



Shivakumar sworn-in as Karnataka CM

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State Cabinet Approves Key Decisions on Border Security, Welfare Expansion and State Observances

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Morning India

Over 28 lakh women in Bengal receive Rs 3,000 monthly aid under Annapurna Yojana, in first phase

MI News Service, Kolkata: In accordance with the promises made during the recent assembly elections, the West Bengal government on Wednesday launched the Annapurna Yojana for women and announced that 28.25 lakh beneficiaries will receive Rs 3,000 monthly aid in the first phase. Inaugurating the much-awaited scheme, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said that 28,25,769 verified beneficiaries had been enrolled on the dedicated portal over the past three days through a coordinated effort involving state officials, district administrations, block development offices, municipal bodies, elected representatives, and public participation. "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee and the double-engine government's commitment have ensured that the promise to provide the aid of Rs 3,000 has been implemented," he said. The chief minister said fresh applications would continue to be accepted and all eligible beneficiaries would be covered under the scheme after verification over the next three months. "As forms are received and verification is completed, Rs 3,000 will be transferred to the beneficiaries' accounts. Our target is to ensure that every eligible woman receives the benefit," he said. The new Chief minister said the government would hold periodic briefings every seven



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, along with State Minister Agnimitra Paul, hands over Annapurna Yojana cheques to five beneficiaries. The funds were transferred directly to the women's bank accounts through a remote-enabled digital transfer system during a press conference at Nabanna on Wednesday.

days to inform people about the number of verified beneficiaries and newly enrolled recipients. It is estimated that in the first phase, nearly two crore women will benefit from this

scheme and the amount would reach directly to their accounts from today. The inauguration ceremony which was held at the state Secretariat Nabanna this afternoon was attended, among others, by senior Minister Agnimitra Paul of the Department of Women, Child Development, and Social Welfare. Simultaneously, the inauguration programme was conducted virtually across all blocks, municipalities, and the Kolkata Municipal Corporation areas. The programme was also connected via video conference to every block and municipality in the state. District Magistrates have been instructed to make necessary arrangements to ensure smooth execution of the event. Immediately after the inauguration, 100 selected Annapurna Yojana beneficiaries in each block and municipality were handed approval letters. Similarly, 100 beneficiaries in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area also received these letters amid thunderous applause. Reports indicate that the list of beneficiaries has been finalised based on recommendations from the concerned Sub-Divisional Officers, BDOs, and municipal authorities. Beneficiaries have been given 90 days to register under this scheme. Women aged between 25 and 60 years will be eligible for this benefit.

TMC dissolves all its committees, announces organisational overhaul after rebellion in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a dramatic move in the backdrop of a rebellion by a large section of its legislators during the last 24 hours, the opposition Trinamool Congress (TMC) on Wednesday dissolved all of its organisational committees in West Bengal and announced a comprehensive review of the party structure. In a statement posted on X, the TMC said that all committees of the party in West Bengal, as well as all of its frontal organisations, stood dissolved with immediate effect. The decision comes hours after dissenting TMC MLAs moved the Assembly Speaker seeking recognition as a separate legislature party, deepening the crisis within the organisation following its recent electoral setback. "After careful consideration, it has been decided that all committees of the All India Trinamool Congress in West Bengal, as well as all of its frontal organisations, shall stand dissolved with immediate effect," the party said. It said the party would undertake a "comprehensive exercise of introspection, performance review and organisational as-

essment at every level". Based on the findings of this exercise, the organisational structure of the parent body and all frontal organisations will be reconstituted and announced in due course," the statement said. The party, however, did not elaborate on the reasons behind the decision. Meanwhile, senior political observers here viewed the move as an attempt by the leadership to regain control of the organisation and pave the way for restructuring the party apparatus amid the ongoing crisis. "The party remains committed to strengthening its organisation and preparing it to meet future challenges with renewed vigour and purpose," the social media post added. The development marks one of the most sweeping organisational decisions taken by the TMC since its formation over two decades ago, and comes at a time when the party is grappling with its biggest internal challenge in recent years after experiencing a massive defeat in the hands of the BJP which had won as many as 208 of the 294 seats in the state Assembly in the recently concluded elections in which the TMC got only 80 seats.

58 TMC MLAs back expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee as opposition leader

MI News Service, Kolkata: The political turmoil within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) escalated sharply on Wednesday after a group of rebel MLAs submitted a letter to West Bengal Assembly Speaker Rathindranath Bose reportedly claiming the support of 58 legislators and seeking recognition as a separate legislative group. The letter, carrying the signatures of 58 MLAs, was submitted by the dissenting camp led by expelled MLA Ritabrata Banerjee. Sources said the group has proposed Banerjee as the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly while continuing to recognise Mamata Banerjee as the leader of the party. The move marks the most significant challenge yet to the existing TMC leadership structure. The dissenting camp also proposed a new leadership structure for the legislature party, with Banerjee as the leader and Akhazzaman as the chief whip, according to sources. Several rebel legislators, including Chandranath Sinha and Shiuli Saha, accompanied Banerjee and Sandeeban Saha to the Speaker's chamber in the Assembly,



Expelled Trinamool Congress leader Ritabrata Banerjee was reportedly appointed as the Leader of the Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly after Speaker Rathindra Bose accepted the rebel faction's claim for legislature party status.

where the documents were submitted raising fresh questions about the party's unity in the state Assembly. A day after being expelled from the TMC, rebel MLA Ritabrata Banerjee arrived at the Assembly and submitted a joint letter, bearing the signatures of 58 members, to the Speaker, proposing his name as the Leader of the Opposition. He was accompanied by several legislators, including Arup Roy, Shiuli Saha and Akhazzaman, as he pressed his claim before the Assembly authorities. If the numbers cited by Banerjee are accurate, it would indicate a dramatic shift in the Assembly's political equations, leaving Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with the support of only 20 MLAs. Amid the unfolding developments, senior TMC leader Kalyan Banerjee informed Assembly Speaker about a reshuffle in the party's legislative leadership. Since the party lost power in the state, several leaders have publicly expressed dissatisfaction with its functioning. The development comes amid an intensifying rebellion within the opposition party following the controversial signature-forgery row linked to the appointment of the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly. The crisis deepened earlier this week when the TMC expelled Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha for alleged anti-party activities. Both leaders had been accused by the party of attempting to destabilise the organisation and maintaining contact with a large number of legislators.

Over the past several days, reports of dissident meetings involving more than 55 MLAs have fuelled speculation of a Maharashtra-style split within the TMC. Rebel leaders have reportedly been exploring the possibility of forming a separate faction and staking claim as the "real Trinamool". Political observers note that under anti-defection provisions, a breakaway faction would require the support of at least two-thirds of the legislature party to avoid disqualification, making the claimed figure of 58 MLAs politically significant. The rebellion follows a string of setbacks for the TMC after the 2026 Assembly elections and has triggered an intense battle over control of the party's legislative wing. Senior party leaders have dismissed claims of a large-scale revolt and insisted that the majority of legislators remain loyal to Mamata Banerjee. The submission of a formal letter to the Speaker has moved the crisis from closed-door discussions to an institutional confrontation within the Assembly.

Firhad Hakim to resign as Kolkata Mayor, Mamata accepts his plea

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a day full of political drama, Senior Trinamool Congress leader and former minister Firhad Hakim has decided to resign as the Mayor of Kolkata after party supremo Mamata Banerjee accepted his request to step down. TMC MLA Kunal Ghosh said on Wednesday. Hakim, one of the party's most prominent leaders and a close aide of Mamata Banerjee, had earlier sought permission from the TMC chief to resign from the post, citing difficulties in functioning after the BJP came to power in West Bengal. "At that time, he was asked not to resign. However, he again requested Mamata Banerjee today to allow him to step down, following which she agreed," Ghosh told reporters. However, no official confirmation of the resignation is yet to be received. "At that time, he was asked not to resign. However, he again requested Mamata Banerjee today to allow him to step down, following which she agreed," Ghosh told reporters. The development comes at a time when TMC is witnessing its worst political churn which was visible on Wednesday when Hakim, along with TMC MLAs Nayana Bandyopadhyay, Ashok Deb and Kunal Ghosh, attended an administrative review meeting convened by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari at Nabanna, a development that added a fresh dimension to the ongoing unrest within the party. The attendance of several leaders considered close to Mamata Banerjee at the government meeting came even as the party's legislative wing appeared headed for an unprecedented split. Earlier, 58 dissenting TMC MLAs formally extended support to expelled legislator Ritabrata Banerjee as the new leader of the legislature party and conveyed their decision to Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose. Ritabrata Banerjee, accompanied by fellow rebel MLA Sandipan Saha and other dissenting legislators, reportedly met the Speaker and submitted letters of support purportedly signed by 58 MLAs. The rebel faction also proposed a new leadership structure, naming Ritabrata Banerjee as legislature party leader, Javed Khan, Sandipan Saha and Shiuli Saha as deputy leaders, and Raghunathganj MLA Akhazzaman as the chief whip.

PM Modi condoles loss of lives in Delhi hotel fire, announces ex-gratia

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday expressed deep grief over the loss of so many lives in a massive fire at a hotel at Malviya Nagar here, and announced an ex-gratia of Rs 2 lakh each to the next of kin of those killed and Rs 50,000 each for the injured. A massive fire broke out in a bed and breakfast hotel in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar on Wednesday, killing at least 21 people, injuring many others. Several of those killed are foreigners, mainly from Central Asia and Africa, officials said. "The loss of lives due to a fire incident in Malviya Nagar, Delhi is tragic. My condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. Wishing a speedy recovery to the injured.



Authorities are providing all possible assistance to those affected," PM Modi said in a post on X. He also announced financial grants from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for both the killed and the injured.

21 killed, many injured in south Delhi restaurant fire

MI News Service, New Delhi: At least 21 people, including some foreign nationals, were charred to death and several injured when a massive fire broke out at a restaurant in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday, officials said. Several of those killed were from Central Asia and Africa who were having breakfast at the hotel when fire broke out and could not escape, official sources said. They said the fire was first noticed in the 'Lemon Green Restaurant' at 8.45 am, but Police later clarified that the blaze was actually at the Flourish Stay B&B in Hauz Rani in the congested Malviya Nagar area before spreading to Lemon Green. More than 37 people were rescued and rushed to hospital where 18 were declared brought dead. Three more succumbed later, they said. According to a Delhi Fire Service official, rescue workers entered the basement of the building in the congested area and rescued at least three people trapped. There are fears that the death toll might rise further. However, the cause of the fire



Delhi Education Minister Ashish Sood visits the site at Malviya Nagar, in New Delhi. Police and firefighters at the site, where at least 21 people were killed and several others injured in the fire, in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar area on Wednesday.

are yet to be ascertained, they said. The blaze erupted at the restaurant during the morning hours, with several people reported trapped inside the building. Firefighters rushed to the spot and launched rescue efforts to evacuate those caught in the fire. According to officials, the Delhi Fire Services received a distress call in the morning and immediately dispatched multiple firefighting units, including two water tenders, two water bowlers, a quick response vehicle and other emergency equipment. Reacting to the tragedy, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta expressed grief over the loss of lives and said the Delhi government was closely monitoring the situation. In a post on X, Gupta said emergency response teams from the Delhi Fire Services, Delhi Police, the Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), and CATS Ambulance Services were mobilised immediately after information about the incident was received. She said their swift response helped rescue and evacuate several people from the affected premises. The chief minister also conveyed her condolences to the families of those killed and said all necessary medical assistance and support were being extended to the affected families. "In this hour of grief, Delhi Government stands firmly with the affected families. We remain committed to providing every possible support to those impacted by this tragedy," she said.

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Annapurna Yojana Replaces Lakshmir Bhandar, Wave of Happiness Among Women

MI News Service, Hooghly : Before the elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had promised that, if voted to power, it would replace the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme with the Annapurna Yojana. During the election campaign, the Trinamool Congress (TMC) had dismissed the promise as merely an electoral gimmick. However, within a month of forming the government, the BJP administration has begun implementing the Annapurna Yojana, and today the scheme was formally launched across the state by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari.



to beneficiaries.

On this occasion, certificates were distributed among beneficiaries in every Assembly constituency in the presence of the respective Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs).

At a programme held at the Hooghly-Chinsurah Municipality Hall in Chinsurah, Chinsurah MLA Subir Nag handed over certificates

from the Trinamool Congress, and CPI(M) councillor Biplab Das from Ward No. 1.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Sabyasachi Nag said that the BJP was gradually fulfilling all the promises it had made during

the election campaign.

After receiving their certificates, beneficiaries expressed their happiness and said they were delighted to see the government's promises being translated into reality.

Meanwhile, in Tarakeswar, certificates were distributed among beneficiaries in the presence of Tarakeswar MLA Santosh Pan.

Similarly, in Chapdani, MLA Dilip Singh was seen distributing Annapurna Yojana certificates among women at the local community hall. The event was attended by Chapdani Municipality Chairman Suresh Mishra, Vice-Chairman Binay Kumar, and several councillors. A similar scene was witnessed in the Serampore Assembly constituency, where MLA Bhaskar Bhattacharya interacted with women at various municipal programmes and was seen distributing Annapurna Yojana application forms.



'World Heat Day' was observed by the Indian Red Cross Society, Howrah Branch, at the Howrah Maidan area. As part of the programme, ORS and heat prevention leaflets were distributed to the public by Red Cross members and volunteers this morning. Following the event, a seminar was conducted in the Red Cross seminar hall by experienced doctors on this year's theme, 'Indoor Heat'.

TMC Party Office Handed Over To BJP In Nabadwip, Triggers Political Buzz



MI News Service, Nadia : In a development that has sparked discussion in political circles, a Trinamool Congress party office in Nabadwip's Ward No. 12 was handed over to BJP leaders, reportedly in the interest of ensuring uninterrupted civic services and local development.

According to local sources, the office had remained largely inactive following the arrest of Nabadwip Municipality chairman and ward councillor Biman Krishna Saha in connection with multiple allegations, including corruption-related charges. Residents claimed that the party office had remained closed since the election results were announced.

Amid the evolving political situation in the area, a section of local TMC workers and supporters allegedly unlocked the office and transferred its respon-

sibility to BJP functionaries. They said the move was aimed at restoring a point of contact for residents facing civic issues and ensuring that development-related work in the area was not affected.

The incident has generated considerable political discussion in the town, with observers viewing it as a sign of shifting local political equations. However, no official statement was available from the TMC at the time of reporting.

BJP leaders, meanwhile, said the office would be used as a public outreach and grievance-redressal centre for local residents.

The episode has added a new dimension to the changing political landscape in Nabadwip and is being closely watched by political observers across the district.

