



Dawood's 'Right-Hand Man' Munna Plotted Attacks in India!

Nation ● Pg 5



TMC expels two MLAs for 'anti-party' activities, exposes inner-party cracks

City ● Pg 3

Rs. 3 KOLKATA
 TUESDAY, 2 June, 2026
 PG-8, YEAR-13, ISSUE-2
 (RNI NO.-WBENG/2014/56803)
 WEBSITE:WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

Free govt bus ride rolled out for women in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Bringing joy and satisfaction to millions of women in West Bengal, the new BJP ruled state government on Monday rolled out free journeys for women in state-run buses on all routes.

Expressing their happiness for such a government decision for the first time in the state, women going to work in the peak morning hours have, however, sought that there should be more frequency of government buses on the roads.

In keeping with the promise made by the BJP in its assembly election manifesto, the Suwendu Adhikari government allowed free journeys for women in state-run buses from today, a senior party functionary said.

"I am happy, but the frequency of state buses needs to be increased manifold," said Madhumita Dasgupta as she boarded a government bus from Jadavpur to her workplace at Park Street in central Kolkata.

She said that the number of state-run buses had decreased sharply since the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Several government-run bus routes have vanished over the last few years, adding woes to commuters," said Surya Bhattacharya, travelling by a state-run air-conditioned bus to Salt Lake Sector V, an IT hub, from Gariahat in south Kolkata.

Similarly, Manisha Barman, travelling to Cooch Behar from Siliguri on a bus of the North Bengal State Transport Corporation with her two daughters, also welcomed the government initiative and said the nearly 170 km journey to their native village will now become easier owing to the scheme.

The government made rides free for women from June 1 in all buses of West Bengal Transport Corporation, South Bengal State Transport Corporation and North Bengal State Transport Corporation.

The move is aimed at enhancing the empowerment of women and improving their access to transport facilities.

The state government has said that it will issue digital smart cards, along with the beneficiaries' photographs and names, to ensure that there is no misuse of the scheme.

The CM, on his X account, shared that the project is anchored in the vision of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the empowerment of the nation's women.

"Women from Hills to Plains Receiving Benefits of Free Transportation. In a step forward towards realising the dream of the illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for the empowerment of the nation's women power, West Bengal has advanced," the CM wrote.

Highlighting the vision behind the rollout, the Chief Minister in his post expressed that the BJP has fulfilled a key electoral 'promise' made ahead of the elections.

"The state's mother power has placed trust not in fear, but in assurance. To fulfil the BJP's promise 'Oath of Trust' made ahead of the elections, and with the guidance of the respected Modi Ji as the guiding light, from today, the BJP government in West Bengal has launched free transportation arrangements for mothers in all government buses from the hills to the plains, in accordance with the earlier announcement," the post further read.

"The state government is committed to ensuring the safety, social progress, self-reliance, and rights of the mother power in West Bengal," it added.

Regarding the launch of the scheme, the official X handle of the BJP West Bengal in a post also shared the vision behind this initiative.

Today marks a significant milestone in empowering the women of Bengal. Guided by the vision of Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi Ji and in direct fulfillment of our 'BhrosarSopoth' manifesto commitment, West Bengal government led by CM Suwendu Adhikari is proud to introduce free transit for women on all state-operated buses, starting June 1st," the post read.

"Ensuring the safety, freedom, and dignity of our mothers and daughters remains our highest priority. We stand firmly by our promises as we continue the vital work of rebuilding a secure, prosperous, and self-reliant Sonar Bangla," the post said.

Another lady passenger, highlighting the financial benefits of the scheme, said that it is good for women if everyday travel is free of cost in the state.

"It will definitely be convenient as we have to travel 50-60 kilometres every day. We pay Rs 8,500-9,000 a month for transport expenses, so if something becomes free here, it will be good for us," she said without disclosing her name.

As part of the implementation mechanism, the state government will soon introduce a Smart Card (digital with QR code) for beneficiaries.

Abhishek did not appear before CID owing to health-related issues

MI News Service, Kolkata: As anticipated, Trinamool Congress leader Abhishek Banerjee did not appear before the West Bengal CID on Monday citing health-related issues, sources said.

The Diamond Harbour MP was summoned by the investigation agency in connection with a probe into the alleged use of forged signatures of party legislators in a communication submitted to the Assembly Secretariat on behalf of the opposition party, they said.

Incidentally, the TMC national general secretary came under attack by a mob of disgruntled local residents when he visited the house of an alleged post-poll violence victim at Sonarpur town in South 24 Parganas district on Saturday.

After eggs and dirt were thrown on him, he went to two leading private hospitals in city for admission. But after providing first aid treatment, both the hospitals refused to admit him that evening amid high drama with party supremo Mamata Banerjee remaining present blaming the hospital authorities for non-admission 'under pressure'.

Earlier on Saturday afternoon the CID had summoned Banerjee in connection with the ongoing investigation into the alleged forged signatures of party legislators. The disputed communication was reportedly submitted to the West Bengal Assembly Secretariat and is linked to the endorsement of Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as Leader of the Opposition.

Sources said Banerjee has cited medical reasons and is currently undergoing treatment at home, following health concerns that emerged after the Sonarpur incident.

The CID had earlier issued a notice asking him to appear at its Bhabani Bhaban headquarters in Kolkata. The notice was personally served at his Kalighat residence as part of the ongoing probe.

Meanwhile, BJP state president Samik Bhattacharya reacted to the development, wishing Banerjee a speedy recovery and expressing hope that he returns to public duties soon.

The investigation into the alleged forged signature case continues, with the CID examining the circumstances surrounding the submission of the disputed document to the Assembly Secretariat.

The case stems from a controversy over a letter submitted by the TMC to the Assembly Secretariat on May 19 and signed by some 70 newly elected party MLAs offering support to Sovandeb Chattopadhyay as the LoP, a cabinet minister-rank post, which has been brought under the police scanner for dubious authenticity.

The notice to the TMC leader was, however, hand-delivered only after a dramatic sequence of events that unfolded before two of Banerjee-owned properties in the Kalighat area of south Kolkata, drawing considerable public attention and extending for about an hour and a half.

The state Assembly Secretariat had filed a complaint at Kolkata's Hare Street Police Station, alleging that TMC leader Nayna Banerjee's signature, which she signed after taking oath as the MLA, did not match the one in the letter of support for Chattopadhyay.

The controversy has led the Assembly secretariat to hold back the allotment of the chamber to the Leader of Opposition, triggering protests from TMC legislators at the legislative premises. Following the serving of notice to Banerjee on Saturday, the CID team also handed over a summons to TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh at his north Kolkata residence.

35 new BJP MLAs take oath as ministers in the expansion of Bengal cabinet

MI News Service, Kolkata: As announced, a total of 35 newly elected MLAs took oath as ministers in West Bengal's first BJP-helmed cabinet, taking the total strength of Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari's council of ministers to 41.

Governor RN Ravi administered the oath of office and secrecy to the new ministers at a brief but glittering ceremony at the Lok Bhavan here on Monday.

While 13 BJP MLAs were sworn in as cabinet ministers, three were administered oath as ministers of state (Independent Charge) and 19 others were inducted in the council as ministers of state.

Among those present at the ceremony were Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari, the existing five ministers of his cabinet and senior bureaucrats of the state administration.

Among the 35 BJP MLAs, Tapas Roy, Shankar Ghosh, Swapan Dasgupta, Duddh Kumar Mondal, Deepak Burman, Manoj Oraon, Gouri Shankar Ghosh, Arjun Singh, Saradwat Mukherjee and Jagannath Chattopadhyay were sworn in as Cabinet ministers in the Suwendu Adhikari government, while Rajesh Mahata, Indranil Khan and Malati Rava Roy took oath as Ministers of State (independent charge) and party legislators Santanu Pramanik, Purnima Chakraborty, Umesh Rai, Joyel Murmu,

Ashok Dinda, Anandamoy Burman, Kaushik Chowdhury, Gargi Das Ghosh, Bhaskar Bhattacharya, Dibakar Gharami and Sumana Sarkar were sworn in as Ministers of State.

After the induction of 35 legislators into the council of ministers, strength of the Bengal cabinet has now gone upto 41, three short of the maximum count of ministers that a government can have in the 294-member assembly.

The oath-taking ceremony was held three weeks after Suwendu Adhikari and five other ministers - Dilip Ghosh, Agnimitra Paul, Ashok Kirtaniya, Khudiram Tudu and Nisith Pramanik -- were sworn in as cabinet ministers on May 9 in presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence minister Rajnath Singh, BJP All India President Nitin Nabin, several other central leadership of the BJP and Chief ministers of 20 NDA-ruled states.

The cabinet expansion was finalised on Sunday after Suwendu Adhikari and state BJP chief Samik Bhattacharya held meetings in New Delhi with the party's central leadership last week about the induction of members in the council of ministers.

Though the May 9 swearing-in ceremony was held at the iconic Brigade Parade Grounds after the BJP secured 208 seats in the



Chief minister of West Bengal Suwendu Adhikari before the swearing in ceremony at Lok Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharjee

294-member assembly in the recently concluded elections, ending the Trinamool Congress' 15-year rule and scripting its most significant electoral breakthrough in eastern India, today's ceremony was held at the Lok Bhavan.

Though initially it was decided to allocate the portfolios of the newly inducted ministers after they reach the state Secretariat Nabanna this afternoon, later the programme was shelved till Wednesday. However, the reason for the change in time was not given by the state administration so far.

According to senior political observers here, today's cabinet expansion was primarily focussed on broader social and regional representation. The existing five ministers already represent as leaders from the women, tribal, Matua, and Rajbanshi communities. BJP leaders have indicated that the expanded council have brought in representatives from other social groups and regions as the party seeks to consolidate its support base after its landmark victory of 208 seats, which ended the Trinamool Congress's 15-year rule in the state.

Ahead of the ceremony, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, BJP leader Amit Malviya, Speaker Rathindra Ghosh and other senior party leaders arrived at Lok Bhavan for the swearing-in event.



West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath to thirteen newly elected BJP legislators—Deepak Burman (Falakata), Tapas Roy (Manikata), Dr. Shankar Ghosh (Siliguri), Manoj Kumar Oraon (Kumargram), Arjun Singh (Nayapara), Gouri Shankar Ghosh (Murshidabad), Jagannath Chattopadhyay (Suri), Swapan Dasgupta (Rashbehari), Dr. Saradwat Mukherjee (Bidhanagar), Kalyan Chakraborty (Khardah), Arup Kumar Das (Kanthi Dakshin), Ajay Poddar (Kulti), and Duddh Kumar Mondal (Mayureswar)—as Cabinet Ministers at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday.



'PM SVANidhi transformed lives of countless street vendors': PM Modi

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday said the PM SVANidhi scheme supporting street vendors has transformed the lives of countless hawkers by ensuring their access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth. This scheme is all about trust, dignity and empowerment.

My best wishes to all beneficiaries whose determination and enterprise continue to strengthen our nation's economy," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Extending his best wishes to beneficiaries, the Prime Minister also praised their resilience and entrepreneurial spirit, saying, "My best wishes to all beneficiaries whose determination and enterprise continue to strengthen our nation's economy."

The PM SVANidhi scheme, launched in 2020, aims to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors and facilitate their integration into the formal financial system. The scheme also encourages digital transactions and offers incentives for timely repayment.

Union Minister for Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal Khattar, also commemorated the milestone, while addressing the sixth PM SVANidhi programme in Agartala.

He added that under the leadership of PM Modi, the scheme has emerged as a key pillar in strengthening India's lives of millions of street vendors by expanding access to formal credit, promoting digital transactions, and strengthening social security. More than a loan scheme, it has become a powerful instrument of economic inclusion, empowering vendors with Swarozgar, Svavlamban and Swabhimaan," the minister said.

● Continued to Pg 3

K'taka CM-designate Shivakumar, Siddaramaiah meet Cong high command for cabinet talks

MI News Service, New Delhi / Bengaluru: Karnataka Chief Minister-designate D K Shivakumar and outgoing CM Siddaramaiah arrived in New Delhi on Monday to finalise the new cabinet with the Congress high command, party sources said.

Both leaders arrived in Delhi in the afternoon, but their return journeys, have, however, left "open-ended" as high-stakes discussions began.

Shivakumar, who is also the state Congress President, is scheduled to be sworn-in as the next CM along with some Council of Ministers at 4:05 PM on June 3, at the Lok Bhavan premises.

He was officially elected the leader of the Congress Legislature Party in Karnataka on Saturday. Karnataka has a sanctioned strength of 34 ministers, including the Chief minister.

With a large number of ministerial aspirants and limited number of berths in hand, Shivakumar has a tight rope to walk, as he risks large-scale disgruntlement by those who will be left out, party sources said.

In response to a query on the number of people to take the oath along with him, Shivakumar told reporters "I don't know. Whatever the party high command decides will be done. I don't want to comment on that."



K'taka CM-designate Shivakumar

AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge had maintained that no proposal has been received yet regarding the composition of the new ministry.

Meanwhile, lobbying has intensified by Ministerial aspirants, and many of them have travelled to New Delhi to push their case before the High Command.

Several former Ministers and legislators have also met both Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah.

While some ministers from Siddaramaiah's dissolved council of ministers are trying to secure their positions in the new cabinet, legislators hoping for a cabinet berth this time have also reached the national capital.

According to sources, there are indications that the new cabinet will have a mix of both old and new members. Efforts will

be made to strike a balance by ensuring representation while keeping caste equations, regions, and Siddaramaiah loyalists in mind.

Speculation is rife that there may be multiple Deputy CMs and that a number of ministers from the Siddaramaiah cabinet may not be retained. However, according to party sources, deliberations on the cabinet exercise are still ongoing with the party leadership.

Siddaramaiah's son and Congress MLC Yathindra, after meeting Shivakumar on Sunday, said he was hopeful of a place in the next cabinet and that the party High Command had assured him of a ministerial berth.

Talks are also ongoing regarding the new state Congress President, a post currently held by Shivakumar. Senior MLA and former Minister Satish Jarkiholi is said to be the frontrunner for the post. He is reportedly seeking a cabinet berth along with the KPCC chief post.

The leaders are also expected to discuss the candidates for the upcoming Rajya Sabha and Legislative Council polls scheduled for June 18.

The ruling party with its current strength in the Assembly, is expected to win three of the four Rajya Sabha seats and five of the seven MLC seats that will go to polls.

Bangladesh, Cyprus to contest for 81st UNGA session President



MI News Service, Dhaka / New York: Bangladesh and Cyprus will face off this week in a closely-watched election for the President of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman and Cyprus' Special Envoy for Multilateralism Ambassador Andreas Kakouris are vying to lead the 193-member General Assembly during its 81st session, which begins in September.

