that the state police were capable of solving cases but alleged that "they were not allowed" to do so earlier, in an apparent dig at the TMC government.

When asked about the TMC's demand for a CBI inquiry into the killing, Adhikari said, "There is no relevance of TMC now. Police will be able to solve this."

State BJP President Samik Bhat-tacharya and Rajya Sabha MP Rahul Sinha had also reached the hospital.

West Bengal's post-poll tension took a bloody turn on Wednesday night after Chandranath Rath, a close aide of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari, was shot dead in North 24 Parganas in what the saffron camp described as a "targeted assassination", triggering outrage, protests and fresh allegations of political violence.

Less than 48 hours after the declaration of the fiercely fought assembly poll results, the killing sent shockwaves through Bengal's political circles, with the BJP accusing the TMC of unleashing retaliatory violence and the latter countering with allegations of attacks on its own workers across several districts.

According to preliminary information, Rath was intercepted near Doltala in Madhyamgram around 10.30 pm by motorcycle-borne assailants who tailed his vehicle, forced it to stop and opened fire before fleeing.

Eyewitness accounts suggested that Rath's car was first stopped at the Doharia junction near Doltala by a four-wheeler, following which a rider

on a motorcycle approached the vehicle and began shooting. The occupants of the four-wheeler left the vehicle at the spot and fled on the two-wheeler.

Rath, the Executive Assistant to the Leader of the Opposition in the outgoing state assembly, was reportedly returning home in Madhyamgram when he was killed by unidentified assailants.

According to the eyewitnesses, both Rath and his driver sustained critical injuries in the firing and were rushed to a nearby private hospital, where doctors declared Rath 'brought dead'. The driver was, however, sent to a private hospital in Kolkata for further treatment. Informed sources said.

"Rath was brought dead with two bullet injuries on his chest, which pierced his heart, and another bullet hit his abdominal area. There was no opportunity to resuscitate him," a doctor who attended him at the hospital said.

According to party sources, Rath, a former Indian Air Force personnel who later took up the job as Suvendu Adhikari's assistant, played a crucial role in the BJP leader's campaigns in the Bhabanipur constituency, where Suvendu Adhikari triumphed over former Chief minister and TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee. Adhikari arrived at the hospital around midnight.

DGP Siddh Nath Gupta, who also visited the hospital, said the police have recovered used cartridges from the crime scene.

"The small car, which was also used in the crime, has been seized. The registration number of the vehicle appears to be from the Siliguri Regional Transport Office, but our initial impression is that the number plate may have been tampered with."

The brutal killing in a crowded area triggered an immediate political storm, with BJP leaders calling it a "targeted assassination" and accusing the Trinamool Congress top leadership of fostering lawlessness. But the TMC hit back with a demand for a court-monitored CBI probe.

State BJP President Samik Bhat-tacharya said, "This wasn't unexpected. We do not know how much further TMC's culture of violence will stoop. This is evidence of total criminalisation of politics that's now prevailing in Bengal. This was a planned and targeted attack. By killing the personal assistance of the outgoing Leader of Opposition, the assailants wanted to deliver a political message. People should take to the streets to protest this and stop this never-ending violence. We will



BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari is talking to party MP Rahul Sinha in front of Barasat Hospital morgue where the body of Chandrakanta Rath was taken for autopsy on Thursday.

take firm steps in accordance with law after our government assumes power."

Surprisingly, the TMC also condemned the killing of Rath. "We strongly condemn the brutal murder of Chandranath Rath in Madhyamgram, along with the killing of three other TMC workers in incidents of post-poll

violence allegedly carried out by BJP-backed miscreants over the last three days, despite the Model Code of Conduct being in force," the party said in a statement.

"We demand the strongest possible action in this matter, including a court-monitored CBI probe so that those

responsible are identified and brought to justice without delay," it said.

Violence and political killings have no place in a democracy, and the guilty must be held accountable at the earliest, the statement added.

As news of the killing spread, hundreds of BJP supporters gathered

outside the hospital, shouting slogans against the TMC and demanding immediate arrest of those behind the attack.

The atmosphere outside the medical facility turned emotionally charged as senior BJP leaders, newly elected MLAs and party workers rushed there through the night.

Supporters broke down in tears, while party workers accused the ruling dispensation of unleashing "terror" after the assembly election results.

A heavy police contingent was deployed outside the hospital and along Jessore Road to prevent any untoward incident.

Meanwhile, in a statement, BJP leader and MLA-elect Kaustav Bagchi, who was present at the hospital, said, "This was a targeted attack. The assailants followed Rath's car for a long time before pumping him with bullets. This is the handiwork of Mamata and Abhishek Banerjee. We will not rest until the criminals are identified. We will not cremate the body till then." "We have been preaching peace, but TMC has made the biggest blunder," newly elected BJP MLA Tarunijoti Tewari said.

The killing comes at a time when Bengal remains politically on edge after one of the most bitterly fought assembly elections in recent years, with both the BJP and the TMC accusing each other of intimidation, attacks and retaliatory violence across several districts.

Senior police officers reached the spot, cordoned off the area and launched an investigation.

Efforts were underway to identify the assailants and ascertain the motive behind the attack, sources said.

Outside the hospital, slogans of "we want justice" and "stop political killings" continued late into the night as supporters gathered around senior party leaders amid tight police deployment.

Investigators were also trying to ascertain whether Rath was specifically targeted because of his proximity to Suvendu Adhikari or whether the attack was part of a wider political conspiracy.

Police sources said forensic teams collected samples from the vehicle while investigators scanned nearby surveillance footage late Wednesday to reconstruct the sequence of events.

Barasat police district SP Pushpa said efforts were underway to identify the assailants, examine CCTV footage from nearby areas and ascertain the motive behind the attack.

Multiple teams set up to trace killers of Suvendu Adhikari's aide

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Police are examining several CCTV footage and have formed multiple teams to trace the men involved in the killing of BJP leader Suvendu Adhikari's close aide Chandranath Rath on Wednesday night, a senior officer said on Thursday.

Police are also probing whether contract killers were engaged in the murder of Rath, who was shot dead at Madhyamgram area in North 24 Parganas district at around 10-20 pm last night.

A forensic team visited the spot on Thursday morning and collected samples, while officers of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) also joined the probe, he said.

"Going by the circumstantial evidence, it seems that the murder was pre-planned. Investigators are examining CCTV footage from the crime spot and nearby areas, while multiple police teams have been formed to trace the assailants," the officer said adding that Police, however, are yet to make any arrests in connection with the crime.

According to preliminary information, Rath's car was intercepted near Doharia between Doltala and Madhyamgram Chowmatha around 10.15 pm on Wednesday by motorcycle-borne men who opened fire before fleeing.

"A detailed investigation has begun. We are pursuing several leads," the officer said.

Rath, 42, was returning to his residence in Madhyamgram from Kolkata when he was attacked, he said. The deceased is survived by his son and wife.

The vehicle was being driven by Buddhadeb Bera, who also sustained bullet injuries and is undergoing treatment at a hospital in Kolkata, another officer said.

Bera, who underwent a couple of surgeries, remained "very critical", doctors attending him at the private hospital said.

Preliminary findings suggested that the assailants intercepted Rath's vehicle in a coordinated manner before firing multiple rounds from close range, the police officer said.

Investigators claimed the vehicle carrying Rath was first blocked near Doharia junction by a small four-wheeler, after which a motorcycle rider approached Rath's car and started firing from close range. At least ten rounds were fired from close range, he said.

"Rath's car was intercepted around 100 metres from the housing complex where he lived. The small car came in front of his vehicle, slowing down its pace, and it seems that was when the killers

shot him," the officer said.

The occupants of the small four-wheeler later abandoned the vehicle and escaped on motorcycles, police said. Police suspected that the killers fled on two motorcycles in two directions.

"One probably took the main road towards Jessore Road, while the other took a narrow street on the left leading to Rajarhat," the officer said.

Another police officer said CCTV footage showed the car travelling towards Madhyamgram before the attack.

Investigators said they are taking help from both Kolkata Police and Bidhannagar Police Commissionerate to check CCTV footage installed under their respective jurisdictions and study the movement of the killers.

"The number plate attached to the small car left by the assailants was found to be fake. It belongs to a person based in Siliguri, who works in a tea estate. The chassis number and engine number of the small car have been erased. It indicates that they had planned the murder," he said.

The person, in Siliguri, is being interrogated by Mothabari police, he added.

"He is claiming to have uploaded a photograph of his vehicle on an online platform with the intention of selling it. We are verifying his claims and rechecking them," the officer said.

"We have recovered empty cartridges and live ammunition from the crime spot. At this stage, the motive behind the attack is not clear," the DGP Siddh Nath Gupta said.

Police suspect the use of sophisticated firearms during the attack.

On Thursday, police recovered a bullet shell from the streets approaching Rath's residence, the sleuth said.

According to preliminary forensic inputs, the assailants might have used Glock 47X pistols, he said.

"A weapon of this nature is generally not used by ordinary criminals. We are examining whether professional shooters were involved," a senior West Bengal Police officer said on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, one of the locals claimed to have seen three people on a bike "waiting" on the streets last night.

"We did not know much about Rath. Whether he was an aide of Adhikari was not known to us. He used to return home in the same car with a West Bengal Assembly sticker at the same time every day," the local resident claimed.



Preparations underway for the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected BJP government at Brigade Parade Ground on Thursday.

Suvendu Adhikari's rise: From Mamata loyalist to defeating her twice

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) made history on Monday, sweeping to power in West Bengal and ending the 15-year rule of the Trinamool Congress (TMC) and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee by winning 207 of the state's 294 Assembly seats, while the TMC was reduced to 80.

Mamata Banerjee lost from Bhabanipur to BJP's Suvendu Adhikari by more than 15,000 votes. In this crucial do or die electoral battle Leader of Opposition Suvendu Adhikari defeated Mamata Banerjee for the second time, the first being at Nandigram in East Midnapore district during the 2021 Assembly polls. Adhikari's victory marked a major personal victory



besides strengthening the BJP's Bengal mandate in the state.

Suvendu Adhikari comes from a strong political family in East Midnapore district. His father, Sisir Adhikari, was a Union min-

ister during former prime minister Manmohan Singh's tenure.

Like his father, Suvendu Adhikari started his career with the Congress in 1995 before joining the TMC in 1998. He

entered the state Assembly in 2006 after winning from Kanthi Dakshin.

Over time, the junior Adhikari became one of Mamata Banerjee's close aides. In 2007, he emerged as a key organiser during the Nandigram agitation, which brought the TMC to power in West Bengal in 2011.

The 2011 victory also strengthened Suvendu Adhikari's political profile. He entered the Lok Sabha after contesting from Tamluk, winning the seat twice in 2009 and 2014.

When the TMC returned to power in 2016, Mamata Banerjee inducted Adhikari into her Cabinet. He was sworn in as Bengal's Minister of Transport and was later given charge of

additional ministries.

Once seen as Mamata Banerjee's heir apparent and one of the TMC's top leaders, Suvendu Adhikari changed course in December 2020. But apparently following his steadily growing political and ideological differences with Mamata Banerjee's nephew Abhishek Banerjee, he resigned from the Cabinet and quit the party. Two days later, he joined the BJP in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

Months later, during the 2021 Assembly polls, Suvendu Adhikari contested against Mamata Banerjee from Nandigram and won by over 1500 votes, proving every political observer wrong about his popularity at the grassroots level in the

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The body of Chandranath Rath, PA to Suwendu Adhikari, is being taken out of Barasat Medical College after the post-mortem examination on Thursday.

Political Uproar After Murder of Suwendu Adhikari's Close Associate; BJP Protests with Road Blockade and Burning Tyres in West Midnapore

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Soon after the Assembly election results, the political atmosphere in the state has once again turned tense. The murder of Chandranath Rath, a close associate of BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, has triggered widespread outrage and political turmoil across the state. On Thursday, BJP workers staged a protest in the Budhishol area of Shalboni in Paschim Medinipur district against the killing of Chandranath Rath. Protesters blocked roads and burned tyres to express their anger, leading to tension in the area and disruption of traffic movement. A heavy police force was deployed at the



spot to bring the situation under control. Later, following discussions with the administration and assurances of a speedy investigation and arrest of the culprits, BJP workers withdrew the blockade. It is learnt that the murder took place on the night of

May 6 in the Doharia area of Madhyamgram in North 24 Parganas district. The incident sparked massive anger among BJP workers and supporters in several districts across the state. The incident has also intensified political tensions in the state. How-

ever, BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari stated that he does not want to create any obstacle in the investigation. He also refrained from making any public comment regarding the CCTV footage related to the case. Suwendu Adhikari said, "We have faith in the

police. We have been assured that the accused will be arrested soon." Following the incident, political tension has spread across several parts of West Midnapore and Jhargram district, as well as other areas of the state. Meanwhile, Suwendu Adhikari appealed to BJP workers and supporters to maintain peace and not take the law into their own hands. On the other hand, the Chandranath Rath murder case has created a major stir in state politics. Police have intensified their investigation to identify those involved in the crime. At present, all eyes are on the administration's next course of action.

Congress 'Reclaims' TMC Party Office in Nadia's Karimpur Amid Post-Poll Political Realignment

MI News Service, Nadia : As post-election political tensions continue to ripple across Bengal, reports of party office takeovers, vandalism and flag replacements have emerged from several districts. While most such incidents have involved the BJP allegedly taking control of Trinamool Congress offices after the change of power in the state, Nadia's Karimpur has witnessed a strikingly different political development.

In an unusual turn, a party office under the control of the Trinamool Congress was allegedly "reclaimed" not by the BJP, but by the Congress.

The incident was reported from Nandidanga-I area under Karimpur-II Block in Nadia district. Local Congress leaders claimed that the office originally belonged to the Congress and had functioned as one of its organisational units before the 2013 panchayat elections. According to them,



the office was taken over by the Trinamool Congress during that period and had remained under its control for more than a decade.

Following the recent electoral debacle of the Trinamool Congress in the state, Congress workers reportedly re-entered the office premises and hoisted their party flag. Local Congress leaders described the move as a "restoration" rather than a fresh takeover.

The development comes at a time when several parts of Bengal are witnessing

post-poll political assertion marked by party office occupations, violent clashes and allegations of retaliatory attacks. In many districts, reports have surfaced of rival political workers repainting offices, replacing flags and engaging in confrontations soon after the declaration of results.

Administrative sources said district authorities and police units have intensified surveillance in sensitive pockets amid growing concerns over post-poll violence and politically motivated reprisals.

Young woman found hanging in Kalyani amid alleged relationship turmoil

MI News Service, Nadia : A 20-year-old woman was found hanging inside her house in Kalyani on Thursday morning, triggering tension in the area. Police suspect the death may be linked to prolonged emotional distress arising out of a troubled relationship.

The deceased, identified as Supriya Sarkar, was a resident of Jogendranath Colony under Ward No. 1 of Kalyani municipality. Family members alleged that she had been in a long-term relationship with Soumajit Das, a youth from Kalyani Housing Colony.

According to the family, frequent disputes had erupted between the couple over allegations that the Young Man maintained relationships with multiple women. Despite repeated attempts by relatives to convince her to distance herself



from the relationship, Supriya reportedly remained emotionally attached.

On Wednesday night, she had dinner with her family and went to sleep in a room on the ground floor. On Thursday morning, family members received no response despite repeated calls. After breaking open the door, they found her hanging inside the room.

She was immediately taken to College of Medicine and JNM Hospital, where doctors declared her dead.

The incident sparked tension in the locality, with allegations that an angry mob assaulted the accused youth's parents. Police and central forces later brought the situation under control.

The body has been sent for post-mortem, and an investigation has been initiated by Kalyani Police Station.

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BJP Protest in Panchla

Nurul Islam Khan: On Thursday, a protest rally organized by the BJP was held in front of the Superintendent of Police (SP) office—located at the Paniara Police Lines in rural Howrah district. The event resonated with slogans calling for resistance against injustice. In their speeches, speakers asserted that in this Bengal—the land of Syama Prasad—there is a dire need for protest, resistance, and retribution. On this occasion, Mohitlal Ghanti, the district Vice-President of the BJP, stated that the party is deeply frightened and alarmed by the manner in which Chandranath Rath—the personal assistant to heavyweight leader Suwendu Adhikari—was shot dead. This deputation was submitted specifically to address that issue. He warned that this incident could potentially disrupt the prevailing atmosphere of peace



and normalcy, ranging from the district level up to the state level. This protest demonstration was staged against that backdrop. The party demanded that the police immediately arrest all anti-social elements operating within the Panchla Assembly constituency area. It has been reported that a deputation was submitted to the SP's office, demanding appropriate and exemplary punishment for the perpetrators. Among

those present at the protest rally were defeated MLA Ranjan Kumar Pal, Prakash Das, and numerous other party workers and supporters. Party leaders emphasized that BJP workers would neither commit any wrongdoing without provocation nor condone such acts. They further made it clear that any party worker who creates an atmosphere of unrest or lawlessness would face disciplinary action and punishment.

