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KOLKATA

MONDAY, 27 JULY, 2026

PG-8, YEAR—13, ISSUE—56

(RNI NO.: WBENG / 2014 / 56803)

WEBSITE: WWW.LIVE7TV.COM

Morning India

BENGAL govt suspends 5 police officers for TMC era action

MI News Service, Kolkata: Chief Minister Suvenyu Adhikari announced that the Home (police) Department under him had suspended five police officers, including an IPS officer, for alleged dereliction of duty in four different cases reported across Bengal during the Trinamool Congress regime. He said the decision had been made on the basis of preliminary investigations conducted against the police officers concerned. “From 2011 to 2026, when the earlier chief minister was in power, the police were misused in different cases. Today, I am referring to four incidents on which the Home Department has taken certain decisions,” said the chief minister. The decision involves suspension and departmental proceedings against five police officers — IPS officer Koteswar Rao, Amalendu Biswas and Moazzem Hossain, an inspector and an assistant sub-inspector of the state

police, respectively, and Subarna Dutta Choudhury and Sadhan Das, an inspector and a sub-inspector of the Kolkata Police, respectively. Suvenyu referred to the police firing at Chandga village in the Kaliaganj block of North Dinajpur district in April 2024. During a raid in search of people involved in an attack on the Kaliaganj police station following the rape and murder of a minor girl, a police team reached the village and ASI Hossain opened fire, killing local youth Mrityunjay Barman. “Mrityunjay Barman used to work in Siliguri and had come home to attend a wedding. The police were in search of his uncle. When the police could not find him, ASI Moazzem Hossain shot him (Barman) in the chest,” said the chief minister. “I stood by them (Barman’s family) and provided an attendant’s job to his wife. She is a permanent employee now,” said Adhikari. After



voted to power, his government carried out a primary investigation. “Based on it, ASI Hossain is being suspended. An FIR would be filed against him and if required, more stringent steps would be taken,” Suvenyu said. Bishnu, Barman’s cousin, welcomed the decision. “We appreciate the decision and it finally seems that we will get justice,” said Bishnu. The second case that the chief

minister referred to was the alleged mental torment faced by former IG and retired IPS officer Pankaj Dutta. In October 2024, Dutta was interrogated at the Burtolla police station in Calcutta following his remark on a red-light area in Calcutta during a seminar at the Presidency University after the rape and murder of the woman doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital. In

November 2024, Dutta passed away in Varanasi. “Pankaj Dutta was harassed by the police at the instructions of the then chief minister and was made to sit at the police station from 10am to 10pm and was not even offered water. That is why we have decided to suspend Sadhan Das, who was also the investigating officer and Subarna Dutta Choudhury, who was the inspector-in-charge of the police station then,” said Adhikari. Indrani, Dutta’s wife, thanked the chief minister for the two officers’ suspension. “There were lawyers with him but they were not allowed to accompany him. He was harassed in a planned manner and the police and Trinamool were involved in it,” she told. This month, Indrani filed a complaint at the Lake Town police station, naming 11 persons for the alleged mental torment that her husband had suffered. In his speech, the chief minister broached the

vandalism of a Kali idol at Suryanagar in the Kakdwip area of the Sunderban police district in October last year. “People gathered in protest and the police used batons to disperse them. Then, they took the Kali idol to the police station in a prison van,” said Adhikari. “Koteswar Rao, an IPS officer, was the SP of the Sunderban police district then. It has been decided to suspend him,” the chief minister added. Speaking on the same issue, Suvenyu touched on the lathicharge during the immersion procession of Jagaddhatri Puja at Krishnanagar in Nadia district in November 2025. The chief minister said Amalendu Biswas, who was the inspector-in-charge of the Kotwali police station then, had made derogatory remarks and beaten up those who were in the procession. “He is being suspended and departmental proceedings would be initiated against him,” said Adhikari.

Every drop of water saved is our asset : MODI

MI News Service, New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday urged people to conserve rainwater, saying every drop of water saved today serves as the greatest asset for future generations and lauded public participation in the Jal Shakti Ministry’s ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign.



Addressing the 136th episode of the ‘Mann Ki Baat’ programme, Modi said he is delighted to see overwhelming participation by people from villages, cities, panchayats and social organisations in the campaign, which has been underway since July 4. Modi recalled that in the previous episode of ‘Mann Ki Baat’, he had spoken about the ‘Catch the Rain’ campaign and appealed to the people to turn it into a mass movement. “The message of ‘Catch The Rain’ is very simple: conserve the water right where and when the rain falls... Under this initiative, fresh momentum is being given to rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, the rejuvenation of old water bodies, and tree plantation. I am delighted to see overwhelming participation from people everywhere -- be it villages or cities, pan-

chayats or social organisations,” Modi said. Highlighting the steps being undertaken across the country, the prime minister said in some places, silt is being removed from old ponds, while in others, wells and stepwells are being revived. Borewells no longer in use now serve as channels for groundwater recharge. He also spoke about steps taken in parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. “Around 1,500 ponds have been constructed in the Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh. ‘Amrit Sarovars’ have been restored in Narsinghpur, while significant water storage capacity has been developed in Nashik, Maharashtra,” he said. “In Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, all gram panchayats have joined this campaign, and old ponds have been made functional again.

BLACK SEA JOB : MEA issues advisory citing security risks

MI News Service, New Delhi: India on Sunday urged its citizens to carefully assess the security situation before taking up jobs in maritime zones witnessing conflicts, especially in the Black Sea region. In an advisory, New Delhi flagged concerns over the security situation in and around the Black Sea and adjoining maritime areas, saying they “remains highly volatile” due to the ongoing conflict. The advisory came days after five Indians were killed in attacks on two commercial vessels in the Black Sea region in the last one week.



mercant vessels, which has also resulted in the tragic loss of five Indian lives,” it added. The MEA said those who choose to undertake such employment should exercise the utmost caution and observe prescribed precautions.

It appealed to those Indians seeking employment to obtain “comprehensive information from employers/ recruitment agencies and ship operators regarding the vessel’s intended route, ports of call, security arrangements, insurance coverage, and emergency response procedures.” “Ensure that the terms of employment comply with applicable international maritime standards and provide adequate provisions for medical care, evacuation, repatriation, and compensation in the event of an emergency,” the MEA said. It also asked those Indians to keep their family members informed of itinerary and maintain regular contact. “Indian nationals requiring consular assistance are advised to contact the Embassy of India or Consulates in the region,” the MEA said.

“Indian nationals intending to undertake employment on commercial vessels operating in or transiting the conflict-affected region are advised to carefully assess the prevailing security risks before accepting such assignments,” the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. It said the situation in and around the Black Sea and adjoining maritime areas “remains highly volatile due to the ongoing conflict.” “Commercial vessels operating in or transiting these waters are facing significant security risks, including missile and drone attacks,” it said. “Since April, there has been an increase in the number of such incidents on com-

OPERATION SINDOOR sent clear message to Pakistan: RAJNATH SINGH

MI News Service, New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday said Operation Sindoor sent an unequivocal message to terrorists and their backers, asserting that India has the capability to respond to any provocation by Pakistan in a manner “beyond their imagination”. Addressing the 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorations at the Kargil War Memorial in Dras, Singh also ruled out any dialogue with Pakistan except on Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), describing it as an integral part of India under illegal occupation. Recalling Operation Sindoor, launched in May 2025 in response to

the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, Singh said the operation reflected India’s firm resolve against terrorism. “Operation Sindoor made it clear what the fate will be of those who attempt to threaten India with terrorism,” Rajnath said. He asserted that India and its armed forces have the capacity to respond to any misadventure by Pakistan in a manner “beyond their imagination”. “Any evil step towards the sovereignty and integrity of India will meet with the same fate,” the defence minister said. “Will strike by entering their homes”: Rajnath



Singh cites Operation Sindoor in warning to terrorists. Singh accused Pakistan of making terrorism a part of its state policy and reiterated that New Delhi’s position on bilateral engagement remains unchanged. “There will be no talks with Pak-

istan other than on Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir (POK),” he said, calling it “a part of India illegally occupied” by Pakistan. Sharpening his attack on the neighbouring country, Singh said at a time when India is designing ships, Pakistan is busy engaging in terror design. “While we are finding new ways of innovation, Pakistan is seeking new ways of infiltration. Today, India is making data centres but Pakistan is busy creating radical centres,” the defence minister said. Kargil Vijay Diwas commemorates the culmination of Operation Vijay, the name given to India’s military operation to reclaim the heights of Kargil after Pakistan’s infiltration, which culminated on this day in 1999. “The victory in Kargil wasn’t just a military or diplomatic success; our soldiers exhibited indomitable courage and valour. I salute our brave-

hearts and their valour on 27th Kargil Vijay Diwas,” Singh said. Earlier, Singh, Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth, Ladakh Lieutenant Governor V K Saxena, and the GOC-in-C, Northern Command, Lt Gen Pratik Sharma, paid tribute at the Kargil War Memorial here, offering homage to the fallen heroes. Three helicopters in arrowhead formation, led by an advanced light helicopter and followed by two Cheetals, showered floral petals on the memorial from the air to mark the occasion. The defence minister, who arrived here on Saturday, was the chief guest at the ‘Shradhanjali Samaroh’.

shed blood to protect the country,” he added. The minister’s clarification follows claims by the Nah Welfare Society (NWS), which alleged that PLA activities near the Taksing sector had escalated over the last decade-and-a-half. The community organisation had claimed that Chinese military outposts and infrastructure had progressively moved closer to the border, adding that they had previously submitted representations on the matter to senior constitutional authorities and elected representatives. The claims had circulated widely on social media platforms, creating apprehension among residents. India and China share a 1,129-km border in Arunachal Pradesh, a region Beijing claims as part of ‘South Tibet’. India has repeatedly dismissed Beijing’s claims, reiterating that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of the country.

Vessel with 4 Indians struck at Ukraine's ODESA PORT

MI News Service, New Delhi/Odesa: A merchant vessel carrying four Indian nationals was struck at Ukraine’s Port of Odesa, with two crew members confirmed safe while information about the other two is still awaited, the Indian Embassy in Kyiv said on Sunday.



The incident occurred on Saturday when MV AGN Ragnar was hit at the Port of Odesa, one of Ukraine’s key Black Sea ports that has frequently come under attack since the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2022. The Indian mission, in a statement, said it is closely monitoring the situation. “Embassy of India in Ukraine is closely monitoring the situation following the incident in-

volving MV AGN Ragnar, which was struck at the Port of Odesa on July 25,” it said. Four Indian nationals were on board the vessel at the time of the incident, the embassy said. “As per the latest information, two have been confirmed safe, and information is awaited regarding the other two nationals,” it said. Search and

rescue operations are currently underway, the embassy said, adding that it is in constant touch with the concerned authorities to ascertain the status of the missing crew members and extend all possible assistance. There was no immediate information on the source of the strike, the circumstances surrounding the incident or the total

strength of the vessel’s crew. The identities of the four Indian nationals and the nature of their duties on board were also not immediately known. Odesa, Ukraine’s principal Black Sea port, has remained a frequent target of missile and drone attacks since Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Merchant shipping in the Black Sea has periodically been affected despite efforts to keep maritime trade routes operational. India has repeatedly advised its nationals to avoid travel to Ukraine in view of the security situation and has been extending consular assistance to Indian citizens in the country since the conflict began.

No Chinese encroachment in Taksing: ARUNACHAL GOVT

MI News Service, Taksing: Arunachal Pradesh Home Minister Mama Natung on Sunday firmly dismissed allegations of Chinese encroachment into Indian territory in the Taksing sector of Upper Subansiri district, terming the claims “lies and social media rumours”.



Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrations here, Natung said there has been no intrusion by the Chinese People’s Liberation Army (PLA) into any part of the state. “There has been no encroachment in Arunachal Pradesh by the Chinese. All these are just lies and social media rumours. Our jawans are protecting our border 24x7. No Chinese would dare encroach into Indian territory, and I can assure you that these are all rumours and nothing else,” the minister said. Natung highlighted the close bond between the local border populations and the security forces, saying that the people of Arunachal Pradesh remain steadfast in their commitment to defending the nation. “The people of Arunachal Pradesh are always with the Indian Army and are ready to

shed blood to protect the country,” he added. The minister’s clarification follows claims by the Nah Welfare Society (NWS), which alleged that PLA activities near the Taksing sector had escalated over the last decade-and-a-half. The community organisation had claimed that Chinese military outposts and infrastructure had progressively moved closer to the border, adding that they had previously submitted representations on the matter to senior constitutional authorities and elected representatives. The claims had circulated widely on social media platforms, creating apprehension among residents. India and China share a 1,129-km border in Arunachal Pradesh, a region Beijing claims as part of ‘South Tibet’. India has repeatedly dismissed Beijing’s claims, reiterating that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of the country.

ODISHA to get Rs 14,257 Cr AI data centre

MI News Service, Cuttack: A world-class AI data centre and global delivery centre will come up in Odisha with an estimated investment of around 14,257 crore. The Odisha government recently signed an MoU with HCLTech to establish the facilities. The AI data centre will be established within the Sovereign AI Park with SarvamAI. The project is intended to provide secure, scalable and inclusive digital infrastructure for government, research institutions, startups and enterprises, officials said. Chief minister Mohan Charan Majhi said: “This partnership will strengthen Odisha’s position as one of India’s lead-

ing centres of technology, innovation and knowledge economy.” HCLTech will also establish an AI and digital engineering global delivery centre in Bhubaneswar in two phases. The facility is expected to generate more than 5,000 direct jobs and thousands of indirect employment opportunities. HCLTech chairperson Roshni Nadar Malhotra said: “In line with the Digital India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we strive to be an enabler of India’s sovereign AI ecosystem with differentiated offerings across the value chain through focused investments and partnerships.”

SATYAJIT RAY was class apart: CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

MI News Service, Washington: Oscar-winning filmmaker Christopher Nolan has praised legendary Indian auteur Satyajit Ray during a visit to the Criterion Closet at the Criterion Collection in New York. In a video shared by the Criterion Collection, Nolan browsed through the shelves containing more than 1,000 acclaimed films, selecting some of his favourites while discussing their influence on his work. Among the titles he picked was Satyajit Ray’s The Apu Trilogy. Praising the celebrated filmmaker, Nolan said, “And then there’s The Apu Trilogy by Satyajit Ray,



one of the great Indian filmmakers. The trilogy starts with Pather Panchali, which is an absolutely incredible film. It just blew my mind. I haven’t yet seen parts two and three of the trilogy, so I’m

pretty excited to get this and complete the story.” Based on the novels by Bibhutibhusan Bandyopadhyay, The Apu Trilogy comprises Pather Panchali (1955), Aparajito (1956) and Apur Sansar (1959). The films chronicle the life of Apu from his childhood in a poor rural village to adulthood. The trilogy won three National Film Awards and received multiple honours at the Cannes, Berlin and Venice film festivals. Meanwhile, Nolan’s latest release, The Odyssey, continues its strong run at the global box office.