Nadia Tops Bengal In Annapurna Yojana Rollout, Over 2.59 Lakh Women Receive Direct Benefit Transfer

MI News Service, Nadia : Nadia district has emerged as the top beneficiary district under the state government's Annapurna Yojana, with 2,59,955 women receiving direct financial assistance in their bank accounts on Wednesday.

According to figures released by Nabanna, a total of 2,825,769 women across West Bengal received funds under the social welfare scheme through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The district-wise data places Nadia at the top of the list, followed by Murshidabad with 219,373 beneficiaries and Paschim Medinipur with 217,856.

North 24 Parganas recorded 205,001 beneficiaries, while Purba Medinipur and Purba Bardhaman accounted for 203,184 and 193,095 beneficiaries respectively. South 24 Parganas, Hooghly, Bankura and Malda also registered significant numbers under the scheme.

Officials said the programme is aimed at extending financial support to women from economi-



cally vulnerable households. The state government has emphasised direct transfer of funds to ensure transparency and eliminate intermediaries in the distribution process.

The scheme has recently attracted attention over its 12-page application form, which drew criticism from some quarters for seeking extensive personal information. Responding to the concerns, the state government maintained that the verification process was necessary to identify genuine beneficiaries and prevent irregularities in welfare disbursement.

State authorities also stated that the data collection exercise would help

create a comprehensive beneficiary database for future welfare initiatives. According to the government, stricter verification measures have been introduced to ensure that only eligible Indian citizens receive benefits under the scheme.

While Nadia emerged as the leading district in terms of beneficiary numbers, Kolkata recorded 23,807 beneficiaries, and Kalimpong reported the lowest figure at 9,675.

The latest disbursement marks one of the largest single-day transfers under the Annapurna Yojana and highlights Nadia's significant share in the state's welfare outreach programme.

Sand Mafia Probe Intensifies: Raids Conducted at Homes of Contractor Piyush Chandra and TMC Leader Gautam Patra Following Kalpana Sit's Arrest

MI News Service, Kharagpur : The investigation into the alleged financial links between influential Trinamool Congress leader Kalpana Sit and a sand mafia operating in Keshiyari, West Medinipur district, is deepening. Following her arrest and subsequent interrogation by Kharagpur Town Police, investigators have expanded the scope of the probe to include her close associates. On Wednesday, as part of the ongoing investigation, officers from Keshiyari Police Station and officials of the block administration conducted a joint operation in the Khajra area. During the operation, search raids were carried out at the residence of Piyush Chandra, a contractor and local Trinamool Congress leader believed to be a close associate of Kalpana Sit. Authorities also searched the residence of another local Trinamool leader, Gautam Patra. According to local sources, Gautam Patra is considered a close associate of Piyush Chandra. During the searches, officials reportedly recovered several items that have raised fresh questions in the investigation. Preliminary findings indicate that water supply pipes used by the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department, along with a large quantity of government-issued tarpaulins, were found at Piyush Chandra's residence. Officials stated that a detailed inquiry is underway to determine



why these materials were stored there and whether their possession was legally authorized. The block administration has said that the source of the recovered items and the documents related to them will be thoroughly examined. Authorities have warned that if the investigation establishes that government property was illegally stored or that any irregularities occurred, appropriate legal action will be taken against those responsible. It may be recalled that the arrest of Kalpana Sit over alleged financial dealings with the sand mafia has already triggered significant political activity in the Keshiyari region. The latest raids on the homes of her associates have further intensified the sensitivity of the case. The administration has emphasized that the investigation remains ongoing and that all aspects of the matter are being examined in detail. Both administrative and political circles are closely monitoring further developments in the case.

BJP Submits 15-Point Charter to Nabadwip Municipality, Seeks Transparency in Civic Affairs

MI News Service, Nadia : Stepping up its attack on the civic administration amid the ongoing political turmoil in Nabadwip, the BJP on Wednesday submitted a 15-point memorandum to the Nabadwip Municipality, demanding greater transparency in financial and administrative matters. The delegation, led by Nabadwip MLA Shrutishekhar Goswami, handed over the memorandum to the municipality's Executive Officer.

The BJP's charter of demands includes disclosure of records related to alleged illegal apartment constructions across the town, details of water bodies allegedly filled up in violation of regulations, and accounts of revenue collected from various toll points. The party has also sought a comprehensive audit of nearly Rs 300 crore spent under the Heritage City development initiative.

Among the key demands are the publication of expenditure details under the Ganga Action Plan and the Namami Gange programme, as well as greater accountability in the implementation of civic and infrastructure projects. BJP leaders alleged that residents have been kept in the dark regarding several major development



schemes undertaken by the municipality in recent years.

Addressing reporters after the deputation, MLA Shrutishekhar Goswami claimed that multiple instances of irregularities in the functioning of the municipality had already come to light and alleged that further revelations could emerge in the coming days. He urged the administration to conduct impartial investigations into all complaints and initiate legal action wherever wrongdoing is established.

Goswami also said that while the BJP would continue to raise issues concerning public accountability, the party was prepared to extend constructive support to ensure that civic services and municipal administration function smoothly.

The deputation comes at a politically sensitive time for Nabadwip. Municipal chairman Biman Krishna Saha was recently arrested following allegations linked to the recovery of a large quantity of relief materials from a club premises adjacent to his residence. The incident triggered public protests and intensified political tensions in the town.

With the arrest of the municipal chairman already placing the civic body under scrutiny, the BJP's latest demands are expected to further sharpen the debate over transparency, governance and accountability in Nabadwip Municipality. Political observers believe the issue is likely to remain at the centre of local political discourse in the coming weeks.

Panic and outrage in Bahir Purbapara as long time party worker found dead after attack

MI News Service, Bolpur: Shock and fear gripped Bahiri Purbapara on Wednesday after a longtime local political worker was found dead following a brutal late-night assault that residents say targeted his home. Police have launched a probe and sent the body for autopsy as investigators search for the attackers.

The deceased has been identified as 48-year-old Habal Lohar, a resident of Bahiri Purbapara under Bahiri Panchsaiya gram panchayat. Family members and neighbours said a group of masked miscreants stormed Lohar's house late on Tuesday night, beating him with sticks, iron rods and sharp objects before fleeing the scene. Lohar was pronounced dead at the spot, they said. His relatives alleged the attack was premeditated and politically motivated. "They came in a group, armed and determined," a distraught family member said. "They attacked not only Habal's house but damaged several nearby homes as well." Villagers said the violence sparked widespread panic, with many families refusing to leave their houses until police arrived. Bolpur police reached the scene after being alerted and recovered the body. It was taken to the Bolpur Subdivisional Hospital for post-mortem examination. Officers said formal statements are being recorded and searches are underway at multiple locations to apprehend those responsible. Senior district officials told reporters they would deploy additional personnel to restore calm and promised swift, impartial action.

Lightning Strike Sparks Fire in Coconut Tree in Midnapore, Causing Panic in the Area

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A coconut tree caught fire after being struck by lightning in the Hari Mandir area of Dharma under the Kotwali Police Station limits in Midnapore town, West Medinipur district. The incident created panic and confusion among local residents. According to locals, the weather had turned stormy in the evening when a powerful lightning bolt accompanied by loud thunder struck a tall coconut tree directly. Moments after the strike, the upper portion of the tree caught fire, and flames became visible from a distance. The sudden incident alarmed nearby residents, many of whom rushed to the spot to witness the scene. Eyewitnesses said the sound of the lightning strike was so intense that vibrations were felt inside nearby houses.



Following the outbreak of the fire, people feared that the flames might spread to nearby homes or surround-

ing trees. However, due to the alertness of local residents and rainfall in the area, the fire did not spread further and was brought under control naturally. The local administration and concerned authorities were informed about the incident. Fortunately, no casualties or injuries have been reported. However, the coconut tree was severely damaged by the lightning strike and subsequent fire. After the incident, residents appealed to people to remain in safe locations during thunderstorms and heavy rain and to avoid open spaces and tall trees during adverse weather conditions. The Meteorological Department has also been continuously advising the public to take necessary precautions during periods of severe weather. Although no loss of life was reported, the incident once again highlighted the importance of staying alert and prepared for natural disasters such as lightning strikes.

Police Raid House of Contractor Close to Former Minister Birbaha Hansda in Lalgargh, Jhargram; Large Quantity of Relief Materials and High-Mast Light Equipment Seized

MI News Service, Kharagpur : In a major operation, police conducted a raid at the residence of contractor Biplab Goswami, who is reportedly a close associate of former minister Birbaha Hansda, in the Nepura area under Lalgargh Police Station in Jhargram district. During the raid, police recovered a large quantity of government relief materials, high-mast light equipment, and tarpaulins, creating a stir in the area. According to sources, police received confidential information that materials related to government projects and relief work had been illegally stored at the contractor's house. Acting on the tip-off, a police team reached the residence in Nepura and carried out a



search operation. During the search, officers seized a substantial quantity of relief supplies, several high-mast lighting components, and tarpaulins. Police officials stated that the legality and source of the recovered items are being investigated. Authorities

are trying to determine whether the materials belong to government projects or were obtained through other means. Relevant documents related to the seized items are also being examined. Upon learning about the raid, contractor Biplab

Goswami allegedly fled the area. Police have launched a search operation and are conducting raids at various possible hideouts to locate him. Officials said that appropriate legal action will be taken after the investigation is completed. The incident has sparked widespread discussion among local residents, while the police action has also generated considerable political interest. Police have taken possession of the recovered materials and initiated a detailed investigation. According to officials, only after the inquiry is completed will it become clear why the materials were stored at the residence and whether the case involves any irregularities or misuse of government property.

Call for Climate Risk Preparedness

MI News Service, Kolkata: IndusInd General Insurance on World Environment Day highlighted the rising financial impact of climate change on Indian households and businesses. The company stressed that extreme weather events are becoming increasingly frequent, causing widespread damage and losses. It noted that a large share of such losses remains uninsured, leaving people vulnerable. The insurer urged greater awareness, wider insurance coverage, and better financial preparedness to build resilience and support faster recovery from climate-related disasters.

HDFC AMC Launches Growth for GOOD Sustainable Portfolio

MI News Service, Kolkata: HDFC Asset Management Company Limited (HDFC AMC) on 3rd June 2026 introduced the HDFC Growth for GOOD Portfolio, an investment approach aimed at aligning capital allocation with sustainability, strong governance, and societal well-being while targeting long-term wealth creation. The initiative reflects the evolving financial landscape where investors increasingly seek purposeful and impact-driven investment opportunities beyond profits alone. The strategy focuses on companies demonstrating robust governance, transparency, and constructive societal contribution, along with strong financial metrics such as ROCE, ROE, EPS, CAGR, and free cash flow growth. It prioritises efficient capital allocation and sustainable long-term growth potential. A core principle of the approach is non-harm, ensuring exclusion of businesses linked to defence, alcohol, tobacco, gambling, meat and poultry, leather, animal testing, and related industries, aligning investments with ethical and sustainable values.

State Renames Maa Canteen as 'Maa Ahar', Announces 500 New Centres

MI News Service, Kolkata: The BJP-led West Bengal government has renamed the popular Maa Canteen scheme as "MaaAhar" and announced a major expansion of the subsidised meal programme across the state.

The decision was taken at a state cabinet meeting on Wednesday and later announced by Minister Agnimitra Paul. Under the revamped scheme, 500 new MaaAhar centres will be opened across West Bengal, providing affordable midday meals to the public at just ₹5. The government has also introduced a revised weekly menu to improve nutrition. According to the announcement, beneficiaries will receive fish twice a week and eggs twice a week, while vegetarian meals will be served on the remaining three days.

After coming to power, the BJP government had stated that welfare schemes benefiting common people would not be discontinued. Instead, such programmes would be expanded and strengthened. The transformation of Maa Canteen into MaaAhar is being projected as part of that commitment.

The original Maa Canteen scheme was launched in 2021 by the Trinamool Congress government under former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to provide low-cost meals to poor and economically weaker sections. Under the earlier model, beneficiaries received rice, lentils, vegetables and an egg for ₹5. Recently, Minister Dilip Ghosh had indicated that fish would be included in the subsidised meal programme. With Wednesday's announcement, the state government has formally outlined the seven-day menu and confirmed the expansion of the scheme.

21 killed

Continued from Pg 1: Earlier in the day, DFS officials said 11 people had been rescued from the building and shifted to hospitals by Centralised Accident and Trauma Services (CATS) ambulances. However, Delhi Police later confirmed that at least 18 people had died in the incident.

The exact number of people present inside the restaurant when the fire broke out was not immediately known. Authorities are continuing search and rescue operations while assessing the extent of the damage.

As the cause of the fire is yet to be established, Police and fire department officials have launched an investigation to determine how the blaze started and whether any fire safety violations or lapses contributed to the tragedy.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, along with the State Minister of Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Agnimitra Paul launches the Annapurna Yojana-DBT from Nabanna, on Wednesday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

State Cabinet Approves Key Decisions on Border Security, Welfare Expansion and State Observances

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal Cabinet on Wednesday cleared a series of significant decisions related to administration, security, social welfare, and official state observances. The approvals include enhanced border infrastructure development, a large-scale expansion of the subsidised food scheme, formalisation of state-day celebrations, and changes in the state's legal and administrative framework.

As part of strengthening border security, the state government has begun the process of transferring land to the Border Security Force (BSF) for completing pending fencing work along the Indo-Bangladesh border. Officials confirmed that a total of 31,905 acres has already been handed over through a permanent land deed.

The transfer covers nine strategically important sites located across key border districts, including Malda, Nadia, and Cooch Behar.



In a major welfare expansion, the state's flagship subsidised food programme has undergone both re-branding and structural enhancement. The scheme, previously known as 'Maa Canteen', has now been officially renamed 'MaaAhar' to reflect its expanded scope and outreach.

Following the Cabinet decision, State Minister Agnimitra Paul announced that the distribution network will be significantly increased. At present, 390 centres are functioning across the state, and the Cabinet has approved the addition of 110 more centres, taking the total to 500 food distribution units statewide. She further stated that the meal plan has been redesigned to improve nutritional balance. Under the revised weekly menu, beneficiaries will receive fish twice a week, eggs twice a week, and vegetarian meals

on the remaining days, ensuring a structured dietary rotation.

The Cabinet also finalised the state's official calendar of commemorative events. It confirmed that June 20 will be observed as West Bengal Day, marking an important institutional decision regarding state identity and annual observances. This was announced following the Cabinet meeting by Minister Dilip Ghosh.