The General Assembly, the chief deliberative, policy-making and representative organ of the United Nations, will vote on June 2 to elect its next President for a one-year term.

In line with the established regional rotation, the President of the 81st session will be elected from the Asia-Pacific Group.

The election will be held a day before the 193-member Assembly elects five new non-per-

manent members to the 15-nation UN Security Council for the 2027-28 term.

The successful candidate will succeed current General Assembly President and former German Foreign minister Annalena Baerbock, who is only the fifth woman to hold the post in the UN's 80-year history.

Rahman was sworn in as Bangladesh's Foreign Minister in February this year. Earlier, he served as National Security Adviser and High Representative for the Rohingya issue in Bangladesh's interim government led by Muhammad Yunus.

Kakouris brings more than four decades of diplomatic and administrative experience in multilateral and bilateral diplomacy. He has served as Cyprus' Ambassador and High Commissioner to the United States, among other senior diplomatic assignments.

He is currently Special Envoy for Multilateralism in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and most recently served as Permanent Secretary/State Secretary of the ministry.

● Continued to Pg 3

Big Achievement for Hooghly District as Two BJP MLAs Become Ministers in the New State Government; Achhe Lal Yadav Extends Heartfelt Congratulations

MI News Service, Hooghly : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has formed the government in West Bengal for the first time. On May 9, Subhendu Adhikari took oath as the Chief Minister of the state, and today, nearly twenty-five days later, the selection of cabinet ministers was announced.

It was declared that two MLAs from Hooghly district have been inducted into the state cabinet. Although their specific portfolios have not yet been announced, newly elected BJP MLA Bhaskar Bhattacharya from the Serampore Assembly constituency and newly elected BJP MLA Somna Sarkar from the Balagarh Assembly constituency have been appointed as ministers.

Expressing their happiness after being appointed ministers, both leaders stated that receiving a ministerial position means greater responsibility. They said that the people voted for them with the expectation that they would stand by them and solve their problems. According to them, the BJP has always been known for public service under the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Together with All, Development for All).

While the MLAs were

delighted with their appointments, even greater enthusiasm was seen among their supporters. Many people said that having two ministers from Hooghly district at the same time is a matter of great pride for them.

Among those congratulating the two ministers

When asked about the alleged attack on Trinamool Congress MP Kalyan Banerjee, who reportedly suffered a head injury and claimed that BJP workers were responsible, Achhe Lal Yadav rejected the allegation. He said that the Trinamool Congress has nothing substantial to say and therefore continues to make baseless accusations. He added that a similar allegation had previously been made regarding an attack on MP Abhishek Banerjee in Sonarpur, but it was later revealed that the individuals involved were members of the Trinamool Congress itself.

When questioned about the difficulties people are facing while filling out the Annapurna Bhandar forms and whether the BJP would genuinely provide financial assistance of 3,000 to women or if it would remain merely an election promise, he replied that during the Trinamool government's tenure, funds meant for women under the Lakshmi Bhandar scheme were often being withdrawn by men. He claimed that many such cases are now being detected, which is why the BJP government is maintaining strict verification procedures while processing Annapurna Bhandar applications.



was BJP leader Achhe Lal Yadav from Konnagar-Kanhaipur. He first praised the Prime Minister and then Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari. He congratulated Somna Sarkar and Bhaskar Bhattacharya on their ministerial appointments.

He further stated that the day was historic because, on one hand, the registration process for the "Annapurna Bhandar Form" had been inaugurated, and on the other hand, free bus travel for women across the state had also begun. He said that the BJP government is gradually fulfilling the promises it made before the elections.



State Minister Agnimitra Paul, accompanied by government officials, inspected the Kaikhali and Haldiram areas to assess measures aimed at preventing waterlogging during the upcoming monsoon season on Monday.

Big Relief for Women: Free Travel on Government Buses Begins; Women Can Now Travel Across the State by Showing Identity Cards

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A significant and long-awaited scheme for women in the state came into effect on Monday. Fulfilling a key election promise, the new BJP government has launched a free travel service for women on government-run buses. Under the scheme, any woman in the state can now travel free of cost on government buses by presenting a valid and approved identity card. With the implementation of this initiative, women will be able to travel without paying any fare between districts, cities, and rural areas across the state using government

bus services. The government believes that the scheme will help women save money, make transportation more accessible, and provide greater convenience for education, employment, healthcare, and other essential activities. Notably, during the Assembly election campaign, the BJP had promised in its manifesto to introduce free bus travel for women along with the Annapurna Scheme. Following the formation of the government, this commitment has now been fulfilled through the launch of the free bus travel program. The introduction of the scheme has been welcomed by women

across the state. Many beneficiaries expressed their appreciation for the government's decision, stating that it would reduce their daily expenses and make commuting to distant areas much easier. The government's new

initiative is being viewed as an important step toward women's empowerment, with expectations that millions of women across the state will directly benefit from the program.



9 held in Chakdaha for alleged online IPL betting racket during final

MI News Service, Nadia : Nine persons were arrested from a house in Nadia's Chakdaha on Sunday night for allegedly operating an online betting racket during the IPL final, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, officers from Chakdaha police station raided the premises and detained the accused while the match was in progress. During the operation, police seized 12 mobile phones and a tablet, which were allegedly being used for online betting activities.

The arrested have been identified as Akash Sardar, Rajib Sadhukhan, Subhajit Sarkar, Sujan Pal, Subha Sarkar, Biswajit Das, Prashanta Sarkar, Sujit Pal

and Debashis Ghosh. All are residents of Shimuruli, Kalibazar and Rasullapur areas of Nadia district.

Investigators are examining the seized electronic devices to ascertain the scale of the operation and trace possible financial transactions linked to



the racket. Police are also probing whether more individuals were involved and if the group had connections with a larger betting network.

A case has been registered under relevant sections of law, and the accused were produced before the Kalyani Sub-Divisional Court on Monday.

The raid coincided with the IPL final, in which Royal Challengers Bengaluru defeated Gujarat

Titans by five wickets to clinch the title. Police said the investigation is continuing to determine the full extent of the alleged betting operation.

Major Development in Keshiary Sand Mafia Case: Police Conduct Raid at TMC Leader Kalpana Sit's Residence in Belda

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A significant development has emerged in the high-profile Keshiary sand mafia investigation, as police conducted a search operation at the Belda residence of senior Trinamool Congress leader and State General Secretary Kalpana Sit after investigators reportedly uncovered an important lead in the case. The matter has sparked considerable political discussion after Kalpana Sit's name allegedly surfaced in connection with financial transactions involving sand traders.

According to sources, the investigation is being carried out by the Kharagpur Town Police Station. Police had earlier arrested Kalpana Sit in connection with the case and subsequently produced her before a court. Considering



the requirements of the investigation, the court had remanded her to police custody. As part of the ongoing probe, officers from Kharagpur Town Police Station, along with other senior police officials, visited her residence in Deuli village under the jurisdiction of Belda Police Station in West Midnapore district. The team carried out an extensive search and collected information related to various aspects of the case. Sources stated that

investigators examined documents, records, and other materials allegedly linked to financial transactions under scrutiny. Police also gathered information regarding the financial network connected to the sand trade and the individuals allegedly associated with it. Investigators are attempting to determine the roles of various persons who may have been involved in the alleged illegal sand mining business and related financial deal-

ings. However, citing the confidential nature of the investigation, police officials have not disclosed detailed information about the findings so far. Authorities stated that the investigation is continuing and that all aspects of the case are being examined thoroughly. Following the latest developments, the matter has become a major topic of discussion in Belda and surrounding areas. Strong reactions have also emerged from various political circles. Local residents and observers are now closely watching the next steps in the investigation and any potential disclosures by the police. The probe into the Keshiary sand mafia case has reportedly intensified, and further significant revelations are expected in the coming days.

Little Thespian Celebrates its 42nd Rang Adda: A Tribute to Sumitranandan Pant & Dr. Partap Sehgal

MI News Service, Kolkata : Little Thespian, Kolkata's leading Hindi-Urdu theatre group, successfully organized its 42nd Rang Adda at Tripti Mitra Sabhaghar on 31st May 2026 at 1:00 pm. This Rang Adda was a literary-theatre confluence, centering on two towering figures of Hindi literature — renowned poet Sumitranandan Pant and acclaimed playwright Dr. Partap Sehgal. The afternoon unfolded on a compelling solo presentation of Dr. Partap Sehgal's poignant play 'Koi Aur Rasta', performed by Uma Jhunjhunwala (Director, Little Thespian). Her nuanced portrayal drew the audience into the play's emotional core, earning a deeply appreciative response. Following the performance, Prof. Dr. Reshmi Panda Mukherjee, Department of Hindi, Gokhale Memorial Girls' College, delivered an insightful address on Dr. Sehgal's literary and dramatic contributions. She highly commended the artistic interpretation and the sensitivity of the staging, noting how theatre can make modern Hindi drama accessible to new audiences. Reflecting on his writing,

she remarked, "Partap Sehgal ke natakon mein hamesha koi khoji hai — woh kuch khojte hain," emphasizing the playwright's constant search for truths that transcend



ordinary human comprehension. She further highlighted the importance of a playwright's active engagement with audiences, directors, and actors, citing Sehgal as a remarkable example of such involvement. Prof. Mukherjee also referred to the powerful mes-

sage embedded in Sehgal's acclaimed play Anveshak—that rigid and orthodox thinking often hinders progress and growth. Her talk additionally explored several of his notable

works, including Rang Basanti, Bulleshah, and Yun Bani Mahabharat. The Rang Adda also featured a powerful dramatized presentation of Sumitranandan Pant's iconic poem "Wo Aankhen", performed by artists of Santoshpur Anuchintan and conceptu-

alized by Dr. Gaurav Das. The piece brought Pant's lyricism to life through movement and voice. The performance was enriched by Dr. Das's soulful voice, which served as a hauntingly evocative background melody. The audience was thoroughly captivated and applauded the production with great enthusiasm. Smt. Sweta Gupta, President of the Educational Wing, West Bengal Unit, Vishwa Hindi Parishad, reflected on Pant's enduring literary legacy and praised the performers for their expressive and sensitive rendition. Her remarks, along with the speakers' encouragement, added depth and inspiration to the gathering. The event was graced by distinguished guests including Shri Prem Kapoor, renowned Hindi theatre critic; Shri Dinesh Vadera, Gujarati theatre director; and a select audience of theatre practitioners, writers, and educators. The 42nd Rang Adda concluded as a memorable celebration of creativity, performance, and artistic exchange — reaffirming Little Thespian's 32-year commitment to keeping Hindi-Urdu theatre vibrant in Bengal.

Kharagpur: Annapurna Scheme Application Camp Held in Ward No. 28 Under the Guidance of Minister Dilip Ghosh; Women Receive Assistance

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A special camp for filling out application forms under the Annapurna Scheme was organized in the Chhota Tengra area of Ward No. 28 of Kharagpur Municipality under the inspiration and guidance of State Minister and local MLA Dilip Ghosh. A large number of women participated in the camp



and completed the application process to avail themselves of the benefits of the scheme. During the program, BJP leaders and party workers present at the camp actively assisted women in filling out application forms, understand-

ing the required documents, and completing the process smoothly. Many women appreciated the initiative, stating that such camps make it much easier for them to access and benefit from government welfare schemes. On the occasion, local BJP leaders Gopal Agrawal and Vishwanath Rao, along with several party workers,

of Minister and MLA Dilip Ghosh, efforts to serve the people and promote public welfare in the ward would continue in the future. They emphasized that ensuring the benefits of government schemes reach ordinary citizens remains one of the BJP's key priorities and that similar public assistance camps would be organized from

Polba police bust illegal liquor racket seize 40L (imp)

MI News Service, Hooghly: Acting on information received from confidential sources, officers from Polba Police Station conducted a late-night raid on an encampment adjacent to Swakhal Bridge and arrested a man accused of storing and transporting illegally brewed liquor.

The accused has been identified as Tarak Mandal, 51, a resident of Shankarabati within the Polba police station area. According to police officials, the operation was carried out following specific intelligence inputs suggesting that illicit liquor was being stored and moved from the temporary encampment located near the bridge. A police team immediately launched the operation and searched the site. During the raid, officers allegedly recovered around 40 litres of illegally manufactured alcohol from the location. The seized liquor is suspected to have been produced without



authorization and in violation of excise regulations. Authorities believe the alcohol was intended for distribution in nearby areas, although investigations are continuing to determine the full extent of the operation and whether other individuals were involved. Following the seizure, Tarak Mandal was taken into custody and brought to the police station for questioning. Police said a case has been registered against him under the relevant provisions of law. He is expected to be produced before a court as part of the ongoing legal process. Investigators are now examining the source of the liquor, possible supply networks, and whether the accused had links to a larger illegal brewing and distribution racket operating in the region. Officials have not ruled out the possibility of further arrests as the investigation progresses. Police authorities stated that the raid forms part of an intensified drive against the illegal production, storage, transportation, and sale of country-made liquor in the area. Such activities are often linked to health risks, loss of government revenue, and other criminal activities.

World-class Qiraat competition concludes with grand ceremony in Furfura

MI News Service, furfura: The two-day Qiraat competition concluded on Monday morning at the



new house of Furfura Darbar Sharif. This world-class Qiraat competition entered its 19th year under the initiative of Pirzada Maulana Taha Siddiqui. Renowned judges from different states were present at this holy meeting under the management of the Orphan Foundation. Competitors with unique talents recited the Quran of high quality. A total of 40 competitors participated. The first place winner was awarded 1 lakh rupees, the second place winner 50 thousand and the third place winner 25 thousand rupees. In addition, the audience was awarded attractive prizes through lottery. This colorful mahfil has created a wide response not only in the area but also in the state and the country. Numerous Pir Sahibs and Pir Zadas of Furfura Sharif were present at this world-class Quran recitation competition in memory of Pir Hazrat Dada Huzur and Panch Huzur. Prominent people of the society were honored.



West Bengal Governor R.N. Ravi administered the oath of office to BJP legislators Joyel Murmu (Habibpur), Harekrishna Bera (Tamluk), Anandamoy Baran (Matigara-Naxalbari), Ashoke Dinda (Moyna), Nadia Chand Bouri (Para), Bishal Lama (Kalchini), Santanu Pramanik (Bhaganpur), Mounmita Biswas (Bardhaman Dakshin), Umesh Rai (Howrah Uttar), Purnima Chakraborty (Shyamapur), Koushik Choudhury (Raiganj), Bhaskar Bhattacharya (Sreerampur), Dibakar Gharami (Sonamukhi), Amiya Kisku (Nayagram), Kalita Majhi (Ausgram), Gargi Das Ghosh (Kandi), Biraj Biswas (Karandighi), Dipankar Jana (Kakdwip), and Sumana Sarkar (Balagarh), who took oath as Ministers of State (Independent Charge) in the Adhikari-led government, at a ceremony held at Lok Bhavan in Kolkata on Monday.