Humayun Kabir's follower
Selim arrested after
MLA's controversial
remarks in the meeting

MI News Service, Murshidabad: This time, a follower of Humayun Kabir has been arrested by the police. The name of the arrested person is Salim Sheikh. He is a leader of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party. His home is in the Nabagram area of Shaktipur police station in Murshidabad. The police of Shaktipur police station arrested him from his home late on Saturday night. The arrested person was produced in the district court in Berhampore on Sunday. It is alleged that Aam Janata Unnayan Party leader and MLA Humayun Kabir made controversial comments in a meeting in Shaktipur area. Salim Sheikh was also present in that meeting.

Humayun Kabir made a controversial remark at a public meeting in Kashipur area of Rejinger. A massive uproar broke out immediately after this statement. Chief Minister Shuvendu Adhikari warned Humayun Kabir in the assembly. After that, a written complaint was filed in the police station against Humayun.

After the Chief Minister's strong message, the police arrested the three organizers of the meeting. Not only that, the police called Humayun Kabir to the police station several times and interrogated him for a long time. The investigators also went to the MLA's house. After the prolonged interrogation, Humayun Kabir softened his tone a bit. However, the police are conducting interrogation and investigation. In that case, the police have now arrested Salim Sheikh. Although Humayun Kabir has not commented on this issue.

Child disappears from empty
house; body recovered from
forest 24 hours later

MI News Service, West Burdwan: Missing since Saturday. The body of the child was recovered in the forest near the house on Sunday morning. Local residents recovered the body after hearing the barking of dogs. The incident took place on Sunday morning in Turi Para, ward number 54 under Asansol South Police Station. But the child was not found there when a search was conducted in the forest the previous day. This is the claim of the family. How did the body end up in the forest in a few hours? Questions are being raised about it. The incident has spread a lot of excitement in the area. According to police and local sources, the deceased's name is Ritwik Ruz. He is six years old. The boy went missing since Saturday morning. Ritwik's father, Chhotu Ruz, is a mason by profession. His mother, Purnima Ruz, works as a housemaid. On Saturday morning, both of them went out to work. When they returned home, they found that their son was not at home. They began searching. But no trace was found. By evening, they lodged a missing person complaint with the police. The police also launched an investigation. But no trace was found. On Sunday morning, two local youths saw a pack of dogs howling in the forest, some distance from the child's house.

PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya
No. 2, Kharagpur Constitutes
Student Council; Newly
Appointed Office-Bearers Take
Oath at Investiture Ceremony



MI News Service, Kharagpur: PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 2, Kharagpur, organised a grand Investiture Ceremony on Monday to mark the formation of its Student Council. The programme was inaugurated by the school's Principal, Sangram Banerjee. During the ceremony, the Principal announced Prasanna Patnaik and P. S. Likhita as the School Captains, D. K. Nayak and Jiya Gop as the School Vice Captains, and Abhijeet Das and Visheshata Yadav as the School Sports Captains. The newly appointed student leaders were honoured with badges and sashes. Their names were greeted with loud applause from students and staff present at the event. To promote Creative Learning Activities (CLA), the school has constituted four houses—Subhash House, Tagore House, Ashok House, and Raman House. Each house has appointed House Captains, House Vice Captains, House CLA Captains, and House Sports Captains for both boys and girls.

The House In-charges—Ukil Murmu (Librarian) for Subhash House, Rafat Parveen (TGT, Social Science) for Tagore House, Sneha Biswas (TGT, Science) for Ashok House, and Samyukta Shukla (TGT, Science) for Raman House—joined Principal Sangram Banerjee in presenting badges and sashes to the respective house office-bearers. In the Primary Section, four boys and four girls from each house were also selected as House Captains to lead Creative Learning Activities. They were presented with badges and sashes by Principal Sangram Banerjee and Headmistress Ratna Basu. During the ceremony, newly appointed School Captain P. S. Likhita administered the oath of office and secrecy to all members of the Student Council. Principal Sangram Banerjee congratulated the newly elected student leaders and urged them to carry out their responsibilities with discipline, leadership, integrity, and a strong sense of responsibility. The event was attended by senior teacher Himani Mehta, Headmistress Ratna Basu, CLA In-charge Jayshankar Prasad, members of the teaching staff, and a large number of students. The ceremony concluded on an enthusiastic note, with students warmly welcoming their respective houses and celebrating the spirit of leadership and teamwork.



West Bengal Panchayat & Rural Development Minister Dilip Ghosh inaugurating a new diagnostic center of SSRM Diagnostics at Pailan Hat, South 24 Parganas on Sunday. Among those present in the inauguration programme are Satgachia MLA Agnishwar Naskar, Falta MLA Debanshu Panda, Behala East MLA Shankar Sikdar, Pailan Group of Institutions Vice-Chairperson Munmun Saha, Registrar Kunal Chakraborty, eminent doctors, and other distinguished guests.

BJPL: An IPL-style tournament

MI News Service, Kolkata: The grand inauguration of BJPL: An IPL-style tournament will take place on Monday at Silver Spring on the EM Bypass in Kolkata. In view of this tournament cricket fever is set to grip the venue. The event will feature a face-off with bat in hand between the Chief Guest—State Minister for Industries and Commerce Tapas Roy—and the State Sports Minister Indranil Khan. The event will start at 11:00 AM on Monday. Renowned cricketers will also participate in the match.



Ichapur boy wins Gold in KV National Sports meet 2026. Saptarshi Sutradhar, a student of Kendriya Vidyalaya No.2 Ishapore won Gold medal in 55th kendriya vidyalaya Nationala.

Former Krishnanagar Kotwali IC Suspended
Over Jagaddhatri Immersion Lathi-Charge Row

MI News Service, Krishnanagar: Nearly a year after the controversial police lathi-charge during the Jagaddhatri Puja immersion procession in Krishnanagar, former Inspector-in-Charge (IC) of Krishnanagar Kotwali Police Station, Amlendu Biswas, has been suspended. Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari announced the decision in the West Bengal Assembly on Saturday, marking a significant administrative action over one of Nadia district's most debated law-and-order incidents.

The controversy dates back to last year's Jagaddhatri Puja immersion at Kadamtala Ghat, where massive crowds and congestion disrupted the procession. Police resorted to a lathi-charge to restore order, triggering widespread criticism from devotees, local residents and political parties. The incident quickly snowballed into a major political flash-point.

At the time, Krishnanagar Police had maintained that members of the Chakerpara Barowari Puja Committee violated the designated immersion protocol by halting their idol outside the earmarked zone, causing delays to other immersion processions and obstructing police personnel from carrying out crowd-management duties.



According to the police, repeated appeals to clear the route went unheeded, while some organisers allegedly abused officers and misbehaved with women police personnel. Officials claimed that a "mild lathi-charge" became necessary to restore order. Cases were subsequently registered on charges including obstruction of public servants in the discharge of duty and alleged assault on a woman police officer.

The incident, however, took a new turn after a video circulated on social media allegedly showed then IC Amlendu Biswas using abusive language while dealing with the crowd. The footage intensified public outrage and drew sharp criticism from the Opposition.

Then Leader of the Opposition Suwendu Adhikari had accused the police of gross mismanagement during one of Bengal's most prominent re-

ligious festivals, alleging that the use of force was an attempt to cover up administrative failure rather than a legitimate crowd-control measure.

Announcing the suspension in the Assembly on Saturday, Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari did not elaborate on the disciplinary proceedings. However, political observers view the decision as a delayed but significant administrative response to the controversy that had dominated public discourse following last year's immersion.

The Jagaddhatri Puja immersion in Krishnanagar attracts thousands of devotees every year and is regarded as one of the district's largest religious processions. The suspension of the former Kotwali IC is expected to revive debate over police accountability, crowd management and administrative responsibility during major public events.

Massive Fire Breaks Out in Truck Carrying
LPG Cylinders; Panic Over Explosion Risk



MI News Service, Kharagpur: Panic gripped the Lankagarh area under Daspur Police Station in Paschim Medinipur district on Sunday morning after a truck loaded with LPG cylinders caught fire, raising fears of a major explosion. According to eyewitnesses, the truck was passing through the area when the driver and local residents noticed smoke and flames emerging from one of

its wheels. As the fire intensified, concern spread rapidly because the vehicle was carrying a large number of cooking gas cylinders. The fire department was immediately alerted, and a fire engine reached the spot without delay. Firefighters launched a swift operation to bring the blaze under control. Considering the risk of a massive explosion, police and local authori-

ties cordoned off the area and moved nearby residents to a safe distance as a precaution. The incident triggered panic and chaos for some time. However, thanks to the prompt response of the fire brigade, the fire was brought under control before it could spread further, preventing a major disaster.

No casualties or injuries have been reported so far. The exact cause of the fire is yet to be determined. Preliminary suspicion suggests that a short circuit or some other mechanical or technical fault may have triggered the blaze. The fire department and police have launched a joint investigation into the incident. Officials said the situation is now completely under control, and a detailed probe is underway to ascertain the exact cause of the fire.

Jhalda Municipality
Chairman resigns

MI News Service, Purulia: Purulia's Jhalda Municipality Chairman Suresh Agarwal resigned citing health reasons. He sent his resignation letter to the Jhalda Sub-Divisional Magistrate on Saturday. Along with the position of Chairman, he also resigned from the post of Councillor of Ward No. 6. He mentioned this in the resignation letter. A copy of the resignation letter was also sent to the state's Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister, the Principal Secretary of the department, the District Magistrate of Purulia and the Executive Officer of the Municipality.

There are a total of 12 seats in this municipality. In the 2022 municipal elections, the Trinamool Congress won 8 seats. The Congress and independents won two seats each. Later, two independent councillors joined the Trinamool. Suresh Agarwal served as the Municipality Chairman with the support of 5 Trinamool councillors and 2 Congress councillors. The remaining 5 Trinamool councillors opposed Suresh. Congress councillor Purnima Kandu has died.

TMCP leader arrested

MI News Service, Purulia: Trinamool Chhatra Parishad district president Kiriti Acharya has been arrested in Purulia. The police have arrested him on charges of financial fraud. He was arrested on Saturday night.

According to police sources, there are a number of allegations against Kiriti Acharya, including financial fraud. He had not been seen since the Trinamool Congress's crushing defeat in the recently concluded assembly elections. This student leader, who was active on social media, had remained silent. Finally, he was arrested on Saturday night and taken to the police station. It is said that after the Trinamool Congress broke up, he was working as a Mamata supporter. However, he was not seen in public like that. During the Trinamool era, he used to continuously attack the BJP and the central government on various issues on social media. However, after the change of government, he was not seen like that on social media. He was not seen in the area either.

It is worth mentioning that a few days ago, the police arrested the vice-president of Purulia Zilla Parishad, Sujoy Banerjee. The vice-president of Purulia Zilla Parishad, Sujoy Banerjee, has been arrested on charges of abetting fraud in the BJP government's Annapurna Yojana for women. The police also arrested him from his house. His nephew, Kripasindhu Banerjee, vice-president of Pancha Panchayat Samiti, was also arrested.

Hardly had the repercussions of that incident subsided, when a Trinamool student leader has been arrested again in Purulia.

Gram Panchayat
Employee Detained for
Allegedly Attempting to
Remove Official Files

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Tension prevailed in the Chandrakona area of Paschim Medinipur district after a Gram Panchayat employee was allegedly caught attempting to take official government files out of the Bhagabanpur-I Gram Panchayat office.

According to local sources, late at night, residents noticed a Panchayat employee leaving the office premises carrying a bag containing what appeared to be official files. Growing suspicious, they informed the police. Acting on the information, police reached the spot, detained the employee, and searched the bag.

During the search, police reportedly recovered a large number of official files and important government documents from the bag. The recovered documents were seized, and an investigation was initiated. The incident has raised several questions in the area. Residents are asking why government files were allegedly being taken out at night and whether there was any attempt to remove or conceal important official records. The incident has sparked widespread discussion among locals. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has also levelled serious allegations over the matter. BJP leaders claimed that there was an attempt to remove important Panchayat records and demanded a fair, transparent, and high-level investigation. The party has also called for strict action against those found responsible. Police said that all the recovered documents are being examined to determine why they were being taken out of the office and whether any other individuals were involved in the incident. Investigators are probing the case from all possible angles. However, no official statement has yet been issued by the administration regarding the incident. The investigation is ongoing, and local residents are awaiting the outcome of the police probe.

Fake ST Certificates Under Scanner: Reserved Jobs Allegedly
Usurped, IIT-Kharagpur Appointment Faces Scrutiny

MI News Service, Kalyani: Allegations of large-scale misuse of Scheduled Tribe (ST) certificates in recruitment to government and centrally funded institutions have reignited concerns over the integrity of the reservation system in West Bengal. A tribal rights organisation has accused several individuals of securing jobs under the ST quota using allegedly fraudulent caste certificates, depriving genuine tribal candidates of constitutionally guaranteed opportunities.

The complaint, supported by documentary evidence, has been submitted to the State Backward Classes Welfare Department by Parsal Kisku, State Observer of the West Bengal Adivasi Welfare Association. According to him, appointments made through the West Bengal College Service Commission (WBSCS), the Fire and Emergency Services Department, the Health Department and other public institutions are now under the scanner.

One of the most significant cases pertains to the recruitment of a Junior Assistant at IIT Kharagpur. The institute had issued a recruitment notification in 2022, with the final merit list published on May 11, 2023. As per the complaint, Debraj Biswas of Hosenpur in Nadia district was appointed against an ST-reserved vacancy, while Rahul Mandi, a genuine tribal candidate, was placed on the waiting list and allegedly lost the opportunity.

Following the complaint, an official verification was initiated. Investigators found that the ST certificate, originally issued in 2012 by the Ranaghat Sub-Divisional Office, had subsequently been declared invalid. On June 5 this year,



Ranaghat Sub-Divisional Officer Mohammad Subur Khan cancelled the certificate and informed IIT Kharagpur of the decision. He also indicated that an FIR would be lodged against those responsible.

The matter is now before IIT Kharagpur's legal cell. Registrar Achintya Kumar Mondal confirmed that the employee is presently serving at the institute's Affordable Health Centre and that further action would be taken in accordance with legal procedures.

