



Distress over NEET Paper Leak: Four Students Commit Suicide Nationwide;

Nation ● Pg 5



Park Circus turned into a Battlefield

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Rs. 3
KOLKATA
MONDAY, 18 May, 2026

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Morning India

WB govt issues new guidelines for animal slaughter

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has issued a set of guidelines barring animal slaughter without a "fit certificate" from authorities and warned of penal action if the directions are not adhered to. Authorities would assess the age and physical condition of bulls, bullocks, cows, calves, and buffaloes, before issuing a certificate for slaughter, it said. Only animals above 14 years of age or those found permanently incapacitated due to injury, deformity, age or incurable disease would qualify for slaughter, according to the notice.

CAA applicants won't lose govt benefits despite SIR exclusion: BENGAL MIN

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bengal Food and Supplies minister Ashok Kirtania assured that people whose names have been excluded in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise would still continue to receive government benefits if they apply for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The minister said: "There is no reason to worry even if names are removed from the SIR. Those whose names are excluded can apply for citizenship under the CAA. Once they do so, they will continue to receive all government benefits. Their ration facilities will also not be stopped."

The minister also warned of a major crackdown on corruption within his own department. He said the new government is determined to make the department corruption-free and identify individuals who had allegedly entered the country illegally and obtained ration cards unlawfully. "We will dismantle the corrupt syndicates involved in illegally issuing ration cards. Many people have also been using ration cards as identity proof by submitting Form 10. This will no longer continue, and action will be taken against those involved," he said.

The minister further promised strict action against corruption in Bongaon and said no political leader or worker found involved in irregularities would be spared. "We will build Bongaon into a 'Golden Bongaon'. Anyone associated with corruption here will face action from the government," he added. Later in the day, the minister visited Bongaon New Market and warned corrupt traders of stern administrative measures.

Condolance

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Chief Minister express condolences on the demise of Jannifer Paes. On Sunday he wrote in X handle: Deeply saddened by the passing away of Smt. Jennifer Paes; Mother of Indian Tennis legend Leander Paes.

A former Captain of the Indian Basketball team & Olympian, her immense contribution to Indian Sports and her legacy will always be remembered.

My heartfelt condolences to Leander Paes and the entire family in this hour of grief. Praying for strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

May her Soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Bulldozers Will Roll Wherever Illegal Construction Occurs in Bengal: Dilip Ghosh

MI News Service, Kolkata: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's 'bulldozer politics' has now begun to manifest in Bengal as well. Since the BJP's landslide victory in the recently concluded assembly elections and the formation of the new government, action against illegal encroachments and constructions in the state has intensified. Amidst this, Dilip Ghosh—a senior minister in the Bengal government—explicitly stated on Sunday that bulldozers would be deployed wherever illegal construction takes place, thereby justifying the operation carried out last night to demolish a large number of illegal shops built on the pavement outside Howrah Railway Station.

Speaking to the media in his assembly constituency of Kharagpur on Sunday morning, Minister Ghosh appealed to the public to abide by the law, asserting that the government would not tolerate any form of ●Continued to Pg 3

India is going through unprecedented transformation: MODI

MI News Service, Hague/New Delhi: Describing India as a "land of opportunities", Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the country is undergoing an "unprecedented transformation" and its aspirations are "no longer limited to its borders". "India of the 21st century is a land of opportunities. India is both technology-driven and humanity-driven. India is becoming as modern as it is ancient. Therefore, this is also the time to connect with your ancestral villages in India, and to participate in the journey of developed India," Modi said in his over 40-minute speech.

He urged all "friends of India" in the Netherlands to increase cooperation with India as much as possible. "This will also increase India's potential, and the return on your investments will also be higher. This is Modi's guarantee," he said, amid applause from the audience.

"Today, our India is dreaming big. Today, the country is saying - we don't just want transformation, we want the best. And we don't just want the best, we want the fastest. And that's why when aspirations are unlimited in India, efforts are also becoming limitless," he said.

Modi said the youth of India want to touch the sky now, and cited that as a reason behind India's startup ecosystem getting stronger. "Now we are the third-largest startup ecosystem in the world," he added.

"India's aspirations today are no longer limited to its borders. India wants to host the Olympics, become a global manufacturing hub, emerge as a leader in green energy and become the growth engine of the world," he said.

Modi said that India is currently experiencing an "unprecedented transformation". He further said: "You must have seen recently that India hosted the world's largest and most



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister of the Netherlands Rob Jetten in a group picture with the CEOs of leading Dutch companies across various sectors including energy, sustainability and technology, in the Hague.

successful AI Summit. Before that, India also successfully hosted the G20 Summit. And this was not a one-time event. This has now become the character of today's India." "India reached the moon where no one could reach before", said Modi, referring to India's space mission.

India made history when its Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully executed a soft landing on the lunar far side - often referred to as the 'dark side' - in 2023.

Recalling how India had only four unicorns in 2014, Modi on Saturday said the country now has nearly 125 active unicorns.

"Today, our startups are doing remarkable work in AI, defence, and the space sector. This culture of research and innovation is becoming even more expansive," he said.

The PM said India's aspiration-driven journey is also strengthening its democracy, mentioning the recently held assembly elections in several regions.

"This time, West Bengal, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry witnessed nearly 80-90 per cent voter turnout. Women's participation also increased significantly, and this trend is visible across every state. Today, voters in India are

enthusiastic. We feel proud that voting records are being broken every year," he said.

India values the democratic participation of every citizen, the prime minister said. Calling India the "Mother of Democracy", Modi said it is "a matter of great pride for all of us." Modi also took a jibe at the opposition parties, asking the audience if the popular snack Jhalmuri has reached The Hague as well.

During campaigning ahead of the recently held assembly elections in West Bengal, Modi was seen enjoying Jhalmuri at a local shop. His party later won the elections in the state with a sweeping majority.

Modi on Saturday said the Netherlands will become the "natural gateway" for Indian businesses to enter Europe and added that the Indian diaspora can serve as a trusted bridge in this journey.

Referring to the COVID pandemic, global conflicts, and the energy crisis caused by the on-going conflict in West Asia, Modi said this decade is becoming a "decade of challenges" for the world.

"If these situations are not changed rapidly, the achievements of the past several decades will be washed away. The vast majority of the world's population will again slip into the quag-

mire of poverty," he warned.

Modi said India and the Netherlands are working together to create a trusted, transparent and future-ready supply chain.

"From energy security to water security, the Netherlands and India are working together. Our cooperation on green hydrogen is very important. And the historic trade agreement between India and the EU will further strengthen the partnership between India and the Netherlands," he added.

Underlining that the Netherlands is known for tulips, Modi said India is known for the lotus. "Both tulips and the lotus teach us that whether the

roots are in water or on the earth, if proper nutrition is given, one gains both beauty and strength," he said, adding that this is also the basis of the partnership between India and the Netherlands.

Modi also said both countries are doing a lot together in the field of sports. Hailing the Indian community's contribution to Netherlands' cricket, Modi said, "We all feel great when we see Teja Nidamanuru and Vikramjit Singh in the Netherlands jersey, or when young players like Aryan Dutt contribute to the future of Dutch cricket." Modi also said that many cultures have vanished over time. But India's diverse culture "still beats in the hearts of its people".

"Generations have changed, countries have changed, environments have changed... but the family values have not changed," he said.

Prime Minister Modi assured the diaspora that the Government of India stood firmly behind every Indian living abroad and remained committed to their welfare.

On arrival, Modi was accorded a warm and colourful reception by a large gathering of the Indian diaspora and friends of India in the Netherlands.

Modi said that for a while, he had forgotten he was in the Netherlands. "It feels like a festival is going on somewhere in India." Highlighting the relevance of May 16, Modi told the audience how his party won the general elections in India on this date 12 years ago, adding that "a stable and absolute majority government was set to be formed in India after decades." Modi said he was painted in the "colour of patriotism" from a young age. "When I look back, 13 years as chief minister, 12 years as prime minister, the continuous support of millions and millions of voters for 25 years in the democratic world is a very great fortune for me," he said.

Women can lodge complaints over past atrocities: SUVENDU

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief minister Suven- du Adhikari said women who had suffered atrocities but could not lodge complaints with the police under the previous government could come forward and do so now.

"I have asked police officers, who joined the meeting virtually from everywhere, to look into complaints that the victims could not lodge during the rule of the previous government," Suven- du said.

"The police will look into complaints seriously, particularly if lodged under four categories — atrocities against women, political violence, being forced to pay 'cut money' for availing government welfare schemes, and police torture."

Suven- du said there were allegations from women who faced atrocities that the police refused to accept their complaints against the accused. Similarly, victims of political violence could not lodge complaints in various places.

"In case of cut money for providing facilities under government schemes, I have asked the police to act if the complainants have digital evidence like bank transfer documents, as the BNS (Bharatiya Nyay Samhita) accepts such evidence," he said. "In instances where documents are unavailable, the police will investigate and initiate action."

Suven- du said the measure was being initiated to give justice to those denied justice over the years.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suven- du Adhikari.

"But this should not lead to thousands of complaints. Only genuine victims should come forward.... You know there are provisions in the BNS to deal with those who lodge false complaints," he said.

The chief minister asked the police to work freely without considering criminals' affiliations.

"Previously, there was the rule of the rulers; now the rule of law has been established," he said.

Sources in the administration said that police action in connection with past atrocities might help prevent public anger against some of these accused going out of hand.

"It (the measure) could lead to the arrests of several people known to be close to the Trinamool Congress, who had

few like Santanu Sinha Biswas and Bijitashwa Rout. I declare the dismantling of the board; the official notification will be issued on Monday."

Biswas and Rout were involved with the Police Welfare Board. Biswas, who faces corruption charges, has been arrested by the Enforcement Directorate.

Suven- du made it clear that his government would set up a police welfare body but not on the lines of either the Non-Gazetted Police Karmachari Samiti of the Left Front period or the Trinamool-era Police Welfare Board.

"We will announce our decision in three months," he said.

The chief minister said nobody should extort money from auto-rickshaw operators or hawkers anywhere in the state.

"If anyone asks for money, go to the police and you will get assistance," he said.

The chief minister refused to answer a question on the re-election in Falta, emphasising that the chief secretary and the home secretary were on the dais with him.

"This is not the previous government. I won't reply to any political question as the chief secretary and the home secretary are with me. They are all-India service officers and have to follow certain service rules," he said.

"I know some of them, too, but I will not address officers by their names," Suven- du added, appearing to imply he saw such informality as indecorous.

AYUSHMAN Scheme in BENGAL within 3 months

MI News Service, Kolkata: The state government hopes to launch the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana in Bengal within two to three months, with eligibility for the central scheme likely to be linked to voter lists, senior officials said.

The voter list is among several databases that will be checked before the final list of beneficiaries is prepared, officials said.

The state is also trying to reconcile Ayushman Bharat with Swasthya Sathi, the health insurance scheme of the Mamata Banerjee government.

"Separate teams are working in Delhi and Swasthya Bhavan, in Salt Lake, to ensure a smooth and quick launch of Ayushman Bharat in Bengal and its integration with the Swasthya Sathi scheme," a state government official said. "We expect Ayushman Bharat to be launched in two to three months."

The official said a meeting with private hospitals would soon be held to discuss technical issues such as empanelment under Ayushman Bharat.

"In the interim, the Swasthya Sathi scheme will continue," he said.

The government is scanning several databases to verify the eligibility of beneficiaries, including voter lists.

"The food department has a good database, which we are using to prepare the list of beneficiaries," the official said. "Names of deceased persons have to be removed from the list."

The government will also use voter lists to identify beneficiaries for Ayushman Bharat.

Asked whether voters whose names were deleted during the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls would be excluded, the official said the matter was yet to be decided.

"There will be background checks on deleted voters before a decision is taken on whether they can be included in the beneficiary list. We hope to complete the process quickly," the official said.

On February 28, the Election Commission published a "preliminary final" post-SIR list. More than 5 lakh names were deleted and 60 lakh names were kept under adjudication. Of those, 27 lakh were later deleted after adjudication. Eighteen SIR tribunals still have to decide more than 34 lakh appeals — around 27 lakh against

exclusions and 7 lakh against fresh inclusions.

Unlike Swasthya Sathi, which is family-based, Ayushman Bharat is an individual-based health insurance scheme.

"Beneficiaries will be issued individual plastic cards under Ayushman Bharat," an official said.

Individuals will also receive cards under the Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA).

ABHA is a personal health viewer application under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission that enables citizens to maintain their health records in one place. It creates a single repository of health-related information.

ABHA provides every beneficiary with a 14-digit unique number used to identify and authenticate individuals and link their health records across healthcare providers. The ABHA number, along with an ABHA address, allows users to receive medical reports and prescriptions digitally and store them in an ABHA health locker.

"This will ensure that patients visiting different government hospitals do not have to undergo the same tests repeatedly," the official said.

Condemnation and Protest Against Attacks on Doctors

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Doctors Forum (WBDF) expressed Strong Condemnation and Protest Against Attacks on Doctors in a press release on Sunday. They said: We strongly condemn and denounce, in the harshest terms, the barbaric attack and physical assault perpetrated against a female doctor on duty and the BMOH (Block Medical Officer of Health) following the tragic and unfortunate death of a teenager at the Pancha Block Health Centre in Purulia.

The death of any human being is deeply painful, and the irreparable loss suffered by the deceased's family can never truly be compensated. However, if there are allegations of medical negligence, established legal and administrative mechanisms exist to investigate such claims. Instead of pursuing those channels, taking the law into one's own hands to physically attack doctors—specifically the shameful incident involving a female doctor being dragged by her hair—is utterly unacceptable in any civilized society.

Doctors and healthcare workers continue to work tirelessly to save human lives, often amidst adverse circumstances. It is impossible to provide healthcare services effectively in an atmosphere of fear and terror. Such violent incidents will further erode the general public's trust in the rural healthcare system.

We strongly demand of the administration that:

*An impartial and thorough investigation into the incident be conducted.

* Those who took the law into their own hands and attacked the doctors be swiftly identified and subjected to exemplary punishment.

* The availability of adequate life-saving medicines and 24/7 pathology services be ensured in peripheral hospitals.

* The safety and security of doctors and healthcare workers on duty at all government hospitals and health centres be immediately guaranteed.

Violence can never be the solution to any problem. We appeal to

everyone to maintain peace and to place their trust in the rule of law.

It is to be mentioned that, On Saturday morning, May 16, 2026, tension erupted at the Pancha Block Primary Health Centre in Purulia, West Bengal, following the tragic death of a child, reportedly from a snakebite. Family members and angry protesters alleged that the teenager died due to medical negligence. In a distressing escalation, they surrounded and physically dragged the female doctor on duty to the quarters of the Block Medical Officer of Health (BMOH). Protesters reportedly surrounded the BMOH and vented their rage on the hospital premises. : To restore order and ensure the safety of medical personnel, central forces were deployed to the health centre after local authorities found the situation difficult to manage. This attack follows a broader pattern of violence against healthcare workers in the state, often triggered by allegations of negligence after patient fatalities.

Large Number of Job Cards and Voter ID Cards Recovered from Trinamool Office in Garbeta, Tension Grips Area

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Panic and political tension erupted in the Garbeta area of West Midnapore district after a large number of job cards, voter ID cards, and other important documents were allegedly recovered from a Trinamool Congress party office. The incident took place on Sunday morning at a Trinamool Congress office located at Chhototara Madhya Booth under Karsa-II area of Garbeta Block-III, triggering a heated political atmosphere in the region. According to local sources, some BJP workers noticed that the party office, which had reportedly remained



closed for a long time, was open on Sunday morning. It is alleged that a toto vehicle was parked in front of the office and some items were being removed from inside. Suspecting foul play, the BJP workers entered the office. They

claimed that after opening an almirah inside the office, they recovered a large number of job card booklets, voter ID cards, land documents, and several other important papers. As news of the incident spread, a large crowd gathered

in the area, creating tension throughout the locality. After receiving information, police from Garbeta police station reached the spot and brought the situation under control. Police have started an investigation into the recovered documents. Reports suggest that one section of the almirah could still not be opened. Local residents suspect that more important or illegal documents may still be stored inside. A section of local residents questioned how ordinary people's job cards and voter ID cards ended up inside a political party office and why they were being kept there.

They demanded a fair and impartial investigation into the matter. Meanwhile, the BJP alleged that the important government documents of common people were being stored in the party office for political use. However, no official reaction has yet come from the Trinamool Congress regarding the incident. Political accusations and counter-accusations have already begun over the issue. The incident has further intensified the political atmosphere in the Garbeta area. Police said that the actual truth behind the matter will become clear only after the investigation is completed.