Bomb blast rocks Panihati, BJP worker shot in Basirhat

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas : Barely days before the swearing-in of the new government following the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, large parts of North 24 Parganas witnessed a night of violence, explosions and political tension, triggering fresh concerns over the deteriorating law-and-order situation in the state's post-poll atmosphere.

The district remained on edge through Wednesday night as multiple incidents of violence were reported from Madhyamgram, Panihati and Basirhat within hours of each other. The most alarming unrest unfolded in Panihati's Ward No. 2, where a series of explosions sent shockwaves through the locality late at night. According to local sources, miscreants hurled at least three crude bombs in quick succession, plunging the area into panic and chaos. At least six to seven people were reportedly injured in the explosions. As terrified residents rushed out of their homes, police from Khardah Police Station reached the spot and launched an emergency operation to restore order. Central forces were later deployed in the area amid fears of further escalation. The back-to-back blasts created an atmosphere of fear across the locality, with residents alleging that the violence continued for sev-



eral minutes before security personnel intervened. Even as tension gripped Panihati, another violent political flashpoint emerged in Basirhat subdivision over a dispute surrounding party flag installation. The incident took place in the Rajiv Colony area under Gotra Gram Panchayat within Basirhat police station limits. According to local accounts, an argument broke out late Wednesday night after objections were raised over the hoisting of a BJP party flag in the locality. What began as a verbal confrontation soon spiralled into violence. Amid the chaos, gunshots were allegedly fired targeting BJP workers present at the spot. A local BJP worker, identified as Rohit Roy alias Chintu, sustained a bullet injury in the stomach during the incident. He was immediately rushed to Basirhat Super Speciality Hospital, where he is currently undergoing treatment. Police personnel from Basirhat police station quickly reached the area and launched a preliminary investigation. Security deployment has since been intensified to prevent any further flare-up. Investigators are now attempting to determine the exact sequence of events, the identity of those involved in the firing, and the circumstances that led to the sudden outbreak of violence.

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: Tension gripped Baranagar after a local BJP leader was allegedly assaulted with sharp weapons outside his residence late Wednesday night, with members of his family also sustaining injuries while trying to intervene. The incident took place in the Nainan Para area of Ward No. 24 under Baranagar police station limits and has triggered panic across the locality amid an already charged political atmosphere in the state. The injured leader has been identified as Somnath Dhar, a BJP booth president in the area. According to police and local sources, the attack allegedly stemmed from a dispute over a residential property and objections raised by the BJP leader regarding attempts to take control of the house. Family members of the injured leader alleged that Somnath Dhar had been facing pressure and threats for a prolonged period from individuals seeking a share in the property and attempting to carry out promotional activities there. Tension had reportedly been brewing in the area over the issue for several days. According to the complaint, two men allegedly confronted Somnath Dhar outside his residence on Wednesday night and launched a violent assault. He was allegedly dragged to the ground and repeatedly attacked in front of his home. As family members rushed out hearing screams, they too allegedly came under attack while trying to rescue him. Somnath Dhar's sister, who also sustained injuries during the incident, described the attack as brutal and sudden. She alleged that the assailants physically assaulted both her and her brother during the altercation. The incident created widespread fear and commotion in the neighbourhood, with local residents gathering at the spot soon after the attack. Police from Baranagar police station quickly reached the area after receiving information and have initiated an investigation into the incident. Security deployment in the locality has also been increased to prevent any further escalation. The attack comes at a time when political tensions remain extremely high across Bengal following recent incidents of violence reported from different districts after the Assembly election results.

Baranagar BJP leader attacked outside home, family members injured

MI News Service, North 24 Parganas: Tension gripped Baranagar after a local BJP leader was allegedly assaulted with sharp weapons outside his residence late Wednesday night, with members of his family also sustaining injuries while trying to intervene. The incident took place in the Nainan Para area of Ward No. 24 under Baranagar police station limits and has triggered panic across the locality amid an already charged political atmosphere in the state. The injured leader has been identified as Somnath Dhar, a BJP booth president in the area. According to police and local sources, the attack allegedly stemmed from a dispute over a residential property and objections raised by the BJP leader regarding attempts to take control of the house. Family members of the injured leader alleged that Somnath Dhar had been facing pressure and threats for a prolonged period from individuals seeking a share in the property and attempting to carry out promotional activities there. Tension had reportedly been brewing in the area over the issue for several days. According to the complaint, two men allegedly confronted Somnath Dhar outside his residence on Wednesday night and launched a violent assault. He was allegedly dragged to the ground and repeatedly attacked in front of his home. As family members rushed out hearing screams, they too allegedly came under attack while trying to rescue him. Somnath Dhar's sister, who also sustained injuries during the incident, described the attack as brutal and sudden. She alleged that the assailants physically assaulted both her and her brother during the altercation. The incident created widespread fear and commotion in the neighbourhood, with local residents gathering at the spot soon after the attack. Police from Baranagar police station quickly reached the area after receiving information and have initiated an investigation into the incident. Security deployment in the locality has also been increased to prevent any further escalation. The attack comes at a time when political tensions remain extremely high across Bengal following recent incidents of violence reported from different districts after the Assembly election results.

Sandip Nowlakhia: Building a Legacy in Food & Beverages Business

MI News Service, Kolkata: Sandip Nowlakhia has established one of the most respected portfolios in vegetarian food and hospitality across Eastern India. Through a diverse range of ventures – including cafes, quick service restaurants and packaged snacks, beverages – he has seamlessly blended tradition with innovation to cater to India's evolving food culture.

At the heart of his business is Jiggs Food Services Pvt. Ltd., founded in 1998, specializing in premium snacks and premium mineral water. Under the Jiggs brand, the company introduced India's first Probiotic Potato Chips, marking a significant step towards functional snacking and health-focused indulgence. Following a comprehensive feasibility study the shipment of Jiggs has been sent to Bulgaria for distribution across Europe and a local manufacturing facility is now proposed to meet increasing demand in the international market. Among Nowlakhia's most beloved restaurant ventures is the iconic Garden Café – a brand that has become a familiar name across Kolkata for its comforting South India fare, vegetarian meals and relaxed ambience. With multiple outlets already operational the brand has currently expanded its new outlet at Rajarhat, Newtown. Garden Café is more than just a restaurant—it's a cultural space where food meets heritage. Each outlet is designed to offer a calm, accessible environment suit-



able for family meals, casual meetups and everyday dining. Other food concepts under his stewardship include Corner Café, a vibrant Western vegetarian fast food outlet serving burgers, sandwiches, pizzas and desserts in a lively and modern setting. Known for its youth-focused menu and quick service format. The café hosts regular events like burger-eating competitions, food festivals, children's activities while actively supporting youth programs and catering for corporate clients since 1985. Since 1992 its success in Kolkata and Bangalore, Fillers launched a thriving franchising model, offering a delicious menu that includes Burgers, Pizzas, Sandwiches, Vegetarian Mexican dishes, Ice-creams & Coolers. Added an online delivery company with its own fleet of bikes called Speedy Meals much

ahead of time when Kolkata did not have any aggregators like Swiggy or Zomato. With several decades of experience and a portfolio rooted in both authenticity and innovation, Sandip Nowlakhia continues to shape the future of vegetarian food entrepreneurship in India. In 2000, he opened the world's first New Age café, Starlit Café on Lord Sinha Road, Kolkata and later consulted on Ayurvedic café concepts in Dubai. His ventures extended to tea trading, coffee plantation ownership and franchised collaborations. Beyond his business endeavours, Sandip Nowlakhia is deeply committed to social causes. Since 1982 he has operated a free medical dispensary, serving thousands annually, supported youth-led anti-drug campaigns and led projects focused on child malnutrition while developing a natural product for a prototype production unit. In 1983, Sandip led a national awareness project promoting the use of solar energy through solar-powered ballons. He is a governing body member of National Restaurant Association of India (NRAI) and actively involved with several esteemed social organizations including the International Association for Human Values, The Art of Living, Murshidabad Heritage Development Society, Atulniya Virasat Manyata Sansthan among others. A true visionary and Philanthropist, Nowlakhia continues to contribute meaningfully to both industry and society.

Explosive Statement by Outgoing Dantan MLA Bikram Pradhan: I-PAC and Abhishek Banerjee Responsible for TMC's Political Decline

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Political rhetoric has once again intensified in Paschim Medinipur district after outgoing Dantan MLA Bikram Pradhan made a strong statement targeting the organizational condition and electoral performance of the All India Trinamool Congress. Bikram Pradhan claimed that the biggest reasons behind the weakening political grip of the Trinamool Congress in the state are the strategies of I-PAC and the functioning style of Abhishek Banerjee. According to Bikram Pradhan, the Trinamool Congress has become disconnected from the grassroots and is now completely dependent on "data and management politics." He alleged that old party workers and local leaders were ignored, the impact of which was clearly reflected in the election results. He said, "Earlier, the Trinamool Congress functioned on the trust of the people and party workers, but now the party runs according to the directions of I-PAC. The opinions of local leaders no longer hold any importance. Abhishek Banerjee and his team managed the organization in such a way that grassroots workers began to feel neglected." Bikram Pradhan further alleged that internal democracy within the party has collapsed and decision-making has been restricted to only a few individuals. According to him, this directly affected



the booth-level organization, leading to dissatisfaction among workers in several areas. He also stated that people are now able to distinguish between "political propaganda" and "real development." According to him, public trust in the Trinamool Congress is gradually declining, and its impact will become more visible in the coming days. Although no official reaction from the All India Trinamool Congress has come immediately after the statement, political circles are considering Bikram Pradhan's remarks highly significant. In the backdrop of the party's unfavorable political atmosphere following the election results, such comments have triggered a fresh political debate in the state. Political analysts believe that the war of words in West Bengal politics may intensify further in the coming days. Meanwhile, opposition parties are trying to project such statements as a sign of growing internal dissatisfaction within the Trinamool Congress.

BJP Stops Tote Loaded With Uniforms Near Kanksa BDO Office

MI News Service, Durgapur: Fresh political controversy erupted in Kanksa on Thursday after allegations surfaced regarding the alleged unauthorised removal of government school uniforms stored near the BDO office area, triggering tension and intervention by the administration.

The incident took place in a club premises adjacent to the Kanksa Block Development Office, where uniforms bearing the "Biswa Bangla" logo had reportedly been stored for distribution among students. According to local sources, the uniforms had been manufactured by women associated with self-help groups and were kept in storage after distribution was halted following the enforcement of the Model Code of Conduct during the Assembly elections. Tension escalated on Thursday morning after local BJP workers alleged that sacks filled with school uniforms were being loaded onto a toto vehicle and removed from the club premises before the formation of the new government. The movement of the sacks reportedly drew the attention of local residents and BJP workers, who intercepted the vehicle and questioned those involved about the purpose of transporting the uniforms at that particular time. Eyewitnesses claimed that attempts were allegedly made to remove the stock quietly from the area, leading to immediate protests and a heated situation near the BDO office. Following the commotion, Kanksa BDO Saurabh Gupta rushed to the spot to assess the situation. In the presence of administrative officials, the uniforms were unloaded from the toto vehicle and brought back inside the club premises. Subsequently, the room where the uniforms were stored was locked jointly in the presence of the administration and political representatives to prevent any further movement of the stock until clarity emerges regarding the matter. Paritosh Biswas, General Secretary of the SC Morcha of the BJP's Burdwan organisational district unit, alleged that the uniforms were being removed without transparency and demanded accountability regarding the attempted transportation of the materials. "We immediately stopped the vehicle after noticing the uniforms being taken out. Questions naturally arose over why these items were being shifted at this stage," he said. Kanksa BDO Saurabh Gupta confirmed that the administration had received complaints regarding the incident and stated that clear instructions had already been issued against any such activity during the sensitive transition period. "We had specific directions that no such movement should take place now."



EC Relieves Special Observers Subrata and NK Mishra After Bengal Poll Process Ends

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Election Commission of India has officially relieved senior officials Subrata Gupta and NK Mishra from their election-related responsibilities in West Bengal following the completion of the 2026 Assembly election process. The Commission issued formal letters to both officials on Thursday informing them that their assignments had ended with the conclusion of polling and result declaration in the state.

The move comes even before the formal formation of the new government in West Bengal. Both Gupta and Mishra had been assigned crucial responsibilities by the Election Commission ahead of the Assembly elections amid heightened political tensions and concerns regarding law and order in the state.

Before the Assembly polls, Subrata Gupta had been appointed as the Special Observer by the Election Commission. He had earlier played a major role during the SIR process conducted in the state last year. During the SIR exercise, Gupta was appointed as the Special Roll Observer to supervise and monitor the sensitive voter verification process.

According to sources, the Election Commission was satisfied with the manner in which Gupta handled the SIR process and ensured implementation of the exercise across districts. Owing to his performance, the Commission later entrusted him with the broader responsibility of overseeing the Assembly election process as Special Observer.

Similarly, retired IPS officer NK Mishra was appointed as the Special Police Observer for the West Bengal Assembly elections. Mishra was initially tasked with supervising the policing and security arrangements related to the SIR process. Later, his role was expanded and he was entrusted with overseeing law-and-order arrangements during the Assembly elections as well.

Former Howrah Civic Chief Sujoy Chakravarty Quits TMC

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major setback for the All India Trinamool Congress in Howrah ahead of the politically charged 2026 atmosphere, former Howrah Municipal Corporation chief administrator Dr Sujoy Chakravarty on Thursday announced his resignation from the party. Ending weeks of speculation, the veteran leader addressed a press conference and openly expressed frustration over alleged non-cooperation and neglect within the party leadership.

Dr Chakravarty claimed that despite handling major administrative responsibilities at the Howrah Municipal Corporation for years, he was unable to function effectively due to severe financial shortages and lack of support from both the government and party leadership. According to him, repeated appeals to the Urban Development Department for funds went unanswered, affecting civic services, employee salaries, and contractor payments worth crores of rupees.

He also alleged that although former state minister Firhad Hakim had assured assistance several times, no concrete action followed. Dr Chakravarty further revealed that internal party conflicts and continued non-cooperation had earlier forced him to resign from the chairman's post, though he chose to remain silent to avoid embarrassing the party during elections.

Suwendu Adhikari's rise Continued From Pg 1: district.

However, the BJP was unable to make major gains in that election and could manage only 77 seats.

But Suwendu Adhikari's Nandigram victory cemented his position as one of BJP's top leaders in West Bengal. He later became the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly.

While the BJP has not yet formally announced any candidate for the Chief minister's post, Suwendu Adhikari's twin victories against Mamata Banerjee and her government has made him a clear frontrunner among other contenders for the post.

However, the final decision in this regard will be taken in tomorrow's Legislature party meeting here under the Chairmanship of BJP's Central Observer Union Home Minister Amit Shah who is arriving here soon.

EC Withdraws MCC in Bengal, Fresh Poll Seat in Falta Exempted

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major development early Thursday morning, the Election Commission of India officially withdrew the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) from West Bengal and four other states and Union Territories after the conclusion of the prolonged 2026 Assembly election process. The decision comes after more than a month of intense campaigning, polling, and counting across multiple phases of the elections.

The announcement was made through an urgent notification issued by the Election Commission from Nirvachan-Sadan in New Delhi. The notification, signed by Under Secretary Praful Awasthi, stated that the restrictions imposed from the date of the election announcement would no longer remain in force from May 7 following the declaration of election results and completion of related formalities.

On Wednesday, Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal had already submitted the official gazette containing the list of 293 winning candidates to the Governor at Raj Bhavan, paving the way for the formal withdrawal of the election code.



However, while the MCC has been lifted across most parts of West Bengal, the Election Commission clarified that the restrictions will continue in the 144-Falta Assembly constituency in South 24 Parganas. The Commission has ordered a fresh poll in the constituency, and therefore the Model Code of Conduct will remain effective there until the election process is fully completed.

Apart from West Bengal, the Election Commission has also withdrawn the MCC from Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry following the conclusion of Assembly elections in those regions. The notification further stated that the code has also been lifted in constituencies where by-elections were held in Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Nagaland, and Tripura.

The withdrawal of the Model Code of Conduct is expected to provide significant relief

to both the government and the administration. During the enforcement of the MCC, governments are restricted from announcing new welfare schemes, infrastructure projects, transfers, or major administrative decisions that could influence voters. With the restrictions now removed, the newly elected governments can begin policy decisions, development announcements, and administrative restructuring without requiring election-related clearance.

For ordinary citizens, the lifting of the MCC is also expected to end the administrative slowdown witnessed during the election period. Several development projects, file clearances, and government procedures that were delayed due to election restrictions are now likely to resume at full pace.

The Election Commission has already circulated the official communication to the Cabinet Secretary, Chief Secretaries, and Chief Electoral Officers of all concerned states and Union Territories. Except for the Falta constituency, normal administrative functioning is now set to resume fully across West Bengal.