Kisku has alleged that the issue extends far beyond a single appointment. He claimed that 19 Assistant Professors recruited through the 2020 West Bengal College Service Commission selection process and another 12 recruited under the 2015 notification allegedly obtained appointments in ST-reserved posts using fraudulent caste certificates. Complaints, along with supporting documents, have already been submitted to the concerned authorities.

Responding to the allegations, WBSCS Chairman Prof. Souren Bandyopadhyay said that the Commission would verify any complaint received through proper channels and initiate action if irregularities were established.

The State Government has

also acknowledged the seriousness of the issue. Backward Classes Welfare Minister Gaurishankar Ghosh stated that around 700 fake caste certificates have already been cancelled since the present government assumed office. He added that investigations into a much larger number of allegedly fraudulent certificates are underway and are expected to be completed by November. Those found to have secured employment using forged caste certificates may face cancellation of appointments, while the vacancies would be filled by eligible candidates as per reservation norms.

The Minister further said that officials found complicit in issuing fraudulent certificates would also face legal action.

The controversy has once again highlighted the vulnerability of the reservation system to abuse. Tribal organisations argue that every fraudulent appointment not only violates the law but also deprives deserving Scheduled Tribe candidates of employment and educational opportunities guaranteed under the Constitution. As investigations gather pace, attention is now focused on the response of the concerned institutions and the legal consequences that may follow.

Road, riverside infrastructure missing, Rs 4.2
crore Kalyani electric crematorium remains shut

MI News Service, Kalyani: A modern electric crematorium built at a cost of ₹4.2 crore under the Centre's National Mission for Clean Ganga (Namami Gange) in Kalyani has remained non-functional despite completion of its core infrastructure, with the absence of basic civic facilities delaying its commissioning.

The crematorium, located on the banks of the Bhagirathi in Ward No. 7 of Kalyani Municipality, was conceived as an eco-friendly alternative to conventional wood-based cremation, aimed at reducing air pollution and preventing river contamination. The facility is equipped with a 30-metre chimney and a water scrubber system designed to filter smoke and prevent harmful particulate emissions, making it one of the more advanced cremation units planned for the region.

However, the project has hit a roadblock because the last stretch leading to the crematorium - nearly one kilometre long and about 14 feet wide - is still unpaved. The site also lacks a permanent ghat for immersion of ashes after cremation. Other planned amenities, including a waiting hall for bereaved families, a prayer space



and a parking area, are yet to be completed.

As a result, residents of Kalyani, Gayeshpur and neighbouring areas continue to depend on the crematorium at Halisahar in North 24 Parganas for last rites. Apart from the inconvenience of travelling outside the district, families also have to complete certain post-cremation civic formalities there.

The prolonged delay has raised questions over why the supporting infrastructure was left incomplete despite the completion of the main project funded under a central government scheme.

Following reports on the issue, BJP MLA from Kalyani Anupam Biswas, Sub-Divisional Officer Nilanjan Tarafdar and Kalyani Municipality Administrator Urmi Sanyal visited the

site to assess the pending work.

Biswas said the electric furnace is ready for operation but cannot be commissioned until the remaining infrastructure is completed. According to him, the approach road needs to be paved, a proper riverside ghat has to be constructed and other ancillary facilities must be put in place. He added that the matter has been formally brought to the attention of Nadia District Magistrate Srikantha Palli.

Officials indicated that the crematorium can be made operational once the remaining civil works are completed. Until then, the Rs 4.2-crore facility, built to promote cleaner and environmentally sustainable cremation practices, will continue to remain idle despite being structurally ready.

Press Club of Kharagpur Holds Silent Protest
March Against Alleged Attack on Journalists



MI News Service, Kharagpur: The Press Club of Kharagpur on Sunday organised a large silent protest march and a roadside meeting in the city to condemn the alleged attack on journalists in Kolkata.

A large number of journalists, social workers, and representatives from various media organisations participated in the demonstration, expressing solidarity against the rising attacks on media personnel.

The silent march began from the Begda area of Kharagpur city and proceeded via Mahavir Petrol Pump to the Bogda Post Office area, where a public

meeting was held. Throughout the march, participants staged a peaceful protest, urging the authorities to ensure the safety of journalists and uphold the freedom of the press, often regarded as the fourth pillar of democracy.

Addressing the gathering, senior social worker and media personality Dr. Dipak Kumar Dasgupta, along with Suman Kumar Das, Tarkeshwar Ojha, Abhimanyu Gupta, D. Bhanu, Jitesh Borker, Subhash Lal, Rajendra Rao, Ajay Kumar Sharma, S. A. Khan, and Manik Mondal, strongly condemned the alleged attack on journalists

programme, all participants reaffirmed their commitment to protecting the unity of journalists, freedom of expression, and democratic values. They conveyed a clear message that attacks on journalists would not be tolerated and that their voices would continue to be raised until justice is delivered.

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CPIM's Salim Says Chief Minister Is "Threatening Like a Gang Leader" in the Assembly



Nurul Islam Khan : Following the recent Left Front students' and youth protest in Kolkata, during which journalists were allegedly attacked and there were clashes with the police, the police have identified around 70 people in connection with the unrest. Chief Minister Shuvendu Adhikari, addressing the Assembly, announced that those responsible would face exemplary punishment under the Anti-Goondaism Act. He also warned that the accused and "their next three generations" would remember the punishment. His remarks have triggered public debate.

Speaking on the issue, CPI(M) State Secretary Mohammed Salim described the attack on journalists as unfortunate. However, he also alleged that many journalists working as "godi media" (a term used by critics for media perceived as being aligned with the ruling establishment) spread hatred in society and said the media should report news impartially. Several organisations and opposition leaders have questioned whether only Muslims are being held responsible for the violence. They argued that outsiders could also have infiltrated the procession and created disorder, and questioned why members of a particular community were allegedly being singled out. Expressing strong criticism of the Chief Minister's remarks on the Anti-Goondaism Act, Salim alleged that the Chief Minister was violating parliamentary norms and "issuing threats in the Assembly like a gang leader." He further claimed that, in the name of

the Anti-Goondaism Act, the government was encouraging intimidation and using the police to carry out such actions. Salim questioned how a Chief Minister could issue such threats against protesters. Drawing a historical comparison, he referred to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's remark, "Nani yaad aa jayegi" ("You'll remember your grandmother"), and said that now the Chief Minister had declared that the punishment would be remembered for "three generations." He further remarked that authoritarian threats do not last long and suggested that the Chief Minister should learn from former Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee. Referring to the "Abhaya" movement, Salim claimed that similar threats had been issued in the past and that student protesters had been summoned to Lalbazar while cases were registered against them at four police stations. According to him, such actions did not intimidate protesters; rather, those who had committed wrongdoing were the ones who should be afraid. Salim also alleged that "good goons" were being made to wear BJP jerseys. He claimed that the real objective was to intimidate protesters but argued that the more fear the government tried to create, the larger the protest marches would become and the stronger public resistance would grow. He said that, if necessary, they would seek legal remedies through the courts. Referring to the NEET controversy, Salim asserted that the Union Education Minister had eventually bowed to public pressure because of sustained protests. He concluded by reminding the Chief Minister of the Bengali proverb: "Hati ghora gelo to, mosha bole koto jol" ("When elephants and horses have crossed the waters, the mosquito asks how deep it is"), using it as a criticism of what he described as misplaced bravado.

Closing Ceremony of the 150th Anniversary Celebration hold at College Street Coffee House



MI News Service, Kolkata: Closing Ceremony of the 150th Anniversary Celebration was held in College Street Coffee House from Albert Hall to Bharat Sabha Hall in Kolkata on Sunday. Subsequently, a discussion meeting for school and college students was held at Bharat Sabha Hall on the topic "The Role of Bharat Sabha in Nation-Building." At the conclusion of the session, certificates and mementos were presented to all participating students. The third segment began with

the garlanding of Surendranath Banerjee's portrait, the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, the opening song, and the welcoming of guests. The seminar — the theme "Democracy, Good Governance, and the Rule of Law" — featured discussions by Professor Pradip Bhattacharya (former Rajya Sabha MP), Professor Bimal Shankar Nanda, Bharat Sabha President Anil Kumar Ray, General Secretary Manikchand Dolai, and other distinguished personalities.



Accused persons arrested in connection with the alleged assault on journalists during last Friday's student rally are produced before the Bankshall Court in Kolkata on Sunday.

Dharmatala violence: TMC worker held, political brew

MI News Service, Kolkata: The arrest of Mohammad Afroz in connection with the alleged harassment of journalists during the student protest at Dharmatala has intensified political scrutiny, with questions surfacing over his reported links to the Trinamool Congress. Kolkata Police have so far arrested 14 people in connection with Friday's violence, while investigations continue to examine the backgrounds of those held and their possible involvement in the incident. Afroz, a resident of the

Metiaburuj area, has emerged as one of the key accused in the case. Following his arrest, investigators widened their probe, examining his activities and digital footprint. Attention has also shifted to his alleged political association after photographs and videos circulating on social media appeared to show him participating in Trinamool Congress programmes and election campaigns. Several images depict him carrying party flags and attending political rallies, while other

posts suggest he campaigned for Abdul Khalek during the Assembly election. Khalek currently represents the Metiaburuj Assembly constituency. The controversy deepened after social media content linked to Afroz drew attention. Multiple photographs, reels and short videos purportedly uploaded from his accounts feature firearms and references to "Team Mafia" and "Mafia Gang." However, the authenticity of these visuals has not been independently verified, and investigators have

not publicly confirmed whether the weapons shown were genuine or replicas. Police are examining the material as part of the ongoing investigation. The developments triggered speculation over whether Afroz enjoyed proximity to local political leaders. Responding to the controversy, Metiaburuj MLA Abdul Khalek firmly denied having any personal acquaintance or connection with the arrested youth. He maintained that political rallies often witness the participation of

large numbers of people, making it impossible to know every individual present. Khalek further stated that law enforcement agencies must be allowed to carry out their investigation without interference and that anyone found guilty should face legal consequences. Police have booked Afroz under multiple provisions, including the Goondas Suppression Act, while the investigation into the Dharmatala violence continues. Officials are also examining digital evidence, wit-

ness statements and video footage to establish individual roles in the alleged assault on media personnel and the unrest that unfolded during the protest. The case has assumed political significance as investigators seek to determine whether the accused acted independently or as part of a larger organised network. Authorities have reiterated that the investigation remains active and that further action will be guided solely by evidence collected during the probe.

Dharmatala crackdown: Arrest count rise to 14

MI News Service, Kolkata: The crackdown over the violent unrest during the student-youth protest at Kolkata's Dharmatala intensified on Sunday, with Kolkata Police arresting three more accused after identifying them through video footage, taking the total number of arrests to 14. Investigators indicated that additional arrests are likely as scrutiny of digital evidence and surveillance material continues. All those arrested are scheduled to be produced before a city court, where police are expected to seek their custody for further interrogation. According to police sources, investigators meticulously examined multiple video recordings from the protest before tracing the latest accused. The newly ar-

rested individuals have been identified as 34-year-old Shabaz Khan from the Kareya police station area, Mohammad Salman Hussain from the Rajabagan police station limits, and Mohammad Zohiruddin Mal of Bi-jayganj in South 24 Parganas. Officials said the arrests form part of a wider operation aimed at identifying every individual allegedly involved in the violence that erupted during Friday's demonstration. Dharmatala descended into chaos on Friday afternoon after a protest over alleged corruption in education and the NEET examination paper leak turned violent. Clashes broke out around Dorina Crossing, where police personnel allegedly came under attack while attempting to control

the situation. Journalists covering the demonstration also reported being assaulted, triggering widespread condemnation and prompting a swift criminal investigation. The state government adopted a firm stance immediately after the incident, declaring that every person responsible for the violence would be brought to justice. During proceedings in the Assembly, Chief Minister Shuvendu Adhikari stated that investigators had identified around 70 individuals allegedly linked to the unrest and asserted that they had no connection with the student movement over the NEET issue. He also publicly named five alleged miscreants believed to have played key roles in the disturbances.



Members of Mudiali Club take part in a Swachhata Abhiyan, a tree plantation drive, and a fundraising initiative to support the treatment of a baby girl suffering from a rare disease at the club premises in Kolkata on Sunday.

Agnimitra Intensifies Civic Enforcement With Surprise Night Visit

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal's Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul has issued a stern warning against illegal parking and encroachment on public spaces, declaring that strict enforcement measures, including fines and legal action, will be taken against those found parking vehicles on footpaths. The warning came during a late-night inspection across key areas of Kolkata as the government intensified its drive to improve civic discipline and restore public spaces.

Accompanied by police officials, the minister carried out a surprise inspection from Nandan to Cathedral Road on Saturday night, reviewing traffic movement, pedestrian access and instances of unauthorised parking. During the visit, she inter-

acted with motorists and cautioned that footpaths are meant exclusively for pedestrians and that any violation would invite punitive action under the law. Emphasising that encroachment of public spaces would not be tolerated, the minister reiterated that illegal parking on city roads and footpaths poses serious inconvenience to pedestrians, disrupts traffic movement and undermines urban planning efforts. She stated that enforcement agencies have been directed to act firmly against violations to ensure compliance with civic regulations. The minister also addressed the issue of hawkers occupying public spaces, stating that the government would continue to follow the existing policy regarding street vendors. Referring to the current approach, she said hawkers

would continue to receive relief until the Durga Puja period, after which the administration would review the situation and decide on the next course of action. Earlier in the day, Agnimitra Paul participated in the government's 'Mukhomukhi' public grievance programme at the Urban Development Building, where citizens directly placed civic complaints before the administration. According to the minister, nearly 40 complaints were received during the session, with the majority relating to alleged illegal construction in different municipalities. She said complaints had been received from areas including Maheshila, Baruipur and Sonarpur, and assured residents that each grievance would be examined promptly. Officials have been instructed to verify the al-

legations and initiate action wherever violations of municipal rules are established. Since assuming office, the minister has conducted regular field inspections across Kolkata and adjoining urban areas, personally reviewing civic infrastructure, drainage systems, road conditions and municipal services. Her repeated surprise visits have been aimed at identifying lapses on the ground and ensuring swift administrative intervention. The latest inspection signals a renewed emphasis on stricter civic enforcement, with the government seeking to improve urban management, safeguard pedestrian rights and strengthen compliance with municipal regulations through sustained monitoring and decisive administrative action.

Heavy Rain, Gusty Winds as Bay Depression Intensifies

MI News Service, Kolkata: A fresh spell of intense monsoon activity is set to sweep across West Bengal as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has warned that the existing low-pressure system over the Bay of Bengal is likely to intensify into a deep depression before making landfall through the Bengal-Odisha coast on Monday. The evolving weather system is expected to trigger widespread rainfall, strong winds along the coastline and hazardous sea conditions, prompting authorities to issue multiple alerts across the state.