Poet Srijato appears before Krishnanagar court over controversial poem, granted conditional bail

MI News Service, Nadia : Poet Srijato Bandyopadhyay appeared before the Krishnanagar district court in Nadia on Saturday in connection with a case filed over a poem posted on social media in 2017. The court granted him interim bail on certain conditions after he surrendered before the judge.

According to the complainant, the poem contained objectionable remarks allegedly targeting Hindu religious symbols and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The petitioner claimed that a particular line used in the poem hurt religious sentiments and was intended to insult a section of the community.

The case was filed in 2019 at the Krishnanagar court. Court sources said an arrest warrant had later been issued against the poet after he failed to appear during earlier hearings. Following the warrant, Srijato appeared before the court on Saturday and sought bail.

The court granted conditional interim bail against a personal bond and local surety. He was also directed not to leave the state or the country without prior permission from the court and to cooperate with the investigation whenever required.



Speaking briefly to reporters after the hearing, Srijato said, "The matter is sub judice, so I do not wish to comment in detail. My lawyers will speak on the issue."

His counsel, Sourav Bhattacharya, said, "My client has shown full respect to the judicial process by appearing before the court. The issue has been interpreted in several ways, and we will continue to fight legally."

Counsel for the complainant, Ramit Shil, alleged that the social media post insulted a religious symbol and hurt the sentiments of many people, which prompted the legal action.

The controversy had earlier triggered widespread reactions in literary and political circles, with several organisations raising protests over the poem.

Relief for Railway Shopkeepers as Rent Hike Put on Hold; Minister Dilip Ghosh's Announcement Brings Major Relief

MI News Service, Kharagpur : Speculation surrounding the proposed rent hike for railway shops in Golbazar and Gatebazar areas of Kharagpur has finally come to an end. Kharagpur Sadar MLA and state minister Dilip Ghosh issued a clear statement on the matter, providing major relief to local traders and shopkeepers. Following the minister's assurance, a sense of happiness and relief was seen among business owners operating shops in the railway premises. According to reports, traders had been deeply concerned over the possibility of increased rents for railway shops. Various business organizations and shopkeepers had repeatedly expressed their dissatisfaction and anxiety regarding the proposed hike. Traders said that business conditions were already challenging, and any sudden increase in rent would place additional financial pressure on them. During a "Chai Pe Charcha" discussion program in the Bogda area of Kharagpur, Minister Dilip Ghosh addressed the issue and clearly stated that, for the time being, railway



shopkeepers would continue paying the existing rent. He said that no hasty decision would be taken regarding the rent increase and that future steps would be decided while keeping the interests of traders in mind. The minister further announced that a meeting with various railway officials would soon be organized to discuss the matter in detail. The meeting will focus on the concerns of traders as well as the railway administration's perspective, with the aim of improving coordination and finding a balanced solution that protects the interests of all parties involved. He also emphasized the importance of maintaining good coordination between the railway authorities and business

owners. According to him, traders' problems would be heard seriously, and no decision would be taken that would impose an extra burden on shopkeepers. After the minister's statement, enthusiasm and relief were clearly visible among the railway market traders. Many shopkeepers said that the decision to continue payments at the old rent rates had brought them significant relief. They also expressed hope that their interests would continue to be protected in the upcoming meeting. Now, all eyes are on the forthcoming meeting between the railway administration and public representatives, where the future strategy regarding the issue is expected to be finalized.

'No compromise on country's security': Ashok Kirtania

MI News Service, North 24 Pargana: People living in the border area are on the side of the BJP government in the interest of the country's security and safety. On Sunday, state's Food Minister Ashok Kirtania visited the unfenced area of the Bangaon Petrapole border. He spoke to the people of the border area. And there, the people living on the border area clearly told the minister that there is no problem in giving land in the interest of the country's security and safety. However, the villagers have demanded that the land be given at the right price. The minister also assured them that the government is on their side in this regard. According to him, there will be no compromise anywhere in the security of the country. I have already spoken to the District Magistrate.



sult, the common people in the unfenced areas have to live in fear day after day. At various times, people in the border areas have to witness incidents like cattle theft and crop harvesting by people coming from Bangladesh. The process of sealing the border has started with the change of government in the state. It is also reported that the state government has already started the process of providing land to the BSF in full swing. In this situation, on Sunday morning, the MLA of Bangaon North and the state's food minister visited the unfenced area of the Petrapole border in Bangaon and visited

the border area in Kalyani. He also spoke to the common people of the area.

The people of the area approached the minister and told him about their problems. The locals said that there is no problem in giving land for the security of the country. But they do not know yet how much the land will be worth. Assuring that the district administration is looking into this matter, Ashok Kirtania said that barbed wire will be given as soon as possible. No compromise will be made anywhere in the interest of the security of the country. According to him, there is no problem with the price of the land. I have spoken to the District Magistrate. However, there is a problem with land in three mousas of Basirhat subdivision. Everyone has been asked to solve the problem quickly, said the Food Minister.

Due to non-sale of sacrificial animals, Durant, Sonali and Madhumitara are in extreme danger

Nurul Islam Khan: "If the Muslim brothers don't buy our cows for Qurbani this year, we will die in the field and be forced to commit suicide." Durant, Sonali, Karthik and Madhumita Ghoshara, residents of Bhanad Bamunia Ghosh Para, said while crying on Sunday. Crying and not getting relief. They are spending the day in extreme danger. They have lost sleep at night. There is no money in hand. Spending days in financial crisis. Sonali Ghosh said in a bitter voice, we are hoping for this sacrifice by keeping loans, loans and jewelry as a mortgage all year. If the cows are not sacrificed, how will they pay the loans of 5,10,15 and 20 lakhs? Karthik Ghosh requested the government to give us time this year, next year we will earn our livelihood by doing other work.

Otherwise, if the government arranges for us to work, we will leave this cow business. An old lady said my husband is disabled, I run this business. On this day, the women and men of Ghosh Para took out a march against the BJP government. The people associated with this business do many social work from the marriage of girls to this business. He said that he was saved from many dangers by selling cows. Everyone is shouting. Govt should make an alternative arrangement, otherwise give us some time, we will pay off the debt by selling the animals. In this way, let us be poisoned, we will die by eating it! He also commented that if Muslims do not sacrifice, we will not survive. They requested the present state government to consider it humanely.

Crackdown on helmet less riders : Ranaghat Traffic Police fined over 150 motorists

MI News Service, Nadia : In a bid to curb rising road accidents, the Ranaghat Police District Traffic Department in Nadia has launched a special enforcement drive against helmet less riding, reckless driving and traffic rule violations across key roads and highways in the district.

The intensified checking drive, which began on Friday, is being conducted in several accident-prone areas under the Ranaghat Police District. DSP (Traffic) Sanjay Kumar said on Saturday that the recent increase in road accidents, particularly fatalities linked to non-use of helmets, has prompted the administration to adopt a stricter approach. Apart from enforcement



ment, the traffic police are also focusing on public awareness. Traffic personnel have been carrying out microphone campaigns in Kalyani, Santipur, Ranaghat and adjoining areas to educate commuters about road safety norms and the importance of wearing helmets. Police officials are also

checking vehicle documents, driving licences and insurance papers during the drive. "Our objective is not merely to impose fines, but to encourage a culture of safe driving among people," DSP Traffic Sanjay Kumar said. He, however, warned that repeated violations would invite strict



Speaker Rathindra Basu offered prayers at the famous Madan Mohan Temple in Cooch Behar.

TMC Panchayat Pradhan arrested on extortion charges, tension in Nadia's Dignagar

MI News Service, Nadia : Tension spread across Dignagar in Nadia district after the police arrested a Trinamool Congress-backed panchayat chief on allegations of extortion. The accused, identified as Sarajit Biswas, was arrested by Kotwali Police following a written complaint lodged by a local businessman. Subsequently, he was produced in court and ordered for 5 days' police custody.

According to sources, discontent had been brewing in the area for some time over alleged financial pressure and intimidation linked to a local factory. The matter escalated on Saturday night when businessman Biswajit Adhikari filed a formal complaint at Kotwali Police Station.

In his complaint, Adhikari alleged that money was being demanded by threatening workers employed at his factory. He further claimed that intimidation tactics and threats of disruption to the factory's operations were used if the demanded amount



was not paid. Acting on the complaint, police initiated an investigation and reportedly found preliminary evidence supporting the allegations.

On Sunday morning, officers reached Biswas's residence in Dignagar and detained him for questioning. Later, he was formally arrested, police sources said.

The incident has triggered political reactions in the area. Opposition parties alleged that local residents had long been facing pressure and intimidation under political influence.

Meanwhile, a section of

the local TMC leadership stated that the matter should be dealt with strictly through legal procedures and that no conclusion should be drawn before the investigation is completed. The arrest has sparked widespread discussion across Dignagar and nearby areas. Many residents said they were relieved by the swift police action.

Police officials confirmed that the investigation was going on and that evidence, related to the case is being collected. The accused panchayat chief is expected to be produced before the court.

College student was murdered in Katwa

MI News Service, East Burdwan: Random beating with sharp weapons! A College student was murdered in Katwa on Saturday night. There is confusion about the reason for the murder. The family suspects that their son was killed due to a dispute over a game. However, the police are investigating whether there is a romantic motive behind it. The police are questioning the deceased's two friends.

According to police and family sources, the deceased student's name is Shahid Midda. He is 21 years old. He is a resident of Moolti village in Katwa. Shahid was a third-year BA student of Katwa College. On Saturday evening, around 7:30-8:00, Shahid left his house and was chatting with friends on the banks of a local pond. Around 9:30-10:00, someone allegedly came from behind and started hitting Shahid indiscriminately. Shahid was injured in the neck and face. He fell to the ground in a bloody state. The news reached his home. After receiving the information, police reached the spot and rescued Shahid in a bloody state and took him to the hospital, where the doctors declared him dead.

Syndicates surrounding sand, stone and moram business will not be tolerated: Khudiram Tudu

MI News Service, Bankura: In the first administrative meeting after the change of government in the state, BJP MLAs raised the issue of so-called 'syndicate raj' of the Trinamool government. In a meeting with the district administration at Bankura Circuit House on Saturday, the ruling party's public representatives gave a message of a 'zero tolerance' policy by raising allegations of long-standing corruption, encroachment and political support surrounding the sand, stone and moram business in

different parts of the district. Bankura District Magistrate Anish Dasgupta was present at the meeting. Ranibandh MLA and Minister Khudiram Tudu, Sonamukhi BJP MLA Dibakar Gharami, Saltora MLA Chandana Bauri, Barajora MLA Bishleswar Singh and other BJP MLAs of the district were present. The meeting raised several allegations regarding stone quarrying in the Saltora assembly constituency, sand from the Damodar River, sand trading in Barajora, sand extraction from Sonamukhi and Moram and Ondar. The BJP MLAs alleged that during the Trinamool government, a "syndicate formed under the party umbrella" controlled the entire system. From ordinary traders to truck owners, everyone had to work with the 'permission' of a specific group. After the meeting, Khudiram Tudu told reporters, "In the last few years, the syndicate had more power than the administration in many areas of Bankura. People had to pay money forcibly, otherwise the business would be closed. This government will not tolerate such grandstanding."

Sonamukhi MLA Dibakar Gharami also spoke on Saturday. He alleged, "The sand and moram business in Sonamukhi has been in the hands of a few Trinamool cronies for a long time." Saltora MLA Chandana Bauri said, "Even the workers in the stone quarry area were intimidated and forced to work. The syndicate would decide whose trucks would run, whose business would be done. Those days are gone now." Barajora MLA Bishleswar Singh said, "The new government will examine every file. Strict action will be taken wherever corruption is found."

Drive Against Noise Pollution Initiated by Jangipara Police Station



Nurul Islam Khan : The Jangipara Police Station in Hooghly has taken strict measures to curb noise pollution. During a special police operation conducted today, a DJ sound system along with its ancillary equipment was seized from the Barol village area. The recovered items included four high-powered sound boxes—specifically, the 4/15 model (RCF) high-pitch units.

A case has also been registered in connection with the incident, bearing the number Jangipara PS Case No-193/26, dated May 17, 2026. The case has been filed under Sections 221, 223(b), 224, 270, 351(3), and 352 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

One individual has been arrested in connection with the incident. The arrested person has been identified as Shubhadip Bera, son of Raghunath Bera, a resident of Binogram under the Tarakeswar Police Station jurisdiction in the Hooghly district.

According to police sources, this operation was launched following complaints regarding environmental pollution caused by excessive noise and the disruption of the daily lives of the general public. Administrative authorities have stated that such operations to control noise pollution will continue in the future, and strict action will be taken against those who violate the law.

Blood Donation camp



Nurul Islam Khan : On Sunday, a blood donation camp was organized today on Shamsul Huda Road in Park Circus by the DYFI Ballygunge No. 1 Local Committee, held in memory of the late former MLA, Mohammed Nezamuddin. Despite the scorching heat, a total of 56 individuals donated blood, 14 of whom were women. The DYFI undertook

this humanitarian initiative in response to the shortage of blood observed in various blood banks during the summer season.

The camp was inaugurated by the distinguished social worker and physician, Dr. Fuad Halim. Among those present were former Minister Dr. Debesh Das, DYFI State President Dhruvajyoti Saha, Aynangshu Sarkar, former Councillor Manzar Ahsan, and social worker Manzar Ahmed. The guests encouraged the blood donors and highly praised this kind of humanitarian endeavor.

Mahbub Alam, the President of the Local Committee, extended his thanks to everyone.

Park Circus turned into a Battlefield



Violent clashes turned Park Circus into a battlefield on Sunday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: Protests have erupted in Tiljala against the demolition of illegal structures using bulldozers. To voice this protest, an unauthorized gathering was staged at the Park Circus Seven Point crossing, accompanied by an attempt to blockade the road. When police moved to lift the blockade, miscreants launched an attack on the officers, pelting them with bricks. Several police vehicles were vandalized during the incident, and multiple police personnel sustained injuries in the attack. Buses on the road were also subjected to vandalism. The police have arrested several individuals in connection with the incident. Ashesh Biswas,

Additional Commissioner of Kolkata Police, has stated unequivocally that none of the accused will be spared. In addition to the Kolkata Police, central forces have also been deployed to the scene. Local residents gathered at the Park Circus Seven Point intersection to protest the use of bulldozers to demolish illegal structures in Tiljala. According to the police, this gathering was unauthorized. The crowd consisted of outsiders alongside local residents. Tensions flared when the police attempted to clear the demonstrators from the road. A barrage of bricks was hurled at the police, and within moments, the area was gripped by unrest.

The police stated that outsiders had also mingled with the local residents in this unlawful assembly. Acting on intelligence inputs, the police were prepared in advance. Consequently, a major incident was averted, noted Ashesh Biswas, Additional CP of the Kolkata Police. He said, "An unlawful assembly had gathered. They attempted to block the road. When the police moved to disperse them, they launched an attack on the officers. Three police vehicles were vandalized."

Issuing a stern warning that those who attacked the police would not be spared, he added, "We are investigating who is behind this. Everyone involved

will be arrested. Strict action will be taken. We have received information that, alongside local residents, people from outside the area had also joined the crowd. We are scrutinizing all aspects. Several individuals have already been arrested. We will not spare anyone. Strict measures will be enforced. Three of our police personnel sustained injuries. We possessed intelligence inputs and were prepared; that is why a major catastrophe was averted." Addressing allegations of a baton charge against the protesters, he stated, "If the police come under attack, a baton charge is inevitable. Gender will not be taken into consideration."

Hawker-free Sealdah and Howrah Stations!

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Sealdah station premises wear a deserted look. The area in front of platforms 1 through 21 is now completely free of hawkers. The Sealdah Division has stated that this decision was taken solely in the interest of facilitating the movement of the general public. Commuters have welcomed this initiative.

Sealdah authorities claim that illegal stalls had been mushrooming one after another in the area adjacent to the station. Primarily, during the tenure of the Trinamool government, trade unions exerted significant dominance over the precinct. Through the routine collection of protection money from hawkers, the station premises had been allowed to become increasingly congested day after day. However, with the advent of the new government, that chaotic scene has vanished



On Sunday at Sealdah station premises.

from the area surrounding Sealdah station. On Sunday morning, practically not a single hawker was to be seen at the station gates. According to sources within the Sealdah DRM office, the hawkers had been served eviction notices in advance. Authorities confirmed that a specific deadline for vacating the premises was

also stipulated in these notices. Many hawkers packed up their wares and left within that allotted timeframe. However, action was taken against those who stalled or procrastinated in vacating their spots. Although hawkers are no longer permitted to set up shop beyond a specific barricade, business continues in its familiar

rhythm just outside that designated boundary.