PIL Filed in Cal HC Over Bulldozer Vandalism at Hogg Market

MI News Service, Kolkata: A public interest litigation (PIL) has been filed before the Calcutta High Court over the alleged bulldozer-led vandalism at Hogg Market following the West Bengal Assembly election results. The petitioner has alleged that the violence and demolition took place in the presence of senior police officials and has sought court intervention against those officers. The PIL has also appealed for judicial intervention in several incidents of alleged post-poll violence and vandalism reported from different parts of the state. The matter is likely to come up for hearing on Friday.

The developments triggered panic among local residents and traders. Police personnel and central security forces rushed to the area after receiving information about the unrest. However, the petitioner in the PIL has claimed that the alleged rampage continued in front of police officers without immediate intervention. The petition has therefore demanded an investigation into the conduct and role of the police officials present at the spot during the violence.

Meanwhile, Kolkata Police has already initiated action in connection with the incident. Several individuals have reportedly been arrested. Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nanda stated that no procession would be allowed with JCB machines or bulldozers. He further warned that strict legal action would also be taken against those renting out such machinery for unlawful activities. The police administration has additionally made it mandatory to obtain prior permission for victory rallies and public celebrations.

BJP Pushes for Early Howrah Municipal Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: The BJP's district leadership in Howrah has intensified its demand for early elections to the Howrah Municipal Corporation after years of civic administration being run without an elected board. The move comes shortly after the BJP's victory in the West Bengal Assembly elections and amid growing public dissatisfaction over deteriorating civic services in the city.

The tenure of the Trinamool Congress-led board at the Howrah Municipal Corporation ended in December 2018. Since then, no municipal elections have been conducted, and the civic body has continued to function under an administrative arrangement led by appointed officials. Residents across several wards have repeatedly raised complaints regarding poor civic infrastructure, waterlogging, drainage failures, garbage clearance, and delays in essential services. Allegations of worsening civic conditions have become more prominent over the last few years, especially during the monsoon season when large parts of the city face severe flooding.

Against this backdrop, BJP leaders have started putting pressure on the incoming state government to conduct municipal elections in Howrah at the earliest. On Wednesday, BJP Howrah district president Gouranga Bhattacharya visited the headquarters of the Howrah Municipal Corporation and met the Municipal Commissioner, who is currently overseeing the civic body as administrator.

During the meeting, BJP leaders urged the administration to ensure that the city does not witness the usual monsoon flooding this year. They also stressed the need for immediate steps to restore normal civic services and improve infrastructure before the onset of heavy rains. According to BJP leaders, the absence of an elected municipal board has weakened accountability within the civic body and affected the delivery of public services.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Gouranga Bhattacharya said that although the BJP government is yet to formally take charge, the party has already begun discussions and preparations regarding the future functioning of civic bodies in the state. He stated that the party would formally propose to the government that elections to the Howrah Municipal Corporation be conducted without delay.

Shamik Alleges Conspiracy Behind Killing of Suwendu's Aide

MI News Service, Kolkata: The sudden death of Chandranath Rath, a close aide of senior BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari, has triggered massive political controversy across West Bengal. Amid rising tensions, Shamik Bhattacharya visited Barasat Medical College and Hospital on Thursday to meet Suwendu Adhikari and strongly condemned the incident, alleging a larger conspiracy aimed at destabilising the state ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit.



Speaking to reporters outside the hospital, Shamik Bhattacharya accused elements linked to the ruling party of trying to spread unrest by misusing BJP flags and provoking violence. He claimed that attempts were being made to deliberately create instability in the state before the Prime Minister's scheduled programme and the swearing-in ceremony of the new government.

Issuing a stern warning, the BJP state president said, "The Prime Minister is coming to the

state. Before that, efforts are being made to create unrest. Trinamool supporters are carrying out violence using BJP flags." He further stated that strict action would be taken against anyone found involved in such incidents. "I am going to the party office. Whoever's name comes up, they will be expelled from the party today itself," he declared.

The BJP leadership has already taken a strong stand regarding the killing of Chandranath Rath, who party leaders described as a former Army personnel with no direct involvement in active politics. Af-

ter meeting Suwendu Adhikari at the hospital, Shamik Bhattacharya said the BJP had earlier appealed to the police administration to remain alert following the change in government, warning that the political atmosphere could remain sensitive during the transition period.

Referring to the incident as a "brutal murder," Bhattacharya questioned why a person with no political role was allegedly targeted. He claimed the incident appeared to be part of a deeper conspiracy intended to fuel tension and disturb law and order in the state.

'ChandanYatra' Festival Begins at Bagbazar Gaudiya Mission

MI News Service, Kolkata: The sacred 'ChandanYatra' festival of Lord Krishna began at the Gaudiya Mission on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya and will continue for 21 days till May 10. Daily rituals and devotional programmes are being held from 6 pm to 9 pm, drawing large numbers of devotees to the temple premises.



ChandanYatra Festival Begins at Bagbazar Gaudiya Mission on the occasion of Akshaya Tritiya.

The celebrations include sandalwood paste offerings to the deities, floral decorations, evening aarti, Harinam Sankirtan, Bhagavatam recitations, religious discourses and prasad distribution. The temple complex has witnessed a spiritually vibrant atmosphere since the beginning of the festival.

Bhakti Sundar Sannyasi Maharaj said ChandanYatra is not just a festival but a spiritual practice that helps devotees deepen their connection with

society. Devotees from different parts of the state are visiting Bagbazar to participate in the celebrations.

Guv Dismisses Bengal Cabinet After Mamata Refuses to Step Down

MI News Service, Kolkata: RN Ravi on Thursday dismissed the West Bengal cabinet after Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee refused to resign despite her party's defeat in the Assembly elections. The decision came amid growing political uncertainty in the state following the election results.

The development follows recent remarks by the All India Trinamool Congress supremo, who had strongly rejected de-

mands for her resignation after the party suffered a major setback in the polls. Mamata Banerjee claimed that the election outcome did not reflect the true mandate of the people and alleged that the results were the outcome of a larger conspiracy.

While addressing party workers and senior leaders earlier this week, Banerjee made it clear that she would continue her political struggle and would not bow to pressure

from opponents. She asserted that her fight would continue both inside and outside the political arena.

The Trinamool Congress leader also reiterated her commitment to strengthening the opposition INDIA alliance at the national level. She urged party supporters to remain united and said the political battle against the BJP would continue in the coming months despite the electoral defeat in West Bengal.

Cal HC Stays Nearly Rs 766 Cr Compensation Order to Tata Motors in Singur Case

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court has stayed an earlier order directing the West Bengal government to pay nearly 766 crore in compensation to Tata Motors over the abandoned Singur Nano car project. The interim stay was granted for eight weeks by a bench headed by Justice Aniruddha Roy following a petition filed by the previous Trinamool Congress government challenging the arbitration award.

On Thursday, the Calcutta High Court issued an interim stay for eight weeks on the arbitral tribunal's order directing the West Bengal government to pay 765.78 crore in compensation to Tata Motors. Justice Aniruddha Roy's single bench stated that the state government must submit a bank guarantee of the same amount within this period. The court clarified that a final decision regarding the

compensation payment would be taken after further hearings.

The matter has witnessed prolonged litigation in both the High Court and the Supreme Court of India over several years. In October 2023, an arbitral tribunal ordered compensation of 765.78 crore to Tata Motors for the failure to establish its Nano car manufacturing plant at Singur. The tribunal, in its October 30, 2023 ruling, unanimously directed that the amount be paid to the company. It also stated that an annual interest rate of 11 percent would continue to apply until the entire compensation amount was cleared. Following the ruling, Tata Motors issued a statement saying the dispute had finally reached resolution.

However, the Mamata Banerjee-led government challenged the tribunal's deci-

sion before the Calcutta High Court, alleging that the order was biased. The petition was filed in 2023 but was initially dismissed by the High Court. The state government later approached the Supreme Court but failed to secure relief there as well. The apex court subsequently sent the matter back to the High Court for fresh consideration.

The case was heard extensively before Justice Aniruddha Roy's single bench, and arguments had already concluded earlier. Meanwhile, the political landscape in West Bengal has undergone major changes, with the BJP now set to form the government after securing a majority in the Assembly elections. Amid this backdrop, the High Court has now granted an eight-week stay on the tribunal's compensation order in the case originally filed by the previous state government.

Akhilesh Yadav Meets Mamata Banerjee

MI News Service, Kolkata: Akhilesh Yadav visited the residence of Mamata Banerjee on Thursday afternoon in a politically significant meeting that has sparked fresh discussions in opposition circles ahead of the upcoming electoral battles in several states. The Samajwadi Party chief was welcomed by Abhishek Banerjee outside Mamata Banerjee's residence in Kolkata.



Akhilesh draped an Uttarjaya around Mamata Banerjee and told her, "Didi, you have not lost." Mamata responded by saying, "Yes, we have not lost."

As Akhilesh stepped out of his vehicle, he warmly embraced Abhishek Banerjee and praised him for his political efforts, reportedly telling him, "You have done very good work." He then proceeded towards Mamata Banerjee's room, where the Trinamool Congress supremo personally greeted him.

The exchange quickly drew political attention, especially in the backdrop of recent Assembly election results and changing political equations across the country.

Following the brief interaction, the two leaders held a closed-door discussion, though details of the meeting were not officially disclosed. Political observers believe the meeting could indicate efforts among opposition leaders to maintain coordination despite recent electoral setbacks in some states.

The meeting comes at a crucial time for the Samajwadi Party, which is preparing for the high-stakes Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections scheduled for early 2027.



Assembly House is being cleaned and prepared for the newly elected BJP government on Thursday

Sivagnanam Steps Down From SIR Appellate Tribunal, Resignation Sent to SC

MI News Service, Kolkata: Retired former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court TS Sivagnanam has stepped down from the appellate tribunal formed to oversee matters related to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in West Bengal. Citing personal reasons, Justice Sivagnanam has reportedly submitted his resignation letter to the Supreme Court of India and informed the Election Commission of India about his decision.

The development has drawn considerable attention as the tribunal plays a crucial role in examining disputes related to voter verification and deletion

of names from the electoral rolls during the controversial SIR process in West Bengal.

The Supreme Court had earlier entrusted the Calcutta High Court with the responsibility of addressing factual discrepancies and grievances arising from the SIR exercise. Following directions from the apex court, the Chief Justice of the High Court appointed judicial officers to handle the process and supervise the disposal of pending claims and objections.

As part of the arrangement, the Calcutta High Court constituted a three-member committee in accordance with

Supreme Court directives. The committee was tasked with framing the SOP that would guide tribunals in scrutinising the records of nearly 27 lakh citizens whose names had been excluded from the judicially pending voter list. Justice TS Sivagnanam was one of the prominent members of this committee.

The tribunal has already released two separate lists after verification of documents submitted by affected voters. However, the verification and review process remains incomplete, with a large number of applications still pending examination.

Women's Participation in Maritime Sector Rises 340% Since 2020: Sonowal



MI News Service, Kolkata/ New Delhi: Sarbananda Sonowal recently during a session said women's participation in India's maritime sector has increased by 340 percent since 2020, highlighting the Centre's efforts to create a more inclusive and future-ready workforce. Speaking at the 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue in New Delhi, the Union Minister described "Nari Shakti" as a key pillar of India's maritime growth story. Sonowal said initiatives

such as "Sagar Mein Samman" are promoting dignity, inclusion and leadership opportunities for women in the maritime sector. He added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is building a resilient and inclusive maritime workforce for the Indian Ocean Region.

The minister stressed that the Indian Ocean remains vital for global trade, energy flow and supply chains, making stronger regional cooperation essential. Referring

to initiatives like SAGAR and MAHASAGAR, Sonowal said India remains committed to ensuring a safe, secure and stable Indian Ocean Region through cooperation, maritime security and sustainable development.

The dialogue, hosted under India's chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for 2025-27, is focusing on maritime security, blue economy, climate change, disaster management and women's empowerment.

NAME CHANGE
Lalit Kumar Mallick (old name), son of Pramod Chandra Mallick, resident of 9, R.N. Banerjee Road, Khardah, North 24 Parganas-700117, West Bengal, India...

NAME CHANGE
I, SABINA KHAYER (Existing Name as per Service Records), daughter of ASHUTOSH KHAYER (Existing Name as per the Air veteran as per the Service Documents), resident of VIII. & P.O. Dandirhat, P.S. Basirhat, Dist. North 24 Parganas, WB, 743412 (Address)...

Hamirpur boat tragedy: five bodies recovered
MI News Service, Lucknow: Five bodies are recovered while the body of the child is still missing as search operations are going on after a boat carrying around nine passengers capsized in River Yamuna in Kutubpur Patiya hamlet on Wednesday evening...

Double-Engine Boost: Major Eastern Railway Projects Set to Speed Up as Administrative Hurdles Clear

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 07, 2026 : For years, critical infrastructure projects intended to make train travel safer and faster for the people of West Bengal were stalled, not due to a lack of funds or will from the Railways, but due to a persistent lack of cooperation from the outgoing State Government...



section and the Ranaghat-Krishnanagar section 3rd Line projects have been effectively on hold due to shifting demands from district authorities over land maps. Despite the Railways submitting all necessary plans by July 2025, the outgoing administration's refusal to recognize standard survey maps created a complete stalemate...

With the alignment of the State and Central Governments, Eastern Railway is finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel. The era of administrative pen-

dency and intentional stalemates is expected to end, allowing Shri Milind Deuskar's vision for a modernized and safe railway network to finally take shape. The replacement of the Banaras Bridge, which requires four months of uninterrupted work, can now be prioritized to avoid a total collapse of the transport corridor...

Name Change
I, Md Azmir Mondal (Old Name) S/o Nur Ismail Mondal Residing at Raghunathpur Madhya Para, Basirhat - II, Kholapata, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743428, West Bengal, India...

Name Change
I, Saroj Kumar Panda (Old Name), Son Of Surendra Kumar Panda, DI No Cq1320160000196, Residing At 2nd FF1-B-2 Plot-4, Jagatipota, Kolkata-700099, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Saroja Kumar Panda (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Alkas Ali Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Raoshan Ali Mondal, Residing At Hasnecha Chak, Kashipur, Nodskhali, South 24 Parganas - 743318, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Alkash Mondal (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Mahabir Kumar Dhariwal S/O Late Jethmal Jain (Old Name) Residing at Ph-V, Block -21, Flat - 1D, 1st Floor, 493/C/A, G. T. Road (South), District - Howrah, Pin - 711102, West Bengal, India...

Name Change
I, Shaik Samad (Old Name), Son Of Shaik Fazal, Residing At 17b/3 Topsia 2nd Lane, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Md Abdul Samad (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Iyabuk Molya (old name) son of Ilaahi Box Molla, residing at MATH-BARI, HATKOLA PARA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-743442, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Yeakub Ali Molla (new name)...

Name Change
I, Nimai Chowdhury (Old Name) S/o Ekkari Choudhury Residing at 18, Chodhury Para Lane, P.O. - Serampore, P.S. - Serampore, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712201, West Bengal, India...

Name Change
I, Tapan Mukhopadhyay (Old Name) Son Of Lt. B. Mukhopadhyay, DI No Wb2020030053833, Residing At 6/156 Bidhan City/Aurobinda Bl. Ps-Purba Jadavpur, Kolkata-700075, West Bengal, Have Changed My Name And Shall Henceforth Be Known As Tapan Mukherjee (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Razia Sultana W/o Md. Reyaz, residing at 112/1, M G Road, Barabazar, H.O., Kolkata- 700007, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Razia Sultana (Old Name) to Razia Khatoon (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Sudipta Chowdhury (Old Name) W/o Sourabh Kumar Laha Residing at 38/B, Gobinda Chandra Bhattacharya Lane, P.O. - Serampore, P.S. - Serampore, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712201, West Bengal, India...

Name Change
I, Suchit Sahoo, Son Of P Sahoo (Old Name), DI No Wb2020030230040, Residing At 21, Purbachal School Road, Kolkata-700078, West Bengal, Shall Henceforth Be Known As Suchit Kumar Sahoo, Son Of Pratap Chandra Sahoo (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Usha Devi (Old Name), Wife Of Satyendra Shaw, Resident Of Koleypara, Pancharpara, Radhadasi, Sankrail, Howrah-711302, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Usha Devi (Old Name) to Usha Shaw (New Name)...

Name Change
I, Ashim Samanta, A Kr Samanta (Old Name) S/o Mahadeb Samanta Residing at Bishpara Chanpatala, District - Hooghly, Pin - 712513, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ashim Samanta, A Kr Samanta (Old Name) to Ashim Kumar Samanta (New Name)...

NAME CHANGE
I, Ruchika Tekriwal (old name), wife of Nitin Tekriwal, resident of 1C/1D, 32/1B, Ramkrishna Samadhi Road, New Hariyana Bhawan, Gokulghat, Kankurgachi, Kolkata - 700054, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ruchika Tekriwal (old name) to Ruchika Bipin Agrawal (new name)...

NAME CHANGE
I, Tarak Nath Dinda (old name) S/o Nema Dinda, residing at VILL-BAN NANDANPUR, P.O-NANDANPUR, S-KHANAKULI, DIST-HOOGHLY, 712417, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tarak Nath Dinda (Old Name) to Tarak Dinda (New Name)...