According to the latest weather assessment, the low-pressure area is currently centred over Gangetic West Bengal, the north Odisha coast and the northwest Bay of Bengal. Meteorologists said the system is strengthening steadily and is likely to deepen further, resulting in heavy to very heavy rainfall over several districts during the next few days.



In South Bengal, heavy rainfall has been forecast for Purulia, Paschim Bardhaman and Birbhum, while South 24 Parganas, Purba Medinipur, Paschim Medinipur, Jhargram and Bankura are also expected to experience intense showers. Kolkata and its adjoining areas are likely to receive intermittent light to moderate rainfall, accompanied by overcast skies and occasional spells of rain throughout the day. The weather office has also

cautioned that gusty winds may affect coastal districts as the depression approaches land. Fishermen have been advised not to venture into the sea until Monday, with authorities warning that sea conditions are expected to remain rough and potentially dangerous during the period. Although rainfall activity is expected to gradually decline across parts of South Bengal after the system moves inland towards Odisha and central India, meteorol-

ogists have indicated that humid conditions and rising temperatures could return once the intensity of the rain diminishes. Attention is also shifting towards North Bengal, where rainfall is forecast to increase significantly from Monday onward. The IMD has predicted heavy rain in the upper hill districts, while Jalpaiguri and Alipurduar are expected to receive very heavy rainfall on Wednesday and Thursday. A yellow alert has been issued for several districts from Darjeeling to Cooch Behar, warning of scattered heavy showers and the possibility of localised disruptions. With the monsoon system gathering strength, disaster management agencies and district administrations are maintaining close surveillance as the state braces for another round of widespread rainfall, waterlogging, and weather-related challenges across vulnerable regions in the coming days.

NABANNA rewrites attendance rules within a month

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a significant policy shift aimed at modernising attendance management across government establishments, the West Bengal government has decided to replace conventional biometric hardware with a mobile-based attendance system powered by geo-fencing technology. The Finance Department has issued fresh guidelines directing all departments to expedite implementation of the new mechanism, marking a major departure from the biometric infrastructure introduced only weeks ago.

According to the official notification, government employees will no longer be required to mark attendance through dedicated biometric machines installed inside offices. Instead, they will be

able to register their attendance using authorised mobile applications while remaining within the geo-fenced limits of their respective office premises. Departments have also been instructed to examine and adopt suitable software solutions to facilitate the transition at the earliest. The move is expected to substantially reduce expenditure on installing and maintaining biometric hardware while addressing persistent operational issues reported from several government offices. Sources indicated that although biometric devices had been installed in many departments over the past few years, recurring technical failures, maintenance deficiencies and hardware-related disruptions frequently

affected their functioning. Officials believe the proposed digital framework will streamline attendance recording, improve administrative efficiency and strengthen transparency in monitoring employee presence. The Finance Department has already initiated the process of circulating the revised guidelines across government offices. The decision signals the administration's continued emphasis on digitisation and stricter workplace monitoring while leveraging technology to minimise operational costs and simplify compliance for employees. The latest directive follows the government's earlier decision to introduce mandatory face-recognition biometric attendance at Nabanna from June 15.

Name Change
I, Soujath Beebi And Souja Bibi (Old Names), Wife Of Sk Samsuddin, Resident Of Vill - Barankua, Po.- Balasi, Ps.-Ramgarh, Dist - East Medinipur, Pin - 721243, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Soujath Beebi And Souja Bibi (Old Names) To Souja Bibi (New Name) And Henceforth Shall Be Known As Souja Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 24 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Souja Bibi (New Name) And Soujath Beebi And Souja Bibi (Old Names) All Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Janra Beebi (Old Name), Wife Of Late Sk Jalil, Resident Of Vill - Barankua, Po.- Balasi, Ps.-Ramgarh, Dist - East Medinipur, Pin - 721243, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Janra Beebi (Old Name) To Janera Bibi (New Name) And Henceforth Shall Be Known As Janera Bibi (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 25 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Janera Bibi (New Name) And Janra Beebi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shaikh Kalil Shamsudheen (Old Name), Son Of Late 1St Jalil, Resident Of Vill - Barankua, Po.- Balasi, Ps.-Ramgarh, Dist - East Medinipur, Pin - 721243, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Shaikh Kalil Shamsudheen (Old Name) To Sk Samsuddin (New Name) And Henceforth Shall Be Known As Sk Samsuddin (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 26 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Sk Samsuddin (New Name) And Shaikh Kalil Shamsudheen (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Cheyra (Old Name),Son Of Diddar Baks Mondal,Resident Of Vill-Masia,Po-Naya Bastia, PS-Baduria,North 24 Parganas-743401,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Cheyra (Old Name) To Jamshed Mondal(New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jamshed Mondal(New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 11 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Jamshed Mondal(New Name) And Cheyra (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Fakhruddin (Old Name), S/O Hakim Mohammed Sulaiman Resident Of 15, Sandal Street, 1St Floor, Kolkata-700016,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Fakhrudin (Old Name) To Md Fakhrudin (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Fakhrudin (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 24/07/2026. Md Fakhrudin (New Name) And Md Fakhrudin (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Wasim Abdul Rahman (Old Name), S/O Md Fakhruddin Resident Of 15, Sandal Street, 1St Floor, Kolkata-700016,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Wasim Abdul Rahman (Old Name) To Wasim Abdul Rahman (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Wasim Abdul Rahman (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit Sworn Before Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Wasim Abdul Rahman (New Name) And Wasim Abdul Rahman (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Anowara Bibi (Old Name),Wife Of Jamat Ali Mandal,Resident Of Vill-Makhlagacha,North 24 Parganas-743422,West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Anowara Bibi (Old Name) To Anowara Mondal(New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Anowara Mondal(New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 16 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Anowara Mondal(New Name) And Anowara Bibi (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Jamrat Mondal (Old Name),Son Of Amod Mandal,Resident Of Vill-Makhlagacha,North 24 Parganas-743422,West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Jamrat Mondal (Old Name) To Jamat Ali Mandal(New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Jamat Ali Mandal(New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 15 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Jamat Ali Mandal(New Name) And Jamrat Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Silpi Saha (Old Name), Daughter Of Mahadeb Saha, Resident Of Rajbanshi Para, Po.- Krishnapur, Dist - North 24 Parganas, Pin 700102, West Bengal, Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Silpi Saha (Old Name) To Shilpi Saha (New Name) And Henceforth Shall Be Known As Shilpi Saha (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No. 36014, Sworn Before The 1st Class Judicial Magistrate At Alipore 22/05/2026. Shilpi Saha (New Name) And Silpi Saha (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Monabbar Hosen Piada (Old Name), C/O Saheb Ali Piada, Residing at Vill- Abinash Mukherjee Para, P.O.- Titikumar, PS.- Basanti, Dist.- South 24 Parganas, Pin-743329, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Monabbar Hosen Piada (Old Name) to Manabbar Hosen Piada (new name) and henceforth I be known as Manabbar Hosen Piada (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 24/07/2026. Manabbar Hosen Piada (New Name) and Monabbar Hosen Piada (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Angur Bala Halder, W/o - Lt. Dukhiram Halder, R/O-Vill - & P.O. - Urel Chandipur, PS. - Magrahat, Dist - 24 Pgs.(S), Pin - 743355, my actual name has been wrongly recorded in my Voter Id Card as Halder Angur & in my PPO (234197600108, e-PPO No.-F0022931977) as Angur Bala Halder, wrong (DOB 01.06.1952), W/o - Lt. Dukhiram Halder, in place of Angur Bala Halder, 01.01.1955 (as perAdhar Card, Voter Card & Pan Card), I have an Affidavit No. 14970, dt. 18.07.26, in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magist (6th, 1st Class, Diamond Harbour-24 Pgs.(S), That Angur Bala Halder (actual DOB-01.01.1955), & Halder Angur (wrong DOB-01.06.1952), both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Mohammed Fayyaz Ahmed (old name) S/o Md Nemat Hussain Habibi residing at 5, Pemantle Street, P.O.+ PS.- Park Street, Kolkata - 700016, West Bengal, India have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Md Fayyaz Ahmed (new name) as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate1st Class at Alipore, vide an affidavit no 26424 dated 23th day of July, 2026. Mohammed Fayyaz Ahmed (old name) and Md Fayyaz Ahmed (new name) both are the same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Shubham Agarwal (Old Name), S/O Shivkumar Baboolal Agarwal, Residing at PLAT NO-2FBI,CLUB TOWN,VIP ROAD,OPP-HADIRAM,PO-KOLKATA AIR-PORT,KOLKATA-700052, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shubham Agarwal (Old Name) to Shubham Shivkumar Agarwal (new name) and henceforth I be known as Shubham Shivkumar Agarwal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 22 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 24/07/2026. Shubham Shivkumar Agarwal (New Name) and Shubham Agarwal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Mahabir Agarwal (Old Name),Son Of Jagdish Prasad Agarwal, Resident Of Bt-5th, 31St Floor, Xana Tower, Flat-31Xa,1638, Manicktala Main Road, Swarnamani Complex, Po-Kankurgachi,Kolkata-700054, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mahabir Agarwal (Old Name) To Mahabir Prasad Agarwal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Mahabir Prasad Agarwal (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 21 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Mahabir Prasad Agarwal (New Name) And Mahabir Agarwal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Suman Bothra (Old Name),Wife Of Prakas Patawari,Resident Of 6,Gariahat Road,Ballygunge,Kolkata-700019,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Suman Bothra (Old Name) To Suman Devi Patawari (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Suman Devi Patawari (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 20 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Suman Devi Patawari (New Name) And Suman Bothra (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Prakash Patawari (Old Name),Son Of Nanu-mai Pal Patawari,Resident Of 56,Gariahat Road,Ballygunge,Kolkata-700019,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Prakash Patawari (Old Name) To Prakash Patawari (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Prakas Patawari (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 19 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Prakas Patawari (New Name) And Prakash Patawati (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Avik Roy (Old Name), Son Of Amiya Kumar Ray,Resident Of 158 Nagendra Nath Road, Satgachi Battala, South Dumdum,North-24parganas - 700028, West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Avik Ray (Old Name) To Avik Roy (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Avik Roy (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 25 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Avik Roy (New Name) And Avik Ray (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, AHMAD HOSSAIN (old name) S/O MD JUMMAN ALI, residing at GANIMA ROAD, TARUN SANGHA, PO- MALLICKPORE, SOUTH 24PGS- 700145, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from AHMAD HOSSAIN (old name) to HOSSAIN AHMED (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as HOSSAIN AHMED (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/06/2026. HOSSAIN AHMED (New Name) and AHMAD HOSSAIN (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, MURSHID BIBI (old name) W/O ISRAT UD-DIN MOLLA, residing at VILL- LALPUR, PO-LALPUR, MATHURAPUR, SOUTH 24 PGS-743354, West Bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from MURSHID BIBI (Old Name) to MURSHIDA BIBI MOLLA (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as MURSHIDA BIBI MOLLA (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, on 15/06/2026. MURSHIDA BIBI MOLLA (New Name) and MURSHID BIBI (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Satish Gupta (Old Name), S/O Sadaram Gupta, Residing at BANGLOW NO.C-2, ASHOKA PARK, KHAMHARDI, KANCHNA ROAD, SHANKAR NAGAR, RAJPU, PIN- 492007, West Bengal, India. do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Satish Gupta (Old Name) to Satish Kumar Gupta (new name) and henceforth I be known as Satish Kumar Gupta (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 24/07/2026. Satish Kumar Gupta (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Anchhar Ali Mia (Old Name),Son Of Mejed Mirza,Resident Of Barasat,Haripurkuria,Har-inghata-741257,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Anchhar Ali Mian (Old Name) To Anchhar Ali Mia (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Anchhar Ali Mia (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 18 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026. Anchhar Ali Mia (New Name) And Anchhar Ali Mian (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Imraj Mian (Old Name),Son Of Anchhar Ali Mia,Resident Of Barasat,Haripurkuria,Har-inghata-741257,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Imraj Mian (Old Name) To Imraj Mia (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Imraj Mia (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 17 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 24/07/2026.Imraj Mia (New Name) And Imraj Mian (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Tandra Bandopadhyay and Tandra Ray Bandopadhyay (Old Names), W/O Harisadhan Ray and D/O Ramgopal Bandopadhyay, Residing at MIG U 10/9, M.B. ROAD, BIRATI ABASANPOST - NIMTA,PS - NIMTA,DIST - NORTH 24 PARGANAS -700 409, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Tandra Bandopadhyay and Tandra Ray Bandopadhyay (Old Names) to Tandra Ray (new name) and henceforth I be known as Tandra Ray (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit No 9 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 24/07/2026. Tandra Ray (New Name) and Tandra Bandopadhyay and Tandra Ray Bandopadhyay (Old Names) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Ashiya Parveen (Old Name),Wife Of Md Rafique Ansari,Resident Of Usha Apartment 4th Floor,M.N. Saha Road, Asansol,Paschim Bardhaman-713301,West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Ashiya Parveen (Old Name) To Ashiya Parveen (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ashiya Parveen (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 65 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/07/2026.Ashiya Parveen (New Name) And Ashiya Parveen (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Change of Name
I, Alok Ghosh (Old Name) S/o Late Lakshmi Kant Ghosh Residing at Vill-Po - Changuai, Ps.- Kharagpur Local, District - Paschim Medinipur, Pin - 721301, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Alok Ghosh (Old Name) to Alok Kumar Ghosh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Alok Kumar Ghosh (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 9696 Sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kharagpur on Dated 16-07-2026. Alok Kumar Ghosh (New Name) and Alok Ghosh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Mohammad Anwarus Salam Khan (Old Name) S/o Md Nurul Islam Khan Residing at Generator Gali, Swami Vivekanand Road, Hatiara, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700157, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Mohammad Anwarus Salam Khan (Old Name) to Md Anwarus Salam Khan (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Anwarus Salam Khan (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 12 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 23-07-2026. Md Anwarus Salam Khan (New Name) and Mohammad Anwarus Salam Khan (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Hasnahana Khatun (Old Name) W/o Md Anwarus Salam Khan Residing at Generator Gali, Swami Vivekanand Road, Hatiara, District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700157, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Hasnahana Khatun (Old Name) to Mst Hasnahana Khatun (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Mst Hasnahana Khatun (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 11 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 23-07-2026. Mst Hasnahana Khatun (New Name) and Hasnahana Khatun (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Saswati Majumder (Old Name) W/o Asit Baran Majumder Residing at Gokulpur, Kalyani, Ranaghat, District - Nadia, Pin - 741250, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Saswati Majumder (Old Name) to Shaswati Majumder (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Shaswati Majumder (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 10 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 23-07-2026. Shaswati Majumder (New Name) and Saswati Majumder (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Jyotsna Shah (Old Name) W/o Chottalal Shah Residing at 15A, Sadanandra Road, Kalighat, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700026, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Jyotsna Shah (Old Name) to Jyotsna C Shah (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Jyotsna C Shah (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 12 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 22-07-2026. Jyotsna C Shah (New Name) and Jyotsna Shah (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Alpha Shah (Old Name) W/o Kamlesh Shah Residing at 15A, Sadanandra Road, Kalighat, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700026, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Alpha Shah (Old Name) to Alpa K Shah (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Alpa K Shah (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 11 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 22-07-2026. Alpa K Shah (New Name) and Alpha Shah (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Soumita Koyal (Old Name) W/o Soumen Koyal D/o Arun Das Residing at Vill - Masila (Masilia) Deoyaner Bagan, Po - Masila (Masilia), Ps - Sanrakal, District - Howrah, Pin - 711302, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Soumita Koyal (Old Name) to Soumita Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Soumita Das (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Howrah on Dated 15-07-2026. Soumita Das (New Name) and Soumita Koyal (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Change of Name
I, Priya Ranjan Kumar Singh (Old Name) S/o Mani Bhuvan Singh Residing at A-107, Succasa Wood, Block A, 8 Das Para Road, Jagaddal, Vtc - Rajpur Sonarpur (M), Po - Dakshin Jagatdal, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 700151, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Priya Ranjan Kumar Singh (Old Name) to Priyaranjan Singh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Priyaranjan Singh (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 11/26 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 24-07-2026. Priyaranjan Singh (New Name) and Priya Ranjan Kumar Singh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Alam Sekh (old name), son of Jerat Ali, resident of Aladi tola, bidrohi, Maldah - 732207, west bengal, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Alam Sekh (old name) to Alam SK (new Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Alam SK (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 12 sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 24/07/2026. Alam SK (new name) and Alam Sekh (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I,Mosiar Rahaman (Old Name),Son Of Md Hosen Ali Mondal,Resident Of Harpara,Berabera,Amdanga,North 24 Parganas-700121,West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Mosiar Rahaman (Old Name) To Md Mosiar Rahaman (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Mosiar Rahaman (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 76 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/07/2026.Md Mosiar Rahaman (New Name) And Mosiar Rahaman (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I,Md Rafique (Old Name),Son Of Abdul Jalil Ansari,Resident Of Usha Apartment 4th Floor,M.N. Saha Road, Asansol, Paschim Bardhaman-713301,West Bengal Do Hereby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Rafique (Old Name) To Md Rafique Ansari (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Rafique Ansari (New Name) In All Purpose,Vide Affidavit No 75 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 23/07/2026.Md Rafique Ansari (New Name) And Md Rafique (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Regulation of trains for rolling block programme in Adra division over South Eastern Railway