In addition, the government has scheduled a major ceremonial programme for July 6, when a bhumi puja will be conducted for the installation of a statue of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee in Kolkata. Officials stated that the event will formally initiate the memorial construction process at a designated location.

The Cabinet decisions collectively reflect a broader policy focus on infrastructure strengthening, welfare expansion, and institutional restructuring across West Bengal.

Kolkata to Add 4,000 New Police Constables Ahead of Puja Season

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government has announced the recruitment of 4,000 additional constables in Kolkata Police ahead of the upcoming festive season, aiming to strengthen law and order across the city.

The announcement was made during an administrative review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari, where he also stated that several initiatives are being taken to modernise the state police force.

The meeting at Nabanna witnessed the presence of several political figures, including Kunal Ghosh, Firhad Hakim, NayanaBandopadhyay, and senior Trinamool MLA Ashok Deb, sparking political speculation amid ongoing internal

tensions within the ruling party. Interestingly, several of these leaders had been seen just a day earlier alongside Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at a public protest event in Kolkata, leading to further discussion in political circles regarding shifting alignments within the party.

Officials clarified that the attending MLAs represent constituencies under Kolkata, Howrah, and South 24 Parganas districts, and their presence at the meeting was part of routine administrative coordination.

During the meeting, discussions were also held on pending Dearness Allowance (DA) issues concerning government employees. The Chief Minister reportedly assured employee unions that the

matter is under consideration. He also indicated that positive announcements regarding DA could be expected in the upcoming budget session.

In addition, the Chief Minister addressed the ongoing DA case in the Supreme Court, stating that the government would abide by the court's final decision and would not engage in any confrontation with judicial directives.

The nearly two-hour-long meeting focused on administrative preparedness, employee welfare, and policing reforms. The government reiterated its commitment to improving police infrastructure and enhancing operational efficiency through recruitment and modernisation initiatives.

TMC MLAs Attend Adhikari's Review Meeting

MI News Service, Kolkata: A clear indication of deepening divisions within the Trinamool Congress (TMC) emerged on Wednesday as several party MLAs participated in Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari's administrative review meeting at Nabanna, even as the party continues to face its most serious internal crisis since its electoral setback in West Bengal.

Among those present at the official review meeting were dissident leaders Ritabrata Banerjee, Javed Khan, and SandipanSaha, whose attendance further intensified speculation over shifting political alignments within the party.

Their participation came just hours after Banerjee and other rebel legislators met Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose and submitted letters claiming support from 58 MLAs backing a

new leadership arrangement within the TMC legislature party.

The rebel faction has reportedly proposed a revised organisational structure, nominating Ritabrata Banerjee as legislature party leader, with Javed Khan, SandipanSaha, and ShiuliSaha as deputy leaders, while Raghunathganj MLA Akhruzzaman has been proposed as chief whip.

Earlier in the day, the dissident MLAs held a separate meeting at the Assembly, highlighting growing fault lines within the party. At the same time, another group of senior TMC leaders considered loyal to Mamata Banerjee, including Kolkata Mayor Firhad Hakim, NayanaBandopadhyay, Ashok Deb, and Kunal Ghosh, attended the Nabanna meeting.

These senior leaders nota-

bly stayed away from the rebel camp's Assembly gathering, instead choosing to participate in the Chief Minister's administrative review, reflecting the increasingly fragmented political alignment inside the party.

Similar patterns were observed earlier when several MLAs attended a government review meeting in Kalyani, sparking debate over whether party legislators should engage with official state programmes amid political tensions.

The issue has triggered internal discussions within the party regarding participation in state-led events. Senior leader Kunal Ghosh had earlier stated that while boycotting administrative meetings is not preferred, the party is reconsidering its approach due to ongoing post-poll tensions and violence against party workers.



State Ministers Agnimitra Paul and Dilip Ghosh address a programme where the West Bengal Cabinet approved a series of major administrative, security, and welfare decisions. These include a significant push for international border infrastructure, a massive expansion of the state's subsidised food programme, the designation of an official State Day, and a major reshuffle in the state's legal leadership, at Nabanna on Wednesday. PIC: Prabir Bhattacharya

State Govt Introduces Strict Biometric Attendance Rules for Employees

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a major move aimed at strengthening administrative discipline and ensuring punctuality in government offices, the BJP-led West Bengal government has issued a comprehensive set of guidelines making biometric attendance mandatory for all state government employees.

According to a notification issued by Nabanna, the state secretary, biometric attendance will be introduced in phases across all government departments. The system will first be implemented at Nabanna from June 15, while all remaining government offices across the state are expected to come under the new attendance regime by July 31.

The government stated that the primary objective of the initiative is to promote punctuality, improve workplace discipline, and maintain digital records of employee attendance. Officials believe the move will enhance accountability and efficiency within the state administration.

Under the new system, all employees working at Nabanna will be required to record their entry and exit timings through facial recognition-based biometric devices. Attendance registered between 10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. will be marked as "late."

Employees who register their attendance after 11:00 a.m. will be treated as absent for the day. Similarly, leaving office before 5:15 p.m. will be considered an "early departure."

The notification further states that if an employee both arrives late and leaves early on the same day, he or she will be marked absent and one day of Casual Leave (CL) will be deducted. Employees who fail to record their exit through the biometric system will also be treated as absent.

Additionally, if an employee reports late or leaves early on three occasions within a single month, one day of Casual Leave will be deducted as a penalty. The government has also clarified that employees may be required to continue official duties beyond office hours in urgent or exceptional circumstances. However, if an employee needs to arrive late or leave early due to official meetings or government work, prior approval from the head of the concerned department will be mandatory.

The new guidelines are expected to significantly alter attendance monitoring practices across government offices in West Bengal.

During the tenure of former

West Bengal to Roll Out Ayushman Bharat Scheme

MI News Service, Kolkata: The BJP-led West Bengal government has announced the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat health insurance scheme in the state, alongside the rollout of the Annapurna Yojana, marking a major expansion in welfare and healthcare coverage.

According to officials, the ₹5 lakh central health insurance scheme will now be available to residents of the state, with enrolment already underway. The distribution of Ayushman Bharat cards is expected to begin from July in a phased manner.

While addressing the launch of the Annapurna Yojana, State Minister Agnimitra Paul said that the introduction of application forms was necessary after verification checks revealed

alleged instances of thousands of fake bank accounts receiving benefits in earlier schemes. She added that the DBT process has already begun and payments are being transferred to eligible beneficiaries' bank accounts.

She further stated that the government aims to ensure transparency and proper verification before extending financial assistance. The application process for the scheme has already started and will continue alongside the ongoing verification drive.

Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari said that the introduction of new application forms followed concerns that even individuals whose names were removed from voter lists were previously receiving

benefits under earlier welfare programmes. He added that beneficiary verification will be strictly enforced before payments are released.

According to the Chief Minister, more than 28.25 lakh women are expected to receive financial assistance under the scheme. The form-filling process will continue for three months, with beneficiary lists being updated every seven days. He also stated that once verification is completed, earlier discrepancies in welfare distribution will be corrected.

On Ayushman Bharat, he confirmed that enrolment for beneficiaries under the state's existing health scheme is being integrated with the national portal. The government ex-

pects that over six crore existing beneficiaries linked with the state health scheme will gradually be brought under Ayushman Bharat.

For those not enrolled in the state's health scheme, separate enrolment opportunities will also be provided. The government plans to finalize an agreement with the central administration in early June regarding AyushmanAarogya-Mandirs, ensuring healthcare access not only within West Bengal but also for residents studying or working outside the state.

Officials said both schemes will be implemented in phases, with a focus on transparency, verification, and expanded welfare coverage across the state.

TMC Leader Arrested Over Alleged Illegal Occupation of Salt Lake House

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool Congress leader Jay Prakash Majumdar was arrested on Wednesday following allegations that he had illegally occupied a residential property in Salt Lake for nearly 12 years and repeatedly threatened the owner when asked to vacate the premises or pay rent.

The incident unfolded in Salt Lake when local residents staged a protest against Majumdar, accusing him of unlawfully retaining possession of a house located in the area. Police from Bidhanagar North Police Station arrived at the scene and initially detained the

TMC leader before formally arresting him based on a complaint lodged by the property owner.

According to allegations, Majumdar had rented House No. 337 in a Salt Lake block in 2014 and had been residing there with his family at a nominal rent. The property owner claimed that despite repeated requests over the years to vacate the house, Majumdar allegedly used his political influence to avoid eviction and issued threats whenever rent or possession of the property was discussed.

Tension escalated on Wednesday over a dispute related to locking the premises. As Majumdar arrived at the location, a group of local residents surrounded him and raised slogans against him. Protesters allegedly snatched the keys to his vehicle and shouted "chor, chor" (thief) slogans. Visuals from the scene showed Majumdar sitting inside his vehicle while protesters gathered around it.

Although Majumdar reportedly gave a verbal assurance that he would vacate the property, local residents refused to accept the promise, leading to further unrest in the area.

Sources said the original owner of the house has since passed away, and the property is now owned by his widow. Recently, she attempted to reclaim possession of the house with support from local residents. During an altercation, she allegedly slapped Majumdar's wife, and a video of the incident later went viral on social media.

The property owner has accused Majumdar of illegal occupation, intimidation, and harassment. Police have launched an investigation into the matter.

Firhad Hakim to resign as Kolkata Mayor, Mamata accepts his plea

Continued from Pg 1: Ritabrata Banerjee, Khan and Saha were also present at the chief minister's administrative review meeting later in the day.

The developments followed a gathering of dissident legislators at the Assembly earlier on Wednesday. Significantly, none of the MLAs who attended the rebels' meeting had participated in Mamata Banerjee's dharna in central Kolkata on Tuesday, highlighting the growing divide between the party leadership and the dissident bloc.

Several leaders identified with the Kalighat leadership, including Hakim, Bandyopadhyay, Deb

and Ghosh, skipped the Assembly meeting and instead attended the Nabanna review meeting.

The latest development comes days after senior TMC MP Kakkoli Ghosh Dasitdar and six party MLAs attended an administrative review meeting chaired by Suwendu Adhikari in Kalyani, triggering speculation over shifting political equations within the opposition camp after the assembly election setback.

Political observers said with another set of TMC leaders attending Wednesday's meeting, the line between administrative engagement and political messaging was becoming increasingly blurred in West Bengal's evolving post-election landscape.

The BJP government has maintained that such meetings are inclusive administrative exercises. During the previous TMC regime, BJP leaders had often alleged that opposition legislators were excluded from official review meetings. But soon after assuming office, Suwendu Adhikari announced that opposition MPs and MLAs would be invited to government programmes and district-level administrative review meetings.

Reacting to the participation of TMC legislators in such meetings last week, Kunal Ghosh had

said the matter was being discussed within the party.

"We are not in favour of boycotting administrative meetings called by the state government. But when our party workers are being assaulted and rendered homeless in post-poll violence, we need to think twice before attending such meetings. Our party is also discussing whether we should continue participating in these meetings or not," he had said.

The ongoing turmoil comes against the backdrop of the TMC's crushing assembly election defeat and growing uncertainty over the party's future leadership structure.

Name Change
I, Bishnu Kanta Mandhana (Old Name), S/o. Late Balmukund Maheshwari R/o. Magra Natungram, Magra, Hooghly-712148, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bishnu Kanta Mandhana to Bishnu Kanta Maheshwari (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bishnu Kanta Maheshwari in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 36 sworn before Sd/M. Sadar Hooghly Court on 25/05/2026. I, Bishnu Kanta Maheshwari & Bishnu Kanta Mandhana S/o. Late Balmukund Maheshwari, both are the same & one identical person. Amit Mandhana is my son.

Name Change
I, Birender Jaiswal (Old Name) S/o Pannalal Jaiswal Residing at 66/14, Atindra Mukherjee Lane, Shibpur, District - Howrah, Pin - 711102, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Birender Jaiswal (Old Name) to Birendra Kumar Jaiswal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Birendra Kumar Jaiswal (New Name) in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 10 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. Birendra Kumar Jaiswal (New Name) and Birender Jaiswal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, RAFIQUE AHMED (Old Name), S/o HAJI MEHTAB AHMAD, residing at 61, Harin Bari Lane, Kolkata-700073, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from RAFIQUE AHMED (Old Name) to RAFIQUE AHMAD (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as RAFIQUE AHMAD (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. RAFIQUE AHMAD (New Name) and RAFIQUE AHMED (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Ilias (Old Name), Son Of Islam Sekh, Resident Of Vill-Iachanagar, Po- Jagatballav Pur, Howrah-711408, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sk Ilias (Old Name) To Sekh Mohammad Elias (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Sekh Mohammad Elias (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Sekh Mohammad Elias (New Name) And Sk Ilias (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Continuation Of Service Of Kolkata - Dibrugarh - Kolkata Special
MI News Service, Kolkata, June 3, 2026: To clear the extra rush of passengers during Summer season, Railway has decided to continue the service of special train between Kolkata & Dibrugarh as per its existing path, stoppages & timings. 05932 Dibrugarh - Kolkata special will leave Dibrugarh on every Saturday between 06.06.2026 & 25.07.2026 (08 trips) and 05931 Kolkata - Dibrugarh special will leave Kolkata on every Monday between 08.06.2026 & 27.06.2026 (08 trips).