Name Change
On 05/05/2026, through Affidavit No. 14151 in the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Chinsurah, I, INDRANI PRAMANIK, D/O- MANIK PRAMANIK, voluntarily renounced Hinduism and Hindu names, and became known everywhere as MARIYAM PARWEEN, W/o- SK ENAMUL HAQUE. I voluntarily, of sound mind and without any coercion, converted to Islam on 08/11/2019 and became a Muslim. INDRANI PRAMANIK and MARIYAM PARWEEN are the same person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SUSMITA NASKAR (OLD NAME), WIFE OF PRITAM MAJI, RESIDENT OF VILL-BANESHWARPUR, PO-HASIM NAGAR, PS-FALTA, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, 743513, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SUSMITA NASKAR (OLD NAME) TO SUSMITA MAJI (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SUSMITA MAJI (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 79 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 07/05/2026. SUSMITA MAJI (NEW NAME) AND SUSMITA NASKAR (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sweta Kishore Udani (old name) W/o Parag Mehta, residing at 129/1, Bakul Bagan Road, 2nd floor, flat - 2C, VTC, Bhawanipore, P.O. - Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700025, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sweta Kishore Udani (Old Name) to Sweta Parag Mehta (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sweta Parag Mehta (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Sweta Parag Mehta (New Name) and Sweta Kishore Udani (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Salahuddin Sarkar S/o, Md Sahanejaw Sarkar, R/o, Ghoshpur, Pawan, Dadpur, Hooghly-712305, W.B., do hereby declare that in my Madhyamik Examination (W.B.B.S.E.) educational documents where my father's name has been recorded as Sahanejaw Sarkar instead of his correct & actual name is Md Sahanejaw Sarkar. That my father Md Sahanejaw Sarkar & Sahanejaw Sarkar both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 10131, dated 07/04/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly court.

NAME CHANGE
I, MD SHAUKAT ALI SON OF LATE MD MUSTAFA MIA, RESIDING AT 16, BECK BAGAN ROAD, ISTFLOOR, CIRCUS AVENUE, P.O.-CIRCUS AVENUE, PS-KARAYA, KOLKATA-700017, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT MY FATHER MD MUSTAFA & MD MUSTAFA MIA (OLD NAME) SHALL HENCEFORTH BE KNOWN AS MD MUSTAFA MIA (NEW NAME). VIDE AN AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 07/05/2026. MD MUSTAFA MIA (OLD NAME) AND MD MUSTAFA MIA (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE THE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sweta Kishore Udani (old name) W/o Parag Mehta, residing at 129/1, Bakul Bagan Road, 2nd floor, flat - 2C, VTC, Bhawanipore, P.O. - Bhawanipore, Kolkata-700025, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sweta Kishore Udani (Old Name) to Sweta Parag Mehta (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sweta Parag Mehta (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Sweta Parag Mehta (New Name) and Sweta Kishore Udani (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, ADIL AKHTAR son of Md. Akhtar residing at 5, Tanti Bagan Road, Kolkata 700014 do here by solemnly affirm and declare that by an affidavit (no 9333) in the Court of Ld Judicial Magistrate 1st Class at Sealdah on 07.05.2026 that ADIL AKHTAR and AKHTAR ADIL is the same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, AMAL SAHA (OLD NAME), SON OF BILLESWAR SAHA, RESIDENT OF 303, M.C. GARDEN ROAD, GHUGHUDANGA, PS-DUM DUM, BARUWA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-700030, WEST BENGAL, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, DOHEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM AMAL SAHA (OLD NAME) TO AMAL KRISHNA SAHA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 77 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 07/05/2026. AMAL KRISHNA SAHA (NEW NAME) AND AMAL SAHA (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Salam Mallick (old name) S/o Hamid Mallick, residing at Vill- Chak Moukhali, P.O.- Bawali Chandipur, P.S.- Nodakhal, South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700137, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Salam Mallick (Old Name) to Salam Mollick (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Salam Mollick (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Salam Mollick (New Name) and Salam Mallick (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, Binod Jaiswal (old name), born on 06-10-1967, residing at 104/104A, Narasingha Dutta Road, Howrah - 711101, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Binod Jaiswal to Gopal Agarwal. Henceforth, I shall be known and identified as Gopal Agarwal (new name) for all purposes. This change of name has been made vide Affidavit No. 7606, sworn before the Learned 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Howrah. That Binod Jaiswal and Gopal Agarwal refer to one and the same identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SAMIR MUKHERJEE (OLD NAME), SON OF LATE MADHUSUDAN MUKHOPADHYAY, RESIDENT OF 1928 K. SARANI, DUMDUM (M), MALL ROAD, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-700080, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SAMIR MUKHERJEE (OLD NAME) TO SAMIR MUKHOPADHYAY (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SAMIR MUKHOPADHYAY (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 14519 SWORN BEFORE THE LD 1ST CLASS JUDICIAL MAGISTRATE AT ALIPORE ON 08/05/2026. SAMIR MUKHOPADHYAY (NEW NAME) AND SAMIR MUKHERJEE (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sk Anisur Rahman (old name) S/o Md Khalil, residing at 17B, Shah Aman Lane, Khidderpore, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Anisur Rahman (Old Name) to Sk Anisur Rahaman (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Anisur Rahaman (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Sk Anisur Rahaman (New Name) and Sk Anisur Rahman (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, SANTOSH TEWARI ALIAS SANTOSH KUMAR TIWARI (OLD NAME), RESIDENT OF NARAYAN TIWARI, RESIDENT OF 10, ROSE MARY LANE, PS-GOLABARI, HOWRAH - 711101, WEST BENGAL, WEST BENGAL, INDIA, DOHEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SANTOSH KUMAR TIWARI (OLD NAME) TO SANTOSH KUMAR TEWARI (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SANTOSH KUMAR TEWARI (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 34 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 04/05/2026. SANTOSH KUMAR TEWARI (NEW NAME) AND SANTOSH KUMAR TIWARI (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE
I, Ramawatar Agarwal (old name) S/o Shev Bux Agarwal, residing at 17D, Tarak Pramanik Road, Kolkata-700006, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ramawatar Agarwal (Old Name) to Raj Kumar Agarwal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Raj Kumar Agarwal (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Raj Kumar Agarwal (New Name) and Ramawatar Agarwal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ranjit Prasad (old name) S/o Surendra Nath Prasad, residing at 3, Chingri Ghata, Lane, Ideal Niketan, Block-C, Flat-6D, 6th Floor, Kolkata-700015, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ranjit Prasad (Old Name) to Ranjit Kumar Prasad (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ranjit Kumar Prasad (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata on 07/05/2026. Ranjit Kumar Prasad (New Name) and Ranjit Prasad (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

CII Odisha Announces New Leadership for 2026-27 with a Roadmap for Industrial Growth and Sustainable Development in Odisha

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 07, 2026 : The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Odisha State Council is pleased to announce that Mr Anil Kumar Singh, President, JSW Steel Ltd has taken office as the Chairman for the year 2026-27. Mr Manikanta Naik, Managing Director, Tata Steel SEZ Ltd, has been elected as the Vice Chairman for the same term.

development. CII envisions Odisha as a globally competitive hub recognized for innovation, inclusivity, and resilience, with a vision to foster job creation, enhance industrial productivity, and promote social well-being in the State by 2036. CII will also focus on key growth drivers including Tourism, Innovation & Technology-based Economy, Agriculture, Irrigation & Horticulture, Metals & Mining, Manufacturing, Port-led Development, Fisheries & Aquaculture, Freight and Multi-Modal Logistics, Women-led Growth, Human Capital Development, Empowerment of Tribal and Vulnerable Groups, Healthcare and Nutrition, Arts, Heritage & Sports, Energy Transition, Disaster Resilience, and Climate Change. Mr Manikanta



Naik reiterated the Council's continued commitment to undertake initiatives for women empowerment and entrepreneurship development through the CII Indian Women Network (IWN). To improve industrial productivity and competitiveness, CII will organize training programmes and workshops on GST, GEM, Total Quality Management (TQM), and export docu-

mentation. The State Council also highlighted CII Odisha's policy interventions including augmentation of export potential from the State, strengthening linkages between MSMEs and large industries through MSME Connect Series across Odisha, promotion of infrastructure projects with Green Certification, and development of medical tourism through improved

After the BJP's historic win in Bengal, sky-high demand for lotus! Two suspected ISI agents arrested by UP ATS

MI News Service, Malda : Usually, the demand and price of lotus flowers increase during Durga Puja. But this time, the price of lotus flowers has increased several times even in the 'off season' due to the BJP's historic win in Bengal. In some places in Malda, a piece of lotus worth eight rupees is being sold for 80 rupees! A garland of one to one and a half feet of lotus is being charged at 500-700 rupees! In this situation, buyers are squeezing mangoes with their hands while buying flowers. Although this brings a big smile to the faces of flower sellers. After the change of government in the state, there is a rush to buy lotus flowers among BJP leaders, workers and supporters. Many of them are buying the flowers at wholesale rates. As a result, there is a shortage of lotus flowers in the market.



ket. The remaining amount, the sellers are charging five times, in some places 10 times more. This has caused problems for the customers of lotus flowers used in daily pujas. Lotus flowers have bloomed in six out of 12 assembly constituencies in Malda this time. With this, BJP has come to power in the state. Therefore, a crowd of party workers is seen in the flower market of English Bazaar city to buy lotus garlands and bouquets. Taking this opportunity, the price of flowers has been increased several times. Two to two and a half feet lotus garlands are being sold for one and a half to two thousand rupees! Flower sellers are struggling to supply the demand. Atul Prasad, a member of the Atul Market Flower Market Traders Association of the city, said, 'This season, lotus is not produced anywhere in North Bengal in-

cluding Malda. This season, lotus is mainly imported from Odisha. After that, various types of garlands and bouquets are being made from those lotuses brought from Ranaghat and Kolkata. In the last two days, each flower seller has sold thousands of lotuses.' BJP workers Bhaskar Mandal, Subhash Das, Vivek Das said, 'They are going to buy as many lotuses as they can and congratulate the party leaders and winning candidates.' BJP's South Malda General Secretary Nilanjan Das said, 'The love and enthusiasm of the party workers and supporters is so much that they are coming to the district party office with lotus garlands and exchanging greetings with each other.' In the words of a buyer Biplob Ghosh, 'The sudden increase in the price of lotuses has put a strain on our pockets.'

MI News Service, Lucknow : Two suspected agents of Pakistan's intelligence agency - ISI - were nabbed by Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) on Wednesday. The suspects were identified as Daniyal Ashraf (23) from Barabanki and Krishna Mishra (20) from Kushinagar district, who are Class VIII dropouts, had reportedly conducted reconnaissance of potential targets in UP, Delhi and Maharashtra, and received payments through multiple bank accounts, investigators said. Both were allegedly being handled by Pakistani gangster Shahzad Bhatti with the intent to execute attacks across the state, said the ATS sources. According to a statement issued by UP DGP Headquarters, both suspects were arrested by ATS teams following intelligence inputs about a Pakistan-backed conspiracy to radicalise Indian youths through various social media platforms and use them as sleeper cell operatives. The outfits handling them were turning them into foot soldiers to carry out terror activities, the statement stated, to spread fear among people and threaten the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the country.

Young man attempts to killed girlfriend! Accused arrested

MI News Service, Pune: A shocking incident has come to light from Pune's Chandannagar area, where a young man allegedly attempted to murder his girlfriend by slitting her throat with a sharp-edged weapon following a dispute over their relationship. The critically injured woman has been battling for her life in the ICU for the past nine days. The police have already arrested the accused in connection with the case. The incident took place in the Patharewasti locality, which falls under the jurisdiction of Chandannagar Police Station in Pune city. The injured woman has been identified as 22-year-old Ujaladevi Jaswantsingh Dohre. Originally from Uttar Pradesh, she had been residing in Chandannagar along with her brother. After the murderous attempt on the victim, her

brother Bhagatsingh Jaswantsingh Dohre lodged a complaint at Chandannagar Police Station. The police registered a case against the accused, Dilip Rathod and subsequently arrested him. According to police sources, the accused and the victim previously worked together at the same mall, where they first met and eventually developed a romantic relationship. However, dis-

putes arose between the two over past few days, leading to constant quarrels and altercation. On the day of the incident, the woman was alone at home as her brother and sister-in-law had gone to work. During this period, the accused allegedly arrived at the house. Following an argument, he attacked the woman with a sharp-edged weapon and slit her throat.

putes arose between the two over past few days, leading to constant quarrels and altercation. On the day of the incident, the woman was alone at home as her brother and sister-in-law had gone to work. During this period, the accused allegedly arrived at the house. Following an argument, he attacked the woman with a sharp-edged weapon and slit her throat.

PM Modi hails Operation Sindoor's firm response against terror

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asserted that Operation Sindoor reflected India's firm response against terrorism and an unwavering commitment to safeguarding the national security.

Speaking on the first anniversary of the military offensive against terrorism and terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Kashmir on Thursday, the Prime Minister said a year later, India remains as steadfast as ever in its resolve to defeat terrorism and destroy its enabling ecosystem.

PM Modi said a year ago on this day, Indian armed forces displayed unparalleled courage, precision and resolve during the Operation Sindoor.

He said the forces gave a fitting response to those who dared to attack innocent Indians at Pahalgam and the entire nation salutes the Indian forces for their valour.

"Operation Sindoor reflected India's firm response against terrorism and an unwavering commitment to



safeguarding national security. It also highlighted the professionalism, preparedness and coordinated strength of our armed forces," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

At the same time, PM Modi said, it showcased the growing jointness among India security forces and underlined the strength that India's quest for self-reliance in the defence sector has brought to the country's national security.

Operation Sindoor was carried out by the three defence forces along with the BSF along the western border, targeting terrorist and military facilities in Pakistan

and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir from May 7-10, 2025.

This operation was carried out in retaliation to the April 22, 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

But Operation Sindoor reflected India's firm response against terrorism, commitment to safeguarding national security.

The Prime Minister said the fight back against Pahalgam attack last year highlighted professionalism, preparedness and coordinated strength of armed forces. The Operation also dis-

played the armed forces' unparalleled courage, precision and resolve and showcased the growing jointness among them, PM Modi said.

Meanwhile, Defence minister Rajnath Singh, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Home Minister Amit Shah and other top ministers have changed the display pictures on their social media profiles to mark the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor following a call by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Prime Minister, earlier in the day, shared a digital poster depicting the now widely recognised logo of Operation Sindoor and urged others to do the same as a mark of respect to the Armed Forces.

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav, Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi and Jal Shakti Minister CR Patil also updated their profile photos.

GYANESH KUMAR: Man of the series of Election Premier League



MI News Service, New Delhi/Kolkata: The poll panel under chief election commissioner Gyanesh Kumar has left an indelible mark on the 2026 Bengal polls, in a way it has impacted few elections before.

The Election Commission introduced key changes to the second round of the special intensive revision (SIR), which covered 12 states and Union Territories including Bengal. One, the booth-level officers (BLOs) were not authorised to collect copies of the specified documents from voters whose names could not be "mapped" to the previous SIR, held over two decades ago.

Two, the "logical discrepancies" filter — a term undefined in law — was expanded and voters who fell in this category were summoned to prove their eligibility even if they had been "mapped". In Bihar, which underwent the first round of the SIR, this filter applied to actual fallacies, such as the age or name on the voter list not matching those in the identity documents. This, too, was dealt with mostly without issuing summons.

In most of the states except Bengal, though, the BLOs had the discretion to "map" voters despite spelling errors, and many electoral registration officers (EROs) cleared names on the basis of documentary evidence without physically summoning all such voters.

In Bengal, the commission brought in

thousands of central government employees as "micro observers". The Trinamool government underlined that these officials had no legal sanction to register voters. The poll panel countered that the state government had not provided enough officials of the requisite rank to serve as EROs. Multiple analyses have shown that the "logical discrepancies" axe disproportionately affected Muslims, married women, and the Matua Dalit community, who the Trinamool claimed tended to vote for the party. Among those deleted were the former Jaynagar MP, Tarun Mandal. More than 27 lakh appeals against the "logical discrepancies" deletions remain pending before the 19 tribunals in the state, alongside 7 lakh appeals against inclusions.

In February, chief minister Mamata Banerjee walked out in the middle of a meeting with CEC Kumar and his fellow election commissioners at Nirvachan Sadan, saying she had been "humiliated".

Last month, a similar confrontation took place between a Trinamool delegation and Kumar at the commission headquarters. In both instances, Trinamool members claimed that only the CEC spoke, and the other election commissioners remained silent. The poll panel then took the unprecedented step of naming the ruling party in an X post that highlighted the "ECI's Straight-talk to Trinamool Congress".

"This time, the Elections in West Bengal would surely be: Fear-free, Violence-free, Intimidation-free, Inducement-free and without any Chappa, Booth Jamming and Source Jamming," it said. Soon afterwards, district election officers and district police heads in Bengal were asked to do news conferences repeating the latter part of the tweet. Schoolchildren were marshalled in the name of voter awareness to carry placards inscribed with the same message at rallies.