MI News Service, Kolkata: Combined Rolling Block programme has been planned in Adra Division over South Eastern Railway for one week from 27.07.2026 to 02.08.2026. Consequently, following arrangements in train running have been made as under:

Cancellation of trains:
•68046/68045 Asansol – Adra – Asansol MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 27.07.2026, 31.07.2026 & 02.08.2026).

•63594/63593 Asansol-Purulia – Asansol MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 27.07.2026 & 02.08.2026)

•68056 Tatanagar – Asansol MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 28.07.2026, 29.07.2026, 01.08.2026 & 02.08.2026)

Short termination /Short origination of trains:
•68056/68060 Tatanagar – Asansol – Barabhum MEMU passenger (journey commencing on 31.07.2026) will be short terminated at / short

originated from Adra (service between Adra & Asansol will remain cancelled).

•63594/63593 Asansol – Purulia – Asansol MEMU passenger (Journey commencing on 29.07.2026 & 01.08.2026) will be short terminated at / short originated from Adra (service between Adra & Purulia will remain cancelled).

•68055/68056 Asansol – Tatanagar – Asansol MEMU passenger (Journey commencing on 30.07.2026) will be short terminated at / short originated from Adra (service between Tatanagar & Asansol will remain cancelled).

•68060 Asansol – Barabhum MEMU passenger (Journey commencing on 28.07.2026, 29.07.2026, 01.08.2026 & 02.08.2026) will be short originated from Adra. (service between Adra & Asansol will remain cancelled).

•68055 Asansol – Tatanagar MEMU passenger (on 28.07.2026, 29.07.2026, 01.08.2026 & 02.08.2026) will be short terminated at Adra. (service between Adra & Tatanagar will remain cancelled).

Sundarbans is now the second global destination after Darjeeling! Tourism Minister announces on World Mangrove Day

MI News Service, South 24 Parganas: After Darjeeling, the Sundarbans is going to be declared as the second global destination. At a function on the occasion of World Mangrove Day in Raichak, South 24 Parganas on Sunday, the state's tourism minister Shankar Ghosh announced plans to revamp the Sundarbans on World Mangrove Day. He said that the potential of the Sundarbans tourism industry will be developed based on the mangroves of the Sundarbans. The state government is giving special importance to the tourism industry in the economic upliftment of the people of the Sundarbans. Keeping that in mind, emphasis has been given to the tourism industry in the development of blue-carbon economy in eco-friendly tourism in the Sundarbans. Tourism Minister Shankar Ghosh said that Darjeeling was already mentioned as 'One State, One Destination'. Now the Sundarbans is going to be the second address of the global destination.

According to the minister, Mandarmani and Sundarbans in the state have been considered as second destinations with the help of the central government. But the Sundarbans are being given special priority in this regard. And that is why the Sundarbans infrastructure and economic development have been emphasized in a joint initiative of the Sundarbans Development, Forest and Tourism Department. Along with road transport, emphasis is also being placed on waterway transport to reach the Sundarbans from Kolkata. Several islands in the Ganges and Sundarbans will be redeveloped to attract tourists not only during the Gangasagar Mela, but throughout the year. For this, the two district magistrates of North and South 24 Parganas have already been instructed to create a satellite map of potential tourism in the Sundarbans area. A helpline number and a special app will be launched for the convenience of tourists. The app will contain the names and addresses of tour operators, hotel owners and booking operators registered with the government.

The special need for the conservation of the mangroves of the Sundarbans came up in the discussion on Mangrove Day. This includes important issues such as protecting humanity from natural disasters and strong storms due to mangroves, carbon destruction of mangroves, and dam protection. Therefore, the issue of conserving the mangroves of the Sundarbans and stopping the indiscriminate logging that destroys those mangroves also came up in the discussion. Apart from the state Tourism Minister Shankar Ghosh, the Minister of State for Tourism Purnima Chakraborty and the Minister of State for Sundarbans Development Dipankar Jana, two MLAs from Sagar and Falta and officials of the concerned department were present at the event. On this day, several individuals and organizations of the Sundarbans were also felicitated for protecting the mangroves.

Swift action following CM's directive, Two govt employees arrested for extortion

MI News Service, West Burdwan: Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari's message of 'zero tolerance' on corruption issues. Whoever is guilty of corruption issues, will be punished. He has said this more than once. Suwendu had given a message of taking action as soon as the issue of illegal extortion and bribery at the Rampur check post on the Bengal-Jharkhand border came to light. Two government officials were dismissed in the same way. Now the police have arrested them.

Two government officers were accused of illegal extortion and bribery at the Rampur check post on the Bengal-Jharkhand border. Both were dismissed when the incident came to light. The two officers had gone into hiding. They were arrested from a secret hideout in Jhargram. The names of the arrested are Nazimul Haque and Anupam Banerjee. The Intelligence Branch of the Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate arrested them. The two arrested were produced before the Asansol court on Sunday.

What exactly is the matter? What did Suwendu say on the X handle? He wrote, 'A truck carrying goods was returning to the garage after servicing (owner-Deepak Singh, driver-Shiv Yadav). On the way back, it was illegally stopped by officials at Rampur check post in West Burdwan. The driver was illegally harassed and pressured for a bribe. When he refused to pay the bribe, the vehicle was seized and Rs 22,000 was illegally demanded as a tax that had already been cancelled by the state government. The government took action as soon as it came to know about the matter.'

Suwendu said that the Transport Department has taken swift and strict action against the two persons for alleged extortion and abuse of power. The accused Motor Vehicle Inspectors Nazimul Haque and Anupam Banerjee, working at Rampur check post, have been suspended. The complaints have been formally forwarded to the Anti-Corruption Bureau for detailed criminal investigation and necessary legal action.

More Metro services and extended service hours on blue and green lines from 27.07.26 on experimental basis

MI News Service, Kolkata: Metro Railway is going to increase services and service hours on Blue Line and Green Line to provide better connectivity and greater convenience for commuters from 27.07.26 on experimental basis.

Revised Train Timings (Monday to Saturday)
Blue Line: First Service
At 06:00 hrs. From Dakshineswar to Shahid Khudiram

At 06:00 hrs. From Shahid Khudiram to Dakshineswar
At 06:15 hrs. From Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Dakshineswar

At 06:15 hrs. From Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Dum Dum
At 06:15 hrs. From Dum Dum to Shahid Khudiram

At 06:15 hrs. From Shahid Khudiram to Mahanayak Uttam Kumar
At 22:15 hrs. From Dum Dum to Shahid Khudiram

At 22:15 hrs. From Shahid Khudiram to Dum Dum
At 22:28 hrs. From Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Dak-

shineswar
At 22:43 hrs. From Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Dum Dum
Green Line
First Service

At 06:00 hrs. From Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V
At 06:09 hrs. From Salt Lake Sector V to Howrah Maidan

At 06:15 hrs. From City Centre to Howrah Maidan
Last Service
At 22:30 hrs. From Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V

At 22:36 hrs. From City Centre to Howrah Maidan
Sunday Services
Blue Line: First Service

At 09:00 hrs. From Dakshineswar to Shahid Khudiram
At 09:00 hrs. From Shahid Khudiram to Dakshineswar

At 09:05 hrs. From Dum Dum to Shahid Khudiram
Last Service
At 22:03 hrs. From Dakshineswar to Shahid Khudiram

At 22:18 hrs. From Dakshineswar to Mahanayak Uttam Kumar
At 22:15 hrs. From Dum Dum to Shahid Khudiram

At 22:30 hrs. From Shahid Khudiram to Dum Dum
Green Line: First Service
At 09:00 hrs. From Howrah

Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V
At 09:02 hrs. From Salt Lake Sector V to Howrah Maidan
At 09:00 hrs. From City Centre to Howrah Maidan

Last Service
At 22:30 hrs. From Howrah Maidan to Salt Lake Sector V
At 22:30 hrs. From Salt Lake Sector V to Howrah Maidan

At 22:36 hrs. From City Centre to Howrah Maidan
Increase in Train Services
Blue Line

- Weekdays (Monday to Friday): 272 services instead of 260
- Saturday: 258 services instead of 246
- Sunday: 158 services instead of 152

Green Line
- Weekdays (Monday to Friday): 236 services instead of 228
- Saturday: 212 services instead of 204
- Sunday: 111 services instead of 108

These enhanced services are being introduced to provide early morning connectivity on weekdays and Saturdays, while extending late-night services on all days for the improved Metro connectivity and convenience of the commuters.

Amar Metro remains committed to providing safe, reliable, efficient and commuter-friendly services to its valued passengers.

Nurse's body recovered

MI News Service, Birbhum: The body of a nurse was recovered from a nursing home in Siuri, Birbhum on last Thursday. Police arrested a young man on Sunday in connection with the incident. The arrested person name is Sheikh Sajiz alias Sheikh Pappu.

The Aura Gallery Opens in the City ahead of Durga Puja

MI News Service, Kolkata: Ahead of the festive season, The Aura Gallery, a new initiative by Sai Khadi, has opened on Raja S.C. Mullick Road in Kolkata, showcasing an extensive collection of Indian heritage, handloom, Khadi and Swadeshi textiles. The inauguration ceremony was graced by actress Sonali Chowdhury and actor Abhrajit Chakraborty.

Speaking at the launch, the founders of the gallery, Rinku Singh and Udipta Jena, said that The Aura Gallery is much more than a clothing store it is a heartfelt tribute to India's rich culture, traditions and craftsmanship.

NOTICE

As per instruction of my Client, namely SRI PRITAM DUTTA, Son of Sri Shyamal Kumar Dutta, residing at Village-Saharah, P.O.-Mugkalyan, P.S. Bagnan, Dist. Howrah, PIN-711312, State West Bengal, District Howrah, under Police Station Bagnan at Mouza Mugkalyan, J.L. No. 89, comprised in L.R. Khatian No. 2066, 2350, 2563, within the R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 718, area of land 27.70 decimals Bastu land which are purchased my client which are registered at Bagnan A. D. S. R. Office on dated 19/06/2026 being No. 2711 purchased from (1) SRI PARTHA DUTTA, (2) SRI PRATYAY DUTTA, both are son of Late Samarendra Nath Dutta, both are residing at 7/4, Kasundia Second Bye Lane, P.O. Santragachi, P.S. Chatterjeehat, Dist. Howrah, PIN-711104, (3) SOMA BHANDARI, Wife of Sri Manas Bhandari, residing at 14, Keddar Bhattacharjee First Bye Sne, Lokenath Apartment, Flat No.6, P.O.- Santragachi, P.S. Jagacha, Dist. Howrah, PIN-711104, (4) SRI SUDIPTA DUTTA, Son of Late Sachindra Nath Dutta, residing at 11/2, Gadadhar Mistri, Second Bye Lane, P.O. Santragachi, P.S. Chatterjeehat, Dist. Howrah, PIN-711104, (5) SMT. REBA DUTTA, Wife of Late Haradhan Dutta, (6) SRI DIPANJAN DUTTA, Son of Late Haradhan Dutta, both are residing at 7/8, Kasundia Second Bye Lane, P.O. Santragachi, P.S. Chatterjeehat, Dist. Howrah, PIN-711104, (7) SMT. DIPANWITA GHOSH, Wife of Sri Subrata Ghosh, residing at 105, Bakasara Road, P.O.- Bakshara, P.S. Santragachi, Dist. Howrah, PIN-

CENTRE mulls overhaul in Dam safety

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Centre has formed a committee to draft new regulations under the Dam Safety Act, 2021, to enhance surveillance and security of dams. The move is a response to the growing external and internal threats to dams and reservoirs, particularly following the India-Pakistan conflict and the suspension of the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT), officials said.

