



Arrogance Persists Despite Losing Power: Trinamool Leader Allegedly Assaults Ambulance Driver for Refusing to Pay Extortion Money



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Morning India

Suvendu Adhikari asserts Bengal will make ‘rapid strides’ after becoming ‘financially strong in one or two years’

MI News Service, Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday asserted that the state will become financially strong within the next couple of years, making rapid strides in every sector.

Inaugurating a Textile Expo at the Milan Mela ground in the eastern parts of the city, Suvendu Adhikari announced that he would lay the foundation of a Rs 4,000-crore steelworks plant in Purulia on August 17. Ground breaking ceremonies to set up new factories are being held one after another in the state every month, the Chief minister said. Highlighting the ongoing economic revitalization efforts in the state and recent policy focus on industrial growth, the Chief minister reiterated that within the next one or two years West Bengal will be financially strong enough to make rapid

strides not in one or two but across all sectors. He said the state administration presented a Rs 4.38 trillion budget targeting a 'Viksit Bangla' vision aligned with industrialization and infrastructure development.

The Chief minister said an allocation of Rs 5,000 crore was introduced to support new incentive policies targeting high-growth fields like electric vehicles, semi-conductors, and defence equipment manufacturing. He said measures include a target of one lakh government jobs alongside welfare and infrastructure frameworks designed to improve the state's ease of doing business. Coming down heavily on the alleged anti-industry attitudes of the previous Left Front and Trinamool Congress governments, Suvendu Adhikari said 34 years of Left Front rule, followed by 15



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari addresses at the Milan Mela ground in Kolkata about the state's industrial development programme on Thursday

years of Trinamool Congress governance, totalling nearly five decades, Bengal has only back- tracked in terms of its industrial ventures. Now with the BJP government coming to power, the Chief Minister urged industrialists to invest in Bengal, highlighting the opportunities of 'Amrit Kaal' (an era of prosperity) under the 'double-engine' government in this transformed state. He stated, "Bengal has fallen behind over the last 50 years. Now, no form of hooliganism will be tolerated. We are in the 'Amrit Kaal' phase; invest in Bengal. The state will now move forward. The situation

will change within the next year or two." Suvendu Adhikari also paid special attention to the tea and textile industries and stated that he had already discussed the matter with Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and she responded positively to his proposals. He also called upon industrialists associated with the textile sector to invest in Bengal and extended an invitation to industrialists from other sectors as well.

Continuing his deliberations at the event, he said, "In the last three months, the government has been working in accordance with the manifesto pledges made during the election. An industrial-friendly environment is being created in Bengal. Hooliganism will not be tolerated; the right atmosphere will be fostered, and Bengal will progress steadily." He spoke about the recent huge

investments by Lux Cozi and Shyam Steel, noting that significant progress has also been made regarding Amul's investment. The Chief Minister said, "Lux Cozi has decided to expand its factory. Amul is also coming; they will set up factories for *mishti doi* (sweet curd) and ice cream in North and South Bengal. Shyam Steel is also making massive investment and required land will soon be granted to them as our land policy has been revised." He also announced that further crucial decisions will be taken the next cabinet meeting. Incidentally, soon after coming to power in May the new BJP government has made promises of an all round growth, development, job creation, investor-friendly environment, women's safety, industrialisation, and putting the state prominently on the growth map.

3,280 visually impaired children in Bengal benefit from Sighsavers programme

MI News Service, Kolkata : An internationally recognised NGO has supported a total of 3,280 children with visual impairment in West Bengal during the last one year (between April 2025 and March 2026) under an inclusive education programme aligned with the Centre's Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. Working with the state Education department, schools, teachers and local communities, the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind (Sightsavers) has been helping strengthen the education system to ensure that children who are blind or have low vision have access to quality and inclusive education, the NGO said in a statement on Thursday.

The programme provides Braille education, low-vision devices, accessible learning materials and technology-enabled learning aids, including tablets, DAISY players and laptops. Sightsavers India's Inclusive



Education programme has successfully supported 3,280 verified visually impaired children across 15 districts in West Bengal, to access high-quality mainstream education. Operating in alignment with India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyaan, the initiative bridges critical learning gaps for children with special needs.

According to recent programme reports, the initiative achieved several milestone interventions like 3,280 children with visual impairment supported, 1,265 children provided with accessible, specialized educational materials and 263 children equipped with Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and assistive learning devices.

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SC stays arrest of Sumit Roy in Salboni land-grabbing case

MI News Service, New Delhi : The Supreme Court on Thursday stayed the arrest of Sumit Roy, Personal Assistant to Trinamool Congress MP Abhishek Banerjee, in connection with the Salboni land-grabbing case. The top court, however, directed him to cooperate fully with the ongoing investigation. On August 3, the Calcutta High Court rejected the anticipatory bail plea of Roy in connection with the alleged government land fraud case being investigated by the Salboni Police. After being denied interim protection from coercive police action, including arrest, by the Calcutta High Court earlier this week in a case related to illegal land grabbing, Sumit Roy, the absconding Personal Assistant of Trinamool Congress General Secretary and Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha MP, Abhishek Banerjee, had approached the



Supreme Court seeking protection. Earlier, Roy approached the Calcutta High Court with an anticipatory bail plea in the illegal land-grabbing matter. However, on August 3, Calcutta High Court's single-judge bench of Justice Tirthankar Ghosh rejected that anticipatory bail plea. However, on the same day, Justice Ghosh granted Sumit a conditional anticipatory bail in a case related to 'cash-for-a-state-government-job'. However, while granting conditional anticipatory bail in the job-related case, Justice Ghosh directed Sumit Roy to appear before the investigating

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Assam STF arrests 3 from Kolkata in tax fraud cases

MI News Service, Guwahati / Kolkata : The Special Task Force (STF) of Assam Police has apprehended three more accused in its crackdown on pan-India tax frauds from Kolkata, taking the total number of arrests in such cases to 12, an official statement said on Thursday. The latest arrests were made from the heart of Kolkata in two separate operations.

Continuing its sustained crackdown against pan-India GST fraud syndicates and fraudulent Input Tax Credit (ITC) claimants, the STF, Assam, successfully conducted co-ordinated raid and search operations, and apprehended three accused persons from Kolkata, the statement said. According to the initial report, the arrests were made during an eight-day operation carried out in Kolkata, where multiple searches were conducted at different locations. Officials said several mobile phones and important documents were seized during the raids. The arrested persons have been identified as Surajit Barman and Vivek Kumar Gupta in connection with the fake ITC case, while Vineet Kumar Poddar has been held in the bitumen case. Poddar is said to be one of the main accused in a fake invoicing network linked to the bitumen business. Offi-



cials indicated that more people may be involved in the case and further action is expected in the coming days. They also made it clear that strict action will be taken against all those found linked to the network. All three accused were brought to Guwahati last night and were produced before the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM), Kamrup (Metro) today.

Also in last week, in yet another joint operation conducted by the Assam State GST Department and the Special Task Force (STF), Assam Police arrested two more key accused from Kolkata in connection with the same fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) scam. After an intensive four-day manhunt, the investigation team apprehended the two, both the residents of Baksa district in Assam and are alleged to be key members of the fake ITC syndicate involving Hrishikesh Kalita and Trishna Barman. The investigation conducted so far has unearthed tax evasion exceeding Rs 50 crore through a network of 15 fake GST firms allegedly created for fraudulent availment and passing of

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‘Banglar Bari’ scheme renamed to ‘Paschim Banga Awas’

MI News Service, Kolkata : The West Bengal government on Thursday renamed a state-funded rural housing scheme 'Banglar Bari' to 'Paschim Banga Awas' and started releasing the second instalment of financial assistance to 10 lakh beneficiary families from today itself. These beneficiaries are among the 18 lakh families identified under the housing scheme during the previous TMC regime. The central scheme was originally named 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana'. During her tenure as Chief Minister of West Bengal, Mamata Banerjee objected to that name and rebranded the housing scheme for the poor as 'Banglar Bari'. Now, in this era of change, the scheme has received yet another name; the government led by Suvendu Adhikari has renamed 'Banglar Bari' to 'Paschim Banga Awas'. State Panchayat and Rural Development minister Dilip Ghosh in presence of Chief minister Suvendu Adhikari at a programme at Nabanna Sabhaghar today announced that the second instalment of funds is being credited to the beneficiaries' accounts today, with 1.8



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari during a public distribution programme in connection with the 2nd instalment of Banglar Bari Gramin, renamed as 'Paschim Banga Awas' at held at Nabanna Sabhaghar on Thursday. pic Prabir Bhattacharya.

million (18 lakh) people set to receive Rs 60,000 each. However, Dilip Ghosh claimed that out of the 3 million names on the list prepared by the Trinamool government, 1.25 million

were 'ineligible'. Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari declared, "All eligible individuals will receive the benefits of this scheme. We will not look at the benefi-

ciaries' political affiliation or religion." Beneficiaries living below the poverty line are naturally delighted by the announcement that the government has begun disbursing the second instal-

ment of funds today; this will enable them to complete the construction of their unfinished homes".

Incidentally, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a joint scheme between the

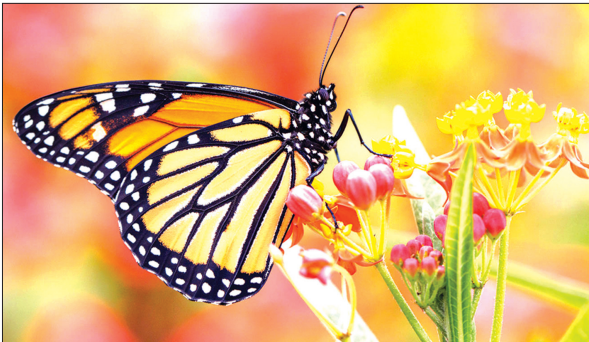
Centre and the State. However, allegations of deprivation arose during the Trinamool Congress regime, with the then-ruling camp claiming that the Centre was withholding funds for this scheme aimed at providing concrete houses to the poor. Mamata Banerjee had even announced that the State government itself would provide the necessary funds, and a beneficiary list was prepared accordingly. It was decided that Rs 1.20 lakh would be allocated for each house, and the first installment had already been disbursed. Subsequently, the Trinamool Congress lost power, and a BJP government took office. The "double-engine government" has accelerated the pace of various social welfare schemes, and the current administration has wasted no time in releasing the Awas Yojana grants. Suvendu Adhikari stated, "For a long time, the Trinamool Congress government objected to the name of Modi-ji's scheme. Consequently, the scheme—which benefits the poor across the rest of the country—was not implemented here. Our stance is clear: from now

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Butterflies are on the move as planet warms

MI News Service, New Delhi / London : Imagine spotting a butterfly species in your garden that you have never seen before. You might take a photo and upload it to a citizen science app, or tell a local nature group about your new encounter. It feels like a small moment of joy. But if that butterfly has appeared in your backyard because its old home is becoming too hot, too dry or too damaged, the sighting is more worrying.

Around the world, ongoing environmental changes are prompting many butterfly species to relocate and search for new homes, a process referred to as species range shifts or species redistribution. As temperatures, rainfall and habitats change, butterflies can relocate over long distances, or even move vertically up and down mountain ranges. A new global study has found that one in every ten known butterfly species has already shifted in range. So, where are they going – and why? The data used in our global study was comprehensive: more than 6,180 reports of butterfly range shift from 565 studies



and 68 expert assessments, which covered 1,758 species across 105 countries. These showed 80% of the documented butterfly species had expanded their ranges latitudinally, meaning north to south, or longitudinally, meaning east to west. We found 27% had reduced their range and 22% had shifted up or down slopes on hills or mountains. Many species showed a combination of these range changes. The public narrative is often simplistic: as the world warms, species are shifting towards cooler temperatures at higher latitudes, or moving upwards in mountains. This is happening, but it is only one piece of the puzzle. In fact, butterflies

need more than that in order to find new homes at the right temperature. Caterpillars often depend on specific host plants; adults need nectar, shelter and safe places to breed; and populations also require connected habitats so individuals can move easily through the landscape, meet, reproduce and breed. Some species show how fast changes can happen. The tawny coster (Acraea terpsicore) native to the Indian subcontinent, has expanded through Southeast Asia and into Australia. In Brazil, (Gordartiana byses) has expanded from Rio de Janeiro and Bahia into São Paulo, a shift linked to climate warming.

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GSTAT Goes Operational: What Every Taxpayer Should Know Before Filing

MI News Service, Kolkata : After years of anticipation, the Goods and Services Tax Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) has moved from promise to practice. With its e-filing portal operational and appeals now being accepted, businesses across the country are finally getting the dedicated forum for GST disputes that the law had long anticipated. But as taxpayers rush to the tribunal, three elements of the new system deserve close attention: the portal itself, the newly introduced "token" mechanism, and the pre-deposit that every appellant must pay before their case is even heard.

In an exclusive interaction with Morning India, Renowned Chartered Accountant Mr. Anup Kumar Luharuka shared his insights on the much-anticipated functioning of the GST Appellate Tribunal.

GSTAT was conceived as the second appellate forum under the GST law, meant to hear appeals against orders of the First Appellate Authority or the Revisional Au-



thority. Until recently, its absence forced aggrieved taxpayers to approach High Courts directly, adding to already stretched delaying resolution of routine tax disputes. With the tribunal's rules notified that gap is finally closing, and pending litigation is expected to move toward the tribunal in the coming months. Further CA Luharuka added, all appeals to GSTAT must now be filed electronically through its dedicated e-filing portal. The system allows the appellant's order details to be auto-populated once a valid reference number is entered, and supports authentication through digital signature or Aadhaar-based e-sign. Presently hearings are conducted

physically or virtually, and all notices and communications are issued and authenticated electronically through the portal itself. Court fees and the pre-deposit amount are routed through government's portal, keeping payments traceable and outside the appeal form itself. For professionals and taxpayers alike, familiarity with this digital workflow is no longer optional; it is the only route into the tribunal.

He further added Recognizing that a new portal could be difficult for first-time users, especially during the first filing period. GSTAT introduced a token generation facility. Rather than lose their right to appeal because of an upload failure, a payment gateway glitch or a signature validation error, appellants can now generate a token by furnishing minimal basic details before the filing deadline. This token itself is not the appeal, but it stands as documented proof that the taxpayer attempted to initiate proceedings in

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West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari attends a meeting of the Calcutta Saree Dealers Association during the inauguration of the 4th edition of the Kolkata Couture Expo 2026 and Textile Conclave, organised by the South Calcutta Saree Dealers Welfare Association, at Milan Mela Grounds in Kolkata on Thursday.

Teenager dies after falling from moving train while returning from Belur Math visit with teacher

MI News Service, East Burdwan: Going out with the coaching teacher proved to be the undoing! A teenager died on his way home from Belur Math. A class 12 student from Kankasa tragically died after falling from a train. An investigation has been launched into how the student fell from the train. The GRP has started investigating the incident. A shadow of grief has fallen on the family.

According to police sources, the deceased teenager's name is Param-

brata Mandal. He is 17 years old. He is a resident of Trilokchandrapur in Kanksha. On Wednesday, some students came to visit Belur Math with their coaching teacher. After spending the whole day there, they took a train to return home at night. They were returning home by Howrah-Burdwan local train from Belur station. When the train reached the area adjacent to Gangpur Baraka Bridge before Burdwan station, Parambrata suddenly fell from the moving train. The teenager

died on the spot. After receiving the news, Burdwan RPF and GRP reached the spot. The body was recovered and sent to Burdwan Medical College Hospital. How and why did the student fall from the moving train? Who was with him at the gate at that time. Why did the teacher not stop the students from standing at the train gate? Questions are being raised. The police are investigating all aspects. The shadow of grief over the incident has spread across the area.

Shantiniketan's Sonajhuri: Forest Dept launches drive to curb the 'unbridled expansion' of traders

MI News Service, Birbhum: Case in Environmental Court, Yet Encroachment Continues in Sonajhuri Forest! Brick and stone huts under trees, Sonajhuri Hat in Shantiniketan is again in the dock. 'Encroachment' in the shade of trees, environmental issues again at Sonajhuri Hat. On Wednesday, a quarrel and argument started between the haat traders over the allegation of marking the place. Allegedly, an attempt was made to 'encroach' and mark the place of business by building a hut with bricks and stones under the trees of the forest! Local residents including forest department staff objected. As the situation heated up, the police of Shantiniketan police station and forest department staff reached the spot.

Bolpur Forest Department official Jyotish Barman said, "It is not advisable to build brick huts on forest land, especially under trees. Traders have been warned. If necessary, action will be taken by informing higher authorities." However, not only brick huts, but the list of allegations of environmental violations surrounding Sonajhuri Hat is also long. Cases are pending in the Environment Court on multiple allegations, including damage to trees, free entry of four-wheelers into the forest, indiscriminate use of plastic, dumping of untreated waste and construction of concrete in various places.

Incidentally, it started as a small market once a



week by a few local tribal artists in around 2000. It has expanded widely since 2016-17. Now Sonajhuri is bustling with tourists all year round. But that popular market is now a question mark for the environment. Bolpur BJP Yuva Morcha General Secretary Arun Das complains, "Many traders have lined up bricks and stones under trees to mark the place.

The forest department has already said that no construction can be done under the trees. Damage to the environment of the market and especially the Sonajhuri forest is not desirable at all." With the case pending in the environment court regarding Sonajhuri Market, new questions have been raised about the environmental impact of the market. As a result, the future of the handicrafts market is now a challenge while preserving the greenery of Sonajhuri.