Bharat Gaurav Train on Spiritual Odyssey: for the first time to cover 3 Dham and 11 Jyotirlinga

Key Highlights of the Tour:
• The 17 nights and 18 days itinerary will start from Delhi Sadfardjurg Railway Station on September 03, 2026.
• The tourist train will cover 3 dhamsviz-JagannathPuri in East, Rameshwaram in South and Dwarkadhish in the West.
• The 11 jyotirlinga covered are KashiVishwanath, BaidyanathDham (Deogarh), Mallikarjun, Bhimashankar, Grishneshwar, Trimbakeshwar, Nageshwar, Somnath, Mahakaleshwar and Omkareshwar.
• The distance covered by the train is close to 10,000 kms over 18 days journey.
• State of the art Deluxe AC Tourist Train with AC I, AC II & AC III classes will accommodate total 150 tourists.
• Tourists can also board from Delhi Sadfardjurg, Ghaziabad, Aligarh, Tundla, Etawah, Kanpur and Prayagraj railway station on this tourist train.
• Guided sightseeing, comfortable hotel stays and curated meals included.
MI News Service, Delhi, June 3, 2026: The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) brings in an opportunity of a lifetime starting this September 3, 2026 with the grandest spiritual offering of the year, DevDarshanYatra: 3 Dham & 11 Jyotirlinga. Operating on the premium Bharat Gaurav Deluxe Tourist Train, this meticulously planned 18-day itinerary offers a worry-free, completely managed passage to the most powerful energy centers of Lord Shiva and Vishnu. The train offers a premium travel experience featuring deluxe cabins, fine dining restaurants, shower cubicles, sensor-based amenities, and enhanced safety features. Guests will enjoy a holistic journey combining rail luxury with immersive cultural exploration.
Onboard Comfort & Next-Generation Amenities:
The fully air-conditioned Bharat Gaurav Deluxe AC Tourist Train offers 1st AC, 2nd AC, and 3rd AC accommodation tiers. Designed to create a comfort driven stay on wheels, the train is equipped with a host of premium, modern features: Two fine-dining restaurants and a fully equipped modern kitchen. Dedicated shower cubicles in coaches and sensor-based washroom functions. Onboard foot massagers for guest relaxation. Enhanced security frameworks, including CCTV camera surveillance and dedicated Security Guards deployed for each coach.
The sacred circuit:
This expansive tour traces the spiritual geography of India, guiding devotees from ancient riverbanks to coastal shrines.
• The 3 Holy Dhams: Experience deep ocean devotion at JagannathPuri, cross the ocean bridge to Rameshwaram, and seek absolute salvation at Dwarkadhish Temple.
• The 11 Jyotirlingas: Pay homage at KashiVishwanath (Varanasi), BaidyanathDham (Deogarh), Mallikarjun, Bhimashankar, Grishneshwar, Trimbakeshwar, Nageshwar, Somnath, Mahakaleshwar (Ujjain), and Omkareshwar.
Day wise activities:
The tour starts from Delhi Sadfardjurg Railway Station for Varanasi. The train reaches Varanasi on day 2 where passengers visit KashiVishwanath Temple and corridor along with boat ride before starting for the next destination Jasidih. After a day dedicated to the darshan of Baidyanathdham, the train tour arrives at Puri on the Odisha coast on day 4. After a leisurely visit of Jagannathdham at the Puri beach, and an overnight stay at Puri, the group proceeds for the next Jyotirlinga, Mallikarjun up in the hills. On completion, the journey for the next destination i.e. Rameshwaram commences. Day 7 marks the arrival after a scenic island rail crossing. Post visit of Ramnathaswamytemple (second of the three dhams), the next day along with other key sites like Dhanushkodi and Vibhishan Temple woven intricately with the Ramayana lore, the train commences its journey for BhimashankarJyotirlinga located in the Sahyadri hills. After a night halt at Pune followed by the darshan, the train proceeds for the next city, ChhatrapatiShambhajiNagar. Kailash Temple at Ellorah and GrishneshwarJyotirlinga are the key sites to be explored here. Post sightseeing, the train starts for and arrives at Nashik which marks the closure of day 11. The next day starts with the excursion to TrymbakeshwarJyotirlinga on the outskirts. Later after covering the holy site of Panchvati, the train chugs for the destination, a city that houses the last dham, Dwarka. On arrival, the day is at leisure. On day 14, the devotees after an early morning darshan of Dwarkadhish, followed closely by NageshwarJyotirlinga and BeytDwarkaboard the train for the next destination, Somnath. At Somnath, the passengers will visit the eponymous temple, the adjoining beach and BhalkaTirth where Lord Krishna is believed to have left his mortal body and ascended for heaven. Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh is the next and the last city on this itinerary. After darshan at MahakaleshwarJyotirlinga, the group proceeds for the 11th and the last Jyotirlinga of the circuit, OmkareshwarJyotirlinga on the banks of Narmada before boarding the train for Delhi. The tour terminates on day 18 at Delhi Sadfardjurg Railway Station with a sense of profound peace and renewed purpose.
The Bharat Gaurav Advantage:
Your Train is Your Hotel: Travel comfortably with your luggage securely placed in dedicated, secure coaches. Pure vegetarian meals: Enjoy freshly prepared hygienic vegetarian meals cooked onboard by professional chefs. Seamless On-Ground Transit: Step off the train directly into dedicated AC vehicles for all local temple transfers and sightseeing. Comfortable Night Stays: Unwind after long darshan days with planned overnight hotel stays in Puri, Rameshwaram, Pune, Nashik, Dwarka, and Ujjain. Paramount Safety: Dedicated tour managers, security escorts, and comprehensive travel insurance ensure complete peace of mind.
Price and Contact details:
IRCTC has launched limited seats on this special train tour at an attractive price of Rs. 1,98,010/- for AC I class, Rs. 1,81,995/- for AC II class and Rs. 1,49,965/- for AC III Class. Package Price covers train journey, accommodation in 3 star hotels, all meals (vegetarian only), all transfer & sight-seeing in AC Vehicles, Accidental Travel Insurance and services of IRCTC Tour Manager etc.
For more details one can visit official website: https://www.irctctourism.com and book the tour online, on first come first serve basis on the web portal. For more information, one can contact on Mobile no. 8595931047 (Monika), 8287930484 (Subhasree), 8287930032 (Abhishek), 8287930299 (Prafulla) and 8882826357 (Praneet).

Name Change
I, Nakul Chandra Ghosh (Old Name), S/o. Late Dayal Ghosh, R/o. Deulpara, Dedhara, Dhaniakhali, Hooghly-712302, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nakul Chandra Ghosh to Nakul Ghosh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nakul Ghosh in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 40 sworn before Notary Public, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 01/06/2026. I, Nakul Ghosh & Nakul Chandra Ghosh S/o. Late Dayal Ghosh, both are the same & one identical person. Abhijit Ghosh is my son.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) GOKUL CHANDRA SARKAR S/o- GOSHTHA SARKAR Residing at, Vill- Tarakanagar, Ps- Tarakanagar, Ps- Hanskhali, Dist- Nadia, Pin- 741502, West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from GOKUL CHANDRA SARKAR TO GOKUL SARKAR (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as (New Name) GOKUL SARKAR in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2294 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, GOKUL SARKAR and GOKUL CHANDRA SARKAR both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, NABA ADHIKARY (Old Name) S/o BAKURAM ADHIKARY & H/o MALLIKA ADHIKARY residing at Address - CHARANOWPARA MAHAPRABHUTA A, NOWPARA, AMTA, Howrah, Pin Code- 711401, have changed and shall henceforth be known as NABA KUMAR ADHIKARY (New Name) as declare before the Notary Public, Kolkata vide affidavit dated 03/06/2026 and henceforth NABA ADHIKARY (Old Name) and NABA KUMAR ADHIKARY (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jayeeta Chakraborty Sharma (old name) W/o Joydip Chakraborty, residing at B2, Binapani Bhavan, 48/1, Old Nimta Road, Belgharia, North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700056, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jayeeta Chakraborty Sharma (old name) to Jayeeta Chakraborty (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Jayeeta Chakraborty (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. Jayeeta Chakraborty (New Name) and Jayeeta Chakraborty Sharma (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Reaz Ahmed (Old Name), Son Of Dara Sikandar, Resident Of 1, Dent Mission Road, Khidirpur, Kolkata-700023, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Reaz Ahmed (Old Name) To Reazuddin Ahmed (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Reazuddin Ahmed (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 22156 Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 02/06/2026. Reazuddin Ahmed (New Name) And Reaz Ahmed (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Molla Akkas Ali, S/o- Abdul Rashid Ali, R/o- Purba Keshabpur, Purba Kananpur, Hooghly, P.S.- Aarambagh, W.B.- 712415, do hereby declare that my name recorded as "Akkash Hossain & Akkas Ali" in my son Zahir Hossain's various documents, including an affidavit (no. 45829 dated 22.05.2026) submitted in the Court of 1st Class Judicial Magistrate at Alipore, do hereby declare that Molla Akkas Ali, Akkash Hossain & Akkas Ali is the same and one person. All concerns may take note. Sd/- Molla Akkas Ali S/o- Abdul Rashid Ali

Name Change
I, (Old Name) ABU SHAMA MONDAL S/O- DARBARI MONDAL Residing at, Vill- Tikitika Para, Nagrajeo, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742102 West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from ABU SHAMA MONDAL TO ABU SAMA MANDAL (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) ABU SAMA MANDAL in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2293 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, ABU SAMA MANDAL and ABU SHAMA MONDAL both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MD AKIB (OLD NAME) SON OF MD ZAKIR, RESIDENT OF GULZARBAGH UKHRA-PS-ANDAL PASCHIM BARDHAMAN-713363, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MD AKIB (OLD NAME) TO MD AKIB AHMED (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MD AKIB AHMED (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 28 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 02/06/2026. MD AKIB AHMED (NEW NAME) AND MD AKIB (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Shyamal Das (old name), S/o Late Saroj Kumar Das, residing at C-17, Ramgarh Colony, Debiyoti Apt Flat-2A, 1st FLR Netaji Nagar, Kolkata- 700047, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shyamal Das (Old Name) to Shyamal Kumar Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shyamal Kumar Das (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 28 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. Shyamal Kumar Das (New Name) and Shyamal Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Netaipada Das (old name), S/o Nanigopal Das, residing at Khirki Bagan Lane, Ranaghat, Nadia- 741201, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Netaipada Das (Old Name) to Nitaipada Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nitaipada Das (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit 26 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. Nitaipada Das (New Name) and Netaipada Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Gautam Herbert Surana (Old Name), S/o- Shri Shanti Kumar Surana, R/o- 7/1C, Lindsay Street, Park Street, Kolkata- 700016, WB, that, I Gautam Surana also known as Gautam Herbert Surana, S/o Shanti Kumar Surana would henceforth be known as Gautam Surana, vide an Affidavit No. 2303, dtd. 22.01.2021, before the LD Metropolitan Magistrate, Kolkata. Henceforth, Gautam Herbert Surana (Old Name) & Gautam Surana (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) PRADIP ROY S/o- BIBHUTI ROY Residing at, Vill- Dayanagar Road, Post- Cossimbazar Raj, Ps- Berhampore, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742102 West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from PRADIP ROY TO PRODIP KUMAR ROY (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) PRODIP KUMAR ROY in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2292 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, PRODIP KUMAR ROY and PRADIP ROY both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Md Akif Ali Molla, S/o Amir Ali Molla, residing at Hariharpur, P.O.- Iswaripur, P.S.- Bhanga, Pin- 745002, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my father name from Md Amir Ali Molla (Old Name) to Amir Ali Molla (New Name) and henceforth he shall be known as Amir Ali Molla (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 02/06/2026. Amir Ali Molla (New Name) and Md Amir Ali Molla (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Shaki (Old Name), Son Of Sk Rashid, Resident Of 53, Golam Jilani Khan Road, Kolkata-700039, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Sk Shaki (Old Name) To Md Shaki (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Shaki (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit No 14 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Md Shaki (Old Name) And Sk Shaki (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Barnali Basak (Kar) (Old Name), W/O Kartick Basak & D/O Late Nita Chandra Kar, Residing At Manaskamana Road, English Bazar, Po - Malda, P.S. - English Bazar, Dist - Malda - 732101, West Bengal, Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Barnali Basak (Kar) (Old Name) To Barnali Basak (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Barnali Basak (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 1 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata, Dated 08/04/2026. Barnali Basak (New Name) And Barnali Basak (Kar) (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Kumari Tapati, Wife of No. 13803206 Rank Ex Sap Name Amal Kumar Pal resident of Laxmipurnath, Benfed Lane, Dist.-Purba Bardhaman (WB), Pin- 713101 have change my Name & Date of birth from Kumari Tapati & 16 years to Tapati Rani Pal & 26 Jan 1950 vide Affidavit dated 14.05.26 before the 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Purba Bardhaman.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD EBADAT KHAN & MD EBADAT KHAN & IBADAT KHAN S/O MD SAHADAT KHAN Residing at, Vill- Barua MP Road, Post- Barua, Ps- Beladanga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742189 West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD EBADAT KHAN & MD EBADAT KHAN & IBADAT KHAN TO MD IBADAT KHAN (New Name) and henceforth I Shall be Known as (New Name) MD IBADAT KHAN in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2291 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, MD IBADAT KHAN and MD EBADAT KHAN & MD EBADAT KHAN & IBADAT KHAN both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, ALOM SK(OLD NAME), SON OF HARRJO SEKH, RESIDENT OF CHANDI, P.S. BISHNUPUR, SOUTH 24 PGS-743503, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM ALOM SK(OLD NAME) TO ALAM SEKH(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS ALAM SEKH(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 27/05/2026. ALAM SEKH(NEW NAME) AND ALOM SK(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Lakshmi Priya Barik (old name) W/o Saratani Barik, residing at Vill- Suberna, P.O. - Kalindi, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721455, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Lakshmi Priya Barik (Old Name) to Lakshmi Priya Barik (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Lakshmi Priya Barik (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 02/06/2026. Lakshmi Priya Barik (Old Name) and Lakshmi Priya Barik (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kartik Basak (old name), S/o Late Gobinda Chandra Basak, residing at MANASKAMAN ROAD, ENGLISH BAZAR, PO - MALDA, P.S. - ENGLISH BAZAR, DIST - MALDA - 732101, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Kartik Basak (Old Name) to Kartick Basak (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Kartick basak (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 2 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 08/04/2026. Kartick basak (New Name) and Kartik Basak (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Om Prakash, son of Ram Lal, resident of Metropoll Compound, Mallit, Nainital, Uttarakhand, do solemnly affirm and declare that Om Prakash and Om Prakash Arya refer to one and the same identical person via affidavit before the Notary Public at Nainital Uttarakhand dated 23rd May 2026.

Name Change
I, (Old Name) MD SALAUDDIN KHAN S/O- MD IBADAT KHAN Residing at, Vill- Barua MP Road, Post- Barua, Ps- Beladanga, Dist- Murshidabad, Pin- 742189 West Bengal. Do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MD SALAUDDIN KHAN (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as (New Name) SALAUDDIN KHAN in all purpose. Vide an affidavit No- 2290 On Date 25 May 2026 Sworn before the Notary Public at Berhampore Murshidabad, SALAUDDIN KHAN and MD SALAUDDIN KHAN both are Same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) S/o Bijoy Biswas Residing at Vtc-Po - Bhayna, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) to Nimal Biswas (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nimal Biswas (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 43/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. Nimal Biswas (New Name) and Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Dilip Mondol (old name), S/o Santosh Kumar Mondal, residing at 4/10, Jadavgarh, Near Hattu Bazar, Kolkata-700078, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Dilip Mondol (Old Name) to Dilip Kumar Mondal (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Dilip Kumar Mondal (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 02/06/2026. Dilip Kumar Mondal (New Name) and Dilip Mondol (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ejaz Ahmed & Ejaz Ahmed (Old Name), Son Of Anwarul Haque, Resident Of 36/X1 Topsis Road, Tiljala, Po - Tiljala, Kolkata - 700039, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ejaz Ahmed & Ejaz Ahmed (Old Name) To Ezaz Ahmed (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ezaz Ahmed (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Ezaz Ahmed (New Name) And Ejaz Ahmed & Ejaz Ahmed (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CORRECTION
I, Amar Bhowmick, S/o.- Lt. Gopal Bhowmick, Vill., P.O.-Haripurkaria, Haringhata, Nadia, hereby declare that in some of the previous documents my name has recorded as Amal Bhowmick, S/o.- Gopal Bhowmick. By affidavit filed in Kalyani Court on 20/4/2026, my name has been changed as Amar Bhowmick, S/o.- Lt. Gopal Bhowmick. Amar Bhowmick and Amal Bhowmick both are one and the same person, i.e. me.