In the absence of any regulation and standard operating procedures, the Counter Terrorism and Counter Radicalisation (CTCR) division of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Home Secretary, and the IB Director review the safety of dams with states and the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA). In an internal communication, the government highlighted recent incidents, including attacks on dams during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the discovery of a bomb beneath the Big Creek Dam reservoir in the US in May 2026. In October 2025, Russia's Grafovka dam and Ukraine's Kakhovka dam were attacked in June 2023 amid



cent incidents, including attacks on dams during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war and the discovery of a bomb beneath the Big Creek Dam reservoir in the US in May 2026. In October 2025, Russia's Grafovka dam and Ukraine's Kakhovka dam were attacked in June 2023 amid

the war. The proposed regulations will create a specialised agency that includes trained personnel from the Army, Air Force, Intelligence Bureau, Research and Analysis Wing, engineers, and staff from the Central Water Commission (CWC), along with

maritime personnel for coastal areas. These regulations will also establish SOP to be followed in emergencies," said an official aware of the matter. The Dam Safety Act, 2021, governs the surveillance, inspection, operation, and maintenance of dams, but it does not set any mini-

mum standards for the physical or cyber security of specified dams.

The communication underlined identified internal threats, including insider sabotage, unauthorised access, tampering with instrumentation and data, risks related to spying, and human error, officials said. External threats consist of terrorist attacks, sabotage, drone-based surveillance or attacks, unauthorised entry, and civil unrest. Cyber threats include unauthorised access to industrial control systems, manipulation of reservoir gate operations, denial-of-service attacks, GPS spoofing, and data theft.

The need to develop the regulations was prompted by a meeting of 80 Secretaries, convened by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 30.

Hydrogen Train: Diesel Out, Water Vapour In

MI News Service, Kolkata: India's first Hydrogen Train was flagged off between Jind and Sonipat on 17 July 2026 near Delhi. Since then, it has travelled over 1,200 kilometres smoothly while saving more than 3,200 litres of diesel.

The train generates electricity onboard through a chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen, producing only water vapour as a by-product. With no smoke and no tailpipe carbon emissions, it is being presented as the cleanest form of rail propulsion currently available. The project is an indigenous initiative led by Indian Railways. The 10-coach train has two Hydrogen Driving Power Cars with a total power output of 2,400 kW, supported by lithium iron phosphate batteries and hydrogen cylinders. Green hydrogen is stored at up to 500 bar



and dispensed at 350 bar, with a total storage facility of about 3,000 kg, creating Railway's first dedicated hydrogen storage facility at Jind. The train also has multiple independent safety systems to detect leaks, heat, flames and smoke, along with automatic shut-off systems, continuous ventilation, international standards and all mandatory validations. After the successful Jind-

Sonipat operation, trial runs on the Delhi route are expected to begin soon.

India's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Train is being seen as more than a technological milestone. It establishes an indigenous hydrogen rail ecosystem and reflects India's commitment to sustainable, zero-emission rail mobility, paving the way for future expansion and global leadership in clean transportation.

NCC cadets pay tribute to KARGIL HERO OF KOLKATA

MI News Service, Kolkata: On the eve of Kargil Vijay Diwas, around 500 cadets from 33 Bengal Battalion NCC under the aegis of West Bengal and Sikkim NCC Directorate organised a silent march and candle light memorial service in honour of Capt Kanad Bhattacharya Sena Medal (Posthumous), the first officer from Kolkata to lay down his life during Operation Vijay.

The solemn event included a candle light vigil and silent march from Kendriya Vidyalaya Fort William to James Princep Memorial and recital of



poems by poets from around the city in honour of the war hero, terminating with the recital of "Aye Mere Watan ke logo" by all attendees charging the environment with a renewed sense of patriotism. The event was a befitting tribute to Late Capt Kanad, whose legacy and sacrifice makes our chest swell with pride.

Bengal govt committed to tribal welfare: MINISTER



MI News Service, Kolkata/Mukutmanipur: The new state government will provide all kinds of support for the development of tribals, said West Bengal Government's Tribal Development Minister Khudiram Tudu. Soumen Kole, Secretary of Tapashili Jati Adivasi Ex-Serviceman Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra, recently met in a meeting with West Bengal Government's Tribal Development Minister Khudiram Tudu on Sunday. In the meeting, the future working procedures of the organization were discussed. The Central Government has directed various projects to be done through the Scheduled Caste Adivasi Ex-Serviceman Agriculture Development Industrial Centre. At present, a double engine government has been established in the state. Tribal Development Minister Khudiram Tudu has assured the full cooperation of Central Government in various works.

SC for SPECIAL COURTS in Manipur violence cases



MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court proposed setting up of special courts to conduct day-to-day trials in criminal cases arising out of the 2023 ethnic violence in Manipur, while directing probe agencies to complete pending investigations expeditiously and ensuring that victims receive copies of chargesheets. A bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, while hearing a batch of pleas relating to the Manipur violence, took note of the fact that many victims and their families are yet to get the copies of the chargesheets filed by the CBI and the state SIT in criminal cases.

It permitted the legal aid counsel, representing the victims, to approach the offices of the chief justices of the Gauhati and Manipur chief justices to seek the copies of the chargesheets. The lawyers will have to be provided the copies of the chargesheets within one week by the probe agencies. Proposing to set up special courts to conduct day-to-day trials in criminal cases, the bench asked

Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the state government, SIT and the CBI, to collate information about the cases where the investigations are complete and chargesheets are filed and also give details of those matters where probe is incomplete.

The bench said it will help in finding out as to how many special courts will be needed to handle the trials expeditiously. It also asked the Manipur HC to look into cases pertaining to 30 persons who went missing after ethnic violence. The bench asked the CBI, state SIT and the court-appointed monitoring committee headed by former Maharashtra DGP Dattatray Padsalgikar to file fresh status reports about the violence-related cases.

More than 200 people have been killed, several hundred injured and thousands displaced since ethnic violence first broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, when a 'Tribal Solidarity March' was organised in the hill districts to protest against the majority Meitei community's demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status.

NEET: SC to monitor steps taken by Central govt

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court told the Centre that it will closely monitor the steps taken to curb NEET examination paper leaks, while underlining that ad hocism has caused trouble for years. A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and Alok Aradhe, which was hearing a batch of petitions, including one by the Federation of All India Medical Association (FIMA), told Solicitor General Tushar Mehta that the government should indicate the steps taken towards transparency, implementation of recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee and how the IIT model would be followed.

The seven-member Radhakrishnan Committee was set up by the Ministry of Education in the wake of the NEET-UG paper leak to make recommendations on reforms in the examination process, improvement in data security protocols and the structure and function-

ing of the National Testing Agency (NTA). One of the pleas sought a direction to replace or restructure the NTA, which is responsible for conducting NEET-UG, with a robust and autonomous body to conduct the medical entrance examination. Mehta said there are some developments and the government will file a detailed report on a comprehensive overhaul of the examination process, which may be beyond the recommendations of the Radhakrishnan Committee.

"Students' futures can't be jeopardised. We are going beyond the Radhakrishnan Committee. I assure you that the government is walking 10 extra miles. I can assure you everything is being supervised at the highest level," Mehta submitted. He added that two years back, a similar issue arose and right from printing to transportation, everything was explained to the court. The bench said the



government deployed the Indian Air Force to transport question papers for the NEET-UG retest, but all these measures are ad hoc.

"Ad hocism has troubled us for years," Justice Narasimha said, while pointing out that the court will ensure that "institutionalisation of the examination process takes place to avoid a repeat of paper leaks". While asking the Centre and the NTA to file detailed affidavits, the bench said that the government has earlier informed the court that IITs will have

a role, but it has not been explained. Advocate Tanvi Dubey, appearing for FIMA, sought a detailed blueprint of the SOP concerning the computer-based test (CBT) model that will be implemented by the NTA for the NEET-UG examination from next year.

Dubey further submitted that the petitioners have prepared a slew of suggestions concerning the examination in light of the fact that the exam will shift to the CBT model next year.

She pointed out that since 22 lakh students will

Kolkata host to Bengal's first Atal Incubation Centre

MI News Service, Kolkata: In a landmark step towards strengthening West Bengal's innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem, Techno India University today inaugurated AIC Techno - Atal Incubation Centre, the state's first Atal Incubation Centre established under the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog. The Centre was launched with the vision of nurturing entrepreneurs, innovators, researchers and change-makers while positioning West Bengal as a leading hub for innovation-driven growth.

The inauguration took place in the presence of Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog; Swapan Dasgupta, Minister-in-Charge, Finance Department, Government of West Bengal; Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur; Meghdut Roy-Chowdhury, Executive Director & Chief Innovation Officer, Techno India Group, Chief Mentor, AIC Techno and Founder, Make



Calcutta Relevant Again; and members of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, Government of India. The AIC has a mission to incubate more than 500 startups over the next five years. Demonstrating the strong demand for structured incubation support in the state, AIC Techno received nearly 200 startup applications even before its official launch.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Ashok Lahiri, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, said, "The launch of West Bengal's first Atal Incubation Centre marks a significant

milestone in strengthening the state's innovation ecosystem and will provide aspiring entrepreneurs with the platform and support needed to build globally competitive enterprises."

Speaking on the occasion, Meghdut Roy Chowdhury, Executive Director & Chief Innovation Officer, Techno India Group, Chief Mentor, AIC Techno and Founder, Make Calcutta Relevant Again, said, "It has been created with a vision to build an ecosystem where bold ideas are transformed into impactful enterprises."

POLICE KILLING: Police detain 2,500 locals in J&K

MI News Service, Srinagar: Security forces have demolished the houses of the families of two suspected militants and detained 2,500 people since Wednesday afternoon following the killing of a police head constable a day earlier, forcing chief minister Omar Abdullah to slam the lieutenant governor's administration.

The government action has triggered outrage, with many calling it collective punishment that can further alienate the people. Head constable Ashiq Hussain Qureshi, who was deployed for the safety of Amarnath Yatra devotees, was shot dead on Wednesday in south Kashmir's Anantnag town. It was the first casualty in a militant attack this year. The police suspect the involvement of a Pakistani militant. The houses of the families of local militants Haroon Ganie and Adil Ahmad Thokar were demolished in Hasnpora and Bijbehara in south Kashmir early on Thursday, in an action believed to be retribution for the cop killing. The demolitions mirrored the destruction of homes belonging to militants' families last year following the Pahalgam attack.

Police sources said over 2,500 youths had been picked up across the Valley, including 700 from Srinagar, despite the attack taking place in Anantnag. The police claimed they were suspected overground workers of militants, without explaining how such a large number of people could escape the law and become suspects in a matter of hours. Most of these detentions took place on Wednes-



day, but key political leaders preferred not to speak against the crackdown.

Omar had on Wednesday dismissed calls to discuss the issue. "I don't have any such news. We are yet to bury that brave man. It would be irresponsible and wrong for me to make any political statement at this juncture standing here," he had said.

However, on Thursday, the chief minister referred to a Supreme Court order opposing the summary action.

"I understand the anguish of the police, but the Supreme Court has issued an order stating that summary action of this kind should not be taken. We witnessed a similar situation after the Pahalgam attack and at that time, I had to speak to the Centre to stop this. Ashiq was killed mercilessly, but when you get to hear that not just 1,000 or 2,000 but 2,500 arrests are made, it will transfer the anger (against militants for killing the cop) against the (arrests)," he told reporters.

NRIDA finds fault with hill road projects

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Centre has directed the Bengal government to take corrective measures on a priority basis and submit a compliance report after the National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) found that 88 of 130 Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) road projects undertaken in the Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency during the Trinamool Congress regime were "Unsatisfactory".

Teams of the National Quality Monitors (NQMs) under the NRIDA inspected the 130 roads following a request by Darjeeling MP Raju Bista. In a letter dated July 13, Union rural development and agriculture

minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan informed Bista that the inspections had been completed by May.

"A total of 130 works were examined during the inspections, comprising works under construction, completed works, and works within the maintenance period. The inspections revealed that some works fell into the 'Unsatisfactory' category, while others were classified as 'Satisfactory Requiring Improvement' (SRI)," the minister wrote.

The NRIDA functions under the ministry of rural development. According to the inspection findings cited by Bista, 88 works were categorised as "Unsatisfac-



tory", eight as "Satisfactory Requiring Improvement" (SRI) and 34 as "Satisfactory". PMGSY works are undertaken in rural areas.

While 66 roads were inspected in the Darjeeling Assembly constituency, 32 roads were checked in Kalimpong, 28 in Siliguri, Matigari-Naxalbari and

Phansidewa Assembly constituencies and four in Chopra. In a separate communication to the secretary of the West Bengal State Rural Road Development Agency on July 6, the Union rural development ministry directed the state government to act on the findings.

"In view of the findings during NQM inspections, the State Government is hereby requested to take necessary corrective action on a priority and submit a compliance report regarding the action taken to the Ministry," read the letter.

The Union minister told the MP that "the State Government has been directed to ensure necessary corrective action on a priority basis and to promptly submit a compliance report regarding the action taken".

Reacting to the findings, Bista alleged large-scale irregularities in the execution of PMGSY roads in his constituency. "The results expose the appalling state of rural connectivity under the TMC-run government in the

Darjeeling Lok Sabha constituency. This is not just an administrative failure. This is systematic loot of public money by the TMC government. Crores of rupees sanctioned for PMGSY roads have been siphoned off through substandard construction, fake bills, and contractor-politician nexus, leaving behind broken roads that fail basic quality standards," the BJP MP said in a statement.

Bista added: "Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sh. Suwendu Adhikari Ji, the Bharatiya Janata Party government will put an end to this loot-raj and ensure transparency in every aspect of the government."

Is It Okay to Sleep with Earbuds In ?

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

A person is pictured wearing earbuds while lying in bed.

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

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

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

Benefits of Wearing Earbuds While Sleeping

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

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

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

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



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

The Risks of Wearing Earbuds While Sleeping

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

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

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

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

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

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

damage to the skin inside the ear over time.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Safest Option for a Good Night's Sleep

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

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

Makes it easier to control volume and timing.

REDUCING UNNECESSARY HEALTH TESTS AND TREATMENT IN OLDER ADULTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Study finds nematode species that protect crops without pesticides



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

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

The study was published in the Journal of Parasitology.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

STUDY SHOWS HOW BRAIN'S INTERNAL COMPASS GUIDES THE BODY

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

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

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

The findings are published in Nature.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A strong starting point

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

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

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

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

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

Study finds how pesticide exposure linked with stillbirth risk

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

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

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

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

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



stillbirths from 2006 to 2020. They found that living within .31 miles (500 meters) of specific pyrethroid, organophosphate or carbamate pesticide applications during a 90-day pre-conception window or the first trimester was associated with an increased risk of stillbirth. Specifically, the pesticides cyfluthrin, zeta-cypermethrin, organophosphates as a class, malathion, carbaryl and propamocarb hydrochloride were linked to increased stillborn births pre-conception. During the first trimester, fenpropathrin, permethrin, organophosphates as a class, acephate and formetanate hydrochloride were associated

with stillbirths.