Police Hold Special Meeting with All India Drivers Federation Members During Road Safety Week

MI News Service, Kharagpur: As part of Road Safety Week, Dantan Police organised a special awareness meeting to educate vehicle drivers about the importance of following traffic rules and promoting safer driving practices. The meeting was held at the Dantan Police Station premises in Paschim Medinipur district, where a large number of members of the All India Drivers Federation participated. During the session, police officials appealed to drivers to operate their vehicles responsibly and remain vigilant on the roads. They pointed out that the majority of road accidents occur due to overspeeding, reckless driving, driving under the influence of alcohol, using mobile phones while driving, overloading vehicles, and other violations of traffic regulations. Officials stressed that such negligence endangers not only the lives of drivers but also those of passengers and other road users. Drivers were urged to strictly follow



traffic rules, maintain prescribed speed limits, wear seat belts and helmets wherever applicable, and adopt safe driving habits at all times. The police emphasised that road safety is not solely the responsibility of law enforcement agencies but a moral responsibility of every driver and citizen. The meeting was attended by the Officer-in-Charge of Dantan Police Station, the Traffic Officer-in-Charge, and other police officials. Members of the All India Drivers Federation assured the po-

lice of their full cooperation in the road safety campaign and pledged to spread awareness about traffic rules among fellow drivers. The police administration also announced that similar awareness meetings, training programmes, and public outreach campaigns will continue to be organised regularly in the future to encourage greater compliance with traffic regulations and effectively reduce road accidents while promoting a safer road environment.

International Gathering Marks First Death Anniversary of Pir Syed Khaled Ali Al-Hosseini at Pratappur Darbar Sharif

MI News Service, Pratappur: A grand international spiritual congregation was recently held at Pratappur Darbar Sharif, one of the country's revered centres of Sufi tradition, to commemorate the first death anniversary of Hazrat Pir Sahib Allama Syed Khaled Ali Al-Hosseini (R.A.). The annual Isale Sawab Mahfil, Ziyarat, and special prayer ceremony brought together devotees, scholars and distinguished guests from India and abroad in an atmosphere of devotion and harmony.

The programme began with a Zikr session led by Syed Ruhul Amin, the sole spiritual successor of the late Pir Sahib. The gathering concluded with an emotional Munajat (supplication) offered by him, praying for peace, unity and the well-being of humanity.



The event was attended by professors, researchers, teachers and academicians from several Indian colleges and universities, along with Swami Parmananda Maharaj of the Ramakrishna Mission. Prominent Islamic scholars and intellectuals from the Islamic

Republic of Iran, including Haji Ebrahim Zargar, Mohammad Kashi Zadeh and Ali Kanavati, addressed the gathering. They highlighted the importance of spirituality, education, interfaith harmony and humanitarian values, while praising the role of

Pratappur Darbar Sharif in promoting global understanding. They also expressed hope for stronger international cooperation through education, research and cultural exchange.

Pratappur Darbar Sharif has emerged as more than just a Sufi shrine in India. Through regular visits by scholars, researchers and religious leaders from various countries, it has gained international recognition as a centre for spirituality, education and intercultural dialogue.

The programme concluded with special prayers for the eternal peace of the departed Pir Sahib, Hazrat Syed Khaled Ali Al-Hosseini (R.A.), while Syed Ruhul Amin Al-Hosseini also offered prayers for peace, harmony and prosperity for the nation and all humanity.

Huge cash recovered, two arrested

MI News Service, Malda: Another 'mountain' of cash in Malda! A major success was achieved in the operation against the drug trafficking gang on Thursday morning. On this day, the police recovered a huge amount of cash from two bike riders while conducting a naka checking on National Highway No. 12 in Rangavita area of Gazol. The money was counted with the help of a money counting machine sitting on the roadside. It is known that the amount of cash is about 41 lakh rupees. Along with this, brown sugar was recovered from the accused. The police have arrested 2 youths accused in this incident and are interrogating them.

The accused are named Siddharth Mandal and Kishore Mandal. They live in Kaliachak area of Malda. On Thursday during a police checkpoint on National Highway No. 12 in Rangavita area of Gazol, the police seized their bike. A huge amount of money was recovered from a bag with them. Then the police brought a machine and counted the money sitting on the roadside. According to police sources, the amount of money recovered was 40 lakh 69 thousand 700 rupees. Also, 568 grams of brown sugar was recovered from the accused. Its estimated market value is around lakhs rupees. Police said that the recovered money and brown sugar were being taken from Dalkhola to Malda. The police are investigating to whom the drugs and money were intended to be delivered. The two bikes of the accused have been confiscated.

Recently, the police conducted a raid in Mangalbari of Malda police station area and seized 2 crore 40 lakh 97 thousand rupees, 20 grams of gold and several lakh taka of banned cup syrup from a businessman's house. The money was counted for several hours using a machine. After the cup syrup, now it is brown sugar. The curtain of drug trafficking has been exposed again in Malda. On the other hand, on Wednesday, the police recovered a total of 48 lakh rupees from a brick kiln in the Gaurbazar area of Durgapur. This time, 41 lakh rupees was recovered from Malda.

Arrogance Persists Despite Losing Power: Trinamool Leader Allegedly Assaults Ambulance Driver for Refusing to Pay Extortion Money

MI News Service, West Burdwan: People were forced to pay money during the Trinamool regime! An ambulance driver refused to pay extortion money in the 'changed' Bengal; he was allegedly beaten up by a former Trinamool councillor for not receiving the extortion money. He was not only beaten up, but also threatened with death. The young man approached the police station seeking his family and personal safety. The incident took place in Durgapur. However the Trinamool leader denied the allegations.

Manik Dhibar, an ambulance driver for a private hospital near Gandhi More in Durgapur, alleged that during the Trinamool Congress rule, he used



Wounded Ambulance driver.

to pay former councillor Hiralal Bauri Rs 10,000 per month. He claimed that he could not protest in an atmosphere of fear. He used to send money online. Manik claimed that he did not pay for three months after the change of government in the state. Allegedly, Hiralal threw him out on the road in

a drunken state and beat him up severely. Trinamool leader threatened that even Durgapur West BJP MLA Laxman Chandra Ghorui will not be able to protect him.

The ambulance driver said, "I used to pay monthly extortion money. I haven't made the payment for the last

three months. That is why Trinamool's Manik Bauri beat me up and threatened to kill me."

Upon receiving the complaint of extortion, MLA Laxman Chandra Ghorui said, "I have informed the police to investigate the complaint and take immediate action. No extortion will be tolerated. I demand strict punishment." The accused Trinamool leader claimed that the entire complaint was false. Hiralal Bauri said, "There was trouble because I spoke about my family. There is no issue of extortion. I have never needed extortion." At the same time, he has also leveled counter-allegations that he was attacked based on his caste.

Police Issue Strict SOP for Hotels, Lodges and Guest Houses; Legal Action Warned for Violations

MI News Service, Kharagpur: Kharagpur Town Police have issued a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for hotels, lodges, guest houses and homestays operating under the jurisdiction of Kharagpur Town Police Station. The new guidelines are aimed at preventing crime, strengthening surveillance of suspicious activities and ensuring public safety. A meeting was held at Premhari Bhavan in Malancha, Kharagpur, with owners, managers and authorised representatives of hotels, lodges, guest houses and homestays. The meeting was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police Bushra Bano, Kharagpur SDPO Siddharth Singh Dangri, and Inspector-in-Charge of Kharagpur Town Police Station Amit Kumar Mitra. According to the SOP, all accommodation providers must securely maintain the identity proof of every guest and produce CCTV footage and identity-related records before the police whenever required. They have also been directed to ensure that no records or documents are altered, tampered with or destroyed. Activities Strictly Prohibited. The SOP



clearly states that hotel, lodge and guest house premises must not be used for:- Prostitution or immoral human trafficking. Consumption or trafficking of narcotic drugs. Any form of illegal gambling. Sheltering criminals, absconding accused or persons wanted by the police. Storage of illegal arms, explosives or any prohibited materials. Any activity that threatens public order or national security. Mandatory Employee Verification. Police have directed all establishments to maintain complete records of their employees. Wherever required, police verification of staff must be conducted. Every employee must also be issued an official identity card. Emergency Contact Numbers Must Be Displayed. Under the SOP, the following emergency contact numbers must be prominently

displayed at the reception or front desk: Police Emergency Service - 112, Fire and Emergency Services, Ambulance Service, Contact number of the nearest police station, Local police control room number. Strict Legal Action for Non-Compliance. Kharagpur Town Police have made it clear that any hotel, lodge or guest house operator found violating these directions will face legal action under the relevant provisions of law. If necessary, the competent authority may also take additional appropriate measures. Police have instructed all concerned establishments to acknowledge receipt of the SOP and ensure its strict implementation. The order has been issued by Inspector-in-Charge Amit Kumar Mitra on behalf of Kharagpur Town Police Station.

Border Fencing Picks Up Pace in Krishnaganj; MLA Sukanta Biswas Claims Land Acquisition Near Completion

MI News Service, Krishnaganj: The long-pending effort to strengthen security along the India-Bangladesh international border in Nadia district has gathered pace, with border fencing work progressing rapidly across large stretches of Krishnaganj Assembly constituency, according to BJP MLA Sukanta Biswas. The development comes amid the Centre's continued focus on curbing illegal infiltration, cross-border smuggling and other transnational crimes through enhanced border infrastructure.

Speaking to the media, Biswas claimed that the primary phase of land acquisition required for constructing barbed-wire fencing has already been completed across most of the border villages under his constituency. He said only a handful of locations continue to face legal disputes and ownership-related issues, which, according to him, are being addressed by the administration.

"Wherever land has been made available, fencing work is progressing on a priority basis. Once the remaining disputes are resolved, we expect the entire border under the Krishnaganj Assembly segment to be fully



secured," the legislator said, expressing confidence that the constituency's international border could eventually be brought under complete fencing.

Nadia is one of West Bengal's most strategically significant border districts, sharing a long and porous international boundary with Bangladesh. Border blocks such as Krishnaganj, Karimpur, Tehatta and Hanskhali have historically remained sensitive due to concerns over illegal migration, cattle and narcotics smuggling, counterfeit currency rackets and other cross-border criminal activities. As a result, the district continues to occupy a crucial position

in India's border management strategy.

The Border Security Force (BSF) maintains round-the-clock surveillance along the international border through regular patrolling, floodlighting, observation posts and technology-enabled monitoring systems. Border fencing has long been regarded as a critical component of India's layered security architecture, complementing human surveillance with physical barriers in vulnerable stretches.

However, the project also carries significant implications for thousands of residents living in border villages. Farmers often

cultivate land close to the zero line, while local communities have to function within security protocols that regulate movement and access in sensitive zones. Authorities, therefore, face the dual challenge of strengthening national security while ensuring that the livelihoods and daily lives of border residents are affected as little as possible.

Infrastructure projects of this nature generally involve complex land acquisition procedures, legal clearances and coordination among multiple agencies. While the MLA has expressed optimism regarding the pace of work, no official timeline has yet been announced by the Border Security Force or the Union government on when the Krishnaganj border stretch will be fully fenced. His statement, therefore, reflects the assessment made by the local public representative rather than an officially notified completion schedule.

With border security remaining a key policy priority, the progress of the Krishnaganj fencing project is expected to be closely watched by both security agencies and residents of the frontier region in the coming months.

Grassroots Discontent Surfaces Within Bengal BJP Amid Governance Expectations

Tanya Bagchi Kolkata: Barely months after the BJP formed the government, signs of dissatisfaction are beginning to emerge among sections of its grassroots workers and supporters, raising questions about whether the government's initial honeymoon period may be ending sooner than anticipated.

While the BJP leadership continues to stress that governance reforms and organisational restructuring are works in progress, a section of local party workers point to growing unease over the pace of welfare delivery, internal organisational issues and unmet post-election expectations.

One of the leaders from South 24 Parganas said, "One of the strongest grievances centres on expectations of justice for BJP workers who claim to have faced political violence, intimidation and displacement during the previous regime. Several grassroots workers expected stronger action after the change in government."

Incidentally, the implementation of the government's flagship Annapurna Bhandar welfare scheme has also become a source of concern. Local workers who campaigned on promises of financial assistance say they are facing difficult questions from residents in areas where benefits have yet to reach eligible beneficiaries. Some

party workers have further alleged that, in certain pockets, individuals previously associated with rival political parties have received benefits while long-time BJP supporters continue to await approval. More over-beneficiaries are yet to get the third instalment for August.

"The documentation and citizenship verification process linked to welfare applications also drawn criticism. Residents and party workers alike contend that verification procedures have become more cumbersome than expected, delaying the rollout of benefits," said a Mondal Sabhapati of South Kolkata Unit.

Grassroots workers in several constituencies complain of limited access to elected representatives and allege that many legislators have not maintained regular contact with local workers after their electoral victories. There are also complaints that former Trinamool Congress functionaries are increasingly visible at official BJP programmes, while long-serving BJP activists feel sidelined.

Several party workers have also questioned the pace of organisational restructuring, arguing that booth and Mandal committees remain incomplete more than three months after the government took office. Political observers believe that delays in strengthening the

party's grassroots network could pose challenges if left unaddressed.

Some workers have also expressed concern over what they describe as weakening coordination between the BJP and organisations within the wider Sangh Parivar that played an active role during the Assembly election campaign.

Outside the party, sections of the public have reacted cautiously to the government's eviction drives targeting encroachments at railway stations and on public footpaths. While the administration maintains that the operations are necessary to improve public infrastructure and reclaim public spaces, some residents believe that more extensive consultations and stronger rehabilitation measures could have minimised hardship for small vendors and daily wage earners.

Political analysts say the emerging complaints should not yet be viewed as a widespread crisis but rather as early indicators that expectations following a historic electoral victory remain exceptionally high.

"The BJP now faces the challenge of transitioning from an opposition movement to a governing party," a Kolkata-based political analyst said.

Meanwhile, The trio that felled the 15-year-old Trinamool Congress regime in Bengal — tolajaji

(extortion), dadagiri (highhandedness) and dhakhaldar (landgrab) — are apparently bouncing back in the fledgling BJP government despite its avowed zero-tolerance policy against corruption.

Significantly, Complaints from people, both verbally and in writing, are coming from south Calcutta, its northern suburbs, South 24-Parganas, Hooghly, West Burdwan, Birbhum and many other places.

According to the BJP, more than 30 leaders and workers have been expelled since the new state leadership assumed charge in May.

BJP sources said that dozens of complaints have already reached the party's senior state leadership, accusing a section of leaders, including a few MLAs in and around Calcutta and several districts, of replicating the syndicate culture of the former Trinamool government.

Complaints from people, both verbally and in writing, are coming from south Calcutta, its northern suburbs, South 24-Parganas, Hooghly, West Burdwan, Birbhum and many other places.

The BJP leadership has consistently maintained that governance reforms and organisational strengthening are continuous processes and that feedback from workers and citizens will help shape policy decisions.

Bengal Becoming Business-Friendly, Says Suvendu at Textile Ind Summit

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister SuvenduAdhikari on Thursday inaugurated a textile industry summit at Milan Mela grounds, where he assured entrepreneurs of a business-friendly environment and pledged full government support for the growth of the state's textile sector.

Inaugurating a Textile Expo at the Milan Mela ground in the eastern parts of the city, Adhikari announced that he would lay the foundation of a Rs 4,000-crore steelworks plant in Purulia on August 17. "Bengal will become financially strong in the next one or two years and make rapid strides in every sector. We will hand over land to at least 25 industries within a month," he said. Addressing textile traders and industri-

alists, the Chief Minister said the state government was committed to creating a textile hub and was prepared to amend laws if required to facilitate investment. He also revealed that Union Finance Minister NirmalaSitharaman had expressed keen interest in Bengal's tea and textile industries and is scheduled to visit the state from August 24 to 28. Adhikari claimed that extortion, syndicate culture and illegal cut-money practices had been eliminated, making Bengal more conducive to business. He said most trade licences are now being issued online, reducing difficulties for entrepreneurs, though some concerns regarding parking still remain. The Chief Minister credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership for accel-

erating development initiatives in the state and said the Centre was working closely to improve Bengal's economic prospects.

Highlighting employment generation as a priority, Adhikari said Bengal possesses immense human potential and described Kolkata as the "City of Joy" and a cultural hub. He claimed the state's business climate had improved significantly over the past three months and projected commercial activity worth nearly 1,000 crore. Thanking entrepreneurs for investing in Bengal, Adhikari described successful business leaders as "true patriots" and asserted that the newly established double-engine government had ushered in a more industry-friendly environment across the state.



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari during a press meet in connection with Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, 2026, at Nabanna Sabhaghar on Thursday. pic Prabir Bhattacharya

Stage IV Lung Cancer Patient Regains Independence After Targeted Therapy at HCG Kolkata

MI News Service, Kolkata: A septuagenarian diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer that had spread to multiple bones, leaving both of her upper arms fractured, has made a remarkable recovery after receiving advanced targeted treatment at HCG Cancer Hospital, Kolkata. Her latest PET-CT scan has confirmed a complete metabolic response, allowing her to resume an independent lifestyle.

The case, highlighted on the occasion of World Lung Cancer Day, demonstrates the importance of molecular testing in identifying genetic mutations that can guide personalised treatment, even in advanced cancer cases. The cancer was detected after the patient suffered



fractures caused by weakened bones. Investigations revealed a small tumour in her right lung, while the disease had already spread to the skull, spine, ribs, pelvis and limbs. After surgical repair of the fractures, a biopsy confirmed metastatic lung adenocarcinoma. Genetic testing identified an EGFR

mutation, enabling doctors to begin treatment with the targeted drug dacomitinib. Although the patient initially responded well, the cancer progressed after about 18 months. Doctors then switched her to the third-generation targeted therapy osimertinib. Despite developing neurological complications, she recovered with specialised supportive treatment. Dr.Sanchayan Mandal said molecular testing and timely changes in treatment helped restore the patient's independence. Dr.RupaliBasu added that coordinated, multidisciplinary cancer care plays a vital role in managing advanced disease and improving patients' quality of life.