On Saturday night, bulldozers were deployed outside Howrah Station. Allegations have surfaced that approximately 150 'illegal' stalls lining the footpaths were demolished. Railway authorities stated that this eviction drive was carried out solely for the convenience of passengers. The Railways had previously issued notices to clear the Howrah Station area; however, the rampant presence of hawkers could not be curbed. Nevertheless, prior to Saturday's eviction drive, the Railways had once again issued notices, warning hawkers to vacate the premises. A section of the passengers expressed satisfaction with the action taken on Saturday night, although many suggested that the new government should also address the issue of rehabilitating the hawkers.

Declared war on illegal parking, Rs 500 fine for violators

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major initiative to tackle chronic traffic congestion and restore public road space, Kolkata's city administration has launched a strict crackdown on illegal parking across the city. Vehicles found parked in no-parking zones or outside authorised parking areas may now face fines of up to 500, with enforcement drives already underway in multiple traffic divisions.

The move follows growing public complaints over roads being narrowed by rows of illegally parked vehicles, leading to severe traffic congestion and reduced pedestrian space in several important areas. Officials said the administration

has adopted a "zero tolerance" policy towards unauthorised roadside parking and illegal fee collection carried out in the name of parking management. Lalbazar has already initiated a special enforcement drive covering 27 traffic guard jurisdictions. According to traffic officials, strict action will be taken not only against vehicles parked outside approved parking zones but also against individuals allegedly running illegal parking rackets on public roads. Under the new regulations, only officially approved parking zones will be allowed to operate. Authorities have directed that parking must remain limited to single-line arrangements within

sanctioned areas. The number of available parking slots must also be clearly displayed, along with parking charges on visible boards. In addition, parking attendants will be required to wear authorised uniforms to prevent illegal operators from collecting money unlawfully. Municipal Minister Agnimitra Paul issued a stern warning while announcing the measures. She said illegal parking on both sides of roads would no longer be tolerated and stressed that vehicles cannot occupy prohibited spaces, as such practices create major inconvenience for the public. The minister also highlighted concerns over revenue loss caused by fake parking slips allegedly

being used across several parts of the city. Senior minister Dilip Ghosh supported the administration's stand, stating that indiscriminate roadside parking had turned many Kolkata roads into traffic bottlenecks. He said illegal collection of money in the name of parking was adding to public suffering and could not be allowed to continue. Officials believe the renewed enforcement drive could significantly improve traffic movement, especially during peak office hours. The administration has indicated that this will not remain a short-term campaign but a sustained effort to bring discipline and order to Kolkata's chaotic roadside parking system.

Bulldozers Will Roll

Continued from Pg 1: encroachment on government land. Ghosh noted that the new government had initiated this process from day one. He further assured that the government would extend its full support to those who operate within the framework of the law. His statement came just hours after a bulldozer-led drive to clear illegal encroachments was conducted last night—under heavy security—outside Howrah Railway Station, one of the busiest railway hubs in the country. Agnimitra Paul, the Minister for Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, also endorsed the crackdown on illegal constructions, stating that if a structure is deemed illegal, a prior notice will be issued. However, she added that if valid documents are not produced, such establishments will not be permitted to operate. Prior to this, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation had carried out a bulldozer operation against an illegal leather factory in the Tiljala area, where a fire on May 12 had claimed the lives of two people.

Aadhaar Recovery in TMC office Sparks Massive Uproar in Bidhannagar

MI News Service, Bidhannagar: A major political controversy erupted in Bidhannagar on Sunday after several Aadhaar cards were allegedly recovered from a local office of the All India Trinamool Congress in Ward No. 36 of Basanti Devi Colony. The incident triggered tension in the locality, leading to protests, police deployment and the launch of an official investigation shortly after the conclusion of the Bengal elections. According to local sources, residents entered the party office during the morning and allegedly discovered stacks of Aadhaar cards belonging to local voters. Eyewitnesses claimed that around 60 to 70 Aadhaar cards were found inside the premises, causing outrage among residents and creating a tense atmosphere in the area.

As news of the alleged recovery spread, a large police force arrived at the scene to prevent unrest and maintain order. Senior police officers have since initiated an investigation to de-



Aadhaar cards recovered from the Trinamool office on Sunday.

termine how such a significant number of identity documents allegedly ended up inside a political party office. Police sources indicated that members of the local party leadership may be questioned as part of the probe. The incident has intensified allegations surrounding voter suppression and the alleged misuse of personal documents during the recently concluded elections. Several residents claimed that Aadhaar cards and other identification documents had previously been collected from them on various pretexts, including assistance with government welfare schemes and civic benefits. According to these allegations, many residents never received the documents back.

Some locals further alleged that the documents may have been deliberately withheld to obstruct voting during the elections. Although these claims have not yet been officially verified, they have heightened political tensions and raised concerns among voters in the region. The Bidhannagar incident has also drawn attention because of similar allegations reported elsewhere in West Bengal in recent days. In Nanur, multiple voter identity cards were recently recovered from a field near the residence of a Booth Level Officer (BLO). Police later arrested the BLO while investigating the matter. Authorities stated that all recovered documents are now being examined carefully. Investigators are also expected to determine whether any electoral laws or official procedures were violated. The incident has sparked sharp political reactions and renewed public concern regarding the security of voter identification documents and the integrity of the electoral process in the state.

Chief Minister visits the home of the slain aide, Chandranath Rath

MI News Service, Kolkata: He had been a steadfast companion for many years. Just two days after the declaration of the election results, State Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari lost this close associate. In Madhyamgram, assailants murdered his personal assistant, Chandranath Rath. Sunday, the Chief Minister visited Chandranath's home in Chandipur. After garlanding a photograph of the slain assistant, he entered the room and spoke with the family members, assuring them of his unwavering support.

On May 6—two days after the election results were announced—Chandranath Rath was shot multiple times on a street in Madhyamgram. He passed away before he could be transported to a hospital. Of the four bullets fired, three struck him in the abdomen, chest, and head. Chandranath succumbed to his injuries while being rushed to the hospital in critical condition. The driver of the vehicle was also injured in the shootout. Naturally, the incident sent shockwaves through the state's political landscape. A Special



Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at Chandranath Rath's residence on Sunday.

Investigation Team (SIT) was constituted by the State Police

to launch an inquiry. To identify the individuals involved in

the crime, investigators even traveled to other states. It was revealed that the assailants had made a payment via UPI at the Bally toll plaza. Tracing this digital transaction, investigators tracked the culprits to Uttar Pradesh. Following the murder, the perpetrators had fled to another state and gone into hiding. Two individuals from Uttar Pradesh and one sharpshooter from Buxar have since been arrested. Investigators are currently probing who commissioned these sharpshooters to carry out the killing. Subsequently, the investigation has been handed over to the CBI.

Sunday marked the "Shradha" ceremony of Chandranath. On the afternoon of that day, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari visited the Chandipur residence of the slain Chandranath. Upon arrival, he first garlanded a portrait of the deceased. Subsequently, he spent a considerable amount of time conversing with the family members. Notably, immediately following Chandranath's death, Suwendu had declared that he would take full responsibility for the deceased's family.

Tutuda Reunited Two 'Arch-Enemies'



Salt Lake Stadium galary during Derby Match on Sunday.

MI News Service, Kolkata: A Derby invariably signifies fierce, no-holds-barred combat. It means refusing to concede even an inch of ground to one's arch-rival. Especially given the current standings in the ISL points table, the rivalry between the supporters of the two giants could easily have escalated into outright hostility. Yet, this time around, the Derby felt a little different.

There was no pre-match trolling, nor were there any threats of retaliation. Behind this shift stood a single figure: the recently departed Tutu

Bose. Even before taking the field in this Derby, both teams harbored a thirst for victory. Deep down, there was also a burning desire to defeat their opponents. Yet, transcending all of that remained a profound respect for Tutuda. At the Yuba Bharati Krirangan, the legendary sports administrator of the Maidan united the two arch-rivals. On this day, prior to the start of the match, the Federation decided to observe a minute of silence in memory of Tutu Bose. Accordingly, players from both teams were seen standing near the center circle to observe the silence. In effect,

a pin-drop silence descended upon the entire stadium. At that very moment, a smiling image of Tutubabu appeared on the stadium's giant screen. The Federation paid a tribute to the 'Mohun Bagan Ratna.' Furthermore, as a mark of respect to Tutubabu, players from both teams took the field wearing black armbands. Tifos were brought to the galleries of both major clubs to pay tribute to Tutu Babu. As expected, a massive tifo was displayed in the Mohun Bagan gallery. Through a large tifo, Mohun Bagan supporters paid homage to the two leg-

endary administrators of the rival clubs—Tutu Bose and Palto Das—simultaneously. Tutu Bose is not merely one of the greatest administrators in the history of Mohun Bagan Club; he is that towering colossus of the Maidan around whom the club's branches have spread, around whom countless Green-and-Maroon supporters have woven their dreams, and from whom they have learned the mantra of resilience in the face of adversity. He is their eternal guardian. It is for this very reason that one can often spot tifos in the Green-and-Maroon stands depicting Tutu Babu as their everlasting protector. Whenever Mohun Bagan faced financial distress, Tutu Bose stepped forward to play the role of a savior. He nurtured the club—which had long been without a sponsor—with the same care and affection one would bestow upon one's own child. Consequently, a tifo displayed by a fan club featured the inscription: "Muskil Asan—Tutu Bose" (The Problem Solver—Tutu Bose). Irrespective of club affiliation—be it East Bengal or Mohun Bagan—"Tutuda" has always been very close to the supporters. He is a man without enemies in the Maidan. Consequently, Tifos featuring Tutubabu have even been spotted in the East Bengal galleries.

Leaps and Bounds' Once Again at Centre of Bengal Debate

MI News Service, Kolkata: Following the political transition in West Bengal, the business entity "Leaps and Bounds" has once again come under intense public and legal scrutiny, re-igniting debate over its origins, operations and alleged links to high-profile investigations in the state. The company, previously associated with Trinamool Congress National General Secretary and Diamond Harbour MP Abhishek Banerjee, has repeatedly surfaced in political discussions surrounding the teacher recruitment corruption case.

According to statements made earlier by Abhishek Banerjee during media interactions, "Leaps and Bounds" was initially formed in 2009 as a partnership firm before being converted into a private limited company in 2012. Banerjee had acknowledged that he served as one of the directors during the company's early years. At the time, the organisation reportedly operated in consultancy services, branding and share trading activities. Over the years, however, the company's primary operations are understood to have shifted towards the production and packaging of bottled drinking water. Sources indicate that the company runs a mineral water packaging unit at Bakhrathat in South 24 Parganas district. Banerjee had previously claimed that the land for the facility had been purchased much earlier, around 2001-2002, well before the company itself was established. Corporate records cited by sources suggest that before contesting the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Abhishek Banerjee resigned from the post of director. During that period, members of his immediate family, including his parents and wife, were reportedly associated with the company's board structure, while Banerjee himself allegedly functioned as the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation.

Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha organized a five day education training camp in City



MI News Service, Kolkata: Ananda Marga Pracharak Samgha has organized a five day education training camp at Ananda Marga Central office in Kolkata. The program commenced with singing of Prabhat Samgiita, Kiirtan and collec-

tive meditation. Acharya Vikanashananda Avadhuta, Central Committee member of Ananda Marga inaugurated the program. Acharya Tathagatananda Avadhuta took class on The Role of Teachers. He said that before making further com-

ments about the responsibilities of parents, it is necessary to say something more about teachers. The first point is that teachers must be selected carefully. High academic qualifications do not necessarily confer on a person the right to become a teacher. Teachers must possess such qualities as personal integrity, strength of character, righteousness, a feeling for social service, unselfishness, an inspiring personality and leadership ability. They are samaja gurus and for this reason it is not possible to accept just anyone as a teacher.

Bengal health department in action mode after CM's stern hospital review

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a strong display of administrative urgency and accountability, Narayan Swarup Nigam conducted a series of surprise mid-night inspections across five major government medical college hospitals in Kolkata, barely 72 hours after a high-level review meeting chaired by Subhendu Adhikari at SSKM Hospital. The late-night inspections, which continued past midnight on Saturday, highlighted the state government's renewed push to improve hospital administration, strengthen patient care and eliminate negligence within the public healthcare system. Nigam began his inspection drive around 12 am with a visit to RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. Senior officials, including Principal Manas Kumar Banerjee, Superintendent Saptarshi Chattopadhyay and Assistant Superintendent Dai-

payan Biswas, received him during the inspection. Dressed casually in a blue T-shirt, the Health Secretary toured critical departments, including Trauma Care, General Medicine and Surgery. He interacted directly with patients and their family members, asking whether they were facing delays in treatment, lack of beds or administrative difficulties. Officials present during the visit said Nigam issued strict instructions regarding cleanliness and maintenance inside hospital premises. He reportedly ordered immediate measures to improve hygiene in wards and bathrooms and directed authorities to deploy additional manpower wherever necessary. The inspection drive later extended to Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College and Hospital, National Medical College, SSKM Hospital and Calcutta Medical College. At Calcutta Medical College,

Nigam held a review meeting with Principal Indranil Biswas and senior officials. Sources said he expressed concern over patients waiting outside hospitals due to a shortage of beds and instructed authorities to ensure immediate accommodation and treatment. One of the major directives issued during the inspections was the launch of a live digital bed-status display system within 24 hours. The system is expected to provide real-time updates on vacant beds across government hospitals, including central government facilities, to reduce confusion during emergency admissions. Nigam also examined drinking water facilities and directed regular quality checks in coordination with the Kolkata Municipal Corporation. Officials described the surprise inspections as part of a broader effort to enforce discipline and restore public confidence in the state healthcare system.

Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Flags Off Bengaluru–Mumbai Express Train Strengthening Rail Connectivity Between Karnataka and Maharashtra

Bengaluru–Mumbai Vande Bharat Sleeper Service to Start Soon: Ashwini Vaishnaw

MI News Service, Delhi, May 17, 2026 : The Union Railway Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw virtually flagged off an express train between Bengaluru – Mumbai today, marking a major step in strengthening connectivity between Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Vaishnaw stated that long-pending demands of South & North Karnataka are now being fulfilled. Further, he announced that the Vande Bharat Sleeper service between Bengaluru and Mumbai is expected to start soon.

Highlighting infrastructure growth, he noted a significant increase in railway funding in recent years, accelerating project execution across Karnataka.

Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, 61 stations are being redeveloped at a cost of ₹2,160 crore, with 9 already completed. Bengaluru Cantonment station is being redeveloped at ₹485 crore and Yeshwantpur at ₹367 crore.

Since 2014, about 1,750 km of new railway lines have been constructed in Karnataka, and complex electrification works in the Hassan–Mangaluru section have been completed and testing is going on.

On the Bengaluru Suburban Railway Project, he stated that work is progressing across all four corridors. For the Baijappanahalli–Chikkabanavara and Heelalige–Rajanukunte corridors, land acquisition has been completed and station works are currently under progress. The KSR Bengaluru–Devanahalli alignment has been jointly approved by the State Government and the Railways, and the geotechnical survey has been completed. The Kengeri–Whitefield alignment was recently approved, and survey work will commence shortly. And he said that the suburban rail network will integrate key hubs, including the airport, Electronic City, Marathahalli, and Hebbal.

The Railway Minister further stated that Karnataka currently operates 12 pairs of Vande Bharat trains. Testing on the Bengaluru–Mangaluru route is underway and will soon improve coastal connectivity up to Madgaon.

Bullet train corridors connecting Bengaluru with Hyderabad and Chennai have also been approved, Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighted. He further noted that, with a long-term vision to connect Mumbai, Bengaluru, and other major cities, the network is expected to expand to 7,000 km.

The Union Minister of State for Railways, V. Somanna while addressing the gathering during the flagging off of Train No. 16553/54 SMVT Bengaluru – Lokmanya



Tilak Terminus Express, expressed his gratitude to Ashwini Vaishnaw for sanctioning the new Bengaluru–Mumbai train, stating that it will greatly benefit passengers on one of the busiest routes and further boost Karnataka's development.

He highlighted that Karnataka currently operates 12 pairs of Vande Bharat trains covering 14 districts. He noted that a Vande Bharat Sleeper maintenance depot will be established at Thanisandra at a cost of ₹270 crore, along with a chair car maintenance facility at SMVT Bengaluru costing ₹52.73 crore. Doubling of Baijappanahalli–Hosur (₹1,116 crore), Bettahalasuru–Rajanukunte (₹248 crore), and quadrupling works around Bengaluru (₹1,347 crore) are being undertaken to enhance capacity.

