



Asian Games gold medalist shooter and pioneering coach Jaspal Rana dies at 49

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'Marshall Plan' can revive the state's devastated economy: Swapan Dasgupta

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TCS launches India's first Oracle AI Data platform lab in Kolkata renewing hopes for more investments

MI News Service, Kolkata: Rekindling the hope for a renewed and rapid industrialisation of West Bengal under the new BJP regime, the Tata Consultancy Services on Friday launched India's first Oracle AI Data Platform Lab and Centre of Excellence (CoE) in this eastern metropolitan city to help enterprises accelerate adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data-driven transformation.

This much-awaited facility at Delta Park Lords in Kolkata has been set up in collaboration with Oracle and will support customers in addressing challenges such as fragmented data systems, slow analytics cycles, limited AI scalability and operational inefficiencies, the IT major said.

Sources at TCS said the lab will leverage Oracle AI Data Platform, which combines Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, Oracle Autonomous AI Database and OCI Enterprise AI, to help organisations make enterprise data AI-ready and deploy AI-powered applications and automation at scale.

The new launch has marked that the company sets up India's first facility of this kind here. The company also said it intends to establish similar centres in four additional Indian cities over the next three years. However, the amount of investment for setting up this state of the art facility was not disclosed.

The facility is aimed at helping enterprises address challenges linked to AI adoption, including fragmented data systems, slower analytics processes, scalability constraints and operational inefficiencies. TCS said the centre will use industry solutions, accelerators and reusable architectures to help organisations derive insights from enterprise data and deploy AI-led automation.

Quoting the TCS, the sources said Oracle AI Data Platform combines Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI), Oracle Autonomous AI Database and OCI Enterprise AI to support the development and deployment of agentic AI applications.

Arvind Mehra, Head, Alliances and Channels, Technology, Oracle India, said, "TCS is helping customers accelerate AI adoption by establishing the Oracle AI Data Platform Lab and Center of Excellence, which is built on a secure, unified data foundation and integrated AI capabilities. Together, we are enabling customers to turn data into real business outcomes, from actionable insights to intelligent automation by leveraging Oracle AI Data Platform to simplify, scale, and operationalize AI across the business."

Sudipto Ray, Vice President and Global Head, Oracle Practice, TCS, said, "The Oracle AI Data Platform Lab and Center of Excellence will deliver Oracle's industry-leading AI capabilities, database, and cloud-native solutions to TCS' clients around the world. The facility is designed to accelerate the journey from ideation to experimentation to full-scale deployment. By harnessing Oracle Cloud Infrastructure and the latest advancements in AI, the lab will help customers reimagine their operational strategies both in data analytics and rapid application development. As a result, customers will be better positioned to utilize their data, adopt intelligent automation, and maintain a robust competitive edge in a fast-evolving digital landscape."

TCS said the initiative is part of its investments in AI engineering, data platforms and analytics capabilities. The company also said it has a team of 26,000 Oracle-skilled professionals in India supporting client AI programmes.

Incidentally, soon after the BJP came to power in West Bengal on May 4 following their landslide victory in elections to the 294 member state assembly, state Party President Samik Bhattacharya emphasised the immediate need for rapid industrialisation of the state with massive investments from both within India and abroad.

He also called for full cooperation from the industry as well as from the Centre to help re-build the business and industrial hubs of West Bengal after last 15 years of their negative growth during the TMC regime.

Moreover, soon after taking over the charge as the state Industry and Commerce minister veteran BJP leader Tapas Ray said his top priority would be to bring back the Tata group of companies in the state which had left under undue political pressure earlier and prove that West Bengal is now an industry-friendly state and is ready to welcome big as well as medium industries from all sectors. "We are promised bound to bring back all the 6500 industries which had left the state due to labour and other trouble during the past several years and restore the glory of the state", he said.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari inaugurated an exhibition at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre in Kolkata on Friday. The exhibition depicted various schemes introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at different stages in his 12 year tenure. PIC:Prabir Bhattacharya

Suwendu Adhikari vows 'zero tolerance' for resorting to violence, hooliganism in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari on Friday warned that his government has been following a "zero-tolerance" policy towards unrest, hooliganism and anti-social activities, and made it clear that he was "ready to go to any lengths to tackle such incidents".

Speaking at a news conference, organised by the state BJP to mark 12 years of the BJP-led government at the Centre, he said that maintaining law and order was among the top priorities of his government in West Bengal.

"After we came to power, there have been certain incidents, and we tackled them firmly, sending out a clear signal that there will be zero tolerance towards this kind of unrest, hooliganism and anti-social activities. We will not allow any such things to continue further," the Chief minister said firmly.

He asserted that his government has adopted a policy of "zero tolerance" towards any anti-social activities and those attempting to disrupt law and order by any means would face the strictest possible action.

Further emphasising his

government's resolve, Suwendu Adhikari said he was prepared to go to any extent necessary to curb such incidents.

"The strictest action will be taken against those involved in vandalism and taking the law into their own hands," he said.

The chief minister reiterated that ensuring peace and maintaining law and order were essential responsibilities of the government. Drawing a contrast with the previous Trinamool Congress (TMC) administration, he claimed that anti-social elements would no longer be allowed to disrupt normal life under any circumstances as long as he is the Chief minister.

According to Suwendu Adhikari, the government's firm approach is intended to reassure citizens that acts of violence, vandalism and intimidation will not be tolerated, and that the rule of law will prevail across the state.

Incidentally, the Chief minister referring to some recent incidents of vandalism in some areas, referred to the recent protests against a bulldozer drive linked to action against "illegal structures" which suddenly turned violent, with demonstrators allegedly creating troubles and resorted to



West Bengal Chief minister Suwendu Adhikari is addressing a press conference at Biswa Bangla Convention Centre at New Town in Kolkata on Friday. He is flanked by state BJP spokesman Debjit Sarkar. PIC:Prabir Bhattacharya

vandalism. He also what he described as the end of the era of "tied hands and feet" policing, and projected a tough law-and-order stance, while drawing a sharp contrast with the "functioning" of earlier administrations.

"We have arrested over 40 people in that case and that the probe was being directly monitored by the Commissioner of Police," he asserted.

"I am giving a clear message that there will be zero tolerance towards this kind of unrest, hooliganism and anti-national, anti-social activities. We will not allow such things to continue," he reiterated.

The Chief minister also praised the conduct of police personnel and central forces and said they always act with restraint despite provocation from the mob.

Attempting to reassure the force of political backing, Suwendu Adhikari, who is also the state's Home minister, repeatedly stressed that police personnel should function fearlessly under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

"I have told them that their Home minister and Chief minister are with them. The entire department, under the leader-

ship of the police commissioner, stands with them. You all are doing a good job," he said.

In remarks carrying political overtones, Suwendu Adhikari suggested that the police force had earlier functioned under constraints.

"Do not think old rules still apply. If anyone believes that the police force will continue to function with tied hands and feet, they are mistaken," he said.

Also drawing a comparison with the previous situation in the Kashmir valley which witnessed frequent stone pelting on security forces, the Chief minister said such incidents would no longer be tolerated in the state.

"Political and religious organisations can hold programmes after informing the police. But gathering people, raising religious slogans and pelting stones cannot continue. Stone-pelting at police in Srinagar and Kashmir has stopped; I believe it will stop in West Bengal and Kolkata, too," Suwendu Adhikari asserted.

He said government action would not stop at arrests and that authorities would monitor cases till conviction.

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Bengal CID not satisfied with Abhishek's replies, summons him again on June 14

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal CID on Friday issued fresh summons to TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee for a second round of questioning on June 14 in connection with the alleged signature forgery case after investigators were reportedly dissatisfied with his responses during questioning at the department headquarters a day ago, informed sources said.

Abhishek Banerjee, who appeared before the state investigating agency on Thursday minutes before the deadline, after skipping three earlier summonses and following directions from the Calcutta High Court, was questioned for over five hours by a team of senior officers.

Banerjee replied "I do not know" to several questions relating to the disputed resolution submitted to the Assembly and allegedly lost his temper at certain stages, the officer claimed.

Banerjee reached the CID headquarters at Bhabani Bhavan around 5.50 pm, shortly after securing interim protection from coercive action from the Calcutta High Court. After leaving the CID headquarters at around 11.30 pm, Banerjee headed to Trinamool Congress chief

Mamata Banerjee's residence. According to sources, the CID has summoned Banerjee again on June 14 and directed him to appear at noon as investigators continue their probe into allegations that signatures of MLAs were fabricated or improperly obtained on a party resolution submitted to the Assembly Speaker.

The questioning marked Banerjee's first appearance before a state investigating agency since the Trinamool Congress lost power in West Bengal. He had earlier skipped three summonses, citing health issues and pending legal proceedings before the High Court.

The case centres on a resolution purportedly adopted at a TMC legislators' meeting on May 6, which recommended Sobhandeb Chattopadhyay as Leader of Opposition, Asima Patra and Nayna Bandyopadhyay as deputy leaders, and Firdah Hakim as chief whip in the Assembly.

The controversy erupted after expelled TMC MLAs Ritabrata Banerjee and Sandipan Saha complained to Assembly Speaker Rathindra Bose, alleging that no such resolution had been passed at



Abhishek Banerjee

PM Modi says govt created environment for 'Nari Shakti' to realise their full potential



PM Narendra Modi with women.

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday said the NDA government's efforts are rooted in dignity, opportunity and empowerment, and these have helped create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-building.

PM Modi said that over the last 12 years, the NDA government has worked to fur-

create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute even more strongly to nation-building," he wrote on social media platform X.

The Prime Minister said he was particularly happy to see India's "nari shakti" (women) make a mark in sectors like science, space and innovation.

The growing participation of women in emerging fields such as drone technology is opening new avenues of opportunity and transforming the development landscape across the nation, he said.

"Our government is actively supporting Self-Help Groups, which are going a long way in making women financially independent," he said.

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Dissident TMC faction to approach LS Speaker next week seeking recognition

MI News Service, New Delhi: Dissident TMC MPs will meet Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Monday to seek recognition as the "real TMC", rebel MP Jagdish Chandra Barma Basunia said on Friday, and claimed that 19 members are currently backing the faction.

Basunia, the MP from Cooch Behar and among the lawmakers seeking to support the NDA in the Lok Sabha, said that the group has already submitted a representation to the Speaker.

"We have submitted the letter... On Monday, we will go to the Speaker and stake our claim to form the real TMC parliamentary group. We will ask the Speaker to give recognition to our claim," Basunia said.

Sources said the timing of the meeting is yet to be finalised.

Asked about senior Trinamool Congress leader Kalyan Banerjee's remarks on Abhishek Banerjee, Basunia said, "He is saying the right thing. We support Kalyan ji's statement".

The TMC plunged into a crisis following the party's defeat in the West Bengal assembly elections and rebellion by a large section of its legislators. The turmoil later spread to Parliament.

Nineteen TMC MPs, including Satabdi Roy, Saayoni Ghosh, and Yusuf Pathan, signed a letter to the Lok Sabha Speaker seeking to form a separate group.

The rebellion follows the TMC's heavy election defeat and growing discontent over Mamata Banerjee's leadership and Abhishek Banerjee's influence.

The Speaker must decide on recognising the bloc, with potential disputes over the party symbol and compliance with anti-defection rules ahead.

Meanwhile, the BJP on Friday claimed that a document carrying the signatures of 20 Trinamool Congress Lok Sabha MPs establishes that the "real TMC" is led by Kakoli Ghosh Dasgupta, and not by Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee.

The remarks came amid reports that 19-20 Trinamool Congress (TMC) MPs have signed a letter addressed to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla.

In a statement, BJP national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla alleged that the TMC is witnessing an "implosion" due to dynastic politics and Mamata's preference for her nephew over the party.

The debate regarding the "real" vs. "fake" Trinamool Congress erupted following a massive rebellion within the party, where a majority of TMC MLAs and MPs challenged the leadership. BJP leaders, including national spokesperson Shehzad Poonawalla and Anirban Ganguly, seized on the crisis to claim that Mamata Banerjee and Abhishek Banerjee have lost control of their own party.

BJP leaders, alongside dissenting TMC insiders, argue that the actual soul of the party—comprising the vast majority of grassroots workers, 60 out of 80 MLAs, and several MPs—has revolted against the current administration. The rebels claim they represent the original ethos of the party. The BJP alleges that Mamata and Abhishek now effectively helm a "fake" or "dynastic" version of the party, pointing out that they have prioritized nepotism and centralizing power over the welfare of party workers.

The internal crisis peaked when veteran TMC MPs openly aired their grievances, publicly issuing ultimatums to Mamata Banerjee to choose between the party's foundational workers and Abhishek Banerjee's leadership. BJP figures have strongly capitalized on the rift, arguing that the rebellion was entirely predictable and fueled by decades of alleged corruption, extortion, and high-handedness from the party's Delhi-backed leadership.

The rift has left Mamata Banerjee fighting for her political legacy. She faces the unprecedented task of retaining a majority in the West Bengal Assembly and trying to stabilize her fractured base against a surging opposition.

Abandoned Rural Health Centre Turns Into Den of Substance Abuse, Raising Safety Concerns

MI News Service, Nadia : What was once a lifeline for healthcare in rural Nadia is now drawing attention for all the wrong reasons. The Chandra Primary Health Centre in Arbandi-I Gram Panchayat area of Shantipur block has allegedly become a hotspot for anti-social activities, with local residents claiming that abandoned hospital buildings are being used for drinking and drug consumption.

During a recent cleanliness drive conducted by local BJP workers, several empty beer bottles, cannabis-smoking pipes and other paraphernalia were reportedly recovered from unused rooms within the hospital premises.

The findings have reignited concerns over the deteriorating condition of a healthcare facility that once served hundreds of patients from surrounding villages.

Spread across nearly 20 bighas of land, the health centre lacks a proper boundary wall, leaving large portions of the campus exposed and vulnerable to encroachment. Several buildings stand abandoned, many without doors or windows, while overgrown vegetation has engulfed parts of the premises. Some unused structures are reportedly being used as cattle sheds.

Residents say groups of youths regularly gather inside the deserted sections of the campus from morning onwards. "This used to be a busy hospital where people came for treatment at all hours. Today, the abandoned rooms are being misused. There should be proper surveillance and security," said local resident Gauranga Debnath. The decline is particularly striking given the facility's past importance. Around a decade ago, the centre had a 30-bed capacity and provided critical healthcare services to the region. At present, only outpatient services are functioning, operating until the afternoon.

Dr. Amit Kumar Majumdar, Medical Officer of



for local residents. Shantipur MLA Swapan Kumar Das said the matter had been discussed with health authorities and expressed hope that steps would be taken to improve conditions at the facility. For many residents, the condition of the Chandra Primary Health Centre reflects a larger challenge facing rural public infrastructure: facilities built to serve communities often fall into neglect due to inadequate maintenance and oversight. Locals are now demanding stronger security measures, restoration of abandoned buildings and renewed efforts to revive the healthcare institution before a serious incident occurs.