Annapurna Scheme Funds to Be Credited From August 17, Bengal CM Clears Confusion

MI News Service, Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister SuvenduAdhikari on Thursday clarified confusion surrounding the delayed disbursement of benefits under the Annapurna Yojana, announcing that eligible women will receive the financial assistance directly in their bank accounts from August 17.

Addressing a press conference at Nabanna, the Chief Minister said the delay this month was due to the ongoing scrutiny of applications to ensure that only genuine beneficiaries receive assistance. From September onwards, the funds will be credited reg-



ularly during the second week of every month, he added. Adhikari also announced that a detailed briefing on the scheme will be held on August 10 at 2 pm along with Women and Child Development Minister MalatiRava Roy. The

government will explain the beneficiary verification process, eligibility criteria and progress of application scrutiny.

The scheme is aimed at providing financial support to women aged 25 to 60 years, with beneficiar-

ies being selected on the basis of prescribed economic criteria. The Chief Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to fulfilling its electoral promise and ensuring timely financial assistance to eligible women.

He also warned against the spread of misinformation regarding the scheme on social media. The government, he said, is monitoring individuals allegedly circulating false information through online videos and reels, and strict legal action will be taken against those found deliberately misleading the public.



Members of Paschim Banga Vigyan Mancha participate in a peace rally to mark Hiroshima Day, advocating peace and a world free of nuclear weapons, in Kolkata on Thursday.

SC stays arrest of Sumit Roy in Salboni land-grabbing

Continued from page 1

agency officer within 10 days.

Now apprehending arrest in the land-grabbing-related case if he appears for investigation in the job-related case, the absconding aide of Abhishek Banerjee has now approached the Supreme Court for interim protection. If the investigators call him again later, he would still have to appear. Roy fears that if he goes to appear in this case, he may be arrested in connection with the land-corruption case. Roy was accused of grabbing and selling government-vested land in Salboni in West Midnapore, using fake documents.

Based on a complaint filed against Roy in the matter, the police launched an investigation. A search began for him. But when Roy could not be traced at any of his addresses, the police approached the district court in West Midnapore, which issued an arrest warrant against him.On the same day, Roy's counsel approached the Calcutta High Court seeking anticipatory bail through his counsel.

Assam STF arrests 3 from Kolkata in tax

Continued from page 1

Input Tax Credit. Another prime accused, Shubhrajee Bhattacharjee is absconding and the investigation team is continuing its efforts to trace and arrest him. Preliminary findings indicate that the accused fraudulently obtained GST registrations by misusing the PAN and Aadhaar details of innocent individuals. Vivek Kumar Gupta is suspected to have played a central role in managing the financial transactions of the racket. The operation was jointly led by Monuj Kr Dowari, superintendent of State Tax, GST Intelligence and Enforcement Unit, Assam and Kamlesh Singh, inspector, STF, Assam Police.

'Banglar Bari' scheme renamed to

Continued from page 1

on, operations in West Bengal will align with the rest of the nation. We are changing the name from 'Banglar Bari' to 'Paschim Banga Awas.' Today, we are transferring the second installment of Rs 60,000 to the beneficiaries' accounts. The list inherited from the Trinamool era contained the names of many 'ineligible' individuals; we are releasing the second installment only after identifying and removing those names." While the first instalment was released before the assembly elections in April, the second remained pending. After a fresh verification of beneficiaries, the BJP government has decided to continue the scheme under a new name, 'Paschim Banga Awas', replacing 'Banglar Bari'" the Chief minister said. A senior officer at the state secretariat Nabanna said the government had completed a detailed verification exercise before approving the release of the next instalment.

"Only beneficiaries who have completed construction up to the lintel level using the first instalment have been found eligible for the second instalment. We wanted to ensure that every rupee reaches genuine beneficiaries and that the scheme guidelines are followed in letter and spirit," the official sources said . A special survey conducted under the supervision of Panchayat Secretary P. Ulaganathan found that around 10 lakh of the 18 lakh sanctioned beneficiaries had completed construction up to the prescribed stage."The remaining beneficiaries have not been left out. Once they complete construction up to the required stage, another round of field verification will be carried out and the second instalment will be released accordingly," the sources said. The fresh verification was undertaken following complaints in the past about the inclusion of fake and ineligible beneficiaries in the housing scheme, they said. Around eight lakh beneficiaries are yet to qualify for the second instalment as they have not completed construction up to the lintel level, the sources said adding the actual number of pending beneficiaries could be lower as some names were removed during scrutiny.

Those whose cases are pending before the SIR tribunal will receive assistance if they are eventually found eligible, the official said. Unlike the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana', the scheme is being implemented solely with state funds, the official said.

Butterflies are on the move as planet

Continued from page 1

Other species show the opposite pattern. The small blue (Cupido minimus) has lost 40% of its habitat in the United Kingdom over the past 150 years. In Germany, the cranberry fritillary (Boloria aquilonaris) has lost much of its original habitat because of bog drainage. In Romania, an increase in farming has been linked to a severe range contraction of the danube clouded yellow (Colias myrmidone). Even range shifts along mountain slopes are not always straightforward. In Mexico, the painted lady (Vanessa cardui) shifted upslope at a rate of about 83 metres per year between 1988 and 2011. Over the same period, the queen butterfly (Danaus gilippus) shifted downslope at a rate of about 32m per year. Together, these examples show butterfly species range shifts are not simply a story of animals moving towards the poles. In our study, climate change and extreme weather events were the most common reasons why butterflies shifted their range. But climate change is not the only factor. Agriculture, forestry, urban development and habitat destruction are also reshaping where butterflies can live and reproduce. These disturbances destroy host plants and breeding sites, and fragment large habitats into patches too small to sustain a healthy population. Europe and North America have many long-term butterfly monitoring programs, run by expert volunteers and citizen scientists. We found that in some European countries, range shifts have been documented for more than half the national butterfly species. But in most countries, records exist for fewer than 10% of known butterfly species. We know the least about butterflies in Central Africa, Southeast Asia, New Guinea and the Amazon Basin, some of the richest places on Earth for biodiversity. They are also places where many species may already live close to their upper thermal limits. Even small increases in temperature can make parts of their habitat unsuitable.Why should people care? Butterflies are part of the living fabric around us. Adult butterflies contribute to pollination. Caterpillars feed birds, spiders and other insects. When butterflies disappear, it can signal the plants, grasslands or woodlands once visited by butterflies are also changing.

Nehru Children's Museum to Remain Open After CM's Intervention

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Nehru Children's Museum in Kolkata will continue operations after the intervention of Chief Minister SuvenduAdhikari, bringing relief to thousands of visitors and heritage enthusiasts. The museum authorities shared the announcement on social media on Thursday. The museum was inaugurated on November 14, 1972, by then Chief Minister Siddhartha Shankar Ray. It houses over 1,100 dolls from 96 countries, a unique Ganesha Gallery with nearly 300 idols, and exhibits depicting scenes from the Ramayana through traditional clay dolls. Since its inception, the museum has welcomed nearly 19 million visitors.

The museum had recently announced plans to shut down from August 16 after a third-party safety audit identified the need for urgent fire safety upgrades estimated at 50 lakh. Unable to bear the cost, the management decided closure was the safest option. However, following an appeal for government support and possible takeover, the Chief Minister's Office stepped in. Officials from the CMO contacted Museum Director SudipSrinimal, paving the way for the institution's revival. The intervention has ensured that one of Kolkata's most cherished cultural landmarks will remain open, preserving its rich educational and historical legacy for future generations.

GSTAT Goes Operational: What Every Taxpayer Should

Continued from page 1

time. Once generated, the appellant gets sixty days to complete and submit the full appeal, failing which the token lapses automatically. A separate token is required for every distinct appeal.

CA Luharuka said, no appeal before the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT) can be filed without making the prescribed pre-deposit. In cases involving a tax demand, a total pre-deposit of 20% of the disputed tax is required. Out of this, 10% is paid while filing the first appeal before the Appellate Authority, and the remaining 10% must be paid at the time of filing the appeal before GSTAT. Since the amount of pre-deposit depends on the type of dispute, taxpayers should calculate it carefully before filing an appeal to avoid delays or compliance issues. Upon this he further added court craft is crucial while appearing before the tribunal. A well-organized paper book, supported by a concise and structured case summary, plays a vital role in ensuring smooth and effective hearings. With the portal operational, the token-based safeguard in place, and pre-deposit requirements clearly defined, the GSTAT is now ready to strengthen the GST dispute resolution mechanism. For businesses and tax professionals using the system for the first time, a clear understanding of the e-filing process, adherence to the token timeline, and accurate compliance with pre-deposit requirements will be key to ensuring a smooth appeal process. These views reflect my personal opinion on the GST Appellate Tribunal (GSTAT).

Kolkata Civic Ward Delimitation Proposal Suggests Expansion to 209 Wards

MI News Service, Kolkata: The West Bengal government is moving ahead with the proposed delimitation of wards under the Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) ahead of the civic elections scheduled for December. Although Chief Minister SuvenduAdhikari had earlier announced that the ward reorganisation would be completed before the polls, officials have indicated that the exercise will not be rushed and will instead follow all legal and administrative procedures. According to sources, a preliminary report on the proposed ward restructuring has already been submitted to the state Municipal Affairs and Urban Development Department. The report recommends increasing the number of KMC wards from the existing 144 to 209, aiming to ensure a more balanced distribution of voters across the city. The state government will take the final decision after reviewing the proposal, while the deadline for publishing the draft delimitation has reportedly

been extended to allow for a detailed examination.

The proposed changes include a significant increase in the number of wards across several Assembly constituencies. Kasba is expected to see its wards rise from six to 17, while Jadavpur may increase from 10 to 16. Tollygunge is proposed to have 14 wards instead of the current nine. In Behala East, the number of wards may increase from 11 to 16, while Behala West could expand from 10 to 17.

Heavy Rain to Lash South Bengal Till Saturday; IMD Issues Orange and Yellow Alerts

MI News Service, Kolkata: Heavy rainfall is set to continue across South Bengal until Saturday, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said, after Wednesday's intense showers caused widespread waterlogging in Kolkata and several adjoining districts. According to the Alipore Meteorological Centre, the return of the monsoon trough over South Bengal has revived rainfall activity, with favourable weather systems expected to sustain wet conditions for the next few days. Meteorologists said a cyclonic circulation currently persists over Bihar and adjoining North Bengal, while another cyclonic circulation is active over Assam. In addition, the monsoon trough extends



from Firozpur through Daltonganj to Contai (Kanthi), creating conditions conducive to widespread rain and thunderstorms across the state.

The IMD has issued an Orange Alert for East Midnapore, West Midnapore and Bankura, warning of very heavy rainfall in these districts. A Yellow Alert has also been issued for Kolkata, Howrah, North and South 24 Parganas, PaschimBardhaman, Jhargram and Purulia, where heavy rain, thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds of 30 to 40 kmph are expected. Residents have been advised to remain indoors

during thunderstorms and take shelter inside concrete structures to minimise the risk from lightning.

On Friday, heavy rainfall is likely in Birbhum, Paschim Bardhaman, Bankura and Purulia, all of which remain under a Yellow Alert. The remaining districts of South Bengal are expected to witness scattered thunderstorms accompanied by light to moderate rainfall and gusty winds. Weather conditions are expected to improve from Sunday, with rainfall gradually decreasing across South Bengal. Only light to moderate showers are likely to continue through Monday.

Cal HC Questions CBI Over Delay in RG Kar Case Investigation

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Calcutta High Court on Thursday expressed strong dissatisfaction over the pace of the CBI's investigation into the RG Kar Medical College case, questioning how long the victim's family and the public would have to wait for justice. The matter was heard by a special division bench comprising Justice Shampa Sarkar and Justice Tirthankar Ghosh, with the next hearing scheduled for August 28.

Appearing for the victim's parents, advocate Jayanta Narayan Chattopadhyay argued that the CBI had failed to present a clear picture of its investigation over the past two years. He claimed that key evidence, including video recordings and witness statements submitted by the family, had not been adequately examined. He also questioned why a junior doctor, who allegedly had dinner with the victim on the night of the incident, had neither been properly questioned nor arrested. CBI counsel Dhiraj Trivedi informed the court that a Special Investigation Team (SIT) had taken over the probe on July 7 and sought more time to complete the investigation. Justice Shampa Sarkar, however, criticised the agency, referring to earlier observations regarding destruction of evidence and lapses in the probe. The bench directed the CBI to reconstruct the sequence of events from the night of the incident and conduct a fresh, comprehensive investigation if necessary, asking how much longer the case could remain pending without delivering justice.

3,280 visually impaired children in Bengal benefit from

Continued from page 1

The programme also utilizes strategic corporate and regional partnerships to build sustainable learning environments including upgradation of infrastructure. In Bankura district of West Bengal (which holds the state's highest concentration of visually impaired youth), Sightsavers India partnered with Alcon India to completely renovate the local government Block Resource Centre (BRC), making it fully accessible. The organization recently finalized baseline selections to launch its Foundational Literacy and Numeracy (FLN) training explicitly designed for children with visual impairments in West Bengal. Moreover, in areas like Howrah, specialized school health initiatives like the Vidya-jyoti All Girls' School Eye Health Programme combine life skills, hygiene, and clinical eye care to keep young girls with visual impairments from dropping out of school, informed sources quoting the report said.

Name Change
I, Amir Sekh (Old Name) S/o Awuwakkar Sekh Residing at Vill - Chakbagi, Po+Ps - Bishnupur, District - South 24 Parganas, Pin - 743503, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Amir Sekh (Old Name) to Amiralai Sekh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Amiralai Sekh (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 06-08-2026. Amiralai Sekh (New Name) and Amir Sekh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Savita Rani Singhal (Old Name), Son Of Late Matadin Agarwal, Resident Of 1/A, Halwasiya Road, Barabazar, Kolkata-700007, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Savita Rani Singhal (Old Name) To Savita Singhal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Savita Singhal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 23 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/08/2026. Savita Singhal (New Name) And Savita Rani Singhal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Shamrun Nissa (Old Name), W/o Md Serajuddin, Resident of 6A Convent Lane, P.O. - Tangra, P.S. - Entally, Kolkata- 700015, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Shamrun Nissa (Old Name) to Samrun Nissa (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Samrun Nissa (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Samrun Nissa (new name) and Shamrun Nissa (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Samrat Mukherjee (Old Name), S/o Goutam Mukherjee, Resident of Vill- Monoharpur, PO- Nalpur Bauria, Howrah -711310, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Samrat Mukherjee (Old Name) to Samrat Mukhopadhyay (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Samrat Mukhopadhyay (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Samrat Mukhopadhyay (new name) and Samrat Mukherjee (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sujit Das, Surajit Das (Old Name) S/o Late Subrata Das Residing at Ghinva Villa, Flat No. B-2, 20/14, Baguiati Road, Po+Ps - Dum Dum, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700028, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Sujit Das, Surajit Das (Old Name) to Sujit Kumar Das (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sujit Kumar Das (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 975 Sworn before the Ld. Metropolitan Magistrate at Kolkata on Dated 16-12-2013. Sujit Kumar Das (New Name) and Sujit Das, Surajit Das (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bharat Saha (Old Name), Son Of Jadab Chandra Saha, Resident Of Dakshin Kalyanpur Panihati (M), Agarpara, North 24 Parganas-700109, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Bharat Saha (Old Name) To Bharat Chandra Saha (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Bharat Chandra Saha (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 22 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/08/2026. Bharat Chandra Saha (New Name) And Bharat Saha (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Subhas Barman (Old Name), S/o Kalipada Barman, Resident of 1/1, Amulya Pramanick Road, Ranaghat, Nadia, Pin-741201, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Subhas Barman (Old Name) to Subhas Chandra Barman (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Subhas Chandra Barman (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Subhas Chandra Barman (new name) and Subhas Barman (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jasmine Kakkad (Old Name), w/o Kalpesh Kakkad, Resident of Duronto Apartment Block-D, 2nd Floor, Flat-2C, 2, Netaji Subhash Road, Howrah-711204, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Jasmine Kakkad (Old Name) to Jasmine Kalpesh Kakkad (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Jasmine Kalpesh Kakkad (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 04/08/2026. Jasmine Kalpesh Kakkad (new name) and Jasmine Kakkad (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Jayoshree Singh (Old Name) W/o Rajen Singh Residing at 39/B, Dr. Suresh Sarkar Road, P.O - Entally, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700014, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Jayoshree Singh (Old Name) to Joysee Singh (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Joysee Singh (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 05-08-2026. Joysee Singh (New Name) and Jayoshree Singh (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kumaresh Chandra Biswas (Old Name), Son Of Late Keshab Chandra Biswas, Resident Of B - 4/423, Kalyani, Po-Kalyani, Nadia-741235, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Kumaresh Chandra Biswas (Old Name) To Kumaresh Biswas (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Kumaresh Biswas (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 15 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/08/2026. Kumaresh Biswas (New Name) And Kumaresh Chandra Biswas (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Md Samim (Old Name), S/O Abdul Mannan, Resident Of 2nd Floor, Flat-1, 36-24 Chandra Nath Roy Road Titajala Kolkata-700039, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Samim (Old Name) To Md Shamim (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Md Shamim (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit-18651, Sworn Before The Ld 1st Judicial Magistrate At Alipore On 04/08/2026. Md Shamim (New Name) And Md Samim (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Dipa Mandal (Old Name), W/o Bankim Mandal, Resident of Vill- Par Krishna Chandrapur, P.O.- Krishna Chandrapur, P.S.- Bagdah, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743251, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Dipa Mandal (Old Name) to Dipu Mandal (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Dipu Mandal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Dipu Mandal (new name) and Dipa Mandal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Hafizur Rahaman (Old Name) S/o Luthfar Rahaman Residing at 37, Haripada Dutta Lane, Po - Tollygunge, District - Kolkata, Pin - 700033, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Hafizur Rahaman (Old Name) to Hafizur Rahaman Molla (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Hafizur Rahaman Molla (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 10 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 03-08-2026. Hafizur Rahaman Molla (New Name) and Hafizur Rahaman (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Samia Khanam (Old Name), Wife Of Monjur Alam Khan, Resident Of Vill-Kundrapa, Po-Palashi, Ps-Amdanga, North 24 Parganas - 743145, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Samia Khanam (Old Name) To Shamuya Khanam (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Shamuya Khanam (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 9438 Sworn Before The Executive Magistrate At Barasat (Sadar) On 07/08/2025. Shamuya Khanam (New Name) And Samia Khanam (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Nayamuddin Sk (Old Name), Son Of Jalaluddin Shaik, Resident Of Vill & Po-Chak Enayetnagar, Ps-Bishnupur, South 24 Parganas-743503, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Nayamuddin Sk (Old Name) To Naimuddin Shekh (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Naimuddin Shekh (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 40 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/08/2026. Naimuddin Sk (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Binam Mandal (Old Name), S/o Late Kalipada Mandal, Resident of Vill- Par Krishna Chandrapur, P.O.- Krishna Chandrapur, P.S.- Bagdah, Dist.- North 24 Pgs, Pin- 743251, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Binam Mandal (Old Name) to Bankim Mandal (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bankim Mandal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Bankim Mandal (new name) and Binam Mandal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Kartick Sasmal, S/o. Goshtia Sasmal, R/o. Birendranagar, Kaswara, Polba, Hooghly-712102, W.B., do hereby declare that in my separate 2 separate L.R. Porcha (Dist. Hooghly, P.S. Polba, Muzas Dakatiabheri, J.L. No. 85, L.R. Khatian No. 16 and another Dist. Hooghly, P.S. Dadpur, Mozza Ayma Haripur, J.L. No. 73, L.R. Khatian No. 22), where my name has been recorded as Arabinda Sasmal instead of my correct & original name Kartick Sasmal, I, Kartick Sasmal & Arabinda Sasmal S/o. Goshtia Sasmal both are the same & one identical person, vide an affidavit no. 18550 dated 05/08/2026, sworn before Judicial Magistrate, Sadar, Hooghly Court.