Mamata Says TMC Legislators are being intimidated; Party Cannot Be Broken

MI News Service, Kolkata: Amid growing unrest within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) following its defeat in the 2026 West Bengal Assembly elections, party supremo and former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday launched a sharp attack on the BJP-led state government, accusing it of using police and central agencies to intimidate TMC legislators and weaken the opposition.

Addressing supporters through a live social media broadcast, Banerjee asserted that despite repeated attempts, the BJP would not be able to break the TMC. Her remarks came on a day when the party expelled two of its MLAs, Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipansaha, further highlighting the internal turmoil that has gripped the organisation in recent weeks.

Claiming that opposition legislators were being subjected to pressure tactics, Banerjee alleged that TMC MLAs were receiving threatening calls aimed at encouraging them to leave the party. According to her, some lawmakers had informed her that they were being warned of action by agencies such as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

"TMC legislators are being intimidated. They are being told to break away from the party and establish contact with specific individuals. One call comes from the police, and another from BJP offices. This is not democracy," Banerjee alleged during the live session.

The former Chief Minister maintained that no amount of pressure, inducement or political manoeuvring would succeed in weakening the party. She claimed that a handful of legislators or Members of Parliament could not determine the future of a political organisation with deep roots across West Bengal.

"You may try as much as you want, but the Trinamool Congress will emerge stronger. A few MLAs or MPs cannot weaken the party through fear or money. TMC cannot be broken, and the people of Bengal will never bow their heads," she said.

Banerjee also appealed to students and youth to raise their voices against what she described as injustice and attacks on democratic rights. Recalling her own political journey through student movements and street protests, she urged young people to actively participate in public discourse.

The TMC chief further alleged that her party was being prevented from organising meetings, rallies and processions. She claimed that thousands of party offices had been damaged and that workers were facing harassment and violence in several parts of the state.

PM SVANidhi

Continued from Pg 1: informal urban economy and creating pathways for sustainable and dignified livelihoods.

Meanwhile, MyGovIndia also celebrated the scheme's achievements through a social media campaign highlighting its impact on street vendors across the country.

In a post on X, MyGovIndia said that six years of PM SVANidhi have brought confidence, opportunity and a stronger sense of possibility to street vendors. The platform described the initiative as more than a welfare scheme, calling it a reflection of the government's commitment to empowering vendors through self-employment, self-reliance and self-respect while contributing to the vision of an Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

Over the past six years, PM SVANidhi has emerged as one of the government's flagship financial inclusion programmes, helping millions of small vendors access formal banking services, adopt digital payment systems and improve their livelihoods while strengthening the grassroots economy.

The scheme has also ensured access to collateral-free credit, financial inclusion and new opportunities for growth for countless street vendors.

TMC expels two MLAs for 'anti-party' activities, exposes inner-party cracks

MI News Service, Kolkata: The opposition Trinamool Congress on Monday expelled two of its MLAs, Sandipan Saha and Ritabrata Banerjee, for alleged anti-party activities, exposing visible cracks within the party's legislative wing less than a month after the assembly election results were declared.

The expulsion order came minutes after Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari told a press conference at the state secretariat that the two legislators had filed complaints in connection with the 'fake signature' case in the state assembly, where the TMC endorsed Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition.

"It has been brought to the notice of the All India Trinamool Congress through its competent authority that, despite having been elected as a candidate nominated by the AITC, you have repeatedly failed to attend meetings convened by the authorised leadership of the party and have made yourself involved



in anti-party activities," a communication addressed to the two MLAs said. The copy of the letter was also sent to Assembly Speaker for necessary action.

Incidentally the expulsion came barely a day after 61 of its 80 legislators failed to attend a legislative party meeting, convened by Mamata Banerjee at her Kalighat residence, deepening signs of turmoil within the opposition party in West Bengal.

Both the expelled legislators were also removed from the party's primary membership with immediate effect.

meeting was called to discuss the Criminal Investigation Department probe into the alleged forgery of MLAs' signatures on a letter nominating Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

The expulsions also followed remarks by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, who claimed at a press conference that Saha and Banerjee had lodged complaints in connection with the alleged fake-signature controversy.

Defending the cancellation of Sunday's meeting, TMC leader Kunal Ghosh said many legislators were engaged in protests against the alleged heckling of party national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee during a visit on Saturday.

However, the large-scale absence of legislators has fuelled speculation about internal discontent within the party following its electoral setback in the recent Assembly elections.

Women's Groups Welcome Free Bus Travel Scheme for Women in West Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: Stree Shakti - "The Parallel Force" and Women Lead on Monday welcomed the West Bengal Government's decision to provide free bus travel for women across the state from June 1, describing the initiative as a major step towards women's empowerment and economic inclusion.

At a press conference held at the Press Club, Kolkata, the organisations termed the scheme a landmark achievement and the culmination of more than a decade of advocacy for affordable and accessible public transport for women. With the rollout of the initiative, West Bengal

has become the eighth state in India to offer free bus travel benefits to women.

Founder of Stree Shakti, Rekha Mody, called the scheme a "game changer," saying it would reduce transportation expenses and improve mobility for women, particularly those from economically weaker sections. She expressed hope that other states would adopt similar measures in the future.

Following the event, women participants took part in a symbolic bus-boarding programme to mark the launch of the scheme. Speakers highlighted that affordable and safe transport is crucial

for women's participation in education, employment and social activities.

The organisations also pointed to studies suggesting that women from low-income households spend a significant portion of their earnings on travel. According to Stree Shakti, free public transport could help women save up to Rs 24,000 annually, allowing more resources to be directed towards healthcare, education and family welfare.

The groups described the policy as an important milestone in strengthening women's economic independence and social inclusion across West Bengal.

State Govt Orders SIT Probe into Alleged Fake Lakshmir Bhandar Accounts, CM Warns of Action

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday launched a fresh attack on the Trinamool Congress (TMC) over alleged irregularities in the implementation of the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme, claiming that government investigations have uncovered multiple fake beneficiary accounts through which welfare funds were being siphoned off.

Addressing a press conference at Nabanna, the Chief Minister announced the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the alleged misuse of public funds and warned that those found involved would face strict legal action. He also indicated that cases relating to financial irregularities could be transferred under laws dealing with economic offences and financial misappropriation.

According to Adhikari, officials examining beneficiary data while implementing the newly launched Annapurna Yojana identified several suspicious accounts linked to recipients who were allegedly ineligible for the welfare scheme. He claimed that funds intended exclusively for women beneficiaries had, in some cases, been deposited into accounts operated by men.

The Chief Minister stated

that investigators have so far identified 22 allegedly fraudulent accounts. Among those named by him were Rakibul Sheikh, Mustafizur Rahman, his wife Tuhina, and Tarikul Rahman. Adhikari claimed that one account was linked to Rakibul Sheikh, 15 accounts were allegedly operated by Mustafizur Rahman and Tuhina, while six others were connected to Tarikul Rahman.

"We will not spare anyone involved in looting public money. An SIT has been ordered, and strict action will be taken against those responsible," the Chief Minister said. He further alleged that a large number of ineligible individuals, including alleged illegal infiltrators and political workers who did not qualify under the scheme, had received benefits meant for women.

Adhikari also defended the extensive verification process introduced under the Annapurna Yojana. Responding to criticism over the programme's 12-page application form, he argued that rigorous scrutiny was necessary to prevent the inclusion of fraudulent beneficiaries. According to him, although the application document contains 12 pages, applicants are required to fill in only a limited number of sections, with the remaining pages intended

for verification and administrative purposes.

The Chief Minister claimed that preliminary government assessments suggested the existence of nearly 30 lakh questionable beneficiary records associated with the previous welfare framework. Based on an estimated monthly benefit of 1,500 per beneficiary, he alleged that the scale of financial loss could run into hundreds of crores of rupees every month. However, these figures have not yet been independently verified.

He further asserted that the investigation would extend to the grassroots level to identify individuals allegedly involved in creating or facilitating fake accounts. At the same time, Adhikari appealed to citizens and party workers not to take the law into their own hands and to allow investigating agencies to carry out their work.

The allegations are expected to trigger a major political confrontation in West Bengal, with the ruling BJP government and the opposition TMC likely to engage in a fresh war of words over welfare scheme implementation and the alleged misuse of public funds. The findings of the SIT probe are now expected to be closely watched by both political observers and beneficiaries across the state.



Statue of Lionel Messi Removed from Lake Town Crossing as Cranes, Engineers, and Workers Carry Out Dismantling Operation in Kolkata on Monday.

Suwendu Urges Public Not to Take Law into Their Own Hands Amid Attacks on TMC Leaders

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Monday appealed to citizens not to take the law into their own hands, even as he acknowledged growing public anger against several leaders of the Trinamool Congress (TMC). His remarks came days after TMC National General Secretary Abhishek Banerjee reportedly faced protests and hostility during a visit to Sonarpur.

Speaking at a press conference at Nabanna, the Chief Minister referred to recent incidents in which TMC leaders, legislators, and Members of Parliament have allegedly faced public outrage in different parts of the state. Without directly naming Abhishek Banerjee, Adhikari said that while people may have grievances, any action must remain within the framework of the law.

"There is anger among ordinary people. TMC leaders, MLAs and MPs are facing public resentment. But I would appeal to everyone not to take the law into their

own hands. The police are there, and they should be allowed to perform their duties," the Chief Minister said.

The comments come against the backdrop of an incident in Sonarpur on Saturday, where Abhishek Banerjee allegedly encountered a hostile crowd while visiting the family of a deceased party worker. Reports suggested that eggs and other objects were thrown during the protest, and that Banerjee's clothes were torn amid the commotion.

Since the political change in West Bengal, the TMC has repeatedly alleged that its leaders and workers have been targeted by BJP supporters. BJP leaders, however, have consistently denied any involvement in such incidents, maintaining that party workers have not been instructed to engage in violence. BJP leaders have also stated that if any party member is found involved in unlawful activities, action should be taken in accordance with

the law.

Political observers note that several recent confrontations involving TMC leaders have been attributed by the BJP to public dissatisfaction and accumulated resentment over issues such as governance and alleged corruption. The ruling party has argued that many of the protests are spontaneous expressions of public anger rather than politically organised attacks.

Referring to the TMC's current political position, Adhikari launched a sharp criticism of the opposition party, claiming it had become increasingly irrelevant in West Bengal politics following its electoral defeat. He also asserted that those involved in corruption would eventually face consequences.

"At the same time, I urge everyone not to resort to violence or unlawful acts. If there are allegations of wrongdoing, legal institutions and law-enforcement agencies should be allowed to act," he said.

Bangladesh, Cyprus to contest for 81st UNGA session President

Continued from Pg 1: The election comes amid raging global conflicts, a deeply polarised UN Security Council failing to fulfil its mandate of maintaining international peace and security, and heightened scrutiny of the effectiveness of the United Nations amid mounting financial constraints.

The world body has also begun the process of selecting its next Secretary-General as the tenure of incumbent UN chief Antonio Guterres is due to conclude at the end of next year.

In his vision statement, Rahman outlined six priority areas for his presidency: "Silence the Guns, Amplify the Voices", "No One Left Behind, No Country Left Out", "Our Planet, Our Pact", "Rights and Protection — Freedom from Fear and

Want", "Innovation with Inclusion", and "We the Peoples — Reimagined".

"As a candidate from the Global South, I carry the aspirations of developing countries, but as President, I will be everyone's President — acting without fear or favour and serving the interests of the entire membership," he said.

Rahman said the 81st session would feature several milestone events that will test our collective resolve, from addressing the existential threats of sea-level rise, pandemic preparedness, to the right to development and nuclear disarmament.

"If elected President of the General Assembly, I will dedicate myself to rebuilding trust, nurturing consensus, and

opening space for good faith negotiations that will lead to outcomes for all that are owned by all," he said.

If elected, Rahman would be the second person from Bangladesh, after Humayun Rashed Choudhury, to head the UN General Assembly. Bangladeshi diplomat and former Parliament Speaker Choudhury had served as President of the 41st session of the UN General Assembly in 1986.

Kakouris, in his vision statement, identified five priority areas: "Strengthening the Assembly's Capacity to Deliver: From Commitment to Implementation", "Peace and Security: Protecting People, Preventing Crises", "Development and Resilience: Climate, Oceans and Disaster Preparedness", "En-

ablers for the Future: Finance, Technology and Cooperation", and "Governance, Inclusion and Accountability".

"As President of the 81st Session of the General Assembly, I will work to strengthen the Assembly's capacity to deliver through dialogue, inclusion and practical cooperation, so that our common home remains credible, effective and responsive to the needs of our peoples," he said.

Kakouris said he would focus on agendas with measurable outcomes and credible implementation plans, particularly at a time when the UN system is preparing for a transition to a new Secretary-General.

If elected, Kakouris would become the first Cypriot to head the UN General Assembly.

BJP Forms District Core Committees to Strengthen Coordination

MI News Service, Kolkata: With the BJP now in power in West Bengal, the party has initiated a major organisational restructuring aimed at strengthening coordination between its elected representatives and party functionaries. Learning from the challenges it faced while sitting in the opposition, the state BJP leadership has decided to establish district-level core committees to ensure smoother communication, better governance, and more effective implementation of party policies.

The move comes as the party seeks to bridge the gap that had often existed between the organisational structure and BJP legislators in the past. Party leaders believe that improved coordination is essential not only for political management but also for ensuring efficient delivery of public services and monitoring administrative performance across the state.

Beginning in June, BJP district units will start functioning through newly constituted core committees. Under the new framework, important decisions concerning development projects, organisational activities, public outreach programmes, and administrative matters will require consultation within these committees. District presidents will no longer be able to take major decisions independently, and the opinions of MLAs will be given significant importance in both political and organisational matters.

The decision follows a party

meeting held on May 15, during which BJP's central observer Sunil Bansal outlined the structure and responsibilities of the proposed district core committees. Bansal reportedly instructed party leaders that all key decisions relating to development initiatives and organisational affairs must be routed through these committees. He also made it clear that district presidents would not have unilateral authority on important issues.

According to party guidelines, each district core committee will consist of up to 15 members. While the formation process is still underway in several districts, many committees are already taking shape. The committees will include district presidents, district observers, district general secretaries, and other senior organisational leaders. BJP Members of Parliament and MLAs from the respective organisational districts will also be part of the committees, ensuring direct communication between elected representatives and party leadership.

Party insiders say the BJP's responsibilities have increased significantly since assuming power. As the ruling party, it must not only oversee organisational activities but also ensure that citizens receive government services efficiently. Local party leaders and workers will be expected to maintain regular public contact, listen to grievances, and monitor the delivery of welfare schemes and development projects.