JAISHANKAR holds talks with leadership in Suriname

MI News Service, Paramaribo: External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, currently on a visit to Suriname, held a series of talks with top leadership and other officials of the South American nation to discuss ways to further strengthen the bilateral ties between the two countries. As he arrived in Paramaribo, EAM Jaishankar was warmly welcomed by his counterpart, Melvin Bouva. Both leaders later held a bilateral discussion. Along with the Indian officials, the EAM then met with Surinamese delegations and undertook a comprehensive review of bilateral ties under the aegis of the 9th Joint Com-

Shifting of Trains to the Upgraded Passenger Reservation System to Begin in August

● Railway Minister Directs Officials to Ensure Smooth Transition to Upgraded System from 40-year-old System without Inconvenience to Passengers.

MI News Service, New Delhi, 7 May 26: Today at Rail Bhawan, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav held a review meeting with officials and issued directions to ensure that passengers do not face any inconvenience during the transition of trains from the 40-year-old reservation system to the upgraded system. Union Ministers of State for Railways, V. Soman and Ravneet Singh Bittu were also present in the meeting. Started in 1986, this system has undergone several minor changes over the past 40 years. However, now it has been completely overhauled, and its capacity has been significantly expanded using state-of-the-art technology.

The railway reservation system has witnessed several key milestones. In 2002, Indian Railways introduced internet-based ticketing. Today, the system has become so popular that most people no longer approach ticket counters. Currently, nearly 88% of total ticketing demand in the country is fulfilled through online channels. The RailOne mobile app is rapidly gaining popularity among passengers. It was launched in July last year. In less than a year, it has recorded over 3.5 crore downloads across the country. One of the biggest reasons



for its popularity is that the app not only provides all railway-related information to the common man but also resolves complaints related to ticketing and other services. When you book a ticket today, the RailOne app informs you whether a waitlisted ticket is likely to be confirmed or not. The app now also provides AI-based predictions of confirmation probability. This feature was introduced earlier this year and has been widely appreciated by users. The accuracy of waitlist confirmation prediction has increased from 53% earlier to 94% now. The RailOne app offers several integrated and modern features, covering almost all railway services such as booking, cancellation, and refunds for reserved, unreserved, and platform tickets. It also provides real-time updates on ticket waiting status, train schedules, live

train running status, platform information, coach position, and services like Rail Madad for passenger assistance. During travel, passengers can also order food through the app, which ensures delivery directly to their seats. Equipped with convenient and service-oriented features, the RailOne app is growing rapidly in popularity.

Every day, 9.29 lakh tickets are booked through this app across the country, including 7.2 lakh unreserved tickets and 2.09 lakh reserved tickets. Unreserved tickets also include platform tickets. The RailOne app is widely appreciated on both Android and iOS platforms. It has been downloaded 3.16 crore times from the Google Play Store and 33.17 lakh times on Apple devices.

For passengers in the country, Indian Railways is a lifeline. In 2024-25, Indian Railways provided a subsidy of ₹60,239 crore on passenger tickets. This is equivalent to an average discount of 43% for every railway passenger. In other words, if the cost of providing the service is ₹100, the ticket price is only ₹57.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: EL/HWH/25/21 (Notice)/755, Dated: 06.05.2026. Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New Divisional Railway Manager Office, Near Railway Museum, Howrah Railway Station, Howrah-711011 invites Open e-Tenders for the under mentioned electrical works: SI. No.: (1); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3540; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 12A/1 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 9,25,614.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 18,500.00; SI. No.: (2); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3560-R; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Major up-gradation of building facade including massive repair of building roof, wall, boundary walls & roof leakage & remodeling of offices of Eastern Railway HQ buildings (Fairlie Place & Old KG)"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 79,45,476.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 1,58,900.00; SI. No.: (3); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3588; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 6/3 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 9,25,614.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 18,500.00; SI. No.: (4); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3564-R; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 24A/4(E) by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Azimganj"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 9,25,614.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 18,500.00; SI. No.: (5); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3610; Name of work: 1) Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 7/C by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; 2) Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 5/4 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; 3) Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 5/3 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; 4) Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 7/1 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; 5) Electrical (General) work in connection with "Construction of new LHS in lieu of LC Gate No. 7/5 by Railway's relieving girder under AEN/Nabadwip Dham"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 46,28,070.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 92,600.00; SI. No.: (6); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3563-R; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Landscaping development, horticulture works & other ancillary works at railway premises of Howrah under AEN/SPL/Howrah"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 61,94,848.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 1,23,900.00; SI. No.: (7); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3582; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Extension FOB of width 3 mtr. at Murari and Gumani station"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 23,82,453.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 47,700.00; SI. No.: (8); Tender No.: EL-HWH-25-21-3552-A; Name of work: Electrical (General) work in connection with "Extension FOB at MLV Station in the Jurisdiction of SSE/W/Bolpur Santiniketan under AEN/Bolpur Santiniketan"; Tender Value (Rs.): ₹ 21,87,117.00; Bid security (Earnest Money Deposit) (Rs.): ₹ 43,800.00; Completion Period: 180 Days for SI. No. 1 to 8 each; Closing Date & Time: 29.05.2026 at 15:00 hrs. for SI. No. 1 to 8 each; In case the date of closing mentioned in the notice inviting tender is declared a holiday/bandh/strike on any account, the date of closing tender online will not be changed as the application in the website of IREPS does not permit submission of any offer after closing date and time of the tender. However, opening of tenders online will be on any convenient day after closing date and time of the tender. The details of tender are available at website: www.ireps.gov.in. Tenderers are requested to submit their offer online on the above website.

HWH-53/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites: www.e.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SAUMITRA MOHAN Bengal Gov's new Secretary

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has appointed senior IAS officer Saumitra Mohan as secretary to Governor R N Ravi, an official said on Tuesday. A 2002-batch IAS officer of the West Bengal cadre, Mohan is currently serving as Secretary in the Transport Department, and also holds additional charge of the Labour Department. "... Mohan has been appointed secretary to the Governor of West Bengal," a notification issued by the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department said.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

e-Tender Notice No.: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-38-40-26, Dated: 06.05.2026, For and on behalf of the President of India, DRM(Engg)Adra, South Eastern Railway invites 03 (Three) nos. e-tender for Level Crossing, Misc. Works and Bridge work as mentioned hereunder: SI.No.-1. Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-38-26. Description of works: Improvement of important and busy Level crossing by providing rubberized surface under DEN/North/Adra. Tender value: ₹ 4,36,10,222.54. SI.No.-2. Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-39-26. Description of works: Construction of damage boundary wall and improvement of existing building at Bhojudih inter college. Tender value: ₹ 43,15,155.35. SI.No.-3. Tender No: E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-40-26. Description of works: Improvement and renovation of bridge by grouting, construction of ballast retaining wall, wing wall, flooring, stair etc. under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Bokaro Steel City. Tender value: ₹ 4,36,10,222.54. The closing date and time of e-tenders are on 10.06.2026 at 15:00 hrs. (for SI.No. 1 to 3 each). Details of above e-tender may please be seen at website www.ireps.gov.in. (PR-134)

No maintenance if DNA test denies paternity: SC

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court has ruled that a man is not liable to pay maintenance to the child of his estranged wife if a DNA test reveals that he is not the biological father and the report is not disputed by the mother.

A district and sessions court and a family court had dismissed a woman's plea for a monthly maintenance of ₹25,000 towards herself and the child. A DNA test had revealed that the man was not the biological father. Delhi High Court modified those orders and allowed maintenance for the wife, saying the trial court would determine the amount.

However, the woman approached the Supreme Court instead. A bench of Justice Sanjay Karol and Justice N. Kotiswar Singh upheld the high court order.

"In this case, the DNA test has been conducted, the appellant consented to the same and has, not even once, disputed the conclusion thereof. It has, in other words, attained finality.

"We are of the considered view that no error could be pointed out by the appellant

in the high court's decision denying the grant of maintenance to her daughter. The appeal is bereft of merit and, therefore, dismissed," Justice Karol, who authored the judgment, said. The bench asked the women and child welfare department of Delhi to safeguard the child's interest.

"This court expresses concern about the child whose dispute of parentage had made its way up to us. Even though the high court has correctly remanded the matter of the appellant's maintenance to be decided afresh by the trial court, we acknowledge that even if a revised amount is awarded as per law, the difficulties for the child will persist.



mission Meeting in Paramaribo. Following the meeting, EAM Jaishankar took to X and posted: "We covered trade, digital & investment; defence & energy; development assistance & capacity building; health & mobility; and culture & people-to-people exchanges. Confidence that the outcomes of our deliberations today will further deepen and diversify our ties." EAM Jaishankar also called on Suriname's President Jennifer Geerlings-Simons and discussed shared commitment to enhancing the enduring partnership between the two nations.

Appointment of Honorary Visiting Specialist at Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah

Applications are invited for filling up the following posts of Honorary Visiting Specialist (HVS) at Divisional Railway Hospital (Orthopaedic Hospital), Eastern Railway, Howrah on contract basis. Application addressed to Chief Medical Superintendent, Orthopaedic Hospital, 222, Biplabi Haren Ghosh Sarani, Eastern Railway, Howrah-711101 should be submitted along with self-attested photocopy of all relevant certificates & documents including Medical Registration Certificate, Bio-data, 2 (two) recent passport size photographs and a self-declaration that "I, hereby declare that all the statements made in this application are true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief" either by post or by direct submission in the office of CMS, Eastern Railway, Howrah's office latest by 20.05.2026. The application should include contact details including Mobile No., email id and residential address. Honorary Visiting Specialists Required in following Specialities: (i) Medicine, (ii) Radiology & (iii) Neuro Surgery. Total vacancies are 03 (three) - One in each Speciality. Age Profile: 30 years to 64 years. Upper age limit of continued engagement is 65 years. Qualification: (a) Super Specialist: DM/MCh or equivalent. (b) Specialist: Post Graduate degree on DNB from a recognised University. Minimum 3 years experience in the professional work related to concerned speciality after obtaining P.G. degree. (c) If suitable candidates with PG Degree are not available, PG Diploma Holders with 5 years experience in the professional work related to concerned speciality after obtaining P.G. Diploma. Working hours: Medicine & Radiology - 4 hours per day & 6 days in a week. Neuro Surgery - 2 hours per day & 2 days in a week. Monthly Honorarium: (a) Super Specialist - For 4 hours per day & 6 days in a week - Rs. 1,23,000/-. For 2 hours per day & 2 days in a week Rs. 25,000/-. Specialist - For 4 hours per day & 6 days in a week - Rs. 1,00,000/-. For 2 hours per day & 2 days in a week Rs. 20,000/-. Further details are available in Eastern Railway website www.e.indianrailways.gov.in NB: Screening of papers submitted by the applicants will be done and physical appearance of the applicant is not required. Chief Medical Supt., Orthopaedic Hospital, Howrah

EASTERN RAILWAY
Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Kakkai Banerjee D/o. Late Shibapada Mukherjee has been appointed Attorney by Nabib Dhak & Chandu Dhak both S/o. Mahananda Dhak, of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 45 under L.R. Khatian No. 549, 1066 & 1533 Total Area 94.67 decimal in Narendrapur Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 3481 Dated 24/12/2024 registered at the office of A.D.S.R. Bargachia, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&LRO, Jagatbalapur, Howrah.

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Prabr Mallick S/o. Late Ratan Mallick has been appointed Attorney by Dipak Ghosh S/o, Late Tinkari Ghosh, of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 604 under R.S. & L.R. Khatian No. 674 Total Area 7.866 decimal in Narendrapur Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 23 & 24 Dated 08/03/2013 & 15/03/2013 registered at the office of A. D. S. R. Bargachia, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&LRO, Jagatbalapur, Howrah.

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Sital Dhak S/o. Biswanath Dhak has been appointed Attorney by Sikha Mal D/o. Late Gandhi Mal, of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 18 under L.R. Khatian No. 1515 Total Area 63 decimal in Sampur Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 2748 Dated 19/09/2025 registered at the office of A. D. S. R. Bargachia, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&LRO, Jagatbalapur Howrah.

Draft Notice

IN THE COURT OF LEARNED 5TH BENCH CITY CIVIL COURT AT KOLKATA
Title Suit No. 825 of 2023
ICICI Bank Limited, a banking company within the meaning of Debts due to Bank and Financial Act, 1993, having its registered office at ICICI Bank Tower, Near Chokli Circle, Old Andra Road, Vaidodara, PIN- 390007 and carrying on business from 31, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata-700016, Police Station- Park Street, through its Constituted Attorney, Mr. Shamim Aslam ...Plaintiff Versus
Dayamoy Pramanik, son of Binod Pramanik, Residing at H-2, Sekhpura Government Housing, Duckbunglow Road, Near Old Water Tank, Paschim Midnapur-721 101. ...Defendant To.
Dayamoy Pramanik, son of Binod Pramanik, Residing at H-2, Sekhpura Government Housing, Duckbunglow Road, Near Old Water Tank, Paschim Midnapur-721 101. ...Defendant Whereas, M/s. ICICI Bank Limited has instituted the above suit on 29-04-2023 against you claiming for a Decree of Rs. 7,63,262/- . You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader on the 01.07.2026 at 10:30 O'clock, to answer the same, failing which the suit will be disposed of ex-parte.
Dt 17-04-2026 By Order
Chief Administrative Officer
City Civil Court, Calcutta

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Dipak Samanta S/o. Late Guiram Samanta has been appointed Attorney by Kripasindhu Ghosh S/o. Late Tinkari Ghosh and other owners of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 604 under L.R. Khatian No. 674 Total Area 19.666 decimal in Narendrapur Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 140 Dated 10/10/2012 registered at the office of A. D. S. R. Bargachia, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&LRO, Jagatbalapur Howrah.

NOTICE

It is being informed that I, Sital Dhak S/o. Biswanath Dhak has been appointed Attorney by Sikha Mal D/o. Late Gandhi Mal, of R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 18 under L.R. Khatian No. 1515 Total Area 63 decimal in Sampur Mouza Dist. Howrah vide Registered Power of Attorney being Number 2748 Dated 19/09/2025 registered at the office of A. D. S. R. Bargachia, Howrah. If anyone has any kind of objection, kindly contact BL&LRO, Jagatbalapur Howrah.

FORM NO. INC- 26

(Pursuant to rule 30 of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014)
Before the Regional Director, Eastern Region, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Kolkata
In the matter of the Companies Act, 2013, Section 13(4) of Companies Act, 2013 and Rule 30(5) (a) of the Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014
AND
In the matter of PUJA TIE UP PRIVATE LIMITED having its registered office at 47 FLOOR DE 1st, RAJNIBATEH CO-OPERATIVE HOUSING SOCIETY LTD., BESIDE NEW TOWN SCHOOL, KOLKATA, WEST BENGAL, INDIA-700156
-----Petitioner
Notice is hereby given to the General Public that the company proposes to make application to the Regional Director, Eastern Region, Kolkata (Central Government) under section 13(4) of the Companies Act, 2013 seeking confirmation of alteration of the Memorandum of Association of the Company in terms of the special resolution passed at the Extra ordinary general meeting held on 04/05/2026 to enable the company to change its Registered office from "State of West Bengal" to "State of Chhattisgarh".
Any person whose interest is likely to be affected by the proposed change of the registered office of the company from State of West Bengal to State of Chhattisgarh, may deliver either on the MCA 21 portal (www.mca.gov.in) by filing investor complaint form or cause to be delivered or send by registered post of his/her objections supported by an affidavit stating the nature of his/her interest and grounds of opposition to the Regional Director, Eastern Region Bench at Office of the Regional Director (Eastern Region), Corporate Bhawan, 6th Floor, Plot No. III/16, in AA-IIIF, Rajarhat, New Town, Akandakeshari, Kolkata-700135 (email: rd.east@gmca.gov.in), within Fourteen days of the date of publication of this notice with a copy to the applicant company at its registered office at the address mentioned above or on email id of the company associatesk11@gmail.com.
For and on behalf of the Applicant
Sd/-
Date: 08/05/2026 PRAMIT KOTAK
Place: Kolkata (Director) DIN: 05251317

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West-Bengal- 700091, CIN No. L65190G11994PLC021012, 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.	(Borrower) J D Advertising & (Guarantor) Joydeep Sen & Deboshree Sen & J D Advertising & (Mortgagor) Joydeep Sen/ Represented By Partners Joydeep Sen & Deboshree Sen 13 A, Mahendra Bose Lane Hyam Bazar 5 Point Crossing Crossing Petrol Pump West Bengal Kolkata- 700003 /110005500431	Flat No. 1, Third Floor, South-East-West Side, Madhuri, Scheme Plot No. 14, Mouza Dum Dum House, J.L. No. 19, Dag No. 254, Hal L.R. Dag No. 456, Khatian No. 47, Hal Khatian No. 1254, 1380, 1931, 459 & 917, Municipal Holding No. 38, Rastraguru Avenue, Ward No. 8, South Dum Dum Municipality, Premises No. 14, Rastraguru Avenue, P.S. Dum Dum, A.D.S.R.O. Cossipore Dum Dum, Kolkata-700028, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Owned By Joydeep Sen, (Admeasuring An Area of 1250 Sq. Ft. Super Built Up Area Be The Same A Little More or Less Together With Underneath Proportionate Share of Underneath Land North: Plot No. 16 (Ushaboti Ghosh) South: Plot No. 15, (Traye Apartment) East: 14' Ft. Wide Municipal Road West: Municipal Drain/ Date of Symbolic: 05/05/2026	26/12/2025 & Rs. 10,69,824.87/-	Kolkata

The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgage 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: May 08, 2026
Place: Kolkata
Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Professor Saumya Sindhvani of Indian School of Business ISB Appointed Provost of Galgotias University



GREATER NOIDA : Galgotias University has appointed Professor Saumya Sindhvani as Provost, adding a senior academic leader with experience across teaching, executive education, organisational development, and institution building.