Name Change
I, Pushpa Devi (Old Name) W/o Mahendra Prasad Shaw and D/o Bhagwat Prasad Gupta residing at 8, Ashu Ghosh Lane, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Pushpa Devi Shaw (New Name) as declare before the Notary Public Kolkata vide Affidavit dated 01.06.26. That, Pushpa Devi (Old Name) and Pushpa Devi Shaw (New Name) both are same and one identical person, i.e., myself.

Name Change
I, Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) S/o Bijoy Biswas Residing at Vtc-Po - Bhayna, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) to Nimal Biswas (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nimal Biswas (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 43/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. Nimal Biswas (New Name) and Nimal Chandra Biswas, Nema Biswas (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shiban Biswas (old name), daughter of Late Khagendranath Biswas, residing at Vill- Ganti Saradapally, Ganganagar, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700132, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shiban Biswas (Old Name) to Mitua Ahmed (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mitua Ahmed (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the 1st class judicial magistrate at Alipore, vide an Affidavit No 18217 dated 22/03/2022. Mitua Ahmed (New Name) and Shiban Biswas (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Asik Mullick (old name), S/o Faizul Mullick, residing at Vill & P.O.- Khajuti, P.S.- Bagnan, Howrah- 711303, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Asik Mullick (Old Name) to Asik Mullick (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Asik Mullick (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. Asik Mullick (New Name) and Asik Mullick (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Sanjib Jaiswal @ Ankit Gupta Son of Monilal Jaiswal aged about 38 years by faith Hindu running Business at 86 G. T. Road, Bally, Howrah-711201 and residency at 96/4 Panchanantala Road Bally, Howrah-711201 so hereby solemnly declare and say that my name is Sanjib Jaiswal and I also as Ankit Gupta is the same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Rahul Shaw S/o Mahendra Prasad Shaw residing at 8, Ashu Bose Lane, Howrah-711101, West Bengal, have changed my minor Son's name from Samraj Shaw to Samraj Shaw and henceforth shall be known as Samraj Shaw as declare before the Notary Public Kolkata vide Affidavit dated 01.06.26. That, Samraj Shaw (Old Name) and Anju Devi Poddar (New Name) both are same & one identical person, i.e., my minor Son.

Name Change
I, Bivash Bagchi (Old Name) S/o Bipul Bagchi Residing at Paschim Garopata Dakshinpara, Garopata, Po - Garopata-Nadia, District - Nadia, Pin - 741502, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MAMTA SHAW (Old Name) to MAMTA DEVI (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as MAMTA DEVI (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. MAMTA DEVI (New Name) and MAMTA SHAW (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Sahabuddin (old name), S/o Sk Harun Rashid, residing at Jamadar Para, Narikeldanga Shyamapur, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin- 700137, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Sk Sahabuddin (Old Name) to Sk Sahabuddin (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Sahabuddin (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide an Affidavit dated 03/06/2026. Sk Sahabuddin (New Name) and Sk Sahabuddin (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Rahian Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Kayser Mondal, Resident Of Vill- Paschim Bauria, Po- Chakkashi, Howrah- 711307, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Rahian Mondal (Old Name) To Raihan Mondal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Raihan Mondal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Raihan Mondal (New Name) And Rahian Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, KESHAV SOMANI (Old Name), S/o SANDHEEP KUMAR SOMANI, R/o 12/1A Ganugly Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Burrabazar, Kolkata- 700007 shall henceforth be known as KESHAV SOMANI (New Name) as declared before the Court of 1st Class Metropolitan Magistrate vide affidavit no. 1735 dated 12.03.2021. KESHAV SOMANI (Old Name) and KESHAV SOMANI (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Raman Kumar Poddar, S/o- Sanjay Poddar & Anju Poddar (Old Name), R/o.- 60, Adarshnagar, Konnagar, P.O.- Barabahera, P.S.- Uttarpara-712246, Dist.- Hooghly (WB), that I have change my Mother's name & shall henceforth be known as Anju Devi Poddar (New Name), vide an Affidavit No. 1701, dtd. 02.06.2026, before the Court of 1st Class LD, Judicial Magistrate, at Serampore Court, Dist.-Hooghly, that, Anju Poddar (Old Name) & Anju Devi Poddar (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MAMATA SHAW (Old Name) W/o Late VARUN KUMAR Residing at Ward no 9, Kalari Road, Po - Rajauli, Ps - Rajauli, District - Nawada, Pin - 805125, Bihar, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from MAMTA SHAW (Old Name) to MAMTA DEVI (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as MAMTA DEVI (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. MAMTA DEVI (New Name) and MAMTA SHAW (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, MOUMITA SANTRA (OLD NAME) WIFE OF SANGHAI SANTRA, DAUGHTER OF MRINAL KANTI SAHA, RESIDENT OF 35/5,RADHA MADHAB DUTTA GARDEN LANE, BELIAGHATA, KOLKATA - 700010, WEST BENGAL, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MOUMITA SANTRA SAHA(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS BOBY SAGOLSEM (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS BOBY SAGOLSEM(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 34 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 29/05/2026. MOUMITA SANTRA(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Maruf Hosen Laskar & Maruf Hosen Laskar (Old Name), Son Of Mehebub Laskar, Resident Of Vill- Dakshin Nayabaz, Po-Gip Koloni, 711112, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Maruf Hosen Laskar & Maruf Hosen Laskar (Old Name) To Maruf Hossain Laskar (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Maruf Hossain Laskar (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Maruf Hossain Laskar (New Name) And Maruf Hosen Laskar & Maruf Hosen Laskar (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Susanto Anthony Gomes S/O Ambrorse Gomes, Residing at Lichubagan Bagopara, PO Boppara, PS Ranaghat Dist- Nadia, that my wife's actual name is Teresa Suchitra Gomes. That Maria Synthia Aleena Gomes is my daughter. Vide an Affidavit sworn before the court of LD, Judicial Magistrate 1st class at Ranaghat on 14/01/26. That Teresa Suchitra Gomes W/O Susanto Anthony Gomes and Suchitra Gomes W/O Susanto Gomes are the Same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Mahasin S/o. Shaikh Imran (old name), R/o. Kolkupukur Hatni, Pandua, Hooghly-712134, W.B., do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shaikh Mahasin S/o. Shaikh Imran to Sk Mohasin S/o. Sk Imran (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Mohasin S/o. Sk Imran in all purpose, vide an affidavit no. 12573 sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court on 21/05/2026. I, Sk Mohasin S/o. Sk Imran & Shaikh Mahasin S/o. Shaikh Imran, both are the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aiyaj Agarwal (Old Name) S/o Late Satyanarain Agarwala Residing at Block C, Flat - 11, Ishan Bose Lane, Shibpur, District - Howrah, Pin - 711102, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Aiyaj Agarwal (Old Name) to Aiyaj Kumar Agarwala (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Aiyaj Kumar Agarwala (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-06-2026. Aiyaj Kumar Agarwala (New Name) and Aiyaj Agarwal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, BOBY SNGH(OLD NAME) WIFE OF KAMARJIT SINGH SAGOLSHEM, DAUGHTER OF PREMDHARA CHANDRA DATTA, RESIDENT OF EF-26, RAJDANGA MAIN ROAD, E.K.T., KOLKATA-700107, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM BOBY SAGOLSEM (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS BOBY SAGOLSEM(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 34 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 03/06/2026 BOBY SAGOLSEM(NEW NAME) AND BOBY SNGH(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Md Mehbub Laskar & Mehbub Laskar (Old Name), Son Of Abdul Kader Laskar, Resident Of Vill- Dakshin Nayabaz, Po- Gip Koloni, 711112, West Bengal Do hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Mehbub Laskar & Mehbub Laskar (Old Name) To Mehebub Laskar (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Mehebub Laskar (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 03/06/2026. Mehebub Laskar (New Name) And Md Mehbub Laskar & Mehbub Laskar (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Regulation Of Trains For Bridge Maintenance Work Over Sealdah Division

MI News Service, Kolkata, June 3, 2026: In connection with launching of girder of Bridge No. 3 between Sealdah & Bidhan Nagar Road stations, 15 hours (from 22:15 hrs. of 06.06.2026 to 13:15 hrs. of 07.06.2026) Traffic and Power block has been planned on UP & DN suburban lines including Traffic & Power Block for 1 hour on UP Main Line in Sealdah-Bidhananagar Road section of Sealdah Division. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made:
Cancellation of Trains on 06.06.2026 (Saturday):
Sealdah-Naihati: UP 31443, 31445, 31447 / DN 31442, 31446, 31450.
Sealdah-Ranaghat: UP 31631/ DN 31636.
Sealdah-Bangaon Jn.: UP 33849/DN 33856.
Sealdah-Shantipur: UP 31533/DN 31538.
Sealdah-Kalyani Simanta: UP 31339, 31343 / DN 31338, 31340.
Sealdah-Dankuni: UP 32249 / DN 32252.
Cancellation of Trains on 07.06.2026 (Sunday):
Sealdah-Bangaon Jn.: UP 33825/DN 33820.
Sealdah-Kalyani Simanta: UP 31311, 31313, 31317, 31319, 31323 / DN 31312, 31314, 31316, 31318, 31320, 31322.
Sealdah-Naihati: UP 31411, 31471, 31415, 31419 / DN 31414, 3141

What is Night Blindness?

Night blindness is a type of vision disorder also known as nyctalopia. People with night blindness experience poor vision at night or in low-light environments. As darkness falls, their ability to see diminishes significantly—often to the point where they can barely see at all. While people with normal vision can manage their daily tasks even with minimal light, doing so is extremely difficult for those suffering from this condition.

Although the term "night blindness" implies that you cannot see at all during the night, this is not strictly the case. You may simply experience increased difficulty seeing or driving in the dark. In medical terminology, this condition is referred to as nyctalopia. This impairment can occur when the rod cells located in the retina become weakened. Essentially, rod cells play a crucial role in detecting low-light conditions and facilitating neural transmission—that is, sending signals to the brain cells—a function they are unable to perform effectively when this disorder is present.

What are the Symptoms of Night Blindness?

Here are some common symptoms associated with night blindness:

Difficulty seeing in low light: People suffering from night blindness often struggle to see in low-light situations, such as during the evening hours or in dimly lit rooms. They may experience blurred vision or have trouble distinguishing objects in the dark.

Decreased visual acuity at night: Vision can deteriorate significantly in low-light conditions, making it challenging to navigate through dimly lit environments or to see clearly in the dark.

Increased sensitivity to glare: While night blindness is



characterized by difficulty seeing in low light, some individuals may also experience heightened sensitivity to glare—specifically from sources such as oncoming headlights or bright lights—when in the dark. Delayed adaptation to darkness: People suffering from night blindness may take longer to adjust to changes in light levels—such as moving from a well-lit area into a darker environment.

Difficulty driving at night: Due to reduced visibility and difficulty recognizing objects on the road, night blindness can make driving at night particularly challenging.

Decreased peripheral vision in low light: Peripheral vision may be compromised in dim light conditions, resulting in a narrowed field of view and potential difficulties in detecting objects or obstacles at the edges.

Poor depth perception: In low-light situations, individuals with night blindness may face challenges with depth perception, making it difficult to accurately estimate distances.

What are the causes of

night blindness?

Night blindness (Nyctalopia) is an eye condition that can stem from various ocular disorders, most of which are treatable. The following are considered to be the primary causes behind night blindness:

Vitamin A deficiency: Vitamin A plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy vision, particularly in low-light conditions. A deficiency in Vitamin A can lead to night blindness and other visual impairments.

Hereditary retinal disorders: Certain genetic conditions affecting the retina—such as Retinitis Pigmentosa—can cause night blindness. These conditions may lead to progressive vision loss over time.

Cataracts: The clouding of the eye's natural lens caused by cataracts can obstruct the flow of light reaching the retina, thereby impairing vision in low-light environments, including night vision.

Glaucoma: Glaucoma is a group of eye conditions that can damage the optic nerve and lead to vision loss. In some cases, glaucoma can affect night vision.

Diabetic Retinopathy: Diabetes can damage the blood vessels in the retina, leading to diabetic retinopathy. This condition can affect both night vision and overall visual acuity.

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD): AMD is a progressive eye condition that affects the macula—the central part of the retina responsible for sharp central vision. In advanced stages, AMD can impair night vision.

Certain Medications: Some medications—such as certain antihistamines, antidepressants, and high blood pressure medications—can cause side effects, such as changes in pupil dilation or retinal function, that affect night vision.

Keratoconus: Keratoconus is a progressive eye disorder in which the cornea thins and changes shape, resulting in distorted vision and difficulty seeing at night.

Retinal Detachment: Retinal detachment—a medical emergency in which the retina separates from its underlying layers—can cause sudden changes in vision, including night blindness.

How can night blindness be treated?

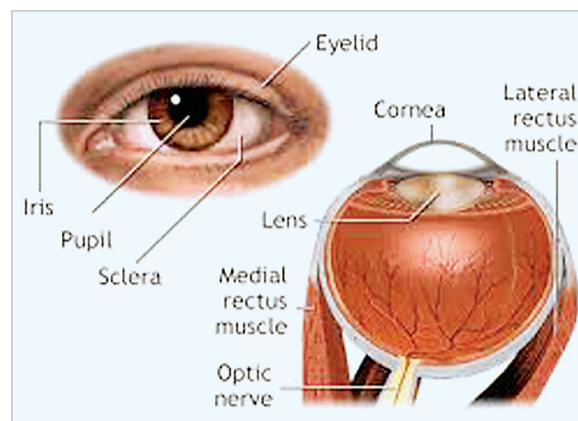
If you are struggling with night blindness, your eye doctor will first likely conduct various examinations and ask you several questions regarding your condition. We have discussed some of these questions earlier in this text. Additionally, the eye doctor may recommend that you undergo blood tests, Vitamin A level tests, and glucose level tests.