Name Change
I, Mohammad Safary Siddique (old name) S/o Md Habibur Rahaman Siddique, resident at Furfura, PO-Furfura, Hooghly, Pin-712706, West Bengal do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Mohammad Safary Siddique (Old Name) to Md Safary Siddique (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Safary Siddique (new name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata, vide affidavit Date 05/08/2026 Md Safary Siddique (New Name) and, Mohammad Safary Siddique (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Rahamat Alee & Md Khalli, S/o.- Gafar Ansari, R/o.- 43/16, Old Lane, P.O. & P.S.- Kamarhati, Kol-58, Dist. 24 Pgs. (N), my actual name has also been known in my Pan & Aadhar Card Md Khalli, S/o.- Abdul Gaffar & Md Khalli, S/o.- Abdul Gaffar in place of my correct name along with my Father i.e. Rahamat Alee & Md Khalli, S/o.- Gafar Ansari, in the Court of Ld. J.M., 1st Class at Barrackpore. That, Rahamat Alee & Md Khalli, S/o.- Gafar Ansari & Md Khalli, S/o.- Abdul Gaffar & Md Khalli, S/o.- Abdul Gaffar all are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ratna Roy, Daughter Of Late Abinash Chandra Dey, Wife Of Late Nitai Lal Roy, Resident Of 259, Nagendra Nath Road, Po - Motijhil, Ps - Dum-dum, North 24 Parganas-700028, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Father Name From Late Avinash Chand Dey (Old Name) To Late Abinash Chandra Dey (New Name) And Henceforth He Shall Be Known As Late Abinash Chandra Dey (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 59 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/08/2026. Late Abinash Chandra Dey (New Name) And Late Avinash Chand Dey (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Ashraf Rizwan (Old Name) son of Mohammad Aminuddin, resident of 45/B, Mofidul Islam Lane, P.O. Entally, P.S. Beniapur, Kolkata, West Bengal, Pin code: 700014 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Ashraf Rizwan (Old Name) to Md Rizwan Ashraf (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Rizwan Ashraf in all purpose, vide affidavit no. 22AC 757064 sworn before the Ld. 1st Class Judicial Magistrate Sealdah, at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Md Rizwan Ashraf and Ashraf Rizwan both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bhawana Garg (Old Name), D/o Satish Garg, Resident of Vishnu Vatika, Block-12, 4th floor, Flat-4F, 289 G T Road, Belur, Bally(M), PO Belur Math, Dist Howrah, Pin-711202, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Bhawana Garg (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bhawna Garg (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Bhawna Garg (new name) and Bhawana Garg (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ratna Roy, Daughter Of Late Abinash Chandra Dey, Wife Of Late Nitai Lal Roy, Resident Of 259, Nagendra Nath Road, Po - Motijhil, Ps - Dum-dum, North 24 Parganas-700028, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Husband Name From Late Nitai Lal Roy (Old Name) To Late Nitai Lal Roy (New Name) And Henceforth He Shall Be Known As Late Nitai Lal Roy (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 58 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 06/08/2026. Late Nitai Lal Roy (New Name) And Late Nitai Lal Roy (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, Abdul Kadir (Old Name), Son Of Ibrahim Bhai Indorewala, Resident Of Al-Anwar Towers, Flat-10 B4, 16/1F, East Topsia Road, PO- Gobinda Khatic Road & PS- Pragati Maidan, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Abdul Kadir (Old Name) To Abdul Kader Indorewala (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Abdul Kader Indorewala (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 29 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 04/08/2026. Abdul Kader Indorewala (New Name) And Abdul Kadir (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

NAME CHANGE
I, Aftab Sk. S/o.- Asraf Sk (Old Name), R/o.- Vill. Debagram, Pachimpura, P.O.- Joyrupur, P.S.- Khargram, District.- Murshidabad-742159, have change my Father's name from Asraf Sk wrongly recorded in my Madhyamik Board Certificate changed to Asraf Ali (New Name), vide an Affidavit No. 28786, dtd. 28.07.2026, before the Ld. J.M. (1st Class) Alipore. That Asraf Sk (Old Name) & Asraf Ali (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Niladri Bhattacharjee and Niladri Bhattacharya, (OLD NAME), SON OF LATE PRASANTA KUMAR BHATTACHARJEE, RESIDENT OF 64/98/C, KHUDIRAM BOSE SARANI, AKASH-MONI FLAT-A-1201, BELGACHIA, KOLKATA, 700037 WB, WEST BENGAL DO HERBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM Niladri Bhattacharjee and Niladri Bhattacharya (OLD NAME) TO NILADRI NATH BHATTACHARJEE (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH I SHALL BE KNOWN AS NILADRI NATH BHATTACHARJEE (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT NO 57 SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 05/08/2026. NILADRI NATH BHATTACHARJEE (NEW NAME) AND Niladri Bhattacharjee and Niladri Bhattacharya (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Md Din Ali Mondal (Old Name), Son Of Late Rahim Box Mondal, Resident Of Digha, Ps-Duttapur, North 24 Parganas-743294, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Md Din Ali Mondal (Old Name) To Din Ali Mondal (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Din Ali Mondal (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 27 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/08/2026. Din Ali Mondal (New Name) And Md Din Ali Mondal (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, sandrila (OLD NAME), daughter Of sadhan dhibar, RESIDENT Of ballapur DIST - PASCHIM BURDWAN, PIN - 713323, WEST BENGAL, DO HERBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM Sandrila (OLD NAME) TO sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH SHALL BE KNOWN AS sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 17/06/2026. Sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) AND sandrila (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Supratim Das, S/o.- Uttam Das (Old Name), R/o.- Vill. & P.O.- Bijanagar, PS- Dholahat, Dist.- 24 Pgs. (S), WB, have change my Father's name & shall henceforth be known as Uttam Kumar Das (New Name), vide an Affidavit No. xxxxxx, dtd. 30.06.2026, in the Court of Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Kalkdwip, 24 Pgs. (S), That, Uttam Das (Old Name) & Uttam Kumar Das (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Bijan Bose (Old Name) S/o Birendra Nath Bose Residing at 64, Priyanath Midhya Road, Belgaria, Kamarhati (M), District - North 24 Parganas, Pin - 700056, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Bijan Bose (Old Name) to Bijan Kumar Bose (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Bijan Kumar Bose (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit no 65/2026 Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 06-08-2026. Bijan Kumar Bose (New Name) and Bijan Bose (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Pragya Pradhan (Old Name), Daughter Of Pramthesh Kumar Pradhan, Wife Of Animesh Sinha, Resident Of 32, Dr Deodar Rahaman Road, Lake Gardens, Kolkata-700045, West Bengal Do Herby Declare That I Have Changed My Name From Pragya Pradhan (Old Name) To Pragma Pradhan Sinha (New Name) And Henceforth I Shall Be Known As Ashok Prasad (New Name) In All Purpose, Vide Affidavit No 24 Sworn Before The Notary Public At Kolkata On 05/08/2026. Ashok Prasad (New Name) And Ashok Kumar Prasad (Old Name) Both Are Same And One Identical Person.

Name Change
I, sandrila (OLD NAME), daughter Of sadhan dhibar, RESIDENT Of ballapur DIST - PASCHIM BURDWAN, PIN - 713323, WEST BENGAL, DO HERBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM Sandrila (OLD NAME) TO sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH SHALL BE KNOWN AS sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 17/06/2026. Sandrila dhibar (NEW NAME) AND sandrila (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Gobinda Das and Govinda Chandra Das S/o Late Chaitanya Das R/A - F/34, Bapuji Nagar, P.O. - Regent Estate, PS. - Jadavpur, Kolkata - 700092 have changed my name and shall henceforth be known as Gobindo Das as declared before the Ld. Judicial Magistrate (1st Class) at Alipore Court (WB) vide Affidavit No. - 67885 dated 31.07.2026. Gobinda Das & Gobinda Chandra Das & Gobindo Das both are same and identical person. That by virtue of this Affidavit necessary correction of my name may kindly be corrected in my above mentioned Voter Identity Card & Passport should be recorded "GOBINDO DAS" in place of GOBINDA DAS & GOVINDA CHANDRA DAS also date of birth should be recorded "27/10/1958" in place of 10/02/1963.

Name Change
I, Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) S/o Sekh Ozaed Ali Residing at Vill+Po - Gopalanpur, Ps - Mahishadal, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721628, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) to Sk Manowar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Manowar (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 06-08-2026. Sk Manowar (New Name) and Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Kumar Prasad (Old Name), Son Of Lalita Prasad, Resident Of 2nd-Fr, Flat No. 501 Block B Regent Sagar, Raghu-nathpur, VIP Road, North 24 Pgs, Pin-700059, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nansy Agrawal (old name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nancy Agrawal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Nancy Agrawal (new name) and Nansy Agrawal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Anmol kumar pramanik (OLD NAME), son Of late Bikram Pramanik, RESIDENT Of rural DIST - PASCHIM BURDWAN, PIN - 721144, WEST BENGAL, DO HERBY DECLARE THAT I HAVE CHANGED MY NAME FROM Amal Pramanik (NEW NAME) AND HENCEFORTH SHALL BE KNOWN AS Amal Pramanik (NEW NAME) IN ALL PURPOSE, VIDE AFFIDAVIT SWORN BEFORE THE NOTARY PUBLIC AT KOLKATA ON 17/06/2026. Amal Pramanik (NEW NAME) AND Amal kumar pramanik (OLD NAME) BOTH ARE SAME AND ONE IDENTICAL PERSON.

Name Change
I, Meherun Nesa (Old Name), W/o.- Lt. Md. Israil, R/o.- A/6/1, Uttaryan Sarani, Nowadapara, P.O.- Ariadaha, PS.- Belgaria, Kol-57, Dist.- 24 Pgs.(N), changed my name & henceforth be known as Mharun Nesa (New Name), Affidavit S.No. 165, dtd. 03.08.2026, in the Court of Ld. J.M., 1st Class at Barrackpore. That, Meherun Nesa (Old Name) & Mharun Nesa (New Name) both are same & one identical person.

Name Change
I, Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) S/o Sekh Ozaed Ali Residing at Vill+Po - Gopalanpur, Ps - Mahishadal, District - East Medinipur, Pin - 721628, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have Changed my name from Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) to Sk Manowar (New Name) and henceforth I shall be known as Sk Manowar (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit Sworn before the Notary public at Kolkata on Dated 06-08-2026. Sk Manowar (New Name) and Sk Monowar Ali (Old Name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Ashok Kumar Prasad (Old Name), Son Of Lalita Prasad, Resident Of 2nd-Fr, Flat No. 501 Block B Regent Sagar, Raghu-nathpur, VIP Road, North 24 Pgs, Pin-700059, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Nansy Agrawal (old name) and henceforth I shall be known as Nancy Agrawal (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Nancy Agrawal (new name) and Nansy Agrawal (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gargi Chakraborty (Old Name), D/o Dipankar Chakraborty, Resident of Vill- Monoharpur, PO- Nalpur Bauria, Howrah -711310, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Gargi Chakraborty (Old Name) to Gargi Mukhopadhyay (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Gargi Mukhopadhyay (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Gargi Mukhopadhyay (new name) and Gargi Chakraborty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Digital outreach: BJP leaders step up Instagram activity

MI News Service, New Delhi: As the BJP sharpens its digital outreach to young people following the recent NEET-UG paper leak controversy, Instagram has emerged as a key political messaging platform, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi leading a coordinated push joined by several Union ministers and party leaders.

The heightened activity comes days after Modi urged his Cabinet colleagues to engage more actively with young people through Instagram reels. The party's focus on the platform follows student-led protests over the NEET-UG paper leak, which underscored the growing influence of social media, particularly Instagram, in shaping political discourse among the youth.

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP), which led the student protests, was born as an online satirical movement in May this year, drawing over 26 million followers on Instagram till now.

PM Modi himself posted a series of selfie-style videos on Instagram in recent days, thanking youngsters for their response and suggestions on issues such as examination reforms.

Modi, who has been using Instagram since 2014, gained around one million followers after uploading a midnight selfie video during the protests, taking his total following to



about 105 million.

The BJP's official Instagram account, with 9.5 million followers, is among the country's most-followed political party handles. In recent days, it has been posting a series of reels centred on examination paper leaks, particularly highlighting alleged cases in Punjab.

The party's recent posts also feature clips from Parliament on the introduction of The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Bill, accusing the Opposition of disrupting discussions on the legislation while maintaining that it is aimed at curbing paper leaks and protecting students' interests.

Newly appointed Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi has also used Instagram to highlight the government's response to the NEET paper leak controversy.

"We implemented the strict Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, which guarantees 10 years of imprisonment and heavy fines for the exam mafia. We

want to permanently strengthen the system and are completely ready for a healthy, facts-based debate in Parliament. Even Akhilesh Yadav and several Congress MPs have said this issue should be discussed in Parliament. Unfortunately, due to the ego of one individual, that debate is not taking place," Joshi said in one of his posts.

He urged everyone to rise above politics and join the discussion to strengthen the examination system. While PM Modi's videos were posted by all ministers on their Instagram, other posts have been mostly rare till a week back for many.

Former BJP president and Union Minister JP Nadda has shared videos highlighting meetings with the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) spokespersons on the NEET issue.

Union Minister of State for PMO Jitendra Singh has posted clips on the introduction of the Bill to amend the anti-paper leak law, along with videos appealing to students to remain patient and asserting that the government re-

mained open to discussions during the protests held at Jantar Mantar.

In the case of Jitendra Singh, multiple posts have been made every day in the past one week, as against an average of four to five posts a week earlier.

Nadda has started posting several videos every day, though his earlier activity was very rare. Before the prime minister's call, his last post was on July 4 and before that on June 27.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju has also uploaded several videos centred on the Bill and the paper leak issue.

His posts include excerpts from his speeches in Parliament urging political parties to debate and support the Bill, describing examination paper leaks as a "serious national issue" rather than a matter of party politics.

While Rijiju has been among the more active ministers on Instagram, his activity has also gone up substantially now to over a dozen posts every day.

In other clips, he calls the Bill a "historic" and "uncompromising" measure to secure students' future and curb examination malpractices.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has posted a video highlighting the government's commitment to ensuring justice for the youth and bringing those responsible for examination paper leaks to justice through fast-track courts.

Bengal govt mulls policy for weavers & artisans

MI News Service, Kolkata: The new BJP government is committed to the development of weavers and artisans of the state. BJP Spokesperson Keya Ghosh said it at a programme tagged 'Dhoro-har 4.0' to celebrate National Handloom Day in Kolkata. Ghosh further mentioned that the West Bengal Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari would be coming up with a special package for the holistic development of the artisans and weavers of the state very shortly. An iconic 'Handloom Fashion Walk' with celebrities of the city was also organized to celebrate the occasion.

Swadeshi Jagaran Manch conducts awareness prog

MI News Service, Kolkata: The Swadeshi Jagaran Manch (Kolkata Mahanagar Sector), a unit of RSS recently conducted a awareness programme at Niranjan Sadan, Bijoygarh, in South Kolkata. The tag line of the movement was 'Amio Swadeshi Samarthak'. The chief guest at the programme was renowned RSS pracharak and All India Prachar head of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch, Annadashankar Panigrahi. Students from different schools and colleges participated in the said programme.