Income Tax Department Conducts Awareness Outreach on SFT Reporting and E-Verification

MI News Service, East Medinipur: In an effort to enhance awareness among reporting entities regarding statutory compliance under the Income-tax laws, the office of the Deputy Director of Income Tax (Intelligence & Criminal Investigation) [I&CI]-1(2), Kolkata, in association with DDIT (I&CI)-1(1), Kolkata and other officials of the Directorate, organized an outreach programme on Friday at the Meeting Hall of Mugheria Central Co-operative Bank, East Medinipur. The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of tax professionals, chartered accountants, representatives of Central Co-operative



Banks, Additional District Sub-Registrars, Primary Agricultural Credit Co-operative Societies (PACS), and other reporting entities from the region. A detailed presentation on the key aspects of the Income-tax Act, 2025 was delivered by Sri Samresh Das, Inspector of Income Tax. The presentation focused on the changes affecting reporting entities and the filing of Statements of Financial Transactions (SFTs) in comparison with the provisions of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

Ex-BDO Faces Corruption Allegations Over 'Banglar Bari' Scheme in Nadia

MI News Service, Nadia : Allegations of large-scale irregularities in the state government's Banglar Bari housing scheme have triggered a political and administrative controversy in Nadia's Shantipur block. The vice-chairman of the Shantipur Panchayat Samiti, Chanchal Chakraborty, has lodged a written complaint with Shantipur police against former Block Development Officer (BDO) Sandeep Ghosh, accusing him of favouritism, procedural violations and misuse of authority in the selection of beneficiaries. According to the complaint, houses under the Banglar Bari scheme were allegedly allotted to ineligible individuals while genuine beneficiaries were left out. Chakraborty has claimed that the then BDO exercised undue influence in preparing beneficiary lists and facilitated the inclusion of persons allegedly close to him, bypassing prescribed norms.

The complainant has also alleged that irregularities extended beyond the housing scheme. He accused the former officer of allowing



alleged corruption in activities related to self-help group cluster committees and of functioning under the influence of certain members of the ruling party-led Panchayat Samiti. As part of the complaint, a list of 20 beneficiaries has reportedly been submitted to the police as supporting material. Copies of the complaint have also been forwarded to the District Magistrate of Nadia and the current BDO of Shantipur, with a demand for a comprehensive inquiry and appropriate legal action. Police sources confirmed that the complaint has been received and that the allegations are being examined. However, no formal case details were immediately available. Attempts to obtain a response from former BDO Sandeep Ghosh were unsuccessful. His version could not be obtained till the time of publication.

Nabadwip Teen Strikes Double Gold at World Yogasana Championship

MI News Service, Nadia : Nadia district's young Yogasana athlete Ayush Bhowmik has brought laurels to West Bengal and the country by winning two gold medals at the inaugural World Yogasana Championship held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Representing India on the global stage, the Nabadwip-based athlete emerged victorious in both the Artistic Group and Artistic Pair events, underlining India's dominance in the fast-growing competitive sport of Yogasana. Ayush earned his place in the Indian contingent after successfully clearing the national selection trials conducted at Sonapat, Haryana, on May 1 and 2. The trials were organised under the aegis of the All Bengal Yogasana Sports Association and Yogasana Bharat, attracting some of the country's finest Yogasana practitioners. The World Yogasana Championship, held from June 4 to 8 in Ahmedabad, witnessed participation from athletes representing several countries, including Uzbekistan, Argentina, Singapore, Russia, Japan, Nepal, Indonesia and Zambia. Competitors showcased strength, flexibility, balance and artistic precision across multiple disciplines. Competing against an international field, Ayush delivered impressive performances in both Artistic Group and Artistic Pair categories to secure two gold medals for India. His achievement contributed significantly to India's remarkable medal haul at the championship. According to organisers, India finished the



tournament with an impressive tally of 114 medals, including 102 gold, 9 silver and 3 bronze medals, reaffirming the country's position as a global powerhouse in Yogasana. West Bengal also registered a notable presence at the event, with 13 athletes representing the state across various categories. Several of them returned with medals, reflecting the growing popularity and competitive standards of Yogasana in the state. Ayush, a Class X student of Nabadwip Hindu School, has been receiving accolades from across the district. His parents, Pinki Bhowmik and Bholanath Bhowmik, expressed pride in their son's achievement and credited his dedication and rigorous training for the success. Jagannath Gui, Teacher-in-Charge of Nabadwip Hindu School, said, "Ayush has made our institution proud by representing India and winning two gold medals at the World Yogasana Championship. His achievement is an inspiration for students and young sports persons alike."

The double gold triumph has established Ayush as one of Bengal's promising young Yogasana talents and highlighted the state's growing contribution to India's success in international Yogasana competitions.

BENGAL ASSEMBLY TO GO DIGITAL IN NEXT 100 DAYS : SPEAKER

MI News Service, Kolkata: Speaker Rathindranath Basu said that the legislative Assembly would be transformed into a completely paperless "e-Vidhan Sabha" within the next 100 days. He also declared that all proceedings of the upcoming Budget Session would be live-streamed, marking a significant step towards greater public access to legislative affairs. The Budget Session of the state Assembly is slated to start from June 18. Basu, who addressed a Press conference at the Assembly after returning from the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) Zone-II Conference in Chandigarh, said that greater public participation in the democratic process will accelerate overall societal development. "Rights and responsibilities must go hand in hand as we move towards the future," the Speaker said.

Demographic change hampering India's security: Bengal Gov

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Governor of West Bengal R N Ravi has said that the demographic disruption is a matter of huge concern and is directly affecting our security. The Governor was recently addressing an ICC programme regarding 'Prevailing global situation & impacts on India' in Kolkata. The Governor said that West Bengal's change in demography, especially in border districts has affected the safety and security of West Bengal and India on holistic terms. He also said, not only in West Bengal, but in different parts of India, the change in demographic pattern had a direct impact on India's security and this problem should be taken care of with utmost importance. The Governor further mentioned that India needs to be self-reliant in every aspect, especially in the domain of defence. He further said that after 2014, India has got a new impetus in growth and is moving towards to achieve the mission of Viksit Bharat - 2047.

State gives govt offices 300 days to clear power dues

MI News Service, Kolkata: To implement smart prepaid electricity meters across government establishments, the West Bengal government has allowed all state government departments and parastatal bodies to clear their outstanding electricity dues either through a single payment or in instalments over a period of up to 300 days. The decision comes as the West Bengal State Electricity Distribution Company Limited (WBSEDCL), under the state Power Department, begins installing prepaid smart electricity meters in government offices across the state. According to an official memorandum issued by the Finance Department, government offices had earlier been permitted to recharge prepaid electricity meters through contingency bills submitted to treasuries, along with sanction orders issued by the respective Heads of Offices. The provision was introduced through a Finance Department memorandum dated October 28, 2024.

Elephant Rampage Again in Jhargram's Nayagram : Elderly Man Trampled to Death in Ramchandrapur, Panic Grips Area

MI News Service, Kharagpur : A tragic incident involving a wild elephant has once again shaken the Ramchandrapur village under Nayagram Block in Jhargram district, where an elderly man was killed in an elephant attack. The incident has created fear and panic among residents of the area. The deceased had been identified as Kanganli Nayak (70).

According to local sources, Kanganli Nayak had gone out for his usual morning walk when he unexpectedly came face-to-face with a fully grown wild elephant. Eyewitnesses and villagers reported that the elephant suddenly attacked him and trampled him under its feet. He sustained severe injuries and died on the spot. News of the incident spread quickly, drawing a large number of villagers to the scene. Local residents believe that the elephant had crossed the Subarnarekha River and entered the Ramchandrapur area. Wild elephant movement in the region has increased significantly in recent months, causing growing concern and insecurity among local communities.

Following the death of the elderly man, villagers criticized the functioning of the Forest Department, alleging that inadequate monitoring and a lack of timely warnings regarding elephant movements have led to repeated tragic incidents. Residents have demanded that the Forest Department strengthen elephant surveillance, issue timely alerts, and implement effective measures to reduce human-elephant conflict. Upon receiving information about the incident, officials and staff of the Forest Department, along with personnel from Nayagram Police Station, rushed to the spot. The police recovered the body and sent it for post-mortem examination. An investigation into the incident has also been initiated. It is noteworthy that the number of wild elephants and their movement across Jhargram and other Jangalmahal areas have increased in recent months. As a result, incidents of human-elephant conflict have also been rising steadily. Apart from damaging crops, elephant attacks have claimed several human lives in the region. In view of the recurring incidents, local residents have intensified their demand for a permanent and effective solution from the administration and the Forest Department to prevent such tragedies in the future. At present, fear continues to grip Ramchandrapur village following the fatal elephant attack, and villagers are urging authorities to take immediate safety measures to protect residents from further danger.



By the Blessings of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, M.A. Ali's Student Rajeev Rajbhar Wins Gold at World Meet, Thailand



MI News Service, Kolkata : In a proud moment for India, Rajeev Rajbhar of Varanasi, a student of renowned martial arts mentor HRH Prince Dr. M.A. Ali, won a Gold Medal at the prestigious World Meet Thailand 2026, held at the Royal Thai Army Club, Bangkok, Thailand.

Rajeev was honoured with a Gold Medal and Certificate by His Majesty King Sany Wijaya Natakusuma of the Padjadjaran Kingdom, Indonesia, in the presence of delegates, dignitaries, and participants from more than 50 countries. Addressing a press conference at the Indian Karate Association, Kolkata, Coach and Mentor HRH Prince Dr. M.A. Ali expressed his pride in Rajeev's achievement. He announced that Rajeev will once again represent India at the upcoming International Karate Championship, scheduled to be held on 31st October 2026 at the Royal Rattanakosin Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

M.A. Ali further stated that a 40-member Indian contingent is expected to participate in the championship. He also highlighted that Rajeev Rajbhar is the only karate athlete to have received the blessings of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, which has inspired him to achieve excellence in martial arts. Tony Taylor (USA), Vice President of World Meet, congratulated Rajeev on his outstanding achievement and praised the performance of the Indian team.

Other Indian gold medal winners at the World Meet included: Monimala Halder, Shina Faiyaz, Tapan Kumar Maity, Debayan Sarkar. A total of 17 members represented India at the championship, delivering an impressive performance.

Major Police Drive Against Illegal Liquor in Narayanganj; Large Quantity Seized and Destroyed

MI News Service, Kharagpur : In an effort to curb the illegal country liquor trade, Narayanganj Police launched a special enforcement drive in the area. During the operation, a large quantity of illegally brewed country liquor was recovered and destroyed on the spot. According to police sources, the raid was conducted based on specific intelligence inputs. A search operation was carried out at various locations in the Boro Kalankai area under Narayanganj Police Station. During the drive, police teams conducted raids at several sites and seized a substantial quantity of illegally manufactured country liquor. After confiscating the liquor, the police destroyed it at the spot in accordance with legal procedures. The operation has reportedly created panic among those involved in the illegal liquor business. The local administration has made it clear that such drives against the illegal manufacture, storage, and sale of liquor will continue in the future. Police officials stated that illegal liquor not only poses a challenge to law and order but also presents a serious threat to public health. Local residents welcomed the police action, saying that the illegal country liquor trade had been operating in the area for a long time and had contributed to several social problems. They expressed hope that the strict measures taken by the police would significantly curb the illegal trade and help improve peace and the social environment in the region. The police administration has also appealed to the public to immediately inform the authorities if they come across any information regarding the production or sale of illegal liquor so that prompt action can be taken. The campaign is being viewed as an important step toward maintaining law and order and preventing illegal activities in the area.



BJP govt will not allow illegal activities: SANKU DEB PANDA

MI News Service, Kolkata: Noted BJP leader Sanku Deb Panda has clearly mentioned that the current BJP government will not allow any illegal things in West Bengal. Panda said, "Everyone should abide by law as BJP government will not allow any illegal things happening here in West Bengal." While speaking at a programme recently organized by Society for the welfare of West Bengal Foreign Liquor Licenses, Panda said that in every sphere of our society the earlier TMC government has implanted its poison of corruption and that that is needed to be uprooted now by any means. To him many TMC leaders will be arrested in due course of time in a massive crack-down operation against corruption powered by current BJP government in West Bengal.

Ancient Stone Idol Recovered from Subarnarekha River; Possibility of Jain Archaeological Heritage Discovery in Jangalmahal

MI News Service, Kharagpur : The discovery of an ancient stone idol from the Subarnarekha River in the Mahapal area of Gopiballavpur-II Block of Jhargram district has sparked widespread curiosity and discussion across the region. Local youths, who had gone to the river to collect pebbles and stones, stumbled upon the rare sculpture. Preliminary assessments by experts suggest that the idol could be an important archaeological relic associated with Jainism. According to local sources, a group of young men were collecting pebbles from the Subarnarekha River, as they do regularly, when they noticed an unusual stone-like structure submerged in the water. After retrieving and cleaning it, they realized that it was an ancient idol. Although some portions of the sculpture have been damaged due to prolonged exposure to water, sand, and natural erosion, its original form remains clearly visible.

Interestingly, the idol was not the only artifact recovered from the site. Several other fragmented stone relics were also found in the same area. One of the fragments is believed to resemble the head of a sculpted figure. These discoveries have strengthened speculation



among local residents and history enthusiasts that more archaeological treasures may be hidden beneath the riverbed or in the surrounding region. Historians and archaeology experts have made a preliminary assessment that the recovered idol may represent Gomukha, the Yaksha (attendant deity) of Rishabhathana, the first Tirthankara of Jainism. Historical records indicate that the Jangalmahal, Singhbhum, and Manbhum regions once witnessed a significant influence of Jainism. Therefore, the discovery is being viewed as an important link to the area's ancient history and cultural heritage. Experts emphasize that the idol's true identity, period of origin, and historical significance can only be determined through detailed archaeological investigations and scientific analysis. If the sculpture is indeed confirmed to be associated

with Jainism, it could provide valuable new insights into the history of the Jangalmahal region. The discovery has generated considerable excitement among local residents. People have urged the administration and the Archaeological Department to conduct a thorough investigation and launch a special survey of potential archaeological sites in the area. Experts believe that timely scientific exploration of the Subarnarekha River and its surroundings could uncover several significant historical artifacts, helping scholars better understand the ancient history of the entire region.

Minister Jagannath Chatterjee announces new 'roadmap' for modernization of 51 government ITIs

MI News Service, Kolkata: The main goal of the state government is to create a conducive environment for employment for the youth of the state. With that aim, the state has prepared a new roadmap for the modernization of 51 government ITIs in the state. The state is going to tie up with industrial organizations. In this, students will be able to work manually on state-of-the-art machines in line with the times. After completing the course, the students will get employment opportunities due to becoming 'industry ready'.

The state's Technical Education and Skill Development Department organized a high-level technical support workshop focusing on the 'PM Setu' project. State Technical Education Minister Jagannath Chatterjee was present at that workshop. The state has decided to adopt 51 ITIs there. Accordingly, a 'roadmap' has been prepared. Technical Education Minister Jagannath Chatterjee said that under this project, there will be an opportunity for private partnership of up to 17 percent of the ownership of educational institutions and up to 51 percent of the management system. What benefits will the students get from this?

According to the officials of the department, if this PPP model is successful, students will get the opportunity to learn a lot more hands-on, along with textbook education. Since they are directly linked to renowned industrial companies, they will be able to get used to advanced technology and modern equipment.