Professor Sindhvani joins Galgotias University from Indian School of Business, where she held leadership responsibilities as Associate Dean for Advanced Management Programmes and Executive Director of the Centre for Learning and Management Practice. She is also on the Board of Advisers for Jose Rizal University, Philippines.

She brings more than two decades of professional experience spanning academia and the corporate sector, with work exposure across Europe, Africa, and Asia. Over the years, she has contributed to executive learning programmes for leading global organisations including Google, Goldman Sachs, Walmart, Novartis, and Accenture.

Professor Sindhvani received her PhD in Corporate Strategy and Corporate Citizenship from Alliance Manchester Business School and her MSc from London School of Economics and Political Science.

Her research interests lie at the intersection of strategy, leadership, and society, with a focus on how organisations design and implement strate-

gy in volatile and complex environments. She is also the author of several books on leadership, management, decision-making, and strategy.

As Provost, Professor Sindhvani will work closely with the University leadership on academic quality, research culture, faculty development, curriculum advancement, student outcomes, and interdisciplinary opportunities across schools and programmes.

Speaking on her new role, Professor Saumya Sindhvani said, "Galgotias University has built impressive momentum and scale. I look forward to working with faculty, students, and colleagues to further strengthen academic quality, research, innovation, and opportunities for learners."

Galgotias University has earned recognition in respected global assessments including QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education. The University today has a growing presence across engineering, management, law, health sciences, media, hospitality, and emerging technology disciplines. Professor Sindhvani's appointment comes as the University enters its next phase of academic growth, deeper research engagement, and broader international outreach.

Arunachal CM Khandu seeks CUET centres within state

ITANAGAR : Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Thursday urged the Centre to ensure that adequate examination centres for the Common University Entrance Test (CUET) 2026 are set up within the state or at accessible locations nearby to spare students from hardship caused by allotment of centres outside the state.

In a letter to Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, Khandu expressed serious concern over reports that a large number of students from the state had been allotted examination centres in faraway locations, caus-

ing inconvenience and financial burden to candidates and their families.

Highlighting Arunachal Pradesh's difficult terrain, poor connectivity and underdeveloped transport infrastructure, the chief minister said long-distance travel for national-level examinations poses major challenges for students and can adversely affect their mental and physical well-being as well as examination performance.

Khandu appealed to the minister for reconsideration of the allocation process and sought compassionate and pragmatic intervention in the larger interest of students from

the frontier state.

Reaffirming the state government's commitment to supporting national examinations, he informed the Centre that NEET was recently conducted smoothly at multiple locations across Arunachal Pradesh.

He assured full logistical support from the state government to the National Testing Agency (NTA) for conducting CUET examinations at convenient centres within the state.

The chief minister also observed that the issue had already been pursued by the state government at various



levels. He said state Education Minister P D Sona had earlier

written to the ministry seeking inclusion of four additional district headquarters,

Pasighat, Bomdila, Tezu and Aalo, as CUET examination centres for the convenience of students.

Khandu added that state education commissioner Amjad Tak has also been actively pursuing the matter with the authorities concerned.

"The state government remains committed to ensuring that students from the state receive equal opportunities and necessary support in accessing national-level educational platforms and competitive examinations," the chief minister added.

All India Russian Education Fair 2026 Opens in Chennai 10 000 MBBS Seats are on Offer for Indian

CHENNAI : Russia is the only foreign country in the world that fully complies with the National Medical Commission - India's latest norms set for medical education overseas. The All-India Russian Education Fair for the academic year 2026-2027 will take place on 9th and 10th May at the Russian Centre of Science and Culture in Chennai, 10 am to 5 pm. Featuring the direct participation of as many as seven leading higher educational institutions, all belonging to the Russian government, the fair offers as many as 10,000 MBBS seats for the Indian students. The rise in the number of seats reflects the growing demand for medical education in Russia, the only foreign country at present to fully comply with the National Medical Commission of India's latest norms set for medical education overseas.

Spot admissions for MBBS and other programs can be made at the fair, which is scheduled to take place also in many locations in Tamil Nadu. It will be held between 10 am and 5 pm in Madurai on May 12 at Hotel Royal Court; Trichy on May 13 at Hotel Femina; Salem on May 14 at GRT Hotel Zibe; and Coimbatore on May 15 at The



Grand Regent Hotel. There is no entry fee for the fair. For details about the programs and fair, students can call: 9282 221 221.

The MBBS courses in Russia are designed to provide students with a strong foundation in theoretical knowledge and practical skills, preparing them to meet the challenges of a rapidly evolving healthcare landscape. As the courses are highly-subsidised by the government, they are also the most affordable, with the total fee, starting from as low as Rs. 3.5 lakh per annum.

Indian students who have cleared National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) and who have a minimum of 50% marks in the relevant core subjects/degrees (in the case of

SCST and OBC students, the minimum marks is only 40%), can apply for MBBS courses in Russia. Tamil medium students can also apply. There are no pre-qualifying exams like CET, IELTS, etc. for admissions to universities in Russia.

The education fair 2026 also features the participation of science, technology, and engineering education institutions that offer programs in emerging and cutting-edge domains such as bio-technology, artificial intelligence, and data science. The universities participating in the Education Fair include: Volgograd State Medical University, Volgograd;

National Research Nuclear University MEPhI, Moscow;

Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University, Kaliningrad; Kazan State Medical University, Kazan; North Caucasus Federal University, Stavropol; Moscow Aviation Institute, Moscow; and Pirogov Russian National Research Medical University, Moscow.

The press meet, organised to announce the launch of the fair, was addressed by Mr. Valerii Khodzhaev, Consul General, Consulate General the Russian Federation in Chennai, South India, Mr. Alexander Dodonov, Vice Consul & Director, Russian Honor, Chennai, Dr. Berezhanskiy Pavel Viacheslavovich, Professor, N.F. Filatov Of The Sechenov's University and Mr. Ravi Chandran, C. Managing Director, Study Abroad Educational Consultants, the authorised Indian representative for Russian Universities.

In his address, Mr. Valerii Khodzhaev said, "Russian universities have a long-standing reputation of providing high-quality medical education in the world. Students from India have been admitted to Russian universities for the last 60 years. Russia continues to be the top choice for Indian stu-

dents seeking medical education abroad, as Russian universities proactively adhere to the changing norms and guidelines of India's National Medical Commission (NMC) to ensure that their MBBS programs are well recognised in India. Every year thousands of Indian students step into Russia to get prestigious, globally recognised and affordable education. With a comprehensive curriculum, experienced faculty, and advanced facilities, Russian universities offer a robust learning environment for Indian students pursuing medical education in the country."

Talking about scholarship programs, Mr. Alexander Dodonov said, "As in the past, the Russian Government's annual 100% scholarship programs will award grants to more than 200 Indian students this year as well. This will enable them to pursue Bachelor's, Master's, Specialist, and Postgraduate Programs in Russia's leading universities free of cost. The cost of higher education is relatively cheaper because it is highly subsidised by the Government of the Russian Federation. Our universities also provide assis-

tance as many have special adaptation programs and support systems for Indian students."

Mr. Ravi Chandran commented that, "There are more than 300,000 international students from 200 different countries enrolled in the 600-odd government universities across Russia. By and large, medicine is the most popular area of study among Indian students who choose to pursue their higher education in Russia. Currently, there are about 25,000 Indian students studying medicine in about 30 Russian universities that offer M.D., a degree equivalent to MBBS in India. All the Russian universities adhere to NMC guidelines - including the latest one issued by it in November, 2021 relating to the duration of the MBB program and internship, curriculum, medium of instruction (English), among others. The institutions have made sure that the safety of Indian students and their education are not impacted by the external geopolitical situations."

India is living longer. But are we retiring smarter?

A 30-year-old professional in India today is likely to live well into their 80s - translating into nearly 25-30 years of life after retirement.

Pause and think about that.

This isn't a brief phase. It's an entire second innings - one that demands steady income, rising healthcare support, and long-term financial independence. Yet many Indians continue to plan for retirement as though it will last only 10-15 years.

The gap between expectation and reality is steadily widening.

The New Retirement Reality

India is changing rapidly. Life expectancy is increasing, healthcare costs are rising faster than inflation, and traditional family support systems are evolving.

For younger professionals,

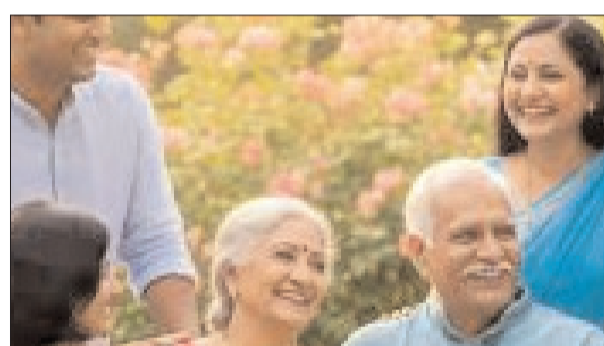
this creates a clear challenge: you are likely to live longer, but you will also need to fund a much longer life - largely on your own.

Despite this shift, most financial planning still focuses on building a retirement corpus, without fully addressing how that corpus will sustain everyday living over decades.

The risk of outliving your savings

Consider this: a retirement corpus of ₹1 crore may seem substantial today. However, when spread across 25-30 years - and adjusted for inflation and medical expenses - its real value can decline significantly.

The real concern is not just how much you save, but how long those savings will last. Because retirement is not a one-time expense. It is a recurring, monthly responsibility.



Rethinking retirement planning

This is where a shift in thinking becomes essential.

Instead of asking, "How much do I need to save?" the more relevant question is, "How will my savings support me every month?"

Modern retirement planning is no longer just about accumulation. It is about creating a predictable and reliable income stream that lasts

a lifetime.

From savings to sustained support

SBI Life - Smart Annuity Plus is designed with this objective in mind.

It enables individuals to convert their savings into guaranteed regular income, while offering flexibility in when and how that income begins. As an individual, non-linked, non-participating general annuity product, it pro-

vides both immediate and deferred annuity options suited to different life stages.

Building a reliable financial cushion

A key advantage of the plan is its ability to convert a lump sum into a steady income stream for life, helping individuals maintain financial independence and meet regular expenses with confidence.

Immediate annuity options allow income to begin soon after purchase

Deferred annuity options allow individuals to invest today and start income later, making them especially relevant for younger planners

Flexibility for different needs

Retirement goals differ, and financial solutions must reflect that. SBI Life - Smart Annuity Plus offers multiple annuity options, including:

" Lifetime income for the annuitant

" Return of purchase price to nominees

" Increasing annuity options to help manage inflation

" Joint life options to ensure continuity for a spouse

" Policyholders can also choose payout frequencies - monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or annually - with a single premium structure that converts a lump sum into lifelong income.

The power of planning ahead

For younger individuals, time is a powerful advantage.

Starting early allows better planning, greater flexibility with deferred options, and clearer financial direction. It turns retirement planning into a proactive strategy rather than a last-minute necessity.

IndiaAI, ICMR join hands to boost responsible AI adoption in healthcare

NEW DELHI : IndiaAI on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) towards advancing healthcare outcomes through the responsible and scalable application of artificial intelligence (AI).

The collaboration is expected to catalyse innovation at the intersection of technology and public health, while ensuring adherence to ethical standards, data privacy, and regulatory frameworks.

Both the institutions will leverage their complementary strengths. IndiaAI's compute infrastructure, dataset platforms, and AI skilling initiatives, alongside ICMR's biomedical research expertise and its Medical Information Data for AI Solutions (MIDAS) framework to enable innovation, research, and deployment of AI-driven healthcare solutions.

According to IT Ministry, the MoU establishes a structured framework for collaboration, bringing together IndiaAI's technology infrastructure and AI ecosystem capabilities with ICMR's deep domain expertise in biomedical research and public health.

The partnership aims to create a nationally coherent and interoperable AI ecosystem for healthcare in India. ICMR will contribute anonymised and ethics-approved health research datasets, AI models, and toolkits developed under the MIDAS framework to the AIKosh platform.

This will enable broader access to high-quality biomedical datasets for researchers, startups, and innovators across India.

WHY DISTANCE FROM IN-LAWS AND HOLD ON HUSBAND?

- DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

MARRIAGE : isn't a power struggle, but rather a relationship of trust, respect, and responsibility between two individuals. However, in our society, marriage is often transformed from a partnership into a game of control, where one party seeks to impose its traditions and the other adopts a rigid stance to protect its independence. This conflict eventually turns into conflict, distance, and distrust, leading people to blame the relationship as a whole. The real problem lies not in the relationship itself, but in the way we understand it.

It's easy to dismiss the marital tensions we see today as merely a matter of women's perception, but that would be an incomplete analysis. Indian families have long placed the man in the role of decision-maker and the woman in the subservient role. Within this framework, the daughter-in-law was expected to accept, remain

silent, conform, and unquestioningly follow family traditions. On the other hand, a new generation of women, with education, jobs, self-reliance, and self-respect, are challenging this role. They no longer want to be just "daughters-in-law"; they want to be respected as individuals.

This is where the generational divide becomes clearly visible. In the past, marriage meant moving into the husband's home and adapting to the same system, whether it was fair or not. Today's woman believes that even after marriage, she should retain her own individuality, her own family, her own thoughts, and her own boundaries. This demand is not wrong in itself. Every person has the right to live with dignity and self-respect. The problem begins when this right is mistaken for stubbornness or rebellion.

On the other hand, many men also remain stuck in old patterns. They want their

wives to completely integrate into their family, obey their parents' every word, follow every household tradition, and remain unquestioning under any circumstances. They forget that marriage is a union of two individuals, not a power of one over the other. When a man believes that his wife simply has to adjust, and only he has the power to change her, it creates an imbalance in the relationship. This imbalance gradually turns into suspicion, bitterness, and distance.

The relationship with in-laws remains sweet as long as there is respect. Respect doesn't just mean formal respect, but emotional acceptance. Expecting a daughter-in-law to abandon her parents, her values, her thoughts, and her priorities is actually a form of emotional pressure. It's one thing to acquire a new home after marriage, but it's quite another to sever old ties. A woman can be a daughter, a wife, and a daughter-in-law all at the



same time. The problem arises when she is asked to remain only a daughter-in-law, and her other identities are neglected.

Similarly, it's true that in some cases, wives turn the relationship into a struggle for control rather than a partnership. They try to control their husbands not through love, understanding, and communication, but through pressure, complaints, and accusations. Such behavior also weakens the relationship. If one party in a marriage tries to dominate every-

thing, the other either breaks down or becomes rigid in resistance. Therefore, it wouldn't be correct to say that the fault lies solely with men or solely with women. The problem lies with the mindset that turns marriage into a struggle for power balance rather than cooperation.

In fact, many layers of marriage interact in Indian society. Love, tradition, caste, family, property, prestige, and social pressure all influence marriage. Expecting one person to accept everything without protest is unrealistic.

Society is changing, education has increased, economic independence has grown, and access to information has also expanded. People no longer accept past decisions without question. This is why the need for communication within marriage is greater than ever. Unfortunately, communication is often replaced by accusations, complaints, and emotional distance.

In many homes, problems arise less from the husband and wife than from the family's intrusive role. In-laws, siblings, relatives, and society all join forces to voice their opinions about the couple's personal lives. Advice, comparisons, and interference on every small matter erode the relationship. When the husband doesn't stand by his wife, the wife feels she has no support left after marriage. And when the husband feels that because his wife has come to his home, he must completely submit to her, he loses sensitivity. This creates a distance between the two

parties. The relationship becomes less loving and more strategic.

It's also important to understand that freedom and independence are not the same thing. A woman speaking up for her dignity, making her own decisions, and protecting her self-respect isn't independence. However, if she sees conflict as the only solution to everything, there can be no peace in the relationship. Similarly, a man's responsibility to his family is essential, but unilaterally ruling over his wife in the name of responsibility is unfair. The relationship between husband and wife should be balanced by dignity, compassion, and respect. Until this balance is achieved, tensions will persist in the marriage.