The party also intends to keep a close watch on the utilisation of MLA development funds and assess whether elected representatives are effectively addressing the needs of their constituents. BJP leaders believe that close coordination between legislators and organisational office-bearers will be crucial in achieving these objectives.

At the same time, organisational matters such as membership drives, political campaigns, public programmes, and district-level strategies will be discussed jointly by district presidents and MLAs before being placed before the core committee for final approval. This mechanism is intended to prevent internal misunderstandings and ensure collective decision-making.

Notably, BJP MLAs do not hold organisational posts within the party, in line with an earlier policy that candidates contesting elections would not simultaneously occupy key party positions. As a result, organisational responsibilities remain with party office-bearers, making coordination between elected representatives and organisational leaders even more important.

Apart from strengthening internal communication, the district core committees will also monitor administrative developments and governance issues at the local level, enabling the BJP to maintain closer oversight as the state's ruling party.

NAME CHANGE

I, MOHAMMED SAJID AHMED (OLD NAME) SON OF MD SOHAIL AHMED RESIDENT OF G - 20, GARDEN REACH, BANGLA BASTI, PO & PS GARDEN REACH, KOLKATA-700024, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOHAMMED SAJID AHMED (OLD NAME) TO MD SAJID AHMED (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MD SAJID AHMED (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSES. VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 29/05/2026. MD SAJID AHMED (NEW NAME) AND MD SAJID AHMED (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

NAME CHANGE

I, Surpiya Sekh (old name), W/o Aynal Sekh, residing at Bairagi, Bagdi-O-Musliman para, Madhabpur, Kullai, Baripura-743349, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Surpiya Sekh (Old Name) to Supiya Sk (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Supiya Sk (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Supiya Sk (New Name) and Surpiya Sekh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Animesh Biswas (old name), S/o Arabinda Biswas, residing at Stephen Enclave, Flat-3B, Block-C, 2nd Floor, 11/1C, Rishi Bankim Chandra Road, Dum Dum (M), Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700028, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Animesh Biswas (Old Name) to Animesh Kumar Biswas (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Animesh Kumar Biswas (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Animesh Kumar Biswas (New Name) and Animesh Biswas (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

New Railway Era Begins In South Odisha As Rayagada Division Starts Functioning

All Operational Controls, Technical Functions and Administrative Responsibilities Successfully Taken Over MI News Service, Kolkata, May 31, 2026 : The newly created Rayagada Railway Division of East Coast Railway commenced functioning from today, 1st June 2026, marking a significant milestone in strengthening railway administration and operations across South Odisha and adjoining regions. With the operationalisation of the division, all designated administrative, operating and technical functions have been formally taken over by the new divisional set up. Train Control offices, control boards and associated operational monitoring systems have become functional, enabling independent control and regulation of train operations within the jurisdiction of the division. The transfer of operational, technical and administrative responsibilities from the parent divisions has been completed smoothly, ensuring seamless continuity of train services. The division is headed by Shri Amitabh Singhal, an Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers (IRSEE) officer of the 1995 batch and a graduate in Electrical & Electronics Engineering from NIT Tiruchirappalli. Dur-



ing his distinguished railway career, he has been associated with several landmark rolling stock initiatives, including the Vande Bharat Express (Train-18) project. He has also been honoured with various awards and recognitions for his professional excellence and contributions to Indian Railways. He will lead the new division with the support of new officers and railway staff in strengthening operations, infrastructure development and service delivery across the region. The establishment of Rayagada Division brings railway administration closer to field units and operational centres, facilitating quicker decision making, enhanced monitoring of train operations, improved asset management and more effective coordination with State Government agencies, industries and other stakeholders. Strategically located in an important mineral, industrial and tribal region of the country, the division is expected to play a vital role in strengthening freight transportation, improving connectivity and accelerating the execution of railway infrastructure projects across its jurisdiction. The operationalisation of Rayagada Division reflects Indian Railways' commitment to decentralised administration, improved operational efficiency and infrastructure led regional development. The new division is poised to contribute significantly towards enhancing rail services and supporting the economic growth of South Odisha and adjoining areas.

NAME CHANGE

I, Mohammad Hadi Hussain & Hadi Hussain (old names), S/o Mohammad Sharif, residing at 6A TILJALA ROAD, GOBINDA KHATICK ROAD, KOLKATA-700046, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammad Hadi Hussain & Hadi Hussain (Old Names) to Hadi Hussain (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Hadi Hussain (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 26/05/2026. Hadi Hussain (New Name) and Mohammad Hadi Hussain & Hadi Hussain (Old Names) all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

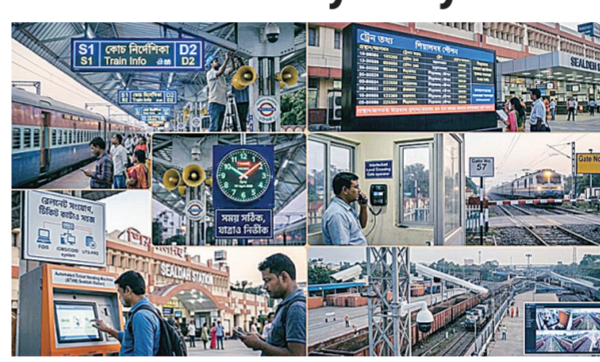
I, Seuli Das & Shiuli Das (old names), C/o Niladri Chowdhury, residing at 339/1/11, Kali Pada Mukherjee Road, Purba Barisha, P.S.- Haridip pur, Pin- 700008, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Seuli Das & Shiuli Das (Old Names) to Shiuli Das Chowdhury (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shiuli Das Chowdhury (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Shiuli Das Chowdhury (New Name) and Seuli Das & Shiuli Das (Old Names) all are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Archana Dey (Old Name), Wife Of Subhas Chandra Dey, Resident Of Charubhan, Baluria, Po- Nabapali, Ps- Barasat, North 24 parganas- 700126, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Archana Dey (Old Name) To Archana Ganguly Dey (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Archana Ganguly Dey (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 29/05/2026. Archana Ganguly Dey (New Name) And Archana Dey (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

The Rhythm of Progress: Eastern Railway Tunes into Passenger Comfort and Safety Every Second

MI News Service, Kolkata, May 31, 2026 : Like a perfectly composed melody, a railway network thrives on harmony. Every ticking clock on a platform, every announcement echoed in the breeze, and every glowing display board works together to create a rhythm—the rhythm of a safe, comfortable, and seamless journey. Driven by the vision of working 24/7 to make every travel experience unforgettable, Eastern Railway, under the leadership of General Manager Shri Milind Deouskar, has orchestrated a massive transformation across its stations in the single month of April 2026. This is not just a list of technical upgrades; it is a heartwarming promise to the millions of passengers who trust the railways with their lives and dreams every day, ensuring they feel deeply cared for at every step of their journey. Stepping onto a bustling railway platform can sometimes feel overwhelming, but Eastern Railway is replacing confusion with clarity and anxiety with peace of mind by completely revitalizing its visual and audio passenger guides. Finding your train coach is now completely hassle-free, as a total of 58 new Coach Guidance Display Boards have been installed at Platforms 1 and 2 of Sainthia station and Platform 6 of Azimganj station within the Howrah Division, letting travelers stand confidently exactly where their coach will arrive. For the thousands of daily commuters bustling through the iconic Sealdah station, a magnificent new Outdoor Video Wall has been set up to flash real-time train details vividly so no one ever misses a crucial update. At the same time, the Public Address



system has been heavily augmented at Canning station to ensure that vital safety announcements reach every ear clearly above the station hum, while 10 additional GPS-based Platform Clocks have been installed across Canning and Madhyamgram stations to show pinpoint accurate time and keep every journey perfectly on track. True comfort is impossible without absolute safety, and beyond the platforms, Eastern Railway has fortified its roots by working silently in the background to ensure that your loved ones reach home securely. Level crossing gates are critical intersections of safety, and to protect lives on the tracks, advanced Gate Telephones with Voice Recording Facilities have been installed at 12 Interlocked Level Crossing Gates across crucial points including Masagram and Gurap in Howrah, alongside Bangoan, Barasat, Kaddwip, and Lakshmantpur stations in the Sealdah Division, enabling foolproof recorded communication between gatekeepers and station masters. Digital lifelines have also been bolstered at Sealdah Station with enhanced connectivity for Automatic Ticket Vending Machines to reduce long queues, while 8 new CCTV cameras have been deployed at the Asansol and Durgapur Goods Sheds to safeguard essential goods. To ensure the entire network's communication remains uninterrupted, overaged battery sets were replaced with highly reliable systems at the Sodepur optical fiber hut, and sophisticated telecom equipment, including data loggers and safety systems, was successfully commissioned at the newly constructed Intermediate Block Hut at Basudevpur in the Malda Division to carefully manage train distances and prevent collisions. Every wire laid, every camera installed, and every clock synced in April 2026 is a testament to Eastern Railway's emotional bond with its passengers. Speaking on this massive achievement, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, stated that a railway station is not just a structure of concrete and iron, but a place of deep emotions, reunions, and new beginnings. He emphasized that every single technical upgrade achieved this April is designed to act as a silent guardian for passengers, ensuring that whether it is helping a commuter see their coach number clearly or enabling a gatekeeper to talk instantly to a station master, Eastern Railway is working around the clock because passenger safety is their religion and passenger convenience is their greatest reward.

'Dadagiri' despite not repaying loan! Police seize Trinamool leader's car

MI News Service, Malda: 'Dadagiri' despite not repaying the loan. Police seize Trinamool leader's Rs. 5 lakh car after 8 years. The car has been confiscated after overcoming legal complications. The police have taken the car from the house of the former member of Malda Zilla Parishad and vice-president of Block Trinamool Samiul Islam in Azadpalli, Chanchal, Malda. Allegedly, the Trinamool leader bought a car with a loan of more than five lakh rupees in 2016. He paid only 1 lakh 18 thousand rupees, the remaining 3 lakh 91 thousand rupees remained outstanding. The bank claims that notices were sent multiple times. However, no response was received. Debashis Chakraborty, an employee of the recovery agency, claims that the loan installments have been outstanding since 2018. Currently, the total outstanding amount including interest is about 6 lakh rupees. Despite this, the Trinamool leader has not returned the car. Allegedly, he did not even comply with the legal notice. He repeatedly ignored it with his power. After completing all the legal procedures, representatives of the loan recovery agent went to Azadpalli's house on Sunday. The car was confiscated. Debashis Chakraborty, an employee of the recovery agency, said, "The car was confiscated by following all the legal procedures." However, no response was received from Samiul Islam on this allegation.



NAME CHANGE

I, Gufran Hussain & Md. Gufran Hussain (old names), S/O Hadi Hussain, residing at 6A TILJALA ROAD, GOBINDA KHATICK ROAD, KOLKATA-700046, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Gufran Hussain & Md. Gufran Hussain (Old Names) to Mohammad Gufran Hussain (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mohammad Gufran Hussain (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 26/05/2026. Mohammad Gufran Hussain (New Name) and Gufran Hussain & Md. Gufran Hussain (Old Names) all are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, NISHAD ANJUM (old name), W/o KAMRUDDIN MD, residing at EAST BERA BARI, PO- RAJARHAT GOPALPUR, NORTH 24 PGS- 700052, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from NISHAD ANJUM (Old Name) to NESHT ANJUM (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as NESHT ANJUM (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 29/05/2026. NESHT ANJUM (New Name) and NISHAD ANJUM (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Mahiuddin Mallick (old name), S/o Mobarak Mallick, residing at Vill- Geontakhalai Para, PO- Joypr, Howrah- 711401, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mahiuddin Mallick (Old Name) to Mahiuddin Mallick (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mahiuddin Mallick (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Mahiuddin Mallick (New Name) and Mahiuddin Mallick (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Prabr Kumar Sikder (old name), S/o Jatintra Nath Sikder, residing at 230 DUMDUM PARK, JAMUNA APARTMENT SOUTH DUMDUM, NORTH 24 PGS- 700055, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Prabr Kumar Sikder (Old Name) to Prabr Sikder (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Prabr Sikder (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Ld 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Allapore, vide an Affidavit No 1579 dated 19/01/2026. Prabr Sikder (New Name) and Prabr Kumar Sikder (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

CM Vijay criticize DMK, vows clean governance

MI News Service, Chennai: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay launched a scathing attack on the DMK and its allies on Monday, declaring that the people of Tamil Nadu had decisively rejected caste-based politics and money power in the recent Assembly elections and entrusted his party with a historic mandate. Addressing a massive Thanksgiving rally in Tiruchirappalli during his first visit to the city after assuming office as Chief Minister, Vijay thanked the voters of Tiruchirappalli East and the people of Tamil Nadu for electing him and the TVK to power. He described himself as the state's "first sevagan" (servant) and pledged to work tirelessly for the welfare of the people. The TVK president said the election verdict reflected the aspirations of ordinary citizens who sought change and good governance. He asserted that the mandate received by his party had surpassed even the electoral debut of former Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), while acknowledging that the legendary leader's political legacy remained unparalleled. Taking aim at the Opposition, Vijay remarked that those who had claimed they would remain silent for six months after the formation of the government had failed to stay quiet even for six days. He said criticism from political opponents would not distract him from governance and declared, "You keep talking, I will keep working."