PM Modi says

Continued form Pg 1: PM Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India for the first time on May 26, 2014, becoming the first-ever Prime minister to be born after India attained Independence.

His second term began on May 30, 2019, while he was sworn in as Prime minister for the third consecutive time on June 9, 2024, following another decisive victory in the 2024 Parliamentary elections.

On Wednesday, Modi also crossed the record of first Prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru's 4,398 days in power as an elected Prime minister following the 1952 general elections.

Nehru's stint from 1947 to 1952 was as head of an interim government as elections were not held till 1952.

He noted that over the last 12 years, the NDA government has worked to further women-led development, and this is visible across sectors. He added that the government is actively supporting Self Help Groups, which are helping women become financially independent.

The Prime Minister further underlined that the government's efforts are rooted in dignity, opportunity, and empowerment, which have helped create an environment where women can realise their full potential and contribute more strongly to nation-building. PM Modi expressed happiness at witnessing India's Nari Shakti making a mark in sectors like science, space, and innovation.

Sharing a Sanskrit quote, the Prime Minister said that the country's Nari Shakti is the cornerstone of nation-building. He added that the mothers, sisters, and daughters of the nation are enhancing the glory of Mother India with their extraordinary talent and skills in every field.

Suvendu Adhikari vows

Continued form Pg 1: "If a policeman is touched, this government will apply the law to its fullest extent. Our responsibility does not end with arrests. We will closely monitor the process to ensure conviction," he said.

Seeking to send a message of neutrality, the Chief minister also directed the police to act without considering political affiliation, religion, community identity or influence.

"Police should not have to think five times before taking action. Do not think who belongs to which party, religion or community. Act according to law," he said.

Invoking Prime Minister Narendra Modi's emphasis on governance through trust rather than fear, Adhikari said police must function with confidence, as he promised institutional support. The CM also announced modernisation and logistical assistance for the force within six months.

"If there is any complaint against a police officer, approach the OC or IC; if no action against them, meet the DC; the commissioner and also write to 'Nabanna' (state secretariat). But, taking up stones and creating trouble in the name of religious slogans will no longer continue in West Bengal," he emphasised.



Debangshu Panda (winning MLA from 144 Falta Assembly Constituency) and Swati Khandakar (winning MLA from 194 Chanditola Assembly Constituency) took oath at the West Bengal Assembly in the auspicious presence of Speaker Rathindra Bose who initiated the proceeding as per protocol. State ministers Dr. Sankar Ghosh, Tapas Roy, Principal Secretary of State Assembly Soumendra Nath Das and other dignitaries were present at the oath taking ceremony at State Assembly in Kolkata on Friday.

'Marshall Plan' can revive the state's devastated economy: Swapan Dasgupta

MI News Service, Kolkata: Huge debt, revenue deficit, zero industrial investment, no employment. Due to all these, Bengal's financial infrastructure has become increasingly fragile in the last 15 years. Reviving the economy from that situation is a big challenge for the state government. In the BJP-led Subhendu Adhikari government, the responsibility of the Finance Department went to the capable Minister Swapan Dasgupta. Taking charge, he talked about a European-style 'Marshall Plan' to revive the economy. According to him, it is possible to restore the state's financial structure to a good state through multiple reform projects.

Still one of the most talked about topics in history. They mastered the strategy of quickly making up for the losses.

According to the state's new Finance Minister Swa-

pan Dasgupta, such a 'Marshall Plan' is the only one that can revive the devastated economy. However, Swapan himself believes that it is a big challenge for Bengal. How will that plan work? The Finance Minister said that restoring financial discipline, investment and government aid - all of these must be combined to create an ideal plan. He hopes that the double engine government in the state at this moment will greatly help in implementing that plan. The financial aid of the center, the support of various financial institutions and above all, several development projects of the center are going to be included in this 'Marshall Plan'. In this context, Swapan talked about several projects like Jiramji Project i.e. 100 days of work, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The Finance



State Finance Minister Swapan Dasgupta.

Minister believes that if it is implemented at all levels in Bengal, it will be possible to initially turn around a little. Because, this will increase employment and develop infrastructure.

At the same time, the new Finance Minister is also in favor of taking help

from the private investment sector. According to him, institutions that are mainly interested in lending for infrastructure development should be supported. However, the most urgent thing is to strengthen the fragile financial structure. At the moment, Bengal is carrying

various financial responsibilities. Much of this is due to various allowances introduced during Mamata Banerjee's tenure. In addition, there is a huge debt burden. Although Bengal's huge debt is nothing new. It has been going on since the Left era. The Finance Minister considers increasing the state's GDP on the lines of Punjab and Kerala as one of the ways to repay this debt.

Swapan Dasgupta's 'Marshall Plan' can initially work in three phases. They are -

1. Increase in revenue collection compared to expenditure. 90 percent of the expenditure is on salaries of government employees, pensions and subsidies to the people. In addition, there has been a lot of expenditure on several social projects like Lakshmi Bhandar. Now we have to think about them anew.

2. Curbing interest rates. The state currently has a debt of about 8 lakh crore rupees. More than 45 thousand crore rupees are spent on interest, which is 42 percent of the total revenue. This problem needs to be resolved quickly.

3. Further increase in investment figures. Although many private companies are already investing in various sectors in the state, it has not yet been possible to continue it for a long time and increase the economic momentum of the state. The Finance Minister wants to revive the economy through that work.

ICC 'SportsMed 2026': Dr. Indranil Khan mulls Expansion of Sports Infra in Bengal

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) hosted SportsMed 2026 under the theme 'From Performance to Prevention: Integrating Science, Medicine & Technology', bringing together leading healthcare professionals, sports medicine experts, policymakers, hospital leaders and sports practitioners to discuss the future of sports healthcare in India. The summit was attended by eminent speakers including Prashant Sharma, Chairman, ICC National Healthcare Committee and Managing Director, Charnock Hospitals; Dr. Sankar Sengupta, Vice President, CAHO, and Medical Superintendent & Professor, Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute; Sibananda Mishra, Regional Director-in-Charge, NSERC Kolkata, Sports Authority of India (SAI); Ranadeep Moitra, former cricketer and sports performance specialist;



(L-R): Sombrata Roy, Member, ICC National Healthcare Committee & Unit Head, CMRI, C K Birla Hospitals; Dr. Indranil Khan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Youth Services & Sports, Government of West Bengal; and Prashant Sharma, Chairman, ICC National Healthcare Committee and Managing Director, Charnock Hospitals on Friday, at Kolkata.

Ms. Richa S. Debgupta, Co-Chair, ICC National Healthcare Committee and Executive Vice President, Fortis Hospitals; Dr. Abhijit Sen, Consultant Orthopaedic, Joint Replacement and Sports Injury Surgeon; Dr. Khawer Naveed Siddiqui, Head of Preventive Cardiology, B.M. Birla Heart Research Centre and Dr. Indranil Khan, Minister of State (Independent Charge), Youth Services & Sports, Government of West Bengal. The summit served as a platform for deliberations on preventive care, injury management, rehabilitation, nutrition and technology-driven innovations, while emphasising the importance of stronger collaboration between healthcare, sports science and policy stakeholders to enhance athlete wellbeing and build a more resilient sporting ecosystem in India.

In this occasion, Dr. Indranil Khan, Minister of State (Independent

Charge), Youth Services & Sports, Government of West Bengal, said, "With Khelo India, our state of West Bengal is going to witness a fundamental change in sports infrastructure, sports manpower and the overall performance of our sportspersons. We have to groom and support our players during their formative years through professional support ranging from coaching to sports medicine, fitness coaching and injury management. Sports medicine is going to witness a major change for the better and will not be restricted to Kolkata - it will be decentralized so that players across West Bengal receive opportunities and support. The government will lead this change, but I would also like to encourage entrepreneurs and stakeholders to come and invest in sports and be a part of this transformation."

Bengal CID not satisfied

Continued form Pg 1: the May 6 meeting. They claimed they signed the resolution register only on May 19 and accused party leaders of subsequently fabricating records. The complainants also questioned the authenticity of several signatures, alleging that many appeared in block letters.

Investigators have been attempting to recover the original resolution book and attendance register. Earlier this week, CID teams searched the TMC's central office at Mamata Banerjee's Kalighat residence and Abhishek Banerjee's Camac Street office but reportedly failed to locate the documents.

Sources said Abhishek Banerjee was questioned extensively on Thursday about the resolution book and the process through which the documents were forwarded to the Assembly Speaker. Investigators are believed to have sought details regarding a communication sent by Baner-

jee to the Speaker on May 20, enclosing copies of the resolution and attendance records.

According to sources familiar with the probe, investigators were not fully satisfied with several of Banerjee's responses and decided to summon him again for further questioning. Sources also claimed that the TMC leader became visibly agitated during parts of the interrogation and avoided giving direct answers to some questions relating to the disputed documents.

The CID to ok over the investigation from Kolkata Police on May 28, a day after a case was registered on a complaint from the principal secretary of the state assembly alleging cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The development comes amid mounting legal challenges for Banerjee. He has also been asked to appear before the Enforcement Directorate on June 15 in connection with the alleged school recruitment scam.

Trinamool Supremo under pressure, FIR filed against Mamata for religious provocative remark!

MI News Service, Kolkata: Former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is under pressure from the state. Now, allegations of religious incitement have been raised against her. A case has been registered at the Hare Street police station on that. It is learnt that a case has been filed in the wake of a speech made by Mamata Banerjee from the dharna stage at Esplanade before the assembly elections.

Allegedly, on March 9,

Mamata Banerjee made a speech from the party stage at the Esplanade Metro Channel, which could have disturbed the peace. It has been alleged that Mamata's speech could have destroyed communal harmony and the structure of democracy. The original complaint was filed at Netaji Nagar police station, which was accepted as a 'zero FIR'. Later, it was sent to Hare Street police station, since the place of occurrence falls under the jurisdiction of

Hare Street police station.

The controversy started from the very beginning with a comment made by Mamata Banerjee at the March 9 meeting. She had said, "...if we are not there, it will take a second. When a community does form an alliance...it will give in 1 second by ringing 12 bells..." That comment sparked criticism from various levels of society. This time, a person filed a complaint with the Netaji Nagar police station. The police

have sent the complaint to the Hare Street police station.

Recently, a complaint was filed with the police regarding another remark made by Mamata Banerjee. On June 2, she made a controversial remark regarding the murder of Bangladeshi student leader Osman Hadi at a meeting on Rani Rashmoni Road. A person filed a complaint with the Siliguri Cyber Crime Police Station in that incident.

'Saviour Sibling' born through IVF, new life for thalassemia-affected grandfather

MI News Service, Kolkata: The latest IVF technology has opened up new horizons in the treatment of complex and lifelong blood-dependent diseases like thalassemia. A team of doctors in Kolkata has set a precedent by creating a genetically compatible and healthy stem cell donor within the family, completely healing

a thalassemia-affected child. According to experts, this method can play an even bigger role in the treatment of genetic blood diseases in the future.

The family's decision to save the life of their thalassemia-affected child was exceptional. And that decision is now a major medical success story. With the help

of IVF and cutting-edge genetic testing, a child was born whose cord blood stem cells were used to completely cure his thalassemia-affected grandfather.

Seven-year-old Akshay Sarkar Dhruv was suffering from beta-thalassemia. He had to take blood regularly since birth. As a result, he was accumulating

excess iron in his body and developing new complications. According to doctors, the only way to get a permanent cure was a stem cell transplant. But no fully matched donor was available in the family. That's where CordLife India's 'Save the Sibling' project opened up a new opportunity. Under this initiative, which

Body parts of wild animals found in ashes of Alipore Zilla Parishad building fire!

MI News Service, Kolkata: Tiger skins were kept in the cupboard. Deer horns were in the locker. Next to that, crocodile teeth were in another locker. All of them were recovered from poachers. Forest department workers risked their lives by conducting secret searches in different areas of the Sundarbans and recovered the body parts of all these wild animals. Accordingly, the accused were arrested and a case was prepared against them. There was a separate law cell here. Where a database of poachers from different parts of the Sundarbans island in South 24 Parganas was kept.

Moreover, those who were arrested for killing wild animals at different times were also brought here first. Then legal action was taken. All the relevant evidence was present on the third floor of the Alipore Zilla Parishad building. And based on all that evidence the wildlife killers or anti-social elements who destroyed the forest were punished. But in a few minutes, all the rare and precious documents and evidence were destroyed before our eyes in the fire. And, this is the fault of the district administration officials.

It is worth to mention that A fire broke out at the new administration building in Alipore, South 24 Parganas on Wednesday morning. The fire consumed the flames and destroyed one district council office after another. The worst-hit building was the South 24 Parganas district divisional forest office. All the range offices in the district were controlled from here. Not only that, this office existed even before the Tiger Project was announced separately in 1973. As a result, not only the forest department, but also numerous documents of the Sundarbans Tiger Project were stored here. All the historical information and evidence of the undivided Sundarbans were burnt to ashes in Wednesday's devastating fire.

According to a forest department officer, "Six tiger skins, four deer skins and several parts of deer horns were here. There were some crocodile and pig tooth parts. Not only that, all the historical maps of where and how much land there is in South 24 Parganas district, which had been preserved since the British era, have all been destroyed in the fire. Along with this, the necessary documents of the employees have also been destroyed in the fire." State Forest Minister Manoj Oraon is worried. He said, "High-level officials have been ordered to look into the whole matter. The process of compiling statistics of what damage has been done has started. However, this loss is absolutely historic."

Another FIR against Trinamool councillor Sushanta Ghosh!

MI News Service, Kolkata: Trinamool councillor Sushanta Ghosh is in more trouble. This time an FIR has been filed on the charge of selling a rooftop shop for three and a half lakh rupees by forging documents. A resident of Rajdanga School Road, Kasha has filed a complaint with Anandapur police station. 4 more people are named in the FIR. According to the complainant, the incident began in November 2022. The complainant needed a shop. Sushanta and his disciples took advantage of that opportunity. They assured the complainant that they would get a seven-foot shop on the rooftop near Ruby Crossing on Anandapur Road. To gain trust, a fake license from the municipality was shown. The complainant, not realizing it, fell into the trap of fraud and paid a large sum of money to the accused. After collecting the money, the accused started singing the opposite tune. It is alleged that instead of the shop that was mentioned, they were forcibly given the key of another shop of four-foot space by threatening him. This small room was originally used as an ambulance room by the Ruby Market Committee. Also, it did not have any government license. So far, the complainant could not open their mouths due to fear of Trinamool councillor Sushanta Ghosh and his associates. After the new government took office, the cheated businessman went to Anandapur police station. He filed a complaint against five people including Sushanta Ghosh.