In addition to these tests, the doctor will advise you to undergo a comprehensive eye examination to determine the underlying cause of your night blindness. If your night blindness is caused by nearsightedness, cataracts, or a Vitamin A deficiency, treating the condition is relatively straightforward.

To treat night blindness, the doctor may recommend the use of corrective lenses or glasses to ensure you can see clearly both during the day and at night. Furthermore, the doctor can help you find relief from night blindness through the following methods:

Cataract Treatment: Cataracts can be resolved quite easily through surgery. During this procedure, the surgeon replaces the patient's clouded lens with a clear, artificial lens. Following the surgery, the patient's night blindness will improve significantly if cataracts were the underlying cause.

Addressing Vitamin A Deficiency: If the patient has low Vitamin A levels, the doctor may recommend



Vitamin A supplements to replenish the body's supply. Be sure to take these supplements exactly as directed.

Genetic Conditions: Genetic conditions that cause night blindness—such as Retinitis Pigmentosa—are currently untreatable. The specific gene responsible for pigment formation in the retina does not respond to corrective lenses or surgical interventions.

How can I prevent night blindness?

You cannot prevent night blindness that results from birth defects or genetic conditions, such as Usher syndrome. However, you can properly monitor your blood sugar levels and maintain a balanced diet to reduce the likelihood of developing night blindness. Consume foods rich in antioxidants, vitamins, and minerals, which can help prevent cataracts. Additionally, choose foods with high levels of Vitamin A to minimize the risk of night blindness.

Here are some tips to help prevent night blindness:

Maintain a Healthy Diet: Ensure that your diet includes Vitamin A-rich foods such as carrots, sweet potatoes, spinach, kale, and liver. Vitamin A is essential for good vision, particularly in low-light conditions.

Consider Nutritional Supplements: If you have a deficiency in Vitamin A or other nutrients vital for eye health, consult a healthcare provider regarding appropriate supplements to improve your nutritional intake. **Protect Your Eyes from UV Radiation:** To shield your eyes from harmful ultraviolet rays—which can contribute to eye damage and vision problems over time—wear sunglasses that offer UV protection.

Undergo Routine Eye Examinations: Schedule regular eye check-ups with an eye care professional to monitor your eye health, detect any early signs of eye conditions, and promptly address any vision-related

issues. **Manage Underlying Health Conditions:** If you suffer from diabetes, high blood pressure, or other medical conditions that may impact eye health, work closely with your healthcare provider to effectively manage these conditions and prevent complications that could lead to night blindness.

Avoid Smoking: Smoking can have detrimental effects on eye health and increases the risk of developing eye conditions—including night blindness—that can impair vision. Quitting smoking can help protect your vision.

Practice good eye hygiene: Avoid eye strain by taking breaks while working on screens, ensure proper lighting in your workspace, and maintain good hygiene to prevent eye infections that could affect your vision.

Protect your eyes from injury: Use appropriate eye protection when engaging in activities that pose a risk of eye injury—such as sports, construction work, or activities involving chemicals or sharp objects.

Exercise regularly: Regular physical activity can help improve blood circulation and overall health, thereby benefiting your eye health and reducing the risk of developing eye conditions that affect vision.

Get enough sleep: Adequate rest is crucial for maintaining overall health and ensuring optimal eye function. Make sure you get sufficient sleep every night to promote good eye health.

Researchers find link between adverse childhood experiences, muscle dysmorphia

Adolescents and young adults who had adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) prior to the age of 18 were shown to have a much higher likelihood of exhibiting signs of muscle dysmorphia, according to a recent study.

The findings were published in the *Clinical Social Work Journal*.

These new findings emphasize the need for greater understanding of the relationship between muscle dysmorphia, or the pathological pursuit of muscularity, and adverse childhood experiences (such as emotional abuse, sexual abuse, and domestic violence), as prior research has shown that over half of North American children and adolescents experience at least one adverse childhood experience in their lifetime.

"Those who experience adverse childhood experiences may engage in the pursuit of muscularity to compensate for experiences where they once felt inferior, small, and at risk, as well as to protect against future victimization," says lead

author Kyle T. Ganson, PhD, MSW, an assistant professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work. "The experience of adverse childhood experiences may also increase body dissatisfaction, specifically muscle dissatisfaction, which is a key feature of muscle dysmorphia." Previous studies have shown that adverse experiences in childhood can lead to harmful health effects. While prior research has demonstrated that adverse childhood experiences are highly common in people with eating disorders and body dysmorphic disorder, few studies have looked at the association between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia.

The study's researchers analyzed data from over 900 adolescents and young adults who participated in the Canadian Study of Adolescent Health Behaviors. In total, 16% of participants who experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences were at clinical risk for muscle dysmor-

phia, underscoring the significant traumatic effects that such experiences can have on mental health and well-being.

"Importantly, our study found that gender was an important factor in the relationship between adverse childhood experiences and muscle dysmorphia symptoms," says Ganson. "Boys and young men in the study who have experienced five or more adverse childhood experiences had significantly greater muscle dysmorphia symptoms when compared to girls and young women." The authors note that boys and young men who experience adverse childhood experiences may feel that their masculinity was threatened from these experiences. Therefore, they engage in the pursuit of muscularity to demonstrate their adherence to masculine gender norms such as dominance, aggression, and power.

"It is important for health care professionals to assess for symptoms of muscle dysmorphia, including muscle dissatisfaction and functional.

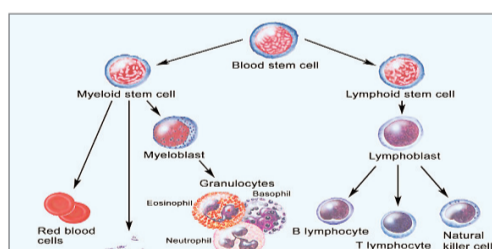
Study reveals type of childhood leukaemia originates during foetal development

BARCELONA: Acute myeloid leukaemia is the second most prevalent type of acute leukaemia in childhood, and it can be detected within a few months of life. The disease's early beginning raised the possibility that the cancer originated before birth. However, validating this notion has been difficult due to the scarcity of prenatal or newborn samples.

The opportunity to study the origin of this leukaemia arose from the case of a five-month-old baby diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia at the Hospital Nino Jesus in Madrid, explained Pablo Menendez, ICREA professor at the University of Barcelona and the Josep Carreras Institute.

"The parents, who had preserved the umbilical cord blood, opened a line of research that until now had not been possible to address," added the researcher.

Using precision medicine techniques, researchers analysed the complete genome of the tumour. Unlike tumours in adults, where thousands of mutations are detected, only two chromosomal alterations were identified in this leukaemia. 'Genome analysis allowed us to design a personalised diagnostic method to monitor the disease,' says Xose S. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Barcelona. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oviedo. 'But these data raise new questions, such as when the tumour arose and in what order these mutations have appeared,' he highlights. These questions are



difficult to answer, since such research requires blood samples from the baby before the diagnosis, something that is impossible in the vast majority of cases. However, in this particular case, the existence of a frozen umbilical cord sample allowed researchers to separate different populations of blood cells at birth and to study whether any of the chromosomal alterations detected in the tumour were already present during foetal development.

The study revealed that a translocation between chromosome 7 and 12 was already present in some haematopoietic stem cells in the umbilical cord. In contrast, the other chromosomal alteration, a trisomy of chromosome 19, was not present in the foetus, but was found in all tumour cells, suggesting that it contributes to increasing the malignancy of the leukemic cells. 'These data are highly relevant for understanding the development of a devastating disease, and the existence of this umbilical cord sam-

ple was crucial to be able to conducting a study that had been impossible until now in acute myeloid leukaemia', adds Talia Velasco, researcher at the Josep Carreras Institute and the University of Barcelona and co-leader of the study. In addition to reconstructing the genomic alterations that the cells undergo to generate this leukaemia, the study has also identified a molecular mechanism that had not been observed before in this type of leukaemia and which causes the activation of a gene, called MNX1, which is frequently altered in this type of tumour. Knowledge of these alterations is essential for developing cell and animal models that allow us to understand the disease's evolution and develop new therapies for treating these pathologies. The study has been led by Xose S. Puente, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Oviedo-IUOPA, Talia Velasco and Pablo Menendez, from the Josep Carreras Institute and the University of Barcelona, with participation from researchers from four other institutions, including the Hospital Infantil Universitario Nino Jesus, the Hospital Universitario Central de Asturias, the Instituto de Biomedicina y Biotecnología de Cantabria and the Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria La Princesa de Madrid. This research has been made possible thanks to the collaboration of the parents and funding from the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the European Research Council, the AECC Scientific Foundation, the Foundation Unocentreciennil.

Meditation training can support wellbeing in older people: Research

An 18-month meditation programme can increase the wellbeing of older persons, according to a new randomised controlled trial led by an international team co-directed by UCL.

The findings, published in *PLOS ONE*, show that meditation can improve people's awareness, connection to others, and insight.

While the meditation training did not confer significant benefits on two commonly used measures of psychological wellbeing and quality of life, the researchers say their findings may reveal limitations in existing methods of tracking wellbeing.

Lead author Marco Schlosser (UCL Psychiatry and University of Geneva) said: "As the global population ages, it is increasingly crucial to understand how we can support older adults in maintaining and deepening their psychological wellbeing. In our study, we tested whether long-term meditation training can enhance important dimensions of wellbeing. Our findings suggest that meditation is a promising non-

pharmacological approach to support human flourishing in late life."

The study is the longest randomised meditation training trial conducted to date, and explored the impact of an 18-month meditation programme on the psychological wellbeing of more than 130 healthy French-speaking people aged 65 to 84. The study, led by Principal Investigator Professor Gael Chetelat, took place in Caen, France. It was conducted by the European Union's Horizon 2020-funded MedAgeing (Silver Sante Study) research group which involves UCL, Inserm, University of Geneva, Université de Caen Normandy, Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, University of Liege, Technische Universität Dresden, and Friedrich Schiller University Jena.

The researchers compared a meditation programme, which included a nine-month mindfulness module followed by a nine-month loving kindness and compassion module, delivered by weekly group sessions (two hours long), daily home practice (at least 20 minutes), and one retreat day, with a



group that did English language training (as a comparison group) and a no-intervention control group.

The team found that meditation training significantly impacted a global

score that measures the wellbeing dimensions of awareness, connection, and insight. Awareness describes an undistracted and intimate attentiveness to one's thoughts, feelings, and

surroundings, which can support a sense of calm and deep satisfaction. Connection captures feelings such as respect, gratitude, and kinship that can support more positive relationships with others. Insight refers to a self-knowledge and understanding of how thoughts and feelings participate in shaping our perception - and how to transform unhelpful patterns of thought relating to ourselves and the world. The benefits of meditation training to an established measure of psychological quality of life were not superior to English language training, while neither intervention significantly impacted another widely used measure of psychological wellbeing. The researchers suggest this may be because these two established measures do not cover the qualities and depth of human flourishing that can potentially be cultivated by longer-term meditation training, so benefits to awareness, connection and insight are missed. The programme did not benefit everyone equally, as participants who reported lower levels of psycho-

logical wellbeing at the start of the trial showed greater improvements compared to those who already had higher levels of wellbeing.

Co-author Dr Natalie Marchant (UCL Psychiatry) said: "We hope that further research will clarify which people are most likely to benefit from meditation training, as it may confer stronger benefits on some specific groups. Now that we have evidence that meditation training can help older adults, we hope that further refinements in partnership with colleagues from other research disciplines could make meditation programmes even more beneficial."

Senior author Dr Antoine Lutz (Lyon Neuroscience Research Center, Inserm, France) said: "By showing the potential of meditation programmes, our findings pave the way for more targeted and effective programmes that can help older adults flourish, as we seek to go beyond simply preventing disease or ill-health, and instead take a holistic approach to helping people across the full spectrum of human wellbeing."

British economy faces slower growth due to Mid-east conflict: BCC

MI News Service, London: Britain's economic growth is expected to remain subdued through 2026 and 2027 due to the fallout from the Middle East conflict, according to the latest economic forecast released Tuesday by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC).

The BCC revised its forecast for gross domestic product growth in 2026 to 0.9 percent from 1 percent in the previous forecast, and predicted the economy to expand 1 percent in 2027 and 1.3 percent in 2028.

Citing the conflict as a



major economic drag, the BCC said business investment is forecast to shrink sharply, contracting by 2.2 percent in 2026 and 0.1 percent in 2027 before re-

covering to grow 2.3 percent in 2028.

Consumer price inflation, measured by the Consumer Prices Index (CPI), is expected to rise again in

the coming months after easing in April. Driven by energy and shipping cost hikes, inflation is expected to peak at 3.8 percent in the fourth quarter of this year before easing to 2.3 percent by the end of 2027, and further to 2 percent by the end of 2028, the BCC said.

This year's unemployment rate is forecast to rise to 5.2 percent and then reach 5.5 percent in 2027. Youth unemployment rate will hit 16.9 percent in 2026 and continue to climb to 17.8 percent in 2027.

"While the UK econ-

omy has shown some welcome resilience this year, the expected headline growth figure of 0.9 percent for 2026 masks underlying concerns," said David Bharier, deputy director of Economics and Insights at the BCC.

Britain's economy "remains trapped in a cycle where each recovery is interrupted before gaining traction, and firms go back on the defensive," he said, adding that high youth unemployment rate risks weakening the skills pipeline needed to support the country's future economy.

Gurugram: Bengali woman arrested after video cooking of beef

MI News Service, Gurugram: Gurugram Police has arrested a woman after she uploaded a video in which she claimed to have cooked beef for West Bengal's new chief minister, police said on Wednesday, June 3.

Jyotsna Bibi, who is a resident of West Bengal's South Dinajpur district and worked as a domestic help in Gurugram's Chakkarpur area, was arrested for allegedly hurting religious sentiments, they said, adding that the police also seized her mobile phone.

According to the police, on May 30, the Chakkarpur Police chowki received information that a controversy had erupted over a video related to beef.

The complainant, Dinesh Yadav, a resident of Chakkarpur village, showed an apparently taunting video in which a woman allegedly said, "I have cooked up some beef just for you (West Bengal chief minister)." "You didn't let me perform the 'Qurbani' (sacrifice) this



time around," she said.

Following the complaint, the police registered an FIR at the Sector 29 police station and arrested Bibi on May 30. She was sent into judicial custody after being produced in a city court, they said.

On Tuesday, June 2, Bibi's lawyer filed a bail petition, but she was denied bail. Hearing the petition, Judicial Magistrate First Class Suman's court set June 8 for the next hearing, they added.