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

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

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

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

France battles fire 'whirlwinds' as another 55,000 evacuated



MI News Service, Paris: A further 55,000 people have been evacuated from six towns in France, as wildfires which have caused devastation across the country pick up pace.

The most recent evacuations took place in towns to the south of Bordeaux, in the Gironde region.

Wildfires have raged across Europe over the past week, primarily France and Spain, where more than 330,000 people have been evacuated.

France has been worst-af-

ected, with an area of 42,000 hectares burnt, making it one of the largest forest fires since World War Two. About 98,000 hectares have burnt across the country since the start of the year.

Captain Nicolas Braz, one of the leaders of the firefighting operation, said the fire had created "its own winds - complete with whirlwinds", adding it was "erratic and unmanageable".

France's Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Sunday the situation in the region remained "very unfavourable" and the wildfire was "moving erratically towards the Bordeaux metropolitan area".

Dry vegetation and brisk winds are causing the fire to spread, with 60km (37 miles) of the A63 motorway, which leads to Spain, having been closed.

In an interview published on Sunday by La Tribune, Nunez said it "will take a long time to bring under control" and until it is contained "there will be no return" for evacuated residents and tourists.

France has mobilised its military to help with the response and extra reinforcements from the army have been sent to help firefighters by clearing brush and creating fire breaks.

President Emmanuel Macron said France would "re-build" and his government would "be there for as long as is needed".

Meanwhile in Spain, fires continue to spread, with more than 90,000 evacuated from the regions around Madrid and Avila.

Late on Saturday, at least eight municipalities near Toledo were also ordered to evacuate, though it was unclear how many people were involved.

Sunday is expected to bring high temperatures and low humidity, potentially allowing the fire to spread further.

Madrid's regional president Isabel Díaz Ayuso described the situation as the "worst fire in the history of the region".

Spanish PM Pedro Sánchez admitted there were "complex times ahead".

Meanwhile, authorities in Valencia confirmed the death of a man in a fire.

US-Iran negotiations gain momentum after strikes pause



MI News Service, Washington: The US military has paused its airstrikes on Iran after nearly two weeks of intensifying bombing, while diplomatic efforts have pushed forward to try to avert a return to all-out war.

However, it remains to be seen whether the US and Iran are at an inflection point in a mercurial conflict that will reach the five-month point Tuesday, July 28. President Donald Trump both has threatened more strikes and said talks are pressing on, all while brushing off concerns that rising gas prices tied to the fighting could hurt Republicans in November's midterm elections.

Adding to the uncertainty is the impact of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned visit with Trump next week in Washington. Israel, which launched the war alongside the US on Feb 28, has been notably absent from the renewed American attacks

over Iran's effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital shipping corridor through which 20 per cent of the world's oil normally flows.

"The Iranians understand that perhaps it could get worse because Israel could come into the conflict," said Michael Singh, managing director at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. On the other hand, Israel's lack of involvement so far "may signal to the Iranians that we're looking to limit

the conflict."

Singh, who was senior Middle East director on the National Security Council during the George W. Bush administration, said he was hesitant to read too much into the lull in fighting.

"If it turns into a multi-day pause, that'll be something significant," he said. "But it's hard to know. Is it an operational pause? Is it a pause to allow for some kind of behind-the-scenes diplomacy?"

A regional official involved in the mediation efforts said that concerted diplomacy was underway and that a pause in US strikes and Iranian counterstrikes on neighbouring countries hosting American forces was a "positive signal that helps their efforts to de-escalate."

The official said that both the US and Iran want to return to the interim ceasefire deal and that a compromise, which is being negotiated now, centres around having Iran run vessel transit through the Strait of Hormuz with fewer restrictions on ships. The official was not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Rahul Gandhi urges Amit Shah to act on student assault

MI News Service, New Delhi: Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi has written to Home Minister Amit Shah, demanding accountability for the "barbaric assault" on peacefully protesting students here and asking whether he approved the use of "lethal force", including pellet guns, against the youth.

In his letter to Shah, Gandhi said peaceful protest is crucial to any democracy and it is the government's responsibility to protect protestors and resolve their grievances through dialogue.

"Such brutal violence destroys every norm, and has outraged the country. Youth and students, the future of our country, are demanding answers and accountability. Their voice will be heard," the former Congress chief said.

"I write to demand accountability for the barbaric assault on students who were peacefully protesting in Delhi on July 20, 2026. Our students were demanding a fair and accountable education system. Instead of being heard, security forces assaulted them with indiscriminate force, in-



Rahul Writes to Shah Over Student Assault

cluding lethal weapons and tear gas," Gandhi said in his letter dated July 25.

"Hundreds have suffered serious injuries and women students have been assaulted by policemen, in-

cluding by deliberately targeting their private parts," he said.

Gandhi said most shocking has been the use of lethal pellet guns.

"Reports in the media

and social media clearly show people who have suffered grave injuries including a journalist. I met 19-year old student Sahil Lochab, who is now in severe pain and is likely to lose an eye because he was shot with pellet guns," he said.

"Security forces deployed in Delhi answer ultimately to you, so I ask: As Home Minister, did you approve the use of lethal force, including pellet guns against students? If not, who did?" Gandhi said.

Are the people in plain clothes seen beating students with lathis police personnel or volunteers, he asked.

Who authorised their deployment, Gandhi further questioned.

"Peaceful protest is crucial to any democracy. It is the government's responsibility to protect protestors and resolve their grievances through dialogue. Such brutal violence destroys every norm, and has outraged the country. Youth and students, the future of our country, are demanding answers and accountability. Their voice will be heard," he said in his letter to Shah.

3 dilemmas U.S.-Saudi nuclear deal poses for Israel



MI News Service, Jerusalem: Amid persistent tensions in the Middle East, the United States and Saudi Arabia announced this week the signing of a nuclear cooperation agreement covering reactor technology, scientific research, technical training, and investment.

Washington later announced the agreement would be linked to Saudi Arabia's normalization of relations with Israel under the framework of the Abraham Accords, adding another layer of complexity to the agreement's regional implications.

Although Israel has welcomed the U.S. arrangement, experts argue that the U.S.-Saudi nuclear deal poses three strategic dilemmas for Israel.

Dilemma 1: Could the deal set off regional nuclear race?

The nuclear issue is one of the root causes of instability in the Middle East. Although the U.S.-Saudi agreement is limited to energy cooperation, it has nonetheless raised concerns among regional countries.

According to the details disclosed by Washington, the agreement would establish a long-term U.S.-Saudi partnership for a civilian nuclear program, with U.S. companies expected to build key nuclear infrastructure for Saudi Arabia.

Yoel Guzansky, a senior researcher at Israel's Institute for National Security Studies, wrote in a post fol-

lowing the announcement of the deal that the central issue is not the use of nuclear energy itself, but the possibility that Saudi Arabia could be granted the right to enrich uranium.

He warned that such a precedent could undermine the "United Arab Emirates model," which is based on giving up enrichment capabilities, encourage other countries in the region to demand similar rights, and weaken the global non-proliferation regime.

Dilemma 2: Could the deal erode ISRAEL'S strategic edge?

The United States has pledged to preserve Israel's Qualitative Military Edge, its longstanding commitment to maintaining Israel's technological and military superiority in the region.

From Israel's perspective, however, U.S. support for Saudi Arabia's nuclear energy capabilities could potentially erode this strategic advantage.

The Israeli daily newspaper Israel Hayom argued in a commentary that Israel's qualitative advantage in the region is being eroded, as Washington has recently appeared less attentive to Israeli concerns, citing the reported U.S. intention to sell F-35 fighter jets to Türkiye and the U.S.-Saudi nuclear deal as examples.

Dilemma 3: Could the deal put Palestinian issue back on agenda?

In a bid to address Israel's concerns, the United States stated later that it would not allow uranium enrichment on Saudi territory and has made the normalization of relations between Saudi Arabia and Israel a prerequisite for implementing the agreement.

Netanyahu quickly welcomed the possibility following the U.S. announcement, as some analysts noted that Israel views a U.S.-Saudi-Israeli partnership as a realignment of regional alliances and a bulwark against Iran and its network of allied groups.

However, Washington's arrangement could place Israel in a difficult position over the Palestinian issue.

Vance, Caine raised concerns about escalating war in Iran, sources say as US pauses consecutive nights of strikes



MI News Service, Washington: Vice President JD Vance and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Dan Caine both raised concerns about escalating the war in Iran as President Donald Trump weighed the possibility during a White House meeting on Friday, a source familiar with the matter and a US official told CNN.

On Friday night, the US appeared to pause its bombing campaign on Iran after nearly two weeks of consecutive nights of strikes. Operations are "on a hold," a Department of Defense source told CNN on Saturday.

On Friday, Caine specifically raised concerns about the US munitions stockpile and other potential negative implications, according to the sources. One of the sources said that Caine told Trump and the US military they could carry out the options available to him and be successful but then warned of the possible implications.

The stockpile concern was one of many raised to Trump during the meeting, both sources said.

It's currently unclear if the stockpile concern or warning about escalation were the primary reasons why the US paused consecutive nights of strikes or whether it will continue to do so.

"President Trump has always been consistent in saying he prefers a diplomatic solution, but he continues

to retain all options if Iran continues terrorist activities in the (Strait) of Hormuz or against allies," White House Communications Director Steven Cheung said in a statement.

"Combined with successful sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy and 13 straight days of strikes against military targets in response to their repeated aggression, it would be wise for Iran to work towards a negotiated deal. Otherwise, they know what will happen."

CNN has also reached out to Vance's office for comment.

This comes as key US weapons stockpiles remain significantly depleted and could come under more pressure if strikes on Iran continue, as CNN has previously reported.

Speaking to reporters after the Friday meeting with Cabinet members and top advisors, Trump stressed that the US officials were actively negotiating with Iran, though he also said it was possible the military could continue its bombing campaign or "make it a heavier dose." He claimed Iran seemed to be getting "more serious" in ongoing talks.

As of Friday afternoon, the Trump administration was still deliberating over what a potential escalation would look like, according

to a source familiar. Gulf countries have urged restraint in recent conversations with administration officials but acknowledged the US has unique capabilities it could use to escalate the conflict if it chooses to do so, the source said.

Even after Trump said he was considering a massive attack against Iran this week, he had privately directed his negotiators to "keep talking," according to a source familiar with the matter, underscoring how the president has been grappling with the reality of limited escalatory military operations short of putting US troops on the ground.

Gen Z's New Grammar of Protest: Democracy Gets a Gen Z Update

MI News Service, New Delhi: Until a few days ago, the questions being asked at chai ki tapris, in television studios and in newspaper editorials were predictable. Would the protest make any difference? Would the government give in? Would the education minister resign? Or would the agitation simply fizzle out, as so many others have?

The government has now answered at least one of those questions. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has resigned.

The youth-led movement called off its agitation after the government said it had accepted the protesters' demands. Celebrations replaced sit-ins at Jantar Mantar, and a campaign that began with memes and cockroach masks secured a rare ministerial resignation.

With the protesters' immediate demand conceded, the debate inevitably shifts from the resignation itself to what

follows. A minister stepping down is a meaningful assertion of political accountability. It is not, by itself, a remedy for institutional failure. The harder questions remain. Will the integrity of public examinations be restored? Will the education system become fairer and more transparent? Will this moment of accountability produce reforms that outlast the individual who has left office?

These are legitimate questions. A change of minister does not automatically produce a change in the system. Yet a minister's resignation is neither a revolution nor an empty gesture. It is democratic accountability made visible.

It establishes that public office carries consequences. It reminds those in power that ministerial responsibility cannot be reduced to issuing statements, ordering inquiries and blaming faceless officials. When failures recur, institutional trust erodes and the futures of millions of

young people are affected. Political leadership cannot remain permanently insulated.

The resignation may have brought the protest to a close, but it has not settled the larger questions that brought young people onto the streets. How should India reform a failing education system, make quality education genuinely accessible to all and create dignified employment for a generation facing shrinking opportunities? It also brings into focus a more fundamental democratic question. What makes a protest successful?

A protest is not a start-up pitch whose success can be measured only by immediate returns. Nor is it a project to be evaluated through a results matrix.

Minister resigned: green. Government unmoved: red. Reforms announced: amber.

The value of a democratic protest cannot be reduced to its final deliverables. A protest

is also a process. It is a public conversation, a form of political education and, sometimes, an exercise in collective conscientisation. Through it, citizens recognise what is wrong, understand who holds power and discover how collective action can produce change.

This principle must apply irrespective of which party is in power. When citizens protest against a government, they are not protesting against the country. On the contrary, they are asserting their membership in it. Their message to those in power is blunt. Citizens elected the government, entrusted it with responsibility and expected it to deliver. When it fails persistently, it must either step up or step down.

A mature government listens to citizens, acknowledges their grievances and takes corrective action. It explains its position, admits failures where necessary and takes people into confidence.

Rampant Jamshedpur FC Outclass Defender FC 5-0 in Emphatic Durand Cup Opener

PC JHA
RANCHI: Jamshedpur Football Club (JFC) launched their 135th Durand Cup campaign in spectacular fashion, cruising to a commanding 5-0 victory over Sri Lanka's Defender Football Club in the tournament opener at the Birsa Munda Football Stadium, Morabadi, on Sunday.

Backed by an impressive turnout of nearly 20,000 spectators, the Indian Super League side dominated proceedings from start to finish,

leaving the visitors with little room to recover. JFC controlled possession, dictated the tempo and repeatedly pierced the Sri Lankan defence with swift attacking moves.

Defender Raynier Fernandes stole the limelight with a scintillating hat-trick, scoring in the 4th, 8th and 82nd minutes. His early brace put Defender FC on the back foot before Aman CK widened the margin in the 23rd minute. Forward Devendra added another in the 39th

minute, ensuring JFC carried an unassailable 4-0 lead into the break. Fernandes completed his treble late in the second half to cap a memorable evening and was deservedly adjudged Player of the Match.

JFC adopted an aggressive approach right from kick-off, pressing high and forcing repeated errors from the opposition. Fernandes struck twice within the opening eight minutes, setting the tone for a completely one-sided affair. Aman C.K. and

Devendra capitalised on defensive lapses as the hosts dismantled the visitors with precision passing and incisive finishing.