Healing Hearts and Whispering Hopes: How IRFC is Transforming Lives at B.R. Singh Hospital

MI News Service, Kolkata, June 12, 2026 : For a railway worker who spends his days and nights ensuring thousands of passengers reach home safely, his own home is his entire world. But when sickness strikes a family member, that world can suddenly feel very dark. In those moments of extreme anxiety, a hospital is not just a building with doctors; it is a sacred temple of hope. On June 25, 2026, that hope is getting a massive, beautiful upgrade at Eastern Railway's premier healthcare facility, the B.R. Singh Hospital in Kolkata. This upcoming infrastructure upgradation ceremony is not just a regular corporate event; it is a massive, deeply compassionate social work milestone worth 2.64 crores. This entire life-saving transformation is funded through a specialized Corporate Social Responsibility grant from the Indian Railway Finance Corporation, following a historic Memorandum of Understanding with Indian Railways to elevate healthcare infrastructure. The noble organization behind this grand act of kindness is IRFC, acting as an angel of support for a truly good cause. At the very center of this beautiful initiative is the visionary leadership of Shri Manoj Dubey, the Chairman and Managing Director of IRFC. True leadership is not just about managing corporate finances; it is about feeling the pain of the common man and using resources to heal society. Under the brilliant and empathetic guidance of Shri Manoj Dubey, IRFC has shown the world what real corporate responsibility looks like. By choosing to invest so heavily in human lives, he has ensured that IRFC's success directly translates into smiles on the faces of railway beneficiaries. This grand program stands as a shining example of his commitment to doing immense good for society, and his praise deserves to be sung for turning corporate strength into a shield of protection for vulnerable families. This beautiful partnership between IRFC and Eastern Railway, driven under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, will directly change and save countless human lives. Imagine a retired railway employee rushing to the hospital with severe chest pain, where every single second dictates the boundary between life and death. Thanks to IRFC's support, the Cardiology Department is being empowered with a new Central Monitoring System, an advanced Anaesthesia Workstation, and a high-end Echocardiography Machine to handle complex cardiac diagnostics with utmost precision. At the same time, patients suffering from painful ailments will find immense relief in the ENT Department, which has acquired a state-of-the-art ENT Endoscopic Set-4k and a Micro Debrider Set for precise, painless, and minimally invasive surgeries. This means a grandfather can watch his grandchildren grow with a healthy heart, and a young child can be treated safely without intense pain, allowing them to return to their normal lives sooner. This grand and historic event will be jointly inaugurated by Chief Guest Shri Manoj Dubey, Chairman and Managing Director of IRFC, and Chief Patron Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway. The beautiful ceremony will take place in the august presence of Dr. Nataraj Basappa, Principal Chief Medical Director of Eastern Railway, along with other Principal Head of Departments, Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager of Sealdah, and Dr. Debasish Guha, Medical Director of B.R. Singh Hospital. Reflecting on this monumental occasion, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, beautifully stated that this partnership with IRFC reflects their ongoing commitment to providing world-class, accessible healthcare technology to their railway family. When the ceremony concludes on June 25, the real magic will begin as mothers breathe sighs of relief and families find comfort. Through this massive act of social work, IRFC and its wonderful leadership have proven that when big organizations work with a pure heart, they don't just build infrastructure; they give the ultimate, priceless gift of life.



B.R. SINGH HOSPITAL, KOLKATA DEDICATION OF ₹2.64 CRORE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (FUNDED BY IRFC CSR GRANT)

This beautiful partnership between IRFC and Eastern Railway, driven under the dynamic leadership of Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway, will directly change and save countless human lives. Imagine a retired railway employee rushing to the hospital with severe chest pain, where every single second dictates the boundary between life and death. Thanks to IRFC's support, the Cardiology Department is being empowered with a new Central Monitoring System, an advanced Anaesthesia Workstation, and a high-end Echocardiography Machine to handle complex cardiac diagnostics with utmost precision. At the same time, patients suffering from painful ailments will find immense relief in the ENT Department, which has acquired a state-of-the-art ENT Endoscopic Set-4k and a Micro Debrider Set for precise, painless, and minimally invasive surgeries. This means a grandfather can watch his grandchildren grow with a healthy heart, and a young child can be treated safely without intense pain, allowing them to return to their normal lives sooner. This grand and historic event will be jointly inaugurated by Chief Guest Shri Manoj Dubey, Chairman and Managing Director of IRFC, and Chief Patron Shri Milind Deouskar, General Manager of Eastern Railway. The beautiful ceremony will take place in the august presence of Dr. Nataraj Basappa, Principal Chief Medical Director of Eastern Railway, along with other Principal Head of Departments, Shri Rajeev Saxena, Divisional Railway Manager of Sealdah, and Dr. Debasish Guha, Medical Director of B.R. Singh Hospital. Reflecting on this monumental occasion, Shri Shibram Majhi, Chief Public Relations Officer of Eastern Railway, beautifully stated that this partnership with IRFC reflects their ongoing commitment to providing world-class, accessible healthcare technology to their railway family. When the ceremony concludes on June 25, the real magic will begin as mothers breathe sighs of relief and families find comfort. Through this massive act of social work, IRFC and its wonderful leadership have proven that when big organizations work with a pure heart, they don't just build infrastructure; they give the ultimate, priceless gift of life.

Sealdah Division's Mega Ticket Checking Drive Echoes a Dignified Message "Travel with Ticket, Journey with Dignity"

MI News Service, Kolkata, June 12, 2026 : In a major push towards ensuring disciplined rail travel and reinforcing civic responsibility, Sealdah Division conducted a massive, high-impact special ticket checking drive along the busy Sealdah-Sonarpur-Canning section. Beyond the numbers, the drive carried a deep social message for all commuters Travel with Ticket, Journey with Dignity. The intensive crackdown wasn't just a routine inspection and led directly from the front by Dr. Uday Shankar Jha, Principal Chief Commercial Manager/ER, alongside Sri Sunil Mahala, Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/SDAH, educating the public on the value of being a law-abiding passenger. As the team of commercial dept. Sealdah, moved through stations and trains in Sonarpur-Canning section, the localized drive proved highly effective, catching hundreds of offenders off guard. A total of 618 cases of various violations were registered during the operation, resulting in the realization of ₹1,47,685 in fines, in which Without-Ticket 449 cases, Unbooked Luggage 128 cases and Anti-Spitting & Littering cases 41.



through stations and trains in Sonarpur-Canning section, the localized drive proved highly effective, catching hundreds of offenders off guard. A total of 618 cases of various violations were registered during the operation, resulting in the realization of ₹1,47,685 in fines, in which Without-Ticket 449 cases, Unbooked Luggage 128 cases and Anti-Spitting & Littering cases 41.

Change of Name
I, B. SURYA RAO S/o Late B. Appa Rao, residing at Ward No.- 13 Rajak Samaj Dhobi Ghat, P.O.- Nimpura, P.S.-Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur - 721304, have changed my name from SURYA RAO to B. SURYA RAO for all purpose vide Affidavit No. 6299 Dated 05/07/2025 in the Court of the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kharagpur. SURYA RAO and B. SURYA RAO both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Md Shamsad Alam (Old Name) S/o Khairun Nisha Residing at Thanamukha, New Basti Lichubagan, Danesh Sk Lane, Haora- 711109, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Md Shamsad Alam (Old Name) to Shamsad Alam (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shamsad Alam (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Darjeeling on 14/01/2026. IMAOOMAYA KOKE(NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS IMAOOMAYA KOKE(NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. AFFIDAVIT NO 7946 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT DARJEELING ON 14/01/2026. IMAOOMAYA KOKE(NEW NAME) AND ANITA TAMANG(OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, S. Sk Rahim Ali (Old Name), Son of Sk Roof Ali, Resident of Vill- Krishnarapur, Po-Chuadanga, Hooghly- 713702, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Sk Rahim Ali (Old Name) To Abdul Rahim (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Abdul Rahim (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Abdul Rahim (New Name) And Sk Rahim Ali (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Sonam Rohatgi, D/o Shailesh Mani Rohatgi, Residing At Ekta Apartment, 51/A Buroshibhata Main Road, Kolkata - 700038, shall henceforth be known as Sonam Rohatgi instead of Sonam Rohatgi Shah (misspelled in hospital records), vide Affidavit No. 26587 sworn before First Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore on 12/03/2026. Both Sonam Rohatgi and Sonam Rohatgi Shah are the same identical person.

Name Change
I, Preetikana Chakraborty (Old Name) W/o Bidyut Kumar Chakraborty, Residing at Lakshmi Purbayan R-Gopalpur, Rajarhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 700136, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Preetikana Chakraborty (Old Name) to Pritikana Chakraborty (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Pritikana Chakraborty (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 12/06/2026. Pritikana Chakraborty (New Name) and Preetikana Chakraborty (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, RAZYA PARWEEN (old name) W/o MD SHAHID HUSSAIN, residing at 48/A TOPSIA 2ND LANE, KOLKATA- 700039, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from RAZYA PARWEEN (Old Name) to RAJYA PARVIN (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as RAJYA PARVIN (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 12/06/2026. RAJYA PARVIN (New Name) and RAZYA PARWEEN (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Railway Safety Awareness Campaign Held at Kadam Kanan Railway Gate in Jhargram; Safety Message Spread Through Street Play

MI News Service, Kharagpur : On the occasion of the International Level Crossing Awareness Day 2026, the Kharagpur Division of South Eastern Railway organized a special railway safety awareness campaign at Level Crossing No. 81 (Kadam Kanan Gate) in Jhargram. The objective of the campaign was to educate the public about safe practices at railway crossings and help prevent accidents. The program was conducted under the leadership of Babul Barman, Additional Divisional Railway Manager (Operations), Kharagpur Division, with the participation of railway employees and Civil Defence members. As part of the event, an impactful street play (nukkad natak) was staged at the railway gate to raise awareness among road users and local residents about the dangers of negligence at railway crossings. The performance highlighted the consequences of unsafe actions such as crossing railway tracks without caution, ignoring warning signals, attempting to pass under closed barriers, and making unauthorized entry into railway premises. Through realistic demonstrations, the performers encouraged people to adopt safe behavior while crossing railway tracks. During the campaign, railway officials and Civil Defence volunteers distributed safety pamphlets and handbills among pedestrians, motorists, cyclists, and local residents. They also interacted directly with the public and urged them to strictly follow safety regulations while crossing railway tracks. On this occasion, the railway administration conveyed the message, "Life is precious - always stop before crossing a level crossing and pay attention to the gate signals and barriers." According to railway officials, the awareness program received good cooperation and a positive response from local residents. The initiative played an important role in increasing public awareness about railway safety and promoting responsible behavior among road users. The Kharagpur Division regularly conducts such awareness campaigns to reduce accidents at railway crossings and ensure the safety of passengers as well as the general public.

Change of Name
I, Apikundi Venkat Rao, residing at Rly Qtr No- E/2, Unit No- 01, Up-Cutting Kholi, Ward No- 21, P.O.- Kharagpur, P.S.-Kharagpur (Town), Dist.- Paschim Medinipur - 721301, have changed my son's name from A. UPENDRA to APPIKUNDI UPENDRA as declared in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kharagpur, Dist.- Paschim Medinipur vide Affidavit No. 4533, Dated 07/04/2026. APPIKUNDI UPENDRA S/o APPIKUNDI VENKAT RAO & APPIKUNDI SANTOSHI and A. UPENDRA S/o A. VENKAT RAO & A. SANTOSHI both are same and identical person and shall henceforth be known as APPIKUNDI UPENDRA S/o APPIKUNDI VENKAT RAO & APPIKUNDI SANTOSHI for all purpose. Deponent

Name Change
I, Sk Sanowar, Sk Sanowar Ali (Old Name) S/o Sk Sajeman Residing at Vill+Po - G Chakra Berya, District - East Medinipur, Pin- 721631, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Sk Sanowar, Sk Sanowar Ali (Old Name) to Sk Sanoar Ali (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Sanoar Ali (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 11/06-2026. Sk Sanoar Ali (New Name) and Sk Sanowar, Sk Sanowar Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Subhash Debnath (Old Name), Son of Subhakar Debnath, Resident Of Radhakrishna Mandir Para Duttapukur, Nutun Rasta More, Duttapukur, North 24 Parganas- 743248, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Subhash Debnath (Old Name) To Subash Debnath (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Subash Debnath (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Subash Debnath (New Name) And Subhash Debnath (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name), Son Of Late Madhu Sudan Debnath, Resident Of Chhatra Beria, Nutun Rasta More Thana-Barasat, Duttapukur, North 24 Parganas- 743248, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name) To Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) And Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Mantu Saha (Old Name) S/o Akshay Saha, Residing at 8/6/6, Uttar Prasad Nagar, P.O.- Hallisahar, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin- 743135, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mantu Saha (Old Name) to Mantu Kumar Saha (new name) and henceforth I be known as Mantu Kumar Saha (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 12/06/2026. Mantu Kumar Saha (New Name) and Mantu Saha (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, SHIBA KALI BANERJEE (old name) S/O TARAPADA BANERJEE, residing at 111, SOUTHERN AVENUE 5B, ASHOK APARTMENTS, KOLKATA- 700029 West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from SHIBA KALI BANERJEE (Old Name) to SHIB KALI BANERJEE (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as SHIB KALI BANERJEE (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the notary public at Kolkata, on 12/06/2026. SHIB KALI BANERJEE (New Name) and SHIBA KALI BANERJEE (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Fatik Dutta, S/o- Late RAM NARAYAN DUTTA, residing at Vill- Shindaspur, P.O.- Chakrapur, P.S.- Rampurhat, Dist.- Birbhum, PIN- 712232, do hereby declare that in my Voter Card (no. WB/42/291/066409) my name has been wrongly recorded as DUTTA PRASHANTA, S/o- RAM NARAYAN, On 11.06.2026 vide an affidavit (no. 752) before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Rampurhat, I affirm that FATIK DUTTA, S/o- Late RAM NARAYAN DUTTA and DUTTA PRASHANTA, S/o- RAM NARAYAN DUTTA is the same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ranjit Roy (Old Name), S/o- DINAMOHOAN ROY, R/o: VIII- Rajipur Datala Para, P.O. + P.S.- Hasanabad, North 24 Pgs., PIN- 743426, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as ARMAN MONDAL (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Basirhat Court, affidavit no. 23714/26 dt. 09-06-26. RANJIT ROY (Old Name) and ARMAN MONDAL (New Name) both are same and identical person.

Name Change
I, Buluti Shil (Old Name), D/o- MUKUL SEAL, W/o- NILRATAN BALA, R/o- Dogachhiya, Ward No. 1, P.O.- Gayeshpur, P.S.- Kalyani, Nadia, PIN- 741234, have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as BULTI BALA (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public, Kalyani, vide affidavit no. 75 dated 10.06.26. BULTI SHIL (Old Name) and BULTI BALA (New Name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name), Son Of Late Madhu Sudan Debnath, Resident Of Chhatra Beria, Nutun Rasta More Thana-Barasat, Duttapukur, North 24 Parganas- 743248, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name) To Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Satya Ranjan Debnath (New Name) And Saptorjan Debnath (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Gour Chandra Metya (Old Name) S/o Kulbhushan Metya, Residing at Balarampur, Jayramchak, Tamluk, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721137, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Gour Chandra Metya (Old Name) to Gourhari Metya (new name) and henceforth I be known as Gourhari Metya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 11/06/2026. Gourhari Metya (New Name) and Gour Chandra Metya (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Aditya Kumar Kaseria (Old Name) S/o Basant Kumar Kaseria, Residing at 393/IG-Block, New Alipore, P.O.- New Alipore, Kolkata- 700053, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Aditya Kumar Kaseria (Old Name) to Aditya Kaseria (new name) and henceforth I be known as Aditya Kaseria (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 12/06/2026. Aditya Kaseria (New Name) and Aditya Kumar Kaseria (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

CHANGE OF NAME
I hitherto known as MOHUYA PRAMANIK W/O KASHINATH PRAMANICK, R/O Vill- Manik Tala, P.S.- Taher Pur, Birnagar (p), Nadia, West Bengal - 741127, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MOHUYA PRAMANICK.