Name Change
I, Md. Moosir, S/o Late Md. Kasim residing at 83E/1B/H/16, Belgachia Road, PO- Belgachia, PS- Utladanga, Kolkata - 700037 W.B. declare that in my Voter Card being No. WB/20/139/501911 my name has been recorded as Md. Muslim instead of my correct name Md. Moosir as mentioned in Aadhaar Card. That Md. Moosir and Md. Muslim both are same and one identical person i.e., myself vide affidavit No. 882225 dated 04.08.2026 before Ld. 1st Class Magistrate at Calcutta.

Name Change
I, Md Abid Hussain (Old Name), S/o Md Chhedri, Resident of 42F, Tiljala Road, PO- Gobinda Khatic Road, PS-Topsia, Kolkata- 700046, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Md Abid Hussain (Old Name) to Md Abid (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Md Abid (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 06/08/2026. Md Abid (new name) and Md Abid Hussain (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Name Change
I, Gargi Chakraborty (Old Name), D/o Dipankar Chakraborty, Resident of Vill- Monoharpur, PO- Nalpur Bauria, Howrah -711310, West Bengal, India, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from Gargi Chakraborty (Old Name) to Gargi Mukhopadhyay (new name) and henceforth I shall be known as Gargi Mukhopadhyay (New Name) in all purpose, vide affidavit sworn before the Notary Public at Kolkata on 05/08/2026. Gargi Mukhopadhyay (new name) and Gargi Chakraborty (old name) both are same and one identical person.

Forensic auditor for RAM TEMPLE probe

MI News Service, New Delhi: The Supreme Court asked the Uttar Pradesh government to include a "forensic auditor" in the special investigation team set up by the state to probe the theft of public donations at the Ram temple in Ayodhya, indicating it would monitor the probe.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant asked the SIT to submit a status report within two weeks, observing: "We must have a speedy and qualitative investigation."

The bench, which included Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, passed the directions after solicitor-general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Uttar Pradesh government, told the court that a senior police officer of the rank of inspector-general, S. Kiran, had been assigned by the state to head the SIT and would be assisted by a senior superintendent of police and an additional superintendent of police.

Pradhan Nagar Police foiled an alleged robbery plan! four arrested

MI News Service, Siliguri: Pradhan Nagar Police foiled an alleged robbery plan and arrested four miscreants from an empty railway quarter in Himachal Colony, Siliguri. The arrests were made following a raid conducted late Wednesday night based on a tip-off.

According to police sources, information was received that some miscreants had gathered at an abandoned railway quarter in Himachal Colony and were allegedly planning to commit a major crime. Acting on the information, a team from Pradhan Nagar Police Station cordoned off the area and conducted a raid at the railway quarter. During the operation, four persons were arrested, while some others allegedly managed to escape by taking advantage of the darkness.

The arrested accused have been identified as Bittu Khan (26), Biki Poddar (25), Raju Sahani (32), and Mohammad Alamgir (26). Police stated that all the accused are residents of different areas of Siliguri. A case has been registered against the accused, and they were produced before the Siliguri court on Thursday. Police are continuing raids to trace the absconding accused.



rank officer. Mehta agreed to the court's suggestion on including a "forensic auditor" in the SIT. The bench assured senior advocate Devadutt Kamat, appearing for one of the petitioners seeking an independent probe into the theft, that the court would continue to monitor the probe and ensure transparency in the investigation. "We are not closing the matter. Let the SIT give its report," the CJ told Kamat.

Mehta opposed Kamat's suggestion that the probe should be conducted by a retired Supreme Court judge. Mehta said there was no need for such an arrangement since the issue was being dealt with on the judicial side by the top court and being closely monitored. "Right now, our entire focus is on investigation...", Justice Kant told Kamat, adjourning the matter for two weeks.

Adani Group not entering airline business

MI News Service, Mumbai: Adani Enterprises is not evaluating any proposal to enter the airline business, said the Ahmedabad-based port-to-power conglomerate. "We would like to categorically deny the recent media reports and market speculation suggesting that Adani Enterprises is planning to launch an airline. These reports are entirely baseless and factually incorrect," said the spokesperson of Adani Enterprises Ltd in a statement.

TARUN TEJPAL gets 10 yrs jail in rape case

MI News Service, Mumbai: Tehelka former editor Tarun Tejpal was on Thursday sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment by the Bombay High Court in the 2013 rape case involving his former junior colleague, after the court earlier overturned his acquittal by a Goa trial court. The high court also imposed a fine of Rs 10.21 lakh, to be paid entirely to the survivor, and granted Tejpal four weeks to surrender before the jail authorities following a request by his lawyers.

A division bench of Justices Neela Gokhale and Amit Jamsandekar awarded the minimum sentence prescribed under law while observing both aggravating and mitigating circumstances. "The Court should consider the fact that there was no remorse and offence was repeated despite a no from the victim," the Bench said.

At the same time, it noted,

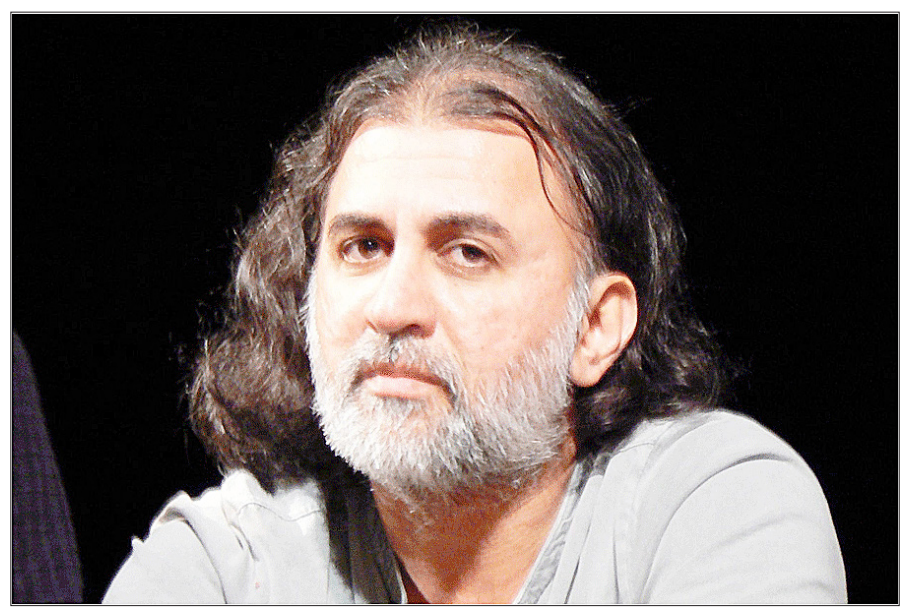
"The incident took place 13 yrs ago. There is no report of misconduct or allegation. Both parties must have moved on in life."

The court directed that the entire fine amount be paid to the survivor. "The victim having suffered sexual assault would be handed over the entire fine amount."

The high court had earlier allowed the Goa government's appeal against the May 2021 acquittal by a Goa sessions court, holding that the trial court's findings were unsustainable.

"We set aside the trial court order of acquittal. The respondent (Tejpal) stands convicted," the bench said.

Tejpal was convicted under Sections 376(2)(f) and 376(2)(k) of the Indian Penal Code, which relate to rape by a person in a position of trust, authority, control or dominance, as well as Sections 354, 354A and 354B dealing with



outraging modesty, sexual harassmentment and assault with intent to disrobe.

All sentences will run concurrently, meaning Tejpal will serve a total of 10 years in prison.

During the sentencing hearing, Tejpal sought leniency, citing his age, family and claiming he was being targeted.

"I am 62 years old today. I am a father of two daughters. I have a wife. I am a political victim. My lawyers have also asked me to urge the court to show leniency," he told the court.

His counsel, Aabad Ponda, argued for the minimum punishment and requested suspension of both the conviction and sentence to allow time to approach the Supreme Court. He also submitted, "He has been on bail since trial and has not ever violated any of the conditions imposed on him. He is a senior citizen."

After the verdict, Tejpal confirmed that he would challenge the high court's decision before the apex court.

"We will be appealing against this order. We feel the order is wrong. We will be moving to the Supreme Court against the order," he said.

Appearing for the Goa government, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta pressed for the maximum punishment, arguing that Tejpal's conduct warranted a stronger sentence.

"The convict (Tejpal) was in a position of dominance over the victim. The victim was not just a colleague but also a friend of his daughter. The convict has shown no remorse," Mehta said.

He added, "The punishment should commensurate the act. It is high time to send a clear message that no means no. That deterrent message needs to be sent out."

During arguments on the State's appeal, Mehta had also contended that the trial court erred by judging the com-

plainant's conduct against stereotypical expectations of how a survivor of sexual assault should behave.

The case stems from allegations that Tejpal sexually assaulted his junior colleague inside a hotel elevator during the Think-Fest event in Goa in November 2013. Following the complaint, Goa Police registered an FIR against him on charges including rape. He was arrested in November 2013 and released on bail in July 2014.

The trial began in 2017, and in May 2021, Additional Sessions Judge Kshama Joshi acquitted Tejpal, citing investigative lapses and the prosecution's failure to produce key evidence, including CCTV footage. The Goa government subsequently challenged the acquittal before the Bombay High Court, which has now convicted and sentenced Tejpal after allowing the State's appeal.

Donations to regional parties take a big jump

MI News Service, New Delhi/Chennai: Declared donations above Rs 20,000 received by regional political parties increased more than threefold in 2024-25 compared to the previous year, with the DMK emerging as the largest recipient, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms released. The amount received in donations by the regional parties was Rs 1,051.56 crore in 2024-25, up from Rs 347.69 crore in 2023-24, while the total number of donations received for the two years was 5,297 and 2,861, respectively -- denoting an 85 per cent increase.

Corporate and business houses continued to dominate political funding, contributing Rs 644.93 crore in 2024-25, nearly three times the Rs 227.61 crore

amount donated in the previous year, though their share in the total value of donations declined marginally. Across the two financial years, corporate and business houses contributed Rs 872.54 crore through 650 donations, adding up to over 62 per cent of the total value of contributions.

Individual donors accounted for the largest number of donations, making 5,647 contributions across two years. However, they contributed only Rs 193.95 crore, or about 14 per cent of the total value of donations. While the number of individual donations increased in 2024-25, their overall value declined, resulting in a sharp fall in their share of total donations.

The report also flagged a sharp increase in donations

from undeclared donors, which rose from Rs 6.62 crore in 2023-24 to Rs 302.67 crore in 2024-25, taking their share in the total value of donations to nearly 29 per cent.

The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) received the highest amount from undeclared donors at Rs 300.64 crore, accounting for over 82 per cent of its total declared donations during the year. The Tamil Nadu-based party also topped the list of recipients in 2024-25 with declared donations of Rs 365.78 crore, followed by the All India Trinamool Congress (AITC) at Rs 184.96 crore and the YSR Congress at Rs 140.04 crore.

Notably, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had been the highest recipient in 2023-24 with Rs 100.19 crore.

The report pointed out that AITC, YSR Congress, TDP, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) and Biju Janata Dal (BJD) relied almost entirely on corporate and business house donations, with negligible or no contributions from other donor categories.

Prudent Electoral Trust emerged as the largest donor across the two financial years, contributing Rs 434 crore through 38 donations, followed by Tiger Associates with Rs 160 crore. Progressive Electoral Trust, Vedanta Limited and AB General Electoral Trust also featured among the top five donors.

Electoral trusts continued to dominate political funding, with Prudent Electoral Trust, Progressive Electoral Trust and AB General Electoral Trust togeth-

er contributing Rs 536 crore, or about 64 per cent of the total donations made by the top 10 donors during the two-year period.

The report further found that donations without PAN details increased sharply in value from Rs 7.69 crore in FY2023-24 to Rs 329.58 crore in FY2024-25, accounting for over 31 per cent of the total donations received during the year. The number of donations without PAN details also rose to 2,463 from 529 in the previous year.

It also noted that cash donations increased sharply in value to Rs 301.44 crore in FY2024-25 from Rs 6.54 crore in the previous year, while 1,978 donations worth Rs 13.39 crore were reported without disclosing the mode of payment.

LS passes bill to levy UPI transaction charges



MI News Service, New Delhi: Lok Sabha on Thursday passed a Bill to amend the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 that authorises the government to permit banks and other service providers to levy charges on payments through unified payments interface (UPI) and other notified electronic payment modes.

The amendment passed by the House without discussion amid din seeks to remove the existing legal provision that prevents banks and payment service providers from charging Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on notified electronic payment modes.

Real-time payments made through RTGS and NEFT are done by paying a service charge. However, UPI transactions have been exempted from such charges so far.

The proposed changes in Payment and Settlement Systems Act is a part of comprehensive legislation on taxation, which was introduced in the House on Tuesday.

The Bill was passed through voice vote in the Lok Sabha after the House resumed at 2 pm after the earlier adjournment.

The Congress on Thursday attacked the government over the Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, asking whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi is seeking to dilute UPI and open the digital payments sector to American businesses "under pressure" from his "good friend Donald Trump".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Modi government's latest bill removes the statutory guarantee that keeps UPI transactions free.

It opens the door to Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges, which can easily be expanded to all payments in the future, Ramesh said on X.

The cost will inevitably be borne by ordinary people who will now have to pay to use UPI transactions, he said.

"The Modi Government's claim that this is the only route to keep UPI financially sustainable is a lie. The RBI has the financial capacity to sustainably fund the UPI ecosystem without

imposing charges on merchants or consumers," Ramesh said.

In 2025-26, the RBI transferred Rs 2.86 lakh crore to the Modi government, he said.

It would take only a small fraction of this surplus transfer to support this critical digital public infrastructure, Ramesh said.

"Indeed, the real reason why this amendment is being introduced is perhaps more concerning. It follows the U.S. Trade Representative's 2026 report which criticizes UPI and RuPay for being free and accuses them of having driven out American payment platforms like Visa and MasterCard," Ramesh said.

"Is the Prime Minister seeking to dilute UPI and open the digital payments sector to American businesses under pressure from his good friend (US President) Donald Trump," the Congress general secretary asked.

It wouldn't be the first time, he added.

Trump has openly claimed at least 100 plus times that he pressured the Modi government into calling an abrupt ceasefire to Operation Sindoor using the threat of American tariffs, Ramesh said.

The US has also claimed that India's gradual tapering down of oil imports from Russia has been prompted by Trump's dictates, he said.

"We also know that the Modi Government capitulated to President Trump's bullying and accepted a grossly unfair Indo-US trade deal which sacrifices the interests of our farmers and small businesses in particular," he said.

Ramesh also shared a screenshot of the portion of the bill.

"In the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, in section 10A, for the words, figures and letters 'the electronic modes of payment prescribed under section 269 SU of the Income-tax Act, 1961', the words 'one or more electronic modes of payment as the Central Government may, by notification,

Delhi Univ students end hunger strike

MI News Service, New Delhi: Five Delhi University students affiliated with the National Students' Union of India (NSUI) ended their hunger strike on Thursday after the university administration gave a written assurance on several of their demands, including student representation in the Academic Council and expansion of one-year postgraduate courses. The student leaders added that the university administration had assured them it would respond to the social media post made from the official university account during the recent Jantar Mantar protest, urging students to refrain from joining the movement.

"The Delhi University administration has fulfilled all our demands in writing and has also given a verbal assurance, on camera and in the presence of the students, to provide a prompt response regarding the specific 'X' (formerly Twitter)

post in question," DUSU Vice President Rahul Jhansla said.

The students, who had been on an indefinite hunger strike for nine days as part of the ongoing "DU Satyagraha" protest, called off their fast after receiving a letter signed by the university's Proctor and handed to them by the DU South Campus director Rajni Abbi.

According to the letter dated August 4, the process for student representation in the Academic Council will be completed within three months of the conclusion of the 2026 Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections.

The university also assured that seats in one-year postgraduate programmes have been increased in line with the students' demands.

"The seat allocation, earlier 1,100 for PG courses, has been increased to more than double. One-year PG courses in five programmes have also been started



in the School of Open Learning (SOL) from the academic session 2026-27," the letter said.

It added that the remaining demands raised by the students would be discussed with the university administration in due course.

The hunger strike was called off in the presence of South Campus Director Abbi, Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav and NSUI National

President Vinod Jakhar, who offered water and juice to the protesters.

Addressing the protesters, Jakhar described the development as "a victory of the courage, determination and unity of Delhi University students." "It is unfortunate that students had to put their health at risk and sit on a hunger strike before the university administration acted on their concerns. We have

asked our colleagues to end their hunger strike following the written assurance, but our struggle will not end with an assurance letter. The university will have to fulfil every commitment it has made," he said.

DUSU Vice President Rahul Jhansla, who has been leading the broader DU Satyagraha campaign, said the administration had accepted the students' demands in writing and had also given an on-camera verbal assurance regarding another issue raised by the protesters.

He said the agitation had demonstrated the strength of collective student action and vowed to continue raising issues concerning students and "institutional freedom and liberty of choice." In a statement, NSUI mentioned that they will continue to closely monitor the implementation of the assurances of the university and will stand with the students until all the accepted demands are fulfilled.

Parl panel on Defence discusses TERRITORIAL ARMY

MI News Service, New Delhi: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting of a parliamentary committee, with discussions focusing on the Territorial Army and members offering suggestions to further enhance its overall effectiveness.

Singh said the Territorial Army creates surge capacity for the armed forces by maintaining a reserve of trained soldiers who can be deployed immediately whenever required.