Somanna informed that automatic signalling works are being implemented across key sections, including Yeshvantpur, KSR Bengaluru, Lottegollahalli, Baijappanahalli, Penukonda, Mysuru, and Jolarpettai, at a total cost of ₹6,396 crore. Highlighting overall growth, he stated that Karnataka has received a record railway budget allocation of ₹7748 crore. Since 2014, about 3,840 km of railway lines have been developed and 3,742 km electrified, taking the state close to 100% electrification. He added that the number of ROBs/RUBs has increased from about 150 before 2014 to 707 now, with 146 more to be completed within the next one year, and all level crossings targeted for elimination in the next three years.

Dignitaries present on the occasion included P. C. Mohan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bengaluru Central; Lehar Singh Siroya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; and Tejasvi Surya, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Bengaluru South, who joined the event through video conference, along with senior Railway officials.

Dr. Nishikant Dubey, MP, Inaugurates Newly Constructed Shankarpur Road Over Bridge At Shankarpur, Deoghar

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 17, 2026 : Eastern Railway is continuously striving towards the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) for the elimination of manned level crossings, in line with its mission of achieving zero manned level crossings across its jurisdiction. In a significant step towards strengthening transportation infrastructure and enhancing public safety, Eastern Railway, under the guidance of Milind Deouskar, General Manager, has constructed the Shankarpur Road Over Bridge (ROB).

Dr. Nishikant Dubey, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, today inaugurated the newly constructed ROB in lieu of Level Crossing Gate No. 27/C at Shankarpur in Deoghar district of Jharkhand. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Suresh Paswan, Hon'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Deoghar, Sangrah Maurya, Divisional Railway Manager, Asansol Division, along with other senior railway officials.

The newly commissioned ROB has been constructed to improve public convenience, ensure uninterrupted vehicular movement, and enhance road safety in the region. With the commissioning of the ROB, the existing Level Crossing Gate No. 27/C will now be permanently closed, facilitating seamless and safer movement for both rail and road traffic.

The project was sanctioned during the fiscal year 2012–13 at a total cost of Rs. 37.55 crore on a cost-sharing basis between the Government of Jharkhand and the Railways. The erstwhile Level Crossing Gate No. 27/C was located at Railway Kilometer 316/33–317/01 on the busy Satsangnagar–Bhirkhibad Road (MDR–219). Considering the heavy vehicular movement, frequent traffic congestion, and safety concerns for road users, the Railways in coordination with the Government of Jharkhand, undertook the construction of the ROB.

The Shankarpur ROB connects the Shankarpur–Jasidih corridor and is expected to significantly ease traffic flow in the area while providing safer and faster connectivity for commuters and local residents. The ROB has an overall length of 808 metres and a carriageway width of 7.5 metres, ensuring improved connectivity and uninterrupted traffic movement.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Nishikant Dubey stated that the newly inaugurated ROB would greatly benefit



the public by eliminating at-grade intersections at busy railway crossings through grade separation of vehicular traffic. He highlighted that the infrastructure would significantly enhance public safety, reduce traffic congestion and travel time, and improve local economic productivity by ensuring uninterrupted movement of goods and people.

He further stated that Road Over Bridges play a vital role in modern urban planning and transportation systems by eliminating the risk of accidents at level crossings, ensuring continuous traffic flow without manual gate operations, reducing delays caused by passing trains, and facilitating faster movement of emergency services such as ambulances, fire services, and police vehicles.

Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway stated that the commissioning of the new ROB marks another milestone in Eastern Railway's continuous endeavour towards modernization of infrastructure, enhancement of passenger and public convenience, and promotion of safe and efficient transportation networks, in line with the mission of achieving zero manned level crossings.

Cancellation Of Traffic & Power Block Programme In Krishnanagar – Lalgola Section

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 17, 2026 : Due to unavoidable circumstances, Traffic & Power block programme from 10:30 hrs. to 16:30 hrs. on 17.5.2026 (Sunday) for construction of Limited Height Subway (LHS) at Level Crossing gate No. 98T/C & LC Gate No. 119B/E-2 in Krishnanagar – Lalgola section, which was earlier informed through Press Release, has been CANCELLED.

Hence, all the trains which were earlier decided to regulate are hereby RESTORED and will run as per schedule.

Eastern Railway Launches Phase-II Of Mega Swachhata Campaign; Introduces 30-Minute Cleaning Guarantee



MI News Service, Kolkata, May 17, 2026 : Under the leadership of Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, the mega Phase-II Swachhata Awareness Campaign has been launched across multiple divisions and workshops. This new phase introduces a revolutionary passenger-centric initiative titled "Cleaning Guarantee Within 30 Minutes," which aims to rapidly resolve sanitation complaints and significantly upgrade cleanliness standards across the zone. The campaign kicked off simultaneously with massive on-ground awareness activities led by senior railway officials, Chief workshop managers, staff, and volunteers. At Asansol Division, the initiative was inaugurated at Asansol and Durgapur stations by Divisional Railway Manager Sangrah Maurya, who also introduced a unique QR-code feedback system for digital passenger suggestions. A similar drive was successfully conducted at Liluah Station under the leadership of Chief Workshop Manager Yatish Kumar, involving civil defence, recognized unions, and sports associations. Additionally, the campaign was formally inaugurated at Kanchrapara Station in the presence of the Chief Workshop Manager Subhash Chandra and senior administrative officers of the Kanchrapara Workshop.

Running from 16 May to 30 May 2026, the campaign operates under the core theme, "Spot It, Report It, We Are On It." This initiative empowers passengers to become active partners in maintaining station hygiene. If a commuter spots an unclean area within the station premises, they can report it immediately by uploading a photograph on the RailMadad App or by tagging railway handles on social media using the hashtag #ERChallenge. Upon receiving the report, dedicated railway cleaning teams will step in to resolve the issue and clear the spot within 30 minutes, subject to operational feasibility.

The campaign has witnessed overwhelming community and youth participation, with over 120 volunteers from the Bharat Scouts & Guides actively engaging passengers across Asansol, Liluah, and Kanchrapara. At Asansol, the scouts performed an impactful Nukkad Natak and conducted direct contact drives to educate passengers on the importance of proper waste disposal, prevention of spitting, and the responsible use of bio-toilets. Eastern Railway emphasizes that maintaining pristine tracks and platforms is a shared responsibility and appeals to all rail users to avoid littering and consistently use dustbins.

Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated that while the first phase established a strong baseline of awareness across colonies and trains, this second phase firmly shifts the focus toward swift accountability. He emphasized that by leveraging digital platforms like RailMadad and social media, the railway is ensuring real-time resolution of sanitation issues. He concluded by affirming that cleanliness is a shared responsibility, and with active public cooperation, Eastern Railway remains fully committed to providing a healthier, safer, and more pleasant travel environment for everyone.

Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides Secures Overall Champion Trophy at National Integration Camp

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 17, 2026 : In a proud moment for the zone, the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides bagged the prestigious Overall Champion title at the National Integration Camp held at Ganganagar from May 10 to May 14, 2026. The five-day event witnessed enthusiastic participation from six State Associations—Eastern Railway, Haryana, Jharkhand, N.F. Railway, S.E. Railway, and West Bengal—fostering a vibrant spirit of unity, camaraderie, and cultural exchange among the youth.

The winning contingent of Eastern Railway was proudly represented by the Kanchrapara District Association. Throughout the camp, the team demonstrated exceptional discipline, remarkable teamwork, and impressive cultural talent. Their outstanding performance across various competitions and activities brought great laurels to the railway zone and truly embodied the core spirit of national integration.

This grand success was made possible under the dynamic leadership, guidance, and continuous encouragement of Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway and Patron of the Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides. His vision and constant support have always motivated the volunteers



to strive for excellence on national platforms.

Expressing his immense joy over the victory, Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway and State Secretary of Eastern Railway Bharat Scouts and Guides, stated that this spectacular victory is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and disciplined training of the Scouts and Guides. He added that by excelling on a national stage, the Kanchrapara District team has made the entire Eastern Railway family incredibly proud, highlighting the organization's ongoing commitment to fostering youth development, character building, and national unity.

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Name Change
I, Manusri Ghosh (Old Name) D/o Lakshman Ghosh W/o Sukhen Pal Residing at Vill - Nazarkhan, Po - Penro, P.s - Udaynarayanpur, District - Howrah, Pin- 711410, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Manusi Ghosh (Old Name) to Manusee Pal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Manusee Pal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 15-05-2026. Manusee Pal (New Name) and Manusi Ghosh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Priya Das, S/o. Dulal Das, R/o. 59, Khurighachi Natunpara Road, Angus, Bhadreswar, Hooghly, do hereby declare that after reassignment of sex surgery & other treatment under renowned doctors, I have changed my gender from female to male person and henceforth I shall be known as Priya Das, as Male gender in all purpose, That, I, Priya Das as Male person, D/o. Dulal Das and Priya Das as Female person, D/o. Dulal Das, both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 4207, dated 16.05.2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly, Court.

Name Change
I, Munshi Fazlul Bari S/o. Lt. Munshi Jalal Uddin, R/o. Morhal Musalmpanara, Rajbalhat, Jangipara, Hooghly-712408, W.B., do hereby declare that in my Passport (being no. N5608732) where my father's name has been recorded as Jalal Uddin Munshi and also in my Higher Secondary educational documents & in my father's death certificate where my father's name has been recorded as Munshi Jalaluddin instead of his correct and actual name Munshi Jalal Uddin, My father Munshi Jalal Uddin, Jalal Uddin Munshi & Munshi Jalaluddin all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 15185, dated 13/05/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Sengupta Kamal Kanti, S/o Lt. Sudhangsu Bhushan Sengupta, R/o 105 MC Ghosh Lane, Hara Corporation, Hadra 711107, shall henceforth be known as Kamal Kanti Sengupta. That Sengupta Kamal Kanti and Kamal Kanti Sengupta is same and identical person vide affidavit no. 617 dated 15.05.2026 before the Lt. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Court, Kolkata.

Name Change
I, Koyel Jana Daughter of Amalendu Jana & wife of Avijit Rana, Army no. 14951119Y; Rank- NK, residing at Vill- Hanschakra, PO- Hanschakra, P.S.- Chandipur, Dist- Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721625, W.B. have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Koyel Jana Rana (DOB. 16-06-2003) That Koyel Jana (DOB. 16-06-2003) and Koyel Jana Rana (DOB.16-06-2003) both are same and one identical person vide affidavit before the Notary Public at Haldia, Purba Medinipur dated 27.3.2026.

Name Change
I, Narendran Kumar Navin Son of Shambhu Shankar Pandey residing at 27/17 Guka Park, P.S - Liluah, District- Howrah- 711204 hereby declare that inadvertently in some Documents my name to wrongly recorded as Naveen Pandey That Narendran kumar Navin and Naveen Pandey both are same and one identical person vide Affidavit before the Notary Public at Howrah (Affidavit No. 21AC 464604 dated 13/05/2026).

Name Change
I, Amzad Hossain (old name) S/o Sk Abdullah, residing at N238, Fathepur 2nd lane, Garden Reach, Kolkata- 700024, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Amzad Hossain (Old Name) to Sk Amzad Hossain (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Amzad Hossain (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Sk Amzad Hossain (New Name) and Amzad Hossain (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bina Devi Agarwal (old name) wife of Raj Kumar Agarwal, resident of Sidha Eden Lake Villa, 561, Lake View Park Road, Baranagar(m), Dist: North 24 Parganas, Pin: 700108, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bina Devi Agarwal (old name) to Bina Agarwal (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bina Agarwal in all purpose, vide affidavit No. 7, sworn before the Notary Public City Civil Court at Kolkata on 15/05/2026. Bina Agarwal and Bina Devi Agarwal both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kalyani Shil Sarkar (Old Name) W/o Gouranga Sarkar Residing at Vill- Poupukur Road East Kalkipar, Po- Kaziapara, P.s- Barasat- District- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700125, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kalyani Shil Sarkar (Old Name) to Kalyani Sarkar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Kalyani Sarkar (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 15-05-2026. Kalyani Sarkar (New Name) and Kalyani Shil Sarkar (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Chabi Banerjee (Old Name) W/o Subhas Banerjee Residing at 54/A, Dr. Nilmoni Sarkar Street, Po- Naopara, P.s- Baranagar, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700090, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Chabi Banerjee (Old Name) to Chabi Banerjee (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Chabi Banerjee (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 15-05-2026. Chabi Banerjee (Old Name) and Chabi Banerjee (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhash Banerjee (Old Name) S/o Sukumar Banerjee Residing at 54/A, Dr. Nilmoni Sarkar Street, Po- Naopara, P.s- Baranagar, District- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700090, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Subhash Banerjee (Old Name) to Subhas Banerjee (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Subhas Banerjee (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 15-05-2026. Subhas Banerjee (New Name) and Subhash Banerjee (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Maidul Islam (Old Name), Son Of Sk Serajul, Resident Of Bahargam, Panskura R S, Word No- 8 Dist- East Medinipur, Pin- 721152, Do Herby Declared that I Have Changed My Name From Shaikh Maidul Islam (Old Name) To Sk Maidul Islam (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sk Maidul Islam (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 69 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 16/05/2026. Sk Maidul Islam (New Name) And Shaikh Maidul Islam (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sk Maidul Islam Son Of Sk Serajul, Resident Of Bahargam, Panskura R S, Word No- 8 Dist- East Medinipur, Pin- 721152 Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Son's Name From Shaikh Farhan Islam (Old Name) To Sk Farhan Islam (New Name), And Henceforth He Shall Be Known As Sk Farhan Islam (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 59 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 15/05/2026. Sk Farhan Islam (New Name) And Shaikh Farhan Islam (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sk Nasiruddin Ali (old name) S/o Sheikh Mohabab Ali, residing at Musalmpanara, VTC, Chhota Sarasa, P.O. Chatoarsara, District: Hooghly, State: West Bengal, PIN Code: 712147, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Nasiruddin Ali (Old Name) to Sheikh Nasiruddin Ali (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sheikh Nasiruddin Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 14/05/2026. Sheikh Nasiruddin Ali (New Name) and Sk Nasiruddin Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Asmatara Begum (old name) C/o Sheikh Afsar Hossain, residing at Bilza, Keotara, Bardhaman, Pin- 713166, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Asmatara Begum (Old Name) to Sheikh Asmatara Begam (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sheikh Asmatara Begam (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 14/05/2026. Sheikh Asmatara Begum (New Name) and Asmatara Begum (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sek Oyajed Ali (Old Name), Son Of Late Sk Meher Ali, Resident Of Vill-Narayan Pakuria, P.O- Namabhar, P.S.- Kolaghat, Dist- East Medinipur, Pin- 721151, Do hereby Declared That I Have Changed My Name From Sek Oyajed Ali (Old Name) To Sk Owajed Ali (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sk Owajed Ali (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 53 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Sk Owajed Ali (New Name) And Sek Oyajed Ali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Aptauddin (Old Name), Son Of Late Late Sk Ismail, Resident Of Vill- Japhuli, P.O.- Japhuli Bili Chak, P.S.- Kolaghat, Dist- East Medinipur, Pin- 721137, Do Herby Declared That I Have Changed My Name From Aptauddin (Old Name) To Aptauddin Sek (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Aptauddin Sek (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 55 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 13/05/2026. Aptauddin Sek (New Name) And Aptauddin (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, SHYAM CHARAN BALLAV (Old Name) S/O HRISHIKESH BALLAV Residing at 589, AMARENDRA SARANI, UTTARPARA, HOOGHLY, 712258, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as SHYAM CHANDRA BALLAV (New Name) as declared before the 1ST Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipur vide affidavit Dated 19-12-2019. SHYAM CHARAN BALLAV (Old Name) and SHYAM CHANDRA BALLAV (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Tojammel & Sk Tojammel Hossain (old names) son of Late Sk Barkat, residing at VILL- KASBAGOLA, PO- KASBAGOLA, East Medinipur, 721447, West Bengal, India, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Shek Tojammel (new name), as declared Before The Notary Public at Contal, Purba Medinipur vide an affidavit No. 1055, dated 17/02/2026. Shek Tojammel (new name) and Tojammel & Sk Tojammel Hossain (old names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mushraf Ali son of Md. Ashraf Ali, resident of 62/T Tiljala Road, Kolkata-700046, West Bengal, India on behalf of my minor son MD AYAN ALI declare that Actual Date of Birth is 24/02/2010 as per KMC Birth Certificate Regn No H/03/2012/01340. But wrongly my son's Date of Birth has been recorded in CIDSE certificate in the year 2026 Unique ID (Registration No. 3803647 and Roll No 1267575/028 as 24/04/2010 (Incorrectly instead of 24/02/2010) (Correct Date of Birth) sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 13/05/2026.