Name Change
I, Harihar Roy (Old Name) S/o Nandatala Roy Residing at Vill+Po - Sasthitala Domjur, District - Howrah, Pin- 711405, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Harihar Roy (Old Name) to Harohari Roy (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Harohari Roy (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 12-06-2026. Harohari Roy (New Name) and Harihar Roy (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anwar Alam, Resident of 18, DORGA ROAD, BENIAPUR, KOLKATA 700017, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from ANWAR ALAM (OLD NAME) TO MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT NO 24 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) AND ANWAR ALAM (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Srisika Kumari (Old Name), Daughter of Sandeep Kumar Saha, Resident of Diamond Residency Tower-1, Flat-1G, 38/30, CHI MINH SARANI BAKULTALA, BEHALA, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN- 700061, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SRISIKA KUMARI (OLD NAME) TO SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT NO 11 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) AND SRISIKA KUMARI (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Shankari Metya (Old Name) W/o Gourhari Metya, Residing at Balarampur, Jayramchak, Tamluk, Purba Medinipur, Pin- 721137, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shankari Metya (Old Name) to Sankari Metya (new name) and henceforth I be known as Sankari Metya (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 11/06/2026. Sankari Metya (New Name) and Shankari Metya (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Basant Kaseria (Old Name) S/o Uma Shankar Kaseria, Residing at 393/IG-Block, New Alipore, P.O.- New Alipore, Kolkata- 700053, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Basant Kaseria (Old Name) to Basant Kumar Kaseria (new name) and henceforth I be known as Basant Kumar Kaseria (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 12/06/2026. Basant Kumar Kaseria (New Name) and Basant Kaseria (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, T.K Mahanto S/O Haripada Mahanto R/O Bina enclave, Block - II, premises No- 130, Saranua Main Road P.S. Saranua, Kol- 700061 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as TARINI KANTA MAHATA as declared before the Ld. 1st class J.M. at Alipore Court vide Affidavit No.48613 Dated 05.06.2026 T.K MAHANTO and TARINI KANTA MAHATA both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Uma Mallik, W/o. Amiya Kumar Mallik, R/o. 69, Purbachal Pally, Angus, Bhadreswar, Hooghly- 712221, W.B., do hereby declare that I, Amiya Kumar Mallik S/o. Subodh Kumar Mallik, Amiya Kumar Mallik S/o. Subodh Kumar Mallik & Amiya Kumar Mallik S/o. Subodh Kumar Mallik all are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 263, dtd. 11.01.2024, sworn before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court, which names have been recorded in my & my wife's several documents.

Name Change
I, Md MUMTAZ ALAM (OLD NAME), SON OF ANWAR ALAM, RESIDENT OF 18, DORGA ROAD, BENIAPUR, KOLKATA 700017, DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM ANWAR ALAM (OLD NAME) TO MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT NO 24 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. MUMTAZ ALAM (NEW NAME) AND ANWAR ALAM (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Srisika Kumari (Old Name), Daughter of Sandeep Kumar Saha, Resident of Diamond Residency Tower-1, Flat-1G, 38/30, CHI MINH SARANI BAKULTALA, BEHALA, SOUTH 24 PARGANAS, PIN- 700061, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SRISIKA KUMARI (OLD NAME) TO SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT NO 11 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. SRISRIKA KUMARI SAHA (NEW NAME) AND SRISIKA KUMARI (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Marjina Begam (Old Name), wife of Saifulul Islam Gazi, Residing at Vill- Lakshmanpali, PO- Kathur, PS.- Basirhat, Dist.- North 24 Parganas, Pin - 743422, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Marjina Begam (Old Name) to Marjina Begam Gazi (new name) and henceforth I be known as Marjina Begam Gazi (New Name) as declared before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Dated 11/06/2026. Marjina Begam Gazi (New Name) and Marjina Begam (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ali Hossain Laskar & Ali Hussain Laskar (Old Name), Son of Abhanmad Ali Chandatala, Chandannagar-712702, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Ali Hossain Laskar & Ali Hussain Laskar (Old Name) To Ali Hossain Laskar (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ali Hossain Laskar (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Ali Hossain Laskar (New Name) And Ali Hossain Laskar & Ali Hussain Laskar (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nareesh Sharma (Passport no. Z3679826) S/O Mangilal Sharma Residing at Elgin Apartments, 1A, Ashutosh Mukherjee Road, Flat no. 303, Kolkata-700020, Wb. India. That my driving licence no WB01197807736, in my driving licence my short name mentioned as N.K. Sharma and father's name has been mentioned M.L. Sharma, instead of our full and correct name is Nareesh Sharma S/O Mangilal Sharma, in my driving licence. I have been known everywhere as Jyoti Prasad Sharma, which name has been recorded in my daughter's (Mahi Sharma) all documents & academic records. That, I, Jyoti Prasad & Jyoti Prasad Sharma, W/o. Mukesh Kumar Sharma & D/o. Ram Prita Prasad, both are the same & one identical person vide an affidavit no. 4897, dt. 09.06.2026, sworn before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Chandernagore, Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Sahansha Molla S/o Late Asraf Ali Molla Residing at Vill+Po - Nahajiri Madhya Para, P.S - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700104, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my deceased father name from Md Asraf Ali Molla (Old Name) to Asraf Ali Molla (New Name) and henceforth he shall be known as Asraf Ali Molla (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 12-06-2026. Md Asraf Ali Molla (Old Name) and Asraf Ali Molla (New Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Md MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (OLD NAME), SON OF MANDAR MONDAL, RESIDENT OF PATKELPOTA, BAGDA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-743251 WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM MD MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (OLD NAME) TO MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 11/06/2026. MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (NEW NAME) AND MD MOHAMMAD ALI MONDAL (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Sima Shaw (Old Name), Daughter of Kishori Shaw, Resident of 49/5H/95, KARL MARX SARANI, KHIDDIR PORE, KOLKATA-700023, WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SIMA SHAW (OLD NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SIMA DEVI SHAW (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SIMA DEVI SHAW (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT NO 12 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. SIMA DEVI SHAW (NEW NAME) AND SIMA SHAW (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Md Asgar Ali (old name) S/o Sheikh Sobrati, residing at 40, PILKHANA 3RD BYE LANE, HOWRAH - 711101, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Asgar Ali (Old Name) to Asghar Ali (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Asghar Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 12/06/2026. Asghar Ali (New Name) and Md Asgar Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anura Begam (Old Name), Wife Of Ali Hossain Laskar, Resident Of Vill- Pathsalhat, Po Chanditala, Chandannagar-712702, West Bengal Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Anura Begam (Old Name) To Anura Begam Laskar (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Anura Begam Laskar (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Anura Begam Laskar (New Name) And Anura Begam (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Santosh Kumar Gogla (Old Name) S/o Laxmi Narayan Fogra resident of FLT-3B/FLR 3/BL-C, 128/A, Bangur Avenue Sati Mandir, Po- Bangur Avenue, Dist- North 24 Parganas, WB- 700055 have changed my name and henceforth shall be known as Santosh Kumar Fogra (New Name) as declared before 1st Class Judicial Magistrate, Alipore vide affidavit No. 5605 Dated 05.06.2026. That Santosh Kumar Gogla (Old Name) and Santosh Kumar Fogra (New Name) both are same and one identical person, i.e, myself.

Name Change
I, Md Sahansha Molla (Old Name) S/o Late Asraf Ali Molla Residing at Vill+Po - Nahajiri Madhya Para, P.S - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700104, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Md Sahansha Molla (Old Name) to Sahansha Molla (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sahansha Molla (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 12-06-2026. Sahansha Molla (New Name) and Md Sahansha Molla (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, ASHOK SEN & ASHOK SEN (OLD NAME), SON OF ANWAR KUMAR SEN, RESIDENT OF MATIAGACHA BHATURIYA, NORTH 24 PARGANAS-743318 WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM ASHOK SEN & ASHOK SEN (OLD NAME) TO ASHOK KUMAR SEN (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS ASHOK KUMAR SEN (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. ASHOK KUMAR SEN (NEW NAME) AND ASHOK SEN (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, SARUK ALI MOLLAH (OLD NAME), SON OF SAULU ISLAM MULLA, RESIDENT OF PURBA TELARI BAHIRKUNJA SOUTH 24 PARGANAS-743318 WEST BENGAL DO HEREBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM SARUK ALI MOLLAH (OLD NAME) TO SARUK ALI MOLLAH (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS SARUK ALI MOLLAH (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE. VIDEO AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 12/06/2026. SARUK ALI MOLLAH (NEW NAME) AND SARUK ALI MOLLAH (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Shahnaz Begum (old name) W/o Asghar Ali, residing at 40, PILKHANA 3RD BYE LANE, HOWRAH - 711101, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shahnaz Begum (Old Name) to Shahnaz Ali (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shahnaz Ali (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 12/06/2026. Shahnaz Ali (New Name) and Shahnaz Begum (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Komal Kumari Mondal (Old Name), Daughter Of Hari Kishore Mondal, Resident Of Chandannagar, Po Manjhi Batyani Behler, Banka, Bihar- 813202, Do hereby declare that I have Changed My Name From Komal Kumari Mondal (Old Name) To Roushni Parveen (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Roushni Parveen (New Name) In All Purpose. Vide Affidavit Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 11/06/2026. Roushni Parveen (New Name) And Komal Kumari Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, ARSH MULLICK (old name) S/o MOHAMMAD SHAHID, residing at 48/4, TOPSIA 2ND LANE, KOLKATA- 700039, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from ARSH MULLICK (Old Name) to ARSH MALLICK (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as ARSH MALLICK (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 12/06/2026. ARSH MALLICK (New Name) and ARSH MULLICK (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Asian Games gold medallist shooter and pioneering coach Jaspal Rana dies at 49

MI News Service, New Delhi: Jaspal Rana, one of India's finest pistol shooters who made a hugely successful transition to coaching and guided Manu Bhaker to epoch-making twin bronze medals at the Paris Olympics, has shockingly died at a mere 49 years of age after battling cardiac complications.



His international breakthrough was the 25m gold medals at the 1994 Commonwealth and Asian Games. In fact, the Asiad gold was India's first in 16 years after Raja Randhir Singh opened the account in 1978.

Manu Bhaker and helping her secure two bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics, making her the first Indian to achieve such a feat.

As a junior pistol coach since 2012, he also groomed teen sensations such as Saurabh Chaudhary, Anish Bhanwala, and Chinki Yadav. His work with the junior programme created a massive pipeline of international talent, creating a lasting impact on the sport.

AI 171 CRASH ANNIV: Families grapple with loss & despair

MI News Service, Ahmedabad: A year after Air India Flight 171 crashed shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad, killing 260 people, grief remains raw for families, trauma continues to haunt survivors and a final explanation for India's deadliest aviation disaster in recent history has yet to emerge.



she lost her entire world in a single afternoon. "There was no way she could have stayed there alone," Faruk Bhai recalled. "She lost everything. The family decided that she should move back."

TENDER NOTICE

Percentage rate Tender invited vide NleT No.-01/2026-2027, 02/2026-2027 and 03/2026-2027 With Vide Memo No. 343/En, Dated: -11-06-2026, 344/En, Dated: -11-06-2026 and 349/En, Dated: 12-06-2026 Published Date: -12/06/2026 18.00 P.M. by the Prodnhan Manindranagar Gram Panchayat.

E-TENDER NOTICE UTTAR JHAPORDAH G.P. Domjuri, Howrah E-TENDER NOTICE E-Tenders are invited online through https://wbenders.gov.in by the Pradhan, Uttar Jhapordah G. P. for the following NIET:-

EASTERN RAILWAY

E-Auction Notice No. COM/PUB/HWH/26/16, Dtd. 10.06.2026. E-Auction is invited by Sr. Divisional Commercial Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New DRM Building, 4th Floor, near Rail Museum Howrah - 711101 for awarding commercial publicity contract through Video Walls & EMU Rakes over Howrah Division.

NEPAL welcomes Indian mangoes

MI News Service, Kathmandu: In an apparent U-turn, Nepal has said that it has not imposed a ban on the import of Indian mangoes and asserted that permission has been issued for the fruit's entry into the Nepalese market in response to demand and in accordance with certain regulations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the general public that Mr. Dhiman Saha intends to purchase the ancestral property from the following legal heirs and successors (Warisuns), being the persons claiming rights, title, and interest in the property described here in below, namely: Daridra Ranjan Bhuiya, Bangshi Bhuiya, Rama Rani Pal, Soumen Bhuiya, Mona Pal, Kanak Pal, Somnath Pal, Subhrata Das Chowdhury, Mahabharat Bhuiya, Bhagaboti Bhuiya, Bhaskar Bhuiya, Bhaswati, Bhabotsh Bhuiya, Debashish Bhuiya, Manatosh Bhuiya, Chhaya Talukdar, Shyama Kundu, Champa Kundu, Susmita Kundu, Arpan Das, Arnab Das, Biswadip Nandi, Goutam Bhuiya, Uttam Bhuiya, Nikrishna Bhuiya, Gopinath Bhuiya, Sunil Krishna Bhuiya, Pran Krishna Bhuiya, Tapas Kundu, Arpan Das, Bharati Pal, Kalyan Pal, Ratan Pal, Soumitra Pal, Sandip Pal, Barnali Pal, Swarnali Dey, and Kamala Kundu.

Property Description: Situated at Mouza-Sultanpur, J.L. No.-10, R.S. & L.R. Dag Nos.-1861 and 1864. Any person having any claim, objection, right, title, interest, share, charge, lien, encumbrance, inheritance claim, dispute, or demand whatsoever in respect of the aforesaid property is hereby requested to intimate the same in writing, together with supporting documentary evidence, to the undersigned within 15 (Fifteen) days from the date of publication of this notice.

S. E. RAILWAY - TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. 4643-GRC-CE-C-SO-26-2026. For & on behalf of President of India, Chief Engineer (CON)/S/Garden Reach, Kolkata-700043 invites e-tender for the following work: Following tender has been uploaded on website www.ireps.gov.in

ERWWO Concludes Vibrant "Summer Camp - 2026" for Young Students

KOLKATA, 12 June, 2026: The Eastern Railway Women's Welfare Organisation (ERWWO) successfully organized "Summer Camp - 2026" from June 8 to June 12, 2026, at Arunodaya Ghoshapur School. This enriching five-day event was held under the visionary inspiration and guidance of Smt. Seema Deouskar, President of ERWWO. The camp aimed to provide a fun, educational, and rewarding experience, fostering personal growth and social skills among the participants.