Name Change

I, Bapan Datta (Old Name) S/o Dilip Dutta Residing at Vill - Kamalpur, Po - Kamalpureddi, Ps - Chakdaha, District - Nadia, Pin - 741222, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Bapan Datta (Old Name) to Bapon Dutta (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bapon Dutta (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 29-05-2026. Bapon Dutta (New Name) and Bapan Datta (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, SREEJANI ROY (OLD NAME), DAUGHTER OF BIPLAB RAY, RESIDENT OF 240, RAJDANGA MAIN ROAD, P.S.- KASBA, KOLKATA-700107, DO HEREBY DECLARED THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SREEJANI ROY (OLD NAME) TO SRJIANEE ROY (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SRJIANEE ROY (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 39 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 01/06/2026. SRJIANEE ROY (NEW NAME) AND SREEJANI ROY (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, Paramita Das (old name), W/o KAJAL DAS, residing at SANKALPA-2, TOWER-9, FLAT- SD, PO- NEW TOWN, BIDHANANAGAR, KOLKATA - 700156, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Paramita Das (Old Name) to Paramita Chattopadhyay (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Paramita Chattopadhyay (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 29/05/2026. Paramita Chattopadhyay (New Name) and Paramita Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Shibani Banerjee (Old Name) W/o Arun Kumar Bandoopadhyay Residing at M.W.A.V-20, Bengla Ambuja, City Centre, Durgapur, District - Paschim Bardhaman, Pin - 713216, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Shibani Banerjee (Old Name) to Sibani Banerjee (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sibani Banerjee (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 11 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 29-05-2026. Sibani Banerjee (New Name) and Shibani Banerjee (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, DEBASRI NANDA (OLD NAME), WIFE OF SANJIT SHARMA, RESIDENT OF FLAT-A3, 3RD FLOOR, 84/1, SELIMPUR ROAD, DHAKURIA, KOLKATA - 700031, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM DEBASRI NANDA (OLD NAME) TO DEBASREE NANDA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS DEBASREE NANDA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 13 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 01/06/2026. DEBASREE NANDA (NEW NAME) AND DEBASRI NANDA (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) SARFEN SHAIKH W/O- ANSAR SEKH Residing at - Vill- Jotparan, Post- Kaliachak, Ps- Kaliachak, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732201, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SARFEN SHAIKH TO SARAFEL SEKH (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SARAFEL SEKH in all purpose vide an affidavit No- 2283 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, SARAFEL SEKH & SARFEN SHAIKH both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Arun Kumar Banerjee (Old Name) S/o Chittaranjan Bandoopadhyay Residing at M.W.A.V-20, Bengla Ambuja, City Centre, Durgapur, District - Paschim Bardhaman, Pin - 713216, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Arun Kumar Banerjee (Old Name) to Arun Kumar Bandoopadhyay (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Arun Kumar Bandoopadhyay (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 10 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 29-05-2026. Arun Kumar Bandoopadhyay (New Name) and Arun Kumar Banerjee (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, Prabr Kumar Sikder (old name), S/o Jatintra Nath Sikder, residing at 230 DUMDUM PARK, JAMUNA APARTMENT SOUTH DUMDUM, NORTH 24 PGS- 700055, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Prabr Kumar Sikder (Old Name) to Prabr Sikder (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Prabr Sikder (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Prabr Sikder (New Name) and Prabr Kumar Sikder (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) CHAMELI BIBI SHAIKH W/O- SARAFEL SEKH Residing at - Vill- Jotparan, Post- Kaliachak, Ps- Kaliachak, Dist- Malda, Pin- 732201, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from CHAMELI BIBI SHAIKH TO CHAMELI BIBI (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) CHAMELI BIBI in all purpose Vide an affidavit No- 2282 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, CHAMELI BIBI & CHAMELI BIBI SHAIKH both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, PROBR KUMAR MISTRY, S/o- L.T. KANSA MISTRY, R/o: VIII, & P.O.- Dakshin Akhtrala Kalabagan, P.S.- Nazat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs., PIN- 743442, do hereby declare that in my Pension Payment Order my wife's name has been wrongly recorded as DIPALI MISTRY instead of DIPALI MISTRY. On 14.02.25 through affidavit no. 22866 submitted before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that DIPALI MISTRY and DIPALI MISTRY is the same & one identical person i.e. my wife.

NAME CHANGE

I, Tasrun Hussain (old name), W/O- Hadi Hussain, & D/o Dullu Miyan, residing at 6A TILJALA ROAD, GOBINDA KHATICK ROAD, KOLKATA-700046, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tasrun Hussain (Old Name) to Tasrun Begum (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Tasrun Begum (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 01/06/2026. Tasrun Begum (New Name) and Tasrun Hussain (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) TANUSREE DAS W/O- RAJARSHI SEN Residing at - 194 Nilmani Bhat-tacharjee Lane, Post- Khagra, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742101, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from TANUSREE DAS TO TANUSREE DAS SEN (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) TANUSREE DAS SEN in all purpose vide an affidavit No- 2281 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, TANUSREE DAS SEN and TANUSREE DAS both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, PROBR KUMAR MISTRY, S/o- L.T. KANSA MISTRY, R/o: VIII, & P.O.- Dakshin Akhtrala Kalabagan, P.S.- Nazat, Dist.- North 24 Pgs., PIN- 743442, do hereby declare that in my Pension Payment Order my name has been wrongly recorded as PRABIR KUMAR MISTRY. On 14.02.25 through affidavit no. 22865 submitted before the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Basirhat, I affirm that PROBR KUMAR MISTRY and PRABIR KUMAR MISTRY is the same & one identical person i.e. myself.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHYAMA PRASAD GANGLY (OLD NAME), S/O N. OF G. ANGADHA GANGLY, RESIDENT OF VILL - ITARALI, PO- PANCHARUL, PS - UDAYANBANPUR, HOWRAH - 711225, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHYAMA PRASAD GANGLY (OLD NAME) TO SHYAMSUNDAR GANGLY (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SHYAMSUNDAR GANGLY (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 33 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 29/05/2026. SHYAMSUNDAR GANGLY (NEW NAME) AND SHYAMA PRASAD GANGLY (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) SUBUL BISWAS S/o- SUBODH BISWAS Residing at - Vill- Shyamnagar, Post- Garapota, Ps- Hanskhali, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from SUBUL BISWAS TO SUBAL BISWAS (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) SUBAL BISWAS in all purpose vide an affidavit No- 2280 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, SUBAL BISWAS and SUBUL BISWAS both are Same and one identical person.

BSF pushes back 17 infiltrators to Bangladesh

MI News Service, Murshidabad: Another 17 infiltrators detained at the holding center have been 'deported' to Bangladesh. After Malda, this time the backdrop is Murshidabad. It is learnt that on Saturday night, the 17 people were handed over to the Roshanbagh BSF camp authorities in Murshidabad. Later, the process of pushing them back to Bangladesh was completed from there, according to BSF sources. It is worth to mention that on last Friday, 9 infiltrators were pushed back to Bangladesh from the English Bazaar holding center in Malda. This is the first time that Bangladeshi infiltrators have been deported since the opening of the holding center in Lalgola. All those deported are men and adults. Currently, 9 more Bangladeshi 'prisoners' are in the 'holding center' opened in the Padma Bhaban in Lalgola. 26 Bangladeshis were placed in this 'holding center' in Lalgola. Of them, 17 were pushed back in the first round. Shahidul Islam is one of those who were sent back on Saturday night. On the night of May 26, after receiving a tip-off from a secret source, the police of Suti police station conducted a raid in the Mahendrapur area and arrested him. Shahidul admitted that he was a resident of Bangladesh. In his statement, he crossed the border and came to India about a year ago. Then he mar-



ried Rekha Bibi, a young woman from the Mahendrapur area of Suti police station and started living there. He worked as a mason in the area and supported his family. Shahidul, a resident of Kalipur area of Shibganj in Bangladesh, may return to his old home after being deported. The future of his wife on the other side is still uncertain. Before Eid, seven Bangladeshi infiltrators were caught by the police while crossing the border from India to Bangladesh late at night. The arrested people are from Daulatpur police station area of Kushtia district in Bangladesh. The police caught them while they were going towards the border via Bidupur after finishing their work as migrant workers in Kerala. Since then, the seven residents of the holding center are also on the other side due to pushback. On Saturday, the police of Lalgola police station arrested two more people. They were caught from Mukimnagar area of Lalgola. Later, the arrested people were brought to this 'holding center'. Meanwhile, the district has been continuously catching infiltrators and efforts have been made to build more holding centers besides the Padma Bhavan in Lalgola. The district administration is also working to smoothly carry out the 'detect, delete, deport' process to stop infiltration.

Name Change

I, Sajal Chakraborty, S/o - Uttam Chakraborty date of birth - 10/08/1990, permanently residing at Vill - Pakua Kulkukari, PO Rania Gobindapur, PS- Nodakhali, Dist - south 24 Parganas, Pin - 743318, West Bengal, do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that Sajal Chakraborty and Abdul Rahaman Shaikh is the same and one identical person by an affidavit in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate, 1st Class at Diamond Harbor, 24 Pgs. (S) on 25.09.2020.

NAME CHANGE

I, SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (OLD NAME), SON OF MANMANTHA NATH MONDAL, RESIDENT OF 547, SANTOSH PUR EAST ROAD, PO - SANTOSH PUR PS - BANGALORE PARK, WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (OLD NAME) TO SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 26 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 29/05/2026. SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (NEW NAME) AND SHYAMA PRASAD MONDAL (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) MARSHEDUL ISLAM S/O- FAKIRUL ISLAM Residing at - Vill- Chak Sahajapur, Post- Sanmatnagar, Ps- Raghunathpur, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742213, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MARSHEDUL ISLAM TO MARSIDUL ISLAM (New name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) MARSIDUL ISLAM in all purpose vide an affidavit No- 2279 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, MARSIDUL ISLAM and MARSHEDUL ISLAM both are Same and one identical person.

Name Change

I, Sheikh Sadruddin Ahmed S/O- Sk Nasiruddin Ahmad Residing At Vill- Dakshin Mechogram, PO- Uttar Mechogram, PS - Panskura, Dist- Purba Medinipur, My Father New Name Is Sk Nasiruddin Ahmad Which Is Recorded In My Aadhar Card No. 7110 0071 1915. And Ioted Id Card No. Rgn-2210706 And Pan Card No. Cgpd5301p. My Father Old Name Is Capted As Sheikh Nasir Ahmad In My Old Indian Passport No. U5572015 Vide Affidavit Dated 31.7.21 Before The Ld. Chief Judicial Magistrate Both Names 'Sk Nasiruddin Ahmad And Sheikh Nasir Ahmad Is One And Same Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE

I, RAMESH BAGLA & RAMESH KR BAGLA (OLD NAME) SON OF SHANKAR LAL BAGLA, RESIDENT OF 21 KHETRA MITRA LANE, SALKIA, HOWRAH - 711106 WEST BENGAL, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM RAMESH BAGLA & RAMESH KR BAGLA (OLD NAME) TO RAMESH KUMAR BAGLA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS RAMESH KUMAR BAGLA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 26 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 29/05/2026. RAMESH KUMAR BAGLA (NEW NAME) AND RAMESH BAGLA & RAMESH KR BAGLA (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change

I, (Old Name) ASHIM KUMAR BAJPAYEE S/O- ANIL BAJPAYEE Residing at - 36/1 Bishnupur Road, Post- Cossimbazar, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742102, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from ASHIM KUMAR BAJPAYEE TO ASHIM BAJPAYEE (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) ASHIM BAJPAYEE in all purpose vide an affidavit No- 2278 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, ASHIM BAJPAYEE and ASHIM KUMAR BAJPAYEE both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE

I, NURUL ALOM MALLAH (old name), S/O LATE NOOR AKMOL MALLA, residing at JOUTHIA, BAISHATA, SOUTH 24 PGS- 743338, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from NURUL ALOM MALLAH (Old Name) to NURUL ALOM MOLA (New Name) and henceforth shall be known as NURUL ALOM MOLA (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 29/05/2026. NURUL ALOM MOLA (New Name) and NURUL ALOM MALLAH (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Is It Okay to Sleep with Earbuds In ?

Earbuds can help promote relaxation and reduce noise-but volume, fit, and the type of device used are all crucial for protecting your ears.

A person is pictured wearing earbuds while lying in bed.

If you struggle to fall asleep at night, listening to soothing sounds-such as music, white noise, or the sound of rain-through earbuds might seem like a simple solution. But is it safe to sleep with earbuds in? The answer isn't a simple yes or no.

"Many people use earbuds to relax or to block out noise," says audiologist Valerie Pavlovich Ruff, AuD. "This can be fine, but it really depends on how you are using them."

Here is everything you need to know before sleeping with earbuds in, along with some potentially better alternatives.

Benefits of Wearing Earbuds While Sleeping

There is a reason why earbuds and other types of headphones have become high-tech bedtime accessories: they can help prepare you for a restful night's sleep.

Blocking Out Noise: If your bedroom environment is noisy-whether due to outside traffic or a snoring partner-earbuds can help create a quiet atmosphere, allowing you to fall asleep more easily.

Promoting Relaxation: Listening to calming sounds can signal to your body that it is time to wind down. "Many people prefer to fall asleep while listening to soothing sounds to help relieve stress," says Dr. Pavlovich Ruff.

Relief from Tinnitus: If you experience ringing in your ears (tinnitus), earbuds can provide relief by masking or drowning out that sound. Establishing a Regular Sleep Routine: While earbuds may not directly



improve sleep quality, they can help you settle into a consistent nightly routine-which is a crucial component of good sleep habits.

The Risks of Wearing Earbuds While Sleeping

Before inserting your earbuds and turning off the lights, you should consider the potential downsides of this decision. These include:

Hearing Damage: Listening to loud music for extended periods after falling asleep can damage your hearing. (Yes, some people do listen to loud music while sleeping.) Even just 15 minutes of exposure to very loud sounds can cause damage.

Earwax Buildup: Earbuds sit directly inside the ear canal, which can push ear-

wax deeper inward. This may lead to temporary hearing loss, ringing in the ears (tinnitus), or a sensation of ear blockage. You may even need to consult a doctor to have the impacted earwax removed.

Risk of Infection: Sleeping with earbuds in-especially after showering-can trap moisture within the ear canal. This warm, damp environment creates an ideal breeding ground for bacteria, thereby increasing the risk of outer ear infections (sometimes referred to as "swimmer's ear").

Discomfort: If you sleep on your side, earbuds can press against your ears throughout the night, causing pain and irritation. This issue is exacerbated if you use ill-fitting earbuds, as they can cause

damage to the skin inside the ear over time.

Safety: Wearing noise-canceling earbuds or headphones can make it difficult to hear important sounds, such as phone calls, alarms, or emergency alerts. As Dr. Pavlovich Ruff notes, "This would be a serious cause for concern." **Safety Tips for Sleeping with Earbuds**

If you plan to sleep with earbuds in, here are four ways to minimize the risks:

Keep the volume low. Dr. Pavlovich Ruff suggests keeping the volume at about half capacity-or even lower. The volume should be low enough that someone sitting nearby could speak to you, and you would still be able to hear them.

Limit listening time. Try to avoid playing audio throughout the entire night. If

possible, use a timer so that your music or audio turns off once you have fallen asleep. Skip the noise-canceling mode. Do not completely isolate yourself from the outside world. Being able to hear the sounds around you can be crucial for safety, especially in emergency situations.

Keep them clean. Over time, earwax, sweat, skin oils, and dirt can accumulate on earbuds. This buildup creates a breeding ground for bacteria, increasing the risk of irritation and infection. Therefore, try to clean your earbuds at least once a week-or even more frequently-if possible.

Earbuds or Headphones for Sleeping?

Dr. Pavlovich Ruff notes that while earbuds are extremely popular, they are not always the best option for sleeping. Wireless over-ear headphones are generally a better choice for napping or sleeping, as they do not sit directly inside your ear canal.

You might also want to look into headphones specifically designed for sleep, including options that resemble headphones. These are typically engineered for comfort and extended wear.

"Having the right equipment can make a huge difference," she says.