Name Change
I, Sudipta Bosu (Old Name), Son Of Ashok Kumar Bosu, Resident Of Cg-139, Ground Floor, Salt Lake, Sector-2, Bidhanagar(M), Po- Sech Bhawan, Bidhanagar, North 24 parganas- 700091, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sudipta Bosu (Old Name) To Sudipta Kumar Bosu (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sudipta Kumar Bosu(New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 4 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Sudipta Kumar Bosu (New Name) And Sudipta Bosu (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Rashmi Rani Raj (old name) W/o Prasanta Kumar Raj, residing at -VILL- NAKUDEBELI, PO:BORAI, PS:MOHANPUR, WEST MEDINIPUR-721457, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Rashmi Rani Raj (Old Name) to Rashmi Rani Raj (Old Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Rashmi Rani (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 49 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Rashmi Rani (New Name) and Rashmi Rani Raj (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shambu Mondal (old name) S/o Atul Mondal, residing at Vill- Singa, P.O.- Dighalgram, P.S.- Haringhata, Dist.- Nadia, Pin- 741257, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shambu Mondal (Old Name) to Sambhu Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sambhu Mondal (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 42 sworn before the Notary Public at Kalyani, Nadia, on 14/05/2026. Sambhu Mondal (New Name) and Shambu Mondal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Sirajul Islam (old name) S/o Md Yeagub Ali Gazi, residing at Vill- Trimohini Paschim Para Ward No-12, P.O. & P.S.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743411, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammed Sirajul Islam (Old Name) to Sirajul Islam Gazi (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sirajul Islam Gazi (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Sirajul Islam Gazi (New Name) and Mohammed Sirajul Islam (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ezaz Ahmed (old name) S/o Md Tahir Hossain, residing at 46D, Shamsul Huda Road, Circus Avenue, Kolkata- 700017, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ezaz Ahmed (Old Name) to Ejaz Ahmed (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ejaz Ahmed (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Ejaz Ahmed (New Name) and Ezaz Ahmed (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sukrun Nesa (Old Name), Wife Of Abdul Mannan Molla, Resident Of Y-130, Kanchal Beria Road, Po- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial- 700018, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sukrun Nesa (Old Name) To Sukrun Bibi (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sukrun Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 8 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Sukrun Bibi (New Name) And Sukrun Nesa (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Mannan (Old Name), Son Of Mohammad Ehiya Molla, Resident Of Y-130, Kanchal Beria Road, Po- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial- 700018, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Abdul Mannan (Old Name) To Abdul Mannan Molla (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Abdul Mannan Molla (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 7 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Abdul Mannan Molla(New Name) And Abdul Mannan (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Aziza Khaton (Old Name), Wife Of Mozaffar Hossain Molla, Resident Of Y-130, Kanchal Beria Road, Po- Bartala, P.S.- Nadial- 700018, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Aziza Khaton (Old Name) To Aziza Khatoun (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Aziza Khatoun (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 6 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Aziza Khatoun (New Name) And Aziza Khaton (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shri Ram Asopa (old name) S/o Narayan Das Asopa, residing at 493B/1, G.T.Road South Panchsheel App, Block- A, 302 Shipur, Howrah- 711102, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shri Ram Asopa (Old Name) to Ram Kishor Asopa (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Ram Kishor Asopa (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Ram Kishor Asopa (New Name) and Shri Ram Asopa (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SK MOHAMMAD RAMEEZ (old name) S/o SK SALAHUDDIN, residing at PANCHLA MOKTAR PARA, PO-PANCHLA, PS-PANCHLA, HOWRAH RURAL- 711322, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SK MOHAMMAD RAMEEZ (Old Name) to SK MD RAMEEZ (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as SK MD RAMEEZ (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. SK MD RAMEEZ (New Name) and SK MOHAMMAD RAMEEZ (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Md Hasan (old name) S/o Sekh Mohammad Ayes, residing at PANCHLA KHALPAR, PO PANCHLA, PS PANCHLA, HOWRAH RURAL- 711322, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Md Hasan (Old Name) to Sekh Mohammad Hasan (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sekh Mohammad Hasan (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Sekh Mohammad Hasan (New Name) and Sk Md Hasan (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SK MOHAMMAD AZIM,SK MAHAMMAD AZIM (old name) S/o SEKH MOHAMMAD HASAN, residing at PANCHLA KHALPAR, PO PANCHLA, PS PANCHLA, HOWRAH RURAL- 711322, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SK MOHAMMAD AZIM,SK MAHAMMAD AZIM (Old Name) to SEKH MOHAMMAD AJIM (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. SEKH MOHAMMAD AJIM (New Name) and SK MOHAMMAD AZIM,SK MAHAMMAD AZIM (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SK SAFIUDDIN (old name) S/o MOHINUDDIN SEKH, residing at PANCHLA MOKTAR PARA, PO PANCHLA, PS PANCHLA, HOWRAH RURAL- 711322, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SK SAFIUDDIN (Old Name) to SFAIUDDIN SEKH (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as SFAIUDDIN SEKH (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. SFAIUDDIN SEKH (New Name) and SK SAFIUDDIN (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Ali (old name) S/o Mohammed Reyaz, residing at 168/X, KE-SHAB CHANDRA SEN STREET, Kolkata, 700009, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammed Ali (Old Name) to Md Ali (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Md Ali (New Name) and Mohammed Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Apurba Kumar Modak (old name) S/o Upendra Modak, residing at 67, New Tollygunge, Kolkata Municipal Corporation, Kolkata- 700093, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Apurba Kumar Modak (Old Name) to Apurba Modak (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Apurba Modak (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit (NO.36) sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/05/2026. Apurba Modak (New Name) and Apurba Kumar Modak (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ranjit Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Late Jogesh Chandra Biswas, Resident Of Raipur, Natunpara, Raypur, Amtala, Murshidabad- 742121, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ranjit Biswas (Old Name) To Ranjit Kumar Biswas (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ranjit Kumar Biswas (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 2 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 14/05/2026. Ranjit Kumar Biswas (New Name) And Ranjit Biswas (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Notice for Identification of Legal Heirs
It is hereby notified for general information that Mr. Tarakanath Mukhopadhyay S/O: Late Girish Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Amarnath Mukhopadhyay S/O: Late Girish Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Biswanath Mukhopadhyay, S/O: Late Girish Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Arun Mukhopadhyay S/O: Late Baidyanath Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Arup Mukhopadhyay S/O: Late Baidyanath Mukhopadhyay, Ms. Rama Devi W/O: Late Baidyanath Mukhopadhyay, MS Shanti Sudha Devi, W/O: Late Sholanki Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Shibnath Mukhopadhyay, S/O: Late Purna Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Late Shri Anil Mukhopad

Do-or-Die Derby: Dramatic Late Draw in a Derby Marred by Missed Chances; East Bengal Takes the Lead in the Title Race

MI News Service, Kolkata: Excitement surrounding the 'Do-or-Die' Derby has reached a fever pitch. McLaren will start the match to pile early pressure on East Bengal; conversely, East Bengal's objective is to make an aggressive start. Rajul's parents—the parents of the deceased Mohun Bagan supporter—are at the Salt Lake Stadium to watch the Derby. Mohun Bagan was his very life; and so, carrying a photograph of their son, the family has arrived to witness the big match. In a do-or-die derby, both teams observed a minute of silence in memory of the late Tutu Bose. The entire stadium paid tribute to the former Mohun Bagan president; homage was also paid to him through a tifo display.

In the 7th minute, Mohun Bagan's Sahal failed to score from a well-placed ball inside the box; a 'Red and Gold' player cleared the ball beautifully. East Bengal came agonizingly close to scoring in the 13th minute, but the goal eluded them. Anton's shot struck the Mohun Bagan goalkeeper and rebounded. Mohun Bagan received a lifeline. East Bengal steps up the pressure on the attack once again. Despite making a brilliant run into the box with the ball, Bipin misses

the goal. The defense is becoming a cause for concern for Mohun Bagan. In the 24th minute, Mohun Bagan's Alber to lost his temper and received a yellow card. East Bengal attempts to put pressure on the Green and Maroons. The match remained goalless until the 29th-minute water break. East Bengal squandered two scoring opportunities, while Mohun Bagan also failed to find the net.

State Sports Minister Nisith Pramanik was invited to the big match. He was spotted on the field alongside Federation President Kalyan Chaubey. Mohun Bagan Super Giant Chairman Sanjiv Goenka was also in attendance. Receiving a pass from Miguel, Soiberg found himself right in front of an open goal; however, he failed to control the ball properly. Seizing this opportunity, Mohun Bagan goalkeeper Vishal rushed in and recovered the ball. East Bengal's streak of missed chances continues. Why does Mohun Bagan seem to fall behind whenever East Bengal misses a chance? This time, it was Manvir Singh who was at fault. Despite receiving the ball inside the box, he failed to find the back of the net; at the very last moment, the ball deflected off Jeakson's foot and went out of play. The



The ISL match between Mohun Bagan Super Giant and East Bengal FC at Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata on Sunday.

first half ended goalless. The entire credit for this goes to the strikers of both teams; it was as if neither side had any

desire to score. In this contest of missed opportunities, one side seemed to challenge the other: "Watch me miss!"—only

to be met with the retort: "No, watch 'me*!" The state of the defenders was equally dismal; on one side, players like Sub-

hasish Bose appeared ready to lend a helping hand to the opposition, while on the other, the likes of Joy Gupta seemed

equally determined to do the same. However, players such as Soosairaj, Bipin, and Manvir seemed to have firmly resolved that they simply would *not* score.

East Bengal went on the attack right from the start of the second half. Bipin Singh surged forward from the right flank; however, after breaking into the box, he fired his shot wide. Cutting in from the right flank, Abhi unleashed a powerful shot; however, East Bengal's goalkeeper pulled off a last-ditch save. Sahal and his teammates were unable to capitalize on the ensuing corner kick either. A superb shot from Liston off a free-kick; the ball sailed just over the crossbar. The game is largely confined to the midfield, with neither team managing to create many chances in the second half.

One hour into the match, Oscar Bruzón made a double substitution. Edmund came on in place of PV Vishnu, while Youssef Ejzejeri replaced Soiberg, who had squandered an easy goal-scoring opportunity. Receiving a loose ball from midfield, East Bengal's Miguel surged into the Mohun Bagan penalty area. Although he unleashed a powerful shot, Vishal Kaith ultimately made the save. For the moment,

Mohun Bagan remains safe thanks to Vishal. East Bengal, however, continued to press the attack. Mohun Bagan subsequently brought on Dimitri Petratos to replace Sahal. Liston cut into the box from the right flank, but there was no one available to receive a pass. Anwar sent the weak pass out of play. Mohun Bagan was desperate to score. Consequently, Mohun Bagan coach Sergio Lobera substituted defender Tom Aldred with Robson Robinho. Shortly thereafter, despite breaking into the box, McLaren failed to make an impact. Immediately following that, Mohun Bagan substituted Alberto with Jason Cummings. Mohun Bagan has withdrawn its foreign players from defense and deployed all of them in the attack. Jason Cummings and his teammates are desperate to score, but East Bengal's defense remains rock-solid. Atlas a goal for East Bengal! Edmund Lalrindika pierced through the Mohun Bagan defense and found the back of the net. Now, a goal for Mohun Bagan! Jason Cummings restores parity off a corner kick from Robson. The score stands at 1-1. With regulation time now elapsed, drama awaits in extra time. The Derby ends in a draw. The match finished 1-1.

Diamond Harbour wins Indian Football League



MI News Service, Goa: Yet another glory for Bengal football. This time it comes via Diamond Harbour Football Club. Diamond Harbour FC of Bengal wins the current edition of Indian Football League (IFL) title after Diamond Harbour drew 1-1 with Dempo SC at Goa. One point was enough for Diamond Harbour FC to win the prestigious IFL title. Diamond Harbour FC now gets promoted to Indian Super League (ISL) and will play the same in the next season for Bengal along with East Bengal, Mohun Bagan and Inter Kasi.

227 kg of Narcotics Seized in Dehradun, Two Arrested



Drug manufacturing equipment seized during NCB raid.

MI News Service, Dehradun: 'Jihadi Drug Ring' Busted. Through 'Operation Rajepil,' the police and the central narcotics control agency (NCB) have seized 227.2 kg of Captagon tablets and powder. Two accused individuals have been arrested; one of them is a Syrian national.

Upon interrogating the Syrian national, investigators discovered that the Captagon tablets—previously seized in November 2025 from Neb Sarai in Delhi—were actually manufactured at a factory in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. Another Syrian national had assisted in their production. It has been reported that on the night of May 16, the NCB conducted a raid on a pharmaceutical factory in Dehradun named M/s Green Herbal. During the search operation, investigators recovered sophisticated machinery being utilized for the large-scale production of illicit drugs. This equipment included machines for tablet manufacturing, granulation, capsule filling, coating, sealing, and blister packaging. Authorities also seized raw materials, chemical substances, capsules, and packaging supplies from the factory premises.

Investigators have stated that the owner knowingly rented out the factory for the production of illicit drugs. He charged approximately 50,000 Taka per day for its use. Officials further revealed that the factory owner had previously been implicated in two separate drug-related cases involving the supply of Tramadol and other tablets—investigations into which were conducted by the Dehradun Police and the Delhi Zonal Unit of the NCB. The police have also arrested the accused factory owner.

Approval Granted for Expansion of Seven Key National Highways in the State

MI News Service, Kolkata: Prioritizing national security, the West Bengal government has approved the expansion of seven key National Highways within the state. This decision by the state government is expected to provide a significant boost to road connectivity and strategic infrastructure in North Bengal, border areas, and the regions along the India-Bangladesh, India-Bhutan, and India-Sikkim borders.

The State Cabinet had already approved a proposal for the transfer of land to the Border Security Force (BSF). Now, moving further in this direction, the state government has given the green light to these National Highway projects.

In a press release issued on Saturday, State Chief Sec-

retary Manoj Kumar Agarwal stated that for approximately the past year, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways had been seeking permission from the state government for these projects; however, the work had remained stalled due to the lack of approval from the previous Trinamool government. Following the change of government, the new administration has approved all seven projects and has requested the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) to commence work expeditiously.

The seven National Highways for which expansion has been approved include:

- National Highway 312 — Extending approximately

- 330 kilometers from Jangipur, passing through Umarapur, Krishnanagar, Bongaon, and Basirhat, up to the Ghodajanga border.
- National Highway 31 — From the Bihar-West Bengal border to Gazole in Malda.
- National Highway 33 — From the Bihar-West Bengal border to Farakka in Murshidabad.
- New National Highway 10 — From Sevoke Military Cantonment, passing through Coronation Bridge and Kalimpong, up to the West Bengal-Sikkim border.
- New National Highway 317A — From Hasimara to Jaigaon, up to the India-Bhutan border.
- New National Highway 717 — From Bara Dighi, passing through Maynaguri, up to the Changrabandha India-Bangladesh border.

New National Highway 110 — From the Siliguri-Darjeeling intersection, passing through Kurseong, up to Darjeeling. According to government sources, the completion of these projects will improve road connectivity in the hilly and Doars regions of North Bengal. Additionally, it will bolster traffic flow and strategic movement in border districts such as Malda, Murshidabad, Nadia, and North 24 Parganas.

Experts believe that the expansion of these highways will not only boost economic activities and tourism but also strengthen security infrastructure and military logistics in the border areas. Following approval from the state government, the NHAI and NHIDCL have now initiated the process to fast-track these projects.

Despair over NEET paper leak: Four students commit suicide;



MI News Service, New Delhi: Despair over the NEET paper leak: at least four students across the country have reportedly taken their own lives—or so the opposition alleges. The Congress party claims that, to date, four students have committed suicide due to the distress caused by the NEET paper leak scandal. However, the Congress camp refuses to characterize these deaths merely as suicides; instead, the party asserts that these are, in reality, acts of "systematic murder."

The latest report of a suicide linked to the NEET controversy comes from Goa. The family of Siddharth Hegde—a 17-year-old minor from Goa—alleges that he, too, took his own life as a direct consequence of the NEET paper leak. A suicide note was recovered near Siddharth's body. In the note, he wrote: "I sat for the examination after two years of grueling hard work. I no longer possess the strength to face the exam again." Siddharth is not the first; prior to this, allegations of suicides linked to the NEET controversy have surfaced in several other states across the country. Anshika Pandey (20), Ritwik Mishra (21), and Pradeep Meghwal (22)—each of whom aspired to become a doctor—have all reported-

ly committed suicide due to the overwhelming despair caused by the scandal.