Extension of service & Introduction of new Local train over Sealdah Division

For the convenience of passengers, 31776 Dn Krishnapur-Cossimbazar Local will be extended upto Berhampur Court and a new EMU Local train service from Berhampur Court to Lalgola viz 31777 Up Berhampur Court-Lalgola Local train will be introduced w.e.f. 20.06.2026. Detailed timings after extension and of new train service will be as under

Table with 2 main sections: 'Extension of Service' and 'New Train Service'. Each section has a table with columns for Station, Arr. (Arrival), and Dep. (Departure) times.

Azimganj-Berhampur Court Section For the convenience of passengers, the route of 63041/63042, 63045/63046 & 63057/63058 Cossimbazar-Azimganj-Cossimbazar MEMU trains will be extended upto Berhampur Court w.e.f. 20.06.2026. The timings of these three pair trains after extension will be as under:

Table showing train timings for the Azimganj-Berhampur Court section, with columns for train numbers and arrival/departure times at various stations.

Due to extension of 63057/63058 Cossimbazar-Azimganj-Cossimbazar MEMU train upto Berhampur Court, the timings of 63033 Azimganj-Nalhati MEMU Passenger train will be revised w.e.f. 20.06.2026 as under: Revised timings of 63033 Azimganj-Nalhati MEMU Passenger train: Azimganj: Dep. 23.04, Azimganj City: Arr. 23.07, Dep. 23.08, Gosaingram: Arr. 23.15, Dep. 23.16, Barala: Arr. 23.20, Dep. 23.21, Sagardighi: Arr. 23.27, Dep. 23.28, Morgram: Arr. 23.33, Dep. 23.34, Lohapur: Arr. 23.39, Dep. 23.40, Takipur: Arr. 23.45, Dep. 23.46, Nalhati Jn.: Arr. 00.10.

Chief Passenger Transportation Manager Eastern Railway Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

Everyone is bound to suffer, right? Faruk Bhai, Parvez's relative, reflected. "It's been a year, but a young man is gone, a little girl is gone. The pain will always remain." The devastation radiates deepest toward Parvez's wife, Mobbashera Vahora. Pregnant and waiting in London when the flight went down, transforming an ordinary departure into an enduring catastrophe.

বিশত ইংরাজী 12/05/2009 তারিখে এটি ভিডিও হাওয়া অফিসের সাবেক-ম্যানেজার নামা দিলিপমুন্ডে 00645 নং রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত আমোজার নামা দিলিপমুন্ডে সাং-পোস্ট-12 নং পরিষেবে দস্ত, রোড, বানা-বাটরা, কোলা-হাওয়া নিবাসী শ্রী বৈদনাথ মুখোপাধ্যায়, পিতা-পার্বতীদেবী মুখোপাধ্যায়, নিকট উত্তর মাজ মৌজা, J.L. নং -34 হালা 50 নং দাগে 163 খতের মধ্যে 0.2000 অংশে 0.80 শতক শালি জমি যায়া এ দক্ষিণ মাজ নিবাসী শ্রী সুরত বাপ, পিতা-শ্রীমদনমোহন বাপ, সাং-দক্ষিণ মাজ, মহাশয় কে আমোজার নিয়ুক্ত করেন। তৎপর গত ইংরাজী 23/4/2026 তারিখে 1-050/0226/1 2026 নং দিল্লি সাক কোলাবাল, কুঞ্জালপুর গ্রামে পোষ্ট: মুদিরহাট, বানা- জে.বি.পুর নিবাসী সার্বভৌম মিলিক (আধার নং-5176-2418-5032) পিতা-মুত জহর মল্লিক, জাতি-মুসলিম (ভারতীয় নাগরিক) মহাশয়, হাওয়া রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত অফিসে শ্রী বৈদনাথ মুখোপাধ্যায়, পিতা-পার্বতীদেবী মুখোপাধ্যায় বিক্রয় কোলাবাল করেন। বর্তমানে রেজিষ্ট্রী B.L. & L.R.O. অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রী-এর জন্য আবেদন করেছে। উক্ত আমোজার থাকে তাহলে দিল্লির উপর যদি কোন আপত্তি থাকে তাহলে 30 দিনের মধ্যে জানাইতে হবে, অন্যথা আইন মোতাবেক কাজ হইবে।

বিশত ইংরাজী 13/03/2009 তারিখে এটি ভিডিও হাওয়া অফিসের সাবেক-ম্যানেজার নামা দিলিপমুন্ডে 00645 নং রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত আমোজার নামা দিলিপমুন্ডে সাং-পোস্ট-12 নং পরিষেবে দস্ত, রোড, বানা-বাটরা, কোলা-হাওয়া নিবাসী শ্রী বৈদনাথ মুখোপাধ্যায়, পিতা-পার্বতীদেবী মুখোপাধ্যায়, নিকট উত্তর মাজ মৌজা, J.L. নং -34 হালা 50 নং দাগে 163 খতের মধ্যে 0.2000 অংশে 0.80 শতক শালি জমি যায়া এ দক্ষিণ মাজ নিবাসী শ্রী সুরত বাপ, পিতা-শ্রীমদনমোহন বাপ, সাং-দক্ষিণ মাজ, মহাশয় কে আমোজার নিয়ুক্ত করেন। তৎপর গত ইংরাজী 23/4/2026 তারিখে 1-050/0226/1 2026 নং দিল্লি সাক কোলাবাল, কুঞ্জালপুর গ্রামে পোষ্ট: মুদিরহাট, বানা- জে.বি.পুর নিবাসী সার্বভৌম মিলিক (আধার নং-5176-2418-5032) পিতা-মুত জহর মল্লিক, জাতি-মুসলিম (ভারতীয় নাগরিক) মহাশয়, হাওয়া রেজিষ্ট্রিকৃত অফিসে শ্রী বৈদনাথ মুখোপাধ্যায়, পিতা-পার্বতীদেবী মুখোপাধ্যায় বিক্রয় কোলাবাল করেন। বর্তমানে রেজিষ্ট্রী B.L. & L.R.O. অফিসে রেজিষ্ট্রী-এর জন্য আবেদন করেছে। উক্ত আমোজার থাকে তাহলে দিল্লির উপর যদি কোন আপত্তি থাকে তাহলে 30 দিনের মধ্যে জানাইতে হবে, অন্যথা আইন মোতাবেক কাজ হইবে।

Quotation is here by invited by the Executive Engineer, Bidhannagar IT Division, PWD, Room No 115, 1st Floor DF Block Purta Bhavan Sector-I, Saitlake, Kolkata-700091 from eligible contractor for the following work: 1. "Temporary IT infrastructural work in connection with VVIP visit and Jan Kalyan Shivir (JKS) programme at Reapara Shib Mandir Ground under Nandigram-II Development Block, Purba Medinipur on 15.06.2026." SHORT NOTICE INVITING QUOTATION No: WBPWD/EE/BI/NIQ-14 of 2026-27. Last date of submission of Quotation: 13.06.2026 up to 04.30PM. Corrigendum or Addendum if issued will be published only on the website. (https://www.pwdwb.in) Sd/- EE, Bidhannagar IT Division, PWD

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank Branch Office: ICICI Bank Ltd., BP-4, Technopolis Building, 4th Floor, Sector V, Salt Lake City, Kolkata West Bengal - 700091. The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice.

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What is lightning ? How can one stay safe from this hazard, and what should, or should not, be done ?

The monsoon season is underway, and many districts in Jharkhand are experiencing heavy rainfall. While the continuous rain has brought smiles to the faces of farmers, it is proving fatal for others due to lightning strikes—often referred to as *aakashiya bijli*, *vajrapat*, or *thankha*. These strikes affect the general public, and farmers working in fields sometimes even lose their lives. In this article, we will explain how to stay safe from this hazard and outline the necessary dos and don'ts. Let's find out more...

What is a lightning strike (aakashiya bijli, vajrapat, or thankha)?
A lightning strike is a natural disaster that can cause instantaneous death. It often occurs during the monsoon season when lightning flashes across the sky. From a scientific perspective, electricity is generated through the friction of clouds in the sky, creating a negative charge. Meanwhile, a positive charge already exists on the Earth's surface. Consequently, the negative charge in the sky and the positive charge on the ground are attracted to each other. When a conductor comes between these two charges, an electric discharge occurs; however, in the absence of a conductor in the sky, this electric discharge strikes the earth as a lightning bolt (*thankha*).

****Where does lightning strike?***
Lightning strikes are most likely to occur in high-altitude areas, such as mountains or tall trees. There is also a high probability of strikes in areas with abundant water. Since water acts as a conductor for electricity, the risk of lightning striking near water sources is significantly higher.

****What to do to stay safe from lightning strikes?***
o If you are in an open area, seek shelter in a concrete building as soon as possible. o Stay inside your

vehicle during the journey.

o If you are in a forest, seek shelter among small, dense trees.

o Keep away from objects that conduct electricity and agricultural tools or staffs made of metal.

o Arrange to take an injured person to the nearest primary health center immediately.

o Keep yourself updated on weather information via local radio and other communication channels.

What to do if lightning strikes while working in fields or barns:

o If you are working in a field or barn and cannot reach a safe shelter, stay exactly where you are; if possible, place dry materials—such as wood, plastic, a sack, or dry leaves—under your feet.

o Bring your feet together, place your hands on your knees, and bow your head towards the ground.

o Cover your ears and do not let your head touch the ground; never lie flat on the ground.

o In an emergency, call the state helpline number 108 (toll-free) to transport the patient to a health center by ambulance.

What not to do during a lightning strike:

o Avoid doing the following things when lightning is striking: If you are at home, do not go near windows, doors, or verandas, and do not go onto the roof.

o Do not touch water taps, refrigerators, telephones, etc.

o Do not go near ponds or water bodies.

o Avoid contact with electrical appliances or wires.

o Disconnect electrical appliances from the power supply.

o Do not stand in a group; instead, stand apart from one another.



o If walking, do not use umbrellas with metal shafts.

o Stay away from motorcycles, electricity or telephone poles, wire fences, machinery, etc.

o Never seek shelter under tall buildings or electricity and telephone poles.

What to do if struck by lightning

Administering first aid to a lightning strike victim can save their life. In such situations, both the victim and the rescuer must remain aware of the ongoing risk of electric shock. If you are near a tree or in an open area, move the victim to a safe location. When lightning strikes a person, the body's energy is depleted, and the heart suffers a shock; the heartbeat may stop or slow down drastically, and breathing becomes difficult. If the victim's heart stops beating, administer CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation)

lightning strikes 24 hours in advance.

o While the Meteorological Department issues timely alerts via messages, this information often fails to reach people in rural areas.

How lightning affects people
o Lightning can strike a person directly; this situation can be fatal.

o A person can be injured if lightning strikes an object—such as a car or a metal pole—that they are touching.

o Accidents can occur when lightning arcs or strikes an object.

o Accidents can also happen when lightning strikes the ground near a victim, and the resulting ground current travels through the earth to strike them.

Who is at the highest risk of lightning strikes?

The risk of lightning strikes is highest for people working in fields or barns, those sheltering under trees, or those present near rivers, ponds, and water bodies. Being struck by lightning can often prove fatal.

Annual lightning-related deaths in Jharkhand

According to data, 350 people die from lightning strikes across the state every year, while the region experiences approximately 450,000 lightning incidents annually. Tribal people account for the highest proportion of these casualties, at 68 percent. Experts state that the tribal community predominantly resides in the rural areas of Jharkhand; since they live in closer proximity to nature, they face the highest risk of lightning strikes during the monsoon season. Compensation for lightning strike victims

The family of a person who dies due to a lightning strike receives compensation of ₹4 lakh.

oAn injured person receives compensation ranging from ₹4,000 to ₹2 lakh, depending on the severity of the situation.

oCompensation of ₹95,100 is provided if a *kutchha* (mud/thatch) or *pucca* (concrete/brick) house is completely damaged by lightning.

oCompensation of ₹2,100 per hut is provided for damage to hut-style dwellings.

oCompensation of ₹30,000 per animal is provided for the death of a milch cow or buffalo.

oCompensation of ₹25,000 per animal is provided for the death of animals like oxen or male buffaloes.

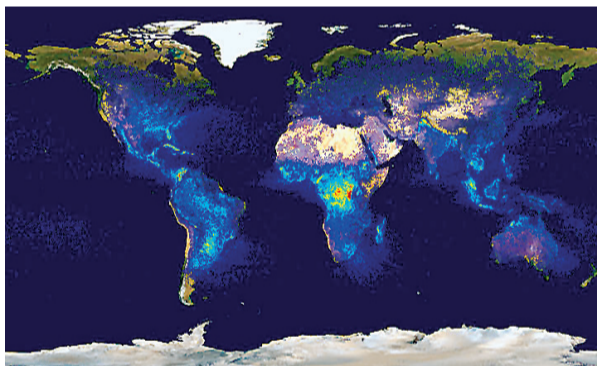
o Compensation of ₹3,000 per animal is provided for the death of sheep, goats, and other livestock.

Madhya Pradesh records the highest number of lightning strikes across the country, lightning strikes occur more than 3.6 million (36 lakh) times annually. Madhya Pradesh records the highest number of lightning strikes, experiencing approximately 650,000 incidents. Chhattisgarh follows next, while Jharkhand ranks fifth among the states prone to lightning strikes. Delhi records the lowest number of strikes. In Jharkhand, lightning often strikes from low-hanging clouds, resulting in greater loss of life and property.

What is the plan for Jharkhand?

There is no state action plan in Jharkhand to mitigate lightning strikes. Although the Meteorological Department issues forecasts, this information fails to reach the panchayat or village levels. Lightning arresters were installed in institutions here about a decade ago, but they are currently not in proper working condition.

Where do lightning strikes occur the most?



Lightning is generated by the interaction between clouds carrying opposite electrical charges (positive and negative) or between clouds and the ground. Tall trees, metal objects, and open fields readily attract lightning.

The highest frequency of lightning strikes in the world occurs over Lake Maracaibo in Venezuela. This phenomenon is also known as 'Catatumbo lightning.'

Details regarding the areas with the highest lightning activity and key facts associated with them are provided below:

1. Lake Maracaibo, Venezuela (Global Hotspot)

This location is known as a 'living laboratory.' On average, there are 140 to 160 nights a year here characterized by intense lightning activity. Lightning strikes occur at a rate of approximately 233 strikes per square kilometer annually. The primary reason for this is the region's geography, where winds from the Andes mountain range interact with the warm waters of the lake to form storm clouds.

2. Central Africa and the Congo Basin

Globally, the Central African region is the second most active area for lightning strikes after South America. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)—and specifically the village of Kifuka—is one of the areas with the highest lightning strike density in the world. Due to the region's forests and equatorial climate, there is an extremely high frequency of lightning strikes per square kilometer each year.

3. Lightning Activity in India. In India, the incidence of lightning strikes often

increases during the monsoon season. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the highest frequency of lightning strikes in the country occurs in the regions of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. The plateau and forest regions of Jharkhand—particularly Ranchi and its surrounding areas—also face a persistent risk of lightning strikes. Hundreds of people in India fall victim to lightning strikes every year.

4. Causes of Lightning and Safety

Lightning is generated by the interaction between clouds carrying opposite electrical charges (positive and negative) or between clouds and the ground. Tall trees, metal objects, and open fields readily attract lightning.