The Safest Option for a Good Night's Sleep

Do you want to listen to music or soothing sounds while avoiding the various issues associated with earbuds or headphones? Try placing an external speaker near your bed instead. Using this type of audio equipment:

Reduces pressure on the ears
Minimizes the risk of infections and wax buildup

Makes it easier to control volume and timing.

REDUCING UNNECESSARY HEALTH TESTS AND TREATMENT IN OLDER ADULTS

When an 80-year-old man visited his doctor and was recommended a routine prostate screening, an electronic health record flashed a dramatic yellow alert. The warning highlighted that the test was not recommended by guidelines and could lead to unnecessary care and potential health problems. This was part of a strategy tested by Northwestern Medicine investigators to reduce the persistent practice of ordering unnecessary screenings for older adults. The results, published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, showed a significant decrease in screenings for prostate cancer and urinary tract infections.

Over the course of 18 months, 370 clinicians across 60 Northwestern Medicine clinics received these alerts, resulting in a 9% reduction in unnecessary testing for prostate cancer and a 5.5% reduction for urinary tract infections. However, there was only a minimal change in the overtreatment of blood sugar, which also poses potential harm. Half of the physicians received the alerts, while the other half did not.

Lead investigator Dr. Stephen Persell, a professor of medicine at Northwestern

University Feinberg School of Medicine and a Northwestern Medicine physician, stated that this study was the first to significantly reduce all unnecessary testing and treatments using point-of-care alerts. The effectiveness of these messages can be attributed to elements such as highlighting potential harms, sharing social norms, and promoting a sense of social accountability and reputational concerns.

Previous trials attempting to reduce overuse of testing through electronic health records have not been successful in changing clinicians' behavior. However, Persell believes that if compelling messages can be delivered at the time clinicians place their orders, it could be a straightforward way to improve care across large health systems.

Unnecessary screening and overtreatment can lead to serious health problems for older adults. For instance, screening an elderly man for prostate cancer may result in overtreatment that could cause more harm than living with an indolent cancer. Similarly, testing women aged 65 and older for urinary tract infections without any symptoms can lead to unnecessary treatments, such as antibiotics, which can cause allergic reactions, diarrhea, and antibiotic resistance.

Persell emphasises the importance of tailoring medical decisions to an individual's age and health condition. What might be appropriate for a 68-year-old man may not be suitable for someone who is 75 or 85 years old. Additionally, treating blood sugar to very low levels in older adults with certain drugs can put them at risk for dangerous low blood sugar events. However, changing patients' and doctors' goals regarding blood sugar interventions can be challenging.

Study finds nematode species that protect crops without pesticides



LOS ANGELES [US] : Researchers have identified a microscopic worm species that infects and kills insects.

These worms, known as nematodes, have the potential to manage crop pests in warm, humid environments where other beneficial nematodes do not currently thrive.

The study was published in the *Journal of Parasitology*.

This new species belongs to the *Steinernema* family of nematodes, which has long been employed in agriculture to treat insect parasites without the use of pesticides. *Steinernema* are harmless to humans and other mammals and were discovered in the 1920s.

"We spray trillions of them on crops every year, and they're easy to buy," said UCR nematology professor Adler Dillman, whose lab made the discovery.

"Though there are more than 100 species of *Steinernema*, we're always on the lookout for new ones because each has unique features. Some might be better in certain climates or with certain insects."

Hoping to gain a deeper understanding of a different *Steinernema* species, Dillman's laboratory requested samples from colleagues in Thailand.

"We did DNA analysis on the samples and realized they weren't the ones we had requested. Genetically, they didn't look like anything else that has ever been described," Dillman said.

Dillman and his colleagues have now described the new species in the *Journal of Parasitology*. They are nearly invisible to the naked eye, about half the width of a human hair and just under 1 millimetre long.

"Several thousand in a flask looks like dusty water," Dillman said. They've named the new species *Steinernema adamsi* after the American biologist Byron Adams, Biology Department chair at Brigham Young University.

"Adams has helped refine our understanding of nematode species and their important role in ecology and recycling nutrients in the soil," Dillman said. "He was also my undergraduate advisor and the person who introduced me to nematodes. This seemed a fitting tribute to him."

Adams, who is currently doing research on nematodes in Antarctica, said he is honoured to have such a "cool" species bear his name in the scientific literature. "The biology of this animal is absolutely fascinating," Adams said. "Aside from its obvious applications for alleviating human suffering caused by pest insects, it also has much to teach us about the ecological and evolutionary processes involved in the complex negotiations that take place between parasites, pathogens, their hosts, and their environmental microbiomes."

Learning about these worms' life cycles as an undergraduate was what hooked Dillman on studying them.

As juveniles, nematodes live in the soil with sealed mouths, in a state of arrested development. In that stage, they wander the soil, looking for insects to infect. Once they find a victim, they enter the mouth or anus and defecate highly pathogenic bacteria.

"A parasite that poops out pathogenic stuff to help kill its host, that's unusual right out of the gate," Dillman said. "It's like something out of a James Cameron movie."

Within 48 hours of infection, the insect dies. "It essentially liquefies the insect, then you're left with a bag that used to be its body. You might have 10 or 15 nematodes in a host, and 10 days later you have 80,000 new individuals in the soil looking for new insects to infect," Dillman said.

The researchers are certain that *S. adamsi* kills insects. They confirmed this by putting some of them in containers with wax moths. "It killed the moths in two days with a very low dose of the worms," Dillman said.

Going forward, the researchers hope to discover the nematode's unique properties. "We don't know yet if it can resist heat, UV light, or dryness. And we don't yet know the breadth of insects it is capable of infecting."

However, *S. adamsi* are members of a genus that can infect hundreds of types of insects. Therefore, the researchers are confident it will be beneficial on some level whether it turns out to be a specialist or a generalist parasite of multiple types of insects.

"This is exciting because the discovery adds another insect killer that could teach us new and interesting biology," Dillman said.

"Also they're from a warm, humid climate that could make them a good parasite of insects in environments where currently, commercially available orchard nematodes have been unable to flourish."

STUDY SHOWS HOW BRAIN'S INTERNAL COMPASS GUIDES THE BODY

WASHINGTON DC [US] : Our sense of direction is essential for navigating the world around us. It serves as the brain's internal compass, guiding us in the right direction and, more significantly, prompting us to reverse course when we're going the wrong way.

Yet despite a large body of research on how navigation works in the brain, scientists still lack a clear understanding of how this internal compass directly guides behavior.

Now, a study conducted in fruit flies and led by researchers at Harvard Medical School offers new insights into how two distinct brain regions -- the seat of the compass and the steering center -- communicate during navigation.

The findings are published in *Nature*.

In the study, researchers examined the brains of fruit flies knocked off course while running in a particular direction. They discovered that three distinct groups of neurons enable communication between the compass and the steering regions of the brain and work together to help the fly course-correct. In doing so, the neurons translate signals from a fly's internal compass into behavior to keep it moving in the right direction.

"Until now, no one really knew how sense of direction, which is an internal cognitive state, relates to the actions an animal is making in the world," said senior author Rachel Wilson, the Joseph B. Martin Professor of Basic Research in the Field of Neurobiology in the Blavatnik Institute at HMS.

Despite their small size, fruit flies have complicated brains and behaviors -- and thus the findings could provide a foundation for future studies on how signals in the brain become actions in more complex species, including humans.

Staying on course
Humans and other complex animals have an internal compass made of brain cells that use internal and external information to generate a sense of direction. In fruit flies, scientists have figured out that these cells -- called head-direction cells -- are arranged in a circle, making them especially easy to study. Contrary to what their name implies, fruit flies spend more time walking than flying. Previous research has shown that as flies walk around, these head-



direction cells actively track their rotational movements, such as turning right or left. In the new study, Wilson and colleagues wanted to explore how this compass is functionally connected to the steering region of the brain to understand how it guides navigation. To do this, they used an existing wiring diagram of every neural connection in the fruit fly brain to build a computational model of how these regions might be linked. With this model, they were able to identify and make predictions about the layer of neurons that connect the two regions. To validate their predictions, the researchers analyzed the activity in the layer of neurons identified by the model as the flies walked around in a virtual reality environment. Often, flies ran straight in a random direction, likely in an effort to escape their environment. When their virtual world was rotated to move them off course, the flies swiftly course-corrected. Interestingly, these course corrections were carried out by three separate groups of neurons: Two sets of neurons nudged the fly to go right or left, and one issued a signal to turn around completely.

"You can think of these three groups of neurons as three sentries guarding a castle," Wilson said, "with each responsible for surveilling in a different direction and prompting the correction needed to keep the fly moving towards its goal."

The findings explain how fruit flies use their sense of direction to estimate where they are in

relation to a goal and how they use this estimate to adjust their behavior.

"This is a really concrete description of how a complicated cognitive process works and how it produces specific, guided behaviors in real time," Wilson said.

The findings complement a second study, also published in *Nature* on Feb. 7 and led by a separate team of researchers at The Rockefeller University, that describes parts of the same neuronal circuit in fruit flies.

Taken together, the two studies provide an even more complete understanding of how sense of direction translates into behavior in the animals.

A strong starting point
Wilson said that her team's observations have implications beyond identifying the connections between the brain's compass and steering regions. The findings provide important clues about the format and location of navigational goals in the brain -- and may pave the way for understanding how other types of goals are stored.

"I think we've touched on one of the most mysterious aspects of brain function, which is how we hold information and intentions in our mind in a latent form and then act on them," Wilson said, adding that even insects have this ability. "In the future, we're going to investigate how this works."

Wilson is also interested in learning more about the three groups of neurons the study identified -- and whether analogous groups of neurons dedicated to fine and coarse adjustments exist in other brain networks.

"We have a hunch that this is actually a major principle of brain function and might explain a lot of seemingly redundant pathways in the brain," Wilson explained. Wilson added that because fruit flies have complex brains and behaviors, they are a good starting point for studying aspects of cognition that exist in higher-order species such as mice or humans.

"By understanding a system in one small brain, I think we've made important progress toward forming clear hypotheses about how it may work in more complicated brains," she said. "At this point, I don't see an obvious end to the similarities between species."

Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

ARIZONA [US] : New research suggested that living less than 0.3 miles from a pesticide use area before getting pregnant and throughout the first trimester of pregnancy may increase the risk of stillbirths.

Research by Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Centre. Certain pesticides, particularly the class of organophosphates, were linked to stillbirth throughout the first trimester of pregnancy and a 90-day preconception window, according to research findings.

The study "Pesticide Exposure During the First Trimester and Its Associations With Stillbirth" was released in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*.

"In this study, some specific ingredients stood out due to their significant associations with stillbirth risk," said first author Melissa Furlong, PhD, who studies the chronic health effects of environmental contaminants as an assistant professor and environmental epidemiologist at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center at the R. Ken Coit College of Pharmacy. "These findings underscore the importance of considering individual pesticides rather than just the overall pesticide class, as specific chemical compounds may pose unique risks. It also highlights the potential for pre-pregnancy exposures to affect reproductive outcomes."

To conduct the study, researchers linked Arizona pesticide use records for 27 different pesticides with state birth certificate data that included 1,237,750 births and 2,290



stillbirths from 2006 to 2020. They found that living within 0.3 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day pre-conception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births pre-conception. During the first trimester, fenprothrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated

with stillbirths.

"Among organophosphates, acephate showed the strongest effect estimates on stillbirth, so that exposure to acephate in the first trimester was associated with a doubling of risk," said co-author Paloma Beamer, PhD, a professor and interim associate dean at the Zuckerman College of Public Health and a member of the Southwest Environmental Health Sciences Center, U of A Health Sciences Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center and BIO5 Institute. "Within the pyrethroid class, cyfluthrin exposure during the 90 days prior to conception almost doubled the risk of stillbirth."

Pesticides are chemical substances used to control pests in various settings. They are commonly categorized into different classes, such as organophosphates, pyrethroids and carbamates. The primary route of exposure for most people is through diet, but household use, agricultural drift and occupational exposure are also significant pathways.

Researchers say while some pesticides may not have been directly implicated in this study, they could still pose risks to maternal and fetal health.

Pregnant women may be particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of pesticide exposure due to physiological changes during pregnancy, such as increased metabolic rate, altered hormone levels and changes in the immune system. The developing fetus may be more susceptible to the toxic effects of pesticides during this period of rapid growth and development.

Macron calls for swift US-Iran deal

MI News Service, Paris: French President Emmanuel Macron has called for a rapid agreement between the United States and Iran, urging the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz without conditions and in accordance with international law.

Macron said on social media on Sunday (local time) that he has spoken with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Oman's Sultan Haitham bin Tariq, United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi.

He said he delivers the same message to all these leaders, stressing that it is essential for the United States and Iran to reach an agreement quickly.

According to Macron, the priority is to secure a ceasefire and reopen the Strait of Hormuz without any conditions and in accordance with international law. Discussions should then continue with a view to reaching a comprehensive and robust agreement on other issues, particularly Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs and regional stability.

Macron said France stands ready to play its part, including through a multinational initiative jointly led with Britain



to help safeguard maritime traffic through the Strait of Hormuz. The French President said regional stability must begin with Lebanon and called on all parties to cease hostilities.

He added that France will continue supporting Lebanon's efforts to restore state sovereignty and territorial integrity.

According to Lebanon's Public Health Emergency Operations Center, an Israeli airstrike on Sunday struck an area adjacent to Hiram Hospital in the southern city of Tyre, injuring 13 hospital staff members and causing extensive damage to the facility.

Iran foreign ministry says ceasefire in Lebanon remains a key condition for US deal

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran's foreign ministry said on Monday that a ceasefire in Lebanon remains a key condition for any deal with the United States to end the Middle East war.

"We insist that a ceasefire in Lebanon is an essential condition for any deal aimed at ending the war," foreign ministry spokesman Esmail Baqaei said at a weekly press briefing, as Israel expands its offensive in Lebanon.

Baqaei said Iran "will take all measures to support Lebanon and the resistance against the Zionist regime's illegal aggression".

His remarks come as Tehran and Washington continue exchanging messages in an effort to finalise a framework agreement aimed at ending the war, which erupted with US-Israeli strikes on Iran in late February and subsequently engulfed the region.

A fragile ceasefire between Iran, the United States and Israel has been in place since April 8, but military confrontations have continued in Lebanon despite Tehran's insistence that Lebanon



should be covered by the truce. On Monday, Baqaei accused the United States of "violating the ceasefire" following a brief overnight flare-up in which the US struck a telecommunications tower in a southern Iranian port city.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said they targeted the US base from which the attack originated, without specifying its location. Iran will "take whatever meas-

ures we deem necessary to defend Iran's national security", Baqaei said.

He said Iran was not seeking concessions in its exchanges with Washington but rather the fulfilment of its rights, including the release of assets frozen abroad under US sanctions.