Advocate Sundar, representing the complainant, said that the parties' arguments on the accused's bail petition were heard on

Tuesday and the next hearing is on June 8.

"We also seized the accused's mobile phone and preserved it for forensic examination. The police also opposed the bail application in court, arguing that if the accused is released, she could influence witnesses. A further probe is underway," said a senior police officer.

Earlier, in May, the West Bengal government issued a set of guidelines barring animal slaughter without a "fit certificate" from authorities and warned of penal action if the directions are not adhered to.

Kuwaiti military says air defense systems responding to missile, drone attacks

MI News Service, Kuwait city: The Kuwaiti military said Wednesday that its air defense systems were responding to missile and drone attacks targeting the country.

In a statement posted on social media platform X, the General Staff of the Kuwaiti Armed Forces said air defense units were currently engaging hostile targets.

The military said that any explosions heard across the country were the result of air defense systems intercepting incoming threats.

It urged the public to adhere to safety and security instructions issued by relevant authorities and to rely on official sources for information.

No immediate details were provided regarding the origin of the attacks, the number of missiles or drones involved, or any potential damage or casualties.

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

One killed as Iran strikes Kuwait airport terminal

MI News Service, Kuwait City: One person was killed after Iranian drones and missiles struck Kuwait International Airport on Wednesday, June 3, causing extensive damage to Terminal 1 and forcing authorities to suspend commercial flight operations.

Kuwait's General Civil Aviation Authority (DGCA) said the attack severely damaged airport facilities, prompting the suspension of commercial flights and the diversion of incoming aircraft.

The Kuwait Army said it was coordinating with relevant agencies and monitoring developments closely. It added that necessary steps would be taken to protect national security and maintain stability.

Brigadier-General Saud Abdulaziz Al-Otaibi, a Defence Ministry spokesman, described the strikes as "criminal Iranian aggression which resulted in significant material damage to the building and injuries".

Officials have not released details on the number of casualties or the condition of those injured. Nor have they indicated when normal airport operations are expected to resume.

The airport had resumed operations on Monday, June 1, following repairs and a phased reopening after earlier disruptions linked to the Iran war.

The strike came hours after a fresh escalation in the conflict on Tuesday night, June 2. The US military said it had carried out attacks on an Iranian military facility after mis-



siles were launched towards Kuwait and Bahrain. US Central Command said two missiles directed at Kuwait failed before reaching their target, while air defences intercepted projectiles aimed at Bahrain. It also reported shooting down several drones targeting American forces in Kuwait.

Wednesday's attack comes on the 96th day of the American-Israeli war on Iran and marks one of the most significant incidents to affect Kuwait's civilian infrastructure since the conflict began.

Kuwait Airways announced the resumption of flight services from Kuwait International Airport through Passenger Terminal 4 (T4) only.

The airline said the decision followed inspections carried out by technical teams and relevant authorities to evaluate the impact of the attack and verify operational safety requirements.

According to the carrier, services

through T4 resumed after the necessary measures were implemented to ensure the safe continuation of airport and flight operations.

Kuwaiti authorities have detained a person accused of recording and sharing footage of air defence systems responding to incoming missiles during the recent attacks.

In a post on X, the Ministry of Interior said the individual used a mobile phone to capture the videos while driving, which resulted in a road accident.

Officials said the publication of footage showing military installations, defensive operations or security preparedness measures is prohibited due to the potential risks it poses to national security and public safety.

The ministry reiterated its warning against circulating such material and said offenders would face legal consequences under applicable laws.

IndiGo has temporarily halted flights to and from Kuwait until 12 noon on June 4 following the disruption at Kuwait International Airport.

The airline said the move was taken as a precaution while it assesses the evolving situation in coordination with aviation authorities. It noted that passenger and crew safety remains its primary concern.

The carrier said operations would restart once conditions are deemed safe and the necessary flight routes become available. Travellers have been advised to verify their flight status before leaving for the airport

Rubio says Israel seizing 70% of Gaza not part of U.S. plan



MI News Service, Washington: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's goal of seizing 70 percent of the Gaza Strip was not part of the U.S.-drafted 20-point plan to end the conflict between Israel and Hamas and rebuild the territory, U.S. Secretary of State

Marco Rubio said Tuesday.

"We have a plan -- it doesn't call for that," Rubio told U.S. lawmakers at a hearing.

"And at the end of the day, we understand that what we want, and I think what the Israelis would ultimately want, is a Gaza that is governed by a non-Hamas (entity)," Rubio said.

Netanyahu said on Thursday that he had issued a directive to increase the Israeli military's control over the Gaza Strip from 60 percent to 70 percent of the territory.

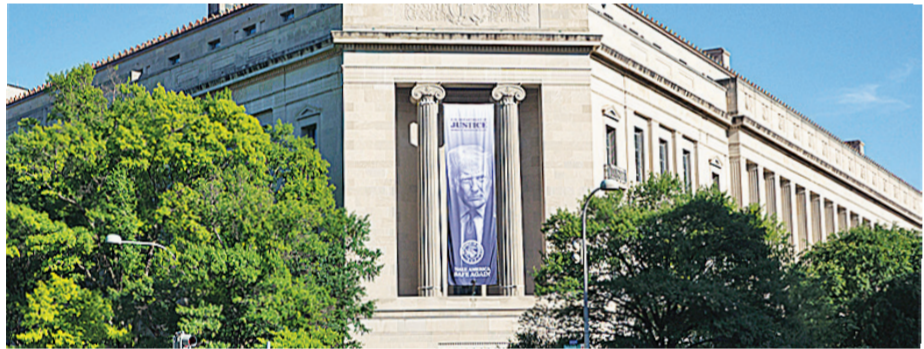
7 killed, 11 wounded in Ukrainian drone attack on bus in Donetsk: Regional leader

MI News Service, Moscow: Seven people were killed and 11 others wounded in a Ukrainian drone attack on a civilian bus in the Donetsk region, regional leader Denis Pushilin said Wednesday.

"In Yenakiyev, an attack was carried out by a strike UAV on the 'Moscow-Simferopol' scheduled bus. According to preliminary information, seven civilians were killed," Pushilin said on social media.

Another 11 people sustained injuries of varying severity and are receiving medical care.

U.S. Justice Department abandons "Anti-Weaponization Fund"



MI News Service, Washington: The U.S. Department of Justice on Tuesday abandoned its nearly 1.8-billion-dollar "Anti-Weaponization Fund" following an intense backlash from Republican senators and a decisive blow from the federal judiciary.

"We're not moving forward with the fund," acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told a House appropriations subcommittee hearing.

The fund was originally designed to

compensate individuals who claimed to be victims of government "weaponization" or "lawfare." It stemmed from a settlement linked to President Donald Trump's lawsuit against the Internal Revenue Service over the unauthorized disclosure of his tax records.

Republican senators have warned the White House that they would not support a pending immigration enforcement package unless the fund was overhauled or canceled.

'Fatherland over motherland?' Congress jibes at PM on Israel offensive against Lebanon

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Congress party sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi for maintaining complete silence over Israel's military operations in Lebanon, which it said are sabotaging ongoing US-Iran negotiations to end the West Asia conflict.

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh accused the Prime Minister of prioritising the "so-called fatherland" over India's interests. In a post on X, Ramesh highlighted that successful US-Iran talks could lead to the reopening of the Strait of Hormuz and a significant drop in global oil prices — both of critical importance to India's economy and energy security.



"Negotiations continue between the US and Iran to bring a halt to the war in West Asia. But the negotiations have not been clinched, primarily because of Israel's continuing military operations in Lebanon which have seen unprecedented incursions," Ramesh said.

He pointed out that several countries have condemned Israel's actions, yet Prime Minister Modi has remained silent. Ramesh questioned whether Modi's ideological affinity for Israel out-

weighed India's strategic and economic stakes as the "actual motherland."

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump expressed strong frustration with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Trump announced on Truth Social that he had personally intervened to stop a major Israeli raid on Beirut. "I had a conversation with Bibi Netanyahu today, asking him not to go into a major raid of Beirut, Lebanon. He turned his Troops around. Thank you Bibi," Trump wrote.

Reports suggest the phone call was highly heated, with Trump using strong language. The US President also claimed he spoke with Hezbollah rep-

resentatives, who agreed to stop attacking Israel. Netanyahu had earlier warned of striking "terror targets" in Beirut if Hezbollah attacks continued.

Iran had threatened to walk away from nuclear and ceasefire talks with the US if Israeli aggression in Lebanon persisted. "Trump's intervention appears aimed at salvaging the delicate diplomatic process."

The Congress statement underscores growing domestic political scrutiny of India's foreign policy stance in the volatile West Asian region, particularly as energy prices and regional stability directly impact the Indian economy.

Japan orders demolition of mosque built without permits

MI News Service, Tokyo: Japan has ordered the removal of a mosque in Kawagoe City after it was found to have been built illegally on restricted land without permits, sparking a diplomatic row involving Pakistan's ambassador.

The structure, Japan Jama Masjid Ramzan in the Shimo-Akasaka district, stands on land classified as an "Urbanization Control Area" under Japan's City Planning Act, where building activity is tightly controlled. No application was ever filed, nor was any approval sought before construction began.

Despite its unauthorised status, the mosque held an opening ceremony on April 3, attended by Pakistan's Ambassador to Japan, Abdul Hameed. Islamabad later distanced itself from the controversy, saying the ambassador attended only after organisers assured him all necessary permits were in place.

Pakistan's embassy subsequently issued an advisory urging nationals to follow Japanese law. "The Embassy of Pakistan in



Japan strongly urges all Pakistanis residing in Japan to comply with Japanese laws in all matters, including the construction of mosques. Any construction must be undertaken only after obtaining the necessary permits from local authorities," it said.

City officials first learned of the construction in October 2025 after complaints from local residents. By the time they arrived, the exterior was largely complete. Despite repeated demands to halt work, the warnings were ignored. Workers told offi-

cials they did not understand Japanese.

In March, ownership was transferred to a company headed by a Pakistani national, which submitted a corrective plan to the city. The owner's father told local media that demolition costs were a challenge and talks with authorities were ongoing.

"We are not making an issue out of this because it is a mosque; we issue corrective guidance for any illegal structure," the Development Guidance Division was quoted by the Tokyo Reporter.

Powerful Iran-backed militias claim they'll start handing in weapons to Iraqi authorities

MI News Service, Erbil, Iraq: Two of Iraq's most powerful Iran-backed militias said on Tuesday they would begin handing in their weapons to the authorities, a major step in the new government's effort to rein in militias that have long operated on their own even though they were nominally under state command.

One of the groups, Asaib Ahl al-Haq, said it had formed a committee to oversee the move, inventory its fighters, weapons and equipment, and coordinate with the commander-in-chief of Iraq's armed forces.

It cast the decision as a response to calls by Iraq's top Shiite religious authority and the Iran-aligned Coordination Framework, the largest bloc in parliament that dominates Iraqi politics.

The second group, the Imam Ali Brigades, made a similar announcement saying the time has come "to build a strong state with full sovereignty." It added that its aim was now to have weapons only with the state and help boost state institutions.

The war launched against Iran by Israel and the United States on Feb-

ruary 28 has exposed the fragility of Iraq's state institutions and their limited ability to restrain Iran-backed groups.

A parallel confrontation between Washington and the militias has deepened the crisis, with factions acting as an extension of Iran's regional campaign and escalating attacks on US assets in Iraq before a tenuous ceasefire deal was reached in April.

A week ago, influential Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said his Saraya al-Salam militia, also known as the Peace Brigades, would split from his political movement and integrate into state institutions.

Under pressure from Washington, Iraqi Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi has been working to assert state authority over weapons. Al-Zaidi, a 40-year-old banker sworn in last month, has made a state monopoly on arms a centerpiece of his program.

The Trump administration has warned against having any Iraqi government influenced by Iran-linked factions and has tied defense cooperation and funding to efforts to curb them.

Ghana activates Ebola screening for travelers from high-risk regions: Minister

MI News Service, Accra: Ghana has initiated screening protocols for passengers from Ebola high-risk regions, Ghanaian Health Minister Kwabena Mintah Akandoh said Tuesday. In an interview with local media, the minister said Ghana has put in place effective measures at

the Accra International Airport and its land borders to prevent infected people from entering Ghana undetected. He said diseases have no borders, underscoring the Ghanaian authorities' decision to remain alert to protect the public. "All passengers from Uganda

and the Democratic Republic of Congo will be screened at the Accra International Airport alongside other passengers. The focus is on those from the high-risk regions," he said, adding that the protocols being observed at the airport will be replicated in the country's land borders.

Hezbollah and IDF trade fire despite nominal truce as Lebanon-Israel talks resume

MI News Service, Jerusalem/Beirut: Israel and Lebanon were set to hold a fresh round of talks on Tuesday, as Hezbollah continued to target Israeli troops in Lebanon and fresh IDF strikes were reported, despite indications from US President Donald Trump that Washington had brokered a truce between Israel and the Iran-backed terror group.

Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon were set to take place Tuesday and Wednesday at the US State Department in Washington — the fifth round of talks between the sides since April.

During the third round last month, the sides agreed to separate the talks into political and security tracks, with the latter meeting for the first time last week. This week's talks will



be only for the political track.

Berri, who heads the Hezbollah-allied Amal party, has long acted as an intermediary between the group and the United States. His adviser Ali Hamdan told AFP Tuesday that "speaker Berri's main demand is a global ceasefire. If a global ceasefire deal is reached, he will guarantee

Hezbollah's respect for it." Hamdan clarified that a "global ceasefire means a halt to Israeli strikes by air, land or sea, and that it will not carry out detonations or demolitions" in the south, where Israel is accused of razing entire villages, which have been riddled with Hezbollah tunnels and positions, many inside homes.

Women's Cricket Gets a Landmark Platform as Jharkhand Launches Its First Franchise League

PC JHA

RANCHI: The landscape of women's cricket in Jharkhand witnessed a defining moment on Wednesday with the launch of the state's maiden franchise-based women's T20 competition, the Jharkhand Women's Premier League (JWPL) 2026, at the JSCA International Stadium's Oval Ground.

The tournament began on a festive note, blending sport with culture as renowned artistes from Saraikela presented captivating Chhau dance performances, drawing applause from players, officials and spectators alike.

The opening ceremony was attended by JSCA President Ajay Nath Shahdeo, Vice-President Sanjay Pandey, Secretary Saurabh Tiwary and Joint Secretary Shahbaz Nadeem. The dignitaries interacted with players of all four franchises before formally inaugurating the competition. Highlighting the significance of the initiative,



JSCA Secretary Saurabh Tiwary said the league represents a long-awaited opportunity for aspiring women cricketers in the state. He emphasized that creating a dedicated franchise platform for women had been one of

the association's key objectives. In a notable move, Tiwary announced that while no player auction was conducted for the inaugural edition, every participating cricketer would receive a respectable financial remuneration from the association.