Society must accept that today's woman is no longer the silent and tolerant woman she once was. This change isn't bad. It's a sign of social progress. A woman who is educated, earns, and understands her rights won't com-

promise on everything. She also realizes that marriage doesn't mean surrender, but a shared life. Similarly, a man must understand that respecting his wife isn't a sign of weakness, but rather maturity. A husband who can treat his wife as an equal is truly strong. A husband who seeks to suppress his wife isn't powerful, but insecure.

The most pressing need within families is to view relationships not as hierarchies, but as partnerships. A daughter deserves the same respect as a daughter-in-law in her own home. A wife deserves authority in her husband's home, not favor. A husband should also be a partner who understands, listens, and shares responsibilities, not just earns. The sooner this is understood, the sooner tensions in marital relationships will diminish. The future of marriage lies in dialogue, not oppression. It lies in trust, not fear. It lies in equality, not command.

Gazans confined to less than half of strip: UN

MI News Service, United Nations : The 2.1 million people in Gaza remain confined to less than half of the strip, said UN humanitarian on Wednesday.

People are unable to access parts of Gaza where land reserves and critical facilities are located. They are also unable to travel abroad or access the West Bank, where services such as specialized health care are available, said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). People who are allowed to exit as part of medical evacuations represent a tiny fraction of those who need services that are unavailable locally, the office said in a news release.

Restoring local services is hindered by restrictions on the entry of critical items and restrictions on the operations of key humanitarian partners, it said.

Despite the restrictions, OCHA's partners last week distributed nearly 5,000 bedding items, 600 bedding kits, over 1,500 sealing-off kits, and nearly 550 tents to more than 4,400 families. Partners leading on food security continue to serve about 1.1 million meals every day through more than 120 kitchens, said the office. More than six months since the declaration of a ceasefire, hunger has not disappeared in Gaza. OCHA quoted the World Food Programme as saying, Families still rely on food assistance to get by as fresh food remains too expensive. One in five families eats only one meal every day.

Son of Hamas leader killed in Israeli airstrike in Gaza

MI News Service, Gaza: Azzam al-Hayya, son of senior Hamas leader Khalil al-Hayya, died Thursday from injuries sustained in an Israeli airstrike, according to Palestinian medical sources. The sources told Xinhua that Azzam al-Hayya succumbed to critical injuries suffered in an Israeli airstrike that targeted a gathering of Palestinians in central Gaza City on Wednesday. He had been receiving treatment at the Baptist Hospital in Gaza City, where doctors later pronounced him dead on Thursday morning.

Israeli military sources confirmed Wednesday night that the Israeli army had targeted Azzam al-Hayya. He was the fourth son of Khalil al-Hayya to be killed in Israeli operations in recent years.

In remarks following his son's death, Khalil al-Hayya said the targeting was "an extension of the aggression against our people everywhere" and accused Israel of attempting to pressure Palestinian negotiators through military escalation. He further warned that Israel's threats of expanded military operations in Gaza were intended to force concessions from Palestinian leaders and negotiators.

Trump reverses Hormuz plan after Saudi Arabia suspends U.S.

MI News Service, Washington : U.S. President Donald Trump abruptly reversed his plan to escort ships through the Strait of Hormuz after Saudi Arabia blocked U.S. use of its bases and airspace for the operation, NBC News reported Wednesday, citing two U.S. officials.

Trump's announcement of "Project Freedom" on social media reportedly angered Saudi leadership, the report said.

A call with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud failed to resolve the issue, forcing Trump to pause the plan to restore U.S. military access to the critical airspace.

Israel strikes Beirut suburbs, claims killing of Hezbollah Radwan commander

MI News Service, Jerusalem : Israeli forces conducted an airstrike on Beirut's southern suburbs on Thursday, targeting the Ghobeiri area and claiming to have assassinated Malek Balou, a commander in Hezbollah's elite Radwan Force.

Lebanon's state-run National News Agency reported that Israeli warplanes launched the attack, causing a loud explosion and significant damage in the predominantly Shia neighbourhood. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu confirmed the operation, stating that he and Defence Minister Israel Katz had ordered the strike.

"Radwan terrorists are responsible for shooting at Israeli settlements and harming soldiers. No terrorist has immunity - Israel's long hand will catch every enemy and murderer," Netanyahu said in a Telegram post. He added that the strike was part of efforts to restore security to northern Israeli residents.

This marks the first Israeli attack on Beirut's southern suburbs since the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah took effect on April 17. The truce, brokered by Washington, has been fragile, with both sides repeatedly accusing each other of violations.



Prior to the strike, the southern suburbs had experienced cautious calm. Many displaced residents had returned, and streets were bustling again. According to Al Jazeera's Obaida Hitto reporting from Tyre, an unspoken understanding had existed that Beirut would largely be spared during the truce, while Israel retained the right to target perceived threats elsewhere.

Despite the ceasefire, Israeli strikes have continued in southern and eastern Lebanon. On Wednesday alone, attacks killed at least 13 people, including four in the Bekaa Valley. The Israeli military reported striking Hezbollah targets in the south after issuing evacuation warnings to residents of several towns.

Hezbollah has not yet commented on the claim regarding Balou's death but has claimed responsibility for multiple operations against Israeli forces in southern Lebanon and northern Israel in recent weeks.

Since March 2, Israeli strikes in Lebanon have killed more than 2,700 people, including dozens since the April 17 truce. The Israeli military says it has lost 17 soldiers and one civilian contractor during the fighting.

2005 encounter of Sohrabuddin Shaikh: HC upholds acquittal of 22 people

MI News Service, Mumbai : The Bombay High Court on Thursday, May 7, upheld the acquittal of the 22 accused in the 2005 case of the alleged fake encounter of gangster Sohrabuddin Shaikh, his wife Kausar Bi and his aide Tulsiram Pranjapati.

A bench of Chief Justice Shree Chandrashekhara and Justice Gautam Ankhad dismissed the appeals filed by Shaikh's brothers, Rubabuddin and Nayabuddin, challenging the December 2018 judgment of a special court acquitting all the accused in the case.

Among the 22 accused acquitted, 21 were junior-level officers from Gujarat and Rajasthan police, who were allegedly part of the teams that abducted the three and later killed them in staged encounters.

The remaining one accused was the owner of a farmhouse in Gujarat, where Shaikh and Kausar Bi were allegedly illegally detained before they were

killed. The special court, while acquitting the accused, had observed that the prosecution failed to establish a cogent case to suggest there had been any conspiracy to kill Shaikh and the others, and that the present accused persons had any role in it.

In April 2019, Shaikh's brothers filed an appeal in the High Court. The prosecuting agency, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), told the court last year that it had accepted the acquittal judgment and was not going to appeal.

Sohrabuddin Shaikh was an alleged gangster with ties to organised crime networks operating across Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. According to the CBI, he and his wife Kausar Bi were intercepted on the night of November 22-23, 2005, while travelling by bus from Hyderabad to Sangli, by a joint team of Gujarat and Rajasthan police personnel.

The two were separated and taken away in different

vehicles. Sohrabuddin was killed on November 26, 2005, in what the agency alleged was a staged encounter near Ahmedabad. Kausar Bi was killed three days later. Their aide Tulsiram Pranjapati, considered a key eyewitness to the killings, was eliminated in another alleged encounter on the Gujarat-Rajasthan border in December 2006.

The CBI's case rested on the theory that the killings were not a legitimate police action but a premeditated conspiracy involving senior police officers and local politicians. Central to the prosecution's narrative was the alleged existence of a nexus between the police teams and political figures, some of whom were named as accused but later discharged from the case. Among those discharged was Amit Shah, then Gujarat's minister of state for home, who was the prime accused before the charges against him were dropped in 2014.

Ukraine accuses Russia of ignoring ceasefire proposal

MI News Service, Kiev : Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Wednesday that Russia continues its military operations despite Ukraine's proposal for a ceasefire and warned that Kiev will respond in kind.

"Russia has not stopped any of its military activity. Unfortunately, it has not ceased. Ukraine will respond in a reciprocal manner," Zelensky wrote on Telegram.

He noted that Russia attacked seven Ukrainian regions on Wednesday despite a Kiev-proposed ceasefire that took effect at midnight.

"Depending on the situation tonight and tomorrow, we will also decide on our fully fair response," Zelensky said.

He emphasized that Ukraine remains committed to working for peace and seeks to end the conflict with dignity.

8 suspected ISIS-linked militants arrested in Indonesia

MI News Service, Jakarta : Indonesia's counterterrorism squad Densus 88 has arrested eight suspected members of the homegrown extremist group Jamaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), which is affiliated with the Islamic State group, in Central Sulawesi province, police said.

The arrests took place between 1:30 a.m. and 3:30 a.m. local time on Wednesday in Poso regency and Parigi Moutong regency, Densus 88 spokesperson Mayndra Eka Wardhana said in a statement.

He said preliminary investigations indicated that the suspects have been involved in spreading terrorist propaganda online, including images, writings, and videos promoting radical ideologies, and were also suspected of involvement in other terrorist activities.

"The operation is part of ongoing efforts to prevent radicalism and safeguard national security," he said, adding that authorities are continuing to investigate the suspects.

JAD has been linked to several attacks across Indonesia, including the 2021 cathedral bombing in Makassar and the 2018 church bombings in East Java. The group was declared illegal in 2018.

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Trump hints at Iran deal as Israel strikes Beirut, ceasefire tensions rise

MI News Service, Washington : US President Donald Trump announced positive progress in talks with Iran, stating he had "very good talks" and that "it's very possible we'll make a deal."

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmail Baghaei confirmed that a US proposal to end the conflict remains under review. Tehran is finalising its position and will convey its response through mediator Pakistan, according to Iran's ISNA news agency.

Meanwhile, Israel escalated its military operations in Lebanon by bombing Beirut — the first strike on the Lebanese capital since a fragile



ceasefire took effect on April 17. Israeli forces have repeatedly violated the agreement, with attacks on Wednesday killing at least 13 people across Lebanon. Israel claimed one strike targeted a senior Hezbollah commander

in Beirut.

In Gaza, Hamas strongly condemned ongoing Israeli bombings, describing them as a "blatant violation of the ceasefire agreement" and a continuation of Israel's "war of extermination" in the Palestinian territory. The group highlighted the rising daily death toll amid persistent strikes.

These developments underscore the fragile state of multiple ceasefires in the region, even as diplomatic efforts between the US and Iran appear to be gaining momentum. The situation remains highly volatile with potential implications for broader regional stability.

'Entire world would be hostage' if Iran acquires nuclear weapon, says Trump

MI News Service, Washington : US President Donald Trump on Thursday, May 7, warned that the world would face serious consequences if Iran obtains a nuclear weapon, as diplomatic efforts to end the conflict in West Asia continue alongside rising military tensions across the region.

Speaking ahead of US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's meeting with Pope Leo, Trump said his position on Iran remained unchanged.

"Iran cannot have a

nuclear weapon," Trump said. "The entire world would be hostage" if Tehran acquired one, he added.

The remarks came as reports suggested Iran is preparing to submit its response to a US-backed proposal aimed at ending the war and launching broader negotiations over Tehran's nuclear programme and regional security issues.

Iranian officials and former military commanders stressed that the Strait of Hormuz must remain

under Iranian control.

Mohsen Rezaei, a former commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and current member of Iran's Expediency Council, warned that foreign powers could use the waterway against Iran if control shifted away from Tehran.

"If control and management of the Strait of Hormuz pass out of Iran's hands, the enemy will once again weaponise it against Iran and its people," Rezaei told Iran's ISNA news agency.

UP: 14-year-old Muslim girl kidnapped, drugged, raped and and assaulted for two days in Kannauj

MI News Service, Kannauj : In a shocking incident in Kannauj district, Uttar Pradesh, a 14-year-old girl studying at Madarsa Mohsinat in Hammalipura was kidnapped, tortured, and sexually assaulted by three men.

The minor, who had been pursuing her education at the madrasa for about a year to fulfill her dreams, became the victim of a calculated conspiracy on May 3, 2026.

According to her father, Akeel, a resident of Sayyadpur Sakri village, the girl stepped out of the hostel around 8 AM to buy food items but did not return. The madrasa authorities immediately informed the family, prompting a desperate search.

The accused, Deepu, lured the innocent girl by falsely claiming that her mother was calling her. Trusting him, she ap-

proached, only to be forcibly dragged into his house in Sheikhpura, where she was locked up and held hostage for nearly two days.

During her captivity, the girl endured unimaginable brutality. Deepu, along with his brother Sanjeev and friend Dheeraj, allegedly forced her to consume alcohol disguised as a cold drink. They then raped her repeatedly. In a grotesque attempt to destroy her identity, the perpetrators applied sindoor in her hair parting and mahawar on her feet, staging a fake marriage.

On Tuesday afternoon, the brave girl managed to access a mobile phone and called her mother. In a terrified voice, she revealed her location by mentioning she could see the madrasa window from where she was tied up.

Acting swiftly on this

vital clue, the family and locals searched nearby houses and found her unconscious and bound on the rooftop of Deepu's house. Police were alerted via the 112 emergency helpline, and the girl was rescued and rushed to the district hospital.

Upon regaining consciousness, the victim narrated the entire ordeal. An FIR has been registered against the accused under relevant serious sections of the law. While Deepu fled the scene during the rescue, police have detained one accused for interrogation and assured strict action against all culprits.

This heart-wrenching case has sparked outrage, highlighting concerns over the safety of young girls studying in the area. Authorities have promised a thorough investigation to ensure justice for the victim.

US expects Iran reply within 48 hours amid escalating tensions

MI News Service, Washington : The United States is expecting a response from Iran within the next 24 to 48 hours as diplomatic efforts continue amid the ongoing American-Israeli war on Iran, now in its 69th day on Thursday, May 7, according to a report by Axios.

The report said communication with Tehran has slowed because messages must be relayed through Iran's Supreme Leader, who is reportedly in hiding for security reasons.

US President Donald Trump said "very good talks" had taken place regarding Iran and expressed optimism that an agreement could still be reached.

Iranian airstrikes



damaged or destroyed more than 200 structures and military assets at US bases across the Middle East since the war began, according to an analysis by The Washington Post based on satellite imagery.

The report said at least 228 structures and pieces of equipment were hit across

European and commercial imagery providers.

Satellite imagery reported damage at multiple US military sites in the Middle East. Photo: Washington Post

US Central Command disputed claims of extensive destruction, saying satellite imagery alone does not provide a full assessment and noting that some facilities had already been evacuated before strikes occurred.

Mark Cancian, a defence expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the newspaper the strikes appeared highly precise, highlighting the growing effectiveness of missile and drone warfare.

Drones from Russia crash in Latvia, prompting air alerts: Army

MI News Service, Riga : Several drones entered Latvian airspace from Russia early Thursday, with two crashing in the eastern region of Latgale, the National Armed Forces (NAF) reported. Mobile alerts were issued to residents in the Ludza, Balvi, and Rezekne districts during the early hours, said the NAF, adding that the air alert

was later lifted and that additional air defense units have been deployed along the eastern border. All schools in Rezekne were closed, where at least one drone crashed into an oil storage facility, the Latvian news agency LETA reported. Students in Ludza and Balvi switched to remote learning. Following the incident, the

Saeima's (parliament's) national security commission will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday. It remains unclear whether the drones originated from Russia or Ukraine. Recently, Ukrainian drones launched against Russian targets have repeatedly strayed off course and flown into Latvia and Estonia.