He also said details related to Iran's nuclear programme -- a key sticking point for Washington -- have not yet been part of the ex-

changes. "No negotiations have taken place on the details of the nuclear file. At this stage, our priority is ending the war," said Baqaei.

He added that the exchange of messages with the United States was continuing, but that "we have not yet reached a final conclusion".

"We will decide on the arrangements for signing at the appropriate time," he added.

Iran will "take whatever measures we deem necessary to defend Iran's national security", Baqaei said.

He said Iran was not seeking concessions in its exchanges with Washington but rather the fulfilment of its rights, including the release of assets frozen abroad under US sanctions.

He also said details related to Iran's nuclear programme -- a key sticking point for Washington -- have not yet been part of the ex-

changes. "No negotiations have taken place on the details of the nuclear file. At this stage, our priority is ending the war," said Baqaei.

Afghanistan faces one of world's highest maternal mortality rates: UN

MI News Service, Kabul: Afghanistan continues to face one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world, with an estimated 600 maternal deaths for every 100,000 live births, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), local media outlet TolNews reported on Monday.

According to the report, access to skilled healthcare services and the presence of female health workers remain crucial to saving the lives of mothers and newborns across the country.

Despite ongoing efforts to improve healthcare services, limited access to maternal care continues to pose a significant challenge, particu-

larly in remote and underserved areas where shortages of trained medical personnel and healthcare facilities persist, the report said.

According to the OCHA, inadequate maternal healthcare services leave many women vulnerable to preventable complications during pregnancy and childbirth, contributing to the country's high mortality rate.

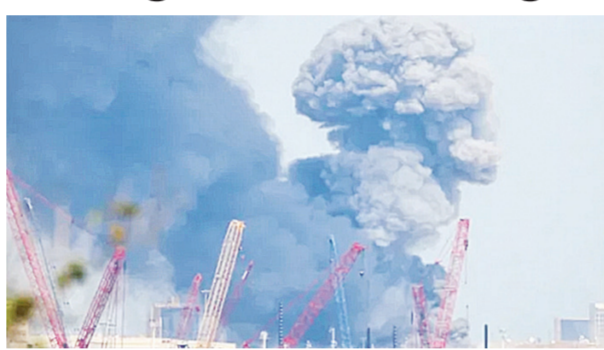
The agency underscored the need to strengthen healthcare systems and expand access to essential maternal and newborn care, stressing that improved healthcare services are key to reducing preventable deaths and enhancing public health outcomes in Afghanistan.

Iran strikes back: IRGC targets US base following telecom tower attack

MI News Service, Tehran: The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced on Monday that it carried out a precise retaliatory strike against a US air base following an American attack on Iranian territory.

In an official statement, the IRGC's Aerospace Force said it targeted and destroyed the air base from which US forces launched an assault on a telecommunications tower located on Sirik Island in Iran's southern Hormozgan Province. The IRGC described the US action as aggression by the "aggressor US military" and confirmed that predetermined targets at the base were completely destroyed.

The IRGC also issued a strong warning against any further American military moves. "If the aggression is repeated, the response will be com-



pletely different, and responsibility for its consequences will rest with the aggressor and child-killing US regime," the statement read.

This latest development stems from a rapid sequence of events over the weekend. The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) reported conducting "self-defense strikes" on Saturday and Sunday against Iranian radar and drone command-and-control facilities

in the city of Goruk and on Qeshm Island. CENTCOM justified the strikes as a response to "aggressive Iranian actions," specifically citing the shootdown of a US MQ-1 Predator drone operating over international waters.

However, the IRGC maintained a different account. On Sunday, its Public Relations Department stated that Iranian air defense units detected and downed the intruding MQ-1 drone shortly after it en-

tered Iranian airspace over the Persian Gulf. The elite force described the drone as a multi-mission, long-endurance aircraft that posed a direct threat to national security.

The exchange marks a dangerous escalation between the two nations. While the US frames its actions as defensive measures to protect its assets and personnel, Iran views them as unprovoked violations of its sovereignty. Analysts warn that such tit-for-tat military responses risk spiraling into broader conflict in an already volatile region.

The situation remains fluid, with both sides signaling readiness for further action if provoked. International observers are closely monitoring developments, concerned about the potential impact on regional stability and global energy security.

Curfew imposed near ICE facility in U.S. New Jersey

MI News Service, New York: The U.S. state of New Jersey on early Sunday imposed a curfew around a detention center of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) following escalating clashes between protesters and police.

The curfew will be in effect between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. for all areas within a half-mile of the Delaney Hall Detention Facility until further notice, according to Newark Mayor Ras Baraka.

"Due to the escalating situation at Delaney Hall and the increasing need for police intervention, immediate action is required to protect public safety," Baraka said in a statement. "Multiple individuals have already been arrested and found in possession of weapons, underscoring the seriousness of the threat," he added.

Six people were arrested outside the facility

late Friday night after they failed to follow police orders to disperse.

In another statement issued Sunday morning, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill said protesters "attacked" a barrier between law enforcement and demonstrators Saturday night, and were "throwing projectiles, utilizing the barriers as weapons, and lighting tires on fire in the street."

Crowds have been gathering for over a week to protest alleged inhumane conditions and a hunger strike by detainees inside the facility. New Jersey State Police has used tear gas and nonlethal tactics to disperse crowds, local media reported.

The Department of Homeland Security said early Sunday on X that the area around the facility had been secured and that the agency "WON'T BACK DOWN."

German FM expresses "great concern" over Israeli advance in southern Lebanon

MI News Service, Berlin: German Foreign Minister Johann Wadepuhl on Sunday expressed "great concern" over the further advance of the Israeli army in southern Lebanon, urging all conflict parties to immediately cease hostilities and return to an agreed ceasefire.

In a statement, Wadepuhl noted that while the Israeli military action is a reaction to ongoing attacks by Hezbollah on northern Israel, any further escalation will aggravate an already tense situation and trigger new waves of displacement within Lebanon.

If civilians are the ones who pay the price of a military escalation and parts of Lebanon become permanently uninhabitable, it will not make Israel's neighborhood safer in the long term, he said.

Child found injured beside parents killed in drone strike in South Lebanon

MI News Service, Beirut: A child was wounded after an Israeli drone strike reportedly targeted a motorcycle in southern Lebanon, killing both parents, according to reports and footage shared online.

The attack took place on Sunday, May 31, in Adoussiyeh, near the Ghaziyyeh area between the coastal cities of Sidon and Tyre. Images and videos circulating on social media showed the injured child at the scene following the strike.

In a post on X, Lebanese journalist Hadi Hotait shared footage from the aftermath of the strike, saying it took place in an area where residents had not expected to be directly affected by the conflict.

The incident occurred amid continuing hostilities between Israel and Hezbollah despite a US-mediated ceasefire agreement that took effect in April and was later extended following indirect negotiations. While



the truce was intended to reduce violence along the border, both sides have continued to accuse each other of violations.

On Monday, June 1, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ordered strikes on targets in Beirut's southern suburbs, an area regarded as a Hezbollah stronghold. In a statement, his office said the operation was launched in response to what Israel described as repeated ceasefire breaches and attacks against its communities.

Cross-border violence has persisted in recent weeks, with Hezbollah in-

creasingly deploying drones and Israel carrying out air strikes across parts of Lebanon. The conflict has displaced more than 1.2 million people, according to Lebanese authorities.

Official figures released by the Lebanese government indicate that more than 3,400 people have been killed since the latest escalation began in March. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts to preserve the ceasefire, concerns remain over the possibility of a broader regional confrontation as military operations continue on both sides of the border.

US says Hezbollah blocking efforts to secure Israel-Lebanon truce

MI News Service, Washington: The United States has accused Hezbollah of undermining efforts to secure a ceasefire with Israel, saying the Iran-backed group is prolonging the conflict and refusing to halt attacks despite a US-backed proposal aimed at preventing further escalation.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio recently spoke with Lebanese President Joseph Aoun and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as part of ongoing diplomatic efforts between Israel and Lebanon, according to a US official familiar with the talks.

The United States proposed what the official described as a straightforward path to de-escalation.

"To advance those talks, the United States proposed a clear sequence: Hezbollah must stop all attacks on Israel. In return, Israel would refrain from escalation in Beirut. This would create space for gradual de-escalation and an effective cessation of hostilities," the official said.

The United States also blamed Iran for encourag-

ing the continued fighting. "Hezbollah is following Tehran's lead. It clearly has no interest in the welfare of the Lebanese people. Iran wants to prolong the conflict in Lebanon so it can claim credit for 'saving the day,'" the official said.

Washington made clear that it does not believe Israel should be expected to tolerate continued attacks while negotiations continue. "The United States does not expect Israel to absorb ongoing attacks on its civilians by a terrorist organization," the official said.

"The fastest way to de-escalate and protect civilians on all sides is for Hezbollah to stop firing immediately," the official added.

The remarks underscore growing US frustration with stalled diplomatic efforts as cross-border hostilities continue between Israel and Hezbollah. Washington has been working to prevent a broader regional conflict while seeking a durable cessation of hostilities along the Israel-Lebanon border.

Kuwaiti army says air defenses intercept "hostile" missiles, drones

MI News Service, Kuwait City: The Kuwaiti army said on Monday that its air defense systems had intercepted "hostile" missiles and drones earlier in the day.

In a statement posted on the social media platform X, the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Army said the sounds of explosions heard in some areas were caused by air defense systems engaging incoming threats.

The military urged the public to follow security and safety instructions issued by the relevant authorities.

According to local media reports, air raid sirens sounded three times across Kuwait starting at 6:00 a.m. local time (0300 GMT).

The latest incident came days after the Kuwaiti army said on Thursday that its air defense systems had intercepted "hostile" missiles and drones targeting the country.

EAC to hold emergency health ministers' meeting over Ebola outbreak

MI News Service, Dar Es Salaam: The East African Community (EAC) will convene an extraordinary virtual meeting of health ministers from June 1 to 2 to coordinate a regional response to the ongoing Ebola outbreak affecting parts of East Africa, the regional bloc said in a statement on Sunday.

The meeting will focus on strategies to contain the outbreak caused by the rare Bundibugyo strain of the Ebola virus, for which there is currently no licensed vaccine or specific treatment, according to the statement.

It noted that the high-level session is part of urgent regional efforts following outbreaks reported in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

The statement added that the outbreak is concentrated in eastern DRC, particularly Ituri Province, a high-mobility area that raises concerns about further regional spread.

EAC Secretary General Stephen Mubundi said the bloc is strengthening prepared-



ness through coordinated surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, infection prevention, and risk communication. "We are working closely with member states, Africa CDC and the WHO to prevent cross-border transmission and protect public health," Mubundi said.

Key interventions include deploying nine mobile laboratories at strategic border points, activating a pool of more than 180 rapid response experts, and rolling out specialized training for health workers, he added.

The EAC is also supplying personal protective equipment and advancing

plans for a regional framework to fast-track approval of Ebola vaccines and diagnostics, the secretary general said. The bloc urged member states to enhance surveillance, public awareness and emergency preparedness measures.

As a regional intergovernmental organization, the EAC comprises eight East African countries that work together to promote economic, political, and social integration. The member states are Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

Malaysia enforces ban on social media accounts for children younger than 16 years

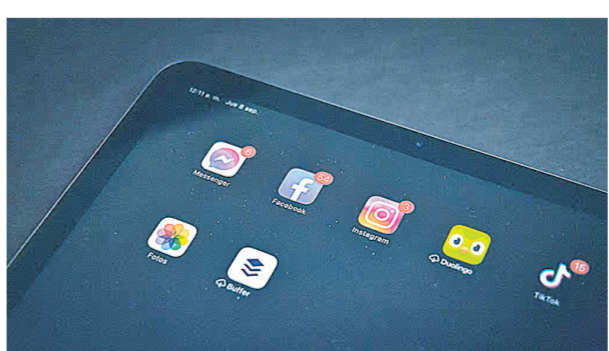
MI News Service, Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia on Monday began enforcing rules barring millions of children younger than 16 from owning social media accounts, joining a global effort to tighten online safety protections for young users.

The rules require social media platforms to implement age-verification systems and block users under 16 from creating accounts. They apply to platforms with at least 8 million users.

Companies that fail to comply could face penalties of up to 10 million ringgit (\$2.5 million). But parents whose children manage to bypass the law will not be penalized.

The government said the measures are aimed at protecting children from harmful content, cyberbullying and platform features designed to encourage excessive use.

Other countries including Australia, Brazil and



Indonesia have introduced or announced age-based restrictions or requirements for children's access to social media. Countries including Britain, France, Spain, Denmark, Thailand and South Korea are also studying or developing similar approaches.

Malaysia's Communications and Multimedia Commission said the rules are not intended to prevent children from accessing the internet or digital technology. Instead it set expectations for service providers to address online harms and ensure age-appropriate safeguards are in place.

"These measures help strengthen the protection of children in the online environment, while providing added reassurance to parents in navigating increasingly complex digital risks," the regulator said in a statement last month.

Platforms will be required to introduce safety-by-design features, including protections against manipulative design that encourages compulsive use, and take action against underage accounts and harmful con-

tent. Technology companies have yet to detail how they will comply with Malaysia's new requirements.

The regulator said a grace period will be given for platforms to complete implementation of age-verification systems.

Clara Koh, Meta's director of public policy for Southeast Asia, had cautioned in April that Malaysia's blanket under-16 ban could backfire by driving teenagers away from protected apps and into unregulated corners of the internet.

She said Meta has launched "teen accounts" for those under 18 that limits contact, screen time and exposure to inappropriate content.

Malaysia's curbs come as governments face growing pressure to address concerns about social media's impact on children's mental health and online safety.

In March, a U.S. jury

ordered Meta and YouTube to pay millions of dollars in damages in a case alleging that platform design features contributed to harm suffered by a young user.

Despite support from many parents, Malaysia's move has also raised concerns over data privacy.

"It is very much following the trend but in a way that is raising alarms due to requiring a government ID for age verification," said Benjamin Loh, social science lecturer at Monash University in Malaysia.

Loh said experiences elsewhere suggest age-based restrictions have yet to prove consistently effective. Without parent penalties, he said families can easily bypass the law by creating accounts for their children.

"This is a major gap that unless regulators are willing to fix, will result in the law having little effect in stopping children from using social media," he added.

Gukesh, Divya suffer losses as Norway Chess title race intensifies

OSLO : Round six of Norway Chess produced another dramatic day of chess with all three games in the tournament ending decisively.

World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen scored an important victory against tournament leader Alireza Firouzja. Playing with the white pieces, Carlsen gradually increased the pressure in a tense strategic battle before converting his advantage in the later stages. The win brings the Norwegian star closer to the leaders and hands Firouzja his first classical defeat of the tournament.