Safety measures:

o If you are outdoors during a storm, never seek shelter under a tree.

o When lightning strikes, move away from open fields and take shelter inside a sturdy building or a vehicle.

o If you are indoors, stay away from windows, doors, and electrical appliances. Scientists are continuously conducting studies in these vulnerable regions across the world. Early warning systems from meteorological centers and disaster management agencies are proving highly effective in alerting people before a lightning strike occurs.

Walking fitness can predict fracture risk : Study

DARLINGHURST: Researchers from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research believe that being able to walk one kilometer comfortably can help predict fracture risk.

The findings, published today in JAMA Network Open, suggested that just asking a patient about walking limitations may assist clinicians in identifying those who require additional bone health assessment and prescribing therapies to prevent fractures.

"We've discovered that trouble walking even short distances appears closely tied to higher fracture risk over the following five years," said lead author of the study, Professor Jacqueline Center, Head of Garvan's Clinical Studies and Epidemiology Lab.

"Just a few simple questions about how far someone can walk could give doctors an early warning sign to check bone health."

The researchers examined data on nearly 267,000 adults aged 45 and older from the Sax Institute's 45 and Up Study, a major ongoing research initiative that has been tracking health outcomes in adults in NSW for more than 15 years.

Participants were asked if health issues limited their ability to walk various distances, with answer options of 'not at all,' 'a little,' or 'a lot.' The group was then followed for five years to track fracture outcomes. The researchers found that one in five adults reported some walking limitation at the beginning of the study. Those with more difficulty walking were significantly more likely to experience a fracture during follow-up. For example, women who said they were limited 'a lot' in walking one kilometer had a 60 per cent higher fracture risk than women with no limitation.

Study reveals key protein that helps prevent excessive bone loss in osteoporosis

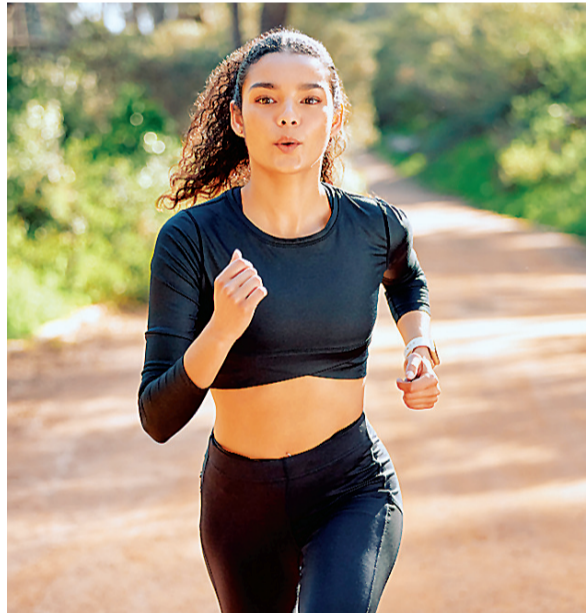
Tokyo : Osteoporosis, a disorder characterised by porous and weak bones, is a major hazard to skeletal health. As the foundation of the human body, bones provide critical structural support. When bone mass decreases, it not only weakens this support but also lowers general function, resulting in a lower quality of life.

With an ageing population and a rise in osteoporosis cases, the burden on healthcare resources for long-term care is clear. As a result, there is a need to understand the mechanisms that cause osteoporosis and develop effective targeted therapies to mitigate its long-term effects.

Osteoblasts and osteoclasts are two types of cells that play critical roles in bone tissue maintenance and remodelling. Osteoblasts are bone-forming cells that synthesise and deposit new bone tissue, whereas osteoclasts break down and remove old or damaged bone tissue. Increased proportion of osteoclasts causes bone mass loss in situations such as

osteoporosis, rheumatoid arthritis (joint inflammation), and bone metastases (cancer that has spread to the bones). Osteoclasts develop from the development of macrophages or monocytes, two types of immune cells. Suppressing osteoclast differentiation could thus be used as a therapeutic technique to prevent bone loss. However, the precise molecular pathways driving the complicated process of bone remodelling are unknown.

In a new groundbreaking study, Professor Tadayoshi Hayata, Mr. Takuto Konno, and Ms. Hitomi Murachi from Tokyo University of Science, along with their co-workers, delved deeper into the molecular regulation of osteoclast differentiation. Receptor activator of nuclear factor kappa B ligand (RANKL) stimulation induces the differentiation of macrophages into osteoclasts. Further, bone morphogenetic protein (BMP) and transforming growth factor (TGF)- β signaling pathways have been implicated in the regulation of RANKL-mediated osteoclast



For men, the increased risk was over 100 per cent.

"We saw a clear 'dose-response' pattern, where greater walking limitation meant higher fracture risk. This suggests a direct relationship between low walking ability and weaker bones," said the first author of the study Dr Dana Bluiuc, Senior Research Officer at Garvan. Approximately



Further, Ctdnep1 knockdown (downregulation of gene expression) resulted in an increase in tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive (TRAP) osteoclasts; wherein TRAP is a marker for differentiated osteoclasts. Additionally, Ctdnep1 knockdown led to an increase in the expression of crucial differentiation markers including 'Nfatc1', a RANKL-induced master transcription factor for osteoclast differentiation.

differentiation. In the current study, the researchers sought to investigate the role of Ctdnep1 - a phosphatase (an enzyme that removes phosphate groups) that has been reported to suppress BMP and TGF- β signaling.

Giving further insight into their work set to be published on July 30, 2024, in Volume 719 of Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications, Prof. Hayata states, "RANKL func-

60 per cent of all fractures in the study were attributable to some level of walking limitation. The link remained strong even after accounting for other factors like age, falls, prior fractures, and weight, and the findings were consistent across different fracture sites like hips, vertebrae, arms, and legs.

"In this generally healthy community-based population, we still found one in five people had trouble walking a kilometer," said Professor Center.

"We think this simple assessment could help identify many more at-risk individuals who may benefit from bone density screening or preventative treatment."

Osteoporosis medications, lifestyle changes, and other interventions are available to improve bone strength and avoid first or repeat fractures. However, screening rates currently remain low, meaning many miss out on fracture risk assessments. Finding easy but accurate ways to detect at-risk people is an important target for research.

"Fracture risk assessment generally relies on a bone density test, which many people have not had when seeing their doctor," said Professor Center. "Asking about walking ability takes just seconds and could be a free, non-invasive way to tell if someone needs their bones checked."

The researchers stress that walking limitations may have many causes beyond weak bones, from heart disease to arthritis. However, difficulty in walking even short distances appears closely tied to fracture risk independently.

"We hope these findings will encourage clinicians to consider walking ability as a red flag for possible bone health issues. For patients, if you can't walk a full kilometer comfortably, it may be wise to ask your doctor about getting your bones checked," said Dr Bluiuc.

unchanged in response to RANKL stimulation. However, it localized in the cytoplasm in granular form in the macrophages and differentiated into osteoclasts, distinct from its normal peri-nuclear localization in other cell types, indicating its cytoplasmic function in osteoclast differentiation.

Further, Ctdnep1 knockdown (downregulation of gene expression) resulted in an increase in tartrate-resistant acid phosphatase-positive (TRAP) osteoclasts; wherein TRAP is a marker for differentiated osteoclasts. Additionally, Ctdnep1 knockdown led to an increase in the expression of crucial differentiation markers including 'Nfatc1', a RANKL-induced master transcription factor for osteoclast differentiation. These results support the 'brake function' of Ctdnep1, whereby, it negatively regulates osteoclast differentiation.

Moreover, Ctdnep1 knockdown also led to increased absorption of calcium phosphate, suggestive of the suppressive role of Ctdnep1 in

bone resorption. Lastly, while, Ctdnep1 knockdown did not alter BMP and TGF- β signaling, cells deficient in Ctdnep1 showed elevated levels of phosphorylated (activated) proteins downstream of the RANKL signaling pathway. These findings suggest that the suppressive effect of Ctdnep1 in osteoclast differentiation may not be mediated by BMP and TGF- β signaling, but, through the negative regulation of RANKL signaling and Nfatc1 protein levels.

Overall, these findings provide novel insights into the process of osteoclast differentiation and reveal potential therapeutic targets which can be pursued to develop treatments that address bone loss due to excessive osteoclast activity. In addition to diseases characterized by bone loss, Ctdnep1 has also been reported as a causative factor in medulloblastoma - a childhood brain tumor. The authors are, therefore, optimistic that their research can be extended to other human diseases beyond bone metabolism.

Iran insists on uranium enrichment, control of Strait of Hormuz under any deal with US

MI News Service, Tehran: Iran insisted on Friday on its right to enrich uranium and maintain control over the Strait of Hormuz under any deal with the United States, after President Donald Trump said a draft accord was ready.



US ally Israel has said that Trump had promised it that any agreement would see Iran stripped of its enriched nuclear material, but Tehran's official news agency said this was not even on the table.

Iran and the United States have engaged in weeks of indirect negotiations seeking to bring to an end the war sparked by US-Israeli strikes on the Islamic republic on February 28.

A ceasefire took effect in April, but sporadic episodes of violence have occurred, each time spark-

ing new fears of a return to all-out war, despite Trump repeatedly stating a deal was within reach.

After inking an initial memorandum of understanding Iran the US would hold 60 days of talks and that "Iran's right to enrich uranium and the retention of enriched material... will be emphasised with a view to their inclusion in the final agree-

ment".

According to sources, Iran would insist on managing traffic through the Strait of Hormuz, the key maritime trade route carrying oil and gas from the Gulf. Tehran has blockaded the international waterway since the outbreak of war with the US and Israel.

Iran, which has only allowed a trickle of ships to pass through the strait, has insisted that vessels obtain permission from its armed forces before transiting.

In Tehran, some ordinary Iranians feared a deal with the United States would entrench the authorities' rule.

"I am not sure how I feel," a 29-year-old who works at a cafe in the Iranian capital told the media on condition of anonymity for fear of retribution.

"I don't know if it will be good or bad for us. The main purpose of this war was for the US to remove the system and this did not happen. So what does a deal do?"

"Iran makes no commitment in this text to cede the management of the strait or the restoration of conditions that ex-

isted prior to the American and Israeli military aggression," Iran's official news agency said, confirming that "the broad outlines of the current text" was being finalised.

Iran's demands could further delay the signing of an accord, despite Trump's optimism spurring a stock market rally and a sharp drop in oil prices.

Claiming that a draft deal had been "brought to the highest level of Iranian leadership and approved,"

Trump cancelled on Thursday a threatened wave of bombings against targets in Iran, adding: "Time and place of the signing to be announced shortly."

Trump said the finer points of the arrangement had been approved by the US and its allies in the region, including Israel.

US plans to slash fighter jets, warships to NATO in Europe: Reports

MI News Service, Washington: The United States plans to slash the number of fighter jets and warships it provides to NATO in Europe, according to media reports.



The reported cutbacks come as European nations race to bolster their defense capacities since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022 sparked fears that Moscow could attack a NATO country.

US President Donald Trump has called the alliance a "paper tiger" and its members "cowards" in frustration that they have not joined the US-Israeli war against Iran.

According to media reports, Washington plans to reduce the number of fighter jets it supplies to Europe by one third, cut all eight aerial refueling tankers and reduce maritime reconnaissance air-

craft. Other assets to be reallocated include a missile-launching submarine, an aircraft carrier, a group of bomber aircraft and several jets and warships.

The US European Command said this month that it would reassess Washington's contributions to NATO to "ensure Europe takes primary responsibility for its own conventional defense."

US General Alexus Grynkevic accused Europe of "an unhealthy co-

dependence" on US forces. The 32-member NATO bloc was founded in 1949 and its collective security is based on the principle that if one member is attacked, the entire alliance comes to its defense.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said last week that Trump will attend a NATO summit in Turkey in July. Rubio described it as "probably the most important meeting in NATO's history, because there's some things that need to be cleared up and fixed."

U.S.-Iran-Israel tit-for-tat attacks spiral into worst escalation since April ceasefire

MI News Service, Cairo: Tensions in the Middle East have escalated sharply in recent days following a series of military exchanges involving Israel, Iran, and the United States, marking the most serious escalation since a ceasefire between the relevant parties in April.

The following is a timeline of key developments in the latest escalation.

The Israeli air force launched a series of airstrikes on the southern suburb of Lebanon's capital Beirut "in response" to Hezbollah fire toward Israel.

Iran launched several waves of missiles against Israel, including the Ramat David Air Base in northern Israel, in retaliation for the Israeli strikes on Beirut, marking Iran's first direct attack on Israel since the April ceasefire. Israel later admitted that the Ramat David Air Base was hit by missile fragments.

U.S. President Donald Trump said he would urge Israel not to retaliate and called for restraint.

Israel carried out strikes on several targets in Iran, including a petrochemical company in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, in response to missile attacks launched by Tehran a day earlier.

Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps targeted Israel's Nevatim and Tel Nof air bases as well as certain industries.

Iran and Israel later said they had halted attacks against each other.

The United States launched strikes on

Iranian air defense, ground control stations and surveillance radar sites near the Strait of Hormuz following the downing of a U.S. Apache helicopter.

U.S. forces carried out additional strikes on multiple targets in Iran.

Iran launched missile and drone attacks against U.S. military targets in Bahrain, Kuwait and Jordan, in retaliation for the U.S. attacks.

Iran's main military command, Khatam al-Anbiya Central Headquarters, announced the full closure of the Strait of Hormuz.

Trump said the United States would hit Iran "very hard tonight" and would soon take control of the country's oil and gas infrastructure.

Later in the day, Trump said he has canceled scheduled strikes and bombings against Iran, citing progress in ongoing negotiations. He also told reporters at the White House that a deal with Iran could be signed in Europe over the weekend.

Iran's semi-official Fars news agency, citing an informed source close to the Iranian negotiating team, said that Iran has approved no draft for a preliminary memorandum of understanding with the United States on ending the war, but that as the United States has accepted Iran's proposed text, "the likelihood of the agreement being approved by Tehran's highest decision-making authorities is relatively high."

European countries ramp up defense spending amid mounting security concerns

MI News Service, Brussels: The recent announcement by the United States that it will reduce military presence in Europe, alongside the European Union's (EU's) persistently tense relations with Russia, has heightened security concerns across the bloc and accelerated efforts to strengthen military capabilities.

On Monday, Belgian Defense Minister Theo Francken announced plans to invest 3.7 billion euros (4.27 billion U.S. dollars) in defense innovation over the next decade. The Defense Ministry said the investment aims to boost research and development and strengthen the country's defense industry.

Countries including Germany, Britain, Poland and Romania have also announced new investment plans in defense spending, military procurement, and weapons production, while the EU's financing mechanisms to strengthen defense readi-



ness have entered the implementation phase, in response to growing security concerns.

On June 5, British Prime Minister Keir Starmer warned of the possibility of Russia attacking a NATO member state and announced plans to raise defense spending to 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) from 2027, with a further increase to 3 percent planned later.

Germany has also expanded military investment. According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, German defense expenditure rose 24 percent year-on-year to 114 billion U.S. dollars in 2025,

exceeding NATO's 2 percent benchmark for the first time since 1990.