The decision, he said, reflects JSCA's commitment to recognizing and encouraging women's cricket at the grassroots and professional levels.

Adding further incentives, JSCA President Ajay Nath

Shahdeo declared a cash award of Rs 3 lakh for the championship-winning team and Rs 2 lakh for the runners-up. Individual excellence will also be rewarded throughout the tournament, with cash prizes earmarked for the Player of the Match, Best Economy Bowler and the player registering the highest number of sixes in each game. Captains of the four competing teams—Kolhan Dynamos, Chotanagpur Blasters, Santhal Challengers and Palamu Warriors—described the league as a game-changing platform for women cricketers. They expressed gratitude to JSCA for creating an avenue where players can gain exposure, compete at a higher level and pursue greater opportunities in the sport. With competitive cricket and promising talent on display, the inaugural edition of the Jharkhand Women's Premier League is expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of women's cricket in the state.

MOSADDEK, NURUL RETURN AS BANGLADESH ANNOUNCE SQUAD FOR FIRST TWO ODIs AGAINST AUSTRALIA

DHAKA: Bangladesh have recalled middle order batter Mosaddek Hossain and wicketkeeper Nurul Hasan for the first two ODIs against Australia starting in Mirpur on June 9, with Mahidul Islam Ankon and Afif Hossain making way. Mosaddek, 30, last played an ODI for Bangladesh in August 2022 but has forced his way back on the strength of a prolific Dhaka Premier League campaign. He has already scored a century and two fifties, averaging 89 in five matches, while also claiming 11 wickets at 16.27 with his off spin bowling. Nurul, who missed the New Zealand series, returns to bolster the middle order as Mahidul and Afif didn't live up to the desired expectations of the selectors. The duo's recall comes at a time when Bangladesh's batting has struggled in recent ODIs against Pakistan and New Zealand.

Tanzid Hasan and Najmul Hossain Shanto have been the side's only consistent scorers while Saif Hassan, Towhid Hridoy and captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz have failed to replicate their earlier good form.

Pacer Nahid Rana, who has taken five wicket hauls in both ODIs and Tests since March, leads the fast bowling attack alongside Taskin Ahmed, Mustafizur Rahman and Shoriful Islam. Leg spinner Rishad Hossain, familiar with Australian batters due to his Big Bash League stint, adds variety to the line-up.

The three match ODI series will be Bangladesh's first bilateral contest against Australia in 15 years. Their only ODI win over Australia came in Cardiff during a tri series in 2005. Following two more ODIs to be played on June 11 and 14, Bangladesh and Australia will play three T20Is starting on June 17.

Bangladesh ODI squad: Mehidy Hasan Miraz (captain), Soumya Sarkar, Saif Hassan, Tanzid Hasan, Najmul Hossain Shanto, Tawhid Hridoy, Litton Das, Mosaddek Hossain, Nurul Hasan, Rishad Hossain, Tanvir Islam, Mustafizur Rahman, Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam, and Nahid Rana.



French Open: Diana Shnaider scripts epic comeback to stun No.1 seed Sabalenka; storms into maiden semis

PARIS: Russian youngster Diana Shnaider came from a set and a double break down to win the last 10 games in a row and stunned World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka in a quarterfinal match in the women's singles section of the French Open on Wednesday, securing a historic maiden entry into the Grand Slam semifinals at the Stade Roland Garros in Paris.

The No 25 seed Shnaider produced a sensational fightback to upset Sabalenka 3-6, 7-5, 6-0 in 2 hours and 12 minutes, snapping the No. 1 seed's streak of six consecutive major semifinals. Shnaider, 22, looked down and out as Sabalenka set herself up for a routine victory with a commanding lead. But the Russian youngster moved, it isn't over till it is over as she scripted a brilliant comeback. Sabalenka was two points away from victory when she served for the match at 5-4 in the second set before the left-handed Shnaider started to turn things around. Competing in her first



Grand Slam quarterfinal, Shnaider was facing a reigning World No. 1 for the first time. As gusts of wind swirled around Court Philippe-Chatrier, she mastered the conditions and met the

moment superbly to make the major semifinal debut.

From 6-3, 4-1 down, Shnaider produced winner after winner with her left-handed forehand to claim 12 of the next 13 games, and the last 10 in a row from 5-3. By contrast, Sabalenka's control over her game abandoned her as she racked up 57 unforced errors -- 17 of which came in the decider alone, the first time she had dropped a 6-0 set since the third set of her 2024 Dubai second round against Donna Vekic. Shnaider, a five-time titlist on the WTA Tour Driven by Mercedes-Benz, claimed her second Top 10 win in 16 encounters, and first since defeating Coco Gauff in the 2024 Toronto third round. Shnaider won four games in a row to snatch the second set, and then won a crucial 17-point second game of the third set, which helped her pull clear. She finished the match by winning 10 games in a row from 3-5 in the second set.

Men's U18 Asia Cup: Purti bags hat-trick as India hammer Chinese Taipei 13-1 to advance to semis

KAKAMIGAHARA: The Indian U-18 men's hockey team produced a clinical display against Chinese Taipei, registering a commanding 13-1 victory in its last Pool A match of the U-18 Asia Cup 2026 in Kakamigahara, Japan, on Wednesday. The emphatic win ensured India sealed their place in the semifinals. India ended their pool engagements with wins against Kazakhstan, Korea, and Chinese Taipei, while losing to hosts Japan. It gave them nine points from four matches. The team's attacking prowess was on full display against Chinese Taipei, with Ashish Tani Purti (27, 35, 42) as the standout performer with his hat-trick, while Gaze Khan (40, 44), Siddharth Ben (30, 52), and Rahul Yadav (20, 54) each

struck twice. Meanwhile, Karan Gautam (7), Premchand Soy (11), captain Ketan Kushwaha (13), and Varinder Singh (50) also contributed to the tally.

India made their intentions clear from the outset, dictating the tempo with incisive play that constantly troubled the Chinese Taipei defence. They broke the deadlock in the seventh minute as Karan converted India's first penalty corner of the match. Premchand (11) then doubled the lead with a field goal, while skipper Kushwaha (13) added a third in quick succession to put his side firmly in control by the end of the first quarter. India continued their dominance in the second quarter. Yadav (20) added a fourth before Purti (27) converted a penal-



ty corner to make it 5-0. Siddharth (30) rounded off a prolific second quarter for India with another field goal, right at the stroke of half-time. However, Yong-Jyun Jhang (30+) pulled a goal back for Chinese Taipei, scoring from a penalty corner just before the hooter to make it 6-1 at the break. India resumed with the same intensity after the break. Purti

bagged his second goal from another set-piece in the 35th minute to make it 7-1. Khan (40) then got into the act, converting a penalty corner to extend India's lead even further. Purti (42) completed his hat-trick, converting from another penalty corner, while Khan (44) added his second as India went into the final quarter with a commanding 10-1 lead.

Indonesia Open: Ayush Shetty, Rohan-Ruthvika progress to pre-quarters



JAKARTA: Former world junior bronze medallist Ayush Shetty, the mixed doubles combination of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani registered hard-fought wins to advance to the second round of the Indonesia Open badminton tournament in Jakarta on Wednesday.

Shetty defeated China's Weng Hong Yang 8-21, 22-20, 21-15, while Rohan and Ruthvika upset world no 20 Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang of Chinese Taipei 21-14, 21-14 to advance.

Thomas Cup 2026 bronze medallist Ayush Shetty came from a game down to beat world no.15 Weng for the second time in a row. Though he surrendered the first game, Shetty

took an early lead in the second with a 4-point advantage at 8-4. Weng reacted quickly to close the gap, reaching his second game point. From 19-20, the Indians scored the crucial three points, forcing a decider.

While the second was an intense battle, Shetty earned a comfortable 6-point lead and maintained the advantage to close the match in an hour and six minutes. The Indian had defeated Weng previously at the Thomas Cup in April. He next meets Lee Cheuk Yu of Hong Kong, who upset the 4th seed, Christo Popov.

In mixed doubles, Rohan and Ruthvika outplayed the higher-ranked Chinese Taipei pair, Yang Po-Hsuan and Hu Ling Fang, in straight games in just 34 minutes. Tough battle awaits as they meet the defending champions, Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France, in the next stage.

Earlier, PV Sindhu kicked off her Indonesia Open 2026 with a 25-23, 21-16 win over Thailand's Busanan Ongbamrungphan.

Meanwhile, Lakshya Sen lost to home favourite Alvi Farhan 21-19, 21-16. Alvi had defeated World No 1 Shi Yu Qi at the Singapore Open last week.

In women's singles on Thursday, PV Sindhu has to survive An Se-Young's threat to advance, while Hariharan-Arjun meet Malaysia's Kang Khai Xing and Aaron Tai, who advanced after opponents Satwik-Chirag exited during the opening game due to the former's injury.

Over 400 athletes from 60 nations to compete in inaugural World Yogasana C' ships in Ahmedabad



AHMEDABAD: Over 400 athletes from more than 60 countries will compete in the inaugural World Yogasana Championships (WYC) 2026, set to be held at the EKA Arena from June 4 to 8.

The five-day event will bring together participants from countries including the United States, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Uzbekistan, marking the first global championship for Yogasana as a competitive sport.

Supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the Ministry of Ayush, the Sports Authority of India (SAI), the Sports Authority of Gujarat, Gujarat Tourism, and the Gujarat Yogasana Sports Association, the championship is being seen as an important milestone in the effort to establish Yogasana as an internationally recognised sporting discipline. Hosts India will field a 122-member contingent. Athletes will compete across six age-categories - Sub-Junior (10 to 14 years), Junior (14 to 18 years), Senior (18 to 28 years), Senior A (28 to 35 years), Senior B (35 to 45 years), and Senior C (45 to 55 years) for both men and women.

The competition will feature individual events, artistic events, and traditional group categories. The organisers will also introduce an electronic scoring system at the global level for the first time, aimed at improving transparency and consistency in judging. The championship will be overseen by 32 international judges and 51 national judges.

Speaking ahead of the event, Yogasana Bharat president Udit Sheth said the championship would provide a major platform for athletes and help take Yogasana to a wider global audience. "Delighted to see us hosting this pioneering World Yogasana Championship at Eka Arena, Ahmedabad, with 60-plus countries. It's a fantastic platform for the Indian national team and to take Yogasana sport to the world; perhaps India's greatest contribution to the world of sports," Sheth said. World Yogasana general secretary Dr. Jaideep Arya described the event as a landmark moment for the discipline. "The World Yogasana Championship is more than a competition; it is a defining moment in the evolution of Yogasana as a global sport."

FERRARI ANNOUNCES NEW MULTI-YEAR DEAL WITH LECLERC AHEAD OF MONACO GP

MARANELLO: Ferrari has announced a new multi-year deal with Charles Leclerc, which will see the Monegasque driver race in red for the coming seasons. Leclerc joined Scuderia in 2019 after debuting in F1 in 2018 with Sauber, following his win of the Formula 2 Championship in 2017.

During his tenure with Ferrari, Leclerc has provided the tifosi with many memorable moments, including notable victories at Monza in 2019 and 2024, as well as a heartfelt home win in Monaco in 2024. He ranks second on the team in appearances, just behind Michael Schumacher.

The new deal represents the latest chapter in a decade-long relationship between the team and

Leclerc. The 28-year-old joined the driver academy in 2016 and continues to demonstrate his confidence that he will eventually secure a World Championship for Maranello.

"I couldn't be happier to continue this journey with Scuderia Ferrari HP. It has always been so much more than just a team to me. It's the team I've loved and dreamt of being part of since I was a child, and after all these years it has become a second family," Leclerc said.

"Together we've shared incredible moments and some tougher ones, but I believe in this team more than ever, and I'm deeply grateful that we will keep pushing side by side toward our shared goal of bringing the World Championship



back to Maranello. "Being a Ferrari driver is a dream, but it's also a responsibility I never take for granted. I'll continue to give absolutely everything I have to bring this team back to where it belongs, at the very

top, for everyone in Maranello, and above all for the tifosi, whose passion is the heartbeat of this Scuderia," he added.

Ferrari Team Principal, Fred Vasseur added, "Charles has been part of the

Ferrari family for many years now and this renewal feels like something very natural for us. Over these seasons we have seen him grow, to become not only one of the strongest drivers in Formula 1, but also a person who is completely at one with the team and everything Ferrari represents. We appreciate his talent, we love his determination and the way he approaches every day with the people in the Scuderia, both on and off the track. We know how much this project means to him and we are happy to continue working towards our shared goals."

Leclerc's new deal confirmation arrives ahead of his home race in Monaco this weekend. Ferrari is expected to perform well, even though Mercedes has won every

Grand Prix so far this year.

Ferrari has performed well in the Principality in recent years, with their car handling the street circuit's low-speed bends and bumps. The limited need for flat-out speed should benefit them, as there will be less of a lap-time advantage for the Mercedes power unit. Championship leader Kimi Antonelli also highlighted Ferrari as the "team to beat" in Monaco, expecting Leclerc and Lewis Hamilton to be strong contenders. This optimism might inspire Ferrari and Leclerc to replicate their 2024 performances, offering a much-needed boost after the challenging Canadian Grand Prix weekend, which Leclerc described as the "most difficult weekend" of his career.

GOVT INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO NATIONAL SPORTS TRIBUNAL UNDER NEW SPORTS ACT

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has invited applications for the appointment of two Members of the National Sports Tribunal (NST), a statutory body established under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025.

The National Sports Tribunal has been constituted to adjudicate and hear disputes relating to sports under the provisions of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Tribunal is headquartered in New Delhi, and the selected Members will be posted in Delhi.

The applications are being invited to fill two vacancies for the post of Member, National Sports Tribunal, the Ministry informed on Wednesday.

Eligible candidates should be persons of eminence in public life possessing wide knowledge and experience in sports, public administration, and law. The salary, allowances, and other terms and conditions of service of the Members shall be governed by the provisions of the National Sports Governance (National Sports Tribunal) Rules, 2026.

The selection process will be conducted by the Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025. The Committee will scrutinise applications and assess candidates based on their qualifications, experience, and suitability for the position. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for personal interaction.

The final recommendation for appointment will be made on the basis of the overall evaluation of candidates, taking into account their qualifications, experience, and performance during the personal interaction.

The establishment of the National Sports Tribunal marks a significant step towards strengthening sports governance in the country by providing an independent and specialised mechanism for the resolution of sports-related disputes.