Citing this list of the deceased, the Congress party is demanding an explanation from the government. The social media handles of the 'Hand' camp have asserted that these incidents are, in reality, not merely suicides or natural deaths; rather, they constitute "systematic murder"—that is to say, institutional killings.

Notably, the Congress party has been on the offensive regarding the NEET paper leak controversy right from the outset. Rahul Gandhi was among the first to raise his voice emphatically against the paper leak issue. He also brought to light the fact that question papers had been leaked in Rajasthan. Venting his frustra-

tion over the entire matter once again on his X handle, Rahul wrote: "Question papers were leaked in 2024, yet the examination was not cancelled. Nor did the Minister resign. A committee was formed. Now, this year, question papers have been leaked once again. A CBI investigation is underway, and another committee is set to be formed. But Mr. Modi, the people of this country are asking you some questions: Why are question papers being leaked repeatedly? Why do you always remain silent regarding the question papers? Despite repeated failures, why are you not dismissing the Education Minister?" For the time being, the Congress party is demanding that the Education Minister take responsibility for this incident and resign.

85-Year-Old Stroke Patient Defies Odds, Walks Back to Normal Life

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a remarkable example of advanced home-based critical care and rehabilitation, 85-year-old stroke patient Sukumar Banerjee has made a near-complete recovery after spending nearly two months on invasive ventilator support following a life-threatening medical crisis. His recovery is being seen as a major success for structured home healthcare services in managing critically ill elderly patients outside traditional hospital settings.

Banerjee was initially admitted to a leading city hospital after suffering a severe stroke complicated by a serious systemic infection. During treatment, his condition rapidly worsened, forcing doctors to place him under prolonged Intensive Care Unit (ICU) care with in-



vasive ventilator support and tracheostomy-assisted airway management. Medical experts said the combination of neurological complications and severe infection pushed him into a highly critical state, making his chances of recovery uncertain. For nearly two months, he remained dependent on advanced respiratory support while undergoing intensive treatment. As his

prolonged illness continued, the family, after consultations with doctors and clinical experts, decided to shift his treatment and rehabilitation to a fully equipped home critical care setup managed by Health Plus Home Healthcare. An ICU-grade medical environment was created at his residence, complete with advanced ventilator and oxygen support systems, 24-hour critical care nursing, physician supervision, digital health monitoring and structured physiotherapy-based rehabilitation. At the time of transfer, Banerjee's inflammatory condition remained severe, with his C-Reactive Protein (CRP) level reportedly close to 550 — a dangerously high indicator of systemic infection and inflammation. Over the following weeks, a coordinated multidisciplinary treatment approach gradu-

ally improved his condition. Doctors and caregivers successfully controlled the infection, reduced inflammatory markers and slowly weaned him off ventilator support. In a significant breakthrough for a patient of his age and condition, the tracheostomy tube was eventually removed, and he regained mobility within two months. Banerjee has now moved from intensive critical care to step-down nursing support and no longer requires oxygen assistance or Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV). His family described the recovery as "nothing short of extraordinary," while healthcare experts said the case demonstrates the growing effectiveness of advanced home healthcare systems in delivering patient-centric rehabilitation and reducing prolonged hospital dependency.

Major Education Shift Ahead as Bengal Plans Return of Campus Polls

MI News Service, Kolkata: The possibility of student union elections returning to colleges and universities across West Bengal after nearly a decade has gained fresh momentum following strong indications from newly elected MLA Sajal Ghosh, who said the new administration is preparing to restore campus democracy in educational institutions.

Speaking at an education fair held at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Ghosh asserted that student elections, which remained suspended for years under the previous regime, would now be conducted "very soon" across colleges and universities in the state. The Baranagar MLA, who rose through student politics himself, sharply criticised the prolonged absence of campus polls and alleged that internal factionalism within the earlier ruling establishment was one of the primary reasons behind the

continued suspension of student union elections. According to Ghosh, educational institutions across Bengal witnessed the gradual erosion of democratic student representation during the past decade, with elected student bodies either remaining dissolved or functioning without fresh mandates for years. The suspension of student elections had earlier sparked legal challenges and widespread debate within academic circles. During that period, the previous administration maintained that the COVID-19 pandemic and campus-related law-and-order concerns prevented the conduct of polls. However, opposition voices and several student organisations repeatedly alleged that political control over educational institutions had effectively replaced democratic student participation. The issue has now resurfaced prominently following the change in

power in Bengal, with political activity inside campuses once again becoming a focal point of debate. Recent allegations by student organisations regarding the alleged politicisation of educational institutions have further intensified demands for restoring elected student unions. During his remarks, Ghosh also raised questions over financial transactions linked to student bodies in certain colleges. Referring specifically to Surendranath College, he alleged that large sums of money had been routed through student union accounts despite financial stress in institutional administration. "If colleges themselves are facing financial strain, how did crores of rupees enter student union accounts?" he questioned, alleging large-scale irregularities in the functioning of campus bodies during the previous administration. The MLA also indicated that major aca-

demie and curricular reforms may be on the horizon. He criticised portions of the existing school syllabus, alleging historical and political distortion in educational content, and advocated changes in curriculum structure. According to him, emphasis will now be placed on restructuring academic content and expanding vocational and skill-oriented courses at the college level. The developments come at a time when several major educational bodies in the state, including school education-related administrative structures, are reportedly undergoing reorganisation following directives issued after the change in government. With the prospect of campus elections returning after years of political deadlock, Bengal's higher education sector appears poised for a significant administrative and political transition in the coming months.

Why is Modi silent? Rahul speaks out, demanding Education Minister's resignation over the NEET paper leak scandal

MI News Service, New Delhi: Amidst the controversy surrounding the NEET question paper leak (NEET-UG 2026), Rahul Gandhi has now demanded an explanation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha further stated that Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan should resign over this issue. Notably, the NEET examination has already been cancelled as a result of the paper leak. The NEET exam is set to be conducted afresh. However, the Prime Minister has not uttered a single word regarding this entire episode; he is currently occupied with a foreign tour.



Amidst the NEET paper leak controversy, Rahul Gandhi has now sought an explanation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The National Testing Agency (NTA) conducted the NEET-UG examination on May 3. Approximately 2.3 million students appeared for the test. It subsequently came to light that, at least a month prior to the examination, a set of probable questions had fallen into the hands of certain students. This probable question paper contained 410 questions. Following the examination, it was discovered that 120 chemistry questions matched the actual exam questions verbatim. Not only did the questions match, but the answer options did as well. A nationwide controversy ensued, leading to the cancellation of the NEET examination. Holding a press conference, Dharmendra Pradhan announced that strict measures

would be taken to curb the "exam mafia."

Rahul had been vocal about the issue of paper leaks right from the very beginning. He also publicly exposed the fact that paper leaks had occurred in Rajasthan. Venting his frustration over the entire matter once again on his X handle, Rahul wrote: "Paper leaks occurred in 2024, yet the exams were not cancelled. Nor did the Minister resign. A committee was formed. Now, this year, paper leaks have happened again. A CBI inquiry is underway, and another committee will be constituted. But Mr. Modi, the people of this country are asking you some questions: Why are paper leaks happening repeatedly? Why do you always remain silent regarding the question papers? Despite repeated failures, why are you

not dismissing the Education Minister?"

The CBI investigation into the question paper leak scandal has brought to light a series of explosive revelations. Numerous individuals—including a Chemistry professor and a Biology lecturer—have been arrested. It has been revealed that the aforementioned professor, Manisha Gurunath Mandhare, was a member of the NTA's paper-setting committee. Investigators claim that this educator had access to the Botany and Zoology question papers. In other words, the investigation makes it abundantly clear that the "ghost" behind the NEET question paper leak was lurking right within the system itself. Yet, despite all this, the Union Education Minister has not been removed from his post.

Knowledge of Augmentative and Alternative Communication needed to support natural speech Educators

GUWAHATI : More than 50 professionals from Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, working in the disability, rehabilitation and education sectors, have stressed the need for enhancing knowledge and practical understanding of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) to support natural speech rather than replace it.

They were speaking in a workshop on building skills and capacities in communication methods for those with a wide range of speech impairments, including people with developmental disabilities, according to a statement.

The special educators, speech therapists and other practitioners from the two states also emphasised person-centred approaches in communication support and rehabilitation, and the growing need for trained professionals equipped to address diverse communication, learning and support requirements.

The two-day Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) workshop on AAC, held here recently, also put the spotlight on enhancing knowledge and practical understanding of AAC strategies and tools to supplement and support natural speech rather than replace it.

AAC enables inclusion in mainstream society and independence in communication using all manners of sign, gestures, objects, pictures, symbols and words. AAC systems can be no-tech, low-tech or high-tech.

Experts and leaders in the field, including Padma Shri awardee Sudha Kaul, founder of the Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP), Kolkata, conducted the work-

shop. Other resource persons and speakers included Madhurima Dasgupta, Principal, IICP; Diba Nahin, Director, Training at Shishu Sarothi Centre for Rehabilitation and Training for Multiple Disability and special educator; and Dipam Das, special educator (Deaf and blindness).

The workshop featured interactive sessions, demonstrations, discussions and practical insights on AAC, including communication strategies, multidisciplinary intervention and inclusive practices for individuals with complex communication needs.

Speakers emphasised the importance of collaborative and person-centred approaches in communication support and rehabilitation, while highlighting the growing need for trained professionals equipped to address diverse communication, learning and support requirements.

The CRE workshop also provided participants with a platform to exchange experiences, share best practices and strengthen professional networks across disciplines, the statement said.

Why Chandrababu Naidu announced incentives for third and fourth child in Andhra

Amaravati, May 17 (IANS) The financial incentives announced by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for the third and fourth children come amid the growing concern over the state's declining Total Fertility Rate (TFR).

At a public meeting in Srikakulam district, the Chief Minister announced that the government will give Rs

30,000 for the third child and Rs.40,000 for the fourth child.

The veteran politician, who was a strong supporter of population control while serving as the chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh between 1995 and 2004, now believes that population is an asset and not a burden.

According to officials, the "second child onwards" incentives are similar to models implemented in France and Hungary to avoid future demographic collapse.

The declining child birth rate prompted the state government to intervene, as Chandrababu Naidu feels that lack of intervention would further aggravate the situation.

The statistics from the state's Health Department show that Andhra Pradesh is ageing faster than India, with a median age of 32.5 years compared to the national average of 28.4 years.

Officials of the Health Department say that Andhra Pradesh has only a demographic window until 2040 before the dependency ratio skews heavily towards the elderly population.

Andhra Pradesh's TFR has declined to 1.5 from 3.0 in 1993. The current TFR is well below the replacement level of 2.1, placing Andhra Pradesh on a trajectory similar to developed economies facing a demographic crisis, say the officials.

Ever since assuming office as the Chief Minister in 2024, Chandrababu Naidu has been pitching for population growth to improve the TFR to 2.1, which is considered ideal to maintain demographic balance.

As a first step, the coalition government headed by

Chandrababu Naidu scrapped the two-child norm, which barred those with more than two children from contesting local body elections.

In March, he unveiled the Population Management Policy, claimed to be the first of its kind in the country. He believes that the policy will be a game-changer to increase the population.

He proposed various measures to address the declining birth rate. These include Rs 1,000 per month as nutrition assistance to the third child for five years and free education till 18 years.

The Chief Minister had told the state Assembly to encourage more childbirths; the government is planning to provide 12 months of maternal leave and two months of paternal leave.The

Population Management Policy document was made available online, and public representatives in every constituency were advised to hold a discussion on this issue among the people for a month. Chandrababu Naidu had also stated that changes would be made in the policy after examining the results after a year.

The Chief Minister believes that declining TFR poses a threat to economic growth with a fall in the number of young working people. He cautioned that the state will face an ageing problem like in Japan, South Korea and Italy.

Citing the report of 2023, he pointed out that 6.70 lakh births were reported per year. If the same situation continues by 2047, the ratio of aged people will increase to 23 per cent.

He warned that if the TFR

decreases further, the workforce will decline, resulting in a slowdown of economic growth. "We are now facing the same problem that developed nations are experiencing - a growing non-working-aged population. Our focus must shift to enabling and incentivising families to have children," state Health, Medical & Family Welfare Secretary, Sourabh Gaur, had said at a meeting.

Under the population management policy, the government is planning to introduce a five-stage lifecycle system including Matrutva (motherhood), Shakti (strength), Kshema (well-being), Naipunyam (skills), and Sanjeevani (longevity).

The government has assured support at every stage of life from pregnancy to old age. "We will support those who are childless and suffering from fertility problems. We will set up a Maternity Centre of Excellence and provide IVF services in government hospitals under the PPP mode," the Chief Minister had said.

The Health Department recently presented the plans for the establishment of Fertility Colleges as Centres of Excellence for Reproductive Medicine. This first-of-its-kind public sector initiative will train professionals and provide state-supported IVF treatment for couples facing infertility challenges, addressing a critical barrier to sustainable population growth.

The government will also take steps to reduce caesarean sections. It has also set a target to reduce teenage pregnancies, which is currently 8.8 per cent, to less than 3 per cent.

Rahul Gandhi reiterates demand to sack Dharmendra Pradhan over NEET paper leak

NEW DELHI : Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Sunday reiterated his demand for the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan over the NEET-UG 2026 exam paper leak, accusing the BJP-led Centre of not taking accountability for such "repeated" instances.

Taking to X, LoP Gandhi referred to the alleged irregularities in the NEET-UG 2024 examination and claimed that despite the CBI's investigation and formation of a committee, the exam was not cancelled at that time.

"NEET 2024: Paper leaked. Exam not cancelled. Minister did not resign. CBI set up an investigation. A committee was formed", he wrote.

Significantly, the Supreme Court had refused to cancel the 2024 NEET-UG exam due to insufficient evidence of "systemic" leak.

Gandhi drew similarities between the NEET-UG 2026 cancellation and subsequent re-examination, with the 2024 instance.

"NEET 2026: Paper leaked. Exam cancelled. Minister still did not resign. CBI is investigating again. Another committee will be formed," he said.



Moreover, Gandhi questioned Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining silence on the issue and asked why the Education Minister is not tendering his resignation despite repeated paper leaks.

"Mr. Modi, the country is asking you some questions - answer them! Why aren't you dismissing the Education Minister who keeps failing repeatedly?"

"Why are paper leaks happening repeatedly? Why are you silent time and again on this 'exam paper discussion'?" he asked further

A day before, Gandhi released a video statement in which he claimed that the NEET question paper had been circulated two days before the examination.

Targeting the Education

Minister, LoP Gandhi had said: "The whole country knows that the paper was distributed two days before the exam. India's Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan says he has nothing to do with it. You have damaged the very core idea of India." He had alleged that there is a nexus involving the RSS, BJP, and individuals appointed in educational institutions, claiming the system was being used for profiteering at the cost of students' futures. The Congress leader had further attacked the process of appointing Vice-Chancellors in universities, claiming ideological affiliation had replaced merit and academic competence.

The re-examination of NEET-UG 2026 is scheduled to be held on June 21.

India needs modern urban planning, skilled real estate leadership: Amit Shah

AHMEDABAD : Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said inadequate town planning had prevented Indian cities from developing properly, as he called for more structured and forward-looking urban development policies while inaugurating the Ganesh Real Estate Management Institute (GREMI) in Ahmedabad.

Speaking at the launch event alongside the inauguration of Million Minds Tech City in Tragam neighbourhood, HM Shah said most Indian cities had expanded without long-term planning and infrastructure preparation.

"When town planning is not proper, good cities are not built. Unfortunately, in our country, most cities kept growing first, and later we tried to provide facilities," he said.He said the real estate sector in India had historically developed only to meet immediate needs and had rarely been approached comprehensively. "Issues linked to the environment, planning frameworks and town planning schemes had not been adequately integrated into urban development. No one has ever attempted to address it in a comprehensive manner," he



said.HM Shah referred to the introduction of town planning schemes during Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat chief minister.

saying it marked "one of the first attempts in India to plan infrastructure and civic facilities" before large-scale settlement took place.

"I remember when town planning schemes were introduced, for the first time in India, planning for facilities before people started living there was initiated," he said.

He added that global urban planning and technological standards had advanced significantly, and many dimensions of modern city planning had still not received adequate attention in India. The Home Minister said GREMI had been established to address those gaps through specialised education and research in real estate and urban planning.