Wesley So claimed a crucial victory over Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu in a long encounter. So handled the complications confidently and converted his chances in the endgame to secure the full three points. The victory moves the American grandmaster into the top



of the standings.

The third decisive result came when Vincent Keymer defeated reigning World Champion Gukesh Dommaraju. Keymer maintained the initiative for much of the game and capitalized on his opportunities to score a valuable victory against the World Champion.

Following round six, Wesley So leads Norway Chess, with Alireza Firouzja remaining close behind as the battle for first place remains wide open.

Norway Chess Women delivered another tense round in Oslo, featuring one decisive classical result and two Armageddon deciders.

Reigning Women's World Champion Ju Wenjun scored the only classical victory of the day, defeating Divya Deshmukh in a long struggle. Ju gradually improved her

position and converted her advantage in the endgame to secure an important win.

Bibisara Assaubayeva and Humpy Koneru ended their classical game in a draw after a closely contested battle. Assaubayeva later prevailed in the Armageddon game, earning the valuable extra points and reclaiming sole possession of first place.

Anna Muzychuk and Zhu Jiner also ended in a draw after a balanced encounter. Zhu Jiner went on to win the Armageddon game, securing the additional points.

Following round six, Bibisara Assaubayeva takes back the lead at Norway Chess Women with 9.5 points. Divya Deshmukh follows with 8.5 points, while Ju Wenjun and Anna Muzychuk share third place with 8 points.

Jabalpur Royal Lions name squad for MPL T20 Scindia Cup 2026



JABALPUR : Jabalpur Royal Lions have revealed their squad for the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup 2026. The team features seasoned players like Punit Datey, as well as key figures such as Ajay Rohera and Mihir Hirwani, enhancing the team's strength and versatility.

The new season of the Madhya Pradesh League (MPL) T20 Scindia Cup is scheduled to begin on June 3, with the Gwalior Cheetahs competing against the Ujjain Falcons in the opening match of the men's tournament. This game will take place at Holkar Stadium in Indore. Jabalpur Royal Lions will begin their campaign against Indore Pink Panthers on the evening of June 6 at Holkar Stadium.

Aayush Lalwani of Jabalpur Royal Lions put his weight behind the squad and said, "We will have a fearless approach this season as we have built a squad with a great mix of experienced players and talented youngsters who are eager to prove themselves. The energy within the group has been very positive from the start, and the players are excited to play fearless and competitive cricket this season. The MPL has become a wonderful plat-

form for cricketers to showcase their potential, grow in confidence and create opportunities for themselves at a bigger level."

MPL 2026 will be the largest edition yet, featuring an expanded format with 10 men's teams and five women's franchises.

Three new teams join the men's competition: Malwa Stallions, Ujjain Falcons, and Royal Nimar Eagles, alongside defending champions Bhopal Leopards, and existing teams including Bundelkhand Bulls, Chambal Ghariyals, Gwalior Cheetahs, Indore Pink Panthers, Jabalpur Royal Lions, and Rewa Jaguars.

The women's competition has expanded to include Gwalior Shernis and Royal Nimar Eagles, who will compete alongside Bhopal Wolves, Bundelkhand Bulls, and Chambal Ghariyals in the five-team tournament.

Jabalpur Royal Lions Squad: Aayush Sardana, Abhishek Bhandari, Ajay Rohera, Akarsh Singh Parihar, Akshat Dwivedi, Akshay Sharma, Arpit Gaud, Mihir Hirwani, Nayan Raj Mewada, Pankaj Patel, Prince Wadhvani, Punit Datey, Rahul Batham, Ritik Tada, Ritwik Diwan, Sanjog Nijjar, Vedant Awasthi.

Zee bags FIFA World Cup rights for India; announces launch of 4 new sports channels

NEW DELHI : FIFA World Cup 2026 action, starting from June 11, will be available across Unite8 Sports channels and Zee5 as Zee Entertainment Enterprises Limited secured the Indian media rights for the marquee event, along with FIFA World Cup 2030 editions, the FIFA Women's World Cup in 2027 and other key FIFA events up to 2034.

In order to ensure an engaging and unmatched viewing experience for sports fans across the nation, Zee has also announced the launch of 4 dedicated sports channels, namely Unite8 Sports 1, Unite8 Sports 1 HD, Unite8 Sports 2, and Unite8 Sports 2 HD. Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd said.

It added, Its digital entertainment platform Zee 5 will also ensure that football aficionados stay tuned to all the high-octane action, delivering a LIVE immersive viewing experience in a language of their choice.

"The Company has emerged as one of the most powerful sports destinations for the youth of our nation by partnering with the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) to bring the world's biggest football properties - FIFA World Cup 2026™ and FIFA World Cup 2030™ editions, and the FIFA Women's World Cup™ in 2027, along with other key FIFA events up to 2034 and docu-series content, for the Indian market," it said in a media release.

"Z" will be the home of football, airing major FIFA events, including the FIFA Men's U-17 World Cup (2026-2034), FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup (2026-2034), FIFA U-20 Men's World Cup (2027, 2029, 2031 and 2033), FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup (2026, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034), FIFA Futsal Men's World Cup™ (2028 and 2032), FIFA Futsal Women's World Cup

(2029 and 2033), FIFA Women's World Cup (2027) and FIFA Intercontinental Cup (2026-2030), in addition to the FIFA World Cup 2026 and FIFA World Cup 2030. Commenting on the strategic partnership, Punit Goenka, CEO, Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd. said, "Football cuts across regions and demographics, and the investments in garnering the media rights and launching dedicated sports channels, reflect our clear belief in its long-term potential. Our approach has been to invest in properties where we see current relevance and future growth potential. Our partnership with FIFA will enable us to unlock the true value of the sport in line with our sharp focus on growth and profitability, while amplifying the excitement of the game for every fan."

Romy Gai, FIFA Chief Business Officer, stated, "The FIFA World Cup is the greatest show on earth, and we are glad to partner with 'Z' for the first time, to bring this global spectacle to India. The Indian market is of strategic importance for FIFA as it displays immense potential driven by a young and passionate audience. We believe the extensive broadcast and digital distribution ecosystem of 'Z' coupled with their deep understanding of local viewers and multi-platform capabilities will play a pivotal role in expanding the reach of football with fans across every part of India."

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is set to herald a new era in international football as the competition expands from 32 to 48 teams for the first time. The competition, to be co-hosted by the United States, Mexico and Canada from June 11 to July 19, will be the biggest World Cup in history with a record 104 matches in 16 venues across 16 cities.



22 rowers included in TOPS development group ahead of Asian Games 2026

NEW DELHI : The Mission Olympic Cell (MOC), in its 174th meeting on Monday inducted multiple rowers into the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) Development Group ahead of the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya and other upcoming events.

The list has been finalised following the completion of annual national selection trials and crew finalisation by the Rowing Federation of India (RFI).

A total of 22 Rowers are now a part of the TOPS Development group across six boats. This crew will now prepare for major international competitions featuring Rowing, including the Asian Games and World Cup circuit. Among the prominent names inducted are Paris 2024 Olympian Balraj Panwar, Asian Games 2022 silver medalist Arvind Singh, Asian Games 2022 double medalist Jaswinder Singh, and more.

These 22 rowers have been grouped across different boats, including Men's Single Sculls (M1X), Men's Double Sculls (M2X), Men's Quadruple Sculls (M4X), Lightweight Men's Double Sculls (LM2X), Men's Coxed Eight (M4-) and Women's Coxless Fours (W4-). While the majority of the inducted athletes are being prepared with a direct focus on the Asian Games 2026 cycle, some crews are also part of India's broader international development pathway targeting future competitions, like the Commonwealth Games 2030 set to be hosted in the country. The induction of these multiple Indian rowers into the TOPS Development Group is another effort to build sustainable bench strength across several boat categories rather than focusing only on individual medal



prospects. With India set to host the centenary edition of the Commonwealth Games in 2030, the strengthening of rowing infrastructure and athlete depth remains key. Rowing has not featured in the Commonwealth Games since the 1986 edition in Edinburgh, but can be set for a return in the centenary edition of the games.

Full list of TOPS development rowers inducted:
Men's Single Sculls - Arvind Singh
Men's Double Sculls - Navdeep Singh,

Kulwinder Singh
Men's Quadruple Sculls - Balraj Panwar, Satnam Singh, Jakar Khan, Salman Khan
Lightweight Men's Double Sculls - Lakshay, Ujjwal Kumar Singh
Men's Coxed Eight - Jaswinder Singh, Nitin Kumar, Babul Yadav, Yogesh Kumar, Ghurde Vipul Satish, Saurav Kumar, Iqbal Singh, Sannee Kumar, Dhananjay Uttam Pande
Women's Coxless Fours - Gurbani Kaur, Poonam, Tendenthoi, Aleena Anto

IPL 2026: RCB to not come to Bengaluru as Bobat, Patidar hail use of data and analytics in title win

AHMEDABAD : Royal Challengers Bengaluru's players and support staff will disperse to their respective homes and holiday time from Ahmedabad rather than return to Bengaluru immediately to celebrate their second successive Indian Premier League (IPL) crown.

"Well, firstly, I don't think any of us are going to Bangalore, unfortunately. I'm traveling back to the UK tomorrow. Rajat, I'm sure, will be heading home to his family and I think Andy's got a holiday planned. So we'll have to wait a little bit longer before we can get back amongst our fans and to enjoy some of their excitement and happiness, which is always nice to experience," Mo Bobat, RCB's Director of Cricket, told IANS in a virtual press conference on Monday.

With the afterglow of the championship win still high, Bobat and skipper Rajat Patidar stated that the franchise's balanced approach to data and analytics, especially roping in Freddie Wilde as their lead analyst, has been a key factor in them transforming as a title-winning unit since 2025.

For the longest time, RCB were the IPL's biggest under-achievers - a star-studded unit who would always fall short of winning the trophy when it mattered the most. But since 2025, that narrative has undergone a dramatic shift by becoming only the third IPL side to win back-to-back IPL titles.

The turnaround has not come not from one marquee signing or a dramatic tactical overhaul. Instead, it has been shaped by a measured, data and evidence based approach for constructing the squad and preparing for matches.

Under Bobat, Wilde, head

coach Andy Flower and batting coach-cum-mentor Dinesh Karthik, data and analytics have now become central to how RCB operate and compete as a unit, which in turn has helped them shed the 'nearly men' tag associated with them.

"In terms of the sort of data related questions, both Andy and I are very similar in our views in that we don't overly focus on data. Data is obviously quite a hot topic in elite sport at the minute. We don't focus too much on that. But what I do think we share in common is a desire to have evidence based decision making and therefore, by definition, if you want evidence to support your decisions or to inform your decisions, then you're going to pay attention to the data that's available to you."

"So we really value and we recognize the importance of our judgment as decision makers. We make important decisions about players' careers, about their dreams, about their livelihoods. So, we both think it's our responsibility to do that with an element of rigour."

"If you're going to do that, then you will pay attention to evidence, information, data, expert opinion, whatever you want to call it. Philosophically, we both believe in that information being a combination of the more objective kind of numbers that can tell you a story, but also what some of our expert eyes and ears see and hear and what they can tell us as well, because it's all information that helps us make those evidence based decisions."

"So very balanced view in our sort of in our ways of working and I'd like to think that Rajat's experiences that

as captain and that we will share insights with him that might be data informed, as well as some of our own gut feel and intuition. A part of the reason why we engaged DK in the role that we engaged him in is that he has a very active tactical mind and we can learn from his many experiences as a person as well," elaborated Bobat.

Wilde is the lead analyst of current IIT20 holders Desert Vipers and The Hundred franchise London Spirit, after being with the England men's team. He also came into limelight after authoring a chapter in the Cricket 2.0: Inside the T20 Revolution book titled 'Why CSK win and why RCB lose.'

Cut to now, and Wilde has played a key role in turning around RCB's fortunes. "So a real mix there and you referenced Freddie and it's important to recognize the quality of his work. We've worked with Freddie for a few years now. He's an outstanding analyst and the things that stand him out, I think, would be he is able to kind of manoeuvre between thinking like an analyst and also thinking and operating a bit like a coach and that's quite nice territory."

"As someone who can do that, that also means we can trust him in his communication with players and groups in a way that you might not always give sort of analyst responsibilities. He's also quite practically minded. He realizes that the numbers won't always tell the full story."

"So he appreciates that there is subjectivity and context that binds a lot of the analytics that we'll do. But in short, his contributions have been huge, particularly if you



think about things like the importance of building a squad and auction planning, which we invest a lot of preparation and time into."

"Then we have quite a rigorous planning and review process as we go through the season and Freddie leads a lot of that work alongside Andy. So, obviously, I can't speak much more glowingly about Freddie's work."

"He's been excellent and a real value add for the franchise, helps players, support staff, coaches on a number of levels. But the headline would be that we're kind of we're very balanced in our view - the human and the machine are probably both key parts of our process," explained Bobat.

Flower, who added another IPL title to his growing cabinet of winning franchise T20 league trophies as the head coach, gave a little hint about how being data reliant sparked Patidar's turnaround in being a ferocious pace hitter in this season. "I'm not going to answer anything, but I really want to hear Rajat's

answer about the use of data."

As per statistics from Cricket-21, Patidar has emerged as one of the most destructive batters against pace in IPL 2026, with his numbers showing a remarkable jump from last season. In 2025, Patidar managed 190 runs in 13 innings against pacers at an average of 23.8 and a strike rate of 143, hitting just six sixes and recording a boundary percentage of 58.9, while his boundary per ball (BPB) ratio stood at 5.3.

But in 2026, the turnaround has been emphatic this year. Across the same number of innings, Patidar has piled up 377 runs against pacers at an average of 62.8 and a strike rate of 189. He has cleared the ropes 28 times, with his BPB improving to 3.6 and boundary percentage soaring to 73.2. Patidar credited Wilde's expertise for helping him sharpen his batting against pacers, apart from retaining his strengths of bashing spinners.

"To be honest, it was beautifully explained by Mo

regarding Freddie and I can say from my personal experience as well. Four or five times in the IPL, I called Freddie and he said, 'Freddie, I need some videos of the bowlers, especially spinners who are like Rashid Khan, Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravathy, where you have to pick their balls from the hand.'

"So on some days, I was feeling some difficulties in reading them from the videos. So I called Freddie by saying, 'Freddie, please help me. What's the difference in these bowlers who are bowling two or three deliveries, or different deliveries and from where I can pick him? So what's the difference?'"

"So I think Freddie helped me a lot in this and that's why I give credit to Freddie. So people always used to say to me that Rajat is a spin basher. But to be honest, I always like to play fast bowling. But if I talk about spin and picking up the bowlers from their hands, the credit goes to Freddie because he helped me a lot," concluded Patidar.