German Defense Minister Boris Pistorius has said the government aims to build the strongest conventional army in Europe by 2039. Berlin has also eased borrowing restrictions to support higher military spending and expanded defense procurement programs.

Countries on NATO's eastern flank are moving in a similar direction. Analysts cited by Fox News Digital said Poland, Romania, and the Baltic States have accelerated military procurement and increased defense spending faster than many Western European allies.

Trump says U.S., Iran close to deal, signing expected within days

MI News Service, Washington: U.S. President Donald Trump said Thursday that the United States had "just made a great settlement of the war with Iran," with an agreement expected to be signed "over the next few days." Trump told reporters at the White House that he expected a signing ceremony, attended by Vice President JD Vance, to be held in Europe over the weekend.



He said the documents were in "final shape" and that the deal would be completed "pretty quickly." Asked if Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei had agreed to the deal, Trump said: "I understand the answer is yes." While describing the possible deal as "a little conceptual," Trump said it is "a very strong

memorandum of understanding" and "something that's going to get done."

Tehran has not yet confirmed whether it has agreed to terms with the United States on a settlement to end the war that the United States and Israel launched against Iran on Feb. 28. Earlier on Thursday, Trump vowed to strike Iran for the third consecutive day but announced hours later that he had canceled the plan.

Shooting outside Aden governor's residence in Yemen kills 4

MI News Service, Aden, Yemen: Four people were killed and several others injured after a gunman opened fire outside the residence of Abdul-Rahman Sheikh, governor of Yemen's southern port city of Aden, local authorities said on Friday. The attack occurred on Thursday evening when the armed assailant opened fire on security guards outside the residence, according to a statement by Aden's authorities. Security forces immediately launched a pursuit operation and killed the shooter. The statement said a soldier and a Syrian couple were killed in the shooting, while several others sustained injuries. The couple, a doctor and a nurse, were passing through the area when they were caught in the gunfire, local media reported.

Myanmar's president to pay state visit to China from June 15 to 19

MI News Service, Beijing: At the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Myint Aung Hlaing will pay a state visit to China from June 15 to 19, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.



During the visit, President Xi will hold talks with President Myint Aung Hlaing. Premier Li Qiang and Zhao Leji, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, will meet with him respectively. Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Lin Jian told a daily press briefing.

Noting that China and Myanmar are traditional

friendly neighbors and a community with a shared future, Lin said over the 76 years since the establishment of diplomatic ties, guided by the spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence jointly advocated by the two sides, China and Myanmar have

stood together through thick and thin, looked out for each other and forged solidarity and cooperation, promoting China-Myanmar relations to achieve considerable progress.

Lin said through President Myint Aung Hlaing's visit, China looks forward to working with Myanmar to carry forward the "pauk-phaw" (fraternal) friendship, deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership, secure more tangible results in building the China-Myanmar community with a shared future, and deliver further benefits to the two peoples.

India summons US envoy again over attack that killed 3 seafarers

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday, June 12, summoned US Charge d'Affaires Jason Meeks once again to lodge New Delhi's protest against continuing attacks on commercial vessels off the coast of Oman which recently claimed the lives of three Indian seafarers.



India had on Wednesday, June 10, lodged a "strong protest" over recent attacks on vessels operating near the Strait of Hormuz, including the commercial ship Settebello off the coast of Oman, where three Indian nationals were killed.

"We had summoned the US C&A to register our protest on the attack that happened on this commercial vessel off the coast of Oman Settebello. Three Indian nationals have died in that incident. We conveyed our deepest concerns on these incidents and

the string of attacks that are happening. And we hope and expect that these would end, these would come to an immediate halt. Also our deep concerns regarding targeting of commercial ships, of marine personnel, as also civilian infrastructure. So, we conveyed our concerns to the American side, to the US side on these attacks," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal had stated during a media briefing on Thursday.

The United States said on Thursday that it is in "direct contact" with India on the issue.

Responding to India's diplo-

matic demarche, a US State Department official said Washington remains engaged with the Indian government on the matter.

"The Department of State is in direct contact with the Indian government regarding this matter," the official told IANS.

India has repeatedly stressed the importance of keeping the Strait of Hormuz open to international shipping.

The MEA said all three vessels involved in the recent incidents were foreign-flagged ships.

"As you would have seen in the various reports, as also in what was clarified through our statements and otherwise from this podium, the three ships that have been involved in the incidents are foreign-flagged. Two of them are Palau-flagged, and the third one, which came under attack today, is Guinea-flagged. They are not Indian owned ships,

they are all foreign flagships. I also understand that two of them are OFAC-sanctioned ships and one of them also is in the category of a non-compliant ship," MEA spokesperson Jaiswal said.

The Strait of Hormuz is one of the world's most important energy transit routes, carrying a substantial share of global oil and gas exports. The waterway has become increasingly sensitive as tensions and military activity have escalated across the region.

India has one of the world's largest seafaring workforces, with thousands of Indian nationals serving aboard merchant vessels operating in the Gulf and other international waters. New Delhi has routinely raised concerns over maritime security whenever regional conflicts threaten commercial shipping lanes.

Vipul named India's next ambassador to Saudi Arabia, first non-Muslim diplomat to hold the post since 1948

MI News Service, New Delhi: India has appointed senior diplomat Vipul as its next Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, a move that underscores deepening bilateral ties with the key Gulf nation. A 1998-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, Vipul is currently serving as Ambassador to Qatar. He will replace Dr Suhel Ajaz Khan in Riyadh shortly.



The appointment carries historic significance as Vipul is reportedly the first non-Muslim Indian diplomat to hold this position since diplomatic relations between the two countries were established in 1948. It is being viewed as a symbolic step reflecting India's evolving and global diplomatic approach towards West Asia.

Saudi Arabia remains central to India's foreign policy priorities. As a major energy supplier and host to millions of Indian workers, it plays a vital role in regional stability and global Islamic affairs. Under its ambitious Vision 2030 programme, the Kingdom is transforming into a hub for infrastructure, technology, investment, tourism, and culture. Bilateral relations have expanded significantly beyond oil trade into strategic domains including defence cooperation, security, and economic partnerships.

Vipul brings extensive expertise in

Gulf and international affairs. He has served in Indian missions in Cairo, Colombo, Geneva, and Dubai. In the Ministry of External Affairs, he held key positions including Director and Joint Secretary, working closely with the External Affairs Minister (2014-2017). He later served as Consul General of India in Dubai (2017-2020) and as Joint Secretary (Gulf) from 2020 to 2023 before taking up his current role in Qatar.

An alumnus of IIT Delhi (Mechanical Engineering, 1994) and the Indian School of Business (MBA), Vipul is also known as a sports enthusiast with deep insight into regional politics.

This appointment is expected to further strengthen the multifaceted India-Saudi Arabia partnership in the coming years.

Israel frees Hamas co-founder Hassan Yousef after 2 years

MI News Service, Ramallah: Israel has released Hassan Yousef, a co-founder of Hamas and one of the movement's most prominent figures in the occupied West Bank, after more than two years in administrative detention. His son, Owais Yousef, told AFP that he was released near Hebron and later transferred to a hospital in Ramallah. Photos and videos shared after his release showed the 71-year-old with a bandaged hand and one arm in a sling. The cause of the injury was not immediately known. Yousef has spent decades navigating arrests, detentions and political activism. His latest imprisonment marked the sixteenth time he had been detained by Israeli authorities, according to Palestinian sources.

World first gig economy treaty adopted at ILO

MI News Service, Geneva: The first-ever international agreement on safeguarding digital platform workers in the gig economy was adopted on Friday at the UN's International Labour Organisation.



The agreement is aimed at extending labour protections to hundreds of millions of people worldwide who work through digital platforms, in areas like food delivery and car services.

The convention applies to all platform workers, regardless of their employment status, according to the text adopted by ILO members.

Until now, labour practices have struggled to keep pace with the dramatic shifts in the way

people work. The World Bank estimated in 2023 that there were up to 435 million online gig workers around the globe who had largely fallen outside regular labour protections.

Companies behind the apps control the gig work via algorithms that assign tasks, set pay, evaluate performance and even fire workers.

Despite largely control-

ling the tasks and pay, the platforms typically classify the workers as independent contractors rather than employees.

This allows them in many cases to ignore things like minimum wage requirements, workplace safety and access to social security.

The convention marks "a turning point for platform workers worldwide," said Human Rights

Watch's senior economic justice adviser Lena Simet, who followed the negotiations.

It would establish "the first global standard to protect their rights and hold digital labour platforms accountable", she said.

The convention was adopted at the 114th annual International Labour Conference in Geneva.

Conference president Juan Castillo said, "Delegates, can I then consider that the conference adopts the convention in its entirety? Adopted," bringing down the gavel.

The ILO is unique in the United Nations system in that its 187 member states are equally represented by governments, employers and workers.



FIFA WORLD CUP 2026

US, MEXICO, CANADA

Morning India



THE BEAUTIFUL GAME TAKES OVER THE PLANET

The 2026 FIFA World Cup is finally here, and from the millennials, who grew up waking at odd hours to watch Ronaldo, Zidane, and Ronaldinho, to Gen Z supporters documenting every kick, save, and celebration on social media, football's biggest spectacle has once again united generations in a familiar ritual - sacrificing sleep for the beautiful game.



As the tournament got underway at Mexico City's iconic Estadio Azteca, social media burst into life. Timelines transformed into virtual stadiums as memes, predictions, celebrations, and heated debates flooded screens within minutes of the opening ceremony.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino officially declared the tournament open and presented the World Cup trophy before a packed Azteca crowd, triggering a deafening roar inside one of football's most revered arenas.

Then came the entertainment. Global pop icon Shakira and Nigerian Afrobeats superstar Burna Boy lit up the stadium with a vibrant performance of the official tournament anthem, Dai Dai. The dazzling mix of music, lights, and colour trans-

formed the historic venue into a celebration of football's worldwide appeal. Yet amid the star power and spectacle, Estadio Azteca itself remained the evening's most powerful symbol. Few stadiums carry World Cup history quite like it. Pelé lifted the trophy there in 1970. Diego Maradona followed in 1986. Now, the legendary arena has become the first stadium in football history to host matches across three separate FIFA World Cups. For older fans, it is a journey back to cherished memories. For younger supporters, it is the beginning of

a new one. The faces may change. Technology may evolve. Social media may dominate the conversation. Yet one thing remains constant: when the World Cup begins, the world stops sleeping and starts dreaming.

The 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup began in spectacular fashion on Thursday night as Mexico City's iconic Estadio Azteca hosted a dazzling opening ceremony that blended football, music, and history on a memorable night.

Spanish actress Salma Hayek and FIFA president Gianni Infantino have declared the tournament open and placed the trophy inside the Mexico City stadium. With thousands of fans packing the legendary venue, FIFA President Gianni Infantino officially declared the tournament open before presenting the coveted World Cup trophy to an enthusiastic crowd. The ceremony marked the start of football's biggest celebration and set the tone for a month-long festival across North America.



Mexico ignite WC dream as Quinones and Jimenez down South Africa in fiery opener

The roar inside Estadio Azteca had been building for months. When the moment finally arrived, Mexico delivered exactly what a nation had hoped for — a winning start to the 2026 FIFA World Cup. In front of a packed home crowd, El Tri defeated South Africa 2-0 in a dramatic tournament opener that featured history-making goals, red-card chaos, and the unmistakable sense that Mexico's World Cup journey could be something special.



The hosts wasted little time imposing themselves on the contest. Mexico controlled possession and repeatedly stretched South Africa's defense. Their pressure was rewarded when Julian Quinones etched his name into World Cup folklore, scoring the first goal of the tournament and sending the stadium into delirium. Quinones was the game's standout performer, constantly troubling the South African back line with his pace and movement. The forward nearly doubled his tally before half-time, but the visitors survived the scare and reached the break trailing by just a single goal.

Any hopes of a South African comeback were severely damaged shortly after the restart. With Mexico threatening to break clear, Yaya Sithole hauled down Brian Gutierrez as the midfielder raced through on goal. The referee wasted little time in producing a straight red card,

reducing Bafana Bafana to ten men and shifting momentum even further toward the hosts. Mexico sensed the opportunity and tightened their grip on proceedings. The breakthrough that effectively sealed victory arrived through one of the nation's most experienced stars. Veteran striker Raul Jimenez showed his trademark composure

KOREA ROAR BACK FROM A GOAL DOWN TO BEAT CZECHIA 2-1 IN GROUP A OPENER

ZAOPAN: South Korea came from a goal down to defeat Czechia and start their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign with a 2-1 win at Guadalajara Stadium on Friday (IST). Strikes from Hwang In-beom and Oh Hyeon-gyu sealed a perfect start for the East Asian side who had found themselves trailing to Ladislav Krejci's goal despite dominating the game.

Kovar saved a fierce left-footed strike from Lee Kang-in in the 14th minute before Son Heungmin, making his fourth FIFA World Cup appearance, sent a couple of decent opportunities off target and then couldn't quite connect with another chance in first-half stoppage time. Son was denied again 11 minutes into the second period, once more finding Kovar in his way. Czechia then took the lead against the run of play in the 59th minute, captain Ladislav Krejci soaring through the air to

meet a long throw from the right by Vladimir Coufal and thundering a header past a helpless Kim Seunggyu in the Korean goal, FIFA reports. Hwang restored parity with a delicious effort eight minutes later, though, cutting inside before dinking home after a sublime ball into his path from Lee Kangin, and Oh Hyeon-gyu then completed the turnaround when he tucked in Hwang's low ball from the right in the 80th

I'D SWAP NOT SCORING A GOAL FOR WINNING WORLD CUP: MBAPPE

NEW YORK: France star Kylian Mbappe has underlined the importance of collective success over personal achievements, saying he would gladly go through an entire FIFA World Cup without scoring if it meant lifting the trophy with his country. Speaking to French television channel M6, the 27-year-old reflected on his previous World Cup experiences, winning the title in Russia in 2018.



WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH USA VS PARAGUAY, KNOW ALL DETAILS

LOS ANGELES: Co-hosts USA usher in the second World Cup on home soil with their Group D opener against Paraguay on Saturday (IST). The two sides are familiar foes, with Mauricio Pochettino's men securing a 2-1 victory in Chester, Pennsylvania, in November. Paraguay, who are making their first World Cup appearance since South Africa 2010, qualified for the global final.



WHEN AND WHERE TO WATCH CANADA VS BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA; KNOW ALL DETAILS

TORONTO: Co-hosts Canada get their FIFA World Cup 2026 campaign underway with a first-ever World Cup meeting against Bosnia and Herzegovina in a Group B opener on Saturday (IST). Canada qualified as one of the tournament hosts, drawn into Group B alongside Bosnia and Herzegovina, Qatar, and Switzerland. It is just the third time Canada have starred in.



BRAZIL'S 1970 FIFA WORLD CUP WINNER BRITO PASSES AWAY AT 86

BRASILIA: Brito, who helped Brazil conquer the 1970 FIFA World Cup Mexico, has passed away aged 86. He had been hospitalized for a week with complications due to pneumonia, Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said. The centre-back made his Brazil debut in 1964 and made one appearance, against Portugal, in the global finals two years later. Brito then played every minute of every game as 'The Beautiful Team' won Mexico 1970 in style.