Explainer CBSE's three-language formula for Class 9 What does it mean what changes

NEW DELHI : Two months after beginning of the 2026-27 academic session, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has notified implementation of the three-language formula for Class 9 from July 1, 2026.

Here is an explainer of what the formula is:

- 1. What is three-language formula?**
The three-language formula in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 recommends that students learn three languages, at least two of which must be native to India. This formula applies to both government and private schools, giving states the flexibility to choose languages without any imposition.
- 2. What is the history of three-language formula?**
The formula was first proposed by the Education Commission (1964-66), officially known as the Kothari Commission. It was formally adopted in the National Policy on Education (NPE) 1968 under then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The policy was reaffirmed in NPE 1986 under PM Rajiv Gandhi and revised in 1992 by Narasimha Rao's Congress government to promote linguistic diversity and national unity.
- 3. What does NEP 2020 say about the three-language formula?**
The NEP proposes an "early implementation of the three-language formula to promote multilingualism" from the school level. The document states that the



three-language formula will continue to be implemented "while keeping in mind the constitutional provisions, aspirations of the people, regions, and the Union, and the need to promote multilingualism as well as promote national unity".

However, the NEP also states that there will be greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and no language will be imposed on any state.

The policy states that the three languages learned by children will be the choices of states, regions, and of course, the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India.

- 4. What about foreign languages?**
According to NEP 2020, in addition to Indian languages and English, students at the secondary level can also learn Korean, Japanese, French, German and Spanish, among other foreign languages.
- 5. What about the three-language formula?**
The three-language formula has been at the centre of the political row between the former DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre.
- 6. What is the controversy about three language formula?**
The three-language formula has been at the centre of the political row between the former DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre.

ond and third languages.

5. Are books ready?
The board has said till the dedicated R3 textbooks are available, Class 9 students shall use the Class 6 R3 textbooks (2026-27 edition) of the chosen language.

The board has further said schools facing a shortage of adequately-qualified native Indian language teachers may, as an interim arrangement, engage existing teachers of other subjects who possess functional proficiency in the language concerned.

6. What is the controversy about three language formula?
The three-language formula has been at the centre of the political row between the former DMK-led Tamil Nadu government and the Centre.

The state has historically opposed the three-language formula. In 1937, the then Madras government, headed by C.Rajagopalachari, introduced compulsory Hindi in schools. This move sparked widespread protests by the Justice Party and Dravidian leaders like Periyar. The policy was revoked in 1940, but anti-Hindi sentiments persisted. When the three-language formula was introduced in 1968, Tamil Nadu opposed it, seeing it as an attempt to impose Hindi.

Russia, India, African nations explore new pathways for cultural dialogue: Report



NEW DELHI : Growing cultural engagement between Russia, India, and African nations is emerging as a key pillar of contemporary diplomacy, with experts and policymakers underlining the importance of people-to-people exchanges, academic cooperation and shared civilisational values in reshaping global partnerships amid shifting geopolitical realities, according to an article.

Cultural diplomacy is increasingly becoming an effective instrument for strengthening trilateral cooperation among the three regions, the article by Kester Kenn Klomegah in Modern Diplomacy said.

The article noted that a cultural dialogue programme held on May 12 at a Moscow-based coworking space brought together diplomats, academics, students and rep-

resentatives of African communities to discuss deeper collaboration in education, culture and humanitarian initiatives. The event highlighted how soft-power engagement is now complementing traditional economic and strategic partnerships between Russia, India, and Africa.

The discussions focused on preserving cultural heritage, expanding educational exchanges, and encouraging youth participation in international dialogue. Participants reportedly stressed that culture and education can help build long-term trust at a time when the global order is undergoing rapid transformation.

The article argued that India's historical links with Africa and Russia's expanding outreach across the African continent provide a

natural basis for broader cultural cooperation. India's engagement with Africa has long been rooted in shared anti-colonial experiences, trade networks and educational partnerships, while Russia has increasingly sought to strengthen ties through academic programmes, media outreach and cultural initiatives.

The growing emphasis on cultural diplomacy also comes amid wider geopolitical changes involving BRICS and the Global South. India and Russia have continued to deepen strategic engagement through multilateral platforms, while African nations are seeking more diversified partnerships beyond traditional Western alliances.

Recent BRICS meetings and diplomatic outreach efforts have highlighted the importance of multipolar coopera-

tion and stronger South-South engagement.

The Modern Diplomacy article further highlighted the role of educational institutions, language programmes, literary exchanges, and youth forums in building sustainable cooperation. Analysts believe such initiatives could strengthen mutual understanding and create new opportunities in sectors including technology, innovation, tourism, and the creative economy.

Experts cited in the broader debate on Global South diplomacy have increasingly pointed to "multi-alignment" strategies adopted by countries such as India, where partnerships are being developed simultaneously across different geopolitical blocs.

This approach has also opened new space for collaboration with African nations

in areas ranging from development and trade to cultural exchange.

The article by Klomegah also underlined that humanitarian and cultural connections often outlast political fluctuations and can provide stability during periods of international uncertainty. Observers believe such initiatives could help establish a more inclusive framework for global cooperation driven not only by economics and security, but also by shared human values and intercultural dialogue.The renewed focus on Russia-India-Africa cultural engagement reflects a broader attempt by emerging powers and developing nations to redefine international cooperation through educational, artistic and civilisational partnerships, while promoting a stronger voice for the Global South in global affairs.

Middle East tensions rise as Iran plans Strait of Hormuz tolls amid US warnings and Israeli strikes



MI News Service, Tehran: Iran has announced it will soon unveil a comprehensive plan to manage maritime traffic through the strategic Strait of Hormuz, including the introduction of tolls. The move is expected to have significant implications for global oil trade, as the strait serves as a critical chokepoint for much of the world's energy supplies.

US President Donald Trump issued a stern warning to Iran, stating it would face a "very bad time" if a peace deal is not reached soon. His comments came as Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammed Bagher Ghalibaf asserted that the world stands "at the cusp of a new order," signaling Tehran's confidence in shifting global dynamics.

Meanwhile, violence continues unabated in Gaza and Lebanon. Israeli attacks on Saturday killed at least 11 Palestinians and wounded more than 60 others in Gaza. In southern Lebanon, Israel reported striking 100 sites over two days, even as negotiators from both sides agreed to extend a fragile ceasefire for an additional 45 days.

Ebola outbreak kills more than 80 in DR Congo, WHO declares international health emergency

MI News Service, Kinsasha: An Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo has killed more than 80 as authorities warned there was no vaccine for the strain in a crisis that the World Health Organization (WHO) declared an international health emergency on Sunday.

A total of 88 deaths and 336 suspected cases of the highly contagious haemorrhagic fever have been reported, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Africa) said in an update on Saturday.

The Geneva-based WHO said early on Sunday the outbreak caused by the Bundibugyo strain of Ebola constituted a "public health emergency of international concern" -- the second-highest level of alert under international health regulations.

The global health body warned the true scale of the number of cases and spread was not clear but stopped short of declaring a pandemic emergency, the highest alert level introduced in 2024.

Medical aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said it was preparing a "large-scale response", calling the rapid spread of the outbreak "extremely concerning", in warnings echoed by authorities.

"The Bundibugyo strain has no vaccine, no specific treatment," DR Congo's Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said.

"This strain has a very high lethality rate, which can reach 50 percent."

The strain -- which was first identified in 2007 -- has also killed a Congolese national in neighbouring Uganda, officials said on Saturday.

Vaccines are only available for the Zaire strain, which was identified in 1976 and has a higher fatality rate of 60-90 percent.

Health officials had confirmed the latest outbreak on Friday in Ituri province in northeastern DRC, bordering Uganda and South Sudan, according to CDC Africa.

"We've been seeing people



die for the past two weeks," said Isaac Nyakulinda, a local civil society representative.

"There is nowhere to isolate the sick. They are dying at home and their bodies are being handled by their family members."

Large-scale transport of medical equipment is a challenge in DRC, a country of more than 100 million people which is four times the size of France but has poor communications infrastructure.

It is the 17th Ebola outbreak to hit the DRC, and officials warned of a high risk of spread.

"There are significant uncertainties to the true number of infected persons and geographic spread," the WHO said.

But it added the high positivity rate of initial samples, the confirmation of cases in two countries, and the increasing reports of suspected cases, "all point towards a potentially much larger outbreak than what is currently being detected and reported, with significant local and regional risk of spread."

It is worth to mention that the previous outbreak of Ebola - which has killed around 15,000 people in Africa over the past 50 years, despite advances in vaccines and treatment - was last August in the central region.

That episode killed at least 34 people, before being declared eradicated in December.

Nearly 2,300 people died in the deadliest outbreak in the DRC between 2018 and 2020.

Ebola, believed to have originated in bats, can cause severe bleeding and organ failure.

Outbreaks over the past half century have seen a mortality rate among those affected of between 25 percent and 90 percent, according to WHO.

The virus spreads from person to person through bodily fluids or exposure to the blood of an infected person, who become contagious only once they display symptoms. The incubation period can last up to 21 days.

Hamas confirms death of military wing chief; funeral held in Gaza City

MI News Service, Gaza: Hamas confirmed on Saturday that Izz al-Din al-Haddad, commander-in-chief of its armed wing the al-Qassam Brigades, was killed in an Israeli airstrike on Friday.

The announcement was made by Hamas spokesperson Hazem Qassem in a video posted on Facebook.

According to Palestinian sources, hundreds of Palestinians attended al-Haddad's funeral on Saturday, with the procession starting from the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Mosque in central Gaza City. Participants carried the bodies of al-Haddad, his wife and daughter through the streets, and chanted slogans denouncing the Israeli airstrike.

Earlier on Saturday, the Israeli military and the domestic security agency Shin Bet confirmed in a joint statement that al-Haddad was killed in the Israeli airstrike on Gaza City on Friday.



They said al-Haddad was one of the planners of the Hamas attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

In a separate statement, Israeli military chief Eyal Zamir said the

military will continue to "hold accountable everyone who took part" in the 2023 Hamas attack. "We will not relent until we reach them all," he said.

On Friday, Palestinian medical

sources reported that at least 10 people were killed and at least 50 others injured in an Israeli airstrike on an apartment building and a vehicle in Gaza City.

Al-Haddad, known by the nickname "Ghost of al-Qassam," was considered by Israel to be one of the most wanted figures. He had survived several previous assassination attempts, according to Israeli media.

Gaza-based Palestinian political analyst Ahed Fervana told Xinhua that al-Haddad's death could have an operational impact on the group's field command.

Meanwhile, Fervana suggested that the timing of the Israeli airstrike could be linked to domestic political considerations in Israel, as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "is attempting to bolster his standing" before a possible Knesset dissolution and in upcoming parliamentary elections.

India holds Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance

MI News Service, New Delhi: India rejected the award issued by the "illegally constituted Court of Arbitration (CoA)" on May 15 and said its decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance remains in force.

"The illegally constituted so-called Court of Arbitration (CoA) has, on 15 May 2026, issued what it termed an award concerning maximum pondage supplemental to the award on issues of general interpretation of the Indus Waters Treaty. India categorically rejects the present so-called award, just as it has firmly rejected all prior pronouncements of the illegally constituted CoA," MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in response to media queries on matters pertaining to the so-called Court of Arbitration.

India has never recognised the establishment of CoA and said any proceeding, award, or decision issued by it is null and void. "India's decision to hold the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance remains in force," the Spokesperson added.

In a statement in June last year, India had said that it never recognised the existence in law of this so-called Court of Arbitration, and India's position has all along been that the constitution of this so-called arbitral body is in itself a serious breach of the Indus Waters Treaty.



It said that any proceedings before this forum and any award or decision taken by it are also for that reason illegal and per se void.

Following the Pahalgam terrorist attack, India had in exercise of its rights as a sovereign nation under international law, placed the Indus Waters Treaty in abeyance, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism.

"Until such time that the Treaty is in abeyance, India is no longer bound to perform any of its obligations under the Treaty. No Court of Arbitration, much less this illegally constituted arbitral body which has no existence in the eye of law, has the jurisdiction to examine the legality of India's actions in exercise of its rights as a sovereign," MEA had said in a release.

Indonesia's Dukono volcano erupts, spewing grey ash 5,000 metres above peak

MI News Service, Jakarta: Dukono volcano in Indonesia's North Maluku province erupted on Sunday, spewing grey ash up to 5,000 metres above its peak, the country's Centre for Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation said. The 1,087-metre volcano is currently at the second-highest alert level.

Authorities urged residents and visitors to avoid activities within a 4-km radius of the crater and to prepare face masks to reduce respiratory risks from volcanic ash.

Earlier this month, three people were killed after Mount Dukono erupted.

Another 15 people were found safe, out of which seven were Singaporean nationals, and eight were Indonesian citizens.

Due to the eruptive activity of Mount Dokono and the bodies being buried under a significant amount of volcanic material, the evacuation of the victims was delayed.

The remains were taken to Tobelo Regional Hospital for identification



and further processing.

Regret was expressed by the Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana (BNPB), the Indonesian government's National Agency for Disaster Countermeasure, over the climbing activity despite the Mount Dukono hiking route being fully closed since April 17.

"We urge hiking operators and the public to help disseminate information about the route closure. Violations may result in sanctions under prevailing regulations to ensure public safety," Abdul Muhari, Head of the BNPB Disaster Data, Information, and Communication Centre, said earlier this month.

It is worth to mention that Mount Dukono had also erupted in February earlier this year, prompting the country's Volcanology and Geological Disaster Mitigation Centre to issue an aviation warning.

S. Korean, Iranian FMs discuss vessel safety in Strait of Hormuz

MI News Service, Seoul : South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun held phone talks with his Iranian counterpart Seyyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday to discuss the recent Middle East situation, bilateral ties, and the safety and passage of South Korean vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, the South Korean foreign ministry said. Noting that South Korea was conducting an additional investigation into the recent attack on the South Korean-operated vessel HMM NAMI, Cho asked the Iranian side to state its position on the facts of the case, and stressed the importance of the safety and freedom of navigation for all vessels, including South Korean ships, in the Strait of Hormuz. A South Korean joint government investigation team earlier confirmed that two unidentified aerial objects struck the stern of the Panamanian-flagged vessel in the strait on May 4, with all 24 crew members aboard confirmed unharmed.

Veteran mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa breaks own record with 32nd Everest summit

MI News Service, Kathmandu: Kami Rita Sherpa, the record holder for the highest number of ascents of Mount Everest, broke his own record by scaling the world's tallest peak for the 32nd time on Sunday.

The veteran Nepali mountaineer, 55, successfully reached the 8,848.86-metre summit at 10:12 a.m. (Nepal time), during the Spring 2026 mountaineering season, Nepal's Department of Tourism said in a statement on Sunday.

"Based on information received from the department's field office at Everest Base Camp, the ascent was completed while leading an expedition organised by 14 Peaks Expedition," the department said.

Pasang Dawa Sherpa is his closest competitor, having reached the summit of

Putin, UAE president discuss Mideast situation in phone call

MI News Service, Moscow : Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday held a telephone conversation with United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to discuss the crisis situation in the Middle East and around Iran.

According to the Kremlin, both leaders pointed out during the call that it is necessary to further advance political and diplomatic efforts, fully accommodate the interests of all regional countries, and reach compromise peace agreements on this basis. The statement noted that the two heads of state expressed satisfaction with the sound progress of bilateral cooperation in political, trade and economic fields, and agreed to maintain frequent bilateral exchanges.

Putin also thanked the UAE for its repeated assistance in resolving humanitarian issues amid the Ukraine crisis.

Israel prepares for Iran escalation as strikes on Lebanon continue despite truce

MI News service, Jerusalem : First responders inspect a residential building hit in an earlier US-Israeli strike in Tehran on Friday, March 27.

Israel has intensified military preparations against Iran while continuing strikes in Lebanon despite an extended ceasefire with Hezbollah on Sunday, May 17, fuelling fears of a wider regional conflict.

Israeli Minister Ze'ev Elkin said the country's armed forces were ready to target Iran and its strategic infrastructure if authorised, while noting that the final decision depended on US President Donald Trump.

Israeli broadcaster Channel 12 reported that security officials were preparing for an extended confrontation that could last days or weeks. The report said the objective would be to inflict severe damage capable of pushing Tehran back into negotiations.



CNN reported that Trump faced growing pressure after both military measures and diplomatic contacts failed to achieve a breakthrough with Tehran.

The report said differences had surfaced within the administration between officials advocating stronger military action and others favouring continued negotiations.