The Union minister chaired the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee

for the Ministry of Defence, which focused on the Territorial Army.

Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth, Chief of Defence Staff Gen N S Raja Subramani, Army Chief Gen Dhiraj Seth, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjeev Kumar, Secretary (Defence Finance) Vishvajit Sahay and other senior officials attended the meeting, the ministry said in a statement.

During the meeting, senior officials gave a detailed presentation on the Territorial Army's mandate, role and key achievements. Committee members offered suggestions to further strengthen the force and enhance its overall effectiveness, the statement said.

In his address, Singh described the Territorial Army's contribution as "significant" in advancing Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government's vision of Viksit Bharat.

He emphasised that while the role of the armed forces primarily centres on security, the Territorial Army also contributes to environmental conservation and social work. "The Territorial Army is a living embodiment of the 'citizen-soldier' concept. While its members engage in civilian pursuits, they simultaneously don the uniform to safeguard the borders and maintain internal security," Singh said.

He added that when personnel complete their tenure and return to civilian life,

they act as a "vibrant bridge" between society and the military, inspiring people, especially the youth, to join the defence forces.

The Territorial Army comprises nearly 44,400 personnel across 59 units, the ministry said.

Singh described the force as "first responders", providing immediate relief and support during natural disasters.

He acknowledged their role in relief and rescue operations, as well as providing medical assistance during the Kerala floods, the Odisha cyclone and the recent floods in Assam.

Commending their contribution to environmental management and climate change mitigation, he said the Territorial Army's ecological task forces had planted around 100 million saplings, with a survival rate of 80-85%.

This green initiative is translating the prime minister's 'Mission LiFE' and 'Panchamrit' goals into reality on the ground, he said.

Singh also appreciated the efforts of Territorial Army personnel deployed in Jammu and Kashmir for taking the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to greater heights.

Raised on October 9, 1949, the Territorial Army completed 75 years in 2024. It is fully integrated with the regular Army and has served the country in times of war, humanitarian crises and environmental protection efforts over the decades.

EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: SG. Tender/DSTE/SDAH/630, Date: 05.08.2026.
E-Tender is invited by the Sr.D.S.T.E., Eastern Railway, Sealdah, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata-700014 for the following work: **e-Tender No.: SDSTE/SIG/T/20/26-27/SF. Name of work with its location:** Signalling work in connection with: DumDum-Kalyani-TTR (FS+TWS+WCMSC)- 40 sets (1:12-20sets & 1:8.5-20sets) and Sealdah-Kankurgachhi Road (DN1) - TRR(P)-0.279 TKM. **Tender Value:** ₹ 1,35,25,791.62. **Cost of tender document:** Nil. **Earnest Money/Bid Security to be deposited:** ₹ 2,70,500. **Completion period of the work:** 6 Months. **Tender Submission start date:** 18.08.2026. **Tender Submission end date:** 01.09.2026 at 14:00 hrs. **Tender bid opening date:** 01.09.2026 at 14:30 hrs. **Details may be available:** www.irops.gov.in. **Technical Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have successfully completed or substantially completed any one of the following categories of work(s) during last 07 (seven) years, ending last day of month previous to the one in which tender is invited: (i) Three similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 30% of advertised value of the tender, or (ii) Two similar works each costing not less than the amount equal to 40% of advertised value of the tender, or (iii) One similar work costing not less than the amount equal to 60% of advertised value of the tender. **Financial Eligibility Criteria:** The tenderer must have minimum average annual contractual turnover of V/N or 'V' whichever is less; where V= Advertised value of the tender in crores of Rupees, N = Number of years prescribed for completion of work for which bids have been invited. The average annual contractual turnover shall be calculated as an average of "total contractual payments" in the previous three financial years, as per the audited balance sheet. However, in case balance sheet of the previous year is yet to be prepared/audited, the audited balance sheet of the fourth previous year shall be considered for calculating average annual contractual turnover. The tenderers shall submit requisite information as per Annexure-VIB of GCC 2022 (Form-6 of the instant tender document), along with copies of Audited Balance Sheets duly certified by the Chartered Accountant/Certificate from Chartered Accountant duly supported by Audited Balance Sheet. **Other document to be submitted:** As mentioned in the tender document. **Similar nature of Work:** Any work of Signal or Telecom involving trenching, laying & Testing of Signal or Telecom Cables OR any other miscellaneous outdoor S&T work. **Note:** The tenderer shall submit along with the tender offer, documents in support of his/her claim to fulfill the eligibility criteria as mentioned in the tender document. Each page of the copy of documents/certificates in support of credentials, submitted by the tenderer, shall be self attested/ digitally signed by the tenderer or authorized representative of the tendering firm. Self-attestation shall include signature, stamp and date (on each page). (SDAH-170/2026-27)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY

CORRIGENDUM
Corrigendum to Bid No.: GEM/2026/B/7856395, Dated: 30.07.2026 published earlier by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer (M), Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah, Pin-711204 for Custom Bid for Services- **Mechanized Cleaning of Liluah Railway Colony as per scope of work** on open tender basis. Certain changes have been made in the terms and conditions available on the **GeM Portal: www.gem.gov.in**. Accordingly, a **Bid Corrigendum No.: GEM/2026/B/7856395-C1, dated: 05.08.2026** has been issued. In this Tender Estimated cost of the Work is ₹ 3,54,81,828.45 (inclusive of GST). (MISC-131/2026-27)
Tender Notices are also available at website: www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irops.gov.in
Follow us at: @EasternRailway easternrailwayheadquarter

SYMBOLIC POSSESSION NOTICE

ICICI Bank
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CIN No: L65190G1994PLC021012, www.icicibank.com

The Authorised ICICI Bank Officer under the Securitisation, Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued Demand Notices to the borrower(s) mentioned below, to repay the amount mentioned in the Notice within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said Notice. Having failed to repay the amount, the Notice is issued to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken symbolic possession of the property described below, by exercising powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the below-mentioned dates. The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property. Any dealings with the property will be subject to charges of ICICI Bank Limited.

Sr. No.	Name of the Borrower(s)/ Loan Account Number	Description of Property/ Date of Symbolic Possession	Date of Demand Notice/ Amount in Demand Notice (Rs)	Name of Branch
1.	(Borrower) Gazi Tailor & (Co Applicant) Jiyarul Gazi & Najmul Gazi/ (Mortgagor) Najmul Gazi/ Represented By Proprietor Najmul Gazi Hosnur, Malancha Road, Minakhan North 24 Parganas West Bengal Basirhat- 743456 / 091405501129	R.S. & L.R. Dag No. 262, R.S. Khatian No 39, L.R. Krishi Khatian No 892, Present L.R. Khatian No 1367, J.L. No 2, Mouza Hossainpur, Pargana & Mahakuma Basirhat, Thana Minakhan, Gram Panchayat Champali, S.R.O. Deganga, District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal, Owned By Najmul Gazi, (Admeasuring An Area of 6 Satak North: Bapi Gazi South: Wazed Molla & Abdul Molla East:10 Feet Wide Panchayat Back Side Road West: Rabi Molla/ Date of Symbolic: 05/08/2026	03/02/2026 & Rs. 16,30,204.39/-	Basirhat & North 24 Parganas

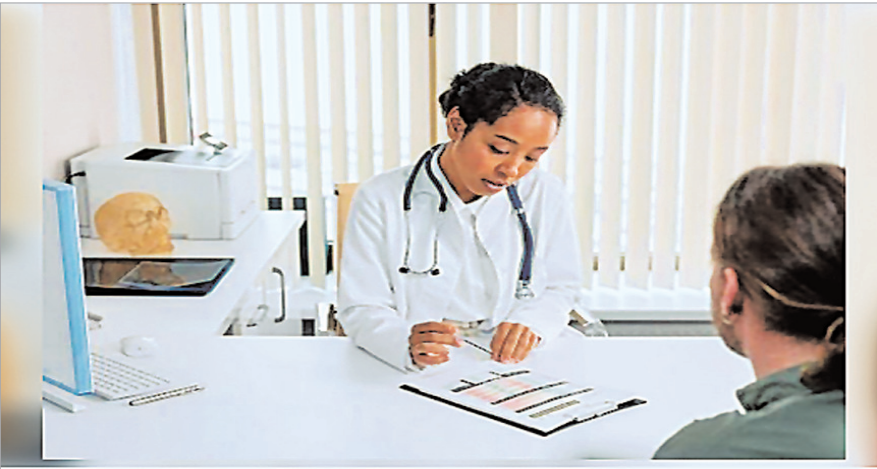
The above-mentioned borrower(s)/guarantor(s) is/are hereby issued a 30 day Notice to repay the amount, else the mortgaged properties will be sold after 30 days from the date of publishing this Notice, as per the provisions under Rules 8 and 9 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002.
Date: August 07, 2026
Place: Basirhat & North 24 Parganas

Sincerely Authorised Officer,
For ICICI Bank Ltd.

Scientists find simple tweaks that cut diabetes risk by 31%: Study

Washington: A Mediterranean-style diet, in combination with reduced caloric intake, moderate physical activity, and professional support for weight loss, may cut the risk of type 2 diabetes (T2D) by 31%, according to a new study co-authored by researchers at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. The study was published on August 25, 2025, in the Annals of Internal Medicine. "We're facing a global epidemic of diabetes," said co-author Frank Hu, Fredrick J. Stare Professor of Nutrition and Epidemiology and chair of the Department of Nutrition. "With the highest-level evidence, our study shows that modest, sustained changes in diet and lifestyle could prevent millions of cases of this disease worldwide," added Co-author Frank Hu.

Prior research has linked the Mediterranean diet, which emphasises high intake of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and healthy fats, moderate intake of dairy and lean proteins, and little to no intake of red meat, to better health outcomes, including lowered risk of T2D through improved insulin sensitivity and reduced inflammation. A team of collaborators from the PREDIMED-Plus clinical trial, the largest nutrition



and lifestyle randomised trial in Europe, sought to understand how the diet's benefits may be enhanced with additional healthy lifestyle changes. The researchers, from 23 universities in Spain and Harvard Chan School, split 4,746 PREDIMED-Plus participants into an intervention group and a control group and followed their health outcomes for six years.

The intervention group adhered to a Mediterranean diet, reduced their caloric intake by approximately 600 calories per day, engaged in moderate physical activity, such as brisk walking and strength and balance exercises, and received professional support for weight loss control. The control group adhered to a Mediterranean diet without calorie restric-

tion, exercise guidance, or professional support. Participants ranged from age 55 to 75, were overweight or obese, and had metabolic syndrome, but were free of T2D at baseline.

The study found that individuals in the intervention group had a 31% lower risk of developing type 2 diabetes (T2D) compared to those in the control group.

Additionally, the intervention group lost an average of 3.3 kilograms and reduced their waist circumference by 3.6 centimetres, compared to 0.6 kilograms and 0.3 centimetres in the control group.

"In practical terms, adding calorie control and physical activity to the Mediterranean diet prevented around three out of every 100 people from developing diabetes -- a clear, measurable benefit for public health," said co-author Miguel Martinez-Gonzalez, professor at the University of Navarra and adjunct professor of nutrition at Harvard Chan School.

The study was funded by the European Research Council, the Spanish National Institute of Health, the Biomedical Research Networking Centre (CIBER), and the U.S. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. (ANI)



Study finds how type of allergy remedy help treat lung cancer

NEW YORK [US] : Researchers at Mount Sinai's Icahn School of Medicine have discovered an allergy route that, when inhibited, activates antitumor immunity in animal models of non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC).

In preliminary human research, combining immunotherapy with dupilumab - an Interleukin-4 (IL-4) receptor-blocking antibody widely used to treat allergies and asthma - improved patients' immune systems, with one out of six patients having substantial tumour decrease.

The findings were described in the December 6 issue of Nature.

"Immunotherapy using checkpoint blockade has revolutionized treatment for non-small cell lung cancer, the most common form of lung cancer, but currently only about a third of patients respond to it alone, and in most patients, the benefit is temporary," says senior study author Miriam Merad, MD, PhD, Director of the Marc and Jennifer Lipschultz Precision Immunology Institute and Chair of the Department of Immunology and Immunotherapy at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai.

"A big focus of our program TARGET is to use single cell technology and artificial intelligence to identify molecular immune programs that can dampen tumor immune response to checkpoint blockade." Also known as a PD1 inhibitor, checkpoint blockade is a type of cancer immunotherapy that can unleash the cancer-killing activity of T cells.

"Using single cell technologies, we discovered that the immune cells infiltrating lung cancers, as well as other cancers we studied, exhibited characteristics of a 'type 2' immune response, which is commonly associated with allergic conditions like eczema and asthma," said first study author Nelson LaMarche, PhD, a postdoctoral research fellow in the lab of Dr. Merad.

"These results led us to explore whether we could

repurpose a medication typically used for allergic conditions to 'rescue' or enhance tumor response to checkpoint blockade," says Thomas Marron, MD, PhD, Director of the Early Phase Trial Unit at Mount Sinai's Tisch Cancer Center, and co-senior author of the study.

"Strikingly, we found that IL-4 blockade enhanced lung cancer response to checkpoint blockade in mice and in six lung cancer patients with treatment-resistant disease. In fact, one patient whose lung cancer was growing despite checkpoint blockade had nearly all their cancer disappear after receiving just three doses of the allergy medication, and his cancer remains controlled today, over 17 months later."

The researchers are encouraged by the initial results but emphasize the need for larger clinical trials to validate the drug's efficacy in treating NSCLC.

Beyond the clinical trial findings reported in the current Nature paper, the investigators have now expanded the clinical trial, adding dupilumab to checkpoint blockade for a larger group of lung cancer patients, and Dr. Marron recently received a grant from the Cancer Research Institute to study the effects in early-stage lung cancer as well.

Through these trials, they are searching for biomarkers that can predict which cancer patients might benefit from dupilumab treatment and which may not.

"In our relentless pursuit of progress, the Cancer Research Institute (CRI) proudly supports the visionary team at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Their findings validate our commitment to funding research across the entire discovery continuum, from the lab to clinical implementation, driven by cutting-edge technology and data. We're eager to witness our support delivering new hope by uncovering pathways to enhance.

What is grounding could it improve my sleep Here's science behind this TikTok trend



Rockhampton (Australia) : (The Conversation) Have you ever felt an unexpected sense of calm while walking barefoot on grass? Or noticed your stress begin to fade as you stood ankle deep in the ocean? If so, you may have unknowingly "grounded" yourself to the earth. Grounding, also known as earthing, is the practice of making direct physical contact with the Earth's surface. Our ancestors embraced this trend without knowing it. But with the invention of indoor homes, footpaths, roads, and even shoes, we have become less physically connected with the earth. Grounding has been suggested to have a number of benefits, such as improving mood, and reducing stress and pain. But overall, there's limited conclusive evidence on the benefits of grounding. Somewhat ironically, the concept of grounding in 2025 is heavily influenced by technology, rather than getting out into nature. Consumers are being hit with social media reels promoting a range of technologies that ground us, and improve our health. Among the most common are promises of improved sleep with the use of a grounding sheet or mat. But is this just another TikTok trend, or could these products really help us get a better night's sleep?

Bringing the outdoors in The human body is conductive, which means it can exchange electricity with Earth and artificial sources, such as electronic devices or objects. (Sometimes, this exchange can result in an electric or static shock.) Proponents of grounding claim the practice reconnects "the conductive human body to the Earth's natural and subtle surface electric charge".

They credit this process with physiological and psychological benefits (but again, the evidence is limited). Grounding technologies can vary in type

(for example, under-desk foot mats, mattress toppers and bed sheets) but all are designed to provide a path for electric charges to flow between your body and the earth.

The bottom prong you see in your three-prong wall socket is a "ground" or "earth" terminal. It provides a direct connection to earth via your building's wiring, diverting excess or unsafe voltage into the ground. This protects you and your devices from potential electrical faults. Grounding technology uses this terminal as a pathway for the proposed electrical exchange between you and earth, while in the comfort of your home. Could grounding improve your sleep?

The research in this area is still emerging.

A 2025 study from Korea recruited 60 participants, gave half of them a grounding mat, and gave the other half a visually identical mat that didn't have grounding technology. The researchers used a "double-blind" protocol, meaning neither the participants nor the researchers knew which participants were given grounding mats. All participants wore sleep trackers and were asked to use their mat (that is, sit or lie on it) for six hours per day. The researchers found that after 31 days, participants in the grounding mat group slept longer on average (as measured by their sleep trackers) than those in the control group. The researchers also used questionnaires to collect measures of insomnia, sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and stress. After 31 days, participants in both groups improved on all measures. There were no differences between the grounded and ungrounded groups for sleep quality, daytime sleepiness, and stress. And while grounded participants.

AI systems must be tested on diverse, population-scale datasets before deployment: NHA CEO

New Delhi : Artificial intelligence models in healthcare must be tested on large and diverse population datasets before being deployed on the ground to ensure trust, accuracy and inclusion, National Health Authority (NHA) Chief Executive Officer Dr Sunil Kumar Barnwal, said on Sunday.

Speaking at the Federated Intelligence Hackathon on Health AI, organised as a pre-event to the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at IIT Kanpur, Dr Barnwal said India is now moving from experimentation to building benchmarked and reliable AI models for healthcare.

He stressed that federated and consent-driven AI systems allow innovation to scale without centralising sensitive health data, thereby protecting privacy and strengthening public trust.

Referring to Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), he said AI solutions must be context-ready and reflect India's demographic and regional diversity. The national-level hackathon was organised by the National Health Authority in collaboration with the ICMR-National Institute for Research in Digital Health and Data Science (NIRDHDS) and IIT Kanpur.