Defender FC struggled to cope with JFC's pace, movement and tactical discipline. The Sri Lankan side spent most of the evening defending deep and failed to mount any meaningful challenge against the well-organised home team.

The tournament was formally inaugurated by Jharkhand Minister for

Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports and Youth Affairs Sudivya Kumar and Mahua Maji, who greeted both teams before kick-off in the absence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

The opening ceremony set a festive tone as colourful cultural performances enthralled the packed stadium. A spirited display by personnel of the Gorkha Battalion, followed by energetic Bhangra performances, kept the crowd entertained before the commencement of the match.

CWG 2026: Rishikanta claims silver in men's 60kg weightlifting, sets Games record in Snatch

GLASGOW : India added another medal to their tally at the Commonwealth Games 2026 as weightlifter Rishikanta Singh Chanambam clinched silver in the men's 60kg category on Sunday.

The Indian lifter registered a combined total of 264kg, highlighted by a record-breaking effort in the snatch, to finish second behind Malaysia's Bin Kasdan Mohamad Aniq, while Kenya's Joshua Amunga Mboya completed the podium.

The Indian opened with 116kg before successfully lifting 119kg and then 121kg on his third attempt to finish the snatch section on top of the standings. With the bar raised to 121kg for his final snatch attempt, Rishikanta recoded the new Games record in the snatch.

Carrying the momentum into the Clean & Jerk, Rishikanta opened with a successful 143kg lift to remain firmly in medal contention. His first attempt was



composed and technically sound, keeping him ahead of the chasing pack.

The Indian then opted for 148kg on his second attempt but was unable to complete the lift, leaving Aniq with the opportunity to seize control. The Malaysian responded with a successful 149kg effort.

In the final attempt, Rishikanta made one final bid for the gold by calling for 151kg attempt. He cleaned the weight to his shoulders but could not complete the jerk after adjustments, bring-

ing his challenge to an end with a total of 264kg.

Aniq, already assured of the title, finished in style by lifting 152kg in the clean and jerk to take his combined total to 273kg, setting a new overall Commonwealth Games record and sealing top spot on the podium. Kenya's Joshua Amunga Mboya claimed bronze with an aggregate of 260kg.

Although he narrowly missed out on the top step of the podium, Rishikanta ensured India opened Day 4's medal account in style.



'The only thing you can control is how you swim': Sajan Prakash ahead of Commonwealth Games

MUMBAI : India's swimming campaign at the Commonwealth Games continues on Monday, with two-time Olympian and athlete Sajan Prakash set to compete in the men's 200m butterfly.

One of the country's most accomplished swimmers, Prakash returns to the Commonwealth stage aiming to add another strong showing to a career that has repeatedly put Indian swimming on the map.

For Prakash, this is another chapter in a journey that has helped redefine what's possible for Indian swimmers on the international stage. Having competed at two Olympic Games and multiple editions of the Commonwealth and Asian Games, the 32-year-old walks into Glasgow with the experience of racing the world's best and the calm that comes with it.

"Every competition is an opportunity to test yourself," Prakash said. "I've had a good block of training, and I'm looking forward to putting all that work into one race. At the end of the day, the only thing you can control is how you swim, and that's where my focus is."

Prakash has long been at the forefront of Indian swimming. He remains the first Indian swimmer to qualify for two consecutive Olympic Games (Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020), and he still holds the national record in the men's 200m butterfly.

Earlier this year, his contribution to the sport was recognised with the Arjuna Award, making him the first Indian swimmer in 12 years to receive the honour. Prakash is currently training under former rival-turned-training partner and Asian Games medallist Sandeep Sejwal ahead of this outing.

"Sandeep understands the demands of competing at this level because he's been there himself," Prakash said. "It's been good to have someone who brings that perspective. We've had some really good conversations through this training phase, and now I'm looking forward to putting all that work into practice when I race."

Indian swimming has steadily grown in depth, with more athletes gaining international exposure and meeting tougher qualification standards. Having watched that shift up close, Prakash is optimistic about where the sport is headed. "It's exciting to see more Indian swimmers competing at this level," he added. "The more exposure we get, the more we learn, and that only helps the sport grow. Hopefully every international meet inspires more youngsters back home to believe they can get here too."

Prakash's best Commonwealth Games result to date came in 2018, when he reached the final of the men's 200m butterfly.

3rd T20I: Mayank picks 3-29 as India beat Zimbabwe by 35 runs, complete 3-0 sweep

HARARE : Spearheaded by Mayank Yadav's impressive 3-29, India capped off a clinical trip to Zimbabwe with a 35-run victory in the third T20I and complete a 3-0 series sweep at the Harare Sports Club on Sunday. The victory also gave new T20I skipper Shreyas Iyer his maiden series sweep as India's captain.

Having arrived on the back of disappointing series defeats in Ireland and England, India produced a clinical all-round performance to assert their dominance. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi set the tone early with a sparkling 81 to lift India to a formidable 192/5 on a slow pitch.

In defence of the total, Mayank was clinical in using short of good length and short balls to ensure Zimbabwe were never in the hunt. Despite a sloppy display in the field that saw five chances being dropped, India restricted Zimbabwe to 157/7 to wrap up a comfortable series win.

Chasing 193, Zimbabwe's reply got off to a disastrous start as Mayank struck with the very first ball of the innings - just like he did in the first T20I. The express pacer produced a 147kph thunderbolt that nipped away and drew an edge from Brian



Bennett, which Vaibhav Sooryavanshi caught sharply at first slip.

Yash Thakur's double-strike in the fourth over effectively derailed Zimbabwe's chase. Thakur first outsmarted Dion Myers (19) with a clever 125kph bouncer, which the batter tamely chipped to

Shreyas Iyer. On the very next ball, Thakur produced a moment of magic - getting a 143kph delivery to take skipper Sikandar Raza's leading edge before diving dynamically in his follow-through to pluck a sensational one-handed stunning catch.

Though Ryan Burl denied

Thakur a hat-trick with a crisp drive to the boundary, India seized complete control of the contest by taking three scalps in power-play. Ryan Burl and Ben Curran tried resurrecting the innings with a 31-run stand, before the latter reverse-swept to short third man off Ravi Bishnoi.

Burl and Wessly Madhevere tried reducing Zimbabwe's pressure after four boundary-less overs with some lofty hits - the former carted Abhishek Sharma for a four and six while the latter gave the same treatment to Thakur.

The 60-run partnership ended when Mayank had Madhevere pulling to mid-wicket (and later had Brad Evans caught out at cover) and once Ashok Sharma sent Tadiwanashe Marumani's off-stump for a walk to get his first international wicket, the writing was on the wall for Zimbabwe, with the result entirely in India's favour, despite Burl hitting an unbeaten fifty off 42 balls.

Brief Scores: India 192/5 in 20 overs (Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 81, Ishan Kishan 29; Brad Evans 2-41, Blessing Muzarabani 1-33) beat Zimbabwe 157/7 in 20 overs (Ryan Burl 54 not out, Wessly Madhevere 28; Mayank Yadav 3-29, Yash Thakur 2-45) by 35 runs



'It means the world, as this is my last year as a junior': Anahat on World Junior squash title

Japan forward Daizen Maeda joins Ipswich Town from Celtic on a four-year deal

IPSWICH : Japan forward Daizen Maeda has completed a move to Premier League club Ipswich Town from Scottish champions Celtic, signing a contract that will keep him at Portman Road until the summer of 2029.

The 28-year-old becomes Ipswich's fifth signing of the summer transfer window and the club's first-ever Japanese player. Financial details of the transfer were not disclosed.

Maeda arrives after an impressive spell at Celtic, where he scored 79 goals in 212 appearances and helped the Glasgow club win five Scottish Premiership titles along with five domestic cup trophies. He also enjoyed a standout 2024-25 campaign, scoring 33 goals and earning the PFA Scotland Players' Player of the Year award.

"I am very proud to sign for Ipswich Town. I have always dreamed of playing in the Premier League, and I am very happy I can realise that dream with this club. I have loved all of the conversations with the club, and they have



made me feel very welcome," Maeda said in an official statement. "My aim will always be to battle hard, score goals, and provide assists for my team. I will always run and give everything that I have. I am excited to learn more about the club and meet the supporters," he added. Ipswich manager Gary O'Neil welcomed the arrival of the Japan international, highlighting the forward's work ethic and proven goalscoring ability. "We're very pleased to have Daizen join the club. Playing in the Premier League is something I know he has been working towards throughout his career and we are proud he has made the decision to do that now at Ipswich Town," he said. "He works extremely hard and has impressive physical attributes, while also proving over a number of

years playing in Scotland that he has the ability to score goals and create for his team. He will be a valuable member of the squad, and we look forward to him joining up with the group," he added.

Born in Osaka Prefecture, Maeda began his professional career with Matsumoto Yamaga before enjoying spells with Mito HollyHock, Portuguese side Maritimo and Yokohama F. Marinos. He won the J.League Golden Boot in 2021 after scoring 23 goals in 36 matches before earning his move to Celtic.

On the international stage, Maeda has made 30 appearances for Japan, scoring five goals. He represented his country at the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar, scoring against Croatia in the Round of 16, and was also part of Japan's squad for the 2026 FIFA World Cup, where he found the net in a 1-1 draw against Sweden earlier this summer. He captained Japan for the first time in a friendly against Scotland in March 2026.



Whenever I represent India, the event automatically becomes important: Neeraj Chopra on CWG return

GLASGOW : The Indian javelin ace Neeraj Chopra, who is returning to the Commonwealth Games 2026 after missing the previous edition in 2022, said he has not set any specific target in his mind to give his best according to whatever the conditions turn out to be. Neeraj won the crown at Gold Coast 2018 but couldn't defend the title at Birmingham 2022 as he withdrew from the tournament due to injury.

"There is no specific target as such. The only thought in mind is that whenever you compete, try to give your absolute best and put in 100 percent on the day so that there are no regrets later. During the competition, the goal will simply be to give my best according to whatever the conditions turn out to be," Neeraj told reporters on Sunday.

"Whenever I represent my country, it automatically becomes important to me. Since I have come here to compete for India, I will

give my 100 percent. How things turn out will be known on the day of the event, but I always give 100 percent whenever I represent my country, and that is the same target here. Our other athletes are also well-prepared. There are two javelin throwers-Rohit has come in after making a very good throw-so we will try to deliver a good performance together," he added.

The Olympic and world championships gold medallist sustained a lower back problem shortly before the World Athletics Championships in September last year, where he finished eighth. He has competed only once in the 2026 season, when he featured in the Doha Diamond League in June, finishing fourth with a throw of 85.69m.

The 28-year-old said he worked on his shortcomings after the Doha meet and arrived in Glasgow fit. "Right now, I am feeling quite fine. Doha was my first competition after the Tokyo World Championships. I had a good throw there, and after that, we worked on the areas where I fell short and focused on my fitness. So now, I am better," he said.

Asked if he is feeling free after achieving the 90m mark or if there is any pressure of maintaining the consistency of matching the elusive mark, Neeraj said, "It isn't pressure as such, but as an athlete, it is always in my mind to keep increasing my distance. That is constantly on my mind. When you are competing in major games, the biggest challenge is to win a medal or a gold among the world's best athletes. Distance is important to me, and I want to keep pushing it further."

"However, amid that target, I feel that when you face such conditions where all top athletes are competing together, huge distances don't always come out. In those situations, you have to maintain your consistency. So what stays in my mind is to maintain my consistency and keep trying to gradually improve. So yes, definitely, my target is to push my throw even further," he concluded.

The men's javelin qualifying round is scheduled for July 30 at the Scotstoun Stadium, with the final the following day. Neeraj's bid to reclaim the CWG title is far from easy, as the men's javelin line-up is loaded with top names such as reigning Olympic champion Arshad Nadeem and rising Sri Lankan talent Rumesh Pathirage, who holds the world lead of 92.62m this season.

Grenada's two-time former world champion Anderson Peters and reigning world and former Olympic champion Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad and Tobago are also in the fray.

CWG 2026: India lose to Namibia, suffer first defeat in women's pairs Bowls

GLASGOW : India's Rupa Rani Tirkey and Pinki Singh suffered their first defeat of the Commonwealth Games 2026 women's pairs lawn bowls competition after losing to Namibia's Amanda Steenkamp and Diana Viljoen in a dramatic Group B contest on Sunday.

The Indian duo squandered a five-point lead to lose the opening set, responded with a dominant second-set display to force a tiebreak, but eventually went down 3-0 in the decider. However, England's tiebreak defeat to South Africa kept India's qualification hopes alive, with the final Group B fixture against England set to determine which team advances to the knockout stage. India made an ideal start, taking control from the opening end by collecting two points before adding three more in the second to surge into a commanding 5-0 lead. Rupa consistently placed her bowls close to the jack, while Pinki produced a tactical masterstroke by positioning her final bowl behind the kitty as insurance against a Namibian drive. Diana Viljoen was

unable to disturb India's setup, allowing the pair to establish early dominance.

Namibia finally found its rhythm in the third end after India's attempts to move the jack failed to pay off. Amanda Steenkamp and Viljoen capitalised by placing two bowls closest to the jack to reduce the deficit to 5-2.

The momentum continued to swing in Namibia's favour in the fourth end. India discussed several tactical options, but Pinki's attempts to remove Namibia's scoring bowls proved unsuccessful as the Africans picked up two more points to trail by just one. With the scores at 5-4, Namibia completed a remarkable comeback in the fifth end. Amanda's opening delivery settled right beside the jack and immediately put India under pressure. Viljoen then ensured Namibia collected three shots, overturning the early deficit to claim the opening set 7-5.

India produced an emphatic response in the second set. Rupa opened with two excellent deliveries before Pinki added two more perfectly weighted bowls as

India raced into a 4-0 lead after the opening end.

The Indian pair tightened its grip in the second end, extending the advantage to 7-0 as Namibia struggled to find any rhythm. Although Namibia managed a solitary point in the third end after displacing an Indian bowl near the jack, India remained firmly in control.

Pinki then delivered one of the defining moments of the match in the penultimate end, driving directly into the jack to rescue a difficult situation and help India move 8-1 ahead. India completed the turnaround in the final end, collecting two more points to seal the second set 10-1 and send the contest into a tiebreak. The decider was a tense affair. Viljoen's penultimate delivery left India needing a perfect final bowl to stay alive. Pinki's last attempt, however, ran beyond the target, handing Namibia a 3-0 victory in the tiebreak and ending India's unbeaten run in the competition. Despite the setback, India remained firmly in the race for a place in the knockout stage after England lost their tiebreak.