US Senator Rick Scott said Iran continued to pose a threat to the United States and Israel, accusing Tehran of seeking to rebuild its weapons capabilities.

"Iran wants to rebuild its weapons, they still hate this country, they still want to kill us, they still want to destroy Israel," Scott said during an interview with Fox News.

AIMPLB rejects Madhya Pradesh HC verdict on Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex, to challenge in SC

MI News Service, New Delhi: The All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has strongly rejected the Madhya Pradesh High Court's verdict declaring the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula Mosque complex in Dhar as a temple.

Describing the judgment as "historically flawed" and inconsistent with constitutional principles, the Board announced that the Kamal Maula Mosque Committee will challenge the ruling in the Supreme Court. AIMPLB pledged "every possible legal and moral support" to the effort.

Speaking on Saturday, AIMPLB spokesperson Dr S Q R Ilyas criticised the high court order, saying it ignored substantial historical evidence, revenue records, archaeological material, colonial-era documents, and the Archaeological Survey of India's (ASI) long-standing position on the site.

He pointed out that the ASI had for decades officially referred to the complex as "Bhojshala/Kamal Maula Mosque" in its records and signboards, acknowledging its shared reli-



gious character.

Dr Ilyas highlighted the 2003 administrative arrangement, under which Hindus were allowed to worship on Tuesdays and Muslims to offer Friday namaz. This arrangement, he said, reflected the ASI's recognition of the religious rights of both communities. The high court's decision to end this practice, he argued, marks a departure from the ASI's earlier stand.

The Board maintained that revenue records have consistently identified the structure as a mosque. It also questioned claims of a Saraswati temple from Raja Bhoj's era at the exact location, stating there is no conclusive historical evidence to support this.

While acknowledging the presence of temple-like

architectural elements, Dr Ilyas noted that medieval Islamic buildings across the subcontinent commonly incorporated reused materials from earlier structures. The mere presence of such remnants, he said, cannot override the site's centuries-old status as a mosque.

The AIMPLB argued that the verdict relied excessively on "civilisational narratives" linked to Raja Bhoj while disregarding continuous Muslim religious usage, official documentation, and the safeguards provided by the Places of Worship Act, 1991.

The Board reiterated its commitment to defending the historical and constitutional rights of the Kamal Maula Mosque through the upcoming Supreme Court proceedings.

IPL 2026: Venkatesh Iyer, Kohli power RCB to 222/4 against PBKS

DHARMSHALA : All-rounder Venkatesh Iyer remained unbeaten at 73 while Virat Kohli smashed a brilliant fifty as Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) posted 222/4 in 20 overs against Punjab Kings (PBKS) in the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 clash at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association (HPCA) Stadium in Dharamshala on Sunday.

After being asked to bat first, RCB began cautiously, with Virat Kohli and Jacob Bethell taking time to settle on a surface that offered some early movement. The side managed only 17 runs in the first two overs as Punjab Kings' bowlers maintained disciplined lines.

Bethell looked uncomfortable from the start but attempted to shift momentum in the third over with a boundary. However, Harpreet Brar struck immediately after as the left-hander was clean bowled trying to attack again. Bethell's difficult run with the bat continued as he departed for 11

off seven deliveries. Devdutt Padikkal, however, ensured RCB did not lose momentum. The left-hander attacked right from the beginning and smashed a six off the very first ball he faced. Kohli too joined the attack quickly, launching Lockie Ferguson for a maximum in the following over. The pair mixed aggressive strokeplay with smart strike rotation to keep the scoreboard moving at a healthy rate.

Padikkal looked in complete control during his entertaining knock, regularly punishing anything short or wide. Kohli, at the other end, played with fluency and kept the pressure firmly on Punjab Kings' bowlers. Their aggressive approach helped RCB reach 61/1 at the end of the power-play.

Punjab Kings introduced experienced spinner Yuzvendra Chahal in an attempt to slow down the scoring rate, but the move backfired as the veteran leg-spinner conceded 21 runs in his opening



over. Kohli and Padikkal continued to dominate and added 76 runs for the second wicket before Brar once again provided the breakthrough. In the 10th over, Brar produced another impressive delivery to dismiss Padikkal, who missed out on a half-century by just five runs. The left-hander played a brisk knock of 45 off 25 balls, hitting four boundaries and three sixes. Despite losing Padikkal, Kohli maintained the momentum and continued to score freely. The former RCB skipper brought up his half-century in just 31 balls with a quick single in the 12th over. He looked set for a much bigger score as he combined well with Venkatesh Iyer.

Iyer initially struggled to find timing but gradually settled into his innings. The left-hander shifted gears in the 14th over by hitting Brar for two consecutive boundaries before taking on Chahal in the next over with two towering sixes. Chahal eventually struck back on the final ball of the

over when Kohli miscued a shot to deep mid-wicket after a well-made 58 off 37 deliveries. His innings included four fours and three sixes and once again provided a solid platform for RCB.

Following Kohli's dismissal, Iyer took complete control of the innings alongside Tim David. The all-rounder attacked the Punjab bowlers in the death overs and completed his half-century in just 29 balls. Ferguson, in particular, struggled badly with his lengths as Iyer capitalised with clean hitting on both sides of the wicket.

Iyer remained unbeaten on 73 off 40 balls, smashing eight fours and four sixes in a superb finishing effort. Tim David also played a valuable cameo, scoring 28 off only 12 deliveries as RCB crossed the 220-run mark.

For Punjab Kings, Harpreet Brar was the standout bowler with figures of 2/35 from his four overs, while Chahal picked up the important wicket of Kohli despite an expensive outing.

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026: NAGELSMANN STAYS MUM ON NEUER'S RETURN

BERLIN (GERMANY) : The guessing game over Manuel Neuer's participation in the 2026 FIFA World Cup continues.

While reports from Bild and Sky speak of a secured return of Neuer, Julian Nagelsmann stopped short of an explicit confirmation, though for the first time, he did not rule out a comeback for the Bayern Munich goalkeeper, after the 40-year-old announced his retirement from international duty following the UEFA Euro 2024. The German national team head coach noted the final World Cup squad nomination is scheduled for May 21.

Bild, Sport1, Kicker, and Sky all report that a final announcement has been delayed due to a minor muscle injury suffered by Neuer, which forced the Bayern keeper to come off in the 60th minute of their final league game against Cologne as a precaution. Reports note that Nagelsmann and Neuer have held several talks and have resolved the previously reported tensions that stemmed from Nagelsmann's tenure as Bayern's head coach. Several Bayern officials, including Max Eberl, have praised Neuer as the best German keeper, while former German international Oliver Khan said that Oliver Baumann's performance has dipped since the Hoffenheim keeper was named Germany's number one a few months ago.

Former German international Stefan Effenberg criticised Nagelsmann's risky strategy and his failure to issue a clear statement. The case becomes tricky because Baumann claims not to have been informed of a change. "My position is that I am still the number one," the 35-year-old said. Kahn spoke of a risky and adventurous procedure by Nagelsmann. The German coach is jeopardising Baumann's self-confidence, the 56-year-old said. The former Bayern keeper said Neuer's age and growing injury-proneness could be a problem. "Playing games every two to three days is a heavy physical load," he said, after Neuer signed a one-year contract extension with Bayern.

IPL 2026: WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH CSK VS SRH, KNOW ALL DETAILS

CHENNAI : Five-time champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) will clash with 2016 winners Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in the 63rd match of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026 to be played at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Monday.

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) are placed at No. 6 on the points table with six wins and as many defeats from 12 matches. They are well and truly in contention to reach the playoffs despite starting the season with three consecutive losses. Ruturaj Gaikwad's team is coming to the contest after suffering a seven-wicket loss against Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) at Ekana Stadium. CSK needs two wins in two matches to stay alive in the competition.

On the other hand, Sunrisers Hyderabad also made a strong comeback after a poor start, losing three of their first four matches. They are currently placed in third position in the points table, with seven wins from 12 matches. If they manage to win the match against CSK, their chances of qualification will increase significantly.



cantly. SRH is also coming to the contest after suffering a big 87-run defeat against the Gujarat Titans at Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad.

The rivalry between CSK and SRH has seen the two teams face each other 24 times in the IPL so far. CSK have dominated the head-to-head record with 16 wins, while SRH have emerged victorious on eight occasions. There

have been no tied matches or no results between the sides. Their first-ever meeting took place on April 25, 2013, with CSK winning, while the most recent clash was held on April 18, 2026, with SRH coming out on top.

When: Monday, May 18, 7:30 PM IST

Where: M.A. Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai

Where to Watch: The CSK vs

SRH match will be broadcast on Star Sports channels, with JioHotstar live-streaming the game.

Chennai Super Kings: Ruturaj Gaikwad (c), MS Dhoni (wk), Devon Conway, Rahul Tripathi, Shaik Rasheed, Vansh Bedi (wk), C Andre Siddharth, Rachin Ravindra, Ravichandran Ashwin, Vijay Shankar, Sam Curran, Anshul Kamboj, Deepak Hooda, Jamie Overton, Kamlesh Nagarkoti, Ramakrishna Ghosh, Ravindra Jadeja, Shivam Dube, Khaleel Ahmed, Noor Ahmad, Mukesh Choudhary, Dewald Brevis, Nathan Ellis, Shreyas Gopal, Matheesha Pathirana.

Sunrisers Hyderabad: Travis Head, Ishan Kishan, Heinrich Klaasen, Smaran Ravichandran, Abhishek Sharma, Harsh Dube, Kamindu Mendis, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Pat Cummins (c), Eshan Malinga, Jaydev Unadkat, Harshal Patel, Salil Arora, Prafull Hinge, Liam Livingstone, Shivam Mavi, Jack Edwards, Brydon Carse, Sakib Hussain, Zeeshan Ansari, Aniket Verma, Amit Kumar, Krains Fuletra

Shreyas Iyer becomes fifth player to complete 100 IPL matches as captain

DHARAMSALA : Shreyas Iyer added another milestone to his growing leadership resume on Sunday as the Punjab Kings captain became only the fifth player in Indian Premier League history to lead a side in 100 matches.

The landmark came during PBKS' IPL 2026 clash against Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium on Sunday, placing Iyer alongside some of the most decorated captains in the tournament's history.

Before Iyer, only MS Dhoni, Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma had reached the three-figure mark as IPL captains.

The 31-year-old has built his captaincy record across three franchises, Delhi Capitals, Kolkata Knight Riders and PBKS, highlighting both his tactical reputation and consistent demand as a leader in the league.

Iyer first took charge of Delhi Capitals in 2018 and led the franchise in 41 matches, guiding them to their maiden IPL final in 2020. He later moved to KKR, where he captained the side in 29 games between 2022 and 2024 and ended the franchise's long wait for



silverware by lifting the IPL title in 2024.

His latest chapter with PBKS has already produced another finals appearance, making Iyer the only captain in IPL history to lead three different teams into the tournament final.

Across his first 99 matches as skipper before Sunday's game,

Iyer had registered 56 victories, including two Super Over wins, while suffering 40 defeats. Three games ended without a result. His success rate across completed matches stands at 58.3 per cent, level with Dhoni for the best win percentage among captains in IPL history. The achievement further strengthens Iyer's reputation as

one of the most effective leaders of the modern IPL era, particularly given the contrasting squads and transitions he has managed across franchises.

Punjab's campaign this season has mirrored that inconsistency. The team began IPL 2026 in stunning fashion, putting together a seven-match unbeaten run that included six wins and a washed-out fixture. However, momentum slipped dramatically midway through the season, with five consecutive defeats leaving their playoff hopes hanging in the balance.

Even so, the occasion offered Iyer another reminder of how quickly his leadership journey has evolved in the IPL. From rebuilding Delhi Capitals into contenders to restoring Kolkata's title-winning pedigree and now attempting to revive PBKS' fortunes, the Mumbai batter continues to carve out a distinct legacy as one of the league's standout captains.

At the top of the all-time list remains Dhoni, who has captained in 235 IPL matches for Chennai Super Kings and Rising Pune Supergiant between 2008 and 2025.

Italian Open: Andreeva-Shnaider clinch doubles title

ROME : Russian pair Mirra Andreeva and Diana Shnaider underlined their growing dominance on the women's doubles circuit by capturing the Italian Open title with an emphatic straight-sets victory here on Sunday. The duo defeated seventh seeds Cristina Bucsa and Nicole Melichar-Martinez 6-3, 6-3 in a one-sided final that lasted just 69 minutes at the Foro Italico.

The triumph marked the pair's second WTA 1000 title together and their third trophy as a team overall, further strengthening their reputation as one of the most dangerous partnerships on tour heading into Roland Garros. Rome also provided the perfect response after their disappointment in Madrid earlier this month, where Andreeva and Shnaider finished runners-up following a defeat to doubles specialists Katerina Siniakova and Taylor Townsend in the final. This time, however, there was little room for drama. From the opening exchanges, the Russian duo controlled the pace of the match with aggressive returns and sharp net play, rarely allowing Bucsa and Melichar-Martinez to build sustained momentum. After taking the first set with authority, they quickly tightened their grip on the contest in the second to complete a dominant

title run in the Italian capital.

The championship adds another significant milestone to a partnership that continues to gather momentum at the highest level. Since joining forces, Andreeva and Shnaider have now claimed titles in Brisbane, Miami, and Rome, while also reaching the Madrid final in an impressive stretch across the season.

Their latest run included a semifinal victory over second seeds Siniakova and Townsend, making them the first team outside the experienced Czech-American pairing to lift a WTA 1000 doubles title since Dubai earlier this year.

For Andreeva, the title also capped an encouraging recovery after a frustrating singles campaign on clay. The teenage star had suffered heartbreak in the Madrid singles final before exiting early in Rome following a defeat to Coco Gauff. Shnaider, meanwhile, was knocked out in singles by Naomi Osaka.

But together, the pair once again looked a class apart in doubles competition. Olympic silver medalists from Paris 2024, Andreeva and Shnaider, now head to the French Open with growing expectations and the confidence of another major clay-court title behind them.



Satwik-Chirag pull out of Malaysia Masters after Thailand Open silver

PATUMWAN : India's leading men's doubles combination of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will skip the upcoming Malaysia Masters as the pair continues to carefully manage their schedule following an encouraging run to the Thailand Open final.

After settling for silver on Sunday, the Indian duo confirmed they will not compete in Malaysia and will instead return for the Singapore, Indonesia and Australia legs of the tour.

"No, we are not playing Malaysia. We are playing Singapore, Indonesia, and Australia," Reddy mentioned after the contest.

The decision comes after Satwik and Chirag showed signs of rediscovering rhythm and confidence during their campaign in Thailand, where they reached

their first final in recent weeks before losing 21-12, 25-23 to Indonesia's Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin in a high-speed contest at Nimibutr Stadium.

While the opening game slipped away quickly, the Indian duo mounted a spirited fightback in the second, saving four championship points before narrowly falling short. Reflecting on the match, Shetty admitted the pace of the conditions made it difficult for the pair to settle early.

"Yeah, I think we didn't start off that well. Shuttles were quite fast and we were trying to keep it low as much as possible. But we were always on the back foot. But second game we were taking the shuttle a lot higher and mixing it up with some flicks as well. But in the end, it wasn't enough," Shetty said.



The Indians initially struggled to adapt to both the shuttle's speed and the aggressive style imposed by the Indonesian pair,

particularly on the faster side of the court.

"Yeah, on the first side we played on the faster side. It was a

little difficult for us to control. They took us into their game style and it was tough. But it took time for us to adjust. The way we

played the second game, I think a little bit sharper in those few points, maybe we could have won the third game," Reddy said.

Much of the final unfolded at blistering pace around the net, with very few lifted exchanges as both pairs attempted to maintain attacking control throughout the rallies.

"Hardly. The shuttles were also quite fast. When the shuttles were new, it was really really fast and it was very difficult to adjust. And the rallies were so fast that you didn't really know how hard you need to hit to control it. But it was quite fast today compared to the rest of the game," Shetty said.

Despite the disappointment of missing out on the title, the Indian pair viewed the week as another important step in regaining the sharpness and belief that had previously made them one of the

world's most dangerous doubles teams.

Reddy acknowledged that confidence had dipped over recent months, but felt the partnership was steadily moving back towards its best level.

"Except today, the way we played, I think we are getting back that touch. I think we should believe more and be confident on court rather than playing 50-50. I feel like from the starting onward, we are 50 when we enter on the court. But before, one year back, we were always 90% confident. But we are getting back that confidence. So happy with how we played this weekend. It's more about mental rather than physical I think. But things have started working to ourselves. I think maybe sooner or later, very soon, we will be on the winning side rather than second.