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

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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.	(Borrower) Priya Marine & (Guarantor) Pradeep Kumar Pradhan & Priya Marine Seafood Private Limited & (Mortgagor) Pradeep Kumar Pradhan/ Represented By Proprietor Pradeep Kumar Pradhan/ Kuppur No 21 & 22, Ground Floor, Block 12B Regent City, Rajarhat West Bengal Kolkata - 700135/ 031705500868	Prop.-1) Shop No. 18, Ground Floor, Block 12B, Regent City, Part II of First Schedule: R.S. Dag No. 126 (P), 135, 136 & 138 (P), Khatian No. 687, J.L. No. 30, Mouza Kalaberia, Part I of First Schedule: R.S./L.R. Dag No. 136, 126, 135, 119, 84, 127, 86, 87, 131, 124, 138, 134, 140, 86/535, 129, 130, 118, 128, 143 & 144, L.R. Khatian No. 213, 295, 388, 357, 34, 380, 76, 403, 269, 195, L.R. Khatian No. 205, 216, 186, 16, J.L. No. 29 & 30, Mouza Kalaberia & Khamar, Rajarhat-Bishnupur No.1 Gram Panchayet, P.S. Rajarhat, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700135, West Bengal (super Built Up Area 302 Sq.ft. Together With Proportionate Share of Land) Bounded By North: by: South: by: East: by: West: by: Prop.-2) Shop No. 19, Ground Floor, Block 12b, Regent City, Part II of First Schedule: R.S. Dag No. 126 (P), 135, 136 & 138 (P), Khatian No. 687, J.L. No. 30, Mouza Kalaberia, Part I of First Schedule: R.S./L.R. Dag No. 136, 126, 135, 119, 84, 127, 86, 87, 131, 124, 138, 134, 140, 86/535, 129, 130, 118, 128, 143 & 144, L.R. Khatian No. 213, 295, 388, 357, 34, 380, 76, 403, 269, 195, L.R. Khatian No. 205, 216, 186, 16, J.L. No. 29 & 30, Mouza Kalaberia & Khamar, Rajarhat-Bishnupur No.1 Gram Panchayet, P.S. Rajarhat, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700135, West Bengal (Super Built Up Area 226 Sq.ft. Together With Proportionate Share of Land) Bounded By North: by: South: by: East: by: West: by: Prop.-3) Shop No. 19a, Ground Floor, Block 12B, Regent City, Part II of First Schedule: R.S. Dag No. 126 (P), 135, 136 & 138 (P), Khatian No. 687, J.L. No. 30, Mouza Kalaberia, Part I of First Schedule: R.S./L.R. Dag No. 136, 126, 135, 119, 84, 127, 86, 87, 131, 124, 138, 134, 140, 86/535, 129, 130, 118, 128, 143 & 144, L.R. Khatian No. 213, 295, 388, 357, 34, 380, 76, 403, 269, 195, L.R. Khatian No. 205, 216, 186, 16, J.L. No. 29 & 30, Mouza Kalaberia & Khamar, Rajarhat-Bishnupur No.1 Gram Panchayet, P.S. Rajarhat, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700135, West Bengal (super Built Up Area 424 Sq.ft. Together With Proportionate Share of Land) Bounded By North: by: South: by: East: by: West: by: Prop.-4) Shop No. 21, Ground Floor, Block 12b, Regent City, Part II of First Schedule: R.S. Dag No. 126 (P), 135, 136 & 138 (P), Khatian No. 687, J.L. No. 30, Mouza Kalaberia, Part I of First Schedule: R.S./L.R. Dag No. 136, 126, 135, 119, 84, 127, 86, 87, 131, 124, 138, 134, 140, 86/535, 129, 130, 118, 128, 143 & 144, L.R. Khatian No. 213, 295, 388, 357, 34, 380, 76, 403, 269, 195, L.R. Khatian No. 205, 216, 186, 16, J.L. No. 29 & 30, Mouza Kalaberia & Khamar, Rajarhat-Bishnupur No.1 Gram Panchayet, P.S. Rajarhat, District North 24 Parganas, Kolkata 700135, West Bengal (super Built Up Area 1250 Sq.ft. Together With Proportionate Share of Land) Bounded By North: by: South: by: East: by: West: by: /Date of Symbolic : 05/05/2026	21/01/2026 & Rs. 2,39,60,484.94/-	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 publication of this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.

Date: May 08, 2026
Place: Kolkata

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.



Lucknow Super Giants' Arshin Kulkarni plays a shot during the IPL 2026 match between Lucknow Super Giants and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at Ekana Cricket Stadium in Lucknow on Thursday, May 07, 2026. (Photo: IANS)

IPL 2026: Inconsistent DC look to arrest slide against surging KKR

NEW DELHI : As the race for the IPL 2026 playoffs intensifies, time is fast evaporating for a stuttering Delhi Capitals. To keep their hopes alive, Axar Patel's men must arrest a prolonged slide in form and a dismal home record when they host a surging Kolkata Knight Riders at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Friday evening.

While DC has managed a solitary win from five home games this season, three-time winners KKR arrive on the back of a three-match winning streak after a torrid start that saw them be winless in their first six matches. History also favours the visitors - KKR holds a 3-0 head-to-head advantage over DC since 2024, and a win on Friday would see them leapfrog the hosts on the points table.

DC's struggles have been punctuated by a chronic lack of stability. The side has fielded 20 players in ten games - the second-most for a side in the tournament - mirroring the unsettled approach that marred their 2025 season. This 'selection roulette' was evident in their eight-wicket loss to CSK, where Karun Nair replaced Sameer Rizvi in the playing eleven, only for the latter to be summoned as an Impact Player following yet another top-order collapse.

This instability is largely a self-inflicted byproduct of an



imbalanced playing roster. By exhausting three overseas slots on batters while relying on an all-domestic seam bowling attack, DC's strategic gamble backfired. The rigidity of this structure was exposed when Pathum Nissanka's recall in Jaipur came at the expense of veteran finisher David Miller.

While Rizvi and Tristan Stubbs have staged rescue acts, the fact that an Impact Player has been Delhi's top scorer in the last two home games highlights a top-order in crisis. The home-turf hoodoo remains a significant psychological barrier - DC has managed just two wins in their last ten home outings since 2025. The varied nature of the surfaces has left the side second-guessing their own home conditions. Interestingly, DC have lost every time when batting first,

and found success while chasing.

KL Rahul has been the constant pillar of DC's batting, amassing 445 runs at a strike rate of 181. His strike rate of 211 between overs 7-16 is the second-best in the league, and accounts for a staggering 26 percent of his team's runs in this season - a figure that underlines the fragility around him and the need for other batters to be more consistent in batting returns. The bowling metrics are equally concerning for DC - they have picked 41 wickets - the lowest for any side - at an economy rate of 10.2. T. Natarajan's form has dipped sharply, with just one wicket in his last seven games, while Kuldeep Yadav is enduring his most expensive season - conceding at 10.2 runs per over, while going wicketless five times. Compounding

these issues is a league-worst catch efficiency of 64.6 percent for DC, who have grassed 17 catches.

Meanwhile, for KKR, the spin duo of Sunil Narine and Varun Chakravarthy will again be the key. Narine, who became only the third bowler to take 200 IPL wickets in the side's win over Sunrisers Hyderabad, is conceding just 6.8 an over - the best economy rate for a bowler in the competition.

Chakravarthy has taken ten wickets in his last four matches after a slow start, and the numbers are unambiguous: KKR have lost every match in which he has gone wicketless and won three of four when he has taken two or more. With Tuesday's game dishing out a surface favouring spinners, it plays right into their hands.

In the batting department, Angkrish Raghuvanshi's composed 59 against SRH in the last game and Rinku Singh's 158 runs without dismissal in his last three innings along with Cameron Green looking sharp with the bat are signals of a team finding its rhythm.

What will also delight KKR is their pacers have also provided ample support to the spin attack and have been economical too, with young Kartik Tyagi in delightful form. The toss, as much as the playing eleven, could prove to be decisive for an inconsistent DC, who must fix

their broken blueprint if they are to halt KKR's charge, before the gate to entering the playoffs shuts for them.

When: Friday, May 8, 7:30PM IST

Where: Arun Jaitley Stadium, New Delhi

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

SQUADS
Delhi Capitals: Axar Patel (captain), KL Rahul, Kuldeep Yadav, Karun Nair, David Miller, Pathum Nissanka, Tristan Stubbs, Sameer Rizvi, Nitish Rana, T. Natarajan, Mukesh Kumar, Ashutosh Sharma, Dushmantha Chameera, Lungi Ngidi, Vipraj Nigam, Sahil Parakh, Prithvi Shaw, Abhishek Porel, Ajay Mandal, Tripurana Vijay, Madhav Tiwari, Auqib Nabi Dar, Mitchell Starc, Kyle Jamieson and Rehan Ahmed

Kolkata Knight Riders: Ajinkya Rahane (captain), Rinku Singh, Sunil Narine, Varun Chakravarthy, Anukul Roy, Angkrish Raghuvanshi (wk), Cameron Green, Ramandeep Singh, Finn Allen, Vaibhav Arora, Kartik Tyagi, Manish Pandey, Rovman Powell, Umran Malik, Matheesha Pathirana, Rahul Tripathi, Tim Seifert, Tejasvi Dahiya, Rachin Ravindra, Blessing Muzarabani, Navdeep Saini, Prashant Solanki, Daksh Kamra, Sarthak Ranjan, and Saurabh Dube.

Mbappe's future under spotlight as Real Madrid prepare for crucial Clasico

MADRID : French star footballer Kylian Mbappe has become the centre of attention ahead of Real Madrid's crucial Clasico clash against FC Barcelona on Sunday, with questions surrounding both his fitness and long-term future at the club.

Barcelona can secure the La Liga title with a draw at home, while Real Madrid are fighting to delay their rivals' celebrations in what has been a disappointing season for the Spanish giants. Mbappe missed last weekend's 2-0 win over Espanyol due to a muscle injury and was limited to light gym work on Wednesday, leaving doubts over his availability for the match.

Mbappe's performances in front of goal have remained impressive, with 41 goals in 41 games this season and 85 goals in 100 appearances for Real Madrid. However, attention has increasingly shifted toward concerns over his attitude and relationship with the squad, as reported by Xinhua.

The latest criticism emerged after Mbappe travelled to Sardinia with his partner while recovering from injury. Reports also claimed that his private jet



landed in Madrid only minutes before kickoff against Espanyol, leading to questions in sections of the Spanish media about his commitment to the team.

Earlier this year, Mbappe also made headlines after reportedly travelling to France for a second medical opinion on a knee injury. Reports suggesting that Real Madrid's medical staff initially scanned the wrong knee were later denied by the player. The scrutiny comes during a difficult period for Real Madrid. The club's only trophy during Mbappe's two seasons has been the 2024 UEFA Super Cup victory over

Atalanta. Since then, Barcelona have dominated domestic competitions, winning La Liga and defeating Madrid in the Copa del Rey final, while Arsenal and Bayern Munich knocked Madrid out of the Champions League in successive seasons.

Real Madrid are also expected to undergo major changes this summer, with concerns over several senior players, including Dani Carvajal, Ferland Mendy, David Alaba, and Antonio Rudiger. Questions have also been raised over whether Mbappe, Jude Bellingham, and Vinicius can function together effectively in attack.

World Squash C'ships: Indian quartet brace for stiff challenge in Egypt

NEW DELHI : India's four-member men's contingent will aim to make a strong impression at the World Squash Championships, which gets underway in Giza, Egypt, on Friday. The Indian challenge will be led by Abhay Singh, alongside Veer Chotrani, Ramit Tandon, and Velavan Senthilkumar, in the prestigious tournament organised by the Professional Squash Association.

The championship, scheduled from May 8 to 16 at the Palm Hills Club and PGC Golf Central Mall in Giza, will feature several of the sport's top-ranked players, including reigning men's world No. 1 Mostafa Asal and women's top-ranked star Hania El Hammamy.

India's top-ranked player in the men's singles draw, Abhay Singh, faces a difficult start after being drawn against compatriot Veer Chotrani in the opening round. Abhay, currently ranked No. 22 in the world, enters the event as India's leading hope.

The winner of the all-Indian clash could face an even tougher assignment in the second round against defending champion Mostafa Asal or Germany's Raphael Kandra.

Velavan Senthilkumar has also been handed a challenging opener and will take on France's sixth-seeded Victor

Crouin, who is currently ranked fifth in the world.

Meanwhile, Ramit Tandon begins his campaign against Egypt's Kareem El Torkey. The Indian, ranked world No. 40, will aim to overcome the higher-ranked Egyptian in a bid to progress further in the tournament.

India endured an early exit at last year's edition in Chicago, where the campaign ended in the second round. Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, and Ramit Tandon bowed out after hard-fought defeats, while Velavan Senthilkumar exited in the opening round following a loss to Peru's Diego Elias.

Indian women's players, including promising youngster Anahat Singh, will not feature in this year's competition.

India is still chasing its first medal in the singles category at the World Squash Championships, with the country hoping to make a breakthrough ahead of squash's debut at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Where to watch: Fans in India can watch the tournament through live streaming on the official SquashTV platform. There will be no live television broadcast of the event in the country. Indian squad: Abhay Singh, Veer Chotrani, Ramit Tandon, Velavan Senthilkumar



Tennis: Ben Shelton signs up with Team World for Laver Cup 2026

LONDON : Ben Shelton will return to the Laver Cup 2026 after confirming his participation for Team World. The American, currently ranked World No. 6, is set for his third appearance at the tournament and joins a growing list of confirmed stars for the competition scheduled to be held at The O2 from September 25 to 27.

Team World has already secured commitments from Taylor Fritz and Alex de Minaur, while Team Europe will feature Carlos Alcaraz and Alexander Zverev.

Shelton has rapidly emerged as one of the ATP Tour's standout performers, earning recognition for his aggressive style and powerful left-handed game. The 23-year-old has enjoyed an impressive 2026 campaign so far, capturing ATP 500 titles in



Dallas and Munich and increasing his career tally to five trophies.

The American has also built an impressive record in the Laver Cup, winning six of his eight matches across appearances in Vancouver in

2023 and Berlin in 2024. He was instrumental in Team World's triumph during the 2023 edition, remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament.

Speaking after confirming his participation, Shelton said the event continued to hold special significance because of the opportunity to compete alongside some of the sport's biggest names.

"It's always an honour to be part of Team World. Getting the chance to spend a week with legends like Andre and Pat, learning from them and competing alongside this group, is something I really value and that you don't get anywhere else. I've got some great memories from the Laver Cup already, and I'm excited to get back out there in London with the guys," Shelton was

quoted as saying by ATP.

The 2026 tournament will mark Shelton's first appearance under Team World captain Andre Agassi and vice-captain Patrick Rafter.

Agassi welcomed Shelton's inclusion, praising the youngster's versatility and energy as he said, "Pat and I couldn't be happier that Ben is joining the team. He is a dynamic talent that will help us in singles, doubles, as well as with his infectious energy in the locker room and from the bench."

The Laver Cup returns to London four years after the 2022 edition at The O2, remembered for Roger Federer's emotional farewell appearance alongside long-time rival Rafael Nadal. Tennis greats Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray were also part of Team Europe during that edition.

NSF CONCLAVE KEY TOWARDS INDIA'S PREPARATION FOR ASIAN GAMES, CWG, AND OLYMPICS: MANDAVIYA

NEW DELHI : Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Mansukh Mandaviya on Wednesday said the National Sports Federation Conclave 2026 represents a key step in streamlining India's preparations for major international sporting competitions over the next decade.

The conclave brought together officials from 37 National Sports Federations (NSFs), including the Indian Olympic Association, to discuss India's sporting

roadmap and strategies for upcoming events such as the 2026 Commonwealth Games, 2026 Asian Games, and the 2028 Summer Olympics.

Addressing the gathering, Mandaviya said, "The National Sports Federation Conclave marks a coordinated step towards India's preparation for upcoming global sporting events."

The minister underlined the Centre's vision of establishing India as a major sporting nation through sci-

entific training systems, long-term athlete development, improved infrastructure, and sustained support mechanisms for elite athletes. Highlighting the need for institutional reforms and stronger coordination among stakeholders, Mandaviya said, "India's sporting future depends on stronger coordination between athletes, federations, and governments."

He stressed that athlete welfare should remain central to all administrative



decisions and called on federations to ensure transparency, accountability, and timely elections while strengthening governance systems. "Athlete welfare and athlete-centric governance must remain the core focus of every federation," Mandaviya said.

He also reiterated the government's resolve to tackle doping in sports through awareness drives, education programmes, and stricter enforcement. "Eradicating doping from

the Indian sports ecosystem requires collective responsibility and strict action," Mandaviya said, while urging federations, coaches, and support staff to work together to promote a clean sporting environment.

Mandaviya further highlighted initiatives such as the Khelo India, Fit India Movement, and the upcoming Khelo Bharat Mission as part of the government's larger effort to strengthen the country's sports ecosystem.

BCCI TO CRACK DOWN ON PROTOCOL BREACHES IN IPL, WARNS SECRETARY DEVAJIT SAIKIA

GUWAHATI : BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia has come down heavily on reports of "unauthorised persons" moving with IPL teams and players, asserting that the Board is not "sitting idle" and will take stringent action against violations.

Saikia said the BCCI and the IPL governing body are set to issue an advisory aimed at curbing "anomalies and irregularities" that have surfaced during the ongoing season, stressing that several incidents are in direct violation of the Board's anti-corruption protocols.

"This time, we have noticed several anomalies and irregularities involving a few franchises as well as some players. The BCCI and IPL are preparing an advisory, which will be released this evening. We have observed unauthorised persons travelling with team members, including in team buses, and some individuals visiting team hotels and even players' or officials' rooms without authorisation. This is completely against our anti-corruption protocols," Saikia said on Thursday.

Last month, Rajasthan Royals came under scrutiny on two separate occasions. First, team manager Romi Bhinder was fined Rs 1 lakh and issued a stern warning for using a mobile phone in the dugout during the match against Royal Challengers Bengaluru in Guwahati. Later, Royals skipper Sanju Samson was reportedly seen vaping inside the dressing room during the game against Punjab Kings in New Chandigarh.

Saikia also raised concerns over team owners and officials mingling with players in restricted areas, calling it a violation of the "sanctity of the dugout" and team environment.

"We have noticed some team owners and officials entering areas where they are not permitted to be. There are certain protocols that everyone must follow, but we have seen some dilution in their implementation," he said.

"We have taken these matters very seriously. You have already seen the incident involving the Rajasthan Royals manager using a mobile phone, and a player being caught vaping. These incidents are already in the public domain.