It was held from January 19 to January 24, 2026, with a focus on developing secure, privacy-preserving and scalable Digital Public Goods for Health AI. The inaugural session also saw addresses by Prof Sandeep Verma, Head of the Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology, IIT Kanpur Director Manindra Agrawal, and Ritu Maheshwari, Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare and State



Mission Director, ABDM-Uttar Pradesh. The speakers highlighted the growing role of technology, research institutions and governments in shaping India's digital health ecosystem.

Dr R S Sharma, Distinguished Visiting Professor at IIT Kanpur and former CEO of the National Health Authority, said Digital Public Infrastructure and interoperable Digital Public Goods are key to building secure, scalable and citizen-centric health data systems.

He underlined that such frameworks ensure both innovation and accountability. Vivek Raghavan, CEO and Co-founder of SarvamAI, spoke about the importance of India's layered digital health architecture in enabling AI-driven healthcare at both population and individual levels. He said high-quality data, strong privacy safeguards and security are essential for effective AI adoption. He also stressed the need for indigenous, open-source AI models to ensure local AI sovereignty and reduce dependence on external systems.

Study finds new method to detect novel biomarkers for kidney diseases with nephrotic syndrome

BOSTON [US] : A study has revealed a major advance in the identification and tracking of renal illnesses linked to nephrotic syndrome. The findings of the study were published in the New England Journal of Medicine and presented at the 61st ERA Congress in Stockholm, Sweden. By employing a hybrid methodology, scientists discovered that anti-nephrin autoantibodies serve as a dependable biomarker for monitoring the advancement of the disease, paving the way for more individualized therapeutic strategies. Nephrotic syndrome, defined by increased urine protein levels, is associated with kidney disorders, including membranous nephropathy (MN), primary focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSGS), and minimal change disease (MCD).

Damage to podocytes, the kidney's filtering cells, is the main cause of nephrotic syndrome because it permits protein to seep into the urine. Children diagnosed with MCD or FSGS often receive a diagnosis of idiopathic nephrotic syndrome (INS), where the cause of the nephrotic syndrome is unknown. This is frequently because children with high protein levels in their urine rarely undergo a kidney biopsy, which is how the cause is typically determined. Traditionally, diagnosing these conditions has posed challenges due to overlapping histological features and hesitancy to conduct invasive kidney biopsies, particularly in children. While anti-nephrin autoantibodies have been observed in certain patients with MCD and FSGS, their precise role in the advancement.

When mice with Alzheimer's inhaled menthol, their cognitive abilities improved

IMAGINE a future where the smell of menthol could alleviate some of the worst symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. This might sound like science fiction, but innovative new research is making it a potential reality.

Scientists have discovered that when mice with Alzheimer's inhaled menthol, their cognitive abilities improved. This unexpected finding highlights a potential new avenue for treating this debilitating condition.

Alzheimer's disease is a serious neurodegenerative disorder that gets worse over time. It is characterised by changes in the brain that result in loss of neurons and connections.

It affects everyone differently, but the most common symptoms include a gradual decline in memory, thinking and social skills, and frequent mood changes. This can affect a person's ability to learn new things, carry out daily tasks, recognise family and friends and, eventually, live independently.

Recent figures show that 55 million people worldwide are living with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. With the populations of many countries ageing rapidly, this number is only expected to rise.

There are 10 million new cases of

Alzheimer's and dementia each year a new case every 3.2 seconds. This has led experts to estimate that over 150 million people will have the disease by 2050. At any rate, Alzheimer's is one of the biggest challenges facing public health in the 21st century.

Fortunately, scientists are now working on so-called disease-modifying drugs that can slow or potentially cure Alzheimer's. Most current treatments just manage symptoms.

Of mice and menthol

In the new study mentioned above, researchers set out to examine the interactions between the olfactory, immune and central nervous systems. In their previous study they found that repeated exposure to menthol enhanced the immune response in mice. Here, the team focused on whether it could improve their cognitive abilities as well.

During this study, mice that were genetically modified to exhibit Alzheimer's were repeatedly exposed to menthol for six months.

The researchers analysed their immune response and cognitive capacity and compared them with healthy mice. Surprisingly, mice with Alzheimer's showed a significant improvement following short exposures to the minty-



Further research is needed to investigate the link between Alzheimer's and smell, and this could lead to some interesting techniques. For example, using smell training as a treatment for managing, or even delaying the onset of Alzheimer's. For now, though, this piece of research provides us with some interesting findings concerning the relationship between the immune system and brain function, and hope for those affected by this disease.

smelling substance. Specifically, menthol helped to regulate the immune system, prevent cognitive deterioration, and improved memory and learning capabilities.

Researchers found that it lowered levels of interleukin-1 beta, a protein linked to memory problems in Alzheimer's disease. This protein, or cytokine causes inflammation in the brain, which can harm cognitive function. Lowering interleukin-1 beta can help reduce this inflammation and prevent further cognitive decline.

Menthol was also found to mimic the effects of artificially reducing T-regulatory cells immune cells that help control inflammation and keep the immune system balanced.

This finding suggests a possible treatment pathway for conditions like Alzheimer's and highlights the potential for particular smells to be used as therapies.

Previous research has established links between smells and our immune and nervous systems, and we already know that smells can influence our cognition. For example, by triggering emotions and memories.

In addition, it is now known that certain diseases related to the central nerv-

ous system for example, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and schizophrenia sometimes come with a loss of smell.

While the complexities of these relationships remain unclear, this new research adds some promising data that will help us better understand them.

These results are based on initial observations of lab mice and so can't be generalised to human Alzheimer's patients. Not only are our brains wired differently from mice, but it is not clear how our olfactory systems or perception of odours may differ.

However, until the effects of menthol are studied using a human sample, this is a crucial first step towards developing a greater understanding of how to treat the disease.

Further research is needed to investigate the link between Alzheimer's and smell, and this could lead to some interesting techniques. For example, using smell training as a treatment for managing, or even delaying the onset of Alzheimer's.

For now, though, this piece of research provides us with some interesting findings concerning the relationship between the immune system and brain function, and hope for those affected by this disease.

Kashmiri diaspora protests outside Pakistani Consulate in UK over killings of PoK protesters

MI News Service, London: Several members of the Kashmiri diaspora staged a protest outside the Pakistani Consulate in Bradford city of the United Kingdom, condemning brutalities by Pakistani forces against peaceful protesters in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The protesters, including elderly people, women and children, expressed solidarity with the civil society group Joint Awami Action Committee (JAAC), while calling for an end to the cruel operations carried out by the Pakistani security forces in the region.

They carried placards that read: 'Pakistan Stop Brutalities', 'Pakistan Stop Killing Kashmiris in Rawalakot' and 'We Stand with Awami Action Committee', and raised slogans condemning the Pakistani forces.

The escalating unrest in PoK has claimed more than 50 lives and left hundreds injured over the last few days. The actual death toll is expected to be significantly higher.

The Bradford protest comes amid growing demonstrations by Kashmiri diaspora groups outside Pakistani diplomatic missions across the world. The protesters have been demanding international intervention over what they describe as a brutal crackdown by Pakistani authorities in PoK.

Last week, several British parliamentarians expressed grave concern over brutalities by Pakistani forces against civilians as unrest in PoK continued to intensify.

British Labour Party MP Liam Byrne said that reports of live fire being used against peaceful protesters in PoK are "deeply alarming".

Describing the communications blackout and human rights abuse in the occupied territory as "completely unacceptable", Byrne said that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Kashmir -- a cross-party group in the UK Parliament



-- has made two demands.

"One, urgent talks with the High Commission of Pakistan here in London to say this has got to stop. But second, we're demanding to see our Foreign Office ministers too, to ensure that they are making representations at the highest level to the government of Pakistan. Ultimately, what is needed here is to honour the long-term commitments made in UN resolutions all those years ago. But in the here and now, we need the violence to stop," the British lawmaker stated.

"We need immediate de-escalation. We need calm heads. And crucially, we need the human rights of Kashmiris to be observed now," he added.

Calling the killing of civilians in PoK a "tragedy", another British MP, Adnan Hussain, said that any use of excessive or unlawful force by Pakistani authorities must be subject to a full, independent and transparent investigation.

"I urge all parties to exercise restraint, protect civilian life and engage in peaceful dialogue. Lasting solutions can only be achieved through calm, constructive engagement rather than further violence or escalation. My thoughts are with all those affected, particularly constituents with family and loved ones in the region," Hussain stated.

Hiroshima marks 81st anniversary of atomic bombing

MI News Service, Tokyo: Japan's Hiroshima on Thursday marked the 81st anniversary of the US atomic bombing of the city amid growing concerns over nuclear risks and rising global tensions.

During an annual memorial ceremony held at the Peace Memorial Park in the western Japanese city, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui delivered the Peace Declaration, highlighting the catastrophic consequences of nuclear weapons and calling for nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament through multilateral efforts.

"Downplaying the inhumanity of nuclear weapons and accepting the use of force to pursue one's own prosperity risks cycles of violent retaliation that could ultimately result in another Hiroshima or Nagasaki," the mayor warned.

As the number of atomic bombing survivors continues to decline, Matsui also called on younger generations to take the initiative and build a broad consensus toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.



A moment of silence was observed at 8:15 a.m. local time, the exact moment when an atomic bomb dropped by a US bomber detonated over the city on August 6, 1945, killing around 140,000 people by the end of that year.

Three days after the world's first-ever nuclear attack decimated Hiroshima, a second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki in southwestern Japan.

As the only country in the world to have suffered atomic bombings, Japan has long upheld the Three Non-Nuclear Principles,

which prohibit possessing, producing or permitting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japanese territory.

In recent years, however, calls to revise the principles have grown in the country, especially within the ruling bloc. Local media previously reported that the government of Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was considering revising the principle prohibiting the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan. The reported move has sparked widespread concern among various sectors of Japanese society.

Ukraine strikes more oil facilities deep inside Russia, resulting fuel shortages

MI News Service, Kyiv: Ukraine hit more oil facilities deep inside Russia in nighttime attacks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Thursday, as Kyiv kept up its campaign to undermine Moscow's wartime economy and embarrass the Kremlin.

The repeated strikes have caused fuel shortages and rattled Russians while heartening Ukrainians who are enduring regular Russian barrages that Kyiv's weakened air defenses are struggling to counter.

Ukrainian forces hit a refinery in Bashkortostan, more than 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) behind the front line in eastern Ukraine, as well as a refinery in the Yaroslavl region, almost 700 kilometers (400 miles) from the Ukrainian border, Zelenskyy said on social media.

Also, Ukrainian forces hit two Russian military patrol boats in the Black Sea, according to Zelenskyy,

as well as vessels belonging to Moscow's so-called shadow fleet, which Russia uses to evade Western restrictions on its oil exports. He did not provide details about the vessels or the extent of the damage.

The Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday that its air defenses overnight shot down 605 Ukrainian drones over a number of Russian regions, as well as illegally annexed Crimea and the Black and Azov seas.

Meanwhile, Russian drone and glide bomb attacks across Ukraine during the night killed at least three civilians and wounded 22 others, authorities said Thursday, as countries helping Kyiv resist Russia's invasion scrambled to find more vital air defenses for its fight.

Moscow's forces have in recent weeks pummeled Ukraine with ballistic missiles that Kyiv officials say only the US-made Patriot air defense system can



stop. But the Iran war has drained stocks of Patriot interceptor missiles, leaving Ukraine at the mercy of Russian bombardments that seek to exploit its weakened aerial defenses.

"We are working as hard as possible with all partners who can assist with the supply of interceptor missiles to protect against such insane Russian strikes targeting life, people, and civilian facilities," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on social media late Wednesday after a Rus-

ian barrage killed 17 people in the Kyiv region.

He said he had spoken to NATO chief Mark Rutte and Finnish President Alexander Stubb about urgently procuring interceptors from stockpiles.

Zelenskyy said he and Rutte "coordinated our efforts regarding countries that have the necessary missiles and the capacity to help."

"It is important to cut through all red tape and make the necessary political decisions," Zelenskyy said.

"I am discussing with allies how we can continue to get Ukraine the air defenses they urgently need," Rutte said on X.

Russia appears determined to exhaust Ukraine through sheer weight of numbers in terms of soldiers, armor and weapons. Russian President Vladimir Putin thinks that time is on his side, that Western support will fade and that Ukraine's resistance will eventually collapse under pressure, Western analysts and officials say.

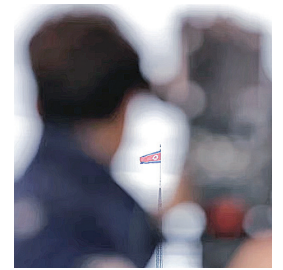
Russia fired four missiles and 101 long-range strike drones at Ukraine from Wednesday into Thursday, Ukraine's air force said, with air defenses shooting down or jamming 66 drones.

Three people were killed in Balakliia in the northeastern Kharkiv region, according to Vitalii Karabanov, head of the city's military administration.

North Korea launches unidentified projectile toward waters off its east coast, South Korea says

MI News Service, Seoul: North Korea launched an unidentified projectile toward the waters off its east coast on Thursday, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of weapons tests by North Korea this year. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff gave no further details such as the type of weapon fired.

North Korea has been focusing on enlarging its nuclear and missile arsenals since leader Kim Jong Un's high-stakes diplomacy with U.S. President Donald Trump collapsed in 2019. Experts say the North Korean leader wants international recognition as a nuclear state so that he can demand the lifting of international economic sanctions on North Korea.



While outlining his five-year military goals at the Workers' Party congress in February, Kim also called for intercontinental ballistic missiles capable of underwater launches.

In recent years, Kim has also boosted his diplomatic credentials by expanding ties with Russia. North Korea has supplied conventional weapons and troops to Russia to support its war against Ukraine.

Landslides in northern Philippines, four killed

MI News Service, Manila: Landslides in the Philippines killed four people, authorities said Thursday, as heavy rains driven by a tropical depression raked the country's north and forced school closures.

The archipelago nation's main island Luzon has been battered by heavy rains over the past four days.

Government offices and schools were ordered closed in the capital and across a swathe of northern provinces due to the rain.

In Benguet province, a six-hour drive north of Manila, a hillside gave way and collapsed on a small restaurant on Thursday, burying three employees who had been in the kitchen.

"One is alive. Two were dead on the spot," Colonel



Dionisio Bonoy of the Benguet provincial police told reporters.

"At 10:00 am (0200 GMT), the survivor was retrieved. That was our priority earlier. With the help of God, we hope he survives."

The country's national disaster agency separately confirmed two others had been killed in a landslide in neighbouring Rizal province the day before.

Earlier Thursday, government meteorologist John Manalo said sus-

tained winds were at about 55 kilometres (34 miles) per hour, as the depression, formerly Tropical Storm Kujira, moved towards the Philippine Sea.

"Severe winds can still affect most parts of the country," he warned. "Since our land is already saturated and soaked, the potential for flooding and landslides will be higher."

The Philippines is the first major landmass facing the Pacific cyclone belt, and the archipelago is hit by an average of 20 storms and typhoons each year, putting millions of people in disaster-prone areas in a state of constant poverty.

Scientists say human-driven climate change is making extreme weather more frequent, prolonged and intense.

Rains wreak havoc in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nine killed

MI News Service, Islamabad: At least nine people, including four children and three women, were killed and seven others injured as rains continued to wreak havoc in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Over 100 houses have also been damaged in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as heavy rains triggered landslides and flash floods.

Several rain-related incidents have been reported in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Swat, Khyber, Buner, Abbottabad, Upper Chitral and Lower Chitral areas in the ongoing monsoon spell that started on July 29.

It is learned that over 103 houses have also been damaged due to heavy rains and flash floods in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, according to a statement released by the Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA). Among these, 49 homes were destroyed fully while the remaining were partially damaged

Eastern Railway Welcomes Record Pilgrim Rush with Top-Class Facilities and Super-Safe Travel for Shravani Mela '26

MI News Service, Kolkata, August 6, 2026 : Eastern Railway is rolling out the red carpet to make the holy journey to Lord Baidyanath Jyotirlinga as smooth, comfortable, and safe as possible for every single devotee. To tackle the massive festival rush, the railways are running special pilgrim trains with extra stops at major stations, while making ticket buying a breeze with additional booking counters, automatic vending machines (ATVMs), and quick mobile UTS app ticketing. Passengers can relax in spacious waiting halls equipped with bright lighting, cool fans, and plenty of free drinking water. Plus, your safety is in good hands: high-tech CCTV cameras are keeping watch everywhere, with Railway Protection Force (RPF) officers monitoring live video feeds 24/7 to manage crowds and secure station grounds.

These stellar arrange-

ments have successfully welcomed hundreds of thousands of happy pilgrims across four key stations—Jasidih, Deoghar, Basukinath, and Baidyanathdham. The spiritual journey saw tremendous momentum starting on Day 4 (August 2) with 85,356 devotees, zoomed up by over 34% to hit a massive peak of 114,426 pilgrims on Day 5 (August 3), stayed super strong with 100,332 pilgrims on Day 6 (August 4), and recorded another 75,030 pilgrims on Day 7 (August 5, Wednesday), taking the total footfall across these four peak days past 3.75 lakh pilgrims!

Jasidih continued to stand out as the main gateway for the mela, single-handedly welcoming over 58–61% of all daily pilgrims with 51,708 devotees on Day 4 (60.6% share), 69,794 on Day 5 (61.0% share), 58,688 on Day 6 (58.5% share), and



45,278 on Day 7 (60.3% share). Deoghar maintained solid footfalls throughout, hosting 15,574 pilgrims on Day 4 (18.2% share), 16,844 on Day 5 (14.7% share), 18,880 on Day 6 (18.8% share), and 16,014 on Day 7 (21.3% share). Basukinath witnessed a massive influx across the period, recording 12,848 pilgrims on Day 4 (15.1% share), sky-rocketing to 20,596 on Day 5 (18.0% share), followed by 17,278 on Day 6 (17.2% share) and 9,086 on Day 7

(12.1% share). Meanwhile, Baidyanathdham warmly hosted 5,226 devotees on Day 4 (6.1% share), 7,192 on Day 5 (6.3% share), 5,486 on Day 6 (5.5% share), and 4,652 on Day 7 (6.2% share), proving that Eastern Railway is fully prepared to make this year's yatra a blessed, hassle-free, and memorable experience for all.

To support this massive passenger movement smoothly on Day 7 alone, Asansol Division operated 38 special trains (16 long

distance and 22 short distance), generating ₹33,09,538 from ticket sales.

Despite hosting such massive lakhs of devotees, Eastern Railway's master-class strategic crowd management has ensured zero problems and absolute comfort for everyone throughout their travel. Cleanliness has been made the absolute top priority, with dedicated sanitation teams working in full swing 24/7 to keep station premises spotless and hygienic eco-friendly bio-toilets readily available for public use. Passenger care and healthcare were heavily prioritized, with dedicated First Aid booths providing medical assistance to 503 pilgrims and wheelchair support to 12 individuals on Day 7 alone, alongside friendly "May I Help You" assistance booths operating around the clock to make this yatra smooth, safe, and truly unforgettable.

'BE READY WITH EVERY ANSWER FROM DAY ONE,' GAMBHIR TELLS TEAM INDIA AHEAD OF SL TESTS

COLOMBO : India head coach Gautam Gambhir has urged the Shubman Gill-led Test squad to be mentally and physically prepared to tackle any challenge right from the opening day of the upcoming two-game series against Sri Lanka, starting in Galle on August 15.

The Indian team began its practice session at Colombo's NCC ground on Wednesday morning, and are scheduled to play a three-day practice match at the same venue from August 7-9. Following this, the visitors will head to Galle for the series opener on August 15. The second and final Test is scheduled to be played at the historic Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC)



from August 23 to 27.

"Guys, we know what's in front of us. We know what we are playing for. We can do the volume, we can push our limits, we can tick all the boxes. Come 15th morning, whether

we are batting first, or whether we are bowling first, we're absolutely ready with every answer, every question that's thrown at us and every answer we're ready to give. So make sure we tick all the boxes from now on," said Gambhir in a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on their official social media handles on Thursday.

India's current standing in the World Test Championship (WTC) is at fifth with a points percentage (PCT) of 48.150, while Sri Lanka is at sixth spot with 41.67 PCT. Gambhir also took the opportunity to officially welcome newcomers, off-spin bowling all-rounder Saransh Jain and pacer Augib Nabi to the Test setup, alongside the newly appointed fielding coach, Subhadeep Ghosh.

"Guys, welcome everyone. We've got a couple of new guys in. To start with,

Saransh, congratulations, you've worked extremely hard to be here. Make sure that you make your family and country proud whenever you get that opportunity.

"Secondly, I want to congratulate Augib, you had a phenomenal last season, and made J&K win the Ranji Trophy, which is a great achievement. Congratulations once again. Lastly, I want to welcome Joy as well.

"He's worked with so many teams for so many years. I'm sure his passion, his commitment will carry this team forward and make sure that his energy levels will help everyone achieve the target, which we want to do," added Gambhir.

Nurjahan Jamani gears up for ITTF World Para Future after impressive showing in Kazakhstan

AHMEDABAD : India's No. 1 para table tennis player Nurjahan Noorali Jamani will look to build on her strong showing in Kazakhstan when she competes at the ITTF World Para Future Lahti 2026 in Finland from August 28 to 30 at the Pajulahti Olympic Training Center.

The World No. 27 reached the quarterfinals at the recently concluded ITF World Para Future Aktobe in Kazakhstan. Nurjahan narrowly missed a place in the last four by just two points. The result underlined her steady progress as she prepares for another crucial ranking event in which the world's best para table tennis players will showcase their skills. "Reaching the quarter-finals in Kazakhstan and coming so close has given me a lot of confidence going into Finland. I want to build on that performance and go even further. My goal is to win the tournament. Adani Sportsline's support has been instrumental in helping me compete consistently at the highest level, and I am truly grateful for it," said Nurjahan.

Ranked No. 8 in Asia in her class, Nurjahan is targeting a place among the continent's top six players to secure qualification for the

2026 Asian Para Games, which will take place from October 18 to 24 in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan.

Diagnosed with polio at the age of five, Nurjahan returned to competitive table tennis in 2022 and has since enjoyed a remarkable rise. She successfully defended her title at the UTT Para Senior National Championship 2025-26 in Indore after winning the UTT National Para Table Tennis Championship, a run of results that helped her become India's No. 1 player in her category.

Based in Ahmedabad, Nurjahan works as a Junior Officer at Adani Airport Holdings Limited (AAHL). Through Adani Sportsline's 'Garv Hai' initiative, she receives structured support that includes tournament planning, coaching guidance, performance monitoring and assistance for international competitions, enabling her to compete consistently against the world's best.

With qualification for the 2026 Asian Para Games at stake, every ranking tournament is crucial for her. A strong performance in Lahti would strengthen Nurjahan's position in the Asian rankings and move her closer to representing India in Japan.

AMANAT KAMBOJ MAKES WOMEN'S DISCUS THROW FINAL AT U20 ATHLETICS WORLDS

EUGENE : Indian thrower Amanat Kamboj made it to the women's discus throw final at the U20 World Athletics Championships final with a season's best throw on Thursday.

Amanat, who won the Asian U20 gold in discus with a best effort of 52.24 in May this year, recorded the throw of 52.58 to finish sixth among the world's best U20 throwers in the qualifications.

She became the third Indian to enter their respective finals after Ashish Yadav and T. Dharanidharan made it through to the men's javelin final.

Ashish topped his group with a best throw of 69.87m, while Dharanidharan recorded 68.07m to finish in his group to make the final. Overall, Ashish finished second in the qualification, while Dharanidharan placed 12th.

South African U20 javelin champion Jan-Hendrik Heymans started off hot in Eugene, hitting the automatic qualifying mark on his first throw with 76.02m. That was more than six metres farther than the next best throw, and the sole attempt beyond 70 metres.

Behind Heymans, three athletes surpassed 69 metres, including India's Ashish (69.87m), Poland's Aleksander Wojna (69.80m) and China's Yang Zhaoqi (69.80m), setting the stage for a final that could feature a tight medal fight. USA's Nolan Carey, who set a personal best of 74.72m in May and won the US U20 title in Eugene in July, did not advance.

KOREA MASTERS: ANMOL BOWS OUT; TANVI PREVAILS INTO QFS

ASAN CITY : India's Anmol Kharb's Korea Masters campaign came to an end in the pre-quarterfinals after a hard-fought loss to Olympian Vu Thi Trang of Vietnam here on Thursday.

Anmol suffered a 23-21, 15-21, 21-18 loss against an Olympian here at Asan Yi Sun-sin Gymnasium on Thursday.

The Indian shuttle was in control for much of the opening game but squandered four game points, gifting Vu Thi Trang an opportunity to take the early advantage. Anmol then responded strongly in the second game by capitalising on her 11-9 lead at the interval to force a decider.

In the decider, the Indian found herself trailing 19-9 before mounting a late surge with eight consecutive points. However, it was a little too late for a comeback as Vu Thi Trang closed out the match and moved into the next round.

Elsewhere, fresh off her title triumph at Taipei Open, Tanvi Sharma continued her impressive run by defeating her compatriot Shriyanshi Valishetty 21-16, 17-21, 21-13.

After falling behind 11-7 in the first game, Tanvi wrested back control, reeling off a string of points to take the opener. Shriyanshi Valishetty bounced back in the second game, racing to an 11-6 lead at the interval, before sealing the second game to force a decider.

The deciding game, however, saw Tanvi in control from the outset as she edged into an 11-9 lead at the interval before pulling away decisively, conceding just four more points en route to sealing victory in 57 minutes.

Moreover, Ashmita Chaliha and Rakshitha Ramraj also joined Tanvi Sharma in the women's singles quarterfinals.

Ashmita beat home favourite Kim Min-ji 21-17, 21-6, while Rakshitha defeated Japan's Manami Suizu 22-20, 21-10. However, fifth seed Isharani Baruah's and Mansi Singh's Korea Masters campaign came to an end.

Isharani lost 17-21, 21-18, 21-19 against Kim Min-sun of Korea, while Mansi suffered a 21-12, 14-21, 21-17 defeat against fourth seed Han Qianxi of China.



DPL 2026: Ranjan draws inspiration from Djokovic for celebration in maiden win for Strikers

NEW DELHI : North Delhi Strikers captain Sarthak Ranjan revealed that his viral half-century celebration was a tribute to tennis icon Novak Djokovic after his explosive knock of 95 set up a comfortable six-wicket victory for his side over East Delhi Riders in the Delhi Premier League (DPL) clash at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

Chasing 172, Strikers found themselves in early trouble at 39/2 before Ranjan and Yash Bhatia turned the game around with a blistering 113-run stand for the third wicket. Ranjan led from the front, smashing eight sixes and seven fours in his 50-ball 95, including a game-changing 29-run over off pacer Simarjeet Singh, before falling just short of a well-deserved century.

"It feels great to win, especially because this is my first victory as captain. We lost two early wickets, so the plan was to build a partnership and make sure we didn't fall behind in the powerplay. Once Yash Bhatia came in, things became easier. "We had a good partnership in the last match as well, and today he took a lot of pressure off me by



finding the boundaries regularly. We just focused on building the innings and knew that one big over would eventually come. I didn't expect it to be that big, but thankfully it worked in our favour," Ranjan said in a statement on Thursday.

Ranjan, who caught attention with his unique celebration upon reaching his half-century, admitted it was inspired by 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic. "I'm a huge fan of Novak Djokovic, so the celebration was just a tribute to him. I've seen him do it after his victories, and I wanted to celebrate

in a similar way," he revealed.

Earlier, East Delhi Riders posted 171/6 in their 20 overs, riding on an unbeaten 82 off 50 balls from left-hander Sujal Singh, who struck six fours and four sixes while wickets fell around him. Medium-pacer Vikas Dixit was the standout performer with the ball for North Delhi Strikers, returning figures of 1-19 in his four overs.

Following the solid platform laid by Ranjan, Bhatia finished unbeaten with a fluent unbeaten 53 off 34 balls, laced with seven fours and a six, to seal the win for Strikers with four overs to spare.



Three-match T20I series added to India women's tour of SA

JOHANNESBURG : Cricket South Africa (CSA) on Thursday announced that a three-match T20I series has been added to the schedule for the Indian women's cricket team's multi-format tour of South Africa, set to happen in December 2026.

As per CSA, the addition of T20I series in the itinerary comes with an eye to prepare for next year's inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, to be played in Sri Lanka in February 2027. India had toured South Africa for a five-time T20I series in April this year as part of preparation for the Women's T20 World Cup, but they lost by 4-1.

The tour, scheduled to run from December 9 to 30, will now conclude with the newly added T20I series. A festive Boxing Day T20I encounter will take place on December 26 at Willowmoore Park in Benoni. The final two T20Is will be played at the NWC Oval in Potchefstroom on December 29 and 30 respectively.

The multi-format tour will kick off with a one-off Test

match at St George's Park in Gqeberha from December 9 to 12. Following the red-ball fixture, the two sides will compete in a three-match ICC Women's Championship (IWC) ODI series across Paarl, Cape Town, and Bloemfontein between

AS PER CSA, THE ADDITION OF T20I SERIES IN THE ITINERARY COMES WITH AN EYE TO PREPARE FOR NEXT YEAR'S INAUGURAL ICC WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS TROPHY, TO BE PLAYED IN SRI LANKA IN FEBRUARY 2027.



addition of the T20 International series over the festive period, ensuring our Proteas Women have the best possible preparation ahead of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka early next year.

"India remain one of the strongest teams in world cricket, and the opportunity to compete against them across all three formats will provide invaluable competition as we continue building towards another major ICC event."

Revised India Women's Tour of South Africa schedule:

Only Test: Dec 9-12, Gqeberha (10am local time)

1st ODI: Dec 16, Paarl (10am local time)

2nd ODI: Dec 19, Cape Town (2pm local time)

3rd ODI: Dec 22, Bloemfontein (2pm local time)

1st T20I: Dec 26, Benoni (6 pm local time)

2nd T20I: Dec 29, Potchefstroom (6pm local time)

3rd T20I: Dec 30, Potchefstroom (6pm local time)

Sonal Dinusha to lead SLC XI in three-day warm-up fixture against India

COLOMBO : Young bowling all-rounder Sonal Dinusha has been named captain of a 15-member Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) XI squad for the upcoming three-day warm-up match against India, scheduled to begin at the NCC Grounds here on Friday.

The practice match, which starts at 10am local time, serves as the lone warm-up fixture for the Shubman Gill-led Indian team before the two-match Test series against Sri Lanka gets underway at Galle on August 15.

The SLC XI features a strong core of seven Test team contenders - apart from Dinusha, pacers Lahiru Kumara and Vishwa Fernando, off-spinner Ramesh Mendis, as well as Nishan Madushka, Pavan Rathnayake, and Anjala Bandara are present.

The squad also includes promising performers like left-arm spinner Dilum Sudeera, who previously impressed with a 10-wicket match haul against India A, and bowler Kesara Nuwantha, who bagged a five-wicket haul against the same opposition.

Dinusha made his Test debut against Bangladesh last year, and has three appearances so far. With several first-team regulars currently featuring in the ongoing Lanka Premier League (LPL), the warm-up fixture

presents a vital opportunity for the selected players to push their case for selection ahead of SLC naming its final squad for the two-game Test series.

For India, the three-day fixture will provide crucial match practice ahead of facing turning pitches in the island nation. Senior left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja is expected to feature in his first competitive outing since the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2026, while newly called-up uncapped players Saransh Jain and Augib Nabi are also set to get game time.

Top-order batter Sai Sudharsan remains a doubtful starter as his participation is subject to fitness. Sudharsan is currently undergoing rehab at the BCCI Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Bengaluru for a foot injury. His absence could pave the way for Devdutt Padikkal to bat at number three.

SLC XI squad: Nishan Madushka, Ravindu Rashantha, Pasindu Sooriyabandara, Pavan Rathnayake, Ahan Wickramasinghe, Sonal Dinusha (captain), Anjala Bandara (wk), Nipun Dananjaya, Lahiru Kumara, Vishwa Fernando, Asanka Manoj, Isitha Wijesundara, Ramesh Mendis, Kesara Nuwantha and Dilum Sudeera



Argentina declares July 15 as 'National Football Teams Day' to honour 2026 WC win over England

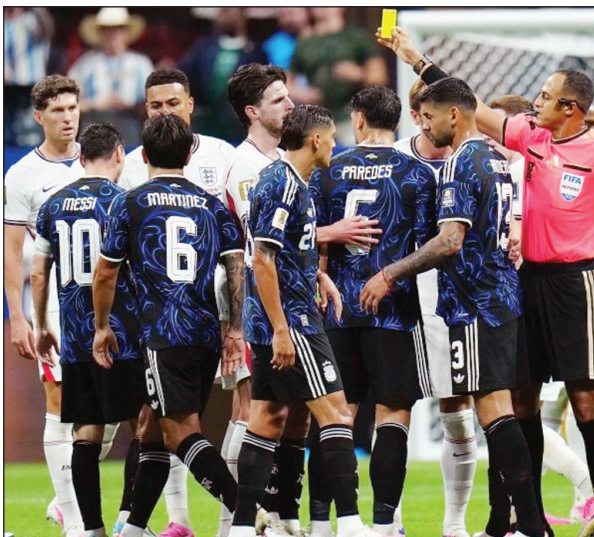
BUENOS AIRES : Argentina has officially declared July 15 as 'National Football Teams Day', commemorating the national side's dramatic victory over England in the 2026 FIFA World Cup semi-final and extending the tribute to every national team representing the country.

The decision was approved unanimously during the Executive Committee meeting of the Argentine Football Association held at its training centre in Ezeiza.

The date marks Argentina's memorable 2-1 comeback victory over England in the 2026 FIFA

World Cup semifinal. After falling behind to Anthony Gordon's second-half strike, Lionel Scaloni's side fought back through an 85th-minute equaliser from Enzo Fernandez before Lautaro Martinez scored the winner in stoppage time to book a place in the final.

Explaining the decision, the AFA said, "The date was chosen to commemorate Argentina's historic victory over England in the 2026 World Cup semifinal. Lionel Scaloni's team was trailing England by a single goal, but with goals from Enzo Fernandez and Lautaro Martinez, they turned the game around,



sending the entire nation into a frenzy of celebration."

The federation said the tribute was not limited to the senior men's team. "The recognition also extends to each and every one of the national teams, including youth, men's and women's, futsal, beach soccer and field football, who train every day at the Lionel Andrés Messi training complex with the hope, joy and responsibility of representing Argentina," the statement added.

The semifinal was one of the defining matches of the tournament and was followed by controversy after

some Argentina players celebrated with chants and posters referencing the Falkland Islands, known in Argentina as the Malvinas.

The celebrations drew criticism in England and reignited debate over the long-standing sovereignty dispute between the two nations, although the result on the field remained one of Argentina's most celebrated World Cup victories.

The newly established National Football Teams Day will now be observed annually to celebrate the achievements and commitment of all Argentine national teams across football disciplines.